

## **PLAINFIELD FIRE DEPARTMENT**

### **Chief's Report 2020**

2020 was an interesting year to say the least. The Covid 19 pandemic has changed the way that we all go through our daily tasks. The wearing of masks turned out to be the most important way to help keep the virus from spreading through the community. All Fire Department calls and training have been conducted with masks and social distancing when possible. The Town was able to procure PPE for the fire department and it has been put to good use. Mask wearing was a little slow to be adopted at first but eventually all firefighters recognized the need to wear them and mask wearing became automatic at all department calls and training. The Plainfield Select Board was way ahead of the rest of the State when they adopted the Plainfield Mask Ordinance. Because of the ordinance, the Covid infection rate remained low in Plainfield through the end of the year. The virus put most department fundraising activities on hold. A drive through chicken BBQ was held in August and sold out quickly.

With the help of Brad Atwater, Plainfield Town Facilities Manager, several energy efficiency projects were completed at both stations during the year. The lighting at both stations was switched to LED technology and the upgrades were paid for by the two Volunteer Fire Associations. An air sealing project was completed at the Plainfield Station and the two entry doors were replaced. These two projects were paid for with a mix of rebates from the electric utility and town funds.

Several new firefighters joined the department during the year. The Fire Department roster now consists of 33 firefighters, 14 KUA Fire Brigade members, and 2 Fire Explorers. Firefighter Ryan Teffner received his Firefighter 1 certification in Keene and firefighter Will Forman received his Firefighter 1 and 2 certifications at the NH Fire Academy. Congratulations to both Ryan and Will.

2020 was a very busy year as the total number of calls was up over 25%. A two alarm structure fire in April on Colby Hill Rd was the largest incident of the year. Fire departments from nine towns helped battle the blaze on a sunny but windy spring day. Unfortunately, the home was a total loss. Several factors made it difficult to contain the fire. First, the Meriden covered bridge was closed while it was being sandblasted and painted requiring fire trucks to use Ladieu Rd to access the scene, adding more than ten minutes to the response time. And second, the lack of a reliable water supply required water to be hauled with tanker trucks to the scene.

Thank you to all firefighters and their families for their support throughout the year. Please make sure that your home has working smoke and carbon monoxide detectors. These devices save lives. Also, please make sure that your house number is visible from the street so that emergency responders can find your house quickly in the event of an emergency.

## 2020 Fire Department Run Summary

Motor Vehicle Accident	19	Chimney Fire	04
Structure Fire	01	Car Fire	01
Wildland Fire	03	Alarm Activation	32
CO Alarm	05	Powerline Problem	20
Road Hazard	07	Weather Event	01
Medical	02	Smoke Investigation	04
Mutual Aid Cornish	07	Mutual Aid Lebanon	07
Mutual Aid Hanover	01	Mutual Aid Enfield	03
Mutual Aid Hartford	03	Other	13
	<b>Total Runs</b>		<b>133</b>

Respectfully Submitted,  
Chief, William S. Taylor Meriden and Plainfield Fire Depts.



Plainfield Fire Captain Bruce Elder teaches kindergarteners at the Plainfield School about fire safety during fire prevention week.