



PORTAGE FIRE DEPT



FEBRUARY 2024
NEWSLETTER

Greetings Portage Fire Family,
As we move through another month, it's time to reflect on the hard work, dedication, and changes within our department. Chief Crail's recent report to the city council brought several noteworthy updates that we are excited to share with you.



Call Volume Increases: We've seen a significant uptick in our call volume, with a 14% increase from January 2023, totaling 506 calls. A notable 68% of these were EMS-related, translating to approximately 300 man-hours of diligent work by our team. The remaining 32% comprised fire responses, car accidents, and good intent calls, showcasing our department's versatility and commitment.

FAREWELL TO A RESPECTED LEADER:

WE BID A HEARTFELT FAREWELL TO LT. TOM COLVIN, WHO RETIRED AFTER NEARLY 21 YEARS OF COMMENDABLE SERVICE TO PORTAGE, CULMINATING ALMOST 29 YEARS OF TOTAL SERVICE IN FIRE SAFETY. KNOWN FOR HIS ROLES AS A BATTALION CHIEF, DIVE TEAM LEADER, AND INSTRUCTOR, LT. COLVIN WAS MORE THAN A COLLEAGUE; HE WAS A MENTOR AND BROTHER TO US ALL.

HIS CONTRIBUTIONS HAVE BEEN INSTRUMENTAL IN OUR DEPARTMENT'S SUCCESS, AND HIS ABSENCE WILL BE DEEPLY FELT.



GRANTS AND OPPORTUNITIES:

WE ARE ACTIVELY PURSUING THE ASSISTANCE TO FIREFIGHTER GRANT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2023, WITH THE APPLICATION PROCESS UNDERWAY. THIS YEAR WE ARE WORKING ON ACQUIRING BUNKER GEAR

Welcoming New Faces:
We extend a warm welcome to Alekzandr Rhody, the latest addition to our fire department family, filling a vacancy left last September. Furthermore, we've secured Lt. Colvin's replacement, who is set to join us following the completion of their PERF physical. Their fresh perspectives and energy are eagerly anticipated.



**No longer rookies:
We are happy to announce that John Jordan and Connor Rucklos have officially earned their badge numbers.**

Equipment and Infrastructure:

Our fleet has been strengthened with the arrival of a new engine, which was celebrated with a traditional 'wetting' ceremony. This timely addition comes as we address maintenance challenges with other vehicles, ensuring our readiness to respond to the community's needs.

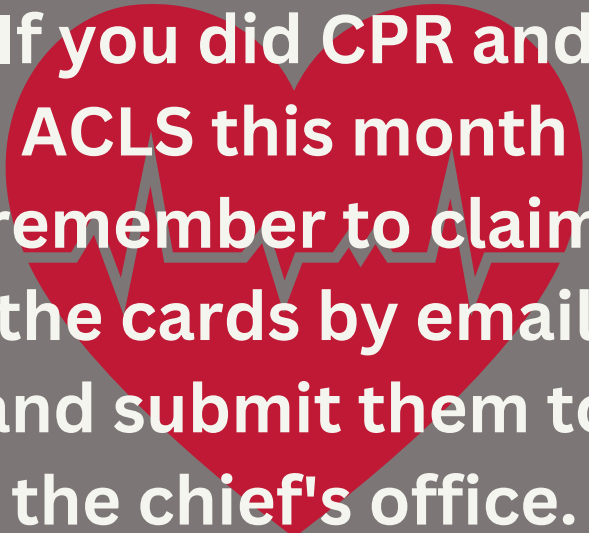


Promotions:

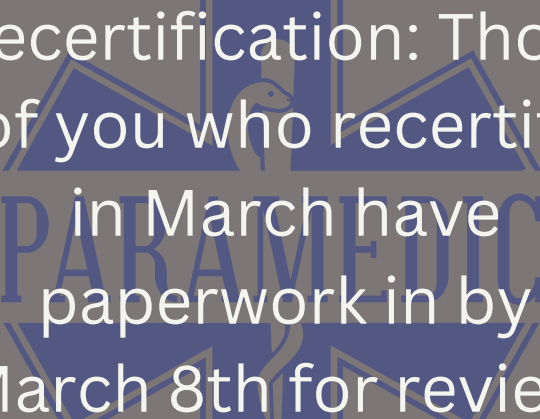
With all of the changes recently at PFD we congratulate the promotions of Kevin DeYoung and Joe Siegel to Lt. Scott Klein promoted to engineer. Jordan Bucy and Aaron Wirtz to acting officer



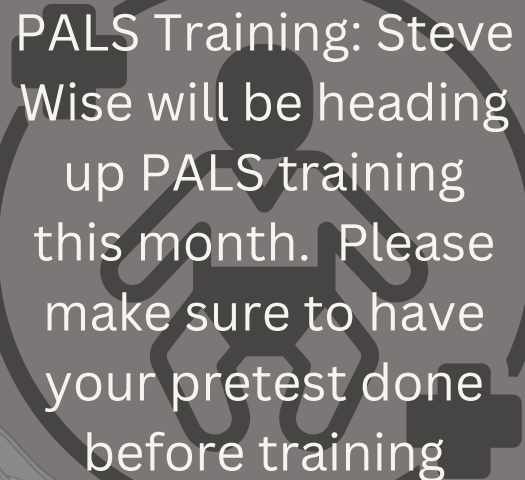
Promotional Testing: Don't forget promotional testing is in March so email your officer your plans to test.



If you did CPR and ACLS this month remember to claim the cards by email and submit them to the chief's office.



Recertification: Those of you who recertify in March have paperwork in by March 8th for review



PALS Training: Steve Wise will be heading up PALS training this month. Please make sure to have your pretest done before training

IN CLOSING:



YOUR UNWAVERING COMMITMENT TO SERVING OUR COMMUNITY DOES NOT GO UNNOTICED. LET'S CONTINUE TO SUPPORT ONE ANOTHER, PURSUE EXCELLENCE IN ALL WE DO, AND UPHOLD THE PROUD LEGACY OF THE PORTAGE FIRE DEPARTMENT.

STAY SAFE AND TAKE PRIDE IN THE IMPACTFUL WORK WE DO EVERY DAY.

WARM REGARDS,

THE PORTAGE FIRE DEPARTMENT TEAM

