

Town Report 2021

The Mission of the Plymouth Fire Department 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 proactive, highly trained professional emergency responders for the residents and guests of the Town of Plymouth.

Significant Incidents and Major Events during 2021

The COVID-19 pandemic continued to provide challenges for Fire and Rescue services while our personnel responded to well over 400 COVID-19 related calls for help. 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 second year of the pandemic. The October northeaster hit Plymouth with heavy winds which caused town-wide power outages lasting several days and road closures hampering responses to incidents. The Fire Department responded to over 219 storm related incidents in the first 24 hours and the large call volume lasted for another day. The Department increased manpower levels to deal with 48 hours of storm coverage to help respond to incidents.

Personnel

Salute to Retirees

Battalion Chief Robert MacKinnon

Appointed as a Firefighter June 8, 1998
Retired September 1, 2021 with over 23 years of Service

Firefighter Shawn Harmon

Appointed as a Firefighter April 2, 2001
Retired August 31, 2021 with over 20 years of Service

Firefighter Sean Dowling

Appointed as a Firefighter March 1, 2004
Retired September 4, 2021 with over 17 years of Service

Hank Lipe hired as Emergency Operations Director July 11, 2016

Retired September 24, 2021 with over 5 years of Service

They performed their duties with pride and distinction during years of dedicated

service to the citizens of Plymouth

4 Personnel Received Promotions in 2021

Lieutenant Montgomery Gray
Promoted to the rank of Fire Captain 10-31-2021

Lieutenant Brain Baragwanath
Promoted to the rank of Fire Captain 11-02-2021

Firefighter Samuel Genovese
Promoted to the rank of Fire Lieutenant 10-31-2021

Firefighter Nathaniel Sexton
Promoted to the rank of Fire Lieutenant 10-29-2021

New Firefighters

Timothy Barron appointed as Firefighter 1-11-2021

Liam Cosgrove appointed as Firefighter 1-11-2021

Edward Gellar Jr. appointed as Firefighter 1-11-2021

Kyle Mason appointed as Firefighter 1-11-2021

Tyler Thomas appointed as Firefighter 1-11-2021

Michael Woods appointed as Firefighter 9-7-2021

Andrew Soell appointed as Firefighter 9-7-2021

Corey Cunniff appointed as Firefighter 9-20-2021

New Emergency Operations Director

Christian Horvath hired October 13, 2021

New Equipment

New Command Car

New thermal imaging equipment to enable firefighters to see through smoke and locate fires in walls and partitions.

Funding for West Plymouth Station 2 renovations.

Fire Department Resources, Apparatus & Equipment

7 Fire Stations staffed by 139 uniformed members, 6 civilian employees and another 2 civilian 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 10,073 emergencies, which resulted in 11,111 fire apparatus responses involving 32,199 personnel responses within the town including Mutual Aid apparatus responses to adjoining communities.

Total Responses	10,073 incidents		
Fire Related	4,353 45%	EMS Related	5,720 55%

Assessed Real Property Value protected by the Plymouth Fire Department

According to the Assessor's Office Plymouth has over \$12.5 Billion in Real Property, including dwellings, business property, vehicles, boats and marine vessels, etc... Property Loss in Plymouth due to fire in 2021 was reported at \$2,066,435. 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.

2021 Additional Department Emergency Response Statistics

Type Response	Number of Responses
100-Fire, other	2
111-Building fire	36
112-Fires in structure other than in a building	1
113-Cooking fire, confined to container	20
114-Chimney or flue fire, confined to chimney or flue	6
116-Fuel burner/boiler malfunction, fire confined	2
118-Trash or rubbish fire, contained	1
122-Fire in motor home, camper, recreational vehicle	2
123-Fire in portable building, fixed location	0
130-Mobile property (vehicle) fire, other	2
131-Passenger vehicle fire	18
132-Road freight or transport vehicle fire	2
134-Water vehicle fire	3
138-Off-road vehicle or heavy equipment fire	1
140-Natural vegetation fire, other	37
141-Forest, woods or wildland fire	21
142-Brush or brush-and-grass mixture fire	14
143-Grass fire	2
151-Outside rubbish, trash or waste fire	13
153-Construction or demolition landfill fire	1
154-Dumpster or other outside trash receptacle fire	5
160-Special outside fire, other	2
161 Outside storage fire	1
162-Outside equipment fire	2
163-Outside gas or vapor combustion explosion	0
210 Overpressure rupture from steam, other	1
212 Overpressure rupture of steam boiler	1
223 Air or gas rupture of pressure vessel	1
240 Explosion, no fire	1
251-Excessive heat, scorch burns with no ignition	9
300-Rescue, EMS incident, other	3
311-Medical assist, assist EMS crew	5,698
320-Emergency medical service incident, other	5
321-EMS call, excluding vehicle accident with injury	10
322-Motor vehicle accident with injuries	226
323-Motor vehicle/pedestrian accident (MV Ped)	16
324-Motor vehicle accident with no injuries.	280

