



Fire Department Police & Fire Commission Report

October 25 thru December 31, 2010

Report by Chief Wayne Chenier

Administrative Report

This has been another busy reporting period for the department, responding to **391 incidents**, (3 structure fires, 323 Ambulance calls, 15 Motor Vehicle Accidents, and a numerous variety of service calls). In addition to answering the several hundred emergency calls, staff began a 48 hour Paramedic refresher class, completed minimum Paramedic skill requirements, put up and turned on the Christmas decorations on Main Street, finished the semiannual Occupancy Fire Inspections, collected and distributed several hundred toys for the annual Toy Drive, and managed to complete a remarkable 1749 hours of training.

I would like comment on a few new things that have happened during this reporting period. FF Andy Beck did an outstanding job of developing a website for the department. The site offers easy and immediate access to a variety of department headings, and it has received over **750** hits since December 1, 2010. The site can be visited at: <http://www.ashlandfiredept.com>. Steve Sharp was successful in receiving a grant to replace light fixtures in certain City buildings. The Ellis station was outfitted with all new high energy fixtures and it has vastly improved the lighting throughout the station.

In conclusion, I believe 2011 will be even be more challenging than ever. Outsourcing the EMS billing by July 1st is a priority. Mutual-aid agreements, existing or non-existing, will need to be renegotiated with the surrounding communities. A decision to replace the department's aging ladder/tower apparatus needs to be addressed sooner than later. The denial of the FEMA Fire Station Construction Grant was disheartening to all. The need to build a new fire station has not gone away, and the chance that additional funding will become available in the future is unrealistic. In the past 15 years, there have been several plans and concepts discussed and presented. Currently, there is site and a plan on the shelf and the time has come to make a serious decision and commitment to either proceed with the current set of plans or move in a new direction, such as; a Public Safety facility.



October 31, 2010, Structure Fire in the Township of Eileen, 68455 Timber Creek Rd. Picture was taken within minutes of arrival.

Number
of
Overlapping/
Simultaneous Calls

114 of 373

31%

Most
Number of Calls
in a Single Day

13

December 21, 2010

Administrative Report

Township Fire and EMS Contracts

The City of Ashland was notified by the Township of Marengo in November that they were ending the Emergency Medical Services agreement with the City of Ashland at the end of 2010. New agreements will need to be negotiated with City of Mellen and the City of Washburn due to the increase to their service coverage areas. The City Administrator and I have been in meetings regularly to develop the new mutual-aid language.

Apparatus Update

The department recently took delivery of a new Incident Command vehicle. Car-1 is a 2011 Chevrolet Tahoe that was purchased through Von Holzen's of Ashland. The graphics, light package, siren, and radio were installed by Everest Emergency Vehicles. Car-1 will be used primarily as a command vehicle, and it will also double as a back up tow vehicle for the department's Ice Angel and Hazmat trailer.



Paid-on-Call Program

In 2010, the POC members worked 1,111 hours of work/training, and augmented 91 inter-facility transfers. The new POC members continue their orientation with the AFD, they are; John Granger, Ryan Olson, Sam Doty, Chris Beirl, Stephanie Augustine. Ryan Olson has to complete his required ride-along hours prior to starting his orientation. Joy Wooley, Kari Kudick and Kurt Blakeman continue with a 42 hour Certified Firefighter II class. POC member Jason Sturgal withdrew from a Certified Fire Officer I class to begin Paramedic classes. Bob Parent and Stephanie Augustine will begin a 30 hour EMT Refresher class in Washburn, starting on January 4th.

Medicare Mileage Reimbursement Proposal

Medicare passed a rule change that requires ambulance providers to report fractional mileage on ambulance claims. Previously, Medicare allowed the ambulance provider to round up fractional mileage to the nearest whole number. It is unknown the impact this will have on Medicare reimbursements. Beginning January 1, 2011, the department will be required to add the starting and ending mileage to each run report.

FEMA Fire Station Construction Grant

Although several inquiries were made by City and State Officials, there has been no word from FEMA in regards to why the City of Ashland did not receive the SCG. This will be the last update on this issue.

Staffing

Currently, the department has two members off work due to work related injuries. FF Matt Herriott suffered a shoulder injury at the structure fire on October 30th, and FF Tim Ciembronowicz has been off with a back injury that occurred while lifting a patient. Matt should return to work in April and Tim may return by the end of January. Isaac Carrier turned in his resignation on January 5th, and his last shift will be January 16, 2011. Isaac accepted a position as a FF/Paramedic with the Burnsville, MN, Fire Department.

