

2010 Annual Town Report

In 2010 The Bridgewater Fire Department responded to **5516** calls for services. The majority of these calls are Medical Emergencies. The Fire Department responds to an average of **15 calls for service each day**.

The Fire Department was able to rehire the 1 laid off firefighter and hire two firefighters as result of the passage of the override and the fire department receiving an additional **\$200,000**. I would like to personally thank the citizens of Bridgewater for investing in their fire department for their safety.

The list below represents calls for service in 2010.

- Abandon 911 Investigations – **24**
- Assistance – **270**
- Brush Fire – **5**
- Medical Emergency – **2206**
- Investigation – **719**
- Motor Vehicle Accident – **314**
- Outside Fire – **28**
- Fire Alarm – **379**
- Automobile Fire – **17**
- Structure Fire – **11**
- Mutual Aid – **27**
- Tech Rescue – **1**
- Inspections – **1515**
- **Total Calls for Service - 5516**

The Fire Department continues to be successful applying for grants in 2010. These grants are being used for capital projects and updating equipment. The Fire Department received **\$182,090.00** in funds.

During fiscal year 2010, the Fire Department collected over **\$1,200,000** in ambulance receipts. As our community continues to grow, so do our calls for emergency assistance. We are currently maintaining a staff of eight personnel on duty. This staffing level does not adequately protect our community due to multiple calls for emergencies at one time. We are forced to rely on recalling off duty personnel from home quite frequently. Over the past several years our force has decreased in numbers. To reduce over-time and to keep residents and its firefighters safe we must replace those that have retired and bring our staffing levels back to safe levels.

Station 2 has been remained open with two personnel manning an ambulance and the new Tower Truck. Although this is not a perfect situation at present, we understand the fiscal restraints of our community, but we, as a fire department will work diligently to protect all members of the community.

Members of the Bridgewater Fire Department continue to be involved in the community by helping with Operation Santa, coaching youth sports and helping in various programs through the Senior Center. Members continue their hard work to support Muscular Dystrophy as always.

I understand the Fiscal restraints the Town, State and our neighbors are in. I see it every day when we respond to calls for emergencies throughout our Community.

However, I would be negligent in my duty to the citizens of Bridgewater if I pretended that under-staffing the Fire Department was safe for the residents and your Firefighters.

At every opportunity during my tenure as Chief of Department, I have tried to educate this community as to the needs of the Fire Department, particularly for safe staffing levels. It is a fundamental requirement as the head of a Department that I can be no less than honest – the community must make an informed choice as to how they spend their money.

I am bound by duty and moral necessity to provide true and accurate information based upon my years of training and 29 years of experience in the fire service.

I would like to thank the men and women of the Bridgewater Fire Department who continue to protect the citizens of Bridgewater. Their professionalism and dedication to this community is outstanding. I want to thank our Town Manager Troy Clarkson for his continued support of the Fire Department.

George W. Rogers Jr.
Chief
Bridgewater Fire