

Town Report 2020

The Mission Statement of the Plymouth Fire Department remains the same as in past years, which is to protect the general public's life and property in the most efficient manner by reducing the effects of fire emergencies, medical emergencies, hazardous material incidents, special rescue emergencies and natural disasters. The Department will continue to train and provide a proactive, highly trained professional emergency responder for the residents and guest of the Town of Plymouth.

2020 was a year dominated by Covid-19 patient care and transport for the department with fire emergency incidents totaling 4007, total incidents of 8923 and total apparatus responses of 9,943.

Significant Incidents and Major Events during 2020

The COVID-19 pandemic altered life for everyone. Fire and Rescue services did not waiver and met each challenge head on. Through partnerships with local businesses, private residents, and the Plymouth Emergency Operations Center, we were able to secure the much needed personal protective equipment (PPE) to protect our firefighters while they responded to well over 400 COVID-19 related calls for help. Through extraordinary effort with the support of the Selectboard, Town Management, the Finance Department, the Emergency Management Division and the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency, the Fire Department's Administration was able to secure sufficient PPE supply chains to maintain an operational level of PPE using the Federal CARES act funds. The Department developed protocols for handling patients, working with the public, and encouraging safety standards for our firefighters to maintain department manpower levels. The Fire Department maintained the capability to provide a continuous expected level of service throughout the pandemic.

Personnel

Salute to Retirees

Firefighter Steven Rice

Appointed as a Firefighter May 17, 1987
Retired July 4, 2020 with over 33 years of Service

Firefighter Eugene Lane

Appointed as a Firefighter July 12, 1987
Retired May 7, 2020 with over 32 years of Service

They performed their duties with pride and distinction during years of dedicated service to the citizens of Plymouth

7 Personnel Received Promotions in 2020

Captain Jerome Hart
Promoted to the rank of Battalion Chief 12-4-2020

Captain Scott Manuel
Promoted to the rank of Battalion Chief 12-15-2020

Lieutenant Douglas Pigeon
Promoted to the rank of Fire Captain 04-04-2020

Lieutenant Michael Connor
Promoted to the rank of Fire Captain 04-06-2020

Lieutenant Brian Cusack
Promoted to the rank of Fire Captain 04-09-2020

Lieutenant Joshua Prada
Promoted to the rank of Fire Lieutenant 04-08-2020

Firefighter Joshua Soell
Promoted to the rank of Fire Lieutenant 12-17-2020

Resignations and Terminations

Firefighter Chadwick Correa 06-16-2020
Firefighter Michael Ehnes 04-30-2020

New Buildings & Equipment

The Fire Department vacated the North Plymouth Fire Station on Spooner Street due to multiple building issues in 2019. With plans already set in motion for a replacement station, the department moved in to its newest station at 15 Hedge Road on July 13, 2020. This was built with the latest efficiencies and firefighter safety standards, built for the future, helping to reduce the cancer risk to firefighters and a design to streamline the delivery of emergency services.

North Plymouth Fire Station 2020



New Equipment:

Holmatro Hydraulic (Jaws of Life) rescue tools
Portable Hydraulic lifts for Repair Shop

Fire Department Resources, Apparatus & Equipment

7 Fire Stations staffed by 139 uniformed members, 5 civilian employees and another 2 civilians employees in the Emergency Management Division.

- 10 Pumper Engines
- 3 Aerial Ladders
- 1 Rescue Truck
- 9 Brush Breakers (Forest Fire Trucks)
- 3 Tankers
- 1 Military high water/off road vehicle
- 7 boats (1 Marine firefighting unit, 6 rescue boats)
- 2 Lighting Unit –trailer
- 1 Spill Control Unit
- 2 containment boom trailers
- 1 MDU – Mass Decontamination Unit
- 1 Fire Safety Education House Trailer
- 1 Dive Team Trailer Unit
- 1 ATV unit (off-road emergency response, patient transport)
- 3 Command & Staff vehicles

The Fire Department responded to 8,923 emergencies, which resulted in 9,943 fire apparatus responses involving 31,886 personnel responses within the town including Mutual Aid apparatus responses to adjoining communities.

