



GVFD Quarterly Report

End of the year call log

EMS: 50

Fire: 2

Hello, I hope everyone had a fun and safe holiday season. The Gustavus Volunteer Fire Department ended the 2023 year with approximately 50 medical calls and 2 fire calls.

I would like to welcome Leah Okin as the EMS Coordinator. Leah has been leading the charge in reorganizing the fire hall. She has also been leading the EMS drill nights. Leah has been working on recruitment and trying to find ways to bring more responders into the fire department.

In the last few months, we hired Lexipole to write a grant application for the Assistance to Firefighters Grant program. It is our hope to replace our 1982 international S1754 Tanker. If the funding is approved, we will have a safer apparatus to drive. This would also increase our qualifications as a fire department in the eyes of the NFPA guidelines.

The 2023 Southern Region EMS Symposium was hosted in Anchorage. I attended 18 different classes on a variety of topics that included different studies of EMS operations and protocols. One class was called Psychological Trauma in EMS Patients, which discussed ways to speak to patients, their friends, and families, to help treat and or avoid PTSD in their future. Another class was a 12 Lead Workshop which discussed analyzing a 12 lead (a monitoring device to help diagnose what is going on with your heart) and the reason, in the speaker's Opinion, EMT 1 and above should be able have a basic understanding of how to analyze a 12 Lead. Other discussions lead to strategies on handling trauma and medical calls as well as new CPR breathing techniques which may lead to changes in the future. There were several types of administrative classes on teaching different types of courses. I also learned about several resources available that study the many components of EMS calls.

Recently, Leah and I have been working with the state 911 coordinator to get the cell phone 911 calls in Gustavus to be transferred to our 911 system as opposed to the Alaska State Troopers. In addition to the State 911 coordinator, we are also working with the AT&T 911 representative to help work through some issues. Gustavus was never mapped out the correct way for this service to be possible. Thus, the AT&T representative is working with us to create the map from scratch. This will not affect the landlines in Gustavus at this time. Due to the intricacies of this process we do not have an estimated time line for the completion of this project. We will be sure to update the council and the public when it is completed.

I have been receiving questions about setting up Wi-Fi calling and having to enter a street address. Most, if not all, of our street addresses are not listed so the computer system does not recognize the addresses entered in the phone. I do not know a sure way of fixing this problem if anyone knows of a Gustavus Address that works let me know. I will continue to investigate this issue and will inform you when I have an answer.

Covid testing at the Gustavus Volunteer Fire Department has ended. We no longer provide free or paid COVID tests. Thank you to our previous COVID testers for helping provide Gustavus with COVID testing services.

Once again, I wish everyone a Happy New Year and if you have any questions about the fire department whether it is about the services we provide, or volunteering for the fire department, feel free to contact me, Sol Martinez at 907-697-2707, or email gvfd@gustavus-ak.gov.