

I am pleased to submit the 126th annual report of your Fire Department.

Fire-Rescue & Emergency Services responded to a total of 3,348 incidents. This is a 6% increase over last year. Of the total calls, 1,948 were for emergency medical incidents, 44 structure fires, 6 vehicle fires, 35 outside fires and numerous other incidents including 28 carbon monoxide incidents and 68 hazardous materials incidents. A total of 1,078 fire prevention and life safety inspections were completed. We issued 2,109 burning permits and a total of 531 regulatory permits. Mutual Aid to the surrounding towns increased, with 29 responses to cover another town's station and 261 times mutual aid was given to the scene of their incidents. Unfortunately, this trend is due to the inability of each town, including our own, to sufficiently staff their departments with the necessary personnel due to budget constraints.

We were pleased to have received delivery of our new pumping engine, Engine 3, to replace the old Engine 3 which was a 1980 Ford that had a major mechanical failure in 2005. This engine will add to our ability to respond to a wide range of incidents and call for services.

Ongoing training was conducted throughout the year within the Department. Drills were conducted for ice rescues, ladder raising, general firefighting techniques and emergency medical training. Training was conducted with Fire Department staff as well as instructors from the Massachusetts Fire Academy.

Fire Prevention continued to be a key component to the overall safety for our citizens. Deputy Weckbacher and the other officers of the department worked diligently to insure that oil burner installations were correct, homes had proper placement and working smoke and carbon monoxide detectors. In addition, inspections of garages and commercial buildings were done to insure they were in compliance with the Fire Code. Inspections like these help increase the level of protection throughout the town.

The S.A.F.E. (Student Awareness through Fire Education) Program continued to provide fire safety education for Abington students from pre-school through 2nd grade. Captain Nuttall and his staff of educators were in the schools getting the message to our youngest citizens and increased their awareness of the dangers of fire. Funding in part was from a state grant. In addition, the fire educators were able to provide fire safety talks to our seniors and assisted them in providing information for a fire safe environment.

We were also able to continue our program of assisting the seniors with changing their smoke detector and carbon monoxide batteries. A reminder to all residents that carbon monoxide and smoke detectors are required on ALL levels of your residence. Any resident that needs information on either subject is welcome to call the fire station.

With the decline in the economy, building growth has slowed, but we were still faced with the challenges of protecting our citizens. We still need to address additional personnel needs for the department to cover calls for services and potential risks. Our challenge is to provide enough firefighters to respond to emergencies and give an effective level of protection for all citizens of Abington in these tough economic times.

My sincere thanks and appreciation to each and every member of this department. They continue to provide you with the very best in Fire-Rescue and Emergency Services.

Respectfully submitted,

Arthur H. Pelland, Chief of Department

Members of Abington Fire-Rescue & Emergency Services:

Arthur H. Pelland, Chief/EMT

John A. Weckbacher, Deputy Chief/EMT

Patricia Gordon, Administrative Assistant

David Farrell, Captain/EMT

John Nuttall, Captain/EMT/I

Edward Belcher, Captain/EMT

Ronald Howe, Captain/EMT/P

Charles Whitman Jr., Firefighter

Donald Leary, Firefighter

Michael Murphy, Firefighter/EMT/I

Donald Farrell, Firefighter/EMT/I

Michael Driscoll, Firefighter/EMT/P

John Force, Firefighter/EMT/P

Robert Neumeister, Firefighter/EMT/I

John Glynn, Firefighter/EMT/P

Donald DiDomenico, Firefighter/EMT/P

Kevin Finch, Firefighter/EMT/P

George Gardiner, Firefighter/EMT/P

Richard Smith, Firefighter/EMT/P

Christa Prescott, Firefighter/EMT/P

Sean Hardy, Firefighter/EMT/P

Brian Fogg, Firefighter/EMT/P

Christopher O'Toole, Firefighter/EMT/P