

Our October meeting was held on Wednesday, October 2; at 6:30pm at the Bass Lake Firehall on Mink Road. Our November meeting will take place on Wednesday, November 6, at 6:30 pm at the Bass Lake Firehall. All are welcome to attend. We are happy to report that we were awarded a FEMA grant to help us purchase some new turn-out gear and SCBA units! This is a very competitive grant. Fire departments throughout the country apply for this grant to assist them in purchasing needed equipment. Many departments receive awards. We have applied before, but we were denied. Now we have much more paperwork to fill out in order to actually receive the money.

The weather forecasts show that winter is on the way. This means there is a lot of work to be done to prepare our vehicles for the cold weather. Water tanks that were used for wildfires must be drained. Our snowmobile has been repaired and is back in our firehall. Thank-you to Jason Stenberg for repairing it! Our boat spent the summer in the Whiteface River during the bridge reconstruction on Comstock Lake Road. It was used a few times to ferry responders to the other side of the river in an emergency. It is now back in our firehall. We have been playing "musical chairs" with several of our vehicles. Tanker 1 has been moved from the Bass Lake Firehall to the Melrude Firehall. Tanker 3 that was in Melrude has been moved to the BLF where it will be stripped and sold by the DNR. Rescue 4 from the Melrude Hall has been moved to the BLF where it will replace our old Rescue 3 and be repurposed to pull trailers and work Wildland fires. Rescue 3 will be sold by the DNR. Rescue 5 is our "new" medical truck in the Melrude hall. It is also equipped for Wildland fires. The Freightliner tanker will be moved into the BLF. If anyone is interested in purchasing the vehicles that are for sale, let us know and we will pass it on to the DNR. These trucks would come in very handy to water your garden or wash your windows! The DNR owns these vehicles and has loaned them to us for years. We now own all of our vehicles.

Our safety officer, Bill McKechnie, reminds us that this is a good time of year to check your car battery and snow tires. Assemble a winter survival kit to put into your car. This kit should contain some water, hard candy, protein bars, flashlight, blanket, hat, gloves, dry pants, socks, coat, and snow shovel. You should also put two candles and a lighter in this pack. The warmth from two candle tapers can keep the temperature above freezing around you in your car. Prepare your vehicle for the treacherous road conditions this winter that may leave you stranded until help arrives. Be prepared!

We responded to two calls this month. One was a medical call, and the other was a fire caused by a lightning strike to a shed. Fortunately, we were able to prevent the fire from spreading to the house nearby. Unfortunately, the shed and all of the family mementos inside were destroyed. Fire is a devastating thing. Our goal in a fire call is to put the wet stuff on the red stuff. Putting water on fire displaces the oxygen molecules so that they can no longer burn. The water turns to steam which carries heat away from the fire and cools the fire so that it can no longer burn. A fire needs three things in order to burn: heat, fuel, and oxygen. Remove any one of these and the fire can no longer burn. Water should never be used to put out a grease fire. Remember that oil and water don't mix. This has to do with their density and polarity. Oil and water repel each other. When you add water to oil, the water sinks below the oil to the bottom of the pan. This is because water is denser than oil. The pan of burning oil is hot, which causes the water to boil instantly and turn to steam. Because of their polarity, the water molecules want to get away from the oil as fast as possible. As they turn to steam and leave the pan, they fling grease out of the pan which spreads the fire. Do not put water on a grease fire. Take away the oxygen by covering the pan with a metal or glass cover. Let the pan completely cool before you remove the lid so that the fire does not start up again. Remember the three things that a fire needs. Remove any one of them and you break the fire chain.

Many hunters take to the woods in November. If you are one of them, prepare yourself and your hunting party before you go out. Make sure everyone is familiar with their firearm, and knows how to carry it, load it, and unload it. This is not the time to try out a new gun unless you have been practicing with it. Assume every gun is loaded and always point the muzzle in a safe direction. Keep fingers off of the trigger and the safety on until you are ready to shoot. Be sure of what is behind your target before you shoot. There are more injuries and deaths caused by falls from tree stands during hunting season than any other accident. Carry your cellphone on your person, not in a pack. If you fall from the stand, you want the phone within reach and not in that pack up in the stand. Check the steps and straps of your stand for wear before you go hunting. Wear your

full body harness properly. Don't assume that you won't fall asleep and fall down. Always use a rope to pull your gun or bow up into the stand. Wear your blaze orange clothing. Non-hunters should also wear blaze orange clothing outside during hunting season. Our department responds to calls in blaze orange during this time. Protect your pets with blaze orange vests. A non-hunter in the woods should whistle, sing, or carry on a conversation to alert hunters that someone else is there. Of course, it is better not to head into known hunting areas during this season if you are not hunting. Do not make unnecessary noise and avoid confrontations. Hunters, as well as non-hunters, should always let someone know where they are planning to go and when they can be expected back. If you think you are lost, stay put and call 911. Review your first aid skills for fractures, heart attacks, and wound care. Pack a hemorrhage kit which includes plenty of gauze and a tourniquet. Know how to use these supplies. Remember, a person can bleed to death in just five minutes. You can save someone's life - or your own - by knowing how to use a tourniquet. Practice beforehand. An emergency is no time to read the instructions. You can practice on yourself. If you need help putting together a kit, contact us. If an emergency occurs, call 911 immediately. We will be there to help!

