



PORTAGE FIRE DEPT

APRIL 2024

NEWSLETTER



Fire Chief's Report

This month's operational briefing underscores the Portage Fire Department's enduring commitment to excellence and community service. We've successfully managed 439 calls, with a notable contribution from mutual aid ambulances during a critical period of resource constraint.

The department bids farewell to Vic Mercaldo, who has honorably concluded 25 years of exemplary service. In line with our strategic personnel management, replacements and new hires are underway, ensuring continuity and resilience in our operations.

Vehicle and equipment readiness is paramount; while we navigate temporary challenges with our ambulance fleet, proactive measures are in place, including forthcoming ambulance acquisitions and the commendable operational status of our fire department boat.

Our investment in comprehensive training - from forcible entry, fit testing to advanced BLS EMS skills - demonstrates our unwavering commitment to safety and operational proficiency.

We extend our gratitude to Engineer Chuck Litzkow for his indispensable contributions to our fleet's maintenance and to Rory Ryder, whose journey to U.S. citizenship and service with our department exemplifies the spirit of community and dedication. These acknowledgments reflect the high standards and core values of the Portage Fire Department.

Dive Team Report

Team, we want to share some heartfelt gratitude for the incredible teamwork and dedication shown during the recent servicing and preparation of our boat. It's truly inspiring to see everyone, especially our dive team, contribute so much time and effort to ensure everything is in top shape. A special mention must go to Chuck Litzkow, whose generous donation and tireless work on the decals have touched us all deeply. Chuck, your spirit of giving and commitment makes you an honorary member in our hearts. With all the necessary gear now on board, our boat is ready to serve us this season. And on another positive note, we're making good progress with the grant proposal—fingers crossed as we finalize the details.



Fire Investigation Team

The fire investigation investigated one fire in the last month.
That fire was deemed to be electrical in nature.

We are starting to work closely with the Porter County
Investigation Team as their primary mutual aid.

With the upcoming appointment of Lt. Siegel, we will have two
vacancies on the team. Anyone interested, reach out to an
investigator to ask questions.

