

DIXON AMBULANCE DISTRICT

By Janet M. Driscoll, Administrator

The Dixon Ambulance District is located at 305 S. Ellen St. (HWY 28) in Dixon. We provide emergency medical services and transportation for the residents of the District.

The ambulances are staffed with state licensed EMTs and Paramedics providing 24/7 coverage. The ambulances are equipped with 12 lead EKG monitors capable of faxing the results to the ER physician. We also carry glucometers, oxygen, IV and drug therapy supplies, splints and numerous other medical supplies. We also carry an Auto Pulse which performs compressions during CPR. Each ambulance is



equipped with a power gurney.

If you have a medical emergency call 911. We are dispatched by the Pulaski 911 Dispatch Center.

It is best to call 911 instead of coming to the ambulance base in case the crews are out on a call. We have mutual aid agreements with the surrounding ambulance services that can cover for us if we should be out on another call.

We would like to welcome you to the Dixon area and in case you should need us it would be very helpful if your house number is where the crew can readily see it.

NOT JUST A RIDE TO THE HOSPITAL

Dixon Rural Fire Protection District

By Susan E. Hohman

American author, H. Jackson Brown, Jr. admonished, "Remember that the happiest people are not those getting more, but those giving more." That statement would seem, then, to include those who volunteer, since they typically "give" more than they "get." An important, but often unheralded, form of volunteering is to be a member of a local volunteer fire department. Giving of their time and energy, and devoting countless hours to instruction and serving, participants in local firefighting efforts would definitely fit that description.

What began years ago with equipment made from scrap, today is a viable, up-to-date, integral part of our community. The Dixon Rural Fire Protection District encompasses approximately 250 square miles of coverage in three counties: Pulaski, Phelps, and Maries. Citizens in those counties included in the district pay a .25 cent tax (on \$100 assessed valuation) for its use.

From its humble beginning, the Fire Department has grown to its current facility with all updated equipment. In the recent past, new rescue trucks, a new command vehicle, and a new transport vehicle were also garnered for the District. Through a grant, the department has instituted a junior fire-fighting program. Students age 16-18 can become junior firefighters, while those age 14-16 sign on as cadet firefighters. Although some restrictions apply (for example, they cannot enter a burning building), these adolescent firefighters may attend a fire and some are allowed to direct traffic around a fire scene.

The Dixon firefighters prove that their volunteerism knows no bounds. The crew took it upon themselves to support a burn camp. Firefighters devote time to raising funds to send at least one area child who has suffered burn injuries to Missouri Children's Burn Camp, located at Camp Sabra in Lake of the Ozarks, Missouri.

The fire department is made up of 30 volunteers, led by Fire Chief, Dennis Lachowitz. These men and women, though not paid for this job, make themselves available 24 hours per day to fight fires and attend rescue operations. Many times, one can observe them walking at Lion's Club Park, in full fire-fighting regalia, in preparation and training for the dirty, hot task of dousing fires. Also, those of the crew who are available, meet each Thursday evening from 7:30 to approximately 10:30 p.m. to assess their efforts and discuss methods and glean instruction. They currently use 14 vehicles and operate out of three fire stations - Dixon, Brinktown and Hayden.

A five-member board meets the third Thursday of each month at 6:00 p.m. to discuss updates and plans for improvement, as well as the fiscal health of the department. MaLinda (Mindy) Bassett, secretary-treasurer, serves as the only paid member on staff. For questions about the District, or to notify firefighters of a planned controlled burn, the fire department

phone number is 573-759-6315.



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