



Bells and Whistles

Algonquin Lake in the Hills Fire Rescue Newsletter

January 2010

HAPPY NEW YEAR!



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Chief's Corner

By Chief Kevin Rynders

Happy New Year to Everyone!

It seems this time of year is spent remembering the past and looking forward to the future. Without taking up too much space:

Regarding the past year...

- Congratulations to Steve Guetschow on his retirement from the fire service!
- Thanks to Don Kublank for his 28+ years of service to the District.
- Good luck to Kim Matz who retired from ALFPD due to an injury that occurred during an emergency incident in 2007.
- Congratulations to Tim Littlefield, John Knebl, Bill Hough and Bryan Diercks on their promotions.
- Welcome to Jesse Howard, Brad Avi, Kyle Kempe, Shawn Lamar and Kris Schuldt on joining the ALFPD ranks. Congratulations to Chris Bremner on becoming full-time.
- Congratulations to John Bradach, Mike Markowitz, Warren Olsen and Barb Read for being elected as Fire District Trustees. Also, welcome to Jeff Harper on his appointment as a Fire Commissioner.
- Thanks to the Executive Board and members of Local 3985 on their efforts to coordinate support of the Salvation Army and Interfaith Food Pantry, and for providing escorts in honor of our local veterans.

Bells and Whistles
Algonquin Lake in the Hills Fire
Department

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1020 W. Algonquin Rd
Lake in the Hills, IL 60156
(847) 658-8233
fax (847)854-2609

Station 2
2440 Harnish Dr
Algonquin, IL 60102
(847) 658-8224

Station 3
1691 Cumberland Pkwy
Algonquin, IL 60102
(847) 658-0930

As far as the new year...

- Due to the hard work of many (but special thanks to Bill Neuner, Fred Schau, Tim Littlefield and John Knebl) and the support of the Board of Trustees, the following significant "new deliveries" will take place:
 - A new medium duty ambulance in early 2010 with anticipation of ordering a second new ambulance upon approval of the 2010/2011 budget
 - New Ferrara engine
 - New Ferrara ladder tower
- Thanks to the EMS Committee (with special thanks to Kevin Raether, Wendy Hoover and John Greene) we'll take delivery of four new cardiac monitors which will result in all our monitors being identical.
- With the hiring of additional part-time shift personnel we hope to achieve daily staffing of 16 cross-trained personnel on a regular basis.....*that's 16 including the Battalion Chief.*

As we begin our journey into 2010 we already anticipate the challenges of a tight budget, the frustration of a new NFIRS and payroll system, and requirements associated with new personnel and apparatus.

I would be remiss if I didn't mention the hard work of A/C Gaughan and A/C Littlefield. My first 8 months as Fire Chief have been rewarding and hopefully viewed as productive, and it could not have been without their hard work and support. A special thanks to Marjean Diercks for all of her "behind the scenes" administrative work.

A couple of final thoughts I hope each of you remember during 2010...

John F. Kerechek, a resident of Huntley and a retired Chicago Fire Department Battalion Chief passed away on December 24, 2009 at the age of 83. Amazingly, John was the recipient of the Lambert Tree Award for bravery *twice* during his career. I can't help but wonder to what degree Chief Kerechek was remembered.

Remember our past as it has made us who we are. Don't forget all those who have helped make ALFPD what we are today. Every name on the basement walls helped in some way. Attend Board Meeting ceremonies to recognize your co-workers on their accomplishments.

FF Steve Koesher of the St. Anna (WI) Fire Department was killed on December 29, 2009 at the scene of a dumpster fire. Steve is 33 years old and is survived by his girlfriend, Kelly Walesh and their 4-year old daughter Lexus.

What you do is dangerous, whether it's fighting a structure fire or dumpster fire, operating at the scene of a vehicle accident or a full arrest, or just responding to calls. Please be careful.

I hope everyone enjoys a healthy, safe and prosperous 2010.

Thank You!

Thank you Don Kublank for all of service and dedication to this department. We will miss you!

Congratulations

Bob and Cheryl Haughey are the proud grandparents of a baby boy. Connor James Haughey was born on December 26th, weighs 6 lbs. 14 oz. and is 19 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches long. Mother, Megan, and baby are doing well.

Congratulations Haughey family!



