



# THE RURAL HITCH

FOURTH QUARTER 2013

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

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## Davis Place fire results in first fire fatality in 2 decades in Laconia

By Chief Ken Erickson, Laconia Fire Department

February 25 at 2247, Laconia was dispatched to assist Belmont at a structure fire (Belmont subsequently requested a first alarm). Before leaving quarters, the tones started again for Laconia, Gilford, and Belmont for a structure fire on Davis Place in Laconia. Lakes Region advised they could see a



PHOTO BY ALAN L. McRAE ©2014

glow from the tower camera and they were receiving calls. In addition, Laconia was dispatched to a man down on Canal Street. Lt. Desrosiers requested Stewarts Ambulance to Canal Street. Laconia Engine 1 arrived on Davis Place at 2251 and reported heavy fire at the rear of a large, multi-family dwelling. Lt. Desrosiers requested a 2nd alarm. Crews were confronted with a two-story wood frame, 6-unit/townhouse-style, multi-family (120 x 32) with fire in the rear middle extending into two apartments, two floors, and overlapping the roof. LPD and residents advised a man was still in one of the five apartments. Lt. Desrosiers placed a 2½" with 1¼" tip in the rear to knock down the exterior fire and make a transitional attack. He took the rest of the crew to Division A to start searches. He sent a two-person crew into 66A Davis; they were driven out. They then went to 66 Davis and searched Division 1. After searching Division 1, they started up the stairs to Div. 2 when the second floor flashed over. One firefighter did receive burns and the crew pulled out. Simultaneously, a second two-person crew was going in through a bedroom window to VES. They could not get in because of heavy fire. The fifth firefighter was pulling a 2" line to Side A to protect the search.

Gilford arrived and laid in a four-inch line. Lt. Madden and crew put a 2½" into operation on Side A. He took part of his crew and searched Exposure A while Lt. Desrosiers and crew searched Exp. D. The two crews then attempted another attack into 66 and 66A with two hand lines. They made some progress but again were driven out. Lines were then flowed from the exterior to darken the heavy fire. Additional crews were assigned to Exposures A, A1, and D, D1 to pull ceilings and cut off the fire. The Weirs was sent to the roof to open the roof. They pulled a scuttle cover which vented heavy fire. Lt. Ellingson felt the roof was unsafe and pulled his crew. Fire was soon self-venting over the main fire area.



PHOTO BY ALAN L. McRAE ©2014

At this time there was a joint operation of defensive attack into 66 and 66A with offensive operations into both exposures. A major problem was the tin ceilings throughout the structure. Pulling ceilings to expose hidden fire was almost impossible. The 3-foot cockloft

DAVIS PLACE — CONT. ON PAGE 6

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## From the Chief...

By Chief James R. Hayes

As I write this article the sun is shining, the snow is rapidly melting, and I believe we have finally turned the weather corner toward spring. With the new year, many of our projects are approaching completion and we anticipate starting new ones.

The simulcast system will be operational soon. All of the equipment has been installed at the transmitter sites and is operational. Testing the system has started and, along with the testing, is the necessary fine tuning to achieve the optimal signal output. Reprogramming of the field force radios is almost complete. Once the reprogramming is complete and the tuning more refined, a changeover date will be chosen. At that point, all departments will be notified as to the date and time to switch all radios to the simulcast channels for normal operation.

Processing incidents with the CAD system is continuing to improve. As with any new system, it takes time for the users to become highly efficient. We are well on our way to achieving that goal. The CAD website, where people can see current incident activity, is now available at [www.lrmfacommcenter.no-ip.biz](http://www.lrmfacommcenter.no-ip.biz). This is accessible to the general public and is limited to the data shown on the screen. Departments can obtain a login that will allow them to access detailed information about their incidents. The FireHouse Software interface for automatic downloading of data into an incident report is also available now. The Belmont Fire Department has been using this interface with good results. Chief Parenti had written a white paper on the use and setup of the local application. He can be contacted for more information. Members of the LRMFA staff will be attending training near the end of April relating to how to modify the graphics for the maps and developing output reports from the system database.

Replacement of the existing radio control console is a priority project that is in its early stages. The current console is experiencing operational limitations and no longer has technical support available as the manufacturer no longer exists. LRMFA is currently working with a vendor to develop the necessary system configuration to meet both current needs and anticipated future needs. An EMPG grant is being applied for, which, if approved, will provide 50% of the necessary funding for this project. The goal is to have a new radio control console in place by early fall.

