

KINGSTON FIRE 411

Winter/Spring 2026



CHIEF'S MESSAGE

Welcome to the first edition of the Kingston Fire District's quarterly newsletter. The purpose of this newsletter is to keep our taxpayers and residents informed on the status of matters of the District, upcoming meetings and fire call responses. As of March 1st, our members have responded to 171 calls for service in 2026. The Fire Station was staffed with 6-9 personnel throughout the blizzard and responded to 21 calls from Sunday through Tuesday. It is our hope that we can generate interest and answer any questions about your Kingston Fire District and gain feedback about how we can better serve our community.

WHAT IS THE KINGSTON FIRE DISTRICT?

The Kingston Fire District is the governing body that provides funding and oversight to the Kingston Fire Department. The Department is an all-volunteer, full-service fire department that provides world-class fire protection, code enforcement, and emergency medical response services to the Village of Kingston (RI) and the University of Rhode Island campus, in addition to mutual aid responses to neighboring municipalities. These services are provided through a highly trained, dedicated and adaptable force of volunteers known as the Kingston Volunteer Fire Company, which operates out of the Kingston Fire District, located at 35 Bills Rd.

****IMPORTANT****

**Please see the bottom
of the next page for
how to receive future
newsletters.**

VOLUNTEERING AS A FIREFIGHTER

Volunteer firefighters are the backbone of our department. Volunteering provides great "on the job" training for those striving to be hired as career firefighters, but this is not a requirement. While many of our volunteers have gone on to a career in firefighting, others have pursued different careers but have also gained communication, teamwork and leadership skills by volunteering.

Q: How can I volunteer?

A: Contact Deputy Chief Brierley at recruitment@kingstonfire.net or fill out the link on the front page of our website (www.kingstonfire.net). DC Brierley will contact you and give a full explanation of what is expected as a volunteer.

Q: How much time do I need to commit to volunteer?

A: New firefighters are welcome to the station at any time during the week to work on their probationary firefighter training. This self-paced training typically takes 4-6 months to complete. During each phase of the training process firefighters learn new skills geared towards becoming a fully trained firefighter, able to operate autonomously on the fire ground. Department trainings are scheduled every Wednesday evening and Sunday morning. As a department, over 4000 hours of training are logged annually.

Q: What are the benefits of volunteering?

A: You get to drive big trucks! But seriously... Volunteering is very rewarding. You respond to assist those in their time of need. Your community is grateful to see you respond to assist if there is a fire at their house, if they have an issue with carbon monoxide or even if they have been in a car accident. Whether you are interested in becoming a career firefighter or simply enjoy giving back to your community, it is rewarding. Some other perks of being a volunteer with KFD currently include tuition reimbursement (up to \$5,000/year), training incentives (\$750; \$1400/year after 2 years), free on-going training, paid details, full-time residency program, lifetime friendships and career networking. Together, our volunteers received nearly \$30,000 in incentives / tuition reimbursements through federal grant funding in 2025 alone.

OTHER VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

As with any municipality, the District has other positions by which taxpayers can be involved. We are always looking for people to serve on the Board of Wardens or other committees that meet periodically. The District currently has an opening on the Auditing Committee. Nominations and voting will take place at the annual meeting in May. Please contact the office to inquire.

HOW IS THE DISTRICT FUNDED?

The majority of our funding is through a cooperative agreement with the University of Rhode Island. Our budget also includes taxes on residential and commercial properties in the District. In an effort to lessen the impact on our tax payers, the District is constantly looking for other funding sources, mainly to purchase replacement equipment and vehicles, which have recently dramatically increased in cost. The firefighters protective gear has also increased over 30 percent in two years. Annually, we take advantage of state and federal grant funding for equipment, training and station needs, in addition to incentives for the firefighters. In 2025, we received over \$44,000 in funding or reimbursements through government sources. We also seek out private funding sources.

Upcoming large purchases:

- Replacement of cascade air system – this system is used to refill the breathing air tanks that our firefighters use for both fighting fires and real-life burn house training; the current system is 25 year old. **Approximate cost: \$80,000**
- Replacement of SCBA gear – provides breathable air in hazardous environments; current gear is 10 years old and is not in compliance with current NFPA standards for firefighter safety. **Approximate cost: \$320,000; to be leased to own.**
- Replacement of ladder truck – current ladder truck is 12 years old; new ladder truck is on schedule to be delivered in late 2028 or early 2029 due to industry backlog. **Approximate cost: \$2,000,000; to be leased to own.**

KEEP IN TOUCH!

- office@kingstonfire.net
- 401-783-6830
- PO Box 284 / 35 Bills Rd.
- www.kingstonfire.net
- Follow us on Facebook and Instagram

DISTRICT OFFICERS

BOARD OF WARDENS

PRESIDENT – BILL FLATLEY

VICE PRES – SANDRA KOERNER

SECRETARY – ELIZABETH MCNAB

WARDEN – DOUG CARR

WARDEN – STEVE DAVIS

OTHER DISTRICT OFFICERS

MODERATOR – VALERIE MAIER-SPEREDELOZZI

CLERK – ERIC AXELROD

TAX COLLECTOR – SUSAN AXELROD

TREASURER – THOMAS VIGNALI

TAX ASSESSORS

BEATRIJS NIGHTINGALE

RICHARD VACCARO

JOE LITTLE

AUDITING COMMITTEE

KRISTINE BOVY

VALERIE MAIER-SPEREDELOZZI

(VACANT – TBD)

If you work for a company that may be interested in sponsoring equipment or other needs, or know of another funding source we can inquire about, please contact the office at 401-783-6830 or office@kingstonfire.net.

HOW TO RECEIVE FUTURE NEWSLETTERS

Taxpayers can continue to receive our newsletter by mail; however, it does come at a cost, and we are always looking to minimize expenses. Please consider allowing us to email you the newsletter or view it on our website. Either way, **you must notify us of your preference to continue to receive it.** Please let us know your preferred method:

- Fill out the form under the RESOURCES tab on our website www.kingstonfire.net.
- Email office@kingstonfire.net, noting NEWSLETTER in the subject line
- Call the office at 401-783-6830
- Mail a note to the office PO Box 284
- Drop a note in the dropbox in our lobby at 35 Bills Rd.

*****IF YOU ARE A LANDLORD, PLEASE SHARE THIS INFORMATION WITH YOUR TENANTS AS WELL*****

YEAR IN REVIEW

- Your volunteer firefighters have had a busy year, with an increase of 88 incidents over 2024 in addition to over 4,600 training hours.
- The department purchased a new E-One Tower Ariel truck (Ladder 2) to replace our current Ladder 2. The new truck is expected to be delivered in 2029.

Kingston Fire District 2025

Total Incidents: 854 (+88)

Total Training Hours: 4,618

Building Fires: 11

Extinguished by fire personnel or multiple sprinklers

Brush Fires: 6

Chimney Fires: 4

Motor Vehicle Entrapments: 3

Fire Alarms: 237

Motor Vehicle Accidents: 44

Elevator Rescues: 11

Rescue, Other: 4

Man vs Machine (1), Car vs Bldg (1), Missing person (2)

Medical Assists: 270

CPR: 9

Mutual Aid Provided to: Union, URIEMS, North Kingstown, Narragansett, Exeter,
Richmond, Newport

Members with over 200 responses: 7

New Members: 2

Full Resident Firefighters: 3

Junior Residents: 2

Not yet cleared to drive engines

Members hired by career fire departments: 4

Kingston Fire District
P.O. Box 284
Kingston, RI 02881



VOLUNTEER TODAY!

Inquire at recruitment@kingstonfire.net