Total Responses	8,923 incidents	
Fire Related	45%	EMS Related 55%

Assessed Real Property Value protected by the Plymouth Fire Department

According to the Assessor's Office Plymouth has over \$9 Billion in Real Property, including dwellings, business property, vehicles, boats and marine vessels, etc... Property Loss in Plymouth due to fire in 2020 was reported at \$2,605,992. Without the prompt response of highly trained personnel and well-maintained equipment, fires would intensify, resulting in greater property loss, higher claims and risk ratings culminating in increased insurance premiums.

2020 Plymouth Fire Department NFPA Data Survey Report

Type of Response	Number of Responses	Estimated Property Damage from Fire
Private Dwelling Fires (1 or 2 family), including mobile homes	38	\$1,219,000
Apartments Fires (3 or more families)	11	\$190,100
Hotels and Motels Fires	1	\$120,000
All other residential fires (dormitories, boarding houses, tents, etc.)	2	\$3,500
Public Assembly Fires (church, restaurant, clubs, etc.)	4	\$22,000
Schools and Colleges Fires	1	\$50
Health Care and Penal Institutions Fires (hospitals, nursing homes, prisons)	3	\$503
Stores and Offices Fires	2	\$4,500
Storage in Structures Fires (barn, vehicle storage garage)	3	\$15,000
Other Structure Fires (outbuildings, bridges, etc.)	2	\$189
Fires in Highway Vehicles (autos, trucks, buses, etc.)	25	\$186,750
Fires in Other Vehicles (planes, ships, trains, construction or farm vehicles)	2	\$90,000
Fires Outside of Structures excluding vehicles (outside storage, crop, timber, etc.)	100	\$400
Fires in Brush, Grass, Wild land (excluding crops and timber)	40	\$0
Fires in Rubbish, Including Dumpsters (outside of structures)	21	\$0
All Other Fires	6	\$754,000

Total Number of Fires 261 Firefighter injuries 10 Civilian Injuries 6 Estimated Total Fire Loss \$2,605,992
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2020 Additional Department Emergency Response Statistics

Type Response	Number of Responses
100-Fire, other	1
111-Building fire	36
112-Fires in structure other than in a building	2
113-Cooking fire, confined to container	13
114-Chimney or flue fire, confined to chimney or flue	7
116-Fuel burner/boiler malfunction, fire confined	9
118-Trash or rubbish fire, contained	1
122-Fire in motor home, camper, recreational vehicle	1
123-Fire in portable building, fixed location	1
130-Mobile property (vehicle) fire, other	1
131-Passenger vehicle fire	23
132-Road freight or transport vehicle fire	1
134-Water vehicle fire	1
140-Natural vegetation fire, other	75
141-Forest, woods or wildland fire	23
142-Brush or brush-and-grass mixture fire	37
143-Grass fire	3
151-Outside rubbish, trash or waste fire	10
153-Construction or demolition landfill fire	1
154-Dumpster or other outside trash receptacle fire	10
160-Special outside fire, other	2
162-Outside equipment fire	2
163-Outside gas or vapor combustion explosion	1
251-Excessive heat, scorch burns with no ignition	5
300-Rescue, EMS incident, other	3
311-Medical assist, assist EMS crew	4,856
320-Emergency medical service incident, other	2
321-EMS call, excluding vehicle accident with injury	55
322-Motor vehicle accident with injuries	178
323-Motor vehicle/pedestrian accident (MV Ped)	13
324-Motor vehicle accident with no injuries.	213
331-Lock-in (if lock out , use 511)	8
350-Extrication, rescue, other	4
352-Extrication of victim(s) from vehicle	4
353-Removal of victim(s) from stalled elevator	5
361-Swimming/recreational water areas rescue	2
365-Watercraft rescue	3

