



United Professional Firefighters of Derry
International Association of Firefighters – Local 4392
P.O. Box 757, Derry, New Hampshire 03038

Michael Willinsky – President Ronald Sebastian – Vice President: Firefighters Derek Tunberg – Vice President: Officers

FD Cuts Staffing and Service Levels

January 14, 2010

Citizens of the Town of Derry:

On January 13th Derry Fire Department administration reduced staffing levels. Minimum daily staffing is now 15 firefighters; cut from 18 firefighters on duty just one year ago. On some days the fire department will be staffed with 16 or 17 firefighters.

In a staffing directive issued to department members and the Derry Town Administrator, the Fire Chief stated "If the...budget continues to be in potential deficit, further reductions in staffing and service levels will occur. Staffing reductions to 14 persons or less per shift will require the temporary closing of companies and stations."

Reduced staffing and closed stations will increase response times to fires and delay emergency medical care.

Both positions in the Bureau of Fire Prevention and Public Education have been cut. Additionally, a second certified dispatcher, on-duty during the busiest periods of each day, has been eliminated which will cause further delay in sending fire apparatus and ambulances to emergencies within the Town of Derry.

It is an unfortunate sign of the tough economic period the country is going through. Unfortunately, the reality is that we are spread very thin and any further cuts will inevitably result in a fire station closure further endangering the community's safety. It's a very sad state of affairs when public safety positions are cut. It puts the community at high risk and the question is, "When will someone's home or life be permanently changed because of those cuts?" The town council needs to realize when they cut public safety the risk on the public becomes increased and they need to honor the level of service the citizens have had and deserve.

Please contact your town councilors if you are concerned about the safety of the town during the reduction in staffing and service levels.

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Respectfully yours in safety,

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