

DISPATCH

SAINT MICHAEL'S FIRE AND RESCUE

GO

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SITEMAP

The Fire and Rescue Experience

Students at Saint Michael's College have many opportunities to come face to face with "real-world" problems and challenges. The firefighters and ambulance personnel of the Fire and Rescue Squad regularly face those that are literally a matter of life and death.

At Saint Michael's College, the Fire and Rescue Squad is an independent volunteer organization of young men and women students. In addition to their academic and extracurricular responsibilities, they have taken on the awesome burden of serving the public by providing fire protection and emergency medical treatment, not only on campus but

EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE

We're available 24 hours a day to assist with emergency situations.

Dial 911

NON-EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE

If you need assistance, please call the number below.

Welcome! The website has been updated and can be found at www.smfronline.org I would like to encourage everyone to regularly checkout the website for new updates and changes we are making. I am excited to announce that this year we will be entering the SMFR website into the National Collegiate EMS website in the competition.

One of the largest recent additions is we are now trying to focus on the services we offer to the local community. The 'organizational structure' page offers descriptions of the current officers' roles & responsibilities as well as who is currently serving in each position. The 'News' section of the website is constantly being updated with local media stories about SMFR.

We are really hoping for an increase in alumni involvement with the new website. I would love to add more patches to our online patch wall and the alumni map. We would also love to hear about career achievements and major community events that alumni are involved in to add to the 'Alumni Spotlight' section. I am looking for help with the 'history timeline' page where we are highlighting the big moments in the department's history, if folks have events they feel are important please let me know. Also, please don't forget to join the [St. Michael's College Fire & Rescue](#) Facebook group.

-Amy McGann '15
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UPDATES FROM THE UNIT CAPTAINS



Rescue currently has 9 probationary members, 8 drivers, 3 ALS crew chiefs, and 1 BLS crew chief. This past winter break, we had an incredible amount of students who chose to stay on campus as well as alumni who were incredibly generous with their spare time; everyone of the students who remained on campus was able to, at one point or another, get home to see their families as well. SMFR was recently featured on the front page of the Burlington Free Press with a four page article about the members and the work we do.

We have decided not to have a spring rookie class after taking on nine new members in the fall. Instead, we would like to focus our efforts on training, especially now with so many new driver trainers as well as alumni support. Currently, we have a total of 6 members driver training and 3 members crew chief training. Also, we have two members in the AEMT class that is being held at UVM this spring as well as all nine of our new probationary members in the EMT class.

On the third weekend in February, the officers will be attending the 20th annual National Collegiate Emergency Medical Services Foundation conference in Washington DC. We will have the opportunity to attend over 50 different lectures, multiple round table discussions, as well as enter into a skills competition.

The date for banquet is set for April 13th. We look forward to seeing many of you then.

-Capt. Meg D'Elia '14

At the beginning of the 2013 spring semester, the Fire unit has 20 active members. This includes our 7 new probationary members many of whom have prior experience. We currently have 7 engine drivers and 2 EMTs. Four additional members are preparing to take the EMT exam over the next few months.

to frequently have so many of our recent Alumni back on campus to help teach training and run calls with us. Thank you again to all of our Alumni for your continued support.

-Capt. Andrew Virnig '13

This Winter break, we had the most members I have ever seen choose to be on campus and run duty. Over break, we spent time driver training, watching bad movies and eating a very special and unique Christmas dinner. Elizabeth Morono '11 served us lobster, clams, and pasta. Right after Christmas, we had a few days of extremely heavy and rapid snowfall. We had to rush to unbury Lt. McLaughlin's car before a call and just narrowly avoiding having it get stuck in the unplowed lot behind the 100's.

The dedication I have seen our members exert during training was well demonstrated at the Brown Ledge Camp fire in Mallets Bay in early December, 2012. Our members battled an intense fire complicated by high winds rapidly whipping flames from cabin to cabin. Many cabins were destroyed, but thanks to the efforts of "St. Winchester Bay", we were able to stop the fire and save the brand new dining hall that the camp had worked so hard to fund and build. We are also extremely lucky



