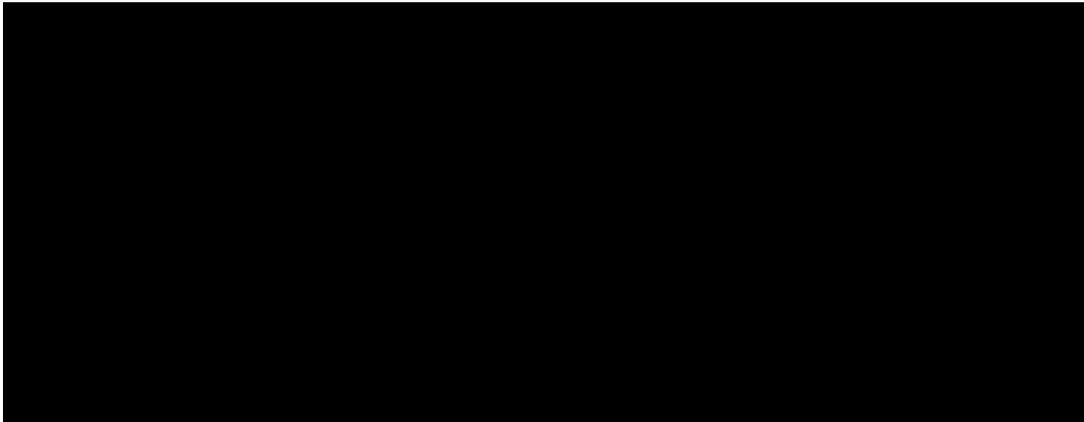


FIRE DEPARTMENT

I am pleased to submit the following Annual Report for the calendar year 2008 for the Westminster Fire and Ambulance Departments. Proudly serving the citizens of the town of Westminster for 183 years. Chief Brenton W. MacAloney



The Fire Department annual report comprises the Fire Department and the Ambulance Department reports. Since EMS has always been part of the WFD we continue to report both within the same annual report although both have different Department Budget lines.



Department Record:

Fire:		Emergency Medical:	
Structure	7	Illness/Injury	528
Brush/Illegal	18	Motor Vehicle Accident	100
Chimney	6	Carbon Monoxide	31
Motor Vehicle	19		
Mutual Aid	53	Service Calls:	
Auto Fire Alarm	183	Public Service	74
Electrical	5	Hazardous Materials	13
Other Fires	11	Hovercraft Calls	0
		Search and Rescue	2
Investigations:		Other	338
Misc.	70		
		Total Incidents	1458

Permits and Compliance 2008:

Burning Permits	295 (This number represents Initial Activations)
Smoke / CO Detector Insp.	118
Oil Burner Permits	62
Blasting Permits	2
Fuel Storage	49
Plan Reviews	61
Safety Inspections	70
Fire Drills	13
Miscellaneous	22
Non-Criminal Complaint	0 (Fines issue for non compliance.)

Personnel:

Full-Time Staffing – There was no change to full-time firefighter staffing in 2008. Current full-time staffing includes 6 firefighters (4 firefighter/Paramedics, 2 Firefighter/EMT) in rotation providing on-duty coverage 24x7 with 2 firefighters except from 11:00 PM to 8:00 AM when there is only two half the time. In addition to the full-time firefighters there is a full-time Fire Captain, Chief, and Department Administrator who work weekdays.

In the future we want to provide the same coverage overnight no matter what day the public calls for our services. When only one firefighter is on duty they have to wait for another firefighter prior to responding to calls other than medical to ensure their safety. We hope in the future to be able to do this with additional funds for per-diem (part-time) firefighters.

On-Call Firefighters – We have attracted 3 more Call Firefighters over the last year bringing us to 18. Last year we reported that we had two Call Firefighters in a training program that would graduate from the course in February 2008. Of these two only one decided to become a call firefighter.

One of the problems we continue to face is that there are still 5 – 6 Call Firefighters that are unable perform all functions including driving apparatus or operating specialized equipment due to lack of total training. This creates difficulty when responding to calls at times as we have to wait for trained firefighters to drive and operate the apparatus.

Shortage of fully trained Call Firefighters continues to be our largest problem. Even though we have a few more on-call firefighters we need more that are fully trained to assist when we require more than the two on-duty firefighters .

