

## *Town Report 2010*

***The mission of the Plymouth Fire Department is to protect the general public's life and property in the most efficient manner; by reducing the effects of fire emergencies, medical emergencies, hazardous material incidents, special rescue emergencies and disasters. The Department will continue to train and provide a proactive, highly trained professional emergency service for the Town of Plymouth, to conduct fire prevention, code enforcement, fire investigations, fire suppression, and emergency medical treatment, mitigation of hazardous material incidents, special rescue responses, and public safety education.***

The Plymouth Fire Department continues to strive to maintain the highest possible levels of services. Unfortunately due to the financial constraints the Town has been faced with, four additional firefighter positions were eliminated at the beginning of fiscal year July 1, 2011, this is on top of the five firefighter positions that were eliminated the previous year. Fortunately this past year we were able to hire seven new firefighters effective December 27. Four of the new firefighters will replace firefighters that were lost during fiscal year 2010; one position will replace one of the four firefighters lost from fiscal 2011. Five of the seven firefighter positions will be funded from a State S.A.F.E.R Grant, this grant period will last for a period of 2 years, two additional firefighters were hired to replace two retirements. Prior to being assigned to a duty shift, the recruits will spend up to 7 weeks with our Training Officer. Within one year of being assigned to a duty shift, the firefighters will attend the Massachusetts Fire Academy. Upon completing the fire academy training, the firefighters will return to the Department, certified as firefighter I / II, Hazardous Material Operational Level.

### **Retiree's**

Deputy Fire Chief Donald Brown

Appointed June 26, 1977, promoted to Lieutenant July 22, 1992, promoted to Captain June 1, 1997, promoted to Battalion Chief November 11, 2006, promoted to Deputy Chief September 6, 2009, retired August 27, 2010, with 33 years of service.

Captain Michael McNeill

Appointed January 8 1978, promoted to Lieutenant January 15, 1978, promoted to Captain January 2, 2000 retired January 9, 2010, with 32 years of service.

Lieutenant John Risso

Appointed call fighter April 19, 1972, appointed permanent firefighter June 17, 1975, promoted to Lieutenant July 1 1982, retired May 8, 2010, with 38 years of service.

Firefighter Allen Wall

Appointed July 31, 1977 retired November 1, 2010, with 33 years of service.

Robert Parsons

Appointed January 31, 1990 retired March 31, 2010, with 20 years of service.

**All Retires served the Town of Plymouth with pride and distinction.**

**New Equipment**

A surplus truck chassis that the Department obtained from the DCR is in the final stages of completion. This chassis will become Tanker 3, we anticipate this tanker will be in service by the spring of this coming year. A 22' rigid hull boat obtained from the US Coast Guard last year was completed by our mechanics and put into service this past spring. This vessel responded to several boat fires and calls for medical assistance. The Department Dive Team used the vessel as a working dive platform in an Iron Man Triathlon. Three of our six small rescue are now were equipped with New Yamaha 4 stroke outboards, replacing our aging outboard fleet. In 2009 the Department received a Port Security Grant for the sum of 525,000.00 from the Department of Homeland Security for a firefighting / haz-mat vessel. Due to budget constraints the Town was unable to fund the required 20% match. The Department applied through FEMA for a waiver of the Towns matching funds of 175,000.00. I'm pleased to announce the waiver was granted minus the towns matching funds. We are in the process of obtaining the remaining funds need to complete the project by applying for several State and Federal Grants.

**Eleven Fire Personnel Received Promotions In 2010.**

<b><u>Name</u></b>	<b><u>Title</u></b>	<b><u>Date</u></b>
Stanley E Eldridge	Deputy Chief	October 12, 2010
Anthony Thompson	Battalion Chief	August 2, 2010
Dean DeTorto	Battalion Chief	November 01, 2010
Paul Alden	Captain	January 22, 2010
Bruce Eddy	Captain	July 29, 2010
Michael Roy	Captain	November 02, 2010
Jeff Aylward	Provisional Captain	November 12, 2010
Jeffery DeLappe	Lieutenant	July 7, 2010
Doug Hawthorne	Provisional Lieutenant	November 10, 2010
Jamie Kittredge	Provisional Lieutenant	November 12, 2010
Steven Rice	Provisional Lieutenant	November 12, 2010

**Recruit Firefighters**

<b><u>Name</u></b>	<b><u>Title</u></b>	<b><u>Date</u></b>
Joshua Soell	Permanent Firefighter	December 27, 2010
John Miline	Permanent Firefighter	December 27, 2010
Wesley Garber	Permanent Firefighter	December 27, 2010
Chadwick Correa	Permanent Firefighter	December 27, 2010
Shaune Sampson	Permanent Firefighter	December 27, 2010
Matthew De Maio	Permanent Firefighter	December 27, 2010
Thomas Murray	Permanent Firefighter	December 27, 2010

This past year the Plymouth Fire Department responded to an all time high number of emergency responses. The total, number of emergencies, 11,672 calls, included 5914 fire emergencies and 5,758 responses for contract ambulance services. The 5914 fire emergencies resulted 7,902 apparatus responses for the year.

