



TOWN OF WAKEFIELD

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WAKEFIELD FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT FOR MARCH 2024

The Wakefield Fire Department responded to 376 emergency incidents during the month of March 2024 including 41 box alarms and 335 still alarms. The department responded to twelve requests for mutual aid during March, four times to Saugus, three times to Lynnfield, twice to Reading and Stoneham and once to Chelsea. The department received mutual aid thirteen times during March, four times from Lynnfield, twice from Melrose and once each from Reading, Stoneham, North Reading, Saugus, Malden, Woburn, and Wilmington. A crew from Engine 2 led by Lieutenant John Mercurio covered Chelsea Fire Headquarters during a 5-alarm fire in that city during the afternoon of March 1. Firefighters from Engine 2 led by Lieutenant Sean Curran assisted the Stoneham Fire Department at the scene of a 2-alarm structure fire at 10 Lindenwood Road during the afternoon of March 5. Lieutenant Michael Long and a crew from Engine 2 assisted the Saugus Fire Department with a structure fire at 66 Holland Road during the early morning of March 7. Later that evening, a crew from Engine 1 under Lieutenant Cliff Silva assisted the Lynnfield Fire Department battle a 2-alarm fire at 5 Stafford Road.

Firefighters under the command of Captain Randy Hudson responded to a report of an alarm sounding at 389 Lowell Street, Dino's Pizzeria at approximately 7:17 P.M. on the evening of March 24. They arrived within several minutes and discovered that the fire alarm was sounding throughout the entire block of stores at the corner of Vernon and Lowell Streets. Crews detected an odor of smoke throughout the building and quickly discovered a fire burning inside the North Shore Animal Academy, located next door to Dino's. Smoke quickly spread through the building, prompting Captain Hudson to order a second alarm for additional personnel. This brought additional engines from Reading, Stoneham and Melrose along with a North Reading Ladder company to the fire. Firefighters opened a hole in the roof, discovering a significant smoke condition in the concealed roof space located above the row of store fronts. A Woburn engine and a Lynnfield Ladder truck were called to the scene for additional personnel. The fire inside the pet store was quickly brought under control as crews working on the roof were able to confirm that the fire had not spread through the concealed roof space. Firefighters assisted employees of the pet store remove dozens of snakes, iguanas, spiders and other exotic reptilian pets from the store. The fire was brought under control by approximately 8:30 P.M. The entire block of stores received significant smoke damage during the fire, forcing three restaurants to dispose of all of their food stuffs and a pharmacy to discard a large portion of its medical stock. The lower level under the stores suffered some water damage and the pet store was gutted by fire and heat damage. Troopers from the State Fire Marshal's Office were called in to work with local fire investigators in determining a cause for the fire. It was eventually determined that the electrical system inside the pet store had malfunctioned, starting the fire. There were no firefighters or building occupants injured during the fire. A Saugus and Wilmington engine along with a Malden Ladder truck covered Wakefield Fire Headquarters during the fire.



The same Wakefield fire crews led by Captain Randy Hudson responded to a dumpster fire up against the rear of the building occupied by the Charm Restaurant and Brother's Restaurant, located at 404 to 412 Main Street, during the afternoon of March 30. The fire was quickly knocked down, preventing it from extending into the adjoining buildings. The fire damage was completely contained to the dumpster. There was no extension of fire or smoke into these buildings. There were no injuries to either civilians or firefighters during the fire. A detailed investigation determined that the fire had originated within the dumpster as a result of the careless disposal of smoking materials.

Lieutenant Philip Preston retired from the Wakefield Fire Department on March 5 after serving with the Wakefield Fire Department for more than thirty years. Preston, a well-respected and knowledgeable fire officer, was appointed to the Wakefield Fire Department as a Permanent Firefighter on October 4, 1993. He was appointed as a Permanent Lieutenant on December 28, 2012. Preston was the Engine 1 Lieutenant for Group 1 under Captain Randy Hudson at the time of his retirement. Phil was always willing to serve on committees for new fire apparatus, lending his time and knowledge to developing specification for new fire trucks and inspecting them upon their completion. He also served for a number of years with the Rutland, Massachusetts Fire Department, where he was able to share his experiences with the members of both departments. The department will miss Phil's extensive experience in the fire service and wish him a long, happy and healthy retirement.

The department also acknowledged the 50th anniversary of the line-of-duty death of Lt. Robert T. Sullivan, who died while fighting a general alarm fire at the corner of Main and Albion Streets. Retired Fire Chief David Parr gave a brief but moving account of the fire that occurred in the block of stores that contained Ames Drug Store, Florence's Fashions and Ray Parker's Men's Clothing Store. The Chief's children, Patrick and Jennifer, along with his wife Lisa attended the service, which also recognized the sacrifices made by his Uncle John "Dinty" and Great Uncle Daniel, who also died in the line-of-duty, as well as his Uncle Warren and Grandfather Thomas Sullivan. The service was very humbling and was deeply appreciated by both Chief Sullivan and his family.

All department members participated in Emergency Medical Technician training classes as part of their annual continuing education requirements. The department continued its ongoing in-service safety inspections and pre-planning of various businesses in town during March. All duty groups received specialized training on tactics and strategies related to the extinguishment of vehicles fueled by compressed natural gas (CNG).

INCIDENT RESPONSE REPORT FOR MARCH 2024

<u>BOX ALARMS</u>	41
<u>STILL ALARMS</u>	335
<u>TOTAL ALARMS</u>	376

EMERGENCY MEDICAL / MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENT RESPONSES	286
ALARM MALFUNCTIONS / ACCIDENTAL ALARMS	30
PUBLIC ASSISTANCE / SERVICE CALLS	18
INVESTIGATIONS / SMOKE GAS ODORS	11
ELECTRICAL EMERGENCIES	0
APPLIANCE FIRES / EMERGENCIES	0
MUTUAL AID RESPONSES	12
STRUCTURAL FIRES	1
HEATING SYSTEM EMERGENCIES	1
WATER EMERGENCIES	1
BRUSH / GRASS FIRES	1
MOTOR VEHICLE FIRES	0
HAZARDOUS MATERIALS INCIDENTS	2
FALSE ALARMS	0
CARBON MONOXIDE DETECTOR INVESTIGATIONS	10
RESCUE RESPONSES	2
RUBBISH FIRES	1

FIRE PREVENTION REPORT FOR MARCH 2024

SMOKE DETECTOR CERTIFICATE INSPECTIONS	20
OIL BURNER PERMITS ISSUED	7
OIL STORAGE PERMITTED (GALLONS)	1925
PROPANE GAS PERMITS ISSUED	1
SPRINKLER SYSTEM INSPECTION / SERVICE PERMITS ISSUED	9
FIRE ALARM SYSTEM INSPECTION / SERVICE PERMITS ISSUED	24
NEW FIRE PROTECTION SYSTEM PERMITS ISSUED	4
TANK REMOVAL PERMITS	7
BLASTING & FIREWORKS PERMITS ISSUED	0
CUTTING & WELDING PERMITS ISSUED	0
FLAMMABLE LIQUIDS STORAGE PERMITS ISSUED	0
FIRE ALARM ACCEPTANCE TESTS	7
FIRE INSPECTIONS RELATED TO STATE/LOCAL LICENSING	8
COMPLIANCE INSPECTIONS CONDUCTED BY FIRE PREVENTION OFFICER	20
FIRE PREVENTION COMPLAINT INVESTIGATIONS	2
SETS OF CONSTRUCTION PLANS REVIEWED	7
CONSTRUCTION SITE INSPECTIONS	5
BURNING PERMITS	0