



2013

Gilford Fire-Rescue Annual Report



Chief Stephen Carrier
Gilford Fire-Rescue
1/1/2013

INTRODUCTION

The information contained within this report represents the activities of the Gilford Fire-Rescue during calendar year 2013.

It was a busy year on many fronts. We eclipsed our all-time high of emergency incidents, while training hours remained at a very impressive level. We worked hard to meet our inspection and prevention responsibilities. Once again, we saw a number of personnel changes. We repaired and put back-into-service our oldest fire engine. We provided special detail emergency medical services (EMS) and/or fire coverage for events that drew over 145,000 people to our community. Additionally, we participated in a number of other events taking place in our community.

The department continues to maintain a roster of approximately 40 personnel. Fourteen of those are full time employees; 26 are call firefighters and/or emergency medical technicians (EMTs); and, our part time Administrative Assistant. Seven call firefighters were hired. One full time member resigned, one was reassigned, and the Deputy Chief's vacancy was filled. Two call firefighters resigned and 8 were reassigned as Associate Members. Associate members are affiliated with the department and function in non-emergency, non-paid roles. This is a new "rank" established in 2013.

Our personnel are highly trained and extremely dedicated. Each one has an overwhelming sense of community and is proud to serve the Town of Gilford. They appreciate the support they continue to receive from not only our residents, but our business owners and visitors. They approach their duties with a goal of serving the public, but doing so safely and effectively, delivering the highest level of care and service possible with the resources provided.

This report will summarize a number of functional areas within the department: Emergency Services, Personnel, Budget, Fire Prevention, Administration, Training, EMS, Water Supply, and Vehicle Maintenance.

Gifford Fire-Rescue

SLOGAN:

Community, Safety, Professional Service

VISION STATEMENT:

To be recognized as a team of highly skilled, well-trained firefighters and emergency medical providers, delivering exceptional customer service while ensuring the safety of our community.

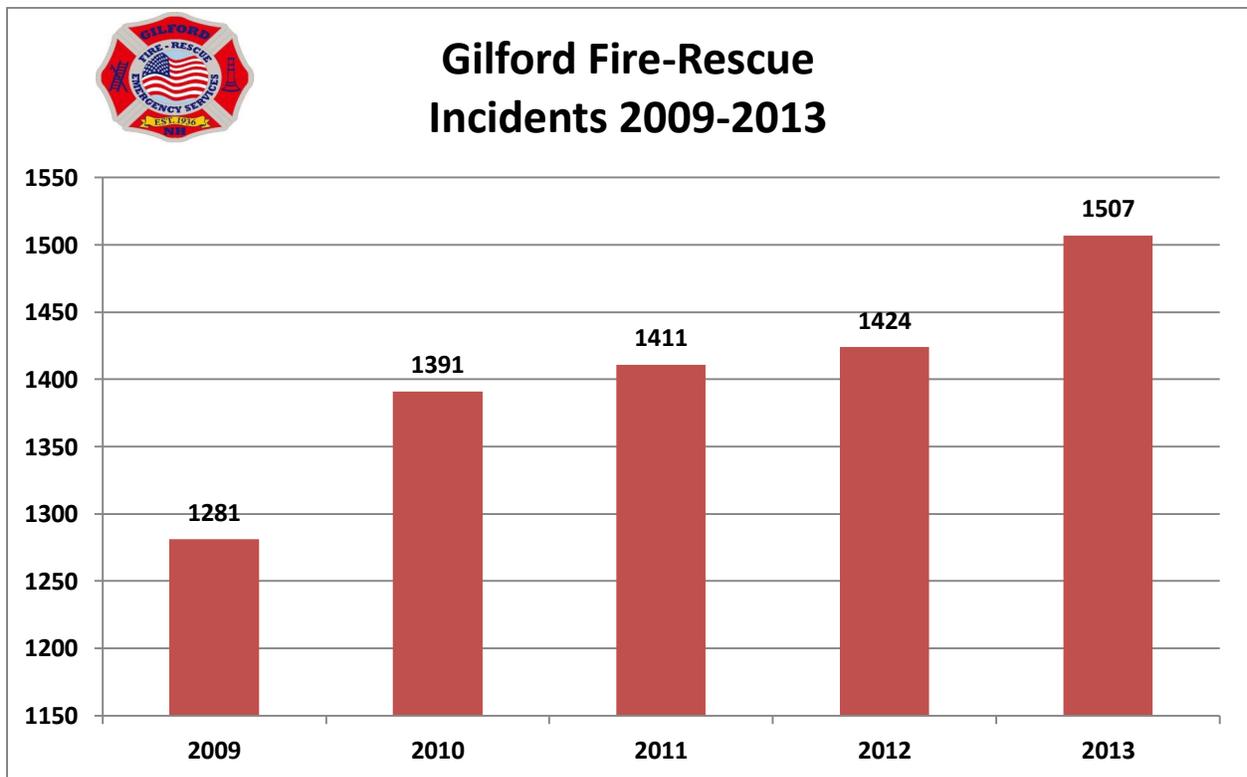
MISSION STATEMENT:

Our mission is to protect life, property, and the environment in our town through an all-hazards approach to fire protection, emergency medical services, community risk reduction, and education.