Mike and Risa Murphy are the proud grandparents of Mia McKayla Murphy born January 3, 2010 at 7:57 am weighing in at 7lbs 10 ounces and 21 inches long!

Fire Prevention

By Director Mike Murphy

Focus on Fire Safety: Electrical Fire Safety

Electrical fires are pervasive throughout the United States, causing injury, claiming lives, and resulting in large losses of property. Most electrical fires result from problems with faulty electrical outlets and old wiring. Problems with extension/appliance cords and plugs also cause many home electrical fires. To help prevent an electrical fire in your home, routinely check electrical appliances and wiring and replace all worn, old, or damaged cords immediately.

Causes of Electrical Fires

According to the National Fire Protection Association:

Lamps, light fixtures and light bulbs (28%) and fixed wiring (22%) account for the largest share of fires among major types of electrical distribution equipment.

Cords and plugs (39%) account for the largest share of civilian deaths.

Lamps, light fixtures, and light bulbs (30%) account for the largest share of civilian injuries.

Many avoidable electrical fires can be traced to misuse of electric cords, such as overloading circuits, poor

maintenance, and running cords under rugs or in high traffic areas. Faulty electrical systems also cause many fires. In urban areas, faulty wiring accounts for 33% of residential electrical fires.

Electrical fires occur most often during the months of December and January, winter months that call for more indoor activities and increases in lighting, heating, and appliance use. Fifteen percent of residential electrical fires start in the bedroom.



Replace worn, old, or damaged appliance cords right away.

Safety Precautions

Replace or repair loose or frayed cords on all electrical devices.

Avoid running extension cords across doorways or under carpets.

In homes with small children, unused wall sockets and extension-cord receptacles should have plastic safety covers.

Consider having additional circuits or outlets added by a qualified electrician so you do not have to use extension cords.

Follow the manufacturer's instructions for plugging an appliance into a receptacle outlet.

Avoid overloading outlets. Plug only one high-wattage appliance into each receptacle outlet at a time.

If outlets or switches feel warm, shut off the circuit and have them checked by an electrician.

When possible, avoid the use of "cube taps" and other devices that allow the connection of appliances into a single receptacle.

Place lamps on level surfaces, away from things that can burn and use bulbs that match the lamp's recommended wattage.

Condolences

Our condolences go to the Vassos family on the death of Paula's father.

Personnel Status-December

Retired

Kim Matz

New Hire

Bradley Avi, part time FF/PM

Kyle Kempe, part time FF/EMT

Shawn LaMar, part time FF/EMT

Kristofer Schuldt, part time FF/EMT

Light Duty

Dan Pressler

Julie Didier

EMPLOYEE TOTALS 84

Officials 8

Full time 50

Firefighter/paramedics - 36

Firefighter/EMT - 7

Firefighter - 1

Salary - 4

Civilian - 2

Part time 26

Firefighter/Paramedic - 7

Firefighter/EMT - 13

Firefighter - 0

Paramedic - 3

Civilian - 3

Statistics

December 2009

Fire calls 171

Ems calls 283

130 97

131 1

Emergency and None Emergency Responses

Station One

0150 1

0151 146

0154 3

0181 47

0141 189

Station Two

0152 171

0142 158

Station Three

0153 55

0143 97

Grand Total 454

Year End Totals 2009

Fire calls 1429

Ems calls 2718

0102 6

0103 34

0104 6

0108 15

0109 48

0130 909

0131 2

Station One

0150 22

0151 1416

0181 309

0141 1829

0146 1

0154 22

0191 3

Station Two

0152 1481

0142 1641

0162 16

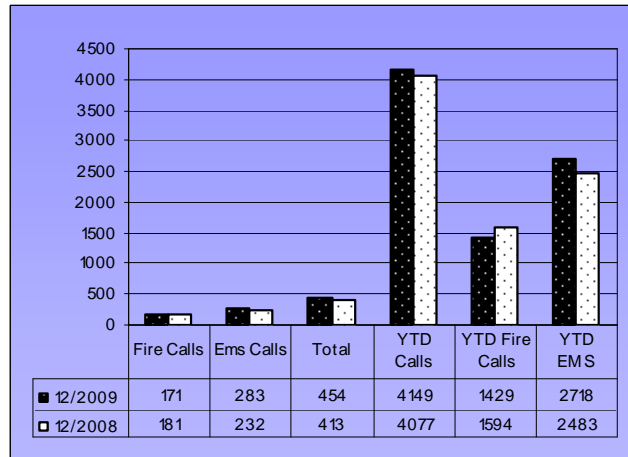
Station Three

0153 491

0143 933

Grand Total Calls 4147

BY: Marion Smith



Birthdays

January 13 th	Bob Glodowski
January 18 th	Robert Nieman
January 22 nd	Dan Teson
January 23 rd	Julie Didier
January 25 th	Frank Pelanek

