



2016

Gilford Fire-Rescue Annual Report



Chief Stephen Carrier
Gilford Fire-Rescue
2/1/2017

INTRODUCTION

The information contained within this report represents the activities of the Gilford Fire-Rescue during calendar year 2016.

It was a busy year on many fronts; especially emergency responses to incidents. We responded to 1679 emergency incidents in 2016. This represents an increase of 78 incidents or 4.4%. We continue to spend thousands of hours training. We conduct hundreds of inspections. We experienced personnel changes and we have maintained our apparatus, our station, and our equipment. We have presented a responsible and reasonable budget and have worked hard to stay within that budget. We have generated significant revenue from permit application fees and ambulance transport billing. We provided special detail emergency medical services (EMS) and/or fire coverage for events that drew over 188,000 people to our community. Additionally, we participated in a number of other community events taking place throughout our Town.

The department maintains a roster of 34 personnel. Fourteen are full time employees; 20 are call firefighters and/or emergency medical technicians (EMTs); and, the department also has one civilian employee: our part time Administrative Assistant. The Board of Fire Engineers is comprised of 3 elected members and oversees all aspects of the department. Additionally, we have 4 Associate Members affiliated with the department. Associate members function in non-emergency, non-paid roles. New call firefighters hired during the year are: DJ Arnst, Tim Joubert and Tim Johnson. One full-time firefighter, Nick Proulx, resigned and was replaced by Kevin Patterson.

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.

Gilford 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.

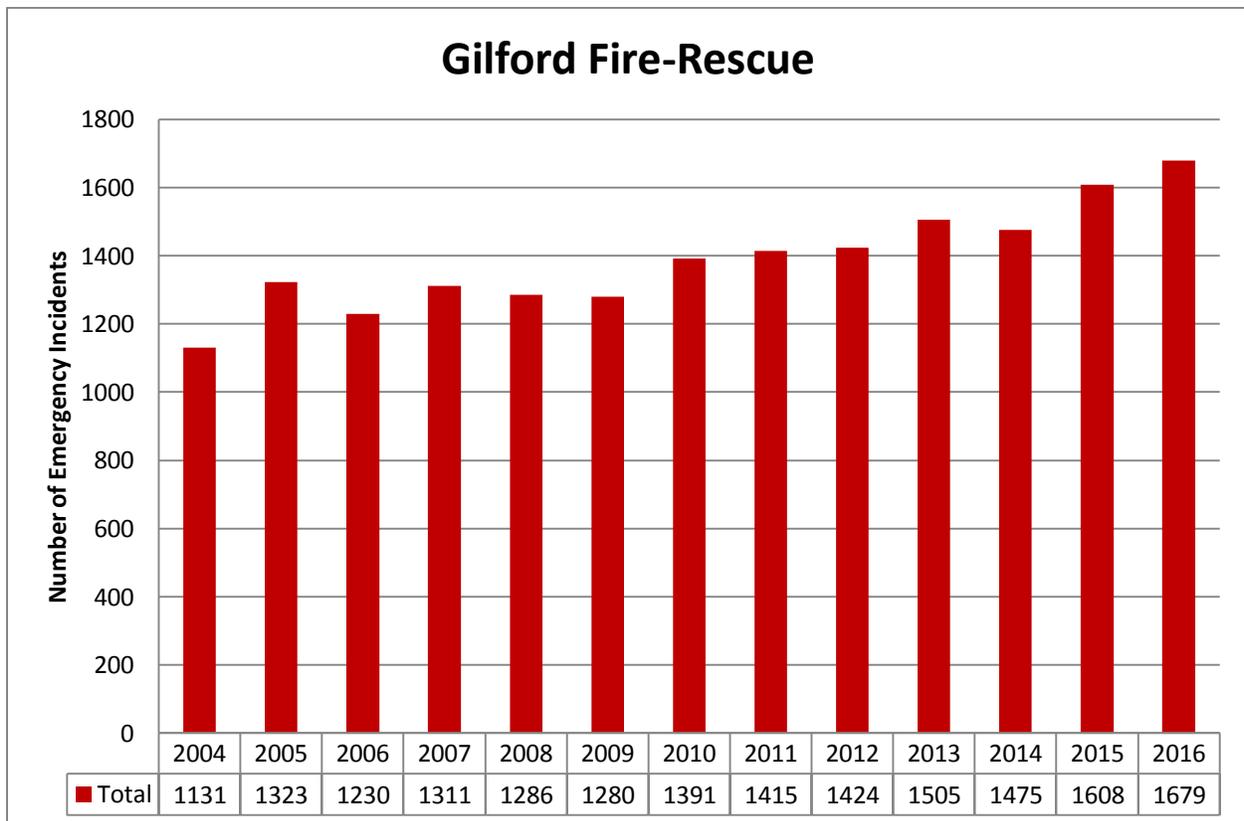
MISSION STATEMENT:

