

ANNUAL REPORT JULY 01 2006 TO JUNE 30 2007
Colchester Hayward Fire Department
Serving the Town of Colchester for over 150 years
Class 4 ISO Rated

CHFD is a combination fire department consisting of volunteer and career staff dedicated to delivering emergency services to the residents of Colchester.

In 2007: *Another busy year is now behind us!*

Emergency responders came to the aid 1693 times when calls for help were issued. These calls represent over 20,938 man-hours of dedicated service to the community. Our members spent an additional 9,031 man-hours training to ensure that you, our neighbors, receive the most professional service possible.

The Colchester Fire Department is proud to have achieved an Insurance Service Office Classification of 4. Only fifty- six departments of the 315 fire departments in the State of Connecticut have achieved this designation.

The CHFD placed into service a new ambulance, Rescue 628, a 2007 International Horton. This medical transport apparatus replaced our ten year old medium duty chassis ambulance that went into service in 1997.

The Colchester Fire Department has always prided itself in being *one of the best*. We do not take our duty or responsibility lightly. Over the years we have risen to meet new challenges that have come our way and have excelled at acquiring the equipment and the necessary training so that we can do our best to protect our community and its citizens.

As we move forward, we face many new challenges. These challenges come in the form of volunteer recruitment, training and certification mandates that tax our available volunteer hours and daytime staffing. As the community has grown we all have been under the strain of *trying to do more with less*. Staffing levels need to be addressed, as they have not been increased in fifteen years and with the greater than before call volume we often find ourselves lacking available manpower during the daytime hours due to back-to-back medical transport calls.

We are now faced with an aging fleet of apparatus that is now in need of replacement. The current engine at the Westchester Station is coming up on twenty-six years of age and the rural water supply engine is twenty-one years old. A real focus on *overall* fire apparatus replacement is needed.

We will forge ahead and continue the proud tradition of providing you, our customers, *with the most professional and efficient service possible.*

Our doors at the fire station are forever open to you. Always remember to do your part in fire safety, *Check the batteries in your Smoke and CO detectors*, and have an escape plan for your home.