331-Lock-in (if lock out , use 511)	6
341 Search for person on land	2
350-Extrication, rescue, other	1
352-Extrication of victim(s) from vehicle	1
353-Removal of victim(s) from stalled elevator	6
356- High angle rescue	2
360- Water & ice related rescue, other	1
361-Swimming/recreational water areas rescue	1
364- Surf rescue	2
365-Watercraft rescue	2
381-Rescue or EMS standby	1
400-Hazardous condition, other	7
410-Combustible/flammable gas/liquid condition, other	6
411-Gasoline or other flammable liquid spill	25
412-Gas leak (natural gas or LPG)	64
413-Oil or other combustible liquid spill	12
421-Chemical hazard (no spill or leak)	1
422-Chemical spill or leak	3
424-Carbon monoxide incident	56
440-Electrical wiring/equipment problem, other	28
441-Heat from short circuit (wiring), defective/worn	10
442-Overheated motor	13
443-Breakdown of light ballast	3
444-Power line down	89
445-Arcing, shorted electrical equipment	66
460-Accident, potential accident, other	1
462- Aircraft Standby	7
463-Vehicle accident, general cleanup	13
481-Attempted burning, illegal action, other	1
500-Service Call, other	16
510-Person in distress, other	29
511-Lock-out	34
512-Ring or jewelry removal	16
520-Water problem, other	8
522-Water or steam leak	14
531-Smoke or odor removal	33
541-Animal problem	2
542-Animal rescue	2
550-Public service assistance, other	233
551-Assist police or other governmental agency	27
552-Police matter	50
553-Public service	60
554-Assist invalid	239

555-Defective elevator, no occupants	1
561-Unauthorized burning	128
571-Cover assignment, standby, move up	16
600-Good intent call, other	74
611-Dispatched & canceled en route	365
621-Wrong location	10
622-No incident found on arrival at dispatch address	357
631-Authorized controlled burning	9
650-Steam, or other gas mistaken for smoke, other	2
651-Smoke scare, odor of smoke	16
652-Steam, vapor, fog or dust thought to be smoke	9
653-Smoke from barbecue, tar kettle	2
661-EMS call, party transported by non-fire agency	2
671-HazMat release investigation w/no HazMat	26
700-False alarm or false call, other	53
710-Malicious, mischievous false call, other	8
711-Municipal alarm system, malicious false alarm	20
712-Direct tie to FD, malicious false alarm	5
713-Telephone, malicious false alarm	4
714-Central station, malicious false alarm	11
715-Local alarm system, malicious false alarm	6
730-System malfunction, other	42
731-Sprinkler activation due to malfunction	26
732- Extinguishing system activation due to malfunctin	2
733-Smoke detector activation due to malfunction	351
734-Heat detector activation due to malfunction	5
735-Alarm system sounded due to malfunction	195
736-CO detector activation due to malfunction	92
740-Unintentional transmission of alarm, other	83
741-Sprinkler activation, no fire - unintentional	23
742-Extinguishing system activation	1
743-Smoke detector activation, no fire - unintentional	192
744-Detector activation, no fire - unintentional	58
745-Alarm system activation, no fire - unintentional	179
746-Carbon monoxide detector activation, no CO	29
812-Flood assessment	3
813-Wind storm, tornado/hurricane assessment	19
814-Lightning strike (no fire)	2
815-Severe weather or natural disaster standby	3
911-Citizen complaint	1

2021 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 9848 medical emergencies with 7214 patients being transported to medical facilities for further treatment..

