

TELLICO VILLAGE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

September 2017

Mission: To Save Lives and Property

Tellico Village Fire / Rescue Team Battles Boat Fire

Well Equipped and Trained Volunteers - a Complimentary and Vital Component for Fire/Rescue

At approximately 3 pm Saturday, August 5th Tellico Village Fire/Rescue Team members Rick Papke, Gene DeSanto and Mike King responded to a 911 call reporting a boat on fire. They quickly located the burning boat near the Lauderdale Marina and Campground on the Greenback side of the lake.

Smoke and flames were billowing out of the transom of *Sweet Forty-Eight*, a 48 foot yacht, and they immediately began drawing water from the lake and applying it to the fire.



The owner had abandoned ship and was picked up by a passing boater. He said the fire started in the engine compartment and the on-board halogen fire suppression system had activated and knocked down the flames but failed to completely suppress the fire. There were two hundred gallons of diesel fuel on board the yacht.

The Tellico Village Fire Team fought the fire for nearly an hour when they were joined by the Loudon County and Greenback fire boats and a boat from Tennessee Wildlife Resources. TWR attempted to tow the yacht away from the shoreline, that effort was unsuccessful and the boat drifted into the shoreline igniting trees and brush adding to the firefighting task.

With all boats in action the fires were controlled within 45 minutes and the Greenback departed the scene. Tellico and Loudon County continued to apply water to the still smoldering yacht. After three hours on the scene the fire was suppressed and the Tellico Village Fire Boat returned to it's mooring at the Yacht Club docks.

Boat/US, a towing and salvage company, was readying the yacht for towing when small flames again erupted. Once again Tellico Fire/Rescue responded and applied water for about an hour to extinguish the fire. The yacht was then towed away for salvage.

Here are a few take-aways from this episode:

The Tellico Village crew and fire boat demonstrated the value of a complementary component of a trained crew with appropriate equipment.

Response time and preparation are absolutes when addressing an emergency. The Tellico Village Fire Boat, moored at the Yacht Club, is the only fire boat on the lake that is in the water and prepared to respond quickly.

Please keep your distance from fire scenes – give the fire fighters room to do their job. There were many pleasure boats in dangerous proximity to the fire boats.

Please mind your wake – many boats passed at an inappropriate speed creating wakes that made maneuvering the fire boats difficult.



Do Not Disturb



Picture yourself in one of these situations:

It's 6 p.m. and you and your spouse have just sat down for a quiet dinner when, oh-oh, your pager goes off and you are needed for an emergency right now.

Or, you've had a long day and you're dead tired and finally get to sleep at about midnight when in the middle of the night, oh-oh, your pager goes off and there's an emergency that needs your attention immediately.

Do Not Disturb is not an option for The Tellico village Fire/Rescue Team. They are on call 24/7, and this year, they have responded to an average of fifty 911 calls per month. That is a lot of disrupted dinners and sleep. That's also a lot of neighborly care and professional service.

As you read this you might be saying "We have never used them". You will. And when you do you will want them to be well trained and well equipped. The volunteers serve us so well and they deserve your support.

Enjoy your dinner and sleep tight. . .we have your back.

Salutes to the Fire/Rescue Team: Posts on Nextdoor

Thank you to all the EMTs and First Responders who came in the pouring rain Monday night. I was so impressed with your quick response and the treatment he was given. Being new to Tellico Village, it was a frightening experience not knowing who to call, but you guys came through for us! I can't thank you enough. - Robin

I could not agree more. Our EMTs are awesome! - Catrina.

We have a wonderful Volunteer Fire Department and EMTs. We are all blessed. - Karen

These men and women were on call all day on eclipse day, ready to help anyone in any situation. We are blessed to have the best volunteers watching out for our safety. - Cindy

The Women's Club of Tellico Village Donation a Plus for the Village

TV Women's Club President Nancy Benn recently announced that they are donating \$2,000 to the Tellico Village Fire/Rescue Team to purchase two Zoll Plus Automatic Emergency Defibrillators (AEDs).

The Zoll AED Plus is fully automatic which provides feedback to the operator on depth and speed of compressions and automatically provides stimulus to the heart as needed.



Pictured left to right: Rick Papke, Deputy Chief; Sue Milligan, TVWC; Don Skalecki, Fire Chief; Ed Valente, Deputy Chief; Jan Sampson, TVWC

We currently have six AEDs strategically placed throughout the village in Fire Rescue Team member's personal vehicles to ensure rapid deployment.

Fire Chief Don Skalecki said " This is a big plus for Tellico Village residents as it provides the Fire/Rescue team with the tools to provide a high level of service."

A special thanks to Jan Sampson, a member of the Club's Finance committee for her help in securing this grant.

Neighbors Helping Neighbors 2017 Campaign

Yes, I want to join the 100% Club. Enclosed is my donation.

_____ \$50 _____ \$100 _____ \$125 _____ \$150 _____ Other

Name _____ Address _____

Please make checks payable to: TVVFD, 210 Chota Rd. Loudon, TN 37774

Thank you!

Villagers Supporting Fire/Rescue Committee: Rich Planzo, Bob Thelen, Bill Koeppe, Cap Purvis, Rich Seymour, Rich Herbst

Thank you for your generous moral and financial support.

If you have comments or suggestions on the content of this or future newsletters please e-mail them to Bob Thelen: bobthelen@bellsouth.net, or Rich Herbst: rpherbst@aol.com