



# FLASHPOINT

Winter 2013

Maine State Federation of Fire Fighters

## OFFICERS & BOARD MEMBERS 2013

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Richard Cyr  
Madawaska  
728-7727

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Ken Desmond  
Bath  
443-6889

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435-8242

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454-2327

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329-2273

### AROOSTOOK NORTH

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Freeport  
865-1950

### CUMBERLAND WEST

Timothy Nickels  
Gorham  
699-9165

### FRANKLIN

Jeff Brackett  
New Sharon  
778-3652

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Is that time again for our winter newsletter. As the winter months of heating (especially with wood) are up for approaching among us, let's try to keep it safe. Fire prevention is the key.

The 2013 convention in Ellsworth was a great success. Thank you to the Ellsworth Fire Department for hosting such a useful and successful convention.

The 2014 convention will be held in Farmington on September 5th, 6th & 7th.

The Federation is still looking for the Life Achievement Award. Check the website for an application.

The American Life income has increased their benefits from \$3,000 to \$3,500 for all members of the fit Maine State Federation of firefighters at no cost to members.

We are also involved with the NVFC with their different programs. One example is "Everyone Goes Home". You can go on the Federation website to obtain more information. Any paid member of the Federation can apply. The fee is \$15.00 a year and which entitles you for a \$10,000/.00 accidental death benefit.

We are planning to bring out three newsletters for upcoming year (2014).

So all Maine firefighters please try to send material of newsworthy plus pictures to your County VP's.

In closing, I personally want to thank all of the Federation officers for their support in the year 2013. Thank you to each and every one of you for the great work.

I also want to thank all the Federation officers who sold raffle tickets, and also a big thank you to everyone who purchased them!

Happy New Year to all and stay safe.

Sincerely,  
Richard a Cyr  
President, MSFFF

## MESSAGE FROM MSFFF TREASURER

The Maine State Federation of Firefighters a non-profit organization is currently conducting our fundraising campaign. When households are contacted you will typically receive a phone call and then your pledge kit including your receipt will arrive shortly after in the mail. Since 1949 the Maine State Federation of Firefighters have been serving firefighters and helping to save the lives of the citizens of Maine. Your support of our fundraising efforts allows us to continue these missions and is greatly appreciated. To help ensure the success of this fundraising campaign we have hired Outreach Calling a professional fundraiser.

Geoffrey R. Maker, Treasurer

Maine State Federation of FireFighters

## Reminder - MSFFF Member Dues for 2014

The dues for the members of the Federation went up from \$8.00 to \$10.00 starting January 2014. If you have any questions concerning the dues, please contact MSFFF President Richard Cyr.

**OFFICERS &  
BOARD  
MEMBERS  
2013**

**HANCOCK**

Albert Snow  
Penobscot  
326-4252

**KENNEBEC**

Scott Holst  
Winslow  
873-7334

**KNOX**

Jeannie Conway  
Vinalhaven  
863-9946

**LINCOLN**

Clarence Campbell  
Boothbay  
350-6337

**OXFORD**

Richard Jones  
Mexico  
364-8426

**PENOBSCOT  
NORTH**

David E. Manzo  
Millinocket  
723-9695

**PENOBSCOT  
SOUTH**

Robert DiBona  
Hermon  
848-5106

**PISCATAQUIS**

Joseph Guyotte  
Dover-Foxcroft  
564-2187

**SAGadahoc**

Ken Desmond  
Bath  
443-6889

**SOMERSET**

Linwood Corson  
Skowhegan  
474-3400

**WALDO**

Richard Libby  
Winterport  
223-8897

## FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN

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The Maine State Federation of Firefighters a non-pro-profit organization is currently conducting our fundraising campaign. When households are contacted you will typically receive a phone call and then your pledge kit including your receipt will arrive shortly after in the mail. Since 1949 the Maine State Federation of Firefighters have been serving firefighters and helping to save the lives of the citizens of Maine. Your support of our fundraising efforts allows us to continue these missions and is greatly appreciated. To help ensure the success of this fundraising campaign we have hired Outreach Calling a professional fundraiser.

Geoffrey R. Maker, Treasurer  
Maine State Federation of FireFighters

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## LETS HELP THIS STUDENT OUT !!!

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Hello my name is Taylor Houben. I am a grade 12 student here in Calgary Alberta Canada. I am very interested in Fire Department and I am doing a School English Project on The Fire Departments. I am wondering if by any chance if you had a spare or extra Fire Department Service Patch possibly for my School Project to display of the Fire Department Service?

Respectfully yours,  
Taylor Houben

If you are interested in sending him a patch, his mailing address is Taylor Houben, 55 Marvern Place, NE Calgary, Alberta Canada T2A-5S8

Article Submitted by:  
Jonesy, MSFFF-VP, Oxford County

## MPSP&DC RECRUITING INITIATIVE

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Maine Public Safety Pipe & Drum Corps is pleased to extend the opportunity to you and your department to participate in rendering honors to your fellow public safety personnel, share in the esprit de Corps and camaraderie of our organization and establish professional connections.

MPSP&DC is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and maintains a fourfold mission to: 1. Honor all our Public Safety personnel both locally and nationally by providing Scottish music for funerals and memorials without cost. 2. Represent the men and women of Maine's Public Safety Community by participating in a variety of events including, but not limited to funerals, memorials, fairs, community events, parades, Highland games/gatherings and competitions. 3. Further Celtic and Scottish traditions in public performances. 4. Teach Highland baggiping and Scottish style drumming.

Please visit our website at <http://www.mainepipes.org/> for more information. Please share this with all the personnel in your command and encourage them to participate in this unique opportunity. Spouses/significant others and children are also eligible (we have a Junior Corps, for members aged 10-16). We offer free lessons in baggiping or drumming. For those not musically inclined, we also have positions in our Honor Guard available. Our website has the latest information as to practice times and locations. We count members of Cumberland County Sheriff's Department, Androscoggin County Sheriff's Department, Gorham and Westbrook Fire Departments and others among our ranks. We hope to see you soon.

Very Respectfully,

Val J. Graffa, Drum Major

MPSP&DC

In Tradition & Honor

## OFFICERS & BOARD MEMBERS 2013

### WASHINGTON

Wayne Seeley  
Edmund Township  
726-4674

### YORK NORTH

James T. Howard  
Biddeford  
468-1003

### YORK SOUTH

Mark Gay  
York Beach  
363-1014

### LEGAL REP.

Bill Vickerson  
Portland  
775-5200

### YEARBOOK

Mark Pierce  
Hampden  
862-4426

### ACCOUNTANT

Fred Brewer CPA  
Bath  
443-9759

## 5 Tips to Prevent Home Heating Fires

When it's time to turn up the heat in your home this winter to battle the icy cold, follow these simple tips to prevent the chance of fire:

1. **Hire a professional to inspect and clean your furnace.** Maintaining your furnace and ensuring that it's operating properly and efficiently will save you money and keep you free from worry.
2. **Open your windows when you first turn on your furnace.** Choose a warm day to let your furnace burn off the dust and dirt that have collected on its heating element. A residual odor is not harmful, but if the furnace rumbles or produces black smoke, call 911 and evacuate the premises.
3. **Clean your chimney.** Before you cozy up to the fireplace, open the flue and check for obstructions that can cause a build-up of harmful carbon monoxide. Hire a chimney sweep to inspect for creosote, a substance that gradually builds up as wood burns and can ignite in the chimney flue.
4. **Use electric heaters sparingly.** Don't let a space heater run for hours on end. Turn it off at night or when you vacate a room. Move bedding, clothing and other flammable items at least three feet away from the heater. And never leave children and pets unattended near a space heater.
5. **Handle propane-powered equipment carefully.** Follow the manufacturer's instructions, store cylinders outside, and call 911 if you smell a strong odor of gas.

For more information on home fire safety, contact:

Jenny Schnedler  
Sales Representative  
Liberty Mutual Insurance  
930 Stillwater Ave., Suite C  
Bangor, ME 04401 - 0107  
Tel 207-947-7326 ext 52023 / 800-322-3028  
Jenny.Schnedler@LibertyMutual.com

Did you know . . .

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# PORTLAND FIREFIGHTING COURSE SHIFTS INTO HIGH GEAR

By Portland Press Herald

PORTLAND — While many teenagers spend Saturday morning in bed or on a playing field, 11 students from Portland and Deering high schools spent their Saturday morning crawling through a vacant building at 65 Elm St. in thick smoke while wearing 80 pounds of firefighting equipment.



Students from Portland and Deering high schools work their way through a vacant building at 65 Elm St. in Portland on Saturday as part of their yearlong Introduction and Orientation to Fire Service course.

Photos by Gabe Souza/Staff Photographer



Silas Corman, 17, a Portland High senior, adjusts his firefighting helmet before entering a building on Elm Street in Portland with other students from Portland and Deering high schools on Saturday. The exercise was part of a course offered by the schools in conjunction with the Portland Fire Department.

The teens were getting their first experience donning and doffing firefighting gear as part of their yearlong Introduction and Orientation to Fire Service course offered through the Portland school department.

The course is funded through the Pathways to Success initiative designed to make public high school more relevant by exploring potential careers through classes, such as the fire service course, and job shadowing. The initiative, which is funded with \$5.3 million from the Nellie Mae Education Foundation, includes internships at local businesses and institutions, such as the Children's Museum, American Red Cross and the University of New England. The initiative is a joint venture of Portland Public Schools, Jobs for Maine's Graduates, Learning Works and the Portland Immigration and Refugee Service.

Portland High School teacher Rocco Frenzilli and Portland Fire Department Capt. Philip McGouldrick provide the instruction, with help from other fire department members.

Frenzilli said he didn't know much about firefighting when he was asked to teach the course but learned a lot during the summer when he rode along on several calls.

"From day one, I gained such respect for what firefighters do," said Frenzilli.

