



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 #72
Fall 2014

Good luck

Good luck to all those taking the Promotional exam on November 15 for Fire Lieutenant and Fire Captain for the City of Cambridge!

What's New

Website - The City of Cambridge Fire Department website has a new look! Thanks to **Lt. Mike Hughes (EPAC)** the website has been streamlined and some new photos added. Some of the old photos were reused. If you get a chance, check it out and spread the word!

Marine 2 - The department has taken delivery of a new boat to replace the old Marine 2. It was shown at the Big E in Springfield in late June at the Chiefs show before being brought back to Cambridge and placed in service.

According to **Lt. Steve Brown (Tech Services)** it is a 24' rigid inflatable boat built by Ribcraft, USA in Marblehead, MA. It is powered by a 295hp Steyr marine diesel engine coupled to Hamilton jet drive. It is equipped with a Simrad GPS, chart plotter, side imaging sonar, automatic identification system, marine VHF radio, Whelen siren, and AreaRAE CBRNE detection.

The boat was supplied with a Load Rite trailer, and it will be in service at Engine 5. This boat will be used for surface and subsurface rescue, and boom deployment.



Cambridge Fire Dept. Photo

Cambridge Fire Department was mentioned in 2014-2015 Edition of "The Cambridge Life" Magazine:

READY FOR ACTION

CAMBRIDGE FIRE DEPARTMENT

TAKES TRADITIONAL FIREFIGHTING TO A NEW LEVEL



Multiple hazard training sessions keeps firefighters' skills honed for all types of rescue situations. **Above:** a drill for the Dive Rescue Team. **Right:** Hazardous Response Team suiting up; a confined space rescue drill; and a truck collapse rescue drill.

The Cambridge Fire Department (CFD) has a long and proud history of protecting the people who reside in and visit the City of Cambridge. In addition to providing traditional fire suppression, fire prevention and Emergency Medical Services, CFD has taken an all-hazard approach to tackling its mission.

SPECIAL TEAMS AT WORK

Over the past two decades, the department formally expanded into specialized areas of Dive Rescue, Technical Rescue and Hazardous Materials Response. The department engages in cutting-edge training and purchases state-of-the-art specialized equipment to better prepare its firefighters for the variety of rescue situations they may encounter in an increasingly populated and diverse city like Cambridge.

CFD has numerous specialty vehicles to assist in rescue situations that may arise at educational, institutional and biotech facilities. The HazMat Response truck carries specialized metering and sampling devices, protective suits, spill containment and plug kits, decontamination equipment and chemical information search devices.

SCUBA and dive rescue equipment is transported by the Dive Rescue truck which can also be accompanied by CFD's Fire Rescue Boat(s) for use on waterways in and near the city. The Tactical Services truck contains high-angle and confined space rescue equipment along with many tools needed for all types of rescues and hazards. This truck also carries spare air cylinders for fire response and has the capability of filling these cylinders as well as SCUBA cylinders on scene.

Construction or soil collapse situations can be addressed with the equipment on the Trench Rescue trailer. CFD recently acquired a Collapse Rescue trailer, which will be equipped with structural collapse rescue equipment. This trailer is part of specialized equipment for use in responding to structural collapse rescue situations in Cambridge or neighboring communities.

OUR MOST VALUABLE RESOURCE

"The potential of this rescue equipment would never be realized without the combined experience of our special teams and their commitment to continuous training, making them our most valuable resource," said Fire Chief Gerald Reardon. "In this ever changing world, the Cambridge Fire Department is determined to provide the best service possible to our community." ■

14 THE CAMBRIDGE LIFE

2014 - 2015 EDITION

All Companies Working

June 9, 2014 – Working Fire, Box 474, 57 JFK Street – Headquarters companies found a light smoke condition and fire burning in a ceiling area that extended to floor #2. Sprinklers activated, but fire in void spaces required hose lines and overhaul.

June 10, 2014 – Mutual Aid, Boston, Box 2171, 28 Wyoming Street , 5 alarms – Engine 2 covered at Engine 33 during their 5 alarm fire.

June 15, 2014 – Working Fire, 15 Lambert Street, Box 1961- Fire on 4th floor – A fire on the balcony extended into an apartment on the fifth floor at an elderly high rise building. Engine 3 and Ladder 2 operated on the fire floor, Engine supplied the standpipe and other companies completed searches and evacuations.

June 19, 2014 – Mutual Aid, Waltham, 4 Alarms, 55 Charles Street – Engine 9, Ladder 1, Squad 4, and Division 1 to 4th Alarm fire at Charles and Felton St. Fire involved two 2 1/2 story wood frame dwellings. Ladder 1 and Squad 4 designated as RIT. Exterior operations only. Engine 9 assisted Arlington with a line at rear. Engine 5 covered the Willow St. Station.

June 26, 2014 – 1 Alarm Fire, 217 Lexington Ave, Box 85 – Companies arrived with smoke showing to a late night fire in a residence. Occupants stated the fire was in a third floor bedroom in the rear of the building. The fire was contained to one room.

June 28, 2014 – 1 Alarm Fire, 15 Vassal Lane, Box 81 – a dishwasher caused a small fire that required companies to stretch lines and open the walls to check for extension.

June 30, 2014 – Mutual Aid, Belmont, 2nd Alarm, 39 Horne Road, Box 411– Belmont struck a working fire on arrival in a 2 story home. Engine 9, Ladder 1, Squad 4 and Division 2 responded to the fire. Engine 5 covered.

July 5, 2014 – Water Rescue, Mass Ave. Bridge – Reports of a man in the water off the Mass Ave Bridge. State Police confirm victim in water. Upon arrival of CFD, victim removed from water by Boston FD, CPR in progress.

July 3, 2014 – Medical Aid, 170 Windsor Street – Companies responded to a medical aid. A drive by shooting resulted in the death of a young man.

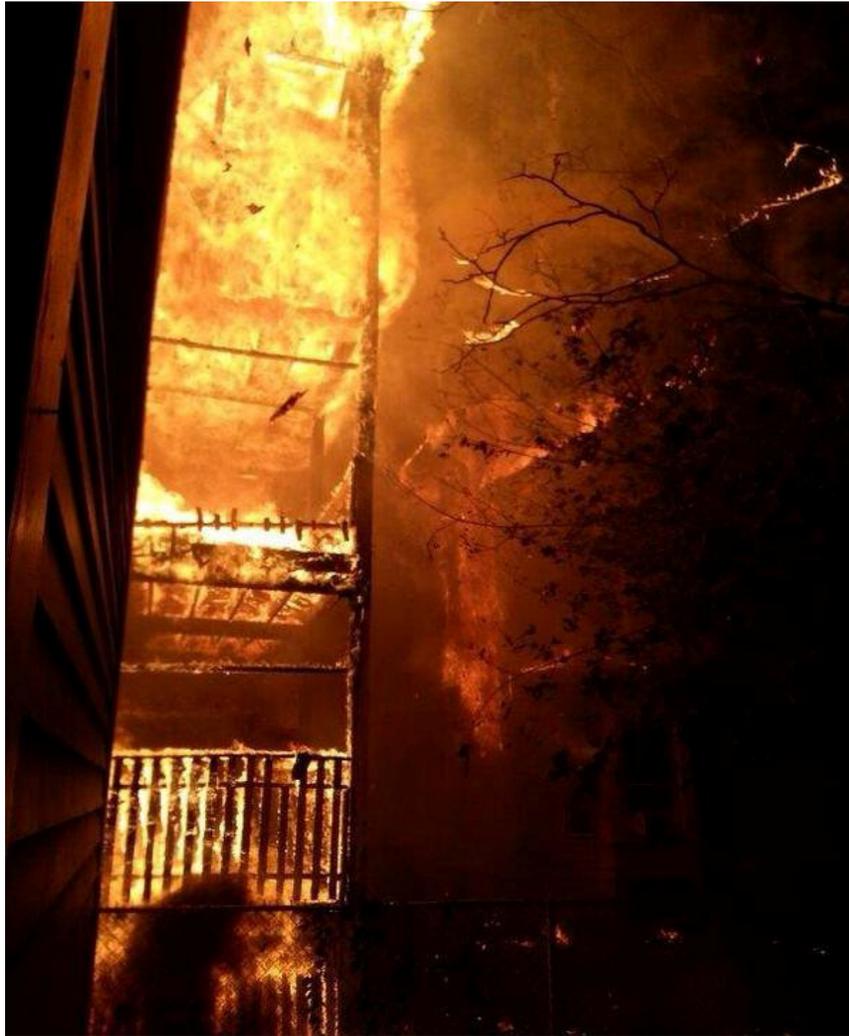
July 14, 2014 – Mutual Aid, Belmont, Working Fire, 15 Milton Street, Box 153 - Ladder 1 and Engine 9 dispatched to a cover assignment. While enroute, Ladder 1 and Squad 4 redirected to the fire as well as Division 1. Incident was an attic fire in a 2-1/2 story wood frame building. Companies assisted Belmont opening up ceiling and roof. Engine 9 requested to fire to assist making up due to extreme heat. Engine 5 sent to cover Belmont station 2.

