



THE RURAL HITCH

FALL-WINTER 2008

**A publication of
Lakes Region
Mutual Fire Aid
Association**

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The Year (to date) In Review

By Debbie Kardaseski

The past year has been busy for Lakes Regional Mutual Fire Aid. Although the year began slightly “quieter” than 2007 (January 2007 – 1,693 incidents dispatched vs. January 2008 – 1,623), it quickly got busier. The record-breaking snow of the winter of 2008–2009 resulted in lots of accidents, especially in February, when 2,044 incidents were dispatched versus 1,526 in February 2007. March calls were slightly higher than 2007 (March 2007 – 1,676 vs. March 2008 – 1,747). The second quarter of 2008 was calmer than 2007 (5,013 vs. 5,841 calls). Third quarter statistics reflect the multiple curve balls thrown at us by Mother Nature. July 24, 2008 saw a tornado touch down and stay on the ground for over twenty miles, tearing up a sizable chunk of New Hampshire. Lakes Region Mutual Fire Aid responded to Barnstead to assist with power outages, road closures, and general destruction. This event was followed two weeks later by torrential rains that destroyed a 100-foot section of the Boardwalk and railroad tracks at Weirs Beach along with many area roads, some of which remained closed in mid-September. September 6 saw more heavy rain from Hurricane Hanna. And in between rain storms, the area experienced several major fires: a house fire in Franklin with multiple fatalities, Mt. Major, The Inn at Danbury, a house fire in Tilton, Lakes Region Linen and another fire with loss of life in Belmont, to mention a few.

AT THE COMMUNICATIONS CENTER

In the midst of all this, Lakes Region Mutual Fire Aid continued to work toward installing a radio fire alarm box system. Installation began last November with upgrades being made on Mt. Belknap. The system is now up and running and available to all member departments. Street and master boxes will be monitored by the Communications Center. Local governmental buildings and street boxes will be monitored at no charge; all others will pay an annual monitoring fee. An informational brochure suitable for handout by System departments is available as well the regulations and an application form. All items may be obtained from the Communications Center.

Other improvements being made at this time include upgraded radio control consoles which will allow us to program new pager

REVIEW – CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

SEND YOUR DEPARTMENT NEWS TO debbiek@lrmfa.org

Please send information and photos of new employees, promotions, retirements, and general personnel news.

If you have an idea for an article or would like to send an article about something of general interest, please feel free to do so. Articles will be published as space allows. Photos are also welcome.

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REVIEW — CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

alerting tones to eliminate overlapping tones accidentally setting off pagers in the wrong community.

When the tone conversion is complete, we will then begin the installation of an MDC signaling system that will allow radios in the system to display unit identification on the new consoles in the Communications Center.

IN THE FIELD: MOTHER NATURE STRIKES — AGAIN AND AGAIN!

As mentioned earlier, the weather this year has been anything but predictable. Typical New England weather — if you don't like it, wait a

moment — is easily handled by most of us. However, this year the area has been inundated with extremes: a dry Spring resulting in wildland fires, then torrential rains washing out roads and infrastructure, and even a major tornado!

The Spring began very dry — after record-breaking snowfall. What began as a small fire on Thursday, April 24, on Mt. Major in Alton spread to eventually cover 30 acres of the mountain. Over 120 firefighters from around the state were assisted by helicopters dropping water before the fire was declared out on Saturday, April 26.

Thursday, July 24 turned out to be a very bad day for many people in New Hampshire. For the first time in recent memory (ever?) a

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Beecham Road, Barnstead, after the tornado tore through the area.

THE RURAL HITCH

is published quarterly by
Lakes Region
Mutual Fire Aid Association

Chief
Douglas M. Aiken

Deputy Chief
Richard Heinis

Editor
Debbie Kardaseski

Email all submissions to:
debbiek@lrmfa.org



violent storm tore through the middle of New Hampshire, damaging over 100 homes, killing one, and injuring several others. It was eventually determined to be a tornado that stayed on the ground for over twenty miles. Epsom, Deerfield, Northwood and Barnstead suffered heavy damage, with the worst destruction occurring around Northwood Lake.

Damage was typical of tornadoes: one home would remain unscathed while the neighboring home would receive heavy damage. Power lines and trees were down throughout the area.

LRMFA immediately organized an emergency task force. Personnel and apparatus from throughout the system were sent to Barnstead Station 1. The EOC was set up at Station 2. Crews worked through the afternoon, evening and next day to open up roads and provide whatever emergency assistance necessary.

