

DARTMOUTH FIRE DISTRICT 3

*ONE HUNDREDTH
ANNIVERSARY*



1973 – 2023

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“The services of firefighters and the desire to serve is motivated by the devotion to civic duty. The long and noble tradition of rendering service in time of need has established a heritage of which our country is justly proud. The things that must be done to avoid serious fires are not spectacular but involve continuous vigilance. The task requires wholehearted cooperation of the residents, local government, the fire chief, and every member of the fire department.”

*John B. Steele
Clerk & Treasurer
1957 - 1974*

“We of Dartmouth Fire District 3, dedicate this Annual Report to the members of that unselfish organization of men, who hold devotion to duty above personal risk, who count sincerity of service above personal comfort and convenience, who strive unceasingly to find better ways of protecting lives, homes, and property of fellow citizens from the ravages of fire and other disasters”.

*Annual Report
1973*

DEDICATION

This document is dedicated to the brave and selfless men and woman who served the fire district throughout its first century. The details highlighted within this report are not a comprehensive history of the fire district during its second 50 years of existence. It is meant to memorialize the growth and accomplishments of the fire district and the courageous people who served this great institution.

Richard K. Arruda

2023



“From colonial times down to the twentieth century, fire was a dreaded threat to the advancing American civilization. Fire wiped out farms; time and again, conflagrations leveled whole sections of towns and cities. But citizens organized fire companies, and they fought back. Proud of their roles and the risks they took, volunteer companies became true fraternities of men. Often a community was served by several different companies, each trying to be the best in town—the strongest, fastest, shiniest. Rivalry sometimes led to brawls and even sabotage. The shift to paid departments in the larger cities came only gradually. Boston established the first, after a great conflagration in 1679, but for the next 200 years separate volunteer companies survived in most cities. With their strong fraternal traditions, the volunteer companies

resisted change, they fought against relinquishing their place at the tow line in front of the hand pumper to a horse; they fought against efforts to reorganize the companies into a municipal organization, but inevitably, change came to the fire services. Hand-drawn pumpers gave way to horse drawn steamers, which gave way to gasoline engine pumpers. Coordinated municipal fire services were established. Fire laws were enacted to give some responsibility for fire control to the citizenry. Technology reduced the risk of major fires. But the risks to firemen themselves have not diminished. They still push themselves to the outer edge of endurance-and sometimes beyond. Even with advances in technology, there still comes a moment when the fireman must turn away from the lashing tongues of fire. The struggle is still there, and it is still a heroic struggle”.

*National Commission On Fire Prevention And Control,
1973*

Missing from the previous report, 1972: under the Acts of the Massachusetts Legislature, the overpass over Interstate 195, on Faunce Corner Road, shall be known and designated as the Dartmouth Firefighters Memorial bridge.

1973: The 50th anniversary of the establishment of Dartmouth Fire District 3. The 50th Anniversary Committee held activities beginning on August 18th which included a banquet and dance at Stevenson's restaurant at 950 State Road (now Rachel's Lakeside). A fire truck parade, and a fire muster was held the following day. The annual meeting approved the purchase of a generator for the new fire Station 2 at 1140 North Hixville Road. Additionally, the district connected Station 2 to the municipal fire alarm system. Southeastern Massachusetts University (SMU) opens their first dormitory residence hall with 300 beds. A new safety yellow Ford 1000 gallon per minute pumper truck arrived. There were now two engines at Station 1 at 254 State Road and one engine and three forestry vehicles at Station 2 on Hixville Road. Firefighters were paid \$3.00 per hour. There were 209 calls for service, which included two fires in telephone booths.

1974: A memorial for Clerk and Treasurer John B. Steele in the annual report read: “Jack Steele lived for Fire District 3. The record left by him is filled with achievement, and his contribution of wisdom and devotion is still seen within the department. His manner was that of a gentleman which gave dignity and worth to everything he did. Many men will come and go, but Jack Steel will never be forgotten”. Firefighters were voted to be paid \$4.00 per hour and new home receivers to be purchased to alert firefighters to calls. The Clerk was instructed to contact the Board of Selectmen in reference to a bill of \$600.00 for fighting a fire in the Town forest. There were 201 calls for service and an estimated fire loss of \$80,000.00.

