

## Update News From EVFD 20181003

Our October meeting was held on Wednesday, October 3, at 6:30pm, at the Bass Lake Firehall. Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, November 7, 6:30pm, at our Bass Lake Firehall on Mink Road. We discussed our participation in Big Truck Night which was held at OSL on September 23. We took our Engine 11 and let the children and adults walk through it. We had hats, coloring books, toys, Dalmatians, water bottles, and candy to give away to the children, and fire prevention brochures for the adults. We were happy to have Cody Anderson help us at Big Truck Night. Cody, a teen whose family has a summer residence in our township, likes to help us out when he is in town. We had a fun time, Cody! Thanks for helping!

We were contacted by the ECFE program at South Ridge School to see if our department would be interested in teaching fire safety to the preschoolers and their families. Of course we would! We discussed this at our meeting and planned some dates. Now we have to plan how to make this fun for these youngsters. Guess we have to get more Dalmatians!

Our department was not awarded the FEMA grant that we applied for this year. This was sad news for us. We were hoping to get this grant so that we could get more turn-out gear and SCBA's (air packs) for our firefighters. We need this gear to be compliant with regulations, yet it costs about \$108,000. We will have to review how we wrote the grant and try again to submit it. Applying for grants requires a lot of research and hours of typing to answer the questions. This FEMA grant application was 31 pages long! Many grant programs like to award grant money where it will affect the most people. We are a small department taking care of only about 230 year round residents. I am happy to report that we were awarded the State Homeland Security Program Grant! This will allow us to update four of our radios. Mark Danielson, from the Duluth Superior Area Community Foundation, has a cabin in our township. He met with us to discuss endowment opportunities. If anyone wants to make our department a beneficiary of their estate, we would sure appreciate it!

On Sunday, September 16, we had our Engine 2 plugged into a 24 volt battery charger just outside of our Bass Lake Firehall. Can you believe that someone stole that battery charger and the extension cord in broad daylight? This is the second time this year that we have been robbed. This behavior should not be tolerated in our township! Please let us know if you have any information about this. Measures will be put in place to ensure that we won't be robbed a third time!

On Saturday, October 13, our department hosted the monthly Community Meal at OSL. We prepared 140 pasties, coleslaw, and dessert. It took us about 6 hours to make those pasties from scratch! We had a great time chopping the vegetables, rolling dough, kidding each other, telling stories, and working together as a team. Many thanks to Laurie Mesedahl who organized our pasty making, and to Shauna Dulinski who organized our coleslaw and dessert making. Both of these ladies are support members in our department, and we are very fortunate to have them. Shauna is always happy and laughing, and her exuberance spreads to those around her. We also want to thank Nancy and Charlie Thies who came and helped us make pasties. Mary Ann Keough helped us prepare, serve, and clean-up this meal. Thank-you so much for your time, Mary Ann! You are now an honorary member of our fire department! About 50 people came to OSL that night to partake of our meal. We even sang Happy Birthday to Janis Wendall, and I thought we sounded pretty good!

Daylight Savings Time ends on Sunday, November 4. As you go from room to room to turn your clocks back, also check your smoke detector batteries and find two ways out of each room. Do this as a family activity. Today's homes are furnished with many synthetic materials. These materials burn much faster and hotter than wood and natural materials. Synthetic material can be found in your pillows, drapes, upholstered furniture, flooring, and carpets. A room with natural materials can take 20 minutes to burn. A room with synthetic materials can burn up in 2 to 3 minutes. Can you get out in that time? Practice with your family. You may want to consider installing a sprinkler system.

Firearms deer hunting season begins in November. Please plan ahead so that you can have a safe and enjoyable hunt. Let someone know where you will be hunting and when you expect to return. Know where the members of your hunting party are. Keep the barrel of your firearm pointed

in a safe direction. Keep firearms unloaded when not in use. Never hoist a loaded firearm into a tree stand. Every year, someone gets injured by carrying a loaded gun up into, or down from, a tree stand. Injuries from falling out of a tree stand are common also. Don't shoot unless you are sure of your target. A .22 rim fire can travel over 1.5 miles. Don't forget to wear your hunter orange. Dress in enough layers of clothes to keep warm. Carry food, water, cell phone, and GPS or compass. Be prepared to spend the night in the woods if you get lost. We have had a lot of wind storms this fall which have toppled many trees and changed the landscape. The territory that you think you know may not be the same - especially in the darkness. Carry a first-aid kit which contains a lot of gauze for packing a gunshot wound. Pack the blood clotting gauze also. This can be bought at most stores carrying hunting supplies. Carry a tourniquet. Practice putting this on your own arm or leg. If a major artery is cut, an adult can lose consciousness in 2 minutes, and bleed to death in 5 minutes. A tourniquet and gauze can save your life, or the life of a member of your hunting party. Think of anything that could go wrong and make sure that you have the equipment needed to deal with that emergency. If an emergency occurs, do not wait to call 911. We will be there to help!





