

5. Public Safety

Public Safety Division/Public Safety Building

Since September, 2012, Brewer's police, fire, ambulance and rescue services have been consolidated into a single Public Safety Division, headed by a Public Safety Chief and located in the Public Safety Building on Parkway South. This 30,000 square-foot facility houses the Police Department and Fire Department in two separate but connected wings. The site is adjacent to the Interstate and is in a central location. The Public Safety Building contains administrative space, garage bays for fire trucks and police cruisers, living space for Fire Department staff, several all-purpose meeting/training rooms, modern technology upgrades and specialty equipment, and a museum.

Police Department

The Brewer Police Department is a full service department with 21 sworn, full-time officers. In 2011, the Department answered over 8,000 calls for service. There are three major divisions in the Police Department:

- **The Administrative Division** consists of five employees; the Chief of Police (who also serves as Public Safety Director), the Captain of Police, the Patrol Lieutenant, an Administrative Secretary, and a Receptionist. This division is responsible for managing all activities of the Department and working with local citizens and government agencies.
- **The Patrol Division** consists of 15 uniformed personnel; three sergeants, four corporals, and eight patrol officers. Two patrol officers are assigned as School Resources Officers and spend their days at the Community School and High School. They are responsible for working with students, teachers and administrators to educate and ensure the safety of the students.

The other patrol officers are responsible for patrolling the streets of Brewer, apprehending criminal offenders, responding to a wide variety of citizen calls for assistance, and enforcing traffic laws. Other activities include taking part in community policing programs, conducting drug investigations, and performing other proactive activities aimed at maintaining public safety.

- **The Detective Division** includes three Detectives who are responsible for investigating a range of crimes, mostly felonies. One detective is assigned to the Federal Drug Task Force. The Division is also responsible for maintaining crime statistics, maintaining all evidence, conducting license inspections, and undertaking other duties that may be assigned by the Administrative Division.

Fire Department

The Fire Department consists of 17 full-time fire-fighters; three captains, one lieutenant, and 13 fire fighters. The Department's part-time, on-call personnel who are paid on an on-call basis consists of three firefighters. Dispatching is provided by the Penobscot County Regional Communications Center.

There are two ambulances housed at the Fire Department, both of which are privately owned. The first ambulance is staffed by a paramedic provided by the ambulance owner and a Brewer driver (one of the firefighters). The second ambulance is manned by Fire Department personnel. Proceeds from ambulance runs are divided between the ambulance owner and the City of Brewer.

The Department has mutual aid agreements for firefighting with seven communities: Orrington, Bucksport, Holden, Dedham, Clifton, Eddington and Bangor. The Department can respond to calls for assistance from other communities, and provides ambulance service within a range of about 60 miles from Bangor.

Vehicles owned by the Department include:

- A 1947 American LaFrance truck that is now housed in the Museum
- Engine 301: 2002 Pierce Dash Rescue Pumper. It holds 750 galls of water and pumps up to 2,000 gallons per minute (GPM).
- Engine 302: 1990 Pierce Arrow Pumper. It holds 750 galls of water and pumps up to 1,250 GPM.
- Engine 303: 2009 Midi-pumper. It holds 750 galls of water and pumps up to 750 GPM It's equipped with a CAFS (compressed air foam system) and holds 400 gallons of foam.
- Engine 305: 2000 Pierce Dash Pumper/Ladder. It has a 105-foot aerial ladder with a pre-piped waterway on the end of the ladder. It holds 500 gallons of water and pumps up to 2,000 GPM.
- Special Operations Trailer: has a variety of equipment including:
 - Spill mitigation equipment
 - Hazmat equipment
 - Below grade rescue equipment
 - High angle rescue equipment

There were about 4,000 Fire Department calls in 2012, of which about 92% were for emergency medical services.

The Fire Department relies heavily on fire hydrants for fire-fighting purposes. The national standards for hydrants is something that used by municipalities across the nation including Brewer. The practice is to paint the top of hydrant red, orange, green or blue. Each color is associated with how many gallons per minute that hydrant can supply:

Red	0-499 gallons per minute
Orange	500-999 gallons per minute
Green	1,000-1,499 gallons per minute
Blue	1,500 + gallons per minute

The ISO rating for Brewer is currently “4” within five miles of the Public Safety Building. The rating system for ISO ranges from 1 which is the highest rating to 10 which is the lowest. The ISO stands for an overall rating. In doing so they look at the Fire Department’s staff numbers, engines, pumpers, ladder trucks and dispatching services. Another important part of this evaluation and rating is the water department. In fact 50% of the overall rating is based on the number of engine companies and the amount of water a community needs to fight a fire. When making their assessment they also evaluate the fire companies/departments in the area. They look at equipment on the engines to ensure that nozzles, hoses,

breathing apparatus, and appliances are all in working order. ISO will also check ladders both ground and aerial, saws, fans for smoke and salvage covers such as tarps.

There is also an administrative component where the ISO will inspect training records and type of training. How many staff members receive the training along with maintenance systems for equipment and fire fighters response to emergencies. The Water department and the community's ability to provide water is 40% of the grading. This part of the survey focuses on if there is sufficient water supply to suppress a fire beyond what is consumed on a daily basis.

Challenges

Challenges facing the Public Safety Division include:

- **Staffing.** Maintaining adequate police and firefighter staffing in an era of tight municipal budgets.
- **Fire truck replacement.** Replacing a fire truck is extremely expensive (\$800,000 to \$900,000).
- **Drugs.** The flow of illegal drugs into Brewer is a constant challenge that results in a number of related crimes. Heroin and bath salts have been particularly troublesome. The Police Department has an active education and enforcement program.
- **Firing range relocation.** The firing range, which is important for training and certification for Brewer officers as well as officers throughout the region, is located at the Business and Commerce Park. The City will need a new site before the old one closes.
- **Cold storage room.** There is a need for a cold storage room for secure storage of large evidence items.