



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 #66
Spring 2013

What's New



125th Cambridge Firemen's Relief Ball - the 125th Firefighters Ball was held on March 9th 2013. It is always a great time. We hope there are plenty of photos for the next edition of the Company Journal.



Guns-N-Hoses Hockey Game - Cambridge Fire Vs Cambridge Police, MDA Charity Hockey Game will be held on **Saturday March 23, 2013** 12PM @ Simoni Rink (Gore Street, Cambridge). \$5 General Admission (children under 5 will be free). The admission includes a buffet style lunch after the game at Braza Bar & Grill (158 School St. Everett)



Cambridge Fire Department Hockey

5th Annual Metro Fire Tournament April 6th-14th 2013. All Games being held at the Stoneham Ice Arena. Check out Cambridge Fire Hockey web page for schedules.

2013 Retiree Reunion

The 2013 Cambridge Fire Department Retirees Reunion will be held on **March 16, 2013** starting at 12PM @ Ken and Annette O'Connor's home: 1424 SW 54th Terrace, Cape Coral, FL 33914. Please call Ken's cell 339-222-2040 or Annette's 239-549-4667. *Retired or not, All are welcome!*

New apparatus – The new Engine 2 and Ladder 3 are in the final stages of engineering. All of the department changes have been submitted and are awaiting the final drawings and specs. Once these have been approved by the Department, physical construction will begin immediately. Estimated time of completion is the end of June.

Marine 4 Decommissioned - Marine 4, the 1986 Boston Whaler was sold in December 2012 leaving only Marine 1 and the smaller trailered boats for water incidents.

New firefighters - The fire department; in conjunction with the Cambridge Police Department recently began the pre-employment background investigation process for new firefighters. The City Manager has authorized the hiring of sixteen new personnel. It is expected the process which includes background, medical and psychological screening will be completed in time for recruits to attend the Fall 2013 Massachusetts Fire Academy class.

Engine 1 patch – Engine 1 now has a company patch!



Hurricane Sandy Relief - There are still more than 100 firefighters out of their homes and in need of financial assistance as a result of damage caused by Hurricane Sandy.

Captain R. Vaillancourt and **FF M. Franks** have set up an account at the credit union for the official FDNY Sandy Relief Fund. Members can call the credit union to transfer funds directly from their accounts. Please contact them or the Cambridge Fire Credit Union to make a donation. Thank you.

*Cambridge Firefighters Federal Credit Union
113 Garden Street, Cambridge, MA 02138*

Phone: (617)864-2298

All Companies Working

December 7, 2012 – 1 Alarm Fire, Box 48, 48 Quincy Street, Gund Hall - Wood dust was ignited by a lathe machine in the basement wood shop. The fire was partially extinguished by a student using a chemical extinguisher. Companies completed extinguishment and overhauled. The machine was removed to the loading dock area.

December 9, 2012 – 1 Alarm Fire, Box 635, 1585 Mass. Ave, Wasserstein Hall - Companies extinguished a fire in a paper shredder by using dry chemical and water. Fire confined to shredder.

December 14, 2012 – 1 Alarm Fire, Box 4741, 91 Winthrop Street – Companies arrived with nothing showing. Smoke began emanating from the roof and after forcing entry, they found a kitchen appliance on fire on the third floor kitchen area. The fire was extinguished with dry chemical extinguishers. Proper notifications were made.

December 18, 2012 – Mutual Aid, Somerville, Box 315, Working Fire, 82 Heath Street - Engine Co. 5 and Ladder Co.1 covered the City of Somerville Teele Sq. Station. While there, Engine Co. 5 responded to a medical aid.

December 27, 2012 – Hazmat, 3 Ames Street, MIT Campus – One lab worker received treatment for burns to the hand. Companies investigated and found no existing hazards. They left the lab under the control of MIT.

December 29, 2012 – Stabbing/Medical Aid, Putnam Gardens – Squad 2 and Engine 6 responded to assist with a stabbing that occurred at Putnam Gardens.

December 31, 2012 – 1 Alarm Fire, Box 3561, 812 Memorial Drive – Companies responded to a report of smoke on the second floor. Engine 6 found fire in bedroom of unit 205 involving a mattress. The sprinklers were operating and the fire was knocked down by the fire protection system. An Engine company ran a 2-1/2" hose line to the apartment off the standpipe in stairwell. Companies searched ,vented and overhauled. Water damage to the two floors.

January 1, 2013 – Water Rescue, Mass Ave. Bridge – Cambridge responded to an early morning call for a jumper from the Harvard Bridge on the Cambridge side of the Charles River. The call originally went to Boston Fire who contacted us for assistance, since they didn't have a boat available. Marine 1 picked up Boston FD divers at the Gloucester St. dock, and after making a sweep with the side imaging sonar, anchored for dive ops. Working together with the US Coast Guard and Boston FD resulted in a negative search.

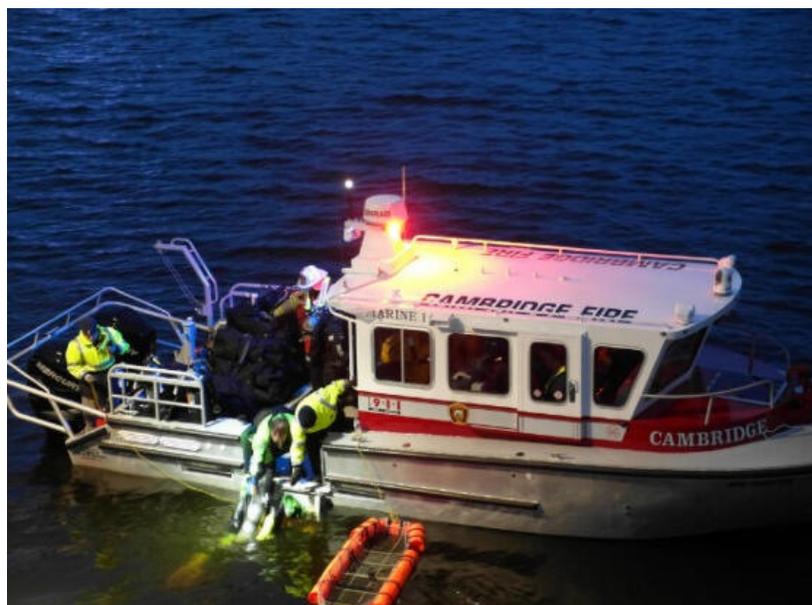


Photo courtesy of Stephen McDonald, Boston FD PIO

January 2, 2013 – Mutual Aid, Somerville, Working Fire, 316 Somerville Ave. - Engine 5 and Ladder 1 covered the Teele Square station while Somerville had a basement fire in a taxpayer.

January 4, 2013 – Vehicle Hazard, Memorial Drive @ Mass. Ave – An oversized box truck was stuck under the Mass. Ave underpass on Memorial Drive as they occasionally do.



Photo provided by Mark Hershon

January 7, 2013 – Mutual Aid, Somerville, Working Fire, Box 741, 20 Jay Street – Ladder 1 covered Teele Square and Engine 4 covered Headquarters while Somerville extinguished a garage fire.

January 8, 2013 – Motor Vehicle Accident, Sherman Street – A confused motorist drove her car onto the railroad tracks on Sherman Street and the car became stuck on the tracks. Passerby's helped the woman from the car and it was soon struck by the commuter rail train at 45 mph flipping the car onto its roof. There were no injuries.

