



## **Westhampton Fire Department**

48 Stage Road, Westhampton, Ma, 01027

Telephone: (413) 529-7181

Acting Fire Chief: Christopher Norris

Deputy Chiefs: Steve Holt, Lee Douchkoff, John Bridgeman

**August 13, 2012**

### **2006 Fire Department Annual Report**

The Westhampton Fire Department is comprised of twenty-five volunteers. The department's fleet of apparatus consists of two engines, one water tanker, one brush truck, one rescue truck, and one utility vehicle. The department responded to one hundred and twenty-eight fire and emergency medical calls this last year. These calls for service were for fire suppression, emergency medical services, hazardous materials response, motor vehicle accidents, utility wires down, residential fire alarm activations, and many more. In addition, over three hundred inspections and permits were completed and issued throughout the year. These inspections and permits can range from smoke detector and carbon monoxide inspections, installation of oil burners and propane tanks, and issuing burning permits and fireworks display permits.

All of the members of the Westhampton Fire Department continue to improve their emergency skills and competencies by attending in house training at least twice a month, participating in Hampshire County training programs throughout the region, or by attending State sanctioned training programs. Federal and State mandates have increased the demands placed on all personnel in addition to their other responsibilities. This past year, all fire personnel were trained in the National Incident Management System (NIMS). This program is designed to train all emergency response organizations how to respond to emergencies in a coordinated response. This was a federal mandate issued by President Bush after the terrorist attacks on 9/11. Communities who do not comply with the requirements become ineligible for any federal and state grant opportunities. To date, the Westhampton Fire Department has been one of the leaders in the region having all personnel trained beyond the minimum requirements in order to remain compliant.

The department continues to remain aggressive in pursuing competitive state and federal grant opportunities to help supplement the operating budget. This past year we received \$15,000 from the Executive Office of Public Safety for purchasing equipment to improve our department's operational capabilities and firefighter safety. The SAFE program continues to be funding by grants issued by the State in order to provide the elementary school children education on fire safety and awareness. Department personnel volunteer their time to go about four times a year to the elementary school and work with the staff to help deliver a valuable program to the kids.

Department personnel continue care for and maintain the Public Safety Complex and make improvements to help prolong the life of the building. Our members renovated the public bathroom, which is located in the old highway garage bays, and new garage doors were added to increase the security of the building and help reduce the heat loss from the building.

The members of the Westhampton Fire Department continue to do much more than respond to emergencies. Throughout the years, they continue to clean residents chimneys each fall, hang the flags on the utility poles in the center of town when needed, get involved in community sponsored events such as the Halloween parade, fill residences swimming pools, and put up house numbers for residences to help emergency responders find the proper location and increase response times. The Westhampton Fire Department is one of the few volunteer departments left in the region, and all of the members are very dedicated and proud to serve the residents and community.

The Westhampton Fire Department would finally like to thank Chief John Shaw and Chief Wayne Buzzee who both step away from the department after dedicating countless hours and responding to numerous emergencies over the years. Their experience and knowledge will be greatly missed, but their lessons and teachings will not be forgotten.

We would all like thank the residences for your continued support throughout the year in helping to make our job easier. We strive to improve our knowledge and services to help make Westhampton a safer community to live. Through our members values of professionalism, honesty, integrity, compassion, and dedication we will continue to meet the needs of the residents and remain "Committed to the Community". Have a great year and stay safe.

*Christopher W. Norris  
Acting Fire Chief  
Town of Westhampton*



