



**Gorham Fire and EMS**  
**Town of Gorham New Hampshire**  
347 Main Street   Gorham NH 03581   603-466-2549

### Fire and EMS

Fire and EMS personnel worked through May with a routine month and normal call volume. Calls of service that are noteworthy are two calls for carbon monoxide detector activations. The first call involved an oil burning furnace that was not burning cleanly. Crews vented the building and shut down the furnace until it was able to be serviced.

The second call was our second time at the residence for the same issue within a week. During the first call was traced back to a likely malfunctioning kitchen stove. The resident had vented the structure prior to our arrival so we were unable to pinpoint an exact source. During our second response the levels were much higher, and the crew was able the issue as a marine battery that was being charged. Due to a likely malfunctioning charger the battery was overcharged and was emitting hydrogen sulfide gasses that set the carbon monoxide detectors off.

The importance of working carbon monoxide detectors in a building cannot be understated. Carbon monoxide is a colorless and odorless gas that can and will kill you if found in sufficient concentrations. Detectors should be located at a minimum of 1 on every floor of the building, including the basement. Yearly maintenance of your furnace decreases the likelihood of any issues.

We also assisted Shelburne and many local departments from Maine and New Hampshire with a 12-acre forest fire off North Road in Shelburne. The fire started when a tree fell onto a powerline and arced into the dry undergrowth. The fire burned in an area with steep terrain which led to a rapid spread that was ultimately extinguished by rainstorms over the following weeks.

### Training

Ironically, days before the Shelburne Fire, fire crews had reviewed wildland fire operations. Crews discussed the tools and protective equipment used during a forest fire and practiced cutting line around a fire and the use of portable pumps. Following are 2 pictures from that evening:





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During our monthly EMS training members were given a presentation by Conservation Officer Levi Frye on several topics. We covered search and rescue for missing individuals, operations at an ATV accident, and search techniques during grid searches. Working with our local public safety partners helps to ensure smooth operation during an emergency.

**Fire Chief/Emergency Management/Code Enforcement**

Work continues with building inspections as we have several new restaurants that are in various stages of opening throughout the community. I also continue to work with FEMA on the recovery of damages from the flooding that occurred over Christmas Weekend last year. We are working on several projects with them that will hopefully mitigate future issues in some of these areas.

In my new role as Code Enforcement Officer, I have seen a marked increase in the amount of building permits we are issuing as new construction and improvements continue to be on the rise.

**Fire: 60**

**EMS: 70**

**911: 46**

**Gorham: 40**

**Randolph: 2**

**Shelburne: 2**

**County Area: 1 – Pinkham's Grant 1**

**Transfer: 24**

**Transport: 5**

**Decline: 19**

**Weekday: 51**

**Weekend: 19**

**6A-12P: 17**

**12P-6P: 28**

**6P-12A: 17**

**12A-6A: 8**

**Mutual Aid to Berlin: 1**

Respectfully submitted,

Chief Philip Cloutier



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*Serving the communities of Gorham, Randolph, and Shelburne*