

Litchfield Apparatus and Their Response Roles

The following is an overview of your fire department and the importance of the vehicles and equipment being stored in a warm, dry environment. All of your emergency equipment should be ready at a moment's notice to respond in any weather condition to an emergency.

Litchfield Fire & Rescue is an all-hazards response department that provides emergency response to any and all hazards that occur in the community. This includes, but is not limited to, fire, emergency medical, rescue, hazardous materials incidents or natural or man-made disasters occurring in the town. In the event of natural or man-made disasters, the fire station serves as the town's Emergency Operations Center, where responses are coordinated by the Fire Chief who serves as the Town's Emergency Management Director.

The Department at full complement has up to 40 firefighters, 38 of them being part-time or "on-call" firefighters, meaning they respond from their homes or, in some cases, local businesses in the event of an emergency. The remaining two firefighters are "full-time", working at the station from 8 AM to 4 PM Monday through Friday, as most of the "on-call" firefighter's work out of town. An average response to most incidents in town can range from seven to fifteen Firefighter or EMTs depending on the nature of the emergency. Large scale incidents on average have fifteen to twenty five firefighters who may respond.

Emergency Medical first response is provided by Litchfield Firefighters. There are currently four Paramedics and twenty-two Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT) on the department roster, with ambulance service provided by the Hudson Fire Department under a contractual agreement. All Litchfield Fire response vehicles carry an AED (Automated External Defibrillator) as a minimum on board. Designated first response vehicles carry Zoll brand multi-functioning heart monitor/defibrillators.

The department maintains a fleet of (3) engines, (1) pumper-tanker, (1) rescue truck, (2) brush/forestry trucks, (1) rescue boat, (1) Kubota UTV w/ trailer, (1) towable light tower unit, (1) 4x4 SUV command vehicle, (1) 4x4 Utility flat bed vehicle and (1) 4x4 building inspector's vehicle. All the department's vehicles carry Automatic External Defibrillators and emergency medical equipment.

The Rescue truck and our first due engine both carry the "Jaws of Life" rescue tools, extrication equipment and thermal imaging cameras in addition to a myriad of other firefighting equipment. The Department responds to approximately 600-700 emergencies per year from calls received through the 9-1-1 system. This does not include business inspections, residential inspections, fire drills, phone calls or public education.

What job function does Litchfield's Emergency equipment do?

Engines perform several functions:

They respond as a first-due truck to all medical emergencies, building fires, automobile accidents and service calls. Litchfield Engines carry everything necessary for any type of medical emergency. The first-due and second-due Engines both carry defibrillators on-board. They carry tools necessary to combat building fires, and extrication equipment to remove trapped patients involved in automobile accidents.

They are dispatched on medical emergencies when the Rescue truck is already out on an emergency call or is out of service for vehicle maintenance or repairs.

Pumper-Tankers have the main responsibility of carrying lots of water to a fire scene. It is a critical piece of apparatus at building fires, car fires and brush fires where it connects to the Engine and keeps water flowing in non-fire hydrant areas. The term Pumper-Tanker means the truck is not only a tanker that carries water it has a large fire pump the same as an Engine, allowing it to perform as either an Engine or Tanker. Most pumper-tankers have

riding positions for two firefighters while engines typically can seat up to six firefighters. The Pumper-Tanker carries many of the common tools found on the Engine, supplying firefighters with forcible entry tools, hand-lights and air-packs for personnel arriving in private vehicles to a fire.

Forestry Units respond to brush fires, forest fires, and any type of emergency located on or off-road. These trucks carry water, pumps, hose, shovels, rakes, chainsaws, and firefighters for man-power deep in the woods to fight fires. They are multi-purposed all-wheel drive vehicles which allow them to be used year-round for other events such as snow-storms, flooding or high wind events. They can tow any one of the department's trailers.

Command Vehicles serve the purpose of being a mobile command post or "Office on Wheels" at the scene of an emergency incident. The vehicle is typically assigned to the On Call Fire Officer who holds the rank of Lieutenant, Captain, Deputy Chief or Fire Chief but may be staffed by two firefighters for some non-emergent type incidents. The department officers use the vehicle to respond to an emergency where they can make an initial assessment of the situation, commands can be issued to arriving apparatus, the need for additional resources can be requested if needed and (1) person has overall charge of an emergency from a safe, dry working environment. The On Call Fire Officer is most commonly the person in charge and is called the Incident Commander. Command vehicles carry multiple mobile radios including one dedicated for firefighter safety in case of an emergency or mayday from a trapped, injured firefighter at a fire or any emergency incident. Pre-plans, investigation equipment, books and other resources are stored in the vehicle to aide in decision making and mitigation of an emergency incident and serve an important and vital role. The command vehicle also tows any of the department's trailers.

