



The Company Journal
and "The Feederline"

Fire Department News
Cambridge, Massachusetts
A Class 1 Fire Department

From the desk of
Chief Gerald R. Reardon

Issue #61
Winter 2011

What's New

MDA – The last "Fill The Boot" drive for the summer was held on Tuesday, August 23rd at the Gilmore Bridge and also at multiple intersections along the Alewife Brook Parkway from 0730-0930 hours. Cambridge Local 30 raised \$3,177.90; bringing the Grand Total for the year to \$12,230.08. A BIG job well done to Chairperson Brandon Hugh and a Thank You to all the members that volunteered their time!

Rescue 1 Patch – Rescue Company No. 1 now has a company patch thanks to **Lieutenant Jim Drewicz**. To go with the Rescue 1 patch is an additional Tech-Rescue patch. Nice job Jim!



Firehouse Friday – Fox25 News featured the Cambridge Fire Department on their "Firehouse Friday" feature on Friday, September 23, 2011. The segment was actually taped on Thursday while Group 3 was on duty in case it confused any viewers that morning!

Fireman's Ball, Save the date! – **DFC Lester Bokuniewicz**, President of the Cambridge Fireman's Relief Association would like to share that the CFRA Ball will be held at The Royal Sonesta Hotel on **February 4, 2012**. There will be more information to follow. Please stay tuned!

Toys for Tots - The Cambridge Fire Department along with Cambridge Firefighters Local 30 will once again sponsor the Toys-for-Tots Drive in the City of Cambridge. Toy collection boxes will be distributed to all fire stations by November 7 which is the date the drive begins. The last day to drop off toys is Monday December 5.

DFC Gerard Mahoney is again asking for your help and cooperation in this annual event which is designed to help the United States Marine Corps Reserves in their mission to bring a smile to the faces of thousands of children at Christmas. Those wishing to donate a toy, should donate only new, unwrapped toys. Monetary donations can be made at www.toysfortots.org . If there are any questions, please do not call the Toys-for-Tots program or the USMC Reserves, contact **DFC Mahoney or Lt Hughes**.

Promotional Exam – Good luck to those members that took the Lieutenants and Captains promotional exam in November 2011! Your hard work is over and now it's just a matter of time.

All Companies Working

August 15, 2011- Rescue, Fresh Pond Cinema, Alewife Brook Parkway - Companies responded to the movie theater for an 11 year old child that had his arm stuck in a drink holder in one of the theater seats. Childs arm was extricated successfully.

August 16, 2011 – 1 Alarm, 1493 Cambridge Street, Cambridge Hospital, Box 4161 – Companies responded to the hospital for a report of some electrical equipment that started a small fire resulting in burns to a civilian.

August 18, 2011 – 1 Alarm, 26 Smith Place, Baystate Pools, Box 91 – Companies used water extinguishers to extinguish a small outside fire contained to pallets and trash on the exterior of the building.

August 19, 2011 – Mutual Aid, Brookline. 1287 Beacon Street, Box 2547 – Ladder 1 provided station coverage during a Working Fire in Brookline.

August 28, 2011 – Tropical Storm Irene. Company staffing in the city was beefed up as the Governor declared a state of emergency with Hurricane Irene nearing from the South. Before the storm hit, it was downgraded to a tropical storm resulting in flooding rains and high winds.

August 28, 2011 – 2nd Alarm, 58 Montgomery Street, Box 732 – Companies were dispatched to a structure fire and fire alarm advised they were “receiving calls.” On arrival, fire showing from the second floor windows. Division 2 requested a working fire assignment and soon upgraded to a second alarm. Big lines were used on the second floor and attic, while the roof was vented via ground ladders and searches complete.

August 29, 2011 – 1 Alarm fire, 389 Columbia Street, Box 296 – Responding to the odor of smoke in the building, companies forced an unoccupied apartment and found a wastebasket on fire in the middle of the room.

September 9, 2011 – 1 Alarm fire, 150 Erie Street, Box 3461 – Companies had a stovetop fire that damaged the kitchen cabinets above.

September 14, 2011 – 1 Alarm fire, 5 Brookline Street, Box 347 – Companies responded to a reported building fire and found a small fire at the base of an air conditioning unit. Suspected cause was spontaneous combustion with rags in a container.

September 22, 2011 – Haz-Mat, 45 Garfield Street, - Division 1 had residents evacuated due to high gas readings inside the structure.

September 24, 2011 – 1 Alarm Fire, 55 Massachusetts Ave, MIT Building, Box 261 – Companies found an extinguished fire caused by a battery pack. Fire was extinguished by occupants with a fire extinguisher.

September 29, 2011 – Hazardous Condition, 450 Memorial Drive, MIT - Companies responded to fire alarm activation in Building 16, an 18 story high rise. On arrival, DFC E. Morrissey in Division 1 filled out the assignment for a high pressure steam leak just outside the building. The building was evacuated and priority searches completed. The break was isolated and shut off and left in the care of MIT facilities.



