

## The Saco Fire Department at a Glance

Our **Mission Statement** reads: The Saco Fire Department is committed to enhancing the quality of life for present and future generations of our community. We protect lives and property through Public Education, Fire Suppression, and Emergency Medical and Rescue Services.

We accomplish our mission with 34 Career Division Firefighter/EMS providers (24 Paramedics, 5 Advanced EMT's, & 5 EMT-Basics), 3 Career Chief Officers, 29 Call Division Firefighters and 10 support personnel to include our Administrative Assistant, Medical Director, Department Chaplain, and Fire/Police Members; all of whom are dedicated professionals who fully understand the roles, responsibilities and expectations of Public Service.

Operating out of three stations, Central Station, Camp Ellis Station, and North Saco Station our apparatus includes; 4 engines, 1 aerial ladder truck, 3 ambulances, 1 ocean fire/rescue boat, and several auxiliary support vehicles.

In calendar year 2017, we responded to 3,769 emergency calls, and increase of nearly 900 calls compared to just 10 years ago. Our EMS Division responded to 2,888 emergency medical calls, a 30% increase over the same 10-year period. Our workload has grown substantially, even as our core mission, putting out fires, had declined. Our core mission is ever-evolving, we are training for and responding to new hazards that present new dangers. We are an 'All-Hazards' response organization faced with hazards presented by natural-weather related emergencies, hazardous Materials incidents and new hazards because of technology and changes to the construction industry. Our robust Mutual Aid System and strong partnerships with all the city departments, as well as county and state agencies are contributing factors to our success.

Our Fire Prevention and Code Enforcement efforts remain strong; working with the Code Enforcement Office as well as the Planning and Economic Development Departments we conduct Plan review, inspections during construction, and more than 300 Fire Safety Inspections annually to ensure Saco maintains a high level of Life safety from fire and hazards for our residents, community, and visitors.

In April of 2018, the Saco City Council accepted the Comprehensive Organizational Assessment of the Saco Fire Department that was conducted by Municipal Resources Inc. There are several recommendations in that assessment that we will use to ensure adequate growth to our organization keeps pace with growth within the city and requests for our assistance; we intend to continue to provide safe, effective and efficient services to the City of Saco in a timely manner. We greatly appreciate the support we receive from the residents of Saco and the Saco City Council.

**"The job of a firefighter isn't what it used to be, it has changed, almost beyond recognition. It is not easy to do, or recruit people to do it."** Governing Magazine – September 2018