372-Trapped by powerlines	2
381-Rescue or EMS standby	13
400-Hazardous condition, other	3
410-Combustible/flammable gas/liquid condition, other	2
411-Gasoline or other flammable liquid spill	14
412-Gas leak (natural gas or LPG)	61
413-Oil or other combustible liquid spill	15
421-Chemical hazard (no spill or leak)	2
422-Chemical spill or leak	3
424-Carbon monoxide incident	52
440-Electrical wiring/equipment problem, other	30
441-Heat from short circuit (wiring), defective/worn	5
442-Overheated motor	9
443-Breakdown of light ballast	3
444-Power line down	61
445-Arcing, shorted electrical equipment	50
460-Accident, potential accident, other	1
461-Building or structure weakened or collapsed	2
463-Vehicle accident, general cleanup	6
481-Attempted burning, illegal action, other	2
500-Service Call, other	17
510-Person in distress, other	14
511-Lock-out	52
512-Ring or jewelry removal	6
520-Water problem, other	8
521-Water evacuation	1
522-Water or steam leak	24
531-Smoke or odor removal	46
541-Animal problem	2
542-Animal rescue	1
550-Public service assistance, other	179
551-Assist police or other governmental agency	44
552-Police matter	48
553-Public service	75
554-Assist invalid	184
555-Defective elevator, no occupants	1
561-Unauthorized burning	195
571-Cover assignment, standby, move up	26
600-Good intent call, other	48
611-Dispatched & canceled en route	369
621-Wrong location	9
622-No incident found on arrival at dispatch address	318
631-Authorized controlled burning	9

632-Prescribed fire	2
650-Steam, or other gas mistaken for smoke, other	4
651-Smoke scare, odor of smoke	8
652-Steam, vapor, fog or dust thought to be smoke	10
653-Smoke from barbecue, tar kettle	1
661-EMS call, party transported by non-fire agency	2
671-HazMat release investigation w/no HazMat	27
700-False alarm or false call, other	25
710-Malicious, mischievous false call, other	10
711-Municipal alarm system, malicious false alarm	12
712-Direct tie to FD, malicious false alarm	5
713-Telephone, malicious false alarm	2
714-Central station, malicious false alarm	8
715-Local alarm system, malicious false alarm	3
721-Bomb scare – no bomb	1
730-System malfunction, other	57
731-Sprinkler activation due to malfunction	19
733-Smoke detector activation due to malfunction	370
734-Heat detector activation due to malfunction	14
735-Alarm system sounded due to malfunction	132
736-CO detector activation due to malfunction	60
740-Unintentional transmission of alarm, other	69
741-Sprinkler activation, no fire - unintentional	19
743-Smoke detector activation, no fire - unintentional	184
744-Detector activation, no fire - unintentional	36
745-Alarm system activation, no fire - unintentional	178
746-Carbon monoxide detector activation, no CO	36
812-Flood assessment	1
813-Wind storm, tornado/hurricane assessment	7
814-Lightning strike (no fire)	1
900-Special type of incident, other	1
911-Citizen complaint	8

2020 Emergency Medical Care Statistics

The Town's contract ambulance, Brewster Ambulance Service working alongside and housed in 4 out of the 7 fire Stations; responded to 8541 medical emergencies with 6159 patients being transported to medical facilities for further treatment..