The shortage of firefighters continues to put a burden on the full-time firefighters which results in increased overtime costs. Less fully trained Call Firefighters also puts more requirements on the remaining Call Firefighters who try to respond to more calls impacting their family commitments.

Per-Diem Firefighters: We continue to have 6 Per-Diem firefighters who are firefighters that do not live in Westminster and come to work shifts for our department. The reason for these firefighters is that we do not have sufficient number of call firefighters from town to cover shifts. Per-Diem Firefighters are either full-time firefighters or call firefighters for other communities. Although Per-Diem Firefighters have a place in our department they do not respond to general calls as they live too far away to make any difference in the majority of the calls we have.

Solution to the staffing problem: As in previous years, during 2008 we worked to help educate the public about the continued need for Call Firefighters with the hope we can attract some to fill our needs. During the year we advertised on the local cable access channel, The Gardner News, and had articles written about our needs in other newspapers for a class that was held in Lunenburg. We received no response to our advertisement and therefore there are no current future firefighters planned for this year.

Residents 18 years of age and High School Students at least 16 years of age are encouraged to stop by the station and contact the Chief to learn more about becoming a Call Firefighter and review eligibility. For more detail contact the Fire Chief.

We recommend that the town take steps to continue on the plan to eventually have 2 full-time firefighters on duty 24x7. This would require eventually hiring 2 more full-time firefighters. In the short term we plan to provide as much coverage with Per-Diem Firefighters with available funds to allow for a consistent response to calls no matter what time of day it is.

Department Training: The Department holds 24 paid drills each year. This does not include all the training that individual Firefighters and EMS personnel take on their own. Training consists of Live Fire training, automobile extrication, confined space rescue, medical skills, CPR, Hazardous Materials.

All firefighters are trained to the national standard of Firefighter I and are also trained to the First Responder level of medical training. A number of firefighters are also trained to the higher standard of Firefighter II. All firefighters are fit tested for use with breathing masks used on fires and hazardous situations.

NIMS Compliance: The Fire Department complies with the NIMS Training requirements for 2008.

Service Delivery:

Our goal is to provide the best possible customer service with regard to the delivery of Emergency Medical, Fire Suppression, Hazardous Materials, Technical Rescue, Fire Investigation, Public Fire Safety Education, Fire Prevention, and Specialized Community Services. The Department is service driven and we appreciate the feedback during the year to assist us in knowing how well we are delivering these services. Keep the feedback coming!

Residents are encouraged to visit *their* station or contact the Chief of the Department at any time, so we can understand your needs with regard to the services we provide.

Westminster ranks 329 out of 351 cities and towns in Massachusetts for the amount of square miles we cover from one station and as the town builds out our average response times will continue to increase.

The lack of on-call firefighters impacts our ability to deliver services. Generally this means that there is a delay in response waiting for additional on-call firefighters to arrive. This is especially true when we have multiple emergencies at one time.

EMS:

Emergency Medical Services - Between 50% and 60% of the Department's responses are Emergency Medical in nature. This includes responding to all 911 calls for in-house medicals as

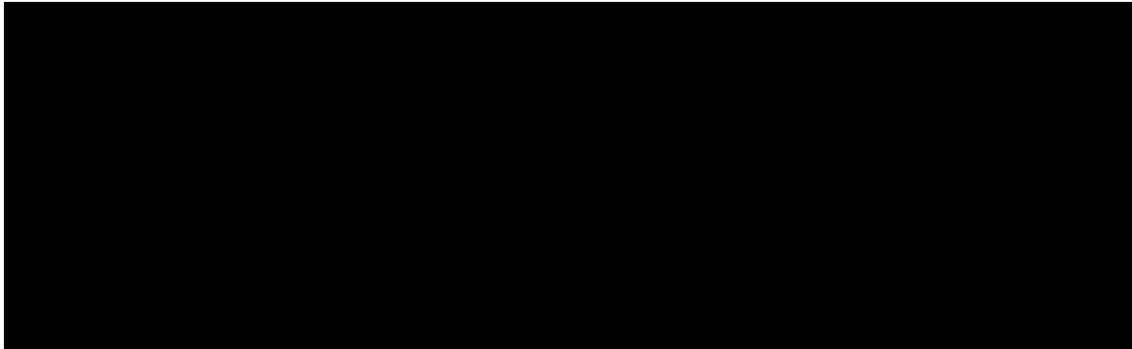
well as personal injury accidents including motor vehicle accidents, which often require the assistance of firefighters to assist and address other hazards.