The Rescue Boat responds to emergencies on Litchfield's numerous ponds and the 8 mile stretch of the Merrimack River with its ever increasing recreational use. The boat is kept on a trailer housed at the fire station that is designated Marine-1. The boat serves many purposes including river rescue, flood evacuations, ice rescue, and diving / recovery operations. A rescue boat needs to be ready and accessible to deploy year-round to an emergency at a moment's notice.

The Kubota OHRV is a four-wheel-drive diesel powered three-person side by side off highway vehicle smaller than a car, bigger than an ATV which responds to all types of emergencies. Its versatility allows it to be used for search & rescue, off-road medical emergencies year round, forest fires, community events and flooding to carry men, equipment, or patients. The vehicle carries 80 gallons of water with a small fire pump for use at brush fires, supplying water from remote water sources in the woods for fighting brush fires or pumping out flooded basements. It is also equipped for quick removal of the fire pump and was built to hold a rescue litter basket for rescuing injured people in the woods.

Apparatus Overview:

While most department's without an ambulance run specific apparatus first-due all the time putting high mileage and wear/tear on one fire truck, Litchfield runs a medium duty rescue truck that is smaller than a fire engine, gets higher fuel mileage, does not have a water pump affected by cold weather and does not require a CDL license to operate. All Litchfield EMT's and Paramedics are operators of the vehicle. We are also unique to other area fire departments where we carry more medical equipment on our first and second due fire engines in case the rescue truck is already on a medical emergency or out of service. Where we don't run an ambulance, we carry most of the equipment commonly found on these specialty vehicles on our rescue truck and first / second due engines to fill most, but not all of the roles of these vehicles. The only thing we don't do is transport patients. We carry everything else to treat a patient and sustain life until transport to the nearest hospital or trauma center.

Engine-1 is our newest engine and responds second-due on all fire calls and as a back up on medical calls. **A 2003 Emergency-One Typhoon Custom Pumper, seating 5 firefighters.** The truck carries 1,000 gallons of water, has our largest fire pump, capable of pumping 1,500 gallons of water per minute from a sustained water source and is equipped with a foam system for extinguishing ordinary combustible fires. An on-board PTO driven hydraulic generator provides up to 5500 watts of power for the (2) truck mounted scene flood lights and any tool requiring electricity. A thermal imaging camera, a 4-gas air monitor for detecting hazardous gases, and an Automatic External Defibrillator (AED) are some of the specialized equipment carried on the truck.

Engine-2 responds third-due from late fall through the winter months until spring. Engine-2 is our oldest truck; however **A 1996 Spartan / 3D Custom Pumper seating 6 firefighters,** it carries 1,000 gallons of water, has a fire pump capable of 1,250 gallons of water per minute from a sustained water source and is equipped with an on-board diesel powered generator which provides 7500 watts of lighting power to the (3) truck mounted quartz scene floodlights or any tool requiring electricity. It is equipped with a foam system for extinguishing ordinary combustible fires.

In addition to the compliment of firefighting equipment which includes an MSA Thermal Imaging Camera, Engine-2 is equipped with a front bumper mounted 12,000-pound Warn winch, thermal imaging camera, a 4-gas air monitor for detecting hazardous gases, and a (AED) cardiac defibrillator.

Engine-4 responds first-due for all calls that are non-medical in nature and responds with the rescue truck to all reported motor vehicle accidents. Engine-4 is designated as our mutual aid Engine to respond to surrounding communities unless another truck is specifically requested. Engine-4 is equipped with a special two-way radio provided by the City of Manchester for responses to the City. **Engine-4 is a 2001 KME Excel Custom Pumper, with seating for 6 firefighters.** The truck carries 1,250 gallons of water and is equipped with a fire pump capable of 1,250 gallons of water per minute from a sustained source of water. Engine-4 has a 10" rear dump allowing the truck to fill the role of a tanker if needed. The truck has an on-board powered generator which provides 6000 watts of lighting power to (2) truck mounted quartz scene floodlights. It is equipped with a foam system for extinguishing ordinary combustible fires. Engine-4 has a rear receiver hitch allowing it to tow the department's boat, or any of its trailers. A Zoll brand multi-function heart monitor/defibrillator is shared between Engine-4 and Engine-1, when Engine-4 is out of service, Engine-1 becomes the first-due engine.

