

Our August meeting took place on August 3, 2016 at 7pm. Our department responded to three calls in July. We provided mutual aid to CottonVFD for a grass fire, and mutual aid to Northland VFD for a cabin fire. We were also called to mutual aid McDavitt VFD but then we were not needed.

Many residents of our township suffered damage during the severe storms that occurred in July. The EVFD was not exempt. Our new medical truck, Rescue 5, had just been painted when a tree fell on it and totaled it. This is a big loss for us. Our department had already spent significant money and time in preparing Rescue 5 for service to our community. Now our search for another vehicle must begin again.

The annual check of our fire extinguishers was performed. Only one required maintenance and is now back in service. We remind our township residents to check their fire extinguishers. Make sure that they are in a readily accessible location. Make sure all the seals are intact. If the seal around the neck is not intact, the compressed air will be able to escape which renders the extinguisher nonfunctional. Examine the unit and look for damage or corrosion. If your unit has a locking pin, verify that it is intact. Check the pressure gauge to make sure that the extinguisher is still operable. Finally, lift the unit to feel if it is full. A fire extinguisher can last for many years. However, it is wise to have it hydrostatically tested after 12 years to ensure that it will work when you need it. If you decide to dispose of your fire extinguisher, remember that it is filled with chemicals and pressure and so it can not be thrown in the trash. It must go to a hazardous waste facility if it is full. If it is empty, squeeze the lever to make sure everything has been released. Remove the head and then take the steel body to recycling.

Fire extinguishers are classified according to what type of fuel they can extinguish. It can be dangerous to use the wrong extinguishing agent. For instance, if water is used to extinguish an electrical fire a shock or short circuit can result. If water is used on a grease fire, the grease can erupt and splatter and burn everything - or everyone- nearby. When purchasing a fire extinguisher, consider where that extinguisher will be placed. There are 5 classes of fire with appropriate extinguishers for each.

Class A fires involve ordinary combustibles including wood, paper, rubber, natural vegetation such as grass and trees, household garbage, and some plastics. Water is commonly used in these fires. Extinguishers with a letter "A" on a green triangle are needed here. The icon used depicts a burning trashcan next to a wood fire.

Class B fires involve flammable or combustible liquids and gases. This includes gas, oil, grease, tar, lacquer, oil-based paints, plastics, propane, and natural gas. There are several extinguishing agents used in these extinguishers. The label on these extinguishers is a "B" on a solid red square. The icon shows a flame and a gasoline can.

Class C fires involve electrical equipment such as wiring, outlets, fuse boxes, circuit breakers, transformers, generators, electric motors, power tools, lighting fixtures, appliances, TV's, radios, computers, and radios. Dry chemicals or carbon dioxide is used to extinguish these fires. The extinguishers for these types of fires have a "C" on a solid blue circle, and the icon shows a flame, an electrical plug, and a socket.

Class D fires involve combustible metals most often used in machine shops, repair shops, aircraft, automobiles, and metal recycling plants. These metals include magnesium, titanium, zirconium, sodium, lithium, and potassium. The extinguishers have a letter "D" on a yellow, five-pointed star.

Class K fires are those ignited by cooking oils and fats. This new class was developed because the trend toward using deep fat fryers and vegetable oils results in higher cooking temperatures. These extinguishers contain wet - chemical agents that are more effective for fighting fires involving cooking oils than the Class B extinguishers. These extinguishers should be in restaurants and other places where large amounts of oil are used. Since this is a new class, there is no alphabet graphic for it. The extinguishers have an icon showing a fire in a frying pan.

We recommend that the residents of our township walk through their houses and businesses and identify areas that are at risk for fires. Purchase the correct extinguisher for each area. If a fire occurs, call 911 so our department can mobilize. Your safety is our priority!

Heidi Yokel
Secretary, EVFD