

**December 8 2022**

## **WHITEFIELD FIRE & RESCUE**

### **Monthly Report for November 2022**

Dear Residents of Whitefield

During the month of November Whitefield Fire and Rescue (WFR) had a total of 21 emergency calls. Of these, 16 or slightly more than three quarters, were medical calls. Three calls were for motor vehicle accidents. Two calls were for reports of high levels of the dangerous gas, carbon monoxide, in residences. This phenomenon can often be caused by problems in the operation or exhaust of furnaces and stoves so, as we head into the winter season, please remember to keep your heating systems and any other combustion sources in your home well maintained and inspected. Once again, this month, there were no structure fires in Whitefield. Way to go, everyone!

Regular training is critically important for any organization engaged in emergency services but especially for a small volunteer organization such as WFR, which does not experience the same volume of calls as a larger, professionally staffed organization but is, nevertheless, expected to meet the same operational and regulatory challenges. Training builds skills in demanding but infrequently used skills, for example forcible extrication from traffic accidents, as well as maintaining familiarity in basic skills such as the use of hoses and ladders. Training is also an important element in building team cohesion which is invaluable on demanding emergency scenes.

WFR meets for training three evenings a month and also typically holds all-day training sessions several times a year. In October WFR held a valuable all-day training session on safe and effective entry into structures on fire, including forcible entry and venting a fire through a hole cut in the roof which if performed properly can really help in containing a fire but if done wrong can be disastrous. The session offered WFR members invaluable hands-on experience in the use specialized saws and other tools to cut through metal and open vent holes in roofs.

WFR is currently studying the possibility of building a small facility in town, to expand our opportunities do such regular and specialized training. We are currently putting together a design and exploring regulatory issues. We see this as an important step forward but like everything it would come with a cost.

As we all know, the holiday season is upon us and WFR and its friends in town are organizing a Christmas Party for town children and their families on Saturday, December 17 from 4-6 PM at the central fire station. We are reliably informed that Santa will be in joining and there will be refreshments for all, as well as an opportunity to look over the station and the equipment we use to help keep the town safe.

Some may have seen newspaper articles about the conclusions of a state commission that found a crisis in emergency services. This problem is real and affects all of us. We have recently placed signs around town that WFR needs volunteers. If you are interested, we have meetings and training sessions at the Whitefield fire house three Mondays of the month. You may also get in touch with us through the Whitefield town office or by contacting:

Jesse Barton, Whitefield Fire Chief: 207-557-0744. (Browning48.jb@gmail.com)

Ben Caron, Assistant Chief: 207-523-0856 (whitefieldems1@gmail.com)

A Merry Christmas and Happy New Years to all.

**Whitefield Fire and Rescue**