



Golden's Bridge Fire District

Vol. 1 No. 2 News Bulletin November 2014

...part of a series of news and information bulletins published by the Board of Fire Commissioners of the Golden's Bridge Fire District, keeping the community informed.

More F.A.Q.s About The Golden's Bridge Firehouse

What are the Fire Commissioners doing to reopen the Firehouse?

Although the Firehouse is not reopened, the Department is fully operational and open for business! To provide a complete picture, it's important to know what's happening at the Department as well. Let's begin there:

- A temporary headquarters and garage was established adjacent to the Firehouse to maintain all vehicles, apparatus and equipment at a central location to ensure the highest level of service.
- County, State and Federal mandated training – as well as weekly drills in structure and vehicle fires, accident response and other emergencies – have continued on site.
- Recruitment efforts have increased our active Volunteer Firefighter ranks to 50.
- Since the Feb. 24th blaze, Volunteers have logged 850-plus hours of personal training and have responded to more than 150 emergency calls, as well as all mutual aid calls in surrounding districts.
- Measures are being taken to make the temporary garage functional for the winter.

We are taking many steps toward reopening the Firehouse, but the claims process dictates how far we can go until everything becomes official. These are some of the actions we have taken to date:

- Hired adjusters and other professionals with expertise in municipal structures and insurance claims – including National Fire Adjustment Co. – to oversee this extremely complex claims process.
- Hired Pleasantville-based Savin Engineers, P.C. to provide damage assessment and oversee the rehabilitation plan (when it becomes official) by evaluating bids and supervising construction.

The first F.A.Q. News Bulletin referenced “extensive” damage and loss to apparatus and equipment. What was lost and damaged? How does it impact the Department’s ability to meet the needs of our community, and was any of it replaced yet?

On top of the devastating damage, we lost a variety of vehicles – most significantly, a full size Rescue truck and two Fire Chief Vehicles, both Chevy Suburbans. We lost rescue and firematic tools, personal protective gear, and equipment used in training drills, as well as emergency communications, computers and other office equipment. *Although the loss was devastating, it has not compromised the Department’s emergency response capabilities.*

- Within hours after the fire, we had a Rescue Pumper truck on loan from Tarrytown-based Stiloski Heavy Rescue.
- Neighboring fire departments offered to lend us apparatus, gear and other equipment.
- Municipal Emergency Services, Inc., the largest supplier of Globe Manufacturing personal protective equipment, loaned the Department fire hoses and nozzles, rescue and firematic tools, and protective gear.
- Additionally, we authorized the emergency purchase of new communications equipment.
- Demonstrating extraordinary generosity and dedication, members of the Department earmarked their own funds to purchase a new Ford Explorer Fire Chief Vehicle. A mini Rescue truck was converted into a Chief's Vehicle.
- A good amount of equipment from the destroyed full size Rescue truck was saved and is now being temporarily deployed on one of the full size Class-A Pumpers/Engines, providing a combination Engine/Rescue vehicle.

The Department is operating with a full compliment of emergency vehicles, along with all emergency gear, apparatus and equipment, that is necessary for providing the most effective and highest level of response to fires and other emergencies in the community, as well as response to mutual aid calls. We thank you for your continued support, patience and understanding, and rest assured that the Department’s Chiefs, Officers and Volunteers continue to serve our community with the utmost professionalism and commitment.

Fire Safety Tip...Always have an escape plan in the event of a fire!