

Weekly FD Report
Friday, December 18
Russ,

- Numerous EMS and Fire calls during the week. COVID related calls are still averaging 2-3 daily.
- As I write this summary on Friday afternoon, we are currently assisting Stratham at a 2nd alarm building fire at Burger King on Portsmouth Ave. By all accounts the building will likely be deemed a total loss.
- Daily statewide COVID19 numbers have continued to increase. This past week NH had 5,991 positive tests for a daily average of 856, and there have been 45 COVID19 related deaths statewide recorded. Rockingham County recorded 6 deaths this past week.
- Exeter has had 40 new positive tests since last Friday. Our running total since early March is now 271, with 48 cases considered active.
- The NH DHHS, Seacoast Region Public Health Network and the NH Nat'l Guard have been finalizing plans to support a fixed vaccination site at the Exeter High School. This region site will be used to facilitate the orderly vaccination of 1st Responders and other high-risk individuals identified by the Governor in Group 1B.
- James & I have been on conference calls all week, and the best information we have today is: pending full FDA approval of the Moderna vaccine for emergency use, approximately 25,000 doses will be in NH before Christmas. The plan is to have the Exeter High School vaccination site readied on Saturday, Dec.26, with 1st Responders receiving vaccinations starting Monday, Dec. 28.
- We have submitted the names of all fire/police and dispatchers to NH DHHS. Those on the list we provided, will be contacted via email and asked to complete a short survey/registration that will also include the date/time the responder wishes to receive the vaccine. Once registered they can arrive during their timeframe, ID will be verified, and proceed to the vaccination area.
- We have tested all shifts of firefighters and the administrative staff. We now have our first fire employee that tested positive for COVID19. The positive test was confirmed on Saturday, Dec. 11 and the FF has been out recovering since. The FF has recovered and no longer has symptoms. We received notification from NH DHHS that the FF has been cleared and can return to duty on Dec. 22.
- We also have one FF that has been quarantined due to exposure from a family member that has tested positive. As of today the COVID test has not come back, and we do not yet have a return to work date for that employee.
- I am excited to announce that we have been able to hire 3 new FF candidates. We interviewed 17 of the 30 that applied and made offers of employment to FF/Paramedic Christopher Bradley from Pembroke, MA; and our second and third female firefighters. FF/AEMT Hope Moore from Milton, NH and FF/AEMT Micah Wonyetye from Manchester, NH. We are looking forward to welcoming them to our team in mid-January.