



Prudence Island Volunteer Fire Department

Newsletter

Issue#1 2024

Engine 82 Arrives

PIVFD has received a new 2024 Pierce International Pumper which has been designated as Engine 82. The funding for E-82 was from an Assistance to Firefighter's Grant managed by the Federal Emergency Management Agency. The new engine is designed for safety and dependability and will provide PI with years of service to the community. Some of the key features are a fully enclosed cab with seating for 5 with seatbelts, 1250 gallon per minute pump and a 600-gallon water tank. A dedication ceremony has been planned for later this year.



News from Rescue 86

The big news is that we have three newly licensed Emergency Medical Technicians! This is an incredible accomplishment, and we want to thank Tanis Tavernier, Mike Landino and Suzanne Tavernier for taking the time last Summer into the Fall studying and training. The addition of the three new EMTs gives the department a deeper bench to provide the very best medical care to the Island's residents. EMS Director, Jamie Syliva created and taught the EMT-Basic class specifically for the PIVFD.



The Chief's Desk



Welcome Chief Lepere! On November 1st, Chief Louis Lepere was appointed Chief of the Prudence Island Volunteer Fire Department, bringing his 38+ years of Fire and Emergency Service background. Chief Lepere began his fire service at Smithfield Fire Department, where he made his way up the ranks to Deputy Fire Chief. Lou has been a part of the Rhode Island Fire Academy, where he has been an instructor since 1993. Chief Lepere attended Providence College and Anna Maria College where he received a Masters Degree in Public Administration and Bachelor in Fire Science. We are very proud to have him leading our department, and we are looking forward to serving with him as our Fire Chief.

I am thrilled to be a part of the PIVFD. As we embark on this exciting new journey together, I look forward to upholding our mission to protect and serve the citizens of Prudence Island with dedication and professionalism. Together, we can strive to make the island safer, while making a positive difference in the lives of its residents.

Lou

Follow us on



Spotlight on Supporters



If you have driven down Narragansett the past few summers, you undoubtedly saw a sign for a book sale. What you might not know is who was behind the sale and how much she has done for the Fire Department. This one woman book store is the work of Christine Pappas, and we could not be more thankful for her efforts. She collects, displays, sells, and stores all the books herself. The money she receives from the sale of the books is donated to the PIVFD, for Rescue 86 and to date she has donated over \$ 4,000 dollars. We understand all the effort Christine puts into this bookstore and appreciate her efforts more than we can say.

thank you!

Training

In January Fire Department Members attended training sessions in Modern Fire Behavior, First Aid Refresher, Scene Size Up and EMS Report Writing.



First Aid Training



Report Writing/DH Reports

Training Schedule (1830 hours) :

2/6: Lithium-Ion Battery Fires (Zoom Available)

2/13: EMS-Hypothermia (Zoom Available)

2/20: SCBA Basics

2/27: EMS-Zoll Monitor

Junior Firefighter



PIVFD Junior Firefighter program allows the youth of the Island gain insight and foster interest of becoming long-term members of the emergency services. Our current Junior member is Marissa Vargas. She joined the department as a Junior Firefighter

during the 2021-22 school year. She participated in weekly trainings sessions for both Fire and Ems. This year as a Senior, she can be found at the station Tuesday mornings each week to continue with her training and recording her training in a journal for school. Marissa will be turning 18 soon at which time she can apply to be a firefighter for the department. We are very excited to see her join the department as a active member!

How do I get a burn permit?

All requests for permits within the Town of Portsmouth including Prudence Island, Please call Portsmouth Fire Dispatch 401-683-1200 ext 3 to request permit.

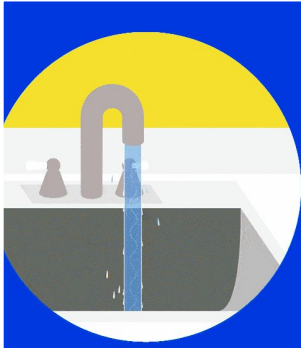


2024 Polar Plunge!

Brave members of Prudence Island splashed into the New Year with the Island's Annual First Day Activities. We staged on the dock. We would have loved to join in, but duty calls and it was very cold !



February is Burn Awareness Month



To treat a burn:

1. Put it in cool water immediately for 3 to 5 minutes.
2. Cover with a clean, dry cloth.
3. Get medical help right away.