Count of Run #	
Protocol	Total
Unknown Problem/Person Down (Protocol 32)	2751
Sick Person (Protocol 26)	998
Falls (Protocol 17)	997
Psychiatric Problem/Abnormal Behavior/Suicide Attempt (Protocol 25)	596
Unconscious/Fainting/Near-Fainting (Protocol 31)	441
Breathing Problem (Protocol 6)	433
Traffic/Transportation Incident (Protocol 29)	423
Chest Pain (Non-Traumatic) (Protocol 10)	281
Overdose/Poisoning/Ingestion (Protocol 23)	220
Convulsions/Seizure (Protocol 12)	185
Pandemic (Protocol 36)	156
Abdominal Pain/Problems (Protocol 1)	156
Hemorrhage/Laceration (Protocol 21)	138
Stroke/CVA (Protocol 28)	136
Heart Problems/AICD (Protocol 19)	112
Traumatic Injury (Protocol 30)	87
Back Pain (Non-Traumatic) (Protocol 5)	78
Cardiac Arrest/Death (Protocol 9)	75
Diabetic Problem (Protocol 13)	71
Assault/Sexual Assault/Stun Gun (Protocol 4)	50
Allergic Reaction/Stings (Protocol 2)	47
Choking (Protocol 11)	30
Headache (Protocol 18)	19
Pregnancy/Childbirth/Miscarriage (Protocol 24)	9
Eye Problem/Injury (Protocol 16)	7
Animal Bites/Attack (Protocol 3)	7
Drowning/Diving/SCUBA Accident (Protocol 14)	6
Fire	6
Carbon Monoxide/Hazmat/Inhalation (Protocol 8)	6
Heat/Cold Exposure (Protocol 20)	6
Burns/Explosion (Protocol 7)	4
Detail	4
Stab/Gunshot Wound/Penetrating Trauma (Protocol 27)	3
Inaccessible Incident/Other Entrapments (Non-Vehicle) (Protocol 22)	1
Safe Drug Program	1
MedFlight	1
Grand Total	8541

FIRE PREVENTION and CODE ENFORCEMENT DIVISION
2020 End of Year Report

The Fire Prevention & Code Enforcement Division consists of a Battalion Chief and Lieutenant.

Mission Statement

It is the responsibility of the Division to promote public safety by limiting the occurrence of fire, identifying conditions that may lead to ignition and abating hazards that jeopardize life safety. Our goal is to provide a fire safe home, work, and school environment. This is primarily accomplished through public fire safety education, enforcement of the Commonwealth's fire codes and regulations, Town by-laws and through inspections, plan review and permitting.

Covid-19 Impacts

The impact of the pandemic for all aspects of society required adaptive policies and actions by the Plymouth Fire Department to continue providing service to the community. Modifications to inspection programs resulting from State ordered changes and Chief of Department Bradley's desire to support citizens of Plymouth, continued efforts to maintain education, business, and health care safety programs. These efforts have been altered as efforts to respond to varying ebb and surges of the pandemic occur. The Plymouth Fire Department and Fire Prevention Division continue their commitment to customer service and maintaining a fire safe community.

Training and Continuing Education

Fire Inspectors attend monthly continuing education seminars, via video conferencing, sponsored by the Fire Prevention Association of Massachusetts. Current issues relating to fire codes and fire safety are shared among the Fire Inspectors along with updates from the State Fire Marshal Office. They also attend continuing educational training courses offered by the Massachusetts Fire Academy in Stow, MA. Training continued in various electronic forums during the Covid-19 Pandemic.

Construction Plan Review and Permits

The fire department reviews construction plans to assure that adequate fire protection systems are being installed and maintained to all applicable codes and regulations. They consist of smoke and carbon monoxide detection systems, sprinkler systems, Bi-Directional Antennae (BDA) radio signal boosting systems, Fire Department Access, and Life Safety compliance for both residential and commercial properties. Fire Prevention Division personnel inspect completed projects prior to granting approval for Occupancy.

Many existing properties have undergone renovation and alteration to accommodate new businesses. Fire Prevention Division personnel conducted inspections to ensure compliance and safe occupancy.

Commercial and residential projects continued at a high level in the Town of Plymouth. Numerous commercial and multi-occupancy residential projects have been or are nearing completion. New projects continue to be submitted for review and permitting as needed.

New commercial projects included:

- several large multi-residential buildings,
- a new medical office building,
- Fairfield Inn,
- Harbor Freight,
- Auto Zone
- Beth Israel Deaconess Hospital continues with its renovations to upgrade its facilities and support systems.
- There are many new restaurants that were opened throughout town.

Aside from the large amount of one and two family residential new construction and renovations, there are also several on-going residential multi-family developments which include Red Brook, Thorndike Homes 55+ communities, Harborside at Cordage (phase 1 has been completed, and Phase 2 has been submitted). The Pine Hills has also submitted plans for a new commercial/residential complex, the Oasis at Home Depot plans are underway, and Newfield Street development is nearing completion.

