

**MECHANICVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT**

# ***November Newsletter***



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## Chief's Report

**October 2009**

### **Alarms - 16**

- (14) City calls
- (2) Mutual aid requests

### **Training**

Drills – (4) The Department hosted Scott Hickey and his team from FDNY at the County Training Center on 10/3 to drill on the techniques taught at the class room session held recently. This training will help us be better firefighters and do the job safer. We appreciate his time and efforts in helping us. We will host Scott and his team again in the spring – we will let everyone know well in advance

The Department held a pre drill for mass casualty incidents on 10/21 to coordinate efforts between John Ahearn Rescue Squad and the Mechanicville Police Department in the event there was a mass casualty incident in the City. We will reschedule extrication training for a future date due to heavy rain on 10/24. We would like to thank Lt. Rabbit of the MPD for his help!

The Department held a SCBA training session as part of OSHA required training for firefighters several times during the month.

On 10/31 the aerial device on T39-1 was cleaned and greased per E-One maintenance requirements by our trained members.

(6) Members are presently enrolled in Firefighter One, the basic recruit firefighter class being held in West Crescent.

### **News**

All Hose was tested, as required annually, with some hose failing using the services of Waterway Inc., a licensed test company. It will be budgeted for replacement in 2010. Annual ground ladder testing was also conducted by Waterway Inc., with (2) ground ladders failing. These ladders have been in service since 1972 and will be replaced immediately.

On 10/11 the Department provided traffic assistance to the MPD for the Breast Cancer walk that occurred in the City  
Annual physicals for fire fighters occurred on 10/27 and 10/28 at the Central Fire Station for members needing them per OSHA requirements. Any member still needing a physical can call Access Health @ 782-2200 and set up an appointment before December's meeting to be eligible to vote or before January 31st to maintain active membership status.

The Department held its annual residents and business fund drive on 10/20 and 10/22. We are thankful for all the donations we have received to date. It helps support activities such as Fire Prevention and our assistance at other civic events in the City.

On 10/31 the aerial device on T39-1 was cleaned and greased per E-One maintenance requirements by our trained members. The Fire Prevention committee lead by Vincent Lorenzo has been busy visiting the area schools including the Mechanicville City School System in Halfmoon. The Mechanicville Fire Dept. joined forces with Hillcrest FD and Hemstreet Park FD to provide this program to all the students.

Probationary Firefighter Vincent Trexler's probation has been extended due to his military service. He will be re-evaluated upon his return for active status.

**MFD October 2009 Training Article****By: Tom Brennan**

**WINDOWS OF A FIRE BUILDING** are an integral part of our firefighting system. Initially, they give us a size-up focus. Ongoing, they provide alter-nate escape for civilians and firefighters, entry points for search teams, and, of course, primary and secondary ventilation for life safety and/or fire extinguishment. Properly used by firefighters, they are invaluable to the successful firefighting effort. Improperly used, they can wreak havoc, cause injury and death, and destroy an aggressive interior attack.

**To open or not?** This is determined by the function you are performing. Do you want it open (broken) to continue to search for life? Or is it to aid the extinguishment of fire effort? (These can be as different as night and day.)

The use of windows for horizontal ventilation must be controlled and coordinated based on the location of the fire, the movement of the interior line(s), and the exposure problem. In the case of using windows to rescue life and continuation of the primary search, the windows should be taken anytime they can support the entry and continuation of a primary search effort. In short, the decision depends on whether you're searching for life or for fire! If breaking out the window you're at will keep you going, do it! It provides visibility, enhanced atmosphere for the people waiting for us to find them, reduces your apprehension (panic) factor, and in private dwellings, represents your closest alternate exit.

**Hit once—not 12 times.** Once you decide to remove window glass you should have the tool and technique that allows you to operate as safely as possible. You must be able to "take" most of the window with one or two swings. This is the least expensive and most result-oriented piece of structure. It's painful to see 12 little holes punched in 12 little panes of glass in post fire pictures. If you want to take the window—take it all!

**Entry.** If a window is your choice of entry, make a door out of it. Conditions may be tolerable when you enter, but are probably going to get worse. You'll need all the space you created and then some to get yourself, your victim, and the rolling fire out of the same hole with some degree of safety, efficiency, and success.

**Operating from fire escapes.** Once you size up which window accesses the fire apartment from the fire escape, first take the time to break the adjacent window that is not on the fire escape. This will relieve and redirect fire conditions away from you. Then vent, enter, and search from the fire escape window. Remember, you are at the most dangerous place in the fire occupancy—the rear of the fire. Here is where the real rescues are made and the ones that must be made before the interior extinguishment attack is begun.

**Security.** America has become security-conscious. Barred windows are becoming common in many communities. Prepare for this and be able to remove them before entry. Partial removal may allow the firefighter to enter during the early stages of fire, but can trap him during the helter-skelter stage when only moments exist between exit for survival and having a much-too-close look at your Maker. Window gates are found in many urban municipalities. Legal or not, locking devices are on only one (the strongest) side of the gate. Don't waste time. Attack the hinge and let the gate swing on the locking devices.

