

# Norfolk Insider

City of Norfolk, NE

[www.ci.norfolk.ne.us](http://www.ci.norfolk.ne.us)

August 13, 2015

## “Fire Division Practices Harvest Emergency Response”

It won't be long until the combines are rolling in area fields and the Norfolk Fire Division is making sure all of their personnel are prepared for any harvest-related emergency.

This week all three shifts of the Fire Division are at the Dinkel Implement dealership working their way through two harvest related emergency scenarios. In one, the firefighters/paramedics need to get a mannequin safely out from being trapped underneath a combine head. In the other, a mannequin is caught in the auger at the bottom of a grain cart.



The firefighters used an airbag to lift the combine head off the mannequin and then used a rope around its chest to pull it to safety. They also took the opportunity to learn the location of the shut off of the combine, how to access the hopper at the top in case there was a fire and other mechanical features of the combine.

“This is a great way for our firefighters to look over the machinery before they're at the scene and have to make those split second decisions. They practice how to establish scene safety and incident stabilization while assessing steps necessary to assist the victim,” said Tim Wragge, Norfolk Fire Division Assistant Chief.

Members of Shift A were working under the combine maneuvering the air bag in the best spot to push up the front of the combine. The airbags can lift weights in excess of 70 tons so it easily lifted the combine head off the mannequin without the assistance of the combine motor.

A ladder was attached to the top of the grain cart and after the firefighters extricated the mannequin from the auger, it was placed in a basket stretcher and slid by ropes carefully down the ladder.

The firefighters were headed to Green Line Equipment after the drills to see the different safety features on a John Deere combine. The combine at Dinkel's was a New Holland model.

“There are different safety features and design differences on the various models of equipment so this gives us a chance to look at different equipment. Although we have many firefighters on staff who either grew up on farms, work on a farm or or mechanically inclined, when we are called to a farm emergency we contact that particular implement expert for more information,” Wragge said.

He reminded farmers and drivers to slow down, be patient and slow down at intersections. He advised those who come upon a farm accident to first call 911, only remove the victim if he/she has an immediate life threat including fire danger and stay with the victim until paramedics arrive.