



Tilton-Northfield Fire & EMS



T-N Fire & EMS Newsletter

www.tnfd.org

Week of 6/1/07

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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A Memorable Tuesday

Tuesday started off with some excitement. Usually we don't think of a fire alarm as excitement, but when it is at Hamilton Hall and there is a follow-up call reporting an outside fire, things don't usually add up to 0.

Engine 3 arrived to find nothing showing. As they were investigating they found smoke coming from around a fan unit in a basement window. Staff of the school began extinguishing the fire with dry chemical extinguishers. After requesting a 1st alarm and stretching a hoseline, the duty shift

was able to overhaul the area and extinguish the remaining fire with APW's.

This incident should serve as a reminder to all of us that complacency has no room in the fire service. I should note that our personnel were not complacent, at all. They responded appropriately and took the proper corrective actions to assure a positive outcome. But, I think you all know what I am talking about. We have seen the firefighters that throw their gear on the truck (instead of wearing it) and jump in

saying, "aw, it's just another fire alarm." Well it wasn't.

Hamilton Hall is a potential nightmare for us. First, it is under-protected. They are in the process of updating the fire alarm system and improving coverage, but there are no sprinklers in the old, ordinary construction building. Hamilton is the present home of the School's performing arts program and can host events with approximately 100 guests. When this occurs, we provide fire

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Chief's Message

Are You Ready to Rock and Roll?

One of the very most important duties of each of our members is to assure that each of them, their tools, and their apparatus are in good working order and ready to respond at all times. This duty takes on many shapes and faces!

For the firefighter, it means coming to work in the proper state of mind—wanting to be here, wanting to do the best job possible. The firefighter also has to be healthy. Yes, healthy in a general sense; fit, strong, flexible; but also free from illness that might affect them from performing their duties at the highest levels.

For the apparatus and equipment, it means constant truck checks and maintenance. For Engine 3 and Ambulance 1, that means every day, sometimes twice a day, the vehicle are gone over to make sure that every light, every piece of equipment, and every hand tool is in its place and working. For the other vehicles, weekly checks are conducted as are checks after major incidents.

So, back to the title line... Are we ready to rock and roll? I remember when I was a Lieutenant in a small Lakes Region community east of here, that when I was responding to an incident that sounded like we had a fire, I would often say, "it looks like they are going to make us go to work." I always

said it in jest, because that is always what I wanted to do. That's what we get paid to do. But, I wonder if there are really firefighters out there that are surprised when they "catch" a fire, or a working code, or a motor vehicle accident with entrapment? I certainly hope not. If there are, they are making us all look bad.

Judging from what I see around here, none of you want to make yourselves or the department look bad. So how do you do that. Be prepared! Arm yourself with knowledge and experience. Make sure you take care of your body and mind. Make sure your protective clothing is easily accessible, clean, and in good condition. Make sure your flashlight, portable radio, and tool are available and fully charged. And, be diligent and thorough with your truck checks.

Don't settle for 1/2 of a tank of gas—top it off. Don't take someone else's word for it—look for yourself. Look in the booster tank—don't always trust the electronics. You get the hint, right?

Look at it this way: if you are not fully ready to respond and to provide life saving service when you arrive at the scene of someone's emergency because you did not properly check your apparatus and equipment, which caused a delay in the proper treatment or tactic being carried out; who do you think should be held account-

able? The department? The Chief? The last shift? You? Well, the answer is probably all of the above.

We shouldn't have to check the level of gas in the in the vent fan before we deploy it, but we do, and rightly so, to be absolutely sure it is ready. But wouldn't it be great to think that we could rely on each other 100% of the time to have everything ready to go? Think that one over for a while.

It all starts with yourself. That is not only true for the firefighter, but also for the homeowner. You must be vigilant and proactive to avoid the dangers of not only fire, but accidents and illness, as well.

As for the fire side of things, the most simple protection you can have in your home is a working smoke detector. The key here is "working". If they are battery operated they need to have batteries (I know it sounds silly!). If they are hard-wired, they should have battery back-up. And, if they are over 10 years old, they should be replaced.

You should also practice, really practice, a home evacuation drill—how you would react during a fire situation in your home. The most important parts are how you get out, where you meet, and assuring that nobody goes back in.

