



Long Hill Fire Company #1 Inc.

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Fire Chief Annual Report 2019-2020

I am very pleased to submit to the Long Hill Fire District the 2019-2020 Annual Report. The 2019-2020 Annual Report gives the reader an understanding of what the department has accomplished throughout the year. This report will give a review of the events that have taken place over the past year and forecast for the upcoming year.

The Town of Trumbull is still an attraction for new businesses to nestle. New construction and alterations to existing properties in town continue at a steady rate. These projects will help to steadily increase grand list growth and relieve the tax burden on the town's residents. Growth in new business, traffic and population continue to cause a steady increase in the need for service.

This past year has seen a slight decline in fire calls. We had a few less weather events compared to years past. Unfortunately, we still saw our share of structure fires, motor vehicle accidents and other severe types of incidents. Our firefighter's hard work and training continue to allow them to handle all emergencies at a professional level.

Our town wide radio system project that we were hoping would go live late in 2019, has been delayed. After extensive testing, some small infrastructure and logistics needed to be worked out. Radios and equipment have been purchased and the system is expected to be completed this summer.

Our new station 2 is now a year old. This past year we have worked out the kinks of the new building. Our firefighters have taken advantage of the key features in the new building. The education training room and training facility are being used on a regular basis. The gym is being used regularly keeping our firefighters healthy and fit to perform their duties as a firefighter.

Early 2020 has been a challenge within the department, as we all are dealing with these challenging times during a Pandemic. Our department has stayed committed to assuring all fire rescue services remain uninterrupted. Our department followed all recommended guidelines and put several policies and protocols in to place to assure the health and safety of our firefighters and the community.

Proudly Serving Since 1921

As you can see, many accomplishments have been completed throughout the past fiscal year. These accomplishments could not have been achieved without the dedication and teamwork of the line officers, board of directors and the volunteers who tirelessly give of themselves to serve the Long Hill Fire District. I also would like to thank the board of fire commissioners and taxpayers for their endless support. I extend my deepest appreciation to all of you.

Respectfully,
Alex J. Rauso, Jr.
Chief of Department
Long Hill Fire Department

2019 - 2020: Annual Operational Report

Submitted by: Deputy Chief, Rob Murphy

Fiscal year 2019 - 2020 was one of the most project heavy years we have experienced in some time. Below I outline some of the most significant operational initiatives we achieved throughout the year.

COVID-19 Pandemic Response

The COVID-19 pandemic put a significant stress on our entire system. Our 100% volunteer firefighting staff and their families not only dealt with the personal stresses but also adapted to the modified conditions necessary for us to ensure the continued running of the department.

Initially the operational changes were weekly, if not daily, as we followed the guidance of national, state and local health agencies. All areas of our operations were evaluated and adjusted to cope with the unknown hazards associated with the virus. Changes were made to our response protocols, required protective equipment, our training and even how we interacted with each other on a daily basis. Through all of this, our firefighters performed their duties and fulfilled their responsibility and commitment to the community without pause.

The fire department continued to participate in numerous weekly meetings with state, regional and local agencies. Our twice-a-week interaction with town wide Unified Command team members, created the strongest communication chain we have experienced in recent times. This sharing of information, ideas and best practices is key to the success we have seen in the emergency services response provided to Trumbull residence. To date, we have had a zero COVID-19 positive case count in Long Hill Fire. This pandemic is expected to be long term and we will continue to manage our response in a manner that puts our firefighters first and provides the highest levels of fire protection to our community.

My deepest appreciation and thanks to the fire officers, firefighters and most importantly our families for their support during this extraordinary time.

Communications

Over the past three years, a great deal of effort has been spent working towards the implementation of an entirely new radio system, replacing the aged system that has been in service for over 40 years. Through much research, evaluation and collaboration with multiple agencies, state and local, we have chosen a system that provides our firefighters state-of-the-art equipment, enhanced functionality and system reliability while reducing the recurring costs to the taxpayer, in relation to the other options we evaluated. We all look forward to its implementation during the summer months of 2020.

Live-In Program

Our membership is our life blood and the reason we are able to provide the service we do to the community. Over the years we have diversified our sources of membership, but none more significantly than the implementation of a "Live-In" Program which was started in 2019. With the completion of our new Station 2, we now have eight "dorm-style" living quarters, six of which are dedicated to out-of-area college students. Partnering with local universities, we currently have five of the six slots filled for the 2020-2021 school year. This new classification provides additional manpower on a consistent basis, especially during the daylight hours when the majority of our "traditional" volunteers are working to financially support their families.

Auto Aid/Mutual Aid

Our partnership with our in-town auto-aid departments, Trumbull Center and Nichols Fire, remain part of the very fabric of our townwide auto-aid response policy. The three Operations Chiefs continue to work together on a regular basis to ensure our service to the community continues seamlessly across the town. It is in close collaboration with them as well as our regional dispatch center that we have revamped our current dispatch protocol policies from which emergency requests are processed and dispatched by the dispatch center. We expect this project will be completed by the middle of summer and fully implemented in coordination with the new radio system.

