

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 2009. The Fire Department, continues to work with the Advanced Life Support Study Committee on the best way to provide Advanced Life Support (ALS) to the Residents of the Town.

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), Gerard M. Benoit (EMT), Edward R. Corsino, Jr. (EMT), John Forte (EMT), Geoffrey Harvey (EMT), 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), James A. Bing (EMT), Thomas Biondo (EMT), Brian Campana (EMT), Shaun Campana (EMT), Brian Corsino (EMT), Jason P. Corsino (EMT), Scott D'Entremont, Elijah Debnam (EMT), Thomas Deneen (EMT), Christopher Drinan (EMT), Ace Elefteriadis (EMT), Charles H. Foote III (EMT), Robert A. Fowler, Jr. (EMT), Andrew Goneau (EMT), Christopher Hadge (EMT), Dana Harrington (EMT), William A. Kaufman (EMT), Anthony D. Lynch (EMT), John D. MacDonald (EMT), Michael J. Madruga (EMT), Dennis Maher (EMT), James T. McNeilly (EMT), Tracy Mullen (EMT), Richard J. O'Brien, James J. Papadinis (EMT), Michael D. Reilly, Steven Reilly (EMT), Sean Ryan (EMT), Christian Tocci (EMT), Ross Vona (EMT), Robert K. Wollner (EMT)

There were no appointments, retirements or resignations during 2009

Promotions

On July 1, 2009, Firefighter Gerard Benoit was promoted to the rank of Fire Lieutenant.

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)	2007 International/Emergency One 1000 GPM Custom 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
Boat	Inflatable Rescue Boat	Headquarters
Trailer	For Boat	Station 2
Tech Rescue	18' Cargo Trailer for Technical Rescue	Headquarters
Squad 1	1999 Ford F450 (transfer from DPW)	Headquarters
Car 1	2007 Ford Expedition— Chief's Vehicle	Headquarters

Car 2	2007 Ford Explorer – Assistant Chief’s Vehicle	Headquarters
Car 3	2009 Chevy Tahoe – Shift Commander’s Vehicle	Headquarters
Car 4	2000 Ford Crown Victoria – Fire Prevention Vehicle	Headquarters
Car 5	2004 Ford Expedition – Fire Prevention/Training Vehicle	Headquarters

Note: Reserve apparatus not staffed

Fire Alarm Record

2001 – 3220 Calls	2005 – 3143 Calls
2002 – 2952 Calls	2006 – 3054 Calls
2003 – 2987 Calls	2007 – 3143 Calls
2004 – 3000 Calls	2008 – 3140 Calls

The Fire Department responded to **3026** calls during 2009.

These calls are divided as follows;

A sample of fires and incidents responded to in 2009 are as follows;

Structure Fires.....	9	
Working Fires.....	1	
Second Alarm.....	0	
Third Alarm.....	0	
Fourth Alarm.....	0	
Outside Fires.....	13	
Refuse Fires.....	13	
Vehicles Fires.....	5	
Fire/Explosion/Other.....	1	
Motor Vehicle Extrication.....	6	
Carbon Monoxide Activation.....	60	
Spill, Leak, No Ignition.....	117	
Hazardous Electrical Equipment.....	34	
Over Pressure or Rupture.....	3	Bomb Scare- 1
Hazardous Conditions – Other.....	5	
Smoke Scare.....	31	
Good Intent Calls.....	19	
Dispatched & Cancelled Enroute.....	86	
System Malfunction.....	258	
Unintentional Alarms.....	194	
Malicious False.....	19	Service Calls-163
Water Calls.....	54	
Assist Police Department.....	24	
Mutual Aid Given Out of Town.....	284	
Mutual Aid Received into the Town.....	132	

Fire Prevention Bureau

The Fire Prevention Bureau, located at Fire Headquarters, is currently under the direction of Captain John A. Pizzi. He is supported by Lt. Stephen Hodgdon, who in addition to being in charge of the Fire Department’s training division assists in the work of the Bureau, and by Wendy McDonald, part-time Administrative Assistant.

