



# ARFF FLASH

Fourth Quarter 2020

## October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month

Submitted by Kyle Hofacker

2020 has been a powerful reminder that we are all in this together, and our choices and actions have the power to protect the most vulnerable among us in a big way. The same holds true when it comes to breast cancer.

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month and Public Safety Officer's at the Green Bay Austin Straubel International Airport Public Safety Department switch their badges to a pink badge in support of breast cancer for the month of October.



## Annual Testing is Essential

Submitted by Capt. Ray Flaiz

Equipment failure can result in catastrophic injury to responders, bystanders or both. Routine testing of fire hose, couplings, appliances, and nozzles is necessary to provide a reasonable level of safety for users and to increase the likelihood the equipment will perform as designed.

When it comes to putting water on a fire, you need a pump and you need hose. Failure of either will mean you can't get the job done. If you are not testing both at least annually, you risk failing at the main thing you need for fire suppression.

Here A shift firefighters Lindauer (top right) and Peters (bottom left) at MidAmerica St. Louis Airport in Mascoutah, IL conduct annual hose testing on a cold, drizzly October afternoon.



## MidAmerica Promotion

Submitted by Capt. Ray Flaiz

Congratulations to MidAmerica Airport KBLV Firefighter Kevin Peters (right) on his promotion to C shift Captain effective 10/17/20. He relieves Jason Bruns (left) who has accepted a new position in airport administration.

**Good luck to both on your new careers!!**



## Trump Rally @DSM

Submitted by Chief Don Minks

On Wednesday evening of October 14, 2020, President Trump held a rally on the airport tarmac for an estimated 15,000 people.

See page 7 for Employee of the Quarter.





# ARFF FLASH

## Airpark Medical Training

Submitted by Ryan Thomas



Ardmore Airpark had mandatory medical training with heartland Medical Direction and Medical Director Bill Worden. They got to participate in live simulated hands on training with the Heartland Medical Direction simulation trailer! Also included are Dr.



Worden's right hand men, Director of Operations Blake Braden and Director of Training Sean Barnette.

**It was a great day of training!**



## USAF C5 Super Galaxy @BLV

Submitted by Capt. Ray Flaiz

MidAmerica Airport hosted the crew of a C5 Super Galaxy. The crew allowed A-shift an interior and exterior walk around for training. Firefighter Lindauer (right) stands next to an ambulance, showing the massive cargo area inside.

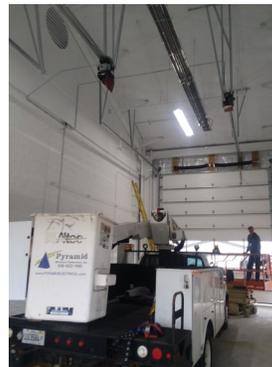


Capt. Flaiz (left) popping out the flight crew top forward fuselage escape hatch.

## Progress at MidAmerica

Submitted by Capt. Ray Flaiz

In October, the third engine bay at MidAmerica Crash Rescue is near completion. Exterior work is done, the bay doors are installed, the interior paint is finished making the project near completion. The new bay will house a Boeing Pro-Tec crash truck to support Boeing flight operations at MidAmerica.



## Wildland/Extrication Gear

Submitted by Ryan Thomas

October 23, Ardmore Airpark received our Tecgen Wildland/Extrication gear. This was purchased with the funds the department receives from the Carter County Fire Tax. This gear will save the wear and tear of our current gear that we had to wear previously on grass fires and vehicle accidents.



## Pence Rally at DSM

Submitted by Chief Don Minks

October 29th, crew at Des Moines International Airport standby next to Air Force 2 while VP Pence holds a rally at the airport.

Photographed are ARFF 3 and ARFF 4 next to AF2.





# ARFF FLASH

## Safety Contest

Submitted by Beth Chandonais

In October 2020, Pro-Tec Fire Services implemented the first bi-annual Health and Safety Contest. Each Fire Station was asked to create an activity that helps to reinforce the themes outlined in the Health and Safety Manual with the first one being Slips, Trips, and Falls utilizing their staff, the airport, the public or anyone or anything they wish to involve.

We received 100% participation with some really great videos, posters, power points, and games. They were all informative, creative, funny, and educational. Everyone did a great job emphasizing the safety and hazards of slips, trips, and falls.



