

WEST BOYLSTON FIRE DEPARTMENT ANNUAL REPORT 2003 – 2004

ACTIVITY

The West Boylston Fire Department responded to 1,225 calls this year, an increase of 5.6 percent from the prior year and 18% since fiscal 2000. Total ambulance calls of 703 is a decrease of 5.6%. We had 505 fire calls, up from 413 for a dramatic increase of 22 %.

ORGANIZATION

We added a third fulltime firefighter to the Department this year. We also reached the last year of our State waiver, meaning that we now have to provide documented Advanced Life Support (ALS) coverage at the Paramedic level, 24 hours a day 7 days a week. While this additional firefighter was a plus to the department, the necessity to spread out the hours for ALS coverage meant that we had no better coverage during the days. The daytime hours are our busiest and when we have the least number of call personnel available. This past year 55% of our calls occurred between 7 am and 3 pm.

The Department would like to welcome Kevin Brindle as the new firefighter/Paramedic and Ted Heintzelman as a new EMT on the Department. Ted lives on Prospect Street and has been a tremendous asset to the Department as a very active EMT. Kevin was a firefighter/Paramedic in Keene New Hampshire. Due to budget cuts, and the costs associated with bringing new members on, we have not actively been pursuing new members. This will have a long-term negative effect on the number of members we have, but is necessary with the current budget restraints.

OPERATIONS

Funding for the additional firefighter was gained partially by cutting other line items in the budget. This had an overall affect of reducing our ability to maintain and replace equipment.

The Department responded to two major incidents this year. The first was a hazardous materials leak from a tractor-trailer on I-190 southbound in the vicinity of the Quinapoxet River. The trailer was carrying HYDRAZINE, which had leaked onto the roadway. The highway was shut down for approximately 8 hours while representatives from West Boylston Fire, Holden Fire, Sterling Fire, the State Hazardous Materials Team, EPA, DEP, MDC, State Police, Clean Harbors and MEMA oversaw the clean up and recovery effort. As the lead agency I was very impressed with the performance of our Department.

The second incident occurred when a stolen car went through the route 12 and route 140 crossroads in the center of town and caused a six-vehicle accident with 9 injuries. The

driver also ran off into the area neighborhood carrying a gun. The Fire and Police Departments worked closely together to treat and transport the injured parties and to apprehend the suspect. West Boylston Fire was assisted at the scene by Boylston Fire, Sterling Fire, Clinton Fire, AMR ambulance and Eascare ambulance and with a total of 8 ambulances transported all the patients to local hospitals.

The Department has actively been involved with a number of building issues including the development of Town Driveway Regulations, the new Hillside Drive Development and the proposed Village at Oakdale Development. In each of these cases the Department was the advocate for public safety issues for the Town.

The Department worked closely with the High School to plan and present a morning presentation on drinking and driving which included a mock fatal accident complete with a 'corpse' in a coffin. The Department was also active in the school system presenting the SAFE program to the lower grades.

The Department obtained a powerboat from the MDC, which we put into service after completing some mechanical work and attending a training program put on the US Coast Guard Auxiliary.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Emergency Management was very active this year with the creation of both a Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) and a Community Emergency Response Team (CERT). Under the lead of Assistant Emergency Manager, Allen Phillips, West Boylston had one of the best CERT programs in the State.

We were also able to receive a number of small Emergency Management Grants, which helped to pay the costs of all the training and some additional Emergency Management equipment.

FIREFIGHTERS' ASSOCIATION

The Firefighters' Association along with the Firefighters' Auxiliary sold refreshments for the Band Stand Committee and conducted a Used Toy Sale in order to raise money to support the Department.

The Association purchased two new Jaws of Life power units for the Department. The previous units, which were over 20 years old, did not have the power of the new units. There is no way the Department could have purchased these units, which together cost over \$15,000, and we are very appreciative of the association for their contributions.

The Chief also wishes to express 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 West Boylston Police Officers for their important role in providing

initial emergency medical care prior to the arrival of the first EMTs and the ambulance. Their participation is an important part of the Town's emergency medical system.

Lastly, the Chief would like to thank the members of the Department and their families for their continued devotion and commitment to the Town.

Respectively submitted,

Jack Chandler, Chief
West Boylston Fire Department

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
- Brindle, Kevin
- Burkhardt, Heidi
- Cobb, David
- Damato, Bill
- Donahue, Paul
- Folley, Fred
- Hanna, Matt
- Holt, Scott R.
- Jansen, Frank
- Johnson, Dave
- McGinn, Rick
- Miller, Andrew
- Nicholson, Bill
- Phillips, Allen

- Ricardi, Greg
- Scott, Jason
- Shircliff, Matt

Recruit Firefighters:

- Buono, Paul
- Donahue, Jamie
- Dufresne, Andy
- Hoffman, Ira
- Mercurio, Adam
- Ramstrom, Ed
- Ricardi, Karen

EMTs

- Benoit, Carol
- Benoit, Don
- Ellbeg, Rick
- Garrett, Andrew, MD
- Grebinar, Kevin
- Heintzelman, Ted
- McNamara, Ed
- Nickerson, Rob
- Shircliff, Leigh