

New Boston Fire Department 2016 Accomplishments

Recruit Program –The Recruit Program has continued to prove to be a valuable addition to our Department. The primary goal of these programs is to ensure quality emergency medical coverage for New Boston during weekdays when many of our volunteers are out of town. To date the program has managed to reduce response times by 50%, while increasing the medical staff during the daytime. The program has also reduced stress on our regular members who might otherwise have to leave their jobs for emergency calls, where their companies allow this. The recruit program members are all volunteers from out of town that have agreed to work (1) 8 hour daytime shift a week to gain experience and promote their career goals. Recruits are now also covering the Town on Saturdays and Sundays as well.

Operational Information – Our emergency calls for service rose sharply by 17%, from the 2015 calls for service of 452 to 529 calls for service in 2016. Our need to call for mutual aid to cover our calls in town was also held to a low number. This statistic reflects the Department's ability to meet the emergency calls for with the personnel in our Department.

Cadet Program – This program continues to serve the purpose of introducing the fire service to the youth of New Boston and surrounding towns. Presently there are 4 members. It is one of the more successful programs of its type, thanks to the Director, John Jones.

Financial Information - For 2016, we managed to provide services working within the reduced budget allocation. The fire department's budget was reduced by 10% from the 2015 budget allocation, as a result of the default budget calculations. However a number of the improvements and upgrades to members protective clothing and equipment had to be put off for another year. The department did however close the year out within budget despite the reduction and 25% over budget line item for cost emergencies due to the sharp increase in calls for service.

Staffing – Our roster stands at 40 volunteer members, and 4 recruit members. Our cadet membership is currently at 4. The majority of our membership is very active. During the year we had some members and

recruits move on, however we also gained 6 new members. In a small town, it is a constant challenge to recruit new members for our Department. It is through the dedication of our volunteer members that we continue to be successful. However we can always use new members, if you might be interested, please contact Chief Dan MacDonald

We also saw three long time members retire from the Department. Their dedication and commitment to serve the residents of New Boston was excellent. They were Deputy Chief Rod Towne with 44 years of service, and Alden Miller with 16 years of service. We also had Lt. Gordon Carlstrom retire/move to sunny New Mexico after 30 years of service.

We're very fortunate to have such dedicated people willing to give up their personal time to be part of this organization. Neighbors helping neighbors!

Honor Guard – NBFD is again very fortunate to be one of the few volunteer or career departments to have an Honor Guard. Our guard consists of Commander Brandon Merron, Asst. Commander Gina Catalano, Deputy Chief Rod Towne, Lt. Janet Chamberlain, Lt. Bryan Wells, FF, and FF John Jones

New Member Certifications - The following members attained their FF level one certification in 2016, Derek Danis, Greg St. Amand, Liam Cashin, Mitch Dean, Jake Nutter, John Smith, Norm Dumais. Attaining FF2 Level were Norm Dumais and John Smith. We had 4 people attain their EMT certification – Derek Danis, Liam Cashin, Brooklyn Merron, and John Smith. One person attained their EMTA, Pete Zamachaj. With these accomplishments, NBFD membership has achieved a very high level certification in the areas they work, (Firefighter / EMT).

Cost Reduction/Avoidance Program – It was highlighted in the budget presentation this year, that as a result of implementing the Ambulance Revolving Account (billing for transports), and reorganization of the paid positions in the Fire Department, significant cost savings have been passed onto the tax payers of the Town. Since the ambulance billing program was introduced in 2010, a total savings of \$238K has been removed from the tax burden (expense budget). In addition, \$245K has been removed from the Capital Improvement

Program. We also received a grant to upgrade our emergency services radio site for \$200K.

