

# Mattapoissett Fire Department

## 2010 Annual Town Report

I proudly present to you the 2010 Annual Report for the Mattapoissett Fire Department. The Mattapoissett Fire Department's mission is to preserve and protect the quality of life for our town residents and its visitors. We are committed to providing the highest level of emergency services, fire suppression, rescue and public fire education while protecting life, property and the environment.



In 2010 we responded to 529 emergency calls for service. This total includes responding to numerous types of incidents such as structure fires, motor vehicle fires, brush fires, motor vehicle accidents, med-flight requests, hazardous material incidents and fire alarm calls.

We are staffed as an on-call fire department comprised of twenty five Firefighters, two Junior Firefighters, and one part-time secretary, one full-time Fire Inspector / Firefighter and a full-time Fire Chief. The ongoing selfless dedication of our on-call staff continues to impress and function with professionalism and pride. It goes without saying that I am proud of our firefighters and their commitment to this community.

The services we provide can be divided into two separate categories. The first involves the non-emergency type of services and the second entails emergency response services.

Routine non-emergency services include:

- Inspection Services
- Construction Plan Review
- Fire Code Compliance

- Arson Investigation
- Public Education Programs
- Public Training Programs
- Department Training Programs
- Equipment Maintenance and Repair
- Data Collection and Analysis
- Other Non-Emergency Services

General emergency services include:

- Firefighting
- Scene Stabilization
- Vehicle Extrication
- Medical First Responders
- Hazardous Material Response
- Water Rescue
- Search and Rescue
- Natural Disaster Response
- Mutual Aid Response

Personnel

The Mattapoissett Fire Department is pleased to announce, in 2010, four of our newest members successfully graduated from the on-call Massachusetts Firefighting Academy. This training program is an intense twenty two week hands-on academy where the recruits learn fire fighting skills and emergency response. Each of these members were tested at the state level and have successfully been awarded the Massachusetts Firefighter I/II certification. These members include: Firefighter Kyle Martin, Firefighter Todd Henshaw, Firefighter Hunter Urion and Firefighter Joseph Gleason.

Firefighter Ross Macedo, a call firefighter with the town over the past three years, has successfully obtained his EMT certification. Firefighter Macedo currently works as a full-time EMT out of town.

Promotions

Lieutenant Jordan Collyer has been promoted to Captain of Rescue 1. Captain Collyer possess an extensive knowledge of the fire service and is invaluable on the fire ground. He has a natural ability to lead and will be looked upon to mentor the new recruits placed under his command. Captain Collyer is assigned to our Rescue Truck which is the first responding unit for motor vehicle accidents.

Firefighter Patrick Saltmarsh was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant after serving as a firefighter for three and a half years. He has gained

extensive knowledge through training and has become a valuable asset to our team. Lt. Saltmarsh has been assigned to Engine Co. 2 and his responsibilities include overseeing its personnel and equipment.

### Training

The Mattapoisett Fire Department continues to make training one of its top priorities. With the proper training, our department possesses the ability to respond with specialized equipment and trained personnel to the variety of incidents we encounter in today's all-hazards approach to firefighting.

In addition to our bi-weekly training sessions, many members enrolled in classes at the state Fire Academy and other training programs throughout our region. Two of the courses included Rope Rescue Techniques and Rapid Intervention Training. These skills were developed and put to the test during rigorous multi day training programs.

For the second year in a row, several of our members qualified to attend training classes at the National Firefighter Academy in Emmetsburg, MD. In December, Captain Mike Behan, Lieutenant Justin Dubois and Firefighter Ross Macedo traveled to Emmetsburg and participated in a two day training program on wildland firefighting tactics. All three 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.

### New Equipment

Once again, I would like to thank all of the town meeting voters for their gracious support in the purchasing of a new Brush Truck for the Fire Department. I would also like to thank the Mattapoisett Rescue Association for its generous donation of \$24,000 towards the purchasing of this Brush Truck. Without these funds it would have been difficult for us to purchase this vehicle. This new department vehicle will assist our members in fighting fire in wooded and grass covered areas inaccessible by a fire engine. With the Brush Truck, our town and its natural resources are better protected for generations to come.

In assessing our department needs, it was determined that we had a growing need for a proactive approach in the development of comprehensive pre-fire incident plans for our commercial businesses. *FM Global* was offering a Fire Prevention Grant to Fire Departments that

could justify how funding would enhance their current and future fire prevention, pre-fire planning or investigation efforts. Our grant application was submitted and we were successfully awarded \$2,600 towards the purchasing of a mobile laptop computer. This computer is mounted in the Fire Chief's command vehicle and contains information which will make operations safer, access pre-fire plans, building construction and location mapping. This information will enhance the safety of our community and its properties.



### Community Involvement

Our Firefighters continue to volunteer countless hours throughout the year to various organizations. Again this year, we helped the Lions Club and their members with the annual Triathlon and Harbor Days events. We were also successful in our fundraising efforts and helped to raise nearly \$1,300 dollars for the Muscular Dystrophy Foundation with the "Fill the Boot" drive. The Fire Department also hosted its annual open house at the station, demonstrating to the public what our jobs entail and provided us with an opportunity to educate the public on fire safety.

The reflective house number program continues its success with the installation of 57 signs in 2010. The program is sponsored by the Rescue Association and has a cost of \$20 to manufacture the house number on a reflective sign and later installed by the Fire Department. To inquire more information on this program you can call or stop by the Fire Department any day of the week.

The SAFE (Student Awareness of Fire Education) Program is an outreach fire education program which allowed us to teach the entire kindergarten class as well as the preschool at Center School and Little Peoples College numerous Life

Safety lessons. These lessons included stop-drop-and-roll, crawl low under smoke, training on 911, knowing your fire exits, kitchen safety, and other important topics.

The Fire Department also offers a smoke detector battery replacement service to all senior citizens that reside in Mattapoisett. Simply contact the Fire Department to schedule an appointment.

#### Fire Prevention

The Fire Department conducted numerous life safety inspections throughout the course of the year. These inspections were conducted by both the Fire Chief Andrew Murray and part-time Fire Inspector Patrick Saltmarsh.

No.	Type of Inspection or Permit
225	Business Inspections
95	Smoke and CO Detector Inspections
36	School and Day Care Inspections
31	Miscellaneous
50	Oil Burner and Oil Tank Inspections
46	Propane Tank Inspections
22	Cutting and Welding Equipment
16	Fuel Tank Storage Permits
12	Bed and Breakfast Inspections
8	Fuel Tank Truck Permits
5	Ventless Gas Heaters
4	Gas Station Inspections
Total: 550 Permits and Inspections	

#### Acknowledgements

We work very closely with the Mattapoisett Police Department in our public safety role and I would like to personally thank Chief Mary Lyons and all of the men and women of the police department. We thank you for your support and are honored to serve next to you.

On behalf of the Mattapoisett Fire Department, its members and the Town of Mattapoisett, I would also like to offer our most sincere appreciation and gratitude to several local businesses that donated both time and materials towards the rehabilitation of our fire station: *Mahoney's Lumber, Yard Boss, Ying Dynasty, Sea Gas* and *Great Scapes Nursery*. **Thank you.**



In closing I would like to say, it is truly my honor to be Mattapoisett Fire Chief and I look forward to serving this community. Let us all have a safe 2011 year.

Respectfully submitted,  
Andrew Murray  
Fire Chief