There have been a number of significant fires in the Lakes Region during this first quarter of 2014. Unfortunately, two of those incidents resulted in fatalities. From what I have observed personally from fires I was present at and from what I have heard from people at other fires, the dispatch staff and firefighter/EMTs of all of our Lakes Region departments performed well in doing a very difficult and dangerous job under difficult weather conditions. I want to commend you all for your excellent service!

Check out the LRMFA website and Facebook page and take advantage of the training that is available. It is provided to help you perform better and be safer while you are helping someone else in trouble. Stay Safe!! 🚒



**THE  
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**Email all submissions to:**  
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## Featured department...

# Danbury Volunteer Fire Department



**Chief Thomas Austin**  
Danbury Volunteer Fire  
Department

**Address:** 10 North Road  
PO Box 149  
Danbury, NH 03230  
603-768-3652

**Officers:** Deputy Rick Swift  
Chief Engineer Donald  
Haynes  
Capt. Jeremy Martin  
Capt. TJ Phelps  
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Lt. Eric Maines  
Forest Fire Warden Mert  
Austin

**Apparatus:** 2 Engines  
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1 Forestry

Danbury is a rural town in the western part of the Lakes Region Mutual Fire Aid system. It was formed from part of the town of Alexandria to the north. In 1794, a group of Alexandria residents petitioned the state legislature to separate Alexandria into two towns due to the inconvenience of having a mountain divide the town, making it difficult for all the residents to gather in a single place. The petition was granted in 1795, and the lower piece was incorporated as Danbury in that year. Its name was suggested by a settler from Danbury, CT. More land was later added to Danbury from Hill and Wilmot. The town now is 37.7 square miles with a population of around 1,200.

The Danbury Volunteer Fire Department was established in 1946 and funded by the town beginning in 1947. In 1948, the town purchased a grain storage building and converted it to be used by the highway department and the fire department. Eventually the highway department moved out but the fire department is still there, having added on to each end of the 100+ year-old building in 1975. A new engine, due next year, will necessitate raising the roof!



The department has always been budget conscious. The original equipment consisted of two trucks and a privately owned 18-wheeler was used as a tanker. Until 1975 they built their own apparatus! The highway department is still using a 1965 tanker to water roads!

Danbury has always been supportive of the department and has done a good job of supplying new apparatus when requested. Through generous donations, the department has been able to acquire essential equipment, such as a thermal imaging camera, auto extrication equipment, technical rescue gear,

**Danbury Fire Station. The middle portion of the building is well over 100 years old.**



defibrillators, and a snowmobile complete with trailer and toboggan. Most recently the department purchased a LifePak 15 monitor/defibrillator entirely with donations. This new piece of equipment allows the department to acquire and transmit 12 lead EKGs to local hospitals.

## CHIEF A DANBURY NATIVE

Chief Austin is a lifelong resident of Danbury. He became involved with the department in 1991 at the age of 18, becoming Chief in 2006. He is a third generation firefighter of the department. His father is the former chief.

## DEPARTMENT PERSONNEL

Danbury had an Explorer Post for many years, which helped bring younger members into the department. Many of the current members began here as Explorers. Unfortunately, due to low enrollment, the post lost its charter, thus making it harder to keep staffing levels where they need to be. The median age of the department has gone up and the department has only 19 active certified members.

However, the level of training, professionalism, and experience of those members is outstanding and Chief Austin spoke more than once about how the quality and dedication of his personnel has made his job as Chief much easier. He is "so grateful to them. It is a privilege to be surrounded by his people."

The department places a strong emphasis on training. Probationary members are required to achieve either Firefighter I or EMT certification, and a CDL license is required for all driver/operators. Most of his firefighters are trained above Firefighter I. The department does all of its continuing education and recertification courses in-house. The department training officer is a licensed instructor/coordinator and the annual training schedule ensures the department meets the standards of the National Registry of EMTs, the NH bureau of EMS, and any applicable OSHA requirements.



Danbury Volunteer Fire Department apparatus.

## DEPARTMENT ACTIVITIES AND FUNDRAISERS

Last year the Danbury Volunteer Fire Department was privileged and honored to take over the Round for Ryan Golf Tournament. Ryan was the son of a department member and a member himself who was killed at his job in 2005. He was a much-loved young man and the tournament was begun to honor his memory. The tournament will take place in late summer.

A long-standing fundraiser is the Annual Turkey Supper and Gun Raffle, held each year on Columbus Day weekend.

