

Annual Report FY2015

The fire department responded to a total 527 calls during the fiscal year. The following view is a summary of those calls from 7/1/14 through 6/30/15.

Fire	35	6.6%
Explosion	1	0.19%
Rescue & EMS	305	57.87%
Hazardous Conditions	18	3.42%
Service Call	52	9.87%
Good Intent Call	39	7.40%
False Alarm & False Call	77	14.61%

The total number of calls and the type of call that we are responding has remained relatively flat over the last several years. A new software program that we installed last year will allow us track call activity and identify trends that may impact how we operate in the future.

Training

Many changes have taken place over the last year with our training program. . We have created a new position of Training Officer and this role has been filled by Captain Kurt Ruchala. The department has implemented a minimum training standard consistent with NFPA 1001 and we've adopted the curriculum currently being used the Massachusetts Fire Academy (MFA). In January we hosted a Fire Officer I class that was delivered by the MFA and attended by 7 officers and 2 privates, currently all of our officers have been trained to this level in addition to several privates. Groveland also hosted the MFA Call/Volunteer class from January through May. This class had 40 students from 22 communities and met 3 days a week at our Central Station. Groveland had 3 firefighters that successfully completed the class as certified Firefighter I/II. These firefighters are Steve Bartolo, Kris Vallone and Adam Huberdeau. Firefighter Chris Adams was enrolled and did not complete the class as he was called to active duty and is currently serving in Afghanistan with the US Army.

Emergency Medical Services

The EMS operations for the department have experienced numerous changes over the past year. All of our firefighters are trained to the First responder level and our EMT's are working with medical direction

from the Holy Family Hospital. This change allows our EMT's to administer drugs (EPI Pen, Narcan, Albuterol, etc.) in the field and in accordance with the Massachusetts Department of Public Health protocols. We currently have a pending application with the Office of Emergency Medical Services to implement an Emergency Zone Plan for Groveland that was required back in 2006, we expect this approval in July. In order to better manage and improve our EMS operation, have created a new position of EMS Officer, this role has been filled by Lieutenant Mike Lawless.

Fire Prevention

The Fire Department conducted 124 inspections over the last 12 months. The majority of these were smoke and CO detector inspections, we also inspect for compliance with all regulations for tank installations and removals. In January 2015, the state adopted the Massachusetts Fire Safety Code (527 CMR 1.00) based on the 2012 edition of NFPA 1. This represents a significant change in the fire code and a challenge for local fire department's to enforce the new code. Captain Kurt Ruchala, and Lieutenants Al Credit and Dan Briscoe attended the MFA training course to learn the new codes and become certified Fire Prevention Officers. These three officers now make up our fire prevention division and handle the majority of our inspections and code enforcement issues. Lt Credit has accepted the position of Fire Prevention Officer-Code and oversees these activities.

Financial Performance

Operating within the budget requires careful planning and a prioritization of needs and requirements. The maintenance, testing and certification is ongoing and must be performed in order to satisfy all safety standards and requirements. From an overall financial perspective, this department continues to deliver the community with a cost effective Fire and EMS solution. Town meeting approved the purchase of a new Ladder truck and the truck committee will make a final decision in July. The fire department is grateful for all of the support that we've received in going through the entire decision process.

ISO Rating

Groveland participated in the Insurance Service Organization (ISO) survey in 2014. The ISO measures a department's ability to perform fire suppression based on its' equipment, staffing, training and pre-incident planning. The actual rating is then used by insurance companies to calculate insurance rates. Our current rating is a 4 and all of our initiatives are designed to improve our rating to a 3 resulting in lower insurance premiums in Groveland. A full copy of this report can be found on grovelandfd.com.

Facilities

Both fire stations were in need of renovations after many years of neglect. Central Station needed the interior painted and the kitchen upgraded after the Merrimack Valley Nutrition Program moved out. This work was performed in cooperation with Sheriff's Department under the direction of Frank Garrison. New kitchen counters and a sink were installed with the labor being provided free of charge from Dave Niles of Homestead Kitchens. Cleaning supplies were donated by Kathy Prunier. All three of these folks are Groveland residents and friends of the Fire Department.

South station received similar upgrades with the interior being painted and significant cleaning taking place. The emergency generator was moved out doors to create additional work and storage space and a safer environment for the firefighters.

Apparatus Update

The department finalized the plans to create a smaller and faster fleet of vehicles. The plans to reduce the number of trucks over the next several years will benefit the community in the long term. As reported last year, this plan will reduce capital needs and operational costs. The Ladder Truck was approved at town meeting for \$750,000 and will be purchased within the next 12 months after we complete the decision process. We appreciate the support of all residents as we continue to improve the quality and level of service we deliver.

Summary

The Town of Groveland is fortunate to have this dedicated group of individuals that serve as firefighters. We are a strictly call fire department and have no full time personnel. It is through their dedication and commitment that this model continues to survive and provide a low cost fire and EMS solution to the Town of Groveland.

A special thanks to Chief Kirmelewicz and his entire staff for their cooperation and support during the last 12 months.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert B. Lay

Fire Chief