

Madeline Island Ambulance Service Report

March 22, 2020

March has become the most challenging month of the year. It has been quiet for runs. We have had one non-transport and one ice rescue back-up call.

The rest of the time we have been preparing for COVID-19. There are weekly conversations on Zoom with the State EMS director. Our regional medical director has also been giving us updates and the local BAC council gives updates almost daily. At this time, we are stocked with appropriate PPE, gloves, gowns, masks, face shields and safety glasses. This may not last but we have more on back order. Unfortunately, so does the rest of the world.

We are going to dedicate one ambulance for suspected COVID-19 patients. Only one EMT will be in the back of the ambulance and one driver will stay in the driver's compartment separated by a door that remains closed at all times. There is a list of protocols set by the state in how to transport a patient and how to effectively clean and disinfect an ambulance after a run. However, it is very difficult to completely dis-infect an ambulance so we will keep transport down to a minimum. We will be following all state protocols regarding COVID-19.

We are not holding meetings but working with our texting system. Everyone on the service is practicing social distancing. We have a small service right now with several members out for surgical and other reasons. We are hoping to keep transports to an absolute minimum for COVID-19. Most patients can be assessed and self-transport with the advice of their own physician. This will help keep our service safe and healthy for other emergencies that may arise. We are doing everything we can to keep our community safe and healthy.

In a brighter light, Nick French has finished his class for EMT and has passed his practical exam. He is scheduling his written test as soon as possible. Our other EMT student is doing well and practicing a lot. Thom Rossberger took refresher with the team and hopes to help with runs when he is off duty. We have to work out the details yet to make this happen, but I think it is a good opportunity to take advantage of his experience.

With a bit of free time I hope to catch up on some organization of the office and work on the Image Trend software which can be customized more for our service.

Please stay safe, wash your hands, social distance, get some fresh air, eat a good diet, exercise and stay healthy! Respectfully Submitted, Cynthia Dalzell, Madeline Island Ambulance Service

