

February 22nd – February 28th

During the week of February 22 – February 28th the Virginia Fire Department responded to a total of eighty-eight calls eleven fire calls and seventy-seven medical calls. The seventy-seven medical calls are broken down into thirty transfers and forty-seven 9-1-1 calls. The thirty transfers were from only two hospitals, Essentia Health Northern Pines three times and Essentia Health Virginia twenty-seven times. We delivered patients to St. Luke's in Duluth 3 times and St. Mary's in Duluth twenty-five times. We also brought two patients back to nursing homes. The forty-seven 9-1-1 calls happened in six communities; once to Embarrass and Eveleth, twice to Tower, three times to Gilbert, eight times in Mt. Iron, and the rest thirty-two in Virginia bringing them to only Essentia Health Virginia. Our busiest day during this week for medical calls was Wednesday when we did sixteen calls and our slowest day for medicals was Saturday when we did nine medical calls. Our number one reason for dispatch was breathing problems. We treated more women (forty-one) than men (thirty-six) the average age was sixty-four. We preformed fifty-four procedures and administered fifty-three different medicines. We would like to thank the First Responders (EMR's) and Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT's) that take the time out of the already busy lives to assist their neighbors and us. Our job would be a lot harder without their assistance.

We had a successful first open training session for area medical responders Monday night, the 29th of February. This training session at the VFD for area EMR's, EMT's, and Paramedics was open to all area medical personnel. We had twenty-four people from fourteen different departments come and train with us. Therese Elverum, the Trauma Coordinator at Essential Health in Virginia, presented a trauma case review which highlighted the importance of the early recognition of a traumatic brain injury, activating the appropriate resources and transporting the patient to the appropriate level of care.

In this particular case EMT's from the Eveleth Ambulance recognized the seriousness of a patient's injury and called for Virginia ALS Paramedics who responded to assist in patient care. In addition, a Trauma Alert was called into Essentia Virginia which allowed them time to activate their team and await the patient's arrival. Within a very short time of the patient's arrival at the Emergency Department a number of tests were conducted and it was determined that the patient needed an advanced level of care which was unavailable at Essentia. The same Virginia Ambulance crew responded once again to care for this patient and transported them to Duluth where they began a slow recovery. The importance of all agencies working together to provide the best possible outcome for our patients was the take away message from this presentation.

Small group breakout sessions occurred after the presentation, during which responders reviewed tourniquet application, splinting procedures and specialized care for a serious thoracic injury known as a "sucking chest wound".

We want to thank the EMR's and EMT's from Orr, Gilbert, Biwabik, Aurora, McDavitt, Hibbing, Evergreen, Fayal, Tower, Greenwood, Pike-Sandy-Britt, Vermilion Lake, Cook and Virginia for their dedication to training and increasing their knowledge, skills and abilities in order to better serve the community by attending this training. Our next EMS training night will be the 28th of March at 7:00 p.m. and is tentatively scheduled for the Virginia Fire Department. We have received so much interest, that depending on the number of interested personnel, we may have to move to a larger venue. Please call the Virginia Fire Department at 218-748-7520 if you are interested in participating in the next training session.