

# Mechanicville Fire Department Newsletter

May 2009

Educate. Protect. Serve.

## April Alarms

31	4/1/09	CO Alarm
32	4/5/09	Fire Alarm
33	4/9/09	Mutual Aid—HFD
34	4/14/09	Brush Fire
35	4/15/09	Mailbox Fire
36	4/16/09	MVA
37	4/16/09	Smoke Alarm
38	4/17/09	Structure Fire
39	4/17/09	Good Intent
40	4/18/09	Fire Alarm
41	4/18/09	Brush Fire
42	4/19/09	EMS Assist
43	4/19/09	Landing Zone
44	4/19/09	MVA
45	4/22/09	Mutual Aid—VFFD
46	4/22/09	Mutual Aid—VFFD
47	4/23/09	Mutual Aid—VFFD
48	4/23/09	MVA
49	4/24/09	Hazmat
50	4/24/09	Outside Burn
51	4/25/09	Outside Burn
52	4/27/09	Mutual Aid—HFD
53	4/29/09	Smoke Alarm
54	4/29/09	Mutual Aid—HFD
55	4/30/09	Mutual Aid—HFD
56	4/30/09	CO Alarm

### Attention Members:

*Please help keep  
our station clean and  
presentable to the public!*

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## Recent Structure Fires

Since April, the department has responded to four working fires, two of which within the City of Mechanicville.

On Friday, April 17th, we were dispatched to a working structure fire at 510 Broadway. Upon arriving, initial units encountered heavy fire on all floors of the main fire building, with extension to the home to the east. Crews were initially short on manpower and due to the rapid advancement of the fire as well as the deterioration of the roof from the heavy fire, crews were forced to back out of the home and conduct a defensive operation. T 39-1 utilized its aerial master stream to keep the fire in the rear of the attic. Once the fire was knocked down, crews regrouped and resumed interior operations to perform overhaul and extinguish the hot spots by utilizing Class A Foam. A FAST team was provided by Clifton Park Fire and Arvin Hart and Hillcrest assisted on scene. The cause of the fire was from boiling cooking oil which overflowed when the resident placed frozen chicken nuggets into it.

On Wednesday, April 22nd, Tower 39-1 and ETA 44-1 responded to the James Thompson Mill Fire in Valley Falls. Crews worked throughout the morning and into the early afternoon to extinguish the fire and assisted the investigators by providing and elevating a platform to examine the debris. Crews were called back the next morning but were unable to assist at the scene due to technical issues with T 39-1. The cause of the fire was believed to be arson.

On Monday, May 12th, ETA 44-1 and 42-1 responded with Hemstreet Park fire for a working fire on Pinedowns Road. 44-1 was third due and its manpower was utilized to ventilate the roof. Crews encountered multiple layers on roofs which included two layers of pine boards, shingles and tin. Additionally, the saw crews attempted to use to cut the hole was unable to cut through all these layers and a K-12 saw was needed to complete the cut. Despite these complications, firefighters were able to open the roof. MFD manpower was also assisted with suppression and overhaul. The cause of the fire was believed to be suspicious.

Lastly, on Tuesday, May 13th, MFD was dispatched for a reported structure fire in the area of 130 Grand Street. Upon Car 39-9's arrival, he confirmed a working fire with heavy smoke showing at 130 Fifth Ave and requested a second alarm be transmitted. 42-1 was first on scene, placing two handlines into service. 42-1's crew split up into two teams; one conducting suppression on the first floor and the second crew headed to the second floor to perform a search for possible occupants whose whereabouts were unknown. ETA 44-1 and E 41-1 established LDH water supplies for 42-1 and the Tower. Crews quickly knocked down the heavy fire found on the first floor and a rapid search of the second floor turned up negative. Clifton Park Fire provided a FAST team at the scene and assisted with filling SCBA bottles. Hillcrest and Hemstreet Park units were staged at the Central Station for possible response to the scene. The cause of the fire was believed to be a dryer vent in the rear of the residence.

Crews did an outstanding job at all of the above fires!

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## May 2009 Training Update

I wanted to express great appreciation for the talent that our firefighters displayed on the 5<sup>th</sup> St. fire. Although I was at work, I have heard great things and to me it reinforces the point that with the right people, the right training and focused dedication, the results can be astounding. Not only was the fire attacked aggressively, but intelligently with the use of a thermal imager to aid in fire suppression which was hampered by intense heat and zero visibility. Simultaneous to the fire attack, a search for life was being conducted on the floor above the fire. That is how we train and that is how it was executed. I am very happy that our thought process towards these stubborn fires in the City's old homes has changed and we now realize that we can take control of these situations.

For T39-1, I would like to reinforce that training with this vehicle is essential to understanding placement on a fire scene. It will require the entire crew spot where you want the bucket to go to the roof and then place this vehicle in the right location so that it does not have to be set up and taken down multiple times until the right location is found. Here are some placement and execution tips:

- When you get to the fire, don't be afraid to step off of the truck, look at where the fire is and understand where you want your cut to be (directly above the fire). Then position the truck to be able to get the bucket to that point on the roof.
- Position the turntable, not the cab, at the corner (or a little passed the corner) of the fire side of the structure. This allows your bucket to hit the fire side of the building along with the front side of the building in order to be able to drop the firefighters in the right spot on the roof or to be able to use the monitor for defensive operations.
- Once you are about to stop the truck in its final location, turn the steering wheel hard away from the building. This pulls the cab a little bit into the street and away from the building so that if you do have to swing the ladder towards the front of the truck (maybe to hit an exposure building), your obstruction from the cab is reduced that much more.

