



THE PERRY TWP. VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

Bulletin

APRIL, 1971

P. O. BOX 7051

EVANSVILLE, INDIANA

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FIRE CALL!



I am sure many of you have wondered what happens when you place a call to your fire department?

Basically this is the procedure. Within one minute of the time of your phone call to our dispatcher, the alarm is being sounded in the homes of your volunteer firemen. Your firemen receive this call by radio. Within three minutes from the time your alarm is received by the firemen, the fire trucks are on the road responding to your call for help.

Depending on the nature of the fire call, you may receive four pieces of fire fighting apparatus carrying 2,435 gallons of water plus other necessary equipment to combat a variety of emergency situations. Along with this apparatus, you will normally get ten to fifteen firemen.

We can usually reach the scene of the fire call within five minutes travel time. This has been made possible with the addition of station #2 on Williams Road which is within the center of the area covered by Perry Township.

Through our mutual aid system, your fire department can call additional units from neighboring fire departments such

as Marrs or German if water or additional pumper capacity is needed to combat the fire.

As a member of the Suburban Firemen's Association, Perry Twp. Volunteer Fire Department, along with Marrs, German, Scott and McCutchanville departments, is on a common radio frequency which has its sending tower located at Highland. The sending tower has a natural gas powered auxiliary generator which automatically comes on if there is a power failure. Full-time dispatching is handled by the Vanderburgh Co. sheriff's dispatcher.

Some of your firemen have transistorized battery-pak radios which they carry with them enabling these men to be available at almost any time or place. These radios also serve as an important aid during times of power failure in different areas of the township. At the time of a power failure, these radios automatically kick on to battery power. This makes these particular men available in times of any type of emergency.

So, as you can see, we have tried to make our services available to you under any conditions.

A MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF

PERRY TOWNSHIP VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT, INC.



POST OFFICE BOX 7051, HOWELL BRANCH

EVANSVILLE 12, INDIANA

April 1971

Dear Resident:

Once again the time has arrived for our annual fund drive.

In the past few months considerable attention has been focused on the proposed Government Consolidation. Although it was defeated this year, it will be brought up again next year. This Newsletter contains a detailed article on Consolidation and its effect on the Suburban Population.

An article related to the Consolidation proposal titled "Volunteer Firemen fading from TODAY'S Scene" appeared in the Saturday March 13th, 1971 edition of The Evansville Press. This article was slanted to appear as if Volunteer Departments were disappearing from today's scene completely. In Indiana last year over 90% of all Fires were fought by Volunteer Departments. The Indiana Volunteer Firemans Association has grown from 10,000 members in 1969 to over 12,000 members in 1971.

This article quoted Evansville City Fire Chief Delmar Ice as saying: "I'm not trying to run them down because they do a splendid job with what they have. I hate to say their service isn't adequate, but it really isn't. They're badly handicapped by a lack of water." He was also quoted as saying, "The Volunteers do a good job hosing down surrounding structures when they get to a fire late."

In 1970, The Perry Township Fire Department responded to structures valued at \$450,200 and total damage was confined to \$29,515.00. The largest single loss was a \$10,500 fire to a vacant home, in an isolated area which was discovered about 1:00 AM.

This article makes reference to City Firemen as "Professionals" and to the Suburban Fireman as "Volunteers." When a man joins any Fire Department, paid or volunteer, does this make him a Professional? We think not. Only proper training in all phases of Fire Technology, along with hours of study of the fundamentals for Fire Fighting trains a man so he can be classified as a Professional. Every Fireman in Perry Township receives 36 hours of training per year, we wonder how this compares with Firemen in most paid departments.

At present The Indiana Rating Bureau is conducting a survey of our Fire Forces in order to effect a reduction of Insurance rates. In order to qualify for a rating at least 1500 gallons of water must be carried to areas where no hydrants are available. The Perry Township Fire Department responds with 2435 gallons of water.

The Evansville Press and the City Fire Chief has raised the question in every Volunteer's mind. Are we wanted and needed in our present role? If not, then we should step out of the way and disband. Every Volunteer Fireman in the State of Indiana, where copies of this article have been circulated, have had their pride severely injured by this article. This article pictures these men as incompetent, of ancient vintage and as glory seekers, when in reality these men are your neighbors. Think of any Fireman you know. What is your impression of him? This man serves you as a volunteer, providing a service that in any other field he would receive pay amounting to in excess of \$8,000 per year.

In order to replace your present Department with a fully paid Department, providing the same two station coverage now given, it would cost approximately \$300,000 per year. This is an average cost per home of about \$136 per year. Within the City Limits, Fire Protection costs approximately \$22 per person. To provide the same protection in Perry Township, the cost would be approximately double this, because it is much more sparsely populated. The cost per person in Perry Township last year was about \$1.60. The total cost per home was approximately \$5.00, of this total our door to door fund drive amounted to about \$3.00 per home, the rest was received from other fund raising events, insurance claims and tax payments from the Trustee.

A Fireman will call at your home for your donation, please give generously as we need an average of \$5.00 per home to operate. Think what you gave last year; if you gave less than \$3.00, then someone else is carrying part of your load.

