

On January 1, 2002, the Fire Department instituted a new reporting system for emergency calls. The new system is the National Fire Incident Reporting System V (NFIRS-V), which allows us to maintain a more accurate reporting of calls and to be able to electronically forward them to the State and National level to develop better statistics nationally.

Fire Department personnel remained relatively stable this year with only one retirement.

The Department took delivery of a new Rescue/Ambulance in May of this year.

The Fire Station Consolidation Committee continued to work hard to find suitable sites to relocate and consolidate our fire stations. Some additional work still remains to be finalized before we can move forward and start building these badly needed facilities.

I wish to express my appreciation to the Board of Selectmen, the Town Administrator, Department Managers, the Fire Station Consolidation Committee and the Officers and Firefighters of the Belmont Fire Department for their support, cooperation and assistance during 2002.

Respectfully submitted,
William H. Osterhaus, Fire Chief

ROSTER OF THE FIRE DEPARTMENT

CHIEF

William H. Osterhaus

ASSISTANT CHIEF

David L. Frizzell (EMT)

FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU

Captain Edward A. Davison (EMT)

TRAINING/STAFF SUPPORT

Lieutenant Agostino D. Azzone (EMT)

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Maria A. DeMilia

CAPTAINS

Thomas F. Deeley
John J. Mooney (EMT)

Michael P. McCabe (EMT)
John A. Pizzi (EMT)

LIEUTENANTS

John A. Bella
Edward R. Corsino Jr. (EMT)
Joseph C. Crine Jr.
David DeMarco (EMT)
John Forte (EMT)
Wayne Haley (EMT)

Geoffrey Harvey (EMT)
Stephen C. Hodgdon
John C. Madden
John A. Spuria
Joseph R. Venuti
Stephen Wilcinski (EMT)

FIREFIGHTERS

David Alesse (EMT)
James P. Algeri
Joseph Baptista (EMT)
Thomas Biondo (EMT)
Michael J. Coates
Elijah Debnam (EMT)
Jeffrey Deeley (EMT)
Christopher Drinan (EMT)

Dennis Maher (EMT)
Joseph D. McDonald
Richard M. Nohl (EMT)
Richard J. O'Brien (EMT)
Michael A. Pagliocca (EMT)
John A. Penta
Michael D. Reilly (EMT)
Steven Reilly (EMT)

Charles H. Foote III (EMT)
Robert A. Fowler Jr. (EMT)
Kenneth G. Gardiner, Jr. (EMT)
Ronald P. Gaudet
Ronald P. Gomes
Andrew Goneau (EMT)
Dana R. Harrington (EMT)
Joseph J. Holleran
Anthony D. Lynch (EMT)

Sean B. Ryan (EMT)
Laurent Roy (EMT)
Daniel P. Scannell (EMT)
Scott Spuria (EMT)
Christian B. Tocci (EMT)
David Toomey (EMT)
Ross Vona (EMT)
Steven Whalen (EMT)
Aubrey S. Wheaton

Walter D. Wellman

Retirements

On June 26, 2002, Timothy J. Doty retired after 28 years of service. We wish him all the best.

Apparatus Presently Operated By The Fire Department

Engine 1	1986 Emergency One 1250-GPM Class A Pumper	Waverley
Engine 2	1988 Emergency One 1250- GPM Class A Pumper	Headquarters
Engine 3	1983 Mack (reserve) 1000-GPM Class A Pumper	Harvard Lawn
Ladder 1	1999 Emergency One 110'Aerial Ladder	Harvard Lawn
Ladder 2	1979 Seagrave 100' (reserve) Aerial Ladder	Waverley
Rescue 1	2002 International A.E.V. Type 1 Ambulance	Headquarters
Trailer	For 16' Boat	Waverley
Car 1	1998 Ford Explorer	Headquarters
Car 2	2000 Ford Crown Victoria	Headquarters
Car 3	1999 Chevrolet Tahoe	Headquarters
Car 4	1996 Ford Explorer	Headquarters
Car 5	1992 Ford Taurus	Headquarters

Fire Alarm Record

1994 – 2,725 Calls	1998 – 2,988 Calls
1995 – 2,829 Calls	1999 – 2,989 Calls
1996 – 2,945 Calls	2000 – 2,885 Calls
1997 – 2,912 Calls	2001 – 3,220 Calls

The Fire Department responded to **2,952** calls during 2002.

