



# Tilton-Northfield Fire & EMS



T-N Fire & EMS Newsletter

www.tnfd.org

Week of 5/4/07

Phone: 286-4781

## Vision

**SAFETY  
PROFESSIONALISM**

**CUSTOMER  
SERVICE**

## Mission

**DELIVER:  
EFFICIENT,  
PROFESSIONAL,  
HIGH QUALITY,  
COST EFFECTIVE,  
AND TIMELY**

**FIRE  
SUPPRESSION,**

**RESCUE,**

**EMERGENCY  
MEDICAL  
SERVICES,**

**FIRE PREVENTION,**

**PUBLIC SAFETY  
EDUCATION, AND**

**CODE  
ENFORCEMENT.**

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## Red Flags Are Flying

Red flag warnings have been in effect for the last half of the week, indicating extreme fire danger weather. These warnings are issued when relative humidities are low and winds are high. (see chart below) The situation becomes more dangerous this time of year when grasses and other fine fuels are dead and able to dry out in a matter of hours.

I know that some of you are thinking that it is a stretch for me to be writing about brush fires, but we all need to be keenly aware of how these fires can react

during these conditions. Fires on red flag days can be extremely unpredictable. You can expect rapid fire spread and large fire-fronts. Operationally, you should focus on flanking the fire and not getting out in front of it unless you have a lot of firepower.

Brush fires this year usually burn fast and may burn a lot of land, but in most cases they only burn the top. This reduces the tedious overhaul (sometimes) that is often associated with late summer/early fall brush fires. As a matter of fact, there are

many times in the spring when fire will burn over standing water!

So, remember: Safety, Safety, Safety. We have not been issuing permits for 2 days in an effort to prevent needless incidents. You can help by making sure that you have the proper protective clothing available and with you and assuring that our apparatus and equipment is in good working order and ready to respond. See you at the next one.

### Red Flag Guidance/Verification Matrix

The matrix below assume 10-hour fuel moisture of less than 6%, annual grasses are cured, and no wetting rain (greater than 0.10 inch) has fallen in the past 24 hours.

Relative Humidity	Sustained 20 foot Wind Speed (Note: the wind event should be expected to last at least 8 hours)			
	Sustained Wind 6-11 mph	Sustained Wind 12-20 mph	Sustained Wind 21-29 mph	Sustained Wind 30+ mph
Day MIN 29-42% Ngt MAX 61-80%				RED FLAG WARNING
Day MIN 19-28% Ngt MAX 46-60%			RED FLAG WARNING	RED FLAG WARNING
Day MIN 9-18% Ngt MAX 30-45%		RED FLAG WARNING	RED FLAG WARNING	RED FLAG WARNING
Day MIN < 9% Ngt MAX < 30%	RED FLAG WARNING	RED FLAG WARNING	RED FLAG WARNING	RED FLAG WARNING

# Chief's Message

## *Perceptions are Reality*

Janine reminds me every once in a while that the first night I came before the department I used those very words as I spoke about my philosophies and the future of the department. I still believe in those words today... probably even more than I did 4 years ago.

For example; one of the perceptions that citizens may have is that we are being wasteful if we leave apparatus running. This was a topic of conversation at last night's Commission Meeting, as a matter of fact.

Of course, those of us in the department realize that there are State EMS rules that require us to maintain a reasonable temperature of the rear box. There are drug manufacturer's guidelines for storing and maintaining drugs at certain temperatures. There are times when it is not practical, or space is not available to bring apparatus inside a station so the vehicle is left outside running. And, there are the incidents that occur when we most always leave the vehicle running. There are reasons for all of these. Valid reasons. Some may even say common sense reasons.

But... The point I am attempting to make, using this timely example, is that if a citizen sees one of our vehicles idling and has no idea what we are doing and/or why we are doing it; they perceive it to be wasteful. They're perception is a long way toward becoming reality at this point. When they start discussing it with other citizens or see it occurring for an additional time; it is their reality.

When someone internalizes this long enough, has someone else bring the same concern to his/her attention, or is given the opportunity to speak to me about it; it becomes my reality as well.

