

## 289 Years of Service

Firefighters create a bond not found in many professions. Spending 24 hours together every third day creates a 'family' atmosphere. We not only work together, but eat meals together, sit and talk about our lives, relax together during the quiet times and share experiences both good and bad.

Families gather for picnics and outings and groups get together long after they've retired.



The group pictured have retired as recently as a couple of years ago to as long as almost 30 years ago and have a combined service time of 289 years!

## Get To Know Us

Whether you have lived in East Moline all your life, or perhaps for just a short time your answers may be the same when questioned about your fire department.

Do you know how many fire stations are in the city, or where they are located?

Do you know how many firefighters are on duty on a given day, or how they will respond if you call for help?

Everyone knows the fire department will respond if their home is on fire, but many people are surprised to see a fire truck show up at their home when they call 911 for a medical problem.

We'd like you to know all we are able to do for you and encourage you to ask questions and make inquiries so we are able to better educate, serve and promote safety in our community.

We currently have 33 firefighters working in 3 shifts of 11, with a minimum of 9 firefighters on duty at all times.

The department houses 3 engines, 1 rescue truck, 1 reserve engine and a rescue boat in 3 stations.

**Station 21** is located on 16th Avenue by City Hall and houses the newest fire engine and rescue boat.



**Station 22** is located on Morton Drive at 19th Street and is the largest station, housing the 75



foot ladder truck and rescue truck. This is where you will find Chief DeFrance during office hours,

the secretary and shift commander.

**Station 23** is located on Avenue of the Cities at 9th Street. The station houses 2 engines, one for response and one reserve.



### SAFETY REMINDERS

**CO Detectors** Much of our time during the winter months is spent indoors. Furnaces are running constantly, houses are closed up tight and ovens are baking warm comfort foods. That's why its even more important to make sure you have a carbon monoxide detector in good working condition. If its been more than 10 years since you installed your detector, then its time to replace it. Press the 'test' button to be sure it alarms.

**Smoke Detectors** I'm sure you remembered to change your batteries back in November when you changed your clocks, so this month press the 'test' button to be sure it alarms. While you're checking it, give it a wipe down or vacuum it to keep it free of dust.

**Slipping Hazards** With freezing temperatures comes ice. Keep a small container, such as an empty coffee can, full of ice melt or salt next to the door so you're reminded to shake a little on the steps and walkway before heading out.

We're on the web  
[www.eastmoline.com](http://www.eastmoline.com)

## Seconds Count

*Imagine standing at your local polling booth, filling out your ballot, when you hear the radio in the background announcing the winning candidate.*

*Or perhaps being an athlete registering for a big race when you hear the starting gun fire.*

*What about hearing that alarm clock you'd set for 7am go off at 8am?*

These scenarios are much like the situations firefighters face every day. Nobody hands them a list at the beginning of their shift outlining the days events that lie ahead. The shift captain doesn't call each engine company to inform them of the house fire that's to come at 11:24am, or the vehicle that's going to roll over on the interstate at 4:45pm trapping it's occupants. Unfortunately for us, every event starts before we know it, putting us a step behind, having to catch up!



*What's happening in that house fire at 11:24am?*

Smoke is building, the fire is growing and creating potentially deadly conditions for it's occupants. Support systems built into the structure are being compromised. Unfortunately, these problems are getting worse by the second, making the risk to firefighters more significant and wide ranging.

*What are the occupants of the vehicle enduring while trapped?*

Critical seconds of the 'Golden Hour' are ticking away. This is the hour that begins upon impact and ends when the patient is wheeled into the operating room. They may be exposed to the elements, losing blood from a serious wound or laying in pain waiting.

*So how do we prepare so we're no further behind than these built in delays?*

We train, we prepare our equipment and gear and we respond as safely and quickly as we can.

It begins when we arrive for our shift, organizing our fire gear the same way, making it easy to don. We practice this as a drill from the time we're hired and attend the fire academy until we retire some 20-30 years later.

We check our trucks and all the equipment on them, making sure everything is in its place and ready for use.

We take classes, practice routine drills, and train with our apparatus and tools. We discuss medical procedures and train on the latest interventions, techniques and equipment.

We continuously train and prepare not only to help those we're called to, but for the safety of ourselves.



*Firefighters practice techniques for saving one of their own.*

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Community Newsletter

Fire And Life Safety Education