

April 11<sup>th</sup> – April 17<sup>th</sup>

During the week of April 11<sup>th</sup> – April 17<sup>th</sup> the Virginia Fire Department responded to a total of 89 calls. Six were fire calls and eighty-three were EMS calls. The EMS calls consisted of twenty-three transfers and sixty 9-1-1 calls. The twenty-three transfers were from two different hospitals, Essentia Health Northern Pines and Essentia Health Virginia. We transported these patients to four different locations; nursing homes, St. Luke's, Essentia Health St. Mary's, and Methodist Hospital in Rochester. The 9-1-1 calls brought us to eight communities; once to Embarrass, Eveleth, and Iron, twice to Biwabik, four times to Britt, five times to Gilbert, seven times to Mt. Iron, and the rest in Virginia. We transported these patients to four different locations; two to Fairview Range Medical Center and an air medical helicopter, three to Essentia Health St. Mary's, four patients did not need to be transported, and the remaining patients went to Essentia Health Virginia. During this week our busiest EMS day was Thursday with 18 medicals and the slowest was Wednesday with only seven medicals, our busiest time of day was between 0900-1200, the slowest was 0300-0600. The number one reason for dispatch again was heart and lung related. The average age of our patients was 62 and we treated more women (44) than men (39). We performed one hundred and twenty procedures during the course of the week and administered forty-nine medicines.

This week it took us an average of 56 seconds to go en-route (time call was received to when the apparatus wheels begin to turn) to an emergency call. Our average call response time was 3 minutes and 18 seconds within the City of Virginia. We were able to arrive on scene in less than 5 minutes on 90% of our emergency calls within the Virginia City limits. Fast response times are very important when it comes to saving lives and property. The American Heart Association's scientific position is that brain death starts to occur in 4–6 minutes after someone experiences cardiac arrest. Cardiac arrest can be reversible if treated within a few minutes with an electric shock and ALS intervention to restore a normal heartbeat. A number of studies have shown that a victim's chances of survival are reduced by 7%–10% with every minute that passes without defibrillation and advanced life support intervention. Few attempts at resuscitation succeed after 10 minutes of a patient in cardiac arrest.

During this week The Virginia Fire Department also participated in the “Health Care Fair” at Hibbing Community College, at this event along with our partners from Hibbing Fire Department, talked with over 300 high School Kids about what we do as emergency service professionals. We also showed these students the process of cutting patients out of vehicles, let them try on our fire gear, showed them most of the medical supplies that we carry, and answered lots of questions that they had for us.

The Fire Marshal was busy this week participating in three public relation events. He is continuing on working with Mt. Iron Fire KNOX box plan. The Marshal is also working on the final phase of the Fire Explorer group with a meeting planned for Tuesday May 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7:00pm at the Virginia Fire Station for young adults and their parents interested in the Fire Explorer Program. If you are between the ages of 14 -21 and are interested in a possible career in the fire department or emergency medical services we invite you to contact Fire Marshal Clark at 218-749-3596. We have had a significant interest in the program, which is open to everyone, regardless of what city or area you live in on the range.