

PUBLIC SAFETY

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Mark R. Cotreau,
Fire Chief

2011 was another very active year for the Concord Fire Department.

The Concord Fire Department responded to many significant emergency incidents this year. Among the most notable was the June tornado in central MA. The CFD responded to the Town of Brimfield as part of a Statewide ambulance mobilization task force response. Our task force consisted of ambulances from Concord, Stow, Sudbury and Maynard; one of CMERA's regional paramedic units as well as Concord Car 1 (Chief) as the task force commander. The Task force was busy while on scene as duties included support for rescue/recovery efforts and EMS coverage of 3 communities. Locally the CFD responded to several serious incidents including building fires on Beharrell St., Holdenwood Rd., Lowell Rd. and Nimrod Rd. as well as several serious natural gas leaks, storms, vehicle accidents and mutual aid responses. The Fire Department is very thankful for the help of our mutual aid partners. We stand ready, at a moment's notice, to assist them in their time of need.



Concord Fire Fighters assist injured motorcyclist to Life Flight on Plainfield and Wheeler Road.

The following is a summary of the Concord Fire Department's activity statistics for 2011:

FIRE EMERGENCY RESPONSES	2011
Structure Fires	20
Vehicle Fires	7
Outside Fires	10
Other Fires	10
TOTAL FIRES	47
Estimated Dollar Losses	\$529,000
Fire Mutual Aid Given	61
Fire Mutual Aid Received	21
OTHER FIRE CALLS	
Fire/Smoke/Carbon Monoxide Alarms	666
Public Assist/Service Calls	345
Motor Vehicle Accidents/No Injuries	165
TOTAL OTHER FIRE CALLS	1176
HAZARDOUS CONDITIONS RESPONSES	
Gas Leaks	80
Gasoline/Oil Spills	18
Electrical Problems	66
Other Hazardous Conditions	72
TOTAL HAZARDOUS RESPONSES	236
TOTAL FIRE EMERGENCY RESPONSES	1,459
MEDICAL EMERGENCY/RESCUE CALLS	
Basic Life Support Only	714
Advanced Life Support	670
TOTAL AMBULANCE TRANSPORTS	1,384
Medical Services/No Transport	211
Mutual Aid Ambulance Given	57
Mutual Aid Ambulance Received	193
TOTAL MEDICAL RESPONSES	1,595
TOTAL EMERGENCY RESPONSES	3,054
Fire Prevention Inspections	290
Permits Issued	290
Plans review	8
Smoke Detector/CO certificates	245
Open burning permits issued	606

EQUIPMENT AND APPARATUS

The Concord Fire Department is very thankful to the townspeople for their continued support in providing us quality fire apparatus to help us serve Concord. In November, subsequent to an affirmative Town Meeting vote, we took delivery of a new ladder truck. New Ladder One is now serving front line duty housed at Station 1 on Walden St. I would like to thank the truck committee for all their work in designing an aerial ladder suitable for Concord. This high quality, practical piece of fire apparatus will serve Concord well for years to come. In June, we took delivery of a new ambulance. This vehicle is in front-line service and working out well.

In February, the CFD received a donation of a power cot for our ambulance. This donation will result in a safer medical transport for our personnel and patients alike, since ambulance work causes injuries every year many of which are back related. The CFD is grateful to the Lions Club, DiGiovanni family and Bob Moran for their thoughtful donation!

TRAINING/SPECIAL OPERATIONS

Throughout the year, the Fire Department regularly conducts fire, rescue and emergency medical training. All our firefighters maintain certification as Emergency Medical Technicians, and partake in monthly skills retention training as well as a bi-annual comprehensive Refresher Training course. Firefighters also participate in regular Department-wide Fire and Rescue training including water and ice rescue, pumper evolutions, ladder operations, equipment familiarization and incident management to name a few.

Captain Curran completed a 1 week FEMA sponsored incident management program.

In addition, Lt. Jay Redmond received his Fire Instructor I certification from the Massachusetts Fire Academy. Firefighters Peter Fulton and Mike Pimentel have completed their Fire Instructor I course and are awaiting the certification exam.

The National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg, Maryland is a great resource where Concord's firefighters can train with firefighters from across the nation, developing and learning the best practices in rescue and fire services. This year, CFD members spent better than 3 weeks in various courses at the NFA. Congratulations to Captain Bill Noke who successfully passed a challenging Incident Management course.

On November 29, 30 and December 1 and 2, the CFD conducted Rapid Intervention Training. This strenuous training, led by CFD instructors Lt. Brian Whitney, FF's Billy Nelson and Sean Murphy focuses on rescuing firefighters who are in distress while firefighting. This training was conducted in a house at the former Arena Farms property. The CFD appreciates Concord Academy allowing us to use the property for this important purpose. The training was conducted with Bedford and Lincoln fire personnel in zero visibility conditions.

Mayday procedures, firefighter accountability and Incident Command and Control were the main emphasis of the training.



Fire Fighter enters smoke filled home during Rapid Intervention Team Training.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

The Department participated in many community programs, including a holiday toy drive; Picnic in the Park; Concord Family Network annual fire truck wash; Concord Center tree lighting and shopping night; children visits to the fire station; and regular fire station visits by school groups. In conjunction with the Council on Aging, firefighters install smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors in homes of older residents and, twice annually, Department personnel prepare and serve lunches at the Harvey Wheeler Community Center.

The Student Awareness of Fire Safety Education program, supported by a State and Concord Community Chest grant, visited each kindergarten, first and second grade as well as the senior class in the Concord Public Schools to provide lifesaving instruction in home fire safety. The Fire Department participates in the Juvenile Fire Setter Intervention program and in the Restorative Justice program. These unique programs provide an avenue for young adults who have engaged in reckless and unsafe behaviors to be made aware of the consequences of their actions in a positive manner. These two programs are a proactive way to make our community safer.

