

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

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Brush Fires Scorch Acres in Town

As winter turns to spring, new sprouts of leaves and undergrowth begin their blooms. However, in that time frame from the last snow melt to full green-up, the dry, dead underbrush is very susceptible to fire.

Weather conditions, being dry, didn't help this year. Several large brush fires were battled throughout the town of Sandwich with several calls for mutual aid from surrounding towns.

The largest fire, approximately 12 acres, was in the Lakewood Hill development in a very remote area. Crews used Plymouth County's Airplane and a

drone to keep tabs on the progress of the fire.

A second fire, several acres in size, was discovered deep in the woods behind the Sandwich Rod and Gun Club. Due to the difficult access and the fact that the fire was headed towards homes on Service road, Mashpee, Cotuit and Bourne Brush trucks were called to assist.

As a reminder, outside burning of brush is allowed ONLY from January 15, to May 1st of each year. (Cook fires are exempt)



Captain Scott Ames and his brother David fighting a brush fire off Service Road.



New Smoke Detector Law in effect!

Effective January 1st of 2015, all One and Two family homes must have smoke alarms not older than 10 yrs from the date of manufacture.

False alarms from older units cause homeowners to disconnect the detector

causing an unsafe situation.

Newer technology limits this, providing an extra level of safety. The date is stamped on the back of the unit. (if no date, replace it.)

This law will be enforced anytime the fire department notices a residence out of

compliance or during any sale or transfer of property.

A certificate of compliance is necessary for all transfers of ownership. You can apply for an inspection at the Headquarters station during normal business hours. The fee is \$50.

Heritage Aerial Park Debuts



After much discussion and planning, not to mention permitting, the Heritage Aerial Park has opened.

This park has gotten a lot of press, both pro and con. One thing that is true is it's a fun challenge!

The Fire Department was given a full safety tour of the facility prior to opening. The staff was

very qualified and knowledgeable about the climbing devices and safety methods. Trevor, their director of safety, led several members of the FD through the park. The good part is, there is a challenging level for everyone. The bad part is, the advanced course can be difficult! Only a select few were able to finish the course.

A unique part of the layout is that it uses technology to connect to the trees without damaging them! As of this writing the park has a waiting list of people wanting to give it a shot.

Like it or not, it is here and seems to be working out quite well. The question is... can you do it?

Community Wellness Program

The Sandwich Fire Department has partnered with the Council on Aging to develop a pilot outreach program.

The Community Wellness provider program utilizes members of the department, both Paramedics and EMT's, to visit "at risk" seniors in the community.

These members are described as living alone, having a significant medical history and several transports to the hospital.

This program's target is to limit unnecessary visits to the emergency room and help the citizen in managing their day to day living. Keeping medications organized, ensuring cleanliness of the home as well as

providing insight for their families and caregivers.

The program is the first of its kind in the State of Massachusetts and is getting recognition from several national organizations.

Deputy Chief J.J. Burke will be initiating an effort to secure funding to maintain and expand this valuable program.

Knox Box Bylaw

The Sandwich Fire Department would like to highlight one of the more overlooked bylaw violations in town.

ByLaw 3.45 sec. 7A states that if any residence or business with an alarm system monitored by a central station that summons the fire department for fire or medi-

cal alarms, must have installed a Knox box. The box is attached to the building and a key is kept inside for FD access. It is made of very high strength steel and only the FD has a key to open it. There are over 350 in town today. If you have any questions, please contact the Fire Prevention Office or search

Knoxbox.com and look for Sandwich, MA.



SHS Seniors get “Scared Safe”

School Resource Officer Christa Cabral and Fire Prevention Officer Dan Keane held a “students only” assembly on May 27. All graduating Seniors were gathered in the auditorium to hear real life safety messages.

“As these kids head out into the real world, it’s important they understand that they’ll be faced with many decisions they must make on their own.” Said Officer Cabral

Making a point in the beginning of the assembly, Officer Cabral excused Dr. Ellin Booras from the room which caused a buzz, but Dr.



Booras didn’t mind, saying “The kids needed to feel like they could speak freely about safety issues without faculty present, much like in the adult world they are about to face.”

Officer Cabral started with a discussion on personal safety, sexual assault

and responsibility. FPO Keane then showed a moving video titled “9 Fires” highlighting several college fires and demonstrating how decisions made by students, both good and bad, made a significant impact on their lives.

“Always remember your fire safety, never disconnect smoke alarms, know two ways out, and practice smoking and cooking safety.” Keane reminded.

“We’ve given them the tools to make good decisions.”

Good Luck to the Class of 2015!

Sandwich Fire Department Activities



So far this year, it has been quite busy for the Sandwich Fire Department

A total of 2,214 incidents have been handled. Averaging over 11 emergencies per day. That is almost 2 above the average call volume! We have battled 57 fires. Of those, 21 have been in homes. A total of \$187,855 in property has been lost. 3 firefighter injuries have occurred during

operations, however, no civilian injuries from fires have been reported.

Remember...

- Test your smoke alarms monthly!
- Have a family escape plan!
- Know 2 ways out, always!
- Keep your home fire safe!

Cape Cod Sports & Convention Complex?



The SFD has been given a preview of the proposed complex to be built, pending approval, in the golden triangle parcel of undeveloped land. This proposal would provide athletic fields as well as convention space along with hotel rooms to house visitors. This is a project that could bring much needed revenue to the Town. The developers will have many hurdles to jump before they move forward. We will keep you posted.

Photo Page...



British Beer Company Fire



House fire on Earle Rd.



Training evolutions at the station...



...and at the Fire Academy



Brushbreaker operations



Doing it the "old fashioned way!"