

2024 ANNUAL REPORT TO BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The 2024 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, 2024. It is also provided to the Town offices of the Compact's member communities for information and distribution as desired.

The Compact serves 24 communities in 4 counties. The Compact's operational area is 852 square miles with a resident population of 148,491. The Equalized Property Valuation in the area we protect is over 27.7 billion dollars. We also conduct 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.

The 2024 Compact operating budget was \$ 1,610,710. Funding for all Compact operations is provided by the member communities. We continue to apply for State and Federal Grant Funds when possible. During 2024 work continued to secure funding to replace our aging radio system. We worked with our consultant, met with State Senators, continued discussions with our federal congressional delegation and worked with NH Homeland Security. We were fortunate to secure \$1,248,750 in ARPA funding during 2024. We completed an RFP and have solicited interested vendors. They have made their submissions, and we anticipate choosing a vendor and beginning work on the system early in 2025.

The Compact and Hazmat Team have received over 5.2 million dollars in grant funding since 1999 (1,322,997 during 2024 alone!). 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.

We relocated our offices early in 2024 to 25 Triangle Park Drive when the State chose not to renew our old lease. The new facility has been a significant upgrade.

In March, Jen Beetz was promoted to Concord Fire Department Captain and Dispatch Center Supervisor. She has been providing excellent service to the Compact in her new position.

During 2023 an order was placed to secure a Class B foam response unit and a supply of Class B foam for all Compact fire agencies. This project was funded by a 2022 Homeland SHSP program grant. This grant will improve our ability to respond to flammable liquid fires. The new foam replaces legacy foam which was determined to be an environmental and health hazard. We received the remainder of our foam during 2024, and the application equipment and foam trailer arrived in July 2024.

On December 22, 2022, the communications tower that we lease space on in Pembroke was destroyed, along with all of our tower mounted equipment when an adjacent tower was blown over in heavy winds. After extensive negotiations with the site management company, regulators and insurance companies, a new tower was finally erected during 2024. Our damaged

equipment was replaced through a settlement with the company that owned the tower that knocked ours down and with the assistance of our own insurance company. After a long period without this critical communications site, we finally went online there in September 2024. We also moved our radio equipment on Craney Hill in Henniker from the old fire tower to a new communications tower that Henniker constructed.

In December, we received a grant to transition the Compact website and emails to a .gov platform to improve our cybersecurity. We are working with The Overwatch Foundation, and Primex (our insurer) to implement software changes, hardware improvements, and policies to bolster our cybersecurity. This has been a great program, and I would encourage all of our member Towns to pursue this grant-funded program.

Our dispatch center is the primary contact for the NH Statewide Mobilization Plan. If a large incident occurs in the State, we organize task force and strike team level responses to the affected area. During 2024 we worked with other dispatch centers in NH on activations to a large fire involving fuel transport trucks in Epping, a significant building fire at a large structure on a very cold night in Sunapee, supplemental emergency responders and equipment for the large gathering at the solar eclipse in Pittsburg, and large brush fires in Mason and Brentwood.

Under the leadership of Deputy Chief Newbery, the Compact has significantly improved our training offerings to our member communities. Programs presented during 2024 included: two forest fire exercises, a Hazmat Train-the-Trainer program, two training sessions on our new foam trailer, presentations from Until and Eversource regarding power outages and restoration, three lithium-ion battery emergency response classes, Incident Command for active shooter exercise, Incident Command at live fire training at Concord FD training grounds, Training from NH Department of Emergency Management regarding working with their liaison staff, a 3-day propane emergency response course. The Deputy delivered Emergency Response Guidebooks to all of our agencies and prepared a presentation on the use of the ERG that is available on the Compact website for all agencies to use.

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 21 hazmat incidents during 2024. The long-term Chief of the Team, Tony Manning retired during 2024, and Mick Costello has taken on the leadership role for the Team.

All departments are encouraged to send a representative to all Compact meetings. Your input is needed. The Compact was created for the mutual benefit of member communities and active participation is necessary to ensure your needs are 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.

Respectfully submitted,
Keith Gilbert, Chief Coordinator
CAPITAL AREA FIRE COMPACT

Capital Area Mutual Aid Fire Compact

2024 Incidents vs. 2023 Incidents			
Town	2023 Incidents	2024 Incidents	% Change
Allenstown Fire Department	884	966	9.3%
Boscawen Fire Department	281	332	18.1%
Bow Fire Rescue Department	1,096	1,046	-4.6%
Bradford Fire Rescue Department	193	249	29.0%
Canterbury Fire Department	342	386	12.9%
Chichester Fire-Rescue Department	547	610	11.5%
Concord Fire Department	10,378	10,282	-0.9%
Deering Fire Rescue Department	265	321	21.1%
Dunbarton Fire Department	265	288	8.7%
Epsom Fire Rescue Department	1,161	1,098	-5.4%
Henniker Fire Department	1,142	1,238	8.4%
Hillsboro Fire Department	1,281	1,287	0.5%
Hooksett Fire Department	2,630	2,625	-0.2%
Hopkinton Fire Department	1,372	1,380	0.6%
Loudon Fire Department	923	1,026	11.2%
Northwood Fire & Rescue Department	771	843	9.3%
Pembroke EMS	1,379	1,154	-16.3%
Pembroke Fire Department	342	425	24.3%
Penacook Rescue	1,094	1,223	11.8%
Pittsfield Fire Department	1,011	953	-5.7%
Salisbury Fire & Rescue Department	152	198	30.3%
Warner Fire & Rescue Department	601	530	-11.8%
Washington Fire & Rescue Department	207	186	-10.1%
Weare Fire Rescue Department	839	931	11.0%
Webster Fire Department	219	227	3.7%
Windsor (*)	no data	44*	
Grand Totals	29,375	29,804	1.5%

(*) The town of Windsor is covered by Hillsboro Fire Department. Windsor incidents are included in Hillsboro's totals.

Agency	2024
Capital Area Mutual Aid Fire Compact Coordinators	189
Central NH Hazmat Team	21