

News From the Ellsburg Volunteer Fire Department 2016.03.02

Our monthly meeting took place on March 2, 2016 at 7pm. Tim Linder was our guest at this meeting. We hope you come again, Tim! The Melrude Firehall is undergoing renovation. Tanker 2 has been moved to the Bass Lake Hall to make room for the renovations. Rescue 5 has moved to the Melrude Hall because it can sit outside in the cold during the renovations. The renovations include replacing some garage doors, relocating some pipes, removing one bathroom, replacing moldy sheetrock, painting, and siding. The four garage doors at the Bass Lake Hall are being furnished with photoeyes, openers, and antennas for the remotes so that the doors can be opened from within the vehicles. Thank-you to the township for these upgrades!

There were 0 medical calls in February. The department was asked to mutual aid Central Lakes for a fire. A safe month for our township! However, we did not sit idle. Firefighter classes continued throughout February. Final written exams were taken on March 3 and 8 at Mesabi Range College. HazMat training was held on March 10, 12, and 15 with the final test on March 22 at Mesabi Range College. Terrorism training was held on March 17 at the Bass Lake Hall. An EMR refresher course was held at OSL on March 8, 10, 15, and 17 for those members of our department and the CVFD who needed to be recertified for their EMR license. On March 23, there is a training session on Pipeline safety at the Coates Hotel in Virginia from 6-8pm for Emergency Medical Responders in the Northland.

On March 19, a chilly Saturday, we had Ice Rescue training on Young Lake. We cut out a section of ice large enough to hold 3 "victims". We learned how to don our specialized ice rescue suits and helmets. We then alternated being victims and rescuers so that we all had a chance to be in the water as well as be the rescuers. We practiced using our ice picks, ropes, and rescue equipment. The ice conditions on the lakes are deteriorating so we must be ready to respond if someone falls through the ice. We remind our township residents and visitors to please be careful if you must venture on ice. Spring is a dangerous time to be on the ice since it can deteriorate in a matter of hours.

A vehicle extrication class was held on Saturday, February 27, at the Bass Lake Firehall. Captain Lanyk from Chisolm presented an excellent class on vehicles, extrication techniques and tools, and safety issues for responders. Mike Pechtold from Cotton taught us about airbags and safety issues concerning working around airbags that have not deployed - yet. Airbags can deploy with a tremendous force as was demonstrated by Mike and Bob Skafte when they deployed airbags in our parking lot. Mike brought 2 vehicles for us to practice on. We were able to use all of our extrication equipment to gain access to these vehicles and literally take them apart. Thank -you to Mike Pechtold and Armory Shell in Virginia for providing these vehicles and to Captain Lanyk for guiding us through the extrication process!

On February 17, we attended a demonstration of vacuum splints at the Meadowlands Firehall. Members of several fire departments attended. On Feb. 22, we attended a training class on vacuum splints held by the Cotton VFD. We were able to work with and compare the pros and cons of different models of vacuum splints. At our meeting, we felt ready to make an informed decision concerning vacuum splint purchase and chose the MedTech brand. Arrlette Krog wrote a grant with Lake Country Power to fund the splint and we are awaiting notification of receiving the grant.

Six of our SCBA's were repaired. Now we need to repair the other six. A pediatric bag was assembled for Rescue 4 so that we were ready for the annual Melrude Frolic. Another pediatric bag must now be prepared for Rescue 3. Maintenance and repair work was done on Engine 1, Tanker 1, Engine 2, and Rescue 4. Rescue 5, our "new" vehicle donated to us by the Air National Guard, is now running but it needs painting. We are looking for anyone who can do this. Fire Department activities are now listed on the Ellsburg Township website calendar. Go to <http://www.ellsburgtwpmn.org/community-events.html> and click on any day that has Fire Dept. on it and you will get the information.

When the snow melts, wildland fire season will start. We will be preparing for this now. There have been several calls outside of our township for chimney fires. We are prepared to handle a chimney fire but we would rather a fire be prevented. Please take care of your chimneys!

Heidi Yokel
Secretary, EVFD