July 17, 2014 – Motor Vehicle Fire, Land Boulevard @ Monsignor O'Brien Highway– Engine 3 arrived to find a Chevy Astro van fully involved.

July 24, 2014 – Industrial Incident, 9 Cambridge Center – a worker received 2nd degree burns to the face when steam leaked from a pipe.

July 26, 2014 – 1 Alarm fire, 820 Mass Ave, YMCA, Box 4334 – Master Box was received with nothing showing . After investigation, found a small fire in an apartment on the 4th floor. Occupant left his unit and upon returning his desk was on fire.

July 27, 2014 – 9 Alarms, Allston Street, Box 344 – The ECC received multiple calls from neighboring addresses for a large fire on Allston Street. On arrival, three buildings and one motor vehicle were involved. Large diameter master streams and hose lines were immediately stretched to prevent spread to other exposures and searches were conducted where practical. Water supply was an essential resource that required many pumps.



Photographer unknown



Photo by J. Shia

July 29, 2014 – Working Fire, Box 691, 1688 Mass. Ave. – ECC received a telephone report of an electrical odor. Companies signed off with smoke showing.

(Editor note: this was FF Paul Finnegan's (Ladder 4) first day back on full duty after having a prosthetic leg after his motorcycle accident. Please see photo later in issue)

July 30, 2014 – Mutual Aid, Boston, 6 Alarms, 309 Sumner Street, Box 6139 – Engine 2 responded to cover Engine 33 on the 6 alarm. Ladder 1 was a special call to cover Boston Ladder 9 in Charlestown and normally covers Ladder 15 on the 7th alarm.

August 6, 2014 – Mutual Aid, Waltham, 4 Alarms, Box 16, 145 Ash Street – Waltham had a fire in a 3 story wood frame building. On the 3rd Alarm, Ladder 1, Squad 4 and Division 2 responded to the fire. Engine 9 responded to cover Waltham Engine 1 on Moody Street. On the 4th Alarm, Engine 5 responded to cover and was redirected to the scene to standby as the RIT team.

August 6, 2014 – 1 Alarm Fire, 300 Mass. Ave, Box 3112 – Companies responded to a telephone alarm for a fire on the 6th floor of a hotel under construction. Companies found workers extinguishing a tarp that caught fire during hot work.

August 7, 2014 – Haz-mat, 127 Mass. Ave – CFD responded to a reported Nitric acid spill in a laboratory. Upon investigation, metering found that the spill was confined to the hood and there was no immediate danger. Responsible parties to notify clean up company.

August 7, 2014 – Water Rescue, Longfellow Bridge – A witness observed a man jump from the midpoint of the Longfellow Bridge and did not resurface. Cambridge Fire Dept., Boston Fire Dept. and the Mass. State Police worked together to recover the victim after a combined search.

August 9, 2014 – 1 Alarm Fire, 55 Washburn Ave, Box 789 – Somerville Engine 6 arrived first due on a line box and found a dishwasher on fire, followed closely by Engine 4. One line stretched and fire was quickly extinguished.

August 11 – Water Rescue – Area of Mass Ave Bridge – two kayakers were unable to get back into their boats or the motor launch. Marine 1 dispatched and on arrival, kayakers made their way into motor launch.

August 19, 2014 – Pedestrian Accident, Memorial Drive @ Mass. Ave. Bridge – a 50 year old man was struck and killed by a car on Memorial Drive while walking during the early morning.

August 25, 2014 – 1 Alarm Fire, 36 Vassar Street, Box 273– A central station fire alarm was followed by the ECC striking the box for a fire in an underground loading dock. Burning was a trash compactor full of compressed cardboard. A Bobcat machine and rubbish truck were required to pull out the contents to fully extinguish the fire.

August 28, 2014- 1 Alarm Fire, 70 Pacific Street, Box 32- Companies found water coming from underneath an apartment door on floor 8 of a high rise residence. Engine 2 and Ladder 3 requested a full assignment. After forcing the door, they found an unattended stove fire that communicated to the cabinets with a sprinkler system activation.

August 29, 2014 – 1 Alarm Fire, 57 Fairmont Street, Box 361 – Engine 6 called off on arrival with smoke and fire showing from the second floor of a residential building. Engine 2 assisted in fire attack and Ladder 3 vented.

August 29, 2014 – Water Incident, Memorial Drive @ Hingham Street – A car made its way into the Charles River. Mass. State Police advised all occupants were out. CFD Divers confirmed the car was indeed empty and completely submerged. Assisted tow company with sling and straps for removal.

August 31 – Mutual Aid, Chelsea, 6 Alarms, 253 Arlington Street, Box 415– Engine 5, Squad 2, Division 1 to the fire, Ladder 1 to cover Chelsea Central Station. Companies at the fire vented an exposure roof, conducted secondary searches and overhauled.

August 31, 2014 – Mutual Aid, Somerville, 2nd Alarm, 47 Josephine Street – Engine 5 and Ladder 1 covered in Somerville. Engine 4, Squad 4 and Division 2 responded to the fire on the 2nd alarm. Companies operated on floor #3 of a three story wood frame extinguishing remaining fire and overhauling until dismissed by command.

September 2, 2014 – Mutual Aid, Boston, 9 Alarms, Box 5136, 12 Harvard Terrace – Engine 2 and Ladder 1 covered Engine 33 and Ladder 15 during their fire in the Allston section of the city.

Best wishes

Dan Lopez – In July 2014, the Motor Squad received a setback when Dan Lopez twisted his knee while working in the shop. He had arthroscopic surgery in Late July to confirm it was a torn ACL and was out of work for a bit. He is scheduled for a second surgery in late September to replace the new ball joints. We really wish him a successful and speedy recovery!



Photo by FF J. McEachern

August 5, 2014 – Companies responded to a car vs. house incident.

Out and About



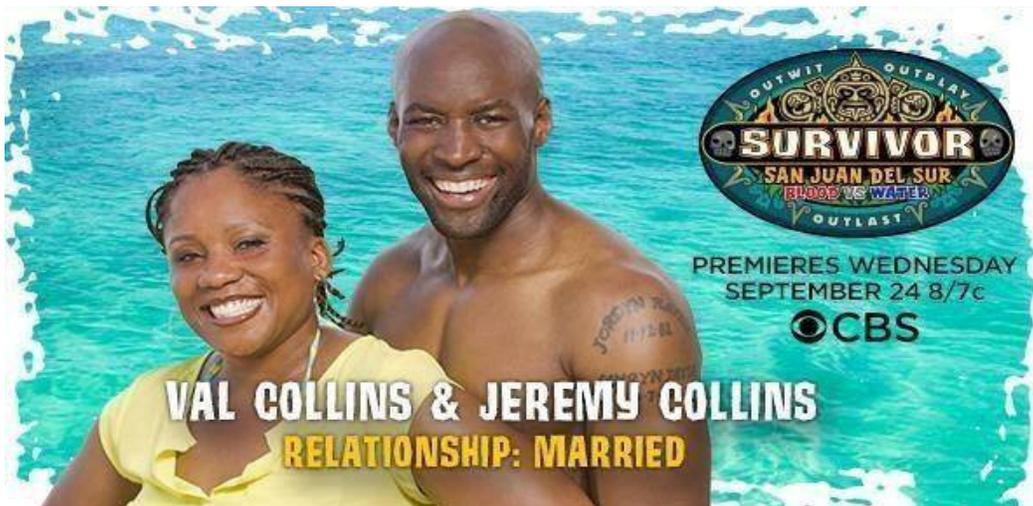
Photo courtesy Local 30

Lt. Paul Mahoney (Engine 1) attends his last IAFF convention with **FF John Rocca (Retired)** President Emeritus who received the 2014 IAFF Leadership Award.



