

Report of the Lamoine Volunteer Fire Department

The Lamoine Volunteer Fire Department had its busiest year on record with 61-calls for help. The calls break down as follows:

| Type of Call | Lamoine | Ellsworth | Trenton | Hancock | Total |
|-------------------------|-----------|-----------|----------|----------|-----------|
| Motor Vehicle Accidents | 11 | | | 3 | 14 |
| Road Hazards | 10 | | | | 10 |
| False Alarm | 2 | 1 | 1 | | 4 |
| Oil Spill | 1 | | | | 1 |
| Stove/Furnace Fire | 2 | | | | 2 |
| Station Coverage | | 3 | 2 | 1 | 6 |
| Medical Assist | 2 | | | | 2 |
| Flooded House | 3 | | | | 3 |
| Smoke Investigation | 1 | | 1 | | 2 |
| Structure Fire | 1 | 1 | 2 | | 4 |
| Debris Fire | 1 | | | | 1 |
| Water Rescue | 4 | | | 2 | 6 |
| Wildfires | 4 | 1 | | 1 | 6 |
| Total | 42 | 6 | 6 | 7 | 61 |

In terms of injuries, 2005 was a particularly awful year, as two of the motor vehicle accident calls resulted in fatalities, one in permanent life threatening injuries, and two others with injuries. The year truly tested the abilities of our fire and rescue personnel. In February, a report of a dog through the ice on Raccoon Cove turned into a dramatic rescue as two women who went to help the dog fell through as well. We managed to save them from drowning and get them to a warm ambulance thanks to having the right people and the right gear at the right time. Our personnel worked feverishly to extricate an Otis teen from a wrecked vehicle in May and got him to the LifeFlight helicopter on Lamoine Beach and he's alive today. In April our volunteers responded to three calls simultaneously – two wildfires and a propane explosion in a house, stretching our resources to the max. The heavy rains on Columbus Day weekend again utilized

every piece of equipment we had to barricade flooded roads and basements, again successfully. I can't say enough about the men and women who volunteer to serve our community.

In March we took delivery of a new rescue truck, and put it to use numerous times throughout the year. Through fund raising efforts the fire department contributed \$50,000 toward the purchase of the vehicle which cost \$200,000 and was twice approved by town meeting. The truck is proving to be a workhorse, and carries all the rescue gear in one location while also serving as a front-line pumper.



The Maine Department of Labor inspected the fire station and found several training record deficiencies. The records were compiled successfully for the follow up inspection and all fines were dismissed.

We finally finished with the "painting" project inside the fire station. Member Mary Harney who started a painting business was awarded the job and it consisted more of cleaning. The station looks fabulous.

After responding to so many calls with serious injuries, many of our members requested more training for medical calls. In early 2006 we start with a medical assistance training program to administer high quality first aid. The intent is to have our volunteers able to render some assistance to injured people until the ambulance can arrive. We will not be a first responder operation, but since we are often called simultaneously with the ambulance, our training will improve our service.

We thank everyone who's been so supportive of the fire department in 2005. We enjoyed seeing so many people at the open house in May and plan to hold another in 2006. New members are welcome. The department meets each Thursday night at 7:00 PM

George "Skip" Smith, Fire Chief