



North Conway Fire & Rescue

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Fire Chief Patrick L. Preece

The North Conway Fire Department answered 752 requests for assistance during the 2005 year, 338 of these calls were rescue related, from medical to auto accidents and 417 were fire related, such as the simple debris fire to structure fires. Again this year is an increase of 31 calls for the fire department. Over the past several years we keep seeing an increasing call volume each year, in 1983 we responded to 213 calls and in 2005 we responded to 752 calls.

The fire prevention is very busy also from plans review to life safety inspection and the on going remodeling to existing buildings. The Town of Conway issued 532 building permits in 2005, which is the same number of permits from the year previous but the dollar amount of the permits increased by \$12.21 million dollars higher than the year previous. Fire Prevention is a key part of making our community a safer place to work, live, shop, stay at our hotels / motels and our bed and breakfast and to eat out. The business owners have worked well with us in keeping and bringing their buildings in to compliance, for that I thank all of them for their positive attitudes and willingness to make safer places for all of us to enjoy. This years fire prevention inspections is gearing up for the one busiest construction of large projects this includes two new box stores, one new 100 unit hotel, major hospital project, new large super market, and a 30 unit lot sub division for new residential homes.

The fire department issued 232 burn permits for outside burning.

The operation budget for 2006 is \$360,403.00 some of the increases are due to the increase of property / fleet insurance, health insurance, call wages, administrative wages, and workers comp went up this year and we have a two dollar an hour raise built into the call firemen's pay to increase them from \$8.00 per hour to \$10.00 per hour. You will see a \$2,410.00 increase in the admin budget, this is for a new position for 19 hours a week person to assist in data entry and enter inspection reports into the computer system.

The fire department has three warrant articles on the warrant, which needs voters support for them.

The first article is to purchase twelve (12) sets new structural firefighting turn out gear, which cost \$18,732.00. This is a two-year program to replace the current gear. (Article 18)

The second warrant article is to purchase an emergency response vehicle stabilization kit this main use for the kit is for stabilization of vehicles that are on their side, and also for partial building collapse, which the cost is \$6,478.00. (Article 19)

The third warrant article is to do an architectural design and engineering review for the future expansions and renovations of the existing buildings. We are currently in short of space such as office space, records storage, equipment storage issues, and in need of a female bathroom facility.

I hope the budget and warrant articles proposed by the fire department have the support of the voters of the North Conway Water Precinct. Each will assist the members of the North Conway Fire Department to perform a safer and better job for the precinct.

The fire department is always looking for new members to join the fire department, if you have any question or would like an application feel free to stop by the fire station to pick one up. The membership is dropping over the past few years and we are in real need of some new people. This is a great way for you to help protect and serve your community.

I would to thank the fire department master plan committee for all the hours that they have worked into making of the department master plan. The committee should have the master plan done in late spring to early summer of 2006.

In 2006 the department has applied for a grant for new portable radios.

In closing, I would like to express my thanks to the members of the North Conway Fire Department for their support, dedication and hard work over the past year. Without their commitment, dedication and all of the teamwork we would not have the department that we have today. My thanks to the Board of Commissioners, employees of the water and sewer departments for all their assistance when needed and called upon. Thanks to my officers of the fire department for their hard work and assistance in keeping the department was operating during the past year. To the voters of the North Conway Water Precinct, we appreciate your continued support of the North Conway Fire Department. The officers and members of the NCFD will continue to protect and serve the NCWP and the valley with commitment and pride.

Respectfully,

Patrick L. Preece
Chief