

## **Yes, we did....Yes, we were....Yes, we will....Yes, we are**

**Yes, we did....**purchase a brand new fire truck! On October 24, we took delivery of a brand new pumper/tanker from Seagrave Fire Apparatus, LLC in Clintonville. It has a 1,250 gpm pump and a 3,000 gallon water tank. It is very similar to the other large pumper/tanker that we have (which we currently refer to as “Big 4”), with a few tweaks to suit our needs better. Our new truck is equipped with a generator, more storage space for equipment, and a separate rack on the side to hold a 3,000 gallon portable tank, among many other small improvements. Of course it meets all of the current NFPA standards, but it is designed to be more firefighter friendly and safer than “Big 4”. The firefighters that were on the truck committee that designed this truck certainly put a lot of time and thought into this one! If you’d like to see it on a personal tour, please contact any one of our firefighters and we’ll answer any questions you have.

**Yes, we were....**at the fire in Pulaski! That has been the most asked question in the past few weeks of any firefighter, “Were you in Pulaski?” That was an excellent learning experience for everyone involved, no matter which department you were associated with. The City of Green Bay and Howard Fire Departments learned as much from us as we did from other departments that we usually don’t work with! The most important lesson from that whole event from the fire perspective – *nobody*, and we can guarantee that *nobody* was without fire protection that evening/morning! What happened in Pulaski was something beyond what any of us expected. Most everyone left there with a new idea to implement, a new problem identified that was never thought of before, or just a simple lesson from another firefighter, only if it was the thought of “what if...?” That was the MABAS system (Mutual Aid Box Alarm System) in full working capacity. As far as operations, it was a large fire that seemed to be going as planned; and then the water tower was empty! That’s when they needed help with water, and lots of it! Here are some statistics that we received from the Pulaski Tri-County Fire Dept:

Fire trucks: 20 Fire Engines (Pumpers) 4 Ladder Trucks 42 Tenders (water tankers)

Water: 1.75 million gallons - village tower 1.426 million gallons of water shuttled (3.176 million gal total)

Agencies: 35 Fire Departments directly involved Many other police, municipal, and service depts.

As was mentioned before, there were lessons to be learned. We all feel sorry for the loss that those residents and businesses incurred, but as an after-the-fact look at the incident, we all did the best that we could with what we had at the time. No thanks to Mother Nature for the freezing rain and sleet that morning, either.

**Yes, we will....**continue to participate in the MABAS system. The Pulaski Fire Dept implemented the Brown County MABAS, which we are part of due to the proximity to Pulaski. Shawano and Oconto Counties are also working on getting the MABAS system up and working very soon. MABAS is designed to be a state-wide system so that any governmental borders will not be a hindrance during an emergency. Those issues will be discussed and remedied before an event. **Yes, we will....**have our annual Firefighters’ Picnic again on August 11, 2012. Please mark your calendars now and save the date! We moved our date from the first Saturday to the second Saturday in August because of conflict with Oconto Electric’s picnic, as well as several other area events. It’s hard to find a day in the summertime when something else isn’t happening!

**Yes, we are...**interested in any special situations that your family has. Is there someone in your household that has a disability or special need? Do you have oxygen or special medicines in your home? Do you have special medical equipment? If so, please contact any firefighter and let us know. The reason for this is if we get called to your residence, we are prepared to handle your situation. If someone needs help exiting the home, we will be prepared for that before we arrive. We will do our best to get your medical needs taken care of, especially retrieving medicines and equipment from the fire. For example, some medicines are very hard to obtain on a Saturday evening or it may be difficult to replace that chair you have in a timely manner. This is also for our own safety, as oxygen and fire are not friends! Any information you provide to us will be kept confidential and used only in an emergency to help you.

Until Spring 2012, stay safe, stay warm, and practice fire safety every day!