

Hopkins Area

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Fire Department

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2 January 2015

For the month of December 2014, we responded to 6 fire incidents; 1 fire alarm, 3 PI accidents, and 2 assists to other departments. There was 1 PI accident in Hopkins Township, no calls in Hopkins Village, the fire alarm in Monterey Township, 2 PI accidents in Watson Township, 1 assist to Salem, and 1 assist to Wayland. Hopkins first responders responded to 13 medical calls; 7 in Hopkins Village, 3 in Hopkins Township, 3 in Watson Township, and 0 in Monterey Township. For 2014, the department responded to 128 fire and 248 medical emergencies.

We had our last regular training meeting of the year which was a makeup of training events missed through the year. Mark and Tyler continue their fire academy in Barry County and are making good progress. The Fire Inspector I Course concluded the first weekend in November. I took the final exam on December 13th and have passed. I also took the Plan Review class with the final exam scheduled for January 22nd. An MFR class starts January 5th. Zack will attend. A Reading Smoke and Residential Tactics class is coming on January 18. The Emergency Driving class is coming on March 1st.

Josh Cole has rejoined the department. Josh was with us a few years ago and was recently with the Martin Fire Department. Josh already has firefighter and officer training, but will need to attend an MFR course.

Chad Althouse has requested a 6 month leave of absence for personal reasons. We hope to get Chad back soon, get him ready and tested for the firefighter certification.

The Michigan DOT has scheduled the rebuilding of the highway bridge at Martin this winter. We don't have the start date yet. Completion of this project is early summer. Ramps are supposed to remain open.

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

"Our Family Serving Your Family"