

## FIRE DEPARTMENT

In October of 2003, the Fire Department moved out of the Waverley Fire Station into temporary quarters at the Town Yard. We will remain there until the new station is built on Trapelo Road.

Five Fire Department personnel retired this year.

The Department took delivery of a new Engine in April of this year. It will operate as Engine 1.



***The Fire Department's new "Engine 1" made its debut at the Memorial Day Parade in 2003.***

The Fire Station Consolidation Committee completed its work of finding two suitable sites to locate the new fire stations. A Fire Station Building Committee was appointed and funds were appropriated to do schematic designs for the two new stations. The firm of Donham & Sweeney was contracted to do this design phase.

I wish to express my appreciation to the Selectmen, Town Administrator, department managers, Fire Station Consolidation Committee and the Officers and Firefighters of the Belmont Fire Department for their support, cooperation and assistance in 2003.

### ROSTER OF THE FIRE DEPARTMENT

#### CHIEF

William H. Osterhaus

#### ASSISTANT CHIEF

David L. Frizzell (EMT)

#### FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU

Captain David DeMarco (EMT)

#### FIRE PREVENTION/TRAINING OFFICER

Lieutenant John A. Penta

#### ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Maria A. DeMilia

#### CAPTAINS

Edward A. Davison (EMT) Michael P. McCabe (EMT) John J. Mooney (EMT) John A. Pizzi (EMT)

#### LIEUTENANTS

Agostino D. Azzone (EMT) Geoffrey Harvey (EMT) Edward R. Corsino Jr. (EMT) Stephen C. Hodgson  
Joseph C. Crine Jr. Richard Nohl (EMT) John Forte (EMT) John A. Spuria Kenneth Gardiner, Jr. (EMT)  
Scott Spuria (EMT) Wayne Haley (EMT) Stephen Wilcinski (EMT)

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#### FIREFIGHTERS

David Alesse (EMT) James P. Algeri Joseph Baptista (EMT) Thomas Biondo (EMT) Michael J. Coates  
Scott D'Entremont (EMT) Elijah Debnam (EMT) Jeffrey Deeley (EMT) Christopher Drinan (EMT)  
Ace Elefteriadis Charles H. Foote III (EMT) Robert A. Fowler Jr. (EMT) Ronald P. Gaudet Ronald P. Gomes  
Andrew Goneau (EMT) Dana R. Harrington (EMT) Joseph J. Holleran Anthony D. Lynch (EMT)  
Dennis Maher (EMT) Joseph D. McDonald Richard J. O'Brien (EMT) Michael Pagliocca (EMT)  
Michael D. Reilly (EMT) Steven Reilly (EMT) Laurent Roy (EMT) Sean Ryan (EMT) Daniel P. Scannell (EMT)

Andrew Tobio (EMT) Christian Tocci (EMT) David Toomey (EMT) Ross Vona (EMT) Steven Whalen (EMT)  
 Walter D. Wellman 3 Vacant Firefighter positions

**Appointments**

Ace Elefteraidis, Andrew Tobio, appointed March 4, 2003. On September 29, 2003 Scott D’Entremont, Timothy DeFillipo, Mark Westcott were hired from the Civil Service Lay-off list. They were previously employed by the Lynn Fire Department.

**Retirements/Resignations**

Lieutenant Joseph Venuti, Lieutenant John C. Madden, Lieutenant John A. Bella, Fire Fighter Aubrey (Buddy) Wheaton and Captain Thomas F. Deeley all retired this year. Fire Fighter Mark Wescott and Fire Fighter Tim DeFillipo both resigned and returned to the City of Lynn.

We wish all of them the best.

**Apparatus Presently Operated by the Fire Department**

Engine 1	2003 Emergency One 1250-GPM Class A Pumper	Waverley
Engine 2	1988 Emergency One 1250- GPM Class A Pumper	Headquarters
Engine 3	1986 Emergency One 1250-GPM Class A Pumper (reserve)	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	2004 Ford Expedition	Headquarters
Car 4	1999 Chevorlet Tahoe	Headquarters
Car 5	1996 Ford Explorer	Headquarters

**Fire Alarm Record**

1995: 2,829 Calls	1997: 2,912 Calls	1999: 2,989 Calls	2001: 3,220 Calls
1996: 2,945 Calls	1998: 2,988 Calls	2000: 2,885 Calls	2002: 2,952 Calls

The Fire department responded to **2,987** calls during 2003.

These calls are divided as follows:

Box Alarms	474
Still Alarms	2,513

The total number of fires and incidents responded to in 2003 are as follows:

Structure Fires	161
Working Fire	6
Second Alarm	4
Third Alarm	1
Outside Fires	14
Refuse Fires	4
Vehicle Fires	6
Fire/Explosion/Other	3
Motor Vehicle Extrication	5
Carbon Monoxide Activation	22
Spill, Leak, No Ignition	87
Hazardous Electrical Equipment	57
Over Pressure or Rupture	1
Bomb Scare	3
Hazardous Materials Conditions –	16
Other	

Smoke Scare	53
Good Intent Calls	235
System Malfunction	240
Unintentional Alarms	193
False Other	10
Malicious False	20
Service Calls	90
Water Calls	55
Assist Police Department	9
Mutual Aid Give Out of Town	22
Mutual Aid Received into the Town	80

### Fire Prevention Bureau

The Fire Prevention Bureau, located at Fire Headquarters, is currently under the direction of Captain David J. DeMarco. The 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 chapter 148 and Massachusetts Fire Prevention Regulations 527 CMR.

The Fire Prevention Office 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. The Department has been able to supplement this award with gifts from local businesses. The program will try to maintain the Belmont Fire Department's presence in the classrooms of the Belmont Public Schools. A major emphasis on early fire prevention education is put forth to each student. 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	= \$35,586,000.00
Total of Property Losses in incidents	= \$ 2,016,000.00
Total of Property Saved in Incidents	= \$33,570,000.00

### Permits Issued

Smoke Detectors	307
Above/Underground tank removal/Install	66
Oil Burner Alterations	74
Storage of Flammable Gas	12
Tank Truck	8
Fire Protection or Suppression Systems	1
Building Permit Plan Review	85
Welding	12
Sprinkler System Shutdown	6
Blasting	0
Flammable Liquids	8

**Inspections**

Smoke Detector	307
Above/Underground Tank Install/Remove	66
Oil Burner Alterations	30
Tank Truck	8
Fire Protection/Suppression Systems	1
In-service Inspections	224
School Fire Drills	60

**BELMONT FIRE EMS REPORT**

Total Number of Medical Runs For 2003	1,595
Total Number of Transports	1,096
Number of BLS Transports	725
ALS Transports with Belmont FD	371
Miscellaneous EMS non-transports	481
Mutual Aid Given	328
Mutual Aid Received	167
Patient Defibrillation	10

The Belmont Fire Department has a total staffing of 39 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,  
Captain David J. DeMarco, EMS Coordinator

**Training Division**

The Assistant Fire Prevention/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 many training programs: Emergency

Response to Terrorism, Confined Space Entry, 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.

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

All members are CPR and First Responder trained, 39 members are EMTs, and most are also Defibrillator certified.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lieutenant John A. Penta, Assistant Fire Prevention/Training Officer

### **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 Haz Mat 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 that we bring our fire suppression staffing levels up to 12 men on duty at all times. I also 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