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**Fire Department Monthly Report  
October 2023**

Continuing education with Engine 1. We drafted water direct from Lake Superior at the town dock ferry approach. We sprayed water from numerous hose lines and the deck-mount deluge "cannon"; we are super impressed with the performance of our new equipment. One outstanding feature is the communications headset radios that allow superior communication from the cab to pump panel to anywhere around the fire ground. We have these in the wind sleds as well but, on our main pumper, it is a truly amazing asset.

Most of the department (as well as the EMTs) took a 12-hour emergency vehicle operations class. This class started at 6:00 on a Friday night and went until 10 in the training room at the ESB. The following Saturday morning, a lot of us started at 7:00 helping the instructor set up 4 fairly hard obstacles courses. Everyone loves the forward and reverse serpentine where you weave in between cones that are placed rather close to each other. I witnessed a couple of our new prospects pretty much ace the courses, as well as the experienced drivers. It was a treat to train along with the EMTs, as we should. (Also saves the town money when we train together)

10/22: Fire department called out at 4 a.m. to assist the EMTs (lift assist). This went well.

10/25: Toned out for a chimney fire past Benjamin Blvd. on North Shore Road. Chief was first on scene for the fire department, with an EMT just ahead of me. I went in and gathered what information I needed from the homeowners. Next, I did a 360° of the house. Very tall, steep roofs are not a firefighter's best friend. I identified the absolute safest route for firefighters to get on the roof and near the chimney. It then seemed like a very long couple of minutes as the department arrived. (First active fire for Engine 1 and a few new prospects). It took 2 ladders to reach the top of the chimney. Ropes were used to get a hose line to the problem. In the end, it used less than 5 gallons of water -- and 7 or 8 fire extinguishers (most had been deployed by the smart homeowners). We debriefed the call last training session and, as always, had a few things we could have done differently with about the same results.

Daylight saving time is a good reminder to change batteries in your smoke detectors/alarms and also every home needs a carbon monoxide detector as well. These save lives.

Be safe, Chief Reichkitzer