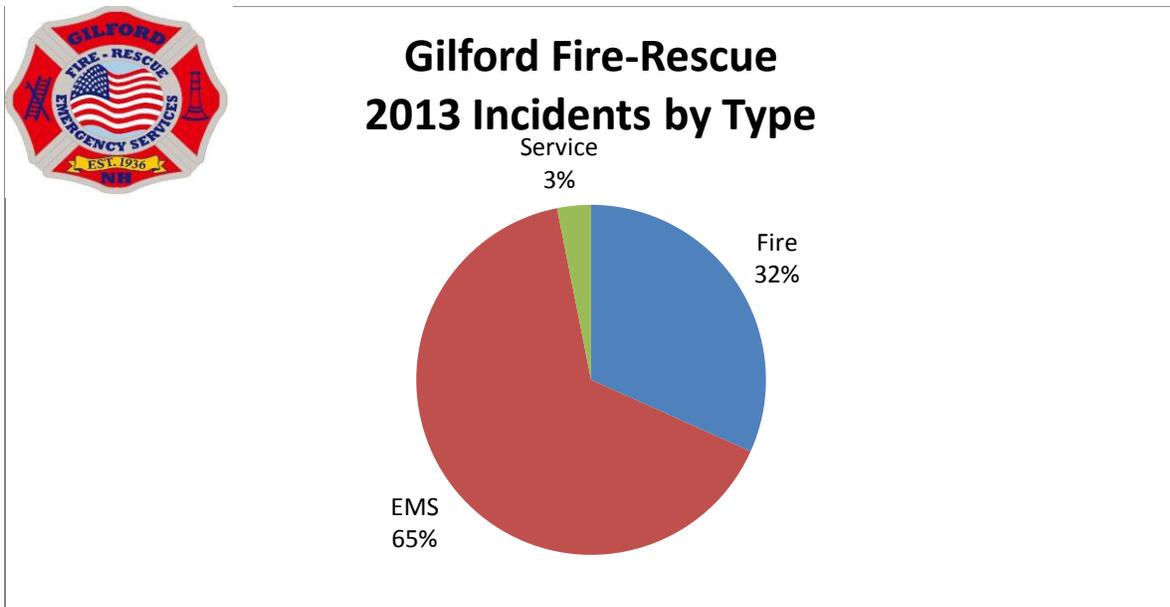
EMERGENCY SERVICES:

The Gilford Fire-Rescue responded to 1,507 incidents in 2013. This represents a 5.8% increase in call volume from 2012; and, it represents a new, all-time high for the department. The following table represents a breakdown of all emergency incidents responded to by the department in 2013, including mutual aid:

FIRES		HAZARDS	
Structure	39	Wires	30
Chimney	7	Haz Mat	19
Brush	64	CO	10
Vehicle	13	Misc.	0
Fire Alarms	165	SUB TOTAL	59
Other	131		
SUB TOTAL	419	SERVICE	
		Water	11
MEDICAL		Misc	36
Medical Aid	786	SUB TOTAL	47
MVA	64		
Rescue	18	2012 Total	1507
Other	114		
SUB TOTAL	982		



Emergency incident responses have increased 17.6% since 2009. Quite often we receive questions as to how much, of what type of emergency work do we do? The chart below indicates that activity. It is often thought that an even higher percentage (higher than 65%) of our work is EMS, but historically, these percentages have held fast. Thirty two percent of our incidents in 2013 were “fire” incidents. Though, not all were necessarily newsworthy; they non-the- less required a fire response and associated action.



Forklift Fire – Varney Point Road – 4.4.13

One of the pieces of incident data that we track is the number of “back to back” incidents we respond to. These are incidents that occur while we are already handling an initial incident – incidents subsequent to the first incident. Seventeen percent of our incidents happened at the same time another incident was taking place – 252 times, actually, in 2013. These back-to-back incidents put a greater than normal strain on the department and require an additional response from call firefighters, off-duty firefighters, and/or mutual aid departments. There are a variety of reasons incidents happen at the same time as others; coincidence being one of the reasons. Other reasons include weather events, special events which draw large crowds of spectators or participants, prime vacation/recreation times, and other, initial incidents that last for long periods of time.

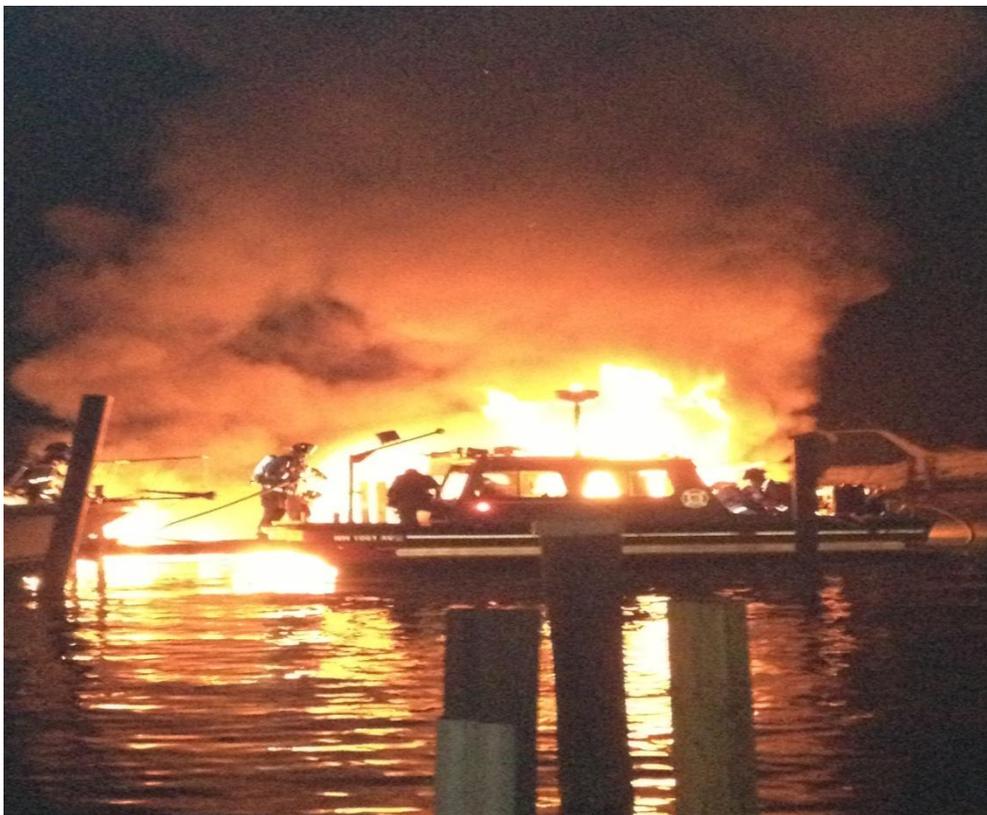
Although Fire and EMS service is not “regionalized” in our immediate area, our involvement with Lakes Region Mutual Fire Aid (LRMFA) allows us to share resources with other departments. This system works extremely well during large scale emergencies. Each department has a duty to provide “primary protection” to their community; however, there is not a community in the Lakes Region that can handle a large-scale emergency without calling mutual aid. The chart below shows our mutual aid given and received:

