

**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, Assistant Fire Chief, Deputy Fire Chief of Fire Prevention,, 4 Shift Deputies, 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 22nd 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 authority of the Fire Chief / Emergency Management Director Richard A. DeLorie, Assistant Fire Chief Jeffery Peterson was appointed Chairmen of the Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC). The LEPC has received a Provisional 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 Assistant 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. Deputy Chief James Dennehy serves on the State Hazardous Material Response Team for his 22nd year.

Public Educational Programs

Public education programs are conducted under the direction of Lt. Paul Delaney. The 11th 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 18th 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/ Inspection

Deputy Fire Chief / 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 inspectors 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	592
Blasting Permits	2
Fuel Oil Tank Removal Permits	76
Fuel Oil Tank Installation	49
Welding Permits	32
Misc. Permits	14
Liquid Propane Permits	42
Fireworks Permits	1
Sprinkler Installation Permits	46
Chapter 304 Liquor License	24
Fire Alarm Installation Permit	<u>171</u>

Total Inspectional Permits/Projects 1049

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	56
Schools Inspections	Quarterly	60

**Wellesley Fire Rescue Department responded to 4168 responses
July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2014,**

Fires

Residential Fires	37
Commercial & misc. fires (storage, brush, vehicles)	28

Emergency Medical

Emergency medical	1803
Patient /public assist in home	225
Motor vehicle with injuries	96

Rescue & Hazardous Conditions

Motor vehicle accident no injury	91
Sprinkler, CO/ Smoke detector activation	579
Smoke or odor condition	70
Person locked in home, car or elevator	102
Hazardous material release	95
Electrical problem	35
Power lines down	49
Weather related (lightning strikes, wind damage)	4
Bomb squad support	7
People Animal water/Ice Rescue	4

Service Calls

False Alarm System malfunction (reset only)	635
Malicious false alarm	13
Cancelled en route	134
Water problem (flooding issue)	60

<u>Mutual Aid</u> (Newton, Needham, Natick and Weston)	101
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Significant Events in the Department:

- Firefighter Venancio Santo Domingo retired on July 3, 2013 after 27 years of service.
- Firefighter Thomas Connelly was appointed a firefighter effective July 24, 2013 and graduate the Brookline Fire Academy on October 11, 2013.
- Wellesley Fire Department Honor Guard was established this year and their first public appearance was the opening of Town Meeting alongside the Veterans Council. The Honor Guard was a result of the significant efforts of Firefighters Michael Leach, Ben Hampton, Chris Hampton, Thomas Connelly, Matt Tedeschi, Ryan Kelley and Steve Indresano.
- New Fire Engine was funded at town meeting to replace outdate apparatus and it will have up-to-date capabilities and will be the first fire apparatus in our fleet to have air bag technology for the safety of the firefighters.
- Town meeting funded the replacement of the epoxy anti slip floor coating system to maintain firefighter's safety and for maintaining the apparatus floor.
- Lindsay DeLorie graduated from the Massachusetts Fire Fighting Academy on August 30, 2013
- Allison Foley graduated from the Massachusetts Fire Fighting Academy on August 30, 2013
- Wellesley Fire Department conducted the first non civil service promotional exams for the positions of Captain and Lieutenant on October 17, 2013.
- The Wellesley Fire Department and Firefighter's Local have been long time supporters and partners of the Annual Veteran's Council Senior Citizens Thanksgiving Dinner. Over the past few years with the aging of the Veterans Council, they requested the Fire Department continue this tradition at the conclusion of the 2013 dinner occasion. On behalf of the Fire Department and our firefighters, we appreciate the Veterans Councils 47 years of service to our senior citizens and look forward to continuing this fine tradition.

I would like to thank the Board of Fire Engineers, Assistant Chief Peterson, Administrative Assistant, Deputy Chiefs, Lieutenants, Firefighters, Apparatus 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**