

November 8, 2022

WHITEFIELD FIRE & RESCUE

Monthly Report for October 2022

Dear Residents of Whitefield

During the month of October Whitefield Fire and Rescue (WFR) had a total of 28 emergency calls. Of these 15 or slightly more than half were medical calls. Eleven calls were for motor vehicle accidents. In a sign of the time of year, four of these were “car vs. deer.” None of these caused any injuries, at least to people, but please be careful when out on our rural roads, especially in the evening. There were no structure fires in October, which is very good news.

WFR and all the people of Whitefield and its surrounding localities experienced a tragic loss when long-time chief Scott Higgins passed away. Scott devoted over 40 years to the fire service, beginning in Winthrop and later serving as Chief in Coopers Mills and at the consolidated Whitefield department.

Excerpts from WFR lieutenant Aaron Miller’s moving tribute to Chief Higgins are below:

“Scott had many traits of a great leader that his crew looked up to – experience, couth, emotional intelligence, confidence and character. We deal with stressful situations in the fire service and regardless of those challenges, Scott kept bad calls from getting worse.

Following the drop of a tone Scott made timely decisions and planned ahead. He knew what we needed to successfully do the job before arriving on scene. When he got there his eyes were wide open. He saw everything – the whole picture. I remember one time at a structure fire he asked me to go inside a smoke-filled home to find a pair of shoes for a homeowner who was standing outside barefoot. He cared about people.”

Firefighting is a team effort and one of the most cherished aspects of the experience is the opportunity to meet and work with leaders such as Scott. In the traditional firefighters’ farewell to a departed comrade, “Rest easy Chief, we will take it from here.”

This year’s first annual WFR Halloween open house was a great success. In two hours over 50 children of the town – and their parents – visited the fire house, where they had the opportunity to meet the firefighters, to stroll around the facilities, and with appropriate supervision to climb up and sit behind the wheel of one of the engines. Visitors were able to take away souvenirs and tips about reducing the danger of fires and of course a rich selection of candy and sweets. We were fortunate to also have on hand Maine Forest Ranger Tim Kjellman, who shared his experience on wildland fires. Ranger Kjellman also brought along his buddy Smokey Bear, who was a great hit with our young visitors. A good time was had by all and we hope to have even more attendees and more fun next year.

We were pleased that several of the folks who came by for the Halloween Open House expressed some interest in learning more about the WFR and what we do. If you are interested, we have meetings and training sessions at the Whitefield fire house on the first three Mondays of the month. You may also get in touch with us through the Whitefield town office or by contacting:

Jesse Barton, Whitefield Fire Chief: 207-557-0744. (browning48.jb@gmail.com)

Ben Caron, Assistant Chief: 207-523-0856 (whitefieldems1@gmail.com)