



ANNUAL REPORT 2024

Cundy's Harbor Volunteer Fire Department

Email: info@chvfd.info

Website: chvfd.info

Station Address: 837 Cundys Harbor Road, Harpswell

Mailing Address: PO Box 948, Brunswick, ME 04011



First Responders

Benjamin Wallace Jr – Chief
 Aaron Despres – Asst. Chief
 Duncan Wood – Captain
 Meriel Longley – Firefighter-Paramedic
 Peter Melroy – Firefighter-EMT
 Mario Baldi – Firefighter
 Jonathan Burbank–Firefighter
 Joshua Huntsman – Firefighter
 Barry Hutten – Firefighter
 Jon Lee – Firefighter
 Eliot Nixon – Firefighter
 Karen Elliott – EMT
 Christopher Manos – EMT
 David Brooks – Driver/operator
 Robert Miller – Driver/operator
 Randy Roux – Driver/operator
 Pietro Civita – Ambulance Driver*
 Aaron Fuchs – Ambulance Driver
 Joseph Furlong – Ambulance Driver
 Kristie Jorgensen – Ambulance Driver
 John Moore III – Ambulance Driver
 Stephen Rowe – Ambulance Driver
 Marceline Saibou – Ambulance Driver

Miguel Garcia – Trainee
 Nathan Jorgensen – Trainee
 Samuel Lemonick – Trainee
 Christopher Wuerker – Trainee

Associate First Responders

Sean Hall – Firefighter-EMT
 Dan Reynolds – Firefighter

*Resigned

**We NEED
 more
 volunteer
 firefighters**

2024 Highlights

Recruitment and Retention

In 2024 CHVFD received six new applications for first responders. Three continue onboarding training, and one completing the training and starting to respond to emergency incidents. Two have not continued for various reasons.

Two responders that joined in 2023 have completed the fire academy, with one actively responding to emergency incidents. The other has not become active responding to calls.

One firefighter has completed EMT certification and licensure. One responder that joined in 2023 also completed EMT certification and licensure. Both are active responding to emergency incidents.

Four responders have completed Emergency Vehicle Operator Training and have been signed off to drive the ambulance. Three of them joined the department in 2023, and one joined in 2024.

One long time ambulance driver resigned for health reasons.

Current active roster is twenty-six plus two associate members from OBIFD.

Apparatus

A very generous donor has provided a new fire-rescue boat to the department. Training for primary operators was complete and the boat placed into service at Safe Harbors Great Island this summer. The boat has already proven its worth responding to reported fires and boats in distress. This is a piece of equipment the department has needed for a long time, and we cannot thank the donor enough.

Planning for replacement of Squad 5 has started in earnest this year, with an expectation that it will be ordered in 2025. The new vehicle will continue to serve the same role as the current 2003 truck.

Communications Equipment

Replacement of the town's repeater infrastructure has been completed this summer. Planning to address coverage deficiencies in our district is expected to take place in 2025.

We received new mobile and portable radios this year. Federal and state grants offset a significant portion of the expense, but not all, and more will be required in the coming years to finally replace our legacy equipment.

Community Outreach

This year a Facebook website was started, and the department website updated. In addition to communicating with the public, these platforms are being heavily leveraged for recruitment and fund-raising efforts.

Asst. Chief Despres and Firefighter-EMT Melroy continue to reach out through community events such as Cundy's Harbor Days and the Holbrook Foundation to recruit members of our community to become a first responder.

Fire & Rescue Planning Committee

President Burbank and Chief Wallace continue to service on the FRPC. From the Annual Committee Report:

"The Town and committee worked on three significant projects in 2024.

First, the work authorized by article 44 of the 2016 Town Meeting to "plan and design a centrally located emergency services facility" was completed. 2016 is also the year the Town adopted the Municipal Firefighter Ordinance and allocated funding for the paid Town Firefighters 12 hours a day, five days a week. The Town contracted out the design and details of the centrally located emergency services facility to Port City Architects, and the final building plan was recommendation unanimously by the committee to the Selectboard on January 16, 2025 after numerous planning meetings. The facility is designed to house the Paid Town Firefighters and the paramedic, provide rapid response to all areas of Town, be sufficient for the foreseeable future, and be expandable if necessary.

Second, the replacement of the existing town radio repeater infrastructure for emergency services was completed in the summer of 2024. The Town and fire departments also received replacement mobile and portable radios from state and federal grants. Future steps for communications equipment will be to address areas of the Town where the radio system does not provide adequate coverage, and to replace the remaining mobile and portable radios.

