

FIRE DEPARTMENT

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 continued support, cooperation and assistance during 2007. The Fire Department has now settled in to our new stations have continued to work on completing punch list and warranty items. The Fire Department, after receiving preliminary approval from The Board of Selectmen, has embarked on an endeavor to provide Advanced Life Support (ALS) to the Residents of the Town using its own forces.

ROSTER OF THE FIRE DEPARTMENT

CHIEF

David L. Frizzell (EMT)

ASSISTANT CHIEF

Edward Angus Davison (EMT)

FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU

Captain John A. Pizzi (EMT)

ASSISTANT FIRE PREVENTION/TRAINING OFFICER

Lieutenant Stephen Hodgdon

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Kimberly A. Haley

PART TIME ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY

Wendy McDonald

CAPTAINS

David J. DeMarco (EMT), Kenneth Gardiner, Jr. (EMT), Wayne L. Haley (EMT), John J. Mooney (EMT)

LIEUTENANTS

Agostino D. Azzone (EMT), Edward R. Corsino, Jr. (EMT), John Forte (EMT), Geoffrey Harvey (EMT), Stephen C. Hodgdon, Richard Nohl (EMT), Laurent Roy (EMT), Daniel Scannell (EMT), Scott Spuria (EMT), Andrew Tobio (EMT), Steven Whalen (EMT), Stephen Wilcinski (EMT)

FIREFIGHTERS

David Alesse (EMT), Joseph Baptista (EMT), Gerard M. Benoit (EMT), Thomas Biondo (EMT), Brian Campana (EMT), Shaun Campana (EMT), Michael J. Coates, Brian Corsino (EMT), Jason P. Corsino (EMT), Scott D'Entremont (EMT), Elijah Debnam (EMT), Thomas Deneen (EMT), Christopher Drinan (EMT), Ace Elefteriadis (EMT), Charles H. Foote III (EMT), Robert A. Fowler, Jr. (EMT), Ronald P. Gaudet, Andrew Goneau (EMT), Christopher Hadge (EMT), Dana Harrington, Joseph J. Holleran, William A. Kaufman (EMT), Anthony D. Lynch (EMT), John D. MacDonald (EMT), Dennis Maher (EMT), Tracy Mullen (EMT), Richard J. O'Brien, Michael D. Reilly (EMT), Steven Reilly (EMT), Sean Ryan (EMT), Christian Tocci (EMT), David Toomey (EMT), Ross Vona (EMT), Robert K. Wollner (EMT)

Appointments

On September 18, 2007, Dana Harrington was reinstated as a Firefighter. We welcome Firefighter Harrington back to the Department.

Retirements/Resignations

The following retirements occurred during 2007. The combined service to the Town was 120 ½ years. We wish them a happy and healthy retirement.

On January 31, 2007 Lieutenant John Penta retired with 33 years of service.

On August 24, 2007 Captain Michael McCabe retired with 32 years of service.

On October 5, 2007 Lieutenant Joseph Crine retired with 27 years of service.

On November 30, 2007 Firefighter Joseph McDonald retired with 28 ½ years of service.

Promotions

On March 19, 2007 Firefighter Steven Whalen was promoted to the rank of Fire Lieutenant.

On August 26, 2007 Firefighter Andrew Tobio was promoted to the rank of Fire Lieutenant.

On September 25, 2007, Lieutenant Kenneth Gardiner, Jr. was promoted to the rank of Fire Captain.

Apparatus Presently Operated by the Fire Department

		Location
Engine 1	2003 Emergency One 1250 GPM Class A Pumper	Headquarters
Engine 2	2005 Emergency One 1250 GPM Class A Pumper	Station 2
Engine 3 (Reserve)	1986 Emergency One 1250 GPM Class A Pumper	Headquarters
Engine 4 (Reserve)	1988 Emergency One 1250 GPM Class A Pumper	Station 2
Ladder 1	1999 Emergency One 110' Aerial Ladder	Station 2
Rescue 1	2007 Horton Rescue 555C Type 1 Ambulance	Headquarters
Rescue 2	2002 International/AEV Type 1 Ambulance	Headquarters
Trailer	For 16' Boat	Station 2
Tech Rescue	18' Cargo Trailer for Technical Rescue	Headquarters
Car 1	2007 Ford Expedition– Chief's Vehicle	Headquarters
Car 2	2007 Ford Explorer – Assistant Chief's Vehicle	Headquarters
Car 3	2004 Ford Expedition – Shift Commander's Vehicle	Headquarters
Car 4	2000 Ford Crown Victoria – Fire Prevention Vehicle	Headquarters
Car 5	1998 Ford Explorer – Fire Prevention/Training Vehicle	Headquarters
<i>Note: Reserve apparatus not staffed</i>		

