

**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 61 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, 40 Firefighters, 1 Administrative Assistant and 1 Mechanic. Additionally, the Fire Rescue Department supervises the AMR Paramedics under contract with the Town of Wellesley. At present, 5 of the 40 Firefighter positions are currently vacant / unfunded and one firefighter position is being restored in FY08.

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 one spare ladder truck and one spare pumper.

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 and the department maintains a license to purchase and carry drugs on board the apparatus. 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 personnel 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 of 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 at Fire Department Open Houses. The CERT provides first aid, water and cooling stations 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. Six Firefighters completed Ice Rescue Diver Training; conducting under the ice operations at Moses Pond. All fire fighters completed ICS 100 and ICS 200 training to maintain compliance with a Presidential Emergency Preparedness Directive.

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	627
Blasting Permits	1
Fuel Oil Tank Removal Permits	55
Fuel Oil Tank Installation	107
Welding Permits	13
Liquid Propane Permits	26
Fireworks Permits	3
Sprinkler Installation Permits	50
Oil Burner Permits	52
Fire Alarm Installation	64

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
Nursing Home Inspections	Quarterly
Schools, Churches Inspections	Quarterly
College Dormitory Inspections	Twice during school year

Public Educational Programs

Public education programs are conducted under the direction of Lt. Paul Delaney. The 6th 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 11th 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, 2006 to June 30, 2007, Wellesley Fire Rescue Department responded to 4036 calls for service.

<u>Fires/ Explosion and Releases</u>		<u>Emergency Medical/Rescue</u>	
Structure Fires	16	Emergency Medical	1566
Interior Content Fires	2	Elevator Rescue	11
Smoke detector alarms	146	Motor Vehicle Accidents	269
Outside Fire Man-Made Materials	46	Lock out/lock in	142
Vehicles Fires	7	Ice/Water Rescue/ Search	13
Power line down	26		
Carbon Monoxide	102		
Electrical Conditions	57		
Hazardous Material Release	74	<u>Service Calls</u>	
Heater Fire/Smoke condition	249	Water/steam problems	304
Sprinkler Activation	10	Public Assist	108
Cooking Related Fire	54	System Malfunction	255
		Malicious False	21
		911 Hang-ups	293
		Cancelled enroute	16

Mutual Aid

To: Newton, Needham, Natick and Weston - 247

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