

Milton Fire-Rescue 2011 Annual Report

This past year proved to be a productive year for Milton Fire Rescue. Several upgrades were made to the department's fleet and the fire station now complies with the state mandated safety regulations. Milton Fire-Rescue responded to 863 calls for service in 2011. Below is a breakdown of those calls:

Fire Incidents	
Building Fires	20
Chimney Fires	9
Vehicle Fires	6
Brush Fires	5
Other Fires	14
Total Reported Fires	54
Motor Vehicle Accidents with Injury	17
Motor Vehicle Accidents with no Injury	28
Other Medical Assists	80
Total Incidents for which Fire Assisted EMS	125
Hazardous Conditions	23
Service Calls	57
Good Intent Calls	49
False Alarms	40
Severe Weather/Natural Disaster	61
Total Non-Fire Non-Medical Incidents	230
Total Fire Incidents	409

EMS Incidents	
Total EMS Incidents	464
Transports	234
Non-Transports	230
Paramedics Requested	192
Mutual Aid Given	52
Mutual Aid Received	202
Transport Locations	
Frisbie Memorial Hospital	219
Wentworth Douglas Hospital	10
Huggins Hospital	1
Goodall Hospital	1
Portsmouth Regional Hospital	2
Total Patients Seen	421
Calls With One Medical Responder Available	69
Calls With No Medical Responders Available	23

The year started with overwhelming support from the town's people at the March election. The article requesting \$60,000 to improve and update the current Milton Fire Station was successful and the process to renovate the station began in early April. By mid-July the project was complete and the "temporary" office trailer was seen off as it was towed down Route 125. The firefighters of Milton were extremely happy to be out of the trailer and back into the fire station. It is important that we realize this move is yet another temporary solution in our journey toward a much needed new fire station. Herb Downs Jr. was generous enough to donate the land where the Moose Club was previously located for the future construction of the fire station. This year another warrant article will request \$30,000 for the design phase of the new fire station. Over the course of 2012 the building committee will be working with the fire department and a design team to come up with a feasible plan for the new building. We only have six years left to construct the "Herb Downs Fire Station" or the land reverts back to Mr. Downs. The firefighters of Milton greatly appreciate your support during the next few years as we close in on a construction date.

The fire department is currently awaiting the delivery of the replacement for the 1985 forestry truck. The bid was awarded to Eastern Fire Apparatus of Milton with a total cost of \$65,000. Production of the truck has already begun and it is expected to be in service before brush fire season in the spring. The truck was purchased with capital reserve funds; therefore there was no tax impact on residents.

The delivery of the town's new ambulance brought a close to 2011. During the summer, with support from the Board of Selectman, the department began a selection and design process for the ambulance. The Milton firefighters and EMTs are very proud of the new vehicle, which was designed specifically for our needs and the way we operate. If you look closely the ambulance is 4-8 inches shorter than most other ambulances. Though this custom feature added cost it was unavoidable due to deficiencies in our current facility. The total cost of the new ambulance was \$167,250 with the funds coming from the ambulance revolving account.

On this year's ballot Milton Fire-Rescue will be seeking support to replace Engine 2. Engine 2 has served the town of Milton well for the last 23 years however; it has reached its life expectancy and should be retired. The truck recently failed its pump test and the body has begun to corrode. It does not meet current NFPA safety standards and with open rear seating it is especially dangerous for the firefighters. The safety of our fire apparatus is very important and this type of seating has not been constructed since the late 1980's. Approximately 25% of all firefighter fatalities occur in motor vehicle accidents. Engine 5 was removed from service in 2010 and was not replaced. If the new truck is approved it will essentially be replacing both Engine 5 and Engine 2, giving Milton a leaner, more efficient fleet of fire apparatus. Additionally, one less truck will mean less square footage will be required when the new fire station is constructed.

The EMS side of the department has come a long way and taken great strides in covering more of our calls. In 2011, Milton Fire Rescue began staffing the station 7 days a week from 7am-5pm, which is the busiest time for calls with the least amount of available responders. The station is staffed using a combination of personnel including our 2 full time firefighter/EMTs, 2 AmeriCorps members, received by a grant, and several part-time firefighter/EMTs filling in the gaps. The revenue collected by the

ambulance has funded the increased coverage at the station. Having the station staffed seven days per week with 2 EMTs has proven to be successful. In addition to being available to respond on medicals calls the firefighter/EMTs staffing the station are able to complete a number of additional tasks including; responding to fire emergencies, vehicle and station maintenance, fire prevention activities at the schools, writing burn permits, conducting training drills, and working with the fire explorers.

Milton Fire Rescue is comprised of about forty members with each and every one providing a piece to the puzzle that allows us to operate as we do. I would like to thank the members of Milton Fire-Rescue and their families for their continued dedication to the fire department and the citizens of Milton.

Respectfully submitted,
Nicholas Marique
Chief