



Town of Windham

Fire – Rescue Department

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Charles Hammond, Fire-Rescue Chief

July 2014

Windham Fire-Rescue Department Mission Statement

To assist the residents and visitors with emergencies or other situations that they are normally unable to handle themselves.

Performance Measures Related to Our Mission:

The awarding of the financial resources to staff North Windham Station at night caught the administration by somewhat of a pleasant surprise. We immediately began to focus on the tasks at hand: scheduling of personnel, accommodations, and apparatus for the citizens. We contacted the scheduling company to change the setup of our monthly schedule views. We had discussions with the FF/Paramedic Union regarding staffing and responses. Please keep in mind that many of our members are also members in departments that are union operations, so there was some concern from supporting personnel on not employing fulltime personnel instead of per diem personnel. We discussed with Code Enforcement the potential for placing sleeping arrangements in North Windham Station. We contacted and have contracted with an engineer to see what the options are for lacing sleeping equipment in the building. We have put some guidelines in place for responding personnel whether it is a fire call or an EMS call. This is to take full advantage of the four (4) people that are available to the department during the night hours. We also worked with Cumberland County Regional Communications Center to insure that they were on board with our changes. This involved changing our response plans which direct the appropriate apparatus to the calls. The decision was made to implement the program August 1, 2014. Next month I will be able to provide some response statistics to the members and Town Council. We continue to make progress on several of the fronts. One issue for the future will be having a third rescue for planning of the maintenance of one of the two that we currently respond with.

Regarding the performance our training we have improved on several fronts- two more of our personnel have completed the extensive Paramedic Program with United Ambulance Service. Another has signed up for a program beginning in January. This expense is for only half of the class as the other half is being paid by someone else. His department is paying for his days when he is working for them, and we will pay for times when he is not scheduled to be working for them. We have another member that is working toward completion of Paramedic through NCTI in Standish. We have lost one member that was in the NCTI program but has moved to New Gloucester. He was paying his own expenses and now has been employed by South Portland Fire-Rescue. We have member that has completed his EMT Basic with NCTI and has continued into the EMT Advanced Program. All of these advancements insure that our responders provide the best possible care to the citizens and visitors of our community.

Activities:

- Statistics for the month are listed below

		<u>2014</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2012</u>
July	Total	276	220	269
	EMS	209	156	192

The EMS numbers are part of monthly numbers

Year to Date Total 1552 1441 1542

- In the month of July 2014 the department per diem coverage report was as follows: the department had 1 open shift on Windham Ladder 4, we had a shorter vacancy for 6 hours Ladder 4. During July we had 12 vacant Home Shifts. The Home Shift represents a 3rd person on the call and if not used they cover the second rescue vehicle as a responder on a second calls.
- Public Works and Building and Grounds Maintenance have done an excellent job of cleaning up the grounds of the Public Safety Building. The entire building is looking better. When the paving is completed and the signage is replaced it will be very nice. We no have access to the sprinkler connection on the front of the Public Safety Building. The department will be removing extension cords and Christmas lights from the tree in the front yard. Thanks folks, it is appreciated.
- East Windham personnel moved all of the materials from the bunk room, office area, and training room in July. They stripped, washed, and waxed all of the floors and made the building look very nice. Good job people!
- Personnel continue the process of recertifying their driving skills on the apparatus assigned to be done for the year 2014.
- We have collected applications in the past months. We currently have 8-12 applicants. We will establish dates in August to orient them to the department, test their physical capabilities, and a personal interview.
- Department personnel met with Dacri Associates and provided discussions as to the new fire-rescue chief and their feelings on the position.

Equipment

- Ladder 4 was delivered to Cummins Northeast in the latter part of July. The purpose of the apparatus being there was to have the motor rebuilt. This completes two of the three capital projects for the department for the year 2014-2015. Our third is the replacement of the cardiac monitors which we will be meeting with the Town Council in August.
- Windham Squad 1’s light tower was removed and delivered to Northeast Fire Apparatus in Auburn. They needed to disassemble the unit to prepare an estimate to determine repair costs for the unit. We were provided prices prior of \$33,000 for a new LED replacement, \$16,000 for replacement of the existing and later for an estimate of \$9,500 for repair of the existing. Following the realistic estimate we have contacted our insurance carrier.
- We are still awaiting the return of the power unit that was returned for the extrication equipment. They provided us with an equivalent loaner and everything is operating well.
- Eric Knight, our mechanic, has gone through the fleet and completed preventive maintenance and inspections on all of our apparatus.
- Retired Chief Phil McGouldrick completed pump testing on all of our apparatus with the exception f Ladder 4 and Tower 3 which need to go to a special pumping pit in Cape Elizabeth. They require a special set up where they are capable of 2000 gallons per minute.