

Mechanicville Fire Department Newsletter

March 2009

Educate. Protect. Serve.

Annual MFD Golf Tournament

Four Person Best Ball Scramble

Saturday, May 30 2009

At the Fairways of Halfmoon Golf Course

11:30am Check-In/Lunch
Noon Shotgun Start

\$85 per player
Includes Lunch, Italian Buffet
Dinner and Beverages on the
Course

Prizes:

Team Prizes, Longest Drive,
Closest to the Pin, Whole in One
Car Give-a-Way, Door Prizes,
50/50 Raffle and More!

Team & Tee Sponsor
Applications due no later than
Wednesday, May 20th.

For more information, contact
Jeff Alonzo at 365-0466 or
David Zecca at 788-2853

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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Tower 39-1

More equipment has arrived for the new tower. Pump fittings, new hose, hand tools and search ropes have come in. Additional equipment for the high-rise pack are still on order as well as some other odds and ends.

Structure Fires

In February, MFD responded to two working structure fires in Rensselaer County.

ETA 42-1 responded day time mutual aid with Hemstreet Park for a working structure fire on Sliter Road.

42-1 was first due to find a working fire with a light smoke condition showing from the eaves. Crews stretched an 1 3/4" handline and made entry into the structure. Crews utilized the Thermal Imaging Camera to find the exact location of the fire and

Repairs were made to the vehicle last week by Robert's Fire Apparatus. More still have to be completed but are expected to be taken care of very soon.

Multiple pump and aerial operation training sessions have been

pulled ceilings to gain access to it. Crews had that fire knocked down within minutes and began hydraulic ventilation.

Melrose Rescue 20 arrived shortly after ETA 42-1 and cut a vent hole in the roof and began opening up the outside wall to check for extension.

Hemstreet Park provided additional manpower and water supply. Crews cleared from the scene a short time later.

Also within the same month, MFD

conducted over the past week. T 39-1 has not yet put in service so that more training could be completed. If you have not been able to attend any of the recent sessions, contact a line officer to set a time to do so.

responded to a stand-by request which later brought them to the scene of a working fire within an abandoned building on Melrose-Valley Falls Road in the Melrose Fire District. Crews assisted on scene with suppression and overhaul.

Both fires were believed to be intentionally set. Investigators brought in a K-9 to the fire in Sliter Rd. and the dog picked up on traces of accelerant which may have been used to start the fire.

March 2009 Training Update

Since our last newsletter release, MFD has done a great deal of work. We responded to 2 more structure fires with our mutual aid departments, and also completed a lot of training. For those that did not see my note, the structure fires that we have responded to in Rensselaer County have been labeled suspicious. One of the fires was in Hemstreet Park and the other was in Melrose, with additional fires occurring in the Melrose area that we did not respond to. Since it is not uncommon that we will be the first truck or at least close behind the first attacking crews in the Hemstreet Park area, be conscious of the following things:

-Was there anything suspicious

that you saw?

-How well involved is the structure? If it was intentionally set it may already be unsafe and deteriorated, take extreme caution

-Was there fire in separate areas of the house seemingly unconnected? This could indicate separate fires set throughout the house.

-Was there any bystanders there too early and seemed to be acting strange

Since we are usually attacking the fire, the investigators are going to want to know what we saw in the early stages. Let's continue to be aggressive, but pay attention to what is happening at the scene and be very safe.

As far as training goes, we have

been very busy. On top of our normally scheduled training, the new tower has presented great training opportunities and members have been at the station seemingly every day and night to learn the truck. This much dedication will surely result in a capable responses to the community with the new T39-1.

This month there is scheduled training on 3/14, 3/18 and 3/25 and is all intended to gear us up for the April training center date. Please refer to the training schedule for the topics covered each date. All other days will be dedicated to training and equipping T39-1.

Thank you,
Tim Cuilla

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Equipment

The White Water Derby will be held on Sunday, April 5th. All available personnel should report at the Central Station. A meeting will take place soon to discuss times and

the placement of apparatus. Mutual aid resources will be on hand as always to assist in our efforts. Members will be needed for staging along the creek, boat

operations and also for traffic assistance. Food and drinks will be provided. If you have any questions, contact a Chief Officer for further detail.

Monthly Chiefs Report

February 2009 Activity

Alarms - (11)

(9) City calls

(2) Mutual aid requests

Structure Fires

The Mechanicville Fire Department responded to three working structure fires during the month.

2/8/2009 MFD responded to 135 Viall Ave. Simultaneously activated was Arvin Hart Fire Co. for the fire which was located on the border of the City. A unified command was established under Chief Keith Collins of the Arvin Hart Fire Company. Mechanicville units arrived quickly and knocked down the bulk of the fire in the garage area as Arvin Hart units made entry into the house to extinguish fire that had extended into the house structure. A job well done by all responding units.

2/18/2009 MFD responded to 140 Slider Road, Town of Schaghticoke as automatic mutual aid for the Hemstreet Park Fire Department. Mechanicville units arrived first on scene and were able to contain the fire to the area of origin.

2/24/2009 MFD responded to Melrose-Valleys Falls Road in the Melrose fire district to assist firefighting efforts after initially responding to Hemstreet Park as a stand by unit. Our firefighters assisted on scene for extinguishment and overhaul operations for several hours.

Training

Six scheduled drills occurred during the month including training provided from the E-One factory representative on our new tower truck, T39-1, operational training on T39-1 and protection from blood borne pathogens.

Please review the Departments Training schedule for drills for the month. There is opportunity to refresh skills, learn new ones and practice applying them as well as receive needed OSHA training to maintain membership.

On February 21st, (21) members completed a certified CPR/AED course given by American Heart Association Instructor, Jeff Alonzo.

(6) members completed Principals of Building Construction

Activities

Our monthly all you can eat breakfast was held on February 22, 2009.

Upcoming Events/News

March 14th, a station clean-up is scheduled for 9am in the morning. Participation by all members available is appreciated. We will start at Central Sta. and work our way up to Station 2 as time dictates.

March 29, our next monthly breakfast will be held from 8am till 12pm at the Central Fire Station on North Main Street. We need additional support from the Department for this fundraiser. The num-

ber of members helping has diminished the last few months and help is needed!

Bowling Fundraiser

April 4, the Mechanicville Fire Department will sponsor a bowling outing at Hometown lanes just south of Jack Bryne's on route 4832 in support of our upcoming convention. This will occur from 9:30pm until 12:00am.

White Water Derby

April 5th, the Annual White Water Derby will take place in Mechanicville. The Chiefs have a meeting scheduled to finalize the plans for the event - more details will be released after this meeting.

Tower 39-1

T39-1 will go in service this Saturday, March 14th. Training is ongoing for any 21 year old members who wish to learn how to operate this piece of apparatus as well as the ETA's and E4-1. The Chief's have received a list of minor repairs still needed and we will schedule the necessary repairs to occur in our Station to minimize out of service time.

Probationary Members

Marc DeBates and Darcy Bechand have met their obligations as probationary firefighters as of January 2009 monthly meeting. An oversight occurred at last month's meeting and it was not announced. They are now full members of the Department - congratulations to both of them!

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Up Coming Drills

April

- 4/15 - Fire Suppression
- 4/18 - Live Fire Training @ SCFTC
- 4/22 - E 41-1 Familiarization
- 4/29 - Cross Training

May

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 dept. 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.