



Kachemak Emergency Services

The Smoke Signal

December Newsletter

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Happy Birthday wishes to our December Birthday Members: Thane Cunningham, Kerbey Lyon, Amy Woodruff, and Katy Jones. Enjoy your "Special Day".

EQUIPMENT

All equipment at Station 1 and Station 2 are operating and ready for response. The following equipment is out of service and stored until further notice: Engine-11, Squad-2, Rescue-1, and Medic-3.

Tanker-3: KESA has received a bid from Rosenbauer for a new replacement tanker. The bid is being reviewed for consideration by the Borough Budgeting and Planning folks. Stay tuned! Meanwhile, old Tanker-3 remains in service, but don't poke at the seeping pits in the side of it.

Brush-1 and Brush-3: have been winterized and stored until spring.

Medic-1 and Medic-2: The gurney battery release mechanisms have been upgraded. Be sure and get trained on how the new release mechanisms work. Avoid a fumbling incident when you need to change out the battery. Check it out the next time you are at the station.

Radios: Your radios should be working fine. If you are looking for an upgrade that will allow you to add DOF ALMR, and Niniichik ALMR, you will have to wait. An issue has cropped up that creates problems for the upgrade enhancement procedure. Upgrades are on hold until the Enhancement Programming issues can be resolved.

TRAINING

Keep your eye on the calendar schedule board located in the entry into the training room. It is constantly being updated with new opportunities. Attend training and use the opportunity to learn.

In 2018, Training will stay on Wednesdays... for now. After discussing the possibility of changing Training to Tuesdays and its impact on all members, it was determined that Training will remain on Wednesdays, unless there is a specific need to change to a Tuesday for a special cooperative multi-agency training activity. If you have thoughts on this matter, please bring them to Deputy Chief Sallee or Chief Ciccirella.

Fire Training – Fire training in December is set for Wednesday, December 20th at 6pm at Station 1. The training night has been moved up one week so that we can all enjoy the Christmas holiday. Training is only one night a month. Please make the extra effort to attend and stay sharp on your skills. EMS folks are always welcome to attend and stay familiar with the fire-ground activities and the EMS role in fires.

EMS Training – The December EMS training is Wednesday, December 13th at Station 1. The training will begin at 6pm. Come and stay current in your skills. Firefighters are also invited to come and stay familiar with their roles on the EMS calls.

Rope Rescue: – The December Rope Rescue training has been cancelled due to the Holidays. The next Rope Rescue meeting will be held in January. Stay tuned for the date and location of this training. Check in with Deputy Chief Sallee for updates.

Officer's Meeting: – The next regularly scheduled Officer's Meeting is slated for Monday, January 8th at 6pm at Station-1. (The first Monday of January is New Year's Day – so the meeting is postponed until the 8th)

Advanced ALS Training: – This training is only open to EMT III and Paramedic individuals. Check with Samantha Cunningham for a confirmation on the date, time and place of the next meeting.

ETT Class is completed: – The ETT class has concluded – with three students testing out. They are waiting for the their test results. Let's hope for the best!

EMT-II Class: – HVFD is hosting an EMT-II class starting February 12, 2018 and has opened it up to a few interested KESA members. See Deputy Chief Sallee if you are interested.

If you need to Recertify your EMS Certification: – Thank you to Katy, Jodi, Tisha, Travis, Kerbey and Rob for checking in on recertifying your EMS credentials. If you (Ben, Jessi, Travis and Michael) have not yet checked in with Deputy Chief Sallee, please do so as soon as possible. Thank you.

Next FF-I Class: – The next Fire Fighter-1 class is tentatively scheduled for spring, 2018 – possibly February or March (depending on the level of interest and the number of enrollees).

Active Threat Integrated Response Course –PER-340
– This class is a 24-hour course designed to improve integration between law enforcement, fire, and emergency medical services in active shooter events. It is being offered in Homer at the Kenai Peninsula College – Kachemak Bay Branch January 10-12, 2018. The class is brought to us through The National Center for Biomedical Research and Training at Louisiana State University. This is a Department of Homeland Security certified course. See Deputy Chief Sallee or Chief Cicciarella if you are interested in attending. HVFD is coordinating this class, and has opened it up to neighboring departments and agencies.

Fire Investigation: – A few folks have stepped forward expressing interest, so a Team meeting will be scheduled soon. If you are interested, please let Deputy Chief Sallee or Chief Cicciarella know.

Ideas / Suggestions: – If you have any ideas or suggestions for training, please let Deputy Chief Sallee know. He is eager to put together training that is interesting and helpful for the members. Let him know your thoughts. He will appreciate the feed-back.

