Quarterly Feature

There are a few exciting events coming up in the next few months and we would like to invite everyone to participate in them.

First up is our 24\textsuperscript{th} annual open house along with our annual fundraiser on Saturday, September 21, 2013 from noon to 3 PM. We will serve BBQ at noon and have rescue demonstrations throughout the day.

Up next is the Black Hills 9/11 Memorial Climb being held on Sunday, October 13, 2013 from 7:30 to 11 AM. 9/11 Memorial Stair Climbs are a way for firefighters and members of the community to honor and remember the FDNY firefighters who selflessly gave their lives so that others might live. Each participant pays tribute to a FDNY firefighter by climbing or walking the equivalent of the 110 stories of the World Trade Center. Proceeds go to the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation.

Training Update

The training calendar has been busy for the last few months. Our dedicated members have continued to put in many hours to prepare for the emergencies that we respond to. Thanks to our nice summer weather we have been able get out and do several practicals including two vertical rescue scenarios. For one of the practicals our members traveled to Falling Rock and simulated the rescue of a subject who had fallen off the cliff. These practicals are extremely beneficial because we are able to replicate a rescue scenario as close to an emergency as possible. This allows the more experienced members to refresh their skills and allows the newer members to understand how all of the moving parts come together to complete a successful rescue. We were also very lucky to have the chance to participate in a joint training exercise that included both Rockerville Volunteer Fire Department and Black Hills Life Flight. This training gave the three departments a chance to work together and learn what we expect from each other.

The rest of the year will be just as busy as we continue our advanced training with more practicals, including a trench rescue practical. We are also very excited to start our new recruit program in early November, so that we can get our next batch of recruits trained up and ready to be a part of the team. The new recruit training consists of both The Fundamentals of Search and Rescue, and the South Dakota Emergency Rescue Technician course.
Team Goals

For 2013, we established goals to meet during the year. The goals will be met during the year and we will continue to set goals as needed throughout the year.

- To achieve 90% completion of truck checks and inventory
- To work with the PCSO to develop a retention program to instate in 2014
- Move forward with our Strategic Plan and work on areas of improvement
- To retain 90% of our membership through 2013
- To have 100% compliance on check sheets

Operations Update

The last few months have been busy for Search and Rescue. We have responded to several rescues and vehicle extrications as more people are out and about this summer. We strongly encourage everyone to go enjoy the beautiful Black Hills but remember to take water, wear good hiking shoes, and dress for the expected weather.

Fire season has been quiet for the team but the wet weather doesn’t mean we aren’t prepared; there is still a chance for fires late in the summer. Our equipment is ready to go if we are needed to provide logistical support to the fire management teams.

~Tammy Stadel
Assistant Team Leader, Operations

Events and Training

August
27th – Check Sheets

September
3rd – Business Meeting
10th – Trench Rescue Practical
17th – Prep for Open House
21st – Open House (noon – 3pm)
24th – Training

October
1st – Business Meeting
8th – Training
13th – 9/11 Memorial Climb
15th – Training
19th – Team Building Event/Lunch
22nd – Training
29th – Check Sheets

November
2nd – New Recruit Training
3rd – New Recruit Training

Our open house is on September 21st!
Please put it on your calendars and plan to attend!