

2021 ANNUAL REPORT TO BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The 2021 annual report is prepared for the Board of Directors of the Capital Area Mutual Aid Fire Compact as a summary of general activities and events occurring through December 31, 2021. It is also provided to the Town offices of the Compact's member communities for information and distribution as desired.

The Compact serves 23 communities in 4 counties. The Compact's operational area is 817 square miles with a resident population of 148,595. The Equalized Property Valuation in the area we protect is over 18.4 billion dollars. We also provide and receive mutual aid responses with communities beyond our member area.

The Compact continued to feel the impacts of the pandemic during 2021. Call volume increased in the fall as the pandemic spread. The pandemic limited our training opportunities, our ability to meet as a group and the ability of our vendors to complete projects.

The Compact provides 24/7 emergency dispatch service to member communities. This service is contracted with the City of Concord Fire Department's Communications Center under the direction of dispatch supervisor Captain Elisa Folsom. A detailed activity report by town/agency is attached.

During 2020 we selected a vendor, signed a contract and began the process of replacing our Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) software with a new cloud-based CAD. At the end of 2021 our CAD vendor announced that they were unable to deliver us a working CAD and that they were suspending any further development of their product. We begin 2022 with another search for a CAD vendor that can meet our needs.

The 2021 Compact operating budget was \$ 1,369,319. Funding for all Compact operations is provided by the member communities. We continue to apply for State and Federal Grant Funds when available.

During 2018 we received a Homeland Security Grant in the amount of \$387,415.00 to replace the existing dispatch console equipment. Work on that project began in 2019 and was expected to be completed during 2020. Work extended into the final weeks of 2021, due to delays caused by the pandemic. This grant funded project is now complete and we are awaiting the final reimbursement from the State.

The Compact and Hazmat Team have received over 3.65 million dollars in grant funding since 1999. These funds have been used for communications improvements, training and equipment. The direct benefit that your community has realized from these grants is made possible by your participation in the regional service that we provide.

During 2021 efforts were made to secure funding for a Class B foam response unit and a supply of Class B foam for all Compact fire agencies. This would improve our ability to respond to flammable liquid fires. It would replace the legacy Class B foam that many agencies had. That foam has been determined to be an environmental and health hazard. The Compact applied for Directed Funding from the Federal Government through Senator Shaheen's office. We were not successful in acquiring those funds. A grant application was made to the 2022 Homeland SHSP program. We will find out in 2022 if we were successful with this application.

During 2021 several communications projects were undertaken. In cooperation with Lakes Region Mutual Fire Aid and the State of NH, our microwave link between Belknap Mountain and Mount Kearsarge was replaced with a more robust system. This should be more resistant to damage at these ice prone sites than our old system and it can carry more traffic allowing us to share this resource with the State & Lakes Region.

The microwave link between Wolf Hill and Craney Hill was reprogrammed and relicensed to provide better performance. The radio antenna on Gould Hill was relocated due to an expansion of that tower.

As Chief Coordinator, I responded to 611 incidents, a 12% increase over 2020. In addition to responding to provide command post assistance at those mutual aid incidents, I also aid all departments with response planning, updating addressing information, and I represent the Compact with several organizations related to public safety.

Compact officers serving during 2021 were:

President, Chief Jon Wiggan, Dunbarton
Vice President, Deputy Chief Ed Raymond, Warner
Secretary, Chief Guy Newbery, Concord/Canterbury
Treasurer Chief Jeff Yale, Hopkinton

The Training Committee activities spent another year on hold due to the pandemic.

The Central New Hampshire Hazmat Team represents 58 Capital Area and Lakes Region communities and is ready to assist or respond to hazardous materials incidents in our combined areas. The Team responded to 17 hazmat incidents during 2021.

Please visit the Compact website at <https://www.capareafire.org/> for incident photos, news, scheduled events, training info, SOGs and department profiles.

All departments are encouraged to send representation to all Compact meetings. Your input is needed. The Compact was created for the mutual benefit of member communities and active participation is a necessity to ensure the needs of all are being met.

I invite anyone with questions or comments to contact me. I thank all departments for their cooperation. Please contact any Compact officer or the Chief Coordinator if we may be of assistance.

Respectfully submitted,
Keith Gilbert, Chief Coordinator
CAPITAL AREA FIRE COMPACT

Capital Area Mutual Aid Fire Compact

2020 Incidents vs. 2021 Incidents				
ID #	Town	2020 Incidents	2021 Incidents	% Change
50	Allenstown	821	816	-0.6%
51	Boscawen	196	240	22.4%
52	Bow	1,144	1,155	1.0%
53	Canterbury	303	364	20.1%
54	Chichester	463	541	16.8%
55	Concord	8,869	9,715	9.5%
56	Epsom	958	1,086	13.4%
57	Dunbarton	227	240	5.7%
58	Henniker	1,020	1,002	-1.8%
59	Hillsboro (includes Windsor)	1,011	1,028	1.7%
60	Hopkinton	1,199	1,404	17.1%
61	Loudon	843	971	15.2%
62	Pembroke	382	355	-7.1%
63	Hooksett	2,256	2,583	14.5%
64	Penacook RSQ	906	1,093	20.6%
65	Webster	210	220	4.8%
66	CNH Haz Mat	7	17	142.9%
71	Northwood	624	715	14.6%
72	Pittsfield	892	1,017	14.0%
74	Salisbury	162	194	19.8%
79	Tri-Town Ambulance	1,287	1,362	5.8%
80	Warner	506	573	13.2%
82	Bradford	230	215	-6.5%
84	Deering	241	248	2.9%
86	Washington	181	163	-9.9%
89	Windsor	49	47	-4.1%
		24,938	27,317	9.5%

CAPAREAC1	Chief Gilbert	547	611	11.7%
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Additional Dispatch Center Activity

Fire Alarm Systems Placed out of, or in service for maintenance	5,264	5,446	3.5%
Inbound Telephone Calls	45,268	51,402	13.6%
Outbound Telephone Calls	7,926	8,175	3.1%