

FIRE AND RESCUE DEPARTMENT

Fire/Rescue, Ambulance, Wildland Fire, Fire Prevention, Office of the Fire Marshal, Emergency Management, Building/Code Enforcement and Health Divisions

To the Honorable Town Council, Town Manager and the citizens of Merrimack, on behalf of the Merrimack Fire and Rescue Department, it is my pleasure to provide you with our 2014 Annual Report Summary. From this report, you will gain knowledge regarding the different divisions within the Department and programs that serve you, our residents and customers. We invite all customers to visit our web site at www.merrimacknh.gov/fire to gain knowledge and information about our department, emergency planning, health information, fire prevention and fire/building and health codes.

As we look toward the future Merrimack Fire and Rescue Department stands ready 24 hours every day to provide emergency medical service, fire protection, rescue, fire prevention, emergency management, building and health services to you our customers.

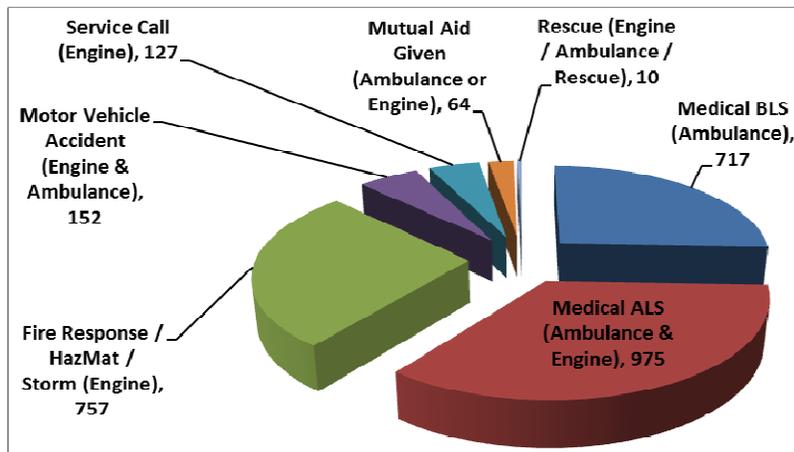
During the 2014 year the divisions within Merrimack Fire Rescue answered around 28,500 calls for service pertaining to emergency service, emergency management planning actions, inspections, plan reviews, code compliance, and health concerns and building activities.

OPERATIONS DIVISION

2014 was another busy year for Merrimack Fire and Rescue Department Operations personnel.

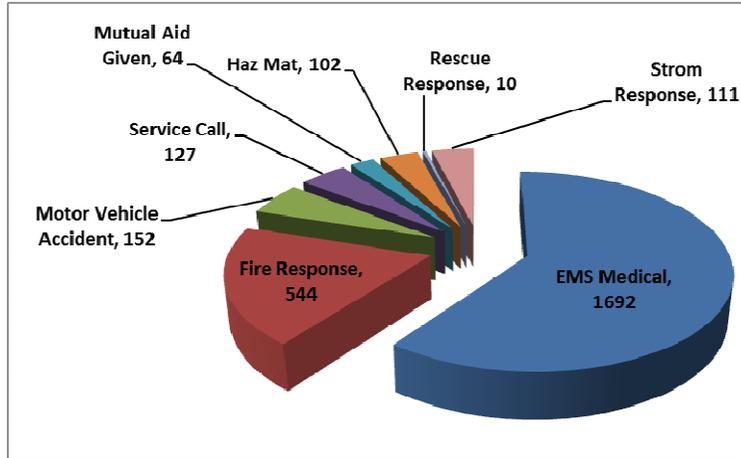
Emergency Activity

Fire and Fire Related calls.....	1016 incidents
Emergency Medical (Ambulance).....	1786 incidents
Patients Treated:	2074 Patients
Total emergency incidents.....	2802 incidents



This past year, we responded to a number of significant incidents, including several fires in multi-unit occupancies, one of which was caused by lightning igniting a natural gas appliance supply line, an electrocution in a large business facility, as well as numerous motor vehicle accidents and traumatic injuries requiring Medical flight transports to Level 1 Trauma Centers in Boston. Paramedics also

successfully identified a number of cardiac blockages in patients, allowing rapid medical intervention and immediate transport to cath labs in area hospitals. Personnel responded to eighteen (18) fires in structures that were extinguished before causing major damage, due in part to rapid notification and response by personnel who are on duty providing emergency services 24 hours each day 365 days each year covering two Fire Stations.



Training Activity

Training through NH Fire Academy.....	385 hours
Pre-fire planning.....	980 hours
In-house departmental training.....	2879 hours

Training Overview

This year, personnel spent significant time training in Incident Command, Emergency Scene Management, Technical and Water Rescue Training, and Hazardous Materials emergencies. Fire personnel also trained extensively with the Police Department and the Merrimack School district on evacuation drills from numerous schools within the town. Many hours were also spent on emergency medical training, including Advanced Life Support, as well as training on new Cardiac Monitors and automated CPR devices that are now deployed on each Ambulance.



