

Some Like it Hot: Tales from the Firehouse
Interview with Josh Kempf

SUMMARY KEYWORDS

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Jen Weidner 00:01 Today is May 3, 2023. I'm Jen Weidner with the Jeffersonville Township Public Library, conducting interviews for Some Like It Hot Tales from the firehouse. I'm here today with Captain Josh Kemp of the Jeffersonville Fire Department. Thank you for being here today.

Josh Kempf 00:14 My pleasure.

Jen Weidner 00:15 So everyone has a story to tell and I want to give Jeffersonville firefighters a chance to share their story. How long have you been with the department?

Josh Kempf 00:22 I'm in my 23rd year. It will be December 15 2000, I hired on.

Jen Weidner 00:27 23 years. Wow.

Josh Kempf 00:29 Yep.

Jen Weidner 00:31 But I don't feel like we're even that old. I'm not old. I've known Josh and his family for a long time.

Josh Kempf 00:39 I feel my age every morning when I get out of bed.

Jen Weidner 00:42 Before becoming a firefighter, firefighter. You were in the military. What branch were you in?

Josh Kempf 00:46 Air Force.

Jen Weidner 00:47 That's what I thought and where were you stationed?

Josh Kempf 00:50 I was in Texas for a short while. I was in California for a couple of years. And I was in Germany for a couple of years. And there was a few stops in between. I was in Korea for a while. I was in Hungary for a while. Yeah that's about it, actually.

Jen Weidner 01:04 All over the place.

Josh Kempf 01:05 Yeah.

Jen Weidner 01:06 So what made you want to become a firefighter?

Josh Kempf 01:08 Actually, I never really gave it a lot of thought until after I got out of the service, guess towards the end of my service time I started considering possibly firefighting, but as a kid I never thought about it. I don't know nobody my family ever did it. Nobody ever

volunteered. It's just one of those ideas. I just kind of just came out of the clear blue sky, I suppose. right towards the end of my military time. And then when I came back to Jeff, I started, you know, started the process of attempting to get hired, which takes a couple of years. And there was never any wasn't like a lifelong

Jen Weidner 01:55 Wasn't like a plan you'd had. So if you weren't a firefighter, what do you think you'd be doing?

Josh Kempf 02:05 My dad had the Heating Air business for decades. I suppose I could have done that. I've never really took an interest in that. And I did it off and on for years. I don't know. I guess the heating and air business probably would have done that but as it is I'm glad things worked out the way it did.

Jen Weidner 02:30 Way you're where you need to be.

Josh Kempf 02:31 I wouldn't change a thing.

Jen Weidner 02:33 What are some of the challenges of your job?

Josh Kempf 02:38 This is like this for just people in general. Anybody considering going in, you're going to see death. You're gonna see a lot. I mean, it's human and you're gonna see it in all shapes or forms. Sometimes it's really ugly. Sometimes it's not so ugly, but it's it nevertheless, you're going to see tons of death. And what makes our job kind of unique outside of like the hospital environment is doing CPR on somebody's wife of 50 years on the living room floor, in front of her spouse, in front of her kids out in the yard out beside the swimming pool. It's very intense, those runs and you don't really get used to them. And just you're gonna see a lot of that, it's tough not everybody's cut out for that.

Jen Weidner 03:32 I think it would be scary, if you did get used to them.

Josh Kempf 03:37 If well, I suppose you may kind of develop like a veneer like a defense mechanism where you're galls humor of psychologically coping with it. But it for me especially the older I get, I get a physical reaction or I get like the like, I guess they call it cortisol where you get like this cortisol surge and the adrenaline just which just it's off the charts in your in your in your in when you're performing. You're trying to save somebody and then they're loaded up in the ambulance and they're going to the hospital, and then I'm sitting back on that fire truck and you're almost it's just like this, this dump of chemicals or whatever in your brain. It's just you almost you're almost shaking that I just don't think you you can get used to that. And I think you've got so much of that in you. And I think everybody's capacity for dealing with that is different. I think there are some people maybe 10-15 years of that, and that's their limit. There may be other people can do it for 25-30 years. I mean my 23rd and far and away that's what bothers me more than anything on the job. You'll see some really nasty things, you'll smell some really nasty things. Those are the toughest parts of the job for sure. No doubt about it.

