

(5) TB, Michael, Barb, Micella,  
Rick, Public

## Fire Chief's Report July 2021

7/4 Lift assist with emergency medical technicians

7/6 Fire reported on detached break wall immediately following the Forth of July fireworks show. Chief and Fire Fighter Lucas Montague had just returned to hall after monitoring the fireworks show with engine/pumper #2 as this call went off. We returned to the ferry dock and talked with the pyrotechnicians, who had extinguished the excitement and issued stand down orders as we again returned to the fire hall.

7/8 Residential smoke alarm. La Pointe Fire toned out 1014 Stony Road. Chief responded to residence under construction to see the construction crews had been trying to get us information that it was indeed a false alarm. Chief issued stand down orders to the responders.

7/16 Smoke alarm at the Harmony Lane music camp. This alarm was triggered by students vaping in the common space area. They were questioned of the school's rules regarding this and promised not to have it happen again. They apologized for the midnight inconvenience to the fire department. As always, we happily respond to any call at any time and a false alarm is always better than an active fire.

7/19 I received a phone call from the Roads Foreman Pete Wiggins informing me that Steve and Deb Wakum spotted smoke coming from the town pit on School House Road. I went to investigate and found a fire had rekindled after laying dormant since February. This was determined by town employees who had covered the burn pile in question with plenty of snow and soil. I contacted Ashland County dispatch and had them alert the fire department. The roads foreman commandeered a front-end loader and met us at the scene. We dispatched our engine #2 and tanker #3. We hit the pile with 150 gallons of water before we dug into the mound hiding a very sneaky fire. Our hand-held thermal imaging devices showed the firefighters how far the fire had reached into the pile. After dissecting this fairly large pile and dousing it with 1800 more gallons of water, we deemed it finally safe and no longer an issue. With the lack of rain this year and the condition of the surrounding forest, this could have turned real bad real quick. Hats off to the Wakums, Peter Wiggins and the fire department on pulling the lit fuse out of this powder keg.

7/27 Fire department toned out for vehicle accident on Middle Road. Protocol on any car accident is that fire department will investigate any safety issues following an accident and assist emergency responders if requested. Car had been on its side and then righted by passengers. It was deemed safe, with no fuel leaks, so stand down orders were issued.

Big Water Apparatus has been going through our fleet of equipment per contract. As a today, August 6, all the apparatus is in good shape, with fairly minimal repairs. We were donated approximately 12 100-amp emergency radios to be installed in the new and replaced apparatus. It became VERY apparent after a few of the calls this year that we needed these radios installed immediately. The fire department put Steve Adamski on this task. We now have high-powered radios in every truck and also the UTV emergency rescue apparatus. The call on the north end town pit prompted this in a big way. August 4 we re-enacted the fire at the pit and focused a lot of effort on testing and training with the newly installed radio equipment, with excellent results. The only cost to the town and fire department for this communication necessity was installation.

Last month, we also did some serious water shuttle and portable pump training as we filled the community garden's irrigation pond.

Be safe,  
Chief Reichkitzer

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