

(5)TB, michael, Barb, Micaela,  
Fire, Public

11-4-21

## Fire Department Report

October 15. Alex Nelson (member of EMS) called in: A tree had fallen on powerlines just past the Big Bay Town Park on Big Bay Road. Tree was causing visible arcing and flames. Xcel Energy was contacted and La Pointe Fire responded to the scene. We blocked off part of one lane of the road and waited for the power company to release us. After all was safe, we were informed by the power company that the tree that enhanced our morning was weakened by beaver activity.

The town crew installed the storage container behind the ESB that was proposed quite recently. Very professional job indeed and the coincidence that the paint match happened to be perfect was amazing. We will personally thank those involved for a job well done as this is valuable space needed to keep the new hall as pristine as a new building should be. I cannot stress enough how impressed we are that this happened so quickly.

The department voted 100% to use funds from our 66.06 fund to the tune of \$16,000 for getting our drone aerial search-and-rescue program moving. \$5,000 was earmarked by a generous donation from Hugh Madson and we cannot thank his family enough. The FAA training for Alan Hardie has begun and, with the guidance of seasoned pilot Troy Lutz, we will be ahead of the curve in our area to offer this "safer" aspect to our search/rescue capabilities.

So now getting the whole department into compliance with turnout gear is our next priority. We will put our heads into this now, as we did not receive the grant we were hoping for to purchase the remaining gear we desperately need to fight fires safely.

The last training night, we shuttled water from the Paul Wilharm dry hydrant on Umbrage Road. We have now removed all the bugs from this water source and are very confident with how we use this valuable resource with any fire call towards that side of our island.

We will be leaning towards winter operations from here on out until spring.

Remember to check those batteries in your smoke detectors as we head into the heating-of-your-houses season. It's a fact: early detection will save lives.

Be safe,  
Chief Reichkitzer

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Initial: dg