Fire Alarm Record

1999 – 2989 Calls	2003 – 2987 Calls
2000 – 2885 Calls	2004 – 3000 Calls
2001 – 3220 Calls	2005 – 3143 Calls
2002 – 2952 Calls	2006 – 3054 Calls
The Fire Department responded to 3143 calls during 2007.	

These calls are divided as follows;

A sample of fires and incidents responded to in 2007 are as follows;

Structure Fires	121
Working Fires.....	4
Second Alarm	1
Third Alarm	0
Fourth Alarm	0
Outside Fires	31
Refuse Fires	6
Vehicles Fires	3
Fire/Explosion/Other	1
Motor Vehicle Extrication	4
Carbon Monoxide Activation.....	64
Spill, Leak, No Ignition	70
Hazardous Electrical Equipment	61
Over Pressure or Rupture	5
Bomb Scare	4
Hazardous Materials Conditions – Other.....	11
Smoke Scare	68
Good Intent Calls	226
System Malfunction	236
Unintentional Alarms.....	126
Malicious False	41

Service Calls	107
Water Calls	70
Assist Police Department	18
Mutual Aid Given Out of Town.....	32
Mutual Aid Received into the Town	79

Fire Prevention Bureau

The Fire Prevention Bureau (FPB), located at Fire Headquarters, is currently under the direction of Captain John A. Pizzi who is supported by a part-time administrative assistant, Wendy McDonald. The Fire Prevention Bureau provides a systematic inspection program of business and commercial establishments, schools, institutions, residential properties, etc., that are inspected for the purpose of removing hazards, correcting conditions, and ensuring compliance with all laws, ordinances, rules and regulations under the jurisdiction of the Belmont Fire Department.

The Bureau's new accommodations have optimized efficiency and operational effectiveness, streamlining procedures and access to records. The new office facilitates effortless planning consultations with permit applicants and meaningful interchanges with residents who stop by with inquiries. Townspeople, professionals, businessmen, and contractors all feel welcome in the new quarters.

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 FPB enacted an aggressive education and compliance campaign regarding the new carbon monoxide law and regulation. Additional mandates to the regulation for 2007-2008 include occupancies outside of residential dwellings. This was a major undertaking for the department. 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 the Fire Prevention Bureau attend the Fire Prevention Association of Massachusetts (FPAM) and New England Association of Fire Marshals (NEAFM) monthly meetings and seminars. In addition to FPAM, the FPB works in conjunction with the Office of the State Fire Marshal, Department of Fire Services, to obtain the latest information for implementation and enforcement of Massachusetts General Law Chapter 148, Massachusetts Fire Prevention Regulations 527 CMR, and Fire Protection sections of the State Building Code 780 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 Saved & Loss Analysis:

Total value of Property involved in incidents	= \$7,621,601
Total of Property Losses in incidents	= \$ 649,211
Total of Property Saved in Incidents	= \$6,972,390

Permits Issued

General	12
Blasting	5
Building Permit Plan Review/Permit to Proceed	70
Propane Use/Storage	15
Smoke Detector (26F)	321
Oil Burner/Tank Installation	105
Tank Truck (FP44)	1
Tank Removal	79
Underground Storage Tank (FP290 Part 3)	13
Cutting and Welding	5
Fire Alarm Contractors Permit	1

Inspections

Smoke Detectors	309
Above/Underground Tank Removal/Install	90

Tank Truck	3	
McLean	28	and 12 Fire Drills
Public and Private Schools	50	and 100 Fire Drills
Nursery Schools, Pre-schools, Day Care Ctrs	40	
"Red Tag" Equipment Systems	110	
Restaurants / Liquor Licenses	8	
Assembly	26	
Other (Nursing Home, Lodging Houses)	18	