Photo courtesy Local 30

Local 30 President Emeritus John Rocca accepting the IAFF Leadership award with Local 30 President **Colin Walsh**, IAFF General President Harold Schaitberger, and IAFF 3rd District VP Michael Mullane



FF Jeremy Collins (Ladder 2) and his wife Val will be featured in the popular hit television show, Survivor. Filmed in Nicaragua this summer, the show will premier on September 24



Photo by H Smith

FF Paul Finnegan (Ladder Co. 4) takes a break after roof operations at Box 691, a Working Fire for 1688 Mass Ave. This was Paul's first tour back to work after having a prosthetic leg.



Photo by Robert Paige, Professional Ambulance

FF Silvio Estrada, FF Steve Kelley and Lt. Jim Drewicz all of Rescue 1 make up after the 9 alarm fire on Allston Street.



Photo by Robert Paige, Professional Ambulance

DFC Ed Morrissey (Division 1) and FF Fran Gallagher (Aide to Div. 1) getting updates during the fire on Allston Street.



Photo by H. Smith

Engine 4 gets the best parking spot right out front during Box 691 for 1688 Mass. Ave.



Photo by M. Humphreys

FF/Paramedic Peter Benevides (Engine 1) at Paratech training in Everett in July



Photo provided

FFOP's – sixteen FFOP's were added to the roster in late July. (Please see the GO later in the issue for identification and names). A seventeenth addition, **FFOP Patrick Sullivan** followed in August 2014.



Photo courtesy Jeremy Walsh

L-R, **Captain Greg Carter (Training)**, **Lt. Richard “Dick” Teas (Ladder 2 Retired)**, **Grandson Chris Leavitt** and **Lt. Jeremy Walsh (Squad 2)** at Chris's wedding in August.

Canobie Lake Park Day - FF Mike Dwyer (Ladder 1) announced in late June that he would no longer be organizing the Local 30 Canobie Lake Park Day. **FFOP Blake Crist (Ladder 2)** was gracious (and brave enough) to assume the responsibility. It was held on Thursday, August 21, 2014. Thanks to FF Dwyer for his time and effort over the last few years and to FFOP Crist for ensuring that a fun filled family day tradition does not fall by the wayside!



Photo by Alyssa Morrissey

Lt. Galvin Murphy (Retired) and FF Marvin Ramos (Engine 5) participate in the kids games before general admission to the park.



Photo by Bridget Lopez

Dominic Freitas, Grandson of **Steve Lopez (Motor Squad)** takes his first fire truck ride (of many we are assuming!)

Local 30 MDA

From **Lt. Brandon Hugh**, Local 30 MDA Chairperson:

I'm happy to announce that the Local 30 Golf Outing was a big success! Despite the heat, we had about 120 golfers and raised approximately \$10,500 for the Muscular Dystrophy Association. As always, this success isn't possible without all of you! I would like to thank everyone who participated and/or supported the event by sponsoring holes or buying raffle tickets. Special thanks to the Wayland Country Club for their hospitality and also to **Bill Hugh, Frank O'Grady, Joe Pinto, and Dan Caceres** for volunteering their time and helping me throughout the day. Congratulations and good luck to the Grand Prize raffle winner **Peter Melo!** Customized Local 30 pint glasses were made for the event and are now available to purchase for \$7 if interested (all proceeds go to the MDA).

We had a successful "Fill The Boot" on Wednesday, August 20, raising approximately \$2,300 in just 2 hours on the Gilmore Bridge. I would like to thank the following members for volunteering their time with me: **Deputy Chief Brian Gover, Captain Ray Vaillancourt, FF Marvin Ramos, FF Joe Pinto, FF Derek O'Leary, FF Mike Lencki, and FF Jim Encalada**

I'm proud to announce that Cambridge Fire raised **\$23,119** this year for the Muscular Dystrophy Association. Like always, our success is only possible because of the continuous support shown by our membership, friends, and families throughout the year ...So Thank you!



Photo by B. Hugh

August 20 Fill The Boot drive raised approximately \$2,300 from in just 2 hours on the Gilmore Bridge MDA of Massachusetts— with **FF Jim Encalada, Capt. Ray Vaillancourt, FF Marvin Ramos, Lt. Brandon Hugh Sr., FF Derek O’Leary and FF Michael Lencki**. (Missing from Photo was **DFC Brian Gover and FF J. Pinto**)

Congratulations

Congratulations to **Firefighter Matt Ansello (Rescue Co. 1)** on obtaining his paramedic certification! Job well done.

Congratulations to **FF Keith Thorne-Bingham (Ladder 1)** and his fiancée Jessica Britton on the birth of their daughter Kendall Robin Thorne-Bingham, born 7/14/14 at 4:52am, weighing in at 8.13 pounds, 21 inches long

Congratulations to **FF John Shinkwin (Aide to Division 2)** on his election to the Cambridge Retirement Board in July 2014. As a result of the election, he was elected to a 3-year term on the Cambridge Retirement Board, starting August 1, 2014.

Congratulations to new **Boston Fire Chief and Fire Commissioner Joseph Finn** who upon his swearing in on July 28, 2014 – became the 42nd Boston Fire Commissioner / Chief of Department.

Job Well Done! On August 26th, Mr. and Mrs. Jed Rifkin went by the Lafayette Square Firehouse with some big smiles and lots of ice cream. Back in February Mr. Rifkin went into cardiac arrest while working out at the gym at the corner of Mass. Ave. and Blanche Street. Engine 6 and Squad 2 responded with a BLS unit. Engine 6 actually "jumped" the call as they were parked across the street. Mr. Rifkin was found in full cardiopulmonary arrest and was treated pre-hospital with ACLS meds, defibrillation and CPR. After a lengthy hospital stay Mr. Rifkin made a complete recovery.



Photo provided

Pictured is Squad 2 members **FF Medic Ian Moynihan**, **FF Medic Jay Martel (detailed from L3)**, **Engine 6 Lt. Kevin Mercer** and **FF Paul Burke**. Also on the call **FF David Liu** (not pictured).

Kevin O'Boyle 5K Walk and Run

As we all know, the members of the Salem & Cambridge Fire Departments lost one of our brothers just over one year ago. On Saturday August 23rd, B&S Fitness of Salem in cooperation with the Salem Fire Department held a 5k road race, 1 mile walk, and Kid's Fun Run in honor of **FF Kevin O'Boyle (Engine 5)**. All proceeds from this event went directly to the Wounded Warrior Project in Kevin's name.

After the race, Salem Firefighters Local 172 invited all members of the Cambridge Fire Department to be their guests at a cookout which was held at Winter Island in Salem.



Photo by Jeff Brown, Salem Fire Dept

Past and present members of the Cambridge Fire Department family pose after the race. Rear center (black shirt and sunglasses) is Kevin's Dad – **James O'Boyle**



Photo by Stanley Forman

Led by Salem Firefighters carrying the American Flag, firefighters participated in a full gear run to honor FF Kevin O'Boyle.



Photo by Jeff Brown, Salem Fire Dept.

FF Joe Bokuniewicz (Engine 5) signs the American Flag after the run.

New England Patriots Custom Motorcycle Raffle

Winner will receive a one-of-a-kind custom New England Patriots motorcycle designed by Orange County Choppers worth over \$85,000! Raffle tickets are just \$10, or 3 tickets for \$20, and there is no limit to the number you can purchase. The raffle will close on December 21st at 11:00am.



This bike is signed by OCC Founder, Paul Teutul Sr. and includes Patriots details as well as the logos from Metro SWAT and Boston Fire Department. The bike commemorates fallen Boston firefighters Lt. Edward J. Walsh Jr. and firefighter Michael R. Kennedy. Proceeds from raffle tickets support the Patriots Charitable Foundation, Special Olympics Massachusetts, Jack Williams Wednesday's Child, and Lt. Walsh - Firefighter Kennedy Memorial.

