

## **Report of the Fire Rescue Department**

The year 2010, yet again, challenged the members of the Fremont Fire/Rescue Department when another natural disaster struck. We experienced a major wind storm registering gusts of winds in excess of 100 mph. As if that wasn't enough, we were hit just days later with a substantial snow storm. In the midst of the storm, roads were closed and power outages were prevalent across our community. As a result of this storm, it became necessary to initiate an emergency evacuation of the Colonial Poplin Nursing residents. Just when things quieted down for a bit, we were hit again with rains causing flooded homes and washed out roads. With the round the clock dedication of our Fremont Fire and Rescue crews, we were able to attend to all those that needed assistance and get things back to normal in a timely manner.

In September, we were able to create excellent trainings exercises for both the fire and police departments of Fremont and surrounding towns. A home on Sandown Road had been donated to the Department over the summer. With the empty building, and subsequently, live fire training exercise, it became an opportunity that allowed us to fine tune our skills in real-life conditions. An improvement to our Department was made with the purchase of a new thermal imaging camera. This equipment helps firefighters locate victims and provides safety indicating where there are hidden pockets of fire in a burning building. This tool saves lives and helps minimize damage in buildings that suffer a fire.

Props to our own Lt. Vincent O'Connor for being selected to play in the Battle of the Badges hockey game coming up in April. He was put to the test and then chosen from many firefighters across the state, to play against the police team. This game is played at the Verizon Center and will help raise thousands of dollars for Children's Hospital at Dartmouth.

To keep up with changing technology and equipment that is necessary to minimize loss of life and maintain safety of our town, we ask for your support of Warrant Article 2 for the lease/purchase of a new combination pumper tanker. This new truck would replace two of the oldest pieces of apparatus which are over 30 years old. The recommended life expectancy of fire apparatus is 20 years. Although we have been able to get by with these trucks, we find replacing parts difficult and increasingly costly, as well as the fact that the older trucks will not meet the safety criteria of current and future regulations. It benefits our Town to invest in this purchase and we thank you.

I would like to thank the members of the Fremont Fire Rescue Department, and their families, for participating in this community service. It is rewarding, but does take a willingness to dedicate time and make personal sacrifices, often at inconvenient times, to serve the residents of Fremont. Each of our volunteer members must balance careers, family activities, and other commitments, to become adequately trained, be on call, and respond to emergencies both day and night. The demands continue to grow as we experience increasing call volume and training requirements. We are fortunate to have each and every one of our committed volunteers. Also, I would like to thank the other Fremont Departments and Town Hall staff for their ongoing support and collaboration.

We responded to a total of 301 incidents in 2010. The detail and number of these incidents is shown in the following chart:

Structure Fire	3	Carbon Monoxide Alarm	8
Dumpster/Rubbish Fire	4	Vehicle Fires	4
Fire Alarm Activation	17	Public Assist	27
Woods/Brush Fire	10	Motor Vehicle Crash	23
Chimney Fires	2	Medical Emergency	160
Mutual Aid Provided	14	Other	29

In closing, I wish all town residents a safe and happy new year.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Butler  
Chief

#### **SOME SAFETY TIPS FOR THE COMING YEAR**

- ❖ Be sure to change the batteries in your smoke detectors and carbon monoxide alarms every time you change the clocks for daylight savings. These detectors SAVE LIVES!
- ❖ Be sure everyone in your home knows how to dial 911 in an emergency and that children know their address.
- ❖ Have a designated meeting place outside your home and teach children how to exit in case of a fire or other emergency in your home.
- ❖ Never leave matches in the reach of children. Be extremely careful if you use candles in your home.
- ❖ Practice FIRE SAFETY every day!

*“Great opportunities to help others seldom come,  
but small ones surround us every day.”*

~ Sally Koch  
in Wisconsin