

PUBLIC SAFETY

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Mark R. Cotreau,
Fire Chief

2012 was another very active year for the Concord Fire Department. The Concord Fire Department responded to many significant emergency incidents again this year. Among the most notable was an August structure fire at the historic Wayside Inn. This attic fire was quickly controlled with a newly installed sprinkler system and a quick Concord Fire response. The NPS has been installing fire sprinkler systems in many of their historic buildings. A wealth of irreplaceable artifacts was undoubtedly saved by the forward thinking of the National Park Service. The CFD also responded to a two-alarm fire at New England Deaconess, a two-alarm fire at Kindred Healthcare, a two-alarm house fire on Elm Street, a hazardous materials incident at Emerson Hospital as well as a 2-day prolonged and challenging propane tank incident at 300 Baker Ave.

As usual, the variable New England weather created challenges for Concord Fire. The mild winter created a very dry brush fire season which required the recall of off-duty staff for extensive brush fires in the area of Batemans Pond, Hanscom Field and Fairhaven Hill Road. In October, Concord Fire was busy planning for and responding to Hurricane Sandy. As part of a coordinated State mutual aid response to New York, Concord Firefighter Will Rolfe traveled with the Department of Fire Services Incident Support unit to Mets Stadium where they teamed up with staff from the Phoenix, Arizona Fire Department to help coordinate Emergency Management response to this disaster area. His experience will help us hone our skills here in Concord.

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.

The following table is a summary of the Concord Fire Departments activity statistics for 2012:

FIRE EMERGENCY RESPONSES	2012
Structure Fires	17
Vehicle Fires	5
Outside Fires	10
Other Fires	11
TOTAL FIRES	43
Estimated Dollar Losses	\$367,000
Fire Mutual Aid Given	16
Fire Mutual Aid Received	52
OTHER FIRE CALLS	
Fire/Smoke/Carbon Monoxide Alarms	625
Public Assist/Service Calls	299
Motor Vehicle Accidents/No Injuries	46
TOTAL OTHER FIRE CALLS	970
HAZARDOUS CONDITIONS RESPONSES	
Gas Leaks	51
Gasoline/Oil Spills	17
Electrical Problems	61
Other Hazardous Conditions	30
TOTAL HAZARDOUS RESPONSES	159
TOTAL FIRE EMERGENCY RESPONSES	1,172
MEDICAL EMERGENCY/RESCUE CALLS	
Basic Life Support Only	945
Advanced Life Support	714
TOTAL AMBULANCE TRANSPORTS	1,659
Medical Services/No Transport	101
Mutual Aid Ambulance Given	13
Mutual Aid Ambulance Received	231
TOTAL MEDICAL RESPONSES	1,760
TOTAL EMERGENCY RESPONSES	2,932
Fire Prevention Inspections	367
Permits Issued	235
Plans review	16
Smoke Detector/CO certificates	275
Open burning permits issued	506
School inspections	33
Healthcare facilities	64

Concord Fire EMS Strategic Plan

At our November 2011 budget meeting, we announced that the Concord Fire Department would be analyzing all aspects of our EMS delivery system to identify strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, threats, benefits and liabilities to provide a practical, data-driven, multi-year EMS community-driven strategic plan. A primary 2012 objective, this plan took almost 1 year to develop. It identifies goals and objectives, as well as the strategies to achieve them, to ensure continued excellence in our EMS service provided to the residents of Concord and those traveling within its boundaries.

We utilized a comprehensive approach to develop this plan. Members of the Concord Fire Department, Concord Finance Department and external consultants col-

laborated to provide a data-driven, objective document that we would be proud of. We have done that. The full report can be found on our website.

Final 2012 statistics revealed:

- 2012 EMS responses reflect a 10% increase over 2011 responses.
- 2012 Mutual Aid ambulances received from other towns reflect a 19% increase over 2011 statistics.

The members of the EMS Strategic Plan Committee have worked extremely hard. I thank you all. The committee consisted of:

Edward Conlin, Lieutenant, Chair
Mark Cotreau, Fire Chief
Kevin Fagerquist, Asst. EMS Coordinator
Anthony Geanisis, EMS Coordinator
Thomas Judge, Captain
Mike Wallace, Wallace Training Associates
Brian Whitney, Lieutenant

I would also like to thank: Bill Mergendahl, ProEMS CEO, for his advice and statistical assistance; Arthur St John, Concord FF, for his GIS support; Jon Harris, Concord Budget and Purchasing Administrator, for his careful financial review and input; Dottie Bernard MPH for her input and professional guidance; and all members of the Concord Fire Department for their support of this endeavor.

Equipment and Apparatus:

Although no major 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 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. Our firefighters also participate in regular Department-wide Fire and Rescue training, among which are water and ice rescue, pumper evolutions, ladder operations, equipment familiarization and incident management.

In May, the Worcester Fire Department allowed their

ladder operations instructor, Lt. Steve Connole, to provide the CFD staff with practical ladder operations training on our newly purchased Ladder 1. This training was well received by all participants, and we thank the Worcester Fire Department for their generous support.

Brett Mills, one of our new firefighters, successfully completed his 12 week Recruit Training Academy at the Massachusetts Fire Academy. By all accounts, Brett's performance was well above the class average! Congratulations Brett!



Firefighter Sean Murphy and Firefighter Will Rolfe (in gear) conduct a fire safety class in the Concord Public Schools.

Will Rolfe completed a 1-week advanced communications course focusing on scene management and interoperability offered by NERAC.

Mike Pimentel, Charlie Baker, Billy Nelson, Marcus Jackson, Peter Ostroskey and Wanda Rupelt all completed a CPR Instructor course. They will help deliver CPR classes both internally and as needed in the community.

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. Again this year, CFD members spent several weeks in various courses at the NFA. Congratulations to Captain Tom Judge, Lt. Brian Whitney and Lt. Jay Redmond, who each successfully passed a 6 day challenging Incident Management course titled “Command and Control of Multiple Alarm incidents.”

Community Outreach



Capt. Owen Neville of Concord Fire receives an American Flag for retirement from Lieutenant Colonel Wendy Garrity, United States Marine Corps during the Veterans Day Flag Retirement Ceremony. Fire Capt. Curran is in the background.

The Department participated in many community programs, including a holiday toys 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 elder residents and, twice annually, Department personnel prepare and serve lunches at the Harvey Wheeler Community Center.

The Student Awareness of Fire Safety Education program, coordinated by Firefighter Sean Murphy, visited each kindergarten, first and second grade classroom 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

Concord Fire welcomed 2 new members this year, Brett Mills and Peter Ostroskey. Brett and Peter topped a challenging hiring process which began with over 150 applicants! Brett has just completed his recruit training and Peter is scheduled to attend the 12 week course in January.

19-Year Concord Fire veteran Scott Wodzinski resigned in October to become the Fire Chief in Littleton, MA. We thank Scott for his service to the Town of Concord and wish him the best in his new endeavor!

Station Improvements

The Station 1 second floor renovation which began in 2010 was completed in April 2011. The renovation was successful by all accounts. Last year we completed some office refitting on the first floor and will be completing 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 the supplemental funding of energy efficiencies.

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, 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.