

Saco Fire Department-Saco, Maine

May 2014

Volume 1 Issue 5



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FROM THE CHIEF.....

The Saco Fire Department provides Fire & Emergency Services for the people of Saco, visitors to our city, those who work in our city and to our neighboring communities through our Automatic Mutual Aid System.

Our department operates out of 3 fire stations: the Central Fire Station located on North Street, the Camp Ellis Fire Station located on the Bay View Road, and the North Saco Fire Station located on Rocky Hill Road. In total, the Department functions with 5 fire engines, 1 aerial ladder truck, 3 ambulances (2 of which are staffed 24/7), 1 Brush Truck, 2 Marine units, and 4 support vehicles. Last year, the Department responded to 3,219 emergency calls with 80% of those calls being Medical Emergencies.

Our most important resource is our staff. The Fire Chief and 2 Deputy Fire Chiefs oversee 81 members who work within one of three different divisions: Career Firefighters/Paramedics, Call Division Firefighters, and Fire/Police. Our organizational structure is designed to ensure the highest level of safety for our members and the public as well as providing an efficient and effective working team. Our essential command structure is scalar, similar to that of the military, in that a Chief Officer is required to function as the Incident Commander or as a Sector Officer responsible for the safety of personnel and coordination of efforts by multiple companies. Captains and Lieutenants are Company Officers who supervise and lead firefighters who are performing at the task level,

Time not spent responding to emergencies is dedicated to preparation through training and maintenance of apparatus, firefighting equipment and personal protective equipment. Additionally, we have put a strong emphasis on prevention and public education through our enforcement of fire codes, fire safety inspections, and delivery of Fire Prevention Programs to include fire extinguisher training, fire safety classes for our schools and businesses, and fire safety for the elderly.

The proposed budget for the upcoming year requests an increase of \$148,819 or a 5.2% increase. That increase represents a 1.7% increase in payroll for our staff which equates to \$77,295, a \$48,000 increase in fees paid for Water for Fire Protection (hydrants) and \$23,124 in our Operating budget. It should be noted that the increase to fees for Water for Fire Protection is the direct result of Maine Water Company's intent to replace the existing 150 year old water distribution pumping station in order to ensure the delivery of public water for many years to come. The increase in our operating budget is designed to maintain current service levels, meet changes to required training for our Emergency Medical Services personnel, and address increases in our utilities and supplier related costs.

In closing, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Citizens of Saco for their continued support and the members of the Saco Fire Department for their dedication and hard work on a daily basis.

Best Regards,

John L. Duross, Fire Chief



A Reminder Concerning Outdoor Burning Permits —► to burn debris from yards, gardens and walkways, you must first obtain a written burning permit prior to any outside burning. Burning Permits are issued at the Central Fire Station. Please Call us for details.



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Test your Fire and Safety Knowledge

With warm weather upon us, our outdoor activities increase as does the danger of being bitten by a tick infected with Lyme disease. If an infected tick attaches to a person's skin, it must remain attached for at least 24 hours in order to infect a person.

A. True B. False

Answer: A. True. According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, Ticks that transmit Lyme disease can take 3 or more days to feed fully. If the tick is infected, the chances of transmission increases with time, from 0% at 24 hours, 12% at 48 hours, 79% at 72 hours and 94% at 96 hours. This is the reason it is important to conduct tick checks after working or recreating in tick infected areas, removing any ticks you find promptly. The blacklegged tick (or deer tick, *Ixodes scapularis*) spreads the disease in the northeastern, mid-Atlantic, and north-central United States. If you believe you may have been bitten by the Deer Tick which may carry Lyme Disease consult with your Doctor or medical provider.

From the Firehouse Kitchen



Lemon Lust.....Greet the Warm Weather and your guests with a cool lemony dessert.....

This is a 4 layer dessert that is not complicated to prepare and only takes about 30 minutes of actual prep time. But the dessert does require some baking time and cooling time between layers.

