

Chiefs Report, September 2024

In this report I will be discussing a few different topics. I will be discussing call volume for the month and year, average personnel for the year, showing up for events, communications, and training opportunities.

So far in 2024 we have run 315 calls and 36 calls in the month of September, we are averaging 30 plus calls a month this year.

The average personnel for the year are only 4, that means in 315 calls so far only 4 people are responding to these calls. The only reason it's a 4 is because we had a higher response for a few calls and if it wasn't for that we would be at 2-3 people a call. Last time I checked our ACTIVE roster, there are currently over 22 people. I can pull the report if anyone wants to see but on the fire alarms and motor vehicle accidents or wires down it's only 2-3 people that respond on average. I understand no one wants to respond to these calls but you should want to because the fire alarm can be a fire, an accident with unknown injuries can turn into an entrapment, and a wire down call can turn into a variety of different things! **This needs to change, period.** I shouldn't have to worry as a chief if I'm going to get a truck out the door or not when a call comes in and I'm not around or if I'm responding alone. I understand life things happen; all I ask from you guys is please try your best to respond to calls when you can and come to training or do extra outside training.

The next topic is showing up for events, we need to do better at public relations. I send out these events a week or two ahead of time, not a day or two before. The Home Depot event we had 1 person go to, that looks terrible in the public eyes. This has happened before and it can't happen, if I ask for help, please help if you can. Another example is Sunday 10/13 I asked for 30 minutes of people time for the Scouts, 5 people showed up. Once again, I understand people have life activities, I'm not asking to dedicate your life but please do better.

The last thing that I'm going to mention plays into all of what was said up above, communication. The communication in this firehouse is okay but needs to be better. People need to use IAR when responding to calls, I don't care if your available or not put down not available or responding, we pay for it so please use it. Also, if someone sends a message and asks for a response you need to answer yes or no if you are available or not. It takes 5 seconds to answer, if you don't have someone's number ask, I'll give my number to anyone, call me text me whenever I don't care what time of the day it is.

In conclusion, don't take this as a hit on you guys, it's a team effort and everyone gets the same treatment across the board. If I didn't care I wouldn't have typed this long report out. I am very happy to be the chief here and I talk greatly to other people about my members and fire house. I am happy to be your chief and will continue to do my best to provide the best for you all.

Austin Gromek, Chief Rennerdale Volunteer Fire Department