

January 10, 2023

WHITEFIELD FIRE & RESCUE

Monthly Report for December 2022

Dear Residents of Whitefield

During the month of December 2022 Whitefield Fire and Rescue (WFR) recorded a total of 32 emergency calls. Of these, 19 or approximately 59%, were medical calls. Seven were for motor vehicle accidents. One call was for a structure fire.

During the severe wind and rain storm on December 23 the Whitefield central station was manned continuously throughout the day and into the evening. WFR personnel responded to numerous reports of blocked roads caused by downed trees or flooding. If no power lines are involved in these incidents, we are generally able to remove the trees and get traffic flowing again. If the falling trees or limbs have taken down power lines and are blocking the road or if they are leaning dangerously on a line, we cannot address the problem until CMP comes. When this happens, and especially during major storms when CMP is responding to many incidents, we will often leave orange cones to direct traffic around the obstacle if this is possible or to close the road down completely if this is the only safe thing to do. These cones are for everyone's protection and for safety's sake we ask people to respect them. Each costs approximately \$35 so please leave them for us to collect once the problem has been corrected. One last warning, touching a tree or limb which is in contact with a potentially live power line can be deadly dangerous and no one should do it.

This month's structure fire, which came in at 3:23 AM, was contained quickly thanks to prompt action by the first Whitefield firefighters on the scene and by the homeowner, who turned off the emergency switch to the furnace which was the source of the problem before quickly leaving the house with all occupants. As is automatically the case with reported structure fires, neighboring towns of Jefferson, Somerville, and Alna were toned out for this call and apparatus and personnel from all three towns joined in the response. We thank them for their assistance which shows the importance of mutual aid and reinforces the need to address the future of emergency services in our rural environment on a regional basis.

As many are probably aware, bad weather unfortunately forced the cancellation of the WFR Christmas party scheduled for Saturday December 17. We regret the necessity for this but it would have made little sense to invite folks onto the icy and dangerous roads that day, a decision reinforced by the three traffic accidents (along with two medical emergencies) which occurred then. We look forward to seeing the town's parents and children next holiday season.

Roadside signs calling for WFR volunteers have been removed for the winter. The need for additional personnel remains. 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)

Happy New Years to all.

Whitefield Fire and Rescue