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 department responded to 1,679 incidents in 2016. This represents a 4.4% increase in call volume from 2015. The following table represents a breakdown of all emergency incidents responded to by the department in 2016, including mutual aid:

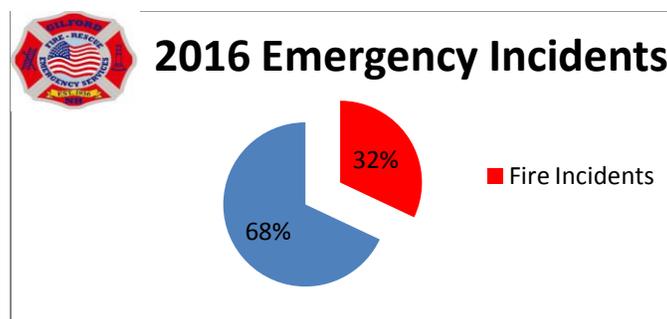
FIRES		HAZARDS	
Structure	45	Wires	25
Chimney	6	Haz Mat	27
Brush	74	CO	15
Vehicle	7	Misc.	0
Fire Alarms	165	SUB TOTAL	67
Other	134		
SUB TOTAL	431	SERVICE	
		Water	7
MEDICAL		Misc	29
Medical Aid	833	SUB TOTAL	36
MVA	81		
Rescue	21	2015 Total	1679
Other	210		
SUB TOTAL	1145		



With a 4.4% increase in emergency incident activity in 2016, total incident responses have increased 18% over the last 5 years. In fact, emergency incidents have increased by 48% since 2004, with no increase in staffing or apparatus. It was the first year in the history of the department that we responded to more than 100 incidents in every month of the year. We reached all-time monthly records in April (121), June (171), July (196), August (200), and December (125). The 3 consecutive months of June, July, and August were our busiest months, ever; and, they were in succession. The least number of incidents for a month was in March (110). Notable incident type statistics for the year include: the most building fires – January (10); the most brush fires – April (15); the most vehicle fires – July (3); most fire alarms – July (26); most overall fire calls – July (55); the least fire calls – March (21); the most medical calls – August (102); the least medical calls – October (47); the most motor vehicle accidents – June (17); the most, overall medical incidents (medical, MVA, Rescue, other) – August (149); the least overall medical incidents – October (62).

Comparing annual incident types since 2004, the following is of note: 2016 saw record high numbers for Structure Fires (45), Overall Fire Incidents (431), Other Medical Incidents (210), Overall Medical Incidents (1145), and Carbon Monoxide Incidents (15). We were above our 13 year averages in the following categories: Structure Fires, Brush Fires, Fire Alarms, Other Fire Incidents, Overall Fire Incidents, Medical Incidents, Motor Vehicle Accidents, Rescues, Other Medical Incidents, Overall Medical Incidents, and Hazardous Materials Incidents. We were below our annual averages in the following categories: Wires Incidents, Miscellaneous Hazards, Water Problems, Miscellaneous Service Calls, and Overall Service Calls.

Quite often we receive questions as to how much and which types of emergency work we do? The chart below indicates the percentage of total incidents broken down between fire and EMS incidents. It is often thought that an even higher percentage (higher than 68%) of our work is EMS. Historically, the percentage of EMS calls we respond to has been in the low 60's. This year, the percentage of EMS calls remained at 68%. Thirty two percent of our incidents in 2016 were "fire" incidents. Though, not all were necessarily newsworthy; they none-the-less required a fire response and associated action.



