

**REPORT OF THE FIRE CHIEF
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DIRECTOR**

The Wellesley Fire Rescue Department as a public safety organization is charged with the responsibility of protecting the lives and property of the citizens of Wellesley.

The Fire Rescue Department has a present complement of 58 full-time employees, allocated and performing in the following positions: Fire Chief, Deputy Fire Chief, Deputy Fire Chief of Fire Prevention, 1 Captain Fire Prevention Inspector, 4 Shift Captains, 12 Lieutenants, 36 Firefighters, 1 Administrative Assistant and 1 Mechanic. Additionally, the Fire Rescue Department supervises the AMR Paramedics under contract with the Town of Wellesley.

The department operates out of two stations, one at Central Street and Weston Road (Station # 1) and one on Worcester Street in Wellesley Hills (Station # 2). Front line apparatus consists of three pumping engines and one tower ladder unit. We operate a Pickup Truck and/or a Special Operations Emergency Response Vehicle combined with our boats and specialized equipment for water and ice rescues operations. We maintain in reserve two pumping engines.

Emergency Medical Service

Emergency Medical Services under the direction of Fire Chief Richard A. DeLorie are provided by Firefighter/Emergency Medical Technicians for the 21st year. American Medical Response Paramedics together with the fire department's forty-nine Emergency Medical Technicians, operating from Fire Department Headquarters located on Route 9, provide advanced medical care and emergency transport. Wellesley Police EMT's and First Responders carry first aid equipment and defibrillators to provide instant access to emergency care from wherever the police units are patrolling. Wellesley Public Safety personnel are very proud of our professional relationships that provide seamless care to our residents and visitors.

All engines, ladders and command vehicles are equipped with defibrillators, epi-pens, trauma and specialized medical equipment. Each member's emergency medical certifications are kept current as required by law. As in the past, the Fire Department is looking forward to continued success in providing the highest quality medical services to our community.

Fire personnel provided CPR training to citizens in both the public and private sector to accomplish the spread of this life saving technology. The Department is continuing to provide CPR/ Defibrillator certification to other town employees and to the general public. The Fire Rescue Department under the Direction of the Board of Selectmen distributed defibrillators into many town operated buildings and vehicles

Wellesley Emergency Management

The Wellesley Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan is a program for planning and responding to potential emergency or disaster situations. It assigns responsibilities

and functions to various personnel, which will provide for the safety and welfare of our citizens against the threat of natural disasters, hazardous material incidents and national security emergencies.

Under the direction of the Fire Chief / Emergency Management Director Richard A. DeLorie, a Local Emergency Planning Committee has received a Start Up Level Certification from the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency. The purpose of this committee is to make recommendations to the Emergency Management Director in the coordination of the town's emergency response by planning and operating exercises to test the plans. The LEPC is currently working reviewing all related documents and working with Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) and recertification to ensure the greatest coordination among first responders during an emergency. This committee has representation from Fire, Police, Health, Public Works, Selectman's Office, School Department, American Medical Response, Wellesley College, Babson College, Mass Bay Community College and citizens. Many LEPC organizations received training in the National Incident Management System and Incident Command Training Programs.

Wellesley Fire Rescue has maintained and strengthened our Citizens Emergency Response Team (CERT) working with Chief DeLorie and Deputy Chief Peterson, Lt. Matt Corda and local residents that train to support many Fire Rescue activities, such as operating the local emergency shelter (Middle or High School) should that be necessary. The CERT provides support to the fire department at Open Houses and during the marathon providing first aid, staffing the state rehabilitation bus as a cooling station and water for the runners.

Training/Equipment

All fire/rescue personnel participate in daily drills and classroom programs, which consist of all phases of fire fighting, rescue operations and emergency medical training. In addition to these daily drills, members are assigned or volunteer to attend various courses and seminars held at other fire departments and at the State Fire Academy in Stow, MA. These training programs enable the personnel to maintain licenses, certifications and maintain professional proficiency.

