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To: Dennis Melvin – City Administrator
Kristine Deiss– Mayor
Members of the Common Council
Members of the Police and Fire Commission

From: Jim Vest, Fire Chief

Subject: Fire Department Activities for March 2009

Emergency Activities:

Calls Classification:	This Month	Last Month Totals	Year to Date	Year to Date 2008
Fires	6	11	17	
Emergency Medical Calls	152	299	451	
Intercepts	9	16	25	
Hazardous Conditions	7	19	26	
Service Calls/Good Intent Calls	16	16	32	
False Alarms/False Calls	17	20	37	
Other/Special Incident Types	0	2	2	
Totals	207	383	590	
Town of Barton Calls	3	1	4	
Town of West Bend Calls	1	2	3	

Chief's Activities:
Planning sessions; WI State Fire training Academy
MPTC Fire/EMS Advisory Committee
Meeting with ER Doctors @ St. Joes
MABAS Monthly meeting
Washington County Red Cross
Cedar Community – Review Disaster Plan
Meetings with Jackson Fire Chief, John Skodiniski and Washington County dispatchers re: MABAS
Positive Pressure Fire Attack Seminar at Lakeshore Technical College

Operations and Administration Bureau:
Battalion Chief Gerald Kudek
Captain Jon Coutts
March is usually a time of transition. The weather not only changes from a "lion to a lamb", but the department's focus shifts from winter fire fighting to Spring and Summer fire fighting issues.

Chimney fire equipment is replaced by grass fire fighting brooms and pump cans. Here is a summary of the Bureau of Administration & Operations activities for the month of March

Administration Items:

The Wildland firefighting gear we received last year was inventoried and issued. We have received a matching funds grant from the DNR to complete the purchase of Wildland gear for the remainder of the department this year.

We were contacted by the DNR to see if we were interested in providing prairie burns for residents of our response area. This would be a fee based service. We are investigating the costs and time involved, along with what other items would be necessary.

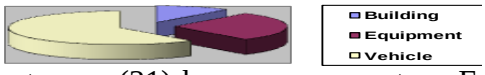
We completed the review of the Change Orders created by our visit to Smeal Fire Apparatus for our new Quint Apparatus. Several clarifications were needed, and we found several items that should have been no cost to us. These changes were made and the change orders returned to the dealer.

With Stimulus Funds being set aside for Public Safety station remodeling and construction, we met with several architects to discuss ideas and possible plans for Station 2. These are very preliminary talks and are waiting for more information on the process to apply for funding.

We began creating specifications for our new vehicles to be purchased this year, including the replacement for the Brush Rig and Intercept 3.

Operations Items:

During the month of March, seventy-four (74) hours were spent on maintenance within the fire department. The breakdown looks like this: eight (8) hours were spent on Building maintenance/repairs, twenty-one (21) hours were spent on Equipment maintenance/repairs, and forty-five (45) hours were spent on vehicle maintenance/repairs.



One of the dishwasher racks at Station 2 was rusted through. A new rack was ordered and installed. The battery for the building generator was dead. The battery was tested and replaced.

Station 3 experienced water leaking into the east bathroom. Building Maintenance was notified and is investigating the source. There is no plumbing above the ceiling and it appears to coming through the roof.

.After returning from a long transport, the rear brakes on Ambulance 3 (Vehicle 1027) had a hot odor to them. The vehicle was taken to City Garage. One of the rear calipers had hung up and the pads were dragging on the rotor. Both rear calipers and rotors were replaced. Ambulance 3 also experienced water leaking into the cab area during a recent rainstorm. The leak was traced to the seal between the cab and body, and the seam was resealed.

The ambulances are designed to be able to carry three batteries in the right side slide out tray. We only carry two batteries with one under the hood. There are extra battery connections in this compartment. On Ambulance 1 (Vehicle 1060) the protective covering wore through and the battery cable end was exposed. It contacted the inner panel of the compartment door causing a small amount of damage. A new inner panel was fabricated and installed. The extra battery connections were removed and the cables sealed.

The air dryer cartridge and purge valve were replaced on Truck 1 (Vehicle 923). The manufacturer recommends a three year or 1,000 hour life. The packings on the pump were replaced. They seal the area where the shaft for driving the pump enters, and are recommended to be replaced every 3-5 years. This was completed at City Garage by Capt. Coutts with assistance from Vehicle Maintenance personnel.

Our vehicles are equipped with a device to automatically eject the in station power cord when the vehicle is started. The unit on Engine 3 (Vehicle 995) was not ejecting the cord. The return springs in the unit were broken and were replaced.

