

Jim Vest, Fire Chief West Bend Fire Department vestj@ci.west-bend.wi.us

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To: Dennis Melvin – City Administrator

Kraig Sadownikow– Mayor

Members of the Common Council

Members of the Police and Fire Commission

From: Jim Vest, Fire Chief

Subject: Fire Department Activities for February, 2012

# **Emergency Activities:**

| Calls Classification:           | This Month | Last Month Totals | Year to Date | Year to Date |
|---------------------------------|------------|-------------------|--------------|--------------|
|                                 |            |                   |              | 2011         |
| Fires                           | 3          | 2                 | 5            | 3            |
| Emergency Medical Calls         | 200        | 226               | 426          | 395          |
| Intercepts                      | 12         | 10                | 22           | 25           |
| Hazardous Conditions            | 6          | 3                 | 9            | 7            |
| Service Calls/Good Intent Calls | 9          | 6                 | 15           | 28           |
| False Alarms/False Calls        | 16         | 14                | 30           | 27           |
| Other/Special Incident Types    | 1          | 1                 | 2            | 3            |
| Totals                          | 247        | 262               | 509          | 488          |
| Town of Barton Calls            | 1          | 2                 | 3            | 3            |
| Town of West Bend Calls         | 2          | 1                 | 3            | 3            |

# **Chief's Activities:**

Review Capital Projects Budget items

Value Task Force – Sub-committee meetings

HWY 33 bridge work and traffic concerns during construction

Negotiations with IAFF Local 2025

#### **Operations and Administration Bureau:**

# **Battalion Chief Gerald Kudek**

#### **Captain Jon Coutts**

February is typically a month of catch up. Annual reports and paper work for 2011 have been completed and we settled into the tasks of 2012. Here is a summary of the Bureau of Administration & Operations activities for the month of February:

#### **Administration:**

The vault that we store past years' reports and paperwork in was overfilled and needed reorganization. It also contained many years of accumulated records that we are no longer required to keep. We received several large shredding carts and cleaned and organized the vault. This will allow personnel to quickly find any historical reports or information.

With the approval of the 2012 Capital Projects Budget, work began on our items for 2012. The annual turnout gear replacement schedule will be followed and personnel needing new gear will soon be fitted. Request for proposals were sent out for the pick-up truck (new and used)/plow replacement and for the department's copier. Because of the timing of the capital budget approval and the deadlines for vehicle purchases form the State contract, we will rebid the truck later in the summer.

During February, preparations began for the establishment of a new hire eligibility list for the position of firefighter/paramedic. Ads were place in several newspapers and websites. Civil service entrance exams as well as the candidates' physical aptitude test (CPAT) will have to be coordinated once the application deadline passes. This eligibility list will be in effect for two years.

#### **Operations:**



During the month of February, ninety-six (96) hours were spent on maintenance within the fire department. The breakdown looks like this: thirty-eight (38) hours were spent on Building maintenance/repairs, twelve (12) hours were spent on Equipment maintenance/repairs, and

forty-six (46) hours were spent on Vehicle maintenance/repairs. The higher Building Maintenance hours are due to personnel cleaning and scrubbing the apparatus floor at Station 3. This is done every several years to prevent the long term staining of the floor from washing and cleaning the vehicles.

During our Annual Turnout Gear inspection in January, we found several coats and pants that had loose trim and other small repairs. Paul Conway Shields, our turnout gear dealer, had the items repaired under warranty at a certified repair facility, Gear Wash, in Milwaukee.





We had three (3) Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) on which the lights for the Heads Up Display (HUD) were not operating properly. This display shows the amount of air left in the cylinder in the user's mask. These were repaired under warranty by Oshkosh Fire and Police Equipment, our SCBA dealer.

Med 31 (Vehicle1027) had an exhaust leak. The seals from the turbocharger to the exhaust had worn out. Lochen Ford repaired the vehicle for us. It was reported that for several days the voltage reading on the battery under the hood was low. All batteries were tested, and the under hood battery failed. The battery was replaced under warranty as it was less than one year



old. There was a complaint of a vibration from the rear when driving at highway speeds. The City Vehicle Maintenance department found worn bushings for the rear sway bar and replaced them.



Med 12 (Vehicle 1060) had the cover on the buckle for the driver's seat belt break. A new seat belt assembly was installed. The seat belt on the Attendant's Seat in the patient compartment, was hard to release. The spring for the release button had worn out. This seat belt was also

replaced.