Raffle drawing will occur on or about December 21, 2014. Raffle tickets may be purchased for \$10.00 at select Gillette Stadium events, including the 2014 New England Fitness Challenge on September 27-28, 2014, and online at www.NEFC2014.com. The Grand Prize Winner will receive a custom-built New England Patriots-themed motorcycle, designed and built by Orange County Choppers, valued at approximately Eighty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$85,000.00). 100% of proceeds to benefit the following four charities: (1) New England Patriots Charitable Foundation, Inc.; (2) Jack & Marci Williams Endowment for Wednesday's Child Inc.; (3) Special Olympics Massachusetts, Inc.; and (4) Boston Firefighter's Credit Union. For Official Rules

From the Archives

The following two excerpts taken directly from the Cambridge Fire Department Annual Report dated 1877 provide an interesting glimpse into the era between hand engines and steam engines:

“THE CIRCULATING HEATERS, MENTION OF WHICH HAS HERETOFORE BEEN MADE, ARE NOW PERMANENTLY EMPLOYED IN EACH OF THE ENGINE HOUSES FOR THE PURPOSE OF KEEPING THE WATER AT THE BOILING POINT IN THE BOILERS CONNECTED WITH THE ENGINES. THROUGH THESE PIPES THERE IS A CONSTANT PASSAGE OF WATER FROM THE BOILER BELOW TO THE ONE ABOVE; AND HENCE A PRESSURE OF STEAM MAY BE MAINTAINED AT ALL TIMES.”

Because the steam engines used steam created by a coal fire in the fire box, to provide pressure for hose lines, they were connected to a boiler in the station to maintain a state of readiness. If they weren't, it would take too long for a fire in the firebox on the way to a fire to create enough steam to use on arrival.

“THE OLD SOURCES OF WATER SUPPLY PROVIDED FOR USE OF THE HAND-ENGINE ARE FAST DISAPPEARING, THEIR USE OF LATE YEARS NOT HAVING BEEN REQUIRED. MOST OF THESE OLD RESERVOIRS WERE BUILT MANY YEARS AGO, THEIR SIDES AND ROOFS BEING CONSTRUCTED OF WELL WORN PLANKING TAKEN FROM THE ROADWAYS OF WEST BOSTON AND CRAIGIES BRIDGES WHEN REPAIRS WERE MADE THEREON. AT GREAT DEPTHS IN THE GROUND, THE SIDES AND ROOFS HAVE GRADUALLY DECAYED AND IN SEVERAL INSTANCES THE ROOFS HAVE GIVEN WAY CAUSING THE EARTH TO CAVE IN THE RESERVOIRS.”

The hand engines would use water from cisterns or reservoirs. In New England, these had to be located at least 4 feet down below the frost line so they would not freeze in the winter.



Department photo

Engine 7's (Kendall Square) Steam Engine, an 1895 Amoskeag 700 GPM steamer

Through the Lantern Lens



Through the Lantern Lens

by Mose Humphrey

Every year in June, members from the Cambridge Fire Department meet on the second Sunday of the month at the Cambridge Cemetery to honor deceased members of the department. This is not just a local tradition. This day is observed statewide and is actually a Mass. General Law.

Chapter 6, Section 15JJ reads: *"The governor shall annually issue a proclamation setting apart the second Sunday in June as "Fire Fighters Memorial Sunday", to honor all departed fire fighters and recommends that said day be observed in an appropriate manner by the people of the commonwealth."*

All of the members that have gone before us deserve this recognition. However, they don't necessarily have to die in the line of duty to receive this honor.

Three of the four oldest gravestones in the Firemen's Lot actually belong to firemen that died as a result of their service in the Civil War.



To the Memory of **Benjamin F. Garland**

Died June 3, 1864 of wounds received in the battle of Spottsylvania C. H.

Aged 30 yrs. 9 mos.

Erected by the members of Hunneman Engine Co. No. 7 of Cambridge

The battle at Spottsylvania C.H. (C.H. was short for Court House, and Spottsylvania was the 19th Century spelling of Spotylsvania, MD). This was a major battle from May 8 through May 21, 1864. During the hardest fighting here, the Union and Confederate forces fought hand to hand for almost 24 hours. Benjamin was a private in the US 11th Infantry. He was born in New Hampshire, was a carpenter by trade and lived in Cambridge at the time of his enlistment. He died of a gunshot wound to the arm (most likely infection) on June 3 in Washington D.C, over a week after the battle ended. He was single.

His gravestone reads "To the Memory of..." because he is actually buried in a soldiers cemetery in Washington D.C. where he died.



George H. Batchelder
Died Sept. 2, 1868
Aged 32 years
A soldier in Co. G 19 Regt. Mass. Vols.

George H. Batchelder was a printer in private life. He enlisted on 23 August, 1861 with Company G, in the Massachusetts 19th Infantry. They mustered out on 28 August 1864. He died in Cambridge in 1868 of Pulmonary Phthisis (Tuberculosis) and left a wife and at least one daughter.



Nathan W. Wilson
Serg. Co. F. 11th Regs. Mass. Vol.
Died July 4, 1865
Et. 25 yrs.

Nathan W. Wilson was a carpenter by trade. He was a Sergeant in Company F of the 11th Infantry. He was killed in the battle of Gettysburg, PA. Military records suggest that he was killed on July 2, 1865. He was single.

Signal 10-15

Special Signal 10-15 The Chief of Department regrets to announce the death of

Firefighter Thomas M. Cusack Jr; Engine Co. No. 8 Retired

Firefighter Cusack was appointed on May 10, 1959 and retired on April 5, 1975.

He was a veteran of World War II; United States Army. He was 92 years of age

Special Signal 10-15 The Chief of Department regrets to announce the death of

Captain Robert N. Dunn; Ladder Co. 3-Retired

A Funeral Mass was held in July 2014 in Brighton, MA

Captain Dunn was appointed to the Department on April 30, 1972

He retired on May 7, 2006

He was a Veteran of the United States Army

Captain Dunn was 71 years of age.

Special Signal 10-15 The Chief of Department regrets to announce the death of

Firefighter Gerard McCabe; Ladder Co. 4-Retired

Firefighter McCabe was appointed January 19, 1969

He retired August 19, 2003

He was 73 years of age.

Special Signal 10-15 The Chief of Department regrets to announce the death of

**Lt. John J. Gallagher Jr.
Engine Co. 4-Retired**

Father of Firefighter John Gallagher; Ladder Co. 4

Lt. Gallagher was appointed to the department on April 25, 1948 and retired on June 16, 1979

He was a Veteran of the United States Navy; World War II

He was 92 years of age

Condolences to:

Lt. Matthew Brannelly; Rescue Co.-Retired on the passing of his Sister-In-Law,
Janet M. Melanson

FF James Bergin; Engine Co. 4 on the passing of his Brother-In-Law,
Joseph R. Cloherty

Firefighter Stephan Jeffres; Engine Co. 4-Retired on the passing of his Mother,
Mrs. Mary R. Jeffres

Firefighter Walter Grace; Aide to Division Chief on the passing of his Sister,
Mrs. Claire M. Davis

To the family of Mrs. Stella M. Perroni
Widow of the **late Firefighter Joseph Perroni; Ladder Co. 4-Retired** on her passing in July

Friends and family of **Walter J. Sullivan; former Mayor** and City Councilor
Walter J. Sullivan Water Purification Facility

Capt. Jason Grimm; Engine Co. 3 on the passing of his Grandmother,
Mrs. Catherine "Kay" Quinn

Firefighter Edward M. Fales; Ladder Co. 1 on the passing of his Mother,
Mrs. Elaine Fales

FF Murphy Aquaro; Engine Co. 8, on the passing of his Grandmother,
Mrs. Helen Murphy

Quotes of the Day

Too many people spend money they haven't earned, to buy things they don't want, to impress people they don't like – **Will Rogers**

How you do one thing, is how you do everything. Be aware. - unknown

Be more concerned with your character than your reputation, because your character is what you really are, while your reputation is merely what others think you are – **John Wooden**

