

Inspiration Points

A Newsletter of the Inspiration Point Rural Fire Protection District

IPRFPD Mission: to prevent and suppress fires, educate and rescue citizens, provide emergency medical services, promote public safety and foster community relations



Our recent wintry weather created extremely icy conditions on Hwy 62, just east of the White River. This semi and 7 cars attempted to ice skate on the hill without success. IPRFPD responders closed the highway until AHTD trucks could get there and spread chat. Fortunately there were no injuries and only slight damage to 2 cars.

Annual Meeting - New Commissioners, New Assessments

On November 6th, 2013, the Annual Meeting of IPRFPD was held at The Retreat at Sky Ridge. The required elections for new commissioners were held. Gene Chapman, Lynn McKenzie and David Gaylor were elected, replacing commissioners Jim Mautte, Patricia Helwig and Bob Howle whose terms had ended.

An election was also held regarding raising the assessments for the district. It was passed by those present in accordance with our by-laws.

The new yearly assessments will be \$50.00 for undeveloped land, \$100.00 for land with a house on it and \$125 for commercial property. Only one assessment is allowed per property owner (names must be exactly the same) but at the highest rate that applies. So if you own a business, a residence and undeveloped land (all under the same name), you will be charged only the \$125.00.

We're on Facebook!

Here's another way to get info and communicate with the fire department. We have recently set up a Facebook page. We will be posting photos, news and announcements of upcoming events, weather and road conditions.

If you are on Facebook, please "like" our page, "**Inspiration Point Rural Fire Protection District**", in order to receive updates as we post them.

Other Contact Info:

Jim Simmons - Chairman	jsimmons@ip-fire.org
Lynn McKenzie - Sec/Treas	lmckenzie@ip-fire.org
David Gaylor	dgaylor@ip-fire.org
Gene Chapman	gchapman@ip-fire.org
Ed Thompson - Chief	chief@ip-fire.org
Committees:	
Bill Brown - Traffic	bbrown@ip-fire.org
Margy Thompson - Newsletter	news@ip-fire.org

To leave a message

479-244-6876

Winter Weather Tips:

- If you have to do heavy outdoor chores, dress warmly and work slowly.
- Notify friends and family where you will be before you go hiking, camping, or skiing.
- Avoid traveling on ice-covered roads, overpasses, and bridges if at all possible.
- If you are stranded, it is safest to stay in your car.

A Very Busy 24 Hours

7:30 p.m., January 8. Hwy 62W in the Leatherwood Narrows. 3 semis stuck on very slick roads.



7:45 p.m. Learned of a 1 vehicle traffic accident - a car off the road on Busch Mountain.

6:30 a.m., January 9. Toned out to assist Grassy Knob with a house fire on Mundell Road.



Overhaul at the Mundell fire scene. Firefighter Sam Ward is working to pull down a portion of the wall so water can reach the smoldering fire still burning inside.

9:00 a.m. IPFD units assisted with another Grassy Knob call - 2 cars slid off the slick roads almost into a ravine.

This kind of day doesn't happen all that often but it does happen - and will likely do so again. This is why we really appreciate our volunteers and why those volunteers train to stay sharp and able to handle fire, medical and traffic emergencies.

Junior Volunteer Firefighter Program to Start

With Board approval, IPFD is beginning a Junior Volunteer Firefighter Program for young men and women, ages 16 to 18. This is a great volunteer opportunity for older teens in our area. These young volunteers would NOT be asked to fight fires but will have the chance to help out by learning proper technique with equipment and

gear, radio protocol, upkeep of apparatus and station buildings.

Captain Austin Kennedy is organizing the effort and would like to hear from any interested teens. Please contact him at austinkennedy46@gmail.com or call him at 832-580-6078.



Firefighters Ed and Margy Thompson gear up to assist Holiday Island Fire Department on a recent fire call. IPFD has mutual aid agreements with Holiday Island, Grassy Knob and Eureka Springs Fire Departments.

Traffic Directors Needed

Volunteers for the many duties and activities with IPFD are always needed. Of particular emphasis: we are looking for persons interested in traffic management when we respond to accidents, emergency medical calls, and fire incidents.

Traffic directors are important for providing the public safe and courteous control at accident scenes, guiding responders and ambulances to a scene, helping stage equipment as needed and providing support for responders.

We'll be happy to discuss the duties and training available for this work in our community.

Please contact Bill Brown at 479-981-3322 or email ewb40@yahoo.com

Winter Firewise Tip:

- Use fireplace, wood stoves, or other combustion heaters only if they are properly vented to the outside and do not leak flue gas into the indoor air space.

Holiday Weather for a Holiday Party

It was definitely Christmas weather when the department held its annual Christmas Party on Wednesday, December 11th at Angler's Grill. Thanks to all those that came out and to Steve Jesanis at Angler's for hosting! We enjoyed lots of good food and good company.

