

WEST BOYLSTON FIRE DEPARTMENT ANNUAL REPORT 2004 – 2005

ACTIVITY

The West Boylston Fire Department responded to 1,312 calls this year, an increase of 7 percent from the prior year and 27% since fiscal 2000. Total ambulance calls were 836 for an increase of 19%. We had 476 fire calls for a decrease of 5.7 %.

The Department participated in and helped host a US Coast Guard Emergency Preparedness Drill at the Wachusett Reservoir. The Drill involved numerous state and federal agencies and provided excellent training and experiences for members of the Department as well as other area fire departments.

We had a major house fire on Prospect Street. This was the first incident where we utilized 'Automatic Mutual Aid' and it worked well with Holden and Sterling arriving on scene to help during the initial stages of the fire. We also experienced a number of electrical fires, oven fires and brush fires during the year.

ORGANIZATION

The growth in calls of the Department has been significant over the past 5 years. We have added one fulltime person during this time period, but we are still extremely busy. We have to rely on mutual aid more and more. We are fortunate to have the towns of Boylston and Sterling close by and we work with them on a weekly basis.

The Department would like to welcome two new call members, Kevin Fagerquist and James Henderson. Kevin is a fulltime firefighter in Concord and joins us as an EMT/Firefighter. Jim is a call EMT and plans to attend the next regional Firefighter I recruit class. Most of our new members over the past several years live in surrounding towns and currently over 40% of our members live outside of West Boylston.

The Department would also like to welcome our new Chaplain, Reverend Matthew Wissell from the North Oakdale Methodist Church. Matt joined the department in January of 2005 and has been a tremendous asset.

We would like to recognize and thank for their dedicated service Karen Ricardi and Edward Ramstrom who both left the Department during the year. Both members were extremely active and will be missed by the Department and the town.

OPERATIONS

Our salary budget was increased this year to allow us to have a call EMT work at the station every evening until 10 PM. This has resulted in a decreased ambulance response time, providing better service to our customers. We are fortunate to continue to have call

members who provide fire and ambulance coverage at night for very little cost to the Town.

The Department received numerous grants this year totaling in excess of \$100,000. We received a SAFE (fire safety) grant, a grant for additional Jaws of Life Equipment, Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), a vehicle exhaust system and an all terrain emergency response vehicle. Unfortunately we did not receive the SAFER grant, which would have provided for much needed additional personnel.

Through the cooperation of developers and Wal-Mart we have been able to install emergency vehicle control systems in three intersections in town. These systems give our emergency vehicles a green light as they approach an intersection. While this reduces our response time slightly, it improves our safety tremendously.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Emergency Management was active again this year with the creation of a Regional Community Emergency Response Team (CERT). Under the lead of Assistant Emergency Manager Allen Phillips, West Boylston worked with Boylston and Sterling to develop one of the first regional CERT teams in the state. The team was trained in seven aspects of disaster management. The training conducted with a full drill, testing all of the class components. The Team meets monthly for training sessions and is open to new members.

FIREFIGHTERS' ASSOCIATION

The Firefighters' Association along with the Firefighters' Auxiliary sold refreshments for the Band Stand Committee as well as hosted an Easter Egg Hunt for the children in the community.

The Association donated two new Cold Water Survival Suits and related equipment used in water emergency operations. The Department is very appreciative of this donation, which replaced two older style suits that leaked.

The Chief 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 recognize and 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, West Boylston Fire Department

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
- Henderson, Jim*
- Hoffman, Ira
- Mercurio, Adam
- Rev. Matt Wissell

EMTs

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

* Members that live in Holden, Leominster, Sterling or Worcester.

Members, West Boylston Community Emergency Response Team

Team Leaders

- Keirstead, Dale
- Barakian, Nancy

Members:

- Barrell, Brian
- Barrell, Luke
- Barrell, Robert
- Bryant, Ben
- Bryant, Esther
- Howe, P. J.
- Keirstead, Susan
- McGinn, Karen
- Osterberg, Paul
- Phillips, Mychelle
- Scott, Michele
- Sylvester, Andrew
- Sylvester, George