

WEST BOYLSTON FIRE DEPARTMENT ANNUAL REPORT 2001 – 2002

ACTIVITY

The West Boylston Fire Department responded to 1,138 calls for help this year, an increase of 7 percent from the prior year and 10% since fiscal 1999 – 2000. Total ambulance calls of 676 is an increase of 3.8% with ALS calls increasing 30% and BLS calls decreasing 17%. We had 462 fire calls, up from 412 for an increase of 12 %.

SERVICE ENHANCEMENTS

This was the first full year with two-fulltime firefighter EMT's on board. By setting overlapping shifts we are able to cover the hours of 6 am to 7pm Monday through Friday with at least one person on duty. 53% of our calls occur between the hours of 7 am and 3 pm so this gives us the best coverage with two people. We continue to depend heavily on our call members for all fire calls and for calls for the second ambulance and call after hours.

Our new ambulance was put into service in February 2002. This all wheel drive vehicle has air cushion support for a smoother ride than the older trucks. It is also better designed for a paramedic service as it has the necessary compartments conveniently located.

We met a number of times throughout the year with the MDC and MWRA to discuss our inability to handle hazardous material spills in and around the Wachusett Reservoir and it's tributaries. As a result they have launched a major project to provide area Towns with hazardous material supplies and to establish regional response trailers equipped with additional supplies.

September 11th was a day that none of us will ever forget. West Boylston prepared one of our ambulances to respond to New York, but due to the high number of deaths and relatively low number of injured, it was not required. As a result of 9-11 we have been involved in many training seminars and conferences around terrorism and emergency preparedness.

NEW CONSTRUCTION

The West Boylston Fire Department had a busy year with key building projects going on in Town. In addition to the on-going sewer project we had the new Federal Express and the Mass Materials buildings on Century Drive. Briarwood built a nursing home, elderly apartments, a community center and 24 cottages. The Worcester County Jail added another prison building. The Hillside Drive development started to build the first of over 100 townhouses. For each of these projects the fire department is responsible for reviewing the site plans, building plans, and making sure they are all built correctly to the current fire codes. We also continued our work to get the Wal-Mart store up to code.

A Building committee was formed to review at the Bruce Shepard Public Safety Building. The building does not meet ADA requirements, is in need of repairs and both the police and fire departments have outgrown their space. The Committee will be working with architect Paul Lieneck to develop a plan of action.

OPERATIONS

The Department would like to welcome Allen Phillips to the department as a call firefighter/EMT. We also hold a retirement party to recognize Alvin Barakian, Thomas J. Welsh, Paul Henault, Aaron Goodale III, Duncan Gilles and Ron Goodale. These members had over 133 collective years with the West Boylston Fire Department and will be missed.

The department continues to recruit new members, especially EMT's and paramedics. Anyone interested in becoming an EMT and joining the department should contact Chief Chandler.

FIREFIGHTERS' ASSOCIATION

The Firefighters' Association along with the firefighter's Auxiliary sold refreshments for the Band Stand Committee again this year and conducted a Toy sale in October. We thank everyone who helped in the fund raising efforts.

The Board would like to thank the Association for their donation of rechargeable flashlights for each firefighter and for purchasing department workshirts.

The Board of Fire Engineers wishes to express their thanks to the Public Safety Dispatchers and to all Town officials, departments and Boards for their support throughout the year. We would also like to recognize the Police Officers for their important role in providing initial emergency medical care prior to the arrival of the first EMT's and the ambulance. Their participation is an important part of the Town's emergency medical system.

The Board would like to also than the members of the department and their families for their continued devotion to the department.

Respectively submitted,

Jack Chandler, Fire Chief and Chief Fire Engineer
Alvin Barakian, Engineer
Edward Cairns, Engineer
Steve Osterberg, Engineer
Thomas J. Welsh, Engineer

Members:

Officers:

- Chandler, Jack
- Osterberg, Steve
- O'Connell, Bob
- Cairns, Edward
- Hopewell, Mark
- Barakian, Mark
- Kochanowski, Dean
- Welsh, Tom (Beef)
- Koppetsch, Chris

Firefighters:

- Barakian, Scott
- Burkhardt, Heidi
- Cobb, David
- Donahue, Paul
- Folley, Fred
- Hanna, Matt
- Holt, Scott R.
- Jansen, Frank
- Johnson, Dave
- Miller, Andrew
- Nicholson, Bill
- Phillips, Allen
- Ricardi, Greg
- Shepard, Greg (Shep)
- Shircliff, Matt

RECRUIT FIREFIGHTERS

- Damoto, Bill
- Donahue, Jamie
- Hoffman, Ira
- Ingram, Brian
- Lenahan, Keith
- McGinn, Rick
- Mercurio, Adam
- Osterberg, Paul
- Patnode, Scott
- Reid, Gordon

EMTs

- Benoit, Carol
- Benoit, Don
- Ellbeg, Rick
- Grebinar, Kevin
- McNamara, Ed
- Nickerson, Rob
- Ramstrom, Ed
- Ricardi, Karen
- Shircliff, Leigh