

REPORT OF THE FIRE DEPARTMENT

I am pleased to submit the 125th annual report of your Fire Department

Fire-Rescue & Emergency Services responded to a total of 3149 incidents. Of the total calls, 1871 were for emergency medical incidents, 51 structure fires, 12 vehicle fires and 42 outside fires were extinguished over the year. We responded to 49 carbon monoxide incidents. We also responded to 86 hazardous materials incidents. A total of 970 fire prevention and life safety inspections were completed, 2052 burning permits issued and a total of 547 regulatory permits were issued. Mutual Aid to and from the surrounding Towns has been steadily increasing with 29 cover assignments and 241 mutual aid given. Unfortunately this trend is due to the inability of each town, including our own, to sufficiently staff their departments with the necessary personnel due to budget constraints.

Ongoing training has been conducted throughout the year within the Department. Drills were conducted for ice rescues, ladder raising, general firefighting techniques and emergency medical training. Training was conducted with Fire Department staff as well as instructors from the Massachusetts Fire Academy. Also held was a joint training session conducted by the Massachusetts State Police on hazardous devices attended by both Police and Fire Personnel. The ongoing Department and joint training of Police and Fire personnel continues to be an area that is important to the overall protection of our staff and the citizens of Abington.

Fire Prevention is a key component to the overall safety for our citizens. Deputy Weckbacker has worked diligently to insure that oil burner installations are correct, homes have proper placement and working smoke and carbon monoxide detectors. That garages and commercial buildings are in compliance with the Fire Code. It is through inspections like these that help increase the level of protection throughout the Town.

The S.A.F.E. (Student Awareness through Fire Education) program enjoyed its 12th year providing fire safety education for Abington students from pre-school through 2nd grade. Captain Nuttall and his staff of instructors are in the schools getting the message to our youngest citizens and increasing their awareness of the dangers of fire. Funding in part was from a State Grant that was funded by the Legislature in an override of the Governor's veto of this important budget item.

A reminder to all residents that Carbon Monoxide detectors are required on ALL levels of your residence. If anyone has any questions as to the placement or requirements please feel free to contact the Fire Station.

With the decline in the economy, building growth has slowed, but we are still faced with the challenges of protecting our citizens. We continue the need to address additional personnel needs for the department to cover calls for services and potential risks. In doing a risk analysis, this department's risk continues to be providing sufficient personnel on the fire-ground in the time needed to effectively and safely perform our duties. Our challenge is to address this risk and provide an adequate and balanced level of protection for all citizens of Abington.

I am very pleased to have hired Christopher O'Toole to the Department in June. Christopher was first introduced to firefighting and emergency medical services in 1998 when he participated in Abington High School's "School to Career Program". After High School Christopher earned his EMT and Paramedic certifications and worked for Boston Health and Hospital and private ambulance services. He took and successfully passed the State Civil Service Firefighter Entrance Exam. After his appointment to the Abington Fire/Rescue and Emergency Services he attended and completed 12 weeks of training at the Massachusetts Fire Academy in Stow. I am sure that Christopher will be a great asset for this Department and the citizens of Abington.

My sincere thanks and appreciation to each and every member of this department, they continue to provide you with the very best in Fire-Rescue and Emergency Services.

Respectfully Submitted,

Arthur H. Pelland,
Chief of Department

Members of Abington Fire-Rescue & Emergency Services:

Arthur H. Pelland, Chief/EMT	John Force, Firefighter/EMT/P
John A. Weckbacher, Deputy Chief/EMT	Robert Neumeister, Firefighter/EMT/ I
Patricia Gordon, Administrative Assistant	John Glynn, Firefighter/EMT/P
David Farrell, Captain/EMT	Donald DiDomenico, Firefighter/EMT/P
John Nuttall, Captain/EMT/I	Kevin Finch, Firefighter/EMT/P
Edward Belcher, Captain/EMT	George Gardiner, Firefighter/EMT/P
Ronald Howe, Captain/EMT/P	Richard Smith, Firefighter/EMT/P
Charles Whitman Jr., Firefighter	Christa Prescott, Firefighter/EMT/P
Donald Leary, Firefighter	Sean Hardy, Firefighter/EMT/P
Michael Murphy, Firefighter/EMT/I	Brian Fogg, Firefighter/EMT/P
Donald Farrell, Firefighter/EMT/I	Christopher O'Toole, Firefighter/EMT/P
Michael Driscoll, Firefighter/EMT/P	