

FOREST WARDEN

The Stow Fire Department responded to many Brush Fires and investigations of outdoor smoke calls in the year 2012.

The open burning season was once again very busy for the Fire Department. 572 burning permits were issued from January 15 until April 30, 2012. This year we were very fortunate to secure a \$5,000 grant to place the burning permits online. Ross Perry was instrumental in securing the grant. The system was installed and rolled out to our residents. Those who wish to burn brush can check online every day to see if burning is allowed. Residents without computer access can visit the station to receive a permit. We allow burning between 10:00 am and 4:00 pm with permission from the Fire Department, depending on staffing and weather conditions. This allows us to have the appropriate personnel available in case your fire gets out of control. Our plan is to roll out additional permit applications in the future.

Many burning days are declined by the Department of Environmental Protection due to atmosphere conditions. The State Forest Warden cancels burning due to unfavorable weather conditions. Extreme conditions are reported as "Red Flag Days" on local weather reports.

I would like to thank the State Forest Fire Division and the Sudbury Fire Tower for all their help in locating and extinguishing some of these fires.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael McLaughlin, Forest Warden

EMERGENCY PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT

We are the point of contact for the Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC). The LEPC is comprised of a number of cross-functional departments that have demonstrated the ability to professionally manage emergency incidents in Stow. We are extremely fortunate to have such a talented group of volunteers. They have handled everything from desktop exercises to real life emergencies opening and managing emergency shelters. In the beginning, the LEPC met monthly until we were operationally ready. The group now meets on a quarterly basis or more frequently if an emergency arises. Our meetings take place at our primary shelter which is the Hale School.

The Stow Emergency Management Team responded to several recent major weather-related natural disasters. In 2009 we had the Ice Storm, 2010 the March spring floods and the countless winter snow storms in the winter of 2010/2011. Last year we

encountered tornadoes, Hurricane Irene and the October “Halloween Nor’easter”. This year we had Hurricane Sandy and Nemo the Nor’easter storm. We work closely with the Highway, Fire and Police Departments to mitigate and manage the town’s recovery efforts. After large incidents, a representative from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is on site in Stow for several weeks. We collect and consolidate the necessary paperwork to apply for reimbursement of Stow’s expenses. We are in the process right now of recording and submitting the latest paperwork. This financial recovery effort has proved to be very successful in returning thousands of dollars for the Town of Stow’s out of pocket disaster expenditures back to the general fund. Efforts to date are approaching \$100,000 back to the Town.

The LEPC recently received approval from the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), FEMA and MEMA Region I for Stow’s Hazard Mitigation Plan. This dynamic plan will be reviewed and revised as appropriate and resubmitted every five years. This formal approval provides us with the authorization to apply for Federal and State Grants.

I would like to thank all the LEPC members and town departments for their time and professionalism. I want to thank the Nashoba Regional School District for their support and Bill Cleary, Director of Facilities at Nashoba.

Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC)

1	Arsenault, Nancy	Stow Independent
2	Baranofsky, Ann-Marie	Nashoba Regional School District
3	Blake, Vicki	Plantation Apartments
4	Brownfield, Sharon	Medical Reserve Corp (MRC)
5	Chief Bill Bosworth	Stow Police Chief
6	Clayton, Michael	Stow Highway Superintendent
7	Cleary, Bill	Director Facilities Nashoba (NRSD)
8	Cullen, Linda	Town Nurse
9	Donovan, Kristen	Neighborhood Watch
10	Fantasia, John	Stow Communications Center
11	Funkhouser, Sharon	Stow Council on Aging
12	Glorioso, Robert	Ham Radio Operators
13	Greenough, Laura	Stow Recreation Committee
14	Hathaway, Linda	Stow Town Clerk
15	Heffernan, Al	Meeting House
16	Holbrook, Jack	Arber Glenn
17	Kern, Charlie	Stow Board of Selectmen
18	King, George	Nashoba Regional School District
19	Martin, Craig	Building Inspector
20	McLaughlin, Mike	Stow Fire Chief
21	McLaughlin, Susan	Office of the Board of Selectmen

22	Norton, Bob	Stow Wiring Inspector
23	Perry, Patricia	Stow Conservation Committee
24	Perry, Ross	Medical Reserve Corp (MRC)
25	Rising, Marcia	Board of Health/MRC
26	Robart, Sarah	Medical Reserve Corp (MRC)
27	Ryan, Tom	Board of Selectmen
28	Sallese, Michael	Detective Stow Police Dept.
29	Spratt, Bill	Nashoba Regional School District
30	Stadolnik, Rebecca	Medical Reserve Corp (MRC)
31	Swinimer, Judson	Stow Fire Dept.
32	Tobey, Elizabeth	Stow Information Technology
33	Toole, Alyson	Stow Council on Aging
34	Trahman, Patricia	Nashoba Regional School District
35	Trefry, Bruce	Emerson Hospital
36	Wallace, Jack	Stow Board of Health
37	Wrigley, William	Stow Town Administrator

Respectfully submitted,

Mike McLaughlin
Emergency Management Director