

Mattapoisett Fire Department 2009 Annual Town Report

I am pleased to present to you the 2009 annual report on behalf of the Mattapoisett Fire Department. The members of the department have once again shown their level of professionalism to our community. Their sustained commitment to training and responding to emergencies at all hours of the day offers our town a tremendous level of comfort and protection. It is with great pride that I have the opportunity to be serving in my second year as Fire Chief in such a fine organization.

The Mattapoisett Fire Department responded to 463 emergency calls for service this year and conducted 613 Life and Safety Fire Inspections. We are pleased to report that we went through the year without a single fire fatality and very minimal property damage from fire. This can be attributed to fire fighter response, building code enforcement, public education and other departmental and town interventions.

The Fire Department is a service-orientated organization. Services can be divided into two separate categories. The first involves the non-emergency type of service and the second entails the emergency type of service. During this year, no additional services have been added; however existing services were continually evaluated and improved upon.

Non-Emergency Services:

- Inspection Services
- Fire Code Compliance
- Construction Plan Review
- Public Education Program
- Juvenile Fire Awareness
- Arson Investigation
- Departmental Training Program
- Other Non-Emergency Services

General Emergency Services:

- Firefighting
- Medical First Responder
- Extrication
- Hazardous Materials Response
- Water Rescue
- Search and Rescue
- Natural Disaster Response
- Mutual Aid Response

As an organization, our every action must focus on reducing the risk of lives and property within the Town of Mattapoisett and its neighboring communities. Through programs, initiatives and training, we as an organization continue to progress towards this goal.

Training and preparation is a priority for any organization, for the fire service it is essential. The Firefighters of the Mattapoisett Fire Department meet twice a month and perform training drills that simulate emergency situations. Training is one of the gears that drive the department. Training may include incident command, fire suppression, vehicle extrication, driver training, fire pump operation or emergency pre-incident planning.

The Mattapoisett Fire Department is pleased to announce, in 2009, our newest Firefighter Cory Silva successfully graduated from the Call Massachusetts Fire Academy Training Program. This program is an intense Firefighter I / II Training Program, which runs for just over five months and teaches fire fighting and emergency response. Firefighter Silva went on to obtain his FF I/II certification from the State of Massachusetts.

In 2009, several of our Firefighters enrolled in training classes sponsored by the Massachusetts State Fire Academy. Firefighter Patrick Saltmarsh participated in a two day Surface Water Rescue program where he was instructed and performed various water rescues. He also attended Rapid Intervention Training, learning life saving skills that are utilized in firefighter rescues.

Firefighter Brad Allen successfully obtained his Paramedic certification. Firefighter Allen has been a call Firefighter for a number of years and works full-time as a Paramedic outside of town. Firefighter Seth Bettencourt obtained his EMT certification and he too works for an ambulance service outside of town. Firefighter Cory Silva also completed his EMT program.

In November 2009, Captain Mike Behan, Lieutenant Justin Dubois, Firefighter Patrick Saltmarsh and Firefighter Ross Macedo traveled to the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg, MD and participated in various training programs. These programs offered personnel an opportunity to grow professionally through a quality educational experience and to increase their knowledge and skills to provide a safe and effective response within their communities. All four applicants met the selection criteria and their attendance was accepted. This training was a valuable learning opportunity and was paid for by the Massachusetts Department of Fire Service.

With the gracious support of the Town Meeting voters, money was made available to improve several key elements of our fifty five year old station. Over the past year, the Department has been effectively addressing the aging concerns and needs of our fire station and its infrastructure. With the assistance of a partial grant from NSTAR, the station's antiquated oil fired heating system was replaced with a new high efficiency gas boiler. New energy efficient windows were installed, along with new insulated apparatus bay doors. Due to the excessive weight of the fire engines, the pavement along the front of the station deteriorated and it too has been replaced. New paint and weather proofing was applied to the station's trim boards along with new gutters, adding a compliment to the station's new stained shingles.

Once again, the Fire Department personnel volunteered countless hours during Harbor Days and assisted the Lions Club with their annual triathlon. Our "Fill the Boot" drive proved to be a success, setting another fundraising record for Muscular Dystrophy. The Department held two successful open houses at the station this year. This event helps demonstrate to the public what our jobs entail and is also a great opportunity to educate the public on fire safety.

In FY 2009, The Massachusetts Office of Public Safety and the Department of Fire Services awarded the Mattapoisett Fire Department two state grants. The first grant totaled \$5,296.00 in state funds. This Firefighting Equipment Grant was utilized to replace several sets of Firefighting gear and personal safety equipment. The staff benefiting from this replacement gear included three Firefighters, two Lieutenants and one Captain. With much needed replacement of this protective clothing, our staff is better protected to carryout the tasks we have been trained to perform.

The second grant totaled \$3,200.00 in state funds. This grant was furnished under the Student Awareness of Fire Education (S.A.F.E.) Program. This money helped fund our Fire Prevention Program, allowing us to teach life safety lessons to the students of Center School, Old Hammondtown, Little Peoples College and other local day cares. These lessons included stop drop and roll, crawl low under smoke, training on 911, knowing fire exits, kitchen safety and other important topics.

The reflective house number program continues its success with a growing number of residents ordering signs. This program is sponsored by the Mattapoisett Rescue Association with a homeowner cost of \$20 to have their house number manufactured and installed on a reflective sign. For inquiries, kindly contact or stop by the Fire Department any day of the week.

The Fire Department also offers a FREE smoke detector test and battery replacement program for any older adults that reside in Mattapoisett.

In closing, we are always looking for people to join our organization to learn the rewarding skills of firefighting and rescue services. The more people involved with our team, the better we are able to perform our job of helping those in need. If you are looking for a way to give back to your community, please contact our station at 508-758-4150.

It has truly been my pleasure serving as your Fire Chief. Thank you.

Respectfully submitted,
Andrew Murray
Fire Chief