Federal disaster assistance was made available, but months after the event, many homes and roads remain damaged.

Several weeks later, the Lakes Region was inundated with heavy rains, resulting in the death of a 7-year-old girl in Ashland when a flash flood hit the road her family's SUV was traveling on. Additionally, there was severe damage to major roads throughout the area. A section of

the Boardwalk and railroad tracks at Weirs Beach washed out, as did parts of Route 106 and Winona Road. It was months before all roads were open.

BUILDING FIRES

It has been a difficult year for firefighters in the System. Early Easter morning, March 24, fire tore through a carriage house in Franklin and resulted in the loss of three lives. Two young girls who were sleeping in the building, which was the family's recreation room, perished. They had been decorating the room in preparation for Easter festivities. Their parents awoke to the smell of smoke and immediately called 9-1-1. The girls' mother died trying to save them. The building was balloon construction over 100 years old and was quickly engulfed. Along with Franklin, Tilton-Northfield, Hill and Belmont Fire Departments responded.

A three-alarm fire destroyed a home in Belmont on June 19. In addition to Belmont, Tilton-Northfield, Gilford, Franklin, Gilmanton, Alton, Barnstead and Meredith assisted with fighting the fire. Sanbornton, Loudon and Meredith EMS provided station coverage. Lakes Region Mutual Fire provided communications coordination at the scene. No one was injured, but the home was a total loss.

Friday, August 15 saw the Inn at Danbury living quarters burn. The Inn itself remained unscathed but the attached home was uninhabitable. This four-alarm fire drew firefighters from Danbury, Bristol, Grafton, Hebron, Bridgewater, New Hampton, Ashland and Meredith.

On August 19, another home was destroyed in Tilton in a two-alarm fire. A four-year-old is credited with waking the family and thus everyone, including the dog, was able to escape. The Tilton-Northfield department was assisted by Belmont, Franklin, Sanbornton, Laconia and Gilford.

Lakes Region Linen lost its main plant on Opechee Street in Laconia late Thursday evening, September 4. This fire went to three alarms and could be seen with LRMFA's rooftop camera. A neighboring home was saved from any damage, even though it sat within 20 feet of the fire! Departments responding included Laconia, Belmont, Meredith, Tilton-Northfield, Gilmanton, Bristol, Alton, Holderness and Moultonborough.

Belmont was the scene of another fatal fire on September 24. The fire was discovered by a respiratory nurse on his way to deliver medical supplies to the house. Complicating this mobile home fire was the presence of guns and ammunition. Both Belmont and Laconia Fire Departments fought this blaze.



The Boardwalk and railroad tracks at Weirs Beach sustained heavy damage in August.

MEMBER RESOURCES

Through all the year's events, the value of mutual aid has been proven over and over again. No single department could have handled these events and, without mutual aid, there could have been more injuries or loss of life, and there certainly would have been more property damage.

This year, LRMFA created a "Member Manual." This resource is available to all member community departments and will prove to be a valuable training tool. It answers many questions departments may have as well as puts everyone "on the same page" as far as procedures at the Center. Standardized forms are included in the appendices and are available to copy, although some are clearly marked "sample" and not to be copied!

The *Rural Hitch* continues to be published quarterly and is well received by member departments as well as officials around the state. It is a great resource for departments to let others know of their accomplishments, new personnel, new apparatus, training opportunities, etc.

Association meetings give members the opportunity to meet and discuss common issues as well as swap ideas. These are held every other month at various departments throughout the system. All member departments are encouraged to attend.

The Training and Education Committee has been active this year. A recent "Beyond Hoses and Helmets" seminar was well attended and provided useful information on issues peculiar to volunteer/call departments.

As you can see, it has been a busy ten months. The Communications Center has handled numerous large disasters and provided organization and guidance in chaotic situations.



NH Route 106 washed out August 7 after torrential rain hit the area.

UPDATE

As this issue of *Rural Hitch* was heading to press, LRMFA was coordinating a task force headed to southwestern New Hampshire to assist area departments exhausted by the aftermath of a major ice storm. The state faced the largest power outages in its history beginning Dec. 11, when freezing rain coated the middle and southern parts of the state. As of Dec. 19, roads remained closed and approximately 44,000 people were still without power. School districts in

some areas closed until January 5. Fire departments and emergency services all over the Monadnock Region requested help after spending 4-5 days trying to clean up and handle things on their own. Crews were exhausted and not working at their best. Departments in the Lakes Region Mutual Fire Aid system responded. Two different groups spent 24 hours in the area. The second group was heading home, hopefully ahead of what was promising to be the first major snowstorm of the winter. 🚒



Answering a call for help from the Peterborough/Jaffrey area, where emergency responders are worn out from dealing with the aftermath of the Dec. 11 ice storm, five engines from local fire departments assembled at LRMFA's Communications Center before heading down to the southwest part of the state.

