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Mapaville Gazette

Mapaville Fire gears up and responds to the COVID—19 threat

As the possible full effects and results of the Corona Virus Pandemic became evident, the MFPD began to mobilize resources, personnel, instituted new protocols and procedures, and began a coordinated effort with the surrounding agencies to establish an appropriate response to the virus while covering everyday emergencies that are still occurring.

Through the Jefferson County Emergency Operations Center, a regional plan was developed with the cooperation of the local fire departments and districts, the Health Department, Law Enforcement, E.M.S. Agencies, Jeffco 911 Emergency Dispatch, and Jefferson County Officials.

We received additional PPE supplies to bolster what we already had to protect our personnel while making contact with patients and victims. A lockdown protocol that restricted entrance to the engine house to essential personnel only was put in effect along with a screening process to monitor the health of personnel to maintain a “clean environment” in order to protect MFPD firefighters and staff from becoming effected in order to mitigate any emergencies that would transpire.



A Special Operations Order was posted to establish a protocol for daily operations and procedural changes for emergency responses. A guideline was created and added to the S.O.G. book in the Safety Section.



NEW BOARD OF DIRECTOR

Congratulations to Pat Francis, Pat was sworn as the fifth Board member at the May 18th Board of Director meeting. The Board of Directors control the fiduciary responsibilities and provide operational oversight of the fire district as a whole.

Fire Association Holds Gun Raffle

The Mapaville Fire Association held it's first gun raffle as a fund raising event with great success. 100 tickets were sold and the winning ticket purchased by Travis Byers was drawn on April 14 th. The Sig Sauer P365 was raffled along with a custom holster provided by a local leather smith. Ticket sales for another gun raffle is planned to begin in June and the winning ticket will be drawn at the August 9 th open house.

Address signs and challenge coins are the other fund raising campaigns that are still ongoing and available for purchase. The address signs are available for \$15.00 and the challenge coins can be purchased for \$10.00 each.



The lockdown of the engine house had curtailed the sales of these items, but after the lockdown is lifted, sales will begin again as people were allowed to stop in.

ANNUAL HOSE TESTING AND EQUIPMENT UPDATE

The annual hose testing commenced in May which entails the testing of all the firehose in our inventory. This is a very involved and labor intensive process since all of the hose is removed from the apparatus, tested, hung to dry, and rolled. While that work is being completed , previously tested hose is reloaded onto the apparatus.



Hose testing is a very important component, as it not only verifies that the fire hose is capable of handling the water pressure and the water volume necessary to extinguish fires, it certifies that annual inspection and maintenance to the hose is being accomplished on a regular schedule. In addition, the hose testing program that has been instituted creates a positive effect on our I.S.O. review that establishes the insurance rating and premiums for all Mapaville residents.

Previous to May of 2018, the fire hose inventory had not been tested for an unknown number of years. After an initial inspection and assessment, it was determined that a large percentage of the hose that was in service on the fire apparatus was seriously out of date, some by over 35 years, was deteriorated, and should have been condemned years ago and replaced with new hose. In addition to replacing the old condemned hose, 2000 feet of 5" large diameter hose supply fire hose (commonly called L.D.H.) was purchased and loaded onto the two pumpers. This L.D.H. is used to move large volumes of water to fire scenes. It is essentially laying a portable water main on the street when large quantities of water is required to mitigate an incident. The condemned fire hose was rendered non usable and donated to local schools, civic organizations, and individuals.

Currently, all of the fire hose in service is within specifications per N.F.P.A. 1962 standards.

ADDITIONAL EQUIPMENT UPGRADES

In addition to the fire hose upgrades, since May of 2018, there has been a huge emphasis on replacing broken or non functioning equipment and providing first class equipment, personal protection gear, and bringing the building maintenance up to date.