Ultimately, Corporate had to decide on only one for the contest winner. The winner of the 1st Health and Safety contest was Calgary B Shift.

Click on the airport to see their safety contest submission.

[Appleton International Airport](#)

[Ardmore Airpark](#)

[Calgary A shift](#)

[Calgary B shift](#)

[Calgary C shift](#)

[Calgary D shift](#)

[Chicago Rockford International Airport](#)

[Des Moines International Airport](#)

[Green Bay Austin Straubel International Airport 1](#)

[Green Bay Austin Straubel International Airport 2](#)

[Kalamazoo-Battle Creek International Airport](#)

[Leidos](#) [Leidos Photos](#)

[Lynchburg Regional Airport](#)

[Manchester Boston Regional Airport](#)

[MidAmerica St. Louis Airport](#) [Photos](#)

[Mobile Airport](#)

[Rogue Valley International-Medford Airport](#)

[San Antonio—Boeing](#)

[Skyxe International Airport](#) [Skyxe 2](#)

[Summit Aviation](#)

[Trent Lott International Airport 1](#) [Trent Lott 2](#)

[Trenton-Mercer Airport](#)

[Will Rogers World Airport](#) [Photos](#)

## Stay Alert—Avoid Slips, Trips, and Falls

Slips and falls occur every day. The extent of injuries and their recurrence can be minimized through proper safety knowledge and attitudes. Practice safety—don't learn it through experience. There are various ways to suffer slips and falls while working. You can slip and lose your balance, you can trip over objects left in your walkway, or you can simply fall from an elevated position above the ground.



### Slips

Slips can be caused by wet surfaces, spills, or weather hazards like ice and snow. Slips are more likely to occur when you are in a hurry or run, wear the wrong kind of shoes, or don't pay attention to where you're walking. To avoid slips, be on the lookout for foreign substances on the floors. Watch for deposits of water, food, grease, oil, sawdust, soap, or debris. Even small quantities are enough to make you fall. When entering a building from the outside or from debris areas, clean your footwear thoroughly. Snowy and rainy weather requires that you clean off the soles of your shoes. Don't go too fast, walk safely, and avoid changing directions too sharply.

### Trips

Trips occur whenever your foot hits an object and you're moving with enough momentum to be thrown off balance. Trash, unused materials, any object left in the aisles or other areas designed for pedestrian traffic invites falls. Extension cords, tools, carts, and other items should be removed or properly barricaded off. Report any equipment or supplies that are left in walkways. Keep passageways clear of debris. Walk where you're supposed to walk. Short cuts through areas invite accidents. Concentrate on where you're going—horseplay and inattention leaves you vulnerable to unsafe conditions.



### Falls

The worst falls are from elevated positions like ladders. They result in serious injuries and death. Learn and practice ladder safety and the proper use of scaffolding. Hold on to handrails

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when using stairs or ramps. They are there to protect you should a fall occur. If you're carrying a heavy load which hampers your ability to properly ascent or descend stairs, use the elevator, or find help! When climbing, use a ladder of proper length that is in good condition. Keep it placed on a firm surface. Do not climb a ladder placed on machinery, crates, stock or boxes. Keep the ladders base 1 foot away from the wall for every 4 feet of height. Don't over-reach. Always have control of your balance when working from a ladder. Never climb a ladder with your hands full, and always carry tools in proper carrying devices.

Safety is everyone's responsibility, from the Fire Chief all the way down to the entry level firefighter. Do not just walk by an unsafe situation and do nothing, thinking it's someone else's responsibility. Correct it, if you can do so safely, and if not, make sure it is reported immediately.

But safety expands beyond slips, trips, and falls. We also have to be aware of our health safety.

Wash your hands  
Maintain physical distancing of at least 6 feet  
If you're sick, stay home



## Fire Extinguisher Training at WRW

Submitted by Capt. Tyler Jones

In November, Will Rogers World Airport Fire Department hosted our annual cornhole tournament as part of the Airports United Way fundraiser. We also conducted fire extinguisher training with employees across the airport.