The local "Battle of the Badges" softball game isn't a fundraiser but is a hotly contested game between the police department and fire department.

Players are even drafted — it's pretty serious competition!

## THE FUTURE

Danbury is home to Ragged Mountain Ski Area. The ski area is expanding and plans to become an all-season resort. A golf course was added a few years ago and future plans include hotels, single family units, commercial structures, and other year round attractions. Danbury currently has 600 residential structures and the ski area has approval for 800 more! This will have a definite impact on all of Danbury and especially on emergency services.

Danbury Volunteer Fire Department holds its business meeting the first Monday of the month. Every Wednesday is devoted to training and equipment checks. 🚒

**The original station and truck shown here in 1948 with (l to r) Jimmy Fifield, Sr., Everett Heath, John "Willie" Wentworth (a former chief), and Clarence Ford (a former chief).**





allowed fire to spread laterally. The roof needed cutting earlier in the operation, unfortunately, there were no firefighters to do the work.

Chief Carrier ran Division A, Chief Jones ran Exposure D, Captain Landry ran Division C, Chief Dexter was Safety. Chief Hayes and Chief Beland assisted as the Command Team; Chief Beattie was Command; Chief Erickson was his assistant.

Second alarm struck at 2252; 3rd alarm struck at 2254; 4th alarm struck at 2325; evacuation order given at 2345. Crews went back in for overhaul and extinguishment at 1:56 a.m.. Search for the missing person was ongoing until his body was discovered around 7:30 a.m.

All crews worked very hard in extremely cold conditions. Crews were rotated frequently to prevent fatigue. This was a tough long-duration fire (12 hours on-scene) and everyone performed admirably. CERT did a great job feeding the crews. LPD and DPW also did great work assisting at the scene.



## Busy Corner fire January 23



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## The new spinal trauma protocol — now that's a paradigm shift!

Shawn Riley, EMS Deputy Chief, Laconia Fire



The new spinal injury protocol being rolled out is a major paradigm shift from the way EMS has handled possible neck and back injuries for the past 40 years. It reminds me of a story Concord Fire Department Lt. Jeff Mellete told me my first week on the job:

*A young woman was getting married and she really wanted to learn how to cook. Not having much experience in this area, she went to her mother and asked her to show her how to make the family's famous pot roast dinner. As they are preparing the meal, the mother cuts both ends off the roast and then throws the roast and both ends in the pan. The daughter asks the mother, "Why do you do it that way?" The mother stops and thinks for a moment then says, "I'm not sure, let's ask your grandmother." The two go to visit the grandmother and ask her why she cuts the ends off the roast before she cooks it. The grandmother pauses for a moment and then says, "Ah...I remember. When I was a young bride we were very poor and I only had one small pan in which to cook the pot roast. I had to cut both ends off so it would fit in the pan."*

This story reflects a common saying in fire service circles: "150 years unimpeded by progress." Being a traditionalist, this is one of my favorite sayings and I am a fan of "bringing the horses back to the fire stations." I have to say EMS is changing rapidly, which is a good thing.

I have talked to many people about the upcoming "new" **Spinal Trauma Protocol**. Many EMS providers are concerned because it has long been drilled into our heads that "all MVC patients get back boarded. If you even suspect a possible spinal injury, you must back board the patient."

How have we reached the point where most people now won't have spinal precautions taken and, if they do, it will be putting a c-collar on and having them lie on the stretcher without a back board? And, when we come to a motor vehicle accident, we now should encourage the patient to self-extricate and then lie flat on our stretcher with a collar and no board.

We now have years of data. People who are far smarter than I and have letters after their name like PhD, MD, DO, have done a tremendous amount of research and have concluded we have done more harm than good with back boards.

Think of this: when someone breaks their arm, they tend to hold it against their body...this is called "self splinting." When someone breaks a bone in their neck, they tend to do the same thing by limiting movement.

It is clear that:

- There is no evidence placing patients on a back board improves their outcome.
- If spinal damage has already occurred, minimal movement of the spine won't make it worse.

- Patients who self-extricate from a motor vehicle put themselves through less spinal manipulation than we do by extricating them.

- Back boarding an obese patient or one with SOB can actually make them worse.

- Patients with conditions such as Kyphosis (hunchback) don't fit on a board and trying to make them can cause pain and trauma.

- Back boarding can cause increased intracranial pressure.