## 2010 Emergency Response Statistics

Type of Response	Number of Responses
Medical assist, assist EMS crews	3164
Smoke detector activation, no fire	265
Motor vehicle accident	408
Smoke detector activation due to malfunction	195
Alarm system malfunction	359
Unauthorized burning	137
Citizen complaint	17
Building fires	47
Brush or grass fires	84
Dumpster or outside trash fire	22
Lightning strike, no fire	6
Chimney or flu fire confined to chimney	13
Extricate of victims from vehicle or water/air craft	15
Chemical hazard spill, leak or condition	8
Swimming/recreation water/surf rescue, water craft	6
Explosive, bomb removal/bomb scares	4
Attempt to burn	3
Building or structure weak or collapsed	2
Prescribed burn	1
Carbon monoxide incident	185
Assist police or other governmental agency	14
Oil or other combustible liquid spill	13
Arching, shorted electrical equipment	106
Power line down	37
Vehicle watercraft off road equipment fires	30
Smoke scare, odor/smoke removal	64
Gasoline or other flammable liquid spill	25
Gas leak natural or LPG	40
Municipal alarm system, malicious false alarm	18
Telephone, malicious false alarm	13
Haz Mat incident	43
Service call/water problem, good intent calls	324
No incident found, cancelled en-route	188
Cooking fire contained to container	21

## **Several of the more significant Fires During 2010**

The fire at 116 Long Pond Road, this was a deliberate act perpetrated by an individual acting against a Federal Agency. The fire caused extensive damage to the building, displaced tenants and put firefighters at risk. The fire was investigated by a multi-agency task force from the Plymouth Fire Department, Plymouth Police, State Fire Marshal's Office, State Police, ATF, Homeland Security and the FBI

R-22 Algonquin Terrace was a large fire in an apartment complex with limited access for fire apparatus. The structural damage to the unit of origin and attic roof structure resulted in a large financial loss.

The fires at 23 Mooring Circle, 201 Sandy Beach Road and 1119 State Road were all total loss fires and left the structures uninhabitable.

The Plane Crash into the woods behind 100 Federal Furnace Road was difficult to reach with equipment, involved extrication of 3 injured people from the wreckage and carrying them out to awaiting ambulances.

The Woods Fire off Old Pond Road involved a hard to locate fire in difficult terrain which was spreading quickly in the dry vegetation toward a single family home and a housing development. The fire required the use of all Plymouth Stations, mutual aid from several towns, the County Fire Plane and State Police Helicopter.

**FIRE PREVENTION and CODE ENFORCEMENT DIVISION**  
**2010 End of Year Report**

The Fire Prevention & Code Compliance Division is staffed by a Battalion Chief and one Lieutenant.

**Mission Statement**

*It is the responsibility of the Division to promote public safety by limiting the occurrence of fire, identifying conditions that may lead to ignition and abating hazards that jeopardize life safety. Our goal is to provide a fire safe home, work and school environment. This is primarily accomplished through public fire safety education, enforcement of the Commonwealth's fire codes and regulations, Town by-laws and through inspections, plan review and permitting.*

**Training and Continuing Education**

Fire Inspectors attended monthly continuing education seminars sponsored by the Fire Prevention Association of Massachusetts. Current issues relating to fire codes and fire safety is shared among the Fire Inspectors along with updates from the State Fire Marshal Office.

**Inspections**

Ch304 Liquor License Fire & Life Safety Inspections at over 120 establishments  
Statutory inspections at schools, nursing facilities, hospitals, clinics and institutions  
Smoke & CO Alarm inspections for residential sales and new construction.  
Commercial building and equipment inspections.

**Construction Plan Review and Permits**

The fire department reviews construction plans to assure adequate fire protection, smoke and carbon monoxide detection and inspection of alarms prior to occupancy. This has resulted in an increased the workload for the division.

There were many businesses that utilized existing, vacant spaces by rehabilitating to meet their specific needs. Inspections were done to ensure compliance with use of those facilities.