Photo by DFC E. Morrissey

October 18, 2011 – Technical Rescue, Memorial Drive – Construction accident with injuries. OSHA notified.

October 19, 2011 – 1 Alarm Fire, 6 Museum Way, Box 1353 – companies had a small fire at the base of the trash compactor which the residents attempted to extinguish with fire extinguishers. The fire was extinguished with a hand line stretched from Engine 2. No extension.

October 19, 2011 – 1 Alarm Fire, 1 Oxford Street, Box 62 – Companies responded on the Harvard alarm and received reports of smoke coming from a locked room. The assignment was filled and entry gained to the room where they found an electrical motor on fire. Companies used fire extinguishers to knock down the fire and a backup line run. Property was left in the care of the Harvard Fire Group.

October 21, 2011 – Rescue, 796 Main Street – Pedestrian struck with major injuries. Main Street closed.

October 26, 2011 – 1 Alarm Fire, 96D Hampshire Street, Kitchen fire, Box 234 – Box was struck by fire alarm for smoke in the building. On scene, Division 1 confirmed smoke showing. A pan of oil on the stove caught the kitchen on fire. Lines were run and the fire extinguished. Checked for extension and overhauled.

October 26, 2011 – Mutual Aid, Belmont, 433 School Street, 2nd Alarm – Engine 9, Ladder 1, Squad 4, Division 1 and Rescue 1 (special call) responded to the scene to assist Belmont. Belmont had reports of an occupant trapped. They located the resident and removed him but he succumbed to his injuries.

October 29, 2011 – Mutual Aid, Somerville, 1158 Broadway, Box 71, 3 Alarms – fire in a commercial building occurred during a rare October Nor-easter storm that dumped heavy, wet snow in many parts of Massachusetts. During this time, Boston also had a 5+ alarm fire which Cambridge would normally respond to but did not due to the other calls in the area. Engine 4, Engine 5, Ladder 1, Squad 4 and Division 2 worked at the fire. Engine 9 and Ladder 3 covered in Somerville.

November 1, 2011 – Mutual Aid, Somerville – Engine 4 and Ladder 1 provided early morning station coverage in Teele Square during Somerville's Working Fire at 7 Central Street.

November 1, 2011 – 1 Alarm Fire, 396 Windsor Street, Box 294 – Cigarette butts disposed in a plastic bucket on a rear porch resulted in a fire that charred the exterior siding on a home. Residents used a garden hose to douse the flames. Companies overhauled and extinguished hotspots.

November 1, 2011 – Working Fire, MIT, Bldg 66, 25 Ames Street, Box 246 – Companies responded to an MIT alarm. On arrival, Engine filled the assignment for smoke in the building. Division 2 ordered a Working fire for a fire in a sub-basement of a MIT lab building.

November 4, 2011 – 1 Alarm Fire, 97 Hancock Street, Box 43– companies responded to a report of a structure fire. Division 1 signed off with smoke showing. The tenant had found a table that had tipped over with ignited candles. The table was removed to the exterior and the apartment searched and ventilated.

November 9, 2011 – Pedestrian Accident, Auburn Street @ Coolidge Hill Ave – Engine 9 and Squad 4 worked a pedestrian who was struck by an automobile. The patient was in traumatic arrest and transported.

November 14, 2011 – Mutual Aid Station coverage - Engine 5 covered Everett Engine 1

November 15, 2011 – Mutual Aid, Somerville Box 122 81 Mt. Vernon Street - Division 2, Squad 2 and Engine 5 responded to the Somerville fire. Squad 2 performed interior operations; Engine 5 assigned as RIT. Companies were later reassigned to floor #2, relieving Somerville Engine 3 for overhaul.

November 18, 2011 – Mutual Aid Station coverage - E-5 and L-2 cover Somerville Teele Square station on their working fire at 21 Montrose Street

Awards

Gov. Patrick to Present 2011 "Firefighter of the Year" Heroic Awards Nov 30

Governor Deval L. Patrick, Public Safety and Secretary Mary Elizabeth Heffernan and State Fire Marshal Stephen D. Coan will recognize heroic acts of bravery during the 22nd annual Firefighter of the Year Awards. The event will take place at the historic Hanover Theatre in Worcester on Wednesday, November 30, 2011 at 12:30 p.m. recognizing the following awards: Medal of Honor, Medal of Valor, Individual Meritorious Conduct, Group Meritorious Conduct, Excellence in Leadership, Norman Knight for Excellence in Community Service, and the Fire Marshal's awards

Out and About

Firefighter Kyle Schweinsaut (Ladder Co. No. 3) representing the department in a recent road race in North Reading. Kyle ran the 5K road race on September 11, 2011. Helping him along the course were his daughters.



