

August 22nd – August 28th

During the week of August 22nd – August 28th the Virginia Fire Department was called for service eighty-four times; forty-nine 9-1-1 EMS calls, twenty-nine transfers, and six fire calls. First the 9-1-1 EMS calls brought us to six different communities; once to Biwabik and Britt, twice to Gilbert and Mt. Iron, three times to Eveleth, and the rest in Virginia. We transported these patients to Fairview Range Medical Center, St. Luke's, Essentia Health St. Mary's and Virginia seven of our patients didn't need to be transported. The twenty-nine medical transfers were from either Essentia Health Northern Pines or Virginia. We transported these patients to air medical, Miller Dwan, St. Luke's, Essentia Health St. Mary's, or Fairview Range Medical Center. During this week our busiest day was Thursday when we did to 20 Medical calls it was also the day were we responded to a structure fire in Eveleth. Again like it seems every week our number one reason for dispatch is chest pain and again like most weeks we treated more women (44) than men (34) with the average age being 64. During this week we performed one hundred eight procedures and administered sixty-seven medicines. The six fire calls this week were a lift assist, motor vehicle accident assist, a carbon monoxide detector that read positive for CO, and a mutual aid fire to Eveleth.

The Fire Marshal's office was busy with preplans and training with other area fire marshals, as well as visiting the Mesabi College students on campus and dorm safety. Virginia Fire Explorers also finished up their CPR training and were also introduced and recognized by Virginia Mayor Cuffe and the City council for participating in the program and helping to provide public safety during recent community events.

During this this unofficial last weekend of summer we would like to remind everyone that safety should always be on the mind. According to the National Safety Council, nearly 400 deaths result from motor vehicle collisions over Labor Day Weekend. A notorious road-trip weekend, it's one of the busiest on the road. If you're planning a weekend excursion make sure you're well rested, plan for frequent rest stops, and divide driving duties if possible. You should also have your car checked by a registered mechanic to avoid a break down on the road. Don't forget to pack a vehicle emergency kit that contains items like a flashlight, jumper cables, a tool kit, tire gauge and flares. While looking up different things about this Labor Day weekend I found that Minnesota in 2014, of the Drivers killed in Motor Vehicle Crashes 82% of them had Alcohol in their system. We weren't the highest state we defiantly weren't the lowest. This is according to the Insurance Institute for Highway safety. So please make a plan to arrive home safely. Also be safe on the lake, you should never boat alone and always wear your life jacket. Let people know where you will be and when you plan on returning. So please enjoy your "last" weekend of summer responsible. We don't want to be the ones giving you a ride.