

August 29th – September 4th

During the week of August 29th – September 4th the Virginia Fire Department was called for service seventy-seven times. During this week we went on thirty transfers, thirty-seven 9-1-1 EMS calls, and ten fire calls. The thirty transfers brought us to four hospitals; Essentia Health Northern Pines, Cook Hospital, Fairview Range Medical Center, and Essentia Health Virginia. These patients were transported to Miller Dwan, St. Luke's, Fairview Range Medical Center, and Essentia Health St. Mary's. The thirty-seven 9-1-1 call brought us to five neighboring communities, one to Biwabik, Makinen, Mt. Iron, twice to Gilbert three times to Tower and the rest in Virginia. These patients were transported to either Essentia Health Virginia, St. Mary's, Fairview Range Medical Center, Air Medical, and three patients were not transported. During this week, Monday was the busiest day with thirteen medical calls. We performed ninety-two different procedures and administered sixty medicines. The average age of our patients was 67 years old and we treated more women (34) than men (33). The number one reason for dispatch this week was breathing problems. Of the 10 fire calls that we responded to, two were mutual aid fires, one in Hibbing and the other in Mt. Iron. We were canceled en-route four times. We responded to separate calls involving a gas leak, a water leak, a lock-in, and a motor vehicle collision. The Fire Marshal's Office was busy with planning upcoming fire prevention activities, following up on complaints, and Knox box installations.

We would like to say thanks again, to all the neighboring First Responder, EMT's and Firefighters who we work with on a daily basis.

School has started which means hunting is the next thing to start, and actually it already has. Here are a few safety tips for the hunter and the hiker from the US Forest service.

Safety Tips for Hunters

- Check weather reports before visiting the forest.
- Tell someone where you will be hunting and when you will return.
- Be familiar with the area you want to hunt.
- Dress properly and be prepared for the worst possible conditions.
- During certain seasons, hunters must wear hunter orange viewable from all directions.
- If accompanied by a dog, the dog should also wear hunter orange or a very visible color on a vest, leash, coat or bandana.
- Check hunting equipment before and after each outing, and maintain it properly. Familiarize yourself with its operation before using it in the field.
- Carry a spare set of dry clothing, use layering techniques to prevent moisture while retaining body warmth. Always bring rain gear.
- Carry a first aid kit.
- Clearly identify your target before shooting. Prevent unfortunate accidents or fatalities.
- Put hunting plans in writing (dates, times, location and expected time of return). The Coast Guard Recommends putting boating plans in writing; leaving one at home and one on your vehicle.
- Be alert when hunting near developed areas and trails. Other recreationists are in the forest as well.

Safety Tips for Non-hunters visiting the National Forests

- Wear bright clothing. Make yourself more visible. Choose colors that stand out, like red, orange or green, and avoid white, blacks, browns, earth-toned greens and animal-colored clothing. Orange vests and hats are advisable.
- Get an orange vest for your dog if he/she accompanies you.
- Make noise. Whistle, sing or carry on a conversation as you walk to alert hunters to your presence.

- Be courteous. Once a hunter is aware of your presence, don't make unnecessary noise to disturb wildlife. Avoid confrontations.
- Make yourself known. If you do hear shooting, raise your voice and let hunters know that you are in the vicinity.
- Know when hunting seasons are. Continue to hike, but learn about where and when hunting is taking place.
- Know your own comfort level. If hunting makes you uneasy, choose a hike in a location where hunting is not allowed, such as a national park or a state park.