Accidents and health have a lot to do with self discipline. Although there are always the

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UPCOMING TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

June 4, 2007	0900 hrs	Basic Causes of LODDs Lt Ames Center Street
June 4, 2007	1800 hrs	Hose Testing – E3 Lt Ames Meet at Park Street
June 5, 2007	0900 hrs	Basic Causes of LODDs Chief Carrier Center Street
June 6, 2007	0900 hrs	Basic Causes of LODDs Chief Carrier Center Street
June 7, 2007	1000 hrs	Joint Loss Committee Meeting Lt Ames Center Street
June 7, 2007	1800 hrs	TNFD Commission Meeting Commissioners Center Street
June 9-17, 2007		Motorcycle Week
June 11, 2007	0900 hrs	After the Fire Safety Chief Carrier Center Street
June 11, 2007	1800 hrs	Officer's Training Officer's Responsibilities Chief Carrier Center Street
June 12, 2007	0900 hrs	After the Fire Safety Chief Carrier Center Street



Above is a picture of Hamilton Hall at the Tilton School. Hamilton has an address of 16 High Street, but is most accessible from the main entrance off School Street. Still, it is not possible to drive to the front of the building. This is something that we have to look into—is there any way to better access this building than what we used?

As for the incident; the picture on page 1 was taken at the A/B corner, but on the B side. Actually, that picture you see was taken from the inside, but that is where the window is located.

Looking at this picture, you are looking from the area of the new academic building on School Street, across the walking path that comes off Academy Street. Beaumont and Knowles hall are off the picture to your right. You can see that the building is built into the hillside. There are actually 2 levels of basements below the level you enter from the main door. Both have windows to the outside and are only partially underground. However, it may still be very confusing and potentially very dangerous to be operating inside this structure if it is fully charged with smoke.

Oh, by the way; unable to be seen in the photo is an underground pool off the B/C corner of the building. Just another interesting piece of information to know, in case you ever get toned to the “poll at the Tilton School”.

We keep learning, don't we?!

**Training Opportunity:
Lift Evacuation Training
Highland Mountain Bike Park
Saturday, May 26, 0900 hrs.
Meet Lt Ames at Center Street at 0830hrs.**

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

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accidents that none of can predict and there are the illnesses that some of us are just plain predisposed to, we have the ability to prevent many accidents, injuries, and illnesses with some fairly simple measures. For example: Remove trip hazards. Don't over-extend, over-reach, over-exert. Don't loose concentration or try to multi-task when doing a potentially life-threatening task (driving a car). Manage risks. Don't take undue risks with severe consequences. Eat right. Exercise regularly. Reduce stress.

It is interesting that we put so much effort into code enforcement of fire codes and standards but we put very little effort into accident and injury prevention. When you look at our call volume—approximately 65% is EMS, you might think it would be different. The problem is the audience. Think about how many people would come to a nutritional seminar on the benefits of a high fiber diet. What is the target audience? How much time and money can we invest in that and what will be the return? That is the reality. Little return for developing a program. On the fire side, we have a very easily identifiable audience. The risk of fire and loss of life and property is very real. We protect our commercial base by conducting business inspections. We protect our residential properties by inspecting new construction and multi-family dwellings.

The one variable in all of this is people. There is always a chance for someone to miss something on a truck check. There will always be sick people who need an ambulance. There will also always be people living in buildings that will burn. Hopefully, by raising your awareness of these issues, you will be better prepared to respond, if you are a firefighter, and if you are a homeowner, you will be better prepared to manage your risks.

Chief Carrier

WHAT DO YOU KNOW????

Ladder 1

1. What is the pump and tank size?
2. Where is the generator?
3. How many seats in the cab?
4. How many feet of 3" hose does it carry?
5. Where is the Vent Fan saw?
6. How long is the aerial?

(Correction from last week: The Answer to #4, How many feet of 4" Hose does E1 carry? Should be: **E3 has 1600' 4" split loaded, same as E1**)

Answers below.

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watches in an effort to provide a higher level of protection in lieu of sprinklers. There is a long-term plan to put sprinklers in the building.

If we have been at all complacent, it is probably in terms of pre-planning the building. We do not have anything in writing on Hamilton, except in our fire prevention files. Pre-planning would have been extremely helpful in this instance. I would have identified that our hoselines were not long enough. It would have assisted with apparatus placement by identifying the most advantageous positions for the attack engine and the aerial ladder. It also would have identified the best primary and secondary water sources. The more information, the better. The other side of that, is that you have to look at it—on the way to the incident and during training.

The other Tuesday notable was a call for a tree on a car at Dr Peer's office on West Main Street. Units arrived to find 2 large maple branches on top of 2 vehicles. One of the vehicles' roof was completely crushed down to the seat level. Luckily, nobody was in that vehicle. However, an elderly male was in the second vehicle. He escaped injury, but his windshield was broken and the hood of his car was severely damaged. He stated that he was having a very good day since he was still talking with us?

I guess these incidents are what makes our job the most interesting. Expect the unexpected! If we had to predict 2 incidents that might happen on that day, none of us would have guessed that way!!!

Answers:

1. No pump, no tank.
2. Driver's side rear compartment.
3. 2 in front (one is a bench seat for 2 people) and 2 jump seats.
4. 100' for the ladder pipe.
5. Driver's side front compartment.
6. 100'