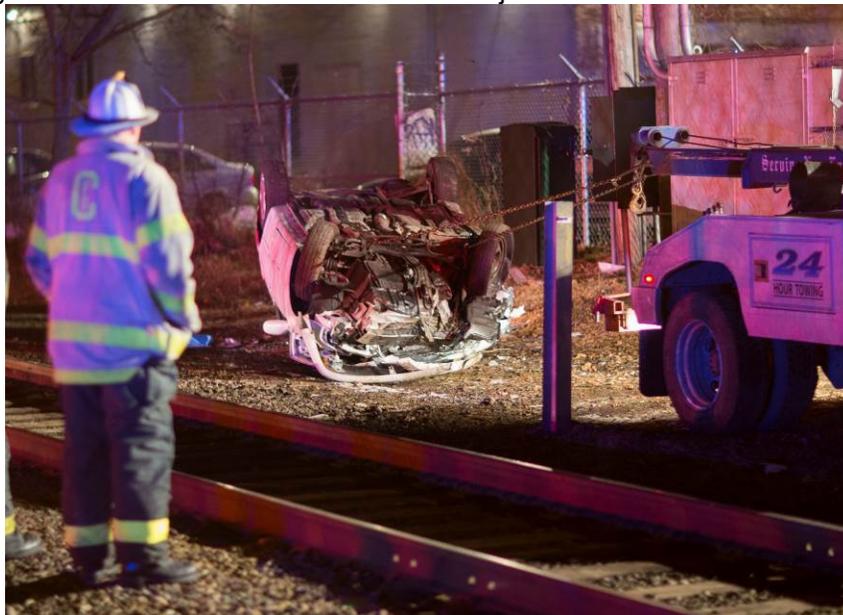


Photo by Jay Sherman

January 10, 2013 – Mutual Aid, Somerville, Working Fire, Box 3733, 482 Broadway – Ladder 1 covered at Headquarters and Engine 5 covered Teele Square.

January 10, 2013 – Medical Aid, Birth, Kirkland Place – Rescue 1 and Ladder 1 were dispatched to a medical aid. Ladder 1 cleared and Rescue 1 assisted Professional Ambulance in delivering the baby “in the field.” Mother and baby were transported to a local facility.

January 18, 2013 – 1 Alarm Fire, Box 1961, 15 Lambert Street – a kitchen fire extended to the cabinets. Luckily, the sprinklers kept the fire in check in this hi-rise building elderly housing building. Water damage resulted in several lower floors.

January 18, 2013 – Mutual Aid, Somerville, Working Fire, Box 7574, 1370 Broadway - Ladder 1 and Engine 4 covered in Somerville

January 24, 2013 – Mutual Aid, Brookline, 2nd Alarm, Box 223, 205 Kent Street- Ladder 1, Squad 2 and Division 1 responded to their 2nd alarm fire. After assisting in overhaul, were released.

January 29, 2013 – Mutual Aid, Somerville, Gas Leak, 200 Washington Street – Engine 5 responded on a line box and was put to work as a RIT team.

February 2, 2013 – Mutual Aid, Rescue, Soldiers Field Road, Boston – Rescue 1, Tactical Rescue and Division 1 responded to an accident near the Western Ave Bridge. A tour bus crashed on the Boston side of the Charles River and an extended operation took place to extricate 25+ patients. Cambridge assisted with equipment and was later released.

February 2, 2013 – Working Fire, Box 353, 310½ Pearl Street – A fire in a woodstove extended to the walls and ceilings of the dwelling

February 5, 2013 – Mutual Aid, Boston, Box 619, 22 Sumner Street, 5+ alarms – Engine 2 and Ladder 1 covered at Engine 33 and Ladder 15 on Boylston Street during Boston’s fire.

February 5, 2013 – Mutual Aid, Brookline, Working Fire, Box 1382, 22 High Street – Ladder 3 provided station coverage at Ladder 2 during Brookline’s fire.

February 8-9, 2013 – Weather event - A blizzard that accumulated over 2 feet of snow in a 36 hour period with high winds tested on duty crews. Additional staffing were hired back.



Photo by DFC B. Gover - EPAC

February 9, 2013 – CO, 332 Broadway – Division 1 had high readings of CO in a 5 unit row house due to blocked heating vent.

February 9, 2013 – 1 Alarm Fire, Box 731, 105 Rice Street – fire in a mechanical room on floor 2 of a 3 story residential building required companies to open the walls and check for extension.

February 10, 2013 – Mutual Aid, Brookline, Box 242, 90 Ivy Street – Ladder 1 provided station coverage during Brookline's Working Fire.

February 14, 2013 – 1 Alarm Fire, 2 Ware Street, Box 482 – a candle ignited some towels in the bathroom of a 7 story residential building. Occupant partially extinguished the fire and companies overhauled, extinguished and investigated before clearing.

February 26, 2013 – Mutual Aid, Watertown, 3 Alarm fire, Box 612, 313 Main Street – Engine 9, Squad 4 and Division 2 responded to the fire. Engine 9 supplied water to a Waltham tower in a row of block stores. Engine 5 covered.

March 1, 2013 – Mutual Aid, Somerville, Working Fire, Box 255, 16 Concord Ave – Engine 5, Squad 2, Division 1 responded to Somerville. Engine 5 stood by as a Rapid Intervention Team.

Out and About



On Friday January 11, 2013, **Firefighter Alan F. Johnson** of Ladder 4 - Group 4 worked his final tour of duty. Some of his friends stopped in to say farewell at the Taylor Square Fire Station. "A.J." has spent 36 years serving the Cambridge community. From L-R, **Captain Braithewaite, FF J. Bernardo, "A.J.", Chief of Operations – Retired J. Gelinis, Captain D. House and Lt. M. Travers.**

Race up Boston Place – the last few years many fire departments have entered the "Race up Boston Place" Stair climb event. This year the event was held on February 2, 2013 and there were quite a few Cambridge firefighters "making the grade" and placing well at the top of the pack. Congratulations and nice job!!

*** FIREFIGHTER RESULTS ***

8th RACE UP BOSTON PLACE - 41 FLOOR STAIR CLIMB
BOSTON, MA SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2013 9:00 AM

Place	Name	No.	Town	Club	Finish
26	John Magee	1536	SUDBURY MA	CAMBRIDGE FIRE	8:52
92	Mark Tiede	1537	FRANKLIN MA	CAMBRIDGE FIRE	10:14
147	Matt Ansello	1538	QUINCY MA	CAMBRIDGE FIRE	11:21
240	Candice Murphy	1539	CAMBRIDGE MA	CAMBRIDGE FIRE	13:30
277	Kevin Galligan	1399	BROCKTON MA	BROCKTON FIREFIG	14:25
386	Raymond Vaillancourt	1535	READING MA	CAMBRIDGE FIRE	20:56



Photographer unknown - Engine 2 during warmer weather parked in front of the Kendall Hotel (former quarters of Engine 7)

“Wally” – Engine 1, Group 4 bumped into “Wally” (the official Boston Red Sox mascot) at the Dunkin Donuts in Harvard Square in January 2013. A good sign that reminds us that the baseball season (and spring) are almost here!



