



GVFD Quarterly Report

EMS Calls: 11. Fire Calls: 0

The Gustavus Volunteer Fire Department has been busy keeping up with the paperwork that comes with the calls. One large item which I am sure people have noticed is, the Gustavus Volunteer Fire Department no longer has the large wooden pole that held a radio antenna. We were able to use the tower that was purchased back in 2009 and had it erected in the back of the fire hall and installed a new antenna and cable on top of it. With it installed we can reach areas with more clarity than we did before. In testing out the range, we were able to reach out down Mountain View and the park, with more clarity than before.

I have been dealing with maintenance issues the vehicles, with the steering and booster pump going out and now the alternators going out in the ambulance. The steering and booster pump have been fixed but we are waiting for the parts to come in for the alternators; they have been ordered, and depending on shipping may have been fixed already, when you are reading this. I also have been replacing leaky valves on the fire engine and have been planning on replacing another valve on the fire engine in the hopes of getting it to pass is engine capacity test. The engine works just trying to get it ironed out to get it working better.

In the last week of September Johan and I were able to attend the 2023 Fire Conference. This is the second time for me to attend the Alaska Fire Conference and the classes were, again, worth attending. The first two days were dedicated to an engine operation class where we went through some basic fire training. This included some door breaching, room searching, hose packing, and moving water filled hoses. Thursday was dealing with operations on how Denver runs their fire operations in which I will be looking into incorporating some of the strategies to our operations here. The last day is going over health of a fire fighter, which was a doctor going over his studies on how different ways you can go about extending your mobility as one grows older.

I was able to get my Basic EMS Instructor license in which I will be able to be better qualified to instruct responders in EMS operations. I will also be qualified to teach ETT and EMT 1 classes. Currently we contracted with Lexipol to write the narratives for applying for the AFG grant to purchase a new water tender to replace Tanker 2. We are also looking into sending volunteers to the EMS Symposium up in Anchorage and I am planning to head to Hoonah to help and gain experience in teaching an EMT 1 class.

As you may see from the NCO, we are working on putting more money into the budget to provide more training opportunities and equipment for the Gustavus Volunteer Fire Department. One of these items is called Regroup. This program provides different options for the city to send out important information in two ways. One is a non-emergency send out; this only goes to people who signed up for the program, this can be used for road work in your area. The emergency side of this operates like the Amber alert system where you do not need to sign up and it will only be used during emergencies that can cause property or life hazards. Emergencies would be like a wildland fire, and tsunamis.

Thank you everyone. As always, we are looking for more volunteers to join our dedicated crew of responders. Stay Safe.