



# SERVICE ACTIVITY AND SAFETY MESSAGE



Month November 2019

TOTAL INCIDENT ACTIVITY: **412** YTD: 4457

Fire and Related Services: **130** YTD: 1330 Ambulance Services: **282** YTD: 3127

Portsmouth	274
New Castle	5
Mutual Aid	3

### Incidents of Interest

11/3 at 10:55 AM. **Natural Gas Leak:** 44 Rock St.. All companies were dispatched to a report of a natural gas leak inside the building. Engine 1 arrived to find a strong odor and elevated levels of natural gas present. The source was a leaking low pressure transmission line in the basement. Gas was shut off at the meter and power to the building was secured. Fire crews and Unutil ventilated the building until it was safe.

11/25 at 10:55 AM. **Structure Fire:** 39 Cass St. All companies responded to a report of smoke coming from the eaves of the house. Station 1 companies arrived first on scene and made a quick attack on a fire in the attic. Extensive overhaul and extinguishment of hidden spot fires kept all companies on scene for about 90 minutes. There were no injuries to civilians or firefighters. The cause of the fire was a faulty bathroom ceiling vent fan.

11/26 at 8:12 AM. **Explosive Stand-By and Removal:** 43 Austin St. Responding to an inquiry, the NH State Police Explosives Disposal Unit with assistance from the Fire Department, searched and found approximately 50 lbs of degraded dynamite and blasting caps in the basement of the home. Coordinating with EOD, Portsmouth Police and DPW, the dynamite was safely removed from the home and destroyed without incident. For the safety of the public, a portion of Austin St was evacuated for a short time and the dynamite was escorted, without stopping, to the disposal site behind the city transfer station.

### Holiday Safety Tips...

*Its holiday season already and with it comes an increased fire danger risk due to holiday decorations. U.S. Fire Departments respond to an average of 780 home fires per year that began with decorations and as many as 22 fires per day started by candles. So please, if using a live tree, keep it well hydrated. Artificial trees should be labeled "Fire Resistant". Place any kind of tree at least 3 ft from any heat source. Only use indoor lighting indoors and outdoor lighting outdoors and replace any light set that appears worn or damaged. Do not overload outlets. Never leave home with holiday lights lit and NEVER leave a candle unattended. Go to the National Safety Council website for more information. Happy and Safe Holidays!*