

City of Groton Fire Department  
Annual Report 2016

2016 continued to challenge the Fire Department and change its core delivery functions. Your Fire Department responded to 1061 requests for service. Twenty-two of those incidents involved structure fires or contents of a building. Conversely, 781 or 74% of calls were for medical emergencies or rescue calls. The remaining 258 calls involved the balance of our call volume. The opioid crisis has significantly hit our community and taxed our emergency resources. Fire Department leaders have participated in multiple meetings and strategy sessions in an effort to deal with this issue. There are NO easy or clear answers. We continue to battle the opiate addiction problem and regularly use NARCAN © to resuscitate unconscious victims. I am very proud of the work out folks are doing during this difficult time. While we do have a large call volume involving EMS and Rescues, we still have significant risks involving fire and other hazards. Fortunately, we have been able to cover multiple emergencies occurring at the same time through internal flexibility and Mutual Aid support. On March 31<sup>st</sup>, a visitor to the Easter Point Beach accidentally drove their vehicle into the river. A rapid response by emergency services found an occupied vehicle sinking. GCPD Lieutenant Eric Jenkins, being supported by Police and Fire personnel, was able to break a car window and recue the trapped occupant. The event went viral on social media and made the national news. The City of Groton Fire and Police Departments were significant contributors to Active Violence Response Training as part of a regional effort to prepare for a Criminal Mass Casualty Incident. The protocol, which was developed, is being taught throughout the region. The Police Department, Fire Department and Groton Ambulance, in cooperation with the West Side Middle School, continued the Public Safety Mentoring Club. Interested students participated in programs designed to expose themselves to the various services and tasks provided by the emergency services. It is our hope the seeds of public service will continue to grow and provide some much needed community fruit in the future. We are always looking for people to help us protect our community. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer, please contact the Fire Chief. As always, we wish you a safe and peaceful life.

Respectfully,

Chief Nick DeLia and the City of Groton Fire Department.