Another piece 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. Sixteen percent of our incidents happened at the same time another incident was taking place – 268 times, actually, in 2016. 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. Many times, subsequent incidents result in longer response times and may result in dependence on mutual aid resources to handle the incident.

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 in 2016:

TOWN	GIVEN	RECEIVED
Alton	24	4
Barnstead	5	0
Belmont	3	3
Center Harbor	0	1
Laconia	60	79
Meredith	4	1
Sanbornton	0	1
Tilton-Northfield	5	2
Franklin	3	1
Moultonborough	2	0
Gilmanton	5	1
Rochester	1	0
TOTAL	112	93

We are constantly challenged by the diversity of our community; the lake, the islands, the mountains, the thousands of seasonal residents and visitors, an aging population, the ski area, our transportation network, the airport, and our commercial base. We work and train hard to be ready for whatever the next challenge may be.

Many of our residents would probably be surprised to know that Gilford is home to 5,111 housing units (2010 US Census, demographic profile). Three thousand, seven hundred and thirty one of those are single family homes. There are 637 multi-unit buildings and 520 mobile homes. During the most recent census, 3,007 homes were occupied and 2,104 were “vacant”, which would take into account seasonal occupancies. Twenty six and a half percent of Gilford’s homes were built in the 80’s. Many of these are condos. Fifty eight percent of all homes are valued between \$200K and \$500K. Some would now be considered “mini-mansions”. Why is this important to understand? What does it all mean? We are a small community that is heavily impacted by seasonal activities. We are a vacation destination. Our population will fluctuate dramatically during peak vacation times. We have more housing units than the following communities: Berlin (5040), Exeter (4552), Franklin (3816), Hudson (3019), Londonderry (4087), Milford (4089), and Somersworth (4970). And we continue to grow. We have many “big town” amenities, such as an airport, Gunstock recreation area, Meadowbrook, Lowe’s, six marinas, a Super WalMart, a Professional Park, thirteen restaurants, a medical outpatient complex, two supermarkets, three gas stations, and a theater. All of this puts more demand on our department and our personnel. We are a small town fire department facing big town/small city challenges.

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, and LRFMA Strategic Planning Committee.



Gilford Fire-Rescue operates out of a single fire station at 39 Cherry Valley Road. There is 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 hosts 2 students from the Lakes Region

Community College who live at the fire station while going to school. They function as FF/EMTs when they are not in school, benefiting both the Town and the students.



Motor Vehicle Accident – DHART Helicopter on scene – End of the Bypass

Apparatus consists of 3 Engines, a Tanker, a Heavy Rescue, 2 Ambulances, 2 Forestry units, 2 boats, a Pickup/Plow/Utility truck, and a Polaris Ranger 6-wheeler w/ tracks.

- 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. Chief Carrier and/or Deputy Chief Ober respond to major emergencies and function in command roles using their command vehicles that are fully equipped with the necessary radio equipment and command boards.

Should we be successful in receiving funding to hire 2 additional, daytime firefighters, we would have much more flexibility to allow for different response models to be deployed. The flexibility we would gain would improve the level of service we provide.

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 various EMT levels within our department: EMT-Basic, EMT-Intermediate, Advanced EMT, and EMT-Paramedic. An EMT-B completes approximately 200 hours of training for his/her certification; an EMT-I and/or AEMT completes 280 – 320 hrs of training; and a Paramedic completes a 1,500 hour course of study. We are currently transitioning our EMTs to meet National Standards. Soon, you may hear some of our medical technicians referred to simply as EMT, instead of EMT-B; or EMT-Advanced (AEMT), 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. Eleven of our EMT-I's have successfully passed the National Registry AEMT Written Test, and 3 others are in the process of testing.

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.

We recently purchased and put into service a Nitronox system that will be used for some instances of mild to moderate pain relief. Nitronox is a gas that can be administered under controlled supervision from an AEMT or Paramedic. You may be familiar with this gas since it is commonly administered in dental offices. This is a manner of achieving pain relief and better patient comfort during transport that is safe, non-addictive, and has no side effects. This is another example of our constant attention to improving our level of service; as well as our patient's experience in the pre-hospital setting.

