

## Milton Fire-Rescue 2017 Annual Report

In 2017, Milton Fire-Rescue's call volume slightly increased from the previous year. The department responded to 876 total calls for service, 557 were medical related and 319 were fire related. The following is a breakdown of those responses:

INCIDENT TYPE	#	INCIDENT TYPE	#
Building fire	28	Explosive, bomb removal	1
Fires in structure other than in a building	2	Service Call, other	5
Cooking fire, confined to container	1	Lock-out	7
Chimney or flue fire, confined to chimney or flue	6	Water problem, other	2
Mobile property (vehicle) fire, other	1	Water or steam leak	3
Passenger vehicle fire	5	Smoke or odor removal	2
Off-road vehicle or heavy equipment fire	1	Animal problem, other	1
Forest, woods or wildland fire	5	Animal rescue	1
Brush or brush-and-grass mixture fire	1	Public service assistance, other	5
Outside rubbish fire, other	2	Assist police or other governmental agency	3
Outside rubbish, trash or waste fire	4	Public service	1
Dumpster or other outside trash receptacle fire	1	Assist invalid	3
Special outside fire, other	1	Unauthorized burning	16
Outside gas or vapor combustion explosion	1	Cover assignment, standby, move up	14
Explosion (no fire), other	1	Good intent call, other	7
Excessive heat, scorch burns with no ignition	2	Dispatched & cancelled en route	61
Medical assist, assist EMS crew	4	No incident found on arrival at dispatch address	2
Emergency medical service, other	19	Authorized controlled burning	7
EMS call, excluding vehicle accident with injury	457	Steam, other gas mistaken for smoke, other	2
Motor vehicle accident with injuries	29	Smoke scare, odor of smoke	5
Motor vehicle accident with no injuries.	42	False alarm or false call, other	5
Extrication, rescue, other	1	Malicious, mischievous false call, other	1
Extrication of victim(s) from building/structure	1	Central station, malicious false alarm	1
Water & ice-related rescue, other	2	System malfunction, other	4
Watercraft rescue	1	Smoke detector activation due to malfunction	1
Rescue or EMS standby	1	Alarm system sounded due to malfunction	1
Hazardous condition, other	1	CO detector activation due to malfunction	7
Gasoline or other flammable liquid spill	3	Smoke detector activation, no fire - unintentional	3
Gas leak (natural gas or LPG)	4	Detector activation, no fire - unintentional	3
Oil or other combustible liquid spill	3	Alarm system activation, no fire - unintentional	8
Chemical hazard (no spill or leak)	1	Carbon monoxide detector activation, no CO	2
Carbon monoxide incident	8	Severe weather or natural disaster, other	20
Electrical wiring/equipment problem, other	1	Flood assessment	1
Power line down	30		
Aircraft standby	1	<b>TOTAL INCIDENTS:</b>	<b>876</b>

<b>EMS Incident Details</b>	
Paramedic Intercepts Received	67
<b>Transports By Hospital</b>	
Frisbie Memorial Hospital	297
Wentworth Douglas Hospital	36
Huggins Hospital	7
Portsmouth Regional Hospital	7
<b>Ambulance Staffing</b>	
Calls with One Medical Responder Available	3
Calls with no Medical Responders Available	4
Mutual Aid Ambulance Required	13

\*Mutual aid ambulance required due to multiple incidents or multiple patients 7 times

A year has passed since the department relocated to our new quarters at the Herbert Down's Fire and EMS Station located at 865 White Mountain Highway. The official dedication was held on February 18, 2017. The event was marked by a "hose uncoupling" or ribbon cutting and a blessing and prayer of both the facility and the men and women who would respond from it. Mr. Herbert Downs Jr. was also in attendance and shared his words of gratitude. It was his vision that made this project a reality. I am happy to report the last of the invoices have been paid; \$156,000 in grant funding has been fully reimbursed and closed out. A few items originally cut were even able to be completed, all while staying \$25,000 under budget. The balance of the bond will remain in an account where it will earn interest. On the 2019 Town ballot voters will be asked what to do with the remaining balance. I would recommend adding it to the fire station capital reserve fund for future maintenance, repairs or additions of the Town's two fire stations.

