



West Peculiar Fire Protection District

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200 S. Main

Peculiar, Mo. 64078

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WEST PECULIAR FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

Providing Quality Emergency Services

From The Chief: Douglas Short

I would like to thank you for taking the time to look over this newsletter. Our department thought that it would be important to produce an informational flyer that we could send out to the patrons of our district to inform them of the services we provide. With this first newsletter we would like to inform our residents of not only the visible service that you are familiar, such as Fire and Emergency Medical Services, but also some of the other quality services that we provide. As with the majority of the community our agency has seen the growth patterns that have changed the services we deliver as well as the volume of those needs. We are striving to make sure that the quality of services does not fall, but instead becomes even better. My hope is to make our department a Fire Protection District that is not

only recognized positively by our patrons, but also on the county, regional and state level. Anyone having questions about is department are always welcome to contact me.



Board of Directors

The West Peculiar Fire Protection District is under the governance of three(3) elected members of a Board of Directors. Each Director serves for a six(6) year term with one being elected every two(2) years. Currently Jason Norman serves as Board President (term expires 2009), Dave Morris serves as Treasurer (term expires 2011) and Mike Millard serves as Secretary (term expires 2013).

As with any elected board or council, their responsibility is to oversee the fiscal and administrative operations of the District. At least once a month the Board

meets to review accounts payable, approve banking, budgetary and financial reports, handle personnel issues, oversees District policy and to discuss general operations as reported by the Chief. The Board of Directors are also responsible for setting the levy each year based on Missouri State Statute requirements.

The Board of Directors conduct all meetings in accordance with Missouri Sunshine Laws. Agendas are posted at public locations as well as on the web at www.westpeculiarfire.org. Meetings are generally scheduled for the first and third Thursday each month. All meetings are open to the public and held at the West Peculiar station at 200 S. Main.

West Peculiar Department Demographics

West Peculiar Fire Protection District is bordered on the North by 203rd Street, the West by Y Hwy, the South by 251st St. (with a section South to 261st St.) and on the East by Wheeler Rd. The entire District is contained within Cass County Missouri. West Peculiar is bordered on the North and West with Belton Fire/EMS, on the North and East with South Metro FPD and on the South by Harrisonville EMS and Central Cass FPD. We also share borders with Western Cass FPD and Dolan-West Dolan FPD which are volunteer departments.

The District currently has been rated as a Class 4 district through ISO for all residents that live within 5 miles of our station. This rating is based on a scale from 1 to 10 with 1 being the best rating a department can get. This rating provides for a reduced rate in your homeowners and business insurance policy.

Our current fleet:

- 3 – Fire Engines / Pumpers
- 2 – Ambulances
- 1 – Tanker
- 1 – Brush Truck
- 4 – Support Vehicles

With this fleet we have the ability to respond to variety of incident types. As our department continues to expand and the age of our apparatus require replacement we may in the future need the help of the district patrons to bond or levy additional funds to help with the replacement to ensure that our personnel have the best response capabilities.

Currently our department is considered a combination department. This means that the staffing of our station and apparatus comes from thirty five (35) Full-time, Part-time and Volunteer/Reserve personnel. All of our personnel are required to meet a minimum training level of Firefighter 1 and EMT. At this time all of

our full-time personnel are also required to achieve the Paramedic level of licensure for emergency medical service to allow us to provide 24 / 7 Advance Life Support coverage. On a daily basis we are currently staffed with 3 Ft and 2 Pt employees that staff the first out Engine and Ambulance.

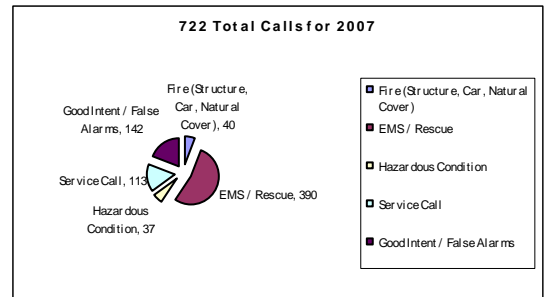
Financially our District has an annual budget of 1.2 million dollars. Eighty five percent of that is allocated to Human resources and the remainder to Support Services. Currently the majority of the budget is tax based with the current property tax rate at \$1.1168 The remainder of the revenue coming from service fees for ambulance transports. Our district is audited by a third-party CPA annually to ensure budgetary compliance.

