

Southwest Harbor Fire Department Newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 1

October 2011

Exciting First Issue

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Southwest Harbor Fire Department Remembers

Picture Provided By Traci Patton



Members stand with the Honor Guard to reflect on our fallen 10 years ago.

The sun was warm
 The sky was plain
 The day the world
 Forever changed
 Oblivious to
 What soon would be
 So awoke the 343
 The chaos hit
 The sirens cried
 And so, the jakes
 Prepared to ride
 A sight to behold
 But not to believe
 Still, pressed on
 The 343
 The trucks arrived
 So swift and bold
 At any moment
 The towers could fold

They knew of the dangers
 That they would see
 And yet, up they went
 The 343
 The heat was intense
 Conditions were grave
 But still they knew
 There were lives to be saved
 When suddenly
 All of the flames and debris
 Came crumbling down on
 The 343
 All that remained
 Was a cloud in the sky
 And millions of people
 Were asking God, why?
 Loved ones with sorrow
 As deep as the sea
 Were mourning the loss of

The 343
 And so, to the bravest
 Of souls that did breathe
 A thousand times, thank you
 For keeping us free
 For as the dust settles
 We state this decree
 Forever remember...
 The 343.

-By Demetri Raftopoulos-



Halloween is a lot of fun for the entire family; however, some precautions should be taken to ensure a happy and safe day of festivities.

Parents

Teach children to stop only at

Halloween Safety

well-lit houses or apartment buildings and to never enter a strangers home.

Instruct children not to eat any treat until they return home and treats are inspected. Remember: when in doubt, throw it out.

Provide a flashlight to help

children see better and be seen more clearly if allowed out after dark. Instruct children not to cross yards and lawns where unseen objects or the uneven terrain can present tripping hazards.



Halloween Safety continued



Ensuring your children and neighbors are safe.

Costumes

Only fire-retardant materials should be used.

Costumes and treat bags should have some reflective qualities to be seen by motorists.

Costume length should not be so long that it is a tripping hazard.

Accessories such as swords or knives should be made from cardboard or flexible materials and made so as not to resemble

a real weapon. Masks may cause vision and breathing restrictions. Use regular make-up instead.

Candy Funtoids

Did you know that the Heath Bar was included in World War II Rations?

National Candy Corn Day is celebrated the

day before Halloween. More than 20 million pounds of candy corn is sold each year in the United States.



Southwest Harbor Fire Department's Newest

Addition has an expected delivery mid November.

Find out more on our



webpage

www.swhfire.org

Ladder 112

Everyone is a buzz about the new ladder, from far and near! If you haven't heard (please remove yourself from the hole you live in) the news, Southwest Harbor is expecting delivery on the new apparatus this November.

The members of the truck committee had their work cut out of for

them, but was able to decide on a 107' Quint.

Captain Chisholm excitedly gave me some details about our new purchase:

- *Ferrara Igniter Custom Chassis*
- *MaxxForce13 475 HP*
- *Seating for 6 with*

Bostrom

- *SecureAll SCBA Seats*
- *4-Section rear mount ladder with 107' reach*
- *Dual Position Waterway with electric actuator*
- *Waterous 2000 GPM*
- *500 Gallon Poly Water*

From the President of The Association

The object of the association is to spread harmony throughout the Southwest Harbor Fire as well as the community at large.

Being a separate organization, we assist the Southwest Harbor Fire Department with logistical support and fundraising activities.

The association welcomes anyone and everyone willing to help us to achieve our goals. Member dues are \$5.00 annually. Members must be at least 18 years of age or have parental permission to join. Meetings are every 2nd Tuesday of the month. We will provide a co-op

dinner starting at 6:30 pm.

Be on the lookout for the giant 8ft stocking filled with toys... Get ready to sell some raffle tickets! We hope to see you there.

Lynne Brown , President, Southwest Harbor Fire Assoc.



Be on the lookout for the giant 8ft stocking filled with toys.

Juniors Getting Ready For The Ball Drop

As Autumn is upon us, so is the exciting fund raiser the Juniors of Southwest Harbor Fire organize.

The Great Ball Drop is a fundraiser to assist in constructing a building to house Southwest Harbor's 1857 Antique Hunne-man Fire Hand Pumper. This is a \$35,000.00 project and is reachable with the hard work the Juniors and their leaders have put forth. The more tickets sold, the larger the cash

prize will be.

Juniors will be performing the ball drop on the 8th at Smuggler's Den Campground.

Picture Right:
Junior Firefighter Brady Thomas earns his badge as Chief Chisholm proudly pins it on.



Forestry Trailer Ready For Action

With the Forest Fire season slowly coming to a end here in Maine, I consider this area of the country lucky. As most of you agree, we can look at the Midwest and Texas as being hard hit by drought. They have been battling blazes which have taken a million acres combined. That figure would engulf the

whole island we so cherish and protect on a daily basis. This corner of the country has been overly drenched to a point of destruction in some areas. The forest fire meter has been green 98% of the summer which is a good thing. Whatever the climate and threat is the Southwest Harbor Fire Fighters will

be ready for the call. The forestry trailer has everything we need to combat wildlands fires. Inventory sheets which will be included with the truck checks will be added to the truck check rotation.