1975: The Board of Engineers asked the Prudential Committee to allow them to lower the age requirement for a firefighter to 18 yrs. old. The Clerk and Treasurer was instructed to send a bill to the Town of Dartmouth for \$500.00 for fighting a fire at the Town Dump. The department purchased a K12 gas powered cut off saw for vehicle extrication. The department responded to 221 calls for service which included 46 automobile fires, 22 building fires and 33 outdoor vegetation fires.

1976: The United States celebrates the 200th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. The Fire District approves the purchase of a 1500-gallon canvas folding tank to be used in areas without water supply and a rescue sled for ice water rescue. A committee of seven residents were appointed “for the purpose of locating a suitable piece of land for a new fire station”. Two 5 hp roof sirens to summon Firefighters were purchased for the fire stations and 54,000.00 was approved to purchase a new pumper truck. Out of the 244 calls for service there were 154 fires resulting in a fire loss of \$600,000.00.

1977: A motion passed at The Annual District Meeting to pay \$40,000.00 to purchase a 65,000 ft² parcel of land on Cross Road for a new central fire station. The tax rate rose to \$1.40 cents per thousand, the highest tax rate in the district’s history. An eleven-member building committee was appointed to study, present plans and specifications, and cost estimates to the district residents. Money was appropriated to purchase “Turbo Jet (fog) Nozzles with variable gallonage”. There were 231 calls for service.

1978: The Fire District took receipt of a new 1978 Maxim Ladder Truck with a 100-foot aerial ladder and a 1500 GPM pump. The ladder truck was purchased through a special state appropriation by request of Southeastern Massachusetts University and was housed at station 2. The purchase of a bucket truck for fire alarm repair and maintenance was approved along with a telephone tape recorder for dispatch. On August 8th, the Clerk was instructed to send a letter to the Board of Selectmen asking them to dispose of the Town of Dartmouth Forest Warden vehicles or remove them from station 2 by October 1st. In November, it was unanimously voted to register and insure the forest warden vehicles given to the Fire District by the Town of Dartmouth. On September 7th, a special meeting was held at the Smith Mills Congregational Church Fellowship Hall (directly behind the fire station at Smith Mills). The special meeting was to consider the acceptance of the building committee's report and to appropriate a sum of money for the purpose of constructing and furnishing a new fire Station on District owned land on Cross Road. The article failed 148 in favor to 107 opposed. (A 2/3 vote was needed to pass the article). There were 229 calls for service with an estimated fire loss of \$201,000.00.



1979: The annual report was dedicated to Chief Jack Whittaker. Chief Whittaker served as the 4th Fire Chief of the fire district from 1955 – 1971. The dedication read: “A man whose high quality of leadership along with his devotion to duty brought pride and dignity to the district”. On June 7th, an explosion and fire took the life of a researcher at the SMU, the Science and Engineering building. The same article voted down in 1978 to appropriate a sum of money for the purpose of constructing and furnishing a new central fire station, was voted 84 in favor with 56 opposed. It was listed as an indefinite postponement. There were 339 responses by the fire department which included 287 fires. The estimated fire loss was \$248,500.00.

1980: The annual report was dedicated to Chief Miel H. Wheaton. Chief Wheaton served as the 3rd Fire Chief of the fire district from 1949 -1955. The annual meeting was held at the District Engine House at 254 State Road on April 7th. (All previous meetings were held at the Smith Mills Church Fellowship Hall) An objection to holding the meeting was immediately raised by resident Charles Lawrence citing overcrowding of the hall and not using the voting list. The Moderator made it clear that the voting list would be used if a vote was challenged. The Moderator explained how all votes would have to be either unanimous or two-thirds if the Governor's Tax Cap was to be exceeded. A vote was approved to pay the Firefighters \$6.00 per hour for the first hour and \$5.00 per hour for each hour thereafter. An article for \$86,564.00 was approved to purchase a new fire apparatus. An article was approved to create a seven-member Building Committee to present at a future meeting: plans, specifications, cost estimates and other studies for the construction of a new fire station on District owned land on Cross road. There were 262 calls for service.