Med 11 (Vehicle 1304) was showing uneven tire wear on the front tires. Vrana Body and Frame completed a front end alignment on the vehicle. On the body cabinet doors, a spring mechanism is installed to provide a pathway for the wires that enter the door. The clips that retain the spring in the door and frame broke causing the spring to be loose. The retainers were replaced. The right rear turn signal had some LED's burned out



replaced. The right rear turn signal had some LED's burned out. This was replaced under warranty by the manufacturer of the light.



On our aerial trucks, there is an intercom between the pump panel, aerial operating controls and the tip of the aerial. The system on Truck 12 (Vehicle 689) was not operating properly. The voice could not be heard at the tip, but the tip could transmit to the other two stations.

A bad wire connection at the base of the aerial, where a large cable carries the wiring to the tip, was the cause of the problem. Both connections for the intercom at this location were replaced.

While performing a Preventive Maintenance inspection on our Hurst Jaws of Life equipment, the 100 foot hose on the reel mounted to Truck 1 (vehicle 923), was found to be showing signs of wear and potential failure. A new hose was ordered and installed on the reel. The hose that was replaced was approximately 10 years old.





While cleaning Engine 1 (Vehicle 947) the weatherstrip seals for the roll up doors were found to be deteriorating and cracking. The seals are provided on a continuous roll from the manufacturer of the doors. Enough material was purchased to complete this vehicle, as well as to provide material in stock when

our other vehicle need to have the seals replaced. While completing a Preventive Maintenance inspection, the vehicle would not start. The problem was found to be a bad starter. The City vehicle Maintenance department replaced the starter.

Engine 3 (Vehicle 995) was involved in a minor motor vehicle accident that damaged the rear running board and rub rails. Parts were ordered by the fire department, and Bob Fish Truck Equipment straightened the running board and installed the new rub rails.



Many small preventive maintenance items are completed each month. These included monthly extinguisher and sprinkler inspections and testing the local fire alarm system.

Several years ago a Preventive Maintenance (PM) program was developed utilizing manufacturer's recommendations, industry standards and department experience. These were spaced to coincide with the manufacturer's recommendations and include 60 Day (Level A), 120 Day (Level B), 180 Day (Level C) and 365 Day (Level D). Separate programs were developed for fire apparatus and Med Units (Ambulances) due to the specific nature of the vehicles. These are spread throughout the year. We also developed a schedule for waxing vehicle that spreads the work throughout the year.

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

# 60 Day Level A Preventive Maintenance Maintenance

Truck 12 (Vehicle 689) Tender (Vehicle 1076)

# 180 Day Level C Preventive Maintenance February

Fire Investigation (Vehicle 382) Med 31 (Vehicle 1027) Med 12 (Vehicle 1060)

# 120 Day Level B Preventive

Engine 1 (Vehicle 947) Engine 3 (vehicle 995)

#### Vehicles Waxed during

Battalion 1 (Vehicle 1015) Intercept 3 (Vehicle 1070) Med 21 (Vehicle 1106) Intercept 2 (Vehicle 1114) Our goals for the month of March include completing the maintenance and repairs in a timely manner. With the approval of the Capitol Projects Budget, we begin sending Request For Proposals for the approved items, along with ordering our turnout gear as part of our annual replacement/upgrade program. We want to order this equipment before a price increase in June.

#### **Training Bureau:**

# **Battalion Chief Todd Van Langen**

#### **Captain Tom Thrash**

In place of the monthly intercept/Defib review St Joseph's Hospital hosted training. Dr. Gesteland, the Medical Director for EMS at St Joseph's Hospital, gave a program on pediatric emergencies.

Members of the Fire Department continued their EMT and Paramedic refreshers by watching video of Dr. Gesteland lectures or being present for the lecture.

Dr. Haeberlein, who is a Trauma Surgeon at St Joseph's Hospital, was here to talk to all 3 shifts about trauma patients and field triage.

POC training for February was working with SCBA's and also Ice Rescue. The POC's did hose drills in the hose tower while wearing SCBA and full PPE. POC's also worked with the cold water rescue "Mustang Suits" and practiced the technique for rescuing someone from the cold icy water.

Capt. Thrash attended the Washington County Monthly Injury Prevention Meeting. Topics of discussion were the upcoming project at Slinger HS for the Every 15 Minutes Program. Other items discussed were the Celebrate Families Day at Washington County Fair Park as well as the grant which was received to make safety renovations to Decorah Elementary School in West Bend.