Some of the accomplishments associated with our Department this year are:

- 8 new members to our Department, (regular, recruits and part time)
- Continue to meet our daytime call requirements as a result of the re-organization in 2015 and the members available during the daytime
- Continuation of the Recruit Program to include 5 new members and coverage now extending to Saturday (currently open) and Sunday
- Continuation of the Cadet program with 4 members and the promotions of several Cadets to new Officer Positions.
- Development of our member's skills to bring our certification level to 99%
- Positive growth of our Fire Prevention Department, this was Eric's second year with us.
- We saw a new Department Administrator come on board, Bill Mortimer, and our original Administrator, Pete Zamachaj, moved on to become a police officer
- Another very successful fire prevention program at the NBCS
- We took delivery of a new ambulance, at no cost to the tax payers
- Our Auxiliary had their Captain retire, Kim Merron. Alicia Dubowik has assumed the post of Auxiliary Captain.
- The summer outing was a ton of fun as usual, and now there is an annual gift to be handed forward each year
- Solid team spirit among our members
- Dedication of our officers and members
- 2 members hired by full time Departments
- A new Officer for Hilltop and a relocation of one to Central
- Award of the radio site upgrade grant
- Santa's visit was as popular as ever
- Fire and Rescue received numerous acknowledgments for their efforts.

Respectfully submitted by,
Fire Chief Dan MacDonald

Training – Another year has passed and the Fire Fighters and EMTs of NBFD have been busy training, logging a total of 3,072.75 hours of fire and rescue training. The number of hours spent attending in-house training was 1,428.25 hours. External training totaled 1,644.5 hours. This represents a very impressive effort by our members. As you know these hours represent a lot of Wednesday night sessions where our members work together practicing the various skills they will need to safely respond to our neighbors emergencies. During 2016 our training program consisted of a variety of subjects including, water supply, Critical decision making, pump operations, self-contained breathing apparatus, Wilderness search and rescue, Fire streams, forest fire control, Ice rescue, chimney fires.

Our members attended many outside training courses that included subjects like incident command, fire ground safety and survival, hazardous material awareness, and Traffic Incident Training. NBFD also had 7 members become NH certified Level One Fire Fighters, 2 members become NH certified Level 2 Fire Fighters, 4 members become Nationally certified EMTs and 1 member become Nationally certified as an EMTA. Capt. Catalano, I would like to thank you, the officers, and the members of NBFD for supporting the training program and making 2016 another good year for our training program.

Sincerely
Bryan Wells
Lieutenant of Training, NBFD

Fire Prevention Report - The Fire Prevention Division had a very active year in 2016.

Gas / Wood stove / Pellet stove / Oil burner inspections = 108

Business inspections = 65

Sprinkler inspections = 64

2016 New Address Assignments = 31

2016 New Homes added with sprinklers = 29

Fire Investigations (2 Building/Structure fires) = 2

Listed below are some examples of the services the Fire Prevention Division is providing to the town:

- New & Existing Business/Residential Inspections
- New Building address assignments for the Town and 911

- Town Buildings and School Inspections
- Car Seat Inspections
- Building / Sprinkler Plan Review
- Fire Investigations
- Assembly Permit Inspections
- Sprinkler and Fire Alarm Inspections
- Day-Care Inspections
- Foster-Care Inspections
- Woodstove/Pellet Stove Inspections
- Gas (propane) Inspections
- Generator Inspections
- Oil Burner Inspections
- Public Education
- Fire Suppression & Emergency Medical Services
- Town-Wide Safety Committee Member
- Miscellaneous Fire Protection Inquiries

Our goal is to provide the best customer service for the residents of New Boston. We work closely with builders, service providers, utility companies and various businesses to accomplish this goal. We strive to increase our customer service in the New Year 2017 and continue to make the town a safer place for all that reside or visit. **I would like to remind you that smoke and carbon monoxide detectors save lives and should be installed throughout your home, especially in sleeping areas. Also don't forget to replace the batteries in your detectors twice a year or consider purchasing new detectors available with a 10 year battery life span that are maintenance free.**

I strongly encourage you to call with any questions you may have regarding how to make your home or business safer.

Respectfully submitted,

Eric Dubowik, New Boston Fire Prevention Officer