

# Mechanicville Fire Department Newsletter

February 2009

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## Tower 39-1 Update

T 39-1 was delivered on Thursday the 5th. Equipment is on order and should be arriving soon to be placed on the new truck.

This past week, training conducted by E-One took place on the 6th through 8th. Members that were present sat through a power point presentation which went over the various components on the apparatus and the many "do's and don'ts" associated with the vehicle.

Equipment will start being placed on the apparatus over the next week. The truck is currently scheduled to go out Wednesday for repairs and modifications to be completed before it is officially placed into service. If you wish to perform driver training on the apparatus, please contact an operations officer. If all works out, the truck should be in service next weekend.

### Attention Members:

*Please help keep  
our station clean!*

Garbage is often left lying around on tables, floors, etc. Please do your part in helping us keep our stations clean and presentable to the public!

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## 2/08/09 Structure Fire

On 2/08/09, the Mechanicville Fire Department was dispatched for a working structure fire at 135 Vial Avenue. Almost immediately following MFD's dispatch, Arvin Hart was being activated apparently due to the close proximity of the call to the City's border. When Car 39 signed onto the air he was notified that there were several calls of fire showing at that location which was confirmed upon his arrival.

A working attached 2 car garage fire was reported with extension to the residence. The call was determined to be in the Town of Stillwater and Car 10 assumed

command with MFD maintaining a full structural response. ETA 42-1, ETA 44-1 and E 41-1 all responded and were on scene within 5 minutes of the initial dispatch. Handlines from ETA 42-1 were put in service while ETA 44-1 and E 41-1 quickly established an LDH Water Supply.

The bulk of the fire within the garage area was knocked down within minutes despite the rapid wind driven progression of the fire. Additional MFD crews assisted by arriving Arvin Hart crews made entry into the first floor of the residence and advanced to the second floor and

attic area where more fire was found. The fire was knocked down and overhaul was performed to ensure there was no additional extension.

Overhaul and ventilation operations ensued for an additional hour. Due to the rapid response and aggressive fire tactics of Mechanicville and Arvin Hart crews, along with excellent teamwork, the bulk of the damage was contained to the garage and front porch area of the residence. Great work to all involved!

## February Training Update

On Saturday 1/31, 19 members attended live fire training at the Saratoga County Fire Training Center. This drill was intended to focus on basic fire development and extinguishment for recruit firefighters. All recruit firefighters in attendance did very well and it was great to see the dedication that these new members have. If you are on scene and there is a recruit firefighter standing idle, please work with them so each call can be part of their learning experience. Thank you to all other firefighters that attended training burns and fulfilled the role of team leaders, pump operators and exterior operations. I encourage all members to attend the next training center session which will be held on 4/18/09 and will focus on advanced firefighting tactics. On Sunday, 2/08, MFD responded to a working structure fire at 135 Vial Ave. I am pleased to report that crews acted quickly and aggressively to ex-

tinguish the heavy fire condition at the residence. It is rewarding to see that the training is having an effect and our firefighters seem to be stepping up to the situations they face and acting without hesitation. We still have a lot of work to do with on scene communications and coordination; however, I am confident that we will continue to improve as we continue to train together. It is amazing to hear the feedback from other fire departments and city and county representatives on how effective we have been at recent fires. We have an excellent increase in numbers and enthusiasm and we will continue to move forward with focus and dedication. Thank you very much for your professionalism and your loyalty to the department, its officers, and your fellow firefighters. This month there is scheduled training on 2/21, 2/25 and 2/28. Please refer to the training schedule for the topics covered

each date. All other days will be dedicated to training on the new Tower 39-1. - Tim Cuilla

With the arrival of the T 39-1, the Chiefs have requested a Truck Company Operations course to be hosted at our station. It is unknown if we will get the class but as soon as more information is available, it will be passed along. Additionally, Hemstreet Park FD will be having a Truck Company Operations course at their station. When the dates become available, they will be passed along to everyone. Furthermore, there will be a training seminar in March at the Eagle Matt-Lee firehouse. The seminar will be hosted by a FDNY firefighter which is assigned to a truck company in the Bronx. The focus of the session will be on older block style such as the found in areas like Mechanicville, Waterford and Ballston Spa. A flyer should be posted soon with more information.

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## Equipment News

### New Ladder Belts

New ladder belts have been purchased for T 39-1. The new belts will have lanyards which will be long enough to clip to the bucket and walk out on a roof to perform ventilation work. The new harness' should be in soon.