The Fire Prevention Bureau provides a systematic inspection program of commercial establishments, schools, institutions, as well as residential occupancies. They are inspected for the purpose of removing hazards, correcting conditions, and ensuring compliance with all Massachusetts General Laws, the Code of Massachusetts Regulations, and Town By-Laws that are under the authority of the Belmont Fire Department. As part of this effort, the Bureau reviews applications and issues permits requiring that all hazardous work done in Town is in accordance with Massachusetts Fire Prevention Laws and Regulations.

Pursuant to this, the Bureau provides planning consultations to permit applicants (architects, contractors, lessees, business owners, property owners, or legal representatives) and conducts substantive conversations with residents who have general questions or specific concerns regarding fire safety.

The Fire Prevention Bureau is enacting an aggressive education and compliance campaign regarding the new Massachusetts State Building Code, Seventh Edition, Life Safety and Fire Protection Systems Chapters. This is a major undertaking for the Bureau. The Fire Prevention Bureau also compiles the information mandated by Federal law requiring notification, permitting, and site inspections of underground tanks.

The Fire Officers assigned to the Fire Prevention Bureau attend the Fire Prevention Association of Massachusetts', New England Association of Fire Marshals', and the Department of Fire Services' monthly meetings and seminars. In addition, the Fire Prevention Bureau 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 safety.

Dollar Value Saved & Loss Analysis:

Total value of Property involved in incidents	= \$2,163,500
Total of Property Losses in incidents	= \$37,200
Total of Property Saved in Incidents	= \$2,126,300

Permits Issued

General	35
Blasting	0
Building Permit Plan Review/Permit to Proceed	58
Propane Use/Storage	14
Smoke Detector (26F)	282
Oil Burner/Tank Installation	73
Tank Truck (FP44)	8
Tank Removal	67
Underground Storage Tank (FP290 Part 3)	21
Cutting and Welding	12
Fire Alarm Contractors Permit	7

Inspections

Smoke Detectors	282
Above/Underground Tank Removal/Install	21
Tank Truck	8
McLean	38 And 8 Fire Drills
Public and Private Schools	65 and 106 Fire Drills
Nursery Schools, Pre-schools, Day Care Ctrs	15 and 16 Fire Drills
"Red Tag" Equipment Systems	43
Restaurants / Liquor Licenses	13
Assembly	29
Other (Nursing Home, Lodging Houses)	21 and 8 Fire Drills

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

Belmont Fire EMS Report

Total Number of Ambulance Responses (Medical and Non-Medical Responses)	1902
Total Number of Transports	1,330 (1240 BFD, 90 WFD)
BLS Transports	64% (656 BFD, 68 WFD)
ALS Transports	36% (450 BFD, 22 WFD)
Private BLS Transports	15% (77 Patient Transports)
Mutual Aid Given	239
Mutual Aid Received	127

The Belmont Fire Department has a total staffing of 50 Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT's) and 4 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. First Responders must participate in 24 Refresher Course hours every two years. Belmont fire apparatus are classified as ambulances by the Department of Public Health (DPH), Office of Emergency Medical Services (OEMS). As such, and in accordance with the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) each EMT is allowed to administer up to 7 different medications in an emergency. EMT's have been trained to administer these medications as well as to administer the Mark 1 Kit in the event of a terrorist action. Every year, each member of the Fire Department participates in CPR, Choke Saving and AED training in order to recertify as an American Heart Association (AHA) Basic Life Support (BLS) Healthcare Provider. Recently, firefighters participated in specialized training in a state of the art simulation lab in order to improve upon their EMT, CPR and AED skills.

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 Fire Department works closely with DPH, OEMS, Metropolitan Boston EMS Council, South Middlesex EMS, and the FDA in order to assure full compliance with all laws, regulations and standards pursuant to the standard of EMS care set forth by the Commonwealth.

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

Metro Fire

The Fire Departments of 35 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 Lincoln.

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