



ROCHESTER FIRE DEPARTMENT

Monthly Media Blast

April 2024

Deputy Chief Mulholland completes prestigious program: RFD Deputy Chief Holly Mulholland recently achieved a significant milestone in her career by successfully completing the Fire Service Executive Development Institute (FSEDI) cohort on March 13. The FSEDI is a program initiated and facilitated by the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC), spans 12-18 months, and encompasses multiple residency sessions along with a conference session. This exclusive program only accepts 20-24 participants each year. FSEDI focuses on:

- Identifying, educating, nurturing, and promoting the next generation of fire service leaders, and providing them with the education, tools and resources to be successful.
- Facilitating active engagement in the fire service at various levels – regional, state, and national.
- Providing a developmental program that focuses on current and emerging challenges in fire service leadership.



Pictured front row, fifth from left above, Deputy Chief Mulholland said, “This was a truly amazing opportunity to learn from and with some of the best fire service leaders from the United States and Canada. I appreciate the support of the City and the Fire Department for my professional development and participation in this cohort.”

Red-Flag Warnings – same as a burn ban? Last year saw multiple – and occasionally lengthy – Red-Flag Warnings issued for Rochester and the surrounding area by the National Weather Service (NWS). And this year’s record-low snowpack and unseasonably warm temperatures led to early Red-Flag Warnings in March. So, it’s likely that these warnings will be prevalent again in the spring and summer months ahead. But what triggers a Red-Flag Warning, and what do they mean exactly? Is it the same as a burn ban? And how do they differ from a Fire-

Weather Watch, which is also issued by the NWS? It can all get a little confusing, but here are the main points to remember for the Rochester area:

- **Red-Flag Warnings:** Issued by the NWS if winds are sustained greater than 20 mph, or frequent gusts of greater than 25 mph. Relative humidity must also be below 25%, and ground fuels must be conducive to burning. Outdoor burning is not recommended. Of note, Wisconsin and Iowa have different criteria than Minnesota for Red-Flag warnings.
- **Fire-Weather Watches:** Issued by the NWS. Outdoor burning is not recommended, but conditions don't quite meet Red-Flag Warning criteria.
- **Burn Bans outside Rochester:** "No Open Burning" restrictions are issued by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and pertain to burning (including those with DNR permits) in Olmsted County, but do NOT include Rochester.
- **Burn Bans inside Rochester:** Open burning is always prohibited within Rochester City Limits unless a permit has been issued by the City. Again, DNR burn bans do NOT pertain to permitted burning inside the City. Any burn bans within the City must come from the Rochester Fire Department and the Fire Marshal's Division. Recreational fires are always allowed, unless specifically banned by RFD. However, RFD asks residents to use caution and follow NWS recommendations during Red-Flag Warnings.



RFD and Rochester Emergency Management routinely monitor the alerts, watches, and restrictions from the NWS and DNR, and make determinations on whether further action is required to limit burning within City Limits. For more information on recreational fires in Rochester, go [here](#). For more information on open burning in Rochester, go [here](#).

RFD Public Information Officers can be reached at: FirePublicRelations@rochestermn.gov with questions or for more information.