Photo by Lt. Chuck Lowe

L-R – FF K. MacLaughlin (Rescue 1), Wally, FF J. McEachern (Engine 1), Lt. C. Lowe (Engine 1) and an extra, extra, extra large coffee.



Photo by Lt. Chuck Lowe

Power Outage - During the Cambridge electrical power outage of 29 November 2012, the Cambridge Fire Department was tasked with handling numerous, nearly simultaneous calls for assistance. The power loss began at about 1623 hours and lasted until approximately 2000 hours. According to NStar, 27% of the City of Cambridge was without power. Sections affected were mainly the East Cambridge and Kendall areas. Fire Department units responded to nearly 60 emergency incidents during this time period. Incidents included 20 separate elevator extrications, 1 motor vehicle fire, 2 fires in buildings contained to the stove, 3 motor vehicle accidents, 1 natural gas leak, 1 carbon monoxide investigation, 1 person locked in a bank due to power failure of the magnetic lock system, and numerous fire alarm activations, automatic alarms, and emergency medical calls.

Group 1 was on duty under command of Deputy Fire Chiefs Edward Morrissey and John Cotter in Divisions 1 and 2 respectively. It is a tribute to stamina and flexibility of the men and women of the Class 1 Cambridge Fire Department to handle this deluge of emergency incidents professionally and systematically.

-Note: As of press time of the last Company Journal Issue No. 65 (winter 2012), the specific details of this event were just tallied and were unavailable. Although the information is several months old, it is still worthy to note!

Marine 1 – The new Marine 1 boat was featured in JAN-FEB 2013 Fire Apparatus Journal article, titled “Pride of the Fleet” written by Curt Elie.

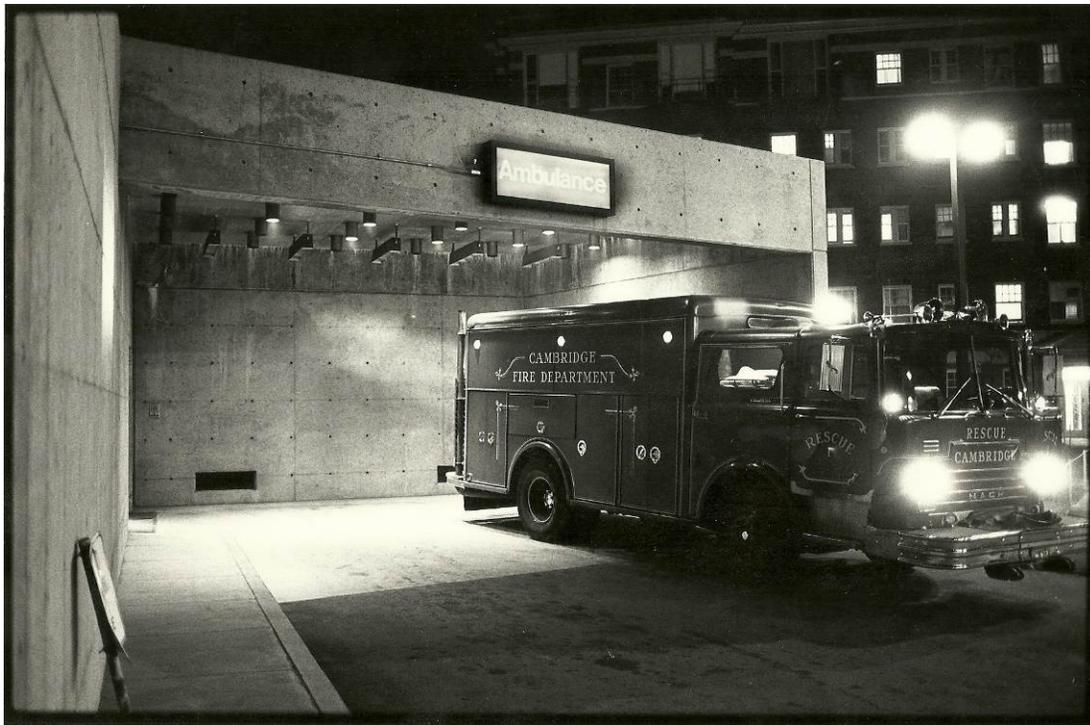
From the Archives

John J. O'Donoghue – Chief of Operations, retired sent the following two photos of “Big Red.” It was a 1969 Mack CF rescue.

According to the Chief, “*The first photo was taken by David "Beach Ball" Beach, who spent 6 months riding the Rescue Company with Group #2. He was a Harvard senior who was a staff photographer for the Harvard Crimson.*”



*“Big Red – Second photo by the late **Firefighter Ed Fowler**. I came to work and went to the Rescue Company after drill school. This truck was the second that I worked on. It is a 1969 Gerstenslager/Mack, and it was the “Queen” for many years. After it was replaced with the “White Cloud” truck, it sat abandoned in the E-1 bay for years, serving as nothing more than a catch all for trash and junk. When we formed up the Hazmat Task force, Chief Tom Scott gave us the money to put it back in service as the truck for our equipment. It served that purpose until replaced by a new dedicated truck.”*



Through the Lantern Lens



Through the Lantern Lens

by Mose Humphrey

This year marks the 40th Anniversary of the Chelsea Conflagration that occurred on October 14, 1973 - the second such fire to hit the “rag district” of Chelsea. The first occurred in 1901. Ironically, the origins of both fires were within 200 feet of one another.

The fire in 1973 started on Summer Street and with warm, dry weather and winds gusting to 40 MPH, it spread quickly to Maple and Third Streets. When firefighters realized that the wind was spreading the fire faster than they could contain it, Newton Fire Control sent out a radio message for anyone to send help. In all, 67 departments from Massachusetts and southern New Hampshire responded.

The fire created its own weather and wind patterns, spreading brands and fire beyond established fire lines. Firefighters had difficulties in trying to contain it and tried to make stands with hose lines only to have to use axes to cut the hoses and make retreat. Medford Engine 2, a 1950's Mack pumper was destroyed in the blaze. Old, outdated water mains also could not supply enough water.

Eventually, the fire was brought under control but not before it destroyed eighteen city blocks – roughly 45 acres or an area one mile long and a half mile wide. – *Information from the Chelsea Historical Society*

The following four photos were four of many taken by the **later Firefighter Ed Fowler - Cambridge Fire Dept Arson Squad**





Signal 10-15

Special Signal 10-15 The Chief of Department regrets to announce the death of
Lt. Harold F. Helmuth; Engine Co. 9-Retired.