Photo by Capt. Brian Gover



Photo by Tara Bithia

Ladder 1, Group 1 – FF. Ken Cunningham, Captain Robert Morrissey and FF Michael Dwyer

Cambridge Hockey Team – Members of the Cambridge Fire Department Hockey Team assisted in bringing the Stanley Cup to Boston. On October 6, 2011 – the Stanley Cup was paraded into the TD Garden for the 2011 Championship Banner raising during the Bruins 2011-2012 home opener. Just prior to entering the building, the cup was walked through fire department members from many metro fire departments and members of the armed forces wearing Class A uniforms hoisting hockey sticks in the air.



Cambridge Fire Department Hockey

CFD vs. Gordon College	Monday, Nov 28, 2011 10:20 PM	Hockeytown USA
CFD vs. Gordon College	Monday, Dec 5, 2011 9:10 PM	Hockeytown USA
CFD vs. Five Minute Majors	Monday, Dec 12, 9:30 PM	Malden Forum
CFD vs. Beer O'Clock	Monday, Dec 19, 2011 9:00 PM	Cambridge-Simoni
CFD vs. Pattersons Chiefs	Monday, Dec 26, 2011 9:10 PM	Hockeytown USA



Save the date! Cambridge Fire vs. Cambridge Police to benefit Muscular Dystrophy Charity Hockey Game will be Saturday, March 31, 2012.

Cambridge Dive Team - 2011



Photo by Lt. S. Brown

Lt. Brannelly, Lt. Mike Donovan, FF William Barry, and FF McGourty are members of the team, but were not able to attend the photo session.

The Cambridge Fire Team that participated in the Boston Firefighters Road Race, 16 Oct 2011.



Photo by Tara Bithia

FF Gary Plunkett (Engine 1), FF Joseph Hallissey (Engine 1), FLT. Eric Nugent (Engine 1), FF Michael Lencki (Truck 2), FF Jeffrey McGourty (Rescue 1), FF Shawn Flanagan (Truck 3), COO John Gelinas (Headquarters).

The Cambridge Fire Team that ran the Boston Firefighters Road Race finished in second place out of 26 teams entered. Woonsocket, RI came in first. Boston Engine 7 finished in third place. Great job and Congratulations!

A new firefighter in the making? Sarah Garcia visited Engine 9 in October to see her dad **FF David Garcia**.



Photo by FF Garcia

Fire LT. Vaillancourt of Squad 4 took this flag of the colors on Veterans Day, 11.11.11.



Photo by FLT R. Vaillancourt

From the Archives



This is an original factory photo of Engine 1, a 1940 Pirsch pumper. Typically a set of photos from all angles were taken just after the truck was completed and before the truck left the factory for insurance reasons as well as for use in future sales literature for the company.



Corgi produced these 1:50 scale models of a generic Pirsch pumper in 2010. While not an exact match to the original Engine 1 (which had an extended cab), FF Howie Smith had this model lettered as a replica of Cambridge Engine 1.

Through the Lantern Lens



Through the Lantern Lens

by Mose Humphrey

With many members taking the Lieutenant and Captain promotional exam in November, some might find it interesting some actual questions that were asked back in the “good ole days.” These were just a few of the questions from an actual Civil Service exam for Fire Lieutenant, Cambridge, Mass. on June 1, 1935.

Question: Give the causes of defective streams when operating at fires, and state the conditions under which heavy streams are justified.

Question: In what circumstances would you feel justified in sending in a second or third alarm? If there were another fire in another part of the city requiring a multiple alarm, how would this affect your decision?

Question: Tell what you know about the following chemicals –combustible, explosive, poisonous, the kind of business and when they are used: (a) Hydrocyanic gas; (b) Hydrogen; (c) Benzol

Question: State the effect that each of the following agents would have in a fire, and the kind of fire on which each would be used to the best advantage: (a) foam extinguisher; (b) Carbon Tetrachloride; (c) Carbon Dioxide

...and in case you were wondering, there were no multiple choice answers – these were expected to be answered in essay form.

Signal 10-15

Special Signal 10-15 The Chief of Department regrets to announce the death of **Firefighter Allan W. Ferola** of Engine Company No. 9 – Retired. FF Ferola was appointed to the Cambridge Fire Department on 10 Sept 1961. His assignments were as follows:

10 Sep 1961	Engine Company No. 2
5 Mar 1972	Engine Company No. 8
20 Jun 1976	Engine Company No. 3
7 Aug 1983	Engine Company No. 6
18 May 1986	Engine Company No. 9

Firefighter Allan W. Ferola retired on 30 Nov 1988. He was born on 22 June 1932. He died on 10 Oct 2011.

Technical Sergeant Ferola was a United States Army Veteran of the Korean War.

Special Signal 10-15 The Chief of Department regrets to announce the death of **Firefighter Edward P. Dagle** of Engine Company NO. 4 – Retired. FF Dagle was appointed to the Cambridge Fire Department on 4 Feb 1951. His assignments were as follows:

4 Feb 1951	Ladder Company NO. 2
24 Feb 1963	Engine Company NO. 9
29 March 1970	Ladder Company NO. 1
5 March 1972	Engine Company NO. 4

Firefighter Dagle retired on 24 July 1982. He was born on 7 Sep 1920 and died on 19 Oct 2011.

