



# FLASHPOINT

Newsletter      Maine State Federation of Fire Fighters

Winter – 2019

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### Membership:

Your current MSFFF membership expired on June 30<sup>th</sup>, send your 2019-2020 membership to your County VP as soon as possible! YOU ARE NOT COVERED

For detailed information about membership benefits, visit our website at:  
<http://www.msfff.org/benefits.html>

Join NVFC! Click the following link for more information!  
<http://www.nvfc.org/join-nvfc/>

### **Advertising with the MSFFF:**

The Maine State Federation of Firefighters is pleased to offer exclusive annual advertising opportunities to select businesses. If you work with a vendor who would benefit from advertising with us, send them here for all the information they need:

[http://msfff.org/images/PDF/RateMarketingSheet\\_MSFFF\\_2018.pdf](http://msfff.org/images/PDF/RateMarketingSheet_MSFFF_2018.pdf)

### **From the President:**

The Maine State Federation of Firefighters just finished another good year with new memberships and having a great crew of Officers promoting us. We are looking forward to getting involved with recruitment and retention nationwide. The National Volunteer Fire Council will be hosting a summit in Cleveland Ohio on Sept. 25 & 26. More info will follow on registrations.

Look over the Volunteer Fire Service Fact Sheet in our newsletter. Should post at all fire departments and town officers. Looking forward to this year's convention in Waldoboro Maine and we still are looking for someone to come and submit the 2021 convention.

Thanks to all of the Firefighters of Maine.  
Ken Desmond, President



#### **National Volunteer Fire Council**

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### **Volunteer Fire Service Fact Sheet**

The National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC) is the leading nonprofit membership association representing the interests of the volunteer fire, EMS, and rescue services. Organized in 1976, the NVFC serves as the voice of the volunteer fire and emergency services in the national arena and provides invaluable resources, programs, education, and advocacy for first responders across the nation. Each state firefighter's association elects a representative to the NVFC Board of Directors.

We welcome you to browse our web site at [www.nvfc.org](http://www.nvfc.org) to learn more about the volunteer fire and emergency services and information regarding membership, training, legislation, and meetings.

This Fact Sheet was produced in order to provide an overall picture of today's volunteer fire and emergency services.

- **Volunteers comprise 65% of firefighters in the United States.**

Of the total estimated 1,056,200 firefighters across the country, 682,600 are volunteer.<sup>1</sup>

- **Communities served by volunteer firefighters depend on them to be their first line of defense for many types of emergencies.**

Volunteer firefighters are summoned to a wide array of emergencies across the country every day including fires, emergency medical incidents, terrorist events, natural disasters, hazardous materials incidents, water rescue emergencies, high-angle and confined space emergencies, and other general public service calls. The public relies on the volunteer emergency services to be their first line of defense in these emergencies. Volunteers spend an enormous amount of time training to prepare for these emergencies.

- **The majority of fire departments in the United States are volunteer.**

Of the total 29,819 fire departments in the country, 19,313 are all volunteer; 5,405 are mostly volunteer; 2,316 are mostly career; and 2,785 are all career.<sup>2</sup>

- **The time donated by volunteer firefighters saves localities across the country an estimated \$46.9 billion per year.<sup>2</sup>**

The cost savings provided by fire service volunteers is tremendous. For many communities, switching to a career staffing model is not feasible.

- **Many local volunteer fire departments are struggling to meet staffing needs.**

The number of volunteer firefighters in the U.S. reached a low in 2019. At the same time, call volume has tripled in the last 30 years, due in large part to the increase in emergency medical calls. Major factors contributing to recruitment challenges include increased time demands, more rigorous training requirements, and the proliferation of two-income families whose members do not have time to volunteer. Fire departments today are also expected to provide a wide range of services and multi-hazard response, creating further challenges for resource-constrained departments. (See chart on page 3.)

#### Number of Volunteer Firefighters in U.S. by Year<sup>3</sup>

#### Number of Fire Department Calls by Year<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> *U.S. Fire Department Profile 2017*. National Fire Protection Association, Quincy, MA, March 2019.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

<sup>2</sup> *Total Cost of Fire in the United States*. National Fire Protection Association, Quincy, MA, October 2017.

<sup>3</sup> *U.S. Fire Department Profile 2017*. National Fire Protection Association, Quincy, MA, March 2019.

