

ROCKY HILL FIRE DEPARTMENT

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The Rocky Hill Fire Department is an innovative and diverse department of about 75 dedicated individuals. We are fortunate to have some of the most talented people in the fire service working here. We value the history and the traditions of our department, which is an organization built upon the strong foundation created by our past leadership. Without them, we could not tackle the challenges of the future.

As a department we respect our past, see many present possibilities and are looking forward to the challenges of the future. We are committed to providing the citizens of Rocky Hill the best service possible not only because it's our job but also our privilege.

2015 has been a very eventful year for the Rocky Hill Fire Department. In January, the department was selected to participate in a federal level recruitment and retention grant. This was approved in part by the Connecticut Fire Chief's Association, which has managing authority over the grant. The grant has provided education, strategies and logistical supplies for recruitment to the department. By following the national trends, we were able to increase our membership by 15 members.

In November, a public safety referendum was passed by the residents of Rocky Hill. This will allow the fire department to purchase new self-contained breathing apparatus {SCBA}. The new SCBA will greatly increase the safety to our volunteers.

Also approved was the funding for our fleet replacement and right-sizing plan. When completed, this will allow the department to operate with a slightly smaller but more effective and efficient fleet.

As we progress forward, we are committed to the concept of safety based management. We accomplish this through a progressive training program coupled with ever-present safety overview. Whenever possible, we integrate new technologies and concepts to assist us with our mission.

Highlights

- A web-based training system is utilized to assist members in completing their required OSHA and regulatory related firefighter core training topics.
- Rapid intervention, confined space rescue, and firefighter safety and survival training were conducted utilizing both in-house and State Fire Academy Instructors.
- All firefighters completed a self-contained breathing apparatus confidence course at the RHFD training ground.

- The department has completed OSHA mandated refresher training for Hazardous Materials Operations level.
- Blood borne Pathogens, metering, level B protective suits, firefighter accountability and incident command training competencies have been completed by all personnel.
- All personnel have been trained, certified and are compliant for positions/rank, to the IS 100, 200, 300 and N.I.M.S. 700 and 800 levels as mandated by FEMA.
- The department has updated the training division and individual fire station training resource libraries to maintain compliance with the requirements of the Insurance Service Organization.
- The department has completed the live interior fire portion of the training ground. This allows us to train our members to more safely, effectively, and efficiently address the many facets of structural firefighting.
- The department employs an ‘asset dispatch’ method of alarm transmission. This allows us to streamline our response and to more efficiently mitigate the incident while maintaining a high level of safety.
- The department continues to utilize its Standards Committee consisting of representatives from each station and the staff. The Committee researches and tests equipment that the department proposes to purchase. This allows us to procure the needed equipment at the most economical price.
- All apparatus and equipment is maintained in accordance with NFPA standards and manufacturer’s recommendations.
- Rocky Hill’s fire protection program has been reviewed by ISO and the town continues to maintain an Insurance Service Organization rating of Class 3.
- Physical examinations are conducted to maintain personnel at an operational readiness level.
- The department maintains an aggressive respiratory protection program which includes annual fit and competency testing for all personnel.
- The Fire Cadet Program for teenage citizens interested in community service continues to be a success – it dates back to 1977.
- The department continues to support the community with fire prevention classes conducted from preschool through the middle school level, and attends, and supports other community functions, such as fire protection at bonfires, fire watches for large schools and public assembly venues and rescue services for river events.
- The department responded to 669 calls for assistance during the year.
- The Fire Marshal’s Office continues to be extremely diligent in their activities including:
 - Performing 426 building inspections for conformance with the life safety code.
 - The above building inspections generated 277 re-inspections.
 - A total of 13 fire investigations were conducted.
 - The Fire Marshal investigated 45 citizen complaints.
 - 81 days were devoted to the required observance of blasting operations.
 - 170 building plans were submitted and reviewed for code compliance.
 - A total of 64 hours were dedicated to fire prevention activities.

Apparatus Schedule

Station #1, 739 Old Main Street.

- Truck-1, 104' Sutphen Aerial
- Engine-2, 1250 GPM [gallons per minute] Rescue pumper
- Engine-4, 1500 GPM Pumper
- Fire Police Unit 25

Station #2, 52 New Britain Avenue.

- Truck-2, 105' Pierce Aerial
- Engine-3, 1250 GPM Rescue Pumper
- Attack-1, Hose Wagon
- Engine [spare], 1750 GPM Foam Pumper

Station #3, 3050 Main Street.

- Truck-3, 95' Tower Ladder
- Engine-1, 1500 GPM Pumper
- Rescue-2, Heavy Rescue Truck
- Fire Police Unit 24