

Our September meeting took place on Thursday, September 6, at 6:30pm at the Bass Lake Firehall. We discussed our National Night Out celebration, training events, and vehicle needs. National Night Out has become very popular in communities. Every community wants to have something that will entertain those who attend their celebration. This year, we had North Memorial Air Care bring their helicopter. Other communities had the canine team from the Sheriff's Department, the St. Louis County Rescue Squad, 911 dispatchers, or LifeLink helicopter. Apparently, these organizations need to be reserved now if we want them next August. But maybe we want something different for entertainment. Ideas were discussed and will be researched. Mark your calendars for August 6, 2019 and see what we come up with! Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, October 3, 6:30pm, at the Bass Lake Firehall on Mink Road. Join us!

One thing that we discussed was the need for cabinets in our meeting room that could hold plates, cups, forks.... Our support members prepare meals for training events, meetings, as well as celebrations like National Night Out. Our funds are limited for this type of need. Well, Ellsburg residents are the best! Ask and you shall receive! Thank-you to Jennifer and Eric Carlson for donating cabinets to our department! They are exactly what we need! We really appreciate it!

Fire Prevention Week is October 7-13. This is a good time to check your smoke detector batteries. Remember that we have free smoke detectors that we can install for you if you need some. We had smoke detectors available at National Night Out. Did any of these smoke detectors go home with you? The Red Cross supplies us with these smoke detectors. In return, we need to let them know where they were installed. If you have any of these smoke detectors from National Night Out, could you please let us know? Call our firehall at 218-482-3777 and let us know where they went.

We will be celebrating Fire Prevention Week at the Community Meal on Saturday, October 13, at Old School Lives, starting at 5pm. Our department is making pasties with coleslaw and dessert for the meal. We will have some literature available to help you assess your home and land for fire risks, as well as make a plan to escape in case of a fire. Please come join us!

On September 8, we trained for water rescues at the home of Lee Leighton on East Bass Lake. Lee has been thanked several times in this column for his contributions to our department. In the September issue, I wrote how Lee donated a motor to us for our Zodiac boat. Well, he wanted to see us use it, so he invited his family, friends, neighbors, and our department to his house for training and a meal. He also provided two "victims": Cody Anderson and Larry Anderson. Thank-you to both for being such good sports and doing a great job! We brought our boat, Mustang cold water suits, rescue ropes, Frisbees, vacuum splints, and other gear used to rescue a victim from the water. We used our boat and backboard to demonstrate how to lift a victim up out of the water and into the boat. We used our ropes and throwing gear to show what can be done for a victim before considering getting into the water. We had a fun time training and explaining the use of all of our gear. I believe that those who watched enjoyed the show also. Several wanted to try on our suits, swim with them, throw our ropes, and be strapped into our vacuum splints. After the training, we and our families were treated to a delicious dinner of a shrimp, Kielbasa, potato, and corn boil prepared by Jimmy Anderson. Thank-you, Jimmy! It was yummy! Thank-you so much, Lee, for arranging this event for us. It really made us feel appreciated! It was a wonderful opportunity to meet more members of our township and let them know what this fire department is prepared to do. For instance, some were not aware that the fire department responds to water emergencies, but we do. We respond to all emergencies in our township, whether it involves fire, medical, or rescue of any sort. We have gear for every type of emergency. Come to our firehall and check out our gear. We do not charge for our services. We are all volunteers. In any emergency, do not hesitate to call 911. They will page us out.

The very next day after the training, we were paged out for a water rescue on that same lake. Luckily for the victim, neighbors saw what had happened and rescued him. Remember, in a water emergency, to Reach, Throw, Row, and Go. Try to reach or throw something out to the victim

first. Reach a pole, paddle, net, or similar object to pull the victim to safety. Throw a rope, flotation cushion, Styrofoam noodle, or similar object for the victim to hold on to. Row out in a canoe or kayak or go in a boat and let the victim hold onto the craft. Turn off your motor to prevent propeller injuries. Be careful that you do not capsize yourself when helping the victim. As a last resort, swim out to the victim. Victims in the water can become panicked and pull the rescuer under the water. Do not become another victim! Remember your life jacket! In this rescue, the neighbors used kayaks to bring a life jacket to the victim and tow him to shore. Perfect rescue! Congratulations! You saved his life!

Many homeowners clear their land in the Fall by burning the fallen leaves and brush. Burning should take place in a metal 55 gallon drum that is placed in an open area free of overhanging trees or brush, and away from anything that can burn from sparks. Keep the piles of leaves that you burn small. You can keep adding leaves as they burn down, but a small pile in a drum can help prevent sparks from escaping. Look around your area occasionally to make sure nothing else has caught fire from sparks. We have been called to respond to a cabin fire which started from sparks from a campfire. People were sitting by and attending the campfire properly, but did not notice that some sparks had drifted behind them and ignited the cabin. Be mindful of the direction of the wind. Never burn trash. This is illegal because of the toxic fumes that are released. Even paper and cardboard can contain plastics, glues, and chemicals that are toxic. Burning leaves, brush, wood, and other vegetation also creates smoke that can be harmful to humans. Dust, soot, mold, and other solid materials can be inhaled deep into the lung tissue and cause wheezing, chest pain, shortness of breath, and long term respiratory problems. The particles in the smoke can irritate the eyes, nose, and throat of healthy individuals, but cause more serious problems for children, elderly, and those with asthma, lung, or heart disease. Stay upwind of what is burning, and consider wearing some type of respiratory protection. Do not inhale smoke! Keep children away from anything that is burning. Their airways are much smaller than those of an adult. Make sure that your fire is completely extinguished before you leave the area. Drown the ashes with water. If trouble arises, call 911! We will be there!