1981: John J. McNamara was elected as the Chief Engineer, serving as the 6th Fire Chief of the fire district. The Chief Engineer's pay was set at \$2,600.00. The Smith Mills fire station was equipped with 3 engines a new 1981 Ford, a 1972 Ford, both with 1000 GPM pumps, and the 1953 Oren engine with a 750 GPM pump. The Hixville station was equipped with 2 engines, the 100 ft. ladder truck, 2 forestry trucks and a fire alarm bucket truck. The district approved the purchase of a breathing air compressor to fill Scott air bottles used for firefighting. A By-law was changed to require that anyone running for election as a member of the Board of Engineers (Fire Chief or Deputy Chiefs) had to have a minimum of five years of experience. The Prudential Committee inserted an article to sell the land purchased on Cross Road originally purchased to build a new central fire station. The article failed and was indefinitely postponed. There were 279 total responses with an estimated fire loss of \$290,000.00

1982: An article at a Special District Meeting, to construct and furnish a new fire station on Cross Road was approved by the voters at a cost of \$440,000.00. There were 232 calls for service.



1983: The new Cross Road Fire Station 1 opened and housed two engines, a ladder truck, a forestry truck, and a fire alarm bucket truck. There is one engine left in the Smith Mills Fire Station now re-named Station 3. Station 2 has two engines and a forestry truck. At the annual meeting, an article was approved to spend \$16,000.00 to purchase pocket pagers for the firefighters. There were 268 calls for service.

1984: The District Annual Meeting was held in the Station 1 meeting hall for the first time. The firefighters received a raise to \$6.00 per hour and the Chief Engineer received \$3000.00 per year. An article amended the By-Law to hold the annual election of the Fire District on the last Monday in April and the annual meeting to be held on

the first Monday in May. An article was approved to purchase 10 lb. ABC fire extinguishers to be issued to the firefighters as part of their equipment. The Prudential Committee and the Board of Engineers sponsored an article to dispose of the Smith Mills Fire Station 3 and the Engineers Office at 254 and 256 State Road. The engineer's office was previously housed in the historic library building to the west of Station 3. The article was voted to be indefinitely postponed. There were 224 calls for service.

1985: The firefighters received a raise to \$7.00 per hour and A mini-pumper rescue truck was funded for a cost of \$50,000.00. The Fire District voted to sign a contract with STAT Ambulance to use station 3 to house an ambulance and two EMT's. An article was approved to renovate Station 3 which included: wiring, installing town sewer, new water line, raising the floor elevation, and resurfacing of the parking lot. There were 253 calls for service.

1986: Firefighters received a raise from the floor to \$8.00 per hour and the district voted to establish an account to fund a Fire Prevention Bureau for fire prevention

inspections. Station 1 took receipt of the new 1986 GMC Mini Pumper / Rescue truck. This vehicle now carried the jaws of life and all other related rescue equipment. At a May Prudential Committee Meeting, the committee instructed the Clerk to write a letter to the Smith Mills Congregational Church asking for first right of refusal of the old church building and property to the east of Station 3. There were 288 calls for service.

1987: An article was approved to change the By-Law for the Chief Engineer to be a full-time employee of the district. Chief John McNamara became the first full-time Fire Chief of Fire District 3. A new apparatus was also approved to purchase for a cost of \$150,000.00. There were 270 calls for service.

1988: Firefighters received a raise from the floor to \$10.00 per hour and \$50,000.00 was raised to refurbish 2 fire engines. The district also approved the first Fire Chief's cruiser for a cost of \$15,000.00. The new 1988 Maxim 1500 GPM pumper truck was now placed in service at station 3. This was the district's first vehicle to have all riding positions in an enclosed cab. There were 323 calls for service with an estimated fire loss of \$580,000.00.

