

**For Immediate Release:**

**FALMOUTH FIRE DEPARTMENT INSTITUTES STAFFING CHANGES**

Effective at 0800 hours July 1st, the Falmouth Fire/Rescue Department implemented a new staffing and deployment model. Among other changes, our new deployment eliminates the practice of a single firefighter responding on a piece of apparatus, and increases the start of shift staffing from 10 firefighters to 14 firefighters. The added staffing will be deployed to the two stations that handle 80% of the calls in Falmouth: two additional firefighters will be assigned to the East Falmouth fire station, and 2 additional firefighters will be assigned to HQ. The new rule prohibiting deployment of an engine or ladder truck with only one firefighter does impact our ability to operate all 5 fire stations given present staffing levels. The Town is offering overtime shifts every day in an attempt raise daily staffing from 14 to 16 firefighters and will operate all five fire stations on shifts when 16 firefighters are on duty. On shifts when fewer than 16 firefighters are on duty, the West Falmouth Fire Station will not be staffed. The Town is also in the process of recruiting and hiring 10 additional firefighters made possible thanks in significant part to voter approval of an override. Once these new positions have been filled, the Falmouth Fire Department will be able to operate five stations on a consistent basis and maintain the two-firefighter per apparatus minimum. These are all positive steps that will improve fire and rescue response for the entire Town and we are grateful for the community support which made this possible.

**For Further Information:**

Michael Small  
Chief, Falmouth Fire/Rescue  
[Michael.Small@falmouthfirema.gov](mailto:Michael.Small@falmouthfirema.gov)  
508-495-2517

Julian M. Suso  
Town Manager  
[TownManager@falmouthma.gov](mailto:TownManager@falmouthma.gov)  
508-495-7320