

Longmeadow Fire Department

Monthly Report

April 2021



- **Month in review:** April was a bit tamer than previous months. We did not have any major fires to report. We did note an uptick in activity on Rt 91. We responded to three major accidents and several minor incidents. One of our crews and some LPD officers responded to a call in Town where CPR was in progress. A great team effort resulted in this patient being discharged from the hospital a week later. Truly a life saved. We continue to work on several safety initiatives. We are catching up on inspections that had been delayed due to COVID. We have re-engaged in most of our training and some of our school programs.
- **Staffing:** This month we received notification of an unanticipated retirement by one of our members. We have advertised for the position and only received two applications. One of which is not currently qualified for the position as advertised. We are very concerned with our ability to recruit new employees. There are areas in which we are not competitive in this market place. We are also very concerned about retention of existing employees. There are currently dozens of jobs available in our line of work locally.
- **Equipment / Operational Notes:** In the upcoming month, Ladder One will be going out for some cosmetic work. We noted a few areas where paint had bubbled. The paint is still under a partial warranty. Thus, before any warranties come to end we are having this addressed. The truck will be out of service for three weeks. We have made arrangements with East Longmeadow Fire to provide Ladder Truck services during this time. This will be done under an automatic aid agreement under mutual aid. This is an experiment to see if a more robust automatic / reciprocal aid agreement would be worth exploring. This is an opportunity that is possible due to having shared dispatch services through WestComm.
We anticipate delivery of a new ambulance next month. We have seen photos from the factory and the new vehicle is close to completion. This vehicle has been delayed due to the pandemic, but is now back on track for delivery.
- **EMS Revenue:** EMS revenue continues to improve. Also, our run volume is back to pre-COVID levels. In April we collected close to our pre-COVID average. All indications are that this service will continue to be viable and very cost effective.

Month of April: Comparisons

Performance Measures:	April 2019	April 2020	April 2021
Emergency Medical Calls	159 (64.36%)	162 (76.19%)	151 (75.12%)
False or Unintentional	30	20	28
Fires / Estimated Dollar Loss	7 (\$ 674,820.00)	3 (\$ 250,000.00)	4 (\$ 10,000.00)
All Other:(Rescue, Distress, Hazard)	51	35	18
Mutual Aid: <i>Given / Received</i>	30/19	7 / 16	8/16
Total Responses	247	220	201
Total Calendar Year Responses	999	841	851
Training Hours (Dept. Total)	365 Hours	145 Hours	288 Hours

Fire Prevention, Education and Inspectional Services:

Our Fire prevention officer has been very busy. The uptick in real-estate transfers has require many inspections as part of the sale and transfer process. We have also been involved with several complicated housing and care issues. We work closely with other Town departments in regards to these issues. Two long standing issues in this regard have been temporarily resolved and are well on their way to permanent resolution. In both cases the residents have been placed in more appropriate care settings and the properties are in the process of being rehabilitated. This work often requires close coordination with other departments and agencies, and tough discussions with families or attorneys. This is probably some of the work we do that is rarely recognized but is so very important to the safety of our community.

Inspection Totals:

- Inspection-General (construction site visits, violation specific inspections, etc.): 3
- Residential smoke detector inspections (including 2nd inspections): 40
- Annual inspections (including liquor license and follow-ups): 8
- Quarterly Healthcare facility inspections: 0 (March, June, Sept, Dec)
- Certificate of Occupancy (residential and commercial): 2
- Permits issued: 3
- Smoke detector consultation: 0
- Residential smoke detector installation: 2
- Public education events (including fire drills): 7
- Plan review: 2
- Total fire prevention activities: 68

Emergency Responses: 10

Month highlights:

- The fire department required inspections/testing (fire alarm, sprinkler, hood suppression) have been completed for the new Adult Center
- The third required annual fire drills have been completed for all public and private schools. The fourth will be conducted in late May
- Annual inspections were completed at a majority of occupancies at the Williams Place Mall. Annuals were also completed at 136 Dwight Rd and 138 Longmeadow St. No major issues.
- Pads were replaced in all Town building AEDs.
- Residential smoke detector inspections are picking up for the summer season
- Attended FPAM monthly virtual meeting/training
- Grant submitted for UTV

Emergency Management:

The COVID team continues to be busy. This month we completed our Homebound Vaccination Program. This was accomplished with LFD Paramedics going into homes to deliver the vaccine. Many thanks to the COA staff for their assistance in coordinating this effort. According MADPH our 65+ demographic is over 80% vaccinated a much higher average than neighboring communities. At this point it does not appear we will re-engage in the vaccine effort. The State has focused on other initiatives. Unfortunately, our vaccine performance numbers will not support an argument to continue with special initiatives. As part of the homebound program we distinctly tried to identify additional elderly residents who may need the vaccine with very limited success.

We also noted that a significant number of our elderly population had been vaccinated at their winter residences. This will not show up on the state data base. Thus, we feel our true vaccination numbers are higher than the state reported. There is still a portion of the population that simply do not want the vaccine, even after education.

We have been supporting school reopening with contact tracing and consultation. At times this is very labor intensive. We work closely with school administrators and nurses in this process. This is often requires seven days a week with long hour's. We are seeing a reductions in school cases. To be clear, we have not seen any evidence of widespread school transmission. Most cases are related to outside activities or family contacts.

Next on the radar is re-opening. We wish it was as simple as saying "just go back to the way you're used to do it". However, it is not. Compliance with the reopening standards can be complicated and confusing. Our Compliance officer remains busy sorting through the changing guidance and consulting with community on the next steps. We are still holding our weekly stakeholder calls which are very helpful in communicating these requirements.

Also on the radar are the many summer activities that will be re-starting. We are working closely with many entities to make sure they are prepared to meet the prescribed guidance's in order to get these programs going again.

We are also supporting activities such as Town meeting and Town elections with safety plans and guidance.

Respectively Submitted: John P. Dearborn, Fire Chief, May 7, 2021