1989: A Board of Engineers article passed to authorize the Moderator of the meeting to appoint a seven-member committee to study the feasibility of having full-time firefighters and to report back at the next annual meeting. A member of the Board of Selectman met with the Prudential Committee to discuss an agreement the Town of Dartmouth, State legislators, and the New Bedford Industrial Park foundation were working on concerning water/sewer and fire protection. They were drafting an agreement to turn over fire tax money collected for fire protection of the new Acushnet Company Golf Ball Plant being built in the New Bedford Industrial Park to the City of New Bedford. The reason for the agreement was due to the lack of an access road into the industrial park from the Town of Dartmouth. There were 270 calls for service with an estimated fire loss of \$350,000.00.

1990: An article to authorize the Prudential Committee and the Fire Chief to appoint three (3) permanent full-time firefighters is “tabled” and indefinitely postponed. Voters asked for secret paper ballots to be used for this vote. A study committee was appointed to study the district By-laws and report back at the next annual meeting. The district votes to provide the Town of Dartmouth

Library Trustees with first right of refusal of the old Smith Mills Library formerly used as the Engineer's Office. The building rested to the west of the fire station at 254 State Road. The Library Trustees requested that the building be moved at no cost to the town to their library property on Tucker Road. There were 326 calls for service with an estimated fire loss of \$545,000.00.



1991: The historic Lincoln Park Ballroom and seven adjacent buildings burn as a result of a suspected arson fire. Annual District Meeting funded an article to purchase and equip all firefighters with new coats, bunker pants, helmets, gloves, and boots in accordance with the National Fire Protection Association's standard for

structural firefighting ensembles. An article authorizing the Prudential Committee and the Fire Chief to hire two (2) full-time firefighters is tabled by a hand vote and therefore not approved. \$25,000.00 was approved to purchase a used cab and chassis to build a tanker truck. There were 302 calls for service with an estimated fire loss of \$780,000.00.

1992: Lincoln Park is purchased by a real estate broker for \$1 million dollars with plans to restore and re-open the park. A fire on July 13th consumes the remaining skating rink, bowling alley and all adjoining buildings. The fire sparked the largest mutual aid response from area fire departments in the Town's history. Firefighters trained and assembled the department's first underwater dive rescue and recovery team. At the Annual District Meeting firefighters received a raise from the floor to \$12.00 per hour. An article for \$7,000.00 was approved to move the old library to Tucker Road. A new complete hydraulic rescue tool (jaws of life) was approved to be purchased. A 5000-gallon tank from a federal excess property program was installed on a used Autocar truck chassis and put into service at Station 2 as the department's first tanker truck. This would provide a water source for areas up north

without fire hydrants. There were 259 calls for service with an estimated fire loss of \$215,000.00.

1993: At the Annual District Meeting, \$200,000.00 was approved to purchase a new fire apparatus. The district housed one engine at Station 3, two engines, a bucket truck, a forestry truck, and a tanker truck at Station 2, and two engines, a ladder truck, and a mini pumper rescue truck at Station 1. An article to study the possibility of providing ambulance services was defeated on the floor. In a report of the Prudential Committee, the chairman speaking to the growth of the fire district wrote: "In a time when surrounding areas have had to cut back in their fire protection resources, we continue to move forward. This is extremely important, given the fact that building, both commercial and residential, has continued at an above average rate in the fire district. With this growth has come increased responsibility on the department. Increased traffic due to shopping centers are now a prime concern because of a possible effect on response times, and increased runs to auto accidents." There were 292 calls for service with an estimated fire loss of \$185,000.00. The district budget was \$605,539.00 with a tax rate of .55 cents per thousand.

1994: The Dartmouth Board of Selectmen convene a meeting with the three fire districts to discuss the possibility of the fire districts running the ambulance service for the Town of Dartmouth. Many meetings were held but the private ambulance service contract is renewed without any action taken by the Town or the Fire Districts. The district approved the purchase of a heavy rescue truck for \$190,000.00. There were 279 calls for service.