During a morning vehicle check, the brake lights were not operating. A connector under the dash was loose. The connections were cleaned and tightened.

Numerous minor repairs and preventive maintenance items were completed during March including the cleaning of tools and cabinets on all vehicles. Several vehicles also had oil changes and inspections at City Garage.

The following Preventive Maintenance (PM) service and inspections were completed during March:

60 Day Level A Preventive Maintenance

Water Rescue (Vehicle 567)
Ambulance 12 (Vehicle 790)
Ambulance 2 (Vehicle 1106)

120 Day Level B Preventive Maintenance

Engine 12 (Vehicle 433)
Truck 1 (Vehicle 923)

Vehicles Waxed during March

Brush Rig (Vehicle 639)
Intercept 3 (Vehicle 707)
Chief's Car (Vehicle 927)
Engine 1 (Vehicle 947)

Our goals for the month of April include completing the maintenance and repairs in a timely manner. We will be sending out RFP's for several outlay items and continue working on design and specifications for the new Truck. We are also scheduled to begin the annual testing of the fire pumps on our apparatus.

<u>Training Bureau:</u>
Battalion Chief Todd Van Langen
Captain Don Peil

Emergency Response Training:

Fire fighters' Benidt and Demler attended the 40 hour State of Wisconsin Hazmat Technician course the first week of March at the Milwaukee Fire Department Training Academy.

On March 10th, the POC fire fighters participated in a review of the department's equipment. This included; reviewed the equipment stored in Battalion One, the Mass Casualty kit, and the triage tags. We continued working with EMS equipment, including a demonstration and hands on training working with the scoop stretcher, long boarding, and starting an IV. We also worked through several scenarios, including a CPR/AED code and we discussed each position in a mass causality situation.

Other Training:

On March 24th, Battalion Chief Spartz and Captain Geidel conducted a practical site review of Washington House. The review included, street access, hydrant locations, fire department connections, apparatus access, accessible doors & windows, obstructions, etc.

On March 18th Battalion Chief Spartz and Captain Geidel attended a meeting of the WI State Fire Inspector's Association Area 5 group. The meeting began with a general business agenda moving into discussions of topics regarding fire codes. The final part of the meeting was a presentation on NFPA 3 and what this document all includes. The March meeting was held at the Ahern Company.

The third week of March the department members had their annual fitness test, OHSA respiratory evaluation, and fit tests.

During the second week of March many of the members of the department were measured for Wildland gear that is part of a 2 year grant through the WI DNR.

<u>Fire Prevention Bureau:</u>
Battalion Chief John Spartz
Captain Ed Geidel
Fire and Other Inspection Activity

March Inspections

	Semi-Annual	Annual	Total
Station #1	110	13	123
Station #2	38	42	80
Station #3	90	7	97
Totals	238	62	300
Town of West Bend	0	0	0
Town of Barton	0	0	0

Inspectors recorded 74 code violations that were found in the semi-annual inspections and 7 code violations during annual inspections in the City.

There were 6 code violation compliance notice post cards received in March.

April Inspections

	Semi-Annual	Annual	Total
Station #1	134	3	137
Station #2	47	0	47
Station #3	71	13	84
Totals	252	16	268
Town of West Bend	0	0	0
Town of Barton	0	0	0

Capt Geidel and BC Spartz met Steiner Electric at St John's Church in reference to the potential installation of a fire alarm system in the Daycare area in the lower level of the church. The Daycare is requesting a scissors gate across the hallway in one area for security reasons. This request is against the requirements found in the Life Safety rules unless it is tied into a fire alarm system. Placement of the fire alarm panel and upgrading the entire building to provide fire alarm protection was also discussed.

Capt Geidel witnessed a fire evacuation drill at the Barton Solvents plant at 800 Rail Way. They perform monthly fire drills as required by their main office and it is required that one of their drills be witnessed by the Fire Department The occupants exited safely and their accountability system was tested. They also brought their MSDS sheets out of the facility. This is the first time a drill we have witnessed one of their drills.

Site Plan Review:

A preliminary site plan was reviewed for a new Social Security building to be built off of Vern Street. It was proposed that a 6,500 sq ft building was to go on the vacant lot north of their existing building. The fire department review of the proposal found that we would have limited access getting around the building, as well as other safety issues.

A site plan was reviewed for a proposed Walgreens to be built on the northeast corner of N 18th Ave and
W Washington St. The plan was to raze 4 buildings and build a new store on the site. Captain Geidel contacted the architect to determine where the water would enter the building to help determine FDC location and access. He advised the water would enter the building on the southeast corner of the building. This was acceptable and also eliminates the need for a private hydrant on the development. Vehicle access around the building was a concern. The driveway and travel lane dimensions given on the plans were adequate, but the pavement needs to be able to support fire apparatus access on all sides of the building.

