



2005 Division Street Manitowoc Wisconsin 54220-5652
T 920 684 7171 F 920 683 9292 www.felicianvillage.org

Felician Village

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From: Jennifer Meyer, Housing Coordinator/Marketing Assistant (684-7171 Ext 361)

Suggested Headline: Felician Village Partners with Manitowoc Fire Department

The Manitowoc Fire Department recently conducted training sessions in vacated areas of St. Mary's at Felician Village. The training sessions consisted of two parts: MAYDAY training and Search and Rescue training.

The MAYDAY training took place in the north end of St. Mary's in a vacated area in the basement. The firefighters were put into scenarios where they were in trouble and unable to help themselves. The significance of this type of training is to help firefighters recognize the parameters for calling for help or MAYDAY when they are in this type of situation in real life. According to Gregg Kadow, Deputy Chief, "Although you can never train like the real thing, this training gets the firefighter to think about what actions they need to make to call for help and make it out safely. Our goal, and a saying that the fire service has adopted is, 'Everyone Goes Home'.

The Search and Rescue training took place on a vacated, north wing on the second floor of St. Mary's. The firefighters were put into teams and then put into a scenario where they had to search room to room for any possible victims. The firefighters, wearing all of their firefighting clothing and equipment, also wore special masks that simulated being in a smoke-filled building. They were unable to see where they were going or their partner. The firefighters searched, crawling on the floor feeling their way along, from room to room until they found a victim or cleared the floor.

This type of training helps firefighters prepare for similar situations like this that would involve a large complex such as a nursing home, school, hospital or an apartment building where they would be searching room to room for any victims. This type of scenario also helps the firefighters practice their communication skills, which are especially important in these types of situations. Kadow says that "communication between members of the team is important so that each person knows what the other is doing and to make sure that their partner is ok."

The Manitowoc Fire Department plans on using vacated areas of St. Mary's for future training purposes until the building is demolished next year.

CAPTION FOR PHOTO: Firefighters Kevin Hoffman, Dan Griepentrog and Cindy Leist practice Search and Rescue training in a vacated wing at St. Mary's at Felician Village.