Hazardous Materials have always been handled by the fire department, but now the department has been preparing our personnel for more complex incidents. Captain James Dennehy serves on the State Hazardous Material Response Team for his 21st year.

Public Educational Programs

Public education programs are conducted under the direction of Lt. Paul Delaney. The 9th year of our Teen Rescuer Program for local teenagers was very successful. The Teen Rescuer program covers fire department operations and topics such as first aid, CPR and general safety during one week in the summer for 22 local children.

The department for the 17th year participated in the Student Awareness of Fire Education (SAFE) program. This state grant program enables the Fire Education Officer to develop and implement fire safety programs. Lt. Delaney wrote and was awarded a grant that assists the Wellesley Fire Rescue Department budget to provide fire education for school age children. The educational programs delivered by Lieutenant Paul Delaney and Firefighter Matt Corda reached over 2800 children in our local public and private schools during Fire Prevention week.

The High School Senior Class was provided with a presentation on recent college fires that resulted in fatalities and how to stay safe in the dorm environment. A teenage alcohol awareness program in partnership with American Medical Response and Wellesley Police Department was conducted for the Sophomore Class.

Every September 11th, there is a ceremony at fire headquarters to remember that tragic day and the Wellesley residents lost. We honor their memory and all who were forever impacted. We are proud to host this service and will continue this tradition.

Lastly, our annual Fire Rescue Department Open House was a great success working with AMR, Mass Forestry, Mass Dept of Fire Services and the Citizens Emergency Response Team. We are pleased to receive the volume of daily visitors for tours, directions or general information.

Fire Prevention / Master Box Fire Alarm Conversion

The Fire Chief, the Board of Fire Engineers and the Municipal Light Plant Director had scheduled a three year program to convert from a hard wired system to a wireless radio master box system.

This project had been managed by Deputy Chief Don Fitzpatrick and his focus was to complete the conversion of the wired system to a wireless system or radio master boxes in a seamless fashion. This project was highly successful due to the professionalism of Deputy Chief Don Fitzpatrick and a collaborative effort of Wellesley MLP personnel specifically Electrician Dave Resmini and additional assistance from the Facilities Maintenance Department Electrician Dan Neville.

For the purpose of this review, we separated this project into four separate components; commercial master boxes, municipal buildings, town pedestal boxes and the colleges. At the completion of this project of the original 96 commercial radio master boxes in service, 42 businesses have been disconnected from the system and 35 converted over to a private fire alarm monitoring companies, 19 are in the process of conversion over the next several weeks. There are 30 town properties with radio boxes installed and 2 buildings not requiring a radio box (Police Station and old DPW building). The pedestal master boxes are the most unique component of this system. These units had a standard master box pull station on top which have been removed. There are 12 remaining pedestal boxes are necessary to support the few remaining circuits for Babson College, Wellesley College, St James and the 19 remaining boxes scheduled for removal. These pedestal stands in addition to functioning as a master box also perform as a wire junction box for a number of other municipal systems such as DPW/water department metering systems to the various water pumping stations around town. To our knowledge there are

no active users of any of the various wires entering junction boxes. Additionally these boxes have small underground vaults that should be removed at some point in the future. The removing and restoration of the area groundwork range from sidewalk reconstruction to simply remove and replacing soil and grass. The final determination on how to proceed with the removal and surface restoration were not part of the original project and remains a project onto itself that should be addressed at some point in the future. We will identify how other communities have managed the removal of these outdated and unused pedestals/wire junction boxes. The Babson College Master box network to the consolidated dispatch center is up and running and the 38 master boxes have been converted. The Wellesley College project is in progress and will be completed over the next several months. Personnel from both colleges are satisfied with the results of the project. Deputy Chief Fitzpatrick upon retirement has provided a final list of items to be resolved to complete this transition project. Additionally, we have finalized procedures for the maintenance of the system and installation recommendations regarding radio master boxes for new construction or significant renovations as presented to the Captain/Fire Inspector. This system will be under the supervision of the Captain in charge of communications and fire alarm systems. This project was a great collaborative effort between Fire and MLP to complete a project that has taken 5 years to complete in other communities and will have been completed in 3 years as a result of the remarkable personnel involved and their efforts.