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". We also continue to be aggressive in diagnosing stroke patients. This is also a collaborative effort between the hospitals, NH Bureau of Emergency Communication (911), and ambulance services. Time is critical in both of these events. Proper monitoring equipment with the ability to send field images to the hospital is also critical. In the case of a STEMI, 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. In the case of a stroke, many times the emergency medical dispatching process can identify positive signs of a stroke over the phone.

Once EMTs confirm those signs, the hospital is notified of a “Stroke Alert” so that they can be prepared to efficiently treat the patient and have more positive outcomes.

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. In 2015, the Special Account funds were used to purchase a new ambulance.

Our billing agent historically collects approximately \$350,000 per year for the Town in ambulance transport fees. Through the hard work of our Administrative Assistant, Charlene Boulanger, combined with her medical billing experience we have increased our collection rates. We are excited to see year-end, comparative data, when it becomes available. But, we know we can do better.

Early in 2017, we will be changing our billing agent to Enhanced Management Services, Inc. We expect a higher rate of return, better data sharing, and timelier filing for a small increase in cost. To the patient, this change will be un-noticeable. Our previous billing agent was COMSTAR. We thank them for their years of service to the community.



Motor Vehicle Accident – Sagamore Road

TRAINING

Training continues to be a priority for the men and women of Gilford Fire-Rescue. In 2016 the members of the department participated in over 2,000 hours of training in an effort to be ready for any emergency they may encounter.

The hours include a variety of certifications and topics that were taught at the local, state and national levels. Our firefighters continuously review our equipment and its operation. They are constantly trained by their officer from the most basic skills to highly technical skills. 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, training sessions may be held on weekend days, or other evenings. Some of these classes were delivered at no charge as offered by LRGHealthcare or were instructed by members of our staff. Our newest hire, Duncan Phillips is currently attending the Paramedic Associate's Degree Program at NHTI; and, FF/AEMT Greg Trombi just began his Paramedic program at the New England EMS Institute and Elliot Hospital.



Controlled Burn – Outside Fire – High View Circle

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. Most of our EMT-I's have successfully passed this challenging test. Three more are in the testing process at this time. All must be transitioned prior to 2017 or they will revert back to EMT-Basic level. We expect all of our EMT-I's 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 worked hard on establishing a partnership with Lakes Region Mutual Fire Aid to assist us with marketing, scheduling of training and instructors, and maintenance. Hampton and Laconia Fire Departments both used the facility. Unfortunately, the facility was badly damaged by fire this past fall. We are working to clean the site and restore the burn building to a usable condition.

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 Charlene Boulanger 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 Boulanger 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 Boulanger 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. Deputy Chief Ober spends the majority of his time conducting inspections, consulting with owners/occupants, and conducting plans review. Duty shift personnel also conduct inspections, as necessary.



Gilford's Fire Boat operating at a building fire in Moultonborough.

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.

During 2016, the Administration spear-headed a goal setting process which included input from all levels of the organization. We are thankful that Chief LaChapelle from the Franklin FD was able to facilitate some of the sessions for us. His insight and experience with a similar-size department was invaluable. The following broad goals were established for 2017:

- Improve Information Flow.
- Conduct Annual Goal Setting.
- Implement a Customer Satisfaction Survey.
- Review the Apparatus Replacement Program.
- Manage, Analyze, and Educate (Data).
- Conduct Risk Analyses.

Through the State of NH, we continue to offer Burning Permits on-line. 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. We are still experimenting with the system in an effort to determine how to utilize most effectively it. And, check out our Facebook page!

BUDGET

The department budgeted \$1.70 million for operating costs in 2016. This was a decrease from \$1.72 million in 2015. The proposed budget for 2017 shows an increase to \$1.8 million. Included in this year's budget is funding for 2 additional full-time firefighters and the initial payment on a 5 year lease for a new fire engine. All other areas of the budget are virtually level-funded.

The department also oversees and expends funds from 3 other, much smaller budget lines: Emergency Management; Forestry; and Fire Protection (Pressurized Fire Hydrants on the Laconia Water Works system and LRMFA Assessment). The LRMFA Assessment is fairly new to the Town Budget. Prior to 2015, 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 that year. We have seen a slight increase budgeted for the 2017 budget. LRMFA has begun to address the establishment of a funding mechanism to maintain and replace their highly technical communications infrastructure, as it ages.