Inspections

In addition to new construction, it is also the responsibility of the Fire Prevention Division to conduct Statutory annual inspections at all schools, nursing facilities, hospitals, clinical institutions, Plymouth County Correctional Facility, MCI-Forestry Camp, group homes, day care centers and other facilities licensed by the Department of Public Health and/or Department of Public Welfare.

We issue certification of compliance for smoke & CO detectors for the sale of any residential units.

We conduct inspections of oil-fired equipment, including all above and underground tank installations and removals, installations propane tanks. self-service gas stations, and hood suppression system. We oversee the department's Mercantile inspection program

Code Enforcement

Complaints received from concerned citizens and observations made by department personnel during routine inspections and emergency responses initiate investigations by fire inspectors to determine if a fire hazard or code violation exists and to bring about compliance through education as a first resort. If an owner or tenant refuses to comply or bring conditions into compliance with fire or life safety codes, a fine will be assessed using non-criminal citations. Further non-compliance can result in complaints filed via the court system.

During 2020, the fire prevention division responded to numerous calls for issues such as: violation of open burning regulations, failure to install or maintain fire protection systems, blocked fire exits, and improper storage of flammables and combustibles.

Citations were issued where required.

Fire Investigation

Investigating the origin and cause of a fire is vital to determine whether the fire is accidental or intentional, the result of a malicious or criminal human act, design flaw or equipment malfunction, carelessness, or poor practice. By finding the circumstances responsible for ignition of the fire, we can attempt to reduce future occurrences of fire loss by changing behavior through education, altering product design or operation, or promulgating new ordinances to bring about code compliance.

Smoke and carbon monoxide detectors save lives and are required by law and as always, we stress the importance of possessing and maintaining these devices in homes. The trend for voluntary installation of residential fire sprinkler systems is a logical choice during new construction as it adds only a fraction of the square foot cost to the project. Residential fire sprinklers enhance life safety by reacting quickly to the heat of a fire, while it is still in the beginning stage and relatively small. Fire sprinklers give occupants a chance to exit to safety and are a proven life saver. An added benefit is that they control the fire and reduce property damage.

Public Fire and Life Safety Education

The main goal of the S.A.F.E. (Student Awareness of Fire Education) program is to educate students in grades K-12, the public and the elderly about key fire and life safety behaviors to reduce fires and the likelihood of injury or death. Funding for this program revolves around an annual grant application submitted to the Massachusetts Department of Fire Services. This year, the Fire Prevention office received a grant for \$6848.00 in support of our S.A.F.E. program. Our S.A.F.E. program provides a full range of presentations reaching out not only to schools, but also to senior citizens through monthly meetings set up with the Council on Aging and Safety Fairs at Mobile home parks. The Fire Prevention office also received a grant for the Senior Safe Program totaling \$3826.00. Coordinated by the Council on Aging staff, several in-home inspections by our Fire Prevention Lieutenant were performed along with over a dozen public school visits – preCovid-19 restrictions. Covid-19 protocols limited additional activities. Video conferencing was employed to reach both schools and seniors for continued SAFE education.

The S.A.F.E. grant supports our fire safety trailer, fire station open house events, educating the public at health fairs, festivals, and community events. Fire Safety and Fall Prevention educational programs are also offered via video conferencing to seniors, Boys and Girl's organization, and other community organizations. There was one onsite outdoor visit to West Elementary school. Fire Prevention Week occurred via video conferencing.

Contests for fire prevention calendar artwork, conducted in concert with the State Fire Marshal and the Fire Prevention Division, saw students from Plymouth South Middle School win scholarships for the fire prevention calendar.

Prior to Covid-19 restrictions, specially trained firefighters present lessons on topics such as Learn Not to Burn, Preparing and Practicing Home Fire Escape Drills, Electrical Safety, Ice and Cold-Water Emergencies, Smoke and Carbon Monoxide Alarms and Home Safety Inspections.

