

## FIRE DEPARTMENT

Norfolk maintained an unprecedented demand in emergency calls for Fire Department service during the past year. For the second consecutive year, Norfolk responded to more than 1,400 incidents (total responses 1,428). This represents more than double the number of responses from twenty years ago (667 emergencies in 1989).

For the second year, tragedy shook Norfolk as a search for a missing person ended at the Charles River on Dean Street. The Department worked in cooperation with Norfolk Police, Massachusetts State Police, the regional METRO-LEC police response and multiple fire service resources over several hours. Tragically the search evolved into a recovery operation as evidence lead State Police divers to the River where the missing person was recovered. This response included resources from the Department of Fire Services (DFS) sending a mobile command and control communications unit.

Staff changes during the year had Lt./Paramedic and EMS Director, Russell Hall leaving Norfolk to pursue a career with the Holden Fire Department, where he will be responsible for implementing fire department based Advanced Life Support (ALS) services. Lt. Hall was commended for his guidance moving Norfolk's ALS program forward. Firefighter/Paramedic Charlotte Giovanella headed the list of over thirty candidates seeking to fill this vacancy. Firefighter/Paramedic Giovanella became Norfolk's first career female firefighter to graduate from the DFS Recruit Training Academy in November. Also Call-Firefighter James Leary reached retirement after many years of dedicated service to the community. The Department celebrated Firefighter Leary's service honoring him and his family at Departmental dinner. The EMS Director's position was filled through the appointment of Firefighter/Paramedic Richard Yunker. Finally given on-the-job injuries to career members, Patrick Rockett was appointed as a Provisional Firefighter/Paramedic to ensure for firefighter safety and to maintain the required number of paramedics on each shift.

Norfolk's ALS continues to SAVE LIVES. During the past year the firefighter/paramedics successfully treated 263 patients experiencing cardiac emergencies or difficulty breathing in-the-field using pre-hospital care. This year marks the five year anniversary of ALS and the Department can document 664 patients whose outcomes were changed by this level of emergency care prior to their arrival at a medical facility. Obviously without readily available ALS many of these patients would have incurred longer hospital stays or a compromise in their life styles.

Also the ALS added Constant Positive Airway Pressure (CPAP) to its life saving medical treatments. CPAP provides high flow oxygen to patients with severe breathing problems. This year CPAP accounted for saving nine lives. Norfolk also added Cardiocerebral Resuscitation (CCR) a new form of cardio pulmonary resuscitation (CPR) which emphasizes blood flow through chest compressions and oxygen delivery. Finally, the Department added CO2 monitoring to enable the paramedics to determine effectiveness of in-the-field emergency airway management treatment. Using CPAP, CCR, and CO2 monitoring Norfolk is one of only a small group of area Fire Departments certified for these ALS treatments.

Firefighter Stephen Hamlin along with Firefighter/Paramedics Doug Johnston, Mark Amiot and Rich Yunker completed a rigorous three day training conducted by Heavy Rescue, Inc., for firefighter survival and rescue, the second year Norfolk has hosted this program. Hosting the Department of Fire Services, Norfolk trained six staff in strategy and tactics using interactive computer simulation in a self contained trailer over a two day program. Also a one day "live fire" training program was conducted by members at an Everett Street dwelling slated for demolition to maintain skill levels.

Inspections performed by the Department increased slightly reflecting a hopeful upturn in the economy as reflected in the 595 conducted. Included in this total were 110 Permits issued for residential re-sale documenting operational smoke and carbon

monoxide detectors; 58 commercial buildings; and 53 Permits for new fire alarms installed in buildings. The remaining inspections included Permits for LPG storage, new oil burner installations, oil tank removals/installations, performing fire drills, plan reviews for construction and tank/transfer truck inspections. Provisions under the Massachusetts General Laws require these inspections be performed by the Department.

The Public Safety Building Committee selected Kastle Boos as the design firm for the new facility and PMA as the project manager. Plans were finalized; Fall Town Meeting overwhelming approved the project, which fell short of gaining ballot approval by 29 votes with over 3,000 residents voting. To temporarily enhance staff safety a new trailer was delivered for the on-duty shift's quarters. The trailer was also designed to provide clean locker space for the career staff. The septic system was replaced, designed to handle a new facility and the parking area provided with a temporary binder covering.