TOWN	GIVEN	RECEIVED
Alton	23	4
Barnstead	4	0
Belmont	5	8
Laconia	61	100
Meredith	2	1
Sanbornton	1	0
Tilton-Northfield	2	5
Moultonborough	2	0
Franklin	3	0
Holderness	0	1
TOTAL	103	119

A change in the manner we are billed for the services LRMFA provides will take effect in 2014. The Board of Directors of the LRMFA voted that all communities should be invoiced directly from LRMFA. Previously, Belknap County communities had been billed by Belknap County, while all other communities that made up Lakes Region were billed directly. Belknap County was simply a “pass-through” billing agency for LRMFA, but sought oversight of the budget, even though the LRMFA Board of Directors had that statutory responsibility. Although LRMFA has a formula to charge each community (based on a flat fee, assessed valuation, and population), the County differed and simply billed on assessed valuation. By changing to the LRMFA formula, Gilford

taxpayers save approximately \$14,000 each year. Unfortunately, the Town's fee will be a budget line-item in the "Town" budget in future years. The Selectmen attempted to hold the County accountable and asked them to show a reduction in their budget, but, unfortunately, it does not appear that will happen. The money the Town will spend to help support LRMFA is money well spent for 24-hour, state-of-the-art, professional dispatching services, regional training, emergency communications support, and a host of other value-added services that benefit all 35 members of LRMFA.

Chief Carrier and Deputy Chief Ober further support the concept of mutual aid and regionalization by being active members of the LRMFA Board of Directors, LRMFA Task Force Committee, LRMFA Training and Education Committee, LRMFA Standardization Committee, LRFMA Strategic Planning Committee, and LRMFA Incident Management Assistance Team (IMAT)



Personnel operating at a boat fire in Moultonborough. 7.18.13

Gilford Fire-Rescue operates out of a single fire station at 39 Cherry Valley Road. There are 3 FF/EMTs on-duty, 24 hours, each day. The Administrative staff works Monday through Friday. Call FF/EMTs respond when there is an incident, depending on their availability. The department also hosts 2 students from the Lakes Region Community College who live at the fire station while going to school. They also function as FF/EMTs when they are not in school, benefiting the Town and the students.

Apparatus consists of 3 Engines, a Tanker, a Heavy Rescue, 2 Ambulances, 2 Forestry units, a Pick-Up/Plow/Utility truck, and an all-terrain Argo. The initial response to a possible building fire would be the duty shift (3) on one engine, followed by off-duty and call personnel with additional apparatus. A non-life-threatening medical incident would receive an ambulance with 2 FF/EMTs. A potentially life threatening medical incident would receive the same ambulance plus an engine with the 3rd on-duty FF/EMT. A motor vehicle collision receives the same ambulance with the 3rd FF/EMT responding with the Rescue vehicle. Any of the above responses may necessitate an additional response of personnel and apparatus, depending upon the seriousness, up to, and including mutual aid.



Lakes Region Mutual Fire Aid Association

Serving 35 communities throughout the Lakes Region of New Hampshire



Motor vehicle collision – Lakeshore Road (Rt 11) at Brookside Crossing. 2.16.13

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

As mentioned above, the department operates 2 Ambulances, equipped at the Advanced Life Support (ALS) level. All other department apparatus carries medical equipment to varying extents.

Personnel function at 3 EMT levels within our department: EMT-Basic, EMT-Intermediate, and EMT-Paramedic. An EMT-B completes approximately 200 hours of training for his/her certification; an EMT-I completes 280 – 320 hrs of training; and a Paramedic completes a 1,500 hour course of study. In the near future, you may hear some of our medical technicians referred to simply as EMT, instead of EMT-B, or EMT-Advanced, instead of EMT-I. This reflects a change in certification levels dictated by the National Registry of EMTs and the State of NH Bureau of EMS. Eight of our EMT-Is are currently enrolled in an EMT-Advanced transition course. This course requires at least 40 hours of classroom study followed by successful completion of a National Registry written exam.

