

Countywide Block System

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The current Mason County system tones out a full response from two departments on any structure fire call. The two departments are the department having the primary area of jurisdiction, and a second department based on the location of the fire. If additional assistance is desired, the IC may initiate a second alarm, which will automatically tone two additional departments for water tenders, and a third to set up a fill site.

Block systems are pre-planning on a large scale; it will bring a number of advantages, including immediate initiation of additional help, pre-planning when additional help is required, and taking all of the guesswork out of closest departments, allowing the IC to focus on the incident and not on who will respond from where.

Upon completion of planning for the countywide training event in May, representatives will be identified and meetings initiated to begin working through the details.

Countywide Training

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vides a number of logistical challenges from hilly, winding, limited access roads to logistical and water supply issues. Planning for the event began two months ago, and the scenario will be similar to the woods fire that occurred on Monday, April 11 in Shelby.

Despite the Shelby fire, the decision to proceed with the simulation was made since other departments did not attend, and that there would still be much to learn. The scenario will be adaptable to however many apparatus and firefighters attend, and will have contingency plans for coverage in the event of an actual emergency.

Auxiliary personnel are invited to come to PFD at 3PM to help prepare food & drink for all after the incident debrief.

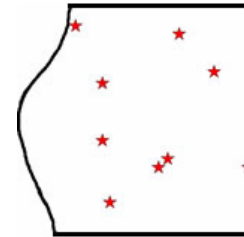
Countywide Events

- **Sunday, May 22, 1PM** OCFA Countywide Training at PFD. Safety brief begins at 1pm at PFD. Auxiliary members from all departments will meet at 3pm at PFD to help prepare food for event participants. Free food for all after debriefing.
- **Saturday, April 30, 9AM** 800 MHz Radio Training at Mason-Oceana 911. Class will last 4 hours. Please contact your Fire Chief to reserve a seat.
- **Saturday, May 21, 7:30AM** SFD Firefighter I&II testing. Volunteers needed for practical stations.
- **Wednesday, July 20, 7PM** OCFA regular meeting at Ferry Fire Department.
- **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 COUNTY FIREFIGHTER'S ASSOCIATION



April 19, 2005
Issue 3



OCEANA FIRE BUGLE



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www.oceanacountyfa.org

Home Delivery

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Oceana County Fire Chiefs Unanimously Pass Countywide Block System

Information on existing block systems in Mason County and Eastern Oceana County was presented at the Oceana County Fire Chief's meeting on Wednesday, April 13, 2005. Ray Hasil presented on the many advantages to implementing a block system. Jack White offered a cost analysis on Crystal Township FD over several years that suggested the cost impact on departments would be minimal. Rich and Kay Feole of Mason-Oceana 911 offered information on how the existing Mason County block system works, and why the existing Oceana County system used by eastern departments was not able to be imported into the Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) system in its current format. A vote was initiated, and the response was unanimously in favor.

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Countywide Training in May

There will be a countywide training event on Sunday, May 22nd beginning at 1PM at Pentwater FD. The event will involve as many personnel and apparatus as area departments are willing to provide.

The exercise will take place at Oceana Beach Association, which is on Lake Michigan on the south side of Pentwater Lake. Oceana Beach pro-

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HAZMAT Team Members Wanted

The Oceana County HAZMAT Team is looking for members. Members are required to take special training including HAZMAT Operations. If you are interested, contact your Fire Chief or Jerry Frick for more information.

Department Updates

Crystal Township Fire Department

Firefighter Terry Cloud retired after 30 years of service. Terry served as a firefighter, officer, and was Assistant Chief for over 10 years. CTFD wishes Terry well in his retirement and wonder what he will do on the second Monday evening of the month now.

John Hanks was appointed to fill a Lieutenant position vacated by Connelly Bowling, who chose not to run again after 9 years as a Lt.

CTFD applied for a FEMA grant to purchase turnout gear, SCBA, and wildland gear. **Submitted by Jack White**

DNR

DNR has worked on 9 grass/woods fires so far this year, already tripling last year's numbers, and were toned but disregarded on many others. The most recent fire was on Tuesday, April 19 in Newaygo Co on a fire that burned 50-70 acres. The 1/4" of rain on Tuesday evening helped, but is not nearly enough to significantly decrease fire wildland fire in Oceana Co.

While the burn ban is in effect, fires on state managed land are prohibited, except for recreational fires in State Parks. Recreational fires are allowed when there is some form of containment (metal fire ring or circle of stones), is tended, and is thoroughly extinguished when persons will no longer be tending the fire. **Submitted by Warren Herring**

Ferry Fire Department

Ferry recently added 500 feet of 4" to their inventory. The LDH will be stored on 642, which is their secondary pumper/tanker. FFD recently added a member to the department that has not yet taken training. **Submitted by Brad Fritcher**

Grant Fire Department

GFD plans on applying for a new pumper under a special grant in response to the \$40 million Double J expansion. They also applied for SCBA, turnout gear, a thermal imaging camera, and hose line through the FEMA grant. **Submitted by Roland Brooks**

Hart Fire Department

HFD has responded to 44 calls so far this year, many of which are illegal burn calls. They are replacing turnout gear for several firefighters. They have also supplied each member with their own SCBA mask. **Submitted by Mike Fillips**

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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!

Get on our E-Mail List!!!

Get information as it becomes available by signing up on our e-mail list. In addition to quarterly newsletters, receive information on special events and news that takes place in-between mailings. To have your name added to the e-mail list, 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.

Department Updates

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Hesperia Fire Department

No update available

Pentwater Fire Department

In early May, 18 members will be outfitted with new turnout coats and pants manufactured by Morning Pride. The entire department received new boots. Helmets were not in need of replacement. 1000' of 4" will be placed on 335, the department's primary pumper. 5 SCBA's will be outfitted with radio communication interfaces, which allow firefighters to easily transmit and be clearly heard with SCBA. Paul Smith was selected as the department's new Caretaker; Ray Hasil was re-elected to Secretary, and Henry Jobbins was re-elected to Asst Chief, all 2 year terms. PFD applied for a thermal imaging camera and a CAFS skid unit that would be placed in a new vehicle to replace 336, a 70's International brush truck. Implementation of a First Responder program is still under consideration. **Submitted by Terry Cluchey**

Shelby Fire Department

SFD has responded to 34 calls to date; all but 9 have been since 4/5/05 due to concerns over illegal burns since the large brush fire that destroyed 2 houses on Lake Michigan.

Chief Trott would like to extend a thank you to all firefighters that responded. Although 2 houses were lost, 28-30 were saved, almost all of which had some damage to them. There were no means of communication that worked to communicate with dispatch in the area. The fire was the first run for their new fast attack truck, and it seemed to work well. Michigan State University sent a film crew for a documentary that will demonstrate how to protect homes from fire in remote areas.

Shelby FD applied for portable and mobile 800 MHz radios for all firefighters and apparatus for the department. **Submitted by Curt Trott**

Walkerville Fire Department

Walkerville is accepting bids for a new tanker, and recently visited one of the manufacturers hoping to win their business. WFD applied for a wildland urban interface vehicle with the FEMA grant. **Submitted by Jerry Frick**

Financial

Beg Balance:\$110
1/05 Newsletter:-\$10
4/05 Newsletter:-\$10
End Balance:\$90



Do you know?

The rules for burning while a burn ban is in effect? See the DNR update for details!

OCFA Initiatives

Website: complete, more updates pending

Countywide Training Event: Sunday, May 22 at 1pm at PFD

Countywide Block System: recently approved for implementation