



## **McHenry Township Fire Protection District**

### **Press Release**

#### **Administrative Office**

**Non-Emergency Phone: (815) 385-0075**

**Release Date: 02/24/25**

**Deputy Chief Steven Spraker**

#### **Fire Department Reminds Public to Exercise Caution Around Emergency Scenes**

On January 14, 2025, the McHenry Township Fire Protection District responded to a structure fire in the 5900 Block of Fox Lake Road. While fire suppression efforts were underway, a driver bypassed a marked McHenry County Sheriff's Department patrol car with its emergency lights activated and the road closed. The vehicle subsequently struck and damaged a fire hose being used at the scene. Fortunately, this had a minimal impact on firefighting operations, and firefighters successfully contained and extinguished the fire. The driver of the vehicle was issued the following citations: ILCS 625-5/11-1412 – Crossing a fire hose without consent of a fire department official and ILCS 625-5/3-707(a) – Operating an uninsured motor vehicle.

Incidents like these highlight the critical need for the public to exercise caution and follow all traffic control measures around emergency scenes. Damage to equipment not only endangers the safety of the responding personnel but can also delay critical firefighting efforts.

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The McHenry Township Fire Protection District would like to remind residents of the following safety guidelines when encountering an emergency scene:

1. **Do not cross barricades or road closures:** Barricades and emergency vehicles with activated lights indicate unsafe areas for the public.
2. **Slow down and stay alert:** Reduce your speed when approaching an emergency scene and be mindful of personnel and equipment in the roadway.
3. **Follow the instructions of emergency responders:** They are on-site to ensure everyone's safety and mitigate the incident.
4. **Observe the scene:** Be aware of the location of emergency responders, vehicles, and equipment.

"Our top priority is ensuring the safety of our community and our firefighters during emergencies," said Fire Chief Rudy Horist. "We urge everyone to remain vigilant when approaching emergency scenes."

The McHenry Township Fire Protection District extends its appreciation to the McHenry County Sheriff's Department for their support during this incident.

Approved for release by:

<b>Chief Horist</b>	
<b>DC Spraker</b>	X
<b>DC Bush</b>	