I certainly recommend everyone complete the training prior to implementing the protocol. However, I know everyone wants to know the gist of this new protocol, so here are the broad strokes:

- Back boards should only be used as extrication or carrying devices and can be substituted for a scoop stretcher or other more user-friendly devices in those situations.

- Full spinal precautions now typically mean a patient with a c-collar lying flat (if they can tolerate lying flat) directly on the stretcher with the stretcher straps securing them.

- Patients who can self-extricate from a MVC should be encouraged to do so and, with your assistance, lie flat directly on the ambulance stretcher.

- Back boards have no role in inter-facility transfers whatsoever.

- The old "Advanced Spinal Assessment Protocol" still exists. However, we are now using it to rule patients in to **Spinal Motion Restrictions** instead of ruling them off of a back board c-collar.

- Spinal Motion Restrictions usually will mean a c-collar and having the patient lie flat on the stretcher, with the stretcher straps securing them.

- KEDs and other short boards should not be used.

- If a back board is used for extrication, it should be removed once the patient is placed on the ambulance stretcher.

- The "standing take down" is eliminated.

- If a patient can't tolerate a c-collar, a towel/blanket roll can be used to help secure the c-spine.

The Bureau of EMS has created a very good online training program to help roll out this new protocol. It can be found on NHOODLE by going to <https://nhoodle.nh.gov/ola/>. NHOODLE works best with FireFox, Chrome or Safari, although I used Explorer and it seemed to work just fine for me. Once there, you will need to create an account. Under the "Courses" heading, choose "EMS," then choose "Continuing Education," then choose "Spinal Injury Protocol Course." It took me about an hour to complete the course. I found it to be well done, interesting, and informative. I highly recommend it. I will also be available to come to your department and do live classes if you prefer. Just have your Chief or Head of Service contact me. 🚓



LRGHealthcare  
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2014 SCHEDULE

Wednesday	May 7th	Stewart's Ambulance
Wednesday	June 4th	New Hampton Fire
Enjoy your	July	Summer
Enjoy your	August	Summer
Wednesday	September 3th	Franklin Fire
Watch for	Paramedic	RTP
Wednesday	November 5th	Gilford Fire
Wednesday	December 3th	Franklin Fire

All Breakfasts will be from 0900-1100hrs

Any Question please contact Shawn Riley 524-6881 or Bruce Goldthwaite 934-2205

## The first quarter of 2014 in the system

By Debbie Kardaseski, Editor of "The Rural Hitch"

It has been a long winter with never-ending cold and snow, just ask anyone with a glazed look in their eyes! The recent sunshine and warmer weather has been sorely needed.

It's also been a long winter within the Lakes Region Mutual Fire Aid system, with two fatal fires and countless accidents.

The year began in January with the Pemi Valley Water Extraction Team continuing to train — no matter the weather. The team was formed to give the northern part of the system quicker access to a water rescue team. After the 2008 flooding during which a 7-year-old girl died, departments in that part of the state decided it was time to form their own water rescue team.

Late in January the Laconia Fire Department pushed its new engine into the station. That may seem odd, as a new engine really should be capable of being backed into the station. However, it's a longstanding tradition within the department, dating back to days of horse-drawn firefighting equipment. The engine was dedicated to Capt. Robert Landry, a man who has, according to Capt. Chris Shipp, literally lived the fire service.

February saw a crash that shut down Route 104 in Bristol for hours. The driver of an SUV veered onto the shoulder and hit a DOT loader that was driving in the breakdown lane. The

FIRST QUARTER — CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

## 2014 Rural Hitch Deadlines

**SECOND QUARTER (Apr/May/June):**  
**June 11, 2014**

**THIRD QUARTER (July/Aug/Sep):**  
**September 10, 2014**

**FOURTH QUARTER (Oct/Nov/Dec):**  
**December 10, 2014**



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# Training Division News

## Warden/Deputy Warden training schedule

The following topics will be discussed at these classes: lessons learned from the Yarnell Hill wildfire incident; look up, look down, look around refresher; what's in a smoke; and forest fire service rules update.

Many of the classes have already been held; however, the following dates are still available:

**April 30, 6:30–9 p.m.** Colebrook Fire Station (door prizes at this session).

**Hands-on Field Session. May 14, 10 a.m.–2 p.m.** Colebrook Fire Station (door prizes at this session). *Wildland fire location, suppression, tactics, portable pumps set-up and operation, and effective use of hand tools.* Proper PPE required (hardhats, boots, and gloves). Bring a compass and/or GPS if you have them. There will be live fire if weather and conditions permit. Training will be held rain/shine. Lunch provided immediately following the training at a cost of \$5.00. Forest Lake State Park, Forest Lake Road, Dalton, NH. Off Route 116, between Littleton and Whitefield.

