

TOWN OF EDDINGTON

EDDINGTON FIRE DEPARTMENT ORDINANCE

Enacted: March 10, 1997

Be it ordained by the citizens of the Town of Eddington, Maine that a department to be hereafter known as the Eddington Fire Department, the object of which shall be the prevention of fire and the protection of life and property within the limits of the Town of Eddington, Maine and such adjacent areas as emergency situations may require, is hereby created as follows:

OFFICIERS

1. The Department shall consist of a Chief, one Deputy Chief and other officers as the Chief and Board of Selectmen may deem necessary for the effective operations of the Department.
2. The Chief shall be appointed by the Board of Selectmen for an indefinite period of time, and his tenure of office shall depend upon his good conduct and efficiency. The Chief shall be technically qualified by training and experience and shall have ability to command men and hold their respect and confidence. He shall be removed only for just cause and after a public hearing before the Board of Selectmen.
3. The Chief shall be held accountable to the Board of Selectmen and Town Manager, and shall make written and verbal reports thereto as the Board of Selectmen and Town Manager may require. All other Department and Company officers shall be accountable to the Chief only.
4. The Deputy Chief and all other Department and Company officers shall be appointed by the Chief. Such officers shall be accountable only to the Chief, and subject to removal by him. Any Department Officer so removed may, if he desires, appeal directly in writing to the Board of Selectmen and their decision shall be final.

DUTIES OF THE CHIEF

1. The Chief shall formulate a set of rules and regulations to govern the Department, and shall be responsible to the Board of Selectmen for the personnel, morale and general efficiency of the Department.

2. The Chief shall determine the number and kind of companies of which the Department is to be composed and shall determine the response of such companies to alarms.
3. The Chief shall, at least once a month, conduct suitable drills or instruction in the operation and handling of equipment, first aid, rescue work, salvage, a study of the buildings in the town of Eddington, fire prevention, water supplies, and all other matters generally considered essential to good firemanship and safety of life and property from fire.
4. The Chief is hereby required to assist the proper authorities in suppressing the crime of arson by investigation or causing to be investigated the cause, origin, and circumstances of all fires.
5. The Chief is hereby empowered with owners consent to enter any and all buildings and premises at any reasonable hour for the purpose of making inspections and to serve written notice upon the owner or occupant to abate, within a reasonable time, such time to be specified in the notice, any and all fire hazards that may be found.
6. Any person served with a notice to abate any fire hazard or hazards, shall comply therewith and promptly notify the Chief.
7. The Chief shall see that complete records are kept of all fires, inspections, apparatus and minor equipment, personnel and other information about the work of the Department.
8. The Chief shall report monthly to the Board of Selectmen the condition of the apparatus and equipment; the number of fires during the month, their location and cause, and the date of same and loss occasioned thereby; the number and purpose of all other runs made; and the number of members responding to each fire or other run, and changes in membership.
9. The Chief shall make a complete annual report to the Board of Selectmen within one month after the close of the municipal year. Such report to include the information specified in Article 7, together with comparative data for previous years and recommendations for improving the effectiveness of the Department.

MEMBERSHIP

1. The membership of the Department shall consist of such persons as may be appointed by the Chief.

EQUIPMENT

1. The Department shall be equipped with such apparatus and other equipment as may be required from time to time to maintain its efficiency and property protect life and property from fire.
2. Recommendations of apparatus and equipment needed shall be made by the Chief, and after approval by the Board of Selectmen shall be purchased in such manner as may be designated by the Board of Selectmen.
3. All equipment of the Department shall be safely and conveniently housed in such places as may be designated by the Board of Selectmen upon recommendation of the Chief. Such places shall be heated during the winter months.
4. Suitable arrangement or equipment shall be provided for the citizens to turn in an alarm, and for notifying all members of the Department so that they may promptly respond.
5. No person shall use any fire apparatus or equipment for any private purpose, nor shall any person willfully and without proper authority take away or conceal any article used in any way by the Department.
6. No person shall enter any place where fire apparatus is housed or handle any apparatus or equipment belonging to the Department unless accompanied by or having the special permission of, an officer or authorized member of the Department.
7. The Town of Eddington is hereby authorized to enter into agreements with nearby incorporated communities or governing bodies of other organizations to provide the members of such communities or organizations with fire protection or to establish a mutual aid system.
8. No apparatus shall be hired out or permitted to leave the Town of Eddington except in response to a call for aid at a fire in a neighboring community without the consent of the officer in charge of the Department. The officer in charge of the Department shall have power to assign equipment for response to calls for outside aid in accordance with Article 7, and in other cases only when the absence of such equipment will not jeopardize protection in this Town of Eddington.

GENERAL

1. Each member of the Department shall be issued a badge designating his rank.
2. Each member of the Department driving a car shall be issued a suitable insignia to be attached to the car.
3. No person shall drive any vehicle over a fire hose except upon specific orders from the Chief or other officer in charge where the hose is used.
4. No person shall park any vehicle or otherwise cause any obstruction to be placed within two hundred (200) feet of the entrance to any fire station or other place where fire apparatus is stored, or within ten (10) feet of any hydrant, cistern, or water hold designated for fire protection.
5. No unauthorized person with any vehicle shall follow within five hundred (500) feet of any apparatus belonging to the Department, not park any vehicle within three hundred (300) feet of a fire.

ENFORCEMENT

1. Any person violating the provisions of Section II, (Duties of the Chief) Article 6: Section IV, (Equipment) Articles 5 and 6; and Section V, (General) Articles 4, 5, and 6 shall, upon conviction in a District Court of Penobscot County, or before a Justice of the Peace, pay a fine of not less than ten (10) dollars or more than one hundred (100) dollars for each offense except that in the case of Section V, (General) Articles 4 and 6, the person shall, upon conviction thereof pay a fine of not less than ten (10) dollars nor more than one hundred (100) dollars, or be imprisoned for not more than ninety (90) days or by both.
2. It is hereby made the special duty of the Chief of Police and/or other peace officers who may be on duty and available for fire duty;, to respond to all fire alarms and assist the Department in the protection of life and property, regulating traffic; maintaining order, and in enforcing observance of all sections of this ordinance.
3. All ordinances and parts of ordinances inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed.