

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

#5

INFORMATION ITEM

SUBJECT: Meadowood Court Incident Review/Investigation
Team Report and Findings

ELECTORAL DISTRICT: Catoctin

BACKGROUND:

On May 25, 2008 at 1:02 PM, Loudoun County Fire and Rescue system units responded to a reported structure fire at 43238 Meadowood Court near Leesburg. 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 event was transmitted interior operating crews self-evacuated the structure. A result of the event which reached MAYDAY status, four Fire and Rescue personnel received injuries that required transport to area hospitals. Three additional Fire and Rescue members suffered injuries while operating at this incident. Two of these injuries required transport to area hospitals and one member was treated on the scene.

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 was 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 the Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Services Department, 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.

This team was further charged with obtaining all available incident facts and information, and communicating a detailed, validated factual incident review report to Loudoun County officials, and the Loudoun County Fire and Rescue system. All information contained in the report is factual documentation of the events leading up to the incident, the incident operation(s), the firefighter MAYADAY(s), and incident mitigation. The results of the findings and recommendations will be utilized as lessons learned for the

Loudoun County Fire and Rescue system, the National Capital Region, the Commonwealth, and the National Fire Service.

The incident review/investigation team report has been completed. Staff and members of the incident review/investigation team will brief the Board of Supervisors on the results of the report and answer any question regarding the matter.

NOTE: The report is not included with this item. The report will be separately delivered by courier to the Board of Supervisors on Saturday, September 13, 2008 between 9-11AM.

STAFF CONTACT:

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