## Blizzard in Saskatoon

Submitted by Chief Bryan House

Early November snowfall in Saskatoon—approximately three feet of snow fell overnight preventing some staff from being able to get their vehicles away from the fire station. Temps dropped in to the -25 to -30 degree Celsius range. The city sent out a message saying the snow has "presented an incredibly challenging situation". Majority of the streets

throughout the city are completely blocked with snow.



## Employee of Q3 2020

Submitted by Capt. Jordan McPherson

Captain Jordan Hamm (right), employee of 3rd quarter 2020, is being presented with his award by his Deputy Fire Chief David Mitchell (left)

[Read more about Capt. Hamm here.](#)





# ARFF FLASH

## MidAmerica & Boeing training at BLV

Submitted by Capt. Ray Flaiz



ARFF Instructor Carl Faulconer spent a week with new Pro-Tec Boeing Firefighters and one new Pro-Tec Mid-America Firefighter. Pictured are airport FF Mike Schmitt, Boeing Capt. Pat Berens, FF Pat Hall, and FF Cayden Koepke. Next stop is a day trip to Blue Grass ARFF Training Center in Lexington, KY for live burns and they are good to go.



**Welcome aboard!**

## Welcome FF Mike Schmitt

Submitted by Capt. Ray Flaiz

BLV and A-shift welcomes new hire, Firefighter Mike Schmitt (right). Mike is returning to MidAmerica after ten years. He has previous experience as a USAF Firefighter...but...today on his first shift, he receives the pink probie helmet handed down from FF Bob Lindauer. Guard the helmet well Mike and **welcome aboard.**



## Introducing Mojave

Submitted by Chief Aaron Culwell

Mojave Air and Space Port in Mojave, CA became Pro-Tec's 23rd contracted airport starting December 1, 2020.



From left to right: FF Kevin Graham, Fire Chief Damian Farrar, FF Julio Vazquez, and FF Greg DeAngelis

Apparatus from left to right: Crash 1, Rescue 1, and Crash 4.

## C-Shift Mock-up Exercise

Submitted by Capt. Jordan McPherson

The annual Canadian Aviation Regulations (CARs) certification includes the need for members to participate in various training exercises at the mock-up site. Depicted, are the members of C-shift who are making entry into a smoke filled plane to simulate search and rescue operations.



These training exercises also included extensive use of our command and control system, which integrates the adopted accountability system and fire ground communications.



As a note of interest, the Firefighters are supporting "Movember" by growing some outstanding moustaches. A cause to bring awareness to men's cancer.

Members of C-shift from left to right: FF Waidson, FF D'Arcy, FF Wright, FF Paul, DFC Passmore, Captain Romaniuk.



## Santa is Coming to Town

Submitted by Chief Bruette

Santa made his first special trip to Green Bay Austin Straubel International Airport on December 13. He arrived in style via helicopter at Jet Air Group at the airport. The socially distanced family event was a free, fun filled event sponsored by Jet Air Group, Green Bay Austin Straubel International Airport, Sky World Café and Pro-Tec Fire Services.



Activities included tables for writing letters to Santa, fun family photo ops with a variety of backgrounds, plane displays with close up views for the kids and much more. Sky World Café provided complimentary coffee, cocoa and cookies and a food drive was set up with all proceeds going to local charities. Two lucky children were chosen at random to win the door prize of a free helicopter ride. [See Santa landing in GB here.](#)

Pro-Tec Firefighters made sure all letters written to Santa made their way onto the helicopter back to the North Pole.



# ARFF FLASH

## Certificates of Appreciation

Submitted by Chief Karns

Captain Tony Incerty and Engineer Justin Zigenis were awarded Pro-Tec's Certificate of Appreciation. The certificates were awarded for their selfless actions during the Almeda fire on September 8<sup>th</sup> when both members were on duty. The Almeda fire, which claimed over 2800 structures and three lives, devastated the communities of Talent and Phoenix, just south of the Rogue Valley International Medford Airport. The homes of Captain Incerty and Engineer Zigenis were placed on a Level 3 evacuation (the highest level – **must go** danger level) in the late afternoon. The two members proceeded home through the chaos of the event, experiencing long delays in traffic, to evacuate their families to a safe area. Both members were able to get to their homes, gather up key belongings, and take their families to safe refuge. Once the safety of their families was ensured, both members returned

to work to maintain the coverage at the airport. This action demonstrated the firefighters' commitment to the public's safety. We are all proud of these two employees and their approach to their responsibilities.



