



Kachemak Emergency Services

The Smoke Signal

Volume 18-01

January Newsletter

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Happy Birthday wishes to our January Birthday Members: Maynard Kaufman, Charmaine Blaine, Rob Porter, Harlon Engebretsen, Travis Kaufman, and Chief Bob Ciciarella. 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 the tank.

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

Reminder: Make sure that all apparatus gets plugged back in again, after you return from a call. Failure to do so can result in a dead battery for the next call. Pay attention! **Also**, if you remove equipment on any apparatus for any reason (even temporarily), please put it back in its original spot.

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.

Fire Training: Fire training in January is set for Wednesday, January 24th at 6pm at Station 1. The training night has returned to its regular 4th Wednesday of the month. 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 January EMS training is Wednesday, January 10th 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 January Rope Rescue training has been set for Wednesday, January 17th at Station 1. Check in with Deputy Chief Sallee for details.

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.

Trauma Review at SPH: The next SPH Trauma Review session will be held at the SPH Conference rooms 1 & 2 at 6pm on Wednesday, March 7, 2018. These reviews are always interesting, and open to anyone in the Emergency Services.

Alaska State Firefighters Conference: This year's Conference will be held in Kenai this fall (probably September). With it so close on the Kenai Peninsula, it will allow several people to attend. It's not too soon to start planning for this opportunity!

EMT-II Class: HVFD is hosting an EMT-II class in April and May (postponed from the previously announced February 12th). The class is open to a few interested KESA members. See Deputy Chief Sallee if you are interested.

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. The Alaska Association of Fire and Arson Investigators will have their annual Training and Conference in Anchorage April 23 – 27. See Chief Sallee or Chief Cicciarella if you would like to attend.

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! This is a limited time offer!

KESA HOLIDAY PARTY

The KESA Holiday Party was a great time with TONS of food and good cheer! Thanks to everyone that attended and participated. A special thank you goes to Philip Boyle and Jeanette Johnson for their leadership in making it successful.

NEED COVERAGE FOR SKI RACES

The Kachemak Nordic Ski Club will be holding ski races at Ohlson Mountain from 10am to 3pm on Saturday, January 20th, and Sunday, January 21st. KESA will need to provide the Snow-bulance, a snow-machine, and an ambulance, as well as the needed operators and EMTs. If you can help out, please check in with Deputy Chief Sallee.

HOSPITAL ER DOORS ARE NOW LOCKED

Due to security issues, the SPH Emergency Room doors are now locked. There is a motion sensor outside the doors that is supposed to sense a person at the door, and ring a buzzer at the ER Nurses Station. Someone at the Nurses Station can then let you in. When you want to exit the building, the motion activation system will still open the doors and let you exit. Once outside the building, you will again need to wave your arms to get someone to let you back in again. Everyone knows what a pain this is, and a better permanent solution is being developed.

STATION-2

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 holding a Public Hearing on the requested funding to complete the insulation and other improvements at the station, at their January 2nd meeting. It is hoped that the needed funding will become available without any problems. The next step after the funding is approved is to contract with the foam installers. It is now expected that the work will be completed sometime in the spring. 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 still 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!** If you have not gotten your flu shot, it is not too late. Get it today!

PANCAKE BREAKFAST IN 2018

The amazing Rob Porter is coordinating the effort to have a KESA Pancake Breakfast sometime in January. If you are able to help out with this effort, contact Rob.

UPDATED MEMBER PHONE CONTACT LIST

Jeanette has updated the membership contact list again with a few additional updates. 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.

You are all greatly appreciated and It takes participation from all of you to make us successful. KESA and the community needs each and every one of you!

BOTH CHIEFS WILL BE GONE!

Both Chief Cicciarella and Deputy Chief Sallee will be out of the Service Area for the Alaska State Fire Chief's Association – Annual Meeting in Juneau. They will be gone February 4th through February 9th. Hang onto your hats, and try to plan your schedule so you can be available to cover calls as needed.

WINTER DRIVING CONDITIONS

Winter is here. Slow down and be extra careful with the ice, snow and slush. 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. 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.

PERSONNEL

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

Staff:

Bob Cicciarella – Fire Chief

Joe Sallee – Deputy Fire Chief

Harlon Engebretsen – Mechanic

Jeanette Johnson – Administrative Assistant

Officers:

Fire Chief: Bob Cicciarella

Deputy Fire Chief: Joe Sallee

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.

