

Hopkins Area

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



Fire Department

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2 March 2016

For the month of February, we responded to 8 fire incidents; 2 assist's to other departments, 3 PI accidents, 1 wires down, 1 fire alarm, and 1 officer call. There was 1 call in Hopkins Township, 3 calls in Monterey Township, 1 call in Hopkins Village, and 1 call in Watson Township. Hopkins first responders responded to 21 medical calls; 5 in Hopkins Village, 9 in Hopkins Township, 4 in Watson Township, and 3 in Monterey Township.

We had two regular training meetings this last month. The training subjects were basic skills and a new 2 the Rescue program. Training sessions lasted 3 hours and were attended by 24 firefighters.

We have extended tentative offers to 1 returning and 4 new firefighters. Justin Johnson is the returning member and with Ryan Nowakowski and Dave Arman will respond from the Watson station. Clayton Frank and Levi Steffens live in Monterey Township and will be responding from the Hopkins station. They will attend classes as they become available.

Brandon and Mark passed their medical first responder classes but have not yet passed the national registry test. Josh Cole and Eric Alberda are attending the EMT class in Wayland, which will be concluding soon. Bob Kerber is continuing an online EMT matriculation class, with clinicals coming soon.

Bob Kerber and Vince Castenda recently completed the instructor I course. We intend to use them soon to run training events.

Josh Cole and Don Bailey just completed the Ice Rescue train the trainer class in Holland. Once certified they will be able to teach ice rescue and do our semiannual in house training.

Renovations to the classroom, bathroom, and kitchen are done. New flooring and paint were installed. Much of the materials were purchased at discounted rates and the labor was also discounted. These rooms have needed the update for years. Thank you to all who donated time to the project and to those businesses that sold us materials at the discounted rate.

“Our Family Serving Your Family”

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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.

Our newest truck was completed and delivered on February 19th. Equipment was uploaded and the truck is now in service, operating out of the Watson station. This truck will help to conserve the life of engine 11 which is also based at Watson. Bob has a possible buyer for the old tanker.

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 sign on 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. More to follow.

The DNR's area manager 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.

Respectfully submitted,

Tim McKinnon
Fire Chief