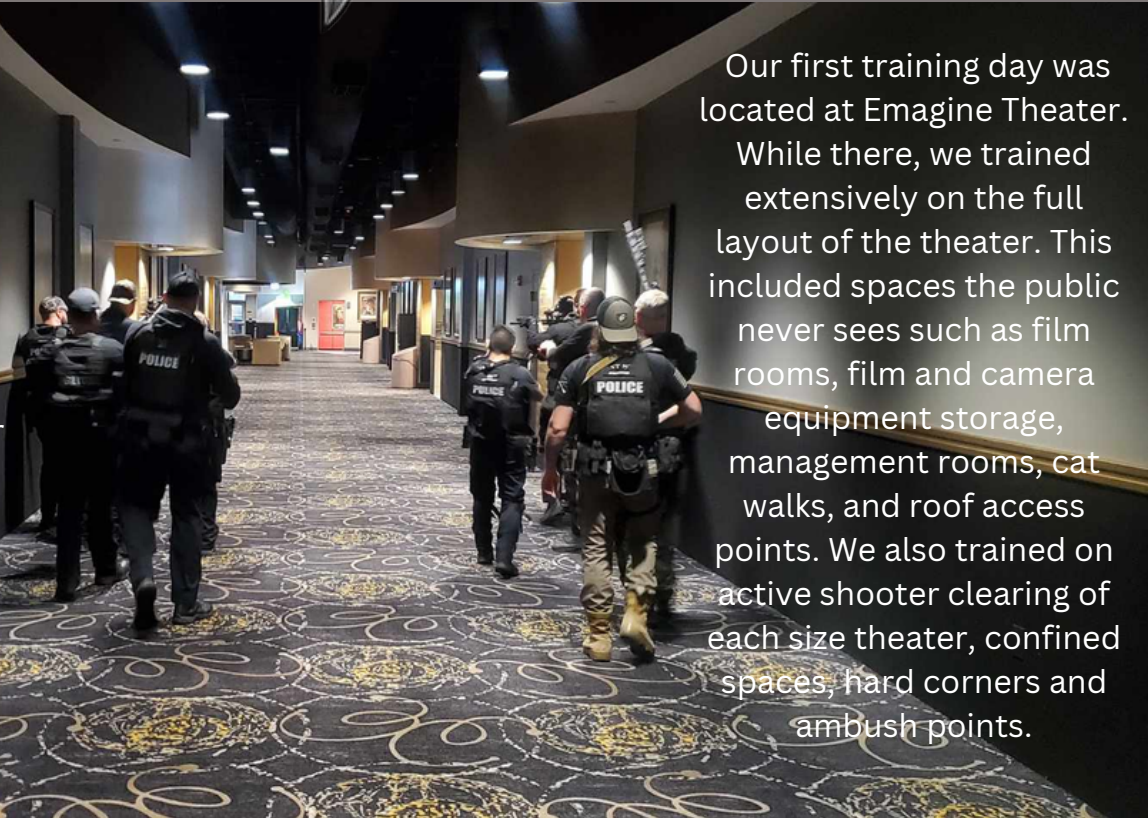




Tactical Medics

This month we had two very realistic training environments. Both of these locations involved tactics to take on scenarios in which our country has seen in the past to prepare for the future.

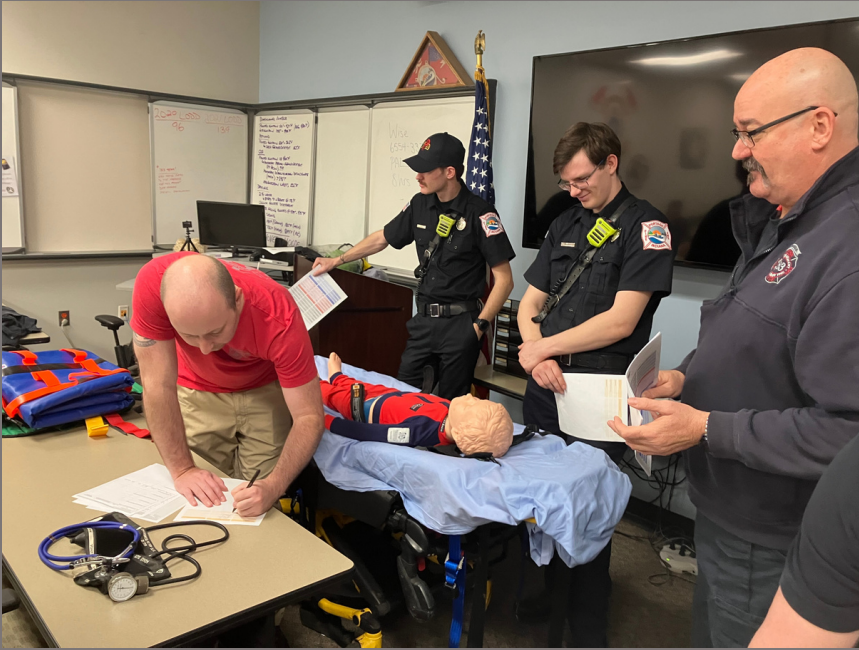
Our first training day was located at Emagine Theater. While there, we trained extensively on the full layout of the theater. This included spaces the public never sees such as film rooms, film and camera equipment storage, management rooms, cat walks, and roof access points. We also trained on active shooter clearing of each size theater, confined spaces, hard corners and ambush points.



Our second training was located at the Portage bus barn. This was a force on force training using air soft pistols. The focus of this training included vehicle entry and clearing, active shooter threat, and hostage takeover scenarios.



