



**Town of Falmouth
Fire-EMS Department
8 Bucknam Road
Falmouth, ME 04105
Business 207-781-2610**

TO: Nathan Poore, Town Manager
FROM: Howard Rice, Jr., Fire Chief
DATE: 12/09/09
RE: Report on Temporary Closure of Pleasant Hill Fire Station

In May the Town Council authorized the temporary closure of the Pleasant Hill Fire Station. The Town Council requested the Town Manager and Fire Chief to submit a report on the status and effect of closing the Station, to be submitted in the fall.

Since the July 1st closure of the station the following items have occurred:

- 1990 Fire Engine was moved to Station 1, replacing the 1984 Fire Engine.
- Members of Station 3 were re-assigned to Central Station and to Winn Road Station
- While inspecting the stability of the chimney it fell over onto the ground.
- Heating system was shut down, water disconnected and building winterized by plumber.
- Access to the Station was limited to Fire Chief, former Station 3 Captain, and Pleasant Hill Fire Company President, who gained access only for equipment needed elsewhere.
- No meetings have occurred in the station.

Responses to the Pleasant Hill Neighborhood, which includes all locations south of the Presumpscot River, were analyzed from July 1st to November 30th. Of the 31 total fire-ems calls there were:

- 22 Medical Emergencies
- 3 Fire Alarms (all false alarms)
- 1 Motor Vehicle Crash (with no injury – property damage only)
- 1 Washing Machine Malfunction (belt needed to be replaced)
- 1 Carbon Monoxide Alarm (no CO found)
- 1 Odor Investigation in a Residence (nothing found)
- 2 Public Assist Calls (1 to check a garage that had been backed into by a family member hours earlier, and 1 for water building up in a basement during a rainstorm)

Of the 9 non-EMS incidents for the time period, the average response time for the first apparatus to arrive on scene was 9 minutes. The average crew size on scene within the first 9 minutes was 8 personnel. In comparison, a review of 13 non-EMS incidents from January 1 to December 31, 2008 in the Pleasant Hill Neighborhood showed the average response time for the first apparatus to arrive on scene was 10 minutes. The average crew size on scene within 10 minutes was 4 personnel.

The Town of Falmouth currently has a written agreement with the City of Portland to provide automatic aid from the Ladder 4 (Allen Avenue) station to respond to reported fires (Desk Box Alarms) in the Pleasant Hill Neighborhood. We are in the process of enhancing the agreement to include all mutual aid responses to and from Portland, including Falmouth's automatic response to the Jetport, multi-alarm coverage into the City, and multi-alarm coverage from Portland to the Town of Falmouth. That agreement is currently with the City of Portland legal department.

My recommendation is to permanently close the Pleasant Hill Fire Station.