2020 Fire Prevention Statistics

Inspections

Acceptance Testing

Commercial and Residential Systems

2099

Quarterly Inspections

Hospitals/Medical	12
Nursing Homes	24
Schools/Day Cares	64

Annual Inspections

Hotels/Motels	
Liquor License Establishments	138
Group homes	7
Day Care Centers	12
Restaurants	20
Churches	8
Fueling Facilities	26

Permits Issued

Plan Review	378
Fuel Storage	64
U.G. Fuel Storage Tanks Removed	6
Smoke Detectors New Construction & Resale	1295
Oil Burner Equipment	206
Fire Alarm systems	50
Hood Suppression	0
Sprinkler	39
Tank Trucks/ Transfer tanks	1
Propane Tanks	264
Gun Powder	3
Blasting	0
Cut & Weld	37
Un-vented heaters	0
Propane Cylinder exchange sites	6
Alcohol License	151
Bon Fire	0

Waste oil tank	30
Dumpster	12
Marine Fuel Facilities	2
Master Box	243
Fireworks	0
Canon and mortar firing	3
Total Permits & Inspections	3427

2020 Fire Alarm Division Report

Superintendent of Fire Alarm

The Municipal Fire Alarm System continues to grow with new commercial developments. New alarms are tied into the system at no cost to the taxpayer and utilize existing circuits or radio boxes.

Zachary J. Lynch Superintendent of Fire Alarm

New Boxes 2020

33 Plymouth Fire Department Station 3, 12 Pinehills Drive
44 Plymouth Fire Department Station 4, Bourne Road
66 Plymouth Fire Department Station 6, 2209 State Road
77 Plymouth Fire Department Station 7, 15 Hedge Road
1513 Mt. Pleasant Apartments, 22 Whiting Street
1631 The Bradford Look Out, 98 Water Street
2551 Sawyer's Reach apartments, 62 Mariner's Way
2552 Sawyer's Reach Apartments. 2 Mariner's Way
3211 Forges Field Pumping Station, 40 Forge's Field Road
7267 Town Maritime Facility, Water Street
7841 Cordage Park- Wharf Building, 56 Loring Boulevard

Incidents Reported through the Municipal System 2020

4/13/2020 Box 7185 Cherry Hill Housing Bldg. , 128 Court Street; Generator Exhaust Fire
5/21/2020 Box 1353 Fox Rock Plymouth, 40 Industrial Park Road; Overheated transformer
7/12/2020 Box 232 John Carver Inn. 25 Summer Street; Kitchen Fire
11/24/2020 Box 7185 Cherry Hill Housing, 128 Court Street; burning plastic lid
12/28/20 Box 2815 Tech-Etch, 45 Aldrin Road, fire in a machine

Projects for 2020

- Install Municipal Fire Alarm cable and equipment at the new Station 7
- Install Communications equipment at the new Station 7
- Completion of work for the Obery street and South Street project
- Numerous equipment upgrades in the Fire Stations and Fire Apparatus
- Removal of Municipal Fire Alarm and communications equipment from the Old Station 7
- Several Pole transfers completed
- Upgrades to Aerial cable plant

I wish to thank all members of the Fire Department for their assistance on many of these projects.

Training and Safety Division

Mission Statement

The training division is responsible for the development, implementation, design, delivery and documentation of educational programs involving all members of the department. Training programs are intended to improve the firefighter's capabilities while performing emergency duties such as, emergency medical services, rescue and hazardous material response, as well as meeting the requirements and objectives of Federal and State agencies.

This responsibility includes needs assessment, curriculum development, and scheduling and records management. Courses on supervisory development, new products and apparatus and other specialized training are conducted on an as needed basis.

Minimum training standards are established by Local, State and Federal agencies. Training takes on a variety of forms, from self-study to mandatory department training. All training done by the Firefighter must be documented as required by law. This documentation provides the legal verification for training completed.

The Training division is responsible for the managing the wide range of training related documents, reports and records necessary for maintaining required certification for the department's emergency response personnel.

The Training Division ensures the department's training meets, OSHA, NFPA and ISO requirements as well as all State and federal regulations. This responsibility requires the Training Officer to work with State agencies including The Office of Emergency Medical Services and the Division of Fire Services.