Tanker-3 responds to any type of fire with lots of water. The trucks primary purpose is to supply water to fire incidents by either directly feeding an Engine from its 2,500-gallon water tank, or by shuttling loads of water from a distant water source to the scene of the fire as quickly as possible. The truck is equipped with a 10" rear quick dump allowing it to dump its entire load of water in just over 1 minute into a portable "swimming pool" called a port-a-tank. The truck carries (2) port-a-tanks, the first tank holds 2,500 gallons of water; the second tank holds 1,500 gallons of water. The truck dumps its water, and then continues traveling back to the water supply source for more loads of water. Tanker-3 is designated as our mutual aid Tanker and is often called by communities because of the large amount of water it carries. **Tanker-3 is a 1992 Mack / KME pumper-tanker that has seating for 2 firefighters.** It carries 2,500 gallons of water and is capable of pumping 1,250 gallons of water per minute. It is the only Litchfield truck that has a foam system to combat large flammable liquid type of fires.

Rescue-1 responds first due to all medical emergencies in the Town. It also serves many other roles for response to other hazards within not just our community, but as a mutual aid resource to our surrounding neighbors. The truck carries supplies and equipment to treat medical emergencies from the basic EMT to the Paramedic level of medical care. The truck carries a full size set of Hurst "Jaws of Life" rescue spreaders, Hurst Cutters and Hurst 60" Ram pre-connected to the power unit on dual reels. An assortment of

Para-Tech Rescue Lifting Air-Bags capable of lifting objects as heavy as 32 tons. A full complement of medical equipment including a Zoll brand heart monitor /cardiac defibrillator is carried on board. The truck carries the department's rescue equipment to handle automobile extrications, industrial accidents, water & ice rescues or any other rescue requiring specialized equipment. **Rescue-1 is a 1998 Freightliner/Valley Medium Duty Rescue truck with seating for 3 firefighters.**

Forestry-1 serves multiple roles at most emergency incidents. Although designated as a forestry, forest fires are just a small percentage of what the vehicle is used for. The truck is equipped with a slide-in skid unit carrying over 300 gallons of water, a 300 gallon per minute high pressure fire pump, forest fire hose, rakes, shovels and chainsaws. It also tows all of the department trailers including the rescue boat, Kubota OHRV and light tower. It is used year round to transport additional manpower to accident scenes, building fires, responds to wires down / tree down calls, illegal burns etc. During the winter the trucks chain saw and four-wheel drive allows it to respond to calls to help keep our roads open and assist our highway department to maintain access for emergency vehicles. Forestry-1 is a 2004 Ford F-550 four-wheel drive diesel truck that has seating for 6 firefighters.

Forestry-2 like the rest of the fleet also serves in multiple roles at emergencies. Forestry-2 is a large capacity forestry tanker on loan to the Town from the Federal Government. Its primary mission is for forest and land protection from brush fires and wild fires. The truck has been reinforced all around with thick steel for offense firefighting in heavily wooded, normally inaccessible, remote areas. When needed, it is capable of pushing or driving over moderate to large size trees to create a fire road where one never existed for crews to access difficult to reach locations. The truck is able to accomplish this amazing feat due to the incredible torque produced by its 10 wheel drive system mounted on three independent floating axles. At no time is there any tire that is not in direct contact with whatever is being driven over including large rocks. Forestry-2 carries 1,300 feet of forestry fire hose, 1,000 gallons of water, chainsaws, portable pumps, axes, shovels, rakes. The truck is equipped with LED emergency warning lights safely protected by the truck body or the brush bars welded to the front bumper and over the cab of the truck. Six off road floodlights are integrated into the front of the light-bar and around the top of the body of the truck for safe night time operations to avoid trips and falls operating in uneven hazardous wooded environments.