<sup>4</sup> National Fire Protection Association Survey. Accessed June 13, 2018. <http://www.nfpa.org/news-and-research/fire-statistics-and-reports/fire-statistics/the-fire-service/fire-department-calls/fire-department-calls>

Year	Number of Volunteer Firefighters	Year	Number of Volunteer Firefighters
1984	897,750	2001	784,700
1985	839,450	2002	816,600
1986	808,200	2003	800,050
1987	816,800	2004	795,600
1988	788,250	2005	823,650
1989	770,100	2006	823,950
1990	772,650	2007	825,450
1991	771,800	2008	827,150
1992	805,300	2009	812,150
1993	795,400	2010	768,150
1994	807,900	2011	756,400
1995	838,000	2012	783,300
1996	815,500	2013	786,150
1997	803,350	2014	788,250
1998	804,200	2015	814,850
1999	785,250	2016	729,000
2000	777,350	2017	682,600

Total Number of Calls for U.S. Fire Departments, 1986-2011			
Year	Total	Year	Total
1986	11,890,000	2002	21,303,500
1987	12,237,500	2003	22,406,000
1988	13,308,000	2004	22,616,500
1989	13,409,500	2005	23,251,500
1990	13,707,500	2006	24,470,000
1991	14,556,500	2007	25,334,500
1992	14,684,500	2008	25,252,500
1993	15,318,500	2009	26,534,500
1994	16,127,000	2010	28,205,000
1995	16,391,500	2011	30,098,000
1996	17,503,000	2012	31,854,000
1997	17,957,500	2013	31,644,500
1998	18,753,000	2014	31,644,500
1999	19,667,000	2015	33,635,500
2000	20,520,000	2016	35,320,000
2001	20,965,500		

- **The age of volunteer firefighters is increasing.**

Departments are finding it difficult to attract younger members due to a range of reasons, including increased demands on people's time, longer commuting distances to and from work, the prevalence of two-income households, and increased training requirements.

#### Age Profile of Firefighters by Community Size, 1987<sup>5</sup>

*\*Mostly volunteer firefighters*

Size of Community	% Under Age 30	% Age 30-39	% Age 40-49	% Age 50 & Up
10,000-24,999	33.0%	33.8%	20.6%	12.6%
5,000-9,999	35.8%	32.4%	19.1%	12.7%
2,500-4,999	34.6%	32.5%	19.3%	13.6%
Under 2,500	29.7%	33.5%	20.9%	15.9%

#### Age Profile of Firefighters by Community Size, 2017<sup>6</sup>

*\*Mostly volunteer firefighters*

Size of Community	% Under Age 30	% Age 30-39	% Age 40-49	% Age 50 & Up
10,000-24,999	28%	30%	24%	19%
5,000-9,999	30%	27%	20%	23%
2,500-4,999	30%	25%	19%	25%
Under 2,500	24%	23%	21%	32%

### Retention and Recruitment Challenges: Root Causes <sup>7</sup>

<sup>5</sup> *Survey of Fire Departments for U.S. Fire Experience*, National Fire Protection Association, 1987.

<sup>6</sup> *U.S. Fire Department Profile 2017*. National Fire Protection Association, Quincy, MA, March 2019.

<sup>7</sup> *Retention & Recruitment for the Volunteer Emergency Services: Challenges & Solutions*. National Volunteer Fire Council and United States Fire Administration (FA-310), May 2007.

Sources Of Challenge	Contributing Factors
Time Demands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the two-income family and working multiple jobs</li> <li>• increased training time demands</li> <li>• higher emergency call volume</li> <li>• additional demands within department (fundraising, administrative)</li> </ul>
Training Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• higher training standards and new federal requirements</li> <li>• more time demands</li> <li>• greater public expectation of fire department's response capabilities (broader range of services such as EMS, Hazmat, technical rescue, etc.)</li> <li>• additional training demands to provide broader range of services • recertification demands</li> </ul>
Increasing Call Volume	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• fire department assuming wider response roles (EMS, Hazmat, technical rescue)</li> <li>• increasing emergency medical call volume</li> <li>• increase in number of automatic fire alarms</li> </ul>
Changes In The "Nature Of The Business"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• abuse of emergency services by the public</li> <li>• less of an emphasis on social aspects of volunteering</li> </ul>
Changes In Sociological Conditions (In Urban And Suburban Areas)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• transience</li> <li>• loss of community feeling</li> <li>• less community pride</li> <li>• less of an interest or time for volunteering</li> <li>• two-income family and time demands</li> <li>• "me" generation</li> </ul>
Changes In Sociological Conditions (In Rural Areas)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• employers less willing to let employees off to run calls</li> <li>• time demand</li> <li>• "me" generation</li> </ul>
Leadership Problems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• poor leadership and lack of coordination</li> <li>• authoritative management style</li> <li>• failure to manage change</li> </ul>
Federal Legislation And Regulations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fair Labor Standards Act interpretation</li> <li>• "2 in, 2 out" ruling requiring four firefighters on scene before entering hazardous environment</li> <li>• Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) live-fire burn limitations</li> </ul>
Increasing Use Of Combination Departments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• disagreements among chiefs or other department leaders</li> <li>• friction between volunteer and career members</li> </ul>
Higher Cost Of Housing (In Affluent Communities)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• volunteers cannot afford to live in the community they serve</li> </ul>
Aging Communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• greater number of older people today</li> <li>• lack of economic growth and jobs in some towns</li> </ul>

