

# PUBLIC SAFETY

## FIRE DEPARTMENT

Mark R. Cotreau, Fire Chief

The Concord Fire Department (CFD) continued to be very busy in 2014.

During a snowstorm in February the CFD responded to a 3-alarm house fire on Nancy Road. On arrival the house was nearly fully-involved in fire and despite our best efforts tragically the couple residing there passed away. Our thoughts continue to be with all those touched by this tragedy.

In May, a Corporate Jet crashed on take-off at Hanscom airfield near the Bedford end of the runway with all 7 persons onboard perishing. The CFD provided assistance at the Command post as well as a coverage assignment for this event. Just a few weeks earlier Concord and the other contiguous towns had participated in a full-scale exercise at Hanscom airfield which featured a commercial jet crash. This planning exercise helped as responders operated at the scene.

CFD also responded to significant building fires on Crowell Farm Road, Lowell Road and Riverdale Road. Additionally, we responded to structure fires in support of our mutual aid partners in the towns of Acton, Bedford, Lexington, Maynard, Stow, Sudbury and Weston.

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.

This is a summary of the Concord Fire Departments activity statistics for 2014:

### 2014 FIRE PREVENTION ACTIVITY

Fire Prevention Inspections	308
Permits Issued	232
Plans Reviewed	150
Smoke Detector / CO Certificates	273
School Inspections / Drills	38
Healthcare Facilities	20
Burning Permits Issued	496
Burning Permit Activations	720

### 2014 FIRE EMERGENCY RESPONSES

Category	Number
Fires/Explosions <sup>1</sup>	48
Overpressure/Ruptures	0
Emergency Medical (EMS) <sup>2</sup>	1,768
Hazardous Conditions <sup>3</sup>	171
Service Calls	250
Good Intent Call/Public Service	146
Fire and CO Alarms/Other Alarm Calls	724
Weather Related	9
Special/Miscellaneous	15
<b>Total Emergency Responses</b>	<b>3,131</b>
1. Fires occurred within the following subcategories:	
Structure fires	20
Vehicle fires	8
Brush fires	12
Other fires	8
Explosions	0
2. Of the EMS responses, 1,390 resulted in patient transport to a hospital at the following level of care:	
Basic Life Support Transports	639
Advanced Life Support Transports	751
Included were 139 Motor Vehicle Accidents	
Concord received mutual aid ambulance	140
Concord provided mutual aid ambulance	19
3. Hazardous Conditions included the following responses:	
Gas/LPG leaks	75
Gasoline/Oil Spills	13
Electrical Problems	48

### *Second Ambulance Program Implemented*

On July 1, 2014 CFD was proud to place in service at the West Concord fire station a second ambulance which is staffed from 8 AM to 8 PM 7 days per week. This important initiative has reduced our inordinate reliance on mutual aid ambulances from surrounding communities and dramatically increased our availability to respond to medical emergencies in our community. During the 8AM-8PM period in the first 6 months of operation (July 1, 2014-December 31, 2014) CFD required only 10 mutual aid ambulances as compared to 86 during the same period

in 2013. I would like to again thank the town residents for their support of this important initiative!

#### *National Park Service Award*

On September 11, 2014 CFD was unexpectedly visited by Minuteman National Park Superintendent Nancy Nelson and 20 National Park Fire Service leaders from all over the country including the NPS Fire Chief. We were given an award for our 'dedication to assisting the National Park Service with the protection and preservation of nationally significant structures' in Concord, especially for our care and good works at the Wayside Inn fire several years ago.



*CFD personnel receive an award from the National Park Service on September 11, 2014.*

#### *Equipment and Apparatus*

In June CFD took delivery of a new ambulance which has been placed in service to support the Second Ambulance project in West Concord. We again thank Mrs. Audrey J. Mold for her generous donation.

Although no major fire apparatus purchases were required this year, the Concord Fire Department continues to be very thankful to the town's people for their constant support in providing us quality fire apparatus to help us serve Concord.

#### *Training/ Special Operations*

Throughout the year the Fire Department regularly conducts fire, rescue and emergency medical training. All firefighters maintain certification as Emergency Medical Technicians, and engage in monthly skills and retention training as well as a bi-annual comprehensive Refresher Training courses. Firefighters also participate in regular department-wide Fire and Rescue training among which are water and ice rescue, pumper operations, ladder operations, equipment familiarization and incident manage-

ment. Additional 2014 training highlights include: a 2-day class sponsored by Bedford FD in Fire Command procedures; EOC facilitation training; a practical exercise on rescuing trapped firefighters sponsored by Maynard FD; decontamination drills at Emerson Hospital and much more.