The truck is equipped with one side and one rear 6" water dump making it very versatile for water supply in the woods or on a paved street. The truck can be used for search, rescue, firefighting or natural disaster response, and is capable of towing any of the town owned trailers. It has been used over the years during ice storms and blizzards to assist the highway department in keeping town roads open for travel for emergency vehicles.

Forestry-2 is a 1976 American General diesel powered 5-ton military surplus vehicle with seating for three firefighters. A former Air Force supply unit, the truck is on loan to the State of NH Division of Forest & Lands under the Federal Excess Personal Property Program and was acquired by Litchfield from Forest & Lands in 1997. The FEPP Program enables the New Hampshire Division of Forests and Lands to acquire "on loan" from the Federal Government, property that assists the Division and fire departments in fulfilling their emergency response mission. Litchfield Fire-Rescue is responsible for equipping the truck for firefighting, any additional repairs, operating costs, maintenance, upkeep and properly housing the vehicle. The truck is staffed by Litchfield Fire-Rescue for emergency response or mutual aid anywhere in the state if requested.

Utility-1 is called a utility because of its versatility to do multiple job functions. The truck is equipped with a 7,500-pound Warn winch that can be mounted to the front or back of the truck in the towing receiver hitch. During the winter months the truck has a Fisher Minute Mount V- plow which is mounted during snowstorms. It is used at emergency scenes to prevent slips & falls to the firefighters and to open inaccessible driveways for an ambulance. A firefighter can then

spread sand/ salt by buckets carried on the truck for either fire apparatus or an ambulance to gain access safely to an area. It has been used to plow a path down one of the many private roads not maintained by the Town during an emergency. The (8) 55 and Over Communities and (3) private mobile home parks are all private roads. The truck has (1) large tool box and (2) smaller tool compartments mounted on it. The compartments hold chainsaws, water rescue equipment and medical equipment safely stored out of the weather, with room left over in the bed for picking up dirty or frozen hose or carrying other equipment. The vehicle is used to transport detour signs or block roads as needed to assist the police and not tie up one of the larger fire trucks. Utility-1 is a 2003 Ford F-350 4-wheel drive diesel truck that has seating for 3 firefighters. It originally was purchased and spent the first 12 years as forestry-1 until the original body was replaced with a flat bed to make it a utility. Another vehicle with a larger water capacity and four doors to transport more firefighters replaced it as Forestry-1.

Car-1 is assigned to the "On Call Officer" to use responding to emergency calls. The SUV is set up like an office including laptop computer with internet access and for researching any information required to assist in the mitigation or investigation of an emergency incident. Building pre-plans, dry erase boards for tracking apparatus and firefighter accountability, multiple channel mobile radios are some of the equipment carried. The vehicle is a dry, warm, working environment usually located a safe distance away from the loud, often chaotic emergency scene. This is where the Officer in charge can observe, analysis and command an incident free of constant disruptions and focus on the safety of the firefighters and rescue of victims. The SUV is used to transport extra firefighter's mutual aid to incidents that require more man-power, but not necessarily more apparatus or equipment. The vehicle is typically assigned to the On Call Fire Officer who holds the rank of Lieutenant, Captain, Deputy Chief or Fire Chief but may be staffed by two firefighters for some non-emergent type incidents. The department officers use the vehicle to respond to an emergency where they can make an initial assessment of the situation, commands can be issued to arriving apparatus, the need for additional resources can be requested if needed and (1) person has overall charge of an emergency from a safe, dry working environment. The On Call Fire Officer is most commonly in charge and is called the Incident Commander. Command vehicles carry multiple mobile radios including one dedicated for firefighter safety in case of an emergency mayday from a trapped or injured firefighter at an fire or any emergency incident. Pre-plans, investigation equipment, books and other resources are stored in the vehicle to aide in decision making and mitigation of an emergency incident and serve an important and vital role. The command vehicle tows any of the department's trailers.

Car-1 is a 2007 Chevrolet Tahoe 4x4 Special Services vehicle designed specifically for heavy duty fire or police service use requiring less maintenance compared to a regular Tahoe performing the same function. The vehicle is equipped with a towing package to pull any of the department's trailers which include the boat, OHRV, or light tower trailers. It has seating for 5 firefighters.

