

Mattapoissett Fire Department

2013 Annual Town Report

It is with great pleasure that I present the Mattapoissett Fire Department Annual Report for the 2013 calendar year. The members of the Mattapoissett Fire Department proudly continue their commitment to protect and preserve the quality of life for the town's residents and visitors. 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. Mattapoissett Firefighters selflessly respond to emergencies at all hours of the day and night, with a tremendous level of commitment to serve our town. 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.

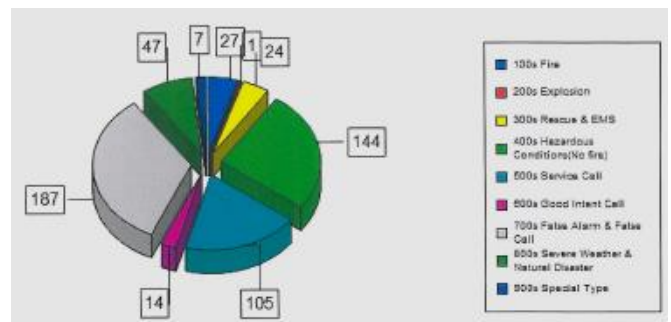
The Fire Department responded to 556 emergency calls for service in 2013, which included 27 fires. These fire types consist of structural, brush and vehicle fires.

In addition to fire response, Mattapoissett Firefighters also responded to various other types of emergencies such as: motor vehicle crashes, hazardous material incidents, water rescue, and severe weather / natural disaster responses and general public assist calls.



2013 Emergency Activity

- 27-Fires (house, vehicle, brush)
- 1-Explosion
- 24-Rescues (vehicle extrication, water rescue)
- 144-Hazardous (fuel, gas, chemical leak)
- 105-Service Calls (public service assistance)
- 14-Good Intent Call (canceled en route)
- 187-False Alarm (syst. malfunction, other)
- 47-Severe Weather & Disaster Responses
- 7-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:

- Construction Plan Review
- Fire Code Compliance
- Arson Investigation
- Public Education Programs (SAFE)
- Public Training Programs
- Department Training Programs
- Equipment Maintenance and Repair
- Inspection Services
 - Including Business, Smoke/CO Detectors, School/Daycare, Oil Burner & Tank, Gas Station, etc.

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 2013, the Fire Department continued its pursuit in recruiting new personnel to be trained as Firefighters. I am pleased to announce the appointment of probationary Firefighter Zachary Olivier, whom is currently enrolled in the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy - I would like to wish him a safe and successful academy experience.

In June of 2013, Firefighters Sam Hill, Ned Kaiser, Rebecca Smith, and Hayden Vieira successfully graduated the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy. This program is a rigorous twenty-week curriculum which meets twice a week and on weekends, where Firefighters are trained on such skills as firefighting tactics, search and rescue techniques, hazardous materials response, among other critical skills. I am proud to announce for the second consecutive year, a Mattapoisett Fire Department member was awarded the prestigious *Martin H. McNamara Award*. Firefighter Rebecca Smith was presented this award, which is bestowed upon the Firefighting Academy's most outstanding graduate based upon both academic and practical proficiencies. I would like to take this public opportunity to congratulate Rebecca Smith and our fellow Firefighters on a job well done.



Training

The Mattapoisett Fire Department takes training and continuing education seriously and continues to provide its members with opportunities to exercise current skills and learn new techniques. The Mattapoisett Fire Department members meet twice a month to keep current with such items as firefighting skills, emergency tool use and operation, and rescue and extrication, by simulating various emergency incidents. We are grateful to be part of such a generous community whose residents have donated vehicles and structures which allow our members to practice response to emergency situations and life-saving drills.



Additional training obtained by the Mattapoisett Fire Department members included Firefighter Marc Nadeau recently obtaining his EMT certification, as well as attendance by multiple members to a lecture on the Station Night Club fire presented by John Baryllick at Bristol Community College. Firefighter Ross Macedo participated in

the Academy's Instructor program and was successfully awarded the Fire Instructor I certification.

Grant Money Awarded

As in previous years, the Mattapoisett Fire Department continues to seek grant opportunities in an effort to reduce the economic impact on the residents of the community. In 2013, we were awarded \$6,904 in state funds to continue our Student Awareness of Fire Education (S.A.F.E.) program. We were also awarded \$1,939.29 in state funds from the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation to purchase brush and forestry firefighting gear to aid in protecting our members during a brush or wild land fire event. In addition to these two grants and in partnership with New Bedford and Fairhaven Fire Departments, we were awarded \$337,211 through FEMA and Homeland Security for the construction of a new training facility. This facility will be available for our staff to conduct live fire training, search and rescue, hose line advancement, ventilation, and etc.



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. Not only did Mattapoisett Fire Department host another successful Open House where fire prevention information was distributed and demonstrations were held, throughout 2013 the Fire Department continued training and outreach events for the community. This included a fire extinguisher safety class which educated the public on the various types of fire extinguishers, as well as hands-on utilization of the PASS technique (pull, aim, squeeze and sweep) to extinguish small fires.



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.

Community Involvement

Continuing throughout 2013, Mattapoisett Fire Department members prided themselves in volunteering in the community and participating in various fundraisers and events.

In May, several Firefighters took on the task of refurbishing the Cannon that rests on the lawn of the Town Library. This was done just before Memorial Day to show our appreciation for all of our Veterans.

As in previous years, we provided assistance to the Lions Club and their members with the annual Triathlon and Harbor Days events. In June, Mattapoisett Fire Department members and their families participated in the Tri-Town Relay for Life for the second year in a row; multiple fundraisers were held to raise hundreds of dollars for the American Cancer Society. In addition, in October multiple Fire Department members participated in a

5K for “Healing Little Hearts” where proceeds benefited research for Boston Children’s Hospital.



Restoration Project

In the fall of 2013, G.H. Dunn Insurance generously relinquished ownership of Mattapoisett’s “Old Engine 4”, a 1949 Ford Maxim, to the Mattapoisett Fire Department. G.H. Dunn housed the engine for numerous years in a heated garage, safe from the elements, keeping it in excellent condition.

For the restoration project led by Captain David Scott, Fire Department members have donated several hours of their time to return the engine to its original glory. As part of this restoration project, Check Collision has generously donated their time and supplies to complete a full paint job over the coming months. The Fire Department would also like to recognize the Mattapoisett Boat Yard who allowed the engine to reside in one of their garages while part of the restoration was performed, free of charge. We are very excited to restore one of Mattapoisett’s Fire Department’s prized possessions, and look forward to sharing this piece of history with the Town of Mattapoisett.



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