These calls are divided as follows:

Box Alarms	466
Still Alarms	2,486

The total number of fires and incidents responded to in 2002 are as follows;

Structure Fires	130
Working Fire	0
Second Alarm	3
Outside Fires	20
Refuse Fires	5
Vehicle Fires	9
Fire/Explosion/Other	4
Motor Vehicle Extrication	11
Carbon Monoxide Activation	18
Spill, Leak, No Ignition	61
Hazardous Electrical Equipment	46
Over Pressure or Rupture	9
Bomb Scare	3
Hazardous Materials Conditions – Other	32
Smoke Scare	54
Good Intent Calls	181
System Malfunction	256
Unintentional Alarms	162
False Other	25
Malicious False	22
Service Calls	136
Water Calls	25
Assist Police Department	10
Mutual Aid Give Out of Town	25
Mutual Aid Received into the Town	61

Fire Prevention Bureau

The Fire Prevention Bureau, located at Fire Headquarters, is currently under the direction of Captain Angus Davison, who returned to the Bureau in April of 2002. The Fire Prevention Bureau provides a systematic inspection program of business and commercial establishments, schools, institutions, residential properties, etc. to be inspected for the purpose of removing hazards, correcting conditions, and to ensure compliance with all laws, ordinances, rules and regulations under the jurisdiction of the Fire Department.

The enforcement of laws requiring the installation of smoke detectors is a high priority of the Bureau and necessary inspections for certification are promptly provided. The Bureau has also compiled the information mandated by Federal Law requiring notification about underground tanks that have been used to store petroleum or hazardous substances.

The officers assigned to Fire Prevention attend the Fire Prevention Association of Massachusetts monthly meetings and seminars to obtain the latest information for the proper implementation and enforcement of Massachusetts General Law ch. 148 and Massachusetts Fire Prevention Regulations 527 CMR.

The Fire Prevention Office, thanks to the efforts of Lt. David DeMarco, applied for and received a Student Awareness of Fire Education (S.A.F.E.) grant from the State again this year. This grant is a competitive fire education grant. Due to State funding reductions, the amount that the Department received was drastically reduced, so this year the Department has been able to supplement this award with gifts from businesses and the 4 elementary school PTA's/PTO's. The program will try to maintain the Belmont Fire Department's presence in the classrooms of the Belmont Public Schools elementary schools, with a major emphasis on early fire prevention education. This year the instructors, Lt. Stephen Hodgdon and Firefighter Michael Reilly, will be visiting as many classes as possible in the elementary schools. The response from the teachers and students has been very encouraging.

In the interest of life safety and property protection, all citizens of the Town are encouraged to contact the Fire Prevention Bureau with any concerns pertaining to fire protection and prevention.

Dollar Value Saved & Loss Analysis:

Total value of Property involved in incidents	= \$2,575,000
Total of Property Losses in incidents	= \$1,007,760
Total of Property Saved in Incidents	= \$1,570,250

Permits Issued

Smoke Detectors	297
Above/Underground tank removal/Install	55
Oil Burner Alterations	37
Storage of Flammable Gas	12
Tank Truck	33
Fire Protection or Suppression Systems	1
Building Permit Plan Review	154
Welding	16
Sprinkler System Shutdown	1
Blasting	0
Flammable Liquids	11

Inspections

Smoke Detector	297
Above/Underground Tank Install/Remove	55
Oil Burner Alterations	15
Tank Truck	33
Fire Protection/Suppression Systems	1
McLean Hospital	42 Inspections & 12 Fire Drills
Public Buildings	44
Public Schools	12 Inspections & 20 Fire Drills
Private Schools	14 Inspections & 28 Fire Drills
Nursery Schools	40
"Red Tag" Equipment Systems	20

BELMONT FIRE EMS REPORT

Total Number of Medical Runs For 2002	1,604
Total Number of Transports	1,306
Number of BLS Transports	925
ALS Transports with Bel. FD	381
Miscellaneous EMS non-transports	298
Mutual Aid Given	281

The Belmont Fire Department has a total staffing of 38 Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT's). Re-certification requires that each EMT participate in a minimum of 28 Continuing Education and 24 Refresher Course hours for a combined total of 52 hours every two years. In order to better serve the community, department EMT's receive specialized training in the administration of 7 different medications. These medications include Aspirin, Oxygen, Activated Charcoal, Glucose, Epinephrine, Albuterol and Nitroglycerin. Adult and Pediatric Epi-Auto Injectors as well as 6 defibrillators are placed on each fire department apparatus strategically throughout the town. Each member of the department is trained as an American Heart Association (AHA) Basic Life Support, Healthcare Provider. Training and re-certification for CPR and defibrillation occurs bi-annually. A combination of rapid response, early CPR, defibrillation, and Advanced Life Support greatly enhance patient survival.