New firefighters Matt O'Donnell and Evan Foisy graduated from the 9 week recruit academy at the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy in Stow, MA. In this academy, newly appointed firefighters learn the skills, physical fitness and especially the teamwork necessary to effectively and safely navigate their careers here at CFD. Both Matt and Evan well exceeded the expectations of their class!

The National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg, Maryland is a great national and world-wide fire training 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 newly promoted Lt. Sean Murphy graduated from the NFA Command and Control of Multiple Alarm Incidents. This 6-day course is simulation-intensive and focuses on the Commander's responsibility while conducting major operations. Emphasis is placed on rapid fireground decision-making, advanced incident command and control, safety, personnel accountability, and communications. Lt. Brian Whitney also took a 10 day course at the NFA designed to enable CFD to more effectively train our personnel.



*Kick off ceremony for the second ambulance implementation at Station 2 introducing the 4 new firefighters assigned to the new ambulance.*

Firefighter Marcus Jackson is a member of the Concord-Carlisle Critical Incident Stress management (CISM) Team. This team helps to defuse the effects of stress in fellow area emergency responders. This is important as job-related stress can have significant long-term health ef-

fects on responders. FF Jackson responded with the team to Lowell as a result of an apartment fire with multiple civilian deaths. He also responded to Boston after 2 firefighters perished in a Back Bay fire.

#### *Community Outreach*

The Department participated in many community programs, including the annual flag burning ceremony, community CPR classes, a Holiday toys drive; Picnic in the Park; Concord Family Network annual fire truck wash; Concord Center Christmas 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 are able to 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. CFD also supports the Concord Independent Battery by providing medical EMT stand-by at all their firings.

The Student Awareness of Fire Safety Education (SAFE) program, coordinated by Lt. Sean Murphy, visited each kindergarten, first and second grades as well as the senior class in the Concord Public Schools to provide lifesaving instruction in home fire safety. The Fire Department also 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*

The CFD welcomed 7 new members this year, Matt O'Donnell, Evan Foisy, Matt Vickery, Jimmy Mazzola, Chuck Hopkins, Brendan Lyons and Jim Foley. All performed exemplary throughout a rigorous recruitment process.

Firefighter John Palma, Lt. Jon White, Deputy Chief Chris Kelley and Firefighter Peter Fulton retired this past year after many years of dedicated service to the Concord fire Department. FF Palma is a lifelong Concord resident who always gave extra effort to those in need. Lt. White was a longtime Lieutenant on E4 and in charge of the CFD's radio system. Deputy Chief Kelley headed up our fire prevention division and will be missed by many in the community. FF Fulton also a Concord resident is known

for his local knowledge and also for the care he gave to the maintenance of Station 2. Best wishes to all these retirees and their families for a long and healthy retirement.

We are fortunate to have Interim Deputy Chief Mike Wallace temporarily on-board to help us perform Deputy Kelley's duties while we search for his permanent replacement. We appreciate his efforts!

We had 2 promotions this past year. Sean Murphy was promoted to Lieutenant to fill the vacancy created by the retirement of Lt. Conlin. Bill Whalen was promoted to Lieutenant to fill the vacancy created by the retirement of Lt. White. Both Lt.'s successfully competed in a challenging promotional process.

Firefighter Brad Ferrie recently became the second CFD member assigned to our regional fire investigation team. FF Ferrie will be responsible for conducting fire cause investigation both in Concord and surrounding towns when required.



*CFD firefighters Will Rolfe and Adam Bean extinguish a back hoe fire on Walden Street.*

#### *Station Improvements*

This year the aging CFD radio system was replaced in entirety. A dependable two way radio system is critical to the success of any modern era Fire Department. This important upgrade will add to the safety of emergency responders and the public alike.

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, CMLP, IT Department, Council on Aging, Building Commissioner, and

Health Administrator. 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 2014 are public documents and are available for inspection at Fire Headquarters.

All 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 Fire, 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 human-creat-

ed 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 activated this year for planning and potential response to the Ebola concerns faced domestically. It is imperative to have a coordinated approach to both planning and response to such potential events. The EOC was activated to interact with the various State agencies and facilitate the Town's planning activities with representatives from the Police department, Fire Department, Public Health, targeted community institutions and Town Manager's office. Our planning component included several table-top exercises to test our developed procedures.

Concord's Emergency sheltering capability was enhanced this year with the establishment of the Harvey Wheeler Community Center as our primary shelter. The building has been fitted with an emergency generator and ample equipment to allow us to shelter residents if needed.

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 an 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.