



The HHFD Response Times

The official newsletter of the Howlett Hill Fire Department

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February 17, 2003



From the Chief's Office

Chief James Harris

Congratulations to the Fire Department overall for outstanding performance at numerous fires!

The Kasson Road apartment fire was total chaos due to the fact that the Chiefs and Line Officers could not get any radio time to communicate. This communication problem seems to be happening on a more frequent basis due to the amount of alarms that Fire Control is dispatching and the amount of apparatus responding to the alarm. Everyone that participated at Kasson Road did a good job. This fire was an arson fire and is presently being investigated by the County C&O team.

The Fairview Road fire went like clockwork. It is everything that you all trained hard for come to pass. It was a real hot fire that less than 100 gallons of water put it down. Your training paid off!

The Harris Road fire went well with a couple of exceptions. You must respond to the incident with the most direct route. Taunton Command was expecting us to respond Howlett Hill Road to Harris Road and waiting for the Engine officer to call for assignment. Taunton command was going to have Howlett Hill catch the plug at the curve and lay in. The crew was going to stretch the back up line to the basement and the 1st line to the second floor, but everybody that answered the alarm knows what happened. This is a lesson to be learned.

We must make sure we read the 911 print-out so that we may respond with the appropriate equipment. If the box

calls for one Engine then only one Engine will respond. If you have additional personnel at the station (enough to man another Engine or the Heavy Rescue) get on the radio to the Fire Dispatcher and have them notify Command that we have additional personnel ready to respond. (9 out of 10 times they will have you bring the additional Engine or Heavy Rescue to the scene).

The Chief's Incentive Program will now be awarded on a quarterly basis. The two top personnel that answer the most alarms for the quarter will receive the incentive along with the two top personnel that receive the most training. Again, this year, training outside the station, (ex: state schools, EMT courses, etc.) will not count toward the incentive.

Anyone interested in daytime drills see me. We may be able to get something going within Howlett Hill and/or maybe participating with our neighbors.

Budget items

The fire department (Chief) is trying to purchase only items that are of a necessity. We will be purchasing hose, turnout gear, etc. as we need it. Any left over funds from the budget line items will be placed into the building fund in hopes of finishing the building.

However, we still need to do a couple of Saturdays to move items from storage into the new building and cleaning out the old Chief's office.

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"The HHFD Response Times"

An informal newsletter for the Howlett Hill Fire Department members and their families and for the residents of the community we serve. The Times are published on a monthly basis. Copies are available at the Howlett Hill Fire Station, or via email by request to: fvalls@hhfd.org

Frank Valls, Editor

From the Chief's Office (continued from Page 1)

At the time you receive this newsletter there have been some changes to the Heavy Rescue and the Squad. Rescue 1 will have its radio identifier changed from Rescue 1 to Rescue 5. This will help us better track accountability for the personnel riding apparatus. At the March meeting we will go into details. Squad 4 is a piece of fire apparatus. If Rescue 2 is on an alarm and medical personnel responding to the station have missed Rescue 2, feel free to get into the Squad and respond to the alarm. The 911 center has been asked to add the Squad to every box and change the Rescue 1 identifier to Rescue 5. The purpose of the Squad is to be a troop hauler. Obviously we will plow snow with it, take it to schools, traffic control, brush fires and haul equipment from fire scenes to the station. This is a multi-purpose vehicle and will be used like one.

Driver's list

The driver's list has been dug out from the old station and has been reviewed and redated and posted. You will see an asterisk next to some names identifying them as drivers in training. (probationary) Some people have complained that they were removed from driving some of the apparatus, the fact is if you were a driver before you are still a driver now with the exception of Engine 1. The people who were able to drive the old engine and did not participate in the new engine's orientation are not considered drivers. Fred Alfreds has assured me once the weather breaks he will actively pursue training new drivers to get them on the list. Please remember you must have completed an EVOC course. One was completed in Warners last month and 4 people participated from Howlett Hill. The next one is in Taunton in April and anyone complaining about the driver's list that has not completed EVOC should enroll in Taunton's program. See me or Fred so that you can be enrolled in this course.

At the close of this newsletter I would like to thank Bob and Chuck for taking the time away from their families and business to complete the EMT course. As everyone knows **they have graduated and are now State certified.** Welcome to the "Band Aid head" ranks. (ha ha) **Congratulations!**

We welcome aboard Fred Isgar, Kristel Kuppel and Casey Mack. Kristel and Fred come from Fairmount FD and Casey is a past HHFD member and currently is a career Firefighter at Engine Co. 7 in the City of Syracuse.

We are all striving for the same goal and slowly we are achieving it. Take note, we are being noticed.

James Harris, Chief

What's new at HHFD ?



Meet the new HHFD Engine 1, put into service in late December. Engine 1 came to HHFD after being purchased from Chittenango FD where it was on a rotational replacement status. E1 has a center mounted pump operator station and an enclosed crew area. The color is not quite HHFD yellow spec, but close.

Check out picture of the new Squad 4 on the next page.

A Note of Thanks is given to the HHFD Auxiliary for their efforts in preparing quite a spread after the garage fire alarm was completed on Fairview Road. The sandwiches and snacks really hit the spot with the members. Thanks again!

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Published by the membership of the Howlett Hill Fire Dept.

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From the Captains:

**Mike Gosson
Paul Doner**

Training is a key element in running a successful Fire Department. Certain training is mandated by governing bodies and other training provides skills to enable us to perform our jobs **effectively, efficiently and safely.**

The schedule outlined below includes annual OSHA Training attending this training is MANDATORY for all members.

We're offering SCBA training and Driver Qualification training. We all need to be held to a standard on both of these courses, and we need to have a record of completion for each course.

Howlett Hill Fire Department Training Schedule Feb. - Mar. 2003

Date	Course	Location	Time	Comments
Monday, Feb. 10, 2003	OSHA HAZMAT	Marcellus High School	19:00	MANDATORY: This is Howlett Hill's Section to attend
Monday, Feb. 17, 2003	ANNUAL PHYSICALS	HHFD	17:30	Arrive early, then leave for OSHA Training
Monday, Feb. 17, 2003	OSHA SAFETY	Marcellus High School	19:00	MANDATORY: This is Howlett Hill's Section to attend
Sunday, Feb. 23, 2003	SCBA Overview	HHFD	09:30	VOLUNTARY, Intro and Overview
Monday, Feb. 24, 2003	OSHA SAFETY	Marcellus High School	19:00	MANDATORY: This is Howlett Hill's Section to attend
Monday, Mar. 3, 2003	HHFD Business Meeting	HHFD	19:00	NOTE the DATE CHANGE !!!!
Monday, Mar. 10, 2003	OSHA SAFETY	Marcellus High School	19:00	MANDATORY: This is Howlett Hill's Section to attend
Monday, Mar. 17, 2003	SCBA Intro.	HHFD	19:00	
Saturday, March 22, 2003	SCBA	HHFD or Tower	09:00	
Monday, Mar. 24, 2003	DRIVER QUALIFICATION	HHFD	19:00	
Saturday, Mar. 29, 2003	SCBA	HHFD or Tower	09:00	
Monday, Mar. 31, 2003	SCBA MAKE-UP and DRIVER QUALIF. (Make-up)	TBD	19:00	

Parting shots

New Squad Arrives! HHFD "Squad 4" a Ford F350 SuperCab is in service. Carrying a crew of four, it is used for snowplowing the station parking lot in winter, and available year-round for shuttling replacement crews and/or air bottles or hose to/from the fire ground or where needed. Squad 4 is shown in quarters in the HHFD station. A protective rubber cushion safeguards the station floor from the weight of the snowplow.