While the students have spent time at the Central and Bramhall fire stations, this was the first time they experienced a simulated fire, searching a smoky building for possible victims. The Portland Fire Department equipped each of the students with the gear, at \$2,000 per set.

"This is like Christmas for us," said Owen Sprague, 15, a sophomore at Deering High.

But first they had to learn how to don their equipment, a surprising complex undertaking. They climbed into padded two-piece protective suits, pulled on knee-high boots and slid hands into thick orange gloves, while instructor Capt. Chris Goodall shouted encouragement.

Then they had to take it all off, leaving the pants rolled down just so, enabling them to jump into the suit quickly for the next call.

Then they did it again. And again. And again.

"Sometimes it's just learning by doing," said Goodall.

Next the students learned how to put on their air packs.

"The air pack is the backbone of equipment. Without it you can't go inside the building," said McGouldrick.

One of the tricks to the air pack is to keep moving, since it will start emitting a beeping alert, which increases in volume to ear splitting levels if it remains motionless for 45 seconds.

Every so often the students had to give themselves a shake to silence the alarms.

The exercise culminated with searches through the vacant building, a former teen shelter owned by Avesta Housing, complete with theatrical smoke to obscure visibility.

Silas Corman, 17, a Portland High senior, said learning how to use the equipment was harder than he expected but he enjoys the course, which he took to help him figure out what he wants to do when he grows up.

"This is my favorite class. It is hands on and something I didn't know anything about," Corman said.

Sprague said the course will bring him one step closer to his lifelong dream of becoming a professional firefighter.

"It runs in the family," Sprague said.

*Introducing a Length of Service Award Program (LOSAP)  
for Maine's Firefighters & EMS Responders LD 1154*

**An Act To Establish the Maine Length of Service Award Program**

**Why is a statewide LOSAP Important to Maine's fire service?**

Volunteer Fire & EMS departments in Maine struggle to recruit and retain qualified personnel. One proven & effective retention tool is the Length of Service Award Program (LOSAP). LOSAPs are annuity based saving programs for volunteer emergency services personnel.

**LOSAP programs provide annuity based saving plans for volunteer Fire & EMS personnel who meet minimum service requirements.**

*(please see the back of this publication for supporting information)*

**Do other States have LOSAP programs & how are they organized?**

Laws in at least 40 states authorize LOSAP plans and nearly 20 percent of the volunteer firefighters in America participate in some form of LOSAP. Most follow a model which involves an annual minimum of training and service hours, with financial credit given toward a LOSAP program. After receiving a minimum number of years of credit, and beginning at a specified age, the volunteer is eligible for a monthly annuity.

**What LD1154 will do:**

LD1154 will establish a state wide pension type program under which Maine volunteers will be paid "length of service awards" for performing qualified services. The term qualified services are defined in the bill as firefighting and prevention services, emergency medical services, and ambulance services. Under the program, volunteers will have a program account which will be credited with an annual contribution as of the end of each year during which the volunteer participated in a minimum required level of volunteer activities set forth by the Maine Length of Service Award Program Board of Trustees.

When a volunteer reaches the age of sixty, and has attained a vested status in the program (met the minimum requirements for at least five years) he or she will be paid the contributions credited to his or her program account, plus the net investment income earned on those contributions.

*Chief Kevin Guimond,  
South Portland FD, endorses LOSAP  
programs as "an important tool for  
retaining volunteers".*



*Chief Dennis Plante, Berwick FD,  
credits LOSAP for the high  
retention rate of volunteers within  
his Department.*



**LD 1154 (HP 819)**

**"An Act To Establish the Maine Length of Service Award Program"**

Sponsored by Representative Joyce Maker

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Representative WERTS of Auburn

Representative WOOD of Sabattus

# 50<sup>th</sup> Annual MSFFF Convention

**“One to remember”** .... We have heard this statement several times over, both before and after convention weekend. We were very pleased that our guests had an amazing time of celebration and camaraderie while visiting Ellsworth. The effort of the firefighters and their departments was obvious by seeing the shine on their antiques, their well pressed uniforms, the detail in the floats and the precision of the marching units in the parade.



After three years of planning, fundraising, planning and fundraising some more, the payoff was tremendous. The exhibitors were excited to hear that all the events of the weekend were going to be at one location. These same exhibitors came to us at the end of the weekend and expressed how well they did. Having the opportunity to have all events, accept for the parade,



at one location was made possible, due to the overwhelming generosity of The Jackson Laboratory. If we did not have this great opportunity we would have been spread out in three separate locations. We extend a huge thank you to The Jackson Laboratory and their employees who made every effort to make sure the convention was successful.

Pedal car raffles, gun raffles, yard sales, side-by-side raffle, touch a truck, pick a trip raffle, donations, haunted school house, quilt raffle, booth at the Blue Hill Fair and many speaking engagements big and small; These were among the ways we raised the funds to host such an event. We brainstormed on several occasions on what the entertainment might be, who will be the caterer, how about a band or do we go with a DJ? Where will the muster be held? What will be the mystery event? Monthly meetings at first soon turned into weekly meetings, and then near the end it seemed all we did was convention. To anyone contemplating hosting the convention... understand the amount of work you're getting yourself into. Not that it's a bad thing just be ready to work long hard hours for the next year or two. Don't forget you have a job, family and a multitude of other commitments before you even start.



That said the rewards in the end were amazing. So many people: firefighters, citizens, business people, coworkers and the boss have come to us saying how much they enjoyed attending and being a part of the convention. Many of these people not only attended, but also worked some part, giving us the support we needed. Even the city manager lent us a hand at the registration table!

Friday night's entertainment with Colin Mochrie and Brad Sherwood was a stand up good time. The two kept those in attendance laughing till their cheeks and their belly hurt! From firefighting to mice production, Colin and Brad were quick with the audience suggestions. This was an event that the Ellsworth area hasn't seen before. Both the



firefighters and the community took advantage of this great show. We will never forget the mouse traps! Saturday night fever took us by storm when Motor Booty Affair and Classical Night Fever took the stage. From their introduction to the last song of the night, the dance floor was packed with people getting their groove on! It was a wild night of fun and dancing.

We only had a few hiccups behind the scene that fortunately most people didn't know of. One hiccup came during the awards ceremony. Unfortunately twenty eight trophies did not get presented to the rightful recipients during the ceremony. Very early in the planning we decided to provide exceptional trophies to those who expended the time and energy to bring their apparatus, marching unit, color guard or float to the convention. We knew from our own experience just how much work this is and made the decision to reward them well. Unfortunately there was a mix up in the paperwork and that which we had had approved by the Federation convention committee before ordering trophies was not the same as what the Federation judges used to judge the antiques. Fortunately after getting copies of the judges' sheets we were able to determine who deserved what. Although they will not be able to enjoy the honor of receiving their trophy at the awards ceremony in front of their friends and get their picture taken, they will finally get their trophy to proudly display in their trophy cabinet at their fire station. Those still to receive trophies include:

**Chemical Apparatus**

- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place - Owls Head trans. Museum- 1918 ALF Chem. Truck
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place – Joe Guyotte- 1922 ALF Chemical Truck



**Restored Antique 1925-1940**

3<sup>rd</sup> Place- Freeport- 1929 Chevrolet

2<sup>nd</sup> Calais 1926 AC Mack

**1941-1950 Original**

3<sup>rd</sup> Place-Cherryfield- 1941 McCann

2<sup>nd</sup> Place- Blue Hill-1946 Mack

**Original Antique 1951-1965**

3<sup>rd</sup> Place- Harmony -1955 Ford F-600

2<sup>nd</sup> Place- Dover Foxcroft- 1955 ALF

**Restored Antique 1951-1965**

1<sup>st</sup> Place Goodwin Mills -1953 Chevy 6400

**Original Antique 1976-1988**

3<sup>rd</sup> Place- Hancock- 1988 Ford 8000

2<sup>nd</sup> Place- Bucksport- 1976 Dodge/Pierce



**Restored 1975-1988**

1<sup>st</sup> Place- Swans Island- 1987 Chevrolet Topkick

**Class A Hand tub Original**

1<sup>st</sup> place- Bucksport- 1855 Button

**Class B Hand tub Original**

3<sup>rd</sup> Place- Southwest Harbor –Hunneman

2<sup>nd</sup> Place- Dover Foxcroft- Hunneman

1<sup>st</sup> Place- Bucksport- Leslie



**Hose Cart Original**

3<sup>rd</sup> Place- Bucksport

**Privately owned original Motorized**

Return 2<sup>nd</sup> Place from Joe Guyotte (1922 ALF was not original)

2<sup>nd</sup> Place- Andy Swift- 1927 ALF

**Privately Owned Restored Motorized**

3<sup>rd</sup> Place- Bill Delmonico- 1916 AC Mack

2<sup>nd</sup> Place- Joe Guyotte- 1922 ALF

**Horse Drawn Equipment**

2<sup>nd</sup> Place- Bucksport- 1911 Howe

1<sup>st</sup> Place- Wild Iris Farms 1862 Button





**Non Fire Dept. Marching Unit**

2<sup>nd</sup> Place- Anah Shrine

**Non Fire Dept. Color Guard**

2<sup>nd</sup> Place- Anah Shrine

**Non School Band**

2<sup>nd</sup> Place- Anah Shrine

1<sup>st</sup> Place – Anah Shrine Highlanders Pipes and Drums



**Fire Dept. Float**

3<sup>rd</sup> Place- Farmingdale

**Fire Dept Farthest with Apparatus**

York Beach

Hancock County departments have received their trophies at the November meeting of the Hancock County Firefighters Association. The remaining trophies will be distributed in early December with the help of Ken Desmond and Joe Guyotte. Congratulations to all the recipients along with our apology for the delay.

