

Firefighters hone skills during class

Written by Holyoke Enterprise

Tuesday, 20 December 2011 21:27 - Last Updated Tuesday, 20 December 2011 21:33

About 22 area firemen are in the middle of an extensive Firefighter One course in Holyoke. Temperatures in the upper 50s allowed students to get out and spend some time ripping apart vehicles as they practiced their extrication skills and techniques Sunday, Dec. 18.



Above, Lance Williams attempts to pry open a rear door of a vehicle while Phil Wirges looks on. -Enterprise photo

This is the second time the class has been offered in Holyoke. HVFD fireman Bob Heldenbrand said firemen from Holyoke, Amherst, Haxtun and Wages are participating in the class which HVFD hopes to hold every two years.



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Above, Kenny Gaskill of Amherst gets his hands on the jaws during practice. [REDACTED] -Enterprise photo

The class is set up through Northeastern Junior College in Sterling and gives participants the chance to earn college credits. Retired Loveland fireman Chris Probst serves as the lead instructor. The class began three weekends ago and meets most weekends, according to Heldenbrand. When all is said and done, students will have spent about 120 hours taking the class.

The class meets for classroom work at the Lions Den.

Holyoke Enterprise December 22, 2011