

April - June 2020 Quarterly Park Ridge Fire Chief's Report

PRFD Calls for Service:

4-26-20

Structure Fire

2413 County Y

5 Firefighters responded

Paged Mutual Aid by Dewey FD for a structure fire, and then cancelled a short time later.

Times: Paged 11:09 – cancelled shortly after

5-10-20

Structure Fire

308 Wadleigh St.

5 Firefighters responded, 5 remained in station

Paged mutual aid for a structure fire by Stevens Point FD. We assisted with extinguishment and overhaul – pulling ceiling.

Times: Paged 03:33, Truck En-route 03:46, On Scene 03:52, Cleared 05:03

6-4-20

Carbon Monoxide Alarm

520 Linwood Ave.

3 Firefighters responded (by contact from Chief, entire FD not paged)

An email was received about a potential Carbon Monoxide issue. No carbon monoxide found, issue with detector was the problem.

Times: Paged N/A, Truck En-route 18:53, On Scene 16:54, Cleared 19:23

6-8-20

Foul Smell in Basement

24 Maplewood Dr.

6 Firefighters responded, 7 remained in station

Paged for a foul smell in the basement. No smell or hazards found.

Times: Paged 20:02, Truck En-route 20:09, On Scene 20:11, Cleared 20:46

PRFD Meetings:

4-26-20

April's meeting consisted of training done on-line due to COVID-19. The training consisted of water supply and a new procedure put into effect on disinfecting SCBA (Self Contained Breathing Apparatus) masks. Due to funding, we are the only department Chief is aware of that shares masks between firefighters. Considering COVID-19 we need to take additional steps to disinfect between users – this is 10 minute process.

5-18-20 Zoom meeting due to COVID-19

Attendance: 12 & 4 excused

Business:

- Discussion on future meetings being in-person or continuing virtual
- Propane fire training offered by Stockton FD
- Request of B-day parade
- Re-arrange roster by rank
- FD 'extras' / tasks needing completion
- FD Building discussion
- Resident appreciation card received
- SCBA flow testing

Training:

- Media/Social Media use

6-1-20

Attendance: 6 & 9 excused

Business:

- Point System
- Attendance Policy
- Upcoming Training Opportunities
- Gamification (turning training into games – making it fun)

Training:

- Air Management Training

6-15-20

Attendance: 11 & 2 excused

Business:

- None

Training:

- Ladders (raise, lower, use [leg locks, etc.], care)
- 360 – walk arounds, assessment

- Communications – radio use

6-29-20

Attendance: 12 & 4 excused

Business:

- FD Building update
- Linwood Ave. construction

Training:

- Primary search in house full of smoke

Training Note:

Plover FD has offered Park Ridge FD the use of a house on the north end of Plover, scheduled for demolition, to use for training. We began taking advantage of this rare opportunity in June and will continue to train at this house most, if not all, of the summer.

“Other” Activities/Meetings

4/9/20: Portage County Chief’s Meeting, attended by Chief Lepper

May: 3 Birthday ‘parades’ participating with other fire departments

5/29/20: SCBA Flow Testing completed, all units passed testing

6/7/20: Several staffed the FD to monitor protests scheduled in Stevens Point

6/10/20: 4 attended propane fire training with Stockton FD

6/14/20: Installed flags in the village

6/14/20: Internet work completed

6/15/20: Flag repair

6/15/20: FD bay area prepped for village board meeting

6/16/20: Flag repair

6/18/20: Flag repair

6/22/20: FD bay area prepped for zoning committee meeting

6/22/20: Flag repair

6/26/20: Smoke detector install for village resident

Chief Lepper is also participating with a weekly COVID-19 conference call with Portage County Public Health staying up to date on local and regional activities.

Roster:

We finished Q1 with 19 on roster; which includes 1 Cadet.

In Q2 2020 we had 3 staff complete Fire Instructor class, and 1 complete Fire Officer. This adds some great credentials to our ranks.

Equipment:

As stated above our SCBA units all passed annual flow testing. Other annual required testing remains, which includes: hose, ladder, and pump testing.

E2 remains a challenge for the FD. As stated in the Q1 2020 report we were working with MSTC for a driver/operator class, but COVID-19 has negatively impacted that course. We intentionally do not use the truck much for fear of failure.

The Squad is due for a new clutch. We are trying to stretch out this costly and challenging repair as long as we can. Parts are not readily available for a 1974 vehicle. Repairs generally take longer than a desired amount of time, mostly due to challenges with parts. Vendor has requested that existing clutch be removed from squad requiring it to be out of service, shipped to them, to ensure they provide the correct parts.

Engine 1 has a battery in need of testing and possible replacing.