



# Waterboro Fire Department

## Frequently asked Questions

### ***Q... Why do you have a Ladder Truck?***

**A...**The Ladder Truck provides a safer way to access and egress a roof, multi-story windows and chimneys, vertical ventilation operations, victim removal from two or more story buildings. The Ladder Truck also is fitted with a pre-piped waterway for fire extinguishment at higher angle. This truck also has compartment storage for equipment used during and after structural firefighting, i.e. ventilation fans, chain saw, all-purpose saw, portable lighting, assortment of hand tools, salvage and overhaul equipment, generators, hazardous gas detection, climate controlled rehabilitation environment, firefighter and civilian rescue equipment.

### ***Q... Why doesn't the FD use North Station?***

**A...**The North Station building was constructed in the late 1940's and currently uninhabitable due to structural deterioration. There is no running water for restroom facilities or decontamination of firefighters and equipment after calls. The proximity of North Station to Central station is less than five (5) miles. Studies of call documentation prove that response time from the all-volunteer North station is equal to or greater than response times from the Central Station which is staffed 24/7. The size of the building is not adequate to house the apparatus built to fit the current NFPA standards.

### ***Q... Why do you need to upgrade the Extrication Tools?***

**A...** The extrication tools (aka Jaws of Life) were purchased in 2003. At that time the tools were sufficient to cut and spread the metals in motor vehicles manufactured at that time. Vehicles manufactured in today's current safety standards are constructed of stronger steel known as Boron. The FD's "Jaws of Life" cutters have a cutting force of 63,400 lbs. which is not effective when cutting a vehicle to extricate someone who may be trapped after an accident. Metals used in vehicle construction now require a cutting force greater than 100,000 lbs. The upgrade would also include hydraulic hoses to the "Core System" which would reduce the extrication tool set up time by reducing the number of hydraulic hoses from four (4) hoses to two (2).

**Q... How many members are on the FD?**

**A...** The FD currently has 49 members on its roster. The membership consists of 4 full time staff, volunteer/paid per call and per-diem staff. These members are what provides Waterboro with 24/7 coverage. The volunteer/paid per call members respond to calls when they are available whereas the full time and per-diem staff are at Central Station when on duty.

**Q... How many calls does the FD respond to?**

**A...** In 2009 the FD responded to 792 alarms. In 2010 the FD responded to 887 alarms, an 11% increase. The alarms consist of but not limited to building fires, vehicle fires, brush grass and/or woods fires, motor vehicle accidents, Carbon Monoxide or smoke detector alarms, hazardous material incidents, weather incidents, public service, utility wires down, smoke scares, bomb threats and medical emergencies.

**Q... What does the staff on duty do in between calls?**

**A...** The staff on duty performs a variety of tasks such as respond to 911 calls, surrounding town mutual aid responses, residential and industrial safety inspections, fire prevention and education with RSU 57, apparatus maintenance, incident report data entry, staff training and education, public education, public service, station maintenance, house chores, station grounds landscaping, issue State of Maine burn permits and assist inter-departmental agencies such as Public works, Library, Transfer Station and Town Hall.

Are you interested in volunteering? As an emergency responder, you are rewarded by helping others!

[www.waterboro-me.net/wfd/ads/volunteers\\_wanted2011.pdf](http://www.waterboro-me.net/wfd/ads/volunteers_wanted2011.pdf)



MVA-Rt. 202



West Rd. Chimney Fire



Former North Station