## Annual safety and administrative refresher

The following topics will be discussed at these classes: fire reporting; heat stress; chainsaw safety; lightning safety; and administrative rules and online permits update.

Some of the classes have already been held; however, the following dates are still available:

**April 17, 6–10 p.m.** Lakes Region Mutual Fire Aid building, 62 Communications Drive., Laconia.

**April 24, 6–10 p.m.** Hollis Fire Department

**April 30, 6–10 p.m.** Madbury Fire Department, Madison Elementary School

**May 5, 6–10 p.m.** Epping Fire Department

**May 14, 6–10 p.m.** Plaistow Fire Department

## Laws and rules update

Recommended for any Wardens, Deputies or Issuing Agents who are new or have not attended training in a few years.

**May 6, 6:30–9:30 p.m.** Windham Fire Department

**May 12, 6:30–9:30 p.m.** Epping Fire Department

**May 13, 7–10 p.m.** Pelham Fire Department

## Basic tactics refresher

**May 27, 7–10 p.m.** Rye Fire Station

Please RSVP at least one week in advance for planning purposes. If there is not enough interest in any location, the session may be canceled. Contact [firetraining@dred.state.nh.us](mailto:firetraining@dred.state.nh.us) or call 271-2214 with the date/location and the number of people who plan on attending.

## LRMFA Training Division presents company officer development series

These programs are funded by the LRMFA Training Division and are free to LRMFA members. Walk-in registrations are welcome. Programs begin at 6:30 p.m.

**Tuesday, May 6. Transitional Fire Attack.** LRMFA.

Chief Steve Carrier, Gilford Fire Department, will discuss strategies and tactics associated with Transitional Fire Attack. He will review and share Gilford's newly-developed SOG and lead a discussion on how this aggressive, offensive tactic reduces firefighter heat stress. Size up, ventilation, and fire-fighting will be a big part of this learning opportunity.

In this program Chief Carrier will discuss the process Gilford Fire Department used to develop their Transitional Fire Attack policy. Information from the many articles that were researched during policy development will be discussed as well as video clips viewed which highlight the tactics employed to implement the transitional fire attack objectives as defined in the policy.

**Instructor:** Chief Stephen Carrier currently serves as the Chief of the Gilford Fire-Rescue Department. He previously held the positions of Deputy Chief in Gilford, Chief of the Tilton-Northfield Fire & EMS, Deputy Chief of the Laconia Fire Department, and Lieutenant, again in the Gilford Fire-Rescue, where he started his career as a live-in student. He holds an AS in Fire Science and a BS in Fire and EMS Administration. He is a graduate of the National Fire Academy's Executive Fire Officer Program and maintains his Chief Fire Officer designation. Chief Carrier lives in Gilford with his wife, Vickie and son, Ethan.

**Tuesday, June 3. Conducting employee evaluations at the company officer level.** Franklin Fire Department

As we all know, one of the toughest parts of the job as a Company Officer is the Human Relations (HR) portion and the ability to set aside the history and personal feelings towards your subordinates. This course will cover the "do's and don'ts" of conducting an annual employee evaluation by the Company Officer, the reasoning for conducting evaluations, and the type of evaluation to use that will be beneficial to your organization. We will also look at the other side of the discussion: should annual evaluations should even be conducted and why.

**Instructor:** Chief Paul Dexter Jr., Sanbornton Fire Department is a 28-year veteran of the fire service. He has served on both on-call and combination departments in Vermont, New



Hampshire, and Maine and has held the rank of Lieutenant, Captain, Deputy Chief, and Chief. Chief Dexter was a State Instructor in both Vermont and New Hampshire and was the full time Site Coordinator for the Vermont Fire Academy. He also has 20 years of business management experience as the President of his family's business prior to making the fire service this full time career. He is a graduate of Fire Officer II, numerous NFA and NFPA courses, and is a veteran of the U.S. Coast Guard

Please complete the LRMFA General Application Form available under forms at [www.lrmfa.org](http://www.lrmfa.org) and fax to DC Beland at 528-5989, or e-mail to [jbeland@lrmfa.org](mailto:jbeland@lrmfa.org), or mail to: 62 Communications Drive, Laconia NH 03246.