Internal Conflict	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• disagreements among departmental leaders</li><li>• friction between volunteer and career members</li></ul>
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**Recruitment and retention of volunteer firefighters are two of the key issues being addressed by the NVFC.**

In 2014, the NVFC received a SAFER grant from FEMA to implement a nationwide recruitment and retention campaign. Through the Make Me A Firefighter™ program, the NVFC has developed resources, tools, and customizable outreach materials to assist local departments in recruiting and retaining personnel. Departments can access these free resources and post their volunteer opportunities through the department portal at <http://portal.nvfc.org>. The campaign also seeks to raise awareness among the public of the need for fire service volunteers. The public can learn more about the volunteer fire service and find a local opportunity at [www.MakeMeAFirefighter.org](http://www.MakeMeAFirefighter.org).

Since 2004, the NVFC has administered Fire Corps™, a national initiative to recruit community members into local fire and EMS departments to perform non-emergency roles. This allows department members to focus on training and emergency response while at the same time increasing the services and programs the department can offer. For more information, visit [www.firecorps.org](http://www.firecorps.org).

To address the aging of the fire service and foster the next generation of firefighters and EMS personnel, the NVFC launched the National Junior Firefighter Program in 2007. The program serves as an umbrella for junior firefighter programs nationwide to promote youth participation within the fire and emergency services community. In addition, youth can use the program to locate a local junior firefighter program and keep track of their hours of service. The goal is to get more youth interested in the fire service, thus fostering a lifelong connection with the emergency services where they can continue to serve as volunteer or career firefighters or community supporters of the fire service throughout their adulthood. Learn more at [www.nvfc.org/juniors](http://www.nvfc.org/juniors).

**• Small and mid-sized communities rely heavily on volunteer firefighters.**

Small communities (populations under 10,000) across the U.S. are typically protected by all volunteer departments. In some cases, however, these communities have hired a few paid firefighters to assist. Mid-sized communities (populations between 10,000 and 100,000) are typically served by departments that use a combination of volunteer and paid firefighters. Large communities (populations over 100,000) are most often protected by combination paid and volunteer departments that consist of primarily paid staff. There are few strictly paid fire departments in the U.S., but those that exist are primarily found in very urban areas.

**44 of the 82 firefighters who died in the line of duty in 2018 were volunteers.<sup>9</sup>**

The leading cause of on-duty death for firefighters was stress/overexertion, resulting in 37 deaths. Of these, 33 were caused by heart attack. The second leading cause of death was vehicle collision, claiming 12 firefighters.

<b>Career and Volunteer Firefighters in the U.S. by Population Protected, 2017<sup>8</sup></b>			
<b>Population Protected</b>	<b>Career</b>	<b>Volunteer</b>	<b>Total</b>
1,000,000 or more	43,100	1,800	44,900
500,000 to 999,999	39,600	4,800	44,400
250,000 to 499,999	27,700	1,700	29,400
100,000 to 249,999	59,000	900	59,900
50,000 to 99,999	48,100	6,800	54,900
25,000 to 49,999	50,600	19,100	69,700
10,000 to 24,999	56,800	65,400	122,200
5,000 to 9,999	22,200	91,700	113,900
2,500 to 4,999	15,400	169,400	184,800
under 2,500	11,100	321,000	332,100
	373,600	682,600	1,056,200

<sup>8</sup> U.S. Fire Department Profile 2017. National Fire Protection Association, Quincy, MA, March 2019.

<sup>9</sup> Firefighter Fatalities in the United States in 2018, U.S. Fire Administration, Emmitsburg, MD, September 2019.

Heart attack is continually the leading cause of on-duty firefighter fatalities. The NVFC administers an aggressive campaign to reverse this trend. The NVFC Heart-Healthy Firefighter Program is the nation's only heart attack awareness campaign targeted at all fire and emergency medical personnel, both volunteer and career. Visit the program's web site at [www.healthy-firefighter.org](http://www.healthy-firefighter.org). Other critical health and safety issues facing firefighters are cancer, behavioral health (such as PTSD, depression, and suicide), and vehicle safety. The NVFC encourages firefighters to Serve Strong by recognizing the dangers and proactively addressing these issues. Resources and programs are available on the NVFC web site at [www.nvfc.org/ServeStrong](http://www.nvfc.org/ServeStrong) regarding a variety of health and safety issues.

