



Kachemak Emergency Services

The Smoke Signal

Volume 18-03

March Newsletter

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Happy Birthday wishes to our March Birthday Members: Phillip Boyle, Taylor Wilson, Jasmine Boyle, Kiril Basargin, and Robert Anderson. 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 Replacement: KESA has requested a revised bid from Rosenbauer for a new replacement tanker/pumper on a custom chassis. The decision was made to pursue a Tanker/Pumper, rather than just a replacement tanker. In June, KESA will receive a replacement loaner 4000 gallon tanker/pumper from Nikiski, which will be on loan to us until our new replacement tanker/pumper arrives. Until June, old Tanker-3 remains in service, so don't poke at the seeping pits in the side of the tank.

Brush Truck covers: A new cover has been fabricated for Brush-1. A cover for Brush-2 is in the process of being made, and Brush-3 will get one soon. The new covers cover and protect the hose reels and the electric motors.

Radios: KES has purchased several new Motorola APX1000 radios. These radios will replace some of the older ICOM and Motorola EX560 radios. The new radios will arrive by the end of March. Stay tuned.

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. Grab the chance to learn!

Fire Training: Fire Training in March is set for Wednesday, March 28th at 6pm at Station 1. Training is only one night a month. Please make the extra effort to attend and stay sharp on your skills. Support and EMS folks are always welcome to attend and stay familiar with the fire-ground activities and their roles on fire scenes.

EMS Training: The March EMS training is back on its second Wednesday of the month - Wednesday March 14th at Station 1. The training will begin at 6pm. Deputy Chief Sallee has cooked up an interesting training exercise for us. Feeling in the dark? Come and check it out. Stay current in your skills. Fire and Support personnel are also welcome to attend. Thanks for the great job that was done cleaning up after last month's EMS training.

Rope Rescue: The March Rope Rescue training has been set for Wednesday, March 21st at Station 1. The training will be focused on Patient Packaging and Litter Attendant.

Officer's Meeting: The next regularly scheduled Officer's Meeting is slated for Monday, March 5th at 6pm at Station-1.

Advanced ALS Training: Advanced ALS Providers will meet on Thursday, March 22nd at the HVFD station. The topic will be BiPap and capnography. Contact Samantha Cunningham for details. This training is only open to EMT III and Paramedic individuals.

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 in 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!

Next FF-I Class: The next Fire Fighter-1 class is tentatively scheduled for spring, 2018 – possibly March, but is currently waiting for a few more people to express an interest. If you or a friend are interested, see a Chief.

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 Ciciarella 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 Ciciarella 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.

SAT PHONE

A new satellite phone has been purchased and will be kept in Command-1. It will help with communications in remote parts of the KESA service area.

RIG CHECKS

The first Wednesday of each month will be devoted to rig checks (Both EMS and Fire). The Rig Checks in March will be on March 7th at 6pm. Some folks will meet at Station 1 and go over the rigs there. The Rig Check Lists at Station 1 are on the board by the entrance. Other folks will meet at Station 2 and check the rigs there. The Rig Check Lists at Station 2 are next to the panel box. Use the Operative IQ system for checking the EMS supplies and gear. Thanks for your help in keeping our equipment response ready.

\$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! Aaron Glidden did! Aaron was the first member to sign up a new recruit.

CONGRATULATIONS TO COOPER, ROBERT AND THANE!

Cooper Hyde and Robert Anderson completed their ETT training and are proud ETT Graduates. Thane Cunningham has completed his EMT II training and has graduated from that program. Congratulations for your efforts to improve your skills and better serve our community.

RESPONDER THAT GOES THE EXTRA MILE

There is a fellow responder among us that makes a special effort to help carry the KESA service forward to our community. This guy shows up on many many calls all times of day or night, is driving an apparatus at the Winter Carnival Parade, cooks pancakes at our fellowship Pancake Breakfast, and even goes home to put his plow on his truck so he can plow out the Chief who is stuck in the snow. Our hats off to Rob Porter. Thank you Rob for all you do for our organization, and our community.

BOTH CHIEFS WERE GONE (and we kicked butt)!

Both Chief Ciciarella and Deputy Chief Sallee were out of the Service Area for the Alaska State Fire Chief's Association Annual Meeting in Juneau. In their absence, everyone stepped forward and covered the calls, handling the things that needed attention. Thank you for everyone's participation and extra effort.

STATION-2

There has been some activity at Station-2. The Foam Contractors have nearly completed their work sealing up the holes and seams at the building. Early indications are that the work will result in a warmer, more air-tight building. Consequently, the main entry door now requires closer attention - since the wind no longer just automatically closes it.

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 the Borough to locate a suitable Fire Pump.

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. The Borough is working on a solution.

YOUR NEWSLETTER

This Newsletter is for and by KESA Members. That includes YOU! The Editor is looking for recipes, stories, jokes, cartoons, quotes, photos, volunteer profiles, and other interesting things. It is best if they are not copyrighted by someone else. If you have an interest in being a part of the Newsletter team, let me know.... I would love some help! Thanks. Gary.

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!

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

Winter is still here. Just ask Chief Ciccirella. He knows!



Our **QUOTE OF THE MONTH** comes from Chief Ciccirella himself:

“If I had just kept going, I would never have gotten stuck.”

This quote applies to many aspects of our lives.

If you hear something that you think would make a good “Quote of the Month”, send it to the Editor, Gary at grt@xyz.net.



OUR NEWEST VOLUNTEER MEMBER:

Introduce yourself to Vianney. He hails from France, with experiences all over the world. Vianney and his wife have settled in Homer, and he is eager to participate with the KESA team.

Vianney Chauvet



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)
- Lieutenant:** Rob Porter (Fire & EMS)

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.