3 Rivers Billing is the company that WBFD uses for ambulance billing was here to talk about upcoming changes to Medicare reimbursement and new reporting requirements.

Capt. Thrash and Capt. Lamberg did a fire safety and evacuation talk for the residents at 151 Wisconsin.

2 members of the WBFD have finished their dive certification process. In February they completed the necessary ice dives to qualify for the team. The County Dive Team also had a monthly training at Mauthe Lake.

Capt. Thrash took the Mass Casualty Trailer to Fillmore Fire Department. The FFD was able to look at the equipment which is stored on the trailer as well as how it is set up.

The WBFD Red Shift was invited to West Bend Mutual for their Lunch'N'Learn series. This is done by West Bend Mutual for their members who are on their emergency response team. The Lunch N Learn is done quarterly and has different speakers and topics. This time was Chris Cook who is a Combat Medic and also RN from the Waukesha Area. Chris was active military and was a medic while he served. He talked about what it takes to be a combat medic and some of his experiences overseas.

The West Bend Fire Department is continuing the ride along program with students from Moraine Park Technical College. EMT and Paramedic students ride along on our ambulances and receive an opportunity to practice pre-hospital skills in a supervised setting. During February we had 20 Paramedic students.

Overall the West Bend Fire Department conducted over 300 hours of total training for the month of February.

# Fire Prevention Bureau: Battalion Chief John Spartz Captain Tammy Lamberg

Fire and Other Inspection Activity

#### **February 2012 Inspections**

|            |             |        |       |            | Follow-up   | Compliance |
|------------|-------------|--------|-------|------------|-------------|------------|
|            | Semi-Annual | Annual | Total | Violations | Inspections | Cards      |
| Station #1 | 146         | 18     | 164   | 72         | 0           | 2          |
| Station #2 | 19          | 0      | 164   | 19         | 0           | 0          |
| Station #3 | 92          | 13     | 205   | 60         | 0           | 2          |
| Totals     | 257         | 31     | 533   | 151        | 0           | 4          |

#### **March 2012 Inspections**

|            | Semi-Annual | Annual | Total |
|------------|-------------|--------|-------|
| Station #1 | 93          | 19     | 112   |
| Station #2 | 32          | 39     | 112   |
| Station #3 | 86          | 7      | 93    |
| Totals     | 211         | 65     | 317   |

#### **Site Plan Review**

There were 6 site plans reviewed during February.

| Date       | Occupancy                   | Address                     | Hours | Comments   |
|------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-------|--|
| 02/08/2012 | Hobby Lobby                 | 1800 S Main St              | .25   | Addition to north end of building. No comments.              |
| 02/17/2012 | Schumacher<br>Landscaping   | 140 N 18 <sup>th</sup> Ave  | .25   | Shed layout  |
| 02/21/2012 | Schumacher<br>Landscaping   | 140 N 18 <sup>th</sup> Ave  | .25   | Resubmit. No Comments.                                       |
| 02/24/2012 | River Shores                | River Shores Property       | .25   | Parking lot design only                                      |
| 02/24/2012 | Westwood Shopping<br>Center | 2354-80 W<br>Washington St. | .25   | Plan for building demolition. All fire protection needs met. |
| 02/24/2012 | Hobby Lobby                 | 1800 S Main St.             | .25   | Plan resubmission. No comments. All requests met.            |
|            |                             | Site Plan Review<br>Hours   | 1.5   |  |

# **Sprinkler & Alarm System Involvement**

Capt Lamberg met with the bank representative of Nationwide Recycling to insure the fire alarm system was operable. The system worked as designed and Capt Lamberg is waiting on documentation from the alarm monitoring company.

The alarm system at Matenaer Corporation, 810 Schoenhaar Drive was found to be out of service during construction hours and left inoperable during the other hours of the day. The company was advised the alarm was to be active during non-work hours. Minor repairs to the system were also completed and the system now functions as designed.

Capt Lamberg also performed the hydro test and final acceptance test for the additional fire sprinkler components that were added to the Matenaer Corporation's addition. The system passed testing and was left in service upon completion of the tests.

Su Chen Asian buffet at 1341 W. Paradise Drive requested a sprinkler system hydro and final acceptance test for the new restaurant. F.P. Solutions performed the installation work on behalf of the owner. The system passed and was left in service upon completion of the tests. This occupancy is a new restaurant and will be adding commercial kitchen hoods. No plans have been received at this time.