- **Volunteer firefighters and emergency medical technicians across the country meet national and/or state training standards.**

Each state adopts its own training requirements that apply to volunteer firefighters. Many states require that volunteers meet the National Fire Protection Association's *Standard 1001: Firefighter Professional Qualifications*. This establishes a very rigorous course of classroom and practical evolutions for basic training. This same standard is commonly used to train paid firefighters. The NVFC recommends all volunteer fire departments set a goal that personnel attain, at a minimum, a level of training that meets or exceeds NFPA 1001 or an equivalent state standard in order to engage in fire suppression. Likewise, volunteer emergency medical responders are trained to the national training criteria established by the U.S. Department of Transportation and other standards setting bodies.

- **Volunteers invest a large amount of time serving their communities.**

There is no national average of the amount of time a volunteer firefighter gives to his or her community. Volunteering in the fire and EMS service, however, is one of the most demanding volunteer activities today. Time commitments include operational responses (often at a moment's notice), training, fundraising, vehicle and station maintenance, and various administrative duties.

- **The cost to train and equip a firefighter can exceed \$20,000.**

Below are average expenses associated with firefighting. Please note product costs vary depending on a variety of factors, and these are just estimates. Certain pieces of equipment, such as radio and thermal imager, may not be provided to every firefighter. Training costs vary considerably from state to state and jurisdiction to jurisdiction, depending on what level and types of training are required.

<b>Helmet</b>	\$ 300	<b>Gloves</b>	\$ 95
<b>Coat</b>	\$ 1,200	<b>SCBA</b>	\$ 6,300
<b>Pants</b>	\$ 875	<b>Radio</b>	\$ 3,700
<b>Boots</b>	\$ 300	<b>Thermal Imager</b>	\$ 1,200
<b>Hood</b>	\$ 40	<b>Training</b>	\$ 7,800

**Firefighting and emergency medical equipment is very expensive.**

The cost of firefighting equipment is listed below. Equipment can range in cost depending on features and specifications.

Fire pumper: \$150,000 - \$400,000

Ladder truck: \$400,000 - \$750,000

Ambulance: \$80,000 - \$150,000

Advanced life support medical equipment: \$10,000 - \$30,000

- **The U.S. has one of the higher fire death rates in the industrialized world, with 11.2 deaths per million population in 2017. However, its standing has greatly improved over the last two**

**decades, and the fire death rate in the U.S. has declined by 6 percent from 2008 to 2017.<sup>10</sup> In 2018:**

- Every 24 seconds, a fire department responds to a fire somewhere in the nation.
- 3,655 civilians lost their lives as the result of fire.
- 74 percent of all civilian fire deaths occurred in residences.
- There were 15,200 civilian fire injuries reported.
- There were an estimated 1.32 million fires.
- Direct property loss due to fires was estimated at \$25.6 billion.<sup>11</sup>

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<sup>10</sup> *U.S. Overall Fire Death Rate Trend (2008-2017)*. U.S. Fire Administration. Accessed October 24, 2019. [https://www.usfa.fema.gov/data/statistics/fire\\_death\\_rates.html](https://www.usfa.fema.gov/data/statistics/fire_death_rates.html)

<sup>11</sup> *Fire Loss in the United States During 2018*. National Fire Protection Association. October 2019. <https://www.nfpa.org/News-and-Research/Data-research-and-tools/US-Fire-Problem/Fire-loss-in-the-United-States>

# Androscoggin County



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## Lisbon Fire Department:



On December 31<sup>st</sup> at 1:43 this morning, the Lisbon Fire Department responded to Wing Street for a vehicle fire. The vehicle was heavily involved upon our arrival. Crews were able to keep the fire contained to the original vehicle, even though another car was within 5 feet of the fire. Thankfully, no one was injured.

**Turner Fire Department:**



Winn Coleman was presented Turner Fire Department's Firefighter of the year award for 2019.

Coleman was also presented the Androscoggin County Firefighter Association, firefighter of the year award by President Ben Limerick.

## *Arroostook North:*



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**Caribou Fire:** On the evening of December 13 Caribou Fire and Ambulance responded to a



reported structure fire on the Washburn Rd. in Caribou. Crews arrived on scene to find fire showing on the first floor. Crews were able to make a quick knock down on the fire and chased it into the attack due balloon frame construction. Crew efforts were hampered due to multiple roofs on the building but they were able to get the fire out, unfortunately the structure suffered considerable damage. Mutual aid was provided by Presque Isle Fire, Washburn Fire and Limestone Fire.



