



Sandown Fire-Rescue

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The Sandown Fire-Rescue Department would like to report that during the past year the department responded to 493 calls for service.

A reminder to have your chimney cleaned at least once a year and make sure your address is clearly visible from the road. Smoke/CO detector batteries should be changed every 6 months and smoke detectors have a life span of only 10 years. Carbon monoxide detectors only have a life span of 5 years unless otherwise stated on the device. Please check the dates on the on the detectors in your home and replace as needed.

This year the Sandown Fire-Rescue Department has seen some major changes. Chief Bill Tapley retired in January of 2021 and we are grateful for his 12 years serving as Fire Chief and are fortunate he has stayed with the department as volunteer Deputy Chief. I am privileged to step up to the Chief's position. I have volunteered with Sandown as a Firefighter for 23 years, with the last few as Lieutenant and Deputy Chief. I'm a life-long resident of Sandown and will do my best to do what is in the best interest for the town and its community.

We are thankful to our residents for their support of our Per-Diem coverage, which was implemented in 2021. The past two years have been challenging in terms of personnel. The number of members responding to calls has dropped. This is a nationwide issue with volunteer and part-time fire departments. Having the Per-Diem staffing has been a great asset to the town. With the continued growth of Sandown, we need to ensure the fire department is ready and able to handle our town's future.

Last year we hosted a grant for a third time with Hampstead, Danville, and Plaistow for the replacement of our outdated portable and mobile radios. We were once again not approved for the grant. The Fire Rescue Dept, Police Dept and Highway Dept approached the Board of Selectmen with a radio project that would increase the communication capabilities of all three departments using funding provided to the town under the American Rescue Plan Act “ARPA”. The cost for the replacement of the radios is \$223K and with a unanimous vote from the Board members, the project was approved, and the necessary radio equipment ordered. We look forward to taking delivery of the radio equipment in the first half of 2022.

The Sandown Fire-Rescue Department would like to thank the Sandown Fireman Association for the donation of a new battery-operated “Jaws of Life” at the cost of \$12,700. The board of Fire Engineers was able to reallocate budgetary funds to purchase the complimentary tool to have a SET of NEW Jaws of Life Cutter and Spreader which are lighter and more maneuverable.

We would also like to thank Wal-Mart distribution in Raymond, NH for their donation of 47,000 single use disposable face masks. When received, the masks were promptly distributed throughout the community and significantly helped in protecting the members in day-to-day operations.

On a final note, I would like to express gratitude for the dedicated members of the department who serve our community. We value these men and women, both Firefighters and EMT’s, for donating time away from their families on a moment’s notice to help the town and their fellow neighbors.

Thank you for all your help and support.

Respectfully submitted

**Michael J. Devine
Fire Chief
Sandown Fire-Rescue**