New commercial projects included: new commercial construction and renovations in the Industrial Park, 3 medical buildings, new construction in Colony Place and plans for two significant office buildings adjacent to Commerce Way. With wind energy becoming popular there are 3 projects in the planning stages for windmills.

There are 5 significant residential projects upcoming which include the Village at South Street, River Run, Hillside Estates, Harbor Shores Condominiums, and Avalon in the Pinehills with some now in the construction phase. Multi-unit residential condo projects are in the process of completion, each of which are protected by a residential fire sprinkler system.

The new Plymouth North High School and Plymouth Council on Aging will be significant projects for the Fire Prevention Office well into 2012.

### **Code Compliance**

Complaints received from concerned citizens and observations made by department personnel during routine inspections and emergency responses initiate investigations by fire inspectors to determine if a fire hazard or code violation exists and to bring about compliance through education as a first resort. In the event that an owner or tenant refuses to comply or bring conditions into compliance with fire or life safety codes, a fine will be assessed using non-criminal citations. Further non-compliance will result in complaints filed via the court system.

During 2010, the fire prevention division responded to numerous calls for issues such as: violation of open burning regulations, failure to install or maintain fire protection systems, operating fuel dispensing equipment without proper permits, fuel spills, underground tank issues, blocked fire exits, improper storage of flammables and combustibles and overcrowding of local restaurants.

### **Fire Investigations**

Investigating the origin and cause of a fire is vital in order to determine whether the fire is accidental or intentional, the result of a malicious or criminal human act or design flaw or equipment malfunction, carelessness or poor practice. By finding the circumstances responsible for ignition of the fire, we can attempt to reduce future occurrences of fire loss by, changing behavior through education, altering product design or operation, or promulgating new ordinances to bring about code compliance.

This year we have seen several instances of smoke and carbon monoxide detectors saving family members and their homes due to fires or heating equipment failures. As always, we stress the importance of possessing and maintaining these devices in homes. The trend for voluntary installation of residential fire sprinkler systems is a logical choice during new construction as it adds a fraction of the square foot cost to the project. Residential fire sprinklers enhance life safety by reacting quickly to the heat of a fire, while it is still in the beginning stage and relatively small. Fire sprinklers give occupants a chance to exit to safety and are a proven life saver. An added benefit is that they control the fire and reduce property damage.

### **Public Fire and Life Safety Education**

Educating the public, especially students in grades K-12, about key fire and life safety behaviors to reduce fires and the likelihood of injury or death is the main goal of the S.A.F.E. (Student Awareness of Fire Education) Program. Funding for this program revolves around an annual grant application submitted to the Massachusetts Department of Fire Services. This year the Fire Prevention office received a grant of \$7815.00 in support of our S.A.F.E. program. Our S.A.F.E. program provides a full range of presentations reaching out not only to schools, but also to senior citizens through meetings set up with the Council on Aging. The S.A.F.E. grant supports our fire safety trailer, fire station open house events, educating the public at health fairs, festivals and community events.

Specially trained firefighter's present lessons on topics such as Learn Not to Burn, Preparing and Practicing Home Fire Escape Drills, Electrical Safety, ice and Cold Water Emergencies, Smoke and Carbon Monoxide Alarms and Home Safety Inspections. Fire Safety and Fall Prevention educational programs are also offered to seniors. Scout groups and other community organizations visit fire stations for tours throughout the year.

## **2010 FIRE PREVENTION STATISTICS**

### **Inspections**

Acceptance Testing	1210
Commercial and Residential Systems	
Quarterly	
Hospitals	4
Nursing Homes	16
Hotel/Motels/Lodging	18
Annual	
Liquor License Establishments	107
Group-Homes	3
Day Care Centers	8
Restaurants	18
Churches	7
Schools	14
Fueling Facilities	23
<b>Complaints and Investigations</b>	<b>28</b>
Ch148A Violations	18
<b>Permits Issued</b>	
Open Air Burning	2152
Plan Review	123
Inspection	381
Fuel Storage	65
U.G. Fuel Storage Tanks Removed	29
Smoke Detectors New Construction & Resale	1028
Oil Burning Equipment	163
Fire Alarm Systems	77
Hood Suppression	7
Sprinkler	98
Tank Trucks	10
Propane Tanks	223
Tank Installations	42
Gun Powder	8
Cut & Weld	10
Un-vented Gas Heaters	6
Demolition Permits	17

Propane Cylinder Exchange Sites	10.
Misc.	2
21E Record Search	26
Bon Fires	15
Waste Oil Tank	9
Dumpster	7
<b>Total Permits issued</b>	<b>4831</b>

Gregory R. Kane  
Battalion Chief

### **Superintendent of Fire Alarm**

The Municipal Fire Alarm System continues to grow with new commercial developments. New alarms are tied into the system at no cost to the taxpayer and utilize existing circuits.