**Venting from above.** There are two serious horizontal ventilation problems:

- Venting the windows of a top-floor fire from the roof. This is an extensive and "never-ending" task.
- Venting windows of a high-rise residence fire from the floor above. This is more important than vertical ventilation and often the key to successful advance of the search and extinguishment teams.

Windows in both cases are usually out of reach of the aerial device, either by location or by height. The needed venting must take place from above the fire. On both fires, venting is accomplished by tying a prying tool to a length of rope (in your pocket?) and lowering it to the window to be vented from the occupancy above (high-rise) or from the roof above (top-floor fire). Stand on the measured portion of rope, hoist up the tool, and throw it out horizontally. It will arc down and take greater portion of the window and its framing, out than will hanging yourself over with a pike pole. And it's safer.



## October 2009 Alarms

### 157 10/22 Outside Burn

Police officer reporting an out of control, unattended burn in close proximity to the structure at 52 N. Central Ave. ETA 44-1 responded with Car 39-9 and crews extinguished the fire with a water can.

### 158 10/06 Car vs. Pedestrian

Car vs. pedestrian on South Main St. ETA 42-1 responded with Cars 39, 39-0, and 39-9. Crews closed the road and assisted EMS.

### 159 10/10 Carbon Monoxide Alarm

Co alarm at 127 So. 2nd. Crews were advised by the homeowner that the Co detector was chirping. Using that information it was determined that the battery needed to be replaced. Crews monitored the residence with a CO meter as a precaution. ETA 44-1 responded with Car 39.

### 160 10/10 Property Damage MVA

Vehicle into the building at Stewarts on Park Ave. Crews found a motorist that had accidentally accelerated rather than applied the brake when pulling into the parking spot on the East side of the building. There was damage to the building but deemed non-compromising to structural integrity. No injuries were reported.

### 161 10/12 Indoor Smoke Odor

Smell of plastic burning in the residence at 26 Mabbitt. Crews determined that the smell could be from a heating unit that was recently turned on. The homeowner called a service technician to look at the unit. ETA 44-1, 42-1, E41-1, and T39-1 responded with Car 39-0.

### 162 10/15 Property Damage MVA

Property damage MVA in front of Hilldreths with fluid spill. Car 39-9 requested one truck priority 2. Crews used speedi dry to absorb an oil spill. ETA 44-1 responded.

### 163 10/21 Outside Smoke Condition

Outside Smoke Condition reported on Round Lake Ave. Chiefs arrived and determined it was an outside burn. All units were downgraded. ETA 42-1 and T39-1 responded.

### 164 10/23 Structure Fire

Porch on fire at 133 North Third Ave. Crews extinguished the fire on the porch which had little extension to the exterior siding. It was determined that a jacket caught fire on top of a heating stove and the resident carried it out of the house and onto the porch. Crews ventilated the smoke condition in the residence and ensured there was no extension in the residence. ETA 44-1, 42-1, and E41-1 responded with all Chiefs.

### 165 10/23 Hazardous Condition

Wires down on Greenwood Ave. A tractor trailer took down cable wires. Crews isolated the area and contacted the cable company. ETA 42-1 responded with Cars 39 and 39-9.

### 166 10/23 Mutual Aid Structure Fire

Mutual aid with Hemstreet Park for one ETA to the scene of a possible structure fire at the Schaghticoke Town Garage. Units were cancelled as arriving command found an exterior controlled burn.

### 167 10/25 Service Call

Water leak in a basement at 180 South Main and the owner requested assistance finding the shutoff. PD on scene found the shutoff and Car 39 cancelled all MFD units.

### 168 10/27 HazMat

Vehicle leaking fuel in the parking lot of Bubbles. Crews used speedy dry to absorb the leak while awaiting a tow. ETA 42-1 responded with Car 39-9.

### 169 10/28 EMS Assist

EMS requesting a driver for an EMS call.

### 170 10/29 Outside Smoke Condition

Report of smoke in the area of Bove Fuels. Car 39-9 and ETA 44-1 arrived in the area and did not find a cause for concern.

### 171 10/30 EMS Assist

EMS requesting a driver for an EMS call.

### 172 10/31 Hazardous Condition

Wires down across the road on Ellsworth Ave. Crews determined that it was phone and cable lines and moved them out of the way. ETA 42-1 responded with Car 39-9.

## New High-Band Pager Channels

**Channel A** - Monitors MFD, John Ahearn and County in a closed mode (you will not hear any communications prior to it beeping). When we are dispatched, the pager will beep and then it will open up so we can hear the dispatch. It will then remain open until you hit the squelch button on your pager to close it. The county can also tone us out for mutual aid calls on this channel.

**Channel B** - Monitors MFD and John Ahearn only in an open mode. You will hear all dispatch communications before and after the call.

**Channel C** - Monitors MFD, John Ahearn and County in an open mode. You will hear all County EMS and Fire Departments being dispatched at all times. The county can also tone us out for mutual aid calls on this channel.

**Channel D** - Privacy Mode. Monitors MFD but will only vibrate once if you are dispatched. There will be no voice on this channel unless you hit the squelch button after you feel the vibrate. Then it will open up so you can hear the dispatch.

**Playback** - On top of the channel select knob there is a playback button. If you left your pager home and return to find a red light illuminated on the pager, you have a missed call. Press this button to hear the dispatch so you can know what you missed.