Rain could not dampen the spirits at the Department's Annual Open House. While the displays were "shoe horned" into the apparatus floor, families arrived in great numbers to meet and greet firefighters, as well as seeing equipment used by fire and police. Firefighters also participated in the annual Lions Club Halloween Haunted Train Ride manning a scare station. Tradition continued the Department's annual Senior Dinner, as uniformed active and retired firefighters served an afternoon's meal. Entertainment was provided by the Norfolk Notations, who also donated for the event. Keeping with tradition, firefighters provided the antique Ford Model T to transport Santa during the annual Santa Parade. Community fire prevention activities during the year included fire safety presentations to community groups and within the schools, along with installing car seats (66 installed during the year).

Shrinking municipal budgets require the Department to seek alternative funding for equipment. This year DiPlacido Development Corp. provided funding to replace the ventilation saw on Ladder 1. The

annual fund letter sent through Norfolk continues to fund programs, such as the Senior Holiday Dinner, Haunted Train Ride participation, high school student scholarship and Fire Station Open House. Also grant assistance from the Executive Office of Public Safety funded the Student Awareness of Fire Education (S.A.F.E.) efforts in the schools and community.

Analysis of the 1,428 incidents to which the Department responded continue to present the majority of the emergency calls are for emergency medical assistance, such as difficulty breathing, cardiac conditions or trauma from accidents, representing over 60% of this call volume. The year in review follows:

#### **Major Fire/Incident Review – 2009**

1-14 – Mutual Aid to Millis, 2<sup>nd</sup> Alarm, 18 Dyer Street. Engine 2 & Ladder 1 assisted at the scene of residential structure fire with occupant reported trapped.

1-14 – Missing Person Search, Dean Street. Mutual aid received from Wrentham, Millis, Medfield, Plainville, Dive Teams from District 14, Plymouth County, Attleboro Fire and State Police. Search ended with missing person recovered from the Charles River.

1-23 – Mutual Aid to Wrentham, Wrentham Developmental Center, dryer fire in dormitory, Engine 2 stretched a hoseline and set up a fan to exhaust smoke

1-29 – Motor Vehicle Accident Route 1A requiring the JAWS OF LIFE, Wrentham Fire provided mutual aid. A quick freeze resulted in 4 separate accidents, one of which required extrication. Three sets of hydraulic rescue tools were used to extricate a driver, who was transported ALS to Boston.

1-29 – KPJr. High, electrical fire, mutual aid received from Franklin, Foxboro, Wrentham, Plainville, Walpole and Millis. A power problem in the school resulted in several electrical heating units creating a smoke condition.

2-16 – Mutual Aid to Franklin Chestnut Street, working fire involving a garage. Engine 2 assisted at scene.

2-20 – Mutual Aid to Millis, 2<sup>nd</sup> Alarm fire, 190 Curve Street. Engine 2 & Ladder 1 responded, Ladder 1 raised aerial to roof, Engine 2 crew conducted fire overhaul.

3-25 – Mutual Aid to Franklin, working fire, Franklin Paint Company. Engine 2 responded, assisted at scene.

4-18 – Boardman Street, brush fire. Both Norfolk brush trucks and Tank 1 worked over an hour to control a woods fire.

4-28 – Grove Street, brush fire. Both Norfolk brush trucks and Tank 1 worked to control a brush fire and protecting homes. State Forestry also provided a brush truck.

5-9 – Mutual Aid to Franklin, 179 Brook Street, working fire. Engine 2 stretched two hoselines assisting in fire extinguishment.

5-24 – Mutual Aid to Walpole, 2<sup>nd</sup> Alarm fire, 4 Rainbow Pond Drive. Condominium fire involving eight units. Engine 2 pumped 70,900 gals. supplying Sharon's aerial ladder. Norfolk was on scene for 5 hours.

7-1 – Mutual Aid to Wrentham, 376 Park Street, house struck by lightning. Engine 2 connected to a Park Street hydrant.

