



For Immediate Release

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Birmingham City Commissioner Experiences Real-Life Emergency Scenarios during Fire Ops 101

BIRMINGHAM, MI, October 20, 2022 – On Friday, October 7, 2022, Birmingham Fire Department personnel and elected officials, including Birmingham City Commissioner Andrew Haig, participated in the annual OAKWAY Fire Ops 101 training event.

“This is the fifth year that OAKWAY has held the event and its educational opportunities are always well received by the participants,” said Assistant Fire Chief, Matthew Bartalino.

During the daylong program, developed by the International Association of Firefighters (IAFF), participants experience exactly how complex and challenging it is to keep our communities safe by exposing them to the physical stress and strain firefighters and emergency medical personnel face on a daily basis.



Suited up in full protective gear, elected officials, community leaders and members of the media participate in various scenarios including emergency medical and hazmat situations, vehicle extrication and going inside a live fire to experience first-hand the environment in which firefighters and emergency medical personnel work. Visit www.bhamgov.org/fireops2022 to watch Birmingham Fire Department personnel and Commissioner Haig participate in some of the scenarios that took place at this year’s event.

“This experience is extremely educational, not just to see what is being done, but to see why certain things are being done,” said Commissioner Haig. “One of the big takeaways that I got from this is the nuances that are required in approaching any of the individual issues that firefighters or EMS would actually face. It’s not always as immediately obvious as you think it should be.”

Fire OPS 101, which took place at the Oakland Community College CREST center in Auburn Hills, is one of the many activities the Birmingham Fire Department participated in during this year’s Fire Prevention Week campaign to engage and educate the community in fire prevention and safety. Fire Prevention Week is observed each year during the second week in October in commemoration of the Great Chicago Fire, which began on October 8, 1871, and caused devastating damage.

The Birmingham Fire Department reminds the community, if you have a fire, get out and stay out – call 911! For fire safety and prevention information, community education opportunities including CPR courses, visit www.bhamgov.org/fire.