Count of Run #	
Protocol	Total
Sick Person (Protocol 26)	1699
Falls (Protocol 17)	1525
Psychiatric Problem/Abnormal Behavior/Suicide Attempt (Protocol 25)	1057
Breathing Problem (Protocol 6)	774
Unknown Problem/Person Down (Protocol 32)	765
Traffic/Transportation Incident (Protocol 29)	635
Unconscious/Fainting/Near-Fainting (Protocol 31)	612
Chest Pain (Non-Traumatic) (Protocol 10)	471
Convulsions/Seizure (Protocol 12)	268
Abdominal Pain/Problems (Protocol 1)	256
Overdose/Poisoning/Ingestion (Protocol 23)	194
Heart Problems/AICD (Protocol 19)	191
Stroke/CVA (Protocol 28)	188
Hemorrhage/Laceration (Protocol 21)	165
Traumatic Injury (Protocol 30)	157
Back Pain (Non-Traumatic) (Protocol 5)	133
Diabetic Problem (Protocol 13)	110
Allergic Reaction/Stings (Protocol 2)	91
Cardiac Arrest/Death (Protocol 9)	91
Assault/Sexual Assault/Stun Gun (Protocol 4)	75
Headache (Protocol 18)	49
Choking (Protocol 11)	48
Fire	20
Heat/Cold Exposure (Protocol 20)	18
Animal Bites/Attack (Protocol 3)	16
Pregnancy/Childbirth/Miscarriage (Protocol 24)	11
MedFlight	9
Drowning/Diving/SCUBA Accident (Protocol 14)	8
Automated Crash Notification	8
Stab/Gunshot Wound/Penetrating Trauma (Protocol 27)	8
Detail	8
Burns/Explosion (Protocol 7)	8
Eye Problem/Injury (Protocol 16)	7
Interfacility Transfer	6
Pandemic (Protocol 36)	5
Carbon Monoxide/Hazmat/Inhalation (Protocol 8)	4
Assist	2
Inaccessible Incident/Other Entrapments (Non-Vehicle) (Protocol 22)	2
Electrocution/Lightning (Protocol 15)	1
Safe Drug Program	1
Grand Total	9696

FIRE PREVENTION and CODE ENFORCEMENT DIVISION
2021 End of Year Report

The Fire Prevention and Code Enforcement Division consists of a Battalion Chief, Captain, Lieutenant, and office administrative assistant.

The Mission of the Fire Prevention 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

Once again, 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 the 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.

Fire Prevention Division Personnel Addition

The position of Captain was added during fall town meeting to assist with the ongoing growth and construction in the Town of Plymouth. Captain Sean McNeill has assumed this position and his responsibilities will include assisting with all aspects within the division.

Training and Continuing Education

Fire Inspectors attend monthly continuing education seminars, via video conferencing, and in person classes 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
- Harbortown Residential and Commercial project on Water Street
- Portion of the Amazon facility opened
- Governor Bradford residential project
- Beth Israel Deaconess Hospital continues with its renovations to upgrade its facilities and support systems.
- 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 Paul Francis Way work force housing project, Red Brook, Thorndike Homes 55+ communities, Harborside at Cordage (Phase 2 construction is underway). The Pine Hills has begun construction on its new commercial/residential complex, the Oasis at Home Depot is underway, the Newfield Street development is complete, and the Hanover Company is constructing a new 315-unit residential housing complex

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 of 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 2021, 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. Video conferencing is also 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 was observed at the Plymouth Public library with a one-day fire apparatus display and educational demonstration.

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.

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.

