

Neighbors Helping Neighbors

Southwest Harbor Fire Department Newsletter



Volume 2, Issue 1

January 2012

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Ladder 112 is Home



As you all know, Ladder 112 arrived on 1/1/2012. This long anticipated day was welcomed by many members of the department and was driven the final leg of it's trip by Chief Chisholm.



Approximately 15 minutes after Ladder 112's arrival; it didn't take long for newly appointed Lieutenant's Martel and Brown to climb up the stick. It was fully extended and quite a climb!

Top 10 Wood burning Tips from the Chimney Safety Institute of America

To aid in the prevention of chimney fires and carbon monoxide intrusion and to help keep heating appliances and fireplaces functioning properly, the Chimney Safety Institute of America (CSIA) offers the following safety tips:

1. Get an annual chimney check. Have chimneys inspected annually, and cleaned as necessary, by a qualified professional chimney service technician. This reduces the risk of fires and carbon monoxide poisonings due to creosote buildup or obstructions in the chimneys.
2. Keep it clear. Keep tree branches and leaves at least 15 feet away from the top of the chimney.
3. Install a chimney cap to keep debris and animals out of the chimney.
4. Choose the right fuel. For burning firewood in wood stoves or fireplaces, choose well seasoned wood that has been split for a minimum of six months - one year and stored in a covered and elevated location. Never burn Christmas trees or treated wood in your fireplace or wood stove.
5. Build it right. Place firewood or firelogs at the rear of the fireplace on a supporting grate. To start the fire, use kindling or a commercial firelighter. Never use flammable liquids.
6. Keep the hearth area clear. Combustible material too close to the fireplace, or to a wood stove, could easily catch fire. Keep furniture at least 36" away from the hearth.
7. Use a fireplace screen. Use metal mesh or a screen in front of the fireplace to catch flying sparks that could ignite or burn holes in the carpet or flooring.
8. Install smoke and carbon monoxide detectors. Place detectors throughout the house and check batteries in the spring and fall. When you change your clocks for Daylight Savings Time, remember to check your batteries.
9. Never leave a fire unattended. Before turning in for the evening, be sure that the fire is fully extinguished. Supervise children and pets closely around wood stoves and fireplaces.
10. The CSIA recommends annual inspections performed by CSIA Certified Chimney Sweeps. These chimney sweeps have earned the industry's most respected credential by passing an intensive examination based on fire codes, clearances and standards for the construction and maintenance of chimney and venting systems. The National Fire Protection Association also recommends that all chimneys are inspected on an annual basis.

Future Training Schedule Provided by Secretary Beth Gaiser



Train like your life depends on it!

The department Secretary was able to provide a wonderful list of future mandatory training sessions. These trainings ensure that we are all up to date with mandated OSHA and NFSTA annual refreshers. All of the dates listed are subject to change, please check

your department email often for updates and changes.

~~12-01-2011~~ Hazard Communications

~~12-01-2011~~ MSDS

~~12-01-2011~~ Lockout/Tagout

~~12-03-2011~~ SCBA for Engineers

~~12-15-2011~~ Hearing

~~12-15-2011~~ PPE

~~1-19-2012~~ Sexual Harassment

~~1-19-2012~~ Airborne/
Bloodborne Pathogens

Fire Association News

Got fundraising ideas?

I would like to thank everyone for all the help on the stocking raffle, we took in around \$200.00 profit and the ginger bread house auction made around 300.00.
For our meeting on January 10th I would like each person to have at least one idea for future fundraising .

Thank you for all your help and support

Lynne Brown

Association President



From The Desk of the Chief

Happy New year to you! Looks like we are going to total 121 Calls for 2011. Not last year's record, but then again we didn't have 24 calls in one day as we did in 2010! A gigantic thank you to all for answering the calls for help from our friends and neighbors. I know they sleep better at night knowing we are there when they need us.

So what's the story with the green light on fire trucks? Congratulations to Deputy Chief Martel for being the first to submit the correct answer which is: when Albert Goodrich became the Fire Commissioner for the City of Chicago in 1927 he had a strong family tie to the steamship industry. Continued, even today, a ship requires a red light on the port (left) side and a green light on the starboard (right) of its vessel. These warning lights allowed safe passage during inclement weather and travel through the breakwaters. When Goodrich started as commissioner this is one of the things he first implemented on CFD's completely motorized fleet. These green lights have come to represent a strong tradition comprised of courage and a sense of belonging among firefighters in the Chicago area. Green lights that appear on apparatus, command vehicles, and stations have also become a symbol for fallen fighters. This tradition is so embedded that many of the surrounding communities have adopted it.



I went easy on you for the last two, Now that you are all warmed up let's see who can get me the answer to this one from you FD Email first.

What is the significance between the Island of MALTA and today's modern fire service?

Good luck to you all!

On the business side of the house, check your Department email for the lowdown on the upcoming Driver training program. I am planning to kick it off the weekend of the 21st of January so those who are interested in taking the classes need to get with me soon to get the signups done.

Did I mention that L 112 is in the station.....?

See you all at the big one

Chief

Neighbors Helping Neighbors

Southwest Harbor Maine

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for newsletter ideas or questions.

We're on the web!
www.swhfire.org

Chiefs Quote
"Not a spectator sport"



**We have answered
the call**

1 Times This Year
02 less then last year at
this time

121 Total For 2011

Important Dates

January 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

5th & 19th
Fire Department Meeting

10th Fire Association Meeting

14th All Hands Requested
10am / Station Cleanup

16th Martin Luther King Day

Members Birthdays

17th Andrea Reed &
Mary Ellen Martel

30th FF Nate Light



Quick Notes from Captain Chisholm



When members use station bay for their personal use; such as washing their vehicle, repairs on their vehicle or other personal equipment they are to sweep up after use.

Kudos to the members for shoveling and plowing these past couple storms, it is noticed and appreciated!

The crew has been doing an excellent job at cleaning the apparatus after using them in foul road conditions.

Keep up the great work!

This column will focus on featuring a number of tips and tricks geared toward improving our efficiency and effectiveness.

Fireground Tips and
Tricks
by Jimm Walsh



Tips and Tricks

How you can estimate hose stretches

This simple tip takes some of the guesswork out of the hose stretch

Pre-connected hose lines are utilized by most departments, and work well in many situations. However, what do we do when the pre-connect is not long enough?

Estimating hose stretches is an important skill for every firefighter. There are two main skills involved in making sure you have enough hose to accomplish the mission.

The first is estimating how much hose you need. The second is knowing how much hose to grab. It is important that we grab enough hose before we depart from the rig.

The most effective way to know how much hose to grab is to simply know the depth of the hose bed. As you can see from the photo below, this hose bed is approximately 10 feet deep, and set up with a forward lay.



As we know the depth of the bed, we know that the top section contains 10 feet and each fold contains 20 feet. Grabbing the male coupling and two folds will get you 50 feet of hose.

This simple tip takes some of the guesswork out of the hose stretch, and allows us to focus on more important things on the fireground.

Like with every other skill in our business, the only way to get good is with practice. Every run, every trip out of quarters we should be looking at buildings and estimating hose stretches. But don't stop there!

The real training opportunity comes from actually pulling the hose, and getting it into position. We should know ahead of time what buildings in our response area are beyond the reach of our pre-connects, or if nothing else, what the limit of our pre-connects "looks like."