1995: The Fire District purchased the firefighters their first set of class A uniforms. Prior to that, uniforms were provided by the firefighter. The district received a new KME 1500-gallon pumper for station 2 then labelled N3 (North 3). The Prudential Committee wrote in their annual report: “there is a major obstacle that needs attention in the very near future is the land and buildings within District 3 that are located in the New Bedford Industrial Park. A direct access road to the industrial park must be pursued now. This road is extremely important in order for the district to retain its tax base.” There were 362 calls for service with an estimated fire loss of \$510,000.00.

1996: As a result of a fire truck incident, a policy was enacted to stop firefighters from riding on the back tail board of fire trucks. The district placed into service its first heavy rescue truck at station 1, labelled R1 (Rescue 1). The Town of Dartmouth sponsored three articles in effort to distribute fire tax money collected for the Acushnet Company property in the New Bedford Industrial Park to the City of New Bedford. An article to pay back taxes collected from 1988 to 1995 failed but the article to pay taxes for the year 1996 passed. The 3rd article asking to remove the New Bedford Industrial Park property from the boundaries of the fire district was defeated. The total budget for the fiscal year was \$501,880.14. There were 322 calls for service with an estimated fire loss of \$400,000.00.

From the mid to late 90's, The Fire District Prudential Committee and the Board of Engineers opened discussions with State Representatives and UMass Dartmouth, to fund the replacement of the ladder truck originally provided by SMU. A legislative bill to provide \$300,000.00 towards the purchase of a new ladder truck passed in the House and Senate but was later vetoed by the Governor of Massachusetts.

1997: Annual District Meeting approved \$250,000.00 for the purchase of a new pumper truck. An addition to Station 1 was approved for \$60,000.00 to provide for a new Fire Chief's office. The Firefighters were provided a raise to \$14.00 per hour. There were 332 calls for service with an estimated fire loss of \$225,000.00.

1998: An article passed to petition the Great and General Court of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for special legislation to provide for the elected treasurer's position to be an appointed office of the district. There were 316 calls for service.

1999: A ballot question during the District Election made the District Treasurer's position an appointed position. Fire District 2's Prudential Committee asks in a letter for the appointment of three members of each fire district to explore the concept of creating one unified fire district for the entire Town. The district took no action on the request. There were 349 calls for service.

2000: A vote from the floor of the Annual District Meeting raised the Firefighters salary from \$14.00 to \$17.00 per hour. Apparatus in service consisted of 4 engines, A ladder truck, a heavy rescue truck, a brush truck,

a 5000-gallon tanker truck, and two boats. There were 387 calls for service.

2001: On January 27th the department responded to a working fire in a single-family trailer home. A 66-year-old man died as a result of burns and smoke inhalation and one firefighter is injured fighting the fire. The fire occurred in a residence 1100 ft. from the unmanned fire Station 1 on Cross Road. On September 11th nearly 3000 people including 343 Firefighters are killed during a terrorist attack in New York City. The district approved the purchase of a new E-One pumper truck for \$280,000.00. There were 498 calls for service and an estimated fire loss of \$510,000.00.

2002: The district approved a down payment on a lease agreement for a new E-One 100 foot aerial ladder truck. The total cost of the ladder truck was \$675,000.00. A by-law study committee was formed. There were 467 calls for service.

2003: The district now has 1 engine at Station 3, 2 engines, a tanker truck, and a brush truck at Station 2, and 1 engine, a ladder truck, a heavy rescue truck, a mini-

pumper, and 2 boats at Station 1. There were 484 calls for service.

2004: An article for \$200,000.00 passed to purchase new self-contained breathing apparatus for the Firefighters. There were 490 calls for service

2005: A new Fire Chief is elected upon John McNamara's retirement. Chief McNamara served the district for 37 years, 24 years as Fire Chief. On January 31st, A large expansion of the residential housing at the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth causes a spike in fire responses to 636 calls for service.

2006: A Special District Meeting unanimously approved the adoption of MGL c.48 sec.65, authorizing the Prudential Committee to appoint a Fire Chief. The district approved \$170,000.00 towards the purchase of new radio and municipal fire alarm communication systems utilizing the public safety frequency of 400Mhz. There were 666 calls for service.

