

Our monthly meeting took place on December 2, 2015 at 7pm. The department responded to 3 medical calls and 1 fire call in November. All three medical calls occurred on Highway 53. The reflective pants are here and have been placed in our medical vehicles. The STOP/SLOW signs are here and we learned how to turn them on and use them. Brackets have been mounted on the back of our Rescue and Engine where these signs can be displayed. The magnetic flashlights are here. They will be useful to attach to vehicles and other metal surfaces so that we have light to do our jobs. The MSA tester, which is the 4 gas tester has also arrived. It measures the levels of oxygen, carbon monoxide, hydrocarbons, and hydrogen sulfide. This will allow our department to test for the presence of these gases in our community. The residents of our township are reminded to check their smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors. We all know to change the battery when these detectors beep their low battery warning. A battery ensures that these devices can beep. However, it does not ensure that the device can actually sense the presence of smoke or carbon monoxide. There are sensors on these devices for smoke and carbon monoxide gas. These sensors can become occluded over time by dust, dirt, grease,...Pushing the test button tells you that the battery is functioning but does not inform you about the condition of these sensors. The detectors should be cleaned periodically using a vacuum cleaner or compressed air. Smoke and CO detectors have a maximum life span of 10 years. On the back of the detector there should be a date stamp that tells you when the detector was manufactured. If there is no date, the detector was manufactured before 1989 and would be totally useless at this time. If the date is more than 10 years ago, you need to replace that detector because the sensors are unreliable. But why wait till the sensors are unreliable? The EVFD recommends that the smoke and carbon monoxide detectors be replaced every 8 years just to be safe.

Maintenance needs for our department are posted on the whiteboard in the Bass Lake Firehall. Most of the work posted last month has been completed. A pump test was done on Engine 1 and Engine 2. Both passed. A 62 point preventative maintenance checklist was done on the vehicles also. Both trucks need work on this. Members are encouraged to consult the list to see if there is anything that they can help out with. The IAmResponding phone app has been unreliable in alerting EVFD members to 911 calls. All members need to carry pagers to make sure they are notified when our services are needed. We will request inactive members of our department to return their pagers and radios so that those who are active can use them. We may have to purchase new pagers in January.

Tourniquet training for EMR's from Ellsburg and Cotton was held on Nov.16. Firefighter training started at the Bass Lake Firehall on Nov.24. There are members from the Fayal, Central Lakes, Cotton, and Ellsburg fire departments attending these classes. We have had classes on the history of firefighting, Incident Command System, Communications, FF safety, PPE, SCBA, Rehabilitation, Building Construction, Fire Behavior, and Response and Size-up. January classes include Ropes and Knots, Ladders, FF Tools and Equipment, Forcible Entry, Search and Rescue, Assisting Special Rescue teams, Fire Fighter Survival, Water Supply, and Fire Attack. Classes are held every Tuesday and Thursday evenings and monthly Saturdays. Members are encouraged to attend as many classes as they can even if they are not registered for the course. The classes are very informative and could be lifesaving!

The next departmental meeting is on Wednesday, January 6, 2016 at 7pm. Elections for officer positions will take place at this meeting so be sure to attend!

Heidi Yokel, Secretary EVFD