

Hopkins Area

200 E. Main
P.O. Box 124
Hopkins, MI 49328



Fire Department

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1 May 2016

For the month of April, we responded to 14 fire incidents; 3 assist's to other departments, 4 PI accidents, 3 fire investigations, 2 structure fires, 1 officer call, and 1 wire down. There were 3 calls in Hopkins Township, 2 calls in Monterey Township, 1 call in Hopkins Village, and 5 calls in Watson Township. Hopkins first responders responded to 26 medical calls; 1 in Hopkins Village, 10 in Hopkins Township, 8 in Watson Township, and 6 in Monterey Township.

We had two regular training meetings this last month. The training subjects were emergency driving and wildland operations. Training sessions lasted 3 hours and were attended by 24 firefighters.

Josh Cole and Eric Alberda are attending the EMT class in Wayland, which has just concluded. They have passed the classroom portion. Now they will need to pass the National Registry test and become licensed by the state after that.

Wayland EMS has announced an EMR class beginning in May. Dates and times work for a couple of the guys. We will get our other new guys into classes as they become available.

Zack Wright has moved out of the area and has posted his resignation.

I am in the process of writing a grant to the Home Depot Foundation for new lighting throughout the station. We are looking to replace the fluorescent lighting with modern LED lights. The new lights are much more efficient and have a life expectancy of 20 years. Bulbs for the 8 foot lights we now have in the truck bays are becoming exceedingly difficult to obtain, as well. More to come in the next few months.

Regarding the AFG grant, we have not received any news from FEMA. I am taking it as a good sign that we didn't get a rejection notice thus far and that our application is moving onto the next phase of review. We may not hear anything for several more months.

At the recent county fire chief's association meeting information was presented about a new radio system the county is investigating. One possibility is for dispatch to move to the State's 800 mhz system. Another is a standalone system. Fire may get pushed to a 800 mhz system or may stay on an upgraded vhf system. The county has released an RFP that is due back for opening on 1 April. Dispatch received bids from 2 vendors. Informational meetings are being scheduled.

"Our Family Serving Your Family"

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The DNR's area manger also presented the DNR's prediction for the spring fire season, with it being warmer and dryer. I am urging everyone to get the word out to be safe with fires, especially when the weather breaks, to prevent widespread field fires.

Scotty' Firehouse returned to the station in Hopkins April 18-19. Scotty's is used to teach young students ages 4-8 about fire safety. While I can't give numbers to say how effective this program is, we have few fires involving children, have not had any injuries or deaths, and even have them helping their parents to avoid major damage due to a fire in their homes. We worked with 250 students those 2 days.

Respectfully submitted,

Tim McKinnon
Fire Chief