**Fort Fairfield:** In October of 2019 the town of Fort Fairfield announced their decision to begin providing fulltime fire and EMS services to the citizens of Fort Fairfield. Fort Fairfield was an all-volunteer department and contracted out their EMS coverage prior to this. The need was there due to low staffing during the day and a need to provide reliable EMS coverage to the citizens. They are looking to hire 6 personnel to run 3 shifts of 2 people. They will continue to utilize their volunteers as a combination department. Anyone interested please contact the Fort Fairfield fire department or check out their job posting on their Facebook page.

**North Lakes:** North Lakes Fire and Rescue Fire Chief Darren Woods recently announced that his department received a Steven and Tabitha King grant to replace Jaws of Life equipment. This grant will allow NLFR to purchase updated Jaws of Life equipment to replace older pieces of equipment that don't work as well. This will allow NLFR to have hydraulic tools located on trucks at all 3 of their stations. NLFR covers the towns of Sinclair, Cross Lake, Madawaska Lake and Westmanland with 3 stations strategically placed throughout the region.

## *Broostock South*



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CASTLE HILL, Maine — A Castle Hill house fire of undetermined cause resulted in severe damage and the death of a dog on Friday morning.

Firefighters responded to the fire at 106 McDonald Road in Castle Hill at approximately 10:15 a.m. on Friday, said Mapleton, Castle Hill and Chapman Fire Department Capt. Robby Gross.

A passerby reported the fire at the single-story ranch house, owned by Steve Brazier, to authorities. Brazier was working when the flames were called in. The firefighting operation lasted approximately four hours and involved 15 firefighters. Participating along with those from the Mapleton, Castle Hill and Chapman Fire Department, were members of the Washburn, Presque Isle and Ashland fire departments. By David Marino Jr.



**Presque Isle Fire Department all ready for the annual Christmas Parade.**



Regional Ranger Bill Greaves retires at the end of the month after 33 years of service. Bill Greaves started his career in the Downeast District out of Wesley, worked his way to District Ranger in the East Branch District, and finally Regional Ranger, in which he has served for the last 13 years in the Northern Region. There have been many highlights of Bill's career, but some that stand out include being Plans Section Chief on both the Maine and Northeast Forest Fire Protection Compact IMT's and being involved with the Compact's training working team. Bill's organizational skills have helped many agencies and he was looked at as a go to person to instruct fire and emergency response classes. As of late, Bill worked with the Eastern Geographic Area Coordination Center when regional crews were mobilized to other parts of the country, serving as an Interagency Resource Representative. On behalf of the Chief Ranger, Bill Hamilton, we say "Job Well Done" and wish Bill with luck with his new adventures.

## *Timberland East*



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**Freeport:** Freeport firefighters worked nearly 90 minutes Sunday to free a land surveyor who got stuck in mud up to his waist.

Freeport Deputy Fire Chief Eric Sylvain said crews went to the scene shortly after 11:33 a.m., but it took rescuers about 15 minutes to find the man. He was in a pond that has been drained near Interstate 295 Southbound by Exit 22.

“He went in doing land surveying and just started sinking and couldn’t get himself out,” Sylvain said.

“He was waist deep, and the more he wiggled, the more he sank,” he added.

Sylvain said the man was located about 150 feet from the interstate. A Freeport police officer reached the man first and tried to pull him out, but she sank in mud up to her knees.

“So she retreated and then waited for us,” Sylvain said. Firefighters parked on the side of the I-295 southbound by exit 22 and shut down the breakdown and travel lanes while they worked.

In the rain, rescuers laid aluminum ladders across the mud to reach the man. They dug with shovels and used straps to pull the 6-foot-4-inch surveyor out.

Brunswick medics checked him for injuries after the ordeal, but he was just exhausted, Sylvain said.

Exactly who called 911 is still unclear, according to Sylvain, who didn’t have the man’s name available Monday.

While Sylvain said he's had to respond to a call for a horse stuck in the mud, this is the first call for a human struck in the mud in his 28 years with the fire department.

**HARPSWELL** — A fire on Sunset Cove Village mobile home park in Harpswell early Sunday morning left two families homeless.

The sound of smoke detectors woke a couple that lives in a mobile home at 98 Sunset Cove Road, located off Route 123, shortly before 1 a.m., according to Harpswell Neck Fire Chief David Mercier. The family escaped, along with a dog, through a bedroom window.

Mercier said the fire destroyed the mobile home and spread to a second mobile home, causing damage. The family living in the second mobile home also was able to escape. Firefighters contained the fire to the kitchen and living room area. While some of the family's belongings could be salvaged, Mercier said he doesn't know if the home can be repaired.

Both homes were insured, Mercier said. He didn't know if the families renting the homes had renters insurance. The American Red Cross is assisting one of the families.