Anniversaries

Ralph Peterson	PT	26 years
Bryan Diercks	PT	25 years
Fred Schau	PT	25 years
Fred Schau	FT	23 years
Dave Glodowski	PT	21 years
Bob Haughey	PT	21 years
Bill Hough	PT	21 years
Tim Littlefield	PT	20 years
Mike Kern	PT	18 years
Gail Kloepper	PT	18 years
Charlie Teson	FT	15 years
Kevin Goers	PT	14 years
John Greene	PT	14 years
Dave Kimpel	PT	14 years
John Skillman	PT	13 years
Dan Teson	PT	11 years
Pat Caskey	PT	10 years
Tom Stubbs	PT	8 years
Kristy Seymour	FT	7 years
Erick Kennedy	FT	7 years
Brian Kimpel	FT	7 years
John Gaughan	FT	6 years
Mike Saenz	FT	6 years
Laurel Warren	PT	3 years

Reflections

Drawn to the Warmth

Factoring in the wind chill, I knew the temperature was below zero. The bitter cold cut through my Californian sensibilities, as well as my enthusiasm as a tourist, so I ducked through the nearest door for warmth... and found myself in Washington, D.C.'s Union Station.

I settled onto one of the public benches with a steaming cup of coffee -- waiting for feeling to return to my fingers and toes -- and relaxed to engage in some serious people-watching.

Several tables of diners spilled out into the great hall from the upscale American Restaurant, and heavenly aromas tempted me to consider an early dinner. I observed a man seated nearby and, from the longing in his eyes, realized that he, too, noticed the tantalizing food. His gaunt body, wind-chapped hands and tattered clothes nearly shouted, "Homeless, homeless!"

I wondered how long it had been since he had eaten.

Half expecting him to approach me for a handout, I almost welcomed such a plea. He never did. The longer I took in the scene, the crueller his plight seemed. My head and heart waged a silent war, the one telling me to mind my own business, the other urging a trip to the food court on his behalf.

While my internal debate raged on, a well-dressed young couple approached him. "Excuse me, sir," the husband began. "My wife and I just finished eating, and our appetites weren't as big as we thought. We hate to waste good food. Can you help us out and put this to use?" He extended a large Styrofoam container.

"God bless you both. Merry Christmas," came the grateful reply.

Pleased, yet dismayed by my own lack of action, I continued to watch. The man scrutinized his newfound bounty, rearranged the soup crackers, inspected the club sandwich and stirred the salad dressing -- obviously prolonging this miracle meal. Then, with a slow deliberateness, he lifted the soup lid and, cupping his hands around the steaming warm bowl, inhaled. At last, he unwrapped the plastic spoon, filled it to overflowing, lifted it toward his mouth and -- with a suddenness that stunned me -- stopped short.

I turned my head to follow his narrow-eyed gaze.

Entering the hall and shuffling in our direction was a new arrival. Hatless and gloveless, the elderly man was clad in lightweight pants, a threadbare jacket and open shoes.

His hands were raw, and his face had a bluish tint. I wasn't alone in gasping aloud at this sad sight, but my needy neighbor was the only one doing anything about it.

Setting aside his meal, he leaped up and guided the elderly man to an adjacent seat. He took his icy hands and rubbed them briskly in his own. With a final tenderness, he draped his worn jacket over the older man's shoulders.

"Pop, my name's Jack," he said, "and one of God's angels brought me this meal. I just finished eating and hate to waste good food. Can you help me out?"

He placed the still-warm bowl of soup in the stranger's hands without waiting for an answer. But he got one.

"Sure, son, but only if you go halfway with me on that sandwich. It's too much for a man my age."

It wasn't easy making my way to the food court with tears blurring my vision, but I soon returned with large containers of coffee and a big assortment of pastries.

"Excuse me, gentlemen, but..."

I left Union Station that day feeling warmer than I had ever thought possible.



Drawn by Dan Pressler

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