FIREFIGHTER CONVENTION DISCOUNTED PRICE LIST	
<b>Limited Edition:</b>	
50 <sup>th</sup> Convention Beer Mug	\$ 5.00
50 <sup>th</sup> Convention Beer Mug Case (12)	\$10.00
50 <sup>th</sup> Commemorative Glass Set	\$10.00
50 <sup>th</sup> Commemorative Book	\$10.00
<b>50<sup>th</sup> Convention T-Shirts:</b>	
Men's T-Shirt	\$10.00
Women's Cut T-Shirt	\$10.00
Youth T-Shirt	\$ 5.00
<b>50<sup>th</sup> Convention Sweatshirts:</b>	
Hooded Sweatshirt	\$15.00
Crewneck Sweatshirt	\$15.00
1/2 Zip Job Sweatshirt	\$20.00
Ball Caps	\$ 8.00
Cookbook	\$10.00

We would like to thank everyone who came and joined us and hope you all had a great time! We still have several items of merchandise left over at reduced prices. If you are interested please go to the Facebook page and message us for available sizes and shipping. See attached flyer for prices. We are also selling tickets for a gun raffle again, 31 guns- a gun a day in the month of May 2014. Tickets are \$20.00 each. We are only selling 1000 tickets and if your ticket is drawn it goes back into the wheel for more chances to win! Tickets can be picked up at the Ellsworth Fire Department or send a check made out to Ellsworth Fire Department (with Gun Raffle in the memo) to Ellsworth Fire Department, 1 City Hall Plaza, Ellsworth, ME 04605. Be sure to list the Name(s), address, and telephone number(s) you want on each ticket and we will send you the ticket stub. All proceeds will help to pay off our outstanding dept from convention.

**It's Back Again!!!**  
**The Ellsworth Fire Department**  
**& Senator Hale Hose Co.**  
4<sup>th</sup> Annual  
**Thirty-One Gun Raffle**  
 A gun a day in the month of May 2014  
**ONLY 1000 TICKETS WILL BE SOLD**

*Tickets are Only \$20.00 each!!*  
*Winning tickets go back in the*  
*raffle wheel for additional*  
*chances to win!!*

Tickets available at the  
 Ellsworth Fire Department  
Call 667-8666 for more information

Once again, Thank You All!!!

Richard Tupper, Chief  
Ellsworth Fire Department



## Distinctive auto insurance—just because you belong.

Did you know that as a member of the Maine State Federation of Firefighters Association, you could **save up to \$427.96 or more** on Liberty Mutual Auto Insurance?<sup>1</sup> You could save even more if you also insure your home with us. Plus, you'll receive quality coverage from a partner you can trust, with features and options that can include Accident Forgiveness<sup>2</sup>, New Car Replacement<sup>3</sup>, and Lifetime Repair Guarantee.<sup>4</sup>

**CONTACT  
ME TODAY  
TO START  
SAVING**

**JENNY SCHNEDLER**  
930 Stillwater Avenue  
Bangor, ME 04401  
  
Jenny.Schnedler@LibertyMutual.Com  
(207) 947-7326 Ext. 52023



PROUD PARTNER

This organization receives financial support for allowing Liberty Mutual to offer this auto and home insurance program.

<sup>1</sup>Discounts are available where state laws and regulations allow, and may vary by state. Figure reflects average national savings for customers who switched to Liberty Mutual's group auto and home program. Based on data collected between 1/1/2012 and 6/30/2012. Individual premiums and savings will vary. To the extent permitted by law, applicants are individually underwritten; not all applicants may qualify. <sup>2</sup>For qualifying customers only. Subject to terms and conditions of Liberty Mutual's underwriting guidelines. Not available in CA and may vary by state. <sup>3</sup>Applies to a covered total loss. Your car must be less than one year old, have fewer than 15,000 miles and have had no previous owner. Does not apply to leased vehicles or motorcycles. Subject to applicable deductible. Not available in NC or WY. <sup>4</sup>Loss must be covered by your policy. Not available in AK. Coverage provided and underwritten by Liberty Mutual Insurance Company and its affiliates, 175 Berkeley Street, Boston, MA. ©2013 Liberty Mutual Insurance

36 USC 220506



Supporting Those Who Serve

## In Partnership with the National Volunteer Fire Council, Ballistic Donates Two Million Dollars' Worth of Smartphone Cases to Volunteer Firefighters Across the Country

*Ballistic set out this holiday to say "Thanks a Million" to local volunteers by coordinating nominations for them to receive free protective smartphone cases; they reached this goal within 24 hours, so are now offering "One Million More"*

**Ft. Lauderdale, Fla. - (November 11, 2013)** – Nearly 70% of all firefighters are volunteers. These courageous firefighters and their stations play a critical role in keeping our communities safe. In celebration of their bravery, sacrifice, and dedication, this holiday season Ballistic Cases set out to say "Thanks a Million." In partnership with the [National Volunteer Fire Council](#) (NVFC), the [Ballistic Case Company](#) kicked off an initiative to donate one million dollars' worth of protective smartphone cases to volunteers throughout the country.

"In one day, the one million dollars' worth of cases was not only reached, but exceeded, because of the explosive response from men and women across the country," said Hank Goradesky, CEO, Ballistic. "Now Ballistic is pleased to announce an extension. We're determined to donate a total of two million dollars' worth of protective smartphone cases."

Volunteer firefighters can sign up to receive free cases at [Facebook.com/BallisticCases](https://www.facebook.com/BallisticCases). There, you can also do your part to say "Thanks a Million More" by nominating a local volunteer firefighter and their station, sharing your story, or by simply leaving a thank you message.

View details [here](#).

In recent years call volumes have tripled, putting a strain on already limited resources and making these brave volunteer firefighters work harder than ever. Smartphones have become an important tool in the firefighter toolbox; and having a case that ensures these phones are protected is Ballistic's way of saying thanks to these everyday heroes. Twenty years of real world use by firefighters, policemen, EMTs, and other first responders has shaped Ballistic's legacy and resulted in the Six-Sided Drop Protection technology found in Ballistic cases today.

To join in saying "Thanks a Million," visit [Ballistic on Facebook](#) and nominate your local station, share a story, or simply leave a thank you message. Ballistic will donate cases ([HC](#), [SG](#), or [SG Maxx](#)) to nominees throughout the holidays. Volunteer firefighters and stations can also sign up to receive a case directly at [Facebook.com/BallisticCases](https://www.facebook.com/BallisticCases).

"Doing the right thing is something that has driven my team for 20 years," said Hank Goradesky, CEO, Ballistic. "These loyal volunteers wake up every morning and truly

cont'd on page 12

demonstrate what 'doing the right thing' is all about. We are honored to work with the NVFC to help support these real-life heroes. We are truly ecstatic to see the successes of this, with firefighters nationwide being eager to participate in the program. With "Thanks a Million" we invite everyone to show their thanks to the men, women, husbands, wives, co-workers, neighbors, and friends that keep our communities safe."

"The NVFC is pleased to partner with Ballistic to provide free smartphone cases to volunteer firefighters," said NVFC Chairman Philip C. Stittleburg. "We cannot believe how quickly the original goal was reached, and we are incredibly grateful for Ballistic's continued dedication with their commitment to donating two million dollars' worth of cases. This is a great example of a company giving back by supporting the volunteers who protect our nation's communities."

For more information on "Thanks a Million" and how you can join in celebrating these brave volunteers, visit [Facebook.com/BallisticCases](https://www.facebook.com/BallisticCases) or contact PR representative Kristen Bean at [kristenbean@maxborgesagency.com](mailto:kristenbean@maxborgesagency.com) or 305-374-4404 x123.

###

**About NVFC:**

The National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC) is the leading nonprofit membership association representing the interests of the volunteer fire, EMS, and rescue services. The NVFC serves as the voice of the volunteer in the national arena and provides invaluable tools, resources, programs, and advocacy for first responders across the nation. Support the NVFC by [donating](#) or [join today!](#)

**About Ballistic® Case Company**

Ballistic's philosophy is simple: Engineered Protection. Our dedicated team of engineers is passionate about one thing: perfecting protection. Through innovative design, durable materials, and 20+ years of experience, Ballistic delivers protective solutions for every lifestyle.

# COUNTY NEWS

## Androscoggin County would like to thank John Arsenault for 10 years of service.

John Arsenault was first elected to the Maine State Federations of Firefighters back in 2003. John Served on many committees during his terms as county vice president including Legislative, Finance & Auditing, and Fire Protection Service. In 2013 John decided not to run again for a 5th term as VP. So on behalf of the firefighters of Androscoggin County thank you John for your years serving as the County Vice President.



Wales Fire Department New fire station



Sabattus Eng. 4: 1980 2,000 gals pumper tanker.



This painting by Denise Bowie, was given to Deputy Chief Marc Veilleux for his many years of service to Lisbon Fire Dept. Pictured with Veilleux is his wife Bonnie.



Lisbon Fire Dept  
Eng. 1 2003 Pierce Pumper  
Eng. 1 1929 Chevy McCann

## AROOSTOOK COUNTY

### Presque Isle man arrested after allegedly setting fire to NMCC apartment

By BDN

PRESQUE ISLE, Maine — A Presque Isle man who was visiting a friend at Northern Maine Community College on Saturday morning has been charged with arson after allegedly setting fire to a room in one of the residence halls.

Paul A. Wasson, 22, was arrested at his residence in Presque Isle on Sunday evening, according to Stephen McCausland, spokesman for the Maine Department of Public Safety.

McCausland reported Monday that the fire started at about 3:30 a.m. Saturday in an apartment in Penobscot Hall at NMCC. Investigators from the state fire marshal's office said that the fire originated in a bedroom and was quickly extinguished by the building sprinkler system, limiting the fire damage to one room but causing significant water damage in several adjoining apartments.

Penobscot Hall was occupied by more than a dozen students and guests at the time of the fire and all escaped without injury.

Investigators, assisted by local and college officials, reviewed available security camera footage, collected witness accounts and gathered additional information, which led to the arrest, according to McCausland.

