

2010 SUNDERLAND FIRE DEPARTMENT ANNUAL REPORT

www.sunderlandfire.com

In 2010, the Sunderland Fire Department responded to 352 emergency calls, down 2% over last year. Of these calls, 232 were for emergency medical service (EMS) and 120 were fire calls. Over the last 10 years our call volume has continued to increase an average of 7% per year.

Thank you to all members of the Fire Department for your countless number of calls and continued response to calls and participation in drills, training, continuing education. You should be proud because it is harder and harder to find people like yourselves to do this. THANK YOU!

We are always looking for new volunteers willing to serve their community and help provide public safety to our town. If there is anyone that is interested in helping out the Fire Department or becoming an EMT, please come and talk to us or call 1-800-FIRE-LINE.

Important reminders to citizens:

- I urge everyone to **display their house number prominently** to facilitate quick response time of emergency personnel. We continue to sponsor the house numbering program, numbers can be ordered through the fire department free of charge for senior citizens and a nominal fee for all others.
- There is **no parking in fire lanes and in front of all fire hydrants 24-7, including the Elementary School**. Cars may be ticketed and/or towed for violators.
- Open burning season is from January 15th to May 1st. Burning permits are now available online at www.sunderlandfire.com or www.fcburnpermits.com. Permits are required to be obtained **BEFORE** burning brush. By offering permits online you will have a printed permit in hand and can see if the Town is allowing burning on that particular day. Those without computer access can still call the station at 665-2465 weekdays 8am-12pm or Shelburne Control at 625-8200 to obtain permits. There is no burning on Sundays. Burning cannot start before 10am, must be extinguished by 4pm, and must be attended at all times by the permit holder. Fines will be issued for not following the rules outlined on the issued burning permit or for illegal burning.

I would also like to thank the Sunderland Volunteer Firemen's Association (SVFA) for their continued support of the Fire Department. In 2010 the SVFA fundraisers included their annual Spring Flower Sale and the September 11th Polka Tribute. Thanks to their fundraising activities and memorial donations received, the SVFA was able to purchase and donate the following equipment to the Town:

- STIHL Rescue Saw (\$1183.00)
- 3 MUSTANG Ice Rescue Suits (\$2372.00)

In closing, I thank the following for their assistance this past year: Police Department, Highway Department, Town Office Administrative Team, Board of Selectmen, Finance Committee, Water District, School Committee, Principal and Superintendent. Please visit our department website at www.sunderlandfire.com for up to date information on your local Fire Department.

Respectfully Submitted By,
Robert T. Ahearn, Fire Chief