

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

## Fire Chief's Report August 2021

Well August came and went very quickly. It was an extremely busy month all around. I'll highlight our calls and important tasks and adventures the best I can.

8/2 Fire department toned out for swimmers in distress at Big Bay Town Park. We responded and as with a previous call this summer, we commandeered two canoes for the lagoon and Lake Superior side of park. We sent firefighters down the boardwalk as well as sending a truck to the state park side. We ran into communication issues once again, as a state park worker had information she could not provide over the parks radios. The information was the swimmers were safe and we could stand down. Our ICS (incident command system) on calls of this nature is lacking some luster. Multijurisdictional communication training with all agencies at the island level is needed to alevate some basic shortcomings in communication. This is no easy task or training. A call like this involves Madaline Island EMS, fire, the parks department, public works, law enforcement and goes up the ladder to Coast Guard if a situation gets more involved. We will be revisiting this communication situation and do what we can to tidy up the communication aspect of calls of this nature at these locations -- our busy parks!!

The very next day

8/3 Fire Department toned out at state park for person who slipped on the rocks he was navigating and hit his head, resulting in the 911 call. We responded immediately with Chiefs Truck 1 with the UTV trailered behind. Communication on this call seemed adequate as we located individuals involved in the accident in short order. Individual was transported to waiting ambulance via UTV.

8/13

Fire Department provided lifting assistance to the ambulance crew. We were toned out as 2 firefighters needed at this call. 4 responded and everyone lent helping hands. The fire department is always more than happy to help in these situations under the direction of our fellow ambulance personnel.

We have been exploring a search and rescue team that uses drones to assist in these calls. An islander with extensive training in this field has given our department two in-depth presentations of the effectiveness in using aerial drones to assist in search and rescue on land, lake, and ice. We are convinced that putting together this program will reduce risk to our searchers and provide a more timely result in search/rescue operations. This program is to receive a generous donation to get the program off the ground (pun intended); we will be having further discussions in the near future and get this into our toolbox so to speak. Drones could definitely have been a part of 4 calls this year alone. The individual who is offering his services is willing to also give the Town Board and TA a presentation of the advantages of this program. There will be a lot of work to do this right, but we feel it is 100% worth it.

We finally are happy and squared away with the procedures and operations at our dry hydrant located at Umbridge and Big Bay Road thanks to the diligence of Evan Erickson, with a little help from Joe Noha tidying up some issues.

The population growth on the island is on our minds as we roll along the road into our future of life/safety on our secluded island that receives little mutual aid.

Be safe  
Chief Reichkitzer

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