

# Fire Department

## Officers of the Deer Isle Volunteer Fire Department

**Chief Brent Morey**

**Assistant Donn Heansler**

**Assistant John Weed**

**Assistant Jim Foley**

**Lieutenant Russell Bray**

### Calls 2012

|                          |           |
|--------------------------|-----------|
| Auto Accidents           | 14        |
| Alarm Activations        | 12        |
| Mutual Aid               | 10        |
| Trees on Power Lines     | 7         |
| Smoke Investigations     | 4         |
| Chimney Fires            | 2         |
| Forest Fires             | 2         |
| Hazard in Road           | 1         |
| Water Heater Malfunction | 1         |
| Auto Fire                | 1         |
| Stump Fire               | 1         |
| Lift Assist              | 1         |
| Boat Fire                | 1         |
| <b>Total</b>             | <b>57</b> |

In 2012 we responded to 57 calls compared to 66 in 2011. Our firefighters logged 632 hours of call time and 694 hours of training time for the year 2012.

We responded to 9 less calls this year with an increase of 55 hours of call time. Auto accidents, Alarm activations, and mutual aid calls are still the big 3 accounting for over half of our calls. Even with some big winds this year, we did not lose a lot of trees which seem to always get a power line.

Our most interesting call was for a stump/brush fire in a gravel pit. The stumps and brush were being moved to a hole and covered with gravel. Somehow the back edge, that had not been covered yet, caught fire. This was a very large fire requiring us to call for mutual aid from 3 mutual aid towns. We logged 84 hours of call time and I would say we had just about the same from the mutual aid departments. The Forest Service was called and we surveyed the fire ground in the daylight. It was determined that we could not haul enough water to put it out and the location allowed us to let it burn out. The pile stopped smoking right around Christmas. It burned for 3 months.

Our members have logged many in-house training hours which consisted of: Driver training, Forest fires, Fire Ground Procedures, CPR, Vehicle Extrication, Rural Hitch, Ladders, Thermal Imaging Systems, Water Supply, Air Bag Operation, Ground Support for Life Flight, Search and Rescue, Firefighter 1 classes, Cold Water and Ice Rescue. We had 2 of our newest firefighters attend the Hancock County Fire Academy spending every other weekend from January until May. They are State Certified at the level of Firefighter 2.

I am very proud of our dept. and all they have accomplished this year. My thanks go out to them and their families, for their support and understanding, and to all of our mutual aid departments. Together we try to make

a difference.

With the new fireworks law in effect I would like to ask everyone to take a minute before you shoot yours off and think is it too dry, could I cause a fire, where are the sparks going to land, and know the law.

A burning permit may be obtained from the Town Forest Fire Warden Brent Morey, 348-6133, Deputy Town Fire Wardens: Georgia Morey, 348-6133, John Weed, 348-6092, and Russell Bray, 348-6619.

Open burning by any person must obtain a permit 365 days a year. This includes the following: logs, stumps, roots, brush, slash, fields of dry grass, pasture and blueberry land, and debris. Open burning of any kind must not be allowed to cause nuisance conditions. If nuisance conditions occur, department policy is to revoke the permit.

To encourage winter time burning when there is snow on the ground, we are willing to give out permits for extended periods of time.

I would like to discourage piling brush and stumps into large piles. Fires must be attended at all times and these types of piles will burn for days. Make smaller piles! They are easier to burn and control. All piles larger than ten feet square and ten feet high will be inspected before a permit is issued. Fires burn deep and can burn underground for long distances before popping up to the surface. We all need to use caution.

Violation of the open burning law is a Class E crime, which may result in a fine or period not exceeding six months in jail. In addition, people should remember that they could be liable for up to \$2000 in fire suppression costs as well as any civil damages that might result.

I would like to emphasize that your driveway needs to have a 15' wide by 15' high clearance allowing for easy access during time of need. We have private drives in town that we cannot get down because of tight corners, low hanging limbs (especially with snow on them). On occasion we have had to shuttle equipment in by pickup trucks, causing the firefighters to be delayed getting to the scene. If you have questions on whether your road is acceptable, call me.

**TO REPORT A FIRE DIAL 911.** Be prepared to give type of fire, location (Your 911 address), your name, and phone number. Whenever you think the Fire Department is needed, call immediately. Do not hesitate! Remember that all fires start small.

The business meetings of the Fireman's Association are held on the first Wednesday of each month, except June, July, and August. Training sessions are held the first, second, and third Wednesday of each month. All meetings start at 6:30pm. The Deer Isle Fire Department is in need of energetic people who have a desire to serve others and their community. We are always looking for new people to maintain our excellence in firefighting and rescue work. Contact any firefighter or come check us out on a meeting night. We are actively looking for a couple of radio dispatchers if anyone is interested.

**A REMINDER:** Working smoke detectors save lives. Is your smoke detector working/ Please check it now. You should get in the habit of changing the battery every six months.

On behalf of the Fire Department, I would like to say thank you to the town officers and the townspeople for your support.

Respectfully submitted,

BRENT MOREY  
Chief