

A New Fire Truck in Town

Port Ludlow Fire & Rescue take delivery of new Fire Engine

PORT LUDLOW, June 29, 2009,—Port Ludlow Fire & Rescue have taken delivery of a new 2009 Darley Rescue Pumper. This fire engine is the first part of a capital improvement plan to keep the emergency vehicle fleet of the fire department reliable and up to date. The new fire engine has been given the designation of Rescue 33 and is the culmination of several months of committee work led by Lieutenant Wes Lueders and other district firefighters who developed the specifications for the fire engine. It will be the primary emergency response vehicle for the district's fire station located at South Point Road and Hwy 104.

According to Port Ludlow Fire & Rescue Fire Chief Ed Wilkerson, “the delivery of this fire engine marks the beginning of Port Ludlow Fire & Rescue’s move to compressed air foam system (CAFS) technology”. Chief Wilkerson went on to add that “Rescue 33 has a state of the art CAFS system that gives us an additional tool for our tool box that will significantly improve our ability to fight fire with limited resources”. It accomplishes this by using an air and foam solution that is much more effective in fire control over plain water. The net results of CAFS is improved firefighter safety, better efficiency of plain water by five to seven times, it provides a faster means of fire knockdown, offers a rapid reduction in heat, requires less water, and it provides lighter and more manageable hose lines because they are typically half the weight and longer hose lays are possible due to limited friction loss in a CAFS line.

A compressed air foam system also reduces property damage, offers the ability to change from a wet, to a fluid, to a dry foam by changing the foam percentage, and it lowers pump pressures resulting in fuel savings and the physical drain on staff that would otherwise be fighting with the hose kick from the higher pressures. CAFS also attracts unburned hydrocarbons (smoke) making for a cleaner, safer fireground scene, as well as reducing overhaul and mop-up time, and reduces rekindles. Other CAFS advantages include protection of exposures, preservation of evidence, faster cleanup because of the soap residue, and it has an extremely limited runoff quality resulting in a more environmentally friendly control of contamination. Lastly a CAFS-equipped vehicle can be used in non-suppression efforts for water rescue and dive rescue support, provide a source for compressed air for air bags and air tools, and can be used as an effective containment device for spills.

This particular fire engine in addition to having the CAFS capability, sports a smaller overall footprint while still being rated as a fully compliant initial attack fire engine. It was also designed to carry a full complement of rescue equipment and paramedic gear, allowing for a paramedic response from the South Point Fire Station.

###

PHOTO ATTACHED:

Port Ludlow Fire & Rescue’s new 2009 Darley Fire Engine. (photo by PLFR)