

MECHANICVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2009



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December Alarms

207 12/01/08 EMS Assist

Assist John Ahearn on scene of an unconscious elderly female at 56 Saratoga Ave. U39-2 responded. Crews assisted with lifting and loading.

208 12/01/08 Service Call

Request for a pump out at the former Saratoga Linen Building on New York Ave. 39-2 responded and found 6-7 feet of water in the basement. NYSEG dispatched to shut off the gas supply. DPW assisted with an additional pump.

209 12/04/08 M/A Structure Fire

Mutual Aid request with Halfmoon Fire Dept. for two ETA's to the scene of a working structure fire on Button Road. 44-1 and 42-1 responded to assist with the tanker shuttle and man-power at the scene.

210 12/05/08 Fire Alarm

Fire Alarm activation at the Glass Moon on North Main St. 42-1 and Car 39 responded. It was found to be caused by a smoke machine which was being used within the building.

211 12/06/08 Electrical Fire

Dispatched to an unknown type electrical fire at the base of a light pole in Park Plaza. 44-1 responded with Car 39-9 to find an electrical box on fire and arching at the base of a light pole. 41-1 and 39-2 responded to assist with shutting down the Plaza. NYSEG was dispatched to the scene.

212 12/09/08 Personal Injury MVA

42-1, 39-2 and 39-9 responded to a MVA with personal injury at Central and Park. Crews arrived to find a 2 car MVA with EMS on scene. Crews assisted with traffic and scene clean-up.

213 12/09/08 Rescue Call

Dispatched to assist with the search for a missing 2 year old child. PD cancelled the alarm shortly after dispatch.

214 12/09/08 Outside Burn

Dispatched to a reported outside burn on S. Main Street near Edna Ave. 39-0 responded and found no hazard. All units held in quarters.

215-350 12/12/08 Ice Storm

The department responded to 136 Alarms from the morning of 12/12 to late evening on the 14th. See article on this page for more information regarding the incident.

Fire House News

Line Officer Assignments

On the last page, you will find a copy of assignments which have been delegated to the Captains and Lieutenants. This has been done to take some of the burden off of the chiefs and place more responsibility on the rest of the officers. By doing this we hope to accomplish more tasks in the coming months.

12/12/08 Ice Storm

On Friday, December 12, at approximately, 0045 hrs was the first of 136 alarms which the department responded to in over the duration of the three day incident was reported.

In the early hours of Friday morning, crews responded to numerous alarms such as trees and wires down and even a reported explosion near Park Plaza.

Throughout the weekend, the department responded to numerous hazardous conditions and service calls such as trees and wires down and pump outs. For a majority of the incident, calls were flooding directly into the central station's command post which was established in the early morning of the 12th to log each alarm and manage the response of fire department resources.

A shelter was set up and with the help of the ladies auxiliary, food and drinks were provided to both firefighters and the public. Additionally, the department assisted in performing welfare checks at the mid-rise and a various other forms community assistance. Of the 136 alarms, 94 were answered on the first day of the storm. Over the course of the three days, crews responded to

SOG's

Additionally, this month you will find new and updated SOG's attached to the newsletter. Updates have been made to the PPE SOG and Firefighter Safety Ropes. Additionally, a new SOG is being put into effect in regards to new laws on Highway Safety Vests. Please be sure to review each and be familiar with them.

TRAINING

Attached, you will find a copy of the 2009 Training Schedule which includes the OSHA hour requirements for the year. Please review it and be sure to read his training article on the following page for more information. If you have any questions or concerns, contact Captain Cuilla.

multiple CO alarms and structure fires.

Mid morning on the 12th, crews responded to a reported CO Alarm with 5 ill victims. ETA's 44-1, 42-1 and U 39-2 responded as well as ambulances from Mechanicville, Stillwater, Malta and Hoosic Valley.

Around noon-time, Mechanicville responded Mutual Aid to Hillcrest for a working structure fire on Johnson Road in Halfmoon. ETA's 42-1 and 44-1 responded to the working structure fire, caused by a generator which was powering the residence. 44-1's crew was first due, laying a 5" supply line up the driveway and making entry to the structure with an 1 3/4" line for suppression, followed shortly after by 42-1 which finished the lay to the scene and assisted 44-1's crew. The fire was knocked down quickly and crews immediately began overhaul and salvage duties.

Before crews cleared the structure fire in Hillcrest, Mechanicville was dispatched to a reported working structure fire in the bedroom of a home on South Main St. Car 39, U 39-2 and Melrose Engine 20-6 were first on scene followed by Engine 41-1 and ETA 44-1 upon its return from Hillcrest.

Crews stretched an 1 3/4" line to the second floor and found the fire to be out on arrival. Crews performed overhaul, checking for extension into the walls. The residence was ventilated and all units were released.

All non-emergency operations were ended late Friday night to give members a chance to rest before picking back up the next morning. Crews continued throughout the day Saturday responding to pump-outs and other alarms within the City. On Sunday the 14th, crews were hard at work again, finishing up the last of the pump outs and responding to multiple fire alarms and possible structure fires.

