



STAFF REPORT

3-25-20

Our call volume for February was up with 34 calls this year compared to 25 last year. Our total call volume for 2020 is up at 96 vs. 77 last year, (but only 6 calls total in the last 8 days). We used a total of 270 gallons of gasoline in February and 25 gallons of diesel.

Old Business

Our audit is underway. There have been no “red flags” as of yet, nor do I expect any.

New Business

All public meetings have been cancelled, including the state legislation. All of our statewide bills have been put on hold until the pandemic is over.

FD9 has been preparing and obtaining supplies as often as possible. We just placed an order for 1000 hand sanitizers that we will be dispersing to the public at no charge as soon as they come in, (either Friday or Monday). We are also stocked (minimally) with gloves, masks, eye protection and hospital gown/suits (fully encompassing including footies). We have instituted a new set of protocols for any medical response and especially for Covid-19 responses. I'll attach the policy with this update to this report. The federal government has issued a declaration of emergency and we are able to recoup our costs (at 75% right now). I am tracking all additional costs and will apply for the max amount I can. There is talk, if the bill that was going through the US Senate passes that it will reimburse us at 100%. Also, our bank called and offered assistance in SBA loans/grants. They have information that the “loan” will be forgiven. If that is so, I will take out a “loan”, hold it in a separate account and once it is forgiven, transfer it to our operating account. I'll keep you updated as I am on this progress.

Bottom line, we're doing all we can to prepare ourselves for what is still coming. I fully expect for the response times for Acadian to get progressively worse as this builds. We are encouraging our community to self-quarantine or to have a family member take them to the hospital if they think they need to be there. The Acadian supervisor for our area has instructed us on how to do this. We will continue to respond as long as we can, but if resources dwindle too far, we will not respond to all medical calls. Acadian can handle that if necessary. Our volunteers have been told not to respond unless it's a major call. And, if they do respond, they are subject to the decontamination protocols that everyone else is. My goal is to protect our firefighters first and they community second. If our firefighters go down, there is no back-up for that. I will be calling back in our paid staff to cover (OT) as necessary. Mike and I will go on shift too if necessary. I realize that you may have questions, please feel free to call me on the phone and I'll be glad to answer anything I can.

The new 2020 F-150 arrived yesterday and will be put into service this weekend. The old one (2014) was sold to FD3-Lacombe yesterday at the agreed upon price of \$9500. It was about \$500 less than what we could have gotten, but we didn't have to advertise, wait a month to accept bids, keep insurance in it and pull all the lights off of it. They had a truck with a blown motor and needed a replacement asap, so we agreed to work together. They also want first shot at the next 3 vehicles we replace annually too.

Training has become virtual for the Tuesday night training meetings, and the groups that meet at the station have been put on hiatus for now. PIAL is coming out this December for our rating, and they are not going to count anything negative about our not meeting and lower response levels we are temporarily going to for now. The State Fire Marshal has been an advocate for us in this matter and was successful. They also have been very helpful in obtaining supplies. I got to meet them in Hammond to get a truck-full of supplies last night, so kudos to the SFM for working extra hard for the "little" FD's as well as the big boys. Speaking of big boys, FD1 (Slidell) has provided us with more supplies and had donated many handheld radios, chargers and batteries to us for our switch to the new radio system. All preprogrammed as per our needs, at no cost. Big thank you to FD1 for that.

Mike and I have been coming in early, staying late and working weekends as needed too, all our time is reimbursable as well, so we have put in for that. We filled the fuel tanks last week when the price of oil dropped to \$30 a barrel. It's now at \$23 but we got everything filled at \$1.92 gal for diesel (a great price). So, fuel will be something I will ask for reimbursement as well.

If you or your families need anything, please let me know. We will be here for the entire event and we will be taking extra precautions to keep everyone safe. I hope you do the same for you and your families.

Feel free to contact me anytime if you have questions, concerns or a need. I go out often so I'm pretty familiar with places to go to get items (bread, eggs, TP, etc.).