

Kansasville Fire & Rescue Department – the past, present and future...

Not too long ago, fall of 2007 to be exact, things got pretty interesting in the Town of Dover as notice was received that the contract with Union Grove – Yorkville Rescue would be severed three months later. With that notice – the Town of Dover and Fire Department leadership would need to assume all emergency transportation needs for the community. As long as department historians can recall – the Town has always relied on agreements with other departments to provide transport from our scenes. Union Grove reported the need to cease providing transport services because of our ever increasing call volume. While Kansasville Fire & Rescue Department maintains a strong relationship and partnership with Union Grove Fire Department to this day, (including joint ownership of a tower platform and automatic dispatch and responses for fires), the need for independence was upon us.

Members of the Kansasville Fire & Rescue Department did provide licensed first responders (licensed at the EMT Basic or EMT Intermediate Technician level) to assist at the scenes of our local emergencies, but when it was time for transport, unless extra hands were needed, other departments would provide the actual transport to the hospital.

Meetings with private vendors resulted in a local provider, Medix Ambulance Service out of Burlington, receiving a contract for service. That contract would bring a crew of two into our station, around the clock providing EMT Intermediate - ALS (Advanced Life Support) level care – the same level of service that was provided by Union Grove previously. Simultaneously, the search was on for the purchase of an ambulance. The Kansasville Fire & Rescue Department, with the help of generous donations from the Gifford-Larson VFW Post and The Community State Bank of Union Grove, became the proud owners of Rescue 532, a 1997 Med Tech ambulance which came used from the Butler Fire Department.

Since we started coverage with the Medix crews in February 2008, supplemented by our tireless and dedicated volunteer membership, one immediate benefit to our residents was improved response times. With our current service, we are averaging less than 2 minutes to get our rescue squad out the door, bringing trained personnel to your emergency in less time. Compared to a non staffed station – this time could easily exceed 10 minutes based on responder locations. Understanding we all moved into and live in a rural community because we chose to – when your family suddenly is in need of medical assistance – you still would like to have them readily available. Knowing that minutes do count – the Town of Dover recognized the need to bring this level of commitment to our community.

It doesn't stop there. We hope you all have had the opportunity to visit our station and tour the crew quarters that were added to our existing station back in February 2009. This 5,000 sq. ft. addition provides living space for our crews and extra storage / garage area for our specialized vehicles and equipment. That living space is also used by our local volunteers if they opt to stay overnight during their duty group shifts (volunteers sign up and commit to respond to calls between 9 PM and 4 AM), or for in climate weather or heavy call volumes. A recent change in our rules allows members to join as long as they reside within 20 minutes from the

station. Some of our members stay at the station to gain experience during day and night shifts with our reputable department.

In the future, the Kansasville Fire & Rescue Department will take on this responsibility and will not rely on contracting with a private service. A second ambulance was purchased used from the Burlington Rescue Squad and will be put into service after the first of the year. The 1999 Med Tech ambulance then becomes Rescue 533. Work has already begun to submit an operational plan to the State of Wisconsin EMS Section which will outline our agenda and plan to provide the coverage on our own.

Our current membership is beginning transformation to a primary provider role versus “first response – non transporting roles”. Training current members in areas of lifting, moving and packaging patients has greater importance. Training our membership in EVOC (Emergency Vehicle Operations Certification) is the most recent step towards our goal. Our equipment has become more technical over the years. No longer can we get by with a simple first aid kit. Heart monitors capable of defibrillation, 12 lead EKG acquisition and transmission, external pacemaker capability, IV’s, medications, and advanced airways all take a toll on budget and training. Our team takes on this responsibility eagerly but we are always seeking others to join as members and support our cause.

We invite anyone interested in joining our EMS / Fire Department to call Chief Bratz at 262-878-3811. Please leave a message for the Chief if not in. Our department secretary can be found in the office M-W-F between 9 AM – 12 Noon and has applications readily available. We invite you to tour the department and see how you too can be part of our elite team!

The Department would like to wish all a happy holiday season and a prosperous new year!!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jeff Bratz". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping initial "J" and a long, horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Jeff Bratz, Chief