A BRIEF LIST OF UPGRADES AND IMPROVEMENTS

THIS IS NOT A COMPLETE LISTING

- INSTITUTION OF BOARD APPROVED S.O.G.'S AND AN EMPLOYEE MANUAL
 - PURCHASING NEW COMPUTERS AND SERVERS
 - ESTABLISHING SECURITY TO OUR COMPUTER AND WI FI SERVERS
- ALLOWING PART TME PERSONNEL TO GAIN ACCESS TO THE STATION FOR THEIR SHIFTS
 - ALLOWING PART TIME PERSONNEL TO DRIVE & OPERATE THE APPARATUS
 - NEW GATE VALVES ON THE PUMPER TO REPLACE NON FUNCTIONING VALVES
- NEW A.E.D. BATTERIES AND PATIENT ELECTRODE PADS TO REPLACE EXPIRED ONES
 - UPGRADE OF ALL E.M.S. EQUIPMENT AND BAGS
- REMOVAL FROM SERVICE OF AN ANTIQUATED RESCUE VEHICLE TO STREAMLINE THE FLEET
- ASSESSMENT AND REPLACEMENT OF MISSING OR NON FUNCTIONING RESCUE AND HANDTOOLS ON ALL APPARATUS
- UPGRADE OUR E.M.S. RESPONSES WITH JEFFCO 911 TO COMFORM WITH THE REST OF THE COUNTY
- ESTABLISH CONTINUOUS TRAINING PROGRAMS AND HOSTING EXTERNAL TRAINING SESSIONS
- INSTITUTION OF A COMPUTER BASED REPORTING SOFTWARE FOR MORE ACCURATE RECORD KEEPING
- UPGRADING THE RUN CARDS AND MAPS TO IMPROVE MUTUAL AID RESPONSES
 - REPLACING ALL STATION LIGHTING TO L.E.D.'s TO DECREASE ENERGY CONSUMPTION AND COSTS
- IMPROVEMENT OF SECURITY PROCEDURES AND CAMERA SYSTEM TO PROTECT EQUIPMENT, BUILDING, AND PERSONNEL

I.S.O. REVIEW

Mapaville's scheduled I.S.O. (Insurance Service's Organization) review has been in process this spring. The I.S.O. is an organization that contracts its services to insurance companies to review and assess fire departments and districts nationwide and their capability to perform required services. These assessments are assigned a fire class rating and the insurance industry uses these ratings to set insurance rates and premiums for homeowners and business owners.

The assessment consists of reviewing the department's policies, guidelines, equipment, equipment maintenance program, training, personnel staffing, apparatus, dispatch procedures, communications, hose inventory, hose maintenance, public water supply, hydrant testing and maintenance.

Points are assessed for each category depending on the category and the specific requirements to acquire these points. Deficiencies of equipment, personnel, scheduled staffing, and other line items in these categories will produce a negative effect on the fire class rating. These points are totaled to provide an aggregate rating that is assigned. The grading scale is between 1 and 9. Previously, Mapaville was scored at a fire class 4. After the 2020 review is completed, we will be notified of our new classification.

During the preparation for this review, it was discovered that documentation, procedures, and records of actual equipment testing and training were missing or not factual. These deficiencies were addressed, subsequently new methods of documentation and procedures were instituted and completed in order for our review to be scheduled.

The photo below illustrates our crews performing fire hydrant testing and flow assessment using precise instrumentation. The data that is collected is water pressure measurements, gallons per minute (G.P.M.), water main size, water pressure measurements, and hydrant construction, when multiple hydrants are flowing.



Mapaville is currently in the process of establishing a new regular hydrant testing schedule in order to properly monitor and maintain the system so when the need arises to use a fire hydrant for an emergency, we can be assured that there will be enough water to mitigate the incident. Prior to this, there has not been any regular monitoring or testing of the fire hydrants. If there is not an adequate water supply, water will be shuttled in by fire dept. tanker trucks provided by our mutual aid agreement with surrounding departments.

M.F.P.D. TWENTIETH YEAR ANNIVERSARY OPEN HOUSE

We will be celebrating our 20th year as a Fire District on August 9, 2020. The Fire Association will be hosting an Open House on Saturday August 8th between 10:00 and 14:00 hrs, A lunch will be provided by the Mapaville Fre Association.

Any and all personnel that are available to assist will be appreciated.
The public is invited and encouraged to attend.

NOTIFICATION OF THE LAST ALARM

It is with deepest sympathy that we announce the passing of the following and they have answered their Last Alarm

Former Fire Chief Walter Wolk on November 19, 2019
A graveside Bell Service was conducted

Former Asst. Fire Chief Gary Peterein on April 1, 2020
A memorial bell Service will be announced at a later date

MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF

Now that things have begun to open up from the recent virus concerns, we will be hosting more external trainings and activities as was the trend before February and the security lockdown will be relaxed to allow for the public to once again visit the engine house.

Please keep in mind that we should still practice the usual contagious disease precautions as we should have been performing anyway such as hard surface decon in the station, hand washing, and other considerations such as refraining from touching our face before decon, handwashing, or sanitizing is complete.

These procedures should always be the normal practice for those of us first responders, for it is the first line of defense against the spread of all forms of infectious contagions.

Be safe, keep moving forward.

MESSAGE FROM THE FIRE COMMISSIONER

As we sit back and review the accomplishments, improvements, and catching up that have been made in the past two years, we should constantly be striving to achieve self improvement through training, constant critique and modification in techniques, strategies, and pre planning.

I would like to commend all of our personnel by constantly bringing their "A Game" when on duty and off duty. Our actions are under constant public viewing and I have heard nothing but positive comments in relationship to our professionalism and actions. Keep up the excellent progress.