

“What can we do to further ourselves collectively as firefighters in Oceana County?”

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learn from and work with neighboring departments in our County.

This task is easier said than done; identifying a location, and more importantly, a scenario that involves all departments in an exercise that provides a learning experience for all participants is the goal of our next meeting set for Monday, February 21 at 7PM at Hart Fire Department. If you are interested in providing input, we encourage you to attend.

We are hopeful that this event will only be the first of several more for 2005.

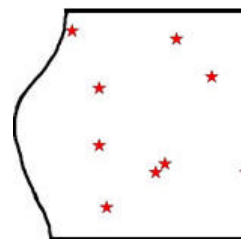
Block Systems

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call that involves a structure fire, both the primary and a secondary department are simultaneously dispatched for full response. The secondary department dispatched is typically the next closest department to the call. The impact is that additional personnel and resources that would eventually be needed on scene anyhow arrive much, much faster. Although there is always the possibility that those resources will not be needed, most agree that it is better to tone out for help and call it off than to wait to get on scene to initiate assistance.

Countywide Events

- ? **Friday-Sunday 2/11-2/13 DNR Fire Operations in the Wildland/Urban Interface S-215 (formerly Urban Interface S-205)** DNR will be teaching this class that is now MFFTC certified. The tentative dates/hours are Friday 2/11 6p-10p, Saturday 2/12 8a-5p, and Sunday 2/13 8a-5p. The class is limited to 30 students, and there is also a minimum number of students required. To register, contact the Michigan DNR Oceana Field Office (231-861-5636) by February 4.
- ? **Saturday, February 12** HFD hosting Ice Rescue Training at Hart Lake
- ? **Monday, February 21, 7PM** HFD hosting OCFA special meeting to identify and implement countywide training activity
- ? **Monday, April 18, 7PM** CTFD hosting OCFA quarterly meeting
- ? **Saturday, May 7** Evaluators needed for Firefighter I & II testing. More details as they become available.
- ? **Saturday, August 13, 1PM** PFD open house & Homecoming Parade for all county departments. Free hot dogs, chips, and drinks for all. Open house begins at 1 PM, parade lineup begins at 3:15 PM



Oceana Fire Bugle



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“What can we do to further ourselves collectively as firefighters in Oceana County?”

The second meeting of the Oceana County Firefighter's Association was almost over when this question was presented. There was a momentary pause, followed by a barrage of discussion.

Several countywide topics had already been touched on throughout the meeting; a block system, fire and life safety education programs, First Responder programs, HAZMAT & Technical Rescue teams, and even the possibility of an Oceana County aerial sometime this century.

The result was a commitment to meet much earlier than the next quarterly meeting planned for April; OCFA will meet again in one month to plan a countywide training event for the near future. The intent is not only to see an old friend that you went through Firefighter I with, but to continue to

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Future Home Delivery

Would you like to receive home delivery on future issues of the Oceana Fire Bugle? Future newsletters will be distributed direct to departments. However, if you would like to receive home delivery (free of charge), simply contact us either by phone or e-mail: 231-869-2360 rhasil@oceanacountyfa.org

Website Update

The OCFA website has been updated with coverage maps for fire response, first responder response, and jaws response. Individual department pages with general contact information have been added as well. The website is in need of various images (department training, incident response). Look for video of the Shelby church fire from a couple years ago and the recent JB Bowling Alley fire on the website in the near future.

Block Systems

There was discussion on the many advantages to a 'block' system similar to what is used by Eastern Oceana County departments as well as all (except Ludington) Mason County departments. The concept is that on a

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Department Updates

Crystal Fire Department

CFD had 30 runs for 2004. Half of those runs were mutual-aid to Hart, Walkerville, & EMS. They had an average response of 7.53 firefighters per call. They will be applying for grant for a tanker in 2005. The mutual aid water supply testing conducted by CFD yielded valuable data for the department. They averaged 400 gpm at the fill site, and maxed out at over 600 gpm peak output. **Submitted by Jack White**