PERSONNEL

This past year saw the retirements of two long-time CFD members. Captain Ken O'Donnell and Captain Don Prentiss both retired after a combined service of over 75 years! Both men are well respected by their peers for their commitment to Concord and willingness to share their experiences and lessons learned. We congratulate them and wish them and their families many years of health and happiness to come! The following promotions were made this past year:

- Lt Tom Judge was promoted to Captain Group 3
- Lt Bill Noke was promoted to Captain Group 2
- FF Brian Whitney was promoted to Lieutenant Group 2
- FF Jay Redmond was promoted to Lieutenant Group 1

STATION IMPROVEMENTS

The Station 1 second floor renovation which began last year was completed in April. The renovation was successful by all accounts. We are presently completing some office refitting on the first floor and hope to complete the phased renovation of Station 1 in the upcoming year. The Department is thankful for Town Meeting support for this project. We are also thankful to the Town facilities staff and Sawyer trust for their supplemental funding of energy efficiencies.

Improvements to the cupola and gutters at Station 2 were completed this year. We are grateful to the Community Preservation Committee for their support of this project.

The Fire Department acknowledges the support and excellent service provided by the staff of our fellow Town departments. We interact regularly and seamlessly with the Public Safety Communications Center, the Police Department, Concord Public Works, Council on Aging, Building Commissioner, and Health Director. The result of these excellent working relationships is superior service to the community.

The public can be assured that the firefighters serving Concord are competent, compassionate and caring individuals who come together as a team to deliver excellent service to the Town of Concord.

LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE

Mark R. Cotreau, Chair
Donald Kingman, Co-Chair

Our Local Emergency Planning Committee, following Federal law definition, creates response plans for hazardous materials spills within the Town of Concord. The Committee also accepts Tier II reports from sites that store hazardous substances. The reports filed in 2011 are public documents and are available for inspection at Fire Headquarters.

The Committee met 2 times; meetings were posted by the Town Clerk and the minutes properly recorded. The Committee continues to receive updates on the Superfund Site at 2229 Main Street, more commonly known as Starmet.

Concord LEPC is an enthusiastic committee of dedicated individuals from various backgrounds who share a common vision of what citizen volunteers can do and who invest many volunteer hours to make Concord a safer community.

The Concord Police, Concord Public Works and Concord Health Departments are active participants in all planning activities and exercises.

To learn more about the LEPC and its role in keeping Concord safe, please contact the Fire Chief at 978-318-3450.

CONCORD EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

Fire Chief Mark R. Cotreau, Director
Deputy Directors
Martin J. Powers
Don Kingman
Steve Telsey

CEMA maintains the Town's State-mandated Comprehensive Emergency Preparedness Plan (CEMP), a document that outlines the roles and responsibilities of different agencies during a large emergency and provides a resource guide. These could be emergencies involving a large spectrum of All-Hazard topics such as incidents caused by weather (floods, ice storms, etc.), public health crises, hazardous materials spills and other man-made events. Working in conjunction

with Public Health Director, Susan Rask, the Medical Reserve Corps integrates readily into our Town system of trained citizen volunteers, ready to support the Town during times of crisis.

The EOC was partially activated this year for planning and/or response for Hurricane Irene, the July high heat emergency as well as the October snowstorm.

CEMA has been awarded a \$13,064 grant for Emergency Management Equipment in this year's round of NERAC funding. After assessing our needs the Town will receive various communication equipment and a portable pump.



CFD responded to the Town of Brimfield as part of a Statewide ambulance mobilization task force response, providing rescue/recovery aid.

CEMA relies on citizen volunteers to help it achieve its mission and exemplifies the Concord spirit of standing ready to help others. There is also a very active Emergency Sheltering Team and Communications Group focusing on Amateur Ham radio and other emergency communication capabilities. Looking to the future, the challenge will be to sustain these programs by providing on-going training, realistic exercises and opportunities to utilize their skills.

Emergency preparedness is the crucial first step in facing an unexpected crisis. We encourage all Concord residents to develop a home/family Preparedness Plan. To learn more about planning, visit the Federal Emergency Management web site at <http://www.fema.gov/areyouready/>.

For more information about CEMA or any of the

programs mentioned, please contact the Fire Chief/Emergency Management Director at 978-318-3450.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Barry R. Neal,
Chief of Police

The Concord Police Department, with an authorized sworn staff of 35 positions, provides a complete range of public safety and community-based services. These include, but are not limited to: community problem solving, criminal investigations, traffic control and enforcement, parking control and enforcement, preventive patrol, school crossing safety, elder services, and emergency response and management. The Department also provides several community programs, such as: crime prevention, youth services, D.A.R.E. and R.A.D. instruction, school resource officers, child safety seat installations, and processes a variety of permits, licenses and applications.

Partnerships continue with community-based programs, Domestic Violence Services of Central Middlesex, Inc. and Communities for Restorative Justice, which provide a resource sharing system and referral network for the Department. Concord Police Officers continue to participate in volunteer trainings for both programs and will be involved in future trainings in upcoming months. The Department continues to seek out and establish new community partnerships to improve quality of life issues.

The Department staffs and supervises the Public Safety Communications Center. All emergency and non-emergency communications for police, fire, and EMS are handled through this call center. In September, all police and fire radios were re-programmed to a narrow band frequency, in compliance with new FCC standards.

The Department supervises a contracted Dog Officer and performs the prosecution function for the majority of the Department's District Court criminal and motor vehicle cases.

The Concord Police Department continues to be active with the North Eastern Massachusetts Law Enforcement Council (NEMLEC). NEMLEC is a regional consortium composed of 53 police departments in Middlesex and Essex Counties, and two County Sheriff's