



**Bradley J. Liggett, Fire Chief**

**Fire Department • 1111 CHURCH STREET • BELOIT, WI 53511**

**Office: 608/364-2900 • Fax: 608/364-2925**

*e-mail: [liggett@beloitwi.gov](mailto:liggett@beloitwi.gov)*

*Equal Opportunity Employer*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

For more information contact  
Acting Lt. Jason Griffin, Public Information Officer  
608-364-2900

### **CITY COUNCILOR PARTICIPATES IN FIRE OPS 101 TRAINING**

**September 14, 2016** - If there was a fire in your living room, how much time would you estimate before the entire room burst into flames (what's referred to as flashover)? In the past, a living room would flashover in an average of 25-30 minutes. However, given the new materials that are used in home furnishings today, flashover typically occurs now within 8 to 10 minutes. With a narrower window of time to rescue people trapped in a fire, the minutes that tick away before the necessary number of firefighters can respond is more critical than ever.

Fire Ops 101 is a six-hour program geared towards elected and appointed officials, as well as members of the media. The program gives participants a chance to see and experience what fire fighters and paramedics face on a day-to-day basis. Each participant suits up in fire gear, including contained breathing apparatus, essential to breathing in heavy smoke. They learn how to battle a live fire, and receive instructions on how to respond to situations including a flashover.

Along with off-duty Firefighters Dave Hansen, Jason Griffin, Ryan Moeller, Mike Miller and Dustin Reil, Beloit City Councilor Sheila De Forest recently gained firsthand knowledge on what a difference it makes if even just one more firefighter can immediately respond to the scene. The group spent a day at Fire Ops 101, hosted by the Professional Firefighters of Wisconsin at Milwaukee Area Technical College – Oak Creek Training Center. De Forest participated in many of the life-saving tasks performed by Beloit's firefighters/paramedics, and discovered that while crawling through a burning building on her knees she didn't have enough hands to hold the hose, keep the wall as a reference in the smoky pitch dark, shut the entry door behind her to avoid feeding the fire and sweep for an unconscious person on the ground. Councilor De Forest said, "It became obvious pretty quickly that if we were to have any chance of saving a trapped person in time, we needed enough hands on deck quickly to cool the fire and prevent flashover,

-more-

other hands dedicated to search and rescue, and a person outside the building to coordinate those efforts and keep everyone on the inside safe.”

She expressed appreciation for the opportunity to attend the program, saying, “It allowed me to experience first-hand the difficulties in responding to a fire, along with the challenges encountered when extricating someone from a car or attending to a cardiac arrest patient.” As a result, plans are in the works by Hansen and De Forest to explore offering a smaller-scale version of the training experience here in Beloit.

###