(Laconia Daily Sun photo/Adam Drapcho)

Featured department...

Franklin Fire and Emergency Services



Chief Scott R. Clarenbach
Franklin Fire and Emergency Services

07 — FRANKLIN FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES

Fire Chief: Scott R. Clarenbach

Address: 59 West Bow Street
Franklin, NH 03235
603-934-2205

sclarenbach@franklinnh.org
www.franklinnh.org/coffire.htm

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1 Utility
1 Utility Bucket Truck
(Fire Alarm Division)

Franklin Fire Department has a long and interesting history. Franklin became a city in 1895 and is the smallest city in the state with a population of approximately 8,700.

It has been a mill town since the 1800s but, like so many mill towns in New Hampshire, it has seen its local industrial base change.

The Fire Department was established in 1828 and has offered 24/7 coverage since the 1950s. There has been a fulltime chief since the 1930s, with the early chiefs actually living at the station with their family, which must have been interesting! The city's first station was on Central Street; later it was moved to West Bow Street, just a few doors down from the present location where it's been since 1970. There was a West Franklin Station for awhile but it was demolished in 1993.

The Department's history is fairly well documented, both in writing and in its own museum located behind the station. Inside that museum are lots of interesting and one-of-a-kind items, each with its own story to tell. But that is a story for another article!

Chief Scott Clarenbach has been involved with Franklin Fire Department since the late 1970s. When asked how he originally became interested, I assumed he had grown



up in a firefighting family, as so many of the System's firefighters did. His route to the fire service was somewhat different! His Dad was in the local Rotary Club and Scott joined him at a meeting where Capt. Jim Dion spoke about the Explorers group. Dion said, "You can't find a better job!" and Scott was hooked! He joined the Explorers and worked his way up through the department. Clarenbach attended Lakes Region Community College, known then as NHTI, graduating in 1983. He worked as a career firefighter at UNH and became a career firefighter in



Franklin Fire and Emergency Services.

Franklin in December 1984. In 1993, he became Chief. At this time, he is planning to retire in early 2009.

One of the bigger hurdles the department is facing – along with most other departments in the state – is getting younger people involved. Franklin still operates an Explorer program, begun in 1976, but it is harder to attract young folks. The Chief said you need to get kids involved before they get their license, because then they're off doing other things and the fire service doesn't hold their attention as well.

Another challenge Franklin Fire Department faces is that of the tax cap instituted in the late 1980s. After functioning under this restraint for 20+ years, he only said, "You must make wiser decisions." There is no room for mistakes when purchasing items and sometimes you have to "make do" when you'd rather not.

The Chief has a strong stance on being able to respond to any emergency. Their heavy rescue is equipped for technical rescues: swift water and ice, ropes and confined spaces, trench and building collapses and unusual auto and machinery (farm and industrial) rescues. All Franklin firefighters, whether call or career, must chose one area of rescue expertise. There are monthly drills to keep people sharp.

Through its long history, Franklin Fire Department has lost four firefighters in the line of duty. The city has seen some large fires, including the Grevior Furniture Fire in 1981 where 125 firefighters from around the area fought a stubborn blaze in the downtown area.

By far the worst recent fire was on Easter Sunday this year when a family lost its mother and two daughters. The family was well-known in the area and it was quite a shock to all involved.



Franklin Fire and Emergency Services.

Chief Clarenbach's department faces ongoing issues with the old mill housing. Much of it is not up to code and because Franklin has become known for its inexpensive housing, this type of housing isn't going away any time soon. The city has developed a proactive stance, however, and will not pay any subsidized housing costs until a landlord has brought the building to meet minimal standards. Because the Fire Inspector, Building Inspector and Health Officer all work for the Fire Department, they communicate efficiently and inspections are han-

dled quickly. Rent monies are placed in an escrow account until deficiencies are rectified. This has forced housing to gradually improve in the city.

The Chief looks forward to retirement and feels he will be leaving a department that's running well. It is a good group of folks, both the career and call firefighters. If you are interested in a more detailed history of the department, there is a book available as well as access to the museum. An updated history is in the works and should be available within a year. 



