

2022 ANNUAL REPORT TO BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The 2022 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, 2022. It is also provided to the Town offices of the Compact's member communities for information and distribution as desired.

The Compact now serves 24 communities in 4 counties. The Compact's operational area is 877 square miles with a resident population of 147,782. The Equalized Property Valuation in the area we protect is over 21.7 billion dollars. We also provide and receive mutual aid responses with communities beyond our member area.

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. During 2022 Captain Folsom was promoted to Deputy Chief. The Dispatch supervisor position remains unfilled at the end of 2022. Congratulations to Deputy Chief Folsom!

At the end of 2021 our second attempt at replacing our Computer Aided Dispatch software (CAD) stalled when the vendor announced that they were unable to deliver us a working CAD and that they were suspending any further development of their product. We began 2022 with another search for a CAD vendor that can meet our needs. After reviewing proposals from several vendors, we selected Tyler Technologies. At the June 18, 2022 Compact meeting the board voted to contract with Tyler Technologies and to expend up to \$160,797.00 from the General fund to pay the initial costs associated with the CAD purchase. We have been working with the vendor since that vote and anticipate having the new CAD in service during the fall of 2023. During 2022 we received \$72,085.69 in settlement fees from the two CAD companies who failed to deliver a working CAD software program to us.

The 2022 Compact operating budget was \$ 1,373,643. Funding for all Compact operations is provided by the member communities. We continue to apply for State and Federal Grant Funds when possible.

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 extended into the final weeks of 2021, due to delays caused by the pandemic. This grant funded project is now complete and we received final reimbursement from the State during 2022.

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 were prospectively awarded \$162,398.00 for this project during June of 2022. We just received the final approval process from the State so we can begin the process to expend these funds.

As Chief Coordinator, I responded to 642 incidents, a 5% increase over 2021. 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 2022 were:

President, Chief Jim Morse, Henniker
Vice President, Deputy Chief Ed Raymond, Warner
Secretary, Deputy Chief Guy Newbery, Canterbury
Treasurer Chief Jeff Yale, Hopkinton

The Training Committee was reconstituted in 2022 after several years on hold due to the pandemic. The committee has many new members and has added an EMS subcommittee. They presented one quarterly training Compact wide and have been working to find a solution to the lack of Firefighter 1 training courses available to our communities.

The Central New Hampshire Hazmat Team represents 59 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 11 hazmat incidents during 2022.

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.

A detailed activity report by town/agency is attached. 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