

**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 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 20th year. American Medical Response Paramedics together with the fire department's forty-eight 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 maintained the Provisional 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, 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 20th year.

Public Educational Programs

Public education programs are conducted under the direction of Lt. Paul Delaney. The 8th 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 16th 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 has written and been awarded a grant that assists The Wellesley Fire Rescue Department 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 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 have determined that the hard wired fire alarm system was no longer economically feasible or a safety necessity. The residential boxes were removed under the direction of Deputy Fire Chief Fitzpatrick working with MLP personnel. This process will eliminate 60 miles of wire and the associated maintenance. The Town of Wellesley will still have the benefits of the direct radio based alarm notification to the fire department and will continue to provide this service for a fee to various commercial buildings and the college campuses. The conversion process as of June 30, 2012 has completed the installation of the main receiving units and converted the departmental computerized dispatching system. To date 26 municipal buildings have been updated and 1 building will be updated during construction. The installation of the remaining 5 municipal radio boxes is underway or being scheduled, Both Wellesley and Babson College are in the process of converting their buildings to interface with the Wellesley Fire Department system. The last step in this process is the conversion or disconnection of commercial buildings. Each commercial unit fire alarm options will be reviewed by the Deputy on a case by case review of the building occupancies. To date 26 commercial properties have had radio boxes installed, 21 properties have been removed from the system. This radio master box conversion project should be completed by the end of 2013.

Captain / Fire Inspector Kevin Donahue 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	486
Blasting Permits	3
Fuel Oil Tank Removal Permits	75
Fuel Oil Tank Installation	48
Welding Permits	27
Liquid Propane Permits	28
Fireworks Permits	2
Sprinkler Installation Permits	54
Chapter 304 Liquor License	22
Fire Alarm Installation Permit	<u>137</u>
<i>Total Inspectional Permits/Projects</i>	<i>880</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	16
Schools Inspections	Quarterly	48

**Wellesley Fire Rescue Department responded to 3924 responses
July 1, 2011 to June 30, 2012,**

Fires

Residential Fires	24
Commercial & misc. fires (storage, brush, vehicles)	28

Emergency Medical

Emergency medical	1609
Patient /public assist in home	215
Motor vehicle with injuries	108

Rescue & Hazardous Conditions

Motor vehicle accident no injury	108
Sprinkler, CO/ Smoke detector activation	526
Smoke or odor condition	98
Person locked in home, car or elevator	104
Hazardous material release	88
Electrical problem	51
Power lines down	57
Weather related (lightning strikes, wind damage)	36

Bomb squad support	00
People Animal water/Ice Rescue	03
<u>Service Calls</u>	
False Alarm System malfunction (reset only)	560
Malicious false alarm	16
Cancelled en route	48
Water problem (flooding issue)	62
<u>Mutual Aid</u> (Newton, Needham, Natick and Weston)	157

Significant Events in the Department:

- Boston Marathon on April 16, 2012 warm weather conditions resulted in 17 ambulances in operation, 40 fire staff on duty, two engines and a ladder on both sides of course. Over 50 patient transports to the medical tent located at the clock tower and 3 patient transports to area hospitals. Additional equipment in service included; 3 misting stations, 5 first aid tents, the Massachusetts State Fire Marshalls Rehabilitation Unit and the Mass Casualty Unit from METRO FIRE DISTRICT 13.
- Wellesley Fire Rescue on April 21, 2012 conducted the first non-civil service entrance exam with 150 taking the written test and 114 passing.
- Lieutenant Gary Canoni retired on July 9, 2011 after 31 years of service.
- Firefighter Matt Corda promoted to Lieutenant on September 19, 2011.
- Firefighter Ian McMakin was selected to participate in the Massachusetts Fire Fighting Academy for HAZMAT Technicians Training program.

I would like to thank the Board of Fire Engineers, Deputy Chief Peterson, 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