2011 Hiring Process

Along with 14 other fire departments, the AFD will continue to use the Chippewa Valley Technical College's hiring program in 2011 to keep a updated eligibility list.

Major Incidents

October 30, 2010 (Time of Call: 1:00 pm)

Two medics from the department had just responded to a Glidden intercept, when the department received a second 911 call for a structure fire at 68455 Timber Creek Rd in the Town of Eileen. Captain Thimm requested immediate call-back of all off-duty personnel and requested mutual-aid tankers from Bad River, Marengo, Mason, Washburn, and Mason Fire Department's Air Unit. Engine 1 arrived on-scene at 1:13 pm, and noted the fire had breached the roof, which was about 25% involved. At 1:23 pm, a dormer collapsed into the structure, forcing interior crews to retreat. Immediate emphasis was placed on saving the remaining structure by using an defensive/exterior fire attack. The fire was placed under control at approximately 3:00 pm, and the scene was terminated at 5:41 pm. An engine crew remained on scene for several hours. Approximately 50,000 gallons of water was used to fight the fire. The inadequate driveway caused a few interruptions in the delivery of water to the scene. The long and narrow driveway required tankers to back in the entire distance, maneuvering through difficult and unstable terrain, which proved to be difficult for the large water tankers. Fourteen off-duty personnel returned to duty, 1 FF injury. Origin and Cause: The fire appears to have originated at the chimney in the attic space.



November 13, 2010

The Mason FD requested the AFD to provide vehicle extrication and an Advanced Life Support Ambulance for a head-on collision on U.S. Highway 2. The AFD Medics transported one patient to a Duluth hospital from the scene. Two victims were pronounced dead at the scene.

November 26, 2010 (Time of Call: 11:38 am)

Shift 3 responded to a structure fire at 716 8th Street East. Staff returning to the station from another call were driving past the home and reported heavy smoke conditions coming from the eaves and roof areas. An immediate mandatory call-back of all off-duty personnel was initiated. However, response from off-duty personnel was minimal because of deer hunting season. A Mutual-aid request for additional staff and apparatus was placed to the Mason and Washburn FD's. Engine 1 arrived on-scene at 11:41 am, Lt. Alajoki assumed command and determined that all occupants had safely exited the structure prior to AFD arrival. It was difficult for fire suppression crews to extinguish the fire, due to false ceilings and several additions to the original structure. The fire was under control at 1:59 pm, and all units cleared the scene at 3:08 pm. Origin and Cause : Wood Stove Chimney.

December 15, 2010

Shift 3 responded to 800 14th Ave. West for a report of garage fire. On arrival, smoke was coming from a 2 car garage. Ashland Police officer John Fangman was on-scene and stated a small pile of debris was burning between the two garage stalls and a mattress was smoldering. He also stated he had taken a shovel and dumped snow on the burning pile of debris. The mattress was removed from the garage by AFD personnel and extinguished. The fire was reported out at 3:00 pm. Damage to the garage was under \$100.00. Origin and Cause :The fire was suspicious and is being investigated by the Ashland Police Department.

December 25, 2010

The department was requested by the Bad River FD to respond to a head-on MVA on US 2. The accident resulted in two fatalities.

Incident Reponses

October 25, 2010

Shift 2 answered 9 EMS calls

October 30, 2010

Shift 2 responded to 10 calls for service this shift including a structure fire at 68455 Timber Creek Rd, two Duluth transfers and multiple Intercepts

November 9, 2010

Shift 3 responded to 9 calls

November 13, 2010

Shift 2 responded to 9 calls, including 3 motor vehicle accidents, and EMS standby for a barn fire in the Town of Marengo

November 14, 2010

Shift 3 responded to 12 calls, including 3 Interfacility transfers, 3 intercepts, and 1 vehicle accident.

