

PRESS RELEASE

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City of De Pere
335 South Broadway
De Pere, WI 54115-1199
www.deperewi.gov



Wisconsin First Responder of the Year X 2 *De Pere Fire Rescue staff earns two state awards*

DE PERE –Two members of De Pere Fire Rescue were chosen as recipients of this year’s Wisconsin First Responder of the Year Awards. The two were presented with their awards Oct. 26 in Madison at the State Capital.

Earning awards were Lt. Brett Jansen and Lt. Tom Nelson. They were nominated by Fire Chief Alan Matzke for their outstanding dedication.

Jansen has worked for De Pere Fire Rescue for 15 years. He was chosen by Representative Shae Sortwell (R-Two Rivers) of the 2nd Assembly District.

Lt. Tom Nelson has worked for De Pere Fire Rescue for 14 years. He was chosen by Representative John Macco (R-Ledgeview) of the 88th Assembly District.

In his nomination letter, Chief Matzke noted Lt. Jansen and Lt. Nelson each continually offer energetic, professional, adaptable, and humble service for De Pere Fire Rescue.

Among words of praise regarding Lt. Jansen, Chief Matzke wrote, “Several years ago, our organization began utilizing an electronic patient care reporting software. Lt. Jansen took it upon himself to learn the software and became a “super user” for our organization. He subsequently taught our staff, as well as other departments in our region. Lt. Jansen has mastered this software and has worked to customize the application for our organization, as well as provide suggestions to the vendor to ultimately improve the product for all users.

“Lt. Jansen demonstrates a clear passion for training and over the past two years, he volunteered to help train a response for Integrated Threat (Active Shooter) to all of the police, fire and EMS responders within Brown County.”

In addition to numerous commendations for Lt. Nelson, Chief Matzke wrote, “Training has the most significant impact on an emergency service organization's performance. Lt. Nelson has been carrying the training torch for a long time. Lt. Nelson has established himself as a subject matter expert for everything fire and EMS and truly found his passion in training.

“Lt. Nelson has successfully become an instructor for the American Heart Association and works to train, not only our organization, but several of the neighboring police and fire organizations. Lt. Nelson has successfully obtained a position with the local technical college and when he is not on duty with De Pere Fire Rescue, he is training new and incumbent firefighters and EMT/Paramedics within our entire region.”

Lt. Jansen and Lt. Nelson received their award at a ceremony held at the State Capitol on Oct. 26 as part of First Responders Appreciation Month. Representatives from all 90 Wisconsin Assembly Districts chose one recipient amongst all the Police, Fire and EMS personnel nominated.

For more information on De Pere Fire Rescue, visit: www.deperewi.gov/fire.

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