

## **FIRE AND RESCUE DEPARTMENT**

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

To the Honorable Town Council, Town Manager and the citizens of Merrimack, on behalf of the men and women of the Merrimack Fire and Rescue Department, it is my pleasure to provide you with our 2013 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](http://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 your 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 2013 year the divisions within Merrimack Fire Rescue answered around 21,000 calls for service pertaining to emergency service, emergency management planning actions, inspections, plan reviews, code compliance, and health concerns and building activities.

### **OPERATIONS DIVISION**

2013 was another busy year for Merrimack Fire and Rescue Department Operations personnel.

#### **Emergency Activity**

|                                    |                |
|------------------------------------|----------------|
| Fire and Fire Related calls.....   | 706 incidents  |
| Emergency Medical (Ambulance)..... | 1670 incidents |
| Total emergency incidents.....     | 2376 incidents |

This past year, we responded to a number of significant incidents, including a large propane leak at a major manufacturing facility, as well as numerous motor vehicle accidents and trauma 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 also responded to ten (10) fires in structures that were extinguished before causing major damage, due in part to rapid notification and response by personnel.

#### **Training Activity**

|                                       |            |
|---------------------------------------|------------|
| Training through NH Fire Academy..... | 465 hours  |
| Pre-fire planning.....                | 840 hours  |
| In-house departmental training.....   | 2809 hours |

#### **Training Overview**

This year, personnel spent significant time training in Incident Command, fire ground strategy and tactics, technical rescue, and Propane and Natural Gas 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 evaluating new Cardiac Monitors and automated CPR devices.

### **Service Recognitions**

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

- Lieutenant Matt Duke 15 years, Lieutenant Shawn Farrell 10 years, Firefighter/Paramedic Jeremy Penerian 5 years, Firefighter/EMT Keith Hines 5 years

### **Promotions**

A number of personnel were promoted during the past year:

- Captain Brian Borneman was promoted to the rank of Assistant Chief of Support Services, Firefighter Shawn Farrell was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant and Lieutenant Rick Gagne was promoted to the rank of Captain.

### **Retirements**

Three of our members retired after many years of dedicated service to the town:

- Bruce Cornelius retired after 26 years of dedicated service, David Joki retired after 30 years of dedicated service and Mark Akerstrom retired after 26 years of dedicated service. Thank you for your service and best of luck in retirement

### **New Hire**

- Lenwood Brown III was hired as a Firefighter/AEMT

## **SUPPORT SERVICES**

### **Fire Prevention**

This year we continued working with the new Merrimack Premium Outlets Mall to ensure its continuing success. We were able to correct numerous problems with both the alarm and sprinkler systems and worked with mall management on many projects involving life safety and fire prevention. Another major project is the ongoing construction of a new building for Atrium Medical Devices located at 40 Continental Boulevard that we have been heavily involved in the planning and design. 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 \$19,900.00 in revenue to the Town.

Over 2700 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 19 fires this year, including 3 vehicle fire, 7 structure fires, 2 suspicious outside fires, 3 brush fires and 2 commercial dumpster fires. Numerous oil and gasoline spills were also investigated as were citizen complaints such as blocked fire access, dangerous conditions/building and code violations.

The Merrimack Fire Marshal's office is now also partnering 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. We have also been involved in the formation of a new

Local Area Fire Prevention cooperative that partners 10 adjoining towns in an information sharing group. This group meets monthly to communicate with other towns about various subjects of mutual concern.

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 Synergy Self Storage Building, Nanocomp Technologies and the Atrium Medical Devices facility.

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 and Fire and Rescue Department 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 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.

We have also ordered equipment and materials such as cots, blankets and pillows to allow the establishment of a shelter, warming and cooling centers at the James 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 .....                           | ←        | <b>\$ 133,392.75</b> |
| Application Fees.....                                         |          | \$ 5,825.00          |
| Building Permit Fees .....                                    |          | \$116,889.00         |
| Test Pit Fees .....                                           |          | \$ 3,400.00          |
| Septic Fees .....                                             |          | \$ 6,800.00          |
| Sewer Insp. Fees .....                                        |          | \$ 150.00            |
| Copy Fees .....                                               |          | \$ 328.75            |
| Revenue collected from Health .....                           | ←        | <b>\$ 21,025.00</b>  |
| Food License Fees .....                                       |          | \$ 19,150.00         |
| Public Pool/Spa Fees .....                                    |          | \$ 1,875.00          |
| Revenue collected Wastewater Fees .....                       |          | \$ 2000.00           |
| <b>Total Revenue Collected by Building &amp; Health .....</b> | <b>→</b> | <b>\$154,417.75</b>  |

|                                                                          |        |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|
| Permits Issues .....                                                     | 925    |
| Plan review, consultations, counter and phone activities.....            | 16,452 |
| Other inspections to include industrial, commercial and residential..... | 2,870  |
| Certificate of Occupancy.....                                            | 19     |
| Certificate of Unit<br>Completion.....                                   | 12     |

### **HEALTH DIVISION**

|                                          |     |                                             |     |
|------------------------------------------|-----|---------------------------------------------|-----|
| Complaint Investigations .....           | 64  | Food Establishment Licenses Issued .....    | 119 |
| Food Service Inspections .....           | 496 | Emerg. Response/Public Health Asst. ....    | 14  |
| Pool and Beach Inspections/Licenses      | 46  | Food Establishment Assistance .....         | 154 |
| Day Care/Foster Care Inspections         | 29  | School Inspections (Public and Private) ... | 33  |
| New Food Establishment Plan Reviews .... | 2   | Mobile Vendor Food Inspections .....        | 41  |

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.

We have worked with Fire Chief, Police Chief, Merrimack Fire Marshal, Parks Department, Town Managers Office, NH DES Lakes and Ponds Division, NH Fish and Game, Horseshoe Pond Condo and Horseshoe Pond Home Owners Association to monitor and report on the Cyanobacteria bacteria infestation in Horseshoe Pond to closely monitor and advise on the situation.

### **FIRE AND RESCUE DEPARTMENT CONCLUSION**

The members of the Merrimack Fire and Rescue Department are dedicated to serving our residents and are proud of our profession. We had another challenging year with the economic times and increasing emergency response activities with incidents occurring simultaneously. The next few years will continue to be very demanding for the Department.

We also understand that the economic environment continues to be a concern as it has in the past. We understand that there are wants and needs in this situation and we will continue to be budget aware as much as possible, while still providing the needed service and care to the citizens of this community.

The incorporation of the Building and Health Divisions 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 support programs to the citizens of Merrimack and builders within the community. We continually receive comments from our customers on the efficiencies that have occurred.

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