A view inside Franklin Fire and Emergency Services museum. This is an interesting exhibit and is open to the public by checking in at the station first.

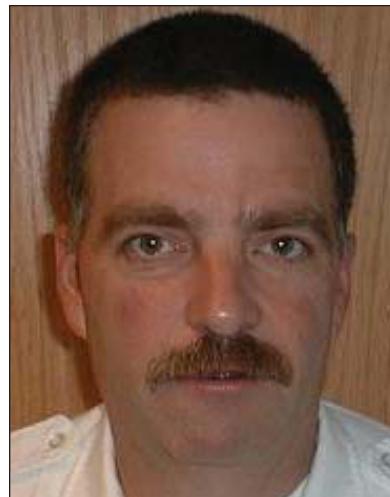
New Employees, Promotions, Retirements...



Chief Norm Skantze
Bristol Fire Dept.
Retired from Bristol. Now at Swanzey.



Chief Dave Clement
New Hampton Fire Dept.
Retired



Chief K.G. Lockwood
Gilmanton Fire Dept.
New Chief



Deputy Chief Richard Heinis
Lakes Region Mutual Fire Aid
Promoted to Deputy Chief,
temporary, part-time.



Michael Balcom
Gilford Fire Department
Promoted to Captain.

**SEND YOUR
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**Please send information
and photos of new appa-
ratus, employees, pro-
motions, retirements,
personnel news and
information of general
interest to the System.**

New Equipment...



Campton-Thornton. 35Engine1
The truck was built by Rosenbauer on a
Spartan Diamond chassis. It has a
1,500 GPM pump and a 2,500 gallon tank.

Gilford Deputy Chief John Beland “Firefighter Person of the Year”

On October 1, Gilford Deputy Chief John Beland was presented with the Firefighter Person of the Year Award by the New Hampshire Chiefs of Police Law Enforcement Foundation at a dinner held at the Radisson Hotel in Manchester. The keynote speaker at the dinner was Governor John Lynch who was joined by Commissioner of Safety John Bartheleme.

The Law Enforcement Foundation is a resource for the needs of all police, fire and EMS personnel and their families when dealing with a crisis or catastrophe. The Foundation assists with expenses not covered by insurance, employers or workers compensation.

Deputy Beland was honored for his service within the Gilford Department as well as his community involvement. It was that involvement that resulted in the award. John passionately supports our veterans and active military families. He is a member of the Patriot Guard, a group which provides motorcycle processions for military funerals at the request of families.



Gilford Deputy Chief John Beland (right) is joined by his wife, Sandy, and Governor John Lynch after receiving the Firefighter Person of the Year Award from the NH Chiefs of Police Law Enforcement Foundation.

He is personally involved in supporting two Gilford military families while the husbands are fulfilling their service in Iraq. He organizes an annual fundraiser for the St. Baldrick's Foundation, raising money to fight childhood cancer. To date, these local fundraisers have raised more than \$50,000. Deputy Beland is also a member of the

Board of Directors for the Leadership Lakes Region Program.

In addition to the “Firefighter Person of the Year” award, Deputy Beland has received the John T. Ayers Fire Instructor of the Year Award and the NH Fire Academy Award.

Congratulations, Deputy Beland, on receiving this honor. 

Meredith's New Fire Station Nears Completion!



After years of planning and months of hard work, the Meredith Fire Station renovations/addition are nearing completion. Office equipment and apparatus will be moved into the addition on Tuesday, Dec. 24. Once the older section of the building is emptied, renovations will begin there. The entire project will be completed in late Spring of 2009. Photo above, left shows the new bays where apparatus will be housed. Behind this area is state-of-the-art storage for firefighter gear, including an area to hose down gear while still wearing it along with ventilated “locker” areas to pull smoke odors away from gear when it is being stored. On the right is a shot of the addition. It blends nicely with the original building and is something all Meredith residents should be proud of. The next issue of the *Rural Hitch* will have photos of the completed project.