SAWS – The 2 chain saws on the truck are meant for cutting wood roofs. The K12 is set up for cutting metal roofs along with commercial steel doors and bars. DO NOT use the metal blade to cut a wood roof. It will not work and will destroy the blade. If you need to use the K12 for a wood roof, the carbide blade is in the cabinet and the blades can be swapped out very easily. Become familiar with changing out this blade. If you have a slate roof, use a tool to knock the slate off of the roof (it comes off easy) to reveal the wood decking. Then cut with your chain saw.

This month there is scheduled training on 5/16, 5/23, and 5/27. On 5/16, we are looking for any Class A firefighters for the FAST team training. Whether you want to be a part of the team or not, valuable firefighter survival skills are learned in these sessions and every Class A firefighter should have knowledge of these skills. On 5/23 and 5/27 we will be conducting refresher training with ground and aerial ladders.

Thank you for your continued dedication,  
Tim Cuilla

May 2009

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## Up Coming Drills

### May

- 5/16 - F.A.S.T. Training
- 5/20 - Cross Training
- 5/23 - Ground/Aerial Ladders
- 5/27 - Ground/Aerial Ladders

### June

- 6/03 - U 39-2 Familiarization
- 6/06 - Water Rescue Ops
- 6/10 - Cross Training
- 6/17 - Convention Preparation
- 6/24 - Lifenet Demo

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.**

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## 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

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## Monthly Chiefs Report

April Total Alarms - (24)

(21) City Alarms

(3) Mutual Aid Requests

The Department responded to two working structure fires during the month. April 17, 2009, a structure fire occurred at 510 Broadway causing extensive damage to the building of the fire origin. Light damage occurred to houses on either side due to the rapid advancement of the fire prior to our notification. As a reminder to all residents and business owners, please do not delay calling the Fire Department before any attempt at extinguishment of a fire no matter how small it seems!

April 22, 2009, the Department responded to the James Thompson Mill fire in Valley Falls with T39-1 to provide an elevated waterway and manpower to assist in the overhaul phase.

### Drills - (5)

The Department held five drills during the month covering subjects such as water supply operations, fire ground tactics including initial attack and general safety.

### Training

Four members are presently enrolled in Hazardous Materials Awareness, a NYS Fire Course

### Activities

- On April 5, 2009 the annual White Water Derby was held. The Department stationed rescue crews along the creek in town with the help of several other mutual aid companies. We would like to extend our thanks to Stillwater FD, Hemstreet Park FD, Melrose FD, Waterford FD and Round Lake FD for all their help.
- On April 24, 2009, the Department assisted with the Lassie League Opening Day parade and bonfire.
- April 25, 2009 the Department assisted with the Little League parade and opening day.
- Our monthly "All you can eat Breakfast" was held on April 26, 2009. The next breakfast will be held on May 24, 2009 from 8am till 12pm at the Central Fire Station. We look forward to the continued support.

### Curfew Status

The Chief's are happy to announce the curfew imposed by the Mayor has been lifted. There will be a review of this policy in six months and if no complaints occur - the curfew will remain lifted.

### Mutual Aid Response

Tim Guilla looked into Mutual Aid Response for the Chief's. It has been determined that the County's response plan calls for minimum staffing and an Officer to respond to Mutual Aid requests. It also states that a SENIOR member can act as an Officer for these responses. The Chief's recommend waiting for an Officer to respond with any vehicle leaving the city. In the event an Officer isn't available - a judgment call can be made by members present to respond with a senior member. Please resort to the Department SOG's for further detail.

### Parking

As a reminder to all our members - DO NOT PARK ILLEGALLY near the fire stations - take special care not to block hydrants and/or entrances to businesses. Please do not park on the sidewalk as well. If you are parked illegally, the police will contact the scene to have the member come back to the station to move the vehicle immediately. The Chief's are actively working to alleviate the parking problems with the Mayor.

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## Apparatus Staffing SOG Confusion

Recently, it has been brought to the attention of the line officers that members are confused and unclear about our guidelines for Mutual Aid Response. Below you will find a copy of our department guideline for Apparatus Staffing which explains MFD requirements for staffing vehicles responding to Mutual Aid alarms. If you have any questions or you have not received a copy of the department SOG's, please contact one of the line officers.

### Emergency Operations

#### Apparatus Staffing

**Purpose:** To set a minimum man-power requirement for all Fire Department apparatus responding to alarms in and around the City of Mechanicville.

**City Calls:** Minimum of 4 person crew for **ALL APPARATUS** except U 39-2

Minimum Crew of Four:

- 1 Qualified Driver
- 1 Officer or Class A Firefighter
- 1 Class A firefighter and 1 Class B.

*Note: Lenience will be granted 5 minutes after dispatch.*

U 39-2 – Minimum Crew of Two:

- 1 Qualified Driver
- 1 Firefighter

MR 39-3 – Minimum Crew of Three:

- 1 Qualified Boat Operator
- 2 Members

**Mutual Aid Calls:** Minimum 4 person crew for all apparatus responding to mutual aid calls

- 1 Qualified Driver
- 1 Officer (should be a Chief, Captain or Lieutenant)
- 2 Class A Firefighters

*Note: If possible, respond with a crew of 6. Apparatus should attempt to respond to Mutual Aid calls with a Captain or Lieutenant on the vehicle whenever possible.*

#### Additional

- A. If a Line Officer is not present, the senior man on the truck is in charge of the crew.
- B. Class A Firefighters take preference for ALL Alarms. Members, who do not hold the status of Class A, may be asked to give up their seat for an interior firefighter at the request of the officer on the apparatus.

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