EMS NOTES



This months training concentrated on Basic Life Support Skills. Thank you to all the instructors who took the time to make this training happen



April Birthday's

Ashley Harders 4/2

Tim Fercik 4/9

Greg Adair 4/9

Chuck Litzkow 4/10

Nate Bryan 4/16

Grant Hunsley 4/22

Aaron Wirtz 4/28

Pat Newell 4/30



Work Anniversary

Brian Anderson 4/3 4 years

Andy Himan 4/12 25 years

Aaron Wirtz 4/13 16 years

Chris Crail 4/15 22 years

Billy Lundy 4/19 3 years

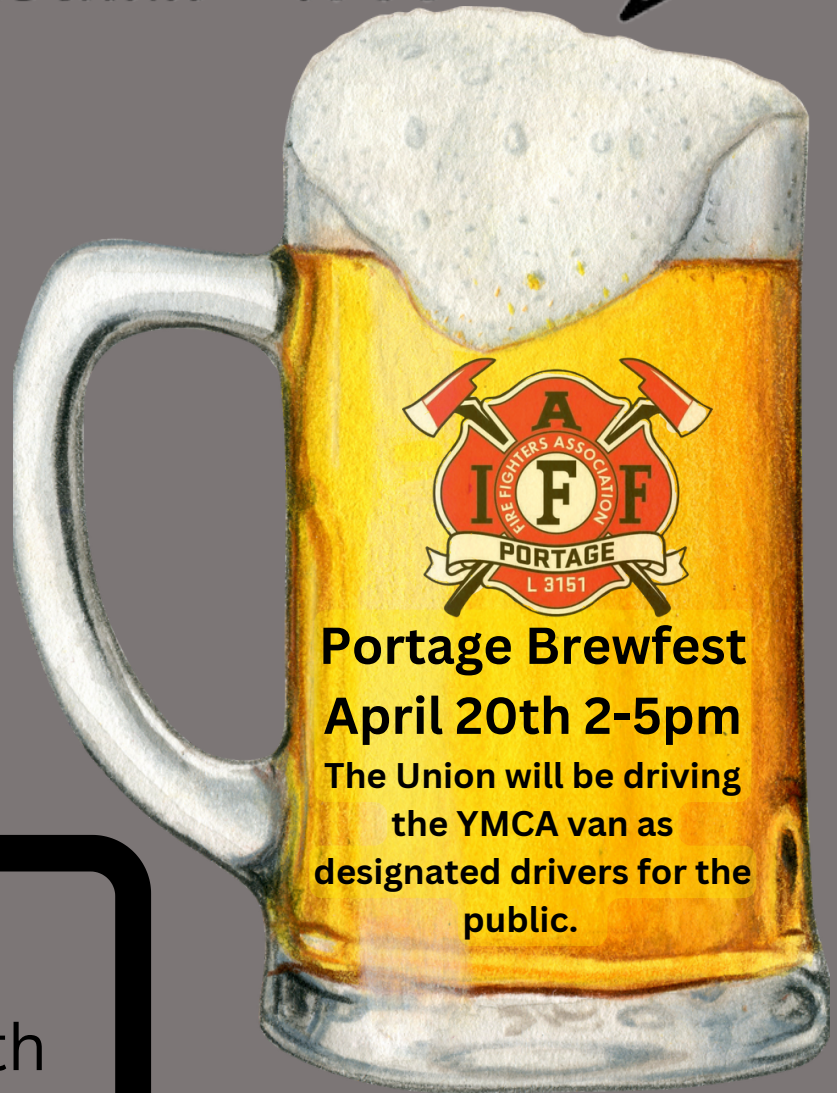
Mark Lewis 4/28 27 years

Mark Vittetoe 4/28 27 years

Chris Kender 27 years

PORTAGE FIRE DEPARTMENT

INDIANA - 1968



Portage Brewfest

April 20th 2-5pm

The Union will be driving
the YMCA van as
designated drivers for the
public.

ESO will go live
in July starting with
EMS and fire
reporting

Union Golf

Outing



August 8th