Wasson was taken to the Presque Isle Police Department where bail was set at \$80,000 surety or \$10,000 cash. When he was unable to post bail, Wasson was taken to the Aroostook County Jail in Houlton.

### Eagle Lake Haunted Forest 'makes grown men scream like little girls'

By BDN

EAGLE LAKE, Maine — When he was a little boy on Halloween, Robert St. Germain was not the one going door-to-door looking for candy. He was the one hiding behind trees and leaping out to scare the other trick-or-treaters.

Decades later, the Eagle Lake volunteer fireman taps into that inner child every year around this time as he creates the annual [Eagle Lake Haunted Forest](#). This year's event will run 7-11:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday, weather permitting, behind the town office on Devoe Brook Road.

Admission is \$10 for people 13 and over and \$5 for 12 and younger.

"It keeps getting better each year," St. Germain said Wednesday morning, taking a break from setting up the dozens of props, lights and special effects scattered along the 2,500-foot walk in the town's municipal forest. "Some things we keep from year to year,

and we can the ones that don't work so well."

The primary goal of the haunted forest is to raise funds for the Eagle Lake Volunteer Fire Department.

Right behind that is St. Germain's goal to scare the pants off people.

"I've seen grown men scream like little girls," he said with a grin. "One young lady told us after she came out that she had actually peed her pants."

For that reason, St. Germain cautions parents about bringing young children to the haunted forest.

"It's really, really intense," he said. "This year it's really up in your face."

This year, according to St. Germain, is all about the zombies, as he and his crew take a cue from the popular television series "The Walking Dead."

Also on tap are a variety of characters from top horror movies, props supplied by the Fort Kent Historical Society — including an old dentist chair — and, according to St. Germain, "a lot of blood, gore and noise."

This year St. Germain said there will be lots of special effects including fog, lighting, sound and even a chain saw or two.

Participants are allowed through the haunted forest in groups of eight or 10, St. Germain said, holding onto a rope as a volunteer leads them through the forest's dark paths.

"It starts as soon as they step in," he said. "And they never really get a break until it's done."

It takes about 25 minutes to complete the circuit and St. Germain said his volunteers rely on distractions, diversions and the element of surprise to achieve maximum shock value.

Adding to the fear factor, Presque Isle tattoo artist Jesse Pinette of Precision Tattoo will be on hand this year to apply makeup and paint to the forest's characters.

According to St. Germain, it takes about 50 volunteers to pull off the haunted forest and this year he has them coming from Eagle Lake, Fort Kent and Madawaska.

"We can always use more," he said.

St. Germain said there are three types of people who come through the forest — those who get a good scare and love it, those who just laugh off their fears, and the few who are not scared at all.

As of midweek, the weather forecast called for a clear — if a bit cold — Friday night, but St. Germain said there is a chance of freezing rain Saturday that could force a cancellation of the second night. He suggested people check the event's Facebook page at [https://www.facebook.com/groups/628772457136585/?ref=br\\_tf](https://www.facebook.com/groups/628772457136585/?ref=br_tf) for updates.

"I looked at the cold temperature called for Friday night and put up a post that people's breath will be the

last thing they see before they are scared to death," he said. "People keep writing back, 'Dude, what's wrong with you?'"

## **Woods promoted to head of County Emergency Management Agency**

By BDN

SINCLAIR, Maine — County commissioners on Wednesday evening promoted the second in command of the Aroostook County Emergency Management Agency to take over the reins.

During a meeting in Sinclair, commissioners voted unanimously to appoint Darren Woods as the new director of the agency to fill the spot left vacant by the Oct. 11 retirement of Vernon Ouellette.

Doug Beaulieu, county administrator, said Thursday that Woods, who starts his new role Oct. 21, was a natural choice to fill Ouellette's shoes.

"He has excellent credentials for the job," said Beaulieu. "His skill set, ability and proven track record as a leader make him a natural fit for the position."

Woods was hired by the county EMA in 1998 as a part time mitigation planner and climbed through the ranks, becoming the full-time public safety coordinator in 2002, and later deputy director. He also serves as the fire chief of North Lakes Fire and Rescue.

Woods said he is excited about his new job and is "looking forward to working closer with all communities within our region."

## **Three homeless after fire in Washburn**

By BDN

WASHBURN, Maine — The state fire marshal's office has visited the site of a blaze that left three people homeless in Washburn on Saturday.

Washburn Fire Chief Troy Heald said Monday that the fire was reported to the department just after 10 a.m. as a shed fire. When firefighters went to 1348 Main St., which was the home of the Antioch family, they found a detached two-bay garage and a shed fully ablaze.

Heald said that fire departments from Caribou and Mapleton were called in to assist his firefighters, because the blaze was rapidly advancing toward the house.

Despite their efforts, the home was a total loss. The property was insured, but the male, female and child living there were displaced.

The Washburn Police Department and Crown Ambulance assisted at the scene. No injuries were reported.

The American Red Cross is working to assist the three people who lived at the residence.

The chief said that the investigation is ongoing but the cause of the fire is undetermined at this point. Units from the Maine Warden Service and the fire marshal's office have been to the site, but no citations are pend-

ing, according to Heald.

Anyone wishing to offer assistance is encouraged to contact the American Red Cross in Caribou.

## **Fire destroys Phoenix Firewood's kiln**

By St. John Valley Times

EAGLE LAKE, Maine - A late night fire on Thursday, Nov. 7, totaled part of a firewood manufacturing business in Eagle Lake, according the town's Fire Chief, Phil Nadeau.

At approximately 11 p.m. firefighters responded to a call at Phoenix Firewood on Pond Brook Road, Nadeau said this afternoon, Friday, Nov. 8. Eighteen firefighters from Eagle Lake, along with two pumper trucks attacked the fire for several hours, he said.

The kiln itself, which is used to dry the wood before being shipped, was a total loss, according to Nadeau. The metal-sided building it was housed in was mainly left intact, he added.

Nadeau was unsure of the cause of the fire at the time, suggesting it may have been the wood itself that caught fire or some sort of electrical ignition.

The wood in the kiln was especially difficult to extinguish, Nadeau said.

The Fort Kent fire department also sent down two pumper trucks and personnel, said Nadeau.

No injuries were reported, and Nadeau said that no other structures at the facility had been damaged.

Firefighters left the scene at 8:30 the next morning, today, Nov. 8.

Owner Phil LeBoeuf could not be reached for comment today.

## **Two alarm fire in Eagle Lake**

By Fiddlehead Focus

**EAGLE LAKE** —The fire departments of Eagle Lake and Fort Kent responded to a report of a burning building off of Old Main Street in Eagle Lake on Thursday night.

The fire occurred at 71 Pond Brook Road, which is a firewood mill that Phil LeBeouf owns.

According to Jean Louis LeBeouf, Phil's uncle and the person who manages the mill, a worker came to the building around 11 p.m. Thursday night to monitor a kiln the company uses to dry the wood.

Jean Louis said the company checks the kiln every four hours, and that the earlier insp[ection] by the same worker showed no fire.

At the 11 p.m. check, however, the worker found one end of the building in flames centered around the large kilns. He called the fire department, which arrived soon after, according to Eagle Lake Fire Chief Phil Nadeau.

Jean Louis was in Bangor at the time, and after he received the news he started driving towards Eagle

# COUNTY NEWS

Lake, arriving around 3 a.m., and the firefighters were still battling the flames.

The problem was the wood. There were 13 cords of wood in the kiln, which left little room for anything else, and the firefighters were having difficulty maneuvering equipment to get to the flames.

Jean Louis said he finally had to get a front end loader and push the wood out of the kiln while firefighters doused the area with water.

Fire Chief Nadeau said, "We had to take some [wood] out, and then we got the crane to move it." He said that if Jean Louis, in the front end loader, and the crane were unable to move the wood, "We'd still be there tomorrow."

Eighteen firefighters from Eagle Lake and approximately six firefighters from Fort Kent fought the flames throughout the night, which Nadeau said they brought under control by 8 a.m. Friday.

The men and women used two pump engines from Eagle Lake and an additional two engines from Fort Kent.

Jean Louis Leboeuf and Chief Nadeau speculated that the fire may have started as a result of an electrical malfunction, judging from the proximity of the flames to the electrical boxes, however they both stressed that they were unsure if that was the actual cause.

Mill owner Phil LeBoeuf was in Portland at the time of the fire. In a phone interview on Friday morning, he said the mill employs twelve people for seasonal work.

He said the mill has been in operation since the 1980s, and that he has owned it for the last nine years.

The building might be salvageable, said Phil Leboeuf, but that the kiln was a total loss.

The company ships firewood throughout New England, as far as New York and New Jersey.

The owner is unsure what the next step will be, and he has yet to decide what he will do with the company. He said, "It's too soon."



*SMALL AREA, BIG FIRE - Thirteen cord of wood burned inside a mill in Eagle Lake on Thursday night, bringing firefighters from*

*Fort Kent as well as the local department. - Birden image*



*TOO MUCH WOOD - Firefighters were unable to maneuver close to the 13 cord of wood in order to douse the flames. The manager of the mill finally had to push the wood out of the way with a front end loader. The remains of the wood are in soggy piles behind the mill. - Birden image*



*STILL STANDING - After the firefighters left, the main part of the mill appears salvageable, even with freezing water standing everywhere. However the fire completely destroyed kilns that the company uses to dry the lumber. - Birden image*

## The people who deal with the problem

By Fiddlehead Focus

**FORT KENT** – On Friday night, November 1, I had a first-hand encounter with the men and women who I have taken for granted in the past, but who deal with the problems that Mother Nature brings occasionally.

My wife, mother-in-law and eldest son had joined me for a night of horror movies, because Halloween came midweek, and we hadn't had a chance to get into the spirit of the holiday. It was the perfect scary movie night with moaning wet winds outside blowing autumn leaves that we could hear striking the side of the house. I was downloading the film with an online service while Sofia was preparing pizzas before we started that classic 1992 scary flick, Candyman.

