

April 18th – April 24th

During the week of April 18th- April 24th the Virginia Fire Department responded to a total of sixty-eight calls, eight fire calls and sixty EMS calls. The sixty EMS calls can be split further into thirty-nine 9-1-1 calls and twenty-one transfers. First the twenty-one transfers brought us to only two hospitals; Essentia Health Northern Pines and Essentia Health Virginia. We transported these patients to three different hospitals; Essentia Health St. Mary's, St. Luke's, and Miller Dwan. We also brought patients back to their respective nursing homes. The 9-1-1 calls brought us to many different communities this week; once each to Cherry and McDavitt, twice to Britt, Gilbert, and Iron, three times to Eveleth, six times to Mt. Iron, and the rest in Virginia. We transported these patients to four different hospitals; Essentia Health Virginia, Essentia Health St. Mary's, Fairview Range Medical Center, and St. Luke's. Four patients did not need transport to the hospital. During this week our busiest day was Monday with fifteen EMS calls while the slowest was Wednesday with only five EMS calls. The number one reason for dispatch was again cardiac in nature. We performed sixty-seven different procedures and administered forty-five different medicines, and we had more male patients than female patients, thirty-four to twenty-six. During this last week and the week prior we had two cardiac arrest saves. We want to recognize Virginia Paramedic/Firefighter Dustin Erickson who was actively involved in both of these successful calls. The early, good quality CPR done by First Responders and Law Enforcement made the difference between these two patients living or dying. The people in your communities who volunteer as Emergency Medical Responders, Emergency Medical Technicians and serve as law enforcement officers that spend countless hours training in order to maintain their medical certifications, deserve our appreciation. If you know someone that volunteers either as an EMR or EMT please tell them Thank You.

On Saturday evening, the 23rd, we received a direct call from an employee at Super One Foods in Virginia for a report of the smell of gas which resulted when an employee operating a fork lift hit a gas line in the rear of the building in the store room. The entire store was evacuated and the gas line shut off by Virginia firefighters. Virginia Public Utilities, Virginia Police and Mountain Iron Fire assisted us with scene control and perimeter security. 17th street was shut down and vehicle access to the area was denied for a time. The store was ventilated and the explosive levels were continuously checked with a gas monitor. This procedure took us approximately 1.5 hours as this was a large building. We are pleased no one was injured during this event and want to thank the staff at Super One and the public for their cooperation during this time.

This week the Fire Marshal attended a Hazardous Material Technician refresher class, performed two fire inspections, and did a significant amount of pre-planning and coordination for the Hairball concert held at the Miners Memorial on Saturday. The Virginia Police, Parks & Recreation staff and the Hairball event organizer worked with the Fire Department under a unified command system to address fire, life and public safety issues Saturday night. To the numerous volunteers who made the event successful, Thank you.