

Mattapoisett Fire Department

2014 Annual Town Report

It is with great pleasure that I present the Mattapoisett Fire Department Annual Report for the 2014 calendar year. The members of the Mattapoisett 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 Mattapoisett Fire Department.

The Mattapoisett Fire Department had another exceptional year in 2014. We continued our goal of giving back to the community and teaching the town's people about fire prevention. We participated in a number of training opportunities to help better ourselves as members of the Fire Department which in turn allows us to better serve the town and its' citizens. Members of the department are immensely dedicated, selflessly responding to emergencies at all hours of the day and night, even though the majority of the staff have full-time jobs elsewhere. The amount of pride, courage and sacrifice the Firefighters exhibit is incalculable.

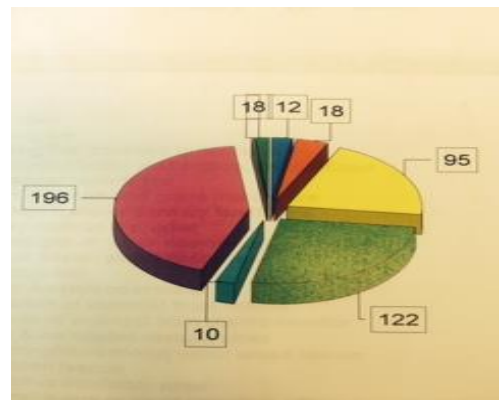
The Mattapoisett Fire Department remains a service oriented organization with a tremendous level of commitment to serve our town. Nothing could have been accomplished this past year without the great men and women of this organization's willingness to help paired with the overwhelming support of our Towns people and leaders. The dedication of the members is of insurmountable value and is displayed in the data listed below.



The Fire Department responded to 462 emergency calls for service in 2014, which included 12 fires (chimney, structural, vehicular and brush). Not only were fire calls answered, but Mattapoisett Firefighters also responded to various other types of emergencies such as: motor vehicle crashes, hazardous materials, water rescue, severe weather / natural disaster responses and general public assist calls.

2014 Emergency Activity

- 12-Fires (house, vehicle, brush)
- 18-Rescues (vehicle extrication, water rescue)
- 95-Hazardous (fuel, gas, chemical leak)
- 122-Service Calls (public service assistance)
- 10-Good Intent Call (canceled en route)
- 196-False Alarm (syst. malfunction, other)
- 1-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:

- 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, Propane Tank, Gas Station, Commercial cooking, cutting and welding, marine fueling, and etc.

Personnel

The Mattapoisett Fire Department operates as a paid on-call fire department comprised of one full-time Fire Chief, a full-time Day Shift Firefighter, 28 on-call firefighters, and one part-time secretary. Please help me in congratulating newly promoted Lieutenant Cory Silva, who has been an invaluable member of the Department for close to 7 years. Cory's promotion is well deserved.

In 2014, the Fire Department continued its pursuit in recruiting new personnel to be trained as Firefighters. I am pleased to announce the appointment recruits Brett Gauvin, Scott Leonard, Justin Blue and John Dubeau, who are currently enrolled in the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy - I would like to wish them a safe and successful academy experience.

In June of 2014, Firefighter Zachary Olivier 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 would like to take this public opportunity to congratulate Zachary on a job well done.



Marine Services and Capabilities

With Mattapoisett being a waterfront community, an increased population of residents in the summer, along with neighboring communities with vast stretches of coastline, Mattapoisett has a very active marine rescue program. In the spring of 2014, the Buzzards Bay Marine Task Force was launched in order to bring together water rescue resources of each community bordering Buzzard's Bay during emergencies. To aid in this effort, Mattapoisett added to their marine fleet with the addition of the new "Marine 1" rescue boat. This vessel was acquired from the United States Coast Guard and outfitted to serve as a fire and rescue boat for our community. Marine 1 is going to be a full year round rescue boat which we have not been currently able to do. This vessel has a fully enclosed cabin that can warm patients taken from the water or off a boat in distress. The cabin will also keep all the rescuers safe from the harsh weather elements that we respond in. The former Marine 1 has been renamed Marine 2 and will remain available during the warmer months.



