

Hills firefighters learn tricks of life-saving trade

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Using shaving cream during the extrication of victims from a wrecked car might not sound like a good idea, but it works.

Firefighters from Farmington Hills learned about that technique at this week's Transportation Emergency Response Committee (TERC) rescue competition, held at Henry Ford Community College in Dearborn.

The two Hills teams that entered placed high in both categories of competition, with and without hydraulic power tools.

Team 1 — John Wells, Dennis Hughes, Steve Beibel, George Baker, Brian Gallison and David Jones — placed second overall and in the "unlimited" competition with power tools.

Team 2 — Sgt. Kathryn Baker, Lt. Dennis Atkins, Robert Crawford, Michael Crawford, Robert Picard, Robert Quinn and alternate Adam Jenovai — took first place in the "limited" category, without hydraulics.

After the competition, teams discussed the techniques they used and the problems they encountered. The shaving cream was suggested as a way to reduce glass dust created when rescuers cut through windshields.

"We pick up tricks of the trade," said Deputy Chief Pete Baldwin of the annual event. "Some of the things sound a little unorthodox, but they're tried by other communities, and they work."

The three-day event begins with a training session, followed by the rescue competition. Teams of a half-dozen firefighters are given 20 minutes to extricate a dummy trapped in a vehicle that has been crushed.



Demonstrations: In photos above and below, firefighters put rescue training techniques to the test.

They can choose to work with hydraulic power equipment like the "jaws of life," or with more common tools.

"What we're finding is some of the ordinary tools are effective, when used in the proper way," Baldwin said.

Ford Motor Company donates brand new vehicles, giving firefighters the opportunity to practice on state-of-the-art equipment. Each car or truck is lifted and dropped, assaulted by a front end loader, and some are even trapped against concrete barriers.

"They'll create a realistic accident to deal with," Baldwin said. "They get very creative."

What firefighters learned over



the three-day period last year was put into effect almost immediately, he added.

The competition is sponsored by the Metropolitan Affairs Coalition.

Circle from page A1

abled people go through in regular life," said Eisenhower sixth grader Alleysha Tucker, whose Cloverdale mate was Kelsey Nordstrom. "And to be nice to them instead of laughing and pointing."

There was laughing going on Wednesday. But the laughs were when Alleysha and Kelsey blew large bubbles together, created glittery picture frames or ate lunch.

Students received picture frames from which to insert photographs taken of themselves and their pen pals.

"At the beginning of the year I thought they were really different than us," said Kasey Peshek, an Eisenhower sixth grader and pen pal of Cloverdale's William Burden. "Now I think they have many things in common with us. ... We're all people and we all think the same."



To the hoop: Alex Dailey drives for the basket.

Getting acquainted

Teaming up for field day games of adapted basketball and adapted bowling were Kurt Sovey and Alex DeGrave, of Eisenhower and Cloverdale, respectively.

"I learned that they're just people like us, only a little different," Kurt said.



Fun time: Kayla Schulmeister blows bubbles for her pen pal, Tara Artuch of Cloverdale.

Leading Circle of Friends were Cloverdale occupational therapist Kelly Vogelheim and her sister, Eisenhower teacher Becky Kley.

"The benefit to their kids," Vogelheim said, "is letting them know about our kids' disabilities. Basically, our kids aren't that much different than anybody else. They have strengths and weaknesses, too."

Kley said the program, for her class, was a life-changing experience.

"I know they respect people with differences and disabilities, obviously more than they did before," Kley said. "And they learned more about themselves."

"This has ended up spiraling into something I never knew was possible. I think the kids are just having a great day."

On Wednesday, after lunch, the youngsters took part in seven activities: bubble-blowing, crafts and pictures, bean bag tosses, sensory activities (using Play-Doh, for example), adapted bowling, adapted basketball and a hot potato toss. Refreshments included Sno-Cones and popcorn.

Circle of Friends recently was honored by the Michigan Education Association in its "Showcasing Public School Success 2000" recognition program, Kley said.



Getting started: The children head out for an afternoon of fun, games and getting to know each other.

Trash can limits due to be enforced

By TOM SMITH
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It's a dirty, heavy job and somebody has to do it. But it's getting too heavy, and trash haulers apparently are getting picky about it.

As of June 16, the only trash cans to be collected in the city of Farmington by Waste Management sanitation workers will weigh no more than 32 pounds. If a collector still encounters oversized containers on the route, those will not be emptied, an official for Southfield-based Waste Management, Inc. told Farmington City Council members on Monday night.

Residents and businesses have had a fair warning, said Kevin Gushman, director of Farmington's Department of Public Services.

"They've been nagging them, telling them these are not being accepted anymore," Gushman

FARMINGTON CITY COUNCIL

said. "It's been over a month and a half" since the sticker process began.

Trash cans deemed too big are being slapped with orange stickers, basically informing them of that fact.

People can still use the larger containers they are becoming accustomed to, added Gushman, referring to Rubbermaid receptacles called "Bruiser" or "Brute." But owners must empty the contents, generally plastic bags of garbage.

"They can still use them to transport trash," to the curb, Gushman said. "Just empty the container and return (it) to the garage."

Those containers often weigh 40, 50 or 60 gallons when full, and are usually on wheels.

Because owners can roll them to the curb, and do not have to lift them, they don't understand the physical wear and tear trash hauler's encounter, said Waste Management's Tom Horton, municipal marketing manager for the Michigan Region.

Trash talk

"With smaller containers they can handle it much easier," Horton said to council. "A larger container still represents potential danger to workers."

Larger trash cans are much more awkward to lift, and can result in spinal injuries to workers, Horton said. Meanwhile, he emphasized that it won't matter if an oversized container is half-full or not when they see one at the curb.

Horton noted that workers will assume they weigh more than the 32-gallon limit, and flat-out will not lift them as of June 16. Waste Management is con-

tracted by Farmington and Farmington Hills, and other municipalities, to collect trash.

For years, it has been specified in contracts between the company and individual cities that pick-up weight cannot exceed 32 gallons. But those contracts rarely have been enforced.

It now is evident that if there was a hands-off approach to enforcement, it is being jettisoned.

"Most people don't realize the average worker picks up 20 to 22 tons of material a day," said Horton, explaining the overdue enforcement of weight limitations. "It becomes very important from a health standpoint that they encounter containers on their route that are safe to handle."

The first day for the company to not accept oversized containers in Farmington Hills was Monday, June 5.

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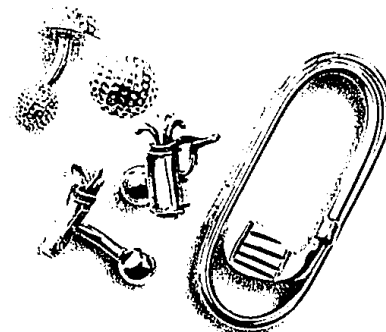


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