

Hopkins Area

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



Fire Department

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1 February 2015

For the month of January 2015, we responded to 9 fire incidents; 2 fire alarm, 3 PI accidents, 2 fire investigations, 1 chimney fire, and 1 officer call. There was 1 fire investigation in Hopkins Township, 1 officer call, and 1 fire alarm in Hopkins Village, 1 fire alarm, 1 chimney fire, and 2 PI accidents in Monterey Township, and 1 PI accident in Watson Township. Hopkins first responders responded to 25 medical calls; 5 in Hopkins Village, 6 in Hopkins Township, 4 in Watson Township, and 100 in Monterey Township.

Mark and Tyler continue their fire academy in Barry County and are making good progress. Zack Wright and Tara Beilby are attending the MFR class in Wayland. I took the Plan Review final exam on January 22nd. A Reading Smoke and Residential Tactics class was held January 18. We had advertised this class and had many attendees come from outside the area as well as from neighboring departments. Our other monthly meeting covered our annual blood borne pathogens refresher and firefighter safety.

The Emergency Driving class by To the Rescue is coming on March 1st. This is the classroom portion of the class only. The instructors for this class are held in high regard by many departments because we feel they teach from the heart, and we are glad to have them back. We plan to advertise this class and have as many attendees as we can. We are also inviting persons from WAEMS to the class.

Salem Fire Department has a guest instructor coming to their meeting on February 5th. Ron Farr past State Fire Marshall and retired Kalamazoo Township Fire Marshall will present an Arson Detection class. This class was part of the old fire officer program, 4 to 6 Hopkins firefighters plan to attend.

On February 10, the Pipeline group is hosting their annual dinner and pipeline safety training seminar, over in Holland. Several of our firefighter plan to attend.

Chad Althouse has returned from his requested leave of absence. We will be working with him, getting him ready for the firefighter certification testing.

Alex Schut has posted his resignation, citing personal reasons. Alex has purchased property near Plainwell and is planning to build there in the near future. Kaylee Brenner has not returned from her leave of absence leading us to believe she will not be back. Brad Kerber's house is nearing completion. His move in date is going to be in early spring.

The Michigan DOT has scheduled the rebuilding of the highway bridge at Martin this winter. Latest information has this project starting February 9th. Completion of this project is late spring. Ramps are supposed to remain open.

"Our Family Serving Your Family"

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The Hopkins FFA is hosting a donkey basketball game on Friday, February 6, at the Hopkins Middle School gymnasium. A challenge was issued to the Hopkins firefighters and we could not pass it up. At the present time 12 firefighters are planning to compete.

Central Dispatch will no longer be issuing the "burn ban" advisories. This task will be redirected to the DNR through the State of Michigan's website or through an "800" number. Those attempting to use the old system will be redirected to the DNR's site. Again, the governor is the only person who can issue a ban, so the DNR will be issuing recommendations based on fire conditions. Anytime you are conducting burning operations and the fire gets out of your control you can and will be subject to fines by the DNR, regardless of having a permit. More information is forthcoming.

Respectfully submitted,

Tim McKinnon
Fire Chief