Then the lights flickered and went out.



# COUNTY NEWS

We all groaned, but then the lights came back on with a dim eerie flickering, and then they went out again, completely.

It was so windy, it was unsurprising, but the stormy darkness felt like the beginning of a bad horror movie.

Being a journalist, I called the Fort Kent police to find out if anything serious was happening while the rest of my family scrambled for candles and flashlights. The Fort Kent dispatcher told me a burning tree was caught in the electric lines nearby, down the road from my house.

Within a few minutes the Fort Kent Fire Department appeared with a large fire engine, and several vehicles belonging to the volunteers were suddenly in my driveway. They converged near a sparking smoldering branch about a 100 yards from my front door. I walked down to the site, and these men were moving around in the flashing lights, directing traffic and making sure the fire stayed put. Each of the firefighters was in a cheerful mood, and had that endearing "aw shucks, just doing my job" attitude.

Once Maine Public Service showed up, the fire engine and support vehicles headed out to the next downed tree. As they were leaving, one firefighter said, "That's the second one tonight so far. I'm betting on at least five more." I could imagine an unofficial betting pool back at the fire station.

Soon, only Fire Chief Ed Endee's vehicle remained, until an MPS truck arrived and parked below the branch that was resting on the wires.

Ed Endee, the local fire chief, allowed me to take careful pictures as the men sent a cherry picker into the power lines and used a hydraulic chainsaw to slice the branch into pieces that fell harmlessly into the drainage ditch below.

I thanked the guys, and watched as the two vehicles pulled out, heading to the next location where the fire department was guarding a branch that was smoldering and sparking on yet another power line in the area.

As the trucks with their flashing yellow lights went off into the windy darkness, I thought to myself that it is a good thing there are folks like them who head out into the night to make sure people like me can safely watch scary movies and eat homemade pizza.



*ARRIVING IN MINUTES - The Fort Kent Fire Department, apparently going from one downed tree or power line to the next, soon arrives at a location on Frenchville Road. - Birden image*



*MAN IN A BUCKET WITH A CHAINSAW - An MPS worker rises into the night sky to make his way close enough to the offending tree so he can cut it with the hydraulic chainsaw. - Birden image*

## Caribou Fire

Presque Isle and Caribou Fire department's responded to a call early this evening regarding a house fire in Caribou on Route 1. It started as a grease fire in the kitchen. Firefighters say the kitchen was fully involved, as it went out towards the exterior wall. There were no injuries, and the family got out safely, Fire officials were quick to respond, however the extent of the damage is unknown at this hour. Presque Isle provided mutual aid to Caribou.

## Two Tragic Deaths, Three Fires In and Around Oakfield

Neighbors say they just can't believe it. It was just before dawn on Monday that firefighters responded to a fire at this home at 331 Oakfield-Smyrna road, and found the bodies of a man and a woman inside — both suspected to have been shot. This was one of three fires in the Oakfield Island Falls area.

Christopher Coleman, Lieutenant with the Maine State Police Major Crimes Unit says, "The bulk of the morning has been trying to put the fires out, and also figure out what happened and if the fires are related to each other."

# COUNTY NEWS

The other two fires reported were at Katahdin Forest Products and a pickup truck in Island Falls. One neighbor of 331 Oakfield Smyrna road who was reluctant to go on camera told me she woke up to gunshots around four in the morning. Coleman says evidence found at this home led them to suspect 32 year old Matthew Davis of Houlton — who they spent the morning on the hunt for.

Coleman says, "Due to the circumstances of what we were finding at the scene in Oakfield there was a potential that the public was in danger so we wanted to find him as soon as we could."

State police caught up with Davis on the Beaver Dam Point Road in Island Falls. It was around 10:45 in the morning, and he was inside a stolen vehicle. They took him into custody without incident.

Coleman says at this point State Police aren't sure whether or not Davis knew the two victims or if he's responsible for all of the crimes. The State Fire Marshal's Office is investigating the three separate fires.

Ken Grimes of the State Fire Marshal's Office says, "each fire scene requires a different amount of time to go through the examination, certainly the larger the scene, the more there is to look at, the longer it takes us...we could be up here for a couple of days."

A tragic and unbelievably scary morning for these little towns. As State Police and the Fire Marshal's office work to find the answers, neighbors tell me they won't rest until they find out why.

## **Madawaska Home A Total Loss After Fire**

A home in Madawaska is a total loss following a fire earlier this afternoon.

Firefighters and emergency personnel with the Madawaska Fire Department, public safety department, and ambulance service helped extinguish a house fire on U.S. Route 1.

Madawaska Fire Chief James Soucy said the structure was fully engulfed when responders arrived at the scene. No one was home at the time.

The fire is still under investigation.

## **Roughly 24 Residents Displaced by Fire After Apparent Lightning Strike in Washburn**

Washburn, ME – Roughly 24 elderly residents are without a home tonight after a fire at the Washburn Estates on Wilder St. in Washburn. Officials from the Washburn Fire Department says they got the call around 12 pm. They say the cause of the fire appears to be the result of a lightning strike. Everyone was evacuated and nobody was injured. However, residents of the complex say some of their animals had to be left behind. At this time the safety of those animals is unknown.

Residents say they heard a loud boom but it wasn't

until they saw smoke in their apartments that they realized something was wrong. Several neighbors who live in the complex next door rushed to help get people safely out of the building.

The Washburn community quickly stepped up to offer assistance. The Washburn Trailrunners Snowmobile Club opened its doors offering residents a place to go as well as food and drinks. Country Farms Market donated water and provided supper Sunday evening for the residents impacted by the fire. The property is owned by C.S. Management Inc. The owner and her staff were on hand collecting information from each resident, finding out what medications were needed as well as whose animals were left behind.

At this time the extent of the damage is unknown but Washburn's Fire Chief says because of the smoke and water damage, the Washburn Estates are not habitable. The Washburn Fire Department was assisted by the Presque Isle and Caribou Fire Departments as well as the Mapleton-Chapman-Castle Hill Fire Company.



## **Castle Hill Fire**

This is what remains of a house in Castle Hill after it caught on fire last night. It happened on 433 Dudley Road before midnight Friday, both the Presque Isle and Mapleton fire departments responded. The fire was fully involved and the house is a total loss. No in-

# COUNTY NEWS

juries have resulted and the cause of the fire is undetermined at this time.

## Fire Crew Stays Steady

Staffing at the Presque Isle Fire Department has been a topic of both debate and concern for the past few years, as the city has been working to create a budget that would not increase the tax rate...The Department has gone from 5 full time fire fighters per shift, down to 4, except for one shift that has 3...NewsSource 8 reporter Kelly O'Mara stopped by the Fire Department to see if these knew numbers are working.

Chief White says the fire department plans to take it's time and really assess how well the program is working before making any final decisions on whether to hire back that fourth career firefighter...he expects it will be a least a year if not two before that decision is reached.

## Update: Former Caribou Fire Chief Sentenced to 30 Days in Jail, One Year Probation

Caribou, ME – 68 Year-Old Roy Woods, Former Caribou Fire Chief, was sentenced to 30 days in jail with 1 year probation and 500 hours of community service this afternoon in Caribou Superior Court. According to the judge's ruling, during the first 60 days of probation, Woods will be subject to house arrest.

Woods pleaded guilty on June 7th to two counts of unlawful sexual contact, two counts of assault and one count of unlawful sexual touching. Each count carried a maximum sentence of up to 364 days in jail. Woods' received 30 days for each sentence but Justice E. Allen Hunter ruled the sentences concurrent, which means he will only have to serve a single 30 day sentence.

Before the sentence was handed down, Woods apologized to his victims and to the court but had very little else to say.

Woods resigned from his post as Fire Chief in 2012 citing medical reasons. Several months later he was indicted by the Aroostook County Grand Jury. The charges involve two female victims and the incidents took place between 2009 and 2011. Woods served the Caribou Fire and Ambulance Department for 44 years.



## Biddeford Fire Department

The Biddeford Fire Department is proud to accept delivery of their newest piece of apparatus. Truck 32 is a 2013 E1 Quest Tower Truck with a 100' ladder, a 300 gallon tank and a remotely operated side mount monitor on each side of the vehicle. A ceremony was held on Sunday November 17, 2013 at Central Station for a cermonial wet down and wiping of the truck, along with a blessing. The on duty shift then pushed the truck into it's new home. The tone was struck and Truck 32 was officially placed in service.



## **Blue Hill Fire**

Blue hill fire department was called to a fully involved structure fire on Pleasant Street. at 1334 hours on October 6. The building was a two story garage with the owners house only 30 feet away on side B and the Baptist Parsonage 100 feet away on side D. Both exposures were saved but the garage and contents were a total loss.

Nearly 50 fire fighters from four towns fought the fire. No fire fighters were injured while fighting the fire. Mutual aid was provided from Surry, Sedgwick, Penobscot, and Brooklin.

## **Brooksville House Fire**

A fire of unknown origin destroyed a Brooksville home Saturday morning - a two and a half story house on the ferry road was a total lose. The house was of old construction and the ferry road is a dead end road. By the time fire fighters arrived, the second story had already collapsed. The structure was a total loss. Fire departments from Deer Isle, Sedgwick, Blue Hill, Brooklin , Orland, and Penobscot assisted at the scene .

## **Bucksport Fire Department**

On August 25, 2013, at approximately 1530 hours, the Bucksport Fire Department responded to a report of a structure fire at an Apartment Complex located at 31 Main Street that contains 10 separate units in a three story building with a 2 story addition on the back. The total square footage of the property is over 6,500 feet and is of wood balloon-frame construction which was built in 1880 and renovated numerous times from a single family house into the current usage as an apartment complex. Other multi-family apartments, all located within 100 feet surround the complex.

