

January 2025 Ambulance Report

The Ambulance Service responded to 8 calls this month. That is uncharacteristically high for this time of year on the island. With the utmost care, the service used these calls as opportunities to begin integrating our new crew members into the fold. New members have already started to gain valuable experience in patient care. All new EMRs (except one) are licensed and credentialed with Madeline Island. Our 2025 roster includes 24 members- a number I've never seen in my 14 years on the service.

These increased numbers will give new and veteran crew members the breathing room they need to take breaks and to keep from burning out. We will continue to focus on the mental health of our crew in hopes of retaining their services for the long run. In recent Bayfield and Ashland County EMS council meetings, much time was devoted to discussing the importance of maintaining 24/7 coverage within our jurisdictions. This robust service size is going to help us do just that. Also, a reminder that the radios for these new members were purchased with money raised from the Polka Fundraiser last summer. Thank you again to our community for such a successful fundraiser that is directly benefiting the communication needs of both the Fire and Ambulance services.

On January 22nd, we participated in joint training with the Madeline Island Fire Department. The training focused on patient extrications from wrecked vehicles. The FD were able to practice with their vehicle cutting tools and assist the Ambulance Service in safely extricating patients that were otherwise trapped. It was a great exercise in teamwork and communication between the departments. (Thank you to Evan Jr. for opening the MRF for this training exercise).

Transport to the mainland is currently via ferry during daytime hours and via windsled during nighttime hours. All crew (MIFL, Windsled Inc., and both Madeline Island and Bayfield EMS) are in communications and ready to transport a patient to Bayfield should we need to.

At the ESB, I have continued to work on an inventory and supply checklist method- carefully going through all supplies in the supply closet and both rigs. We will soon be implementing scheduling software that will be accessible to all members on their personal phones. Training in February will include learning all things radios and reporting. I'm looking forward to great possibilities with a phenomenal crew!

Report respectfully submitted by Sarah Schram