Special Signal 10-15 The Chief of Department regrets to announce the death of
Lieutenant George W. Fairburn; Engine Co. 7-Retired

Lt. Fairburn was appointed July 31, 1949 and retired March 23, 1981

He was a Veteran of World War II

Lt. Fairburn was 93 years of age

Special Signal 10-15 The Chief of Department regrets to announce the death of
Firefighter Ronald Souza; Engine Co. 7-Retired

Father of Firefighter Kenneth W. Souza; Rescue Company 1

Condolences to:

To the family of **Chief of Department Robert J. Casey; Arlington Fire Department-Retired**

Deputy Chief Michael J. Morrissey; Division 1, on the passing of his Father-in-Law Sergeant Michael Grossi; Cambridge Police Department-Retired in December 2012

Firefighter Simon Camelo; Engine Co. 9 on the passing of his Father, Manuel S. Camelo Jr. in December 2012

Firefighter Howard Smith; Ladder Co. 1 on the passing of his Uncle, Joseph W. Conway Jr. in December 2012

Firefighter Michael A. Pearson; Engine Co. 4 on the passing of his Mother,
Mrs. Winifred Pearson in December 2012

Firefighter Edward F. Devereaux; Ladder Co. 2-Retired on the passing of his Brother,
Robert J. Devereaux in December 2012

Firefighter Kevin M. Thompson; Ladder Co. 3 on the passing of his Grandmother,
Mrs. Doris M. McSweeney

Melinda Camara; Fire Department Administrative Office on the passing of her mother,
Mrs. Teresa Camara

Firefighter John J. McMahon; Engine Co. 3 on the passing of his Father-In-Law,
Mr. John J. Furey

Lieutenant Brandon Hugh; Engine Co. 5 on the passing of his Father-in-Law,
Mr. Salvatore Ramasci

Firefighter Brian M. Peebles; Rescue Co. 1 on the passing of his Father,
Thomas E. Peebles

Lieutenant Christopher Haynes; Rescue Co. 1 on the passing of his Grandfather,
Joseph J. Carceo

In the previous edition of the Company Journal (Issue # 65), a Signal 10-15 was sent regarding **Lieutenant Walter P. Long; Ladder 4 retired** who passed away in 2012. His family recently sent photos of his funeral held in Arizona. Thanks to the Long family for bringing his ceremony "to us."





Congratulations

Congratulations to **FF Nathan Dubovsky (Ladder Co. 3)** and wife Sarah on the birth of their first child, Landon Nathan Dubovsky born on Jul 28, 2012 at 12333am weighting in at 6.13 lbs.

Congratulations to **FF Kyle Schweinshaut (Ladder Co. No. 3)** and wife Chloe on the birth of their daughter, Harper May Schweinshaut born on 23 January.

Congratulations to **FF Larry Pacios (Ladder Co. No. 4)** on using his training to save a life while off duty.

Quotes of the Day

Nothing is particularly hard if you divide it into small jobs. – Henry Ford

There are two kinds of people, those who do the work and those who take the credit. Try to be in the first group; there is less competition there. – Indira Gandhi

Your attitude is more important that your aptitude. -Zig Ziglar

December 3, 2012

GENERAL ORDER NO. 32, SERIES OF 2012

TO THE COMMANDING OFFICER

RE: Commendation: Firefighter Lawrence M. Pacios

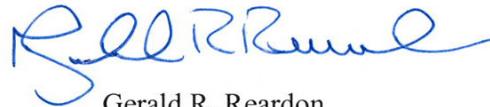
On November 11, 2012 while attending a New England Patriots football game at Gillette Stadium with his son; Firefighter Lawrence M. Pacios; Ladder Company 4, Group 1 observed an elderly male in distress.

Relying on his emergency medical training he immediately began to assess the patient and determined he was in cardiac arrest.

Firefighter Pacios initiated Cardio Cerebral Resuscitation (CCR). Other emergency medical personnel arrived on the scene to assume care for the patient. The 80 year-old gentleman was transported to a local hospital and is recovering.

Firefighter Pacios' actions are in the highest traditions of the fire service and the Cambridge Fire Department. He is hereby commended for his actions.

Per Order,



Gerald R. Reardon
Chief of Department

Stats and Fires

FY 2012/2013 RUN TOTALS

	Jul-12	Aug-12	Sep-12	Oct-12	Nov-12	Dec-12	SBTTL	Jan-13	Feb-13	TOTAL
Engine 1	185	176	229	245	192	219	1246	202	215	1663
Engine 2	273	259	249	274	250	237	1542	263	227	2032
Engine 3	134	120	117	148	118	127	764	114	116	994
Engine 4	102	124	128	133	90	115	692	149	119	960
Engine 5	165	131	168	158	140	145	907	120	94	1121
Engine 6	107	120	122	110	108	105	672	109	78	859
Engine 8	98	99	112	115	92	81	597	109	76	782
Engine 9	70	83	78	104	84	91	510	90	74	674
Truck 1	133	159	200	202	163	170	1027	168	158	1353
Truck 2	84	74	82	109	95	101	545	86	85	716
Truck 3	162	196	184	169	167	166	1044	197	161	1402
Truck 4	118	130	143	156	137	110	794	135	123	1052
Rescue 1	182	183	204	215	171	214	1169	190	172	1531
Squad 2	270	252	239	273	263	269	1566	258	216	2040
Squad 4	141	130	163	161	124	151	870	160	124	1154
Division 1	133	124	133	144	116	137	787	127	114	1028
Division 2	102	108	119	139	85	86	639	98	88	825
HazMat 1	4	0	3	0	1	3	11	1	1	13
Spec & HQ Units	19	24	9	21	21	7	101	12	10	123
Mutual Aid Units	21	19	7	7	23	17	94	5	12	111
TOTAL	2503	2511	2689	2883	2440	2551	15577	2593	2263	20433

FY 2012/2013 Incident Totals										
	Jul-12	Aug-12	Sep-12	Oct-12	Nov-12	Dec-12	SBTTL	Jan-13	Feb-13	TOTAL
Responses	2503	2511	2689	2883	2440	2551	15577	2593	2263	20433
Incidents	1071	1077	1123	1270	1067	1046	6654	1079	995	8728
Division 1 incidents	589	582	606	686	598	586	3647	572	527	4746
Division 2 incidents	482	495	517	584	469	460	3007	507	468	3982
Building fires	6	5	9	10	4	4	38	8	7	53
Inside fires	39	49	80	90	77	77	412	69	65	546
All fires	56	55	86	99	83	82	461	72	74	607
EMS	489	485	484	532	439	505	2934	506	462	3902
Elevator Rescue	9	10	12	9	30	8	78	4	15	97
Hazardous materials	17	14	21	26	16	20	114	13	20	147
CO emerg	1	4	7	10	8	5	35	4	8	47
Electrical hazards	38	19	46	74	29	24	230	37	19	286
Malicious false	14	27	22	20	9	13	105	16	5	126
Malfunction	103	123	137	122	112	75	672	97	93	862
Unintentional	132	143	111	129	120	132	767	134	125	1026
Bomb threats/susp	8	4	9	9	9	3	42	3	2	47
Bomb/expl removal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Structure collapse	2	0	0	0	1	1	4	0	0	4
Total Multiple Alarms	1	1			1		3			3
2nd Alarms	1				1		2			2
3rd Alarms		1					1			1
4th Alarms							0			
5th Alarms							0			
Working Fires		1					1		1	2
HM Lev 1 "Working"							0			0

Promotions

General Order No.4, Series of 2013

Effective Wednesday, February 6, 2013 at 0700 hours:

Acting Fire Lieutenant Michael J. Lynch promoted to Fire Lieutenant

Transfers

December 10, 2012

GENERAL ORDER NO. 33, Series of 2012

TO THE COMMANDING OFFICER

RE: **Transfers and Assignments**

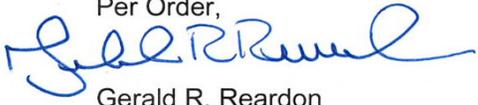
Effective Sunday, December 30, 2012 at 0700 hours:

Lt. Michael A. Donovan from Engine Company No. 3 to Engine Company No. 1
Lt. Eric J. Nugent Engine Company No. 1 to Engine Company No. 3

FF Michael Murphy from Engine Company No. 4 to Ladder Company No. 4
FF Dennis Maragioglio from Ladder Company No. 4 to Technical Services
FF John McEachern from Engine Company No. 9 to Engine Company No. 1
FF John DeCoursey from Engine Company No. 4 to Engine Company No. 8
FF Kyle Hood from Ladder Company No. 1 to Ladder Company No. 3

FFOP Jonathan Blinn to Engine Company No. 2
FFOP Paul Burke to Engine Company No. 6
FFOP Gregory Kirylo to Ladder Company No. 1

Please see that each member is present for a reading of this notice.