2007: The Prudential Committee votes to adopt a split tax rate. In January, the first uniformed Firefighter duty shift is filled covering District Headquarters / Station 1 for 8 hours per day, 7 days a week. On February 2nd, a single engine plane crashed in the woods just west of the New Bedford Airport in Dartmouth. Firefighters worked through a horrific crash scene which took the lives of three people. District Meeting approved a change in By-Laws to allow the Prudential Committee to appoint the District Clerk and the Fire Chief to appoint a District Secretary. There were 698 calls for service.

2008: An article at the Annual District Meeting adopted the provisions of MGL c. 48 sec. 42 to establish the powers of the newly appointed Fire Chief position. A motion from the floor changed the By-Laws to eliminate the elected Audit Committee to allow the Prudential Committee to have a professional audit company provide the service. An article passed to allow the Fire Chief to appoint a Fire Inspector/ Firefighter. This will be the 1st full-time Firefighter hired in the Town of Dartmouth. \$325,000.00 was approved to purchase a new 4000-gallon tanker truck. There were 723 calls for service.

2009: The department completes the State licensing requirements to provide a Class V non-transport ambulance service. The Fire Chief meets with the Town of Dartmouth

Select Board Working Group and proposes that Fire District 3 takes over the operation of the ambulance service for the entire Town. The Select Board takes no action on the proposal and re-signs a contract for private ambulance services. A meeting is called by the Fire Chiefs of District 2 and District 3 in October to discuss the feasibility of the two fire districts combining to improve the service to the community. District 2 Prudential Committee meets but chooses to take no action on the request for a merger. The Smith Mills Engine Company Ladies Auxiliary, incorporated in the early 1900's, votes to resolve the corporation. The department places into service the new 4000-gallon tanker truck at Station 2. There were 613 calls for service.

2010: The district mourns the passing of Fire Chief Jack Whittaker, the 4th Fire Chief of District 3. District Meeting approves an article to add four full-time Firefighter / Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs). These Firefighters will provide one Firefighter on shift in Headquarters / Station 1, 24 hours per day, 7 days a week.

Department personnel write for and receive Federal and State grants for station air quality upgrades and funding for child fire safety education in the schools. There were 725 calls for service.

2011: The department appoints the first permanent, 24-hour, Firefighting workforce in the Town's history. These Firefighter / EMT's respond to all fire and high priority emergency medical calls immediately improving overall public safety in the Fire District. A member achieves certification, and the department launches a child restraining seat check and installation program. There were 721 calls for service.

2012: A devastating fire occurred on Easter Sunday at the Dartmouth Woods condominium complex on State Road. Sixteen families lost their belongings, and the building was a total loss. District 1 and 2, Westport Fire, and New Bedford Fire sent mutual aid equipment. Contractors complete the final demolition of the historic Lincoln Park to make way for residential development and commercial real estate. District Meeting agrees to purchase a new pumper truck for Station 2. Twenty percent of the 827 calls for service this year were to the university. The

report details the need for the Town and the District to provide a fire department run ambulance service. On November 19th, during a Special District Meeting, the District approved the total renovation of the Headquarters building to provide new administrative offices and living quarters for additional permanent Firefighters.

2013: The cost for the renovation of Headquarters / Station 1 came in over the budgeted amount approved at 2012 District Meeting therefore the Prudential Committee denied all bid proposals. There were 872 emergency calls for service.

2014: The department placed into service at Station 2 a new Pierce Engine labelled E4. This was the first pumper funded by the district's fire truck replacement program. There were 784 calls for service, 102 of which were fires resulting in an estimated dollar loss of \$1,500,000.00. the Prudential Committee awarded a contract for the renovation and additions at Headquarters / Station 1.

2015: Firefighters were housed in a trailer in the apparatus bay and one Firefighter staffed the Ladder truck at station 2 during the construction of Headquarters. There were 904 calls for service.