We offer outgoing EMS services that include visiting critical care and special needs patients and family to preplan a medical response in the event we are called.

We continue to exceed industry benchmark response times for Emergency Medical Services. Our response time from the initial call to arrival on scene is at an average of 4 minutes with 2 Firefighter/EMTs.

During the year we also utilize donations to purchase specialized equipment to assist the Paramedics with delivering lifesaving interventions.

The following chart shows the total number of medical response to ambulance transports since we started the ambulance service.



Ambulance Account - Ambulance receipts for services are put into a Town receipts for appropriation account where monies are expended only at a town meeting. Ambulance Receipts fully fund the additional costs of operating the ambulance service. The Ambulance Budget covers the cost for the ambulance, medical supplies for the Ambulance, Fire Department, Police Department, and First Aid Kits the Town Hall, Parks and Recreation, and Crocker Pond. A detailed ambulance report containing statistics and finances is provided to the Selectmen on a monthly basis.

On days when we do not have a second full-time firefighter on duty a per-diem Firefighter/EMT is hired to work from 6:00 pm to 11:00 pm and is paid from the Ambulance Budget. This Firefighter/EMT provides both ambulance services and fire services during these hours.

ALS/Paramedics - We have been operating at the ALS/Paramedic level since the fall of 2007 to provide the highest level of patient care. There are times when our 2007 Ford Ambulance is tied up and we have a second medical call. During these times situations we respond, but have to wait for another ambulance to arrive that takes about 12 minutes on average.

Fire Prevention, Suppression and Response:

Unlike medical calls when there is only one Firefighter/EMT on duty we respond immediately, response to fires and other highly dangerous calls only occur when there are at least 2 firefighters to respond for their safety. This means that with current staffing half the nights from 11:00 pm to 8:00 am we wait for second firefighter to arrive. As we make progress of filling the overnights

when only one Firefighter is on duty we will be able to improve on reducing our average response time to fires or other emergencies.

ISO (Insurance Rating) - The Fire Department maintains an ISO Fire Insurance Rating of 4/9. The ISO rating is utilized by many insurance companies to set fire insurance rates for residents and businesses. The rating of 4 places Westminster on a par with 6.9 percent of communities across the country. Just 10.3 percent of cities and towns nationwide are rated between one and four on a nine-point scale. Only 3.9 percent of communities in the country have a better rating than Westminster. The 4 rating is for parts of the community protected by town water and the 9 are for those sections of town that are not on the water system. There are many factors that are included in the rating including staffing levels, water flow, training, and alarm systems.

Homeowners should check their insurance policy and look for the fire insurance rating and if they have questions contact the Fire Department to determine what ISO Classification area they are in. The 4 rating on our policy provides the lowest cost for fire protection of your property in Westminster.

Water Supply for sub-divisions - The Fire Department has a regulation for new sub-divisions that require fire hydrants for fire protection. If hydrants are not provided on the public water system we require underground cisterns to supply the water for firefighting the immediate area. The first of such water supplies at Sawin Drive off Harrington Road was utilized to fight a fire in the neighborhood adjacent to the sub-division.

These cisterns meet the criteria as a fire hydrant for insurance purposes. One of our firefighters is working to assess our hydrants, dry hydrants and this cistern in order to determine what residents in the area of these water sources may qualify for the reduced rating from a 9 to a 4. We hope that this review will assist the residents in the area with reduced fire insurance cost in the future.

Fire Alarm/Monitoring – Since 2006 the Fire Department has been using a wireless Fire Alarm system to monitor buildings in town. We currently have 51 locations we monitor and in addition to monitoring Fire Alarms we also monitor burglar alarms and special alarms for town facilities. The system works very well and provides early information about where the alarm is coming from within the building when newer alarm panels are installed. This way the firefighters are better prepared before they arrive.