Per Order,

Gerald R. Reardon
Chief of Department

General Order No. 3, Series of 2013

Effective Sunday, January 27, 2013 at 0700 hours:

Firefighter William J. Sullivan from Ladder Company No. 1 to Engine Company No. 9

Firefighter Daniel Mahoney from Ladder Company No. 3 to Ladder Company No. 1

Retirements

General Order No. 34 Series of 2012

Effective December 27, 2012, at 1700 hours **Lieutenant Richard J. Turcotte** will retire from the Cambridge Fire Department. Lieutenant Richard Turcotte was appointed on March 4, 1973.

October 29, 1972	Reserve
March 4, 1973	Engine Company Co. No. 3
March 25, 1973	Detailed to Drill School
January 12, 1975	Ladder Co. No. 4
December 5, 1976	Engine Co. No. 3
April 9, 1978	Acting Lieutenant, Engine Co. No. 4
July 2, 1978	Engine Co. No. 9
July 9, 1978	Fire Lieutenant, Engine Co. No. 9
November 16, 1980	Engine Co. No. 4
January 2, 1983	Engine Co. No. 1
March 4, 1984	Engine Co. No. 4
April 29, 2012	Fire Headquarters

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

General Order No. 1 Series of 2013

Effective January 16, 2013 at 1900 Hours, Firefighter Alan F. Johnson retired from the Cambridge Fire Department. Firefighter Alan Johnson was **appointed on January 16, 1977.**

- **March 13, 1977** **Engine Company No. 4**
- **April 15, 1979** **Aerial Tower No. 1**
- **January 10, 1982** **Aide to Deputy Chief**
- **July 10, 1983** **Aerial Tower No. 1**
- **August 9, 1987** **Ladder Company No. 4**

Firefighter Johnson has faithfully served the citizens of Cambridge.

We wish Firefighter Johnson much happiness and good health in his retirement.

General Order No. 2 Series of 2013

SUBJECT: **Retirement of Firefighter Andrew M. Hepner
Effective, January 27, 2013 at 0700 Hours**

Effective January 27, 2013 at 0700 hours, Firefighter Andrew M. Hepner retired from the Cambridge Fire Department. Firefighter Andrew Hepner was **appointed on April 11, 1993**.

- **June 27, 1993** **Engine Company No. 2**
- **September 15, 1996** **Engine Company No. 3**
- **January 16, 2000** **Engine Company No. 8**
- **September 24, 2000** **Engine Company No. 3**
- **April 23, 2006** **Engine Company No. 9**

Firefighter Hepner has faithfully served the citizens of Cambridge.

We wish Firefighter Hepner much happiness and good health in his retirement.

Cambridge Auxiliary Fire Dept.

A reader suggestion was to include some bio's of members of the Cambridge Auxiliary Department. Since they are part of the Cambridge "family", it is a great suggestion and we are glad to start sharing these bio's with you, three per issue! Let's meet:

Captain William Dering



Born in the Bronx and growing up in the suburbs of NYC, Will had two career paths planned out - the railroad or the Fire Department. Just before he was to take the '99 FDNY exam, he was hired by a railroad and other than a 5 year stint in the music industry, Will has stayed on that path but never stopped learning all he could about the fire service.

Will joined the Auxiliary in 2009 and quickly rose to the rank of Captain through his dedication to training and commitment to making the Auxiliary not only a way to serve the city, but a place to learn skills for those looking for a career in the Fire Service. Outside of the Auxiliary, Will works for Amtrak as a Locomotive Engineer running both Regional and Acela trains between Boston and NYC.

Wanting to continue his passion for training, Will started a Forcible Entry training company, 10-75 Training, LLC and shares the knowledge he learned from his mentors at the FDNY with departments all over the Northeast. Will resides in Lawrence, MA with his wife and two children.

Lieutenant Ryan Cheney, Lighting Plant 2.



Ryan has been a member of the CAFD since 2004, and is the longest serving member on the department. From Winthrop, he joined the CAFD right out of high school with the goal to increase his knowledge about the fire service and better serve the community. Ryan currently has an associate's degree in Fire Protection and Safety from North Shore Community College and a Bachelor's from Salem State University.

In addition to being a member of the CAFD, he is also a Sergeant with the Winthrop Auxiliary Police Department, having been a member there for 7 years. Outside of his Auxiliary work, Ryan works in the Auto Insurance industry full time. Ryan resides in Winthrop MA.

Lt. Peter Davekos, Lighting Plant 1



Peter joined the Cambridge Auxiliary Fire Department in 2010 and was recently promoted to Lieutenant. Peter is attending the paramedic program at New England EMS Institute at Elliot Hospital. He is currently employed at Cataldo Ambulance Service as an EMT and by the Town of Essex as a Harbormaster. During the winter months he also works on Ski Patrol. Peter's interest in fire service began early on, and since then he has taken every opportunity to further his education in the field, including attending fire science courses at North Shore Community College. He currently resides in Beverly.

Letters

The following email was received on January 15, 2013

I am hoping you can help me get a thank you note to the paramedics who helped my daughter on Saturday January 12th. My daughter, Jaimie, was staying at the Marriott Cambridge at Kendall Square when she experienced a medical emergency. It is my understanding that the Cambridge Fire Department was called and that two paramedics responded to the call.

I really want the Cambridge Fire Department as a whole to know how much I appreciate the work that you all do. And I especially want the two people who assisted my daughter to know that I am sincerely grateful for their help. Jaimie is 24 years old – she is my only daughter – she was diagnosed with diabetes when she was 10 years old. This was the first time her sugar fell so low that she was unable to help herself.

I received a call from Jaimie's boyfriend Pascal - I believe it was between 11:30 A.M. and 12:00 P.M. He said that he had called Jaimie and she did not seem to understand what he was saying. Knowing she was scheduled to be on a plane headed home at 12:30 – I immediately knew her sugar was low – she was in a hotel room by herself – she was unable to help herself. Pascal told me he would call the hotel and asked me to please call Jaimie. I was thankful that Jaimie answered her phone – but I was so very frightened because she could not comprehend

what I was telling her. I feared it may be the last time I would talk to her – my heart was breaking.

If any of your team remembers this incident – please know that you are truly appreciated. You may also want to know that Jaimie got on a plane at 4:30 PM that same day and was home with Pascal by 7:00 P.M. She went to her appointment Monday at 8:00 AM (She is participating in a study with the U of M on the effects of Diabetes on the heart.) She went to work Monday.

I am so very thankful.
Terri Sarrault

Incident # 12007038

Thanks to the crew of Engine 3 - Lt. Brian Albert, FF. John McMahon, FF Adam Shuman and Squad 2, Lt. Jeremy Walsh and FF N. Menard.