Training

The Mattapoisett Fire Department participated in numerous training opportunities in 2014. Department drills are held twice a month which allow members to continually practice their abilities to remain sharp, as well as providing an opportunity for new techniques and skills to be learned. Additional training and continuing education outside of normal drills is frequently participated in, across a variety of topics to further grow our members. Continual education is important because it allows our members to better serve the community, each other and themselves.

Some of the additional training programs participated in by various Mattapoisett Fire Department members in 2014 included: Autism Awareness, Advanced Structural Firefighting Practices at the Department of Fire Services (DFS) in Stow, MA, a 40-hour Public Fire and Life Safety Educator class which included instruction on how to teach fire prevention classes to small children up to seniors, Fire Prevention Officer, introduction to Boston Med Flight, Buzzards Bay Oil Spill Response drill, Regional Burn Building Instructor (which allows us to host drills at our new regional burn building facility in New Bedford, MA, shared between Mattapoisett Fire Department, New Bedford Fire Department and Fairhaven Fire Department), Coast Guard Marine Training, Boater Safety Course with the Massachusetts Environmental Police, as well as a Buzzards Bay Marine Task Force Drill, to name a few.



(Photo of an extrication and vehicle fire drill from July 2014)

Additional training obtained by the Mattapoisett Fire Department members included Lt. Justin Dubois recently obtaining his EMT certification. I would like to extend congratulations to Lt. Dubois on this accomplishment.

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 2014, we were awarded \$6,904 in state funds from the S.A.F.E. (Student Awareness of Fire Education) and Senior S.A.F.E. programs, which aids in providing education and offsets purchasing of supplies for these educational programs.

Fire Prevention

The Mattapoisett Fire Department values teaching the members of our community, tools for fire prevention, such as decreasing the number and severity of fires, proper use of fire extinguishers, as well as awareness of and reducing carbon monoxide incidents, among other preventable emergencies. We believe this can be accomplished through a proactive code enforcement program, public education activities, and plan review.

Our fire education programs and teaching of life safety behaviors are targeted to include age ranges from pre-K up through adults and seniors. As in previous years, Mattapoisett Fire Department hosted another successful Open House where fire prevention information was distributed and demonstrations were held. Exhibitions included a live burn to mimic a room and contents fire, fire extinguisher usage, vehicle extrication, and etc. New to this year's program was the introduction of a poster contest which was open to Center School, Old Hammondtown School as well as ORRJHS Students, displaying a fire prevention topic. The top posters were displayed at the Open House, as well as prizes distributed to winners ranging from a class pizza party to gift certificates.



Over the course of 2014, the Fire Department continued training and outreach events for the community which included hosting multiple fire extinguisher safety classes, a smoke alarm and CO battery replacement program, which included utilizing 250 batteries donated by Interstate Battery, as well as installation of 25 donated smoke/CO alarms from Kiddie Alarm to those in need. 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 2014, Mattapoissett Fire Department members prided themselves in volunteering in the community and participating in various fundraisers. Returning in 2014, the Fire Department participated in the 10th Annual Firefighters Chili Challenge in Hyannis, MA. Even though Mattapoissett did not take home the grand prize, we helped raise money to benefit the Muscular Dystrophy Association. In addition, as in previous years, we provided assistance to the Lions Club and their members with the annual Triathlon and Harbor Days events. In June, Mattapoissett Fire Department members and their families participated in the Tri-Town Relay for Life for the fourth year in a row; multiple fundraisers were held to raise over two thousand dollars, our most successful year yet, for the American Cancer Society.



Restoration Project

As we mentioned in the 2013 Annual Report, the Mattapoissett Fire Department was generously relinquished ownership of our original “Old Engine 4”, a 1949 Ford Maxim, by G.H. Dunn Insurance. The restoration project that was begun in 2013 has continued into 2014. In addition to personal hours spent by Fire Department members, as well as their friends and family, Check Collision generously donated their time and supplies to complete a full paint job on our little piece of history.

Following the completion of a beautiful paint job, as well as the addition of lettering work performed by Cranberry Signcraft, “Old Engine 4” was showcased at the 100th Anniversary Maxim Engine Show in September in North Attleboro, MA. We are excited to continue this restoration project and share this historic treasure with the town of Mattapoissett.



Acknowledgements

The Mattapoissett Fire Department would like to acknowledge and thank the men and women of the Mattapoissett 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 Mattapoissett 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