Hazardous Materials – The Fire Department is the Town's Hazardous Materials emergency response service and the location for Right To Know information for companies that report to the EPA. The Fire Department takes advantage of Massachusetts Law to bill for our Hazardous Materials responses and utilize the funds we receive go into a revolving account to pay for the storage, disposal, and replacement of equipment used. The efforts undertaken to control and clean up even minor spills protects the ground water, shallow wells from pollution, and protects the environment we all enjoy in Westminster.

Technical Rescue – Every year the Fire Department faces challenges with regard to rescuing the public. Although we do not supply all types of technical rescue we have focused on core rescue techniques that are most likely to affect the public. These include cold water/Ice rescue, vertical lift rescue, confined space rescue, and low angle rescue. Rescues that are outside the realm of what we offer can be obtained through mutual aid from other communities. These include dive rescue and trench rescue as examples.

Fire Investigation - The Westminster Fire Department continues to have 2 highly experienced fire investigators that ensure that all fires are investigated completely and when needed files charges against suspected arsonists. This has resulted in arrests, convictions, probation, and the

reimbursement in court awarded funds to the town for costs related to the investigation of fires and explosive devices. The efforts of the fire investigators have resulted in reduced arson resulting in stolen vehicles dumped and ignited from other communities. In addition, the town has benefited from court ordered community service. Funds are returned to the Town's General Funds for inclusion in future years expenditures.

I am pleased to say that our investigation efforts and desire to obtain reimbursement from the Rail Road for fires during the spring of 2007 was successful. The Town received an out of court settlement of \$16,000 towards a \$20,000 request.

Fire Prevention - Prevention activities are a major focus for the department that not only help reduce property loss and injuries, but also includes the development of the personal interaction between the community and the fire service. The Fire Department participates in a number of town events each year to assist in meeting the goals of the department.

Fire Prevention activities in the department include residential commercial, and industrial building plan review, residential smoke and carbon monoxide detector inspections, oil burner inspections, LP storage inspections, blasting permitting, flammable storage permitting, commercial, industrial, and industrial inspections, Senior Citizen safety awareness, preschool and daycare fire education programs, and school age fire education programs.

SAFE and related programs - Westminster is a SAFE Grant participating community having received SAFE (Student Awareness for Fire Education) State Grant funds for a number of years. This program initially focused on school age children, but over the last few years other "at risk" groups such as seniors have been added as our target audience. Our primary focus continues to be preschool, kindergarten, and elementary school age children. Preschool and kindergarten children are taught fire safety at the Fire Station with video and live fire education programs with Smokey Bear at the guest visitor. We also take our "Friendly Firefighter" program on the road to preschools to introduce young children to firefighters so they know not be scared of us during an emergency when we have all our equipment on.

Our Elementary School age fire safety education is based on the SAFE Program. This is delivered to students at the Westminster Elementary and Meetinghouse School and also involves using the SAFE Trailer available from the Fire District and other classroom activities.

The SAFE Grant has continued to be funded and these funds make it possible to deliver quality fire and general safety programs to the public and key "at risk" groups in the future without local funds. There is a population that often get missed during this training and that is home schooled children as they do not attend the main-stream educational locations we visit. Parents of home schooled children are encouraged to be in contact with us so we can notify them when we run our programs so their children can participate.

The SAFE Program is developmental in that it builds on the knowledge that is instilled in the children each consecutive year as the children participate. In later years the children generally know the basics of personal, family and home safety.

The Fire Department is a member of the Massachusetts State-Wide Coalition for Juvenile Firesetter Intervention Program, and provides intervention programs for children at risk. The department has trained firefighters in evaluating children for risk potential and assisting with referral to various agencies for intervention if necessary. Residents are encouraged to contact the department if they feel they know of a child at risk.

Our senior citizens are considered an “at risk” population for injury and to address this we have continued to offer assistance through programs we offer through partnership with the Council on Aging. We also offer assistance to seniors with the installation of self purchased smoke and carbon monoxide detectors for their increased safety. Anyone wishing assistance can call the department to arrange an appointment.

Over the year we have worked with many businesses in the community performing inspections and assisting with answering questions. We look to develop corporative relationships with businesses to assist them with their safety programs, such as fire extinguisher training, participating in safety drills, and assisting with emergency preparedness. Businesses interested in available programs are asked to contact the fire prevention office for available programs. Specifically we have worked with business to assist them with their Federal Tier II Hazardous Materials reporting.

