

Company Functions

Instructor Line-Up



Damon Laurion - Truck Ops

Damon has worked in the fire service for 18 years and is originally from Duluth MN. After attending Lake Superior College for a degree in fire science, he started his career with the US Forest Service and fell in love with the ruggedness of wild-land firefighting. Damon has worked as a nozzle-man on multiple engine companies and has gained extensive experience as a sawyer on hand-crews. In 2005 he accepted a position with the Platte Canyon Fire Protection District in Colorado working as Crew Boss on a 20-person fire crew. In 2010 he accepted an opportunity to come home to Minnesota and began working for Duluth Fire. He is currently bid as the Senior Firefighter on the downtown truck company and loves doing roof work. Damon teaches saw maintenance, saw operations, forcible entry, vertical vent, search and other cool truck stuff for the DFD. In addition, he has been teaching as a live fire instructor for Lake Superior College since 2011. When not working on fire stuff, he likes to keep busy with his wife and three sons where he spends all of his money on the boat and hockey gear.

Chris Cid - Truck Ops

Chris has worked in the fire service for 23 years. Shortly after attaining his Bachelor of Science from the University of Colorado he became a firefighter for Loveland Fire & Rescue Department. There he spent 11 years as a Firefighter, Fire Equipment Operator and Company Officer honing his craft on engine and truck companies alike. He was a Fire Instructor for Aims Community College and the Northern Colorado Fire Consortium Academies. Incident Command, Special Operations and Technical Rescue are a few of the areas Chris has always been drawn to, eventually becoming one of the Special Operation Division's Command Staff. In 2006 Chris moved to Duluth, MN to be near family and was hired by the Duluth Fire Department. There he spent a few years on a downtown engine company and the past several years as the senior firefighter on #8 Quint (previously #8 Truck), serving the West side of Duluth. He has been a Fire Instructor for Lake Superior College since 2008 teaching the A.S. and A.A.S. degree programs, live fire evolutions as well as industrial customized training. Chris also has been a corporate trainer for both Dive Rescue International and Fire Innovations. Chris's 5 daughters and a blueberry farm keep him running during his off time.



Dave Werner - Engine Ops

Dave hails from northern Wisconsin and has been volunteering or working in the fire service for 14 years. He started volunteering with Three Lakes Fire Department while going to school for fire science. In 2010 he moved to Greenville, SC where he was hired by the Gantt District Fire Department and then the Greenville City Fire Department. In January of 2017, the Duluth Fire Department hired Dave where he currently works as an engine firefighter in Duluth's busiest fire district. Dave is very passionate about the fire service and instructing realistic fire skills. He has instructed for the South Carolina Fire Academy, as well as Greenville Technical College and now teaches fire ground search, hose line operations and forcible entry for the DFD. He has obtained an A.A.S in Fire Science and a B.S. in Fire Protection Administration. Dave is a truck guy at heart, but also holds high appreciation for efficient and aggressive engine work. Dave has been working at Lake Superior College since January 2018, and when he's not busy at the school or with DFD he can be found chasing his two daughters around or relaxing on his front porch with his wife.



Kevin Haney - Truck Ops

Kevin is a 23 year fire service veteran having spent most of that working for the Duluth Fire Department. After college, he worked a brief stint in Southern MN before returning home to Duluth. He promoted to the rank of Driver and spent about 16 years behind the wheel of an engine company serving the West side of Duluth. With DFD recently experiencing a lot of turnover, Kevin promoted up to the rank of Captain and was quickly assigned to Rescue Company #1. In addition to a very busy medical district, his rig responds to all technical rescues and working structure fires in the city. Kevin teaches technical rescue, truck company operations and driver/operator within the DFD. Kevin has also been a long time, seasoned Lead burn instructor and CPAT coordinator for Lake Superior College. After work, Kevin spends time with his wife, son and new puppy cruising Lake Superior.



Matt Swanson - Engine Ops

Matt (Swanny) has worked for Duluth Fire the last 18 years and currently serves as "the Senior Man" on the back of #8 Quint. He has worked at #8 Fire Station for 12 of those 18 years and had the privilege of working with some terrific fire service mentors. Matt will say engine work is his passion because he worked as a nozzle man on #8 Engine prior to it going out of service. Now that his engine has a ladder on the roof, he has developed a love for all things truck as well as hydraulics and hose stretching. In addition to working full-time for the DFD, Matt works as a fire instructor for Lake Superior College, where he has served as resident carpenter and prop builder since graduating with his fire degree 20 years ago. He has been extensively involved in Live Fire training serving as a Lead Burn Instructor for over a decade. Matt was a recipient of the inaugural Honeywell Scholarship for "Excellence in the Fire Service", nominated by his peers for his drive, motivation and constant commitment to excellence in fire instruction. Matt grew up in Southern Minnesota and has three kids including two teenage sons and a daughter. In addition to being a firefighter, fire instructor and dad... Matt somehow has time to also work as a Goalie Coach for the Hermantown High school boys' hockey team.



Camron Volbrecht - Engine Ops

Cam is from Central Minnesota and has 14 years of experience in the fire service. He works as an engine Captain for the Superior WI Fire Department and serves as the Industrial Fire Coordinator for their HAZMAT Team. Superior WI is a densely populated urban area surrounded by industrial oil refineries and a major pipeline distribution center, requiring knowledge in "Big Water" engine operations. Prior to employment with SFD, he worked as a firefighter in St. Cloud MN. Cam earned his Bachelor's Degree in Biology from the University of Minnesota, Morris in 1999. Before he found his calling in the fire service, he worked as an environmental scientist and a HAZMAT specialist for a private firm. Cam also instructs for Lake Superior College in the fire science degree program and specializes in industrial fire safety and Hazardous Materials and Live Fire. When not working, he is an avid hunter and outdoors man who enjoys traveling with his wife.

