



The Extinguisher



**DEPARTMENT
UPDATES
6/30/23 - 7/14/23**

This week we have started to hand out department issued water bottles as part of your firefighter protective gear. The idea with these bottles is to ensure that our firefighters have access to hydration at all times when on duty, attending training or at the station for callbacks. We are awaiting the plumbing contractor to schedule a date to replace the bubblers in the back hallway with a cold water bottle fill station that is filtered. This will allow access to fill water bottles at any time.



As you may be well aware, hydration is a key component to firefighter rehab and readiness for incidents. A good plan is to stay hydrated before an incident as this will help to keep heat related issues in check when working in extreme conditions. For me this is a very personal topic as I suffered from a heat related illness from over-exertion in my late 20's. This caused my body to go into Rhabdomyolysis, which can be a serious condition. To make a long story short, my body began breaking down muscle tissue because

of the severe dehydration. That was bad enough but the muscle tissue is toxic to the kidneys and it led to renal failure for which I was hospitalized for 10 days in excruciating pain. Luckily, I recovered with no lasting physical effect. This is why the fire academy stresses

hydration and we stress firefighter rehab to ensure that this does not happen to anyone on the fireground or in training.

With the extreme heat and humidity summer brings, it is very important that we recognize the signs and symptoms of heat stress, which progress over time and can lead to severe illness. Symptoms can include dizziness, light headedness, fatigue, tachycardia, cramping, nausea/vomiting and headaches. Be vigilant with your health and don't hesitate to let someone know if you are feeling symptoms. That is a lesson that I learned the hard way.

Personnel

- 1. We are desperately looking for members to represent the fire department at the Dawson Rec Summer Program on 7/27 from 8a-11a. The kids really love this day and it should be fun for everyone. I believe last year we were able to soak the Town Manager. We need 2-3 people to step up. Contact A/C Montiverdi is interested.**
- 2. Schedule Alert!!! – Holden Days will take place this year on 8/26. We are putting together a roster of those that are interested in working. Generally the hours are 8a-2p and it is a paid event with no heavy lifting and a fun time. Please email me if interested.**

Vehicles

- 1. Car 3 – New vehicle has been placed into service. Thank you to all who helped to mount equipment and get it ready to go. The old Car 3 is now known as Car 4 and will be used as a spare for the in-service vehicle and for academy classes as the explorer was.**
- 2. Car 5 – Has been placed into service and the CERT van is out of service. This vehicle is located in the Annex and can be utilized to shuttle personnel to a scene or to tow Homeland/District 8 trailers**

to incidents. We want to start taking some of the stress of Squad 2 as it is getting older.

3. Ambulance 4 – At Greenwood EV, pre-inspection will be scheduled along with equipment mounted and radios installed.

Equipment

- 1. We have taken delivery of the new drone. The Deputy is working on putting together the necessary training and licensing so that we can have multiple individuals able to deploy it.**
- 2. We have decided to do a trial of Morning Pride gear with 2 sets that have been ordered. The reasoning behind this is due to the 10 month wait time for Globe to fulfill orders. With Morning Pride we have been told that it is about a 2 month window for order fulfillment, so we will see. The specifications are the same as the gear we get from Globe so we will see how it is and make a decision on whether to continue with this vendor.**
- 3. We have discontinued the Check It inventory program for those who know what it is. The program did not meet our expectations so we are sourcing out another vendor.**
- 4. In this years Capital budget, we have received funding to replace our oldest Lucas, Captain Naiman is working on quotes.**
- 5. We have received our phase 3 distribution of Motorola APX 8000 tri-band portable radios. We sent out 8 of the original phase 1 officer portables for reprogramming so that they can be used on the WFD Vehicle repeaters if needed at the water treatment plant. This radio allotment will get the majority of department members up to the new portables and the APX 6000 UHF portables will be repurposed for spares in the apparatus.**

Stations

- 1. Station 2 – We have spoken with the DPW regarding the lift in the upstairs bays. The plan currently is to have an auction starting 8/1 to sell those items and hopefully we will see it removed towards the later half of August. We will be relocating some equipment to Station 2 to alleviate the congestion in the Annex. The intent is to garage Squad 2 in the winters and also garage Car 4 rather than leave it outdoors in the elements. Once A4 is in service, we will also be locating a spare ambulance in one of the stations/annex but that is yet to be determined.**