

Mattapoissett Fire Department

2012 Annual Town Report

It is with the greatest sense of pride and accomplishment that I present the Mattapoissett Fire Department Annual Report for the 2012 calendar year. This report outlines the services, programs and accomplishments, along with statistical response data of the Fire Department throughout the past year. The information contained within this report is a testament to the professionalism and dedication of the Firefighters, Fire Officers and Administrative staff of the Mattapoissett Fire Department.

As you read and compare this year's annual report with those of the past, you will realize that this past year has been a successful one for the Mattapoissett Fire Department. As always, the intangible accomplishments of the Department are not so easy to convey or quantify. It is impossible to place a numeric value on pride, respect, courage, and sacrifice; yet, therein is the true value of what the Mattapoissett Fire Department delivers and represents. These intangible accomplishments, although not statistically shown in this report, are of far greater value to the Town than its data listed below.

The continued mission of the Mattapoissett Fire Department is one of a service oriented organization. Although the volume of service may not be as high as a city fire department, the quality and extent of services provided is impressive none the less. Nothing could have been accomplished this past year without the great men and women of this organizations willingness to help paired with the overwhelming support of our Towns people and leaders.

The Fire Department responded to 484 emergency calls for service in 2012. Of this total, 26 were calls to fires. These fires included structures, brush and vehicle fires. I am pleased to report there were no injuries, nor loss of life associated with these fires.

Mattapoissett Firefighters also responded to various other types of emergencies such as: motor vehicle crashes, hazardous materials, water rescue, ice rescue and severe weather / natural disaster responses and general public assist calls. Each number represents someone in our community that experienced an unexpected and many times

unfortunate event that led them to call us for assistance. We understand the loss and pain that is often associated with an incident. It is our hope that we have provided not just the professional response necessary to mitigate these emergencies, but also the appropriate compassion to support the individuals and families involved in these situations.



2012 Emergency Activity

- 26-Fires (house, vehicle, brush)
- 7-Rescues (vehicle extrication, water rescue)
- 122-Hazardous (fuel, gas, chemical leak)
- 140-Service Calls (public service assistance)
- 19-Good Intent Call (canceled en route)
- 127-False Alarm (syst. malfunction, other)
- 35-Severe Weather & Disaster Responses
- 8-Special Type

In addition to the emergency services listed above, the Fire Department also provides several non-emergency types of 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

Personnel

The Mattapoisett Fire Department operates as a paid on-call fire department comprised of one full-time Fire Chief, a full-time Lieutenant / Fire Inspector, 28 on-call firefighters, and one part-time secretary.

In 2012, the Fire Department continued its pursuit in recruiting new personnel to be trained as firefighters. I am pleased to announce the appointment of the following recruits: Sam Hill, Ned Kaiser, Adam Katz, Rebecca Smith and Hayden Vieira. Four of these new recruits are currently enrolled in the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy and I would like to wish them a safe and successful academy experience.

In July of 2012, Firefighters Darren Boucher, Ross Carvalho, Thomas Checkman, Kevin Gleason, Michael Muldoon and Marc Nadeau successfully graduated the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy. Firefighter Marc Nadeau was awarded the prestigious *Martin H. McNamara Award*. This award is presented to the Firefighting Academy's most outstanding graduate based upon both academic and practical proficiencies. I would like to take this public opportunity to congratulate Marc Nadeau and our fellow Firefighters on a job well done.



Training

The Mattapoisett Fire Department continues to make training one of its top priorities. This commitment reflects an effort to minimize the unexpected dangers and challenges faced during today's emergencies.

The Mattapoisett Fire Department members meet twice a month and perform specialized training in which they simulate emergency

responses to a variety of incidents. In addition to that, Fire Officers meet once a month to discuss operating procedures, staff development and pre-incident planning.



Firefighters Todd Henshaw and Timothy Murray recently obtained their EMT certification, while Firefighter/EMT Keenan Martin is currently working towards his Paramedic certification.

Lieutenant Justin Dubois, along with Firefighters Ross Macedo, Marc Nadeau and Thomas Checkman, enrolled in classes at the State Fire Academy, which included training for structural firefighting and propane gas (LPG) emergencies. Lieutenant Patrick Saltmarsh participated in the Academy's Fire Instructor II program and was successfully awarded the FI-II certification.

Firefighters Marc Nadeau and Michael Muldoon challenged themselves and successfully obtained the certification for Hazardous Materials Operations Level Responder with Product Control.

All of this training was made available through the Massachusetts Department of Fire Services and was provided at no cost to the Town.

Grant Money Awarded

Each year the Fire Department continues to seek grant opportunities in an effort to reduce the economic impact on the residents of the community. In 2012, we were awarded \$4,665.00 in state funds to supply our Student Awareness of Fire Education (S.A.F.E.) program. This program is a fire safety program designed to educate school aged children on the dangers of fire. These lessons included stop-drop-and-roll, crawl low under smoke, training on

911, knowing your fire exits, kitchen safety, and other important topics.

Fire Prevention

One of our goals in the Mattapoisett Fire Department is to decrease the number and severity of all fires within our community. We believe this can be accomplished through a proactive code enforcement program, public education activities, and plans review.

Our fire education programs are not just limited to the school children, as we are actively involved in teaching Life Safety behaviors throughout the community. One such program that we successfully expanded in 2012 was that of our fire extinguisher training. These training sessions provide community residents and employees of local businesses, along with members of the Council on Aging, the opportunity to not only learn about fire extinguishers, but to also have the hands on experience of using an extinguisher on live fire.



In addition, the Fire Department continues to offer free smoke detector battery replacement to seniors and people of need in single family homes. Smoke detectors continue to be a key factor in preventing fire-related deaths. For more details and information, contact us at 508-758-4150.

New Equipment

In March of 2012, we took possession of our new "Engine 1" fire engine, delivered by Pierce Manufacturing. It is a 2012 Pierce Arrow XT Pumper with a 1,000 gallon water tank and has the capability of pumping 1,250 gallons per minute. This engine replaced an aging 1987 fire engine that was taken out of service.



Emergency vehicles need to respond at a moment's notice and perform at the highest level during any number of emergencies. I am pleased to inform you that our new fire engine has been outfitted to serve our community and has already proven its worth on multiple occasions. On behalf of our community, I thank you all again for your continued support.

Acknowledgements

The Mattapoisett Fire Department would like to acknowledge and thank the men and women of the Mattapoisett Police and EMS Department, whom continue to work seamlessly alongside us during emergency situations.

I would also like to say thank you to all of our Town Departments and their members for all the support they give during emergency incidents and community events on a daily basis.

Lastly, I would like to thank the members of the Fire Department and their families for the countless number of hours they spend during training and responding to emergency incidents within our town and the neighboring communities. The Mattapoisett Fire Department is comprised of highly skilled, compassionate problem solvers, who are committed to providing the best care possible, during often difficult circumstances. I hope you find this report informative and I thank you for your interest and support.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrew Murray

Andrew Murray
Fire Chief