Some of the items in the trailer include: PPE Flame Resistant Pants and Jackets, Helmets, Shovels.

12 Firefighters and 3 Juniors respond to Mount Desert Mutual Aid for a brush fire at Hadlock Pond on September 1st.

From The Desk of the Chief

I am excited for this first issue of the department newsletter. This newsletter will be open for every member's input.

Important dates, recognition, upcoming events is just a few items that will be in the monthly publication.

We have had some member's

attend some statewide trainings these past few months which backs my philosophy of "Back to the Basics". These trainings keep our member's "pencils sharp" for when we really need to use our skills, out doing what we do best! With training in mind, I would love to see more

members signing up and looking for training that suits the departments needs the best. I am also looking forward to our new driving program that has many hours of craftsmanship. Be safe over the holidays and as always if you need anything, Chief's door is always open.



Neighbors Helping Neighbors

Southwest Harbor Maine

Phone: (207) 244-7911
 Fax: (207) 244-5552
 E-mail: ggrohs@swhfire.org
 for newsletter ideas or questions.

Important Dates

October 2011

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					

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

Chiefs Training Quote
 "Back to the Basics"



We have answered the call

98 Times This Year
 09 For the Month of September
 10 less then last year at this time
 108 Total Calls on October 6th 2010

6th & 20th

Fire Department Meeting

8th Acadia Octoberfest / Ball Drop

29th Halloween Spaghetti

Dinner 5-7pm

Members Birthdays

13th LT. Willey

23rd FF Sanner

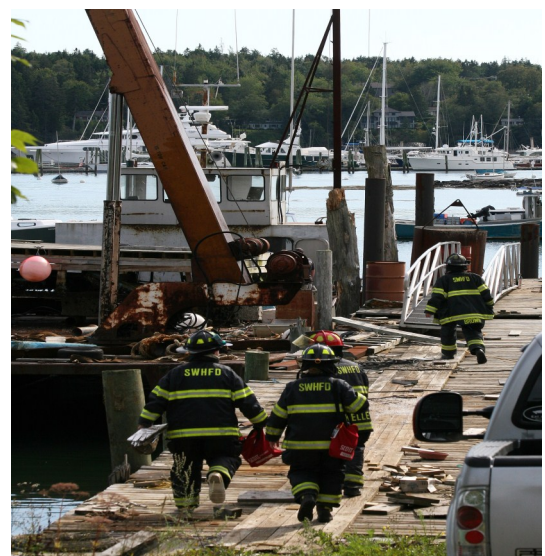


Department Photographer pictures of the month

Pictures Provided by Mary Ellen Martel



Woods Fire, Mount Desert Mutual Aid
 September 1st, 2011



Barge Fire
 August 31st, 2011

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

Tips and Tricks

Firefighter ladders: Finding the balance point

Carrying the ladder a few inches off from its balance point can waste a tremendous amount of a firefighter's energy

Marking the balance point on our ladders is a quick and simple way to work smarter not harder on the fire ground.

A ladder is much easier to handle when carried perfectly balanced. An unbalanced ladder requires additional effort and energy to "right" the ladder back into a comfortable carrying position. Simply by carrying the ladder a few inches off from its balance point can waste a tremendous amount of a firefighter's energy. This effort would be better spent carrying an additional tool, or leaving a free hand for a flashlight.

Believe it or not, each ladder has a different balance point. For example, the roof ladder's balance point is not exactly centered on the ladder — it is actually one set of rungs closer to the tip due to the added weight of the hooks.

Pictured below is a 14ft roof ladder and a 24ft extension ladder side by side. It is apparent that the balance point of the 14 is closer to the tip due to the weight of the roof hooks.



The balance point of each ladder is easy to find: simply place the ladder on the ground, resting on the beam. Then pick the ladder up with one hand and watch how the ladder behaves.

If the tip hits the ground, the balance point is closer to the tip. If the butt of the ladder hits the ground, the balance point is closer to the butt.

Keep adjusting the point where the ladder is picked up until the ladder balances perfectly level with the ground. Once the balance point is located, it needs to be marked for quick reference. Pictured below is a ladder that is perfectly balanced.

The balance point can be marked in a number of different methods; spray paint or reflective tape seems to be the most common. It is also a nice touch to include a unit identifier on the balance point. This makes it easier to determine which rig a ladder needs to be returned to when taking up after the fire.

In addition to the written company identifier, a different color could also signify a different unit. Another reason to mark the ladder with the unit identifier is simply for company pride.

Take a quick look at the pictures around your firehouse; it sure would be nice to be able to see that the ladder in operation in that photo was from Truck 61.

Perhaps the most important reason to mark the balance point with the company identifier is to possibly help locate a crew member in need of assistance.

For example, if a crew member from Truck 61 is performing a Vent, Enter, and Search (VES) on the second floor of side B and find themselves needing assistance, it may narrow down exactly which ladder they ascended when multiple ladders are present.

Obviously a ladder can be carried even if it is not perfectly balanced on our shoulder, but as we mentioned earlier it requires additional effort and energy to "right" the ladder back into a comfortable carrying position. Remember, we always need to work smarter not harder on the fire ground.



This month's Fire ground Tips and Tricks
by Jim Walsh
(Fire Rescue 1)