

## FIRE DEPARTMENT

The Department welcomed the addition of Firefighter/Paramedic David Russo, who became Norfolk's first recruit to attend the Massachusetts Fire Academy's 12 week Recruit Training Program, graduating in September, 2006. Prior to utilizing the Academy for recruit training, the Department relied upon limited fiscal and staffing resources to fulfill firefighter training requirements. Firefighter/Paramedic Russo's hiring leaves the Department one paramedic away from complying with the State's Licensure for Advanced Life Support (ALS). This final paramedic hire has been funded for the upcoming year. During the first two years the Department provided ALS to the community, 103 patients with severe and potentially life threatening medical conditions received pre-hospital in-the-field care resulting in a positive patient outcomes.

Also the Department congratulates Firefighters Richard Clancy, Mark Haigh and George Bent for completing their paramedic certification training. Furthermore, the Department looks forward to Firefighter Jamie Masterson's completion of his paramedic certification during the year.

Completing the activities funded through a Homeland Security Grant, by the United States Fire Administration, the Department now has 9 staff certified as Fire Inspectors as recognized by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. During the past year firefighters have been inspecting commercial buildings within the community for unobstructed emergency exits, proper operation of fire alarms and sprinkler systems, illuminated exit signage and emergency lighting along with proper use and storage of flammable/combustible liquids. These inspections were conducted by the on-duty shifts thereby ensuring their familiarity with commercial buildings.

A total of 793 fire inspections were performed during the year by the on-duty staff. These inspections included 128 Permits issued for residential re-sale documenting operational smoke and carbon monoxide detectors; 115 commercial buildings; and 110 Permits for new fire alarms installed in buildings. The remaining

inspections included Permits for LPG storage, new oil burner installations, oil tank removals/installations and tank/transfer truck inspections. All of the inspections are required to be performed by the Fire Department as regulated through Massachusetts General Laws.

Work continues with the Director of Public Works, Permanent Building Committee and Town Officials to provide an implementation format for building or renovating space related to all phases of the Public Safety Complex's administration and operations. We remain hopeful this planning may come to fruition during the next year to relieve overcrowding, improve employee safety and enhance the delivery of service to the community.

Excellent weather contributed to what firefighters noted to be one of the largest community turnouts for the Annual Open House, which was highlighted by a live fire demonstration where a burning vehicle was extinguished by fire personnel. Virtually all fire prevention education materials were distributed and refreshments consumed prior to the conclusion of the event. This day continued as firefighters donned Halloween costumes for the Lion's Club Annual Haunted Train Ride. A day of preparation by firefighters ensured the evening's annual Senior Dinner, featuring the magic of Magic Dave and music by members of the King Philip High School band, to delight of the near capacity crowd at the Federated Church, was again a success. The dedication of Town Hill had firefighters serving hot dogs and hamburgers along with a display of emergency apparatus. Again, the Department ensured Santa arrived at the Town's Library at the conclusion of the annual Santa Parade. Firefighters also continue to provide fire safety presentations to community groups and within the schools, install child safety seats for residents and conduct CPR and AED training.

The Department continues to be fortunate to receive wide spread support from the community supplementing the municipal budget. During the year Lampasona Concrete donated funds to replace Ladder 1's ladder pipe and assisted with the

upgrade of the Department's hose inventory. Also the Norfolk Community League (NCL) graciously contributed to the Department's Heart Safe Community effort providing funding for the installation of an AED at the Freeman/Centennial School along with training for school staff. Finally, NCL also provided funding for supplemental emergency equipment used during storms, such as lighting, pumps and associated hand tools.

Statistically, the Department responded to 1,246 emergent incidents, a 13% increase from 2005, with calls for emergency medical assistance, such as difficulty breathing, cardiac conditions or trauma from accidents, representing approximately 60% of this call volume. During the year the Heart Safe Community program was responsible for the revival of a person who experienced a heart attack at Fore Kicks. Having an AED at this facility, combined with the administration of ALS found the patient conscious and talking with firefighters arriving at the hospital for emergency heart surgery. A tragic drowning occurred on Populatic Lake resulting in two days of rescue and recovery operations with multiple mutual aid companies assisting. Also a Creek Drive residence was heavily damaged by fire involving a portable frying cooker being used on the rear deck. Multiple mutual aid companies assisted. A year in review of major incidents follows:

#### **Major Fire/Incident Review – 2006**

1-14 – Rockwood Road, 275 gals. oil spill within a basement, DEP responded

1-17 – Miller Street, motor vehicle accident with extrication. Patient transported by Norfolk paramedics to Level I Trauma Center, Boston

1-18 – snowstorm – 11 calls for motor vehicle accidents, medicals and smoke investigations

2-17 – Main Street, building fire caused by arcing wires at the electrical service caused by high winds, minor damage to the dwelling

2-23 – Mutual Aid to Millis, Ann & Hope, 2<sup>nd</sup> alarm fire. Engine 1 crew assisted with overhaul

2-25 – Mutual Aid to Franklin, Grove Street, working fire, Engine 1 assisted at scene

2-26 – Long Meadow Road – standby for METROLEC & Police for possibly armed person barricaded in house. Ambulance transported person after Police apprehension

3-4 – Mutual Aid to Franklin, Washington Street, working fire, Engine 1 assisted at scene

3-6 – Lake Street, garage fire, exterior of building damaged. Mutual aid provided by Millis and Wrentham to scene

3-10/11 – Harlow Avenue, drowning and recovery. Mutual aid provided by Medway, Millis, Walpole and Wrentham Fire Departments. Dive team assistance provided by North Attleboro Fire Department and Fire District 14

3-22 – MCI-Norfolk, fire in the high security cell block. One inmate transported by Wrentham ambulance for smoke inhalation. Mutual aid provided by Walpole and Wrentham.