6-30 – 67 Rockwood Road, hazardous condition. Originally reported as a fire in the bathroom, the incident became a possible hazardous incident with mutual aid provided by Millis, Wrentham and Foxboro Fire along with the District 4 Hazardous Materials Team. Incident resulted from an electrical problem in the residence.

7-7 – Mutual Aid to Norwood, 2<sup>nd</sup> Alarm fire, Dean Street. Engine 2 assigned to the roof to overhaul fire.

7-29 – Mutual Aid to Walpole, 2<sup>nd</sup> Alarm fire, 103 Center Lane. Engine 2 assisted at scene of a residential fire.

7-31 – Priscilla Avenue, provided assistance for Animal Control Officer, two residents transported by Norfolk Rescue to

Caritas/Norwood Hospital assisted by Wrentham Fire.

8-21 – Oakview Terrace, construction accident. Worker extricated from excavation and transported ALS to UMASS Medical Center.

8-22 – Mutual Aid to Wrentham, Wrentham Development Center, dryer fire. Engine 2 assisted at scene.

9-22 – Stacy Road, electrical fire outside residence. Engine 2 & Ladder 1 extinguished fire at electrical meter and outside wall.

10-15 – Mutual Aid to Norwood, 2<sup>nd</sup> Alarm. Engine 2 and Car 1 assigned to "three decker" with heavy fire.

10-19 – 51 Lawrence Street, working fire. E911 report of fire coming from residence, dog trapped. Dog rescued. Mutual aid received from Wrentham, Franklin, Millis, Foxboro, Plainville, Walpole. Fire confined to attic. Area lacks fire hydrants requiring a tanker shuttle operation.

10-30 – Mutual Aid to Franklin, working fire, 41 Stoneridge Drive. Engine 2 assisted at scene.

11-11 – Assist Norfolk Police/METROLEC, Priscilla Avenue, barricaded person. Fire units stood by during operation.

11-16 – H.O. Day School, electrical fire. School was delayed by a minor electrical fire in the student computer lab. Firefighters used several fans to remove smoke.

12-1 – Mutual Aid to Wrentham, Wrentham Developmental Center. Engine 2 requested to establish landing zone for Medflight after a construction accident at the facility.

12-13 – Federated Church, furnace fire caused smoke to enter the renovated section of the building and Church proper. Fortunately a newly installed fire alarm system averted a serious incident. As a precaution, mutual aid was immediately summoned from Wrentham (on automatic mutual aid), Millis, Foxboro and Franklin.

12-31 – Mutual to Foxboro 2<sup>nd</sup> Alarm, 234 Main Street. Ladder 1 assisted on scene with Engine 2 covering the Foxboro station. Millis Fire Department provided station coverage for Norfolk.

To achieve our goal of providing the highest quality of emergency service to the community involves teamwork. Teamwork starts with the support of our governing body, elected and appointed officials. Police Chief Charles “Chuck” Stone and his staff; Department of Public Works Director Butch Vito and his staff, particularly those who staff the Vehicle Maintenance Division; the Building Department and Electrical Inspector Ron Bain, who responds to many emergency calls, represents the core support services for the Department to meet our goal. However, every emergency call starts with the dedicated and professional Communications Center staff that dispatch and process all calls to the Public Safety Building; a special thanks recognition for your service. Finally the Department must emphasize our most heartfelt thanks are extended to the Norfolk community. 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

### **CAPTAIN**

Peter J. Petruchik, EMT, full time

### **LIEUTENANTS**

David C. Holmes, EMT  
John F. Kelley, EMT, full time  
Mark R. Kantzer, EMT, full time  
Michael P. Findlen, Paramedic, full time

## **FIREFIGHTERS**

Mark Amiot, Paramedic, full time  
Darren Bycoff, EMT  
Richard F. Clancy Jr., Paramedic, full time  
Mark W. Haigh, Paramedic  
Charlotte Giovanella, Paramedic, full time  
Stephen R. Hamlin, EMT, full time  
David W. Johnston  
Douglas E. Johnston III, Paramedic, full time  
Jamie Masterson, Paramedic, full time  
Patrick Rockett, Paramedic, provisional  
David Russo, Jr., Paramedic, full time  
Richard E. Yunker, Paramedic, full time  
John C. Zajac, EMT