

Fire Department Report April 2025

This is one of those springs when the grasses and vegetation on the forest floor were not flattened down by snow. This scenario increases the chance of wildfires until the forest “greens up”. We had our official refresher with Ciara from the Washburn DNR office. We have also invested in lighting/sirens and high visibility reflectors to bring our brush truck up to NFPA standards.

PUBLIC REMINDER: any fires bigger than a recreational 3'x3'x3' needs a burning permit unless there is 100% snow cover. Any non-permitted fire is subject to a \$500 fine.

Any permitted fire that the Fire Department responds to and is found to be non-compliant with permit rules are also subject to a \$500 fine. If you are fined by the town for illegal/dangerous burning you most certainly will also hear from the DNR. If you've been watching the news lately you know how devastating wildfires can be, especially during dry conditions.

Below is information submitted by Jack Nelson who, with Jay Wiltz, helped develop our own Search and Rescue Personal Watercraft program. Our new personal watercraft will arrive on Saturday, April 5th.

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Over the last year Jay Wiltz and I, Jack Nelson, spearheaded the establishment of a Search and Rescue Personal Watercraft (SAR PWC) program for the La Pointe Fire Department. This program was developed after recognizing the need for a fast, maneuverable water rescue operation of Madeline Island and surrounding waters. With input from other firefighters in the Department and Sarah Schram, our Ambulance Director, equipment was selected, and response strategies

were developed that would ensure a coordinated and effective approach to water rescue.

Thanks go to the Town Board for approving the funding and for the donors to the Fire Department who provided financial support.

Thanks to the teamwork of many, the Fire Department will now be better equipped to respond to water emergencies.