Firefighter Edward P. Dagle was a World War II veteran of the United States Navy, Aviation Machinist's Mate 2nd Class.

Special Signal 10-15 The Chief of Department regrets to announce the death of **Firefighter William E. Lavin** of Ladder Company NO. 2 – Retired. FF Lavin was appointed to the Cambridge Fire Department on 5 March 1972. His assignments were as follows:

	5 Mar 1972	Engine Company NO. 1
	12 Jan 1975	Ladder Company NO. 3
1	2 Oct 1986	Aide to Division Deputy Fire Chief
	27 Nov 1996	Ladder Company NO. 3
	14 Oct 2001	Ladder Company NO. 2

Firefighter William E. Lavin retired on 30 July 2003. He died on 25 Oct 2011. He was born on 8 January 1943

Firefighter Lavin was a veteran of the United States Marine Corps, serving from 28 Jan 1960 to 20 Mar 1964.

Condolences to:

Deputy Fire Chief Ralph Chapman; Division 1-Retired on the passing of his wife Mrs. Dorothy Chapman on August 30, 2011. Visiting Hours were omitted.

Captain Michael Bruno, Ladder Co. No. 2 on the passing of his brother James J. Bruno in September 2011

Chief of Operations John Gelinis on the passing of his step-mother, Mildred Clark Gelinis, who passed away on 19 Sept.

George M. Vendetti Jr.; Engine Co. 6-Retired on the passing of his Father George M. Vendetti who passed away in October

Firefighter Francis Judd (Tech Services) on the passing of his uncle Russell J. Judd.

Stats and Fires

2011 Incident Totals

	Jul-11	Aug-11	Sep-11	Oct-11	Nov-11	Dec-11	SBTTL	Jan-12
Responses	2601	2764	2568	2930			10863	
Incidents	1073	1234	1128	1243			4678	
Division 1 incidents	579	703	632	696			2610	
Division 2 incidents	494	531	496	547			2068	
Building fires	12	8	3	5			28	
Inside fires	35	54	52	79			220	
All fires	53	69	64	84			270	
EMS	469	517	497	550			2033	
Elevator Rescue	13	5	9	13			40	
Hazardous materials	21	14	22	18			75	
CO emerg	4	8	7	8			27	
Electrical hazards	30	87	35	28			180	
Malicious false	20	20	21	44			105	
Malfunction	92	127	135	142			496	
Unintentional	129	140	141	127			537	
Bomb threats/susp	18	11	10	8			47	
Bomb/expl removal	0	0	0	1			1	
Structure collapse	1	0	0	0			1	
Total Multiple Alarms		1					1	
2nd Alarms		1					1	
3rd Alarms							0	
4th Alarms								
5th Alarms								
Working Fires	1				1		2	
HM Lev 1 "Working"	1						1	

2011 "Code 111" Building Fires Totals

	Jul-11	Aug-11	Sep-11	Oct-11	Nov-11	Dec-11	SBTTL	Jan-12
Engine 1	7	4	0	4			15	
Engine 2	6	4	3	2			15	
Engine 3	6	3	0	2			11	
Engine 4	4	1	0	0			5	
Engine 5	5	5	2	3			15	
Engine 6	4	3	2	1			10	
Engine 8	6	3	0	1			10	
Engine 9	3	3	0	0			6	
Truck 1	10	5	2	5			22	
Truck 2	5	3	1	1			10	
Truck 3	6	3	2	2			13	
Truck 4	5	3	0	1			9	
Rescue 1	11	5	2	2			20	
Squad 2	8	2	2	3			15	
Squad 4	6	4	0	2			12	
Division 1	6	5	3	3			17	
Division 2	8	4	0	2			14	

Promotions

General Order No. 23, Series of 2011

Effective, Monday, October 31, 2011 at 0700 hours

Acting Fire Captain David J. House to Fire Captain
Acting Fire Lieutenant Kenneth J. Hugh to Fire Lieutenant



Commendation

General Order No. 22, Series of 2011

Re: Commendation for actions at Second Alarm Box 2-732, Incident 11002167 for 58 Montgomery Street on Sunday, August 28, 2011

Upon the recommendation of Deputy Fire Chief John J. Cotter of Division 2, **Fire Lieutenant Philip G. Arsenault** of Squad No. 2 is commended for his actions while operating at Incident # 11002167, Box 2-732 of August 28, 2011 as noted below.

On Sunday, August 28, 2011 at 2153 hours, Box 732 was struck for a reported structure fire at 58 Montgomery Street. While responding, fire alarm reported that they were now receiving multiple calls for a building fire and that the house was occupied. Division 2 arrived on scene with fire showing from the second floor, rear delta side of the building.