▶ Here's what you'll need....for the bottom crust layer

13" x 9" baking dish with its bottom coated with cooking spray or Crisco

2 Cups of sifted all purpose flour and 2 sticks of butter (or margarine), either salted or unsalted, but softened

Dice up the butter sticks and work/blend into the flour until mixture is clumpy & crusty. Spread the mixture evenly into the baking dish. Bake at 350 degrees for 15 to 20 minutes. Remove from baking when the crust is faintly browned on top. Set aside and let cool.

▶ Here's what you'll need....for the second creamy layer

1 and 1/2 cups of sifted confectionary sugar and an 8 oz package of cream cheese, softened. (Try microwaving on high for 15 to 20 seconds)

2 Cups of Cool Whip from a 12 oz container. Reserve the rest.

Mix/blend the sugar and cream cheese and then mix in the cool whip.

Spread the mixture onto the cooled crust and cool in refrigerator for 30 minutes

▶ Here's what you'll need....for the third lemony lust layer

3 Packages of Instant Lemon pudding mix

3 and 1/2 cups of cold milk (fat content of the milk is not important)

In a medium sized bowl, mix the milk into the dry pudding. The mix sets up quickly, so immediately spread the lemon mix on top of the creamy layer

▶ Here's what you'll need....for the top layer

The remaining cool whip and 1/4 cup of chopped pecans or walnuts.

Top with the remaining cool whip, garnish with the chopped nuts and enjoy.

Apparatus Spotlight

Engine 7

2001 Ferrara Fire Engine



Side mount pumper with a seating capacity of 5, a 1250 GPM (Gallon Per Minute) pump 1000 gallon tank, Class B 55 Gallon foam tank and 8 SCBA Units and carries our Holmatro Extrication System & vehicle stabilization equipment systems. Engine 7 is primary for accidents & Hazmat responses

Bicycle Safety Tip

May is National Bike

Safety Month

REMEMBER to

Wear a helmet and obey all traffic signs and signals at all times

In March and April, Department personnel answered the many needs of our citizens, businesses and surrounding communities. The total number of responses was 270 for March as compared to 224 last year. Of the 270 calls, 214, or 79%, were medical emergencies as compared to 179 last year. In April of 2013 the department responded to 275 emergency calls. In 2014, April calls were 261. Of these, 211 or 81%, were Medical Emergencies; last year's calls numbered 221, 80% of the total.

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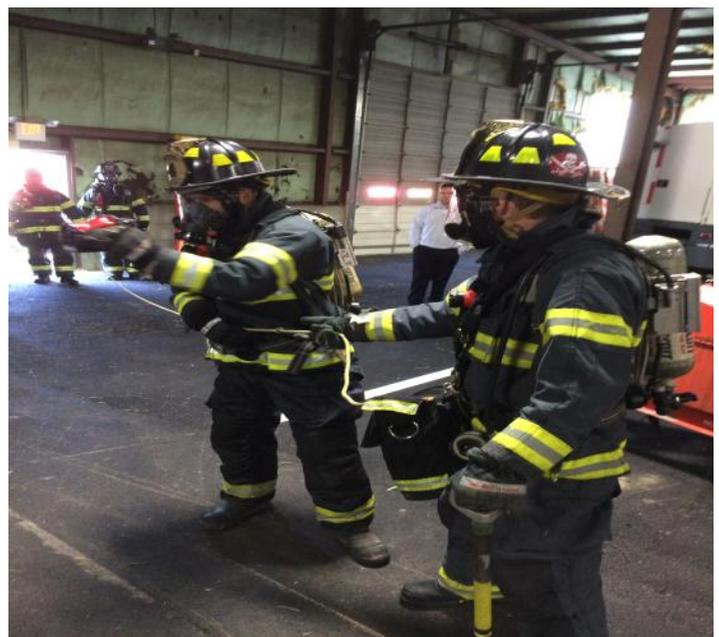
Training Corner

Courtesy of LT. David A. Hamel
Fire Training Coordinator

As a part of our ongoing practices, the Department considers general and specialized training to be of paramount importance for the preparedness and professionalism of all staff. Training encompasses both fire fighting and public safety techniques, preparedness of the individual, coordination of the various teams and proper planning for anticipated, as well as extraordinary tasks and challenges. All members of the Career and Call Departments (including all Firefighters, Officers, Deputy Chiefs and the Fire Chief) participate in our training sessions and are required to participate in a minimum of scheduled training subjects.

