

March 16, 2023

WHITEFIELD FIRE & RESCUE

Monthly Report for February 2023

Dear Residents of Whitefield

During February Whitefield Fire and Rescue (WFR) had a total of 26 emergency calls. Of these, 13 or exactly one half, were medical. Eight calls were for motor vehicle accidents. There was one structure fire, in a chicken coop. This was extinguished relatively quickly but since it was reported as a structure fire, mutual aid towns were also called out. Even fires in small outbuildings can easily spread to nearby structures such as homes so in these circumstances the principle of “better safe than sorry” is generally preferable.

This month the WFR and the town of Whitefield experienced a tragic loss in the death of Galen Hisler. Only 30 years old when he left us, Galen was a dedicated firefighter and a wounded and decorated veteran long in his service to his country and community. Returning home and recovering from injuries sustained abroad, Galen threw himself with energy and determination into the fire service. Whenever the call came and however long it took, he was present with skill and good cheer. During a lengthy wait for a wrecker to appear after a late-night traffic accident Galen shared with me his ambitions for the future. He intended to take advantage of all available training opportunities including eventually becoming a first responder. At some point he also hoped to become department chief. Galen brought many skills to the department, for example proving himself a wicked dodge-ball player in community games the department held a few years ago. Galen will be sorely missed and his service is an example to us all.

The WFR has meetings and training sessions at the Whitefield fire house three Mondays of the month. Galen’s brother has recently begun attending WFR meetings and if anyone else is interested in following Galen’s footsteps he may 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)

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