Jen Weidner 05:08 So how long does it take to get used to working 24 hour shifts?

Josh Kempf 05:15 Was not that bad for me, I think it was harder on my wife in the beginning and it was me. My kids, it's all they've ever known. So to them. I mean because they were they were born after I've already been there. Amy definitely had more trouble with it than I ever did in it but she's to the point now she's accustomed to it.

Jen Weidner 05:36 It's just it's your job.

Josh Kempf 05:39 It's all you know, it's all you know, and actually if you factor in driving and your commute back and forth, it's really it's more than 24 hours. It's something that can be 25 or 26 hours. And that being said, I enjoy it. I would rather do. I would rather work 24 hours on a Monday, Wednesday and a Friday. Then do just a regular nine to five Monday through Friday. Because I'm still Tuesday and Thursday, or Saturday or Sunday. Our schedule to me it's one of the biggest perks of the job. I love it. I wouldn't change it at all if anybody complains about our schedule.

Jen Weidner 06:19 They may not be in the right field!

Josh Kempf 06:22 I don't know what the problem is.

Jen Weidner 06:24 So what are some of the best parts of your job?

Josh Kempf 06:29 The, those runs I was speaking of that are bad. Sometimes they turn out well. You know, not always, but when they do. It's indescribable. That's it. That's what it's all about. It's and it has happened. I've had, I've had some and I don't want to be careful about privacy and things like that. And I wasn't involved in this actually I was off the day it happened. But we have we had a run where a fella was out. But regardless of my crew on a day I wasn't there saved a guy. They perform. They kicked ass and I say the guy with like very little deficits. I mean that's like one and 100 run. And I know for a fact everyone of those guys, they hang your hat on it. They still talk about that, that you can, you can't take that away, that you know everybody has struggles in life and sometimes they may get down or whatever. Those guys involved in that run that day will always mean can always know there's somebody walk around Because of them

Jen Weidner 07:41 Because of them They saved your life.

Josh Kempf 07:44 Yea, that's what's all about. So, so the good, the worst parts of the job and the best parts of the job are so close. You're so close, just kind of hanging by thread. I mean it's it's, it's just part of it. There are good things too in that, that actually if you're with a crew that you really get along with. You have some chemistry with you, basically you're living together a third of the time. So that can be enjoyable, you can have some fun.

Jen Weidner 08:16 Now which station are you at?

Josh Kempf 08:17 I'm on Allison Lane, station five and I've been there I don't know exactly how long probably, I was there for the first year it was open, left and been back there eight or nine years I guess now. I'd like to finish there. I love that house. I love that district, I love that house. That's the place to be.

Jen Weidner 08:42 You guys do the anything related to like the river right? Are you all the?

Josh Kempf 08:46 Yes, we have the fire boat. And we are involved with any incidents that occur out on the river. Yes, and that would be technically be part of technical rescue. And there's a lot of facets to technical rescue. And that is at least in the city of Jeff that is far and away the most common. We're out there a fair amount. And it's not a super rare occasion where you

Jen Weidner 09:12 guys are all trained for that right?

Josh Kempf 09:15 Yes. And like a lot of things we have, we have certain individuals. I'm not specifically my crew. I have three guys on my crew who have grown up on that river. Families that were really into boating. And I lean on them. I didn't grow up on a river and they did and then their knowledge of that river their knowledge and boating is top notch

Jen Weidner 09:40 Not afraid to hop out there and do it.

Josh Kempf 09:42 No, no. It's I feel as the captain, I lean on them heavily and it's very comforting knowing that I can count on those guys and we can go out and get the job done and we're out there a lot.

Jen Weidner 09:56 And it's getting ready to be boating season. So, So I know there's no like typical work day but like what are some things that you do every time you're at the house firehouse. Like when you get there in the morning like what do you do?

