

May 2<sup>nd</sup> – May 8<sup>th</sup>

During the week of May 2<sup>nd</sup> – May 8<sup>th</sup> the Virginia Fire Department responded to a total of seventy-nine calls, eleven fire calls and sixty-eight EMS calls. The EMS calls split between twelve transfer and fifty-six 9-1-1 calls. First the twelve transfers brought us to Cook Hospital and Essentia Health Virginia. We transported these patients to nursing homes, Essentia Health St. Mary's, and Rochester. The fifty-six 9-1-1 calls brought us to seven communities; twice to Gilbert, three times to the Britt and Eveleth, four times to Iron and Tower, five times to Mt. Iron, and the rest in Virginia. We brought these patients to three different hospitals; Fairview Range Medical Center, Essentia Health Virginia, and St. Mary's five of our patients didn't need to be transported. Monday was our busiest day with a three way tie for the slowest with eight. Our number one reason for reason for dispatch was chest pain, we performed eighty-three different procedures and administered sixty different medications. Our average age of patient was 61 and we treated more women (38) than men (30). During this week our average response for 9-1-1 calls was 1:04 seconds to go enroute, to arrive scene was 5:37, time at the scene 18:40, to destination 11:26, and back in service 25:14 for a grand total of one hour and four minutes per call. The transfers time average; 1:00 to go enroute, to arrive scene was 5:50, time at the scene 12:00, to destination one hour fourteen minutes, and back in service one hour forty-seven minutes for a grand total of three hours and twenty-one minutes. We again would like to thank all of the First Responders and other EMS providers that help us on a day to day basis. We could do it without you but it would much, much harder, so thank you again

During this week the Fire Marshal's office did five inspections, hosted a fire investigation class for law enforcement, and enrolled eight area youth for the Fire Explorer post. Five youths from Virginia, one from Eveleth, and two from Mesabi East enrolled. Enrollment continues with the first meeting being held on May 22<sup>nd</sup> at 1:00pm in the Virginia Fire Hall. Youth 14 –21 years old and interested in Fire or EMS services should contact the Fire Marshal, Chris Clark at 218-749-3596, for more information.

As fishing opener is upon us the Virginia Fire Department would like everyone to enjoy this "Holiday" with a little caution and to remember to use boating safety.

**Leave alcohol onshore** - Never use drugs or alcohol before or during boat operation. Alcohol's effects are greatly exaggerated by exposure to sun, glare, wind, noise, and vibration.

**Use and maintain the right safety equipment** - Have a U.S. Coast Guard-approved life jacket for each person onboard and one approved throwable device for any boat 16 feet and longer. The DNR recommends that everyone wear their lifejackets while on the water. Have a fire extinguisher. Have operable boat lights - Always test boat lights before the boat leaves the dock and carry extra batteries  
Emergency supplies - Keep on board in a floating pouch: cell phone, maps, flares, and 1st aid kit.

**Be weather wise** - Regardless of the season, keep a close eye on the weather and bring a radio. Sudden wind shifts, lightning flashes and choppy water all can mean a storm is brewing. If bad weather is approaching, get off the water early to avoid a long waiting line in inclement weather.

**Take special cold water precautions in spring** - Cold water temperatures reduce your margin for error on the water: if you fall in or your boat capsizes, you may have as little as two minutes before losing your ability to move your muscles and get back in the boat or seek help.

For more information on specific boating and water recreation regulations please visit the Minnesota DNR website.