Those who believe they can do something and those who believe they can't are both right.
- **Henry Ford**

Stats and Fires

FY 2014/2015 RUN TOTALS

	Jul-14	Aug-14	Sep-14	Oct-14	Nov-14	Dec-14	SBTTL	Jan-15	TOTAL
Engine 1	232	199					431		431
Engine 2	301	274					575		575
Engine 3	124	142					266		266
Engine 4	155	126					281		281
Engine 5	160	155					315		315
Engine 6	121	115					236		236
Engine 8	121	101					222		222
Engine 9	104	79					183		183
Truck 1	200	171					371		371
Truck 2	109	83					192		192
Truck 3	183	192					375		375
Truck 4	162	131					293		293
Rescue 1	209	172					381		381
Squad 2	305	274					579		579
Squad 4	141	147					288		288
Division 1	177	128					305		305
Division 2	151	109					260		260
HazMat 1	3	4					7		7
Spec & HQ Units	26	19					45		45
Mutual Aid Units	61	15					76		76
TOTAL	3045	2636	0	0	0	0	5681	0	5681

FY 2014/2015 Incident Totals									
	Jul-14	Aug-14	Sep-14	Oct-14	Nov-14	Dec-14	SBTTL	Jan-15	TOTAL
Responses	3045	2636					5681		5681
Incidents	1317	1162					2479		2479
Division 1 incidents	705	674					1379		1379
Division 2 incidents	612	488					1100		1100
Building fires	5	11					16		16
Inside fires	67	61					128		128
All fires	83	66					149		149
EMS	497	498					995		995
Elevator Rescue	16	7					23		23
Hazardous materials	23	14					37		37
CO emerg	5	0					5		5
Electrical hazards	54	28					82		82
Malicious false	23	19					42		42
Malfunction	171	144					315		315
Unintentional	137	145					282		282
Bomb threats/susp	40	17					57		57
Bomb/expl removal							0		0
Structure collapse							0		0
Total Multiple Alarms	1						1		1
2nd Alarms							0		0
3rd Alarms							0		0
4th Alarms							0		0
5th Alarms							0		0
9th Alarms	1						1		1
Working Fires	1						1		1
HM Lev 1 "Working"							0		0

FY 2014/2015 - Working Fires/Multiple Alarms

Date	Box	Assignment	Address	Size-up	fire location	Response	OIC
27-Jul-14	9 - 344		Allston St.			27-11-1-2-4	DFC M. Morrissey
	Box @ 0322	E2,6,5 - T3,1 - R1, SQ2 - D1	151,153,155,157	3 sty wf (blt 1920)	throughout		Group 3
			159	3 sty wf (blt1903)	throughout		
	2nd @ 0328	E1,3,9 - T2 - SQ4 - D2	163	2 1/2 sty wf (blt 1854)	throughout		
			147	3 sty wf	slight		
	3rd @ 0332	E4,8,Som3 - T4,Som1 - SomC3					
	4th @ 0339	Eng: WatE1, BelE1					
		Truck: BosT15 - Chf: Bos Dist4					
	5th @ 0339	Eng: WalE2, BosE51, ArIE2					
		Truck: Brookline T2					
	6th @ 0400	Eng: Bos E10,E22, WalE1, NewE1					
		Truck: Waltham T2					
	7th @ 0406	Eng: MalE1, MedE5,SaugE1					
		Truck: Medford T1					
	8th @ 0409	Eng: LogMsptE5, RevE1, LexE4					
		Truck: Malden T1					
	9th @ 0435	Eng: WinE4,LynE9,MeIE2					
		Truck: Chelsea T1					
	A/O @ 1655						
29-Jul-14	"45" - 691		1688 Mass. Av.	1 sty b@w	flr#1	4-3-1-2-2	DFC Sheehan
	Box @ 1808	E8,1,4 - T4,1 - R1, SQ4 - D2		restrnt -taxpayer			Group 1
	"45" @ 1819	E9 - T2 -SQ2 - D1		built 1940			
	A/O @						

New Hires

General Order No. 25, Series of 2014

Effective Sunday July 27, 2014 at 0700 hours, the following are appointed Firefighters-on-Probation for the Cambridge Fire Department:

**Anthony S. Brooks
Stephanie A. Crayton
Stephen J. Crowley
Anthony J. Cyrus
Nicholas F. DiPace
Leonard J. DiPietro
Thomas C. Harris III
Kevin S. Kenney
Damien Mahaffey
Ryan J. Marifiote
Shayne W. McDonald
Ryan A. Meehan
Mark A. Nazareno
Daniel A. Nugent
David M. Pereira
Jon W. Powers**

They will report to the Training Division in East Cambridge at 0800 hours on Monday, July 28, 2014.

They will report to the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy in Stow, MA for nine weeks of Recruit Firefighter Training at 0700 hours Monday, August 11, 2014.

General Order No. 28, Series of 2014

Effective, Sunday, August 24, 2014 at 0700 hours:

The following member is appointed as Firefighter-on-Probation to the Cambridge Fire Department.

Patrick K. Sullivan

He will report to the Training Division in East Cambridge at 0800 hours on Monday, August 25, 2014.

He will report to the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy in Stow, MA for nine weeks of Recruit Firefighter Training at 0700 hours Tuesday, September 2, 2014

Promotions

General Order No. 18, Series of 2014

Effective, Wednesday, June 11, 2014 at 0700 hours:

Acting Fire Lieutenant Peter J. Mahoney to Fire Lieutenant

General Order No. 22, Series of 2014

Effective, Sunday, June 29, 2014 at 0700 hours:

Acting Fire Captain Charles M. Anderson to Fire Captain

General Order No. 23, Series of 2014

Effective Sunday, July 13, 2014 at 0700 hours:

Captain Peter A. Donovan from Ladder Co. No. 3 to Acting Deputy Chief Fire Prevention
Lieutenant James Gomes Jr. from Squad No. 4 to Acting Captain Engine Company No. 8

Lieutenant Patrick Haggerty to Acting Captain Ladder Co. No. 3

FF Philip Amenkowicz Engine Co. No 2 to Acting Lieutenant Training Division

FF Andrew Mello Engine Co. No. 4 to Acting Lieutenant Squad No. 4

FF Vinroy Paul Engine Co. No. 1 to Acting Lieutenant Ladder Co. No. 3

Deputy Chief Lester M. Bokuniewicz Fire Prevention to Division 1

Deputy Chief Edward F. Mahoney from Division 1 to Headquarters

Lieutenant Michael A. Donovan from Squad No. 4 to Engine Co. No. 4

Lieutenant Matthew G. Wood from Training Division to Squad No. 4

FF James E. Bergin from Engine Co. No. 4 to Technical Services

Addendum to General Order No. 23, Series of 2014

Effective Sunday, July 13, 2014 at 0700 hours:

Lieutenant Matthew G. Wood is assigned to Squad 4; Group 2

Lieutenant Jeremiah D. Hart is assigned to Squad 4; Group 4

Acting Lieutenant Andrew Mello is assigned to Squad 2, Group 1

General Order No. 24, Series of 2014

Effective Sunday, July 13, 2014 at 0700 hours:

Acting Fire Lieutenant Colin S. Walsh to Fire Lieutenant

General Order No. 29, Series of 2014

Effective Sunday, August 31, 2014 at 0700 Hours

Acting Captain Philip Arsenault to Fire Captain

Transfers

General Order No. 19, Series of 2014

Effective Sunday, June 15, 2014 at 0700 Hours:

FF Colin S. Walsh from Ladder Co. No. 4 to Acting Lieutenant, Engine Co. No. 3

Captain Robert M. Morrissey from Fire Prevention to Engine Co. No. 4

Captain David S. Walles from Training Division to Headquarters

Captain William J. Brathwaite from Ladder Co. No. 4 to Headquarters

Acting Captain Charles Anderson from Engine Co. No. 4 to Ladder Co. No. 4

Lt. Christopher G. Towski from Engine Co. No. 3 to Fire Prevention

FF Pedro O. Gonzalez from Fire Prevention to Engine Co. No. 3

FF Kyle B. Hood from Ladder Co. No. 3 to Headquarters

Retirements

General Order No. 20, Series of 2014

Effective Sunday, June 15, 2014 at 0700 Hours

Effective June 15, 2014 at 0700 hours, **Firefighter Arthur W. Greenidge Jr.** retired from the Cambridge Fire Department. Firefighter Greenidge was appointed on March 6, 1983.

