

## News From the Ellsburg Volunteer Fire Department - January 2016

Our monthly meeting took place on January 6, 2016 at 7pm. We welcomed new member, Larry Fralich to the department. Larry is an experienced firefighter and certified EMR. Thank-you, Larry, for joining our department! It was election night for the officers. The results were: President - Ray Privett, Vice-President - Deborah Feth, Secretary - Heidi Yokel, Treasurer - Sharron McKechnie, Fire Chief - Jeff Dulinski, Assistant Chief at the Melrude Fire Hall - Larry Fralich, Training Officer - Jeff Dulinski, Safety Officer - Bill McKechnie.

The department responded to 3 calls in December. All three calls took place on Highway 53. The EVFD responded to a total of 43 runs in 2015. This included medical, fire, motor vehicle, downed power lines, and mutual aid events. Safety issues for our responders is always a top priority. Reflective clothing, signs and flashlights are located in our vehicles for use by responders.

Equipment needs to be regularly inspected, cleaned, and tested to make sure that it will be functional when needed. Maintenance and inspection logs are being developed. There are continuous maintenance needs with our vehicles and equipment. Members are encouraged to help with these. Ongoing training is vital so that responders know what to do in any emergency and which piece of equipment would be most helpful. The firefighter classes that are being held at the West Bass Firehall every Tuesday and Thursday evenings and occasional Saturdays, have been very informative and interesting. We have been practicing tying all sorts of knots such as safety knots, hitches, loops, figure eights, bends, water knots,.... Knowing which type of rope to use in which circumstance is useful not only in emergencies, but also around the home. Understanding pulleys, carabiners, and how to construct harnesses out of rope can be lifesaving for the victims or rescuer.

There also was a class demonstrating the many tools that a rescuer can use to gain entrance to a building through a door, window, wall, or roof. Ladders are special tools that can be used to gain access, provide stable footing, and rescue victims from a building. On a cold January 16, we practiced setting up and raising ladders, and "rescuing" victims at the West Bass Firehall. We will have more training in Search and Rescue, Fire Fighter Survival, Water Supply, Fire attack, Foam, Portable Extinguishers, Ventilation, Salvage and Overhaul, Fire Cause and Determination, Wildland Fires, Vehicle Fires, Vehicle Rescues and Extractions, and Fire Prevention, Detection, Protection, and Suppression. Members of our department as well as other departments are encouraged to attend. Call Heidi Yokel, 218-591-9228 for a schedule of classes if you are interested. Our next meeting will be held on Wednesday, Feb. 3, 2016 at 7pm.

Heidi Yokel, Secretary, EVFD