

Hopkins Area

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Fire Department

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2 May 2015

For the month of April 2015, we responded to 14 fire incidents; 2 PI accidents, 3 officer calls, 3 grass fires, 1 fire investigation, and 5 assists to other departments. There was 1 grass fire, 1 fire investigation, 1 PI accident, and 1 officer call in Hopkins Township, 2 officer calls in Hopkins Village, 1 PI accident in Monterey Township, 2 grass fires in Watson Township, and 1 assist to Hamilton, 2 to Wayland, 1 to Martin, and 1 to Salem. Hopkins first responders responded to 15 medical calls; 1 in Hopkins Village, 4 in Hopkins Township, 5 in Watson Township, and 5 in Monterey Township.

Mark continues his fire academy in Barry County, nearing completion. Mark had his written exam and has his practical exam in two weeks.

Zack Wright has taken and passed the National Registry test. He has applied to the state for his license and once that is received he will be employed by WAEMS to run on medicals.

Our monthly meetings included SCBA refresher and wild-land fire training.

Chad Althouse has returned from his requested leave of absence. Chad has a conflict with his National Guard annual training so he is not testing with Barry County. I have contacted the area coordinator from the State's Fire Marshall's office regarding alternate test dates but have not heard back yet.

The Michigan DOT has scheduled the rebuilding of the highway bridge at Martin this winter. Latest information has this project starting February 9th. The bridge is now completely gone. The ramps are currently open and are expected to remain so except for short durations. Completion of this project is late spring.

Central Dispatch is maintaining the burn permit line but they will not be accessing it. This task now falls to the local jurisdictions to monitor. I or one of the other officers will check the answering machine to know when a burn permit is requested. When the county's new phone system comes online this task will be made easier. The new phone system is supposed to go online over the summer.

Burning should follow the DNR guidelines. The only things allowed to be burned is brush, leaves, and grass clippings. Shingles and tires are not allowed to be burned at any time. Fires are not allowed after dusk.

Respectfully submitted,
Tim McKinnon
Fire Chief

"Our Family Serving Your Family"