

09. November 2023

Fire and rescue station

## Honours and promotions at the fire brigade



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Several members of the Suderwick fire brigade and the Bocholt fire brigade were honoured and promoted at St Martin's Day evenings last week. The firefighters also accompanied the St Martin's processions in Suderwick (Saturday) and Bocholt (Tuesday) together with the youth fire brigade.

## Suderwick:

Following the St Martin's procession, the traditional St Martin's evening of the fire brigade took place in the fire station. First City Councillor Thomas Waschki thanked the members of the fire brigade for their voluntary commitment and particularly praised the cooperation with their Dutch colleagues.

Thomas Deckers, head of the Bocholt fire brigade, added: "The Suderwick fire brigade is an important building block in the city of Bocholt's emergency response. I am very proud of the lively European cooperation that regularly takes place during exercises and operations with the Dinxperlo fire brigade." This year, the two fire engines took part in the Borken district fire brigade performance test together for the first time.

Ludger Klaassen and Wilfried Deckers were then transferred to the honorary department after a total of more than 75 years of voluntary service in the Bocholt fire brigade. Thomas Deckers and his deputy Marco Heisterkamp emphasised their special achievements and thanked them for their voluntary work for the benefit of the citizens of Bocholt.

Honours and promotions were also on the agenda. Thomas Deckers thanked them for their willingness to regularly take part in training and further education programmes. "This is a guarantee for the good work you do every day," Deckers praised the members of the fire brigade.

## Promotions and honours

Anika Brink was promoted to senior firefighter, Johanna Brink and Pia Neuhaus to senior firefighter, Frederik Heisterkamp to senior firefighter, Louis Marquardt and Joel Böhnicke to firefighter. Frederik Heisterkamp and Johanna Brink were honoured for 10 years of membership of the fire brigade. Markus Enk was appointed equipment attendant.

The following members of the fire brigade successfully took part in the Borken district performance test:

Carsten Brünninghoff (28th participation), Klassen Robert (27th participation), Björn Hormann (18th participation), Elmar Döink (16th participation), Florian Sickmann (11th participation), Nico Vienenkötter (13th participation) Jennifer Palitza (9th participation), Markus Enk (7th participation) Anika Brink (5th participation), Lukas Brink (5th participation), Luisa Schumacher (2nd participation)

The following members of the Dinxperlo fire brigade took part in the German performance test in the Borken district for the first time: Dewi Tebeest, Andre Wienholts, Ester de Rietstap, Tim Boland, Ralf Bluemink, Mark Bongers.



# Bocholt

On Tuesday evening, the Bocholt-Stadt fire brigade accompanied the St Martin's procession with numerous firefighters. After the parade, the members of the fire engines met for the traditional St Martin's Eve in the fire and rescue station.

The evening was used to honour and promote long-standing members of the fire brigade for special services. There was also a surprise for Bocholt's First City Councillor Thomas Waschki. Fire chief Thomas Deckers made him an honorary member of the Bocholt volunteer fire brigade.

Deckers thanked Thomas Waschki: "You have always supported and promoted the fire brigade in all matters, the cooperation with you was always characterised by special appreciation and a high level of professionalism," said Deckers. Thomas Waschki was visibly delighted and emphasised that the work of the full-time and volunteer firefighters was invaluable and that he had therefore always enjoyed joining the fire service.

Fire brigade leader Robert Liebrand received a special award for 35 years of membership in the form of the NRW Fire Brigade Decoration of Honour in Gold. In addition to his full-time work as a team leader in the technical department, Liebrand is also very involved in the volunteer fire service.

Thomas Michael received the Bocholt Volunteer Fire Brigade's badge of honour for 50 years of membership of the Bocholt Fire Brigade. Jürgen Stratmann, Jörg Kemink, Dieter Renzel and Markus Feldbusch received the special award from the NRW Fire Brigade Association for 40 years of membership. Martin Bühs and Niklas Meteling received the special award from the NRW Fire Brigade Association for ten years of membership. Dirk Stratmann and Udo Damhus were transferred from active service to the honours department.

# Promotions

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## Firefighter:

- Janis Koopmann
- Thomas Gildhuis
- Mohammed Naseh Azark
- Lars Ebbing

## Senior firefighter:

- Niklas Zingel

## Chief firefighter:

- Yannick Frericks

## Fire chief:

- Luke Westermann