For other Frequently Asked Questions please visit our web site at www.westpeculiarfire.org

Fire Operations

Our fire operations spread over a multitude of services other than that of the structural fire. In actuality the structure fire is one of the lowest volume of calls that we respond, with only 12-14 per year. More commonly we respond to lesser types of fires such as trash and brush, smoke alarms, fuel spills and other types of fires.

Though they may seem to be smaller fires, without extinguishment they could become larger fires. We also have mutual aid agreements with neighboring communities that we respond to. They in return provide reciprocal response for help on some of ours. This insures an adequate number



of personnel on the scene to handle emergencies, which provides for greater safety of our personnel.

Technical Operations

It is often said in the Fire Service, if there is something that needs to be done and no one else wants to do it, we can do it. This holds true for our department as well. Our District provides many services such as water rescue, confined space, high angle rescue, hazardous materials operations, and many other types of rescues and service. Most of these services require extensive training in comparison to the actual re-

sponse needs. It also requires us to use other resources and agencies to make it happen, to a level that we believe we can provide for our patron.



Emergency Medical Services

Our district provides Emergency Medical Services for all District residents. The medical treatment is provided at the highest level of care for EMS. Advanced Life Support means that the treatment that you may receive in care of trauma or medical conditions may involve the use of advanced procedures such as intravenous access, providing a 12-lead EKG, delivery of medications, advanced airways and many other procedures. The majority of our transports are to local hospitals such as Research Belton and Cass Medical Center, but we also will transport to other specialty centers based on patient condition or request. Due to our location and increased call volume on occasion we also must utilize an air ambulance or other mutual-aid ambulance for transport.

As a resident if you are transported to the hospital by our agency we do not require for the resident to pay any out of pocket expense. We only

accept the reimbursement that is provided by your insurance carrier. However, we do require any out of district patients to pay for the remainder of the service fees. If you are treated or transported by our ambulance we can assure that all of your personnel information will be kept confidential as we are regulated for HIPPA compliance. Over the past few years our agency has averaged 380

calls per year that were solely EMS related calls, with about a 7% increase per year.



Smoke Detectors
Save Lives:
If you are in need of a smoke detector or would like for us to check you detector, please give us a call.

Fire Prevention / Inspection

The District currently has adopted by ordinance the ICC 2003 Fire Code. The question is often asked, "Why is it necessary to have Fire Codes?". Fire codes provide for the safe building and other hazard related issues keeping our community safe. It also provides for life safety in business and other occupancies to ensure safety of occupants in case of fire. All of this equates to

a community that has reduced hazards and increased value. Our Prevention Division completes plan reviews of all new business occupancies as well as those under renovation. Our personnel also are out each month conducting yearly inspections of the businesses to ensure continued compliance with the code. We

like to make this an education experience for our businesses so that they can provide a quality service to their patrons as well.

Fire / EMS Education

Fire Education is one of the most effective tools that we can use to make our community a safe haven to live in. We constantly strive to educate by going to the schools and other community gatherings to inform them of Fire and EMS related education information. Yearly during October our crews go out to the elementary schools and daycares to give presentations

on fire safety. We also attend many other of the social gatherings such as the Harvest Moon Festival and Lakefest.

The district also provides EMS related education such as CPR and First Aid. For interested district patrons we will provide a class several times a year. We also provide this service to some of our educational partners



as well.

Anyone that would like for us to come to their meeting, block party or other gathering to provide an education opportunity should also feel free to give us a call to set it up.

Firefighter Training

Misconception is that firefighters only run calls. This is false, in a daily shift a firefighter has many other jobs to do. One of the most important is to maintain a high training level. All firefighters with West Peculiar are hired with a minimum level of training of Firefighter 1 and Emergency Medical Technician. Most also hold a Paramedic license as well. Because of the nature of the changing world the firefighter must continue their technical training throughout their career. Each day the firefighters have some form of training lasting several hours and are sent out for specialty training several times a year. This continual training ensures that we provide the most current techniques of service.



Reminder:
When it is that time of the year to adjust for Daylight Savings Time, you should also change the batteries in your smoke detector.

What is a Fire Protection District?

A Fire Protection District, as governed by [Chapter 321](#) of the [Missouri Revised Statutes](#), is a political subdivision which is organized to supply fire protection. That is to say that such a district is an independent (i.e. not part of a municipal government) organization, that levies taxes and uses the revenue from

those taxes to provide fire protection. The residents that live within the defined boundaries of the District elect a Board of Directors for the district and vote on all tax initiatives.

