

FIRE HOUSE NEWS

A Publication by
The Rocky Point Firefighters Association
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September 1, 2020

Volume 1 Issue 6

AROUND THE STATION

Training occurs every Tuesday night from 6:00 to 8:00. During these summer months the topics have been related to addressing wild land fires in preparation for what we hope doesn't happen. One training session we learned what to look for and how to make the tough calls of which homes could be saved and which ones couldn't based on landscape, debris on the roofs, trees overhanging the houses, firewood stacked against the house, access, etc. Also how to communicate with ODF and other fire departments when they arrive on scene. Another session we learned about hose lay in wild land fighting: simple hose lay, progressive hose lay and mobile attack. We took 2141 out and practiced what we learned in the class room. Another topic covered in August was maps, townships, sections, and ranges and compass usage. Topics important so we can determine exactly where we are and communicate our location to a rescue unit should we require rescue on a wild land fire situation.

CEVO4 Ambulance Driving training was offered one Saturday with 8 students attending, passing and receiving certification to drive. On another Saturday we had pump training. We went to the Great Meadow for the training and at the same time cleaned the parking lot so we could paint the helicopter landing zone on the lot.

The third Tuesday of each month is medical training. In August our training was on stopping the bleeding and tourniquet usage.

EMT classes begin the end of September at KCC and we have four of our volunteers signed up for the class. They can attend classes online Tuesdays and Thursday, then they have to attend the Saturday classes in person. These classes will continue through March 2021.

A first aid and CPR training class will be offered for volunteers on Saturday, September 19 from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm. Chief Diann will be our instructor.

And in October there will be a EMR class meeting two days a week every week of the month. Chief Diann will be our instructor.

The annual car show at Lake of the Woods will be held in September and George is planning on donating the proceeds to wrap 2141 in red, pending approval of the board. The board felt some research on the process and durability of wrap on fire equipment was needed prior to approving acceptance of the donation offer.

Fire Department Volunteer, Steven Stacey, was promoted to Lieutenant and has taken over the SCBA program and the Junior Cadet program.

We are actively looking for grants to purchase personal protection equipment (PPE) because the PPE we have is more than 10 years old and has expired its certification for safety for entry on a structure fire.

Chief Diann dedicates, on average, 52 hours per week. Then, when we don't have an EMT available for a 12 to 24 hour shift, Chief Diann has been coming back to Rocky Point and covering the gaps. Two of the very recent weeks she found herself dedicating 117 hours each week. In addition, when there are training sessions on weekends, she adds to her hours as well. This has become an enormous overload on her and decisions had to be made. So now, when we don't have an EMT in our Volunteer roster available, District 4 will be called upon to respond to Rocky Point EMS calls. Available Rocky Point Firefighters will still be responding to provide limited care until District 4 Ambulance arrives.

We have four new volunteers. Three of the four live here in our District. Welcome to Tammy and Chip Whiting, Dustin Wyble and Deb Dill.

We have six Firefighter 1 volunteers and two Firefighter 2 volunteers. We have two EMT-I and two EMT-A and one EMT basic as well as five EMRs. Two of our volunteers are NFPA Instructor 1 certified as well. We currently have 25 on the roster, including the Chief. Of those 25, 17 live within the district. Some have jobs and can only offer limited availability. More volunteers are needed.

The Chief's contract for the year is still in negotiations. Discussions of initial hiring agreements vs desires now, including vacation time and definitions for salary vs part-time are still in negotiations.

The Fire Defense Board meeting was held in the bay Thursday, September 27. Dinner was at 5:00 pm and the meeting was from 6:00 to 8:30 pm. Volunteer Jennifer Pickle, with the help of her daughters and Captain Harp, barbecued Tri-tip served with baked potato and green salad, with a selection of cream pies for dessert. There were many compliments to the chefs for a delicious dinner. Thank you Jennifer for stepping up and taking on this project.

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NEXT FIRE BOARD MEETING

September 28 at 10:00 am

Everyone is welcome to come and listen.

FIRE WISE

Be sure to check the Rocky Point Fire & EMS website (rpfire.com) frequently for valuable information and communications. Currently, the fire department is working on fire plans and is asking you to fill out a form, including a drawing of your residence floor plan, and return it to the fire department. The form is found on the rpfire.com website in pdf format. You can click on the form and print it out to complete and return.

We would like to create a local residence reference book that will enable us to study your floor plan and reduce time on scene in case of a fire. Knowledge of the layout of your home interior and surroundings in advance of arriving at your home will help the volunteer firefighters know how and where to attack the fire prior to arriving at your home. This pre-knowledge could help save your home.

ADDRESS SIGNS

When you experience an emergency and call 911 for help, we need to be able to find you. Do you have your house number posted in plain site on the street? If you need an address sign for your property; email firefighter.assoc@rpfire.com. We can help you. We have the materials needed and they are free. So far, since we posted this in May, we have delivered four address signs to Rocky Point residences.

FIRST AID TIP

Chest compressions and CPR

If you haven't had CPR training and don't know how to administer CPR, you can do chest compressions 2 inches deep continually until the Emergency Medical Services arrive. This could save a life.

EMAIL MESSAGES

If you would like to receive important Fire Season updates and messages from the Rocky Point Fire & EMS, send us an email at firefighter.assoc@rpfire.com and let us know you would like to receive email fire updates so we can add you to our email mailing address list. In case of an emergency, prompt fire updates could be critical.

FIRE TIP

Evacuation Planning for a Wildfire

Preparing now for a possible wildfire can help save your family's lives. Draw a home escape plan and discuss it with everyone in your home.

- ⇒ Practice the plan at least twice a year.
- ⇒ Know at least two ways out of every room.
- ⇒ Have an outside meeting place located at a safe distance.
- ⇒ Teach children how to escape on their own.
- ⇒ Close doors behind you as you leave.
- ⇒ Discuss temporary housing options with friends or relatives.
- ⇒ Have an evacuation plan for pets and livestock.
- ⇒ Prepare an emergency supply kit that you can grab on the go. Keep an extra kit in your car.

LAKE OF THE WOODS ANNUAL

CAR SHOW

September 11-13

Saturday, September 12, volunteers will be at the car show selling 50/50 tickets. Proceeds from the sales of the 50/50 tickets will be used to purchase safety and training equipment for the fire department. We invite you to come out and enjoy the fresh air and support your fire department.

CHRISTMAS BAKE SALE

Covid-19 has been successful in crippling fundraising activities this year. The RPFA has been unable to hold their pancake breakfast or a planned spaghetti dinner. At the last association meeting the members voted to move forward with planning a December Bake Sale. The date has not been finalized but will be held in early December. Target date is Saturday, December 12th.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

Special thank you to Captains Bruce Harp and Jim Derra and Lt Steve Stacey for their devotion to the department and all the hours they have put in to keep our equipment maintained and stocked, ready for service.

Lt. David Reed and Linda Reed had surgery two weeks apart in late June and early July and would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to their fellow volunteers and community members who stepped up and helped with fire wood for this winter, and shopping needs while they were recovering and unable to take care of these things.