



**PORTLAND VOLUNTEER
FIRE DEPARTMENT**
6481 West Main Road
P.O. Box 229
Portland, NY 14769-0229

June 2022

To whom it may concern;

On May 4, 2022, our department along with neighboring fire companies were called to a house filling with smoke at a Webster Road residence. Quickly, the structure became fully involved.

Not long after we began our exterior attack to extinguish the flames, multiple firefighters began complaining of headaches, dizziness, nausea and some were having problems breathing. It was at that point EMS knew there was a problem. We sent ten firefighters and two civilians to the hospital for evaluation that day. Although many are home recovering, Portland Firefighter Susan Childs has been in and out of area hospitals. After being on a ventilator for several days, she was discharged then developed further complications. She was again hospitalized for respiratory issues including Bilateral Pulmonary Embolisms (Blood clots in both lungs) and has been unable to return to her job. Even though fire personnel are covered under insurance that pays for all medical expenses, other bills begin to build up.

The Portland Volunteer Fire Department is planning a Firefighter Appreciation Day on July 16th at the John W. Dill American Legion Post 434 in Brocton, NY. We want to involve the community from all over the counties to get involved and see what the fire service is all about. We are planning many activities as well as a Silent Auction. The profits from the auction will be split between those affected by the fire.

We are asking if your organization would be willing to donate an item for the auction. Any donation, big or small, is greatly appreciated. Please contact the Department Secretary, Amber McIntyre, with any donations or questions at 716-680-0649 or by email portfire.secretary@fairpoint.net.

Further details for this event will be posted on our Facebook page as the planning process progresses. We greatly appreciate in advance your consideration in helping us make this event a huge success. We hope to see you there!

Firematically,

Amber McIntyre
Portland Fire Department Secretary