

Town of Wilbraham Fire Department Chronological History

- 1919 The Department was organized as the George M. Kingdon Fire Company.
- 1921 \$500 was appropriated to pay all the active members of the department.
- 1922 Emergency medical responses began with the purchase of a first-aid kit from the Winchester Square Pharmacy in Springfield.
- 1927 The Town purchased its first pumper to be able to utilize the town's new hydrant system.
- 1938 Purchase of a new 1938 REO Speedwagon fire truck. The hurricane of 1938 causes damage to New England. Damaged fire equipment cost the Town \$300.
- 1941 The auxiliary department was formed due to a national crisis.
- 1945 Addition of fog nozzles and foam gear as a result of World War II Army and Navy testing.
- 1952 Present-day fire headquarters was built, and the first ambulance in the Department was donated by the Wilbraham Grange.
- 1957 Appointment of the first full-time firefighter and fire chief.
- 1958 Station 2 was built on Woodland Dell Road.
- 1962 The Town purchases a new Cadillac ambulance, and the old ambulance is converted to a rescue.
- 1968 By now, the Department has 11 full-time members, including the chief and two acting lieutenants, giving the Town protection from 7AM to 8PM. A new radio alerting system is installed to improve the callback of off-duty firefighters for major incidents.
- 1971 The REO Speedwagon is retired and replaced by a new 1970 brush truck (Forestry 9).
- 1975 All full-time firefighters become Emergency Medical Technicians, and the new Jaws of Life are put into service.
- 1979 The Department goes to 24-hour coverage and now has 22 members including 1 chief, 1 deputy, 4 lieutenants and 16 firefighters.
- 1980 Central Communications are instituted resulting in one phone number to cover all emergency needs of the Town.
- 1988 The Department acquired a new ladder truck, a new Chief's car and a rescue.
- 1989 Developed series of landing sites for medical rescue helicopters.

- 1991 A new ambulance is acquired by public donation.
- 1994 Two defibrillators acquired by public donation, increasing the emergency protection for the Town.
- 1995 The first female firefighter is appointed, and the SAFE program is in place.
- 1996 "Rescue Alive" ice rescue sled is donated and placed in service. Two of the department EMTs successfully complete EMT-I training, and currently 5 more are attending this advanced training.
- 1997 Department's first paramedic is hired.
- 1998 Three more paramedics are hired.