The Training Officer coordinates and schedules Department's In-house Drills. The purpose of this drill packages is to review basic suppression and EMS materials that aid personnel with maintaining knowledge of specific topics. This training is delivered to personnel by the company officers.

In addition to this in-service training the Training Officer also serves as the department's drill instructor for all newly hired firefighters. This recruit-training program introduces all probationary firefighters to the basic skills necessary to survive and function in the hostile environment of a structure or forest fire. This program prepares the individual to meet the standards set by the NFPA for certification for Firefighter 1 and 2.

The Training Division constantly evaluates and coordination training with other divisions within the department. The training of members on new equipment and implementation of procedures for new equipment are coordinated by the Training Officer.

The training Officer is also the Department's Safety Officer. The Safety Officer's duties include responding to fires and hazardous incidents to oversee Scene Safety. The Training Officer also serves as the department's state mandated Infection Control Officer and is the Department's liaison to the Jordan hospital. The Infection Control Officer is responsible to enforce policies and procedure to ensure department member's health safety and tracking and documenting any exposures and injuries that occurred while on duty as required by State and Federal regulations.

Recruit Training For New Hires

In 2020 the Training Division had a recruit training class. Each class eight weeks in length. These classes get the new recruit ready to operate as a probationary firefighter until his or her Mass Fire Academy slot opens up. This course not only tests new recruits physically, but mentally. The new recruits learn nomenclature of all firefighting gear and tools, but also hands on practical evolutions in Search and Rescue, Vehicle Extrication, First Aid, CPR and First Responder qualifications. Recruits are taught Wildland Fire Operations and a Chainsaw Safety Course we have developed with State Fire Warden and his Class2 Sawyers. Due to the fact that every station has a boat as well as the Department Fire Boat, we have the recruits go through a Safe Boating Course with the Mass Environmental Police and get certified. 2020 Recruit Class had 6 recruits,5 finished.

The head of the Training Division also is in charge of the Underwater Recovery Unit. This team consists of 30 members, Divers, Tenders, and Support personnel. Each member has gone through rigorous training and certifications through Lifeguard Systems Public Safety Diving. The team members have International Certifications in Public Safety Diving/Tending, Moving Water Operations, Underwater Vehicle Extrication, Black Water, Full Face Mask and Drysuit Certified as well as Ice Diving Search and Recovery. The Underwater Recovery Unit also has a Side Scan Sonar Team that utilizes the Edgetech 4125 Side Scan Sonar for body recovery or evidence location. The Team has worked alongside of mutual aid towns, The Mass State Police, Plymouth County Tech Rescue, Barnstable County Tech Rescue, Plymouth Police and Mass Environmental Police as well as the Coast Guard and Harbormaster of Plymouth and mutual aid towns.

Training and Safety Division won MIIA grants for high visibility DOT vests as well as vehicle extrication gloves and eye protection.

Training and Safety Division has implemented Mass Fire Academy instructors to conduct Cancer in the Fire Services to all department personnel. This is to combat the enormously high rates of occupational cancer. D-Con protocols using HERO WIPES and detergents are now implemented during and after fires and any event where firefighters may be exposed to toxins. The department upgraded their SCBA Mask fit tester to the new TSI Porta Count Fit Tester. SCBA Masks are fitted with Scott Thermal Imaging Cameras for extra safety. Personnel have been issued new helmets with washable liners to comply with Cancer Protocols as well as particulate hoods.

Due to the tragic events of today's world with mass shootings. All personnel have had added training in gunshot wounds and tourniquets as well as the use of ballistic vests and headgear. Other added training was pet CPR and oxygen masks for pets now carried on all apparatus.

Apparatus Repair & Maintenance Division

The mission of the Apparatus Repair and Maintenance Division is to properly supply and maintain all of the department's emergency apparatus while ensuring compliance with National Fire Protection Association, Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards, and Massachusetts General Laws to provide safer equipment for departmental personnel and the community.

In addition to general heavy truck powertrain components strong knowledge of fire pumps, hydraulics, aerial systems, and electronic multiplex systems are required to maintain such specialized equipment. Fire apparatus must be properly maintained to obtain operational readiness at all times.