The services that are rendered by the Firefighter/Emergency Medical Technicians are valuable respective of the overall operation of the department. The dedication to duty that the EMT's and First Responders show in their day to day operations are commendable and serve as a testament to the service provided by the Belmont Fire Department.

The Belmont Fire Department works closely with the Department of Public Health, Office of Emergency Medical Services Consortium, and South Middlesex Emergency Medical Services in order to assure full compliance with all laws and ordinances applicable to emergency medical care pursuant to the standard of care set forth by the Commonwealth.

Respectfully submitted,
Lieutenant David J. DeMarco, EMS Coordinator

TRAINING DIVISION

The Training Officer works in conjunction with Fire Chief William H. Osterhaus, The Department Of Fire Services/Massachusetts Fire Academy and other public and private organizations in order to provide a systematic and continuous supply of quality training and information to the members of the Belmont Fire Department. Training activities are conducted in accordance with professional standards set forth by the National Fire Protection Agency and the Office of Emergency Medical Services for the State of Massachusetts.

Other additional responsibilities include, equipment maintenance, selection and organization of fire department training booklets and materials, Librarian to the Belmont Fire Video Library and the keeping of complete and accurate training records on each member of the Belmont Fire Department.

Additional duties include support of the Fire Prevention Bureau and manpower support in Fire Suppression.

This year the members of the Belmont Fire Department participated in the following training programs: Emergency Response to Terrorism, Confined Space Entry, Flammable Liquids Firefighting at Logan International Airport, Med-Flight Helicopter Operations, Thermal Imaging Camera Search and Rescue Techniques, Hurst Air bag and "Jaws of Life" Auto Extrication Training, Rescue of Downed Firefighters, Ice and Cold Water Rescue, Forcible Entry, Horizontal and Vertical Ventilation Techniques and Building Construction as Related to the Fire Service.

The Training Officer, Chief and Assistant Chief also participated in the Statewide Anti-Terrorism Unified Response Network. (S.A.T.U.R.N.)

Training in Anti-Terrorism and the Emergency Response to Terrorist events will continue to be a priority in 2003.

All members are CPR and First Responder trained, 38 members are EMTs, and most are also Defibrillator certified.

As Training Officer I am also a standing member of the Massachusetts Institute of Fire Department Instructors.

Respectfully submitted,
Lieutenant Tino Azzone, Training/Staff Support

Metro Fire Project

The Fire Departments of 33 greater Boston communities and Massport, with the support and approval of their local governments comprise the Metro Fire District 13 Association.

Formed in 1980, the association is enacted under provisions of the Massachusetts General Laws. Its service area encompasses the urban area within the Route 128 perimeter, serving an area of 351 square miles and a population of approximately 1,883,000. The premise for Metro-Fire is the realization the no urban community can completely self protect. This is the basis for mutual aid among the communities. A very natural extension of this concept is the mutual sharing of a single or limited number of specialized resources. In the fire service, there are many instances requiring specialized equipment that are vital to a given situation, but only occasionally used. Metro-Fire is providing the mechanism for these types of resources to be available on a cooperation-shared basis. Some of these resources include a Metro-Fire hazardous material response team. The team is available on a 24-hour basis to respond to hazardous material incidents that are beyond the capabilities of any one individual community to control. All members of the team have attended an extensive 160-hour training course and participate in monthly training sessions throughout the year. The Belmont Fire Department is extremely proud in having two members from the Department, Captain Michael McCabe and Lieutenant Edward R. Corsino, on the Metro-Fire Hazmat team. Their knowledge, interest and dedication to the program are a credit to the department.

In addition to the Hazmat team and trucks, there is an incident command vehicle with a communications center on board. In addition, a heavy rescue for all transit accidents, a confined space/collapse/tunnel rescue unit, an air supply unit, foam bank and the extensive training film library. We also have access to the S.A.F.E. House trailer for training young people in fire safety at home. In an emergency situation, the vehicles can be delivered to the community in need. That community must then supply the personnel to operate it.

Recommendations From The Chief

I recommend replacement of the 1992 Fire Prevention vehicle, which is 11 years old, and in poor condition. The 1999 Shift Commanders vehicle would then become the Fire Prevention vehicle and the new vehicle would become the Shift Commanders emergency response vehicle.

I recommend replacement of the 1996 Staff vehicle that was previously used as a first response shift commander's vehicle. It is also in poor condition.

I recommend that we continue to move forward to build two new fire stations at suitable locations to replace our three aging stations that are in very poor condition.

Respectfully submitted,
William H. Osterhaus, Fire Chief