



# Avon Fire Department

150 Main Street  
Avon, MA 02322



The annual report of the Fire Department for the year ending December 31<sup>st</sup> 2007 is hereby submitted to the Honorable Board of Selectmen.

The Avon Fire Department continues to deliver excellent emergency service to the residents and businesses in town through dedicated and highly trained members. The department currently has 25 members, 8 are full-time Firefighter /EMT's, 16 Call Firefighters, and the Chief.

The Fire Department responded to 1521 incidents in 2007. The Department handled 900 medical emergency calls, which constituted 59% of the total, and fire and assistance calls were 621 or 41%. The number of calls increased over 17% from 1297 in 2006. 2007 was the busiest year the department ever had.

This year marks the first time all shifts are normally staffed with one paramedic. Four members completed the 1000 hour paramedic class and are to be commended for their efforts. Captain Francis Currie, Firefighter Joseph Hallissey, Firefighter Stephen McCarthy and Firefighter David Ogilvie all gave of their time to improve the care they deliver. Thank you.

The department's ambulance license is currently issued with a waiver, which allows us to operate with fewer paramedics than the current state standards require. The department must continue to work toward meeting the state standard of two paramedics on each call.

The Fire and Police Department building, as reported in the past, continues to be an issue. Space for administrative, storage, training, appropriate bunk- room, medical supplies, and apparatus are extremely inadequate. With the delivery of the new tower ladder, Engine 1 has been moved to an industrial building for winter storage. The replacement of the Public Safety building should be a priority and planned for in the near future. It should be designed to meet the needs of both fire and police agencies for many years to come. The Building Committee has been very helpful in our efforts to realize this goal.

The department takes firefighter safety very seriously and our training program is key to making sure our personnel are properly trained. During the year the department conducted over 40 in house training classes totaling 125 hours per person, with approximately 6000 firefighter/hours of total training for the year. The department has completed initial training for the National Incident Management System as federally required. Three full time members graduated from the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy 480 hour Recruit Program, attaining certification as Firefighter I/II. The Fire Chief graduated from the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy / UMASS Donahue Institute Chief Fire Officer Management Program, certifying to Fire Officer IV.

The department must continue with its program of replacing old and unsafe equipment and work with the Selectmen and Finance Committee to address the capital needs of the department. The safety of our personnel depends on safe equipment, and having good dependable equipment allows our firefighters to do their job effectively and efficiently.

As Fire Chief, I am proud of each of the members, they do an excellent job of delivering service to the community. The department thanks all of its members for their time as members of the department and their service to the town.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Spurr  
Chief of Department

## 2006 INCIDENT SUMMARY

### E.M.S. Calls

Basic Life Support	582
Advanced Life Support	236
Other EMS	82

### Fires

Structure Fires	16
Vehicle	24
Outside Fires	39
Other Fires	16

### Hazardous Conditions

Spill, Leak, Explosion	15
Carbon Monoxide	8
Smoke or other odor	14

### Service Calls & Assists

Investigations	93
Cover assignment	36
Lock outs	122
Water Problem	16

### False Calls

Malicious/mischievous call	12
System malfunctions	91
Unintentional calls	49
Miscellaneous	2
Good Intent	68

<u>Total Calls</u>	<u>1521</u>
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