The following was received via email on February 12, 2013:

To Richard Rossi and City Government Employees

As Cambridge recovers from the recent blizzard it must be said that public employees did a great job helping people, plowing and salting the streets, and showing up when called upon for various kinds of emergency situations. It was clear to me that our city government was determined to make sure that everyone was safe during this severe weather event.

We live on Pine Street in Area Four, a small one way densely populated street where parking is always tight. On Saturday, someone had called a tow truck for his or her car when the street was still in the process of being plowed. The tow truck got stuck in the middle of the street, unable to move forward or backward, while swerving in the snow, coming dangerously close to smashing either into a fire hydrant on one side of the street or parked cars on the other. People were trying to help, shoveling in front and in back of the truck's tires. Soon a DPW truck appeared behind the tow truck and the driver tried to push the tow truck. When that didn't work another DPW truck appeared in front of the tow truck attached a chain and finally was able to pull the tow truck forward (while backing up) without causing any damage. The DPW drivers should be commended for their commitment to the safety of citizens and their surroundings, no matter how long it took to rescue the tow truck and its driver from that difficult situation.

The city did everything it could to let people know about the driving ban and to provide parking lots for the cars of residents. Citizens must be active participants, be alert to the city government's plans during an emergency and think of the good of the community. Those of us who are long-term residents in Cambridge should let new residents know what is going on and how to connect to the city's web site. It was great to see many of the neighbors outside shoveling during the day and into the evening. People were helping each other out and setting examples for those who are new to Cambridge and situations like this. Employees of this city served as role models for the community. Thank you for all you do.

Dorothy Nelson

Training

Editor note: The following bit of training information provided by Captain Ikels (Engine 2) will be the first of many (hopefully) columns that will reinforce segments of our department training. Members are reminded to always follow Department policies and Standard Operating Procedures when necessary.

KNOWING YOUR DISTRICT

Knowing your first due district is one of the basic fundamentals we are taught as new Firefighters. Our senior Firefighters and Fire Officers have always been firm on this point for multiple reasons. The mark of a good fire company is a company that knows its district. However there are far too many specific details for us to memorize the entire city thus members should focus heavily on their first due district. Second and third due companies are depending on first due companies to know how to access local response areas. The objective is to eliminate any interruption in the operations tempo and facilitate an aggressive fire attack. Yes, the pressure is on.

In order for this to happen, each individual on a company needs to know the company's district. Individual responsibility cannot be overstated here. The job of senior Firefighters is to guide our younger members in this direction. However, at some point our young members are expected to take initiative, contribute on their own and lead others.

Knowing your district means knowing your streets, buildings and alleys. Yes alleys. Alleys are useful for multiple things. Alleys can be used for stretching lines, accessing the rear of a building for occupant rescue or outside vent operations. However knowing your district is much deeper than that. It also means knowing your buildings in detail. I think it's unrealistic to drive around and commit everything to memory. The best way to accomplish proper district knowledge is to make learning your buildings into a discussion. Point out such details as a challenging looking lock, a strange Fire Alarm Control Panel (FACP) or Fire Department Connection (FDC) location or a terrazzo type floor (see 23rd street collapse in New York City). A discussion is a natural way to remember something and the discussion may transition into a tactical conversation.

The CAD Data Entry Program is the best place to record this information so it can be in our hand via the CAD ticket before we leave the firehouse. At this point the program is on hold due to technical problems at the Emergency Communications Center. Until this system becomes operational we are required keep using our heads or making our own notes.

When is the best time to conduct district recon? The answer is: All of the time. Anytime you are out conducting an inspection, on a medical response or picking up food, we should view this time as a recon mission. Fire is not the only enemy. The buildings that we operate in are just as much our enemy. Gathering intelligence on our buildings is only going to make you and your company more battle ready. It's our buildings that firefighters get lost in, it's our buildings that contain obstacles to our fire attack and it's our buildings that collapse on us and kill us.

Look at the lock on the door of your favorite lunch stop or better yet, take a walk around the rear of the building and look at those doors. The rear is usually much more fortified and a greater challenge to forcible entry. Take a walk up to the roof while on an inspection and talk about the hazards and tactics associated with sky lights or air shafts (888 Mass Ave?) What type of stairwell are we in? Wellhole or conventional? Why does it matter? Is the building layout atypical? Are there dead end hallways? Asking yourself and your crew members how you would handle these situations may save your life or mine. At the very least by keeping your head in the game you will make yourself a more battle ready firefighter.

I have seen fine examples of fire officership where it was obvious these officers have spent some time conducting district recon with their crews. While responding to a struck box as the first due engine the officer of the second due engine company contacted me via the mobile radio and asked if I was taking a particular hydrant which he named by street address. I was highly impressed by this officer's knowledge of his hydrants and found this act to be inspiring. He has the best knowledge of hydrant locations of anyone I know and thus builds trust and confidence in those around him.

At another incident Engine 2 responded as the second due engine to a struck box for the top floor of a building at the end of a dead end street with no hydrant on the corner. We arrived seconds after the first arriving company to find they conducted a reverse lay to the nearest hydrant up the street about a full block away. They pulled the exact amount of attack hose required to conduct a proper fire attack. This was not easy in such a limited amount of time. I told this officer that I was impressed with the quick decision to use this tactic and pull the correct amount of hose necessary. The officer informed me his crew had pre fire planned the street the week prior to the incident. This company was battle ready and has a strong leader.

In conclusion: Think about a building with a truss roof, parapet wall or barred windows in your district. If you can't think of one right away, it's time to get out there and do some district recon!

Stay focused,

Captain Frederick B. Ikels
Engine Company #2
Lafayette Square

Of Interest...

The Winter of 1989/1990

Late January and early February of the winter of 1989 and 1990 proved to be a very busy time for Cambridge and area fire departments. Some of the major fires are listed in the table below. Group 2 was on duty for the fires on the 19th, 27th, and 28th of January and the 1st and 2nd of February. **DFC Stanley Kotowski** of Division 1 (now retired) was the Incident Commander for the five-alarm fire, **Box 5-38**, at River and Pleasant Streets on 27 January 1990. This fire originated in a Laundromat of floor #1 of this large, multiple story, mixed occupancy building, commercial on floor #1 and residential on the upper floors. The fire extended into the upper floors and threatened to extend to all exposure buildings in the closely-built Central Square area neighborhood. Aggressive action by the assigned companies, both Cambridge and mutual aid, contained and extinguished this fire. The building was rehabbed and is still in use today.

Later in the same tour of duty, 28 Jan 1990, there was a one-alarm fire, **Box 313**, at 580 Massachusetts Avenue. An electrical fire had extended into the wall of this multiple story building, commercial on floor #1 and residential on the upper floors. Following rehabs, the building is still in use today.

Later again in the same tour of duty, 28 Jan 1990, companies worked at a second-alarm fire, **Box 2-75**, for 278 – 280 Rindge Avenue in North Cambridge, a fire in a three story, wood-frame, mansard type building with a laundry on floor #1 and apartments on the upper two floors. The building was torn down and the location is now the site of the North Cambridge neighborhood health clinic.

