

Matthew G. McKay
Chief of Department



Fire Business: 978 352-5757
Fire Facsimile: 978 352-5741

TOWN OF GEORGETOWN
Fire Department Headquarters
47 Central Street
Georgetown, Massachusetts 01833-2408

Staffing

- 28 Employees
 - 24 Firefighting, 2 Administrative
 - 6 full-time Employees including Chief, 20 part-time Employees
 - **Have lost 10 part-time employee's due various personal reasons in last 2 years**
 - Replaced 2 full-time employees in past year due to transfers (pay differential)
 - Have added 2 part-time employees
 - Likely to lose 2 part-time due to Lack of Commitment
- 421 Hours Scheduled in week (Does not include Call Back)
 - **200 Hours (5 FT FF's)/ 221 Hours Part-Time (48%/52%)**
 - 3 FF's on Shift from 8am to 9pm; 2 on Shift from 9pm to 8am
 - Open Shift hours (unfilled) increasing (80 hrs/month avg), this does not include FT overtime
- NFPA 1710/1720 Standard recognizes a minimum of 3 FF's on Apparatus for Firefighting duty
- OSHA law dictates a 2-in 2-out rule which means for 2 FF's to go into a structure during firefighting operations, 2 must be outside available for rescue (so a minimum of 4 on scene).

Operational Statistics CY23

- Run volume (1,433) up +2.3% vs YA and +26.3% vs 2YA
 - 786 EMS Runs (55%)
 - These ambulance calls take 2 FF's out of town to hospitals and are unavailable for at least 1 hour depending on call and transport destination

Training Hours

- Over 1,500 hours of Training Annually (total of all employees)
- **EMT initial training 128 hours** plus study and testing time (>150 hours total)
- **EMT's required 30 hours bi-annually** for re-credentialing plus additional State requirements
- **FF's Certified to I/II 240 hours** (not including studying) plus additional requirements

Fire Prevention

- 147 Permits (not including Open Burning)
- 266 Inspections
- 12 Fire Drills at Schools
- Fire Safety Lectures at Schools and Sr. Safe Program
- 53 Public Relations Events (Flag Lowering/Raising, Station Visits, Community Events)
 - Smoke Detector and Lock Box Installs

Challenges

- Call Firefighter Recruitment
 - Dwindling Call Force within Fire Service due to increased time commitments
 - National problem, not just Georgetown
 - Town Demographics: "Bedroom" community
- Full-Time Firefighter

GEORGETOWN FIRE DEPARTMENT

Page 2

- Size of Department: Smaller department makes it less desirable compared to larger cities
- Incentives: Pay structure less than similar size, call volume, and services communities
 - Includes both Full-Time and Part-Time
- Facilities: Out of date and uncomfortable station
- Retention:
 - Time commitment
 - Increased work load and run volume
 - +44% increase in overnight calls increasing stress
 - 3.5x increase in Mutual Aid runs
 - Both Full-Time and Part-Time pay structure
 - Stress of job
 - “Stepping Stone” for larger departments