April 17, 1983

Engine Company No. 1

August 2, 1992

Engine Company No. 6

January 19, 2014

Fire Headquarters

Firefighter Greenidge has faithfully served the citizens of Cambridge. We wish Firefighter Greenidge much happiness and good health in his retirement.

General Order No. 21, Series of 2014

Effective June 22, 2014 at 0700 hours, **Firefighter David P. Garcia** retired from the Cambridge Fire Department. Firefighter Garcia was **appointed on April 24, 1988**.

June 12, 1988	Engine Company No. 6
June 27, 1993	Rescue Company
November 28, 2004	Engine Company No. 9
September 8, 2013	Fire Headquarters

Firefighter Garcia has faithfully served the citizens of Cambridge. We wish Firefighter Garcia much happiness and good health in his retirement.

General Order No. 27, Series of 2014

Effective August 13, 2014 at 1700 hours, **Firefighter Kurt D. McLaughlin** retired from the Cambridge Fire Department. Firefighter McLaughlin was **appointed on May 7, 1978**.

July 2, 1978	Engine Company No. 8
December 2, 1979	Rescue Company No. 1

Firefighter McLaughlin has faithfully served the citizens of Cambridge. We wish Firefighter McLaughlin much happiness and good health in his retirement.



America's Heroes, James Gordon Bennett Medal – FDNY

**James Gordon Bennett Medal
NYS honorary Fire Chiefs association Medal**

**Lieutenant Robert E. Lee
Battalion 16 (Assigned)
Ladder Company 47 (Detailed)**



October 28, 2013, 0413 hours, Box 22-2851, Bronx

Appointed to the FDNY on October 15, 1995. Previously assigned to Engine 225 and Ladder 107. Member of the Emerald Society and the Company Officers Association. Served in the Navy for four years and participated in Operation Desert Storm; achieved the rank of Petty Officer. Recipient of the Fire Bell Club Medal in 2012 and a Service Rating A. Resides in Kings Park, Long Island, with his wife, Lisa, and daughter, Jenna.

The night tour started as many of them do here in the Bronx for the members of Ladder 47: Ready the gear, take roll call, check the rig and maybe a quick workout if there's time. Ladder 47 is a battle-tested unit. The members are well trained and seasoned, which ensures a tight working group. There was a lot of experience on-duty this night--FFs Santiago Gonzalez, William Horel, Luke Jurain, Michael Schnarr and Michael Sudol, led by Lieutenant Robert E. Lee.

The run came in just after 0400 hours. The Firefighter on Housewatch duty called out the details for the incoming run. As they turned out of quarters onto Castle Hill Avenue, all members of Ladder 47 listened intently to the radio as Bronx Dispatch came on the air with a report of "second source, fill out the alarm, report of six people trapped, we're getting numerous phone calls." The smell of smoke filled the cold, early-morning air.

FDNY Firefighters are highly trained in situational awareness and response strategy. With 18 solid years on the job, Lieutenant Lee knew what needed to be done. Many tactical issues had to be addressed immediately and simultaneously.

When Ladder 47 arrived on the block, a signal 10-75 had been transmitted for fire in an occupied, two-story private dwelling. First-due units Engine 96 and Ladder 54 were met with a heavy fire condition in the basement. As Lieutenant Lee quickly led his forcible entry team to the building, he observed two panicked occupants trapped on the outside railing of the second-floor balcony. Heavy, black smoke boiled violently up from below. The Officer radioed Battalion Chief Bartholomew Codd, Battalion 18, that two children already had been passed to neighbors in the street and that a jumper was down in the driveway at the front of the fire building.

Within moments, Lieutenant Lee and his forcible entry team were at the door. Radio reports alerted all members to heavy fire from the basement windows. Without delay, the rescuers made entry and immediately were confronted with a heavy smoke and high heat condition from the open basement stairwell--indications of a rapidly evolving fire.

The Lieutenant ordered FF's Horel with the irons and Gonzalez with the water can to begin an interior search at the front, while he maneuvered toward the rear to begin his search. Lieutenant Lee ascended a short run of stairs and then located a hallway that led to a rear bedroom where he found a closed door. The basement fire burned directly below. This meant he would be working without benefit of a protective hose-line for a significant period of time.

He attempted to open the door, but found it was blocked by furniture within, so he squeezed through and, in zero visibility, located an unresponsive adult female on the floor. He transmitted the 10-45 signal. Lieutenant Lee removed debris that partially covered the victim, then transitioned the victim onto her side as he angled her through the narrow opening. Then, he dragged her down the hallway and out onto the sidewalk where members of Engine 94 began medical treatment on the victim.

Exhausted but undaunted, Lieutenant Lee re-entered the fire building. As he did, he passed FF Horel, who was removing a 10-45, then passed Rescue 3 as yet another 10-45 was being removed. Lieutenant Lee retraced his path to that rear bedroom, again forced his way in through the blocked door, entered and located a bed. The top of the bed was clear. He swept the floor under the bed and located the body of an unresponsive female child, then transmitted the signal 10-45. Once again, Lieutenant Lee turned toward the blocked door, maneuvered through, crawled down that long hallway and onto the street where members of Engines 94 and 45 provided medical treatment to the victim. The 10-45s were transported to the hospital, but all made a full recovery.

Lieutenant Robert E. Lee operated under extreme and challenging fire conditions, without the benefit of a charged, protective hose-line in a rapidly deteriorating environment. He demonstrated initiative, unwavering courage and professionalism in the performance of his duty. Additionally, his leadership and decisive actions directly resulted in the lifesaving rescue of two occupants of the fire building. He is presented with the James Gordon Bennett Medal and New York State Honorary Fire Chiefs Association Medal for his brave actions.—JDL

Trivia

Where is Street Box 631 located?

What do MIT Building W84 located at (550 Memorial Drive) and MIT Building E51 (located at 2 Amherst Street) have in common?

Letters

The following letter was received on July 1, 2014:

Dear Chief Reardon,

I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the Cambridge Fire Department for the mutual aid assistance received on June 30, 2014 at our 2-alarm fire. On behalf of the Belmont Fire Department, the Town officials any myself, we are very proud of the performance of your Department.

Thank you for all the support you gave throughout this fire. Please extend to the members on Engine 9, Ladder 1, Squad 4 and Division 2 who responded to 39 Horne Road and Engine 5 who covered our Station 2 that their help is greatly appreciated, and please offer our thanks for their assistance and for a job well done. Without mutual aid assistance like that from your Department, the outcome of the fire could have been much worse.

Sincerely,

David L. Frizzell
Chief of Department

(Editor note: Belmont did an outstanding job at this fire and it was quickly knocked down and extinguished on arrival of Cambridge companies)

The following note was received in June 2014:

Dear Chief,

Speaking for my entire family, I would like to express our heartfelt appreciation to your administration for the kindness shown to our Father.

Having Engine 5 at the St. John's I know made him smile.

Edmund J. Friel Jr.

The following note was received on June 20, 2014:

Dear Chief Reardon,

On behalf of the Waltham Fire Department, I would like to express my appreciation to you and the members of your Department for the Mutual Aid assistance we received at our recent four alarm fire at 45 Charles Street on June 18, 2014.

One of the greatest aspects of the Fire Service is that we always help each other selflessly and that was certainly displayed by your members who responded that day.

With Gratitude,
Paul J. Ciccone
Chief of Department

The following note was received on July 16, 2014:

Dear Chief Reardon,

The Jeffres family would like to express our heartfelt thanks for the response of Cambridge Fire personnel who attended our mother Mary's wake and funeral on June 20, 2014.

This showing of respect for our mother and support for my brother Stephan by his fellow firefighters was moving to say the least. Each member of your department showed professionalism as well as providing their own comforting words for our family members.

For this, sir, our family commends you and your firefighters for being there for us in the worst hour of our lives. This, sir, is the sign of great character and we will be forever grateful...

