



The Extinguisher



**DEPARTMENT
UPDATES
11/22/24**

HAPPY THANKSGIVING



**I hope everyone has a great
Thanksgiving Holiday!**

We have had a busy few weeks since mid-October. With the rain that we experienced yesterday, the brush fire threat diminished for a day or so but we are most certainly not out of the “woods” yet. With the severe drought conditions, even a steady 1”- 1.5” rain only dampens the leaf litter to prevent fires from starting at that time. Predictions are that any dampness from the rain will dry out due to optimal meteorological conditions early next week and we will be back to where we were. We continue to keep the outdoor burn ban in place and we will see where it goes. Predictions are that we will not see the threat of these wild land fires receded until we have some type of snow pack on the ground.

On Veteran’s Day, the department took part in a forestry task force request to North Reading. They had experienced a brush fire that started at about 5 acres and escaped the fire line to extend to over 60 acres. This fire was caused by the Middleton Pond Fire. The terrain was not too bad and we were able to widen trails to get four of our district forestry units into the woods. Our Engine 4 provided water supply and our personnel worked on the ground with our mutual aid partners. It was a long day and a long ride but we were able to get a large amount of burning out for the NRPD. Thank you to our members who went on the deployment, they worked hard and did a great job.

The department has done a great job responding to the multiple brush fires in town and mutual aid. Thank you to everyone who worked so hard and spent a lot of time in the woods off of South Road and River Street. Both areas were tough terrain to work in and South Road burned extremely deep, similar to the Chapin Road Fire that we had many years ago.



On Friday, November 15, the department responded to a structure fire at 75 Flagler Drive. Great work by the first arriving companies to knock it down and keep it in the area of origin with some extension to the attic. The investigation has found that the cause of the fire most likely was from the bathroom combination light/fan unit. Big shout out to Senior FF Ryan Casper who took command upon arrival and did a great job!

The town's Christmas festivities are scheduled for Saturday 12/7 with the arrival of Santa Claus for the tree lighting and the Christmas parade after. There is also a plan for a fireworks display at the end of the parade route at WRHS (pending the burn ban is lifted). We will be putting out for department members who are interested in taking part in the parade/decorating apparatus and if the fireworks are a go, members for the detail. The parade will be a paid event and the details will be at detail rate.

The Department Christmas Party will be held this year at Mexicali. It will be on Wednesday, 12/11 at 6pm. It is always a fun time and we would love to see as many department members as can make it. For more information, see Leah and Laura.

PERSONNEL

- 1. We have interviewed for the upcoming FF/EMT or Medic position and second interviews have been scheduled for early next week. We hope to have the new hire on board in early January.**

VEHICLES

- 1. Ambulance 1 – Valve cover leak repair has begun, and it will be out of service until the repairs are completed.**
- 2. Ambulance 3 – Repairs and bodywork was completed and the ambulance was placed back in service early last week.**