

Dear Stewartville area residents,

With guidance from the Southeast Minnesota Emergency Medical Services (SEEMS) consortium, the Minnesota Emergency Services Regulatory Board (EMSRB), Stewartville City Administration, our medical director and the Stewartville Fire Executive Board it has been determined to **TEMPORARILY SUSPENDED STEWARTVILLE AREA FIRST RESPONSE.**

This was an extremely difficult decision and was based on two critical issues:

1. Stewartville Fire Department is the ONLY fire service provider for Stewartville and our surrounding townships. SFD MUST maintain personnel and resources to provide fire suppression, motor vehicle extrication and specialized rescue missions.
2. Due to state and national shortages, there is not enough Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) to appropriately protect the community and ourselves at this time. Despite our repeated requests, this equipment is currently being triaged to hospitals and ambulance services to provide the maximum benefit. We are hoping to resume our full services as soon as possible.

Please, DO NOT PANIC!! **IF YOU HAVE AN EMERGENCY. DIAL 911!!** The communication center will continue to dispatch the appropriate resources- whether it's an ambulance, police or fire. SFD will continue responding to fires, motor vehicle crashes and other specialized rescue missions.

The SFD Executive board and City Administration will continuously monitor the situation. First response services will resume as soon as safely possibly.

Questions can be directed to the SFD executive board or city administration. We appreciate your patience and understanding.

On behalf of The Stewartville Fire Department and The City of Stewartville,

Chief, R. Vance Swisher  
EMS director, Lisa Jelinek  
City Administrator, Bill Schimmel