## Other LRMFA Training Division opportunities

**May 3, 8:30 a.m.–Noon. Drive to Survive.** Lakes Region Community College, 379 Belmont Rd., Laconia NH. For more information, please go to [www.lrmfa.org](http://www.lrmfa.org). RSVP to John Beland at [jbeland@LRMFA.org](mailto:jbeland@LRMFA.org)

**May 8, 8 a.m.–4 p.m. Small Boat, Excursion Boat & Marina Fires.** Beane Conference Center, 35 Blueberry Lane, Laconia NH

**May 12, 13, 14, and 5/12, 1–5 p.m./13&14 8:30–4:30 p.m. “The Nozzle Forward” Interior Offensive Fire Attack.** NHFA, 222 Sheep Davis Rd., Concord NH [www.fioanh.org](http://www.fioanh.org) 🚒

**Train like your life depends on it... because it does!**

## “Like” us on Facebook: Wentworth Fire Department

The Wentworth Fire Department is now using Facebook to share their information with the public. They have a big following and would like anyone who is interested to “like” them. They will be posting good information on a regular basis. This is the link to reach them: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Wentworth-Fire-Department/237640736414554>.

If your department has a Facebook page or a web site where our readers can get more information, please send your link to [debbie@debbiekgraphics.com](mailto:debbie@debbiekgraphics.com) and it will be published in upcoming issues of *The Rural Hitch*. 🚒



## SCBA Respirator Fit Testing Service Available From LRMFA For Member Agencies!

**To SCHEDULE FIT TESTING AT YOUR DEPARTMENT,  
PLEASE CONTACT DEPUTY CHIEF BELAND AT  
528-9111 OR [JBELAND@LRMFA.ORG](mailto:jbeland@lrmfa.org).**

## Save the date! annual senior safety day program

Each year LRGHealthcare sponsors, in conjunction with local fire departments, a regional effort to help seniors with smoke detector battery changes and installations. This program has grown over the past decade and each year we continue to reach more and more seniors who are in need of this great service. With recent fires in our state and beyond, we continue to focus on the importance of working smoke detectors and their ability to perhaps save a life. This year, Senior Safety Day will take place on Saturday, November 1st (time change weekend). LRGHealthcare will be reaching out to previously participating communities in the next few months with additional information. If your community would like to participate, please contact Melissa Rizzo, Community Educator, at 934-2060 ext. 8369 for more information. 🚒

## “Rural Hitch” Available Electronically

If you would like to receive the *Rural Hitch* electronically (and save trees and postage!), please send your email to [debbie@debbiekgraphics.com](mailto:debbie@debbiekgraphics.com).

Feel free to share your electronic copy with others. We'll add anyone to the email list who is interested in receiving the *Rural Hitch*.

# Second alarm fire, Bristol, 54 Bear Mountain Road

Photo sent by Francis Butler



## 2014 EMS Awards Banquet

*You are Cordially Invited to the  
2014 LRGHealthcare EMS Banquet  
Wednesday, May 21st  
6:00 p.m. at the LRGH Cafeteria*

RSVP's are appreciated to [ksastany@lrgh.org](mailto:ksastany@lrgh.org)

*We are also currently seeking  
nominations for the following:*

EMS Provider of the Year

Unit Citations

Lifetime Achievement Award

Heroism Award

Service of the Year Award

Paul Racicot Award for Excellence

For a nomination packet or to make a nomination,  
please contact Shawn Riley at [smriley@lrgh.org](mailto:smriley@lrgh.org)

Any questions or concerns  
please contact Shawn Riley at 524-6881

### FIRST QUARTER — CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

driver of the SUV was immediately airlifted to Dartmouth-Hitchcock, with his female passenger following later after a trip to LRGH.

On February 4, Barnstead Fire Department was busy fighting a house fire along with 4 other communities at the same time Waterville Valley and 7 other departments were fighting a 2-alarm fire in Waterville Valley. Both fires once again proved the value of mutual aid.

February 10 was a very sad day in the small community of Bridgewater where the first fire chief, Paul Morrill, and his wife, Betty, were killed in an early morning fire that tore through their home. The house was an old colonial and it was thought the fire began in a chimney. A rescue was attempted but to no avail. It was difficult for all involved and the couple will always be remembered for their dedication to Bridgewater.

