

PERRY TOWNSHIP VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPT.

P.O. BOX 6486, EVANSVILLE, INDIANA 47719-0486 • www.perryfd.com

Rescue Truck Replaced



Perry Township Fire Department (in the month of March) has replaced one of its rescue trucks. 7 Rescue 8, a 1993 Ford Explorer was replaced with a 2004 Dodge Durango.

In the past this truck has been used as a Quick Response Command Vehicle and a Medical Response Vehicle. The new vehicle will continue to serve the township in this capacity.

At the time of this newsletter, the new rescue truck was in the process of having the emergency lights and striping installed.

Thank you for your contributions that made it possible to get this truck into full service by April 1, 2004.

Water Rescue Safety Immersion Suits Purchased

Perry Township Fire Department has recognized the problem of cold water and ice emergencies...with the safety of the First Responders in mind. The purchase of two cold water rescue immersion suits has made this task safer and more efficient. We have recently purchased two more of these suits. This has enabled us to respond quicker to cold water and ice emergencies by deploying these suits at the Northern and Southern fire stations.

These suits allow the emergency personnel to enter cold or icy water for an extended period of time and perform a rescue with added safety to our personnel.

Perry Township Fire Department wants to thank you for your donations. Your donations have made it possible to purchase these cold water immersion suits which make our job safer.



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Perry Twp. Volunteer Fire Department

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Saturday, January 10, 2004
Evansville Courier & Press

MAN CAUGHT IN FLOOD RESCUED

A frantic rescue effort Friday saved the life of a Vanderburgh County man who was washed away in floodwaters near Old Henderson Road in the southern part of the county.

Kenny Collins, 40, was trying to walk from his broken-down truck to dry land when the water swept him away, said Maj. Tom Wallis of the Vanderburgh County Sheriff's Department. Collins and 39-year-old Steven Soell had been stranded on a dry "island" since the night before.

"They got stuck in the backwater," Wallis said, "Basically, they panicked; they broke into a river camp to stay warm. This morning, they decided they were going to try to walk out."

The cold water and strong current quickly soured Soell on the idea.

Collins, however, pressed on and was swept off by the water. He spent three hours there, being pulled along by the current, before rescue workers found him wedged in a tree.

"It really is a miracle this man was found alive," Wallis said.

That miracle, rescue workers said, took the form of a red hat - the first thing spotted from a search helicopter.

That's how rescuers found Collins. He was wedged into the tree, chest-deep in water and suffering from severe hypothermia. After hours in the water, his body temperature was about 90 degrees.

"(Rescuers) landed in an area nearby; I'm not sure where yet," said Perry Township Assistant Fire Chief Larry Krack. "And one of our people in a dry suit walked to the victim and brought him back to the LifeFlight (helicopter) and brought him out."

Collins was taken to St. Mary's Medical Center, where he was in serious condition Friday Night. That was after an upgrade from critical condition upon his arrival.

He and Soell had come to the area, near the Duesner Road intersection, sometime the night before.

They wanted to "check out the flooding," Soell said.

So they drove through waist-deep water for about half a mile south of Duesner. They barely made it through, Soell said.

"We decided we better not try to go no further," Soell said. "So we turned around, and the truck died."

...After staying in an unlocked river camp for the night, they were ready to get out of there. They put trash bags around their legs and tried to walk through the waist deep water. The current was tugging at Soell's 210# frame and he decided to turn back. Collins had made it about halfway across before his legs were knocked out from under him. They were yelling back and forth

and both knew they were in serious trouble. Soell was about to try and get a fire started to create some black smoke . . .

Before he could, though, Keith Kuester, a district chief for the Perry Township Fire Department, happened upon him.

"I was headed up-river to pick up a friend of mine, and a subject flagged me down over in some trees," Kuester said. "I was actually headed out to go hunting. It was just chance of luck that we found him, or we never would have known this other subject was in the water."

If Kuester had been a little later, Wallis said, Collins likely would not have made it - another 30 minutes probably would have finished him.

"Without question, if LifeFlight had not been dispatched, this would have turned out to be fatal," Wallis said. "They deserve all the credit available. They did a wonderful job."

As for the two involved, Soell said they learned their lesson. "I'll never do it again; I thought I had lost my buddy."

(Our condolences go out to the family of Vanderburgh Co. Sheriffs Deputy Major Tom Wallis, who lost his life April 3, 2004, in a motorcycle accident.)



Back on dry land Perry Township Volunteer Fire Department District Chief Keith Kuester, left, tells how he and other firefighters with the help of LifeFlight rescued Kenny Collins from the flooded bottom lands of the Ohio River on Friday, January 9, 2004.

EVANSVILLE COURIER PHOTO

Hazardous Materials

Hazardous materials by definition are any substance or material in any form or quantity which pose an unreasonable risk to safety, health and property when transported in commerce (DOT).

Hazardous materials...you see them every day around the house and while driving around town. They come in many different forms - gases, liquids and solids and are classified into eight hazard classes. Each chemical also has a four digit UN identification code.

If hazardous materials are left in the container they are manufactured in, they will not cause an issue. If the hazardous materials escape from their container or are mixed, please call 911 for

help from Perry Township Fire Department.

The next time you see a large tank truck driving down the highway, look for the diamond shaped placard on the side. Both its coloration and the identification number on it tell emergency response personnel its content, how to safely approach an incident with the chemical and what we should do if it is either mixed, spilled, or catches fire.

Almost any chemical could be considered a hazardous material if it is not used according to the manufacturers label. Special attention must be paid to materials which should not be mixed. (For example, when cleaning the bathroom a chlorine based abrasive cleaner could be accidentally mixed with an acidic liquid toilet bowl

cleaner and could produce an irritating gaseous by-product that could overcome you or your family.)

If this happens, call 911 and Perry Township Fire Department will respond to assure that there are no major problems.

FIRE FACT:
Smoke from burning five pounds of leaves contains about one pound of air pollution!



**If you have
already sent
a
donation -
THANK
YOU!!!**

Perry Township Fire Department recently received a generous donation of \$7600 from a township resident. This donation made it possible to purchase additional medical bags and radios. We were able to get seven fully stocked medical bags with oxygen, advanced airway, and suction equipment. These bags, along with ten radios, have been placed with our members in different areas throughout Perry Township. This enables our First Responders and EMT's to arrive on scene with life saving medical equipment in the critical minutes prior to the arrival of our rescue units and ambulance personnel. We also purchased seven smaller bags with basic medical equipment for seven new First Responders who have just completed classes. The EMS committee and Perry Township Fire Department wish to thank this individual for such a valuable donation!

**WE NEED YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS
TO HELP US HELP YOU!
PLEASE SEND YOURS TODAY!**

Practice Fire Safety & make sure your summer is a Safe & Happy one!



Perry Township
Volunteer Fire Department
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 Evansville, Indiana 47719-0486

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EMS Committee Plans:

The EMS Committee was granted funds that you donated to purchase five new Lifepak 500 defibrillators. This increases the number of defibrillators available in Perry

Township to six. Thanks for your donations to make us all safer.

In April, another First Responder Class will be offered to train some of the

new members and re-certify the current members.

THANK YOU AGAIN FOR YOUR DONATIONS!!

STREET ADDRESS SIGNS ~ ORDER YOURS TODAY!

We Can't Help You If We Can't Find You!!!

ORDER FORM

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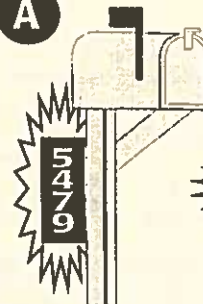
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