

TILTON-NORTHFIELD FIRE & EMS

2022 Fire Chief's Report

The year 2022 was a very significant year for TNFD. Deputy Chief Tim Joubert left TNFD to become Laconia's new Fire Chief. With that, Sean Valovanie was promoted from Captain to Deputy Chief. In addition, FF/AEMT Derek Farrel was promoted to Captain/Shift Commander. TNFD has a robust training program and succession plan. This allows TNFD to fill command staff positions from within with strong candidates.

Our call volume increased by more than 10% in 2022. TNFD responded to 2,243 incidents last year. Of those incidents, 79 were for fires, and 1,645 were for EMS/MVA. TNFD transported 1,140 patients to the hospital. TNFD provided Mutual Aid 96 times and received Mutual Aid 88 times. TNFD had 1,152 overlapping or simultaneous incidents last year, which equates to 51% of our call volume.

TNFD received three new vehicles in 2022. A new ambulance, 21A2, was placed in service in April. It is the twin to 21A1. The Deputy received a new car, 21C3, in July. It is a Dodge Durango, and it is equipped as a Command Car. We also received a new engine, 21E1, to replace 21E3. The new engine is the twin to 21E2. These vehicles were purchased through the Apparatus and Equipment Replacement Fund. Purchases from this fund do not affect the tax rate. The revenue from ambulance transports goes into the Apparatus and Equipment Replacement Fund.

2022 was the first full calendar year with four employees funded by the SAFER Grant program. Some benefits of having the additional employees are quicker response times for overlapping calls, the ability to staff two ambulances simultaneously, and the ability to respond to fire calls with four personnel. This greatly improves the safety and effectiveness of our firefighters.

The 185-foot tall communications tower was erected in the back corner of the Park Street Fire Station. The structure is complete, and as of this writing, we are waiting for minor connections to be made before the site goes live. Wireless Edge and the Fire District's lease agreement requires that Wireless Edge provide antenna space at the top of the tower for the Fire District and any Tilton or Northfield municipal radio equipment free of charge. Wireless Edge also provided an equipment shelter with an emergency backup generator to the Fire District. The first tenant on the tower will be AT&T/FirstNet. Once the tenant is up and running, TNFD will receive monthly rent. For example, the rent will increase with more tenants like Verizon or T Mobile. Fifty percent of the rent received reduces the operating budget the following year. The remaining fifty percent is placed into a special revenue fund with the Fire Commissioners as agents to that fund.

The Dennis Manning Training Facility, behind the Park Street Station, saw a third story added in 2022. The facility was also painted to match the Northfield DPW salt shed behind the training facility. The facility was painted using labor from the New Hampshire Department of Corrections. TNFD and other area departments use this facility to practice hose advancement, search and rescue, ladder placement, firefighter rescue, and combined operations. It is also the area where we practice vehicle extrication. This facility, along with the additions and improvements, was made possible mainly through donations to TNFD.

I want to thank the community and community organizations who have helped the Department throughout the year. I also want to thank all the career and call employees who have provided excellent service to our District. The services provided within our District could not happen without our employees' dedicated and professional work.

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Finally, I want to let everyone know that my door is always open if there is a question or comment about the Department or if you would like a tour of our facilities. Please get in touch with me so that we can discuss your concerns. Our goal is to provide a professional service with customer satisfaction and safety held in the highest regard.

Michael W. Sitar, Jr., MPA, CFO, EFO
Fire Chief
Tilton-Northfield Fire & EMS