The following charts contain data entered by our providers into the State of NH EMS reporting system, TEMSIS. This does not reflect all EMS incidents, only those requiring a report to be generated. The first chart indicates the time of EMS incidents in 3-hour blocks. Noteworthy is that 68% of our EMS incidents occur, and are fairly evenly distributed between the hours of 9am and 9pm. A further look shows that 90% of our EMS activity occurs between 6am and midnight. This chart also indicates activity by day – revealing our busiest EMS days to be Friday, Saturday, Sunday, and (new this year) Monday. Higher weekend activity is not a surprise based on our community's ability to draw a large number of visitors and vacationers to local attractions. This is the first time; however, that Monday has been one of our top 3 busiest EMS days of the week.

**Times of Call Report
From 01/01/13 To 12/31/13
Report Printed On: 01/07/2014**

Time Period	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Total	Percentage
0001 - 0300	10	6	6	3	7	12	11	55	6.39%
0301 - 0600	8	7	6	3	3	3	3	33	3.83%
0601 - 0900	6	21	8	14	12	11	7	79	9.18%
0901 - 1200	25	23	20	17	19	23	33	160	18.58%
1201 - 1500	14	26	19	10	18	22	25	134	15.56%
1501 - 1800	21	22	17	33	20	19	16	148	17.19%
1801 - 2100	11	14	28	20	11	23	35	142	16.49%
2101 - 0000	20	11	10	13	9	14	19	96	11.15%
Unknown	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	14	1.63%
Total	115	130	114	113	99	127	149	861	100%

The 6 most common problems EMS providers identified after arriving at the scene of medical emergencies in 2013 were:

- Traumatic Injury 16%
- No apparent problem 14%
- Pain 13%
- Weakness 6%
- Chest Pain 6%
- Other 6%

Another interesting chart is included below, which indicates the average age of the patients we care for – 52 years. This average age dropped by one year in 2013. Fifty nine percent of our patients are 45 years or older. This is 3 percentage points below our number of over 45 patients in 2012. However, 90 percent are 20 years or older; and, this represents a 7 percent increase from 2012.

**Ambulance Run Data Report
GILFORD FIRE- RESCUE
From 01/01/13 To 12/31/13
Total Number of Runs Based on Search Criteria: 861**

Average Patient Age (based on Date of Birth)

Age	# of Runs	% of Runs
Less Than 1	5	0.58%
1 - 4	9	1.05%
5 - 9	18	2.09%
10 - 14	44	5.11%
15 - 19	68	7.90%
20 - 24	39	4.53%
25 - 34	81	9.41%
35 - 44	76	8.83%
45 - 54	76	8.83%
55 - 64	106	12.31%
65 - 74	107	12.43%
75 - 84	136	15.80%
85+	88	10.22%
Unknown	8	0.93%
Total	861	100%

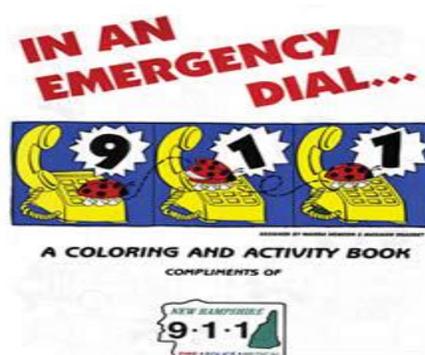
Average Patient Age: 52

During 2013, the department purchased an Auto Pulse package along with a new cardiac monitor. This equipment is the very best equipment available to provide the cardiac arrest patient the greatest opportunity to not only survive the arrest, but also maintain a level of health and functionality that they are accustomed to. Although not every cardiac arrest patient can be saved, the number of successful resuscitations

continues to rise across the country and in our area. This is a result of increased training, access to paramedics, early recognition, early EMS notification, drug therapy, and access to advanced cardiac care, such as a catheterization lab.

We continue to work with our Medical Director and Lakes Region General Healthcare to be able to directly transport a patient to a “Catheterization (Cath) Lab”, such as Concord Hospital or Catholic Medical Center if they have suffered a specific type of heart attack referred to as a “STEMI”. Time is critical in these events. Proper monitoring equipment with the ability to send field images to the hospital is also critical. Our goal is to transport these patients to a cath lab within 90 minutes so that they can receive advanced, specialized care for their heart.

Part of the success with regard to early notification and early CPR can be attributed to the NH 911 system. The NH Bureau of Emergency Communications does an excellent job in receiving and transferring emergency calls throughout the state. If you are calling from a landline, they know exactly where the call is coming from. If you call from a cell phone, they can often determine the coordinates where the call originated from and nearly pinpoint your location. Most importantly, during medical emergencies, they provide Emergency Medical Dispatching. The call takers are trained to ask a series of questions that help them best determine what the medical emergency is and how serious it may be. Then, while the caller is waiting for the ambulance, specific instructions can be given to help the patient – even instructions on how to perform CPR or how to deliver a baby! We often hear callers say, “They kept me on the line forever!” That may be true. However, the call was transferred to our local dispatch center and the ambulance was well on its way before you even noticed the “20 questions” being asked. Again, this is all part of the system. The other comment we hear sometimes is, “I’ll just call the station direct, it is quicker and I am talking to someone that knows the area.” Again, maybe true. But, what if we are out of the station on another call, or training? And, what if you or the patient could have benefited from medical aid instructions. We encourage all of our customers to use the 911 system for all of their emergency needs.



All EMS providers complete continuing education requirements as outlined by the National Registry and State of NH. Many of these hours can be acquired through regular department training, however, refresher courses are required every 2 years for all levels of provider – truly, life-long learning.