November 19, 2010

Shift 3 answered 9 calls

November 26, 2010

Shift 3 responded to 7 calls, including 2 Interfacility transfers and a structure fire

December 8, 2010

Shift 2 responded to 8 calls including 3 transports to Duluth

December 15, 2010

Shift 3 responded to 8 calls, including 1 structure fire, 2 MVA 's

December 18, 2010

Shift 3 responded to 9 calls, including 1 request for Ice Rescue with the City of Washburn

December 21, 2010

Shift 1 answered 13 calls; 5 transfers to Duluth, 1 motor vehicle accident, and 2 intercepts

December 22, 2010

Shift 2 responded to 9 calls, 2 Interfacility transfers, 3 township calls, and 1 intercept

December 25, 2010

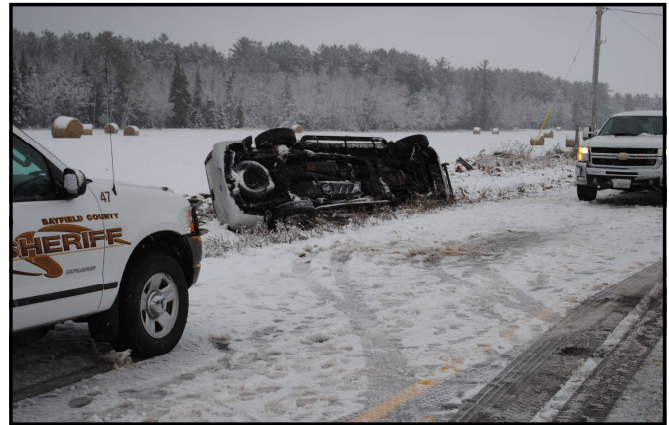
Shift 3 responded to the Township of Sanborn for a 2 car motor vehicle accident, two fatalities

December 29, 2010

Shift 2 answered 8 calls, 3 transfers to Duluth, 1 township, and 1 intercept

December 31, 2010

Shift 2 responded to 9 calls for service, including a MVA in the Township of Sanborn



Training Highlights

Staff completed 1,749 hours of on-duty training during this period.

Paramedic Refresher

Staff began a 48 hour paramedic refresher class through WITC. The training consists of online (blackboard) assignments and classroom scenarios. All paramedics must complete 72 hours of continuing education every 2 years in order to maintain their National Registry certification. Forty-eight of those 72 hours must be completed through a refresher course. The additional 24 hours can be obtained through a variety of training opportunities.

Ice Rescue Training

The department completed several hours of Ice Rescue and Ice Angel training over the past few months. Shift Two was joined by photo-journalists from Fox 21 news and KBJR NBC, and a print journalist from Ashland's Daily Press newspaper. The journalists documented the training and equipment utilized by the Ashland Fire Department. The department has been called for two ice rescue situations during this reporting period.



WI Fire Inspectors Conference

Captain Kevin Tamke attended a 3 day Fire Inspectors conference in WI Dells. The conference is designed to educate the Fire Inspector to updates or changes to the current building occupancy codes, and to ensure compliancy with Dept. of Commerce Fire Inspection guidelines. Captain Tamke is in charge of the Fire Prevention Division.



Fire Investigation Course

Captain Scott Thimm attended a 40 hour WI Basic Fire Investigation class in Sheboygan WI through the Dept of Justice, Division of Criminal Investigation. The class covered all aspects of performing fire investigations and included both classroom and hands on practical exercises.

Firefighter II Class

Six department members are participating in a 42 hour Fire Fighter II training certification course. POC/FF Blakeman, FF Carrier, FF Edinger, POC/FF Kudick, FF Reisdorf and POC/FF Wooley completed



Fire Training

Each year, CWO donates several vehicles to the department to use in vehicle extrication training. This is a great opportunity for staff to remain proficient in the techniques and equipment used in extrication. Pictured right is Shift 1 in action.

Public Education/Special Events

Ashland Fire Fighters Annual Toy Drive was a huge success. Thank you to all the volunteers, local businesses, and citizens of the area who helped with this years toy drive. Thanks to the donations of toys and monetary gifts the Ashland Fire department was able to provide toys for 670 children in Ashland and Bayfield Counties. The toy drive provided toys for 193 families and 399 children in Ashland County and 122 families and 271 children in Bayfield County. Without the generous donations made the annual toy drive would not be possible. Again the Ashland Fire Department would like to thank all who helped.



Local Cub Scout Troop dropping off toys

Salvation Army Volunteers

Ashland Fire Department members: Scott Thimm, Mike Korpela, Andy Beck, Tim Ciembronowicz, Joe Belany, and Nate Reisdorf volunteered several hours of their time over the holidays to ring the bell for the Salvation Army.



Halloween Fun

Members of Shift 3 worked this past Halloween. The children enjoy stopping by the station to receive some candy from Sparky the Fire Dog.

Anniversary Dates

There were no anniversary dates to report during this period

What's New

Please visit the Ashland Fire Department's new website at:

<http://www.ashlandfiredept.com>



Respectively Submitted,

Wayne E. Chenier
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