Josh Kempf 10:12 Ohh a lot of us have a routine and I don't wear a uniform in. So like the very first thing I do is I try to I get my take whoever I'm relieving the officer from the day before I'll take his gear off the truck, stack it next to the truck, put my gear on. the radio test I checked the CAD I checked my thermal imaging camera. I checked my air pack and at this point usually I haven't got my uniform yet. And but I get all that done and which takes 15-20 minutes and then I go in to I have my own little bedroom and changing my uniform. And then I'll start a small little load of laundry where I wash my uniform for the previous day. That is my routine. So every day from like oh 7:00 to 7:30 I'm basically doing the exact same thing every day and then we start breakfast and we're just nothing overly complicated eggs, basically eggs every day and some coffee. And then we settle in and lately have been doing a lot of medical training which, which is the vast majority of what we do medical runs so a lot of medical training. And me specifically I have my ,my first responder certification. I have to renew that in June. So I've got to catch up on a lot.

Jen Weidner 11:42 You're studying up and yeah,

Josh Kempf 11:44 Enough hours for that. And then we're just making runs throughout the day. We checked the truck daily, we're doing a lot of stuff with the truck yesterday. We tested hoses this time of year. And I suspect Jeff fire is not unique in this regard. I don't think a lot of departments in the springtime start testing all their hose . But yes, we were doing some hose testing out on the pad yesterday to truck,we go and fill it up. Make sure all the equipment's running right. And you're just kind of waiting on the alarm.

Jen Weidner 12:16 It's I mean you could if you like immediately get there to have a call, right? I mean, no, or get ready to leave the next day and have a call.

Josh Kempf 12:23 And that's when things. And I think we're all the same in this regard where there's probably nothing worse than catch and run right before a shift change. Because you don't rarely are you gonna have the crew integrity. And you know, it's if I catch a run three o'clock in the afternoon, I know exactly who's gonna be on the truck to be my crew. I catch a run at 6:50 in the morning, and my relief hasn't shown up yet. I may be getting on the truck, and I might have my sergeant but maybe not my private or my lieutenant. It's a hodgepodge of the oncoming crew in the off going crew. And that run could be a fire, that run could be a wreck. It

could be anything. I've actually had them all. At the fire and 6:50 event the bad wreck at 6:50 medical run at 6:50 Those are hassled I mean you go What are you going to do?

Jen Weidner 13:13 That's your job. I mean, you go.

Josh Kempf 13:15 Absolutely, absolutely

Jen Weidner 13:16 I mean, I haven't had a firefighter yet. That'd be like up No, not not. Not my call. That's not That's not how firefighters are.

Josh Kempf 13:22 No, no, no,

Jen Weidner 13:22 The few that I know like

Josh Kempf 13:23 That's truck is rolling everytime.

Jen Weidner 13:24 Yep

Josh Kempf 13:25 Sure the taxpayers of Jeff you call 911 and it's a firefighting related run. We will be there 100% of the time.

Jen Weidner 13:33 So what are some misconceptions about firefighting? You know, we have all these TV shows and movies that show things one way and I'm sure that's not how the real world is.

Josh Kempf 13:44 Not glamorous. And those movies, those shows, now watch a lot of them. My wife loves Chicago Fire. So I have seen that. I kind of picked up on that. Mostly through osmosis. It's not glamorous. It's kind of gritty. There's times it's kind of ugly. Sometimes it can be boring might have a slow day. Like on those shows that like going on calls all the time and specifically, well not just calls but these really exotic crazy once in a lifetime calls. A co-worker of mine, Marcus Renn, we're in work with Marcus. We came up with this term we call it one percenters. The vast majority of your runs all kind of fall under certain categories and they're all common or similar. Then you have your one percenters that are your crazy runs that you've never even thought of this. How could this possibly happen, the 1% runs these TV shows they make 1% of runs 99% of the time.

Jen Weidner 14:50 It's really just

Josh Kempf 14:51 These crazy fires. Yeah, like the you know the the orphanage full of blind kids that's had a nuclear bomb go off inside that stuff doesn't

Jen Weidner 15:00 Right, or these crazy medical calls that they're showing that you're just like...

