

# East Andover Fire Department

By Rene Lefebvre  
Chief, East Andover Fire Department

There are two things fire fighters find very important to do. One is fighting fire, and the other is breathing. Now I know you're thinking that even a fire fighter is capable of breathing without much thought. The concern is that we must do our work in places where the air is not safe to breathe.

When I was a rookie (that statement makes the young folks groan) we

introduced to the fire service. I remember (there he goes again) the older fire fighters saying they were never going to use that contraption.

Being a rookie had its advantages, as we were too new to realize that tradition always wins over innovation in the fire service, so we liked the new toy. Today an air pack is issued to every fighter and has become as common on the fire ground as hose.

My first pack weighed about 30 pounds. The new packs weigh less than 15 pounds and carry twice as much air.

Refilling air packs has become more complicated due to the high pressures we now use. To make refilling safe, they are now filled in a vault-like device that we installed in our fire station. The vault is designed to contain the pieces of the air tank should it explode. This is a very real hazard.

Typical of most fire fighters who look at danger as a manageable task, our fire fighters were looking at the new vault and reached the conclusion that if we blow up a tank, we may not become injured but we're going to need clean shorts. Being the kind of advance planners that we are, we have a clean pair taped to the side of the vault. You just never know.



Jeff Miller and Andy Guptill prep a rack of chicken at EAFD's annual BBQ fundraiser on July 29. Photo: Sharon Darling

did not think about safety the way we do today, and it was not uncommon to send firefighters to the hospital for smoke inhalation. Thankfully, self-contained air packs were invented and



Andover Rescue Squad members Ed Becker (left), Scott Kidder and Sharon Darling (in the water), and Anne Hewitt (strapped to the back board) practice backboarding skills with the East Andover Fire Department's newly acquired boat.

## Andover Rescue Squad

By Anne Hewitt  
Andover Rescue Squad

The good news is that the First Responder class is still ongoing, with students looking forward to graduation and state licensing in the fall. The bad news is that the number of students has declined by half. The training time commitment is substantial, and for whatever reason, the optimistically full class and potential for Andover Rescue Squad membership has decreased.

Statewide, there are ongoing courses for Emergency Medical Technician and for First Responder. Anyone still interested in signing up can call Andover Rescue Squad President Ed Becker at 735-5338.

### Water, Water Everywhere

Whether it's recreational swimming in Highland Lake, kayaking down the Blackwater, or coping with torrential floods, water is part of our lives in Andover. Therefore, Andover Rescue Squad members need to be prepared for water rescue operations.

Thanks to the successful fundraising efforts of the East Andover Fire Department's annual Chicken Barbecue

and Canoe/Kayak Raffle, the Department was able to purchase a boat with motor and trailer for rescue operations. At its July meeting, the Rescue Squad used the boat to practice water rescues in Highland Lake.



First Responder class has the full attention of (l-r) Sharon Darling, Jeff and Diane Miller. Photo: Bob Bussey

## POLICE BLOTTER

The Andover Police Department responded to 157 calls for service between June 15 and July 15. The following selected category totals come from CrimeStar, the department's new law enforcement records management system.

- 47 motor vehicle accidents, arrests, warnings, etc.
- 34 calls for assistance to citizens and to other departments
- 14 service of papers calls
- 5 domestic dispute calls
- 5 theft calls
- 5 warrants
- 3 suspicious activity calls
- 3 missing person calls
- 3 weapon permits
- 2 criminal mischief calls

- 2 harassment calls
- 2 calls about shots fired
- 2 OHRV complaints
- 1 assault call
- 1 burglary call
- 1 sexual offender registration

### Arrests

- Crystal Hodgson, 21, arrested on a warrant
- Matthew Miller, 31, possession of marijuana
- Melissa Talbot, 32, arrested on a warrant
- Tammy Sweatt, 38, arrested on a warrant
- Jeffrey Connor, 17, criminal mischief
- Seth Dougherty, 25, littering

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