

News From The Ellsburg Volunteer Fire Department 2016.05

Our May meeting took place on May 4, 2016 at 7pm. The Melrude firehall renovations have been completed except for a new apron that must be poured. The fire trucks have been moved out of that hall so that they can remain accessible. Our open house for the Melrude firehall is scheduled for July 2, to coincide with the Melrude 4th of July celebration. We invite everyone to come and celebrate with the township!

The weather has been windy and dry with very low humidity. The grass has been slowly greening up. These factors encourage wildfires. It has been a busy wildfire season in St. Louis County. We have been very lucky here in Ellsburg that we have not had a wildfire in our township as of this writing. Our department did mutual aid Makinen when they had a wildfire. That wildfire involved several fire departments as well as the DNR. Many wildfires result from sparks from vehicles such as ATVs and trains. Even lawnmowers have started grass fires when the conditions are right. Recreational fires which are not put out completely can reignite. Cigarettes can also cause fires if they are not properly put out. Please be aware of the fire risk. The weather service declares a red flag warning when the weather conditions are ripe for a fire. Lets keep Ellsburg safe from fire!

On May 7, the Bass Lake firehall was host to the practical exam for the firefighter students. The students were required to demonstrate proficiency in rolling hoses, choosing the proper extinguisher for various fires, doing public service teaching on the use of a fire extinguisher or smoke detector, suiting up including your SCBA unit in less than a minute, using a SCBA and recognizing when you are running out of air, working as a team in a simulated interior fire to find your way to safety, putting out a fire on a propane tank, and other firefighter skills. I am happy to report that all the candidates present on May 7 passed. Congratulations to all of you!

Our department has spent a lot of time this winter getting equipment ordered and organized. Paperwork has been completed. We took many training classes. Expired medical supplies have been reordered. Now we are ready for the summer. Fires are always possible. We have many lakes in our township. We have to prepare and train for water emergencies now. Many trails run through our township so we must train for ATV accidents. The population of our township swells with summer residents and visitors. Let's all help to keep Ellsburg a safe and enjoyable township this summer!

Heidi Yokel
Secretary, EVFD