

Peterborough Fire & Rescue

2019

Annual Report

The mission of the Peterborough Fire & Rescue (PFR) is to protect the lives and property of the people of Peterborough and Sharon from fires, natural and man-made disasters, and hazardous materials incidents; to save lives by providing emergency medical services; to prevent fires through prevention and education programs; to provide defense against terrorist attacks; and to provide a work environment that values cultural diversity and is free of harassment and discrimination. The Department is led by Chief Edmund Walker, Deputy Chiefs Brian Wall, Brad Winters, and Matthew Robblee.

In 2019 Peterborough Fire & Rescue responded to a total of 2,319 calls including fire incidents, emergency ambulance calls, and transfers out of Monadnock Community Hospital. (Note: For 2019 we changed the way incidents are reported. In prior years, an incident that included both fire and EMS units was counted twice, once in each category. Beginning this year, the incident will only be counted once, based on the primary type of call.)

Personnel

Like most call fire and EMS organizations PFR traditionally goes through an ebb and flow of staff and this year was no exception. In 2019 we were fortunate enough to recruit 13 new hires including two full time paramedics. During this same period, we had six (6) members leave the department for various reasons ranging from moving out of the area to accepting full time positions as firefighters.

Special Events

Traditionally the department helps with several special events around town and 2019 was no exception. Again, this year we were on hand for Children and the Arts as well as Memorial Day remembrance.

The department's annual Awards and Recognition Ceremony was held in June with many members receiving awards commemorating their years of service as well as the many significant accomplishments achieved by our members. The Jere T. Morris Outstanding Member of the Year Award was presented to Brandon Requa, the Chiefs' Award was presented to Steven Hobbs, and the Per Diem Member award was presented to Thomas Ball.

We would like to thank all our members for what they do day in and day out for the department and community.

Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Division

This year saw a significant transition within the EMS Division. After almost seven (7) years of service Deputy Chief Joshua Patrick resigned from the department to pursue other opportunities. During his

tenure here Josh's enthusiasm, passion, and vision helped to create the robust service that we have now.

Matthew Robblee was promoted to Deputy Chief to oversee the division. This position oversees our full and part time staff who man our four (4) ambulances licensed at the advanced life support (ALS) level. Two (2) ambulances are staffed 24-hours a day with a third crew available from home to handle third calls. In addition to providing 9-1-1 service to the towns of Peterborough, Sharon, Dublin, Hancock, and Frankestown, we provide emergency and non-emergency transfers out of Monadnock Community Hospital, Cheshire Medical Center, and Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center. Most of these transfers are for patients going to facilities that can provide a higher level of care than the local hospitals can provide. In 2019 our ambulance service responded to 1,042 emergency calls and conducted 878 transfers for a total of 1,920 EMS calls.

Fire Service Division

Deputy Chiefs Brian Wall and Brad Winters oversees the operation of the fire side of PFR. PFRs 30+ call firefighters responded to a total of 399 fire calls, including several multiple alarm fires. In this time of diminishing call firefighters, larger incidents like these highlight the importance of our mutual aid system which helps to ensure adequate resources are available to respond to emergency calls.

Consistent, ongoing training is one of the elements most critical to the success of a fire department. To that end, members of our department participated in over 550 training classes for a total of over 2,200 hours of training. These sessions ranged from reviewing the basics of apparatus operation to out of state programs on firefighting and vehicle extrication as well as in house programs to ensure we are all proficient in the use of our equipment.

Community Risk Reduction

Fire Inspector Scott Symonds is responsible for our Community Risk Reduction program bringing together several fire department activities related to making the Town of Peterborough a safer place for residents, businesses and visitors. Going beyond the typical fire prevention functions, this group includes our public fire education programs, community first aid and CPR training, injury prevention, and a more pro-active approach with other community-based groups to assist in maximizing our reach. We continue to work closely with the Code Enforcement Office to provide comprehensive plans review, inspections and investigation of fire safety violations. This year the Division conducted 162 formal inspections, and over 350 informal consultations and plan reviews.

As a safety reminder, PFR requests that each mailbox and home have four-inch numbers (preferably reflective) so that public safety officials can locate you quickly during an emergency. For information on placement, please call the fire station at 924-8090 X 2.

Please remember to go to the town website (www.townofpeterborough.com) and sign up for NIXLE emergency notifications. This free system provides our residents, and other who frequent town, with critical information in the event of a local emergency. You are also encouraged to sign up for NH Alerts, a free service to provide emergency NH Alerts by the New Hampshire Department of Safety, Division of

Homeland Security and Emergency Management. Emergency and community messages are initiated by authorized public safety officials at the State level and severe weather warnings are initiated directly by the National Weather Service. Additional information is available at: <http://www.readynh.gov>.

Explorers

Explorer Post 808 continues to provide an avenue for local youth to explore the fire and EMS services. In addition to learning about the profession, the Explorers provide much-needed services to the department and the community, including support at all emergency incidents and civic events in Town. All members attended regular training this year along with the firefighters and EMTs.

The Post is currently overseen by Lieutenant John Berube. The Explorer program provides young men and women with a chance to participate in, and learn about, firefighting, while also giving PFR and neighboring departments a “farm team” from which it can fill vacancies. The department thanks these young men and women, as well as their advisors for a job well done.

Peterborough Fire & Rescue would like to thank all the businesses and merchants who support us every year, both with funding and by allowing their employees to respond to emergency calls during working hours.

Respectfully submitted,

Edmund M. Walker	Chief of Department
Brian Wall	Deputy Chief (Fire)
Bradley Winters	Deputy Chief (Fire)
Matthew Robblee	Deputy Chief (EMS)
Jonathan Sawyer	Lieutenant (Fire)
John Berube	Lieutenant (Fire)
Jennifer Sandlin	Lieutenant (EMS)
Geoff Ranfos	Lieutenant (EMS)
Scott Symonds	Lieutenant (Fire)
Joey Sweeney	Lieutenant (Fire)
John Fahey	Lieutenant (EMS)
Timothy Quinn	Lieutenant (EMS)
Brandon Requa	Lieutenant (Fire)