Pictured, from left to right: Brian Gephard-Airport Director of Operations, Captain Tony Incerty, Jerry Brienza-Airport Director, Engineer Justin Zigenis, and Chief John Karns.

## Boeing MidAmerica

Submitted by Capt. Ray Flaiz



Boeing Pro-Tec firefighters conducted their first ARFF standby today providing safety coverage for experimental aircraft testing.

Capt. Berens and FF Koepke in Crash 2. Until the Boeing truck arrives, Pro-Tec Mid-America will also crew the truck as the engineer.

## Photography for fun

Photos Submitted by Ryan Grothe

Many of our employees have talents outside the fire station they like to share with us. Here are a couple of great shots of the engine at McClelland Palomar Airport (Carlsbad) in California taken by Firefighter Ryan Grothe. Ryan does photography part time when he is not at the airport.



## B-2 Stealth Bomber at BLV

Submitted by Capt. Ray Flaiz

MidAmerica Airport had a very cool visitor on 12/9/20...[a USAF B-2 Stealth Bomber](#). USAF..Fly, Flight, Win! Video by Boeing Pro-Tec FF, Patrick Hall.

## Water Cannon Salute

Submitted by Jacob Kunce

On Monday November 30th at 7pm RFD ARFF participated in a water cannon salute for a retiring UPS Pilot. Chief Millard and FF Kunce sat at Fox 1 on the UPS ramp and started the water salute as the 757 came onto the ramp to park. ARFF units that were apart of the salute was 2901 and 2903.

## Roger 3 at Skyxe—2nd Annual

Submitted by Chief Bryan House

December 17 was the final day to donate an unwrapped toy at Skyxe Saskatoon Airport. The ARFF crew stopped by Roger 3 to pick up the toy haul and were amazed at the generosity and support of those who visited the airport to donate a toy.



The toys were flowing over the top of Roger. All these toys will make some children very happy this holiday season. Thank you to all who donated, you guys did an awesome job!



# ARFF FLASH

## Employee of 4th Quarter

Pro-Tec's Employee of the 4th Quarter award goes to Paramedic/Firefighter Rudy Cataldo and Deputy Fire Chief John VanderEcken, both at Des Moines International Airport.

On Wednesday evening of October 14th, President Trump held a rally on the airport tarmac for an estimated 15,000 people. Des Moines ARFF Personnel Rudy and John were doing EMS stand-by when they observed a middle-aged male in line start seizing. His seizing quickly turned into cardiac arrest. Rudy and John's rapid response to initiate CPR, apply and AED, and administer two shocks, allowed them to obtain Return of Spontaneous Circulation (ROSC). The patient was talking to them as he was loaded into the ambulance.

Rudy received a private message via Facebook from the brother of the patient. "I want to thank you with all of my heart! Last night you and John saved the life of my big brother and best friend!!! I am eternally thankful! He had bypass surgery today and is expected to make a full recovery!!! GOD truly has used you in a manner I don't think you will ever understand!!! You are a hero!!! I pray GOD blesses you and John and your families always!!! I can not put into words how much of a hero you guys are to me!!! I must meet you both and I'm sure my brother will wish to when he is well. He is a pretty recent grandpa who's grandkids adore him! What you have done for my family is the greatest gift one could give or receive!!! I look forward to meeting you one day and I will keep you and John and your families in my prayers always!!! I know I don't know you but I love you man!! Thank you thank you!"

## PTSD Support Dogs Visit BLV

Submitted by Capt. Ray Flaiz

MidAmerica Airport public safety hosted some furry friends and owners on Dec 15th. Ladies and pups from the "Got Your Six" PTSD non profit support group came in for SIDA refresher training. The pups make occasional visits to the terminal cheering up passengers and staff. After a bit of wrangling we got everyone lined up for a photo.



