



The Fire Post



An official publication of the West Boylston Fire Department

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Vision Statement:

It is the vision of the West Boylston Fire Department to provide superior customer service to the residents, businesses and visitors of the Town of West Boylston.

Mission Statement:

The mission of the West Boylston Fire Department is:

To save lives and reduce suffering by providing the highest level of emergency medical services.

To protect the lives and property of the people of West Boylston from fire, disaster, hazardous material and other emergency incidents.

To prevent fire and minimize other emergencies through prevention, education and preplanning programs and to provide information and training in areas where the health and wellness of the community can be improved.

"I don't know the key to success, but the key to failure is trying to please everybody."

Bill Cosby

Happy Birthday West Boylston! *By Chief Pauley*

The year 2008 marks the 200th Birthday of the Town of West Boylston. The West Boylston Bicentennial Committee has put together an ambitious schedule for 2008 in celebration of the Town's birthday. Over 25 different events have been scheduled for great family fun and the opportunity to learn more about the rich history of our community. The Committee has put together a very informative website with a calendar of events, history of the Town and latest news on the celebration. The website is www.westboylston200.com. There will be several events throughout the year that require the Fire Department's input in terms of pre-incident planning, special staffing or detailing of emergency personnel and coordination with other Town departments. Of special note to us includes:

June 6-8 a military encampment and re-enactment, June 7 a road race, June 15 the annual Wachusett Muster League hosted here in Town, August (date TBA) Hot air balloon rides and September 20-21, a large parade, bonfire and fireworks display.

Each of these events will require involvement of this Department to ensure various fire prevention and life safety requirements are met and increase public safety and emergency response capabilities. The Committee is still in its planning stage and as programs and events become solidified more information and is forthcoming as to the role of the Department, I will be sure to keep you informed. I encourage everyone to take a look at the Bicentennial website and become involved in the celebration of our community's birthday.

Mixer Town Office Building to Close January 15th *by Chief Pauley*

On Wednesday, December 26th the Board of Selectmen met in emergency session to review the status of the Mixer Building as a result of the Building Inspector's ongoing review of the safety of the building. As most of you are aware, the building has been plagued over the last several years with deterioration of the roof and numerous roof leaks. The recent weather has caused the situation to become more serious with the North side of the converted school structure deemed off limits and no longer safe to occupy. Examination of the supporting roof trusses has revealed a downward deflection of many of the trusses as much as 1 to 2". Further, there is cracking and movement of two supporting walls. The community television station has been moved from the building and the Council on Aging and BOS meeting room have been temporarily re-located to the South core of the building.

Upon recommendation of the Building Inspector (and endorsed by the Fire Chief) the Board of Selectmen have determined at the building will be closed and all activities and offices will be relocated to a yet undetermined location or locations. They set a time frame of January 15th and the Town Administrator and Building Inspector are working feverishly to meet this date. The Board will be reviewing this situation again at their meeting of January 2nd at 19:00 hours at the Mixer Building. As more information becomes available, Department members will be updated in an upcoming Station Update and other communications.



Fire Prevention *by Lt. Koppetsch*

Why bother pump that fire department connection to a sprinkler system? For more water flow onto the fire, of course! Practice among most fire departments is to supply the system so that 150 PSI is maintained at the connection.

We have even more to gain in West Boylston, since our water system has both areas of low static pressure, and areas of limited flow. If a pump is connected to the nearest hydrant to the fire building, it is almost certainly will reduce the supply to the sprinkler system. The code allows sprinkler designers to use the smallest pipe that will supply the required water flow (density). Often, this flow is 0.1 to 0.1 GPM per square foot. Minimum pressure requirements to operate a sprinkler head are established by the manufacturer; typically this is 15 PSI, but may be as low as 7 PSI.