Josh Kempf 15:00 Yeah, that's, that's not the job.

Jen Weidner 15:07 If they showed how it really was no one would watch the show.

Josh Kempf 15:09 Exactly, the big, the big one we used to laugh about Backdraft specifically, was how great the visibility was inside these buildings where there's fires and you can't see anything.

Jen Weidner 15:21 That's what Jason said.

Josh Kempf 15:24 You can't make a show about it. So,so Hollywood's like we can't make it really totally realistic, fire scenario because the viewer will have nothing to view unless they want to see smoke right in the face. Because you're going by feel as well. There's no fire reality shows, I guess because it would just be a blank screen. Wouldn't be the best view. Oh, just a whole lot of weird loud noises.

Jen Weidner 15:25 So how does firefighting affect your home life?

Josh Kempf 15:26 I can only speak for myself and I'm just one part of our home life but I don't know for sure it's really affected ours. I don't I can't. I can't really think of it's all my boys have ever known.

Jen Weidner 16:11 Your wife's a nurse so she knows.

Josh Kempf 16:14 She understands, She understand. Yeah, she can understand what I was speaking of earlier about the medical side of things and death. She totally gets that so I don't think it's been that bad anyway.

Jen Weidner 16:33 It's just the normal for you.

Josh Kempf 16:34 Oh, yeah. Yep. Yeah, for sure.

Jen Weidner 16:38 Can you think of like we've talked about, you know, serious calls if you think of any like humors calls or something funny that's happened

Josh Kempf 16:49 Man I guarantee I'll think of something later. On the drive home probably.

Jen Weidner 16:55 I heard you may have gotten a call about a bird in a tree.

Josh Kempf 17:00 I was on one of those a long time ago. I'm talking like my first year, year or two on the job. I can remember we had an exotic bird want to say it was down around Walnut Ridge somewhere. Frank, Fairview, Magnolia, one of those streets right and there was an exotic bird got out. I remember seeing the bird because I ended up being I drew the short straw. I was a rookie. I was on the ladder. And I remember approaching that bird and it was bright green. That is pretty exotic bird. like I was going to catch this bird. But I did what I was told though and got probably within eight feet or so. And it flew away, but God totally forgot about that run and hadn't thought about it in a long time.

Jen Weidner 17:58 You also get like my cats up in a tree kind of calls.

Josh Kempf 18:01 You get those. We do get those and you know, as an officer those can be some really challenging runs. Because I'm not necessarily a cat person but I've got dogs and very, very sympathetic, empathetic to the plight of angry cats in the tree poor little garage cat but then I have to weigh sending someone up on ladders if they fall off that ladder. So there is we do our best to help with those and then sometimes we can sometimes we can't. It just like I have to. We had a run. I wasn't on it, I heard about it. We had a cat in a tree downtown once and a fellow went up, one of our guys went up on a ground ladder and damn near fell off that ladder

came really close to falling off the ladder would have been like a 20-25 foot fall down to a sidewalk for a cat. So I don't want to sound heartless. I've done that that's for sure and don't want to sound heartless here. But that is something we have to weigh

Jen Weidner 19:10 And there's no cat skeletons in trees.

Josh Kempf 19:12 I've always heard that. That's the saying as you'll never see a skeleton but I'm not so sure the cat doesn't die and fall out of the tree. I don't know. It's just that's a conundrum. It really is a conundrum as an officer that, that your probably ordinary citizen doesn't think about that haven't been there. I've had runs and we can help. I've had runs where I've had to say I'm sorry. We can't help. And I hate those runs.

Jen Weidner 19:37 And ultimately you have to make sure your crew is safe.

Josh Kempf 19:40 I can't send the guy up on a ladder. I understand the importance of that cat to somebody but I can't send somebody up on a ladder in a very precarious situation and had them fall and wind up in room 9 over at U of L, they will either have their career be over or maybe even dead over a cat

Jen Weidner 20:01 Right.

