

February 2023

WHITEFIELD FIRE & RESCUE

Monthly Report for January 2023

Dear Residents of Whitefield

During the year's first month Whitefield Fire and Rescue (WFR) had a total of 24 emergency calls. Of these, 14 or slightly more than one half, were medical calls. Five calls were for motor vehicle accidents. One was for a brush fire and one was a reported structure fire caused by the reported smell of smoke at the Sheepscot Valley Health Center. Fortunately, no fire was present, but the call triggered a major response by WFR and our neighboring mutual aid teams, for which we thank them. Early warning is critically important in successfully fighting a fire and we urge anyone who has a fire or believes they may have one to report it promptly through the "911" call system. We would much prefer to arrive at a reported fire or other emergency situation at an early stage rather than later when the situation could be much harder to handle.

Several calls recently have been triggered by smoke or gas detector alarms sounding. When this happens please take it seriously and always report it. It is also good practice to regularly check the batteries in your alarm systems. Low battery levels can often trigger alarms and they should be regularly checked and replaced as necessary.

We are happy to report that Steve and Julie Cowles have completed several months of EMS training and testing and are now active members of the WFR medical response team. Steve is a retired Air Force Lt. Col. who for the past several years has been one of our most active firefighters while Julie, an Army veteran, is a Perinatal Nurse Practitioner who did mostly Labor and Delivery. Their entry into this new role brings our total of active EMS-qualified personnel to four. That's a major addition but with medical calls generally averaging half or more of the monthly total, more volunteers for this important and rewarding role in service to the entire community are always welcome."

The WFR has meetings and training sessions at the Whitefield fire house 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)

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