

Fire, Emergency Medical, & Rescue Services

Message from the Chief

As Fire Chief, it is a privilege to continue to serve the community of Hampton as it has been throughout my career as a professional in the fire service. The Hampton Fire Department has matured in the one hundred years since the appointment of its first Fire Chief. The men who established this organization's foundation of integrity, compassion, and valor risked personal injury, donated their time, resources, and skills to serve and protect the life and property of this town and its residents. I consider my appointment to Fire Chief an honor, respecting those who held that position before me as they are a part of the Hampton Fire Department history.

Today's Fire Service faces many challenges as the demands for our services are continually growing. For our organization to be successful, we must look beyond our own agenda. At a time where Americans are struggling with their own economic and social challenges the Fire Service must continue to serve as a role model for honesty and integrity. In my vision, successful management starts with a commitment to work together for the betterment of the department operationally, the town as they meet their financial responsibilities, and emergency services provided to the community.

I am confident in our member's abilities; I respect the authority of the governing body, and realize that all of our professional experiences and accomplishments combined are essential to the success of this department's goal towards excellence.

Fire Suppression and Rescue

The Operations Division fulfills the core function of the fire department. This division is responsible for all fire suppression activities, the delivery of emergency medical care, and response to hazardous materials incidents (HazMat), technical rescue and water rescues. Calls for service are continuing to increase with the growth of the community, and while we are meeting the service demands of today, the Department continuously evaluates its performance to plan for the challenges of the future. This past year has once again proven to be extremely busy. The 2008 total for the department was 4,668 calls.

TYPE CALL	# CALLS
<u>Fire /Explosion</u>	<u>81</u>
<u>Emergency Medical</u>	<u>1912</u>
<u>Hazardous Materials</u>	<u>17</u>
<u>False Alarm</u>	<u>257</u>
<u>Hazardous Condition</u>	<u>172</u>
<u>Motor Vehicle Accident</u>	<u>134</u>
<u>Service/Investigation</u>	<u>260</u>
<u>All Other Calls</u>	<u>1835</u>

Fire Prevention Bureau

Our Prevention Bureau continues to attempt to fulfill the duties with which they are charged. The Bureau is responsible for many administrative aspects of prevention including inspections, code enforcement, investigations, complaints, and public education. The Fire Prevention Bureau is currently staffed with a Fire Prevention Officer, one Fire Inspector, and one part-time Secretary.

Fire Code Inspections

Fire Prevention inspections are provided to the community to ensure compliance with Federal, State, and local ordinances for fire and life-safety. In addition, they are performed as an extension of the fire plan review process to ensure compliance with the operational features of the emergency systems for property protection, environment, and life-safety for the community.

State law requires that schools, hotels/lodging, institutional and care homes be inspected annually. New construction inspections are provided for all new buildings and tenant improvements to ensure compliance with the Fire Code. This code deals with the people, operations, equipment, processes and products of the industry as a whole. This process does not slow down as we approach build out but it fluctuates with the changing economy, change of ownership or

the change of use within the commercial community.

Fire Code Plan Reviews

Plan Reviews performed by the Fire Prevention Bureau included fire alarm systems, fire suppression systems, hazardous materials processes, aboveground and underground tank installations, and complex fire code reviews. The Fire Prevention Bureau contributed to the goals and objectives of the fire department by concentrating efforts in providing exceptional customer service along side Planning, Building and other Town Departments for community and construction projects from concepts through final acceptance. This cooperation is carried out in the field during the inspection process to help keep projects on-schedule which benefits contractors and developers by completing of a code compliant fire-safe building.

Fire Investigations

Investigations are down slightly this year. Six were accidental, with the number one cause being electrical. There were four incidents of arson and several are still under investigation or listed as undetermined at this time. The Bureau is generally called when there is a fire that has suspicious characteristics, involves high dollar loss, has code violations, an injury or death due to fire, or may have subrogation/insurance claims involved with the loss.

Public Education

October was Fire Prevention Month. We taught over 1300 students in Hampton from pre-K through 5th grade. Some classes came to the Fire Station for tours and we went to some of the schools when requested. The Fire Safety Trailer has been a big hit and continues to help us "get the word out" on fire safety. For the adults we focused on educating them on home heating safety due to concerns about energy costs. We still offer adult classes on fire extinguisher use, evacuation procedures, emergency management, fire and emergency medical safety and other categories as time allows.

This year's Open House was well attended and everyone enjoyed the activities. There were displays of firefighting, EMS, and rescue equipment along with fire extinguisher and vehicle extrication demonstrations using the Jaws of Life. Children could participate in an obstacle course that simulated activities at a fire emergency. They also enjoyed playing on a giant inflatable fire engine slide. Thank you to all our members who gave their time to coordinate and participate in this event. Thank you also to all the parents and children who attended, we look forward to seeing you again at other events throughout the year.

Personnel

In January, one of our veteran employees retired from the department. After 30 years of service Captain Matt Clark left to pursue other opportunities in retirement. Captain Clark was a valuable asset to the Department and his many years of experience will be missed. To fill the vacancy created by Clark's retirement, Justin Cutting was promoted from the rank of Lieutenant to Captain and Firefighter Sean Gannon was promoted to Lieutenant to fill Cutting's vacancy.

In February, two of our members completed an intense 15-month training program at the New England EMS Institute and have attained national certification as EMT-Paramedics. Firefighters Nate Denio and Jeremy Timson both graduated from the training program in December and completed the certification exams in January 2008. With the addition of Denio and Timson, the Hampton Fire Department will have a total of 15 Paramedics. It has always been our desire to provide a "High Performance" versatile, adaptive and responsive emergency medical service. These members continue our pledge to provide the highest level of pre-hospital care available.

With the various promotions and retirements as well as the authorization to fill four vacant Firefighter positions, five new members were welcomed in 2008. Adam Lebor, Kevin Lavigne, Sean

Morrison, Mark Cook, and Troy Shipley were all appointed as Firefighters in the Hampton Fire Department adding to the long list of those who have served the Town of Hampton during the past One Hundred Years!

Hampton Fire continues to be a fiscally responsible partner in the community striving to balance our operational needs with the needs and financial constraints of the Town. The future is filled with continually growing demands, replacement of facilities and apparatus, and the establishment of adequate service levels. We have all worked hard to provide the services we have today, for that reason we must protect it.

Respectfully Submitted,

Christopher T. Silver
Chief of Department