Keep It In-service

Glenn Davis, Lakes Region Fire Apparatus

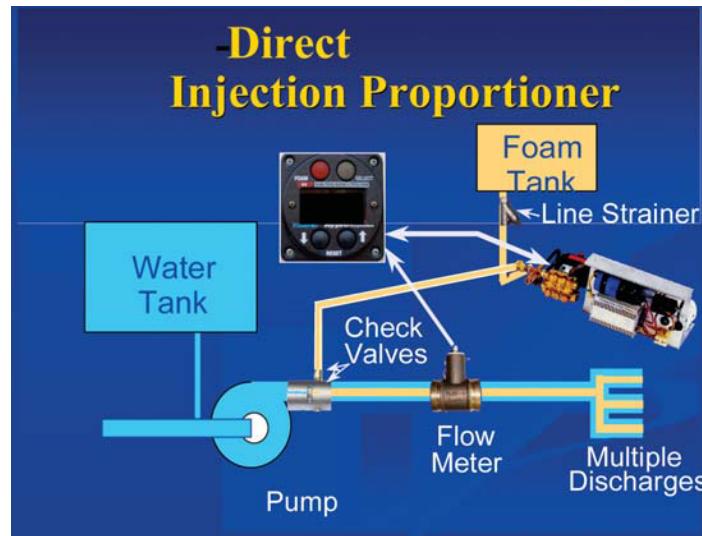
Foam Systems Part II

In the last issue of *Keep It In-service*, we touched on the basics of eductor type foam systems.

In this issue we will explore foam injection systems and, for the purposes of this article, we have chosen Foam Pro and Foam Logix. Foam injection systems operate in a much different manner than their counterpart, the eductor systems. In a nutshell, foam injection systems measure water flow, calculate the amount of concentrate required for that flow and inject it into a discharge waterway.

There are several very large differences in the two types systems.

1. The most common foam injection systems only allow finished foam solution to be produced in pre-designated discharges. When specifying or retrofitting a foam-capable apparatus, one must decide which lines will be foam capable. For instance, crosslays, front bumper discharge and a rear 2-1/2" are the most common. Other considerations are: What is the foam to be used for; what type of foam is to be utilized; and what are the required flow rates of that foam. For instance, the most common "Class A" foam is used in percentages from .01-1.0%, with a common starting point of .02-.03% and "Class B" foam is commonly used with 1, 3, 3-6 and 6% type concentrates. As you can see, foam flow rates



can vary from as little as one gallon of concentrate per 1,000 gallons of water to as much as six gallons of concentrate per 100 gallons of water, a rate which is drastically different from one product to the other. Selecting the proper system and concentrate is critical for obtaining the mission goals of that apparatus.

An example of an injection system plumbing layout is above.

2. The foam injection system can be much simpler to operate. Today's injection system is designed to be very operator friendly. The norm includes LED readout screens and buttons big enough to be operated with a gloved hand. Injection systems can be operated from draft as well as while taking water from a pressurized source, unlike the eductor, which prefers a neg-



ative pressure condition within the pump.

3. Other common features include: Programmable injection percentage, changes of the injection rate on the fly, instant notification of GPM and total gallons of water being flowed through the discharge manifold, as well as total of gallons of foam used.
4. These systems are performance rated in a way similar to the eductor. For instance Hale (aka, Foam Logix) labels their systems 2.1 (2.1 gpm), 3.3 (3.3 gpm) and 5.0 (5.0 gpm). Hypro (aka, Foam Pro) uses model numbers and requires a bit more research 1600 (1.7 gpm), 1601 (1.0 GPM), 2001 (2.6 GPM) and 2002 (5.0 GPM). Foam Pro also has high-end units available that are hydraulically driven, which include the 3000 series and Accumax, featuring a hydraulically-driven gear pump. Either unit will allow for very little water flow or a higher flow and are not pressure critical as the eductors are.
5. Both of the manufacturers referenced above have similar features built into their operating platforms. Low-level sensors are required to be installed in the tanks to prevent dry running of the injection pump. A visual warning on the control head complements this feature. Flow meters are required to provide a GPM signal to the control head. The injection pump on either unit that we com-

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monly see is a high-performance piston-type pressure pump of either two or three pistons, depending on foam concentrate flow requirements driven by a sealed electric motor. Both units require calibration upon original installation, as well as when changing brands of foam and, according to the NFPA, shall be checked and recalibrated annually along with a foam system service. Both units are also equipped with a visual warning if the system is flowed at or near its rated

capacity. Either of the manufacturer's units will inject foam upwards of 400 PSI making them ideal for forestry and high-elevation high-PSI challenges. Lastly, both units can be turned on or off at any time, and when on, remain at the ready. They will only function when water is discharged from a foam-capable line, preventing any worries about overheating due to lack of product movement. Both manufacturers can provide you with selector valve systems that can flow both A and B foams with an auto-

matic flush cycle between the concentrate selections, allowing for deployments of either foam from the same system.