The week of Thanksgiving the department took delivery of a new ambulance, which replaced a 2003 Ford/Marque that served the Town for the last 14 years. Ambulance 2 is now a 2017 Ford F-550 manufactured by Osage Industries in Linn, Missouri. The truck was purchased from Bulldog Fire Apparatus in Hopkinton, Massachusetts for \$225,000. The department was fortunate to receive a \$34,000 grant from the USDA Rural Development Grant Program. This left the town with a balance of \$191,000, which we were able to pay off using the Ambulance Revolving Fund. This account is solely funded through ambulance user fees. In addition to the new ambulance, a new Zoll cardiac monitor was purchased to replace an obsolete one and a second Stryker power cot was purchased to outfit the second ambulance. The cost of these two items alone topped \$50,000 and was also funded from the Ambulance Revolving Fund. In addition, we are grateful to the Chief Michael Maloney Foundation for the \$5,000 grant that was awarded and helped with the purchase of our new cardiac monitor.

Grant writing is a significant part of the administration of the fire department. Countless hours go into researching, applying for, and closing out each of these grants. Over the years I have come to the realization that once the grant has been awarded the real work has only just begun. Since 2009 Milton Fire-Rescue and Emergency Management has received over \$400,000 in grant money from a variety of federal and non-profit grant programs. The most significant of these grants was finalized in 2017 from New Hampshire Homeland Security and Emergency Management in the amount of \$156,000. This grant was the most daunting one managed to date. However, it was also the most rewarding. We utilized it to furnish and equip the new fire station with the majority of the furnishings, communication equipment, and electronics including the emergency back-up generator. Additional grant funding was awarded in 2017 to update the town's Local Emergency Operations Plan, purchase tactical EMS equipment, and purchase additional forestry equipment.

On the 2018 ballot, voters will be asked to support two warrant articles for the Fire Department, both of which are represented in the Town's capital improvements plan. First, voters will be asked to support the lease purchase of a new pumper/tanker. The pumper/tanker will replace the department's 1989 pumper with a modern unit that meets the standards of today and adds an additional 1,200 gallons of water for firefighting to our rural community. This would provide us with enough water to effectively combat a fire while waiting for additional mutual aid tankers to arrive. This request has strategically been placed on the 2018 ballot with fiscal feasibility in mind. In 2012 voters entered into a 7-year lease agreement to purchase a new pumper, 2018 is the last year we make that payment. If approved the new pumper/tanker will arrive in Milton sometime in early 2019 with the first payment due later in the year. This will eliminate a lapse in the payments between the 2013 pumper and the proposed 2018 pumper/tanker. Please keep in mind the industry standard on inflation for fire trucks is 3%-5% or in the case of the proposed vehicle, approval in 2018 vs. 2019 will result in a savings of \$15,000 to \$25,000. The second article is requesting to set aside funds for future capital projects, specifically to replace the department's self contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) and the command vehicle. Both of these are slated for replacement at least three years in the future. We appreciate your support as we continue our mission of serving the residents and visitors of Milton.

In 2017 two exciting new programs emerged at the department. First, the junior firefighter program was reintroduced back into the department after a several year hiatus. I'm thrilled with the group of kids we have and am confident they will be a huge asset to the future of this department. Secondly, and something I am most proud of is the creation of the Chaplaincy program. There has been recent realization of the cumulative effects that critical incidents can have on the mental health of first responders. We decided to take a proactive approach in taking care of our firefighters, EMTs and police officers. Maureen Steer is a life long Milton resident, recently retired public safety official, and soon to be ordained minister. Maureen's primary role is to be there for us in our time of need, whatever that may be. Don't be surprised to see her on the scene of a critical incident willing to lend an ear or give a much-needed hug.

After 44 years of service to the Town of Milton, former long time Fire Chief John "Andy" Lucier retired from the department. Although, Andy will be greatly missed by all his retirement is well deserved and the legacy he left on this department and the Town of Milton will never be forgotten. We are forever grateful for the lives he has affected over his 44 years of public service. Deputy Fire Chief Jake Bourdeau also wrapped up his 22 years of service in 2017. Although, both these men leave big shoes to fill I am 100% confident in the current and future leaders of this department to carry on the commitment and dedication shown over the years by officers and firefighters like Andy and Jake.

I would like to thank the members of Milton Fire-Rescue and their families for their time, commitment and dedication to the Town of Milton and the Milton Fire Department. I look forward to serving as your Fire Chief for many years to come.

Respectfully submitted,

Nicholas Marique  
Fire Chief/Emergency Management Director