Third was the recommendation to the Selectmen that the hours of coverage for the Town firefighters be extended from 12 hours a day five days a week, to 12

hours a day 7 days a week for the upcoming year to continue to support the volunteers. It is clear that the average age of the volunteer firefighters is increasing at the same time as the number of new residents volunteering to become firefighters is not meeting pace. The committee sees a clear and present need to continue to address the shortfall of available firefighters going forward."

To the committee report I would add that the current plan for the centrally located emergency services facility calls for the paid staff to operate from the new location while the volunteers continue to operate as they have. If in the future one or more of the volunteer companies becomes unsustainable, the new station is designed to be flexible enough to cope with the new reality.

Fire Station

This year several of the new responders have completed several projects around the Cundy's Harbor Station such as striping the lower parking lot, managing storage, and general cleaning. In addition, VP Despres has coordinated replacement of the water filtration system

Fundraising

Fundraising outpaced expectations this year, including the online fundraising effort. However, the number of EMS transports and billing income was far behind expectations. They balanced out between the two by the end of the year. Even so, income is not keeping pace with increases in operational costs.

Annual Fire & EMS Responses

	Basic Incident Year	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Basic Incident Type Category (FD1.21)	Basic Incident Type (FD1.21)					
1 - Fire	Brush or brush-and-grass mixture fire	2	1		2	
	Building fire	3	3		3	2
	Chimney or flue fire, confined to chimney or flue	1				
	Cooking fire, confined to container		1	1	1	1
	Forest, woods or wildland fire	2	1	8		
	Fuel burner/boiler malfunction, fire confined			1		
	Grass fire		1			
	Natural vegetation fire, other	1				
	Outside equipment fire				1	
	Outside rubbish, trash or waste fire			1		
	Passenger vehicle fire		2	1		
	Trash or rubbish fire, contained			1		
	Water vehicle fire			1	1	
	Subtotal		9	9	14	8
2 - Overpressure Rupture, Explosion, Overheat (No Fire)	Explosion (no fire), other	1				
Subtotal		1	0	0	0	0
3 - Rescue & Emergency Medical Service Incident	EMS call, excluding vehicle accident with injury	109	102	128	132	108
	Motor vehicle accident with injuries	3	8	5	4	
	Motor vehicle accident with no injuries.	3	4	11	10	3
	Rescue or EMS standby	1			3	2
	Search for person in water	1				
	Search for person on land					1
	Watercraft rescue	1				2
	Welfare check	1		3		
Subtotal		119	114	147	149	116

4 - Hazardous Condition (No Fire)	Arcing, shorted electrical equipment	6	4	4	4	6
	Building or structure weakened or collapsed				1	
	Cable line down	3			1	5
	Carbon monoxide incident	2			2	2
	Electrical wiring/equipment problem, other	1		1	2	1
	Gas leak (natural gas or LPG)	3	1	2	1	5
	Gasoline or other flammable liquid spill	1				
	Hazardous condition, other			2		
	Heat from short circuit (wiring), defective/worn		1			
	Power line down	9	3	10	8	11
	Sunk watercraft or vessel		1	1		
	Telephone line down		1	1		4
	Tree down	6	5	6	12	11
	Vehicle accident, general cleanup		1			
	Subtotal		31	17	27	31
5 - Service Call	Animal problem				1	
	Assist invalid	9	19	11	21	10
	Assist police or other governmental agency		1	1		
	Cover assignment, standby, moveup	1			1	2
	Lock-out					1
	Public service					4
	Public service assistance, other			1		
	Smoke or odor removal					1
	Unauthorized burning					2
	Water evacuation				1	
	Water or steam leak				1	
Water problem, other		1				
Subtotal		10	21	13	25	20

6 - Good Intent Call	Dispatched and cancelled en route	2		3	5
	EMS call-cancelled en route	5	8	5	11
	Fire call-cancelled en route	12	10	10	14
	HazMat release investigation w/no HazMat				1
	No incident found on arrival at dispatch address	1	3	5	5
	Smoke scare, odor of smoke	1			
Subtotal		21	21	20	34
7 - False Alarm & False Call	Alarm system activation, no fire - unintentional	4		3	6
	Alarm system sounded due to malfunction	1		1	2
	Carbon monoxide detector activation, no CO	2	1		3
	Detector activation, no fire - unintentional		1		1
	Local alarm system, malicious false alarm				1
	Smoke detector activation due to malfunction	1		2	1
	Smoke detector activation, no fire - unintentional	4	9	17	8
	Unintentional transmission of alarm, other	2	2	4	2
Subtotal		14	13	27	23
9 - Special Incident Type	Citizen complaint	2	1	2	1
Subtotal		2	1	2	1
Grand Total		207	196	250	271

Column Filters

Basic Incident Year pick 2020,2021,2022,2023,2024

Additional Filters

Agency Name pick Cundy's Harbor Fire Dept