<https://m.facebook.com/gotyoursixptsdsupportdogs/>

## ARFF Training with Illinois State Police

Submitted by Capt. Ray Flaiz



12/17/20 A-shift Crash Rescue at MidAmerica was provided an ARFF walk around tour of the Illinois State Police aircraft at our airport. Training focused on fuel, engine, and battery shut down procedures as well as pilot/JAFO extrication. Thank you to Illinois State Trooper Bill Strobul for the tour. Also pictured are A-shift firefighters Bob Lindauer and Mike Schmitt. Photos by Capt. Flaiz



## Keeping up with Fundamentals at MidAmerica Airport

Submitted by Capt. Ray Flaiz

A-shift at MidAmerica Airport drilled in some fundamentals today. Drills included donning PPE as quickly and accurately as possible as well as forcible entry tool setup. We realized how easy the basics can get away from you when not practiced. We each found some areas that could use some tightening up on. Good drill for all. Capt. Flaiz, and FF's Lindauer and Schmitt all participated.





# ARFF FLASH

## Birthdays & Anniversaries

### BIRTHDAYS

#### FEBRUARY

Mark Romaniuk Calgary  
 David Walters Green Bay  
 Justin Strassburger Green Bay  
 Troy Gray Kalamazoo  
 Gina Wallace MidAmerica  
 Jason Craig Mobile  
 Alton Lee Moss Point  
 Amanda Coyle Moss Point  
 Donald Carlson Moss Point  
 Joseph Bennett OKC  
 Payden Williams OKC  
 Joseph Johnson OKC  
 Matthew Moore OKC  
 Daniel Irby San Antonio  
 Thomas Krakowski Trenton-Mercer  
 Robert Hewins Trenton-Mercer

#### MARCH

Landon Gammons Appleton  
 Adam Mohr Appleton  
 Justin Steer Ardmore  
 Darrell Robinson Calgary  
 Daniel Diehl Corporate  
 Nathaniel Robinson Des Moines  
 Jeremy Annis Des Moines  
 Ashley Hull Green Bay  
 Kyle Baker Kalamazoo  
 David Pierce King  
 Michael Salazar Leidos  
 Justin Sheppard Lynchburg  
 Scott Tice Manchester  
 John Karns Medford  
 Kevin Peters MidAmerica  
 Ryan Dudeck Mobile  
 Michael Stone Moss Point  
 Tyler Jones OKC  
 Nathan Dukes OKC  
 Aaron Culwell OKC  
 Bradley Read Rockford  
 Garrett Gregoire Saskatoon  
 Brett Doucette Saskatoon  
 Matthew Sammon Summit  
 Randall Berger Trenton-Mercer

#### APRIL

Nathan Helbing Appleton  
 Jonathan Schlafer Appleton  
 Dylan Morgan Ardmore  
 Noel Darcy Calgary  
 Alissa Firmston Calgary

Chad Thon-Wierenga Calgary  
 Shaun Waidson Calgary  
 Kyle Wright Calgary  
 Heidi McGill-Cahak Corporate  
 Michael Davis Des Moines  
 Jonathon VanderEcken Des Moines  
 Adam Bergstrom Des Moines  
 Matthew Marcks Green Bay  
 Jared Hopfensperger Green Bay  
 Michael Socha Green Bay  
 Jon Yuhas Kalamazoo  
 Darin Cathey King  
 Randall Reynolds King  
 Joseph Higgins Leidos  
 Demetri Venetos Manchester  
 Tony Incerty Medford  
 Brian Morris Medford  
 Michael Schmitt MidAmerica  
 Julio Vazquez Mojave  
 David Eaker Moss Point  
 Leslie Woosley OKC  
 Austin Gorbet OKC  
 Timothy Mullennax OKC  
 Ray Rodriguez San Antonio  
 Antonio Martinez San Antonio  
 Jody Ruest Saskatoon  
 Julio Madera Summit  
 David Orsini Summit  
 Gregory Hill Trenton-Mercer

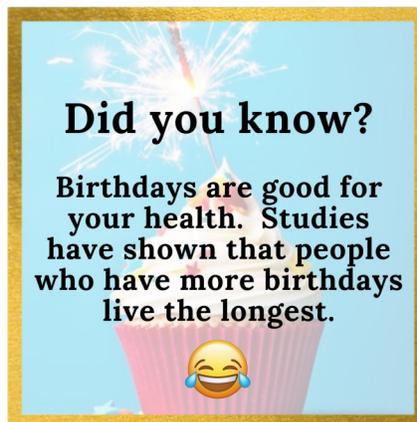
Jefferson Talley MidAmerica  
 Timothy Brown MidAmerica  
 Michael Stone Moss Point  
 Daniel Juarez San Antonio