FIRE AND RESCUE ON SCENE

On the morning of 1/23/13 Winchester Bay (SMFR, Colchester Center, Malletts Bay and Winnoski Fire Departments) was called to the Motel 6 in Colchester for an activated fire alarm with a report of smoke in the building. While en route all responding units were advised that there was smoke on the 3rd floor with sprinkler activation. On scene 4C5 and 4C3 made their way up to the third floor with Engine 8's crew led by Lt. Mike Bodreau '14. The fire room was quickly located by the crews and entry was gained. Upon opening up the door, crews were met with a moderate smoke condition, sprinkler head activation, and a sharp cry for help. 4C5 and 4K5 performed a right handed search of the room and found the victim lying next to his smoldering bed, directly under the activated sprinkler with noticeable second degree burns on the left side of his body. 4C5 and 4K5 quickly removed the victim out of the room and into the hallway where they were met by 4K6 and a hotel luggage cart. 4C5 and 4K6 quickly placed the victim on the cart and moved him to the end of the hallway where they carried the victim down 3 flights of stairs and requested Colchester Rescue to meet them at the bravo side exit. The victim was placed on the stretcher and under the care of the Colchester Rescue crew including Paramedic Carter Neville, SMFR alumnus '08. Carter treated the victim for second degree burns over 15 percent of his body and intubated the victim when they arrived at the hospital for treatment of the burns. Once the scene was under control and all residents were evacuated, an investigation was performed and it is believed the victim had fallen asleep smoking a cigarette in bed which caught the mattress and pillows on fire.

An excellent job was done by all responding units and especially the SMFR crew. I couldn't be more proud of all the SMFR Firefighters who responded that morning. It was great to see all of our training and hard work come to fruition at such an important call. *-Asst. Chief Erik Haversang '11*

FROM THE CHIEF

Following the last Board of Directors meeting in December, a focus group has been established to take on an initiative to examine developing a full time position within the department. As many alums know, this topic has come up several times over the past 10 or so years in the context of rescue needing daytime coverage support. We have set it aside each time as there has been ebb and flow in this challenge, along with concern about what impact such a move would have on the student centered culture.

This coverage issue has peaked in the past year, and we believe this to be the result of a number of factors including our continued commitment to not running through class, a new curriculum model at SMC that brings with it increased academic rigor and class time, the perennial challenge of training and maintaining a solid roster of student crew chiefs and drivers, and a slow decline in the number of local alumni able to help cover daytime hours. Add to this a newly mandated electronic records management and documentation system, an enhanced district QA/QI program, and ever growing compliance and regulatory requirements, and we have begun to stretch the capacity of the student officers and volunteer assistant chief of the rescue unit.

With a strategic goal of the organization to become a paramedic level service, we believe the time is now for us to take this next step in the evolution of Fire and Rescue. We recognize this is somewhat of a quantum leap, and there are many things to take into consideration. This group, made up of two board members, the chief and assistants, and three students will be working hard to develop a recommendation that will not only help meet the current and evolving needs of the organization and enhance the student experience, but will fit well into the strategic plan recently approved by the board and secure the future success of Fire and Rescue.

It is our hope that our alumni will be understanding and supportive of this initiative. As our work progresses, we will offer updates and seek input as needed.

- Chief Peter Soons '82



FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

Saint Michaels Fire and Rescue Inc. has formally adopted a Strategic Plan.

The Department strategic plan was adopted by the Board of Directors at the last meeting following a year's worth of effort on the part of all members of the organization. The process began with the assistance of Grace Andrews, a Boston area consultant who specializes in coaching organizations through this process.

Alumni, students and the Board each met in work groups to develop the topics most important to them as it relates to SMFR and its future. From those work sessions a working group of students, alumni and Board members consolidated the list to draft the three most important matters that will affect the department in the next three years. The topics have several sub-topics that relate to action plans that we will take to institute the identified needs over the next few years.

The plan is an important part of the organization, and it truly reflects the department's on-going effort to achieve excellence. Additionally the plan will ensure continued success and benefit all members starting from a first year rookie to the oldest alumni member. The plan is posted on the Department Website.

OVERVIEW OF THE PLAN-GOALS

- A. Develop the role of Paramedic level care for the organization
- B. Continue the organization's long standing commitment to professionalism and excellence in training through an on-going review of both long and short-term methods to maintain the highest standards
- C. Strengthen relationships of the Department

Each of the goals has several action items to assist in meeting the goal over time. As you all know a working group is currently engaged in the work required to report to the department on Goal A.

A big thank you to all who participated, once again we can be proud of the organization and the members.

-Tom Powers '70



BOOTCAMP

Please mark your calendars for our annual August boot camp, which will be held this year from 08/16/13 to 08/21/13.