Forty percent of ambulance revenues are deposited into a Special Account for the purpose of providing ambulance service to the community. The other 60% are deposited into the General Fund of the Town. These Special Account funds are used to buy equipment, disposables, and other supplies, such as oxygen, drugs, and associated hardware, directly related to providing ambulance service to the town. This year, we are hopeful that the voters will approve a warrant article allowing us to buy an ambulance with combined funds from the special account, and supplemental funds from an ambulance capital reserve account that will then be closed out. Without the reserve account funds, the purchase of a new ambulance would not be possible this year. We attempted to address this last year when a Warrant Article was submitted requesting to increase the amount of ambulance billing revenues deposited into the account to the 60% level. That article did not pass.

Our billing agent collects approximately \$200,000 per year for the Town in ambulance transport fees. Therefore, at 40%, only \$80,000 would be deposited into the account in one year. On average, the department expends \$30,000 per year; resulting in a net of \$50,000 deposited each year. It is estimated that a new, equipped, medium-duty ambulance will cost \$220,000. The department operates a new ambulance for 5 years as a “first-due” piece, and 5 years as the secondary ambulance. Therefore a new ambulance is scheduled to be purchased every 5 years. Although this math looks perfect, there is no room for variances in collections or expenses. Delays in future purchases may be necessary, but, we are in a favorable position, with voter approval, to purchase an ambulance in 2014.

The department worked with our billing agent during the past year to develop a proposal to “bundle” our transport fees. In the past, our services were billed out on an a-la-carte basis, whereby; each procedure was billed at a predetermined rate and added together, resulting in the patient’s final bill. Changes in the health care system at both the National and State level have persuaded many ambulance providers to move to this “bundle billing” system. It is actually a simpler system which should, over time, improve our collection experience.



TRAINING

Training continues to be a priority for the men and women of Gilford Fire-Rescue. In 2013 the members of the department participated in over 3,737 hours of training in an effort to be ready for any emergency they may encounter.

Four of our newest full time firefighters finished their probation requirements in 2013. Each of the 7 new Call Firefighters has been busy gaining as much training as possible. Three have recently completed Firefighter One certification. Other call firefighters have continued their training by taking EMT classes, Firefighter Two certifications, and other seminars. Additionally, the department trains as a whole each Wednesday night. Full-time, shift personnel train weekly, at a minimum, in addition to other departmental training.

The hours include a variety of certifications and topics that were taught at the local, state and national levels. Our five probationary firefighters are very busy with regular training on shift that includes roads familiarization, policy and procedure review, fire and EMS skills review and safe and efficient operation of the department's vehicles and equipment. Our officers continue to hone their fire and EMS tactical skills. The officers also regularly participate in a variety of management and leadership courses, including command and control of incidents, personnel management, and strategy and tactics.

Call company members continued to attend regular fire, EMS, and rescue training sessions. From time-to-time, other training sessions may be held on weekend days, or other evenings. Other classes were delivered at no charge as offered by

LRGHealthcare or were instructed by members of our staff. Also, Nate Hanson recently completed his Paramedic coursework and is now completing clinical and preparing to take his certification test.

We continue to transition our EMT-Intermediates to the Advanced-EMT level. This process includes approximately 40 classroom hours and the successful completion of a National Registry of EMTs computer-based test. Many of our EMT-Is are continuing to study and prepare for this challenging test. All must be transitioned prior to 2016 or they will revert back to EMT-Basic level. We expect all of our EMT-Is to make this jump, successfully.

Our Training Facility, located on Kimball Road on the Recycling Center property, offers a great opportunity for a variety of training evolutions, including live fire training. We continue to look for ways to improve the site and the facility to maximize the training benefit that it provides. During the past year we have hosted firefighters from Derry, Hampton, and a number of LRMFA courses that were held at the facility.



ADMINISTRATION

The Board of Engineers is a 3-member board that is elected and oversees the operation of the fire department. The current board consists of Chairman William Akerley, Donald Spear, and Jack Lyman. The Engineers meet with the Administration at least monthly; usually on the 3rd Tuesday of each month, at the fire station, at 8:15am. These are public meetings and the public is welcome to attend.

Chief Carrier, Deputy Chief Ober, and Administrative Assistant Fabian are the department's administrative employees. The Chief and the Deputy Chief are salaried employees who generally work Monday through Friday between the hours of 8am and 5pm. Administrative Assistant Fabian works a 32 hour work week, which results in Monday and Friday hours of 8am to 4pm, and Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday hours of 8am to 2pm.

Chief Carrier, while overseeing all aspects of the department has more specific responsibilities in the areas of Administration, Budget, Personnel, Training, and Operations. Deputy Chief Ober is responsible for Fire Prevention, EMS, IT, and Vehicle

Maintenance. He also delegates and oversees any other staff responsibility that other officers and firefighters may have, such as: Self Contained Breathing Apparatus, Protective Clothing, Water Supply, Fire Equipment, Small Engines, Uniforms, Radios, Forestry, etc. Administrative Assistant Fabian provides general administrative support to all facets of the department and serves as the department's receptionist.

Chief Carrier and Deputy Chief Ober serve as Emergency Management Director (EMD) and Deputy EMD, respectively. The Chief serves as Forest Fire Warden, while the rest of the full time staff are either Deputy Forest Fire Wardens or Fire Permit issuing agents. With the loss of the Fire Inspector's position at the end of 2011, the Deputy Chief and Chief have assumed the bulk of inspection duties. Duty shift personnel also conduct inspections, as necessary.

Both the Chief and the Deputy Chief are active in a number of local, State, and National boards and committees. They maintain their fire and EMS certifications and training and regularly respond to emergencies, filling firefighting and EMS roles when necessary. Their first priority at emergencies is to provide command and control of the incident.

