



Buxton Fire-Rescue

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Chief Nathan Schools, *EFO*
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April 6, 2015

Buxton Board of Selectmen
185 Portland Road
Buxton, Maine 04093

Board of Selectmen:

I am pleased to submit the 2014-2015 Annual Report on behalf of the Officers and Members of the Fire-Rescue Department.

The people within an organization must have passion; if there is no passion then the organizational model will fail. In Buxton, we have many passionate fire fighters, EMS providers, fire police officers, and support staff, that act on their passion every time they attend training, respond to an emergency call, or come to support a community initiative. In 2014, Buxton Fire-Rescue came together and identified the organizations mission, vision, core values, and goals, they can be found on our website at buxtonfr.org ; during this past year members of the organization have come together, and built relationships while carrying out the mission of the department:



Fire Police Unit Citation

WORKING TO PROMOTE AND PROTECT THE HEALTH AND SAFETY OF OUR COMMUNITY AND FIRST RESPONDERS

Members have worked to uphold the core values of the organization including:

DEDICATION – INTEGRITY – PROFESSIONALISM – RESPONSIBILITY – COOPERATION

DEDICATION – In 2014, 5,483 hours of time was spent training on topics covering fire, EMS, vehicle rescue, and roadway safety. During the same time period our members responded to handle 1,058 calls for service including fire, EMS, and Fire Police Calls within Buxton and in our neighboring community’s while providing automatic and mutual aid. We truly have dedicated employees, carrying out the mission of the department every single day.

INTEGRITY – Simply stated, “Do the Right Thing.” Organizational change is hard; over the last two, to three years changes have been made that questioned the status quo. Those changes including: the addition of paid staff; including our SAFER Funded Firefighter/Paramedics, the decommissioning of apparatus, the relocation of our primary ambulance, and better working relationships between stations. All of the changes have led to a decrease in our overall response time to emergencies, an increase in the amount of time a dispatched piece of apparatus is

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(actually) able to respond, an increase in the amount of responders that are coming out for emergency calls, and the ability of our department to provide the best customer service possible.

PROFESSIONALISM - “They are on Fire...” During our Annual Awards Banquet our Fire Police Unit was recognized with a Unit Citation, because of the Units increased professionalism, commitment to duty, and leadership model used every day by its members. It stands as a point of pride for the group and their constant evaluation, research, and ability to provide the best protection to our members while they operate on a fire, rescue, or police scenes.

RESPONSIBILITY – During the year our members are asked to respond to numerous emergencies, any time of the day or night; two thirds of our members are volunteers, who wear a pager and get called away from dinner, birthday parties, holidays, and other special events; these member are truly the lifeblood of the organization.

COOPERATION - We have begun building better relationships between the members of our own stations, with our automatic and mutual aid organizations, and with other town departments, in order to provide the best possible service to our community.



Gorham Water Supply Training

Hats off to the Men and Women who make up the Buxton Fire-Rescue Department!

This year with the support of the community and the Selectmen, with the funding through Warrant Article 32, and the departments operating budget, we were able to improve our radio communication system/hardware that had not been updated for more than 10-years. Now our field units are able to communicate with on board vehicle repeaters, to ensure communication is not lost with the dispatch center.

I am grateful to the men and women of Buxton Fire-Rescue who provide a quality service to the community, and who continue to dedicate themselves to being better, and gaining knowledge through training and education. I am evermore grateful to the families that support our volunteers, because without support from friends and family, we would not be able to maintain the level of service that our predominantly volunteer organization provides to the community.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nathan R. Schools".

Nathan R. Schools, *EFO*
Fire-Rescue Chief