Included in this year's Newsletter is a Questionnaire. Would you please answer the questions honestly and give it to the Fireman when he calls at your home, or mail it to us? You may sign it or leave it unsigned. We are primarily interested if you would sign a petition, mandating the Trustee to provide us sufficient funds for our total operation. Once again, let me remind you that this will cost no more than an average of \$5.00 per home and each home will pay its fair share. We must have your answer at once, as the petition must be presented to the Trustee by July in order for this to go in effect in the year 1972, one year from now. If this tax money is obtained, no other fund raising events will be conducted and this will be our only means of support.

Thanking you in advance for your contribution,

Sincerely yours,



John Barr
Fire Chief

CONSOLIDATION!

In the past few months most of you have read something about the effort to consolidate the city of Evansville and the county under one central metropolitan type government. Your fire department has been fighting this move through its affiliation with the Suburban Firemen's Association of Vanderburgh County and adjacent areas.

This merger of government operations will affect everyone living outside the present city limits of Evansville. The major effect on the suburban areas will be higher taxes. By gaining control of the areas now outside the city limits of Evansville, a broader tax base would be established to help pay for present and future indebtedness planned for the downtown areas of the city.

It is mentioned in many speeches and newspaper articles that the west side area will be growing rapidly within the near future. In these same speeches and articles it is mentioned that there is inadequate fire protection, sanitary sewage facilities and police protection. In regard to fire protection, your volunteer fire department has been working on an expansion program since 1966. During that year your volunteer fire department purchased the lot on Williams Road where the present #2 station stands. This was prior to the announcement of Indiana State University and the projected boom in residential and commercial expansion. In the year 1968 plans were finalized to build the present #2 station on Williams Road. Financing was arranged, and the station was finally completed in the fall of 1969.

Realizing the need for additional pumper capacity, your volunteer fire department purchased a new 750 gal. G.P.M. pumper in the latter part of 1969 and received delivery in February, 1970.

We feel that this is evidence enough to prove that you the residents of the suburban west side are getting adequate fire protection at the present time and will continue to get adequate protection in the years to come, provided your volunteer fire department can be maintained at the high level of fire fighting capability. At this time, plans are being made to purchase additional emergency equipment to meet the needs of our rapidly developing suburban area.

It will be up to you as individuals of this suburban area to voice your feelings at any open hearings, news media surveys, or at the time that this consolidation effort is put before the people in the form of a referendum vote. Remember, the decision is eventually going to be up to you to select between our present individual county government or become another overtaxed home owner in the present monstrous city governmental machine.

In regard to law enforcement, a review of the crimes committed within the city versus crimes in the suburban areas one can readily see that under adequate sheriff law enforcement the county ranks much better than the city in crimes committed.

In regard to sanitary facilities, present building codes, if adequately enforced, will take care of major problems. Why should many of you living in this suburban area be forced to pay for sewers within the present city as well as some additional sewers in Vanderburgh Co. when you have already paid for private sewer facilities?

We hope that you will give serious consideration to all the facts and figures which will be presented to you in the coming months and will voice your individual opinions in hearings on the issue or at the time of a referendum vote.

AUXILIARY HIGHLITES

The newly formed Perry Twp. Fire Dept. Auxiliary was organized by the wives of the volunteer firemen and is in its third year of activities.

Through the efforts of the Auxiliary, an American flag was obtained from the V.F.W. Post 1114 to be mounted on the front of Station #2.

Fund raising activities have been rummage sales and a door to door vanilla flavoring sale. With the profits from these projects, the women were able to purchase a power lawn mower for maintenance of the fire station grounds, and also a steel cabinet for storage and a plywood book case for office supplies.

COMMUNITY SPIRIT

It takes many people to make a fire department. Many people, in addition to our regular personnel, have helped to beautify our station number 2 on Williams Road. The following persons and firms have donated various items to the fire department for landscaping the premises:

- Alvin Franzman, Jr.
- Tony Schlageter
- Big "G" Lumber Company
- John Tekoppel
- Syl and Robert Hassler
- Coca-Cola Company
- Bunge Masonry Contracting
- Sears
- VFW Post 1114 Ladies Auxiliary
- Kuester Hardware
- Ladies Auxiliary of P.T.V.F. Dept.

The Fire Department wishes to thank these firms and individuals for their contributions.

THE BLUE LIGHT

Throughout the state of Indiana, the blue flashing light means a volunteer fireman is on an official emergency run. This should demand respect of all motorists, just as the red flashing lights of other emergency services.

By using this blue light, we ask for the motorist to yield the right-of-way. We ask that you watch for and yield to the flashing blue light.

WHO ARE THEY

Do you know the men who answer your call for help when you have a fire? More than likely, some of these men are your neighbors. See if you know them!

- Chief John Barr
- Assistant Chief Paul Kuester
- Assistant Chief Gil Reiter
- Captain Charles (Chuck) Weisling
- Captain Gerald Ludwig
- Captain Harlan Ziliak

Dave Blaser, Floyd Blasr, Elmer Bruck, Paul Clem, Dale Floyd, Leon Groves, Jim Hayes, Leroy Jorgenson, Richard Lammela, Bill Lilly, Jerry Poiles, Fred Rabe, Greg Rose, Terry Labhart.

Let these men know you appreciate them and the good work they perform.