Firefighter Rippert responded to a billowing fire in the home of his own neighbor while he was off duty. He discovered that his neighbor had escaped, but her boyfriend was still trapped inside.

Without hesitation and with no gear or support from a fire company, Firefighter Rippert ran into the burning home.

Firefighter Rippert climbed to the second floor where he found the unconscious man. Unfortunately, he became overwhelmed with smoke and had to run back outside.

He then made the unthinkable decision to re-enter the burning home to save the man’s life. He was able to drag him to the stairwell, where other firefighters were now waiting.