

# FIRE DEPARTMENT

The Fire Department has had a very busy year. Chief William H. Osterhaus retired after a little over seven years as Chief. The new administration looks forward to another very busy year in 2005 with new firefighter hires and station construction.

The Town passed a debt exclusion for the purpose of building two new fire stations. The Department has worked closely with the building committee on the design of the building. The project went out to bid at the end of 2004. Bids are expected early in 2005 with a start of construction in the spring of 2005.

I wish to express my appreciation to the Board of Selectmen, the Town Administrator, Department Managers, the Fire Station Building Committee and the Officers and Firefighters of the Belmont Fire Department for their support, cooperation and assistance during 2004.

## ROSTER OF THE FIRE DEPARTMENT

### CHIEF

David L. Frizzell (EMT)

### ASSISTANT CHIEF

Edward Angus Davison (EMT)

### FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU

Captain Wayne Haley (EMT)

### ASSISTANT FIRE PREVENTION/TRAINING OFFICER

Lieutenant John A. Penta

### ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Vacant

### CAPTAINS

Edward A. Davison (EMT)

Michael P. McCabe (EMT)

John J. Mooney (EMT)

John A. Pizzi (EMT)

### LIEUTENANTS

Agostino D. Azzone (EMT)  
Edward R. Corsino Jr. (EMT)  
Joseph C. Crine Jr.  
John Forte (EMT)

Kenneth Gardiner, Jr. (EMT)  
Wayne Haley (EMT)  
Geoffrey Harvey (EMT)  
Stephen C. Hodgon

Richard Nohl (EMT)  
John A. Spuria  
Scott Spuria (EMT)  
Stephen Wilcinski (EMT)

### 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  
Vacant  
Vacant  
Vacant

### Appointments

On March 25, 2004 Brian Campana was appointed as a Firefighter.

On March 25, 2004 Christopher Hadge was appointed as a Firefighter.

On March 25, 2004 Brian Corsino was appointed as a Firefighter.

On March 25, 2004 Thomas Deneen was appointed as a Firefighter.

On October 10, 2004 Firefighter Tracy Mullen was appointed to the Belmont Fire Department after being laid off from the Arlington Fire Department.

November 8, 2004 Shaun Campana was appointed as a Firefighter.

### Retirements/Resignations

On January 20, 2004 Firefighter Danna Harrington resigned with 10 years of service to the Department.

On June 5, 2004 Chief William Osterhaus retired with 32 years of service to the Department.

On October 7, 2004 Firefighter Ronald Gomes retired with 30 years of service to the Department.  
 On November 16, 2004 Administrative Assistant Maria DeMilia resigned with over 22 years of service to the Town and over 14 years of service to the Department.

**Promotions**

On June 6, 2004 Assistant Chief David L. Frizzell was appointed Acting Chief of Department.  
 On June 28, 2004 Acting Chief David L. Frizzell was promoted to Chief of Department.  
 On July 27, 2004 Captain Edward Angus Davison was promoted to the rank of Assistant Chief.  
 On September 20, 2004 Lieutenant Wayne Haley was appointed to the rank of Captain.  
 On September 22, 2004 Firefighter Daniel P. Scannell was appointed to the rank of Lieutenant.

**Apparatus Presently Operated by the Fire Department**

		<b>Location</b>
Engine 1	2003 Emergency One 1250 GPM Class A Pumper	Waverley
Engine 2	1988 Emergency One 1250 GPM Class A Pumper	Headquarters
Engine 3 (Reserve)	1986 Emergency One 1250 GPM Class A Pumper	Waverley
Ladder 1	1999 Emergency One 110' Aerial Ladder	Harvard Lawn
Ladder 2 (Reserve)	1979 Seagrave 100' Aerial Ladder	Waverley
Rescue 1	2002 International/AEV Type 1 Ambulance	Headquarters
Trailer	For 16' Boat	Waverley
Tech Rescue	18' Cargo trailer for Technical Rescue purchased 2004	Harvard Lawn
Car 1	2000 Ford Crown Victoria –Chief's Vehicle	Headquarters
Car 2	1998 Ford Explorer- Assistant Chief's Vehicle	Headquarters
Car 3	2004 Expedition – Shift Commander's Vehicle	Headquarters
Car 4	1999 Chevrolet Tahoe- Fire Prevention Vehicle	Headquarters
Car 5	1996 Ford Explorer – Fire Prevention/Training Vehicle	Headquarters
<i>Note: Reserve apparatus not staffed</i>		

**Fire Alarm Record**

1996 – 2945 Calls	2000 – 2885 Calls
1997 – 2912 Calls	2001 – 3220 Calls
1998 – 2988 Calls	2002 – 2952 Calls
1999 – 2989 Calls	2003 – 2987 Calls

The Fire department responded to **3000** calls during 2004.