Fire Prevention/ Inspection

Captain / Fire Inspector DiGiandomenico coordinates all inspectional services related to fire prevention and inspection. The inspectional process requires plan review and onsite inspection and testing by the fire inspector. The Fire Inspector works with Wellesley PBC, state and local building department and the Fire Marshalls Office to coordinate project and inspectional reviews.

Inspections and Permits issued in accordance with Chapter 148 of the Massachusetts General Laws:

Smoke Detector Inspections/Permits	554
Blasting Permits	04
Fuel Oil Tank Removal Permits	80
Fuel Oil Tank Installation	44
Welding Permits	23
Misc. Permits	10
Liquid Propane Permits	29
Fireworks Permits	1
Sprinkler Installation Permits	37
Chapter 304 Liquor License	22
Fire Alarm Installation Permit	<u>216</u>
<i>Total Inspectional Permits/Projects</i>	<i>1020</i>

In-Service inspections:

Lieutenants and the engine company personnel are assigned to conduct basement to roof inspections to identify potential hazards and maintain familiarity with the layout of the structures in our community. There are twelve inspectional routes and each Lieutenant is assigned a different route each period, taking 6 years for an officer to complete the entire commercial inspectional process. The following inspections are conducted to meet the above inspectional objectives:

Commercial Property Inspections 540*	Twice yearly	1080
Healthcare Facilities	Quarterly	14
Schools Inspections	Quarterly	158

**Wellesley Fire Rescue Department responded to 3881 responses
July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2013,**

Fires

Residential Fires	34
Commercial & misc. fires (storage, brush, vehicles)	34

Emergency Medical

Emergency medical	1931
Patient /public assist in home	125
Motor vehicle with injuries	77

Rescue & Hazardous Conditions

Motor vehicle accident no injury	138
Sprinkler, CO/ Smoke detector activation	395
Smoke or odor condition	50
Person locked in home, car or elevator	129
Hazardous material release	82
Electrical problem	34
Power lines down	79
Weather related (lightning strikes, wind damage)	38
Bomb squad support	03
People Animal water/Ice Rescue	01

Service Calls

False Alarm System malfunction (reset only)	440
Malicious false alarm	10
Cancelled en route	101
Water problem (flooding issue)	55

<u>Mutual Aid</u> (Newton, Needham, Natick and Weston)	123
---	-----

Significant Events in the Department:

- Christopher Hampton appointed as a firefighter effective July 31, 2012
- Ryan Kelly was appointed as a firefighter effective August 2, 2012
- Lindsay DeLorie appointed as a firefighter effective November 14, 2012
- Allison Foley appointed as a firefighter effective November 15, 2012

- Captain Dennis Godwin retired on November 27, 2012 after 42 years of service.
- Lt Charles Digiandomenico was promoted to the rank of Captain November 28, 2012.
- Firefighter Stephen Mortarelli was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant November 28, 2012.
- Fire Apparatus Mechanic William Miller passed away Jan 22, 2013 after working in Wellesley since 2009, but in the fire service for over 25 years.
- Fire Apparatus Mechanic Steven Audette was hired April 17, 2013
- James Claflin appointed as a firefighter effective June 4, 2013
- Timothy Millian appointed as a firefighter effective June 5, 2013
- Deputy Fire Chief Donald Fitzpatrick retired on June 27, 2013 after 42 years of service.

I would like to thank the Board of Fire Engineers, Deputy Chief Peterson, Retired Deputy Chief Fitzpatrick, our Administrative Assistant, Captains, Lieutenants, Firefighters, Mechanic, AMR Medics, CERT Volunteers and the other town departments for their cooperation and support during this past year. Lastly, I wish to express our appreciation to the citizens of Wellesley for the concern, understanding and support of our mission.

**Respectfully Submitted,
Richard A. DeLorie
Fire Chief and Emergency Management Director**