

July 4th – July 10th

During the week of July 4th – July 10th the Virginia Fire Department responded to a total of seventy-seven calls; seven fire calls, twenty-five transfers, and forty-five 9-1-1 EMS calls. The twenty-five transfers brought us to three different hospitals; Essentia Health Northern Pines, Essentia Health Virginia, and Cook Hospital to transfer patients to two different Hospitals; Essentia Health St. Mary's, St. Luke's and also back to nursing homes. The forty-five 9-1-1 EMS calls brought us into many different communities. Once to Aurora, Buyck, Eveleth, and Iron, twice to Gilbert, three times to Britt/Pike/Sandy, seven times to Mountain Iron while the rest where in Virginia. We transported these patients to only two different Hospitals Essentia Health Virginia and St. Mary's in Duluth. During this week the number one reason for 9-1-1 dispatch was falls, while cardiac was a close second. We performed one hundred seven procedures. Procedures are anything from starting an IV to placing the patient on a Cardiac Monitor. We administered medication fifty-five times. During this week we had a tie between male and female patients, treating 35 of each, with the average age being 65. Thirty-seven of our 9-1-1 calls were 0-5 miles from the Fire Hall, four were 11-15 miles, one was 16-20 miles, and one was over 20 miles away from the Fire Hall. During this week we had seven fire category calls; one was a lift assist, one was a possible extrication, one was a steam leak, two were false alarms and the remaining two were fire calls. One fire call was likely caused by fireworks, which is being investigated by the Fire Marshall the other was a result of careless cooking. Both fires were contained prior to our arrival and only ventilation and searching for possible extension of the fire was required. The Fire Explorer group assisted with public safety during the fireworks event on the Fourth. The Fire Marshall's Office is also continuing to look into a Life Safety complaint.

We at the Virginia Fire Department would again like to thank all of those the selflessly take time out of their busy summer, and away from their families to assist us on all of our calls. The time and dedication is truly an amazing.

While enjoying the great outdoors, we would like to remind everyone of the threat of ticks. Ticks can possible carry several diseases, including Lyme disease. Ticks need to be attached for at least 24 hours before they can transmit Lyme disease. However, just to be safe you should check your health closely for one month after a tick bite and call your doctor if you have any of the early signs of Lyme disease. Wearing light-colored clothing can help you see ticks more easily. Wear closed shoes or boots, long-sleeve shirts and pants, and tuck pant legs into socks or shoes for extra protection. Pull long hair back or wear a hat. When hiking, stay on trails and avoid bushy areas with tall grass and leaf litter. Inspect your kids everywhere each day for ticks — especially in and behind ears, in the groin area, behind the knees and under the arms. Also remember to inspect pets, clothing, and camping gear, including backpacks and sleeping bags. Use an insect repellent with 20% to 30% DEET. Always follow the directions for application carefully.