Firefighter Health and Safety - Cancer Prevention

Over the last few years, Cancer Prevention took a front row seat in our initiatives. Through the continued work of many, we have added additional measures to keep our members health at the forefront. This year, we enhanced the specification of our Personal Protective Equipment, adding cancer preventing liners to our turn-out firefighting gear as well as “particulate” hoods. These “particulate hoods” protect some of our most vulnerable areas around our head and neck by filtering out the carcinogenetic particles found in the smoke we encounter during fires.

Thank you for your continued support!

Robert T. Murphy III
Deputy Chief, Long Hill Fire Department

2019/2020 Annual Administration Report

James Sambrook

Assistant Chief Long Hill Fire Department

To the Commissioners of the Long Hill Fire District,

The 2019 fiscal year ending June 31, 2020, completed with the considerable change to department, and technology, firefighter protection, equipment management, and Budget planning.

Below is the list of significant accomplishments the Long Hill Fire Department officers and members successfully delivered to the Long Hill Fire District and taxpayers.

Technology –

Upgrading the station and district technology is crucial to the success of the department. The department this past year greatly increase productivity and even reduce the operational costs by investing in new technology. There were three key drivers that were instrumental in deciding the best approach to ensure department technology readiness.

End of life technology – Simply put, End-of-Life technology can bet be summed up as the date when a vendor / manufactured stops delivering standard support services. Traditionally this includes voice and electronic technical support, hardware and software upgrades, support for new and known defects (service packs and updates).

By replacing the fire department's end-of-life equipment and operating systems with modern and enhanced security solutions, we ensured that the department is as prepared and fortified as possible to defend against security threats. This year the department replaced/upgraded the firewalls that interconnect the 3 stations with new industry standard and secure hardware. All station PCs were upgraded to the latest Microsoft operating systems with automatic security patching and virus protection, the new hardware reduces the risk of costly downtime and the potential for data loss.

Speed of operations – Investing in new technology has made the department more efficient.

By replacing the district and station technology the department realized an increase of 30 to 40% in productivity and proficiency of the employees and firefighters by proving them with the right kind of business technology.

Data security - The Long Hill Fire Department is fully committed to keeping data secure and considers this to be of the utmost importance.

Upgrading department technology has decreased the risk of data corruption and loss. Moreover, older computers and network equipment are prone to crashes and failures costing the department loss in time, productivity, and money.

Fire Fighter Protection –

Particulate Hoods – Particulate barrier hoods act as a filter to reduce firefighters' exposure to persistent fire ground carcinogens and other contaminants.

The department continued its mission to limit firefighters' risks of exposure to carcinogens and other toxins while operating in an IDLH atmosphere. This year the department outfitted each firefighter with advanced particulate hood technology that blocks particulates at 0.2 microns in size or larger. Research presented by the Firefighter Cancer Support Network clearly illustrates that soot and smoke absorption into the highly permeable skin around the jawline and neck is as high of a concern as toxins being inhaled into the lungs. As such, the use of a particulate barrier hood is now a necessity and standard equipment for all firefighters.

45 Minute SCBA Cylinders – while working in an IDLH or hazardous incident breathing is not an option, firefighters need proper respiratory protection to stay safe on the job.

This year the department's SCBA 30-minute cylinders reached their end of useful life and no longer met the standard NFPA standard. The department while planning for the purchase and replacement of these cylinders for the past 4 years conducted extensive research to determine the efficacy of eliminating the 30 minutes bottles and outfitting the department with all 45-minute bottles. The results of this review determined that the increased air capacity provided the firefighter with additional time to work in and safely evacuate from IDLH or hazardous environment. The minimal weight gain and enhanced operational time were incorporated in the decision to upgrade from 30 to 45-minute SCBA cylinders.

Operating Budget – The chiefs and station officers continue to adhere to prudent fiscal purchasing policies, by using sound practices to maximize the expenditure of approved budgeted equipment. The line officers continue to be proactive with budget planning ensuring equipment that is end of life is realized and budgeted in advance to give the department the flexibility and the opportunity to spend wisely.

The 2020 budget planning process incorporated a systematic review process with the understanding of continued district and taxpayer pressure as a result of the current COVID – 19 Pandemic. Line officers under the guidance of the Chief prioritized all budget items focusing on items with an immediate impact on strengthening and enhancing the department’s emergency services and those where the replacement lifecycle extension is possible.

Respectfully submitted - 5/8/2020

James Sambrook

Assistant Chief Long Hill Fire Department

2019/20 Annual Training Report

Greg SanFanAndre

Assistant Chief, Long Hill Fire Department

In 2019-2020, Long Hill Fire Officers and Firefighters continued to deliver quality training to our Volunteer force. Our weekly drills cover a range of topics, from tactics in fighting house fires, Leadership, FF Self-Rescue, car accidents, and even the science behind how fire behaves. This past year we refocused on the basics of firefighting and continued our online training program making it easier for our volunteers to obtain their annual required OSHA training in Hazardous Materials, Blood Borne pathogens, workplace training and driver safety courses. Currently 8 members are working towards their certification in Firefighter level I. One firefighter obtained their Haz - Mat Tech Certification while two others became certified in Firefighter Level II. I would like to thank the Long Hill Fire Commission for its continued support in training the members of the Long Hill Fire Company.