Specialized Community Services:

CPR/First Aid - We provide the public with Community CPR & First Aid. The ongoing need from town business, community groups, organizations, and the general public for CPR and First Aid classes has been a large part of our life saving education. During the year we held 16 classes and trained about 93 people in these important life safety courses. These classes are delivered at little to no cost other than the cost of cards to businesses, organizations, community groups, and general public from Westminster.

Lock Boxes - The Department works with residents interested in the use of residential lock boxes. The department keeps a few lock boxes purchased with donated funds to assist residents who often contact us about handicapped, or otherwise physically impaired family members that may need emergency services during hours when other caregivers are not home. Since the Fire Department does not hold residential keys it is possible that the only way we can get in the residence when needed is to force entry. We loan lock boxes to residents with temporary problems or until they can purchase there own. Anyone interested in the Lock Box program or is looking to purchase their own lock box is encouraged to contact the department.

Halloween Bon Fire - Each year the Department partners with the Friends of the Library to provide the Halloween Bon Fire held at the Public Safety Facility. This event attracts hundreds of adults and children and provides an opportunity to meet residents and to answer questions about the department.

Event Planning - The Department consults on event management venues in town. The Fire Department has developed unique skills to coordinate large multi-jurisdictional resources through managing large incidents and attending training. Any business or civic group interested in assistance in event planning should contact the department. Our assistance helps with planning a safe event for the public.

Mid-State Fire Mutual Aid – Westminster is a member of the Mid-State Fire Mutual Aid Association and like other Fire Departments in the area we continue to be dependent on mutual aid due to shortages in manpower, and ensuring firefighter safety. (It takes a minimum of 16 firefighters to fight a house fire.)

Department Equipment:

Fire Equipment - All hose has been tested and defective hose taken out of service or repaired. Fire pumps as well as Fire Ladders have been tested and certified to meet original specifications and repaired as needed. SCBA (Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus), along with the compressed air we put in the bottles, is also tested each year.

Rescue Truck (R1) (2000) American LaFrance. This vehicle provides EMS (Emergency Medical Services) and Fire Rescue services to the town and is in good condition and will need some body work in the future to keep it in its current condition. It is licensed as a Class V Ambulance (back-up ambulance)

Ambulance 1 (A1) (2007 Ford Ambulance) Horton. It is used to respond to Emergency Medical calls and transport patients to the hospital. The vehicle is in excellent condition.

Engine 1 (E1) (1999 Class A pumper) KME. It carries 1000 gallons of water and Class B foam to fight flammable liquid fires, and is in very good condition.

Engine 2 (E2) (2001 Class A pumper) KME. It carries 2500 gallons of water and has a Class "A" foam system that doubles the rate of fire suppression. This vehicle is also capable of operating as a tanker by performing water shuttles, and is in very good condition.

Engine 4 (E4) (1990 Class A Pumper) KME. It carries 1000 gallons of water, and is in good condition for a mid-life vehicle. This vehicle needs to be planned for repair, refurbishment, or replacement in the very near future. Since it lacks many safety standards required for new vehicles repair or refurbishment would not address these issue and only a replacement will solve this out of date vehicle problems from a safety perspective.

Tower 1 (T1) (2005 Ladder Truck) KME 95 ft aerial ladder with tower bucket and 300 gallons of water and 2000 GPM pump. The vehicle is in very good.

Engine 5 (E5) (2008 Mini-Pumper) CET. This vehicle was purchased to replace both the Forestry 1 & 2 with one vehicle that is capable of being used year-round. The vehicle carries 300 gallons of water and compressed air foam that can provide the same amount of extinguishing capability as the combined vehicles (F1 & F2). In addition this Mini-Pumper is 4-wheel drive and is less than 10 Ton and can carry the necessary equipment to make an initial attack at a structure fire. This now solves the problem with weight restricted bridges in town such as Leino Park where the bridge is rated for 10 Tons and our larger apparatus can not get pass over it. In addition this vehicle can also access Crocker Pond Bridge and many residential bridges that we can not take our larger vehicles over.

