

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
PUBLIC SAFETY AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE**

**#6**

**INFORMATION ITEM**

**SUBJECT:**                    **Significant Incident Report: 43238 Meadowood Court-  
Potomac Station. Special Investigation**

**ELECTION DISTRICT:**    Catoctin

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**BACKGROUND:**

On May 25, 2008 at 1:02 p.m., Loudoun County Fire and Rescue system units responded to a reported structure fire at 43238 Meadowood Court. Initial arriving crews encountered smoke and fire conditions. In the early minutes after arrival of the initial crews on the scene, a MAYDAY was transmitted from crews operating on the interior of the structure via portable radio. Shortly after the MAYDAY was transmitted interior operating crews self-evacuated from the structure. A result of the MAYDAY event included injuries to five Fire and Rescue personnel with four requiring transport to area hospitals. One additional Fire and Rescue member suffered an injury while operating at this incident that also required transport to an area hospital.

To further understand the fire behavior and decision-making processes utilized by Fire and Rescue system members operating on this incident, a multi disciplined team has been assembled and tasked with reviewing the incident and “painting a picture of what happened” through factual documentation of the incident information. The team is comprised of members from Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service, Prince William County Fire and Rescue Department, Arlington County Fire and EMS, Loudoun County Department of Fire, Rescue and Emergency Management, and the Loudoun County Fire and Rescue Commission.

The team is further charged to obtain all available incident facts/information and communicate a detailed, validated factual incident review report to the Loudoun County Fire and Rescue system. All information contained in the report will be factual documentation of the events leading up to the incident, the incident operation(s), the firefighter mayday(s) and incident mitigation to include treatment and transport of the injured personnel. The results of the findings and recommendations will be used as lessons learned for the Loudoun County Fire and Rescue system, the region, the State, and the National Fire Service.

The tentative reporting schedule is as follows:

- Draft report – 30 to 45 days
- Interim report – 45 to 60 days
- Final report – 60 to 90 days

Staff will update this Committee on this event and reporting of the special investigative team, and will be available to answer any questions regarding this matter.

**STAFF CONTACT(S):**

Joseph E. Pozzo, Chief, Department of Fire, Rescue and Emergency Management

Douglas G. Rambo, Chair, Fire and Rescue Commission