

**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 57 full-time employees, allocated and performing in the following positions: Fire Chief, Deputy Fire Chief, 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 Rooney are provided by Firefighter/Emergency Medical Technicians for the thirteenth year. American Medical Response Paramedics together with the fire department's forty-three 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 where ever 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. The fire command vehicle has maintained a state license to operate as an ambulance in the event of a disaster.

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 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, 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 Kevin Rooney, 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 toward full Certification 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) under the direction of Deputy Chief DeLorie with local residents that train to support many Fire Rescue activities such 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. and the National Fire Academy in Maryland.

Hazardous Materials has 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.

Fire Prevention

All businesses are inspected twice yearly by Fire Rescue personnel, this inspection process is a progressive fire prevention tool and aids in keeping firefighters current regarding any changes in occupancies or construction modifications. The Captain Fire Inspector David Marchetti coordinates all inspectional services related to fire prevention and inspection.

The following inspections and permits were issued in accordance with Chapter 148 of the Massachusetts General Laws:

Smoke Detector Inspections/Permits	526
Blasting Permits	3
Fuel Oil Tank Removal Permits	77
Fuel Oil Tank Installation	97
Welding Permits	24
Liquid Propane Permits	32
Fireworks Permits	3
Sprinkler Installation Permits	62
Chapter 304 Liquor License	17
Fire Alarm Installation Permit	<u>71</u>
Total Permits Issued	912

All engine and ladder companies are assigned to conduct basement to roof inspections to identify potential hazards and keep our personnel familiar with the layout of the structures in our community. The following inspections are conducted to meet the above inspectional objectives:

Commercial Property Inspections	Twice yearly	1106
Nursing Home Inspections	Quarterly	52
Schools Inspections	Quarterly	48

Public Educational Programs

Public education programs are conducted under the direction of Lt. Paul Delaney. The 7th 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 20 local children.

The department for the 12th year participated in the Student Awareness of Fire Education (SAFE) program. This state grant program enables the Fire Prevention Officer to develop and implement fire safety programs. The Wellesley Fire Department received a state grant to support fire education for school age children. The educational programs delivered by 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.

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.

Emergency Calls For Service

During the period: July 1, 2007 to June 30, 2008, Wellesley Fire Rescue Department responded to
4041 calls for service.

Fires

Residential Fires	75
Commercial & Institutional	16
Other fires (storage, brush, vehicles)	31

Emergency Medical

Emergency medical	1760
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Rescue & Hazardous Conditions

Hazardous conditions (various)	206
Power lines down	39
Hazardous material release	84

Service Calls

Malfunction/Accidental/Sprinkler	1017
Public assist / Limited hazard	592

Mutual Aid (Newton, Needham, Natick and Weston) 221

I would like to thank the Board of Fire Engineers, Deputy Chief DeLorie, Captains, Lieutenants, Firefighters, the Administrative Assistant, 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,
Kevin K. Rooney
Fire Chief