Orland and Orrington Fire Departments were dispatched as automatic mutual aid. Upon our first unit's arrival approximately 3 minutes later, it was reported that the building was "fully involved" and there was possibly 1 subject still in the building. At this point, we requested Penobscot, Dedham and a Ladder Truck from Ellsworth. On arrival, it was noted that the entire left side of the building and the front left half were completely engulfed in flames, both inside and out from bottom to the top. It appeared as though we had 6 to 8 rooms involved with heavy flames emanating from these areas. The apartment building to the left less than 100 feet away had the vinyl siding melting off from the side and tenants were evacuated from that building as well.

The first crews pulled a hand line and extended it to the fence and tree line separating the properties and attempted to cool the exposures and the seat of the fire. Other crews hooked into a hydrant and the master stream on Engine 1 was activated and quickly knocked down a large percentage of the exterior flames. Upon further crew's arrival, more master

streams were set up and crews from Orland gained access to the right side of the structure to perform a search of those areas. Two male subjects attempted to approach the left side of the building and were screaming that someone was inside. They were ordered away from the scene and it was determined that everyone was out when the missing male subject was found elsewhere via cell phone.

At the height of the fire, we had 2 truck mounted and 2 ladder truck mounted master streams, along with one on the ground attacking the fire. After about 30 minutes, the master streams were deactivated and crews entered the building with hand lines to perform mop-up operations. Several hot spots were doused and the entire building was searched for any victims. One dog and 2 cats were found deceased and later, 2 other cats were located alive. One fire fighter from the Orland Fire Department was treated and transported by Bucksport Ambulance for heat exhaustion and was released later that day from the hospital.

It appeared to us that the heaviest damage was indeed to the front left first floor apartment area, which was contained within "Apartment #1". Two rooms, a front living room area and an apparent bedroom behind that room had significant damage, as did an adjacent porch on the left side of the building next to these rooms.

The entire building, especially the left side, received significant fire and heat damage and the whole building had heavy water damage. The fire had breached numerous walls and ceilings and had spread to most of the main structure, including the attic area, which consumed the roofline, creating that to collapse. Over 200,000 gallons of water was utilized while battling the blaze and over 40 fire fighters were involved in the call.

The Fire Marshall's Office was requested and the cause was determined to be a severely overloaded power strip, which was supplied power from a light-duty cord feeding the entire 4-room apartment, which was plugged into an outlet in an adjacent apartment through the wall. Red Cross was notified and handled the fire victims and placed them all in temporary housing and provided food and other essentials.

## **Bucksport Fire Department**

On the evening of October 3, 2013, Bucksport Fire & Rescue responded to a report of a single vehicle versus tree accident with people trapped, located on the Bucks Mills Road in Bucksport. First responders arriving on the scene found one patient severely injured and entrapped and one subject with minor injuries. Orland was requested for a second set of extrication tools and Life Flight crews were also called for.

The vehicle had struck a 3 foot wide pine tree on the front passenger corner with intrusion completely back in to the passenger compartment. Over a dozen fire fighters worked with 2 sets of tools for nearly an hour

# COUNTY NEWS

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to disentangle the vehicle and to remove the patient from the car. Although there was a significant gas leak, crews were able to continue their efforts while other crews attended to the leak.

The driver of the vehicle, a 16-year-old female, was transported to the hospital and treated for her injuries. The passenger, a 15-year-old female was also transported by ground, but was later pronounced dead at the hospital. The cause of the accident is still under investigation.

## Bucksport Fire Department

After a fatal accident in Bucksport involving a 15 year old girl, the Bucksport Fire Department was contacted by Andrew & Shelby Silvernail, who now live in Illinois but grew up and went to school here in Bucksport. While growing up, Andy was a friend with the father of the young girl that was killed and wanted to do something positive for the community in the wake of the tragedy.

After many discussions with the Silvernails, Andy & Shelby determined that they wanted to donate the newest line of Hurst "eDraulic" Extrication Tools to our department. Andy works with the company that owns Hurst and wanted to ensure that we have the best equipment available in these cases. The tools are battery powered and completely portable, and are stronger and faster than their leading hydraulic tools.

Although these tools would not have made a difference in the outcome of the last accident, they will certainly have a major impact on future calls and patient care. The tools have been placed on E-2, a mini-pumper with CAFS Foam capabilities and is the first out truck for motor vehicle crashes. Our old set of tools will remain on our rescue unit for back up or multiple call situations.

Our members are very humbled by this generous donation and wish to thank the Silvernails for this heartfelt gift given in the "memory of Taylor Darveau and in honor of the rescue personnel in the Bucksport & Orland area that give their all" in protecting the citizens.

## Dennysville Fire Department

Dennysville Fire and ambulance received a new ambulance from Specialty Vehicles, Inc. in North Attleboro, MA. Pictured are Al and Shawn from Specialty Vehicles and Wayne from Denny's River Volunteer Ambulance in Dennysville, Maine.



## Gorham Fire Department

Robert Lefebvre, Chief

Central Station, 270 Main Street, Gorham, Maine  
04038-1382

Telephone (207) 839-6762 • Fax (207) 839-7753

Gorham Fire Department responded to a CO call this morning and discovered an issue that none of us has ever dealt with and wanted to pass this on to other departments who may deal with this in the future, and we would be very interested in hearing from others that may have handled similar incidents.

The Department responded to an older farm house for a report of CO alarms going off. This farm house is part of a new subdivision that is under construction. When crews entered the building they were getting readings on the meters exceeding 400 ppm. Crews could not locate the source, the building was aired out and then closed up again and soon after crews started seeing readings again. Crews in the basement that were passing over a floor drain began to get higher readings and when placing the meter at the drain exceeded 800 ppm.

What we have determined happened is that the construction company putting in the road for the subdivision, which is within 150 feet of this house, has been blasting ledge for the past two days. The last blast of the day was immediately covered with gravel and left for the night. We believe that CO created by the blast was trapped in cracks in the ledge and worked its way through the ground and into the floor drain. The Deputy on scene had the contractor respond to the scene at 04:30 and had the open the area. As soon as the area was opened meters had readings of over 800 ppm at the hole opening. The hole was left open and 5 hours later we took readings at the hole and we were still obtaining reading of over 15 ppm.

There is no indication of smoke or anything burning, and we believe this incident is solely due to the blasting. We have been in touch with the Fire Marshal's Office who are responding to do further investigation.

If anyone has had a similar incident we would be interested in hearing from you.

Chief Lefebvre

207-222-1642

# COUNTY NEWS

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## Hancock County Trophies

### Hand Tub

Bucksport 1st. Leslie 1845

Castine Humeman 1804

Southwest Harbor Hunneman 1857

### Hand and Horse Drawn

Trenten Ajax 1st. place

Bucksport Button 1855 1st. place

Bucksport Howe 1911

Sorrento 1895

### Motorized

Model T 1910 Chief Car Trenten 1st. Restored

American Lafrance 1981 Sorrento 2nd

Model T 1922 Trenten

Pierce 1976 Bucksport

Seagrave 1939 Bucksport

## Kennebec County News

**Fayette** — A fire that destroyed the main lodge at Echo Lake Lodge and Cottages on Tuesday is believed to have started in the attic or on the second floor, Readfield fire Chief Lee Mank said Tuesday night.

No one was in the building at the time of the fire.

State fire investigator Ken MacMaster was investigating the cause. The lodge was built in 1936 on Echo Lake Lodge Road. It was about 100 feet from Echo Lake.

A neighbor reported the fire at about 10:30 a.m.

More than 30 firefighters from the towns of Fayette, Readfield, Vienna, Manchester, Mount Vernon, Wayne and Livermore Falls responded to fight the fire. When the firefighters arrived the second floor of the lodge was engulfed in flames when firefighters arrived. Firefighters used portable dump tanks and pumped water from Echo Lake to help fight the fire.

The property includes nine cottages. The lodge had seven bedrooms and five full baths and comfortably slept 14 people, according to [www.echolakecottages.com](http://www.echolakecottages.com).



**Augusta Fire 1**— A fire that broke out Thursday afternoon gutted a Northern Avenue apartment and caused one resident to be taken to the hospital for smoke inhalation. The two-story building, at 146 Northern Ave., was heavily damaged by the fire. It took firefighters nearly three hours to douse the blaze.

Sgt. Ken Grimes of the State Fire Marshal's Office responded to the scene and said a cause had not been determined.

Augusta Fire Department crews were dispatched around 2:45 p.m., according to Deputy Fire Chief David Groder. Fire department crews from Togus, Chelsea, Winthrop and Gardiner helped battle the blaze, Groder said.

Augusta Police Sgt. Chris Shaw said three residents lived in the building and two of them were home when the fire broke out. One resident was covered in smoke and was taken to MaineGeneral Medical Center in Augusta for treatment. No residents were injured.

The fire also damaged the neighboring apartment building, melting the white siding and charring the exterior wall closest to the fire.



**WATERVILLE** —Investigators with the Maine Fire Marshal's Office are investigating the cause of a fire at a vacant home in Waterville overnight. The fire at 5 Elm Court was reported at 1:22 a.m. Sunday, according to the Waterville Police Department. The home has been vacant for about five years.

One firefighter suffered a facial injury but did not require treatment, said Capt. Michael Michaud, of the Waterville Fire Department. No one else was injured.

Deutsche Bank owns the house, which is still standing despite significant damage.

Four towns and 25 firefighters battled the blaze, which was out by 9:02 a.m., Michaud said.



**MOUNT VERNON** — An early morning fire Sunday destroyed a two-story home and business on Bean Road. One of the homeowners and his dog managed to escape the blaze unharmed and no one was hurt, according to Tony Dunn, deputy fire chief.

He said the homeowner, Eric Whitehouse, reported the fire at 591 Bean Road about 3:30 a.m. after the sound of the smoke alarms woke him up. "We have a second means of egress out of our master bedroom that we

just put on last year," Whitehouse said later Sunday morning from the property. "The dog and I got out that way and called 911." Whitehouse's wife, Colleen, had been in Portland at a friend's home overnight.