I think the only way to lessen the accusatory manner that some of these issues are brought forth with is through listening, explaining, and hopefully, educating. All of this must be accompanied by genuine respect for the person(s) that bring forth the issue. Many times I have closed my reply to a written complaint by saying thank you and explaining that the only way we will get better is by having our operations questioned from time to time.

We do not have a policy governing when and where we leave apparatus running. We rely on the good judgment of

our officers and our apparatus operators.

It is interesting to note, however, that Deputy Robinson stated last night that it is no longer appropriate to let diesel engines idle for long periods of time. Something that I have never been told at a new truck delivery!

Also, if you remember correctly, I issued a memo last year calling everyone's attention to the rising costs of fuel and utilities and asked for your help in conserving. Based on the current perceptions that obviously exist, I must ask for your cooperation in that regard again. Do not let apparatus needlessly idle without reason. Turn off unneeded lights and heat in the stations. Treat all department equipment and property better than your own; after all, it belongs to someone else.

My perception is that we have a great group of people working here and you all do the work of angels. The service you are providing is top-notch. No one can complain about that. The service we deliver day in and day out is our reality.

### **Thank you for your service.**

Don't be afraid of perceptions. Embrace them. Correct them if you have to. After all—the are your realities.

*Chief*

**UPCOMING TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES**

May 7, 2007	0900 hrs	FF Survival #2 – Ventilation Chief Carrier Center Street
May 7, 2007	0900 hrs	Equipment Familiarization Various Instructors Park Street
May 8, 2007	0900 hrs	FF Survival #2 – Ventilation Chief Carrier Center Street
May 9, 2007	0900 hrs	FF Survival #2 – Ventilation Chief Carrier Center Street
May 14, 2007	0900 hrs	FF Survival #3 – Collapse Zones Chief Carrier Center Street
May 14, 2007	1800 hrs	Officer's Training Chief Carrier Center Street
May 15, 2007	0900 hrs	FF Survival #3 – Collapse Zones Chief Carrier Center Street
May 16, 2007	0900 hrs	FF Survival #3 – Collapse Zones Chief Carrier Center Street
May 21, 2007	1800 hrs	Acute Coronary Syndrome David Rivers Center Street

## The Anchorage

Earlier this week the duty shift toured the Anchorage property on Laconia Road. It is a very large piece of property and very attractive property for those looking to spend some time on the lake. If you haven't ever stepped foot on the property, you should. You will be surprised at what is located over the edge of the road. We will be conducting a full preplan of the complex in the near future.

Here are some facts about the property:

- ◆ Located at 725 Laconia Road
- ◆ 30 cabins – cabins only have battery smoke detectors at this time.....one of many code violations that will be addressed (smoke detectors, secondary egress and electrical systems are majority of the violations) (picture on left below)
- ◆ “Lake House” – drive way is 1370’ - a dirt road on the right of the office building—you cannot see this building from the road (picture on right, below)
- ◆ Main Office – houses commercial laundry equipment in the garage
- ◆ Apartment for manager
- ◆ Apartment over garage (not being used)
- ◆ Main House/Barn – two unit rental
- ◆ Two beaches, one of which has no vehicle access and is between the main property and the lake house
- ◆ Sun Deck located at the waters edge (old footprint of restaurant that burned)
- ◆ This facility is under new ownership and management – They seem to be dedicated to safety and willing to work on code compliance.



***Anyone Wishing to Supply Pictures or  
Write Articles for Future Newsletters  
Please forward your materials to Chief  
Carrier by Wednesday of each week!  
Thanks.***

**Yes, It's That Time of Year Soon!!!!**

June 4, 2007

1800 hrs Hose Testing – E3  
Lt Ames  
Meet at Park Street

Don't Forget Old Home Day! June 30th. The last Saturday in June. This year we will be opening our station to the public for at least part of the day. Of course, fund-raising will be the goal for the day—selling our world-famous sausage subs and fried dough. Write the date down. Looking forward to it!!!

