

March 28th – April 3rd

During the week of March 28th – April 3rd the Virginia Fire Department did a total of sixty-one calls. During this week only one of those calls was strictly fire related. Sixty EMS calls were handled, with eighteen of them being transfers to another facility and forty-two of them were 9-1-1 calls. The eighteen transfers brought us to three different hospitals including: Fairview Range Medical Center, Essentia Health Northern Pines, and Virginia. We transported these patients to two different hospitals, Essentia Health St. Mary's and to Mille Lacs Hospital in Onamia, as well as back to nursing homes. The forty-two 9-1-1 calls brought us to eight communities; once to Embarrass, Gilbert, and Makinen, twice to Melrude and Mt. Iron, three times to Iron, five times to Britt, and the rest, twenty-seven, within Virginia. We transported these patients to three different hospitals, Essentia Health St. Mary's, Essentia Health Virginia, Fairview Range Medical Center. Seven patients did not need to be transported to a hospital. During this week our busiest day was Sunday with fifteen patients and Tuesday was our slowest day with only four patients. On Sunday we responded to two separate fatal motor vehicle crashes. We performed 51 different procedures, and administered 31 medicines. Our average patient age was 64 and this week there was a tie between women and men treated at 30. During this week the Fire Marshall was busy doing three inspections, two event planning reviews, and on fire investigation as well as continuing to work on the Explorer group preparation and recruitment. We at Virginia Fire want to thank those 10 different represented departments that attended the monthly EMS training on cardiac care and monitoring devices such as the 12 Lead EKG. We would also like to remind any and all EMT's EMR's in the area that they are welcome to attend our next training night on April 25th at 7 p.m. at the Virginia Fire Department. Thank you once again to all the neighboring responders that help us do our job on a daily basis; you are truly an asset to your communities.

As the weather warms up and people start to enjoy the cool nights with a "backyard fire", we would like to remind everyone one what the City of Virginia has to say about recreational fires. The city has adopted **Sec. 10.31. Minnesota Uniform Fire Code.**

Subdivision 3 states: Recreations Fires will be allowed without a permit, but subject to limitations which will be strictly enforced. The following rules will apply:

- A. Burning will be allowed from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. any day of the week, with a maximum of six hours for any time on any given day of the week.
- B. All fires must be in a fire ring (no more the 3 feet in diameter and a flame height of 3 feet high will be allowed) or border designed from natural rock, cement, brick, tile or block ferrous metal only, and a outdoor wood burning style fireplace of which the area is depressed below ground, on the ground, or on a raised bed.
- C. Only cleaned dry firewood may be burned, with a minimum of 1 inch diameter. No brush, yard, building, household waste or treated wood may be burned.
- D. The fire is constantly attended by an adult person knowledgeable in the use of fire extinguishing equipment and an adult attendant supervises the fire until the fire has been completely

extinguished. Any means of controlling the fire must be available at all times (buckets, Shovels, and garden hoses, for example).

- E. The fire must be located on your own property. If the fire is in an easement area you must have approval from all involved parties.
- F. Fires are not allowed if winds are in excess of 15 miles per hour. Current weather conditions may be checked on the National Weather Service website. Enter your zip code into search box for current conditions.
- G. Recreational fires shall not be constructed within 25 feet of any structure.
- H. Any Police or Fire Officer may withdraw permission for the fires, due to climatic conditions, extreme dryness, nuisance problems, including offensive odor or smoke in the neighborhood, or violations of the guidelines.
- I. A person violating any recreational fire provisions of City Code Section 10.31 is subject to an administrative fine of \$25.00. A second violation within twelve months of a previous violation is subject to an administrative citation with a penalty of two times the previously imposed penalty. All costs incurred as a result of the burn including, but not limited to, fire suppression, administrative fees, property damage and personal injuries will be the responsibility of the adult in charge or the homeowner.