



Hovland Volunteer Fire Department 2018 Newsletter

Thank you to all of our members! Volunteers are not paid – not because they are worthless, but because they are priceless!

WHO, WHAT, WHERE, WHEN, HOW

Hovland Area Volunteer Fire Department is located at ----- 5059 East Highway 61
The mailing address is ----- P.O. Box 268, Hovland MN, 55606
Our phone number at the Hall is ----- #(218)475-2352
Our website is ----- www.HovlandVFD.org
We have training on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of each month

FIREFIGHTERS AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL RESPONDERS:

Charlie LaBoda
Terry Spieker
Joe Peterson
Jon Sage
Keck Melby
Neil Slaughter
Treg Axtell
Jennifer Dowden
Dean Dowden

STOP TEAM RESPONDERS:

Kerry Leeds
John Barton
Jonnie Barton
Beth Ambrosen
Ken Bjorkland
Paul Just
Catherine Just
George Harrelson
Pete Ongstad
Bob Tamanaha

BOARD MEMBERS:

Charlie LaBoda, Fire Chief
Terry Spieker, Assistant Chief
Joe Peterson, Training Officer
Jon Sage, EMR Captain
Kris Garey, Secretary
Beth Ambrosen, Treasurer
Kerry Leeds, STOP Captain

But a VERY SPECIAL thanks goes to our retired administrative assistant – Kari Peterson. Kari decided to devote more time to the care and feeding of grandchildren, rather than the full-time care and feeding of the fire department. Understandable, but we miss your goodies and your ability to herd cats, keep us on track, and file paperwork!

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

Keck Melby received the Outstanding Emergency Provider of the Year award during this year’s Emergency Services Conference. The award was presented to Keck by Valerie Marasco, Emergency Management and Public Information Director, in recognition of his dedication to duty and for creating the STOP (Strategic Traffic Operations Program) Team. The STOP team started here in Hovland, but has spread to other areas of Cook County and is now a national program to keep emergency responders safe during calls.





WATCH OUR GARDEN GROW

Perhaps you've noticed HVFD's neighborhood beautification project. In the past year, we installed a small flower garden in front of our Fire Hall. It has truly been an all-department project.

Charlie hauled in the rocks and topsoil. Beth and Kerry put the rocks and dirt in place. Beth did the planting. Paul and Catherine weed-whack and maintain the ditch along the highway. Joe donated the

water tank, and Kerry built the tank platform. Al installed our new sign above the garden and has been working his magic with the hose to keep it watered.

Plants were donated from the gardens of Beth, Jonnie, Diane Bjorkland, and Mary Harrelson. The deer especially appreciated the delicious tulips from Mary!

The rest of our department crew has been very busy with the hardest part: collecting the best fertilizer in the world to keep the plants looking healthy. Mosquito droppings are not easy to gather, and we want to thank Jonnie for being the team leader in that effort.

HEAR THE ALARM – RUN FROM HARM

Your smoke detector is a more important/valuable “watch dog” than the 4-legged version you may have snoozing on the carpet at home. It is very low-maintenance compared to a pet, and it could save your life.

Smoke detectors have been around for many years, and like any appliance, they wear out with time. Ten years is the maximum life expectancy of a smoke detector, so it is important to keep track of the date of installation. Better yet, note the device's date of manufacture, as it is no surprise that retailers occasionally unload “old stock.” Of course, batteries don't last ten years, so it's important to regularly replace those.



Electrical codes today require that smoke detectors be hardwired into all new residences and should be interconnected with other detectors. That way, if any detector goes off, it will activate all the others in the home. Keep in mind that most hardwired detectors also have a battery backup in case of a power failure. So again this reminder: Check those batteries – preferably twice a year!

Varied technologies are used to manufacture two different types of smoke detectors. They are categorized as either ionization-type or photoelectric-type. It is important to consider which kind to use in each room in your home.

- A photoelectric smoke detector is considered a “seeing eye” that will activate when smoke obscures that eye. This is the preferred type of detector for any area where a smoldering type of fire may occur. Sofas, mattresses, or that homely over-stuffed chair could potentially smolder for hours before actually bursting into flames, so your living room or bedroom would be a great location for a photoelectric smoke detector.
- The ionization-type of smoke detector has sensors to pick up the actual particles of combustion. You could think of this as having a faster reaction to a faster and larger quantity of flame. Clearly a kitchen fire or grease fire in a frying pan can produce very large quantities of flame in a very short time. Therefore an ionization smoke detector may be your preferred choice in the kitchen.

NEVER HESITATE – EVACUATE



Get out now! This should be your only reaction to the sound of your smoke detector going off. You may wonder, “How much time do I have to get out of my home if there is a fire?” There are many variables in the answer.

One obvious thing is that building construction has changed greatly in the last 10-30 years. Additionally, new materials used in building and furnishing our homes don’t necessarily make them safer

An open floorplan is a popular trend in building and remodeling homes, and no one will tell you not to embrace it. But you should keep in mind that a fire in a large open area has more oxygen available to feed it, and has no walls to slow it down.

The types of materials used on and in the home include an increasing amount of plastics, synthetic fibers, and petroleum-based products. All of these burn differently than the materials we typically used 40-50 years ago.

Today’s house fires burn hotter and faster, and therefore our time to escape is getting shorter. To make matters worse, newer homes will burn with increasing toxicity. New studies have shown that in some instances, a fire situation in a home can develop lethal levels of toxic gases and smoke in less than 2 minutes. Clearly you need to get out quickly.

NO MORE DELAYING – PLAN YOUR ESCAPING

Okay, so you’ve tested your smoke detectors and understand the need to react quickly to an alarm. What else can save you and your loved ones in a house fire emergency? Simply stated: preparedness and practice. You need to have an escape plan.



It is a very good idea to visit every part of your home and look at your options to escape. Identify which doors and windows would provide the most efficient exits. At the same time consider your secondary options should an exit be blocked. Fire escape ladders for 2nd and 3rd story evacuations are available from a variety of sources and make a better choice than jumping out of a window. After considering all your escape options, decide on a meeting place for everyone outside of the house. Accountability is the most important part of your escape plan because you should never EVER re-enter a building that is on fire. Tragically, the death in a fire often involves a person re-entering the burning home to look for someone they think is missing.

Once you have your escape plan, you need to practice. Everyone in your home should know where to exit, how to get out, and where to meet after the escape. Your fire drill should be practiced regularly. Your family should operate much like a fire department: you should have a Fire Chief – to make a plan; and a Training Officer – to insist that you practice. If your family prefers not to use official department lingo, you might do what we do at the HVFD: call your Fire Chief “Charlie” and your Training Officer “Joe.”

ANNUAL PUBLIC FIRE DEPARTMENT MEETING AND COMMUNITY POTLUCK

Wednesday, September 5th
Hovland Town Hall
6:00 p.m.

Meet your local emergency responders
Vote on board members
Eat great food
Enjoy good company

Burgers and brats provided by HVFD. Bring your favorite dish to share!

Interested in being a part of the fire department? There are many ways to get involved:

- Firefighter
- Emergency medical responder
- STOP team
- Board member
- Sponsor