I was immediately met by Lt. Philip Arsenault who lives nearby. He informed me that he had completed a primary search of the first floor and that it was clear. He also had questioned the second floor occupants and was told that all occupants had evacuated the building. With this information, I was able to adjust tactics from an aggressive search and rescue operation to a coordinated fire attack. Lt. Arsenault's actions were of great assistance to the fire ground operations and I recommend that he be commended for his actions.

The decisive actions of Fire Lieutenant Philip G. Arsenault were in the highest tradition of the Cambridge Fire Department. He is commended for these off-duty actions which ensured the life safety of the residents under heavy fire and smoke conditions.

Per Order,
Gerald R. Reardon
Chief of Department

Quotes of the Day

Accept the challenges so that you may feel the exhilaration of victory.
- George S. Patton

He who has never learned to obey cannot be a good commander.
-Aristotle

A ruler should be slow to punish and swift to reward.
-Ovid

Congratulations

Congratulations to Captain Greg Carter (Squad Co. No. 4) for his selection and award as "EMS Supervisor of the Year Award" presented by the Region IV, Metropolitan Emergency Medical Services Council. He was honored at a banquet in Newton in October. Please see the Thank you letter elsewhere in the Company Journal.



(Photo by Mark Roche)

Captain Gregory Carter of the Cambridge Fire Department received the "2011 EMS SUPERVISOR AWARD" at the Eleventh Annual Region IV EMS Awards Banquet held on October 27, 2011 in Newton



(photo by Mark Roche)

Chief Gerald Reardon of the Cambridge Fire Department accepts the "2011 HEART-SAFE COMMUNITY AWARD" on behalf of the City of Cambridge at the Eleventh Annual Region IV Awards Banquet held on October 27, 2011 in Newton

Letters

The following letter was received on August 11, 2011:

Dear Chief Reardon,

My family and I recently laid to rest my husband Bill Miller. During a time of grieving there are those that give respect and comfort. Words cannot express fully how much those acts can mean. The Men of the Cambridge Fire Honor Guard and Cambridge Fire truly accomplished giving my Husband respect and giving our family comfort. I would like to thank the following members of the Honor Guard that exemplified the Brotherhood and professionalism of firefighters everywhere.

Chief of Operations Jack Gelinas
Deputy Fire Chief Lester M. Bokuniewicz
Fire Captain Lawrence M. Brogan
Fire Lieutenant Brian D. Albert
Acting Fire Lieutenant Alan. F. Johnson
Firefighter Dennis J. Maragioglio
Firefighter Phillip Chandler
Firefighter Kenneth W. Souza
Firefighter Matthew R. McDonald

Sincerely,
Joan M. Miller & Family

The following department email was sent to all Group 1 members after Tropical Storm Irene in August 2011:

All members,

Thanks to all members of the Cambridge Fire Department and special thanks to the members of Group 1 who worked during the recent **Tropical Storm Irene** on Sunday, 28 August 2011.

All scheduled members reported to work on a day that weather agencies forecast a hurricane with potential severe wind and water damage. No one called in sick on this day. No one took an unscheduled vacation tour. It would have been so easy to stay home to protect our own homes and families, but **every scheduled member came to work to protect the citizens of the City of Cambridge**, on a day of very high incident activity.

Thanks also for the sacrifice of the families of our members, who weathered the storm alone while members were on duty protecting the city.

Thank you for your pride, dedication, and sense of duty, especially under trying circumstances. Only because of the efforts of the men and women of the Cambridge Fire Department, we are Class 1.

John Gelinas
Chief of Operations

Gerald Reardon
Chief of Department

The following letter was received on August 28, 2011:

Dear Deputy Chief Bokuniewicz,

I would like to thank you for offering me the opportunity to work in the CFD as an intern for Lt. Towski. As you know, I wish to become a FPE (Fire Protection Engineer) and your efforts have made FPE come alive for me.

I hoped I helped CFD in a small way. With Lt. Towski, I learned a lot about the International Building Code, plan reviews and building inspections. I really can't speak highly enough about how knowledgeable and nice the Lieutenant is.

Thank you again for helping out a student FPE and I hope to speak to you again.

Sincerely,

Camille Levy

The following letter was received on August 30, 2011:

Dear Deputy Chief Gelinis,

Thank you for joining us at Cambridge KinderCare for our Read.Share.Give. event, and for allowing us to "borrow" some of your finest firefighters to read to our children. Firefighters David Vigilante, Charles Babineau and Ryan DeCoursey were kind as well as professional and our children really enjoyed the story time as well as the opportunity to explore the fire truck. I know you and your unit are busy, and I just want to express my appreciation for the time you take to participate in events where children can meet real-life heroes up close and personal.