These calls are divided as follows;

Box Alarms	474
Still Alarms	2,526

A sample of fires and incidents responded to in 2004 are as follows;

Structure Fires.....	158
Working Fire.....	4
Second Alarm.....	1
Third Alarm.....	1
Outside Fires.....	9
Refuse Fires.....	4
Vehicle Fires.....	10
Fire/Explosion/Other.....	5
Motor Vehicle Extrication.....	4
Carbon Monoxide Activation.....	21
Spill, Leak, No Ignition.....	98
Hazardous Electrical Equipment.....	60
Over Pressure or Rupture.....	1
Bomb Scare.....	3
Hazardous Materials Conditions – Other.....	23
Smoke Scare.....	55
Good Intent Calls.....	289
System Malfunction.....	248
Unintentional Alarms.....	191
False Other.....	1
Malicious False.....	17
Service Calls.....	117
Water Calls.....	85
Assist Police Department.....	9
Mutual Aid Give Out of Town.....	37
Mutual Aid Received into the Town.....	25

### **Fire Prevention Bureau**

The Fire Prevention Bureau, located at Fire Headquarters, is currently under the direction of Captain Wayne L. Haley who joined the bureau in September of 2004. 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 Fire 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 Mass. General Law Chapter 148 and Massachusetts Fire Prevention Regulations 527 CMR.

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 Loss Analysis:**

Total estimation of Property Losses of incidents = \$568,550

### **Permits Issued**

Smoke Detectors.....	390
Above/Underground tank removal/Install.....	54
Oil Burner Alterations.....	74
Storage of Flammable Gas.....	12
Tank Truck.....	53
Fire Protection or Suppression Systems.....	20
Building Permit Plan Review.....	102
Welding.....	25
Sprinkler System Shutdown.....	4
Blasting.....	0
Flammable Liquids.....	3

**Inspections**

Smoke Detector.....	390	
Above/Underground Tank Install/Remove .....	54	
Oil Burner Alterations .....	30	
Tank Truck .....	53	
Fire Protection/Suppression Systems .....	20	
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 .....	30	

Respectfully Submitted,  
 Captain Wayne L. Haley, Fire Prevention Officer

**Belmont Fire EMS Report**

Total Number of Medical Runs for 2004 .....	1538
Total Number of Transports .....	959
Number of BLS Transports .....	594
ALS Transports with the Belmont FD.....	365
Miscellaneous EMS non-transports .....	419
Mutual Aid Medical Given .....	255
Mutual Aid Medical Received.....	124
Patient Defibrillation .....	7

The Belmont Fire Department has a total staffing of 43 Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT's) and 10 First Responders. Recertification 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. Each First Responder must participate in a 24 hour Refresher Course every three years.

In accordance with approval by the Department of Public Health (DPH) Office of Emergency Medical Services (OEMS), and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), fire apparatus have been reclassified to transport up to six different medications. A memorandum of agreement between the Fire Department, Mount Auburn Hospital and Region IV attests that Fire Department EMT's have been trained to administer these medications as well as to defibrillate adult and pediatric patients when necessary.

The Belmont Fire Department stands as the first Fire Department in the Metropolitan Boston area to have received Albuterol and Pediatric defibrillation training. EMS responders are further trained and certified as American Heart Association (AHA) Basic Life Support, Healthcare Providers. Training and recertification for CPR and defibrillation occurs bi-annually. The Emergency Services Manual has been updated and modernized by the Belmont Fire Department to include all laws and regulations relative to EMS services provided within the Town. The Belmont Fire Department has been named as the lead agency in charge of EMS and Firefighter/Emergency Medical Services are considered to be 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 quality of service to our town. As a service to the public, members of the Belmont Fire Department instructed many courses in CPR, Choke saving, Public Access Defibrillation, Vial of Life as well as First Aid training to the citizens of Belmont.

Further, the Belmont Fire Department works closely with the DPH, OEMS, FDA, Metropolitan Boston Emergency Medical Services Consortium, and South Middlesex Emergency Medical Services in order to assure full compliance with all laws, regulations and ordinances applicable to emergency medical care pursuant to the standard of care set forth within the Commonwealth.

Respectfully Submitted,  
 Captain David J. DeMarco, EMS Coordinator

**Training Division**

The Training Officer works in conjunction with the Chief of Department David L. Frizzell, 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.

As the Training Officer, additional responsibilities include, equipment maintenance, selection and organization of fire department training booklets and materials, 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.

During 2004 the members of the Belmont Fire Department performed training in the following areas: MBTA Bus Training, Fire Engine Pump Operations, Hazardous Materials-First Responder Operational, Driver Training, Ladder Truck training, Airbag Training, "Jaws of Life" rescue equipment, Conrail Operations, Flammable Gas Fires, Protective Breathing Search and Rescue, Thermal Imaging Camera training in addition to in service training.

During this past year the Fire Department was able to perform live training evolutions at two locations in town, thanks in part to the owners of the property.

In 2004 the Department received a generous \$50,000 donation that has been used to equip the department with a trailer, equipment and professional training in confined space/collapse rescue. This "special operations" equipment will allow the Fire Department to begin rescue operations quicker now that we have the special equipment that was previously only available through a neighboring community.

All members are CPR and First Responder trained and certified, 42 members are Emergency Medical Technicians and most are also Defibrillator certified.

In 2004 the department hired 5 new recruits and hired 1 firefighter that had been laid off by the Town of Arlington. These members either have or will soon attend an extensive 11-week recruit-training program at the Massachusetts Academy. When members graduate the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy they have been trained to a National Standard level of Firefighter I/II.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Lieutenant John A. Penta, Training/ Assistant Fire Prevention 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 a minimum of 12 firefighters on duty at all times.

I recommend that our Capital Budget needs be addressed and the most critical need of a new pumper, to replace the 1988 pumper, be funded.

Respectfully submitted,  
David L. Frizzell, Chief of Department