



Members of the Andover Rescue Squad (ARS), the East Andover Fire Department (EAFD), the Proctor Academy Fire Department (PAFD), and Explorer Post #321 met for a joint extrication drill on April 2. The Explorers were able to assist EMTs and fire crew in removing "victims" from vehicles. These Explorers are sharp and learning quickly!

Back (l-r): Grace Beach PAFD, Alison Mitchell PAFD, Evan Gaskin PAFD, Tim St. Onge PAFD. Middle: Adam Ellis #321, AJ Barton #321, Jake Johnson EAFD, Pat Barton #321, Lily Munsill PAFD, Sam Brown PAFD, Greg Stetson ARS, Jeff Miller EAFD. Front: John Kinney ARS, Heather Makechnie ARS, Jeff Davis ARS. Photo: Brad Hardy

East Andover Fire Department

By Chief Rene Lefebvre
East Andover Fire Department

April and May are transition time around our fire station. We, like you, put away the tools of winter and get ready for spring and summer. In our case we put away the snowmobile and rescue sled and take out the boat, gator, and forestry equipment.

Some good news to report is that although we did use our snowmobile for training several times, we were not called to any accidents in the woods this past season. Nice job, everyone.

Our Explorers had an opportunity to train at a live fire drill a few weeks ago. The team wears the same protective clothing we use and had an opportunity to try air packs. They pulled the hose lines and, with their adult leaders, set up water supply using the required two independent sources.

I was watching them drill as an observer and not as a participant. It was impressive and very satisfying to watch the young people perform as a team, checking with each other to be sure they were doing each task correctly.

As pleased as I am with the young team, I am equally proud of our adult leaders, Jake Johnson, Jeff Miller, and Jon Collette. Though help is provided from the rest of our department, these people make our Explorer post successful.

If there is a young person interested in joining the post, please stop by the station any Thursday evening. The training is no-nonsense and at times difficult, but the rewards are skills learned, self confidence, and pride in a team atmosphere.

Live fire training for the Explorers means there is a fire burning, but *the Explorers do not enter the building*. All training is conducted on the outside. They have hose lines, but they are not close enough to be in any danger.

Facing a raging fire ... no problem. Facing an angry mom ... we are just not that brave!

Fire Permits

It is fire permit time again. The State requires a written permit from a Forest Fire Warden in order to burn outside.

Air quality concerns have been em-

phasized during our annual forestry training this year. The only material that is permitted to be burned is yard waste: brush, leaves, and grass.

If you are working on your home and have clean wood from the project, you are allowed to burn this material. On the other hand, a contractor working on your home must take this material to a disposal site. A fine line, we realize, but those are the rules.

Please use extreme caution this season, as we will not have the benefit of the fire towers. Due to State budget concerns, the towers will be manned only when the day is above a Class Three.

In the past we have taken some comfort in having the towers watch our neighborhoods during the day when our fire department is at its lowest staffing level. An early report of any fire will most likely result in less damage.

The State Forestry people are working on ways to staff the towers with volunteers. I will keep you informed. In the meantime, please be cautious.

Andover Food Pantry

We responded to a flooded oil burner at the Andover Town Office a few weeks ago. Smoke reported by the library staff and a State Trooper had our undivided attention, and luckily we found only smoke from the furnace and no fire.

As we were leaving the basement of the Town Office, we noticed the food pantry. Typical of nosy firefighters, we asked Selectman Dennis Fenton if the food pantry was used much. His answer in the affirmative was a sign of the times we currently live in, and that isn't good.

Suddenly, being a volunteer firefighter for our community didn't seem to be enough. We need to help these people. We don't have a lot of free time (training and drills take most of that), but the department has a few dollars to spare, thanks to you and to our fund raising efforts.

I would encourage anyone who is willing, to make a contribution to the food pantry by contacting Don Gross or the Town Office. Our job as firefighters is to help people in need. This economic "fire" is beyond our ability to control without you. Please contribute to the pantry and together we'll all win.

Just a Reminder...

When fishing at Highland Lake, park at the corner of Maple Street and Channel Road, or at the Andover Fish & Game Club.
Please Do Not Park at the Fire Station!



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