

Basalt Fire-Rescue Newsletter

January 2011

A MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF



After another financially difficult year many members of our family are still struggling. Even during these difficult times our members have unselfishly given of themselves and continue to volunteer and be available when needed. I feel the District is fortunate to have each and every member and the services that you provide. I personally thank each of you for your time, dedication, hard work and taking care of one another during the past year. I hope that 2011 brings positive change for everyone's benefit.

The training, talent, experience and commitment that all of you possess has made the District successful again in 2010. Just as examples, we compiled 5,000 hours of training. Volunteer on-call hours totaled 21,428. Let's put this in perspective, there are 8,760 hours in a year! This means that the volunteers have contributed 2.5 persons being on-call for the entire year! Let's delve just a little deeper, if the District had to pay for the services that you provide, minimum wage in 2010 was \$7.24, minimum costs for your services in 2010 were a whopping \$155,138.72.

In 2010 you answered a total of 610 calls for service. The highlights are:

- 18 Fire calls
- 340 Medical calls, 72 of these were car crashes
- 52 Haz-Mat, CO calls
- 32 Service calls, water, public assistance etc.
- 90 Good intent calls, smoke scare, smell etc.
- 75 False alarms
- 3 Other, special incidents, etc.

Our fire calls are down, Haz-Mat and False Alarms were up slightly from last year. The total numbers of calls for the year are essentially the same from 2009.

The most important statistic of all! No one was seriously injured. We did incur 8 Workman's Compensation claims at a cost of \$6,318.89. Many of these claims were very preventable if caution and care is taken. Slips, trips and falls are the most common claim and with attention we can do better. We did manage to bend some metal in a minor vehicle accident that happened while reversing in the parking lot. Remember, if you have riders you have backers or spotters-use them.

For 2011 please slow down while driving, no running on any scene, curtail your use of cell phones while driving and stay healthy. We can't lose our members! You are much too valuable to our family.

UPDATE FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Minutes from the Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors- Dec. 9, 2010

- Scott discussed the consolidation research that he and Chief Leach had done at the Fire Chief's Conference.
- Attorney Hall completed the review of the SOG on social media
- Jennifer presented the 2011 Budget to the Board of Directors.

- Director Guion asked for an increase in volunteer benefits by \$25,000
- The Board approved all changes and voted to approve all resolutions dealing with the budget.
- A resolution was passed approving the lease purchase of the SCBA equipment.
- President McEnteer thanked the Board on behalf of the volunteers for the City Market gift cards

Planned Agenda for the Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors- Jan. 27, 2011 @ 1700 hours

- Minutes
- Public Comment
- Reports
 - Chief's Report
 - Financial Report
- Budget Resolutions
- Attorney's Report
- Committee's
- Board Member Comments
- Staff Comments
- Unfinished Business
- New Business
- Training Opportunities
- Adjourn

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!



Garrett Wickre
Karen Jammaron
Devin Pool
Karl Oliver
Brian Davies

SAFETY MESSAGE



Even though first responders are trained to understand the dangers of carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning and to recognize potential signs and symptoms, CO poisoning can go unrecognized and untreated, leading to short-term risk and long-term health problems. Know the facts about CO poisoning:

- CO poisoning can be difficult to detect.
- CO poisoning can present with flu-like symptoms, but it is also possible to be poisoned without having any symptoms at all.
- CO poisoning puts firefighters at significant risk at the scene of a fire.
- Even mild CO poisoning causes mental confusion, which can lead to poor decision making, putting both the exposed firefighter and others on the fire scene at risk.
- Mild CO poisoning can also rob the heart and brain of oxygen – nearly 50% of line of duty firefighter deaths are attributed to heart disease or stroke. That's why new NFPA 1584 rehab standards support the use of on-scene CO testing.
- CO poisoning significantly increases long-term health risks.
- Just one severe CO poisoning almost doubles the risk of premature death.
- Consistent exposure to CO poisoning may cause long term heart and brain damage.

What you can do to protect yourself?

- Wear your mask during overhaul.
- Test for carbon monoxide in the blood with an approved noninvasive device.

Reference: 1. Hampson NB et al. American Journal of Emergency Medicine. 2008; 26:665-669. 2. Jakubowski G. FireRescue Magazine. 2004; 22(11):52-55; 3 Bledsoe BE. FireRescue Magazine. 2005. 4 NFPA 1584: Standards on the Rehabilitation Process for Members During Emergency Operations and Training Exercises. Annex A section A.6.2.6.4(1). 5 Hampson NB et al. Crit Care Med. 2009; 37(6): 1941-47. 6 Bledsoe BE. Journal of Emergency Medical Services. 2007; 32:54-59.

EMS NEWS



Beautiful weather in December certainly was responsible for a decrease in trauma related calls, although medical complaints have increased. This is the season for sickness. The hospitals have received many complaints for gastro intestinal sickness, respiratory complaints, and an exceptionally nasty cold this year. I have heard of a few cases of the flu, but this year it appears to be less of a threat so far. I find it funny how last year at this time the H1N1 Flu was cause for panic, and listed as a pandemic. This year I have not heard anything about it.

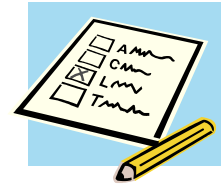
Now would be a good time for a reminder to all to wash your hands, cover your cough, and be aware, if you are in contact with anyone else who has symptoms of illness, you can use a mask for yourself or place one on your patient to protect everyone else.

We are now starting a new year, and we will be trying to schedule EMS training for the future. Some training is required and we cannot change some of the material that needs to be covered. However, we have many opportunities to expand our medical learning and we need some input. We are looking for ideas for new material, possible guest speakers, or any presentations that we should include in our schedule. Now is the time to bring those suggestions forward.

December Stats

Total EMS calls for service: 36
Medical calls: 17
Trauma calls: 03
Refusals: 15
Transport to AVH: 08
Transport to VVH: 12

2011 ELECTION RESULTS



Officers

President- Bill McEnteer
Vice President- Gary Lutzeier
Treasurer- Scott Garcia
Secretary- Barb Forrest

Advisory Board

Officer President- Bill McEnteer
Station 41: Brandon March
Station 42: Brian Davies
Station 43: Duane Vasten
Station 44: Laura Anderson
Officer Rep- Heath Childree

Pension Board

Ralph Zukowski
Bill McEnteer



MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

The Annual Awards Dinner is on Saturday, Jan. 15th, 2011, at the CuVee Bistro in Basalt. Cocktails and appetizers at 5:30pm, dinner at 7:00pm, awards to follow. If you haven't already, please RSVP with Brooke and let her know what you and your guest will be having for dinner (choose salad, entrée and dessert). Brooke's email is: bbishop@basaltfire.org, or call Station 42 at: 704-0675.