On the next day tour, 1 Feb 1990, FD units worked at **Box 3-723**, the third alarm for the fire in the 1 story taxpayer, Frank's Steak House, at 2310 Massachusetts Avenue. Arriving with heavy smoke and fire showing, engine companies stretched lines to the interior while the truck companies opened up, pulled the ceilings, and opened the roof. During the roof work, it was found that, in addition to multiple ceilings and the roof, there was a floor in place above the ceiling and below the roof. This building once had been a multiple story building and the floor of the second floor had been left in place when a new roof was added. The rescue company completed searches and ensured that all occupants had been removed from the building.

The box was transmitted at 1435 hours, working fire at 1444 hours, the second alarm was ordered at 1449 hours and the third alarm was ordered at 1516 hours. Ten engines, five trucks, the rescue, two divisions, and various staff and support units operated at the fire. The last companies cleared the incident at 0200 hours the next morning. The fire had started in a fryer in the kitchen and ultimately extended into the cockloft. The building was remodeled and is still in use today.

***Note:** The Frank's Steak House menu from 23 years ago, 1 Feb 1990, lists Sirloin Tips for \$5.95. A Reuben was \$5.50. The Boston Sirloin Teriyaki special was \$4.95. A cup of clam chowder was \$1.95 and the French cheesecake with strawberries was \$2.50. It's all good!*

On the next day tour, 2 Feb 1990, FD companies worked at Box 2-563, the second alarm for the fire in the Buckingham, Browne, and Nichols School skating rink at the end of Gerry's Landing Road near Eliot Circle. While en-route, companies observed the heavy-black loom up in the sky. On arrival, heavy smoke and fire were showing. Engine companies established water supplies to the area and initiated the attack on the fire. Truck companies opened up while the rescue completed searches to ensure that all occupants had been removed. At the time of the fire, a hockey game was in progress and the rink was fully occupied. The fire had originated in a large pile of rubber flooring mats and extended to the roof structure of this open bow-string truss roof skating rink. The box had been transmitted at 1633 hours and the second alarm was ordered at 1642 hours. Engine companies set up a relay operation to bring water to the area. In 1990 this area was a poor water supply area. Since that time however, the Cambridge Water Department has greatly upgraded the water service to this area. So as to prevent members from operating on the roof, members worked from the bucket of the Cambridge Tower Ladder. Rush hour traffic in the area was totally gridlocked due to the fire. A new skating rink and athletic facility now occupy the site.

We should also mention that Fire Investigation Unit Inspector Edward Fowler (C9) responded to and investigated the cause and origin of all of these fires.

Retired COO John Gelinas (Division 2 DFC at the time) was the Incident Commander for the fires at 580 Mass. Av., 278-280 Rindge Av., 2310 Mass. Av., and Eliot Circle, the end of Gerry's Landing Road. He worked at the fires at Summer and Willow (Somerville), Upland Road, and River and Pleasant as a sector chief.

SANDWICHES FROM THE DELI

Roast Beef French Dip\$4.95	Frank's Pile Up\$4.95 <small>Turkey, lettuce, tomato, bacon, cheese, Russian dressing, grilled on rye bread</small>
Corned Beef\$4.95	Rueben\$5.50 <small>Corn beef, Swiss cheese, sauerkraut, Russian dressing grilled on pumpernickel bread</small>
Blackened Cajun Chicken\$4.95 <small>Hot and spicy</small>	
Turkey Breast\$3.95	

Served on choice of breads, with steak fries and pickle

THE BURGER AFFAIR

Hamburger\$3.95	Bacon Burger with cheese ...\$4.95
Cheeseburger\$4.50	Cheeseburger Club.....\$5.50

1/2 Pound freshly ground beef cooked to perfection, served with lettuce, tomato and steak fries

DESSERTS

Carrot Cake\$2.25	Chocolate Layer Cake\$2.25
Oreo Ice Cream Pie\$2.25	Strawberry Shortcake\$2.25
Homemade Grapenut Pudding .\$.150	French Cheesecake With Strawberries\$2.50

ON THE SIDE

Tossed Garden Salad\$1.50	Potato of the Day\$1.00
Steak Fries\$1.00	Rice Pilaf\$1.00
Vegetable of the Day\$1.00	Cole Slaw.....\$1.00
Feta Cheese\$1.00	

We Accept American Express, MasterCard, Diner's Club, Carte Blanche & Visa
We Regret That No Personal Checks Can Be Accepted
17% Gratuity for Parties of 6 or more

All Menu Items Can Be Prepared to Go - Call 681-6666 - To Go 25% Extra
Function Space Available For Private Parties, etc.
Price Subject to Massachusetts 5% Meal Tax

2/1/90

THURSDAY LUNCHEON SPECIALS

- BOSTON SIRLOIN TERYAKI \$4.95
FRANKS BOSTON SIRLOIN STEAK MARINATED
TERYAKI STYLE AND BROILED TO PERFECTION
SERVED WITH YOUR CHOICE OF A POTATO OR
RICE PILAF AND A VEGETABLE OR COLE SLAW...
- BAKED CAJUN HADDOCK \$4.95
FRESH TENDET HADDOCK COOKED WITH NEW
ORLEANS STYLE SPICES. SERVED WITH YOUR CHOICE
OF A POTATO OR RICE PILAF AND A VEGETABLE
OR COLE SLAW.....
- ROAST PORK LOIN \$4.95
TOPPED WITH GRAVY AND SERVED WITH A POTATO
OR RICE PILAF AND A VEGETABLE OR COLE SLAW
- SAUTEED CHICKEN ROSEMARY \$4.95
CHICKEN TENDETLOINS SAUTEED IN WINE ROSE-
MARY AND TOMATOS AND GARLIC. SERVED OVER
PASTA WITH A VEGETABLE OR COLE SLAW...
- HOT ROAST BEEF SANDWICH \$4.95
SERVED WITH FRENCH FRIES AND COLE SLAW...

SOUP AND SANDWICH SPECIAL \$4.25
CHICKEN SALAD SANDWICH SERVED WITH A CUP OF
THE SOUP OF THE DAY.....WITH POTATO CHIPS
AND PICKLES.....

SOUP OF THE DAY...ONION OR CLAM CHOWDER

(photos courtesy of DFC Gelinias – retired)

Franks Steakhouse Menu's

Some of the major fires during the winter of 1989/1990 include:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Box</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Other</u>
22 Dec 1989	1600 hours	2-34	43 Allston St.	
24 Dec 1989	1130 hours	Somerville 3 rd	155 Summer St.	Engine 5, 4 – Truck 2
10 Jan 1990	1430 hours	Somerville 3 rd	47 Willow St.	Engine 4, 5 – Truck 2
19 Jan 1990	1700 hours	Somerville 5 th	Summer and Willow Sts.	Engine 4, 5 – Truck 2
19 Jan 1990	1815 hours	2-685	5 Upland Rd.	
22 Jan 1990	1350 hours	3-463	20 Prescott St.	1 fatality - child
23 Jan 1990	1336 hours	2-41	23 Oak St.	
26 Jan 1990	0248 hours	3-1381	Galleria Mall – CambridgeSide Place	Under construction
27 Jan 1990	2300 hours	5-38	River and Pleasant	
28 Jan 1990	0200 hours ?	313	580 Massachusetts Av.	

