
PETERBOROUGH FIRE & RESCUE 2018 ANNUAL REPORT

The mission of the Peterborough Fire & Rescue (PFR) is to protect the lives and property of the people of Peterborough and Sharon from fires, natural and man-made disasters, and hazardous materials incidents; to save lives by providing emergency medical services; to prevent fires through prevention and education programs; to provide defense against terrorist attacks; and to provide a work environment that values cultural diversity and is free of harassment and discrimination. The Department is led by Chief Edmund Walker, Deputy Chiefs Brian Wall and Deputy Chief Joshua Patrick.

In 2018 Peterborough Fire & Rescue responded to a total of 3,045 calls including fire incidents, emergency ambulance calls, and transfers out of Monadnock Community Hospital. In addition to our emergency calls, the department conducted close to 10,000 non-emergency activities.

PERSONNEL

Like most call fire and EMS organizations PFR traditionally goes through an ebb and flow of staff and this year was no exception. In 2018 we were fortunate enough to recruit 12 new hires including two firefighter/EMS providers, one firefighter, and nine EMS only providers. During this same period, we had 4 members leave the department for various reasons ranging from moving out of the area to accepting full time positions as firefighters.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Traditionally the department helps with several special events around town and 2018 was no exception. Again, this year we were on hand for Children and the Arts as well as Memorial Day remembrance.

The department's annual Awards and Recognition Ceremony was held in June with many members receiving awards commemorating their years of service as well as the many significant accomplishments achieved by our members. The Jere T. Morris Outstanding Member of the Year Award was presented to David Fletcher, and the Chiefs' Award was presented to Jonathan Hampson.

We would like to thank all our members for what they do day in and day out for the department and community.

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES (EMS) DIVISION

Our EMS Division is managed by Deputy Chief Joshua Patrick who oversees our ambulance operations as well as the three full time paramedics and 35+ part-time and call members who staff our four (4) ambulances licensed at the advanced life support (ALS) level. Two (2) ambulances are staffed 24-hours

a day with a third crew available from home to handle third calls. In addition to providing 9-1-1 service to the towns of Peterborough, Sharon, Dublin, Hancock, Greenfield and Frankestown, we provide emergency and non-emergency transfers out of Monadnock Community Hospital, Cheshire Medical Center, and Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center. Most of these transfers are for patients going to facilities that can provide a higher level of care than the local hospitals can provide. In 2018 our ambulance service responded to 1,523 emergency calls and conducted 1,137 transfers for a total of 2,660 EMS calls.

This year five (5) of our paramedics began a program of study in Community Paramedicine from Northern Maine Community College. Once completed, these paramedics, in a joint program with Monadnock Community Hospital, will fill gaps in the healthcare workforce working to help some of the most vulnerable in our community meet healthcare needs. This training is being funded through donations from our community as well as the support of the Peterborough Fire & Rescue Association.

FIRE SERVICE DIVISION

Deputy Chief Brian Wall oversees the operation of the fire side of PFR. PFRs 30+ call firefighters responded to a total of 385 fire calls, including several multiple alarm fires. In this time of diminishing call firefighters, larger incidents like these highlight the importance of our mutual aid system which helps to ensure adequate resources are available to respond to emergency calls.

Consistent, ongoing training is one of the elements most critical to the success of a fire department. To that end, members of our department participated in over 600 training classes for a total of over 2,000 hours of training. These sessions ranged from reviewing the basics of apparatus operation to out of state programs on firefighting and vehicle extrication as well as in house programs to ensure we are all proficient in the use of our equipment.

In May of 2018 the voters approved \$200,000 for the refurbishment of our ladder truck. Over the remainder of the year these funds were used to upgrade the emergency lighting, rebuild the hydraulic systems, replace the hydraulic rescue tools and air bags, as well as repair other wear and tear from the vehicles 15 years of service. It is expected that this work will increase the service life of this vital piece of apparatus by at least five (5) years.

COMMUNITY RISK REDUCTION

Fire Inspector Scott Symonds is responsible for our Community Risk Reduction program bringing together several fire department activities related to making the Town of Peterborough a safer place for residents, businesses and visitors. Going beyond the typical fire prevention functions, this group includes our public fire education programs, community first aid and CPR training, injury prevention, and a more pro-active approach with other community-based groups to assist in maximizing our reach. We continue to work closely with the Code Enforcement Office to provide comprehensive plans review, inspections

and investigation of fire safety violations. This year the Division conducted 127 formal inspections, and over 300 informal consultations and plan reviews.

As a safety reminder, PFR requests that each mailbox and home have four-inch numbers (preferably reflective) so that public safety officials can locate you quickly during an emergency. For information on placement, please call the fire station at 924-8090 X 2.

Please remember to go to the town website (www.townofpeterborough.com) and sign up for NIXLE emergency notifications. This free system provides our residents, and other who frequent town, with critical information in the event of a local emergency. You are also encouraged to sign up for NH Alerts, a free service to provide emergency NH Alerts by the New Hampshire Department of Safety, Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management. Emergency and community messages are initiated by authorized public safety officials at the State level and severe weather warnings are initiated directly by the National Weather Service. Additional information is available at: <http://www.readynh.gov>.

EXPLORERS

Explorer Post 808 continues to provide an avenue for local youth to explore the fire and EMS services. In addition to learning about the profession, the Explorers provide much-needed services to the department and the community, including support at all emergency incidents and civic events in Town. All members attended regular training this year along with the firefighters and EMTs.

The Post is currently overseen by Lieutenant John Berube. The Explorer program provides young men and women with a chance to participate in, and learn about, firefighting, while also giving PFR and neighboring departments a “farm team” from which it can fill vacancies. The department thanks these young men and women, as well as their advisors for a job well done.

Peterborough Fire & Rescue would like to thank all the businesses and merchants who support us every year, both with funding and by allowing their employees to respond to emergency calls during working hours.

Respectfully submitted,

Edmund M. Walker	Chief of Department		
Brian Wall	Deputy Chief (Fire)	Josh Patrick	Deputy Chief (EMS)
Stephen Bolduc	Captain	Bradley Winters	Captain
Jonathan Sawyer	Lieutenant	John Berube	Lieutenant
Matthew Robblee	EMS Lieutenant	Jennifer Sandlin	EMS Lieutenant
Geoff Ranfos	EMS Lieutenant	Scott Symonds	Lieutenant
Joey Sweeney	Lieutenant	Thomas Wall	Lieutenant