Josh Kempf 20:02 So that's just and they don't teach you that in textbooks. You can find all the firefighting textbooks in the world. And there's no chapter on that. That's just where you got it. You're kind of by the seat of your pants and you have to make a decision.

Jen Weidner 20:14 And I'm sure a lot of things like that

Josh Kempf 20:16 And so far. I've never had anybody give me any gruff or hard time. They've been great.

Jen Weidner 20:19 They understand.

Josh Kempf 20:22 Knock on wood it stays that way.

Jen Weidner 20:23 So what do you do for your mental health? Like I know this can be a very taxing job and very not just physical but mental and emotional to like what do you do to

Josh Kempf 20:36 I talk to my wife a lot. I kind of unload on her sometimes. Just sometimes you just have to go on a rant. That there's a lot of awareness with that now that not just in fire but police military enormous amounts of awareness now post traumatic stress. And a lot of guys turn to Corona bottles. Big problem. The big problem. You're on that crew, and I'm on, I'm on a crew like this, where we have pretty good chemistry and we can just talk to each other at work.

Jen Weidner 21:29 Because you all understand you understand

Josh Kempf 21:31 Well yeah whatever's bothering me

Jen Weidner 21:31 Whatever happened or

Josh Kempf 21:34 99% of time whatever is bothering me, the guys I work with they've experienced the exact same thing. So what a particular run that really might have me down. I'll give you a specific example, specific example we had a baby, probably five, six months ago now, but we had a baby that died and my crew that particular day was I had my regular private who happens to have a three year old daughter and a toddler son and then I had a transfer from another house who has an infant son and we are doing CPR on this baby and we ended up in route to the hospital I wasn't I stayed behind they Ben and William made the run. And William had that baby on his lap the entire ride at the hospital. So when that run at the end of that run, we're all kind of in a dark place. William was in a really dark place because he's looking at this baby and he saw his kid. So you have to talk to somebody about that. I don't care how tough you are. And we talked a lot that day and the department. I was very proud of the department that day we got back to fives. In about 10 minutes we had our chaplain, we had our chief, they were all there. It's like hey, how are you guys handling this, we can take the truck out of service. So, So you lean on each other. Hopefully you got some at home you can talk to God knows, there's a lot of negative things you can do to try to deal with it. But it is a we've gotten I think I don't think I know we've gotten a lot better in that respect compared to the old days. Because in the old days those guys I don't think they talk

Jen Weidner 22:47 Absolutely. You didn't talk. It wasn't the manly thing to do. You didn't talk but now we're seeing that such a high suicide rate and you know addiction rate.

Josh Kempf 23:45 And you are used you're, you're spending a career. You spent a career I spent 23 years every time I go out somewhere somebody's having a bad day. The only variables are how bad a day. But I'm going out because something bad has happened to somebody. And it may be as simple as just a fender bender car wreck or maybe a severe car wreck. It may be a relative having cardiac arrest in the living room. It may be a kid floating in a pool. It could be any number of things. And you then a little bit I mean is it just takes a little from you every time and you want to do your whole career doing that. And just you have to have some kind of a coping mechanism.

Jen Weidner 24:34 I mean, I take mental health very serious and I do worry about first responders and

Josh Kempf 24:39 It's valid concern

Jen Weidner 24:39 What you guys go through and like I always

Josh Kempf 24:42 And that day ,the best singular example I can think of. That's not in the heat of the moment. You're performing. It's gotta be careful about specifics that run, I'll just say this, we were out in a parking lot, we were out in the public. We weren't actually in somebody's home. We were out. When we encountered this child. We were out in the open and I remember it was surreal to me that we are working this child right over here there's traffic, people driving and it's just the the contrast people going about your business drive and you got this crazy,

intense situation happening. Literally 40 feet over here, they were involved in. So you know we're doing what we do and in the heat of the moment you're performing, it's when it's once once it's over and the baby's in hospital and you're getting back on a truck and you're going back and service because it's 7:30 morning we got 23 and a half hours to where we got work. And that's when it really hits you. You do is critical that you have some hopefully some healthy decent way to address that. Because if you bottle it up,

Jen Weidner 26:09 It's going to end badly and then the department does have resources for firefighters?