Look for the opportunity to get your burning permit on-line in 2014! The State of NH, Bureau of Forest and Lands has contracted with a vendor and is currently rolling out an on-line permit process. There is a cost of \$3/permit that pays for the development and maintenance of the on-line permit process, should you choose to use the system. The Town does not receive any of the permit monies. You will still be able to come to the fire station for your permit, and, there is still NO COST for a hand-written permit. We believe the on-line system may be very beneficial to seasonal residents and others who wish to have the convenience of obtaining a permit when and where they would like.

BUDGET

The department budgeted \$1.66 million for operating costs in 2013. This was a decrease from \$1.75 million in 2012. The proposed budget for 2014 shows slight (1.2%) increase to \$1.68 million. This is a budget that is still 8.7% lower than the budget in 2010. The major reason for this reduction is the loss of several long-serving employees to retirement, and their replacements being hired at entry-level pay rates. There has also been very little budgeted for capital expenses in the past 3 years.

The current fire-rescue budget allocates 88.6% of the total budget for personnel costs; wages and benefits. As mentioned, GFR employs 14 full time employees, 1 part time employee, and 28 paid-on-call FF/EMTs. Only 11.4%, or \$192,103, is left to operate the department; maintain the station and apparatus; pay for utilities and fuel; and to buy, service, and maintain fire and EMS equipment.

The department also oversees and expends funds from 3 other budget lines: Emergency Management - \$3,545 budget; Forestry - \$2,266 budget; and Fire Protection (Pressurized Fire Hydrants on the Laconia Water Works system and LRMFA Assessment) - \$78,162. The LRMFA Assessment is new to the Town Budget, this year. Previously, Belknap County communities were assessed through their county taxes while other communities were billed directly from LRMFA. The LRMFA Board of Directors voted to remove the billing function from the County and bill all Belknap County communities directly. Because of differences in billing, this resulted in a savings to Gilford taxpayers of approximately \$14,000 for the year.

Any Special Details which GFR personnel are hired to provide services for, are billed and paid for, under contract with the requesting agency, from special revenue account for that particular purpose. Ambulance revenues are deposited into a similar account at a rate of 40% of the total collected. Those revenues are expended for the purpose of providing ambulance service to the Town; specifically, to purchase the equipment necessary to provide EMS services to the community. The remaining 60% of ambulance revenue is applied to the Town operating budget (\$120,000/year, avg.).

The department is requesting to purchase a new ambulance in 2014 to replace our oldest, 2001 model. This request will be on the Warrant. There will be no cost to the taxpayer as a portion of the funds will come from an existing Capital Reserve Account and the balance will be drawn from the Ambulance Special Account.

Also on the Warrant will be requests to make some much needed upgrades to the fire station; mainly, window replacement, 2nd floor carpeting, new locker room showers, and new overhead doors in the basement level. An additional article will request monies to rehabilitate Engine 2, our first due attack engine, in an effort to prolong its useful life. We will also be asking that the Fire Apparatus and Water Supply Capital Reserve Funds continue to be funded.

Our 1979 fire-rescue boat is in need of being upgraded. The department will continue to explore grant opportunities to accomplish improvements and/or replacement of the fire boat. The fire-rescue utility vehicle (pick up/plow truck) is scheduled to be replaced in 2015.

We will continue to work to improve our level of efficiency while providing the very best level of service we can with the resources we have been provided.



PERSONNEL

The year of 2013, once again, brought with it a number of personnel changes for the GFR.

Deputy Chief Brad Ober was hired when Rick Andrews was re-assigned to Captain of Group 4. That position was previously held by Nick Mercuri who resigned to take a job with the State of NH as the Bureau Chief of Emergency Medical Services. Nick had been with the department for a number of years, first as a call firefighter/paramedic and then 13 years as a full time member, during which time he rose to the rank of Lieutenant. We are very happy for Bureau Chief Mercuri and his family. We wish him the very best and we know he will never forget Gilford Fire-Rescue!

FF/EMT-I Tim Johnson was hired in March. Tim had previously been employed by the Gilmanton Fire Department and also works with the Loudon Fire Department on both a call and per diem basis.

Seven Call Firefighters were hired in 2013: Call FF Jay Brown, Call FF Matthew Cappello, Call FF Stephen Chase, Call FF Darcy Crisp, Call FF Ryan Dalton, Call FF Roger Horton, and Call FF Joshua Morrison. We welcome each of them to our community and our department. Call FF Lynn Daigle, Call FF/EMT-P John Mallinson, and Call FF Bob Adams all left the department for a variety of personal and professional reasons.

In an effort to promote affiliation with the department and to recognize talented members who may no longer be able to meet their training or emergency response minimums, we have created an "Associate Member" status. These members remain

affiliated with the department and can participate in training, fund raising, and other non-emergency roles.

We would like to thank all of our former department members for their dedicated service to our community and wish them well in their endeavors. We welcome all of our new employees and look forward to serving with them.

**Note: a complete roster of GFR personnel is included at the end of this document.*

FIRE PREVENTION

Deputy Chief Brad Ober was hired in October of 2013. He came to the department with a good deal of fire prevention code enforcement, plans review, and inspection experience due to his prior work in Tilton-Northfield and Ashland. Although Chief Carrier was conducting most of the fire inspections, Deputy Chief Ober took over Fire Prevention duties on December 1st. Other members of the full time staff also may conduct inspections, as necessary. Collectively the department conducted 649 fire prevention inspections - an 11.7% increase from 2012. Many of those inspections were heating units; central and supplemental devices. All oil, gas, and solid fuel fired appliances must be inspected. Inspections focus on the device and the fuel delivery system, but also take into account general fire safety of the occupants and the building the appliance is being installed in. A number of other inspections were completed in commercial occupancies including Assembly occupancies and general business occupancies. Plans review typically pertains to new construction and/or renovations of existing buildings and is usually followed-up with site visits and inspections as construction progresses.