The staff maintains a fleet of over 40 specialized fire apparatus; such as pumping engines, aerial ladder trucks, brush-breakers, rescue trucks, specialty units, trailers, marine response units, command vehicles, support vehicles, small engines, and fire-fighting tools. Responses to fire scenes take place for emergency repairs and technical assistance to render operational professionalism. During the year annual third party non-destructive testing of aerial devices, ground ladders, and inspection of all vehicles to conform to federal and state agencies takes place under their supervision.

Last year's annual Town Meeting funded the third mechanic position for this division to expand with the departments growing maintenance requirements. A revolving annual cooperative position with the Plymouth School Technical Program has begun and has been a great success to date. Apparatus mechanics attend monthly educational training seminars and annual certification testing hosted both by the New England Fire Apparatus Maintenance Association and Emergency Vehicle Certification Commission. Staff is thoroughly involved in the technical design and specification development of new apparatus, safety updates, pre-delivery vehicle inspection, final acceptance testing and operational training for fire department personnel.

Office of Emergency Management

Mission Statement

The mission of the Plymouth Office of Emergency Management is to coordinate efforts to prevent, mitigate, prepare, respond, and recover from local emergencies and disasters. This is accomplished by working with Town Departments and other partnerships to ensure plans, resources, and procedures are developed and maintained to safeguard the public against community vulnerabilities and the effects of these hazards.

Narrative Statement

2020 brought unprecedented challenges for Emergency Management Division. The staff wants to take an opportunity to share with the community for what is believed to have been a very successful year. The year began with completing a very comprehensive planning effort for the many events planned for the Plymouth 400 celebration throughout the year. The effort had been ongoing in conjunction with all the Town's public safety departments and many outside agencies to assure all contingencies were addressed.

The emerging COVID-19 pandemic put a halt to all projects. On March 17, the Emergency Operations Center was closed to the public throughout the rest of the year to ensure a virus-free emergency operations center. Always ready, the capability to provide continuous emergent town operations was paramount to assure continuity of operations of critical town infrastructure in case of major contamination in other Town buildings.

Personal Protective equipment for the Town's Fire Fighters and Police Officers became in short supply as the pandemic worsened. The Division worked with the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency to acquire the necessary equipment and disinfectant supplies to offset the limited supply available commercially. All in all, through response data and pandemic projections, the initial shortfall had been overcome and anticipated reserve has been received to meet future demands.

Roni Bosse, Administrative Assistant for the Division, with her a wealth of office management experience with a strong background in financial management and fiscal accountability has worked with the Finance Department to compile, track, and verify all Town COVID-19 related expenses. This accounting is crucial to assure proper Town documentation, which has led to the reimbursement of most of the pandemic related expenses from Plymouth County through their management of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act appropriation.

As in 2019, major storms took a different direction and spared Plymouth from serious damage in 2020. However, preparedness, response, potential sheltering, and recovery planning were always at the forefront from January through March. In June, national weather forecasters predicted a very active hurricane season which initiated early storm preparation for the second half of the year. The predictions were accurate as the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration said the 2020 Atlantic Ocean hurricane season set multiple records while producing a record 30 named storms. Fortunately, Plymouth was not in the path of any major weather activity.

The Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station shut the reactor down on May 31, 2019 and was sold to Holtec/CDI. In 2020, Holtec/CDI has been decommissioning the facility in accordance with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and other regulations. The Division has remained vigilant to assuring that public safety continues to be the priority under the overall command and direction of Fire Chief Ed Bradley.

Pilgrim's closure has not dampened our efforts to better prepare the community. As the Massachusetts Radiological Emergency Response Plan has been dis-continued, the Division has developed a new local Radiological Response Plan, which integrates nicely with the Town's Comprehensive Emergency Operations Plan. This new plan is consistent with other established state and federal all-hazard plans to assure compliance with the National Incident Management System.

In closing, other Town planning initiatives which included participation from the Division were the Climate Ready Healthy Plymouth project and the beginning stages of the five-year update of the Town's Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan, which is scheduled to be completed in 2021.