Best,

Vynette Arnell

Community Partnership Manager

Knowledge Universe

The following two letters were received from the City Council on September 16, 2011:

Dear Chief,

Councilor Simmons has requested that I forward the enclosed resolution to you, which was adopted at the meeting of September 12, 2011, extending the City Council's acknowledgement of the 10th anniversary of the tragic attacks on September 11th and acknowledging the vital work done by the Cambridge Police and Cambridge Fire Department to keep Cambridge safe.

Sincerely yours,

Sandra Albano

Executive Assistant to the City Council

Dear Chief,

Councilor Simmons has requested that I forward the enclosed resolution to you, which was adopted at the meeting of September 12, 2011, extending the City Council's compliments to the Cambridge Fire Department for prompt and professional actions in putting out the recent fire at 54 Montgomery Street.

Please accept my own personal congratulations as well.

Sincerely yours,
Sandra Albano
Executive Assistant to the City Council

Note: Group 1 was on duty and this 2nd alarm fire occurred during high winds which were remnants of tropical storm Irene.

The following letter was received on September 22, 2011:

Dear Lt. Towski,

I would like to personally thank you for your help with a fire lane issue on our construction site.

You should be commended for your professionalism, help and ability to work with contractors. And also thanks to all firefighters for risking their lives day in and day out.

Sincerely,

Michael A. Ambrose
President, Ambrose Enterprises
Dedham, MA

The following letter was received on September 26, 2011

It is my great pleasure to notify you that you have been selected as the recipient of the Metropolitan Boston Emergency Medical Services Council "EMS Supervisor of the Year Award." This award is presented to any medically trained EMS Supervisor who performs meritorious service above and beyond the expectations of the profession.

The Metropolitan Boston Emergency Medical Services Council is one of the five state designated Emergency Medical Service Councils in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. The primary mission of the Council is to coordinate and improve the Emergency Medical Services in its 61 cities and towns in eastern Massachusetts.

Your award will be presented to you at the Eleventh Annual Region IV EMS Awards Ceremony on Thursday, October 27, 2011 at 6:00 PM in Newton, MA. Included you will find an invitation, two complimentary tickets for you and a guest and directions. Additional tickets may be obtained through our office.

Our special thanks to Derek Congdon, Assistant Director, who has worked so hard to plan and oversee this wonderful program each year.

Again, we congratulate you as the “2011 EMS Supervisor of the Year Award” recipient. We look forward to hearing from you soon and seeing you at the Awards Ceremony.

Sincerely,
John Guidara
Executive Director, Metropolitan Boston Emergency Medical Services Council, Inc.

The following letter was received on October 27, 2011:

Deputy Chief Gerard Mahoney

Gerry,
On behalf of the Massachusetts Institute of Fire Department Instructors (MIFDI), I wanted to thank you for your fascinating presentation to MIFDI for our October meeting in Watertown. The program which you provided was truly enlightening and is indeed a reminder to us all how lucky we are to live in America. We are all responsible to keep America safe and secure and must never let our guard down against the terrorists in the world who want to kill Americans. So thank you again and I wish you continued success in your career.

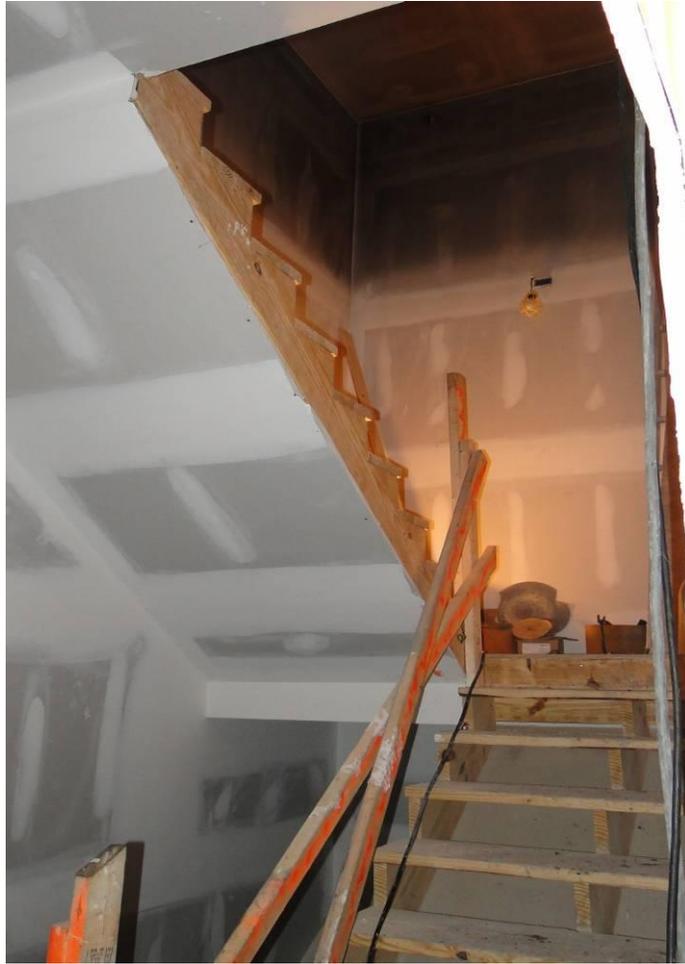
Respectfully,
Captain Mark W. Roche
Newton Fire
MIFDI President

Safety

Fire Prevention periodically sends out notices about buildings around the city in various phases of repair (or disrepair). The following story (used with permission from Firefighterclosecalls.com) highlights the importance of heeding those notices.