Working closely with the Planning and Land Use Department, especially with the Building Inspector, Dave Andrade, the department always tries to be represented at Site Study Review meetings. Participation in these meetings allows for review and input during the earliest phases of a particular project. This is not only positive because it identifies projects that may be beginning soon, but it usually makes the construction and code compliance process much smoother.

Each fall, the department takes part in Senior Safety Day, a program established by LRGHealthcare in order to get firefighters and EMTs into senior's homes to check their smoke detectors and further, to identify and/or correct any other safety areas. Captain Balcom works closely with the hospital to gather names and addresses in need of our services. Although the program has been successful in Gilford; and, although we had more home visits this year, we still feel the program is under-utilized. Anyone interested in this **FREE** service, or if you know of someone that could benefit from this **FREE** service, please call the fire station or LRGH. It is **FREE!!**

Also, and on the same day, the department conducted an Open House which was sponsored by Papa Gino's. FF/EMT-I Dion DeCarli continues to look for fresh ideas and new ways to deliver fire prevention messages to the community. He put together this year's Open House and was successful in securing a grant to build a home sprinkler, live fire demonstration prop that was used as a dramatic example of sprinkler effectiveness during the Open House. There were activities for the younger visitors, handouts, tours, pizza(!), and even a mock-up of a house that children could use the stream of a real fire hose to "put out the fire" in the windows. We plan on making our Open House an annual event.

VEHICLE MAINTENANCE

Engine 4, our 1987 Ranger was put back into service early in 2013. With a new pump, wiring, air system, suspension components, tires, and other parts; we are hopeful that we will operate the engine for at least another 4-5 years without any significant mechanical issues. The body, engine, and transmission are original and were not replaced. We appreciate all of the time and effort the DPW invested into the repair of the truck.

The department continues to collect and utilize vehicle maintenance data. Our existing incident reporting software has a vehicle maintenance data component. We have worked diligently to assure that proper data is being inputted by shift personnel and that the same data is useable for reference and decision-making in the future. This process begins when a vehicle is serviced. Most of our maintenance is conducted by DPW mechanics. We work hard to communicate effectively with DPW Mechanics and believe that we have a strong system in place for not only repairs, but preventative maintenance, as well.



WATER SUPPLY

Lt Madon oversees our water supply program and has developed a list of rural water supply projects that will ensure adequate firefighting water supply for the Town. These projects address dry hydrants and other static water supplies in the community. A small portion of Gilford is serviced by the Laconia Water Works and there are 29 public, pressurized fire hydrants on the system. We pay a fee to Laconia Water Works (LWW) for the maintained availability of the water and hydrants. Additionally, there are 21 private, pressurized hydrants in the Town; 18 of those are on the Laconia water system. The owners of the property these hydrants are on pay a fee directly to LWW.

The following identifies fire protection water supply projects that Gilford Fire-Rescue would like to complete by March 2015. A fire protection water supply phasing plan could also be created in list of priorities, once project cost estimates are obtained. In summary, we currently have over 40 water supply sites, mostly dry hydrants. These locations both serve target hazards (such as businesses, schools, and Town buildings) and more rural areas of Town, that are out of the Laconia Water Works pressurized hydrant system. All fire protection water supply locations are considered a valuable resource in the event fire. Some fire situations necessitate using more than one water supply site at a time, therefore keeping them reliable and in service is a top priority.

Maintenance:

Our current water supply maintenance program involves annual hydrant flushing, flow testing, sign installation, weed trimming, painting, repair of damaged hydrants, larger project coordination, and underwater diving inspection (10-15 sites a year). In other cases sites are in need of maintenance that Gilford Fire-Rescue is not able to complete (in-house) due to lack of equipment, time, and resources. We have utilized Gilford DPW to assist in some hydrant maintenance projects. This was successful in the past, but we realize they are limited in equipment resources, expertise, and time to assist us. Gunstock Recreation Area has also provided an excavator and operator to assist in the Alpine Ridge dry hydrant replacement. Also, a private homeowner with an excavator helped us with the Hoyt Road dry hydrant replacement.

The following is a partial listing of future projects we will attempt to address. The monies to pay for this work come from the Water Supply Capital Reserve Account. The Town has generously approved deposits of \$10,000 into this account over the last several years. As you will see, some of the projects are quite involved and some could be very expensive to complete.

Each site below is listed with a project name/location, general information about the site, and what each project would involve. In some cases the hydrant is currently out of service (OOS). A more specific project scope(s) will be developed prior soliciting

bids. There may be other locations not identified on this list. They are not listed in order of priority.