Car-2 is assigned as a support vehicle. Originally purchased as the Building Inspector's SUV, this vehicle is now part of the fire department fleet as building and code enforcement are now a service under the fire department. The building and code enforcement department works along with our fire inspection and fire prevention services. The building inspector uses the vehicle daily, firefighters use the vehicle nights and weekends to attend required classes. The use of this vehicle eliminates paying required mileage reimbursement which saves the town money.

Car-2 is a 2009 Ford Explorer 4x4 with V6 gasoline engine with seating for 4 people.

OHRV-1 is a four-wheel-drive diesel powered off highway vehicle smaller than a car, bigger than an ATV which responds to all types of emergencies. Its versatility allows it to be used for search & rescue, off-road medical emergencies, forest fires and flooding to carry men, equipment, or patients. **OHRV-1 is a 2006 Kubota RTV-900 with a 21.6 horsepower diesel engine and seating for three firefighters.** Standard features include hydraulic power steering, independent front, rear suspension, hydraulic dumping body and a rear receiver hitch for towing the department's rescue boats. Due to its light weight compared to a regular vehicle, the Kubota can

pull the rescue boat through the deep mud found in the town's farm fields in the early spring to access the Merrimack River for emergencies. Other 4-wheel drive vehicles often become stuck in the mud put in the same situation. The Kubota was purchased by the Litchfield Firefighter's Association and donated to the fire department to assist the firefighters during certain situations without putting an added burden to the taxpayers of Litchfield. It is important to note that 31 members of the fire department are town taxpayers.

Marine-1 is a 2010 Rescue One 16 foot rescue boat equipped with a 40 horsepower short shaft outboard motor designed to navigate the often fast running, rocky, shallow Merrimack River or any of the numerous ponds in town. Marine-1 is pulled by any of the department's vehicles set up for towing.

Special Operations Trailer is a town asset purchased through Litchfield Emergency Management. The enclosed trailer is a 2009 Pro-Line that hauls the OHRV to handle any of the calls listed above. The trailer carries extra hand tools for forest fires, medical supplies during special events and can be used as a triage or firefighter rehab area. The trailer is used to assist other town departments and for responds for mutual aid.

Light Tower Trailer is a 2003 Ingersoll Rand Portable Light Tower unit. It is equipped with four 1000 watt metal Halide lamps, and a 6000 watt generator. The trailer is typically dropped off, picked up later from an incident. It has been used during multi-day power outages, road closures, automobile accidents, fires, flooding events etc. It has been deployed not only in town but has been a great resource for area police, fire, highway and town events. The trailer has a 68 hour run time on the diesel powered motor. The trailer mast extends from 12feet to 30 feet high and withstands winds up to 65 mph with mast fully extended.

Fire Station – Built in 1957 at no cost to the taxpayer, the fire station was built by volunteer labor and donated materials, the lumber was cut down from the site and brought to the mill by the volunteer firefighters. The construction which took several years resulted in a two bay garage fire station, with an unfinished open second floor meeting hall. Through the years two more additions were added to the building to accommodate more apparatus as the town grew, again, by volunteer labor and donated materials. Today, the Litchfield Fire Station, located at 257 Charles Bancroft Hwy boasts four overhead doors, containing five fire apparatus housed able to be housed inside. In 2004 the firefighters during nights and weekends began converting the second floor into usable space. Two offices were built for department administrative work, one Emergency Operations Center, kitchen, bathroom/shower room, and small living/day room. Construction was completed in early 2007 through volunteer labor, with materials both donated by area businesses and a small portion through taxpayer money.

The Fire Station not only houses the fire apparatus, it serves many other purposes. The Emergency Operations Center located on the second floor is where the Fire Chief and staff routinely man during large scale incidents such as floods, snow storms and high wind events resulting in wide area power outages, damage. The Manchester-Boston Regional Airport has two flight paths which run through Litchfield increasing the potential of an aircraft crashing in Town. The fire department has been involved in a few searches for missing small aircraft in past years. The Emergency Operations Center would serve a vital role for the Town, State, and Federal Authorities during such an event. Chemical companies, railroads and defense contractors across the Merrimack River could also be potential incidents that would involve the Operations Centers use. The Fire Station stores all the departments spare hose, spare equipment, a breathing air system for refilling our 60 air-bottles for our air-packs, communications equipment for contacting area fire, police, highway departments. The kitchen area and day room provide a place for the firefighters to eat or rest during an emergency event.