Engine 2 placed in service on July 31st at Station 2, South Merrimack, on Naticook Road.

Service Recognitions

A number of personnel were recognized for their years of service to the Town of Merrimack:

Brian Borneman	Recognized for 20 years of service
Brian Dubreuil	Recognized for 20 years of service
Paul Kelly	Recognized for 15 years of service
John Chisholm	Recognized for 10 years of service
Ryan Thomas	Recognized for five years of service

Promotions

A number of personnel were promoted during the past year:

Lt. Matthew Duke	Promoted; 5/4/14 to Captain
MFF Shawn Farrell	Promoted: 5/11/14 to Lieutenant
MFF/Paramedic Shawn Brechtel	Promoted: 5/11/14 to Lieutenant
MFF Daniel Newman	Promoted: 10/19/14 to Lieutenant
FF/Paramedic Jeremy Penerima	Promoted: 4/13/14 to MFF

Retirements/Resignations

Four of our members retired and two resigned after many years of dedicated service to the town:

Mark Akerstrom (Master Firefighter)	Hired: 11/30/87	Retired: 1/4/14
Scott Simpson (Captain)	Hired: 11/30/87	Retired: 4/30/14
Philip Comeau (Master Firefighter)	Hired: 2/8/09	Resigned: 7/5/14
Donald Cole (Firefighter)	Hired: 1/6/14	Resigned: 10/14/14
Richard Barrows (Lieutenant)	Hired: 11/30/87	Retired: 10/14/14
Shawn Allison (Captain)	Hired: 4/3/89	Retired: 10/14/14

New Hires for 2014

Tyler Gaudette	Hired: 1/6/14
Nathan Landry	Hired: 1/6/14
Riley Northrop	Hired: 6/16/14
Gordon Othot	Hired: 10/20/14
Joseph Pelrine	Hired: 10/20/14
John Bollhardt	Hired: 10/31/14

SUPPORT SERVICES

Fire Prevention

This year Fire Prevention was involved with several new construction projects in town. The completion of construction of a new building for Maquet Getinge (Atrium Medical Devices) located at 40 Continental Boulevard involved many consultations, plan reviews and inspections, the building are now occupied and operating. The expansion of Nanocomp Technologies at 57 Daniel Webster Highway has also generated numerous consultations, plan reviews and inspections including specific chemical processes for the high

tech industry. Fire Prevention performed over 3000 fire and life safety inspections within our community to ensure that the businesses and schools are safe for their customers the public and our children. Inspection and plan review fees brought in over \$22,000 in revenue to the Town.

Over 2900 consultations were conducted by the Fire Marshal's Office. These consultations included providing fire and safety advice to local citizens and contractors on such subjects as generators, smoke and carbon monoxide detectors, fire extinguishers, wood and pellet stoves, emergency exits, and code requirements. Consultations with businesses included life safety code requirements, fire alarm and sprinkler requirements, capacity and egress requirements, removal of oil and propane tanks, school safety and construction requirements.

The Fire Marshal investigated 22 fires this year, including 1 vehicle fire, 8 structure fires, 1 suspicious school fire, 2 brush fires and 2 commercial dumpster fires. Numerous oil and gasoline spills were also investigated as were citizen complaints such as blocked fire access, fireworks complaints, dangerous conditions/building and code violations.



The Merrimack Fire Marshal's office continues to partner with the Nashua Fire Marshal's office in running the Regional Juvenile Firesetter Intervention Program. This program is an educational class that is required by the Juvenile Court System for children between 12 and 16 years of age who have been found to be misusing fire as an alternative to arrest. Merrimack also provides additional education for younger children (below the age of 12) in fire safety if their parents believe they have been playing with fire and may have concerns for the child's and family's safety. If you have questions or concerns please call the Merrimack Office of the Fire Marshal for further information and help in this area.

The strong working relationship with the Fire Marshal's Office, Building and Health Divisions is continuing to result in improved customer service and efficiency when dealing with developers and contractors in all aspects of plan review and construction. This has been especially helpful for large projects, such as the Volkswagen of Nashua, Nanocomp Technologies and the Atrium Medical Devices facility. We have also been very involved with several new residential developments including Tomasian Drive, Pollard Road and Old Blood Road/Madeline Bennett Drive.

The Fire and Rescue Department educates the community through appearances and programs which include fire prevention programs at the schools, High School DUI assembly, Reeds Ferry Fun Day water slide, Police, Fire and Rescue Departments Open Houses, Rib Fest at Anheuser Busch, Merrimack Business Expo and Safety Days at numerous local businesses delivering important life safety information. This year we also began broadcasting fire safety videos on the Merrimack TV public access channels. We also continue to work with the Nashua Telegraph, Merrimack Journal and the Merrimack Patch to get the message of fire safety and prevention out to the public.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

The Fire Department provides a critical coordination and administration of the Town’s Emergency Management Program and Emergency Operations Center (EOC.) We are ready and ensure that the Town’s Emergency Management activities are well coordinated in our response to disasters within the community with an emphasis on preparedness. Much of this was accomplished through policy, planning and training. Key component of preparedness is planning and providing key concepts to the emergency plan and the needed education of the community to be prepared.