### **New Boxes 2010**

7186 Cherry Hill Housing Bldg. 2 130 Court Street  
7187 Cherry Hill Office Bldg. 130 Court Street  
1597 NAPA 21 Robert J Way

### **Incidents Reported through the Municipal System 2010**

2/24/2010 Box 4145 Highpoint 1233 State Road Electrical Fire in a light fixture  
6/23/2010 Box 4281 Sunrise Assisted Living, Overheated fan motor  
7/4/2010 Box 4164 Ocean Point Condos 15-21 Taylor Ave., Outside pull for vegetation fire  
8/5/2010 Box 4123 Jordan Hospital 6 Coles Ln., Refrigeration leak  
11/27/2010 Box 152 Southfield Housing, 105 South Street, Trash receptacle fire

This year all of the older style terminal cans on South Meadow Road were replaced with modern aerial terminal boxes (ATB's). The ATB's make a better connection point for the cables and are less susceptible to corrosion that causes problems with the system. The cable replacement along Warren Ave. continued as well. The snow storm on December 26 caused disruption of service to 2 businesses, these were fixed and back in service on December 28.

Intercom systems are being installed in all apparatus. This will allow better communication between the officer and crew of the apparatus and the intercoms are also interfaced to the vehicle's 2-way radio. The intercoms were obtained through a grant.

Another piece of communications obtained through a grant was a radio bridge to connect the 400 MHz Plymouth county radio system to the 800Mhz Barnstable county radio system this unit was installed in the Chief's vehicle and provides an effective fire ground communications system when Barnstable County units work in Plymouth or Plymouth units respond to Barnstable County. An 800 MHz base station for fire dispatch was also part of this grant.

As always I wish to thank all other members of this department for their assistance and support.

Submitted by  
Zach Lynch

### **Training and Safety Division**

The Training and Safety Division is under the direction of Battalion Chief Anthony Thompson.

#### **Mission Statement**

*The training division is responsible for the development, implementation, design, delivery and documentation of educational programs involving all members of the department. Training programs are intended to improve the firefighter's capabilities while performing emergency duties such as, emergency medical services, rescue and hazardous material response, as well as meeting the requirements and objectives of Federal and State agencies.*

This responsibility includes needs assessment, curriculum development, and scheduling and records management. Courses on supervisory development, new products and apparatus and other specialized training are conducted on an as needed basis.

Minimum training standards are established by Local, State and Federal agencies. Training takes on a variety of forms, from self-study to mandatory department training. All training done by the Firefighter must be documented as required by law. This documentation provides the legal verification for training completed.

The Training division is responsible for the managing the wide range of training related documents, reports and records necessary for maintaining required certification for the department's emergency response personnel. The Training Division ensures the department's training meets, OSHA, NFPA and ISO requirements as well as all State and federal regulations. This responsibility requires the Training Officer to work with State agencies including The Office of Emergency Medical Services and the Division of Fire Services.

The Training Officer coordinates and schedules the department's In-house Drill Program. The purpose of this drill package is to review basic suppression and EMS materials that aid personnel with maintaining knowledge of specific topics. This training is delivered to personnel by the company officers.

In addition to this in-service training the Training Officer also serves as the department's drill instructor for all newly hired firefighters. This recruit-training program introduces all probationary firefighters to the basic skills necessary to survive and function in the hostile environment of a structure or forest fire. This program prepares the individual to meet the standards set by the NFPA for certification for Firefighter 1 and 2. The Training Division began training 7 new firefighters that were hired in December through a SAFE Grant.

New equipment purchased by the department requires testing, evaluation and coordination with other divisions within the department. The training of members on new equipment and implementation of procedures for new equipment are coordinated by the Training Officer.

The training Officer is also the department's Safety Officer. The Safety Officer's duties include responding to fires and hazardous incidents to oversee scene safety. The Training officer also serves as the department's state mandated Infection Control Officer and is the department's liaison to the Jordan hospital. The Infection Control Officer is responsible to enforce policies and procedure to ensure department member's health safety and tracking and documenting any exposures and injuries that occurred while on duty as required by State and Federal regulations.

**Anthony Thompson**  
**Battalion Chief**