

## Fire chiefs report December 2019

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To: Micaela Montagne <clerk@townoflapointewi.gov>

Last report for the decade

In the past 12 months our department has went from having one of the finest Fire/Rescue departments in northern Wisconsin to being completely destroyed and then taking on the nearly impossible task of rebuilding from absolutely nothing. With lots of help from all over the state we were almost immediately able to respond to emergencies again. The insurance company did well in our book with replacement monies as our fleet of vehicles is and will be better and more efficient than what was lost in the fire. We have or are in the process of replacing all the big and small accessories that are also as important as the vehicles we respond in. This has been a very daunting task done mainly by volunteers.....we built an entire fire department from the ashes of our destroyed emergency services building in months. What normally takes a couple decades of decisions...purchases and training we have done it all in months.

All but getting our fire hall back on track.

During our first emergency meetings after the tragedy a very important question surfaced and iv been answering it ever since....WHY DIDN'T WE PROTECT ALL OF THE EQUIPMENT THAT PROTECTS EVERONE.

Years ago we priced a simple fire detection system that was only a little more that a smoke detector. This got shot down as \$12,000 was too much to spend to protect millions of dollars of equipment.

When we started working with the company looking to help us get back into a new hall the first thing to go into this building was fire suppression. It's all over our notes and where this got lost as priority lies solely with the architects.

We should have never been put into a position to have to rebuild our emergency services from the ground up. And we damn sure better learn from this and to never expect a group of volunteers to ever go through this again.

What happened after the tragedy last year was nothing short of a miracle. The outpouring of donations and support backed up by hard work and diligence should never be forgotten or took for granted.

Be safe  
Chief reichkitzer

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