Tilton-Northfield Fire Department brought its new chief on board in February. Chief Michael W. Sitar, Jr. had a 32-year-long career with the Tewksbury, MA fire department. He was chosen by a search committee comprised of Jim Clements (former head of Tilton School), Scott Davis (Tilton-Northfield Water Company commissioner), Kevin LaChapelle (Franklin Fire Department chief), Steve Bluhm (Northfield selectman), Joe Jesseman (Tilton selectman), and Joyce Fulweiler (Tilton town administrator). Chief Sitar was officially welcomed at his swearing-in ceremony on Feb. 12.

Gilford Lt. Dominic DeCarli was caught in the act — the act of giving, that is! He was awarded the "Caught in the Act" citation for his services to the town during the winter's many snowstorms. DeCarli went above and beyond by using his personal truck to plow hydrants, rescue stranded skiers, and plow around the fire station. His is just another example of all the things our firefighters do that is totally unrelated to running into a burning building. For another example, see the photo on page 16 of Andy Vermeersch of Campton-Thornton Fire-Rescue helping a little girl cross a very icy road.

February ended on a very sad note with another fatal fire, this one in Laconia. It was the first fatal since 1989. This 4-alarm blaze ripped through an apartment building on Davis Place. The building was a total loss and it took firefighters nearly five hours to find the victim after the fire was out due to the destruction. Laconia Fire Chief Ken Erickson praised the firefighters for their extraordinary efforts fighting a difficult fire in frigid conditions.

The first quarter ended with a 4-alarm fire in Gilmanton Iron Works on March 23. Gilmanton Chief Joe Hempel estimated 70-100 firefighters responded to the blaze, which took 2-1/2 hours to bring under control. The barn was a total loss and the attached home suffered severe damage and was uninhabitable.

So another quarter comes to an end. The snow has mostly melted and now we're easing into the brush fire season. 🚒

### Department News

Send your Department News to  
[debbie@debbiekgraphics.com](mailto:debbie@debbiekgraphics.com).

Include new hires, promotions, new apparatus,  
department events, open training events, etc.



# New Apparatus, Retirements, Promotions, Etc.



**New Chief**  
**Chief Michael W. Sitar, Jr.**  
Tilton-Northfield Fire Department



**Retired**  
**Mark Tetreault**  
Barnstead Fire Department



**Promoted to Lieutenant**  
**Ryan Brown**  
Laconia Fire Department



**Welcome**  
**Ron Howe, Ingrid Heidenreich, and Steve Marsh**  
New Hampton Fire Department



**Laconia Fire Dept. — 13E1**  
2013 E-One 1,500 GPM pump, 1,000 gallon tank, class A foam tank, truck carries 1,600 feet of 4" capable of laying dual supply lines. Truck is equipped with 2 portable deck guns.



**New Hampton Fire Department — 17F1**  
2014 Ford F350 4x4, dual wheels, 5-man cab. 9' plow. Skid unit with 350 gpm pump, 300 gal. water, 10 gal. foam with two electric hose reels. Towing capabilities, used as utility vehicle in off-season.



**Wetworth Fire Department — 42E2**  
Engine 2 was designed as a quick attack piece, used for mva and various other calls. 500 gallon tank, 1,500 gpm pump, carries all extrication tools and rescue gear.



**Holderness Fire Department — 12E3**  
Pierce Saber, 1000 Gallon tank, 1500 gpm Hale pump.

# First Quarter Statistics...

From Jan. 1, 2014 through  
March 31, 2014

<b>Incidents Dispatched:</b>	January 2014	1,911
	February 2014	1,579
	March 2014	1,658
	<b>Total</b>	<b>5,148</b>

## Resources Available:

Engines	92	Tankers	12
Ladders	5	Rescues	22
Forestry	38	Ambulances	52
Utilities	26	Fire Boats	30
Towers	7	Air Units	5
ATVs	13	Command Vehicles	31

## Statistics:

- 🚒 Began operations in September of 1971. Moved operations to our current facility in June of 2000.
- 🚒 Dispatches Fire and Medical Emergencies for 35 communities and 35 Fire and EMS Agencies.
- 🚒 Serves a population of 115,383 residents.
- 🚒 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 \$18.8 billion dollars of property.
- 🚒 Has an operating budget of \$1,165,880 (2014 budget).
- 🚒 Has 8 full-time and 7 part-time employees.
- 🚒 Dispatched 21,570 incidents during 2013 (59.1 calls per day).
- 🚒 Dispatched 21,504 incidents during 2012 (58.92 calls per day).
- 🚒 Dispatched 21,601 incidents during 2011 (59.18 calls per day).

