

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

Fire Department Report  
April 2022

D.N.R refresher went well 3/2, with the Washburn crew sending over 2 of their finest. We covered what the chain of command/events entails if and when we have a "wild fire" on Madaline Island. We discussed many calls in the past that didn't end with the DNR, and a couple that did. We are the first defense and assume incident command until the situations diffuse or the DNR arrives. They can't always come, as they may be at larger scenes, so this is another reason why we need to be vigilant at preventing forest fires.

We have big equipment available for fire lines, but the reality shared by the DNR is we have the best fire line available and that's Lake Superior. We have a memorandum of understanding with the DNR that outlines our mutual aid with their services. Our island gets to be a tinder box and sometimes people don't think or make good decisions when it comes to burning, campfires, fireworks. As friends and neighbors, let's not test our mutual aid with the DNR. If you see something, say something.

The Ice Rescue team had 4 days of great training for our potential wind sled operators. As always, we greatly appreciate Arnie's time and guidance as we now are closer to having qualified, confident drivers for the wind sleds as there used in ice rescue and emergency situations. We have also assisted in two emergency transports, where the ambulance service arrives to the wind sleds with patients to be transferred into the wind sleds then over to a waiting ambulance in Bayfield. This is no easy task but we have gotten proficient in this transfer of care. We have encouraged the ambulance service into a more detailed training of this critical situational response and will gladly spend some time with this important multijurisdictional training.

For about 3 weeks recently, we had the only wind sleds available for our area, as Ashland's "ice Angel" was down for repairs. We had one call where we were toned out to Ashland for possible ice rescue. We were with the sleds and ready to slide down to Ashland when we were given stand-down orders. The following day, 4 of us wind sled operators took the Husky for a scouting mission toward Ashland to familiarize ourselves with the path to Ashland and identify obstacles. We marked possible paths over ice ridges on GPS in case we to get called into the bay for emergencies.

Our department had an intense burning-building search-and-rescue simulation at the Madeline Island recycling center that was graciously set up by firefighter Martin Curry and Joe Abhold from the town. With lots of preparation involving these men and our management and training officers, we sent teams into the smoked-up obstacle course to practice rescue in dire conditions. Rescue Randy, our life-sized dummy, got pulled from the carnage over and over by teams of firefighters in full turnout gear and SCBA. This serious training unfortunately came to a quiet end as we learned of the passing of Ric Gilman. He was a friend to all of us and was always curious of our department and services. I will miss our conversations about everything under the sun and never forget the important roles he played in our community.

Be safe and good to yourself, family and friends.

Chief Reichkitzer

RECEIVED

APR 7 2022

Initial: dg