Very Truly Yours,

The Jeffres Family

The following note was sent by DFC Gerard Mahoney on July 27:

Early this morning, Cambridge ECC received a phone call reporting an outside fire near a building on Allston Street. Upon arrival it became apparent that we were faced with a significant rapidly spreading fire that was threatening occupied buildings.

Cambridge Fire Personnel, assisted by members of the Cambridge Police Department worked collaboratively and with determination to bring a rapidly deteriorating situation under control. As always we were also assisted by PRO-EMS, who was there to not only provide EMS assistance but rehab operations as well. The members of the Boston Sparks Association and the American Red Cross also provided valuable assistance.

Despite the significant damage to three buildings and numerous residents being displaced with the clothes on their back and not much more, we are fortunate this wasn't a lot worse.

Numerous residents of the neighborhood approached me throughout the morning and early afternoon to thank me and comment on what a tremendous job was done by all.

I am proud to commend all who operated at the fire and those who worked behind the scenes to coordinate responding mutual aid companies and continue to monitor the city. All should be proud of a job well done.

Thank you,

Assistant Chief Gerard E. Mahoney
Cambridge, MA Fire Department

Safety

Drivers need to be familiar with their apparatus. At the 9 alarm fire in July, one of the aerial master streams would not move during the height of the fire. Although the failure was mechanical in nature, there is a manual operation involving “allen” wrenches that will move the aerial nozzle manually as needed until a repair can be made.

Also, one of the pumps on the engines was on the verge of overheating. Although, newer pumps do not come through with a water temperature gauge anymore, the pumps need to be circulated when engaged and sufficient water flow to cool the pump. The ball valves inside the shutoffs are all plastic and are prone to warping when water temperatures are unusually high.



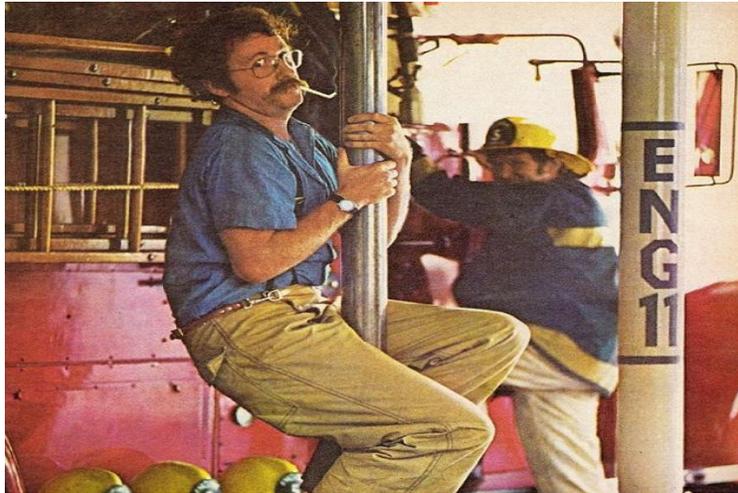
Also discovered was a drain that didn't work. After the motor squad removed the drain, they found debris had clogged the drain. If this stuff is in the drain, it's in your pump and could be plugging your nozzle!



Of Interest...

The Rise and Fall of the Fireman's Pole

Jul 18, 2014 *This article was written by Zachary Crockett - Priceonomics*



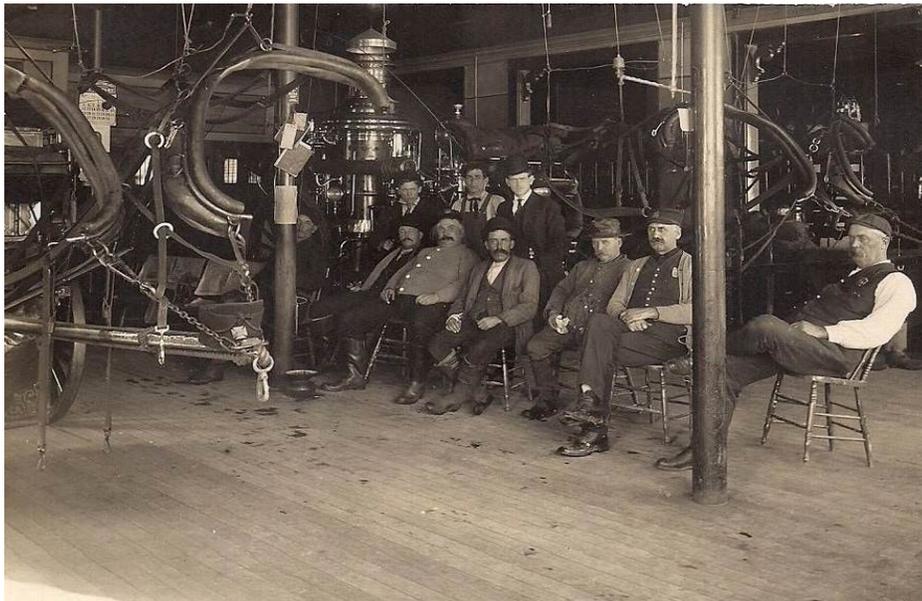
Imagine this: it's 3:30 in the morning, and you're deep in some pillowy dreamscape. All is calm; all is serene. Then, a piercing alarm whiplashes your senses: you're awake now, scrambling in the darkness with ten equally frazzled men. In a flurry, boots are pulled on, helmets are snatched off shelves, and you're flying down a 20-foot pole with the rapidity and dexterity of a howler monkey.

It's a scene played out as many as three or four times a night in some large municipal firehouses, and no part of it is more central than the fireman's pole. Since its invention and integration in the late nineteenth century, the fire pole has become a ubiquitous trope of the profession, right up there with the walrus 'stache and the Dalmatian. On grade school field trips, it's the coming attraction -- a way to contextualize the exciting, perilous routine of men who put their lives on the line.

Once heralded as the time-saving successor to stairs, the fire pole is, after 150 years, sliding toward extinction. In its heyday, the pole revolutionized the way firefighters responded to alarms, accessed their trucks, and, ultimately, saved lives. But fire poles came -- and still come -- with a caveat: they have the potential to be lethal for those who descend them. A comb through archives reveals dozens of pole-related deaths, hundreds of serious injuries, and a slew of unsavory lawsuits resulting in multi-million dollar payouts. Today, an increasing number of firehouses are altogether abandoning the fire pole as they remodel old structures and re-analyze building and safety codes.

The story of the fireman's pole is one of innovation, but also one of tragedy.

The Rise of the Fireman's Pole



Firemen sitting by their pole (1905)

In 1736, Benjamin Franklin jump-started the first effort to build formalized firehouses. Over the following century, various tools would be implemented -- buckets, hoses, ladders, and the like -- but response times were brutally slow.

The majority of firehouses in the nineteenth century were two or three stories. Typically, the horse-drawn fire carriages (and horses) would occupy the first floor, the second floor would be the firefighters' sleeping quarters, and, in some cases, a third floor would serve as a hay bale storage unit to feed the animals. Often, when the firemen cooked meals on the second floor, curious horses would ascend the stairs into the living quarters; as horses typically don't descend stairs, they would then be stuck there.

To solve this issue, firehouses began installing narrow spiral staircases that the animals couldn't access. This, however, led to a more pressing issue: when an alarm rang, anywhere from ten to twenty firefighters would all have to simultaneously scramble down these corridors to reach the trucks below. This invariably impeded response times; in an age where fire technology was limited, every second counted.

In 1878, one man's inadvertent invention changed the way firefighters answered urgent calls. One afternoon, David Kenyon, the captain of Chicago's all-black Engine Company No. 21, was helping a fellow fireman stack hay on the third floor of his firehouse when an alarm rang. In the loft was a long wooden binding pole used to secure hay during transport; without a quick route of descent, Kenyon's accomplice grabbed the pole and slid two stories down, easily beating out the dozens of firemen scrambling down the spiral staircase.



A much-loved fire pole beside its less-adored counterpart, the spiral staircase

Kenyon was intrigued, and saw great potential. The following week, he convinced the Chief of Department to approve the necessary building augmentations to install a permanent pole, and agreed to pay for any associated maintenance. A hole was cut through the two upper floors, and a 3-inch diameter pole crafted out of Georgia pine was installed; after several coats of varnish and paraffin, it was ready for daily use.