Crews responded again with Hillcrest to a working structure fire at Cascades on South Main St. Once on scene, crews found a boiler fire which was out of control. Crews from Mechanicville assisted in interior operations with Hillcrest until the fire was brought under control.

Thanks to all which spent countless hours responding to alarms and helping out at the station. Additionally, a special thanks goes out to the local business' which helped by lending generators, pumps, and other supplies.

Training Update

As you will see when you review the training schedule, we have a pretty full year planned. We tried to repeat most of the important topics from last years training and also include some new items that should be covered. There should be more OSHA hours available to you in each session and throughout the entire year so there should be no issues for people to meet their quotas.

This month we will go to the training center on 1/31. It is my goal to use this date as a challenge for some of our new firefighters who will be completing the Scene Support Class this month. I encourage everyone to attend though as it is always very beneficial for all. The new ladder will also be coming this month and everyone will need to focus some additional time into

cross training with this vehicle. This is a first for a vehicle like this, combining an engine and a ladder into one vehicle. Thus, both our typical ladder and engine operators will need to train heavily on this vehicle.

I am looking forward to the opportunities that this year will bring. As always, contact me with comments or suggestions.

- Tim Cuilla

Apparatus/Equipment News

Tower 39-1 Update

On Saturday the 3rd, Tower 39-1 was at the Central Station for viewing while the Truck Committee worked with the dealer to map out the storage compartments for equipment mounting.

The truck is expected to be ready for delivery by the end of January. Training of drivers will begin as soon as possible. A lot of training will need to be completed by all interested members.

PPE Reminder

PPE needs to be properly maintained. Members which are not sure how to maintain their gear should contact a line officer for assistance. Training will be held on PPE use and care techniques.

Be sure to wash your gear at a minimum, once every 6 months or anytime which it becomes

January Chiefs Report

December 2008 Activities

Alarms - (147)

(139) City calls

(8) mutual aid requests

December 12, 2008 and unexpected ice storm hit the Mechanicville area causing server damage and power outages. A state of Emergency was declared in the early morning hours by Acting Mayor Mark Seber. This state of emergency lasted until December 14th at approximately 8pm. During this time frame the Mechanicville Fire Department answered 136 calls for assistance. See below for a breakdown of our response.

Structure Fires - 4

Fire Alarm Activations - 1

EMS Assist - 2

Mutual Aid - 5

CO Alarm Activation - 1

Motor vehicle Accident - 1

Hazardous Conditions - 27

Transformer Fire - 2

Service call (pump outs) - 90

Stand By in Station - 3

Also during this time, the Mechanicville Fire Department set up a warming station at the Central Fire Station on North Main St. The Ladies Auxiliary provided food and comfort to all that asked including our firefighters. Without all the efforts of our members, the Police Department, Rescue Squad, City Councilors, and many other people, we would not have had the successful operation that occurred during this time. Thank you to all that were involved!

Drills - (5)

Several drills were held during the month covering routine operations and maintenance.

Activities - (3)

The Department provided transportation for Santa Claus for two separate functions in the City using our ladder truck.

Our monthly "All You Can Eat" breakfast was held December 28th. There will be no monthly breakfast in January. We will start back on the fourth Sunday of February. We look forward to the continued support

Probationary Members

James Harris has met his requirements and is recommended as a full member to the Department by the Chief Officers.

Training

Our Training officer will circulate the 2009 training schedule. OSHA hours will be allotted - so please attend drills as often as possible to avoid trying to catch up in the last month of the year. Fire Officer's School starts in Hillcrest next week. If you are interested in attending, please see one of the Chief's as soon as you can. Our newest addition to the Mechanicville Fire Dept, T39-1 was here for an equipment mounting overview and should be back in approximately two weeks. Training schedule for driving and operations will be posted when we have dates confirmed with the manufacture of the truck. We are going to try and get as many people trained as quickly as possible. If a working structure fire occurs, a tower from Waterford will be requested by the Officer in Charge. The County has been notified of this as well as the Chief of WFO.

Alarms Continued

351 12/14/08 Mutual Aid
Request for 1 ETA to the scene of a structure fire at Cascade Tissue Plant on S. Main St.

352 12/15/08 Mutual Aid
M/A Structure Fire - Arvin Hart County failed to dispatch in time and were cancelled by Arvin Hart Car 10-9

353 12/16/08 Rollover MVA
Property damage only rollover on Vial Ave. 42-1, 39-2, 39 and 39-0 responded. No injuries. Crews assisted with traffic and scene clean up.

354 12/26/08 CO Alarm
Reported CO Alarm activation with illness on William St. Crews arrived to find it was an alarm malfunction. The illness was determined not to be CO related.

Up Coming Drills

January/February

- 1/14 - Cross Training
- 1/21 - Training Sched/SOG's
- 1/24 - Training Sched/SOG's
- 1/28 - Tower 39-1 Training
- 1/31 - Training Center Drill
- 2/04 - 44-1 Overview
- 2/11 - Cross Training
- 2/18 - Cross Training
- 2/21 - CPR Training Course
- 2/25 - Bloodborne Pathogens, Rehab, EMS Equipment
- 2/28 - Bloodborne Pathogens, Rehab, EMS Equipment

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.