Concerns were the asphalt paving around the building, other than the specified truck route areas. Also of concern is where the water will be going into the building as well as the requirement of a building fire sprinkler system. Pending on where the water would enter the building determines where the FDC location would be located on the building. The architect was contacted and advised that the water would enter the southeast corner of the building. This will work out well and will eliminate the requirement to have a private fire hydrant located on that parcel of land.

Sprinkler & Alarm System Involvement

Capt Geidel has been working with the owner of the Washington House at 228 N 6th Ave on recent false fire alarms. It was found on one of the false fire alarms that the activated zone indicated on the panel was actually not active. The owner notified the alarm company which came in to replace the mother board in the fire alarm panel and to get the whole system back into service as soon as possible. The owner was ordered by Captain Geidel to do sensitivity testing on all detectors as well. Sensitivity testing found that out of 13 detectors, 9 did not pass and were replaced. The owner was also advised to have a preventive cleaning program instituted for system components. This took place at the beginning of March and since all the repairs have been completed, there have been no more false alarms.

Capt Geidel did a final inspection and testing of the new fire alarm system installed in the existing building at the Marcia Ave Apartments, 1311-41 Marcia Ave. Guetzke & Assoc took out the permit to do the installation replacing the existing fire alarm system. It was discovered on a fire inspection in December 2008 that the fire alarm was not functional. A service call by a fire alarm company found that the fire alarm panel could not be repaired and needed to be replaced. City code requirements state that an upgrade to the existing building's fire alarm system requires an upgrade to the building's fire detection and notification devices as well that included adding horn units in each apartment. All testing was done and the system was placed in service.

Capt Geidel did an inspection and testing of a replacement of the fire alarm panel at 610 Oakfield St. This fire alarm panel was found to be out of service on an annual inspection and it needed to be replaced. Flemming's Fire of Oconomowoc did the installation on behalf of the owner. Extra horn units were also required to be added to each apartment because this was an upgrade to what currently was installed in the building.

A sprinkler pressure test and inspection was completed for the 1st floor at the Sheriff Dept at 500 Schmidt Road. This area was remodeled and a fire sprinkler was added to their remodeling project. This also included a pre-action fire sprinkler system to the new Dispatch Center. Freedom Fire Protection is doing the work on behalf of the county.

A false alarm letter was sent to the owners of 2021 S 18th Ave. The false alarm was unexcused by the Chief because the owner was to sign out the monitoring system during construction. Construction dust had entered a cold air return duct where a smoke sensor set off the detector causing the false fire alarm. This same type of incident happened back in December when another remodeling project took place. Captain Geidel met with the owner and advised what precautions they should do to prevent future false fire alarms.

Seminars & Continuing Education:

Capt Geidel and B C Spartz attended the Area 5 Fire Inspectors meeting on March 18th. The meeting was held at Ahern Fire Protection and the training was on commissioning fire sprinkler systems and new requirements thereof. The training and business meeting lasted about 3.5 hrs.

Capt Geidel attended the Area 6 Fire Inspectors meeting on March 11th at the Saukville Fire Dept. The training was in reference to Emergency Notification Systems and how it relates to fire alarm systems. The training was sponsored by SimplexGrinnell and lasted about 3.5 hours.

Capt Geidel is working on an Inspector Training Program to be presented sometime this spring to refresh the inspectors on what things they need to be looking for and what codes they come from while performing fire inspections.

UST / AST:

There was no activity for the month of March.

Permits Issued:

Permits issued for the month of March:

(1) Monitoring
(4) Alarm
(1) Fire Alarm Installation – 1 smoke detector

Other Prevention Bureau Activities:

Capt Geidel and BC Spartz installed a residential Knox Box on Stonewood Circle. Another residential Knox Box was installed at 1229 Alder St. Residential Knox Boxes have been placed on single family dwellings at the request of homeowners who are elderly and or have medical issues where they might not be able to get to their locked door to let EMS in. A home safety survey is also completed as well as filling out a “File of Life” medical information form in case the patient is unable to communicate with EMS personnel.

Capt Geidel and B C Spartz have been working with the Park and Rec Dept and the Police Department on a safe zone area for the July 4th fireworks event at Riverside Park. The concern is the Gehl Co had removed fencing which was used in the past as security for a safe discharge zone of the regulated fireworks. A meeting was held with Gehl Co about this issue and it was

requested of the City that they allow security people to be on their property to secure said discharge area. It was also discussed that Gehl Company allow the City to put up fencing and caution tape and signage on their property indicating that unauthorized people are prohibited from being on the property especially in the discharge area. Gehl Co was very receptive of this and granted the City permission to do as what was discussed at the meeting.

