



## Kachemak Emergency Services

# The Smoke Signal

Volume 18-02

## February Newsletter

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Happy Birthday wishes to our February Birthday Members: Matt Schneyer, and Pat Johnson. 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.

**Ambulance Reminder:** Make sure to re-stock the ambulance after a run. Make sure the ambulance is all ready for the next patient. That includes blankets, pillows and supplies.

**Radios:** KES is purchasing several new Motorola APX1000 radios. These radios will replace some of the older ICOM or Motorola EX560 radios. Stay tuned for the new replacement radios. They will be arriving soon.

### 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 February is set for Wednesday, February 28th at 6pm at Station 1. We have had several significant structure fires recently, and we will be going over and reviewing those fires. 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 DATE CHANGE:** The February EMS training is moved from Wednesday February 14<sup>th</sup> (So you can spend Valentine's Day with your loved one) to Thursday, February 15<sup>th</sup> at Station 1. The training will begin at 6pm. Dr. Levy will be at the Thursday training to discuss recent runs, and provide some great training. 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 February Rope Rescue training has been set for Wednesday, February 21st 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, February 5th at 6pm at Station-1. (Officers will meet even though Chief Ciccarella and Deputy Chief Sallee will be out of town).

**Advanced ALS Training:** Advanced ALS Providers will meet on Thursday, February 22<sup>nd</sup> at Samantha Cunningham's training center. Dr. Coops will be in attendance. 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 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!

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

**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 Ciccirella 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 Ciccirella 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.

## RIG CHECKS

The first Wednesday of each month will be devoted to rig checks (Both EMS and Fire). The Rig Checks in February will be on February 7<sup>th</sup> 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.

## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY AT KES

There are Temporary Employment Opportunities for specific projects at KES. Chief Ciccirella is looking for some help on a few projects, and is willing to hire folks as Temporary Employees. Certain qualifications may be required. The job would start now (or soon), so if you are interested, check in with Chief Ciccirella.

## HOSPITAL ER DOORS ARE NOW LOCKED

Due to security issues, the SPH Emergency Room doors are now locked. There is a door bell (buzzer button) on the left side of the door. Ring it on arrival and someone will come and open the door for you. Frequently a person may already be at the door waiting for you. Once you get inside the Emergency Room entry room look at the top of the sliding door (North end) and you will see a switch with several positions. Rotate the switch to the middle position, which will allow the door to respond to motion for opening and closing the door. If in doubt, there are little symbols for each switch position. Before you leave the hospital be sure to reset the switch in the lock position again.

## PANCAKE BREAKFAST

The January Pancake Breakfast was a wonderful gathering. Thank you to Rob Porter for coordinating the event. And thanks to everyone that showed up and participated. It was great to see so many smiling faces and full bellies! The KES spirit is alive and well!

## 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 the Borough to locate a suitable Fire Pump.

The Borough has released the funding to complete the insulation and other improvements at the station. The contract has been awarded with the foam installers. It is now expected that the work will be completed sometime soon. Items will be moved away from the walls to allow access for the foam installers. The trucks will also be 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.

## MAJOR EMERGENCY EVENT

The recent earthquake and Tsunami alert was a good exercise in our own KES preparedness. In the event of a similar major event, members should stay alert. Members will be notified via page, radio, or text if action is needed. Please do not text or call Chief Ciccarella unless it is a true emergency. Chief has his hands full as he works through the situation. In the most recent event, the Chief's phone rang non-stop as members kept calling asking what they should do. Thank you for your eager assistance, but it is best if you just stay alert and monitor your radio, pager, or phone for information. The KESA stations (especially Station 1 because it has more amenities) are available if you and your family require safe shelter.

## BOTH CHIEFS WILL BE GONE!

Both Chief Ciccarella 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 9<sup>th</sup>. Captains Diaz, Thomas, Cunningham, and Kaufman will cover the Chief duties in their absence. Please try to plan your schedule so you can be available to cover calls as needed.

## 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!**

## 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.

## TWO OF OUR NEWEST MEMBERS

Tim Myers (L) and Scott Schneider (R)



## 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.

