News from the Ellsburg Volunteer Fire Department 2017.10.04

Our October meeting took place on October 4, 2017 at the Bass Lake Firehall. Our department was paged out one time in September, but then cancelled while enroute. We did a lot of training in September. Our EMR's spent two Saturdays in a classroom in order to renew their licenses. We spent an evening teaching our new members how to roll hoses. We took our engine, E11, and some pumps to Morcom Lake to practice drawing water out of a lake, sending it to a dump tank, refilling the tank on the engine, and then shooting it out of the engine's hoses. This is very important training when you live in an area that has no hydrants. Finding a water source and being able to draw that water is critical during a fire. We also attended a stroke and toxicology training sponsored by LifeLink in Hibbing, and joined the Cotton VFD in training on the AED, CPR, airways, and use of epinephrine. Our three new members are training to be EMR's by attending class two nights a week. This is a big undertaking when you consider that they also have full time jobs and family commitments. We appreciate their willingness to volunteer their time and effort for our department and the good of the township!

We are happy to report that we have gained another member! This is the third month in a row of new members! Laurie Mesedahl, wife of member Loren Dean Mesedahl and mother of member Loren Michael Mesedahl, has decided to become a part of our department. How wonderful to have a whole family become members! Laurie will share her secretarial talents with us. We are looking forward to becoming organized and rising out of the sea of paperwork that needs attention. Thank-you so much, Laurie, for joining us!

Unfortunately, we have also lost two members. Larry Fralich, our assistant chief, needed to move back to Silver Bay for work and family obligations. Larry was an experienced interior and exterior fire fighter and his resignation is a big loss for us. Tim Linder needed to move away for work obligations. He was an active support person who could drive and work on our vehicles, run machinery, handle traffic... He was always ready to lend a hand, and we will miss him. Good luck to both of you in your next adventure!

Our department participated in Big Truck Night which was held at OSL on September 24. We enjoyed bringing our big engine and allowing everyone to check it out. We had plenty of safety information to hand out, fun stuff for kids, and candy. Events like these are great for meeting the people of our community and we are happy to participate.

As the seasons change, our department must prepare for the challenges of colder weather. Tires must be changed on the vehicles and water hoses drained to prevent freezing. 4 wheel systems must be tested to make sure they work. The vehicles must be stocked with cold weather gear. Chimney fires can happen now, and we must be prepared. We have a fire engine, utility box, and foam unit for sale. Interested? Contact EVFD.

Hunting season is here. When packing your gear to go hunting, don't forget your hemorrhage kit. Gauze, a tourniquet, gloves, and clotting gauze on hand can be the difference between life and death if an accident to you or a member of your hunting party occurs. You can get supplies at stores that carry hunting gear. If you need help assembling an emergency kit contact me at 591-9228. The body of an adult holds about 12 pints of blood depending on size. The loss of 40% is fatal. It takes time for us to get to you in the woods. The most important thing to do in a gunshot accident is to stop the loss of blood. Use gauze, a t-shirt, a sock, or whatever. Place this on or in the wound and put pressure on it until it stops bleeding. Always have a charged phone so you can call 911. If you think you are lost, stay put, take a deep breath, and call 911. Treat every gun as if it is loaded. Dress in layers. Let someone know where you will be and when you expect to return. Be prepared for emergencies. It can happen to you!

Heidi Yokel
Secretary, EVFD