

# DUNN'S CORNERS FIRE DISTRICT

## DISTRICT CHIEF'S REPORT

### FISCAL YEAR 2017-2018

We have finished another successful year at the Dunn's Corners Fire Department. First, an official hello to the community. My name is Christopher DeGrave and I am the new District Chief appointed this February 2018. I am a retired State of Rhode Island ADA Investigator and previous Deputy Chief within the Kingston Volunteer Fire Department in South Kingstown. I have been involved in the fire service for over 14 years and have actively volunteered since my childhood as an Eagle Scout in the Boy Scouts of America. I am married to my lovely wife, Jamie DeGrave and we have a two year old daughter named Cameron. We have recently moved into the local area and now reside in the Dunn's Corners Fire District.

I am truly excited to take on this new role. I look forward to providing you with unsurpassed service while continuously upholding the core values of integrity, trust, excellence, and transparency that the community deserves. We will achieve our mission through the effective and efficient delivery of services while recognizing the significant volunteer contribution of our members as the main ingredient to our success. My goals and future vision include new volunteer recruitment strategies, incentive programs, training regimens as well as attainable goals and expectations from all positions. I will work to streamline operations, policies and procedures to encourage advancement and personal growth. Many of these projects are already well underway with the help of the volunteer leaders of this department.

Within the community if we can help you, improve our response or be of service, please contact us at any time. As a department, we welcome your concerns, input and feedback. I look forward to serving you in my capacity as the District and Department Chief. On behalf of our entire staff, thank you for your continued support of the Dunn's Corners Fire Department.

In the past year several notable changes within department structure and leadership have occurred including the hiring of a new District Chief and new full-time Fire Marshal/Firefighter Jim Bobola. Additionally, the department is undergoing a full restructure of the leadership organizational chart including the reassignment of Carl Johnson as Car 2, Deputy Chief of Operations and the promotion of Deputy Chief Keith Moody as Car 3, Deputy Chief of Personnel & Administration. Currently, the department structure is as follows: 2 Deputy Chiefs, 1 Department Captain and 2 Department Lieutenants, whom will be installed later this evening.

The Dunn's Corners Fire District should take pride in the fact that even under significant internal leadership changes the department has unwaveringly provided exceptional volunteer emergency services to the community. This can only be attributed to the hard work and dedication of my fellow chiefs, officers and firefighters. Over the past year, our firefighters conducted over 1500 hours of training. Current membership is at 50, which is an increase of 5 from last year. With a reinvigorated marketing and community outreach program, we have seen a substantial increase in new applicant interest.

**Membership Breakdown:**

Senior Members	32
Life Members	5
Associate Members	4
Junior Members	3
Probationary Members	6

During the past year, the Dunn's Corners Fire Department responded to **790 total incidents** including 410 fire and 380 for emergency medical responses. The average personnel response per fire call was 8. Please see attached incident summary sheet for full detail of incidents. Our volunteers spent **over 2200 hours** responding and working on the scene of incidents. All apparatus are maintained, inspected and certified per DOT/ NFPA standard.

**Breakdown by Incident Type:**

Fire Incident Responses	410
Medical Incident Responses	380

**Breakdown of Incidents by District:**

District	Number of Incidents
DCFD	550
Bradford	31
Shelter Harbor	40
Central Beach	23
Shady Harbor	2
Mutual Aide Towns/ Departments	144

This year the Fire Marshal's office conducted 356 inspections and plan reviews for residential and commercial properties located in our coverage area. This is an increase of 17 from last year.

**Project Completion Updates:**

Throughout the 2017-2018 fiscal year, numerous infrastructure projects were completed to help maintain and/or improve operations. Several pending projects from past fiscal years were also recently completed.

- Seven (7) new sets of personal protective fire gear purchased and fitted
- Hot water system at Station 2 was replaced.
- New security camera & DVR recorder system— Sta 1, 2 & Grange
- IT improvements for the inter-office emailing system, scheduling and calendar systems
- Motorola Radio & Pager Project (Phase 1)- New department pagers & 8 new radios
- RISE Engineering Building Efficiency and Lighting Survey
- Several Roof/Vent Leak Repairs

**Future Projects:**

Over the next several years including this next budget cycle, we will be actively working on several projects to maintain our facility, streamline operations, improve storage and increase efficiency. Those projects include but are not limited to:

- Improving department communications infrastructure with new antennas, repeaters and radio equipment (Radio Project Phase 2)
- Replacing Squad 2/ Squad 3 vehicles with one new multi-use department utility vehicle
- Improving department firefighter safety with new NFPA compliant SCBA Air Paks
- Improving community EMS response with the installation of AEDs on ALL department apparatus
- HVAC System Improvements
- Building Efficiency Enhancements- Boiler Gas Conversion, Insulation & Fresh-Air Venting

**Grant Updates for the 2017-2018 Fiscal Year:**

DEM Forestry Grant- DCFD has been awarded a \$2500.00 match grant for the purchase of brush fire gear. We will be purchasing new fire hose, tools and personal protective equipment with the funds as allotted.

Federal Assistance to Firefighters Grant- Unfortunately we did not receive a 2017 AFG grant for the SCBA equipment. The new 2018 grant period ended during the week of my start date. My plan is to reapply in 2019 however I believe that the district should look into other lease/purchase or financing options while loan rates are low.

**Acknowledgements:**

At this time I would like to thank the following people for helping to make this past year a successful one for the Dunn's Corners Fire District.

- Retiring Chief Michael Frink for his years of service and his continued volunteer service with the department.
- Deputy Chief Carl Johnson for his constant support during my transition into my position during the last several few months.
- Mary Rathbun, for her continued commitment to this department as the Office Manager has helped make the Chief transitions very smooth.
- The countless hours the Operating Committee has volunteered to help the Dunn's Corners Fire District prosper and also for their supportive guidance these past several months in my new role.
- To the Department Line Officers, for their continued dedication and devotion. These folks provide the core leadership and guidance of the department. The transition would not be successful without ALL of the support they have offered.
- To the volunteer members and associates of the department, I thank you for all that you do. We will continue to grow and succeed together.
- I would like to thank my wife, Jamie and daughter Cameron for the love, support and patience you shown me during this past year with my hiring, selling of our home and relocating. You are my rock.
- And finally to the local community and taxpayers... We are honored and extremely proud to serve you and as always thank you for your trust and continued support.