DNR

2004 was much slow than anticipated for DNR. Only 3 reportable calls were responded to, as well as 3 non-reportable calls. Friday-Sunday 2/11-2/13 DNR Fire Operations in the Wildland/Urban Interface S-215 (formerly Urban Interface S-205) DNR will be teaching this class that is now MFFTC certified. The tentative dates/hours are Friday 2/11 6p-10p, Saturday 2/12 8a-5p, and Sunday 2/13 8a-5p. The class is limited to 30 students, and there is also a minimum number of students required. To register, contact the Michigan DNR Oceana Field Office (231-861-5636) by February 4. For 2005, the DNR may be strategically placing crews throughout Mason & Oceana counties on high fire risk days. The DNR is still anticipating the need for a full-time, limited term fire officer for the months of April and May. **Submitted by Warren Herring**

Ferry Fire Department

FFD finished the year with 30 runs. They have only 3 more sets of turnout gear to order and the entire department will be updated. 2005 marks FFD's 50th anniversary! Installation of new dry hydrants will be pursued. They will be applying for new SCBA through the FEMA grant in the new year, and are also looking for new hires. Looking ahead to 2006, their new tanker will be paid off. **Submitted by Brad Fritcher**

Grant Fire Department

No update available

Pictures & Stories Wanted

Do you have a digital picture of an event your department was involved in? Maybe you have a story or information that would be beneficial for firefighters. Please send it to us so that we can post on the next newsletter!

E-mail Updates

In addition to quarterly newsletters, we are creating a master e-mail listing that will be available to update area firefighters on special events and news that takes place in-between mailings. To have your name added to the e-mail list, simply contact us either by phone or e-mail: 231-869-2360 rhasil@oceanacountyfa.org and let us know you would like to be added to the list.

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Department Updates

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Hart Fire Department

HFD had an impressive 119 calls for 2004. Last year's calls included several arsons that included a house, Pirate's Paradise playground, and several school buses. They will begin phasing out old turnout gear and masks for 2005. Dwight Fuehring was recently appointed to Lieutenant. **Submitted by Mike Phillips and Andy LundBorg**

Hesperia Fire Department

No update available

Pentwater Fire Department

PFD finished the year with 40 runs for 2004, up 25% from 2003. The addition of a Dive/Rescue boat took place in July. The boat was featured in the January issue of Lakeland Boating as a makeover story, and was called out to 10.5% of the runs for the year. A new asphalt apron and driveway was added to the front of the department. The building also received a new coat (and color) of paint. On the downside, the new, light colored paint seems to make dents in the bay doors stand out much more! New turnout gear has been ordered for much of the department for 2005. New turnout coat, pants, and boots are on the budget for the new year, as well as large diameter hose. Extensive changes to the department's By-Laws were worked on for months and approved by the department in January. 2005 marks PFD's 135th anniversary! **Submitted by John Sayles**

Shelby Fire Department

SFD finished the year with 89 runs. Plans for 2005 include a new Ford F-350 Super Cab. So far, the department has the chassis. The bed is on order, and they are hopeful to have the unit in service with an 18hp skid unit within 6 weeks. When complete, this 'limited access vehicle' will have a 300 gallon tank, 400 ft of 3", 300 ft of 1.75", and a generator. They are hopeful to have the vehicle with all of its' bells and whistles done by the end of 2005. **Submitted by Roger Schultz Jr.**

Walkerville Fire Department

WFD finished 2004 with a whopping 180 calls; 134 medical runs, and 46 fire runs. Plans for 2005 include pursuing a tanker/pumper through a USDA grant. They are also trying to purchase wildland gear through a DNR grant. **Submitted by Jerry Frick**

FEMA Grant Window Open

The window is tentatively set for 3/7-4/8. Some vendors will assist with grant writing if you are willing to buy from them!



The DNR is looking for a limited term fire officer! See the DNR department Update.

OCFA Funding

The OCFA is requesting a \$20 donation from each department or department association to cover costs of printing and mailing newsletters for 2005. Donations will initially be managed by Ray Hasil until such time that a Treasurer is warranted.