Project Goals:

- Obtain basic construction and engineering estimate
- Send project list out to bid
- Utilize engineering services to prepare required design plans and permits
- FD staff to coordinate and inspect projects during construction
- Construction warranty period and ability to retain

Projects:

1. Alvah Wilson Fire Pond

- 2 of 3 Dry Hydrants OOS
- Sand/sediment entering fire pond from rear (possibly from sediment load in brook along Easy St)
- Pond storage capacity limited and hydrant inlets buried due to sand/sediment
- Fire truck pad (turn around) only gravels that is eroding and entering fire pond

Project:

- Remove 3 existing dry hydrants
- Dredge fire pond
- Install 2 new 8" dry hydrant pipes per FD specifications (Steel OR PVC) in deeper, rip rap lined sump
- Install 2 concrete bollards per hydrant for protection
- Rebuild retaining wall between pond and fire truck pad
- Remove existing gravels and place crushed gravel for entire fire truck pad/turn around.
- Re-grade to direct drainage flow to far left and right of pond, away from hydrants
- Pave entire fire truck pad/turn around with curbing along pond frontage to direct drainage flow
- Install No Parking signage and striping as required
- Loam, seed, mulch to stabilize slopes and vegetation growth as required

2. Weeks Road Fire Pond

- OOS Dry Hydrant
- Pulls sand into pipe when drafting
- Suspected split in underground portion of pipe
- Coordinate with property developer – approved 5 lot subdivision

- Per Planning Board/FD requirements, developer can get building permits/COs when hydrant repaired
- Immediate need for repair to get back in service
- Recommend FD work with developer reimbursement for pipe repair portion, or developer doing work

Project:

- Remove and replace existing dry hydrant pipe – broken section or entire pipe
- Install 2 concrete filled bollards to protect hydrant
- Remove pond veg growth along bank
- Improve truck pad by excavating grass and placing crushed gravel
- Install No Parking signage as required
- Loam, seed, mulch to stabilize slopes and establish vegetation growth as required

3. Smith Cove Road (Glendale Yacht Club)

- OOS Dry Hydrant Located on Private Property, Seasonal Draft Site Only
- Association expressed interest in putting site back in service
- Active boat yard in summer months with only 6” diameter, not 8” which is ideal
- Inspection dive revealed steal pipe broken off at sheet pile wall
- Numerous attempts to repair were made with our resources, but proved unsuccessful
- Also sediment issue created by drain outlet – association working on improving this

Project:

- Contract divers may be able to weld on steel pipe extension at wall and install pipe support
- Proposed excavating dry hydrant from behind wall and replacing with new pipe farther from parking
- Remove existing 6” pipe and replace with 8” (steel or PVC) pipe
- Install 2 concrete filled bollards to protect hydrant
- Improve truck pad by excavating grass and placing crushed gravel
- Install No Parking signage as required
- Loam, seed, mulch to stabilize and establish vegetation growth as required

4. Town Docks at Marine Patrol

- No Dry Hydrant Currently at Town Docks, Seasonal Draft Site Only
- Met with Lt. Dunleavy of NH Marine Patrol about status of NHMP HQ building project
- Opportunity to get new dry hydrant installed in area of fire boat dock/fire lane as part of project, Town or State funded?

Project:

- Install 8" diameter (steel or PVC) dry hydrant pipe
- Install possible "push" hydrant system – ability of draft engine to pump from dry hydrant into buried water main to Scenic Drive to increase fire flow, pressure and to avoid traffic obstruction and FD delays during busy dock days.
- Install 2 concrete filled bollards to protect hydrant
- Install paved truck pad
- Install No Parking signage and striping as required
- Loam, seed, mulch to stabilize and establish vegetation growth as required

Again, as you can see, many of these projects are very involved; but, they are very important to assure that we have adequate water supplies for firefighting. Lt Madon and the department have identified 17 potential projects that include repair and maintenance or the establishment of a new water source. We will proceed by identifying and prioritizing meaningful projects, putting together descriptive bid packages, and putting the projects out to bid. Staying on top of our water supplies is time and labor intensive, but very well worth it when the water is needed!

CLOSING

As you can see, your fire department is deeply committed to your safety. We stay very busy with the resources and personnel that we have available and we provide a high-quality service. We focus on readiness and preparedness before the emergency; which assures that we will handle emergencies with professionalism.



GILFORD FIRE-RESCUE ROSTER

Chief Stephen Carrier, EMT-I
Deputy Chief Bradley Ober, EMT-I

Captain Michael Balcom, EMT-P
Captain Richard Andrews, EMT-P
Lieutenant Jeff Madon, EMT-I
Lieutenant Dom DeCarli, EMT-I
Firefighter Tom Aselton, EMT-B
Firefighter Scott Mooney, EMT-I
Firefighter Nick Proulx, EMT-I
Firefighter Nate Hanson, EMT-P
Firefighter Nate Lemay, EMT-I
Firefighter Dion DeCarli, EMT-I
Firefighter Jason Godin, EMT-P
Firefighter Tim Johnson, EMT-I

Firefighter Brian Akerley, EMT-I
Firefighter Christine Archibald, EMT-B
Firefighter Martin Barrett, EMT-B
Firefighter William Beaupre, EMT-I
Firefighter Jay Brown
Firefighter Matthew Cappello
Firefighter Stephen Chase
Firefighter Adam Cote
Firefighter Darcy Crisp
Firefighter Ryan Dalton
Firefighter Scott Davis, EMT-I
EMT Sharon Davis, EMT-B
Firefighter Kyle Griffin, EMT-I
Firefighter Chris Harris, EMT-B
Student Firefighter Kim Hiffler, EMT-B
Firefighter Roger Horton
EMT Rae Mello-Andrews, EMT-P
Firefighter Joshua Morrison
Student Firefighter Brian Patterson, EMT-B
Firefighter Richard Raper, EMT-B
Firefighter Ron Skinner
Firefighter Gary Wilson

Firefighter Nick Adel, EMT-B
EMT Susan Brown, EMT-B
Firefighter Jason DeCoff
EMT Sharon Hannafin
Firefighter David Low, EMT-I
Firefighter Patrick McGonagle, EMT-I

Roster, Cont.

Firefighter David Poole
Firefighter James Sanborn

Administrative Assistant Jan Fabian

Engineer William Akerley, Chair
Engineer Donald Spear
Engineer Jack Lyman

