

Report of the Fire & Rescue Department

To the Honorable Select Board and the residents of the Town of Brewster,

The members of our department would like to express our sincere gratitude to the Select Board, Finance Committee, Town Staff, and the residents of our community for the support provided to our department throughout 2022.

During the calendar year we responded to a record number of 3236 requests for service or an average of 8.9 per day. This resulted in at least one or more fire apparatus and/or ambulances being on the road, servicing the community for at least 16 hours of each day of the year. Our entire community should be proud of the dedicated effort displayed by every member of our organization in overcoming the obstacles and challenges imposed upon them during a year filled with staffing challenges, mandatory overtime, and employee retention and recruitment issues. Their commitment to ensuring the continued delivery of high-level fire and emergency medical response services to our customers and maintaining elevated levels of morale, dependability, and health and wellness while operating in hazardous and limited staffing environments was nothing short of outstanding. Additionally, managing and leading the organization through these unsettled times placed significant burdens on the department's command and administrative staff as well.

On positive note we were able to achieve several operational goals in 2022 that deserve notice:

- Awarded a \$152,674.00 FEMA Assistance to Firefighter (AFG) Grant to conduct Fire Instructor I and Fire Officer I training for all members.
- Awarded a \$12,943.00 FY23 State Fire Equipment Grant to purchase communication equipment and software.
- Received a \$7,430.00 State Fire Prevention Grant to fund school and senior citizen-based fire and life safety educational programs and equipment.
- Received a \$3,5000.00 Emergency Management Performance Grant
- Applied for and received \$99,000.00 in supplemental ambulance revenue through the Medicaid Certified Public Expenditures (CPE) program.
- Conducted a Citizens Fire Academy and community CPR and Stop the Bleed training programs.
- Conducted an Emergency Management Tabletop Training Exercise
- Continued implementation of Strategic Plan goals and objectives.

Five-Year Strategic Planning Document

During 2022, our organization continued to methodically implement the major goals and objectives identified in our revised five-year Strategic Plan. During plan development we redefined our mission and vision statements, modified our core values, documented organizational strengths and weaknesses, and set a strong and collaborative path toward continued service excellence within our youthful labor force. We look forward to continuing to implement the strategies, goals, and objectives in the plan over the next several years as we move the organization to continued future excellence and potential national accreditation.

Training

To maintain our commitment of providing high level classroom-based fire and emergency medical training opportunities for our staff we continued our partnership with an on-line training vendor (Fire Rescue 1). In addition to this continuing education, our newly formed Training Committee developed a monthly schedule of mandatory fire and emergency medical based training programs for daily use by the four Groups. Four of our members attended the Firehouse Magazine Training Conference in Columbus Ohio where they participated in several hands-on and classroom-based training sessions where they acquired a variety of knowledge, skills and abilities focused on improving their level of performance at fire suppression and emergency medical based incidents. In conjunction with this training the department hosted a Man vs Machine training program, live burn sessions, forcible entry training, and regional training programs that brought nationally recognized fire service experts to Cape Cod.

Each of our staff members are required to recertify in their respective EMS disciplines every two years. Fortunately, the State continued to allow all emergency medical technicians and paramedics recertifying in 2022 to obtain their CEU's through both on-line and hands on training platforms offered through Cape & Islands Emergency Medical Services and our Fire Rescue 1 training platform.

Our mission of providing life safety services to the residents and visitors to our community is an extremely dynamic and ever-changing exercise. Weekly and sometimes daily adjustments to EMS protocols, community response needs, technology, equipment, fire inspection services, and fire suppression techniques require us to be more aware, better trained, and more adept at planning for and responding to these challenging and escalating demands.

To ensure we meet these mandates our personnel will continue to focus on enhancing our current service levels, and building respect from the community for our organization and the services we provide through continued efficient and effective response to incidents, effective training and strict adherence to our Core Values and Mission and Vision Statements.

Statistics

During Fiscal Year 22 (July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022) the Brewster Fire & Rescue Department responded to a total of 3125 requests for assistance. Of this total 802 were fire related incidents and 2323 were EMS rescue related responses. A general breakdown of responses includes:

EMS Incident	2323*
Fire (building, brush, vehicle, chimney, trash)	39
Hazardous Condition (electric, gas, carbon monoxide)	129
Rescue (water rescue, motor vehicle collision, missing person)	58
Service Call (public assist, police assist, water leak)	144
Good Intent Call (controlled burning, smoke scare)	91
Detector Activation (smoke/CO activation, alarm malfunction)	371
Severe Weather (lightning strike, windstorm)	6

*Includes "Rescue."

