

Medical Response Report for the Year 2007

In the year 2007, Peacham Volunteer Fire Department responded to 56 medical calls. Our medically trained personnel also provided services at fires in Peacham and at mutual aid fire calls.

We have been very happy with the community reaction to our Emergency Medical Response program. We were honored that some families felt that we merited contributions in memory of their loved ones.

At the 2007 Town Meeting we presented our request to replace "Rescue 1" and you approved, thank you! We are now working on getting proposals from vendors which will fit our budget; this has taken more time than we initially planned. We may have an agreement with a vendor by the 2008 Town Meeting.

This year we are fortunate to have seven members trained as EMS medical first responders. Michael Walsh completed certification for EMT-B. Another of our firefighters, Mark Fitzhugh has begun the EMT-B training course. Three of our members are trained as CPR instructors. Again, we thank you for your continuing generosity which allows us to be well-equipped and well-trained. You should not be surprised to hear that your fire department is well respected among the other EMS agencies of the Northeast Kingdom.

People still ask us if the medical calls we respond to are serious. We respond to calls that challenge us in many ways, for the person who requests our services they are all serious. If you wake up at 3AM with chest pains, if you are bleeding profusely, if you have a serious burn, if you have a severe allergic reaction, if you fall down the stairs, if you are having difficulty breathing, if you are having trouble maintaining consciousness, the call is serious for you. As with a fire call, we would much rather you call 911 as soon as you become aware of the emergency medical condition, than ponder whether the call is "serious".

We can't help you if we can't find you. Please display your 911-house number. It should be visible from the road both day and night. We would also like you to consider keeping a list of your current medications and any chronic medical/surgical problems you have in a "Vial of Life". This can be kept in a sealed envelope on your refrigerator. This will help us if we are called to assist you and you cannot remember specific information or you cannot communicate with us. For more information on house numbers and the "Vial of Life", visit the Peacham Volunteer Fire Department on the web at <http://www.peacham.net/fire>.

If you are interested in taking a CPR course, contact Fire Chief Berwick or me. Also, if you are interested in obtaining Emergency Medical Training and/or Fire Training and becoming part of the Peacham Volunteer Fire Department, please contact Fire Chief Berwick.

Jerry Senturia
Secretary, Peacham Volunteer Fire Department