Training sessions are conducted on and off the sites of our stations each month and for each month we plan a different training subject. These training subjects are constantly reviewed and many of our basic training topics are conducted on an annual basis. During each training year, the Training Coordinator is adding or changing or updating a few topics to meet current standards.

A recent training exercise topic was “Large Search Area”. This type of training exercise focuses on best practices for firefighters searching for citizens in large commercial buildings (i.e., a Shaws, a Renny’s, or perhaps a high school gymnasium). Pictured at right are department members during a recent training exercise.



Summer and the warm weather are right around the corner....Outdoor barbeque grilling.....please remember to:

- ▶ Only use propane and charcoal grills outdoors and place well away from the home, decks, railings, eaves and overhanging tree branches.
- ▶ Check all gas connections for leaks before lighting your grill.
- ▶ Don't leave your lit or hot grill unattended.
- ▶ Open the lid and keep it open before lighting your grill.
- ▶ Keep children and pets away from a hot grill.
- ▶ Never, never add any flammable fluids to a hot grill.

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News from our Crews



A team of Saco firefighters created a team named "The Cure Cancer Crew" that raised over \$2400 for Mary's Walk which was held in Saco on March 16th. This is the first time Saco firefighters have been involved in this event. What began as a stroll through town with a few hundred people has evolved into a major community effort that has attracted over 50,000 participants in its 15-year span.

Firefighter David Peters was recently honored for his 25 years of dedicated service to the Department and the citizens of Saco. Pictured at right is David receiving a plaque of recognition from Saco Mayor, Donald Pilon.



Fallen Comrades are not forgotten and forever remembered. Pictured at left are members of the Saco Fire Department Local 2300 Delegation who attended the funeral of Fire LT. Edward J. Walsh, Jr. in Watertown, MA. LT. Walsh died in the line of duty while battling an apartment building fire in the Back Bay area of Boston as did another member of the Boston Fire Department, Firefighter, Michael R. Kennedy.

OPEN HOUSE AT THE CENTRAL FIRE STATION

Over 300 visitors attended the Open House Event at the Central Fire Station



on North Street in Saco that was held on Saturday, April 26th. Visitors were greeted by Firefighters and Officers and refreshments were available to all.

During the Open House, fire calls sounded when the Department was required to dispatch firefighters and equipment for a structure fire and 2 Emergency Medical Service calls were received dispatching our ambulances and crews.

Open House activities included learning tours of the facility and fire fighting equipment and safety equipment.

(Lillian Finley, shown above, enjoyed wearing a firefighter's protective clothing)

Attendees who were present were offered having their child car seats inspected for proper installation and many took advantage of this free service.

Under the direction of Saco Policeman Michael "Mike" Tremblay, many attendees took advantage of the free offer of child fingerprinting services supported by the Masons.

The Ledger family of Saco, after attending, wrote: *"We have never felt so accommodated in a public service setting. Your program was interesting and educational for our entire family."*

(A guest trying on protective gear)



Our Annual Report with detailed information on Department activities, responses, equipment, facilities, personnel and operations is now available on our website. To view or download, click:

[ANNUAL REPORTS](#)

The Saco Fire Department publishes its online newsletter bi-monthly. To receive an email notifying you when it is published, please visit our newsletter page and complete the email sign up information. Just click below to sign up:

[Fire Department Newsletters](#)

For the latest on what's happening at Saco City Hall, see the newest edition of the City Hall newsletter at:

[THE PEPPERELL POST](#)