
ESSEX RESCUE

It is with great pride and appreciation that I write the 2007 town report on behalf of the men and women who serve with Essex Rescue. I would first like to extend my thanks and appreciation to the citizens, businesses, and town management for all their continued support of our organization and educational programs. We also want to recognize all our mutual aid partners in rescue, fire, and law enforcement for their continued cooperation, joint efforts, and leadership. This cohesive team of emergency responders has allowed us to provide a better level of service to the community.

We especially want to recognize and extend our thanks and gratitude to the families of our members. The sacrifices that family members give throughout the year are many, from missed birthdays, delayed and/or missed holidays, children's events and many other family activities. Without the support of our families, none of us would be able to make the commitment required to provide this service to the community.

Since 1971, Essex Rescue has been providing prompt and professional medical response 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. Essex Rescue serves the communities of Essex, Essex Junction, Underhill, Jericho and Westford with pre-hospital advanced life support services. In fiscal year 2007, Essex Rescue responded to a total of 1,554 calls. We have 64 volunteers and 4 paid staff members; our volunteer members have contributed more than 35,000 hours of volunteer service in addition to the time they spent on education and community outreach. We maintain the highest standards of our profession; caring for our patients, their families and the community; and preventing illness and injury through public education.

We have been awarded a grant from the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to implement a comprehensive wellness and fitness program for our members. The DHS grant includes medical and physical fitness evaluations, fitness trainers, nutrition education, and appropriate fitness equipment. This grant will improve the health and safety of Essex Rescue's volunteers and full-time paid staff. It will do so by improving our membership's overall health, reducing their risk of exposures, on-the-job injuries, and providing musculoskeletal injury prevention and thus a safer, healthier work force.

Essex Rescue is proud to attract so many volunteers, and retaining these critical resources is crucial to our ability to maintain a combination department. We are made up of over 95% volunteers, and this is a big part of our being able to control cost at the same time that we are providing more services to our community.

We would like to inform you that our File of Life community outreach program is still available. The File of Life is a tool used by the community to record medical history and medications. This information is then available to first responders and ambulance personnel to assist in treatment during a medical emergency.

If you are interested in obtaining a File of Life, or becoming a volunteer with Essex Rescue, please call us at 878-4859 for more information.

Craig R. Butkus
Executive Director