Firefighters, who came from Harpswell's two other fire departments and from Brunswick, had the bulk of the fire under control in about an hour. It was only 17 degrees outside as crews worked another four hours to make sure the flames were completely extinguished.

"Water supply and manpower are always a challenge," Mercier said. (By Darcie Moore, Times Record)



Donna M. Perry, Sun Journal, Derek Davis, photo

**After fatal explosion in Farmington, he became 'our Superman without a cape.'**

When Gerry Pineau heard about the deadly explosion at the LEAP Inc. facility on Sept. 16, he headed to the Farmington Fire Rescue Department to do what he could and remained to help out through of October. Whatever the need was, he worked to fill it.

Fire Capt. Michael Bell was killed in the explosion that critically or seriously injured six other firefighters and LEAP maintenance supervisor Larry Lord.

"I used to hang out with these guys when I was engaged and before I had kids. They taught me how to fight fires," Pineau said.

Pineau, 42, of Lewiston, is a full-time firefighter/paramedic in the Westbrook Fire Rescue Department and part-time in the Freeport and Scarborough departments. He also teaches emergency medical technician classes.

A Jay High School graduate, he is the father of Trevor, 15, and Allie, 12. Pineau used vacation and comp time and got support from Freeport Fire Rescue to help out in Farmington, where he worked under Acting Fire Chief Tim Hardy.

“Gerry was here from day one. He really organized all of our resources,” Hardy Said.

He also helped get any type of supplies that were needed and food for firefighters and families, emergency responders and about 30 people who were displaced when the explosion damaged their homes.

Pineau’s duties ran the gamut, from making sure the bathrooms were cleaned and stocked with toilet paper to tracking donations and ensuring they went where Bell’s family wanted them to go, Pineau said.

He is the first to say he didn’t do it alone. It was a team effort. More than 80 fire department from around the state helped out with Farmington coverage, not including individual firefighter from other departments.

When members of other departments came to help with code enforcement and public information, Hardy would them if they had a question, to go to Pineau.

“Gerry was our Superman without a cape,” said Nancy Kiernan, the wife of a Farmington firefighter.

“It didn’t make any difference if you need a hot dog or a helicopter, Gerry would make it happen,” said her husband, Jim Kiernan.

## *Tumberland West*



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## *Franklin County*

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Investing in a LOSAP program enables a Fire/EMS Chief to encourage Volunteers to attend more trainings, meetings and most of all fire calls. By posting the departments performance for the month members can see what their calculated contribution will be. As their participation changes from month to month they will see their contribution change. If a volunteer first responder sees their potential contribution decrease because their attendance at trainings, meetings and calls drops then it will give them incentive to increase their attendance at trainings, meetings and calls to increase their contribution. Contact your legislators to tell them that their support for LD 1014 is crucial to retaining volunteer first responders in your community!

# *Hancock County*

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**Mariaville & Otis** : New fire station under construction for Mariaville \ Otis town raised \$750,000 to build a station for 2 towns the old stations no running water, no facilities. Personal is down and looking for more volunteers hopefully will be finished January /February 2020.

# Kennebec County



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**Belgrade:** Back in April, members of the Belgrade Fire and Rescue Departments were informed that a local resident had left them a large sum of money in her will. “It was quite the surprise for us,” said Belgrade Rescue Chief Travis Burton. While the woman, Elisabeth “Betty” Wells, did not have a direct connection to the fire department, firefighter Gene Marshall said she was a “well-known member of the town.”

Burton and Belgrade Fire Chief Daniel MacKenzie declined to reveal the amount of the donation



the department received but noted that it was “significant” and covered the cost of a Sonar GPS-equipped Lund Alaskan 1800 boat and a Polaris XP 1000 ATV with two skid units for fire and rescue equipment as well as snow tracks. The makers’ websites list the boat and ATV as costing at least \$23,000 and \$21,500, respectively, not including the additional units and costs of equipping them with radios. Members of the department said they were purchased locally at Mid-Maine Marine in Oakland and Power Equipment

Plus in Sidney.

Burton said the fire and rescue departments are extremely grateful for Wells’ contribution. “It was very generous of her, and it’s definitely equipment that will be used for the community of Belgrade for a long time,” he said. “It will be a huge benefit for the community and mutual aid towns.”

Both of the new vehicles are outfitted with gray lettering that reads “In memory of Elisabeth ‘Betty’ Wells.” “Now her legacy will live on,” Kemble remarked.

**Oakland:** Oakland Fire Rescue ended 2019 with a record 1,231 calls for service. Below is quick



break down of call types by percentage of the total. These statistics do not include any extra duties such as safety inspections, CPR classes, burn permits issued, emergency

management activity, health office calls etc.