Capt Geidel met with the State Building Inspector referencing why a fire alarm system was not required to be installed at the YMCA Daycare, 1113 W Washington St. Original plans indicated an alarm system was to be installed. The State Health and Child Services did an inspection and advised them that they did not need to have a fire alarm system unless they exceeded 50 children which they do not. The State Inspector pointed out the rules that apply in this situation are issued by the Department of Health and Childcare Services and the fire department does not have authority to require the alarm system.

Capt Geidel and B C Spartz attended the pre-construction meeting with Building Inspection in reference to the new Pick N Save on W Washington St. Fire Dept property access during the construction phase of the building were discussed. They were also informed of any and all inspections required by the Fire Department during construction.

Emergency Medical Services Bureau:
Battalion Chief Todd Van Langen
Captain Don Peil
During the month of February the West Bend Fire Department's Emergency Medical Service (EMS) personnel responded to 148 ambulance calls, 9 medical assist calls, and 4 motor vehicle calls for a total of 161 responses.

Intercept & DeFib Review:

An EMS intercepts and call review was conducted with our Medical Director Doctor Gesteland on March 17th. These reviews are conducted on a monthly basis to make an ongoing effort to refine and improve the EMS care provided by the West Bend Fire Department in an attempt to provide the highest level of care possible.

EMS Advisory Committee:

The monthly EMS committee meeting was held on the 23rd of the month. Many issues were discussed to help improve our EMS services some of the issues were: we will be placing two cardiac medications on our Intercept vehicles. These two medications need refrigeration which is not available on our Intercept vehicles so we will be discarding the medications per manufacturers recommended time line. Discussion was held on the ability to start capped IV's on ambulance responses. It was pointed out that some patients don't necessarily need fluid administration but need to have access available in case the patient's condition changes. Capped IV's are commonly used in the hospital Emergency Department. This question will be discussed with our Medical Director. Discussion to continue on the use of capped IV's at next meeting. Procedure was discussed for ordering oxygen from Praxair, as of April 1st we will no longer be driving

out to Praxair West Bend to pick up oxygen supplies but will have the oxygen delivered to Station-1.

Other EMS Bureau Activities:

During the month of March representatives from St. Joseph's Hospital/Froedert & Community Health and Aurora Medical Center in Hartford came to Station 1 to show the members of the WBFD the operation of their IV pump and a ventilator machine. This is equipment that will be used by our ambulance personnel on paramedic interfacility transports. The paramedic interfacility transports program will begin on April 1st.

Moraine Park Technical College's Paramedic class continues on the green shift days during the month of March. The required ride along time associated with this class continues with the Oshkosh Departments and the West Bend Fire Department.

During the month several of the shifts practiced using our upgraded defibrillator. Several pacing and cardioversion scenarios were presented to each of the attendees.

One AED/CPR classes were conducted during the month of March.
The West Bend Fire Department is continuing the ride along program with students from Moraine Park Technical College. EMT students ride along on our ambulances and receive an opportunity to practice the pre-hospital skills in a supervised setting.
During the month of March a new piece of EMS equipment was put into service on each of our front line ambulances. The EZ-IO was purchased in part by funds donated to us by a new local area business, the Get It Now store located on South Main St donated $1000 to be used for EMS equipment. The EZ-IO is a piece of equipment that can be used to obtain an IV access site when normal access cannot be obtained. This piece of equipment has gained immense popularity among EMS providers as a way to secure an IV site especially in pediatric, geriatric, and bariatric patients. Simply put the EZ-IO drills an access catheter into the lower leg or upper arm bone of the patient. Although this sounds painful the training video demonstrated the technique on three different patients who were awake, alert, and had no type of anesthetic. This piece of equipment is usually used on patients who need to have IV access established quickly due to their condition.

During the month of March fire department personnel were given the opportunity to use two different brands of power ambulance gurneys. Each gurney was field tested for approximately two weeks by fire personnel. The Stryker Corporation and Monster Medic Inc. came to our department and did an in-service training for their respective gurneys prior to them being placed on Ambulance-1 for field testing. One of the biggest reasons for the use of power gurneys on ambulance responses is to lessen injuries, especially back injuries, to the EMT's treating and transporting the patient. Our department will be writing a grant proposal for placement of power gurneys on our ambulances. There are documented test studies which show that these type gurneys reduce injuries to EMT's. Feedback on the use of the gurneys has been obtained from shift the personnel who have used them in the past several weeks.