

An open letter to Amherst residents from your Town of Amherst volunteer firefighters



The Town of Amherst volunteer firefighters would like to thank all residents in the town, as well as the Village of Williamsville, for the cooperation extended during the recent storm. As you are all aware, the magnitude of this storm was unprecedented, and the situation presented many challenges to not only our residents but emergency responders as well.

The cooperation and acts of kindness bestowed upon the emergency responders represent all that is good in our town and reflect why we are so proud to serve our citizens. Time after time, our firefighters witnessed residents working together and cooperating to ensure the safety and well-being of their neighbors and their neighborhood.

During the first days of the storm, your volunteer firefighters responded to over 1,400 emergency calls, including 20 major structure fires. The dangers presented to the volunteer firefighters were extraordinary, but their quick response was never in doubt.

In addition, firefighters responded to and assisted with countless other non-emergency situations as well. Your Amherst volunteer firefighters staffed the firehouses around the clock for days. They housed residents and ensured their well-being before escorting them to more permanent shelters. They assisted stranded motorists, directed traffic, steered people clear of downed energized power lines, moved displaced citizens, cleared roadways, and delivered medicine and other important supplies to those in need. Firefighters around the town went days with little or no sleep at all. Fire dispatchers at Amherst Fire Control processed close to 7,000 calls for service and carefully coordinated the fire department response. Requests for services were sometimes overwhelming, but were never ignored.

It must be remembered that this was done by your firefighters while their own homes were in jeopardy, their own families were left alone, and their personal employers expected them to come in the next day and put in a full day's work. In fact, many firefighters took their own personal vacation time from their place of employment just so they could continue and volunteer to assist at their firehouse and help our residents.

Your Town of Amherst firefighters are dedicated to protecting the well-being of all our residents. We are proud to offer our skills and services to protect you and your family. We stand ready 24/7 for you, our residents. We willingly drop what we are doing day and night and rush to aid any of our residents in a time of need. We come from all walks of life. We are doctors, auto mechanics, clerks, accountants, auto workers, carpenters, plumbers, highway workers, bankers, and engineers ... we are YOUR NEIGHBORS! We stand committed to protecting the residents and families of our great town, providing professional fire and rescue service on a volunteer basis. That is our agenda... pure and simple.

Amherst Volunteer Firefighters
Providing Professional Service
on a Volunteer Basis

SAFETY TIPS • SAFETY TIPS • SAFETY TIPS

Your Town of Amherst firefighters are concerned for your safety. Please be diligent when using portable generators. Follow all operating instructions carefully. Never place a generator inside the house or even in the garage. Keep them outside and at a safe distance from the house. Be careful when refilling them. Gasoline ignites very easily on a hot muffler or engine.

Install Carbon Monoxide detectors and make sure they have a battery back-up option so they continue to protect you and your family in the event of a power failure.

1. Please do not pile debris in the street. Place it all on the grass between the sidewalk and the curb. Placing it in the street is very dangerous.
2. When piling debris out front, do not block fire hydrants. Extra time and effort will have to be expended to clear the hydrants in times of fire that could prove to be disastrous!
3. The contractors will be making three sweeps through the town so it is not necessary to pile all debris out front at once.
4. Please watch out for children as you drive through the crowded streets.
5. Use extreme caution if you decide to enter a wet basement. Do not enter if it is flooded. Water can cover electrical outlets and motors and electrocute an unsuspecting resident who decides to walk through the water.
6. If in need of proper information or phone numbers, contact your Town of Amherst Fire Dispatchers at 689-1212.