Any Special Details which GFR personnel are hired to provide services for are billed and paid 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.).

Building maintenance was, once again, a necessity during 2016. We were forced to replace a hot water heater, and air conditioning unit, and an air handling unit. We also suffered a lightning strike. Every monitor and television connected to cable in the station was not working after the strike, including the station amplifier. All of the items were replaced by insurance after our deductible was met.

Another loss was suffered during 2016; our Training Facility on the Recycling Center property was severely damaged by an uncontrolled fire. Yes, the building was

designed to have fires inside, but only small, controlled fires. The devastating fire occurred after the building was used for training earlier in the day. It consumed all of the interior framing and the roof structure. The heat produced warped many of the shipping containers that were used to construct the facility. We are still in the process of determining how to clean the site and rebuild it to a usable state. We all realize the huge training value the site has and we are committed to rebuilding.

The department has purchased a new Command Vehicle and a new Polaris Ranger UTV. The Command Vehicle is a 2017 Ford Explorer which replaced a 2006 Ford Explorer. This vehicle is assigned to Deputy Chief Ober. The UTV replaces a 2003 Argo. The UTV is much more versatile and can be used for more applications than was possible with the Argo. Both units have been in service for some time, now, and we are extremely happy with their performance.

Our 1977 fire-rescue boat is in need of being upgraded. We had a very unique opportunity last year: we were offered the Portsmouth Fire Boat. The intent was to transfer the grant-funded boat to Gilford for use on Lake Winnepesaukee. We spent a great deal of time learning about the boat, operating it, researching its capabilities, and even attending meetings in the City of Portsmouth. In the eleventh hour, the Portsmouth City Council reconsidered an earlier vote and instead voted to transfer the boat to the Town of Newcastle. That boat would have met or exceeded all of our marine needs. To say we were disappointed is an understatement. However, we learned a lot through the process. The department will continue to research designs and configurations of boats that will meet our needs and provide adequate firefighting and EMS coverage to our inhabited islands – the most on the Lake.

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.



Call Firefighter Kim Hiffler receiving the Firefighter of the Year Award.

PERSONNEL

Firefighter/EMT-I Nick Proulx left the department in the summer and FF/AEMT Kevin Patterson was hired to replace him. Kevin was a Student Live-in for 2 years in Gilford while he attended Lakes Region Community College; where he graduated with an Associates degree in Fire Science. His experience with our department has made his probationary training period much easier than normal! FF/AEMT Duncan Phillips has successfully passed his probation period and is very close to being certified as a Paramedic. FF/AEMT Greg Trombi has begun Paramedic training and should be fully certified after 18 months.

Three call firefighters were hired during the year: DJ Arnst, Timothy Joubert, and Timothy Johnson.

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 enjoy their visits and camaraderie; as well as their continued friendships. 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 conducts the bulk of the department's fire prevention code enforcement, plans review, and inspection duties. Other members of the full time staff also may conduct inspections, as necessary. Collectively the department conducted 1,002 fire prevention inspections – a 24% increase from 2015 totals. 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 life safety inspections 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. This year we visited over 70 homes as part of the program. 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!!**

We continue to host a number of tours of the station and apparatus each year for the young students in our community. These tours always include a handful of fire safety messages, along with handouts and trinkets for the children to take home. We feel that this small amount of time is critical for us to have with these very impressionable learners.



Motor vehicle accident – Cherry Valley Road near Gunstock

VEHICLE MAINTENANCE

Roger Weeks and the DPW staff have done a great job servicing our vehicles as outlined in our Preventative Maintenance Schedule. We had very few major repair issues in 2016; but, many of them seemed to come on Friday afternoons, weekends, or holidays. Each time, Roger made sure we were back on the road as soon as humanly possible. We really can't say enough about the level of service he provides. We greatly appreciate it!

Our newest ambulance was sent back to the factory for warranty paint work. The whole body was stripped and repainted at no cost to the Town. While at the factory, a new supplemental suspension system was installed. Due to the work that was being done, we were able to split the cost and have the suspension system installed for half of the original price. The ride in the ambulance was greatly improved.