3-25 – Mutual Aid to Wrentham, Capstan Atlantic, roof fire. Engine 1 crew assigned to roof

4-10 – Mutual Aid to Millis, Norfolk Road, woods fire. Tank 1 and Squad 4 used to extinguish fire

4-13 – Mutual Aid to Wrentham, Thurston Street, brush fire, Squad 4 assisted at scene

4-14 – Mutual Aid to Wrentham, West Street, brush fire, Squad 4 assisted at scene

5-1 – Mutual Aid to Milton, Tank 1 requested by State Forestry for a forest fire

5-1 – Mutual Aid to Norwood, Short Street, 3<sup>rd</sup> alarm fire. Engine 1 laid a supply line and supplied Canton Ladder 1 and deck gun.

5-9 – Main & Needham Streets, motor vehicle accident with extrication. Patient transported by Norfolk paramedics to Level I Trauma Center, Providence

5-27 – Long Meadow Road, structure fire, rear deck heavily damaged

6-1 – Storm – 12 emergency calls for wires down/burning, buildings struck by lightning

6-8 – Storm – resulting in flooding conditions, responded to 7 water emergency calls

7-14 – Mutual Aid to Foxboro, 4<sup>th</sup> alarm fire at the former State Hospital. Engine 1 laid supply line providing water to Canton Ladder 1 and, Plainville Ladder 1 for 3 hours

7-15 – MCI-Norfolk, pedestrian struck, patient flown by Medflight to Level I Trauma Center, Boston. Mutual aid provided by Walpole

7-17 – Pondville Corrections, LPG leak, prison and office complex evacuated. Mutual aid provided by Franklin, Foxboro, Medfield, Medway, Millis, Walpole and Wrentham

7-28 – Storm – 15 emergency calls for wires down/burning, buildings struck by lightning

8-2 – Storm – 8 emergency calls for wires down/burning, buildings struck by lightning.

8-2 – Mutual Aid to Franklin, Highland Condominiums, 2<sup>nd</sup> alarm fire. Engine 2 first on scene, laid a supply line and crew advanced initial attack line into the fire building

8-13 – Creek Drive, working building fire, residence heavily damaged. Mutual aid provided by Medfield, Millis, Walpole and Wrentham

9-29 – Mutual Aid to Norwood, Endicott Street, 4<sup>th</sup> alarm fire. Engine 1 drafted from a fire pond supplying Canton Ladder 1 for 4 hours

10-23 – Mutual Aid to Franklin, Union Street, MBTA train accident. Provided 2 paramedic ambulances for transport of 3 patients, Engine 1 crew triaged other patients

10-28 – North Street and Fore Kicks, cardiac arrests at both locations. Patient at Fore Kicks revived with Heart Safe Community

defibrillator and paramedic intervention. Mutual aid provided by Wrentham ambulance.

10-31 – Mutual Aid to Franklin, Clark, Cutler, McDermott, 2<sup>nd</sup> alarm fire. Engine 1 laid a supply line and extinguished fire on roof

11-8 – Mutual Aid to Franklin, Chestnut Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> alarm fire. Engine 1 laid a supply line and assisted extinguishing the fire within the building

The Department continues to emphasize those cooperative working relationships with all Town Departments, Boards and Officials creates the stage for true community spirit. Again the Department is extremely grateful for the assistance provided by the Police Department and Communications Center staffs. Also we thank the Town's Electrical Inspector, Ron Bain, who is always ready to respond and assist at emergency scenes to protect firefighters and the community. Lastly we would like to thank the Department of Public Works staffs who maintain our apparatus and keep the roads cleared during storms. We reserve our most heartfelt thanks for the businesses and residents of Norfolk. Thank you for your continued support!

Respectfully submitted,

Coleman C. Bushnell  
Fire Chief

## **FIRE DEPARTMENT STAFFING**

### **FIRE CHIEF**

Coleman C. Bushnell, EMT, full time

### **DEPUTY CHIEF**

Stephen A. Wood

### **LIEUTENANTS**

Peter J. Petruchik, EMT, full time

David C. Holmes, EMT

John F. Kelley, EMT, full time

Mark R. Kantzer, EMT, full time

Douglas E. Johnston III, Paramedic, full time

### **FIREFIGHTERS**

George W. Bent, Paramedic

Darren Bycoff, EMT

Richard F. Clancy Jr., Paramedic, full time

Michael P. Findlen, Paramedic, full time

Nathan G. Fletcher, EMT

Mark W. Haigh, Paramedic, full time

Russell A. Hall, Paramedic, full time

Stephen R. Hamlin, EMT, full time

Peter S. Hildebrandt, EMT

David W. Johnston

James F. Leary

Jamie Masterson, EMT

David Russo, Jr., Paramedic, full time

Richard E. Yunker, Paramedic, full time

John C. Zajac, EMT