

FOREST FIRE WARDEN

The Stow Fire Department responded to many Brush Fires and investigations of outdoor smoke calls in the year 2010.

The Town Forest and other conservation lands were patrolled regularly for fallen trees and limbs that block the fire roads. Brush cutting was also performed where required to keep the roads open for Fire Apparatus.

The open burning season was once again very busy for the Fire Department. 486 burning permits were issued from January 15 until April 30, 2010. Those who wish to burn brush must be sure to come to the Stow Fire Station to obtain a burning permit. For the day you wish to burn, you call the Fire Department before you begin burning (after 9:00 am). The number to call is 897-4537. 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.

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,

Mike McLaughlin, Forest Warden

EMERGENCY SERVICES

We are the point of contact for the Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC). The LEPC is comprised of a number of many 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 emergencies opening and managing emergency shelters. In the beginning, the LEPC met monthly until we were operational ready, the group now meets on a quarterly basis or sooner 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. We worked closely with the Highway, Fire and Police Departments to mitigate and manage the town's recovery efforts. After two incidents, a representative from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) was on site in Stow for several weeks. We collected and consolidated the necessary paperwork to apply for reimbursement of Stow's expenses. This financial recovery effort has proved to be very successful in returning thousands of dollars for the Town's out-of-pocket disaster expenditures back to the general fund for Police, Fire, and Highway.