



TAMWORTH FIRE DEPARTMENT

132 Chinook Trail
Tamworth, NH 03886
Phone: (603)323-8874 • Fax: (603)323-9974

Member
Ossipee Valley
Mutual Aid Assn.

New Hampshire
Firemen's Assn.

2009-01-05

Tamworth Fire Department Annual Report

Foremost, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the Tamworth Firewards for affording me the opportunity to serve as your town Fire Chief. This being my first year, I greatly appreciate the guidance and supervision that they have given me.

Our call volume for 2008 was down by 19 calls from 2007 with no major fires resulting in significant property loss or loss of life. This can only be attributed to common sense and diligence from you the general public.

The run statistics are as follows;

Structure fires;	9	Motor vehicle accidents;	47
Motor vehicle fires;	3	Call for service;	39
Illegal burns;	8	Fire alarm activations;	39
Fuel/Propane leaks;	6	Wires down/Trees on wires;	18
Chimney fires;	4	Mutual aid calls;	16
		Total runs;	189

Much emphasis was placed on training of the members this past year. Many members attended classes throughout the State and several in house training sessions were held. Members earned a variety of fire service credentials. I would like to express a heartfelt thank you to these members for their dedication and the time that they have committed to better serve the fire department by furthering their education.

The women's auxiliary has decided to disband after years of dedicated service citing the lack of new members. The women's auxiliary has spent untold hours assisting with fundraisers and preparing food for the Fire and Rescue departments over the past years. They will be greatly missed as they were always just a phone call away and were willing to help out in any way they could. Through their fund raising efforts they have supported the Fire and Rescue departments with the purchase of equipment. The items purchased have been equipment that the town did not have to raise funds to purchase. Some of the equipment has been, a laptop computer with a power point projector which has been used extensively for training, personnel flashlights for helmets, webbing and carabineers for self rescue and utility work, Rescue Randy which is a realistic "dummy" used for training and specialized cutting pliers for each member to carry, a fire proof filing cabinet and an all in one printer, scanner and fax machine. Again, thank you to members of the auxiliary for all that you have done for us in the past.

As we enter a new year lets all strive to make it a safe one. By following simple steps we can all help prevent tragedy: Make sure smoke, heat and carbon monoxide detectors not only have good batteries in them but also that they work, are clean and not covered. Make sure that all doors and windows are kept clear and open easily. Practice your family's fire escape plan to



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include a predetermined meeting place, and then do it again until it is second nature to all members of the household. Have an adequate number of fire extinguishers, ensuring they are the right type, be familiar with their proper use and have them replaced as needed or inspected annually. Be sure to have all heating appliances professionally installed and serviced annually. Maintain proper clearances around your heating appliances, especially woodstoves. The two most common deficiencies that we see is the use of light gauge extension cords and doors that are not kept clear of snow. Extension cords used long term should be of a heavy gauge with a dedicated ground. All doorways, bulkheads and windows should be kept clear of any obstructions. These exits may not be routinely used but may be the difference between life and death in the event of an emergency.

Two members of the Fire department deserve a personnel thank you for their generous support throughout the past year. First Jim Bowles being the former volunteer Fire Chief has provided an enormous amount of guidance and assistance and Dan Tereyek who is serving his third year as a captain. Both offer invaluable expertise to the Fire Department.

In closing I thank all of the volunteer members for their participation in the Fire and Rescue Departments. Also I'd like to thank the highway and police departments for all of their support throughout the past year and to the people of Tamworth for their continued support.

As always if you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at the central station, 323-8874.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Colcord
Tamworth Fire Chief