

Chickaloon Fire Lines

2020 Yearly Report

What an incredible year it has been for the Fire Department and community. We are extremely lucky to have had the infrastructure from the previous department already in place. This allowed a small group of volunteers to resurrect the fire department and get it operational by Fall of 2020. There was a lot of work behind the scenes doing the office work and department setup. We received community support through donations, had help from the Community Council, and were awarded a grant through MEA which have funded our entire operations thus far. In October, we had an amazing turnout of volunteers to attend and get certified as Rural Basic Fire Fighters. We continue to train and hold meetings in order to better our department and our knowledge. We are all dedicated to keeping our community as safe as it can be from the devastation of fires.



What we are grateful for this year:

- We started out with \$0 dollars, and ended up slightly in the green (see attached financial statement)
- We started with 6 people building the department and ended up with 19 trained Rural Firefighters
- We started with 6 vehicles in unknown conditions and ended up with 3 fully functional apparatus and another we believe is salvageable
- We started with a community somewhat skeptical (but interested) of rebuilding and ended up with a community fully supportive of our efforts

Thank you!

We would like to give a huge shout out to all the wonderful community members who have donated monetarily or by way of equipment. There are of course others that have donated their time and effort into helping us! We appreciate every bit of it! In order for this department to fund itself, we must continue to get donations and grants.

Here are the families who have helped us in 2020:

Andrew, Barker, Bennett, Bischoff, Bowen, Clarke, Cristin, Daniels, Deussing, Faldorf, Frank, Freeburg, Hull, Huskey, Kennedy, Konopasek, Leadman, Levan, Lust, Oglesby, Parrent, Ramsey, Smith, Stock, Stofer, Tiedman, Vancleve, Vessey Jr, Vessey Sr, Villon, Wayner, Wiltse, Zamzow.

Many on this list as well as our 19 core volunteers (and others) have also donated time and volunteered to train as rural firefighters. Additionally special thanks to the previous Fire Chief, Eric Feige for his advice and knowledge, Mark Howe for the equipment survey and neighboring departments - Houston VFD, Butte VFD, Talkeetna VFD - both for many hours spent advising as well as donations of items we needed!



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Going forward - 2021

Foremost - Fire Prevention is our main goal. If we can help maintain awareness in the community to fire hazards and prevention methods we will be successful in our primary mission. Watch for future articles regarding brush pile burning, smoke and CO detectors, fire extinguishers, fuel location hazards, dead tree clearing, kitchen fires, stack fires, dryer vent fires etc.

Additionally it is our intent to obtain more training through various sources such as online classes, Forestry, other departments opening up space for a couple of us, and CERT (Community Emergency Response Training - anyone can participate).

We are also in constant recruitment mode. So if any of you in the community were unable (due to work or previous commitments) to participate in 2020 but are still interested we would love to hear from you! We have 19 active volunteers now, and have a goal to reach closer to 30 to lighten the load on everyone. Please thoughtfully consider it. The commitment is 2 days a month (3rd Friday/ Last Saturday) for meetings and training.

Last but far from least - we are in constant fund raising mode. With a successful grant award from MEA, funding from a very supportive community council and many personal donations we are maintaining enough working capital to pay the bills and keep the station heated and trucks maintained. However to bring another engine to reliable working order, maintain training and improve our coverage and response capability we would love to have your support! Community donations have been a significant reason why we have been able to accomplish what we did in 2020 and we hope you will continue to find us worthy of your donations. Any amount is of great help. And stay tuned for fund raising opportunities we are planning for this summer. Think spaghetti feed, car wash, kids fire prevention training... got any ideas for us?

Help us Prevent Fires

It is our responsibility to maintain and keep our own houses and outbuildings safe. The actions we take can help drastically not only by preventing fires but also in helping us fight a fire on your property if the need ever arises. To that end our goal is to provide free home assessments and point out potential hazards (fuel tank locations etc) that helps us keep volunteers not only safer, but also speeds up our setup time. Here are some simple tips to offer in this month's newsletter.

- Label fuel type on any tank
- Pull your toaster out from underneath your upper kitchen cabinet
- Strap items down that might fall in an earthquake and carefully store items that can cause a fire hazard in an earthquake
- Use timers while cooking or do not leave stove unattended
- Do not overload electrical outlets
- Keep baking soda next to your stove as a fire retardant
- Do not put oily rags or greasy oven mitts in your washer and dryer
- Check for outdated detectors and check battery life
- Keep outlet areas clean and give them breathing room. Check for obvious scorching (black residue) around plugs
- Maintain a 3ft clear area around heating elements or stoves

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