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Solomons Rescue - Fire

Company 3 - Calvert County

“Serving the Community for Over 60 Years”

Solomons, also known as Solomons Island, is located at the southern most tip of Calvert County, where the Patuxent River meets the Chesapeake Bay.

Solomons was settled in 1680 and was known as Bourne’s Island. After the Civil War, a Baltimore businessman, named Isaac Solomon, built a cannery in Solomons and renamed the area.

During the early 1800’s, Solomons became famous for it’s shipyards that built the Bugeyes, the forerunner to the skipjacks that were used during the War of 1812 against the British.

Prior to 1926, there were no organized EMS or fire companies in Calvert County. When a fire started in the community the citizens using buckets and formed bucket brigades to control or extinguish the fire.

The first two fire companies in Calvert County were formed in 1926, one in North Beach and the other in Prince Frederick. The one in Prince Frederick was disbanded three years later, leaving only one Fire Company in Calvert County until 1941 when the Calvert County Volunteer Fire Department was formed and located once again, in Prince Frederick.

Emergency Medical Services prior to 1955 in the Solomons area was nonexistent. Citizens depended on local doctors if they became sick or injured. If they needed to go to the hospital the doctor would arrange to have the patient driven to the hospital in Prince Frederick.

In October of 1954, a group of concerned citizens met at the Solomons Island Yacht Club, to discuss the need for an Emergency Rescue Service in Calvert County, especially in the Solomons area.

After several meetings it was decided to form the Calvert County Volunteer Rescue Squad (CCVRS). On January 1, 1955, the Rescue Squad started operations using a 1955 Studebaker ambulance.

The Rescue Squad had 13 Charter Members and was the first Rescue Squad in Calvert County.

The ambulance was housed in a metal shed until a building was purchased just north of Solomons Island. The building was renovated to house the Rescue Squad in the latter half of 1955.

Because of the distances the Calvert County Volunteer Fire Department, in Prince Frederick and the North Beach VFD, had to travel to get to the Solomons area. Several meetings were held to discuss adding a fire division to the Rescue Squad in 1963.

The outcome of these meetings was the formation of a fire division that became operational on September 18, 1963, making it the third organized fire department in Calvert County.

The Fire Division’s first piece of apparatus was a 1963 International/American pumper, featuring a 500 gpm pump with a 500 gallon water tank. This unit is still owned by the department and has recently been completely restored to its original state.

The engine was temporarily housed in Dowell’s garage until the Rescue Squad building was renovated to house the pumper.

In December of 1967, the CCVRS changed its name to the Solomons Volunteer Rescue Squad and Fire Department (SVRSFD).

During the 1970’s the department updated and expanded its apparatus fleet to meet the ever increasing work load. In 1971, a new Ford C9000/Pierce 1000/1000 engine (E-31) was purchased. Two years later, a new International/Pierce FWD Brush Unit was placed in service as Brush 3, the company’s first brush unit.

The next year, because of the amount of waterways that surrounded Solomons, the department placed a 1974 Fire Boat in service, as Fire Boat 3.



SOLOMONS MAIN STATION



ENGINE 31



RESCUE 3

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Howard Meile, III Photos*