

Prepared Statement:

First I'd like to say I have an utmost respect for the men and women that serve on the Sauk Village Fire Department and how they are willing to put their lives in danger to save another.

However, I would like to take a moment to clear up some concerns that I have received and also misconceptions and misleading statements that followed a structure fire this last Saturday.

On August 9, 2014, the Sauk Village Fire Department responded to a structure fire in the Carlisle Estates Subdivision. It appeared as they started to put out the fire that the surrounding fire hydrants were broken or out of service because fire fighters were unable to turn hydrants on.

On Monday, August 11, 2014, Sauk Village Public Works Department (Kevin Weller, and two employees), Sauk Village Fire Chief Stoffregen, Trustee Myers and I went to the Carlisle Estates Subdivision. Fire hydrants were tested and were verified to all be in working order.

Some concerns that I received were the following :

Concerns:

- **There were multiple fire department responding to Sauk Village.** Sauk Village has had a mutual aid agreement with surrounding communities since 2009 when well #3 was taken off line. This is also in compliance with order by the IEPA and Attorney General.
- **Fire hydrants did not work or were broke.** Fire hydrants in the Carlisle Estates Subdivision are in working order and have been checked and verified by Sauk Village Public Works and Sauk Village Fire Department.
- **None for the hydrants in the subdivision work.** The Carlisle Estates Subdivision has 12 fire hydrants. Fire hydrants within the subdivision have been tested and verified by the Sauk Village Public Works and Sauk Village Fire Department.
- **Sauk Village is not repairing or replacing fire hydrants.** Over the last year the Public Works Department has installed three new fire hydrants and repaired eight additional hydrants. Sauk Village will continue to replace/repair fire hydrants on an ongoing bases and while using whatever resources are available.

After verifying that the fire hydrants were working we (Fire Chief, Public Works Director, Trustee Myers and myself) met briefly to go over what could have happened.

The following are a few point that came out of our discussions.

Discussion Points:

- Fire fighters are using a smaller wrench compared to Public Works employees when opening fire hydrants.
- Fire hydrants that are not used often develop a calcium build up around the seal which requires a larger bar to open hydrants and more elbow grease (strength).
- Fire fighters are being more cautious when opening hydrants so not to break eternal stems, bolts or nuts which are parts that are known to fail first.

Corrective Actions:

- Fire Department will order four (4) larger wrenches for their trucks\engines
- When there is a larger structure fire the Fire Department has the approval to call out Public Works (at the discretion of the Fire Chief) if there is an issue with fire hydrants.
- The Fire Department will have joint troubleshooting training with Public Works in opening/closing issues with fire hydrants.
- Robinson Engineering will perform a GIS mapping of all fire hydrants and Public Works will continue to work with the Fire Chief prioritizing repair/replacement of hydrants.
- Sauk Village will work with our lobbyist and the Governor's office to request that approved funding (\$25K) for fire hydrant repairs be released.

In closing, if you have any concerns please contact Chief Stoffregen 708-758-2225 or Public Works Director Weller 708-758-3330.