2021 Fire Prevention Statistics

Inspections

Acceptance Testing

All Commercial and Residential Fire Alarm/Sprinkler/BDA

Quarterly Inspections

Hospitals/Medical	4
Nursing Homes	16
Schools/Day Cares	14

Annual Inspections

Hotels/Motels	18
Liquor License Establishments	139
Group homes	2
Day Care Centers	8
Churches	7
Fueling Facilities	18

Permits Issued

Plan Review	126
Fuel Storage	41
U.G. Fuel Storage Tanks Removed	24
Smoke Detectors New Construction & Resale	1883
Oil Burner Equipment	115
Oil Tank installation	79
Fire Alarm systems	45
Hood Suppression	6
Sprinkler	43
Tank Trucks/ Transfer tanks	0
Propane Tanks	288
Black Powder storage	3

Blasting	1
Cut & Weld	31
Un-vented heaters	4
Propane Cylinder exchange sites	7
Temporary Propane Storage	50
Alcohol License	139
Bon Fire	10
Waste oil tank	48
Dumpster	9
Marine Fuel Facilities	4
Master Box	250
Fireworks	1
Canon and mortar firing	1
Residential Burn Permits	1029
Agricultural Burn Permit	15
Total Permits & Inspections	4089

2021 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 2021

Box 1143 Plymouth Center for the Arts, 11 North Street
Box 2553 Sawyer's Reach, 3 Mariner's Way
Box 7421 Amazon Warehouse, 50 Prestige Way

Incidents Reported through the Municipal System 2021

3/4/2021 Box 3711 Plymouth South High School, 490 Long Pond Road; Overheated equipment.
3/17/2021 Box 623 Village Landing, 170 Water Street; Grease fire
6/29/2021 Box 457 Life Care, 94 Obery Street; Overheated motor
7/28/2021 Box 2125 Holiday Inn Express 155 Samoset Street; Overheated motor
10/20/2021 Box 1245 Summer Hill Condos 5C Marc Drive; Kitchen fire
11/30/2021 Box 2815 Tech-Etch 45 Aldrin Road, Dumpster fire
12/29/2021 Box 1315, The Registry Apartments, 7 Russell Street; Overheated motor

Projects for 2021

- Replacement of the Fire Alarm protected entrance cabinet at Station 1
- Fire Alarm cable upgrades on Warren Avenue, Beaver Dam Road
- Installation of emergency lights, flood lights and radios on the high-water vehicle (this was done with the assistance of the mechanics).
- Painting of the Fire Alarm Pedestals in the Downtown area

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

Training and Safety Division

The Mission of the Training Division is 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. It 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 Division constantly evaluates and coordinates training with other divisions within the department.

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. The Officer coordinates training of members on new equipment and implementation of procedures for new equipment and constantly evaluates and coordination training with other divisions within the department.

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 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 procedures established under State Department of Health and Federal Guidelines to ensure department members' 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 2021 the Training Division had two training classes. 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. 2021 Recruit Class had 8 recruits,.With the rapidly expanding urban interface happening in the town due to rapid grown and building, the danger of forest fires encroaching on neighborhoods has become a reality. For 2021,the Training Division has teamed up with The State Fire Warden to offer Wildland Fire classes ending with a Red Card Certification for wildland firefighting.

The head of the Training Division is also 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 briefings on 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 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.

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

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.

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

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.

2021 continued to bring 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 in the height of the COVID-19 pandemic. Roni Bosse, Administrative Assistant for the Division, continued work 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.

The Emergency Management Division continuously supplied Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to other departments and entities throughout the Town, ensuring a safe working and learning environment, as the Division issued PPE to both the school department and Bus company. The Division has maintained a robust stock of PPE at the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) by working with the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) to ensure that the Town and the residents are protected during the pandemic. In order to properly store PPE in the amounts needed for

the town and be able to store in an area with regulated temperatures, the Division purchased a 40' shipping container that was outfitted with heating, cooling, insulation, flooring, and shelving, and is seeking reimbursement through the CARES Act. This is a long-term solution to be able to store enough PPE, enabling Plymouth to respond to potential health hazards at any given time.

The EOC was partially activated for the duration of the Nor'easter in October 2021. Leaders, Department Heads, Division Heads, and others met at the EOC during the early hours of the storm in order to facilitate the response efforts that were necessary. The communication between different departments within the Town, as well as between the EOC and the imbedded representative from Eversource, led to a cohesive working environment and quicker response and restoration of the power to the affected areas.

The Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station shut the reactor down on May 31, 2019 and was sold to Holtec/CDI in August of 2019. Holtec/CDI is responsible for decommissioning the facility in accordance with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and other regulations. Decommissioning involves a process of safely retired from service by decontaminating and dismantling structures. 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 was completed in 2021.