This is not theoretical. The most recently constructed building at the Worcester County Jail does have areas that are protected by sprinklers designed to operate at 7 PSI. The hydraulic calculations presume an operating pressure at the riser of 40 PSI. Design flow at the worst head is 18.84 GPM. Static pressure is 52 PSI, at best. If the system is pumped, the flow will dramatically increase, provided that the volume of water to feed the system is available at the hydrant. Low water pressures will have forced the sprinkler designer to reduce spacing between the heads. This means we have even more to gain than if this system was located in an area where the operating pressure at the riser was 100 PSI. The greater the differential between 150 PSI and the designed operating pressure, the more there is to gain by pumping the system.

$$K = \frac{GPM}{\sqrt{PSI}}$$

This is expressed by the equation

All sprinklers have a "K factor" assigned, allowing easy calculation of flow at any given pressure. The standard K factor (1/2 inch diameter orifice) is 5.6. Many of our buildings, with elevation and friction loss, would have head pressures around 30 PSI with three heads flowing. The combined flow would be 92 GPM. If the system were pumped to 150 PSI, combined flow would be 168 GPM (allowing 50 PSI for friction and elevation loss) and the flow would increase 83%. With this scenario you can see the importance of hooking into the fire department connection and supplementing the building's sprinkler system. Also, this practice is part of our standard operating guidelines. Don't forget that the system will have much less incoming volume and pressure than it was designed for if we take lots of water from the closest hydrant without pumping into that fire department connection

EMS Corner *by Lt. Kochanowski*

Hello all, I hope everyone had a safe and satisfying Holiday. As you all know there was not any EMS training scheduled in December. I'm am working on getting Eric Mannion back for January. Topic is TBA at this time. Eric will be back to do the BLS Refresher in February. It has been finalized. Dates are still TBA. It will probably be on two Friday nights from 1800-2200, and two Sunday days from 0800-1600. Eric is looking forward to teaching the Department. We are still waiting for the final specifications on the new Ambulance. As soon as it comes we will proceed with the bid process. The turn around is 150 to 180 days. Hopefully we will have our new truck by the end of the summer. I will try to keep all of you updated. You can contact the Chief or myself if you have any questions.

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January Birthdays:

29th Chris Koppetsch

Happy Birthday!

Upcoming Dates

Fire Training

Tues. January 8th. @1900

TBA

EMS Training

Tues. January 22nd.

@1900

(moved from the first due to the Holiday.)

TBA

Officer's Meeting

Mon. January 28th. @

1900

Note date change

Fire Training

Tues. January 29th. @

1900

TBA

EMS Education-Carbon Monoxide Poisoning *by Lt. Kochanowski*

It is that time of year again. Winter is here and along with it comes the cold conditions. People will be firing up their furnaces, woodstoves and other various heating systems. No matter how much you try to educate the community on the importance of annual maintenance on fossil fuel burning heating systems it still seems like we find dirty and faulty equipment due to lack of maintenance. Along with this problem comes the danger of CO poisoning. It is truly can be a silent killer.

CO poisoning is sometimes hard to diagnose because it mimics many common illnesses. You could have flu like symptoms such as nausea and vomiting, or virus or infection symptoms such as a stuffy nose, a nagging cough, or lower airway congestion. You may just have general weakness, headaches and/or joint and muscle aches. Just be aware of this when responding to calls that involve these symptoms. I would say that 99.9% of the time the symptoms are exactly what they seem to be, but it doesn't hurt to keep CO poisoning in the back of your head, especially if you get a SaO2 reading of 100% and the person is not hyperventilating.

Just remember we have the tools to measure for CO. Make sure you utilize them if you have any question that it might be CO poisoning. A few of us have also tossed around the notion of purchasing CO/SaO2 detectors which can distinguish the difference between a true SaO2 reading and CO poisoning in an individual. Your feedback would be appreciated. If you would like to read more on this, there is a great article in the December issue of JEMS Magazine.

Decorating the Town Tree for the Holiday Season



Rick McGinn controls the ladder while Dean Kochanowski and Scott Barakian string a new set of lights in the Town Christmas tree on the Common. The project took about 6 hours to complete under cold and windy conditions. Special thanks to Rick, Dean, Scott, Matt Shircliff and the Municipal Lighting Plant crew for decorating the Town Tree. Many positive comments have been received.

Happy New Year to all. Stay safe and the best in the New Year to all of you!