A sprinkler plan was received for Heiser Chevrolet's addition at 2620 W. Washington St. The plan was approved and a fire sprinkler installation permit was issued.

A sprinkler system at Advanced Coatings, 304 E. Progress Drive was tested and passed.

#### **Meetings, Seminars & Continuing Education:**

BC Spartz and MPO Heinen attended the annual WI Association of Hazardous Materials Responders (WAHMR) conference in the Wisconsin Dells. Classes included Utility emergencies, hazardous materials scene operations, and discussion of the new WI hazardous materials network proposal. The conference was 16 hours of education.

MPO Lamberg attended the WI Fire Inspector's Association Area 1 meeting and training.

#### **Underground and Aboveground Storage Tank Program (UST/AST):**

Approximately .75 hours were applied toward the AST/UST program in February.

BC Spartz completed the paperwork regarding the removal and changes to the underground system at the Mad Max Station, 1211 W. Washington St. The actual removal of the tanks had been completed last year but the paperwork was never filed by the company doing the work. All paperwork was finished and forwarded to the State.

BC Spartz completed a site inspection of a used oil tank at O'Reilly's Auto Parts, 805 S. Main St. The tank was inspected and paperwork completed.

#### **Permits Issued:**

| Count | Permit Type                                     | Total Fees |
|-------|---|------------|
| 1     | Aboveground Storage Tank                        | \$210.00   |
| 1     | Fire Alarm System Installation                  | \$215.00   |
| 66    | Annual Fire Alarm System Renewal                | \$1,675.00 |
| 3     | Fire Alarm Monitoring Company                   | \$75.00    |
| 1     | Fire Sprinkler System Installation 15-50 Heads  | \$100.00   |
| 2     | Fire Sprinkler System Installation 51-250 Heads | \$210.00   |
|       | Total Permit Fees for February                  | \$2,485.00 |

# **Other Prevention Bureau Activities:**

Capt Lamberg performed a follow up investigation at 1209 Vogt Drive regarding combustibles in the hallway. The owner of the items removed them and situation was resolved.

A complaint regarding open burning in the woods behind the Willowbrook Condominiums was investigated by Capt Lamberg. She fielded a phone call, spoke at the station with a resident, and performed a site visit about the landowner who was cooking maple syrup in their wooded lot. The occupant had approval from the planning commission and was operating as approved. Capt Lamberg explained her findings to the residents who were unsatisfied and also tried to involve the police department.

Capt Lamberg performed a fire safety inspection of the musical production at the High School Auditorium. The inspection was a result of problems in the past regarding exiting and other fire safety concerns from stage productions. No problems were reported and the musical was a hit.

Capt Lamberg consulted with the manager at Pick N Save South regarding the placement of fire extinguishers due to moving shelving and other equipment. New placement was agreed upon and the extinguishers were relocated.

Spaulding Clinical contacted Capt Lamberg regarding commercial kitchen hood requirements. Capt Lamberg discussed their options and spent an hour on the requirements at their site.

A fire drill was witnessed at St. Frances Cabrini School by Capt Lamberg. The drill went well and all participants evacuated within the allotted time frame.

#### **Emergency Medical Services Bureau:**

# Battalion Chief Todd Van Langen

#### **Captain Tom Thrash**

During the month of February the West Bend Fire Department's Emergency Medical Service (EMS) personnel responded to 163 ambulance calls, 12 Intercept calls, 37 Inter-Facility Transfers, for a total of 230 responses.

#### **EMS Advisory Committee:**

The WBFD EMS Advisory Committee met and discussed our EMS system. This committee is represented by 2 people from each shift and meets monthly to discuss issues that deal with EMS. For February, the main topic was with intercepting agencies and what radio frequency to use, tracking medications.

# **Seminar & Continuing Education:**

Capt. Thrash attended 2 monthly meetings at St Joseph's Hospital. The first was their Trauma Committee. That committee is working on developing a trauma plan where our paramedics in the field would activate the system and the surgeon and their team would get to St Joseph's to evaluate the patient and decide if the patient can be treated at St Joseph's or should be transferred to Froedtert.

The other meeting was their Emergency Preparedness Committee which prepares the facility and staff for Emergencies like severe weather or power outages.

#### Other EMS Bureau Activities:

The West Bend Fire Department is continuing the ride along program with students from Moraine Park Technical College. EMT and Paramedic students ride along on our ambulances and receive an opportunity to practice pre-hospital skills in a supervised setting. During February we hosted 20 Paramedic students.