LRMFA HEADQUARTERS, LACONIA, NH



PHOTO COURTESY BILL HEMMEL. LAKESREGIONAERIALS.COM ©2009

## Please support — however you can

Steph Riley, the wife of Shawn Riley, EMS Deputy Chief at Laconia Fire Department, is fighting cancer. She is receiving treatment at Dana Farber Cancer Institute in Boston and Concord Hospital, and her doctors are cautiously optimistic. She is walking in the Concord Hospital Rock 'n Race. Her team is "Steph Strong" and Shawn is the second highest fund raiser for the entire event so far this year. He is going for the top spot! If you would care to donate, go to [www.kintera.org/faf/donorReg/donor-Pledge.asp?ievent=1091231&lis=1&kntae1091231=17949DFE0E9545BA88D58D0A5C6A632E&supld=404127663](http://www.kintera.org/faf/donorReg/donor-Pledge.asp?ievent=1091231&lis=1&kntae1091231=17949DFE0E9545BA88D58D0A5C6A632E&supld=404127663).

Karen Chevalier, wife of Mark Chevalier, Chief of Alexandria Fire Department, is also fighting cancer and receiving treatment at Dana Farber Cancer Institute. Their daughter, Kendra, is running in the Boston Marathon in her honor and in memory of her Uncle Dennis, who passed away from cancer 5 years ago. If you would like to support her efforts, go to [www.rundanafarber.org/2014/kendrarunsboston](http://www.rundanafarber.org/2014/kendrarunsboston).

Please hold these families in your thoughts as they travel through these difficult times. 🚒

## First Quarter 2014

Number of incidents = 5,148

Radio transmissions = 61,563

Emergency phones = 6,358

Admin phones = 5,471

This breaks down on a daily basis to 56 incidents per day and 12 radio transmissions for each incident, or 684 per day on average. Along with the emergency incidents we answered/made 61 calls on the administrative lines per day.

## 2014 LRMFA Executive Board Meetings

- May 6 • June 10 •
- July 8 • Aug. 12 • Sept. 9 • Oct. 14 • Nov. 11 • Dec. 9 •

## 2014 LRMFA Board of Directors Meetings

(7 p.m. in the conference room at LRMFA)

- 2nd Quarter: May 6 • 3rd Quarter: September 10 •
- 4th Quarter: October 29 •





*Fire Apparatus Sales & Service Since 1991*

**Our newest deliveries...**

**Congratulations  
Wentworth  
and  
Wolfeboro**

## WENTWORTH

- 🚒 HME Mini-EVO
- 🚒 F550 6.7L diesel
- 🚒 4x4 cab & chassis
- 🚒 1500 Hale Pump
- 🚒 500 gallon booster tank
- 🚒 Class A Foam
- 🚒 LED response and scene lighting
- 🚒 139 cubic feet of compartment space
- 🚒 40 cubic feet of hosebed
- 🚒 Stainless Steel pump house & body



## WOLFEBORO

- 🚒 HME SFO flat roof Chassis
- 🚒 Seating for 4 ea. w/in cab EMS compartment
- 🚒 Cummins ISL 370 engine
- 🚒 Hale 1500 pump
- 🚒 Triple speedlays
- 🚒 Class A Foam
- 🚒 Fully enclosed pump house
- 🚒 8kw hydraulic generator
- 🚒 900 gallon booster tank- ladders and suction through tank
- 🚒 Stainless steel pump house & rescue style body
- 🚒 27' overall length



**PO Box 970, West Ossipee, NH 03890**  
**Phone: 603-323-7117 • Fax: 603-323-7447**  
**Email: [info@lakesfire.com](mailto:info@lakesfire.com) • [www.lakesfire.com](http://www.lakesfire.com)**





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

# Department News

Send your Department News  
to  
[debbie@debbiekgraphics.com](mailto:debbie@debbiekgraphics.com).

Include new hires,  
promotions, new apparatus,  
department events,  
open training events, etc.



Right: Firefighters' jobs  
come in all sizes. Andy  
Vermeersch is shown  
here helping a little lady  
cross a very icy street at  
a small fire in Campton.  
Left: Second alarm fire in  
Campton, Feb. 16.

Left: Second alarm  
condo fire in Waterville  
Valley, Feb. 4.  
Right: Second alarm fire  
in Campton, Feb. 16.



**Campton-Thornton Fire-Rescue has a busy 1st quarter**