Fire Prevention & Inspection

After multiple attempts to fill the Fire Inspector position from within the department we were fortunate to hire the former Director of the Barnstable County Fire Academy for the position in October of 2021. He assumed the daily operational control of the office after graduating from the Career Recruit Training program in June. Along with members of our community engagement team the new inspector presented several fire safety education programs at the Stony Brook School, Eddy School, and several of the private schools in the community during which we educated approximately 300 students. Other initiatives completed during the year with funding received from our state fire prevention grants included the hosting and participation in numerous community events including a Citizens Fire Academy, fire department Open House, Touch-a-Truck event, CPR and Stop the Bleed training sessions, Conservation Day, and the continued purchase of lock boxes for our senior resident lock box installation program and the acquisition of fire safety props, smoke and carbon monoxide detectors, fire and life safety educational literature, and a virtual reality fire extinguisher trainer.

The workload and responsibilities of the inspection services component of the Fire Prevention Bureau continue to escalate in direct correlation with an increase in new construction, increased home sales, and new fire

code regulations. Annual mandatory fire inspections, liquor license inspections, home resale inspections, new construction, plan reviews, oil tank installation inspections, quarterly inspections of all nursing and assisted living facilities, and required follow up re-inspections all place a significant burden on the daily work assigned to the position. In addition to this work the Fire Inspector is included in the department's daily staffing levels which places additional burdens on the inspector's ability to complete daily fire prevention and inspection activities. Future additional full-time staffing will be required to prevent this constant interruption of the delivery of fire prevention services to the community.

The Fire Prevention Bureau generated \$24,100.00 in permit inspections, home resale inspections, burn permit sales and other miscellaneous fees during fiscal year 2022. The collected income is transferred into the Towns general fund. The following breakdown identifies the various inspections completed and permits processed by the fire prevention bureau during the calendar year. These inspections and permits resulted in a total of 1243 individual customer contacts.

Tank Removal/Oil Burner Inspections	124
Annual Inspections/Re-inspections	72
School Fire Alarm Visits	8
Lock Box Installs	18
Smoke Detector Resale Inspections	314
Open Burning Permits Issued	446
Meetings/Plan Reviews	208
Fire Alarm Install Inspections	53

Report of the Oil Spill Coordinator

Between July 1, 2021 and June 30, 2022 the Brewster Fire & Rescue Department responded to 21 hazardous material incidents in the Town of Brewster. These responses included motor vehicle accidents, natural gas leaks, leaking vehicle tanks, chemical spills, refrigerant leaks, and oil leaks. A significant discharge of fuel oil occurred during a tanker truck rollover along Long Pond Road (Rt.137) on June 24, 2022. Numerous town departments, mutual aid fire, State, and Federal agencies including the Department of Environmental Protection, Environmental Protection Agency, and regional Hazardous Material Teams responded to the incident to assist with mitigation and clean-up operations.

Report of the EMS Division

Between July 1, 2021 and June 30, 2022 the Brewster Fire & Rescue Department was dispatched to a total of 2323 emergency medical requests for service. A general breakdown of incidents includes:

Emergency medical	1803
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Rescue (water rescue, search for missing person)	168
Medical assist, assist EMS crew	294
Motor vehicle accidents	48
Transport to Cape Cod Hospital	1510
Resident Transports	1238
Non-Resident Transports	272

**Brewster Fire & Rescue Department
Personnel Roster**

Career

Robert Moran	Fire Chief/EMT	Dean Smith	FF/EMT
Kevin Varley	Deputy Chief/Medic	Megan Przygocki	FF/EMT
Anthony Dalmau	Captain/Paramedic	Alex McHugh	FF/EMT
Daniel Kimball	Captain/EMT	Chris Drumm	FF/EMT
Chad Foakes	Captain/Paramedic	Tim Johnson	FF/EMT
Michael Gerlach	Captain/Paramedic	Phil Burt FPO	FF/EMT
Kirk Rounseville	FF/Paramedic	Emily Higgins	FF/EMT
Joseph Cox	FF/Paramedic	Cole Murphy	FF/Paramedic
Matthew Tucker	FF/Paramedic	Vacant 3/1/23	
Gretchen Riley	FF/Paramedic	Vacant 3/1/23	
Matt Morthland	FF/Paramedic	Vacant 3/1/23	
Thomas Wasierski	FF/Paramedic		

Amy Handel Confidential Administrative Assistant

Call

Scott Romer	FF/EMT	Richard Bunker	FF/EMT
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In closing, our staff would like to extend our appreciation to the Brewster Police Department, Department of Public Works, and all other Town departments for the invaluable daily assistance, cooperation, and support received by our organization throughout the year.

Respectfully submitted,

Chief of Department
Robert Moran