

Long Valley Fire Protection District

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Welcome to our first attempt at a newsletter. Please visit our web site, www.longvalleyfire.com.

We invite any and all comers to become a volunteer. Our trainings are held Thursday nights at 7:00 PM. If you are interested in our department, you are invited to come and watch. The Board of Commissioners meets the second Wednesday of every month at 7:00 PM and all are welcome to attend.

The fire department recently had an ice rescue training at Crowley Lake. This exercise was done at night in order to simulate a real life event. We had approximately twenty volunteers participating. People were suited up in cold water immersion suits. The haul (rope) teams were on the shore. One to two volunteers walked and crawled out to a hole cut in the ice and dropped into the water. A rescuer was roped into a haul team and went out to rescue the "victim." The rescuer then secured the "victim" to him or herself. Through verbal commands and prearranged hand signals the rescue began. The haul team brought the "victim" and rescuer safely to shore. We had a Safety Officer overseeing the event out on the ice. Additionally, we had more people suited up ready to go in case our training became a real life event.

On February 19, 1990 there was a tragedy at Convict Lake where three teenage boys, two camp counselors and two rescuers lost their lives. For information regarding this tragic event please see the book by Richard Mallard titled <u>Convict Lake</u> (the book is available at most branches of the local libraries). Long Valley Fire lost Vidar Anderson, one of the rescuers. The Board has named our chair The Vidar Anderson Memorial Chair in his honor.

Stay tuned for our next newsletter where we will start profiling our volunteers. Remember the Volunteers' Association will do their annual fund raiser the weekend of Fishing Opener at Crowley Lake. We hope to provide some insight to your local fire department through this and future newsletters. We sincerely hope you will become involved.