As we continue to service the community we look forward to sharing the completion of our new fire station and the delivery of a new rescue/squad truck in 2020.

**Waterville:** On December 3, 2019, Waterville took a step into the future by overriding a veto by



Mayor Nick Isgro. in a 6 to 1 vote, councilors approved the purchase of two ambulances at a cost of \$131,000.

In October, Isgro vetoed the purchase because he felt more time was needed to look into the matter and make a decision. Throughout the month of November, meetings were held to researched the idea of transport and how Waterville will be a part of this new adventure. The Council meeting held to override Isgro's veto found that Isgro was in

favor of the Council in overriding his veto.

The idea for having a fire base ambulance service started back in 1990's when Chief Darrell Fournier tried to get the service in the fire department. It died when Chief Fournier left to become Chief in Freeport, but just recently, because of large delays in response time from the local ambulance service, Delta, Chief Shawn Esler brought up the use of fire base ambulance be brought back to the table. The thought of having Waterville Fire being a transport service has been researched on and off since the 1990's. Chief Esler finally got the City Council to see that a

fire base ambulance service was a great service to the citizens of Waterville with faster response times service, and revenue.

The Waterville Professional Firefighters (IAFF Local 1608,) President Ryan Cote stated:

“We are very grateful to the City Council and the Mayor for their leadership in voting to strengthen the city’s emergency medical response system. We thank the Mayor for carefully studying the issue and arriving at the right conclusion. Waterville Fire Fighters look forward to working with Delta Ambulance to ensure that emergency responders arrive on the scene promptly when citizens of Waterville have an emergency. Looking out for what’s best for our city residents has always been our core mission and we will continue to advocate for a reliable, state of the art emergency response system that supports the health and safety of the community.”

Picture: L to R: PFFM President John Martel, Ben Jandreau, Shawn Stetson, VP President IAFF 1608 Ryan Johnston, President IAFF 1608 Ryan Cote, Lt. Scott Holst, PFFM Ronnie Green

### Winslow:



After 38 year of dedicated service, Captain Joseph “Rocky” Gravel has retired. Congratulations to Captain Rocky Gravel on his retirement from the Winslow Fire Department. You have been a steadfast asset to our department and you will be missed!!!



October 11<sup>th</sup> was a challenging day for the Winslow Fire Department. A local business that has been an integral part of the community sustained significant damage as a result of a fire. There were no injuries to any of the employees or fire department personnel. Today's event illustrates how each community relies on each other in times of need. The Winslow Fire Department along with our

mutual aid partners and regional resources came together to mitigate this fire saving neighboring homes and historic buildings.

The following fire departments responded with equipment and crews to assist today, Waterville Fire Department, Fairfield/Benton, Vassalboro, Oakland Fire, Sydney, China Village, Weeks Mill, & Albion Fire.

The following regional resources responded and provided assistance, Kennebec Emergency Management, Kennebec Water District, The State Fire Marshals Office, D.E.P., Clean Harbors, & Delta Ambulance. CMP and Fabian Oil arrived to remove hazards.

I would like to thank the Winslow Police Department for their help with traffic control and assisting with keeping stragglers at a safe distance. Additional thanks to the Winslow Public Works Department for helping remove potentially hazardous runoff.

This is absolutely the best community to work for. The following businesses made contributions of food, water, and Gatorade to help keep us replenished and hydrated. Rita's House of Pizza, Pleau's Market, Subway, McDonalds, & Bangor Savings Bank.

And finally, I would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to the dispatchers and staff at the Waterville Communication Center. They were top notch in providing clear and concise communications and delivering on each request made of them.

This was truly a team effort that utilized every facet of our community.

Thank you all!!

Respectfully,

Ronnie Rodriguez

Winslow Fire Chief



In January, five members of Winslow's Fire and Rescue department will begin a one-year program to learn how to administer paramedic-level care to patients in need. The training, supported by a \$36,571 federal Assistance to Firefighters Grant, is part of an initiative in the municipal fire department to address the shortage of emergency care providers statewide.

In the last year, Winslow's department has grown from six full-time firefighters to nine full-time firefighters, plus a new chief, Ronnie Rodriguez, who arrived in September 2018. The original six possessed basic EMT certification. Of the expanded crew of nine, five of those paid firefighters and the new chief have been trained as Advanced EMTs as part of a regional award shared with Waterville. One member of Winslow's call force was also trained as an Advanced EMT. Two more staff firefighters in Winslow will be trained as Advanced EMTs in 2020. With the majority of the department's calls being medical ones, Rodriguez said the move will help the department stay prepared for the worst and deliver faster higher-level care to patients in need at a minimal expense to the town.