The party had been originally scheduled for the previous Saturday, but the wintry weather and icy roads interfered. Regardless, it was a lovely time for all those who attended and we hope for better weather next year.

A LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

Hello, I'm Jim Simmons and I've been selected by your Board of Commissioners as Chairman for this year.

First, I wish to thank our immediate past Chairman, Jim Mautte, Secretary/Treasurer, Patricia Helwig and Commissioner Bob Howle for their dedicated service to our Department. Their experience and insight have been an inspiration to us all.

In addition to being one of your Commissioners, I am also a firefighter and work traffic control during accidents and medical calls. I have been privileged to work alongside our volunteers "out in the public" and behind the scenes. We have a wonderful team responding to emergencies of all kinds. These volunteers and other non-responders also sacrifice more of their personal time to maintain our fire stations, fire trucks and other equipment.

When I moved here almost 6 years ago, I wondered why no one was ever at the firehouse. I didn't know that I just wasn't looking at the right time. Firefighter training occurs at least two evenings a month, the Board meets monthly and there is continual maintenance on fire equipment. I want every one of you to know that as members of our fire district, you are always welcome to visit. When you see cars in front of the stations, feel free to come in and say hello.

We also have a website, [IP-fire.org](http://ip-fire.org). Please understand this is YOUR website. If you have opinions, concerns or wish to suggest changes, send an e-mail to info@ip-fire.org.

We'd like to ask your help in another matter. In the course of responding to incidents, particularly accidents or fires, we may be on scene for many hours. A typical wreck requires at least an hour, often two or more. With a fire, crews may need to be on scene longer than 4 to 6 hours. We need member volunteers to provide coffee and/or water, and/or run errands for the Chief during these events. Such volunteers can allow essential fire personnel to remain on scene. If you can help, please call a Commissioner or send an e-mail to info@ip-fire.org.

Stay safe out there,
Jim Simmons, Chairman

FROM THE CHIEF ED THOMPSON

Greetings and Happy New Year to all members of the district. I hope this year is a safe and prosperous one for all.

Before I start into the end of year recap and statistics, I'd like to personally thank the three outgoing members of the IPRFPD board of commissioners for their hard work and dedication over the past three years. Jim Mautte, Patricia Helwig, and Bob Howle stepped up to serve on the board during a very difficult time. The current excellent status of your fire department is thanks, in large part, to their hard work and concerted efforts. It was a pleasure to work with all of them, as a firefighter and as chief, over the last three years. Thank you all for what you have done, and continue to do, to help the department.

I also want to welcome the three new board members. Gene Chapman and Lynn McKenzie have also worked tirelessly over the last three years to improve the department. They, along with David Gaylor, have agreed to give of themselves to help build on the work of the previous commissioners and continue to improve the quality and level of service our department offers its members. We look forward to working with you.

The department's activity level subsided considerably during the last quarter, with only 11 calls for assistance being answered. Six of those

calls were fires. One of the fires was a spectacular truck fire near the top of Busch Mountain, and the other was a stubborn brush fire on Thanksgiving Day. Four of the remaining calls were medical. The fifth was a motor vehicle accident involving a semi, two smaller vehicles, and an icy road. Fortunately there were no serious injuries or major property losses suffered during any of these incidents.

For the year, IPFD responded to a total of 87 calls. These were 39 medical; 15 vehicle accidents; 5 traffic control/road hazards; 17 fires, and 11 "other" including rescues, service calls, and controlled burns. We responded to five mutual aid calls outside our district, and requested mutual aid assistance twice. We experienced one significant structure fire in our district, and assisted Grassy Knob with another. I am pleased to report there were no injuries as a result of the fires, and there were no fatalities or serious injuries associated with the 15 traffic accidents.

The new year has begun with a flurry of activity. Photos can be seen elsewhere in this newsletter. The department answered mutual aid requests from both Holiday Island and Grassy Knob for assistance with structure fires. There were three traffic related incidents as a result of the icy conditions we have been experiencing lately. And there were two motor vehicle accidents and one medical call. These eight calls all took place in the first 10 days of January.

Your firefighters and medical responders continue training in an effort to serve you better. Three of our members are currently enrolled in the Emergency Medical Technician class in Eureka Springs. When they finish their training there will be seven EMT's and two EMR's (Emergency Medical Responders) to serve the needs of our residents.

That's about all there is room for this time around. As always, stay safe. Check the batteries in your smoke detectors. Call 911 if you need emergency help. And call me at 479-244-6876 or email me at chief@ip-fire.org if you need assistance with a controlled burn. And if you would like to volunteer to help, either as a firefighter, traffic officer, or at some other level, please contact me. We always welcome more members!