February is burn awareness month, with hot drinks, fireplaces, space heaters, and candles as people try to beat the cold, it is a good time to ensure you are ready to treat minor potential burns.



FIREWISE USA®
RESIDENTS REDUCING WILDFIRE RISKS

Firewise USA is a community awareness program of the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) that provides information to help residents reduce risk of wildfire damage to their properties. This national recognition program provides an educational and certification framework to help neighbors “get organized, find direction, and take action to increase the ignition resistance of their homes and community and to reduce wildfire risks at the local level”. PIVFD is working with local residents and the RI Department of Environmental Management Division of Forest Environment to perform a pilot project to gain Firewise USA recognition for the Stevens Landing neighborhood in the southwest corner of Prudence. In early December members of the PIVFD and the Prudence community received hands-on training from RI DEM foresters on performing Home Hazard Assessments. Assessments were performed on four properties. In the coming months the assessment team will be performing additional assessments in the Stevens Landing neighborhood in an effort to both mitigate the risk of damage from wildfire and to work towards gaining formal Firewise USA recognition. On Saturday May 4, 2024, in conjunction with NFPA events across the country, we will be holding a Wildfire Preparedness Day event. Stay tuned for details as we get closer to May. For more information on the Firewise USA program on Prudence Island, contact John Spadaro John.Spadaro@gmail.com.

Meet our members.....



Meet our EMS Director, Jamie Sylvia, his journey to Prudence Island was set into motion when Chief Bob Thurber extended an invitation for him to teach an Emergency Medical Responder course to a group of Prudence Island volunteers. Following the success of this educational endeavor, Chief Thurber appointed Jamie as the new EMS Director, tasked with oversight of the EMS division. Jamie continues to work collaboratively with Chief Lepere and is supported by a remarkable team of volunteers.

A nationally registered paramedic, Jamie has an impressive track record of hands-on experience as a field provider and teacher. Recently, he has taken on the role of Lead EMS Faculty for the Paramedic Education Program at the renowned David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA. His dedication to academic excellence and his commitment to the advancement of EMS knowledge continue to make a significant impact on aspiring healthcare professionals.



Who Needs Reindeer When Santa Can Deliver Presents in a Prudence Island Fire Truck !

Santa was escorted by Chief Lepere and members of the PIVFD to the Prudence Island School. Santa carried a bag full of toys donated by members of the community. Each child had a chance to visit Santa and receive a gift. What a great way to spread holiday cheer!

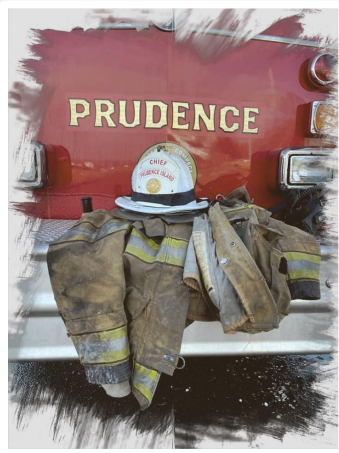


**Blood Pressure Clinics Resume in May.
Every 3rd Wednesday at the Fire Station
8:15-10:00am**

Need Free Covid Tests?



<https://special.usps.com/testkits>



Interested in joining or volunteering ?

There are many ways in which to serve the department. Although people who are trained or wish to train as firefighters and EMTs are always welcome, there are a number of other ways to provide support (eg. drivers, pump operators, traffic control, committee members) as both active and auxiliary members. Please consider joining the PIVFD and serving your community.

Go to: www.pivfd.org

Heating Fire Safety

Although trending downward since the early 1980s, heating fires remained the second leading cause of home fires in 2021. An estimated 32,200 home heating fires were reported to fire departments within the United States. These fires caused an estimated 190 deaths, 625 injuries and \$442 million in property loss.

Did you know???

Home portable heater fires were only 3% of all home heating fires annually for 2017-2019, but they accounted for **41%** of fatal heating fires in homes.

Keep anything that can burn at least 3-feet from all heat sources including:

- Fireplaces
- wood stoves
- Radiators
- Space heaters
- Candles

Other heating equipment safety tips include:

- Never use an oven to heat your home.
- Turn space heaters off when leaving the room or going to bed.
- Maintain heating equipment and chimneys by having them cleaned and inspected each year by a professional.

