

Arrowhead Volunteer Fire Department Returns to Capability after Suffering Loss of Engine

On January 24th, 2012 the Arrowhead Volunteer Fire Department (AVFD) suffered the loss of its red type 6 engine.

The engine and it's crew of three had completed participating in a scenario based training and were returning to the fire station when the fire engine experienced a fire in the engine compartment. Due to the initial intensity of the fire, which was being fueled by pressurized gasoline, the engine crew wisely moved a short distance from the engine and radioed for assistance. Six additional firefighters responded from the fire station with a portable pump and hose sled. An attempt was made to extinguish the fire with a handheld fire extinguisher, which had little effect. The portable pump was set up with a 420 ft. hose lay and water was supplied to the fire within 14 minutes of the initial radio call for assistance. Although firefighters saved much of the contents of the engine, the engine itself was a complete loss.

Although this engine traditionally has been AVFD's primary winter response vehicle, the AVFD would like to reassure residents that the fire department returned to full fire response capability on 1/27/2012. Following the fire, the AVFD purchased a second portable high-pressure pump, which is mounted on a sled system. The sled system that the pump is mounted on also carries 1,100 ft. of fire hose and all of the other necessary equipment to respond to a fire call within Arrowhead. This leaves the AVFD with two sled mounted portable pump systems, each with their own hose and other necessary equipment.

The engine and its contents are all covered under insurance. Replacement efforts are already underway. Donations are not needed at this time.

The AVFD would like to thank and recognize the following people:

- Firefighters Kevin Stilley, Don Koeltzow, Bill Misare, Joanna Misare, Bill Boulter, Bob Rosenbaum, Scott Coleman, Paul Grovenor, Winston (Toby) Ezell for their efforts to save the engine.
- AVFD logistics personnel Sally Burichter and Linda Dysart for their efficient work during the incident.
- Doug and Mary Cokes both for their assistance during the incident and returning to the scene later to transport all equipment to the fire station.
- Arrowhead residents Jack and Diana Gotcher for the immediate and unquestioning use of their snowcat to remove the engine from the filing roads.
- Arrowhead security personnel for their assistance with scene security and traffic control.
- Paul Forbes, Winston (Toby) Ezell, and Paul Grovenor for their work to return AVFD EMS and Fire equipment to service the following morning.
- Arrowhead resident Pete Nauyokas for coordinating the removal of the engine and assistance assembling new equipment.
- All AVFD personnel who stood by ready and willing to assist.
- Arrowhead Fire Protection District Board for their immediate authorization of funds to purchase an additional pump system.

Brent Mims
Arrowhead Volunteer Fire Department - Chief