

MONSON FIRE DEPARTMENT 2008 ANNUAL TOWN REPORT

During the past year the Fire Department responded to the following incidents:

Fire Incidents: 280

Emergency Medical Incidents: 945

The Monson Fire Department personnel along with the Monson Senior Center will check and or replace smoke and carbon monoxide detectors free of charge for the senior citizens in our Town. If you would like to make an appointment to have your detectors check, please call the Senior Center.

The Monson Fire Department continues its diligent training program to enable us to keep up with the ever-changing fire and rescue procedures. Besides training at our station, our members also are taking classes continually at the State Fire Academy and other training sessions throughout the State. We also have several members who have graduated from the Call-Volunteer Massachusetts Fire Academy at the Springfield Fire Department Training Facility. This is a very intense Firefighter 1 & 2 Recruit Training Program, which runs for approximately five months teaching the basics of fire fighting and the fire service in general. We have a total of eleven members who have graduated to date.

One significant change that the Department did experience this year was a change in leadership. George L. Robichaud was appointed Chief as of September 1st, replacing Marshall L. Harris, who had been Chief for the past six years.

AMBULANCE DEPARTMENT

The Monson Fire Department Ambulance Service continued to provide both emergency and non-emergency services in both our Community as well as providing mutual aid to neighboring Towns. The Ambulance Service Staff consist of thirteen Emergency Medical Technicians, four of these staff members are certified at the Advanced Life Support Level.

Our Ambulance Service benefits from a strong working relationship with neighboring ambulance services, both Basic Life Support and Advanced Life Support. This provides us with "mutual-aid" Basic Life Support as well as ALS Intercept Service should the need arise. We also have eleven helicopter landing sites strategically located throughout the town to provide an appropriate landing area for both the Life Flight and Life Star Helicopters, which could be needed to transport seriously ill, or injured patients to distant or specialty hospitals for treatment in a timely manner.

This past year many of our residents, their friends and relatives have made donations to our ambulance fund. The Ambulance Service members sincerely appreciate this and would like to assure our residents that the money donated to this fund will be utilized to purchase new equipment and specialty items to improve our service as the need arises.

We would like to remind Monson residents that we offer an Ambulance Subscription Fee Program to all our residents. The subscription covers all members of a household living at the same address. If you do not have insurance coverage or your insurance does not cover 100% and you are a subscriber to this program we will consider your subscription fee, as compensation for services rendered and you will not be billed for any unpaid balances. If you would like more information about the Ambulance Subscription Fee Program, call 413-267-3132.

FIRE PREVENTION DEPARTMENT

The program is described as an "up close and personal way" to teach children. Firefighters visit with every student in the school system, in all grades from Pre-School through High School, and are taught the importance of fire awareness and the dangers associated with the use of tobacco products.

To date we have had seven young heroes in our Community. A young hero is a child who in the time of need has demonstrated skills learned as a result of our S.A.F.E. (Students Awareness of Fire Safety) Program resulting in a significant positive impact involving an unfortunate incident involving the health and or safety of themselves or others.

The Fire Department would like to take this opportunity to thank all Town Departments for their continued support. With a special thanks to the Monson Police Department and the Monson School Department.

FOREST FIRE DEPARTMENT

We at the Fire Station would like to remind town residents that Open Burning, with a permit issued by the Fire Department, is allowed between January 15th and May 1st. Permits are issued between the hours of 9 A.M. and 12 P.M. only. For further information on Open Burning call the Fire Department at 413-267-3132.

Respectfully Submitted,
George L. Robichaud
Fire Chief / EMS Director