



Cleveland Clinic EMS Academy instructors set up scenarios for Rocky River firefighters to practice auto extrication skills last week. They also brought three impounded cars each day, along with hydraulic tools. They practiced the life-saving techniques hands-on behind the city service garage on Lake Rd.



After two hours of classroom instruction, Rocky River firefighters rescue a mannequin from a wrecked car to gain knowledge on saving victims from severe car accidents.

Firefighters learn to save victims from horrific accidents

By Allison Pritchard

ROCKY RIVER

Rocky River firefighters worked hard in a rescue mission on an overturned car—this time, fortunately, only to save a mannequin. Cleveland Clinic EMS Academy set up wrecked car scenarios Oct. 21, 23 and 23 behind the city service garage to help teach firefighters auto extrication techniques.

About 24 total firefighters learned on three separate days, with two hours of classroom instruction in the morning and hands-on scenarios from noon until about 2 p.m. each day, said Fire Chief Chris Flynn. The Cleveland Clinic arranged to bring hydraulic tools and three previously impounded cars each day along with other learning tools, Flynn told West Life.

The lessons made sure all firefighters were on the same page so they know their tasks and expectations if real life situations like the scenarios ever occur, said Flynn.

Scenarios with a door crushed, a car overturned, a person to be rescued in the back seat and others were part of the lesson. Instructors switched scenarios up and used each vehicle three or four times each shift, Flynn said.

The goal was to remove the mannequin from the crashes without more injury than it occurred during the



During hands-on auto extrication training, firefighters learned what to do in case of a real situation in which a victim is trapped under a car. (West Life photos by Larry Bennet)

crashes, Flynn said. He said usually in these sort of circumstances, the people are hurt pretty badly.

Fortunately, only one or two wrecks this severe take place in the city each year, said Flynn. Crashes happen, but not many where people are trapped this way. Flynn said he knew it was good training because the

firefighters “came back really beat.”

The Rocky River fire department has two sets of tools that can be used in case of a severe car accident. Flynn said it's been about three years since Rocky River firefighters last had this sort of training because it's so expensive. Neighboring cities also have auto extrication training periodically.

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