

Saturday February 19, 2011 started like most Saturdays in Prince George's County for the members of Riverdale. After returning from the 11 house fire and getting everything cleaned up, PSC started receiving calls for numerous brush fires throughout the county. At 1126hrs, PSC dispatched the Haz-Mat box for 5402 Van Dusen Road in company 10's first due. Tower 7 responded as the third due special service with 5 personnel. Once units arrived on the scene, they were redirected to the large brush fire in Laurel. Tower 7's crew operated on the scene of the brush fire for almost 9 hours before being released.

While the Tower was working in Laurel, members of Riverdale staffed Engine 73 and Ambulance 77 back at the station. At 1356hrs, PSC dispatched Engine 73 for the outside fire at 14700 Baltimore Avenue in company 10's first due. Engine 73 arrived on the scene with a working building fire. Engine 73's crew advanced their attack line into the Burlington Coat Factory and attacked the fire. Engine 73 operated on the scene for 3.5 Hours. As Engine 73 worked on this fire, Ambulance 77 responded to several medical calls including an accident on the Baltimore-Washington Parkway and a possible house collapse.

As the members from Riverdale worked at two different fire scenes, PGFD issued a mandatory call back for all off duty career fire fighters and available volunteers to report to their stations. This brought two of our day time career staffing in and four more volunteers to staff Engine 72 and make the fourth crew for the day. As soon as Engine 72 was placed in service PSC dispatched them to company 11's area for a couple of locals. At 1620hrs, PSC dispatched units to 4815 Decatur Street for the house on fire. While units responded to the reported house fire, PSC advised them that they had a report of two houses on fire at that location. Units arrived at the corrected address of 5103 Decatur Street with two houses on fire and started the Fire Task Force which brought Engine 72 to the scene of that fire. Engine 72 worked at the scene of that fire until 1800hrs.

As units were cleaning up back at the station Engine 72 was dispatched to 5402 Van Dusen Road, in company 10's first due as manpower for the large brush fire. Engine 72 responded with 5 personnel and worked on the scene of the brush fire until 0400hrs. Members of Riverdale, both career and volunteer, answered 20 calls for service on February 19, 2011. While this may not be a lot of calls, since the county had 821 calls for the day (according to PGFD PIO officer), the four crews from Riverdale worked for 180 Man hours in the 24 hour period.

On a side note, this was the first time since 9/11/01 that PGFD issued a mandatory call back for the career staffing. PGF/EMSD also requested units from all over the state of Maryland,

## **Riverdale Staffs Four Crews During Fire Storm 2011**

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Virginia, and West Virginia. Units from Queen Ann's, Washington, Calvert, Charles, St. Mary's, Anne Arundel, Howard, Baltimore City, Baltimore County, Harford, Carroll, Cecil, Caroline, Arlington VA, Alexandria City, Fairfax VA, Washington DC, and Natural Resources were all used in PG County.