Forestry 1 (F1) (1986, pick-up truck) this is a military pick-up truck obtained from Government Surplus. We disposed of this vehicle this year as part of a plan to replace this and Forestry 2 with one vehicle that was suitable for year –round usage. The vehicle purchased is listed as Engine 5.

Forestry 2 (F2) (1976 Tanker Pumper) Ford 1000 gpm pump and 2300 gallons of water. We disposed of this vehicle this year as part of a plan to replace this and Forestry 1 with one vehicle that was suitable for year-round usage. The vehicle purchased is listed as Engine 5.

Utility Vehicles: The department has 3 utility vehicles as follows: Car 1 (2008, Chief's car – Excellent condition) and is designed to be an emergency response vehicle and the primary command vehicle at major incidents. The vehicle was replaced in 2008. Car 2 (2003, Duty Officer's car good condition) and is designed to be an emergency response vehicle and the secondary command vehicle when the Car 1 is not available. This vehicle will need to be planned for future replacement. Car 3 (2007 utility pick up truck – excellent condition)

Radio Equipment: The UHF radio system is in good condition. All firefighters have UHF portable radios and pagers for their safety. The department maintains our Low-band radio system as a back up and communications system for alerting and all communications on UHF are repeated on Low-Band. The public wishing to listen to us can tune their scanner to either 460.1625 or 33.96

Breathing Apparatus: The breathing apparatus are fully compliant and inspected and tested yearly.

Station:

Our station is well maintained and in good structural condition, but lacks functional living, storage, and operational space. When the public safety complex was expanded in 1995 and the Fire Department moved in we quickly ran out of storage space for the small equipment and supplies we need to carry. Two storage sheds were added in the rear of the station over the years to assist with cold storage. Although this has been done we significantly lack space for records management and equipment and supplies. Although the Town has moved forward with a Public Safety Space Needs Committee to address the space needs of both the Fire and Police, this is seen as a long term solution.

In FY2005 the Fire Department submitted a proposal to address the space problem by adding a second story to the south side of the building, thus increasing the storage and living space needed now that we have a 24 x 7 staffing arrangement, but there has been a lack of support for this proposal due to the lack of an end plan for what happens to the Police Department as they also need space. There is some level of concern about spending any money on the building if at some point it is decided to build a police station leaving space in the current building for the fire department.

Considering this feedback the fire department gained approval from the town for a 5-7 year solution by building a mezzanine on the apparatus floor. Although this would eliminate a location for a vehicle it would provide needed space. We had hoped to have this mezzanine in by the end of 2007 but ran into problems with bidding due to the cost being driven up as a result to having to pay prevailing wage and companies posting a bond. During 2008 the fire department looked into buying the material and using our own labor to install the mezzanine this allowing us to stay within the approved budget request. The mezzanine would provide space where the current building could be outfitted to accommodate the increased demand for living space. The idea of having the firefighters do the work was well received by the firefighters but failed to past the legal requirements for paying prevailing wage. It was learned that prevailing wage must be paid to anyone that does work on a project that was a special appropriation. This includes firefighters that want to volunteer as the definition of employ can cover volunteers even if they are not paid.

While we are looking at possible solutions to a mezzanine that we have funding for, the Town should continue to consider the other possible solution that we have proposed is to build a Sub Fire Station on the land donated for such purpose on a parcel of land at the intersection of South Ashburnham Road and Whitmanville Road. This location provides a strategic location for a future Fire Sub-Station in the northern third of town, where growth is being experienced. The capital plan for the Fire Department includes the eventual need for a sub-station to adequately service the residents in this area and the Space Needs Committee is also considering this alternative. The fire department sees this being considered a long term solution that will be addressed by the Public Safety Building Committee.

Contact Information:

Location: Fire Station is located at 7 South Street, Westminster, MA 01473

Phone: 978-874-2313, Dispatcher Ext 0, Chief Ext 230, Fire Prevention Ext 232, Administrator Ext 231

Office hours: Monday through Friday from 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM.

Appointments: During normal office hours or by special appointment

E-mail: firechief@westminster-ma.gov

Web page: www.westminster-ma.org/fire.htm

General:

2008 December Ice Storm – The 2008 Ice Storm that started on December 11, 2008 and resulting state of emergency that continued to Monday, December 22, 2008 deserves special mention in this year's annual report.

