

## FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT

FEB. 10, 2025

### Training:

In January we had a joint training exercise with La Pointe Fire and the EMS. We ran through scenarios of vehicle extraction where an accident has occurred, and occupants are trapped inside. The Fire Department has a Genesis extraction tool known as the "jaws of life". These tools are battery operated and very effective. The last time we used this tool it was to save a young man's life after an accident near Town Park. Without the tool, proper training to use it as well as the assistance of the EMT's this accident could have been much worse. At this call the newer EMT's were amazed that we had this extraction tool and were able to use it effectively. This training session in January was valuable and will pay off going forward. A big thank you to the MIRF for letting us train with old vehicles waiting for disposal.

### Ice Rescue:

Every winter our FD focuses on training for ice rescue. So far this winter we have responded to two calls from the Ashland/Bayfield Dispatch Center for possible ice rescue events. These calls were on the heels of the snowmobile driver found deceased in open water in Ashland's jurisdiction. The day before this tragedy there was a large multijurisdictional training session run by the Coast Guard. Ashland Fire, Washburn Fire, Bayfield and Red Cliff fire as well as our own department participated.

The following week we responded to a call involving a report that an ice skater had gone through the ice. Both Lake Assault sleds responded to the call which was determined to be a false alarm.

RECEIVED

FEB 10 2025

Initial: dg

Several fire department personnel are awaiting certification by Windsled Inc. so that these two sleds could be operated by the FD used for rescue missions if needed. In the meantime, the Fire Department will continue to use their own ice rescue "Husky" windsled.

We are proud of our elite, well trained ice rescue team and certified instructor, Joseph Wiltz. The rules for joining ice rescue are strict. First, you must be a member in good standing of the FD, then you need to be trained and certified by our instructor.

Be Safe,

Chief Reichkitzer