6. These units, while having great benefits for ease of use and self-preservation, are not without some unique faults. For instance, when selecting a foam percentage, all of the foam capable lines will be flowed at the selected foam injection percentage. So, if one is thinking multiple foam lines, combined with the flexibility of different percentages on each line, then the

upper end of the foam units is where you will need to be, so prepare yourself for the sticker shock.

Lastly, typical clean up with foam systems can be a daunting task and often is not done as well as it should be. However, injection-type foam system clean up is a snap. A general rule of thumb for clean up is flush the lines until they are flowing clean water and the manifold/pump flush is completed; refill the tank; check and clean your strainers – for a total of 15 minutes work compared to the hour plus of a standard eductor-type system and you're done. 

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- SCOTT - *SCBA's, Air Purifying*
- SHO-ME - *Dash & Grill Lights*
- SPERIAN - *Turnout Gear (Securitex)*
- STEARNS - *Flotation Vests & Suits*
- STREAMLIGHT - *Hand Lights*
- TACTICAL 5.11 - *Clothing*
- TEMPEST - *PPV Fans*
- TFT - *Nozzles & Valves*

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- Portable Pumps (*Any Brand*)
- Rescue Tools (*AMKUS*)
- Turnout Gear (*Any Brand*)
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Employee Spotlight...

Bob Magoon



Lt. Bob Magoon is the senior lieutenant at Lakes Region Mutual Fire. He joined the staff in October 2001. Prior to that, he spent ten years in law enforcement in the North Country. Bob also served for many years with the Ashland Fire Department.

He gets a great deal of satisfaction from his job here at LRMFA, and likes coming to work every single day. The variety of challenges presented keeps the job interesting. Like other staff members, he enjoys the schedule, but he also looks forward to interacting with the people on the "other side of the radio." Through the years, he's had the opportunity to meet numerous people and form some great friendships, both here at the Communications Center and in the field.

Bob characterizes himself as an "adrenalin junkie": The busier, the better! Even though dispatchers aren't actually in the field handling the calls, a high level of activity provides the same type of excitement. Because of his experience, he knows pretty much what the folks in the field are doing and is able to anticipate their needs.

He lives in Belmont with his wife of 23 years, Lisa. He has one daughter, Rebecca (Becca), 22, and a son, Ross, soon to be 21. Ross has followed in his father's footsteps and is currently working on his degree in fire science at the Community College here in Laconia. Bob recently became a very proud grandfather for the first time.

Third Quarter Statistics...

From July 1, 2008–September 30, 2008

Incidents Dispatched:	July 2008	2,042
	August 2008	2,058
	September 2008	1,576
	October 2008	1,720
	November 2008	1,452
	December (as of 1200 12/19)	1,471
	Total	10,319
	2008 YTD Total	20,427

Resources Available:

Engines	102	Tankers	15
Ladders	9	Rescues	21
Forestry	32	Ambulances	38
Utilities	5	Fire Boats	14
Towers	4		



Statistics:

- Began operations in September of 1971. Moved operations to our current facility in June of 2000.
- Dispatches Fire and Medical Emergencies for 36 communities and 37 Fire and EMS Agencies.
- Serves a population of 117,518 residents (2006 Estimate).
- Is spread over 5 NH Counties, covering a geographical area of 1,494 square miles (16% of the area of the State of NH – 1.5 times the size of the state of Rhode Island).
- Protects over \$20.4 billion dollars of property (2006 Valuation).
- Has an operating budget of \$906,978 (2007 budget).
- Has 10 full-time and 8 part-time employees.
- Dispatched 21,591 incidents during 2007 (59.15 calls per day).
- Dispatched 21,295 incidents during 2006 (58.34 calls per day).
- Dispatched 21,441 incidents during 2005 (58.7 calls per day).



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Scenes from “Beyond Hoses & Helmets” Seminar, Oct. 26, 2008



OUR THANKS TO THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT CENTER FOR THEIR SUPPORT OF THIS OUTSTANDING PROGRAM.



This is the last issue of “Rural Hitch” for 2008

Remember to send us your new employee information, promotions, new apparatus, upcoming events, etc. Email items to debbiek@lrmfa.org.

Thanks.

**Habe a
Joyous
Holiday
Season**

Lakes Region Mutual Fire Aid Association
62 Communications Drive
Laconia, NH 03246