No matter what praise I can give it will not be enough for the following folks. First the Firefighters who dropped their personal problems and jobs to work for over a week straight, working day or night shifts answering over 400 calls of service. This is not to mention the dangers they faced rescuing people that needed medical attention that first night, or trying to keep streets open. The \$25,000+ damage to Engine 1 when the tree fell on it on State Road East while the firefighters were on a call will not be soon forgotten. Firefighters that were trapped with their engine trying to get back to the station only to have trees fall in front and in back blocking their way and having to spend hours to cut their way through. Firefighters that were not able to get to the station when they were needed as the roads were blocked. This was no ordinary emergency and the firefighters rose above personal and family needs to serve the town in the most overwhelming way possible.

The second group of people that rose above up to the challenge were the families of firefighters. Firefighter families gave up their firefighter day after day to the public and had to care for themselves and their needs were put on the back burner. They became resourceful and when possible they pitched in helping others where they could.

We collectively did a lot that week and I along with all of you feel a great sense of satisfaction that we did a great job collectively and no one was hurt or injured.

Although not previously discussed in the Fire Department Annual Report, I have been reporting in the Emergency Management Annual Report that having a combined job of Fire Chief and Emergency Management Director would not work effectively during a significant emergency. This was just the case during the Ice Storm. I found myself unable to attend effectively to both the Fire Department needs as well as the role of the Emergency Management Director. The town has received complaints from citizens about the lack of communication during this emergency and they are correct that communication did lack and this can be directly linked to having a combined person for both positions. Neither the Fire Department nor the Emergency Management Department have sufficient part-time or full-time personnel to be able to delegate significant management tasks during such a disaster to allow for one person to meet the needs of the public. As Fire Chief I appreciate the level of support I received from the public from the Fire Department's emergency response efforts. This was only possible to the extent that Captain Nivala was able to devote as much time as he did to help fill in where needed.

Other - The Fire Department submits a capital replacement schedule as part of the yearly budget review. This capital plan needs to be put into an overall capital replacement plan for the Town to ensure that future funding for replacement is available in advance of the need.

Firefighting work is labor extensive and the Captain along with the 6 full-time firefighters we currently have working shifts alone can not meet the demands of the job by themselves. It actually takes a minimum of 16 firefighters to initially fight a house fire. The few full-time firefighters can not safely do their jobs without call firefighters. As the call firefighters ranks have declined the town has been put in the position to increase the number of full-time firefighters to offset the trend and ensure that the work can get done.

The Fire Department is put in a difficult situation because of the lack of call firefighters. Residents do not want their taxes to go up but on the other hand we do not see the public willing to become call firefighters to help solve the problem.

The problem we have is that the trend of attracting new call firefighters has not changed much over the years. With all the press and discussion about increased taxes we have not seen any new call firefighters complete the training and help turn the tide of the problem.

Therefore I must write what I have written in the past.

“With out community support for the fire department in terms of people wishing to be call firefighters and coming day or night when you are called we will need more full time firefighters. It is not something the Chief and all firefighters control as we cannot do the job in the future with out help either call or full time.”

It takes a special group of men and woman that demonstrate an unselfish willingness to serve the Town to deliver the Fire Department's services. The few highly dedicated skilled call and full time firefighters that comprise the Department are responsible for the day-to-day operations. They have done a wonderful job of working with the community to delivery excellent services that have improved each year. They have my respect for the commitment and dedication they demonstrate. We welcome you to visit your Fire Station and meet the men and woman who stand ready when emergencies occur.

From time to time the Department receives cash donations from the public. These funds are utilized to purchase, or combine with town funds to purchase equipment that assist us deliver the services to the people we serve. The Department wishes to thank all that donate to the department either in cash and or services to help offset the cost to the town and improve the safety of the firefighters. The support from the community makes the job just that much easier for all of us, and the presents, cakes, cookies, and candies say thank you in a big way.

I would like to thank other town departments for their high level of cooperation and professionalism in assisting us in delivering emergency services. Special thanks to the Police Department and the Public Works Department for their assistance at the many emergency responses we make each year.

Respectfully Submitted,

Chief Brenton W. MacAloney