## *Knox County*



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## *Lincoln County*

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## *Oxford County*



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### **Lovell Volunteer Fire:**

Greetings from Lovell Volunteer Fire Department!

It's been quite a year! We have all experienced some awesome events and some tragic events. Our hearts go out to all that have been touched by tragic events and we wish for strength for all to overcome the catastrophic experiences.

Here in Lovell we have experienced an average year of incidents and have assisted our mutual aid partners on multiple occasions which has become the common occurrence for the present times of reduced staffing on all our calls. We have continued to train hard and have enhanced our tools and equipment. We've added a Turbo Draft unit to our water supply apparatus and during testing we were able to achieve better than 700 gpm



From that little box in the lake to our deck gun it was pretty impressive. Surely this unit will enhance our water supply ability around many of the ponds, streams and rivers.

We also enjoyed our annual recognition supper in December and recognized the following members for their efforts throughout the year. Volunteer of the Year was David Hockey; Top Responder of the Year was Even Armington; Most Improved Professional Development was James Sweigart; Most Courageous was Jean Whitney for a brave battle with cancer.

Recognized for their life saving effort in extricating victims from a crash this fall was Assistant Fire Chief Steve Armington, Firefighters Evan Armington, James Sweigart, Corey and Danielle Foster and the Lovell Volunteer Fire Department received the Amkus Star Award from the Amkus Company for their work.



Congratulation goes out to these Members for their fine work and to all our other Members for their support during these incidents.

As for Oxford County, if you didn't happen to attend the 56<sup>th</sup> Annual Maine State Federation of Firefighters Convention hosted by the Western Maine Firefighters Association you really missed an awesome convention. On behalf of the Western Maine Firefighters Association as the President, I and all the Members of our association were honored to be able to have presented the 56<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention held at the Fryeburg Fairgrounds in beautiful Fryeburg, Maine this past September.

The fairgrounds proved to be an awesome venue for the event with plenty of space for the vendors and a great banquet/meeting hall. The banquet was one of the best ever and I must thank "302 West Smokehouse & Tavern" for the awesome job they did. The fare was just amazing!

Despite a few showers on Saturday during the parade, which didn't dampen anything, we had a fantastic parade with nearly 90 pieces of apparatus traveling down Main Street. Some of the apparatus came from New York and Connecticut. Thank you to all for attending!

And finally, I'd like you to know the Oxford County RCC is working to improve our radio network. With the support of the County Commissioners and the County Budget Committee funds have been made available to provide for a complete evaluation of the radio system with the goal to provide better communications throughout the county and great safety for all our responders.



**Mexico:**



Phase 1 of our fund raiser effects, was to raise enough money for the purchase and installation of tracks for our 2015 Polaris Ranger side by side rescue unit, so it can be of use year round. That has been completed. (See Photo)

Phase 2 of our fund raiser is to raise enough money to purchase a trailer & snowbulance to haul behind the machine.

Donations can be made to the Mexico Firefighters Relief Association 118 Main St Mexico Maine 04257

## *Penobscot North*



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## *Sagadahoc County*



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## *Washington County*



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# York North



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## Acton:



On October 30, 2019, Acton's very own Rick Smith was appointed and sworn in as Chief of Acton Fire - Rescue. He started in Acton many years ago as a Jr member. He worked his way up through the EMS ladder to become a paramedic and over the years he has worked hard gaining the experience, training, and knowledge that brought him to the of rank of Deputy Chief for the last few years. He will officially take over as Chief on Nov 1st. We would like to give a huge thank you to Dave Langley who has been our Interim Chief for the past few months. His position will end tomorrow night where he will then regain his title and role as our Assistant Chief'

## York South



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### York Beach:



Executive Vice President Mark Gay was given The Greater York Region Chamber of Commerce 2019 Volunteer of the Year Award. He was nominated by Jeffrey Pelkey. Pelkey stated that Mark has been an officer in the Maine State Federation of Fire Fighters for almost 35 years and a member for 40 plus years. He has been a member of the York County Fire Fighters Assn for the same amount of time and was President for 13 years.

He has chaired 2 State conventions in York Beach, 1995 & 2006

He brought the 9/11 flag stitching event

to York Beach FD in 2011. The only stop in Maine.

He was recognized for fund raising for the Pine Tree Burn Foundations bowl a thons.

Pelkey said "For those that know him, you will know that there's really nothing that he will say no to"

Pelkey also said "He does the work. He puts the time in"

**MSFFF Fundraising:**



Challenge coins available through any County Vice President. \$5.00 each plus shipping

70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary decals  
available through any County  
Vice President. \$5.00 each plus  
shipping.



**If you have any ideas or suggestions for fundraising for the Federation, please contact President Ken Desmond.**