On Monday, August 8, 2011, the Blackstone, Virginia Fire Department was dispatched to a reported structure fire with smoke showing from the third floor window. Engine 5 arrived on location at side Alpha of the structure to establish a water supply and begin fire attack. Truck 9 also came to Alpha side to set-up for ventilation. Initial investigation found fire in division 3 with visibility down to floor level. Two 1 1/4 hoses were placed in service for attack from ground level as a standpipe was unavailable. Firefighters were in place on the landing to assist with maneuvering hoses. As the initial crew was making entry into the fire room, when one of the members attempted to re-position himself and fell off of the third floor landing, through the temporary railing on the second floor and down to the first floor in a headfirst position. Mayday was called the firefighter was removed for the structure by interior personnel who were assisting with hose movement. EMS was on location and placed in service as soon as the firefighter was outside. Treatment was given and med-flight was called due to injuries. Post fire investigation found that the railings had been removed from most of the stairways including the stairs leading to and third floor landing. Only broken bones were sustained as a result of the fall. The firefighter is currently resting at home.

Lessons learned include the importance of crew integrity, lack of proper equipment, lack of situational awareness. Suggestions to prevent similar events include (1) be sure the initial crew has a TIC to assist with visualizing building character, and (2) a local building inspector might have corrected safety issues within the structure before the incident.



Of Interest...

With the economy and job market not doing so well, we should not only be thankful that we have jobs, but we should be thankful that we have a GREAT job. So great in fact, that it was ranked in the Top Ten Coolest Jobs according to a recent poll by Comcast.

From Comcast home page By Dona DeZube, Monster Finance Careers Expert
What's the coolest job ever? One that allows you to express your personality while doing something you love and getting paid for it (otherwise, it's a hobby). That's the conclusion reached by David Rosen author of *What's That Job and How the Hell Do I Get It?: The Inside Scoop on More Than 50 Cool Jobs from People Who Actually Have Them*.

Ten coolest jobs are:

1. Cowboy
2. Actor or Singer
3. Brewmaster
4. Professional Golfer
5. Cruise Director
6. Personal Trainer
7. Academy Awards Ballot Counter
8. Broadcast Sports Reporter
- 9. Firefighter**
10. Flight Attendant

America's Heroes



Name: **Ola Lee Mize**

Rank and organization: Master Sergeant (then Sgt.), U.S. Army, Company K, 15th Infantry Regiment, 3d Infantry Division.

Place and date: Near Surang-ni, Korea, 10 to 11 June 1953.

Entered service at: Gadsden, Ala. Born: 28 August 1931, Marshall County, Ala.

G.O. No.: 70, 24 September 1954.

Citation Reads:

M/Sgt. Mize, a member of Company K, distinguished himself by conspicuous gallantry and outstanding courage above and beyond the call of duty in action against the enemy. Company K was committed to the defense of "Outpost Harry", a strategically valuable position, when the enemy launched a heavy attack. Learning that a comrade on a friendly listening post had been wounded he moved through the intense barrage, accompanied by a medical aid man, and rescued the wounded soldier. On returning to the main position he established an effective defense system and inflicted heavy casualties against attacks from determined enemy assault forces which had penetrated into trenches within the outpost area. During his fearless actions he was blown down by artillery and grenade blasts 3 times but each time he dauntlessly returned to his position, tenaciously fighting and successfully repelling hostile attacks. When enemy onslaughts ceased he took his few men and moved from bunker to bunker, firing through apertures and throwing grenades at the foe, neutralizing their positions. When an enemy soldier stepped out behind a comrade, prepared to fire, M/Sgt. Mize killed him, saving the life of his fellow soldier. After rejoining the platoon, moving from man to man, distributing ammunition, and shouting words of encouragement he observed a friendly machine gun position overrun. He immediately fought his way to the position, killing 10 of the enemy and dispersing the remainder. Fighting back to the command post, and finding several friendly wounded there, he took a position to protect them. Later, securing a radio, he directed friendly artillery fire upon the attacking enemy's routes of approach. At dawn he helped regroup for a counterattack which successfully drove the enemy from the outpost. M/Sgt. Mize's valorous conduct and unflinching courage reflect lasting glory upon himself and uphold the noble traditions of the military service.



James Gordon Bennett Medal – FDNY

***Firefighter Stephen P. Fenley
Ladder Company 78***



Appointed to the FDNY on July 11, 1981. Previously assigned to Ladders 9, 80, 101 and 148 and Rescue 5. Member of the Emerald and Holy Name Societies and the Columbia Association. Cited for bravery on five previous occasions.