28 Jan 1990	0540 hours	2-75	278-280 Rindge Av.	
1 Feb 1990	1435 hours	3-723	2310 Massachusetts Av.	Frank's Steak House
2 Feb 1990	1633 hours	2-563	Eliot Circle	BBN Skating Rink
19 Mar 1990	2309 hours	4-4791	16-18 Eliot St.	Scene of previous fire

Note: from 1 Dec 1989 thru 31 Mar 1990, Cambridge **Truck 2** responded to Somerville 9 times and to Boston 10 times.

A historical perspective of the January Fires from forty years ago, January, 1973:

1 Jan 1973

Box 121 at 0515 hours

2-121 at 0520

3-121 at 0540

All out at 1420

The fire was at Cambridge and Sciarrappa (Fourth) Streets and involved two buildings.

Group 4 was on duty.

6 Jan 1973, Saturday

Box 296 at 0227

2-296 at 0229 (ordered by Engine 5 on arrival)

3-296 at 0403

All out at 1500

The fire was at the Mills Hardware building, Cambridge and Elm Streets.

Group 2 was on duty.

8 Jan 1973, Monday

Mutual Aid to Somerville third alarm at 0206, Engine 5 assigned to the fire

Returned at 0550

The fire was at 63-67 Union Square

Group 3 was on duty.

8 Jan 1973, Monday

Box 83 at 1032

2-83 at 1037

All out at 1525

The fire was at 380 Walden Street. Two civilian fatalities occurred.

Group 1 was on duty with DFC Daniel Burke and DFC Joseph Healey the Division Chiefs. Engine 1 became trapped on the second floor and Fire Lieutenant Robert Cauchon and Firefighter Lawrence Kuhn, both of Engine 1, escaped via a 35' ladder at the rear of the building. The building had to be demolished and is now a parking lot.

10 January 1973, Wednesday

Box 363 at 1030

2-363 at 1054

3-363 at 1110

All out at 1404 hours on 12 Jan 1973

The fire was at AAA Plastics Company on Valentine Street. There were numerous firefighter respiratory injuries due to the products of combustion from the burning plastics both inside and outside the fire building.

14 Jan 1973, Sunday

Box 363 at 1212
All out at 1800

14 Jan 1973, Sunday

Box 1991 at 1827
Working Fire
All out at 2017

25 Jan 1973, Thursday

Box 165 at 1453
2-165 at 1503
All out at 1725
The fire location was 167 Second Street.
Group 2 was on duty.

29 Jan 1973, Monday

Box 431 at 0143
Working Fire
All out at 0407
The fire location was 850 Massachusetts Avenue
Group 2 was on duty.

31 Jan 1973, Wednesday

Box 284 at 0159
Working Fire
All out at 0403
The fire location was 61 Austin Street (now Bishop Allen Drive).
Group 4 was on duty.

*Thanks to **John Hathaway** for completing the research on the fires and dates.
Thanks to DFC **Ralph Chapman** (retired) for providing additional information.*

America's Heroes, Harry M. Archer Medal – FDNY

Firefighter James F. Mills, Ladder Company 176

March 4, 2003, 2150 hours, Box 55-1658, 1636 Pitkin Avenue, Brooklyn

Appointed to the FDNY on May 9, 1993. Brother is FF Richard Mills, Jr., Engine 248; father is retired Captain Richard Mills, Sr., Ladder 166; and uncle is retired Deputy Chief Joseph Mills, Division 3. Member of the Emerald and Holy Name Societies. Cited for bravery once previously. Resides in Sayville, Long Island, with his wife, Susan, and their son, Griffin, and daughters, Taylor and Madison.



Pitkin Avenue is a major shopping street in the Brownsville section of Brooklyn. Among the renovations are alterations to these nearly hundred-year-old buildings. With the turmoil of the '60s and '70s, many of the building owners took drastic measures to ensure security. Many of these modifications have remained in place. Any veteran Firefighter who worked in that area will say, "A job on Pitkin Avenue is never easy."

At 2147 hours on March 4, 2003, Box 1658 was transmitted. Within two and a half minutes, the first units arrived on the scene and were met with a medium smoke condition emanating from numerous occupancies. 1636 Pitkin Avenue was a two-story taxpayer-type building, housing four separate stores. Lines were stretched and forcible entry began.

FF James Mills, the chauffeur of Ladder 176, positioned his apparatus and began assisting in opening roll-down gates. Some 22 minutes into the operation, FF Robert Petrarca of Ladder 120 transmitted a mayday.

FF Mills went down the stairs to the cellar, put his facepiece on and began following the line into the cellar. He encountered Engine 227 members, who were operating their line into a common hall that ran the length of the stores. There were many radio transmissions from the units, but most alarming was the transmission from the inside team of Ladder 120, stating they were nearly out of air.

After communicating with Engine 227, FF Mills, knowing full well that time was critical, proceeded to crawl toward the front of the cellar. Due to the complexity of this occupancy, most of the members were searching the cellar of the corner occupancy (jewelry store) and not the cellar where FF Petrarca was lost.

FF Mills began crawling into this cellar. This was not an open, orderly area; this was a Brownsville cellar, filled with many obstacles and debris, which had built up over many years. The sprinklers were operating, so the heat build-up was not intense, but a highly charged atmosphere of dense smoke and carbon monoxide permeated the cellar.

This low-heat atmosphere allowed FF Petrarca to go further into the cellar area. It actually put him in grave danger since he quickly became disoriented and crawled in the opposite direction of the only stairway out of the cellar. The search rope of Ladder 120 ended at an unused staircase; ironically, this was the same point of the breach made later in the incident.

FF Mills, without the protection of a hand-line, began his search. No one realized the wall of the common hall did not go to the ceiling, which allowed the fire to cross into the cellar area where FF Mills had crawled, searching for the missing member. The only line (Engine 227) in the cellar was back at the stair area.

After searching for nearly six minutes and covering a distance of approximately 80 feet, FF Mills located FF Petrarca, who was face down and unconscious in two to three inches of water. FF Mills gave an Urgent message over his handie-talkie, notifying the Incident Commander that he had located the missing member.

Due to the stress and physical effort it took to make it to this point, the air in FF Mill's SCBA was so low his vibralert was going off, but he continued to transmit his location, while trying to drag the unconscious member--who weighed more than 200 pounds--toward the stairs. The air in FF Mills' mask ran out and he was forced to remove his facepiece. He, too, began breathing the contaminated and CO-heavy air.

Fortunately, members of Ladder 176 made a breach in the cellar wall, not too far from FF Mill's location. This allowed members of Rescue 4 to enter, locate and assist FF Mills with the downed member. Together, they dragged FF Petrarca to the breach. (The breach was about half the distance to the stair.)

Shortly after the removal of FF Petrarca from the cellar area where FF Mills found him, there was a collapse. Both Firefighters would have been buried under it.

FF Mills' act of bravery was accomplished under extremely hostile conditions. As Deputy Chief Daniel Butler wrote in his endorsement: "With all this going on, FF Mills may have left and communicated FF Petrarca's position once safe outside himself. Instead, he decided he would leave when they both left. This saved critical time for FF Petrarca and prevented more severe damage from lack of oxygen and the real possibility of his death." For his heroic actions, FF James F. Mills is awarded the Dr. Harry M. Archer Medal.—JTV

From the Tailboard...

Have you ever seen similar photos on the 'net of fire hoses run through illegally parked vehicles?



Although it seems we see more of it with the abundance of cell phone cameras and social media....it's really not that new. This photo was found in a Fire Engineering magazine from the 1950's.



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!**
