

May 9th – May 15th

During the week of May 9th – May 15th the Virginia Fire Department responded to a total of one hundred four calls, sixteen Fire calls and eighty-eight Medical calls. The Medical calls broke into 2 parts; transfers twenty-six and 9-1-1 calls sixty-two. First the Transfers, we went to two different Hospitals to get Patients Cook and Essentia Health Virginia. These Patients were brought to a few different locations; Children's Hospital in Minneapolis, Rochester Methodist Hospital, Miller Dwan, Essentia Health St. Mary's Duluth, and Nursing Homes. The 9-1-1 calls brought us to many different communities; Biwabik and Makinen once, Eveleth and Iron twice, Britt four times, Mt. Iron eight times, and the rest in Virginia. We transported these Patients to Essentia Health Virginia, St. Luke's, Essentia Health St. Mary's, and five Patients who didn't need transport. Our number one reason for dispatch was again cardiac in nature. We performed sixty-eight procedures and administered sixty medicines. This week we treated more men (48) than women (40) and the average age was 60. Our busiest Medical day was Saturday with fifteen calls and our slowest was Thursday with ten calls.

The Fire Marshall was busy with one inspection, one public relations event, and continued work on the Fire Explorer Program recruitment. On behalf of the Fire Explorers we would like to send a great big Thank You to the City Biwabik Fire Department for their donation of used Firefighter gear which will be used for the Explorer Program.

This week is National EMS (Emergency Medical Service) week and the Virginia Fire Department would like to say thank you to all those who serve not only their communities, but the surrounding ones as well. These people give up countless hours not only helping their neighbors, but by attending training and other activities to improve their skills, which in turn make them better Emergency Responders. Your desire to help and learn is admirable and we can't thank you enough! Starting that critical Patient Care when you arrive on scene before us and having a situation under control can be and many time is Life Saving. So please take a moment to say thank you to anyone you know that is or has worked in the Emergency Medical Service field.

In light of National EMS week it seems fitting to publish again this paper which was written by Fire Marshall Clark's 19 year old daughter Karmen and its simply titled "Everyday Heroes"

To the "Everyday Heroes," by Karmen Clark.

We see you. Every single day. You are the sound of the pager tone at that restaurant telling us you are needed- we hear you. You are the lights simultaneously flashing letting your presence be known- we see you. You are the sirens screaming down the highway warning others to get out of the way- we pray for you. You are the calm voice in a moment of panic- the gentle touch of reassurance- we feel you. In a moment of terror and chaos, you are the calm and composed figure of hope- we trust in you. You are the breath of life in the revival of loss- we believe in you. In a moment of loss, you are the heaviness of the heart- we cry for you.

You are tired. You are hurting. You are haunted. The long days, hours, and minutes of each shift have worn you down. The losses and question of "What more could I have done?" linger in the back of your mind. You see the worst of the worst, and those moments stay with you forever; they replay over and over in your head when you close your eyes and are a constant reminder of how cruel and unfair the world is. The images of those horror stories are etched into your mind down to the very last detail- you cannot unsee the tragedy of Hell.

This job surely isn't easy- only the few and the brave can do it. It is the most rewarding job of all; there is no greater feeling of accomplishment than that of saving someone's life. You don't do it for the money. You don't do it for the glory. You do it for the rush you get when you get a call. You do it for the people. You do what you have to do when you have to do it, as long as it means you are helping someone. You do it every day, hoping and praying that you made a difference in someone's life- that's all that matters.

Although you don't get the recognition as often as you deserve, you are more valuable than you think. You are just as important as police and firemen. You risk your lives every day to save the lives of others. You are more than just an "Ambulance Driver," a "Paramedic," an "EMT," or a "First Responder"- you see, you are more than an "everyday" hero; You are the angels sent to help heal the wounded and tend to the sick. You are the difference between life and death. You are the reason that woman is able to see her son graduate high school. You saved that man's life- he can walk his daughter down the aisle at her wedding next summer. You safely delivered that baby on the side of a road, and he's now a happy, healthy two-year-old. You see the young man working at the local coffee shop? You brought him back to life when he OD'd- he believed in you when he gave up on himself; you made him feel his purpose, and he's changing his life because of you. You are the "Star of Life"; at the end of every day, you shine through in someone, somewhere, bigger and brighter than ever.

Thank you for what you do. Thank you for the service you provide. Thank you for being compassionate and believing in others in their moments of weakness. Thank you for giving us hope in our moments of doubt, and having faith to fall back on. Most of all, thank you for seeing us when we are vulnerable and afraid.

We see you, too.