The Local Emergency Operations Plan outlines the Town’s response to emergencies and recovery from these emergencies, both from natural and man-made hazards. We are also developing a plan to work with volunteers to staff local emergency shelters in the event of a disaster. This plan has been revised and reviewed with the Town Council and public and is expected for final approval next year.

We also have equipment and materials such as cots, blankets and pillows to allow for the establishment of a shelter, warming and cooling centers at the John O’Leary Adult Community Center. The Fire Department maintains an emergency generator to supply power to the facility when it is used as a shelter.

BUILDING DIVISION

Revenue collected for permits	←	\$ 108,397.70
Application Fees.....		\$ 7,250.00
Building Permit Fees		\$ 91,236.00
Test Pit Fees		\$ 3,000.00
Septic Fees		\$ 6,000.00
Sewer Insp. Fees		\$ 450.00
Copy Fees		\$ 461.50
Revenue collected from Health	←	\$ 24,900.00
Food License Fees		\$ 23,025.00
Public Pool/Spa Fees		\$ 1,875.00
Revenue collected Wastewater Fees		\$ 13,400.00
Total Revenue Collected by Building & Health	↓	\$133,297.70
Permits Issues		914
Plan review, consultations, counter and phone activities.....		17,580

Other inspections to include industrial, commercial and residential.....	2,836
Certificate of Occupancy.....	22
Certificate of Unit Completion.....	9

HEALTH DIVISION

Complaint Investigations	40	Food Establishment Licenses Issued	135
Food Service Inspections	454	Emerg. Response/Public Health Asst.	14
Pool and Beach Inspections/Licenses	36	Food Establishment Assistance	188
Day Care/Foster Care Inspections	16	School Inspections (Public and Private) ...	28
New Food Establishment Plan Reviews	38	Mobile Vendor Food Inspections	45

Responsibilities of the Health Division include licensing and inspection of all food service facilities, day cares, foster cares, adoption households, septic systems, and public swimming areas, along with the investigation of health/safety related complaints. The Division also disseminates information on various diseases and influenza.

The Health Department worked with the Farmers Market Manager to draft the Farmers Market Rules and Regulations for vendors. These recommended practices and research information provided the farmers market with excellent food safety information for meat, baked goods and mushrooms by gathering information from the State Food Protection Division and FDA Food Code that was unavailable elsewhere in the state. This document is now being utilized to ensure food safety at the Farmers Market providing healthy foods to our citizens.

New food establishments with their planning and location to Merrimack:

- Choice Cuts Butcher at 707 Milford Rd.
- Able Ebenezer Brewery and Sandwiches at 31 Columbia Circle
- Zhong's Restaurant 559 D.W Hwy.
- Charlie's Restaurant 600 D.W Hwy.
- City of Nashua School Dept., Brentwood School 1 Brentwood Dr.
- Gate City Charter School 7 Henry Clay Dr.
- Hedgehog Coffee Roasters 19 Star Dr.

FIRE AND RESCUE DEPARTMENT CONCLUSION

The members of the Merrimack Fire and Rescue Department are dedicated to serving our residents twenty four hours each day all year long without waiver. We are proud of our profession, we are caring and we are dedicated to our Core “life” values, our Mission and our Vision Statements of this department.

The Mission of the Merrimack Fire and Rescue Department is to protect life, property and the environment for those who live, work or invest in our community. We do this through our Vision; through a combination of team work, dedication, compassion and education; The Merrimack Fire and Rescue Department strives to be a professional organization to which others will benchmark their efforts.

In order to achieve this we as an organization have Core “LIFE” Values which are embraced by all of our team members:

L – Leadership
E – Empathy
A – Attitude
D – Duty
E – Excellence
R – Respect
S – Self-less Service
H – Honor
I – Integrity
P – Personal Courage

We have been challenged again this year with the economic times and have prevailed with an increasing emergency response up 400 emergency calls from last year's activities, with more incidents occurring simultaneously. The next few years will continue to be very demanding for the Department and continued support from our citizens will be needed more than ever. We understand that there are wants and needs in this situation and we will continue to be budget aware, while still providing the needed medical, emergency services and care to the citizens of this community.

The Building and Health Divisions incorporated into the Fire and Rescue Department has provided an excellent value and continues to be a benefit to the community which is more focused on customer service and supporting the citizens of Merrimack, contractors and builders within the community.

We continually receive comments from our customers on the efficiencies that have occurred and will continue to provide a high level of service within the budget guidelines to the growing community.

Thank you for your support and please be safe.

Respectfully Submitted
Michael P. Currier
Fire Chief, Emergency Management Director