

Ambulance Report (August and September)

August continued to be a very busy month for the Ambulance Service as we responded to 16 calls. Our service members remained dedicated and diligent in maintaining 24/7 coverage for our community, despite all being very busy with their own businesses, children and lives. I'm very proud of them for the work they have done this summer. And thankful to have them as my peers.

There were several times this summer that our service almost did not have enough people to respond to calls. More than one call at a time puts us in a very precarious situation. In anticipation of another busy summer next year, I have begun some heavy recruiting. I worked with the EMS coordinator from Northwood Tech to organize an EMR course that will take place online and on the island over the next 2 ½ months. Students will have online lectures on Tuesday evenings as well as 2 weekends packed with hands on training- all to meet the minimum requirements for EMR training. There are currently 11 students signed up for this class! As an added bonus, class fees were paid for through an anonymous donor facilitated by Tamarack Health! (EMRs are First Responders with less training than EMTs. Our Ambulance can legally transport a patient with one EMT and one EMR. We need at least one EMT at all times.)

We will also have a few new EMTs joining our service- all of which have higher level of healthcare educations and licenses. Nurses and physicians, retired or practicing, can take a streamlined course to obtain a WI EMT license. We will gain 3 new EMTs through this process before the end of the year. Officer Williams has also completed his EMT course and is in the process of getting his license. And another young student is taking the EMT course at Northwood Tech over the winter!

September slowed down in call volume, but we began our monthly training meetings. For our Training Meeting in September, we took rigs out to the State Park and discussed how we would access a patient on Big Bay Beach. We also practiced patient care and driving the ambulances. In October, we will train with the Fire Department and Northwood Tech in a Tree Stand Rescue. In November and December, we will train with our upcoming EMRs and Northwood Tech instructor on some of our larger pieces of equipment including our LUCAS device. (The LUCAS provides continuous compressions on patients needing CPR). The Town Board members will be invited to parts of this training to observe some of the work our new and veteran Ambulance Service Members are participating in.

We are all looking forward to fewer calls over the winter months with time to train and transition into a new service (with rookie and veteran members) ready for next year's season.

Respectfully submitted by Sarah Schram