Following the installation, Kenyon and Engine Company 21 were mercilessly ridiculed by other firehouses. The team, claimed the naysayers, had lost its collective mind to merely consider such a strange response mechanism. But Company 21 quickly grew a reputation for being the first to arrive at the scene of a fire -- often up to ten minutes before other brigades -- and others slowly began to give the pole serious consideration.

After just a few months of operation, the Chief of Department ordered that poles be installed in every Chicago fire station. In 1880, the Boston Fire Department installed the first brass pole, and it became a standard for fire stations across the United States.

When Poles Go Wrong

By nature, firefighting is a generally dangerous profession, with an average of 116 deaths per year over the last 35 years (this data excludes the September 11 attacks). While stress-induced heart attacks and strokes are the leading issue, falls constitute up to 6% of all deaths, according to the U.S. Fire Administration. Historically, the fire pole has been a culprit.

As far back as 1885, there were recorded instances of firemen falling down fire pole holes or accidentally losing grip mid-slide -- and dying. A rash of such incidents occurred throughout the early twentieth century. Combing through the historical archives of six major cities -- New York, Boston, St. Paul, Los Angeles, Chicago, and Philadelphia -- we were able to find 18 deaths related to fire poles from 1890 to 1930 alone (keep in mind that this includes only six out of hundreds of archives). The stories are varied: a young ladderman who fell 20 feet down a pole on the way to a call in 1904; a captain, Thomas S. Home, who awoke in the middle of the night and unwittingly walked over the hole in the floor and tumbled to his death; the Chicagoan auto engineer who slid down too fast, shattered his knee caps, and died from resulting infections a few months later.

Despite these incidents, safety precautions -- railings around the hole, and mats at the bottom -- weren't widely implemented until the mid-1950s. Even then, the deaths continued. One such incidence in 1959 describes a St. Paul firefighter who tripped over his shoelace and went careening over the railing head-first 30 feet down the "pole hole." It was the city's fourth pole-related death. Another tragedy two years later in Boston saw a Lieutenant slip while descending and break his neck.

In the modern era, the frequency of deaths has diminished (there have been four since 2000), but safety measures have failed to reduce the plethora of injuries, both minor and major. A look through the Occupational Safety and Health Administration database reveals hundreds of fire pole related injuries over the past 30 years (1984-2014), ranging from broken ankles and toes to fractured skulls. Several of these incidents have led to graver consequences for firehouses and cities.

On December 23, 2003, Seattle firefighter Mark Jones awoke in the middle of the night to use the restroom and fell down the fire pole hole. A court document details the nature of his resulting injuries:

"Mark sustained severe injuries from his 15-foot fall, including traumatic brain injuries and extensive bodily damage. Mark's brain injuries included a 'diffuse axonal injury,' a shearing trauma in which the 'wires' of the brain are 'torn,' and bleeding in his frontal lobe and ventricles. Mark fractured his pelvis in multiple places, many of his vertebrae, and nearly all of his right ribs. His lung was punctured, and his bladder ruptured. Mark later underwent surgery to remove handfuls of necrotic tissue that were preventing his lungs from expanding."

Jones subsequently sued the city of Seattle for negligence and failure to install proper safety railings and was awarded \$12.75 million in damages. In response, the city of Seattle banned poles and heavily invested in renovating all 32 of its local fire stations.

His case isn't the only one: more recently, in March 2014, a New York firefighter brought a lawsuit against the city after sliding down a fire pole that was "too slick" and fracturing vertebra his lower spine. In the case, which is still undergoing review, he claims he was unable to control his descent of the pole, and relates that even following a string of such incidents, the firehouse failed to change its procedures.

Sliding out of the Picture



Whereas the fireman's pole was once an iconic fixture at every major firehouse, it is increasingly being replaced today. With the advent of motorized vehicles and fire trucks, horses were phased out and there was no longer a need to have multi-level stations. Continued deaths and injuries, despite safety installations, have also led officials to reconsider the fireman pole's role in the modern era. Harold Schaitberger, general president of the International Association of Firefighters, elaborated in an interview with *The New York Times*:

"It certainly is without any question that firehouse poles are becoming, with each new firehouse, a thing of the past. The new firehouse or station would be built with stairways and no poles."

As firehouses around the nation uninstall fire poles, they fail to find alternative options to reduce response times. A few stations have experimented with another playground fixture -- the slide -- in lieu of the pole, but the trend hasn't really caught on (imagine half a dozen 200-pound men trying to simultaneously shoot down a tube). Instead, many stations have come full circle -- right back to using stairs. As a veteran firefighter notes, this is less than ideal: "Now at 4 o'clock in the morning, you've got 11 guys going down the stairs. Stupidest thing I ever heard of." Ken Mulville, a station officer, contextualizes this sentiment in the vein of time management:

"It is ludicrous - we were all flabbergasted to find we will have to run down the stairs now. I would say it takes about half a second to slide down a pole and at least 20 seconds to run down two flights of stairs. At the end of the day seconds could be critical when responding to a [911] call."

Though there are instances of serious injury, and even death, these instances are relatively infrequent when gauged with the sheer number of times firefighters descend the poles on any given day. But for firefighters, the argument for or against the pole always evolves into a moral dilemma: while it's dangerous, it is, by far, the most practical and efficient method of responding to a call -- often reducing response times by up to 30 seconds. One Massachusetts Lieutenant explains his catch-22:

"There is a pole in my fire station, and I consider it one of the most dangerous things we have in the building. There is a railing around the hole upstairs, but is only a horizontal rail about three feet above the floor, with three uprights holding it up. One misstep near that pole and it's a 16 foot plummet. The 2" landing pad at the base barely absorbs a controlled descent, let alone a fall."

"That being said, I cannot think of a faster way of getting four or five people downstairs. It takes about a second and a half to slide and clear the pole. Five of us tumbling down the stairs is going to slow us down or roll an ankle. I use it every chance I get."

Cost is also a consideration for municipalities renovating stations, or building new ones. With safety fixtures, a shiny new brass pole runs about \$150,000 -- far more than a concrete staircase.

So, where does the future of the fireman's pole stand? The National Fire Protection Association (the overarching organization that sets standards and codes in place), has called for the removal of all poles from U.S. stations "due to safety hazards." The organization hopes to phase them out completely as firehouses are remodeled into single-story units; the poles that do remain will be required to include safety enclosures and mats -- "so nobody stumbles into it in the middle of the night," as the association's president puts it.

But the fireman's pole is more than an outdated fixture: it's one of the last reigning symbols of the antebellum firehouse. And for many firefighters, like NYFD Lieutenant Jeff Monsen, it's a long-cherished tradition. "It's the first thing I do when I work somewhere else," he says: "find out where the pole is."

Trivia answer

Box 631 is located in the underpass on Cambridge Street (westbound) near Fire Headquarters.
Box 632 is located in the underpass on Cambridge Street (eastbound) near Fire Headquarters

MIT Building W84 located at 550 Memorial Drive is called **TANG HALL**
MIT Building E51 located at 2 Amherst Street is called the **TANG CENTER**

Lafayette Square companies are probably more familiar with some of the easily confused MIT addresses, but these addresses can be confusing if companies are not familiar with this area.

From the Tailboard...



On **September 11, 2014**, (Group 4 on duty), the Cambridge Fire Department conducted a respectful and subdued **remembrance** honoring all those who were killed in the attacks on the **World Trade Center**, at the **Pentagon**, and on the **aircraft at Shanksville, Pennsylvania** on **September 11, 2001**. Nearly 3,000 people were murdered on that day, thirteen years ago. We especially remember the 343 Fire Department members who gave their lives. Also as a part of the September 11 Remembrance, we will remember the members of the armed services who have given their lives in the war against terrorism.

The ceremony consisted of a moment of silence, the ECC ringing 5-5-5-5 and a reading of Mychal's Prayer. All on duty personnel participated in the remembrance.

We should also remember and give thanks for those members of the armed forces, past, present and future that have and will put their lives at risk to ensure the safety and freedom of all Americans!



One World Trade Center – the Freedom Tower

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!**