Dunn said the blaze apparently started in the building's first-floor cabinet shop. Whitehouse runs Whitehouse Woodworking at that same address. "When we got there, there was fire coming from the windows on both first and second floors, and part of the roof was collapsed," Dunn said, adding that the water source that firefighters were using was 1,800 feet from the house.

The building was a complete loss and a work trailer used to deliver cabinets was burned, Dunn said, but firefighters were able to save Whitehouse's pickup from the blaze.

About 50 firefighters from Mount Vernon and departments in six surrounding communities —Vienna, Readfield, Fayette, Wayne, Manchester, and Belgrade —battled the blaze for several hours, and Mount Vernon Fire Chief Dana Dunn returned there about 10 a.m. Sunday to meet with an investigator from the State Fire Marshal's Office to check for hot spots.

Tony Dunn said it appeared that the fire started somewhere in the cabinet shop. He said the investigation was routine.

Whitehouse said the home and the business were insured. He said the building was about seven years old and that the fire destroyed a number of cabinets and other items that were nearly finished.



**Augusta Fire 2** —The state fire marshal's office says an electrical problem started a two-alarm fire Thursday morning that damaged a marketing business on Western Avenue.

Augusta Fire Chief Roger said that firefighters responded to Marketing Unlimited at 84 Western Ave. around 5 a.m. No one was hurt, he said. Fire crews from several surrounding towns were also called upon to help fight the fire and provide coverage at city fire stations, he said.

# COUNTY NEWS CONT'D

Audette said the building housed the marketing business as well as apartments. One tenant was able to get out safely, he said.

The fire disrupted traffic along Western Avenue.

**Winthrop** - Fire ripped through a two-story building Thursday morning that housed a garage on the first floor and an unoccupied apartment on the second floor. Fire ripped through this two-story garage/apartment on Mt. Pisgah Road Thursday, but a nearby home on the same property was unscathed.

The building at 375 Mt. Pisgah Road was reduced to charred timbers, but a nearby home on the same property was unscathed. "The building is standing but completely destroyed," said Winthrop Fire Chief Dan Brooks. "A lot of equipment and tools inside were also destroyed."

Brooks said the fire started around 10:30 a.m. in the woodshop area on the first floor, but investigators from the Office of the State Fire Marshal remained on the scene to try to pinpoint the origin.

The workshop was used by the previous owner, a contractor, who also finished the upstairs apartment. He said the fire was reported by a couple of men from Massachusetts who was passing by. Brooks said an engine from the Monmouth Fire Department was the first to reach the scene since the property was on the other side of Mount Pisgah from the Winthrop department. Wayne, Leeds and Wales firefighters helped with providing water. Brooks said the fire was brought under control in about an hour, and firefighters spent another hour on the scene mopping up.



## LINCOLN COUNTY

Boiler Explosion Rocks Lincoln Paper Mill, forces closure; no injuries reported

By BDN

A boiler explosion in the chemical recovery area at the Lincoln Paper and Tissue LLC Saturday morning forced the mill's closure and left an undetermined amount of damage. No injuries were reported, firefighters said.

The explosion occurred at the recovery boiler at the mill, which is used to burn or recycle leftover chemicals and materials generated by the pulping process, at about 7:23 a.m., firefighters and company officials said. No fire resulted from the explosion.

Firefighters left the scene about 40 minutes later, having roped off the area to allow the dissipation of hazardous chemicals that might have been present, officials said.

"They want to allow 12 hours for outgassing," Lincoln Public Safety Director Dan Summers said Saturday. "It was pretty much over by the time they [firefighters] got there. Anytime you deal with a mill, you have stuff like this happen. It's always nice to take precautions and allow things to settle down."

The cause of the explosion remains under investigation, mill co-owner Keith Van Scotter said.

When the explosion occurred, company officials immediately instituted their incident command procedures, which include counts of workers, and found no one missing, said Van Scotter, who is out of state at an industry conference.

"We have to make sure that the area is safe," Van Scotter said. "We will have more information in about 24 hours."

The federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration and other agencies have been notified of the incident, Van Scotter said.

It is unclear how many workers were near the boiler when the explosion occurred.

Van Scotter described the recovery boiler as burning dissolved lignin, the chemical that binds pulp fibers during the paper and tissue-making process, and as recovering chemicals used to make paper.

Firefighters from Lincoln, Lowell and Mattawamkeag handled the incident, Summers said.



The Lincoln Paper Mill where the explosion occurred. No evidence is visible from the front.

## Truck built for Madawaska Fire Department by K&T

This truck is a 2012 Ford 550, was built by K & T of Island Falls. It replaces an old Forestry Truck. It also has



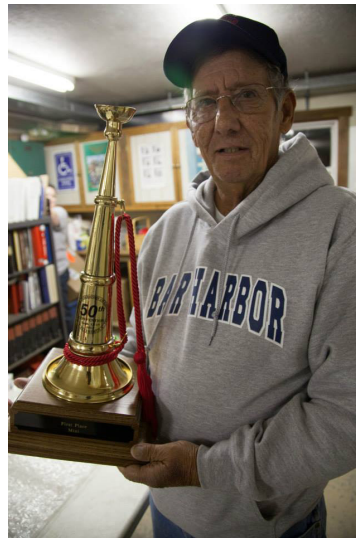
# COUNTY NEWS CONT'D

a 300 gallon tank, portable pump and hose reel. It is a 4x4 and it has a winch that can move from back to front. The tank is removable as a unit.



## Mariaville Volunteer Fire/Rescue Department

At our first meeting on 2013 we decided that we wanted to get the Cushman up and running, for the 50th Annual Fire Fighters Federation parade, in Ellsworth, in September. Over the years we had gathered different parts and pieces, to make this into our mini fire truck, for our E33 Gang, fire prevention clown unit. One member of our department, firefighter Dave Williams took this challenge on, along with help from his sidekick, firefighter Phil Kane, both are retired firefighters from Abbingdon, Massachusetts. After many long nights and days of work, Li'l E33 was complete! We entered our E33 and Li'l E33 in the parade. During the fireman's muster we found out that Li'l E33 won the trophy for 1st prize as a mini!



Dave Williams with the trophy.  
Karen Murray, Captain/EMT

## OXFORD COUNTY

Early morning fire destroys Oxford home

[Ernie Anderson](#), Staff Writer - [Sun Journal](#)

OXFORD — Members of a family, including two pre-school children, a young couple and a teenager, escaped their burning home at the Mechanic Falls line this morning. There were no injuries, but Sally Courtney's family lost several pets.

Firefighters from Oxford, Poland, Paris, Otisfield, Norway and Mechanic Falls responded to the fire, which destroyed the home on Burns Road. Sunshine Courtney, 16, was in the den when flames in the ceiling woke her up.

"I was sleeping on the couch in the den when I saw the fire," said Sunshine, who is the daughter of homeowner Sally Courtney.

Sally Courtney rushed to return home from an errand in Lewiston. By the time she arrived, the house was in flames. A column of smoke could be seen from the entrance to Burns Road, about 500 feet from the home.

Two children, 2 years and 3 months old, Sally's daughters and son-in-law escaped without injury.

Several dogs were removed safely from the home. A puppy and nine kittens could not be accounted for and were believed to have perished in the fire.

Firefighters blocked off Robinson Hill Road to fill portable water tanks to extinguish the blaze, which burned for hours.

Firefighters from several towns responded to a fire that destroyed 25 Burns Road in Oxford early Sunday.



## Fire damages Oxford business

A sprinkler and alarm system may have saved a major Oxford business from destruction early Wednesday morning after fire broke out in the plant off Route 26.

About 25 firefighters from Oxford, Norway, Paris, Mechanic Falls and Poland responded to an alarm shortly before 3 a.m. at MGA Cast Stone, the state's only architectural precast company, Oxford Fire Department Capt. Shawn Cordwell said. The business, which employs more than 30 people, moved to Oxford in June 2011, settling in the former Oxford Homes manufacturing plant at 7 Oxford Homes Lane. The main building is about 45,000 square feet. Cordwell said the fire apparently started in an unattended wood stove where excess plywood used in the concrete form-making process is burned to enhance the heating system. "A wood stove caught the wall on fire. It extended to the ceiling," Cordwell said. "The sprinkler held (the fire) in check." He said had it not been for the sprinkler and alarm system, which had police at the facility within seconds and firefighters soon after, the entire building may have been lost.

Damage was estimated at about \$500, Cordwell said.

# COUNTY NEWS CONT'D

Chief Financial Officer David Swasey said repairs were quickly made and employees were back to work Wednesday morning. A few new studs, some insulation and Sheetrock repaired the damage, he said. Cordwell said it is not unusual for an industrial company to use an oversized wood stove to burn excess plywood. Swasey said normally the wood stove burns out quickly after employees leave for the day. It is unclear why it did not in this case. No equipment was damaged in the fire.

## Paris Fire Department

### Structure Fire

Paris firefighters were called to 38 Military Road at about 1:45 a.m. to find the roof of William Green's house on fire. Green, 82 who lives alone escaped unharmed. Green was alerted of the fire by smoke alarms. "That's probably the only reason he got out, Chief Frost said. Firefighters entered the home and attempted to knock down flames, but they couldn't chase it fast enough through the ceilings.

A faulty electrical switch that overheated or had a loose connection is the most likely cause of the fire, Chief Frost said.

Firefighters from five towns responded to the scene and Buckfield Fire Department provided area coverage.

The house is a total loss, But it was insured.

Mr. Green will be staying with a relative in Massachusetts.



## Sumner

### Firefighters train with Jaws of Life in Sumner

Sumner Fire Chief Bob Stewart and West Paris Chief Norm St. Pierre conducted Jaws of Life training at the West Paris Fire Station. Fire crews cut up four automobiles to learn how to safely open wrecked cars to remove trapped occupants without causing injury.

Lead trainer for the five-hour event was Auburn firefighter Eric Poland. He was assisted by Paris firefighter Troy Billings.