Respectfully submitted,
 Captain John A. Pizzi, Fire Prevention Bureau

Belmont Fire EMS Report

Total Number of Ambulance Responses	1,612 (Medical and Non-Medical Responses)
Total Number of Transports	1,276 (1,173 BFD, 147 WFD and Private BLS)
BLS Transports	50%
ALS Transports	46%
Private BLS Transports	4%
Mutual Aid Given	304
Mutual Aid Received	103
Patient Defibrillation	8

The Belmont Fire Department has a total staffing of 47 Emergency Medical Technicians and 7 First Responders. Recertification requires that each Emergency Medical Technician participate in a minimum of 28 Continuing Education and 24 Refresher Course hours for a combined total of 52 hours every two years. As a ruling by the Chief of the Department, each First Responder must participate in Department Emergency Medical Technician training in order to recertify every two years. Each Fire Department Emergency Medical Services responder has been trained and certified in the new Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation and Automated External Defibrillation pursuant to the guidelines set forth by the American Heart Association relating to Basic Life Support for Healthcare Providers. Recertification and training occur every year.

At the approval of the Department of Public Health (DPH), Office of Emergency Medical Services and the Food and Drug Administration, Belmont fire apparatus are classified to transport up to six different medications. Fire Department Emergency Medical Service providers have been trained to administer these medications as well as to administer the Mark 1 Kit in the event of a terrorist action.

The Belmont Fire Department stands as one of the first Fire Departments in the Metropolitan Boston area to have received Albuterol, Mark 1, Glucometer and Pediatric defibrillator training. The services that are rendered by the Firefighter/EMT are valuable respective of the overall operation of the Department. The dedication to duty that EMT's and First Responders show in their day-to-day operations are commendable and serve as a testament to the quality of care and service to our community.

The Belmont Fire Department works closely with the Department of Public Health, Office of Emergency Medical Services, Metropolitan Boston EMS Council, South Middlesex Emergency Medical Services, and the Food and Drug Administration in order to assure full compliance with all laws, regulations and standards applicable to provision of Emergency Medical Services pursuant to the standard of care set forth by the Commonwealth.

Respectfully submitted,
 Captain David J. DeMarco, EMT IC, 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.

The training Officers 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 2007 the members of the Belmont Fire Department performed training in the following areas: Harassment Awareness Training; Seat-belt use and Traffic Rules pertaining to the Fire Department; Incident Command System (ICS 100 and 700); School Response Training (STARS); Incident Command System 200; New Rescue Orientation and Training; Driver Training with the new Rescue; New Zoll AED Orientation and Training; Pumping Operations at the McLean facility (offered by the Fire Prevention Bureau); ICS 300 parts 1 and 2; Structural Hazards Training; Firefighter Search and Rescue; Thermal Imaging Training; Forcible Entry Training (specifically hand and mechanical tools); Elevator training.

Currently, all members of the Department are trained and certified in CPR and AED use by the American Heart Association. Forty-seven members of the Department are Emergency Medical Technicians. CPR, AED and First Responder recertification training occurs annually and EMT recertification training is hosted by the Department biennially.

Respectfully submitted,
Lieutenant Stephen C. Hodgdon, Training Officer/ Assistant Fire Prevention Officer

Metro Fire

The Fire Departments of 34 greater Boston communities and Massport, with the support and approval of their local governments comprise the Metro Fire District 13 Association. Metro Fire membership increased this year with the addition of the Town of Randolph.

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 that 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 one member from the Department, Lieutenant Edward R. Corsino, Jr., on the Metro-Fire HazMat team. His 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

That the Town authorize and support the Fire Department to increase its Emergency Medical Service from a Basic Level to an Advanced Life Support Level (ALS or Paramedic).

That the Town continue to support Department in its Capital and Operational needs to protect the citizens of the Town as the requests for services is expected to increase with the commencement of development at McLean Hospital and the future development of the Uplands.

That the Selectmen and Warrant Committee explore the potential of a Regional Fire Department (including dispatch functions) with neighboring communities as a way to increase the protection and enhance the delivery of Fire and EMS services to the Town.

Respectfully submitted,
David L. Frizzell
Chief of Department