Josh Kempf 26:16 They were Johnny on the spot we got back at the station and our chaplain and our fire chief were basically waiting not waiting on us, but they were there in a matter of 10 minutes they were there. And we did we talked and coped and it was impressive. And I didn't have to ask for anything. I was the captain. I didn't have to ask for any of this. All this was taken care of for me, they just showed up.

Jen Weidner 26:47 That's good to know that you know you do have

Josh Kempf 26:50 Yes

Jen Weidner 26:50 The backing of your chief and higher ups and

Josh Kempf 26:54 They are very, very much aware of what we're getting into out there and helping us.

Jen Weidner 27:02 I mean, the chiefs been online he knows he's dealt with all of them. Yeah, exactly.

Josh Kempf 27:06 Yeah.

Jen Weidner 27:07 Yeah. So what advice would you give anyone that wants to become a firefighter?

Josh Kempf 27:21 I can really get into the nuts and bolts with certain there are certain qualities that a person absolutely must have. And they make sense. You have to get back to what I was talking about earlier. You're going to see a lot of death. If blood bothers you. Bodily fluids bother you. Gore bothers you. It's not for you. If you're afraid of heights, generally heights really bother you. You can't do it. And if you get claustrophobic in any respect, you don't like being closed in or having poor visibility. It's not for you. That's all the physical stuff. The mental stuff is emotional, you're going to encounter some bad stuff, you know, you just know that it's coming that you're going to see some just going to see people have really bad days. I'll try to get more practical now. Education wise, we have changed a lot the department I hired on to very few guys if any had college degrees. The guys coming in the door now. I keep saying guys, the people coming in the door now. By and large a lot of them have college degrees. Now I'm not sure what good that really does them. I mean, the big thing there I guess from a mental perspective is if you get a pretty good knowledge of building construction, a good idea of how

buildings built, a good idea of how mechanical things work, and know your way around the hand tools. When somebody hands you a chainsaw at work, that's the first time you ever touch one. Stuff like that's important. Ideally, we'd be you know, we don't want a bunch of turds. We want good people coming in. I don't want somebody to be in and out trouble with the law and good solid citizens kind of talking circles here. Just a good solid person if you want to be a fireman, firefighter just try to be a good solid citizen. Know that, that it can be technically complex. It's not just put water on fire. It's, there's a lot of technical training we do a lot of medical training we do. I saw that question earlier that Weezy (Jason Wiesenaue) sent me and that's probably the one had the toughest time. I think that's a hard one to answer. I think I'm getting long winded. We have 90 something people there. And there's probably 70 different reasons for most people being there. A lot of its family. Some people might be there because it's a great pension. Some people might be here because it's a service some people might just because the adrenaline

Jen Weidner 30:39 Was there anything else you'd like to share about your time as a firefighter?

Josh Kempf 30:44 I've enjoyed it wouldn't change a thing. Would not change a thing at all. That being said, I look forward to the day I can retire. It's by and large it's a young man's job or young person's job to say that I'm sorry.

Jen Weidner 30:59 It's alright.

Josh Kempf 31:00 It's a young person's job. It's because when you work you work.

Jen Weidner 31:05 People have a misconceptions, Y'all are sitting around taking naps all day and

Josh Kempf 31:09 Well I'll say this, our mornings tend to be pretty busy. And then you do get to a certain time of the day where you finished your training, you finish taking care of the truck or fixing whatever needs to be fixed. And then you are waiting on the alarm. And so in that respect, it is kind of like life at home. We have TVs, we have a shower and a bathroom we have a workout area. We have a back deck at my firehouse. A lot of times I have to go and sit in a chair to sit in the sun for 20 minutes and look at my phone or listen to a podcast or something. It's it's we do have parts of the day where we kind of we're, we're just waiting on the alarm

Jen Weidner 31:53 Because you don't know what's going to happen when that alarm goes off.