#### MARCH

Brandon Allcox Appleton  
 Colin Ehlert Appleton  
 Clayton Wilkerson Ardmore  
 Eric Marcinkowski Carlsbad  
 David Walters Green Bay  
 Chet Bruette Green Bay  
 Tobias Midkiff MidAmerica  
 Brent Collins Mobile  
 Varian Doolittle Mobile  
 Artis Reynolds Mobile  
 Robert Stewart Mobile  
 Ryan Dudeck Mobile  
 Brett Long Mobile  
 Amanda Coyle Moss Point  
 Joseph Bennett OKC  
 Ryan Holtz OKC  
 Alan Johnston San Antonio  
 Dexter Galindo San Antonio  
 Jeremy Perez San Antonio  
 Clifford Snyder Summit  
 Michael Sparacio Summit  
 Samuel Loftin Summit

#### APRIL

Zachary Gerner Appleton  
 Adam Mohr Appleton  
 Nathan Helbing Appleton  
 Evan Hecht Des Moines  
 James Brooks Des Moines  
 Phillip McKinley Des Moines  
 Rudolph Cataldo Des Moines  
 David Rienow Green Bay  
 Paul Vosburg Kalamazoo  
 Quin Cayson MidAmerica  
 Brian O'Hear Mobile  
 John Davis OKC  
 Ricky Plantz Rockford  
 Jacob Kunce Rockford  
 Brian Dwyre San Antonio  
 William Divirgilio Summit



### ANNIVERSARIES

#### FEBRUARY

Landon Gammons Appleton  
 Carl Thiem Corporate  
 Kyle Hofacker Green Bay  
 John Yuhas Kalamazoo  
 Patricia Robertson King





# ARFF FLASH

## GOOD NEWS

### Going Above and Beyond at Appleton



On December 28, Appleton International Airport received a call from Karen. She flew in yesterday from Atlanta. She is elderly and uses a walker.

She asked if she could receive some help to get to her car. An airline employee contacted Public Safety and PSO Zach came and picked her and her luggage up at the door. She said Zach was the nicest man she had met in a long time.

He helped her find her car by slowly going up and down each aisle, then by pushing the unlock button on her key to find her vehicle. He got her and her luggage in her car then proceeded to clean all the snow and ice off the car for her.

She was singing Zach's praises and wanted to make sure we knew how helpful he was. She also wanted to let Zach know how much she appreciated him and his kindness!!

### Message From the President



Bill Hershman, President  
Pro-Tec Fire Services

Closing the books on 2020 and welcoming 2021. That is quite the statement to consider. To say that 2020 was a challenging year could be considered an understatement. That said, Pro-Tec weathered the storm of the Coronavirus Pandemic and its associated challenges fairly well in 2020. We had to pivot in several areas and on multiple occasions, but we did so safely and professionally.

Considering the major impacts of this pandemic to the airline industry in both the U.S. and Canada, our company ended the year in a solid financial position. This speaks volumes about our teams across all our airports and the leadership within the organization. We held strong to our Core Values, did not compromise on safety, and continued to provide exceptional value and service to our clients. For that, I thank all of you for your efforts.

As for what to expect in 2021, it is difficult to say. The airline industry has been showing slight gains in activity in the fall, but it is not close to "normal". And while there are varying predictions on when they will see normal traffic, it appears as though the next few quarters will persist in being less than ideal.

As we navigate the uncertainty of this future, I would encourage all of you to continue to live out our Core Values and I would ask you to strive to provide the best possible customer experience to our clients. As we move into 2021, I want all our customers to feel like they cannot live without us. Leave them asking the question, "What would we do without our professional ARFF firefighters from Pro-Tec?"

Here's to a SAFE, healthy, and happy 2021 to each and every one of you, and again, on behalf of the Corporate office, THANK YOU!

-Bill Hershman, President



Pro-Tec would like to welcome baby Stellan Rienow to the ARFF Family. FF David Reinow (GBR) and wife Lyssa are overcome with joy with their first born.



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