WATER SUPPLY

A small portion of Gilford is serviced by the Laconia Water Works (LWW) and there are 28 public, pressurized fire hydrants on the system. One hydrant at the corner of Gilford Avenue and Bedford Avenue was taken out of service this year after being damaged. There is a hydrant directly across the street at the corner of Gilford Avenue and Hounsell Avenue that covers the area very well. We pay a fee to LWW for the maintained availability of fire protection 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.

We currently have over 40 water supply sites, mostly dry hydrants. These locations serve both target hazards (such as businesses, schools, and Town buildings) and more rural areas of Town, that are outside of the Laconia Water Works pressurized hydrant system coverage area. 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.

We were very concerned with the effects of the 2016 drought. Many of our water supply sites, especially ponds, became unusable due to low water levels. Although it seems that drought conditions have eased, now that we are in the winter months, we will continue to monitor rainfall and groundwater measurements as we proceed into the dry months of 2017.

Maintenance:

Our current water supply maintenance program involves annual hydrant flushing, flow testing, sign installation, weed/brush trimming, painting, repair of damaged hydrants, large project coordination, and underwater diving inspection (10-15 sites a year). There are times when 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 or private contractors to assist in those hydrant maintenance projects.

The Town has generously approved deposits of \$10,000 into the Water Supply Capital Reserve Account over the last several years. This fund was established to maintain current water supplies and develop future water supply sites, as necessary. This year, we have increased that request to \$25,000 in an effort to assist in covering some of the costs of the Alvah Wilson Pond project (see next paragraph).

We have begun addressing the Alvah Wilson Pond situation. We have contracted with one of the Town's Engineering firms to begin formulating a plan to put

the brook back into its original path, dredge the pond, and replace 3 dry hydrants with 2. At this time a survey has been completed and a remediation plan has been formulated. We have just recently advertised for bids on the project. It is our hope to first, put the stream back in its original bed and prevent silt from filling the pond; second, to remove the existing silt from the pond restoring it to its original capacity; and finally, replacing the hydrants and retaining wall and improving the apron. This will be a major project that has required a great deal of planning and permitting. We are hopeful that costs can be minimized, allowing the project to be completed in a timely fashion. This pond and the hydrants are a major fire protection water supply for our schools and the adjacent neighborhoods.

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 all emergencies with the professionalism they expect and deserve.



GILFORD FIRE-RESCUE ROSTER – 2016

Board of Fire Engineers

Engineer William Akerley, Chair
Engineer Donald Spear
Engineer Jack Lyman

Department Personnel

Chief Stephen Carrier, AEMT
Deputy Chief Bradley Ober, EMT

Captain Michael Balcom, EMT-P
Captain Richard Andrews, EMT-P
Lieutenant Jeff Madon, AEMT
Lieutenant Dom DeCarli, EMT
Firefighter Scott Mooney, EMT
Firefighter Nate Hanson, EMT-P
Firefighter Nate Lemay, AEMT
Firefighter Dion DeCarli, AEMT
Firefighter Tim Johnson, AEMT
Firefighter Greg Trombi, AEMT
Firefighter Duncan Phillips, AEMT
Firefighter Kevin Patterson, AEMT

Firefighter DJ Arnst
Firefighter Martin Barrett, EMT
Firefighter William Beaupre
Firefighter Leanna Breton, EMT
Firefighter Stephen Chase
Firefighter Adam Cote, EMT
Firefighter Scott Davis, AEMT
EMT Sharon Davis, EMT
Firefighter Kyle Griffin, AEMT
Firefighter Kim Hiffler, AEMT
Firefighter Roger Horton
Firefighter Tim Johnson
Firefighter Tim Joubert, AEMT
EMT Rae Mello-Andrews, EMT-P
Firefighter Ron Skinner
Firefighter Jordan Stopyra
Firefighter Padraic Weller
Firefighter Gary Wilson
Student Firefighter Zach Zins
Student Firefighter Ryan Aremburg

GILFORD FIRE-RESCUE ROSTER – 2016 - Continued

Administrative Assistant Charlene Boulanger

Associate Members

Firefighter Jason DeCoff
Firefighter Dennis Thompson
Firefighter David Poole
Firefighter James Sanborn



Community, Safety, and Professional Service