

Fire calls are up

Fire Chief Clarence Russell of the Bay Roberts Volunteer Fire Department said the number of calls his department has received appears to be up this year.

"Since January we've responded to 23 calls, from structure fires, to motor vehicle accidents (jaws of life), grass fires, chimney fires, vehicle fires, a touch of everything," he said.

The most recent fire occurred about 1:30 p.m. Friday, April 5.

"A Dodge Dakota 2000 model parked at the chiropractor's office on the Birch Hills caught fire," the chief said. "There was a lot of damage to the interior of the pickup after the fire started under the dash."

The cause of the fire is still under investigation, but is suspected to be "an electrical short."

The fire department had been called out to another vehicle fire earlier in the week when a Dodge Caravan went up in flames on an empty parking lot. The fire started at about 9 p.m., April 2.

The driver had stopped at the traffic lights at the intersection of the Main Highway and Delaney's Road and apparently noticed something was wrong and pulled over next to an empty lot next to the Morrow Power building. Winds were high at the time and the van was completely destroyed in the blaze. That fire is also under investigation.



Lillian Simmons / The Compass

ENGULFED - This Dodge Caravan was completely engulfed in flames last Tuesday night, April 2. Apparently the driver stopped at the lights near Birch Hills in Bay Roberts, discovered the smoke and drove the van onto a vacant parking lot.