\$100 CERTIFICATE FOR A TOOL OF YOUR CHOICE

With your certificate, you get to pick out any “gear, equipment, or clothing approved for emergency services” from “The Fire Store” – (value up to \$100.00). KESA will order it for you – and it will be yours as part of your personal KESA gear. A \$100 purchase certificate will be awarded to any member that signs up a new recruit for the ETT or FF-1 Class. The new recruit must complete the class and pass the final testing before the purchase certificate will be awarded to the sponsoring member. No limit for the number of new recruits a member can sponsor! Get yourself some cool stuff!

KESA HOLIDAY PARTY

The KESA Holiday Party will be at 7pm on Friday, December 15th at the Homer United Methodist Church which is located at 770 East End Road. Phillip and Jeanette are spear-heading this event. If you are interested in helping, please see one of the spear-headers. They will appreciate the help, especially setting up decorations at 5pm on Friday. Food is being prepared by our very own Philip Boyle. Just bring your appetite. There will be a gift exchange (for adults only). Bring a gift with a maximum value of \$20 if you wish to participate. Santa will have small gifts for the children. Rumor says over 50 people have already signed up to attend! Contact Philip at 235-8611 if you are planning on attending, and whether you can help with decorations.

STATION-2

The door lock key-code has been changed. The new code was issued to members via an e-mail. Check your e-mail for that new code, if you don't already have it. If you cannot find the new code, contact Deputy Chief Sallee, or Chief Ciciarella.

The large water tank has been buried behind the station. The water line from the tank to the building has also been installed. Further installation is waiting for a Fire Pump.

The Borough is making additional improvements and renovations to Station-2. Some delays have been experienced due to the availability of the foam installers. The trucks have been re-positioned in the building, so be ready for things to be in different spots and bays.

The over-head door for Bay 4 (closest to the man-door) is having some intermittent problems, especially if you are trying to lower the door when it has only gone up a couple of feet. Make sure you watch the door when entering and exiting to make sure it has fully opened / closed. To reduce the chances of damage, Medic-2 has been moved to another stall.

FLU SEASON

The winter Flu Season is upon us. Prevention is the best advice. Wash your hands often. Use gloves in environments that may contain flu germs (patient homes, the hospital, public use areas). Use masks as may be needed. If you are sick, STAY HOME. Do not bring your germs into the station or worse yet, into the ambulance, or someone else's home. JUST STAY HOME! Do your fellow members the favor! DON'T INFECT US!

PANCAKE BREAKFASTS in 2018

The amazing Rob Porter is coordinating the effort to have a KESA Pancake Breakfast after the first of the year. If you are able to help out with this effort, contact Rob.

UPDATED MEMBER PHONE CONTACT LIST

Jeanette has updated the membership contact list. She has e-mailed it to all members. If you want one printed and laminated, let Jeanette know and she will make one up for you.

THE SMALL CORE GROUP NEEDS YOUR HELP

The KESA volunteer group has dwindled to a small core group of members that are doing most of the work and going on the bulk of the calls. Please help out your fellow members and step up to help as you can, even if it is only to drive an apparatus or lend a hand at an emergency scene. Let's try and give those few in the core group a break and some help. Every hand is appreciated.

WINTER DRIVING CONDITIONS

Freezing temperatures are here. Slow down and be extra careful on the new East End Road pavement. It will be slick when a little frost or ice gets on it. If conditions warrant, tire chains will be laid out for apparatus at the station – or even installed as needed. Refresh yourself on how to get them on or off. Remember to slow way down when you are driving an apparatus that has chains on it. Ending up in the ditch really doesn't help our response to help others. Slow down and make sure your windshield is free of snow and ice before heading out onto the road from home.

PERSONNEL

Here is the current run-down of Staff and Officers:

Staff:

Bob Ciciarella – Fire Chief

Joe Sallee – Deputy Fire Chief

Harlon Engebretsen – Mechanic

Jeanette Johnson – Administrative Assistant

Officers:

Fire Chief: Bob Ciccarella

Deputy Fire Chief: Joe Salle

Captains: Greg Collins, Jose Diaz, Kevin Jones, Maynard Kaufman, Jason Miller, Gary Thomas, Samantha Cunningham (EMS)

Lieutenants: Rob Porter (Fire & EMS), Terry Sumption (Fire)

AND all the rest of the dedicated volunteers which help to make our community a safer and better place to live. Thank you for all you do.

Stay safe.