August 2, 1999, 0306 hours, Box 22-229, 190 Bay Street, Staten Island

Another month had begun in a long, hot summer for the members of Ladder 78 and Engine 155 on the North Shore of Staten Island. Firefighter Stephen Fenley was working an average night tour on August 1, 1999. The members had several routine runs and a good meal behind them by midnight and the neighborhood seemed to have quieted down. However, there was a hatred fomenting that would turn to murder shortly after three in the morning on August 2nd.

A flammable liquid was spread throughout the interior stairway of 190 Bay Street and the fire was released on the sleeping residents. At 0306 hours, the computer at the Brighton Avenue firehouse spit out a phone alarm for a fire at the address. As the rigs were pulling out of quarters, the dispatcher assured them that from the volume of calls they were receiving, there was a working fire in progress and police were at the scene.

The short distance from quarters made it a fast response for both companies. As they pulled up to the three-story, non-fireproof, multiple dwelling, there was heavy smoke spewing from every window and a raging inferno in the interior stairway. The other vehicles already on the scene made it difficult to place the apparatus near the fire building.

FF Steve Fenley had the roof man position. As he was helping the chauffeur position the aerial ladder to the roof, a victim in great distress appeared at the third-floor window. There were no fire escapes on the building and the flames in the hallway blocked the victim's exit as well as the entry of the inside attack team. Someone had to reach him.

Engine 155 was able to charge a line and advanced somewhat into the hallway, but a new problem soon became evident. FF Fenley heard his officer, Lieutenant Matthew Cichminski, report to Battalion 21 that the interior stairs had been burned away from the second to the third floor. This meant that an interior rescue advanced from a degree of difficult to impossible.

As FF James Marshall repositioned the ladder to the front window, FF Fenley informed his officer that roof operations would be delayed for an exterior rescue. The victim was visible in the

billowing smoke only because his clothing already had caught fire. As the firefighter climbed the ladder toward the victim, the victim collapsed back into the thick, acrid smoke belching from the window, an indication that flashover was imminent. With complete disregard for his own safety, FF Fenley dove headfirst into the window and was pushed to the floor by the high heat condition in the room.

Sixty-one-year-old Carl Pandolfo had fallen away from the window, making it hard for FF Fenley to locate him quickly. As the firefighter tried to pull Mr. Pandolfo toward the window, the burnt skin falling from his body made it difficult to get a secure grip. Eventually, his removal required that FF Fenley throw him over his shoulder and stand up in order to get him out the window.

FF Fenley didn't hesitate when his helmet and safety hood were dislodged as he headed out the window. The predicted flashover occurred as the rescuer placed Mr. Pandolfo on the aerial ladder. FF Fenley suffered burns to the back of his head, face and ears. Despite his own burns and other injuries, he covered the badly burned man from the flames licking out the window as FF Marshall repositioned the ladder.

Once the chauffeur positioned them away from the fire that now was consuming the entire top floor, FF Fenley descended the ladder as Mr. Pandolfo clung to the last vestiges of his life. He was removed to the burn center of Staten Island University North with second- and third-degree burns on 100 percent of his body. Despite FF Fenley's valiant efforts and constant medical attention, Mr. Pandolfo succumbed to his injuries the following morning.

The explosion of flames on the top floor mandated the removal of all firefighting forces and an exterior operation was used to extinguish the inferno. Once the two-alarm blaze had been brought under control, two more bodies were discovered inside and the murder toll was increased to three.

For his bravery and courage in putting his own life at great personal risk to try to save another, the Fire Department is proud to honor FF Stephen P. Fenley.

City of New York website – www.nyc.home.gov

From the Tailboard...

Since this is the last newsletter before the end of the year, the staff of the Company Journal would like to wish each and everyone and Happy and Safe holiday season, no matter what holiday season you celebrate! And a Healthy and prosperous New Year. See you in 2012!

Information

Please submit any information, photographs, or narratives for inclusion in the **Company Journal** to hsmith@cambridgefire.org or Hmaxims@aol.com

E-mail list

If any retirees or friends of the Cambridge Fire Department wish to be added to the **Company Journal** e-mail list, send us the e-mail address!

Websites

Visit the Cambridge Fire Department website at www.Cambridgefire.org

Check out Cambridge Firefighters Local 30's website at <http://www.cambridgelocal30.org/>

Visit the Cambridge Retirement Board website at
<http://www.cambridgeretirementma.gov/index.asp>

**REMEMBER THE MEN AND WOMEN SERVING IN OUR ARMED
SERVICES THROUGHOUT THE WORLD.
THEY ARE PROTECTING OUR COUNTRY, OUR LIBERTY, AND OUR
FREEDOM.
THANK OUR VETERANS!**



**Brothers and Sisters,
STAY BRAVE!
STAY VIGILANT!
STAY SAFE!**