Josh Kempf 31:55 You don't know what kind of night you're gonna have. We all have our own bed just like you do at your house. And I go in there and I lay down. I go to sleep and you really really hope you get through your night without alarm and I'd say any more you probably have a probably about 80% chance you're not gonna get through tonight. Maybe maybe 75% It's we that's tough that you never get used to that

Jen Weidner 32:23 I was gonna say how could you ever get used to being woken up and like your drill and start immediately? Alarm probably

Josh Kempf 32:28 Could have been my answer to a question earlier too. That is one of the unique challenges of the job. And I would actually challenge anybody to do this if whatever it is you do for a living. Let somebody come into your house, wake you up and say you need to do your job at a high level now. Now. Or Okay, I'll give you four or five minutes because that's what we have because we're getting on the truck and we're going there but in four or five minutes I gotta go perform and it could be 3:15 in the morning 315 The afternoon. That ,that's a challenge. And that is a challenge. And that is the job.

Jen Weidner 33:06 So did it take you a while to get used to having to like knowing that when you go to sleep you may not get to sleep the whole time. No, we're very

Josh Kempf 33:15 No, we're very aware. Very aware. of it. In fact, there's all these little things, I've turned into a person who goes to bed real early. I used to be a night owl and I'm the polar opposite now and I hear a lot now about how in fact there's even ask one of the other people to come in. There's a saying it's like a, it's like a rhyme about in bed before something but the implication being if you go to bed too early, you're gonna run all night. I don't care I'm going to bed

Jen Weidner 33:4 You are going to bed right.

Josh Kempf 33:49 Yeah, that's that is that maybe my one of my least favorite parts of the job really hate that. It's

Jen Weidner 33:59 nobody wants to be having a good sleep and then you got to jump up and go

Josh Kempf 34:04 And I was younger and I didn't have to do the run sheet everything when we got back, literally when we get back to the house and get this right back in bed. Being an officer, I actually gotta go into the office and sit in front of the computer and I gotta write a run sheets about whatever it was we just did. And then I get to lay down.

Jen Weidner 34:23 And it's just it could be another call come and

Josh Kempf 34:27 Usually what it is you lay back down and you're trying to fall back asleep and it's really tough. That's a lot of that contingent upon what you just did if you did a run where it was very physical in nature where you broke sweat rolling and your heart pounding. It's really tough for me in that in that would carry that. I can see that would carry over to your home life for sure. You get these long nights where you're really struggling to sleep and then you gotta come home. I can see where that would be tough with young kids.

Jen Weidner 35:10 Oh, I forgot to ask. I know a lot of firefighters have other jobs besides firefighting. Do you have a job

Josh Kempf 35:17 I worked for Dad. Work for dad for probably hard on 2000 stuck it out with him probably till about oh seven ish is when the kid the my boys started being born. My oldest was oh five my youngest is on seven and really got to be and then my wife works and just kind of start laying everything and the extra income from my second job. Didn't really balance out with babysitting or trying to get stuff done around the house. I couldn't I couldn't find tangled grass. It's new to young kids. So I stopped working a second job. Most guys do. I'll bet you I am a rare. I'm a minority there for sure. I'd say 80% of our people work another job and like the hiring there.

Jen Weidner 36:22 It's not because you aren't paid well. No, no, it's just because like you have these days off and we're just as a society we used to you must be working

Josh Kempf 36:28 the schedule itself having basically 20 solid days a month you're off. No 10 days a month, you're 1/3 of the time. You're at the firehouse two thirds of time you're not firehouse.

Jen Weidner 36:43 But that time you're there. You don't know what you're going to be encountering, you know, you know, it could be a simple call and you get there and you may have a quiet

Josh Kempf 36:51 day and there's a lot of quiet days. I like those quiet days. You know, I was younger I wanted to I wanted the juice. I liked the quiet days now. And we have that then you have some days and art and the ton of people work second job I'd say grass cutting a lot of them cut grass that work for themselves that jobs conducive to working for yourself because there's a lot of employers are gonna be Yeah, schedule. So you almost have to work for yourself. But yeah.

Jen Weidner 37:28 Well thank you so much. For being here.

Josh Kempf 37:30 Thank you for what you're doing. I'm curious to see what the final products like