2016: The department holds an open house to tour the newly renovated Headquarters / Station 1. District Meeting approved the hiring of a full-time Deputy Fire Chief and four more permanent Firefighters providing a three-person fire company 24/7. This will be the first permanent Deputy Fire Chief's position in the Town's history. The department places into service a new Bauer breathing air compressor purchased with federal grant money. There were 895 calls for service with an estimated fire loss of \$1,000,000.00.



2017: The department orders a second Pierce engine from the vehicle replacement program. There were 957 calls for service with an estimated fire loss of 653,000.00.

2018: The District Annual Meeting approved an article to purchase new self-contained breathing apparatus. The report details a reduction in response times to critical incidents due to permanent staffing. There were 1157 calls for service with an estimated fire loss of \$500,000.00.

2019: The district dedicates the annual report to John J. McNamara who served as the 5th Fire Chief of District 3. The memorial read in part: "...Chief John McNamara played a special role in our department's history and his legacy will continue to inspire others to do the same." Detailed in the report was the start of the global COVID pandemic. The Governor of Massachusetts signs into law Chapter 44 of the Acts and Resolves of 2018 making Massachusetts an OSHA State. The law applies stricter federal guidelines for Firefighter health and safety. There were 1120 calls for service with an estimated fire loss of \$220,000.00.

2020: The Annual District Meeting is postponed until June due to the global pandemic. UMass Dartmouth completes construction on a 300,000 ft², 5 story dormitory and cafeteria. There were 1,065 calls for service with an estimated fire loss of \$600,000.00.

2021: The district approves the purchase of a new Rosenbauer pumper truck for Station 1. There were 1033 calls for service with an estimated fire loss of \$629,000.00.

2022: Annual District Meeting approved the hiring of four more permanent Firefighter to bolster the on-duty staff to a company of four firefighters 24/7. There were 1,082 calls for service. The Fire Chief details the need to study a fire department run ambulance service.

2023: The department observes the one hundredth anniversary of the Fire District.

Assessed Property Value of Fire District 3

Year 1973: \$ 100,018,550.00

Year 2023: \$ 3,140,831,980.00

In the early 1900's, through donation and fund raising, residents and business owners concerned about their fire safety organized the first fire company in Smith Mills, North Dartmouth. To properly equip and sustain an ample fire service, in 1923 North Dartmouth residents petitioned the Town of Dartmouth to provide a fire department for the reasonable protection of their life and property. The failure of the Town to act on the petition led to the establishment of Fire District 3. Through determination and perseverance our forefathers established an institution that would protect, grow, and continually change to meet the fire protection needs of our community. The district they established endured during times of war, the great depression, and all other social and economic events of the last one hundred years. For continued success, fire district officials, Firefighters, and the community must continue to engage in meaningful deliberations of the risk to life and property from fire and other perils. We must put personal bias and politics aside and face the challenges of the future head-on. We must build upon the great work of those that came before us, remain focused on our mission, and continue to place service above self.

Richard K. Arruda

Dartmouth Fire District 3

2023

Prudential Committee

Jules Gauthier Jr

Timothy Sheehan

Andrew Lafferty III

Clerk and Treasurer

Joan Brennan

Fire Chief

Richard Arruda

Assistant Chief

Richard Bobola

Deputy Chief

Theodore Borges

Captain

Corey Pimental

Lieutenants

Allen Shaw

Andrew Martin

Antone Dias

Garth McNamara

Timothy Bernard

Matthew Whitlow

Nelson Medeiros

Firefighters

Andrew Baptiste

Joseph Doyle

Julie-Ann Giusti

Alan King

Edward Luth Jr

Patrick Mendonca

Brendan O'Connor

Michael Rebello

Daniel Saucier

Aaron Bentley

Richard Fernandes

Joshua Grenier

Jacob Livesey

Devin Madeira

Daniel Moura

Keith Perry

Nicholas Ricardo

Matthew Seland

Nicholas Charbonneau

Jared Gaglio

Peter Howland

Nicholas Livesey

Jeremy McNamara

Andrew Nunes

Craig Pimental

Tucker Rose

John Tsonis

Safe Educator

Anthony Poente Jr

Photographer

Robert Whitlow