

News from the Ellsburg Volunteer Fire Department 2017.08

Our August meeting took place on August 2, 2017 at the Bass Lake Firehall. We discussed National Night Out which we hosted at our firehall on August 1. What a wonderful turnout we had! About 200 members of our community came to eat, check out all of our equipment, play games, win toys, get backpacks filled with literature, coloring and activity books, toys and stuffed animals, learn hands-only CPR, sign up for smoke detectors, and watch a fire extinguisher demonstration. We received a lot of positive feedback so I think everyone enjoyed themselves. Thank-you to everyone who brought food! Thank-you to everyone who donated money to our department! It means so much to our department to know that people appreciate our volunteer efforts to protect, help, and be a part of the Ellsburg community.

As of this writing, our department has installed 85 smoke detectors! We have several more households that have requested these smoke detectors. Our department receives these smoke detectors through a program sponsored by the Red Cross. Their goal is to have these smoke detectors installed in every home in St. Louis County. Our goal is to make sure every home and cabin in Ellsburg has working smoke detectors. These units are FREE for you. The only stipulation is that the fire department installs them. We have been in several homes where there are wired - in smoke detectors, only to find that they do not work. We have replaced several units that were over 10 years old. Remember, smoke detectors may not work if they are over 10 years old - even if it has a new battery- because the sensor that actually detects the smoke is worn out. This is separate from the battery operated noise alert function. If you are in doubt about the age of your smoke detectors, call us to replace them. They are free, so why not. This program will not last forever. Call me at 218-591-9228. You can also get in touch with any member of our department. If you live, or have a cabin, outside of Ellsburg, but in St. Louis County, you can still take advantage of this program. The Red Cross has people that will do the installation if your fire department is not participating in this program. Call the Red Cross at 218-722-0071. Tell them Ellsburg sent you!

We have 2 new members who decided to join our department after National Night Out. Welcome to Loren Dean Mesedahl and Loren Michael Mesedahl. Thank you for volunteering to be involved in the Ellsburg community! We also have 13 year old Arnold Carlson who has requested to join our department. It is nice to see such community spirit in the younger generation! We used to have a Junior Firefighter program back before the video game era turned the youth's interest elsewhere. You must be 18 years old to be a firefighter. We are happy to help Arnold reach his dream of being a firefighter.

Our department responded to 7 calls in July! There was a truck fire, tree on a power line, lift assist, broken ankle, possible heart issue, boating accident, and a rollover on Hwy 53 by mile marker 44. This area of the highway is really the Bermuda Triangle of Ellsburg. That S-curve seems to draw vehicles in and flip them. The amazing thing is that people can walk away from these accidents even though they have rolled several times and their vehicle is smashed. Why? Because they are wearing their seatbelts! The purpose of seatbelts is to keep the wearer from being ejected and from slamming into the interior of the vehicle. According to the CDC, more than half of those aged 20 - 44 who died in crashes in 2015 were not wearing seatbelts. 94% of drivers and front seat passengers in Minnesota wear seatbelts. Why not 100%?

September is back to school time. This means that many children will be boarding school buses. According to the NSC, school buses keep more than 17 million cars away from school buildings and are safer than driving in the family vehicle or walking to school. Please remind your children to stay away from traffic and avoid roughhousing when waiting for their bus. When on the bus, children should stay in their seats, keep arms and head inside, refrain from making loud noises, keep the aisles clear of belongings, and wait for the bus to come to a complete stop before getting up from the seat. When getting off of the bus, children should be taught to make sure that they can see the driver, and therefore the driver can see them, when they cross in front of the bus. Wait for a

signal from the driver and then look left, right, and then left again before crossing the road in front of the bus. Stay away from the back of the bus. More school children have been killed during the hour before and after school than any other time of day. Although drivers are required by law to stop for a school bus when it is loading or unloading children, children should be taught not to rely on them to do so.

College students moving to a dorm or off - campus housing should make sure that their living quarters are fire-safe. Look for fully sprinklered housing, learn the building's evacuation plan, develop a fire escape plan with two ways out of every room, and make sure that smoke alarms are installed in each sleeping room, outside every sleeping area, and on each level of the building. Stay in the kitchen when cooking. Do not smoke in bed. According to the NFPA, fires in dormitories are more common during the evening hours, between 5 - 11 pm, and on weekends. About six out of seven fires in dorms are started by cooking. Help your children have a safe school year by educating them on safety issues.

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Secretary, EVFD



