

We are constantly Training!

There are many reasons that the Clear Lake Fire Department holds training sessions every month. The prime reason is the safety of the personnel. They also need to be familiar with the wide variety of equipment aboard the engines and trucks and new devices being introduced. Mutual aid between local departments requires consistent operational protocols when working with unfamiliar personnel. This requires consistent training.

The department owes the citizens and guests of Clear Lake the highest standards of physical and property protection.

Several of the firefighters are certified by training in Firefighter I and 2 and in different ratings in EMT and Paramedic levels. All members qualify yearly for the Cardio-Vascular Resuscitation certification. The department owns several devices for hands-on training.

The Clear Lake Fire Department has specialized equipment, including one of the very few “burn buildings” in Iowa and trains constantly with it. Many other fire departments avail themselves of this facility. Many different scenarios of building fires can be set to allow firefighters to safely fight live fires without destroying a building.

Clear Lake has several realms of property, activities, population, ages, and weather that require several areas of emergency training.

With the Lake as a drawing feature, the number of persons in, or traveling through Clear Lake varies from about 8 thousand to over 30-thousand. This means that the personnel and equipment must be ready for the maximum density throughout the year. The Lake’s condition during summer swimming and boating to winter ice fishing, snow-



mobiling, and other activities, requires training in several aspects and specialized equipment for rescue and protection.

The changing conditions of the Clear Lake ice leads to ice rescues almost every year. In 1993, a Clear Lake resident broke through



the ice at night in a snowmobile and was believed immersed below the water for more than hour. Clear Lake firefighters in a department boat located him, brought him aboard and brought him to an ambulance on shore for transport to a local hospital. There were no signs of life. But at a body temperature at 72 degrees, he was treated with a heart-lung machine and revived. This rescue happened because of specialized training by all the teams involved.

Firefighters in specialized cold-water suits are “rescued” through several scenarios on the ice.

All members are encouraged to participate in locally-provided training, and to attend regional, state and national training and educational programs which they may be expected to encounter.