The \$19,000 Jaws of Life set was purchased with money raised by the Sumner Volunteer Fire Department Auxiliary. Through various fundraisers over the years, the group has purchased the Jaws of Life, built a Life Flight helicopter pad at the fire station and purchased a \$1,000 chain saw capable of sawing through mobile homes, among other support and supply projects for the Fire Department.

Seed money for the Jaws of Life fund came from the parents of a Buckfield Junior/Senior High School student killed in a school bus/automobile accident several years ago, Stewart said.

Firefighters from Sumner, West Paris, participated in a five-hour training session with the Jaws of Life on Sunday. Firefighters cut four automobiles to learn how to safely disassemble wrecked vehicles to remove trapped occupants without causing injury.



## Vinalhaven's Fire Department

Operating 16 miles at sea - with no immediate mutual aid - has taken delivery of a new/used, 2000 International E-One Rescue Pumper, with a 300 HP Diesel engine, a 1250 gpm Hale pump, and a 1000 gallon poly tank.

The piece also features a top-mounted control panel, a Class A foam system, roll up cabinet doors and two elevated lighting platforms.

The unit was barely in service, when island Firefighters rolled out to a two alarm blaze that destroyed a residence on Pequot Road. The unit had just been the focus of a department public "Open House" that also offered fire safety training, apparatus display, fire control and a "Jaws of Life" entrapment exercise, held at the six bay recently upgraded Emergency Services Center.

Working under Fire Chief Marc Candage, 9 officers and 15 trained Firefighters; the department operates two front line engines, a tanker/pumper, brush fire piece, utility unit and a boat. Two modern ambulances provide volunteer EMS service from the Emergency Services Center.



## UPDATE: Fire Marshal's Office helping investigate Vinalhaven house fire cause

Penobscot Pay Pilot

By: Holly S. Edwards

VINALHAVEN — A home along Pequot Road on Vinalhaven was burned to the ground Monday afternoon, and the state Fire Marshal's Office is on the island Tuesday to help the Vinalhaven Fire Department determine the cause of the blaze that destroyed the home, its contents and killed three family pets.

"The Fire Marshal's Office just arrived by boat and we are heading over to the house now," said Fire Chief Marc Candage Tuesday at noon. Candage said later in the afternoon that he does not yet know the cause of the fire.

The fire was called in around 4:15 p.m. Nov. 11 by a neighbor across the street. Firefighters reported hearing ammunition exploding inside the residence soon after arriving on scene.

The homeowners are Dana Blackington, 50, and his partner, Haley Wentworth, 40, who lived there with one of their two children, Isles Blackington, 14. Their daughter, 22-year-old Dana Marie Wentworth, lives elsewhere on Vinalhaven. The family is currently living across the street from their home on Pequot Road, with relatives.

Water to battle the blaze was drafted from nearby Booth's Quarry, and it was the first working fire for Vinalhaven's new 2000 E-One International Pumper Truck, which was just put into service.

First responders reported the single family home, which was unoccupied at the time, was fully involved with flames shooting out of the roof. According to a resident on the island, "Everything is lost - the family is OK. No one was home at the time."

Lost in the fire were two family dogs, one of which has not been found but is presumed deceased, and a bearded dragon lizard. There are no damage estimates, but the house was a complete loss.

"It was a pretty heavy fire load when we first arrived, and it was quite a surprise that nobody noticed it burning, especially since it's close to a main road," said Candage.

Firefighters were on scene for five hours, putting out hotspots.

"A lot of the house collapsed within itself making it hard to get water on some spots," said Candage. "It pretty much burned to nothing, and unfortunately for the family, everything was lost." An online fundraising page has been established to assist the family at [YouCaring.com](http://YouCaring.com).



This Blackington-Wentworth home along Pequot Road was reportedly fully involved when the first firefighters arrived on scene after 4:15 p.m. Monday. The fire was called in by a resident across the street. (PenBayPilot.com photo)



## WASHBURN

On August 4<sup>th</sup>, 2013 at 12:30 PM, Washburn Fire & Rescue received a call to respond to 20 Kim St, Washburn for the smell of smoke and several callers had called 911. This address is the location of a 2-story, 24 unit elderly/disabled housing complex. There were several lightning strikes in the area that day and it was assumed that was the cause. On route to the call, there was heavy smoke visible so immediately I called in extra resources from Caribou Fire Department, Presque Isle Fire Department and ultimately Mapleton Fire Company asking for an engine and a crew from each assuming we were going to have to attack from multiple angles and there was only 1 hydrant directly in front of the complex.

Being that the call came in on a Sunday afternoon, we were fortunate to have most of our members able to respond including my Assistant Chief, Nate Allen and Captain, Greg Sperrey. My first concern was assuring that all occupants were out of the structure and quite rapidly, it was confirmed that all tenants were account-

ed for and had gathered in the parking lot outside the structure. Nathan and Greg immediately began assessing the fire activity and how to appropriately make the initial attack. With heavy smoke coming from the roof in the center, common area of the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the building and visible smoke coming out of the ridge at the top of the roof line, we knew the fire was in the attic area. There was also some visible flame in the front of the eave as well.

When both my Assistant Chief and I are on scene, our process works such that he, being a full-time firefighter in Presque Isle as well, will oversee the fire activity and I will manage the resources and other needs. This day, that scenario played out almost perfectly. I say almost because we decided early on that a ladder truck would be beneficial and I should have acknowledged that before calling an Engine from Caribou. Ultimately, they turned their Engine around and sent their ladder truck along with the crew.

While waiting for the resources to arrive, we did not rush the fire attack. Knowing there were sheetrock fire walls in the attic and with a limited oxygen supply in the attic (it had not opened the roof or the interior ceiling at that point), it was not going to rapidly spread. The decision was to control the visible fire outside and wait for the ladder truck to assist with ventilation before a full interior attack. Upon arrival, we were able to rapidly vent the attic in ultimately 3 spots and attack the fire, containing almost all the fire & water damage to the center portion of the building with only 2 apartments being directly affected. In fact, all the other apartments had very little if any smoke damage of any kind.

While Nate and those under him were attacking the fire I was able to begin to worry about the tenants. Washburn Police were called in to assist with traffic and emergency shelter procedures were started (which utilizes the fire department facility.) However, these were changed when the Washburn Trail Runners snowmobile club offered their clubhouse (which was more comfortable with tables and chairs for the families.)

The building owner, C.S. Management, was also rapidly called into the scene and his staff showed up to assist with cataloging the items that would need to be gathered for the tenants (such as medications, pets, etc.) The only concern was how to get the tenants gathered in a location where they could meet with the building owner and Red Cross who had also been called. Since the keys to most of their vehicles were left in the apartments an alternative was necessary. The suggestion that came for a school bus and MSAD #45 responded quickly with a bus to transport the tenants down to the emergency shelter. The local convenience store, Country Farms Market, owned by Mark Kelly, also responded with sandwiches and drinks for the tenants at the clubhouse and that was greatly appreciated.

# COUNTY NEWS CONT'D

In summary, the fire was determined to be the result of a lightning strike, damage was contained to the center portion but due to the damage, tenants were required to move out of the complex temporarily. They were able to be escorted back into their apartments by late afternoon to gather their necessities, medications and pets. Although most were able to stay with family and friends, there were a few that used the Red Cross resources and stayed in local hotels. However, the building owner worked quickly and all but 2 of the apartments were opened back up by the following Friday.

It was great to see this small community, step-up and help those in need. It makes us as firefighters proud to serve such a great community.

## WEST PARIS

### Scrap Metal Yard Fire

Crews spent nearly five hours battling a fire that torched at least 20 vehicles stacked in a scrap metal yard on Maple Street.

One firefighter suffered a back sprain and was taken to a hospital, an official said.

Ernie Yap, owner of West Paris Metals, said he was unsure exactly what started the fire. One of his employees was using either a saw or a torch to cut apart some of the junked vehicles, preparing to move them from the site, he said.

Reportedly, a spark ignited one of the vehicles, and the fire quickly was out of control, Yap said. Usually, two employees work together when cutting up vehicles, he said, but only one was working at the yard at the time.

Fire crews were called to the scene at about 3:30 p.m. Firefighters from West Paris, Paris, Norway, Oxford, Greenwood and Woodstock initially responded and were later joined by crews from Buckfield, Turner, Canton and Gilead.

Noxious plumes of black smoke billowed more than 100 feet in the air, and small explosions were heard as the fire ate its way through scrapped vehicles stacked at the western end of the yard at 36 Maple St.

As of 8 p.m. some crews were still on the scene making sure the fire was out.

West Paris Fire Chief Norm St. Pierre could not be reached for comment Monday night, but Norway Fire Chief Dennis Yates, who responded to the scene, said remaining firefighters were pulling cars apart to extinguish flames.

The intense heat of the blaze, as well as the day's high temperatures and direct sun, required additional manpower so firefighters could be regularly cycled off the front line to prevent heat stroke and dehydration, Yates said.

Maine Department of Environmental Protection re-

sponded to the scene, Yates said.

A fire that ripped through a Maple Street scrap metal yard has been ruled accidental, according to West Paris Fire Chief Norm St. Pierre.

Sparks from an employee cutting a snowplow frame from a pickup truck ignited vehicles in the area, quickly turning into a conflagration, St. Pierre said. In all, 41 vehicles were torched in the fire, he said.

None of the vehicles had fuel in them, St. Pierre said. The explosions heard at the site were most likely tires popping or hydraulic lifts on the vehicles, he explained.

St. Pierre said his department used its entire stock of flame-suppressing foam, (40 gallons)



# COUNTY NEWS CONT'D

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## **Upcoming Fire Dept Anniversary Celebrations for York South**

Eliot 100 Years August 2014 - further details in next newsletter

York Beach 125 Years July 2015

York Village 100 Years and 53rd Annual Convention  
Sept 2016