

## March - June 2017 Quarterly Park Ridge Fire Chief's Report

### PRFD Calls for Service:

4/28/17

Carbon Monoxide Alarm

37 Odessa Ct.

5 Firefighters Responded, 2 remained in station standby

Paged for carbon monoxide alarm sounding. No carbon monoxide found, suspected faulty detector. Loaner detector left with resident for use until able to replace detector.

Times: Paged 12:43, Truck En-route 12:54, On Scene 12:53, Cleared 13:13

6/12/17

Severe Storm damage: trees across roads, power and other lines across roads, trees and limbs in wires, electrical services ripped away from homes, trees on homes.

10 Firefighters Responded

Initially self-reported to FD due to severe storms that brought high winds and torrential rains; additional page for help made a short time later. On Monday we got one at least one lane opened on all roads that did not contain an electrical hazard. We assessed many electrical hazards and made multiple calls to WPS emergency line (line reserved for emergency services). Damage assessments followed Tuesday, disaster declaration for village on Wednesday, multiple meetings, and other work all week. Separate storm report to follow to include a timeline and costs.

Times: In-station: 18:45, Deployed teams 19:15, Cleared 23:30

6/12/17

Tree/Limbs on wires arching/on fire

206 Pinecrest Ave.

9 firefighters responded

Paged for a transformer/tree/limbs on fire. Transformer blew and fire self-extinguished prior to arrival. Inspected home with focus on breaker box area using thermal imaging camera; no negative findings.

Times: Paged 22:47, Truck En-route 22:52, On Scene 22:52, Cleared 23:07 (En-route time not accurate, but communications center was overwhelmed)

6/14/17

Smoke Detector Sounding

320 Linwood Ave.

2 Firefighters responded, 3 remained in station standby, and others informed to call if needed

Paged for a smoke alarm sounding. No smoke or fire present upon arrival, and alarm quit when battery was replaced in smoke detector. Occupant advised to call if things changed or alarm sounded.

Times: Paged 13:12, Truck En-route 13:16, On Scene 13:18, Cleared 13:23

### **PRFD Meetings:**

4-10-17

Attendance: 11 and 4 excused

Business:

- Squad equipment discussion
- Woodhaven Animal Health – discount letter
- Plainfield waterfights – save the date
- Telecommunicator week – buy something to recognize staff (pizza)
- Truck Checks

Training:

- Search-n-Rescue, 3 scenarios
- Tool use
- Thermal Imaging Camera
- Incident Command/Accountability

4-24-17

Attendance: 8 & 6 excused

Business:

- Walk Wisconsin, June 3

Training:

- Water Discharge Practice – different nozzles, use, streams, water flows, nozzle settings, hose advancement

5-8-16

Attendance: 15 & 1 excused & 1 guest

Business:

- Summary of 4-27-17 Portage County Fire Chief's meeting
- Solicitation of members for Portage County Fire Investigation Task Force
- Need to execute on developing pre-plans

Training:

- Driver Training for more senior staff
- Pump operation training for all staff, water hydraulics, valves, gauges, etc.

5-22-17

Attendance: 11 & 4 excused & 1 guest

Business:

- June 3, 2017 Walk Wisconsin – plan for
- June 6, mid-morning SCBA flow-testing
- Date TBD (soon) ladder testing

Training:

- Driver Training
  - E1 and Squad – VFIS course set up on Sentry parking lot on Dixon St.
  - E2 – road training with senior staff member

6-5-17

Attendance: 10 & 5 excused

Business:

- June 6 SCBA flow-testing
- June 7 Ladder testing
- Discussion on pre-plans
- Wisc State Firefighter's Association renewals due end of month

Training:

- Ventilation, PowerPoint
- Check saws and ventilation fan

6-19-17

Attendance: 10 & 4 Excused & 1 Guest

Business:

- Former firefighter wedding on Saturday (ensure sufficient coverage)
- Discussion regarding the hours given to storm response

Training:

- Ventilation – laddered 2 story building with 3-fly ladder
- Discussion on roof types, toured commercial area of village
- Critique of storm response

**Additional Training (on non-meeting times):**

4-8-17

Attendance:

Two firefighters (Chief and senior member) attended one day-long training located in West Bend, WI regarding Risk Management in the fire service, which included issues of retention and recruitment, the importance of discipline, and general themes for success.

### **“Other” Activities/Meetings**

April: Various fire inspections and follow-ups conducted

May: Fire Inspections and follow-up visits continue.

5/11/17: Fire Inspection Citation issued

5/13/17: Staffed Station during morning of village rummage sale, some maintenance completed

6/3/17: Assisted emergency crews for Walk Wisconsin, provided traffic assistance at Park Ridge Dr. and Sunset Ave.

6/6/17: SCBA flow-testing – all passed

6/7/17: Ladder testing – all passed

6/13/17: Damage assessments following storm, various contact made with Village President, and Portage County Emergency Management Director

6/14/17: County EOC meeting attended, Village Disaster Declared, DNR strike teams in to clear roads

6/15/17: County EOC meeting attended, requested elected official help in Village hall

6/16/17: County EOC meeting attended, brought volunteer cleanup offer to village, worked with county damage assessment teams with 3 village homes, declared one room “un-inhabitable” until tree removed, Office of Congressman Kind visits village.

6/17/17 & 6/18/17 Inspected tree on home with room uninhabitable following additional storms

6/23/17: Employer Recognition Award presented to NAPA

6/29/17: Residential smoke detector inspection completed at request of resident

### **Roster:**

Finished Q2 with 18 on roster

We now have an active firefighter who lives in the village. He is one of three waiting for initial class offering through MSTC (hopefully will begin this fall). We also have one prospect member.

### **Equipment:**

Engine 2 continues to age, we use the truck as little as possible. Trained drivers are a concern (staff is timid around the truck - new driver training will cause significant wear on the worn clutch and rear axle). It also continues to leak water, which we monitor. FD staff has been working with a committee member who is researching rebuilding the truck.

The building generator seems to be operable. Captain Slicer reset the computer/alarm shortly before the June storm and the generator performed perfectly through the storm outage. Captain Slicer has tested and monitored the generator since and no issues have risen.

**Items of interest:**

Results of our ISO (Insurance Services Office) audit conducted in March were returned with a very favorable letter and report dated June 26, 2017. Effective October 01, 2017 the Village's "Public Protection Classification" drops from the current rating of 5 to a new rating of 4. This will equate to many residents and business owners seeing a reduction in their insurance premiums. Colleagues inform me that the commercial properties will see a greater decrease in premiums compared to residential for this improved rating (going from 5 to 4). A greater residential reduction would be seen in going from 4 to 3 (by comparison, the City of Stevens Point is currently at a 3, but dropping to 2 soon). This audit involved the city water department (hydrants), the Portage County Communications Center (911), and hours of prep and follow up time by the FD.

This means both important audits of the fire department conducted in 2017, the first by the State of Wisconsin and now ISO, have returned very favorable reports. The state letter read in part, "...the Park Ridge Fire Department is in substantial compliance with the State of Wisconsin..." and now we have improved our rating given in 2009 with ISO.

A Fire Department June 12, 2017 Storm report to include a detailed time-line and costs to be provided.