Our Board of Directors may set ordinances, policies and procedures that are in relation to our

mission as a Fire Service and Emergency Medical Service agency.

West Peculiar Emergency Management Agency



The mission of the West Peculiar Emergency Management Agency is to serve the citizens of the City of Peculiar, and the Cass County residents protected by the West Peculiar Fire Protection District, through effective planning for natural and man-made disasters. Our goal is to save lives and to protect property through coordination

of an integrated emergency management system with all emergency response organizations, support services and volunteers. We will be an advocate for greater community efforts, including educating the general public to mitigate and prepare for potential emergencies. We will support efforts to train and exercise emergency responders in both the public and private

sectors. We will manage and coordinate efforts toward a rapid recovery from disasters with an effective disaster assistance program.

This agency is committed to effective actions to prevent some disasters and to reduce the impact of those over which we have no control.



What Happens When I Dial 9-1-1

Depending on where you live in our district, your call to 9-1-1 will go to either Raymore P.D. or Cass County Sheriffs Department. They will take some brief information to determine what the nature of the call is and then forward it on to our dispatch. Because of this transfer it is important to remember not to hang up until you are told to by the communications officer. The transfer only takes a few seconds. After you have been transferred to our dispatch, they will take more information from you and immediately notify our personnel of the call. In the case of a medical emergency they may also give you further information and instructions to help until we arrive. Our average response time from the time our dispatch notifies us until we arrive at your residence or business is less than 6 minutes. Our most common delay to a residence is the lack of adequate



address posting on the home or driveway. If you are unsure whether your addressing meets the requirements, please feel free to call and we can assist you.

is of business nature, you should always use 9-1-1 to contact us for a emergency. This ensures that the call will always be answered.

Unless you have a question that

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Why Does the Fire Engine Respond on Medical Emergencies

In a medical emergency, with most all types of problems, the best treatment is always going to be the reduction of time that it takes to arrive at the Emergency Department. Our personnel are doing skills that stabilize you for the transport and to do this requires use of equipment that we must bring to every call, as we

often find that emergency incidents can change in a very short period of time. With only 2 persons on the ambulance, by the time they have assessed a situation, provided needed treatment and moved the patient and all equipment, the time would be well outside the recognized standard for preferred care. By add-

ing the additional personnel from the Engine, this time can be greatly reduce, thus providing the best medical care and treatment.

The Future of West Peculiar Fire Protection District

The Board of Directors and Administration of the District hold the responsibility to provide for future needs for the patrons of the District. This is accomplished through Strategic Management Planning and Capital Improvement plans.

Our District has seen rapidly expanding growth over the past 5-7 years and it is anticipated to continue. It is important that our District can maintain services to match the growth. We have instituted an Adequate

Public Facilities Fee that is charged to all new construction within the District. This fee will help offset the cost of construction of additional stations within the District, essentially passing the fee on to new growth and not the existing taxpayers.

In order to facilitate the replacement of aging equipment the Directors have placed a Bond issue on the November 2008 ballot for 4.2 million dollars. This essentially will replace all equipment over

a phased plan, and the building of Station 2. By phasing in the bond purchases the Directors will be able to maintain a lower taxing levy. As growth continues, the District may then need to go back to the people for a levy for additional personnel. All of this necessary not only because of growth, but also to maintain the excellent service that we would like to continue to offer.

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200 S. Main
Peculiar, Mo. 64078

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Visit Our Website

Please come to visit our Website at www.westpeculiarfire.org. You will find sections on Frequently Asked Questions, Personnel, Local Weather and many other topics. In the near future we will also be posting a Quarterly Newsletter that will be used to keep our district patrons up to date on the happening of the District.

Recent Happenings

Beginning in January 2008 the District has added the additional position of Captain of Support Services. This officer's main responsibilities will include those functions of Fire Marshal and Training Officer for our department. Captain Lewis Young accepted this position.

In January of 2008 the District was awarded a grant from the Department of Homeland Security – US Fire Administration for the hiring and funding of 3 personnel for our department. This award will partially fund the salaries of these personnel at rates that decrease over a 5 year period. The grant is equivalent to approximately \$360,000 for the District.

West Peculiar Fire Protection District

Mission Statement

The West Peculiar Fire Protection District is committed to continuing a working partnership with the community by providing professional services in Fire Protection, Pre-hospital Healthcare and other Value-added activities.

Vision Statement

West Peculiar is committed to excellence, innovation, professionalism and utilization of stakeholder contributions by:

- Remembering the past
- Remaining focused on the present
- Preparing for the future