

REPORT OF THE CORNISH RESCUE SQUAD

This year has been one of the most difficult for us in the squad's 32 year history. A series of fatal incidents spread throughout the year, including one involving our own boat, have reminded us that we are involved in work that can be dangerous and emotionally draining.

Call volume for 2006 about the same as 2005, though this year we went through several periods of high call volume, followed by long stretches with very few calls. Our call volume continues to be split fairly evenly between house calls and accidents, with fewer auto accidents than in past years, but more accidents of other kinds. We continue to work well with our ambulance services, provided by the Windsor and Lebanon Fire Departments and Golden Cross ambulance, as well as with the Plainfield, Meriden and Cornish Fire Departments and those of neighboring towns.

The financial support we receive annually from the towns of Plainfield and Cornish continues to cover the cost of operations and dispatching. With the other members of the Mount Ascutney Fire Repeater Association, we were able to add another radio tower in Claremont to help cover radio dead spots.

This year as every year, the generous response to our fund drive letter has allowed us to update important equipment. This year we plan to add cardiac monitors, as well as special equipment mandated by the State of New Hampshire to meet new training standards.

My fourth year as President has been a very satisfying one for me. We received an enormous amount of support during a very difficult time for us from both towns, especially from town officials. Once again it has been a special pleasure for me to work with the officers and Trustees – Vice President Deb Foltyn, Treasurer Fred Schad, Secretary Paul Merchant and Trustees Jeff Katchen, Steve Jameson and Dale O' Connor.

The shift by all agencies to 911 dispatching over the last few years has not always made our jobs easier. While it is now easier to find the general neighborhood of a call, finding the actual house is sometimes still a problem. Making street numbers visible from the road in both directions, and placing them where they will not be obscured by snow, goes a long way to helping us and other agencies find you when you call for help.

If you have special health concerns at your house, please contact us at 675-2221. We will review your needs and develop a plan with you.

Sincerely,

Rob Drye, President