### Hydrant Bags

New hydrant bags have arrived. The new bags can be found on

the rear of each Engine and the eventually, the new ladder.

### Firefighter Escape

Currently a few of the officers are looking into different emergency escape systems for firefighter safety. We are hoping to find a universal system which all interior firefighters can be issued. Demos on various systems should be taking place in the

near future. As more information becomes available, we will pass it along to the membership.

### CO Meters

The Chiefs have recently purchased a couple small CO monitors that can be placed on a firefighters PPE while overhaul is being conducted. The meters are good for two years and then they need to be replaced.

## January 2009 Alarms

### 1. 1/05/09 Mutual Aid to Hillcrest

ETA 42-1 and Car 39-0 responded DTMA with Hillcrest for a fire alarm activation at the Mech. Elementary School. Found to be false alarm caused by a student which activated a pull station.

### 2. 1/06/09 Odor of Gas

ETA 42-1 and U 39-2 responded to a reported gas odor within Curves on South Central Avenue. Crews found an obvious odor of gasoline with in the building and Multi Gas meters picked up CO as well. It was found to be a vehicle running and leaking gas within a garage below the business.

### 3. 1/07/09 CO Alarm Activation

ETA 44-1, Car 39 and Car 39-9 responded to reported CO Alarm activation w/no illness on Stillwater Ave. Upon arriving, crews utilized the Multi-Gas detector and found CO levels on all floors of the residence ranging from 17 to 54 PPM. It was found a be the furnace for the second floor which had been worked on recently but was not venting properly. Crews shut down the unit, vented and contacted NYSEG to respond.

### 4. 1/09/09 Fire Alarm Activation

Car 39 responded to a fire alarm at Riverside Apts. for a reported fire alarm activation. Upon arriving, a brief investigation found that the smoke condition within the building was caused by a smoke machine being used within one of the apts. All units were held in quarters.

### 5. 1/12/09 Odor of Gas

ETA 44-1, U 39-2 and Cars 39, 39-0 and 39-9 responded to reported outdoor gas odor near DiSiena Furniture on Central Ave. Found to be a Bove Fuel truck being filled.

### 6. 1/17/09 CO Alarm Activation

ETA 42-1, E 41-1 and Car 39 responded to a reported CO Alarm activation on South Second Ave. No CO readings were picked up within the residence. The cause was found to be a faulty detector battery. NYSEG was called to the scene as a precaution.

### 7. 1/19/09 Odor of Gas

ETA 42-1, Cars 39, 39-0 and 39-9 responded to a reported of CO within a residence on South Main St. Crews on scene found an odor resembling that of a bono or epoxy type nature. After further investigation, the odor was found to coming through the sewer system. Crews were using a sealant on the pipe system near by. Crews advised the home owner to open some windows to help vent the odor.

### 8. 1/19/09 Odor of Gas

While ETA 42-1 was on scene of a unknown type odor within a residence on South Main St, a resident a couple houses down the street advised crews she also had an unknown type odor in her home. Crews found it to be the same problem as the initial call. Crews vented the home and cleared the scene and advised the resident to open some windows if the odor returns.

### 9. 1/24/09 Service Call

ETA 42-1 and Cars 39 and 39-0, responded to a home on Newman Ave. for a previous electrical problem. The home owner stated a breaker in the home tripped and there was a soot mark on the wall near an outlet. Crews utilized a T.I.C. to check the outlet and the breaker panel. Alarm unfounded. Resident advised to have an electrician check over the panel and outlet as a precaution.

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## Up Coming Drills

### February

- 2/18 - Cross Training
- 2/21 - CPR Training Course
- 2/25 - Bloodborne Pathogens, Rehab, EMS Equipment
- 2/28 - Bloodborne Pathogens, Rehab, EMS Equipment

### March

- 3/4 - ETA 42-1 Overview
- 3/11 - Cross Training
- 3/14 - Safety Training
- 3/18 - Building Construction
- 3/25 - Ropes & Knots Training
- 3/28 - F.A.S.T. Training

Note: MVA/Car Fire Training will be announced as vehicles are obtained. Additionally, each Training Session will address OSHA topics and a log will be kept for each firefighter.

## **NOTICE!**

***If you have not received an updated copy of the fire department response guidelines, please see a line officer to request a copy.***

***All members need to obtain a copy and review the material contained within them.***