

Fire, Emergency Medical & Rescue Service

To the citizens of Hampton,

I would like to begin by re-affirming to you that your Fire Department remains of the highest caliber and is known for its leadership in the fire and emergency medical services. Our personnel remain highly qualified, competent, and extremely professional. "Experience Counts" as our personnel are highly skilled and veteran first responders. Your emergency medical service is continually praised by the staff at regional hospitals and the emergency medical community. This can be directly attributed to our high standards of care and their commitment to excellence. Hampton Fire Rescue is staffed with 43 employees with an average of over ten years each of professional service.

OPERATIONS

2006 brought another year of fire and emergency medical response managed on a default budget. Our call volume has continued to increase and this year was no exception. Calls for service increased by eight percent. We continue to provide more services with fewer personnel. I have illustrated our call history below for your information.

FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU

The Fire Prevention Officer, Fire Inspector, and Fire Prevention Secretary work together to provide fire and safety education programs to all age groups. They perform highly technical plan reviews of systems and designs relating to fire safety. The Bureau also performs many inspections while enforcing the state and local fire codes and both members have been trained to perform origin and cause investigations of fires. The year began with the retirement of Scott McDonald from the Department. Scott had many years of fire experience and was very knowledgeable in codes and Bureau operations. He constantly worked to create and improve standards and expectations within the Bureau so that we could provide the best service possible. Jon True was promoted in February as the new Fire Prevention Officer. Robin Arsenault was reinstated as the Fire Prevention Secretary in April. Jeff Leduc was promoted to Fire Inspector in July. He brings a law enforcement background with him and has been learning how to do fire inspections and handle various issues within the Bureau.

We received the fire safety trailer in August of this year. The trailer, which cost approximately \$52,000.00, was acquired through a federal grant through FEMA. The local ten percent matching fund requirement for the grant was raised through local donations, meaning there was no cost to the taxpayers for its procurement. A special thanks to those who donated! The trailer is a shared resource and has already been used in other towns in the area as well as in our schools. For surrounding Towns, we provide basic training to members of the local Fire

Department, deliver the trailer to them and have them teach the classes. There has been a lot of positive feedback from the communities about this unit.

COMMUNICATIONS

As we close 2006, the Fire Department communication system has gone through some changes. We received radios from the NH Interoperability Grant, including mobile radios for all apparatus and cars. We also received 39 portable radios, outfitting each Firefighter and Officer with standardized equipment. These radios increase safety and interoperability as we can now communicate with local police departments, as well as many local fire departments, state agencies and hospitals. In 2006, the Department acquired new database/fire management software and computers that will help the Department in many ways. The project was funded through a grant from the NH Homeland Security Grant Program. From our view, this software will help by better tracking inspections, complaints and other operations within the Bureau. The laptops (also purchased under a grant) will help streamline our service to the public by giving us real-time information while on-scene of an incident or while doing an inspection. When issuing a report or violation, we can see the history of a building as well as other pertinent information, better serving the customer. This will also increase communication within the whole Department, making for safer operations. The fire alarm system has been shut down, and the conversions went fairly well.

LADDER TRUCK

We took delivery of the new aerial ladder truck in October. The new truck was approved by the Hampton voters last March and was manufactured by Pierce Manufacturing of Appleton, Wisconsin. The truck is housed at the fire station on Winnacunnet Road. The vehicle features a 105 foot rear-mounted steel aerial ladder with a full complement of portable ground ladders. The new truck also boasts a 10kw hydraulic generator for additional lighting capabilities, a Detroit 470 hp engine, independent front suspension, advanced electronics, and ample compartments for equipment storage. Pierce trucks also feature side rollover, front tire blowout, and a 45 degree cramp angle steering system for tight maneuvering around Town and at the Beach.

GOVERNMENT PIER/DOCK

The government pier is now substantially complete. In 2002, the Town of Hampton, the State of New Hampshire Department of Safety, and the United States Coast Guard collaboratively discussed, endorsed, and received funding for the construction of a secure public safety marine docking facility adjacent to the Hampton River, on a Town-owned parcel of land. The Town acquired private donations and federal funding for this project through Senator Judd Gregg, which was administered through NOAA. The dock is owned and maintained by the Town of Hampton. The extent of the project is a secured government marine structure that will allow federal, state, and local authorities to coordinate marine operations under the National Incident Management System model (NIMS). This

model provides for a consistent regional approach for governments to work effectively and efficiently together to prepare for, prevent, respond to, and recover from domestic incidents, regardless of cause, size, or complexity. From a federal focus that is striving to improve Homeland Security through the integration of all resources, this project was of the highest priority and exemplifies the Town's commitment to water rescue and security.

RETIREMENTS

Two of our veteran employees retired from the department in 2006. Captain Guy Larivee and Fire Prevention Officer Scott McDonald decided to call it a career. Combined, they gave over 50 years of service to the Town. I salute them both for their dedication to public safety and community service. I also wish them well with their future endeavors.

In closing, our challenges are more complex every year, but the citizens of Hampton can feel assured that the employees of the Hampton Fire Department are addressing the Town's everyday demands. We continue to achieve our goals through experienced employees, professional persistence, and community pride.

Respectfully submitted,
Hank Lipe, *Fire Chief*