



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 #77
Winter 2015

What's New



Headquarters has done some redecorating! In the waiting room/hallway outside of fire prevention is a display case with some historical items from Cambridge Fire Department history.

All Companies Working

September 25, 2015 – 1 Alarm Fire, 15 Orchard Street, Box 714 – Homeowners burned food that ultimately melted some stored pans in the broiler underneath causing an extensive smoke condition throughout. Portable extinguishers confined a fire to an oven

September 30, 2015 - Hazmat, Mass Ave @ Windsor Street – CFD responded to a broken raw sewage line in the basement of a building under construction. Members worked to decontaminate 17 workers. Twelve of them were taken to Cambridge Hospital to be evaluated. Engine 6, Ladder 3, Rescue 1 & Hazmat operated under the Command of DC White. The incident was called in by FF/PM Bill Barry who was on scene working a detail.

October 4, 2015 – Mutual Aid, Waltham, 3rd Alarm, 107 Russell Street – Ladder 1 operated a ladder pipe fed by a Weston engine company.

October 8, 2015 – Mutual Aid, Quincy, 2nd Alarm, 200 Cove Way – Marine 1 responded to Quincy for several boats on fire. As luck would have it, Marine 1 was staffed and training with the Environmental Police in Boston Harbor (with several other local Fire Department Marine Units.) Members operated the bow monitor and stern hand line on burning vessels alongside Boston's Marine 1



Photographer unknown

Cambridge Fire Marine 1 operating at the 2nd Alarm boat fire in October 2015

October 19, 2015 - Working Fire, Box 32, 70 Pacific St. – A malfunctioning vent fan caught fire sending smoke into a shaft-way and upper floors of a 6 Story MIT building.

October 19, 2015 – Childbirth- Ladder 1 & Squad 2 responded to Surrey Street for a woman in labor. Delivery occurred just before companies arrived. Both patients received care and transport.

October 19, 2015 – Haz-Mat, Concord Lane - Companies responded to Concord Lane for a Broken 4 inch gas main behind the mall. E9, L4, R1 & Hazmat operated with Division 2.

October 19, 2015 - 1 Alarm Fire, Box 246, 3R Ames Street - MIT Alarm for Building 62 at 3-R Ames St. Companies arrived to a smoke condition with Sprinkler Operating. Box 246 was struck. Fire was confined to a trash bin and the chute.

October 22, 2015 – Working Fire, 114 Columbia Street, Box 289 – outside fire extended to interior of a 2.5 story wood frame. Engine 2 knocked down the bulk of the exterior fire while companies opened up the exterior to check for extension.

October 23, 2015 – Haz Mat, 160 Monsignor O’Brien Highway – Engine 3 dispatched for a medical call. Apparent chemical suicide required a haz mat response including Division 1, Rescue 1 and Engine 1.

October 26, 2015 – 1 Alarm Fire, 14 Concord Ave, Box 64 – electrical fire in an electrical vault in the street sent smoke and combustion products into a multi-family building. Attack lines were stretched as a precaution as well as air monitoring inside the building until Eversource arrived to take control of the hazard.



Photo courtesy Jason Potteiger

Motorcycle fire on Rindge Ave near Alewife T Station in October 2014.

October 29, 2015 – Hazmat, Main Street @ Ames – chemical spill of hydrochloric acid in MIT building resulted in air monitoring by CFD members. MIT to handle the cleanup.

November 7, 2015 – Water Rescue, O’Brien Highway – a vehicle went off the road and into the Charles River. Cambridge members and divers entered the water and removed the two occupants from the submerged vehicle. The two occupants did not survive.

November 10, 2015 – 1 Alarm Fire, 75 Amherst Street, Box 256 – a cutting operation in a 6 story residential building caused some sparks to ignite some nylon tool bags. Water cans were used to extinguish the fire.

November 16, 2015 – Special, Harvard Yard – companies assisted numerous law enforcement agencies in checking buildings on the Harvard campus after Harvard University received an email threat of a bomb located on campus. This call was just days after the deadly terrorist attack in Paris, France. No dangerous devices were found.

November 16, 2015 – 2nd Alarm Fire, 256 Hurley Street, Box 18 – while numerous companies were tied up at the Harvard incident, the ECC received a call for a building fire. Engine 3 signed off with smoke and fire showing. **Deputy Chief Peter Donovan** responded and took command as Division 1 and 2 were committed at the Harvard incident. While engaged in fire attack, a report of attack dogs in the building added yet another out of the ordinary element to the job.

November 25, 2015 – 1 Alarm Fire, 4 Douglass Street, Box 313 – ECC filled the assignment for a car fire next to a building on Douglass Street. Engine 2 knocked the fire down and companies checked the exposure building. One firefighter sustained minor injuries to his hand.

December 2, 2015 – HazMat, 50 Follen Street – Ladder 1 responded for a CO alarm and discovered high readings of 35 PPM. Requested a full response for readings on top floor of 5 story apartment building. A boiler malfunction resulted in readings of 120 PPM in the boiler room itself.

December 8, 2015 – Haz Mat, 3 Ames Street - Bromide spill in an MIT building. Student spilled on clothes and self. Companies checked the building with meters and found no additional readings.

December 9, 2015 – Mutual Aid, Brookline, 45 St Paul Street, Box 184, 3 Alarms – Ladder 1 dispatched to cover assignment and redirected to fire on 2nd alarm with Division 1. Engine 2 covered on the 3rd Alarm. Ladder 1 pulled ceilings on top floor. Squad 2 did not respond as they were training in Moon Island at the time.



All Members,

I wish to thank all the members of the department who were instrumental in making our annual Toys-for-Tots drive a success this year.

I also wish to thank some of our friends in the community, such as Draper Labs, PRO-EMS, CambridgeSide Galleria Mall, Andy's Diner and others who stepped up and provided much needed help. Earlier today we delivered a large amount of toys to the folks at the USMCR in South Boston as well as the Salvation Army here in Cambridge.

This is always about putting a smile on the face of a kid at Christmas. Thanks to all of you, a lot of kids will experience that this year.

Thank you again and Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you and yours!

Thanks,

Assistant Chief Gerard E. Mahoney
Cambridge, MA Fire Department



G Mahoney photo



G Mahoney photo

Ladder 3 and Engine 2 pickup toys collected by the generous folks at Draper Labs for the Christmas Season!

Out and About

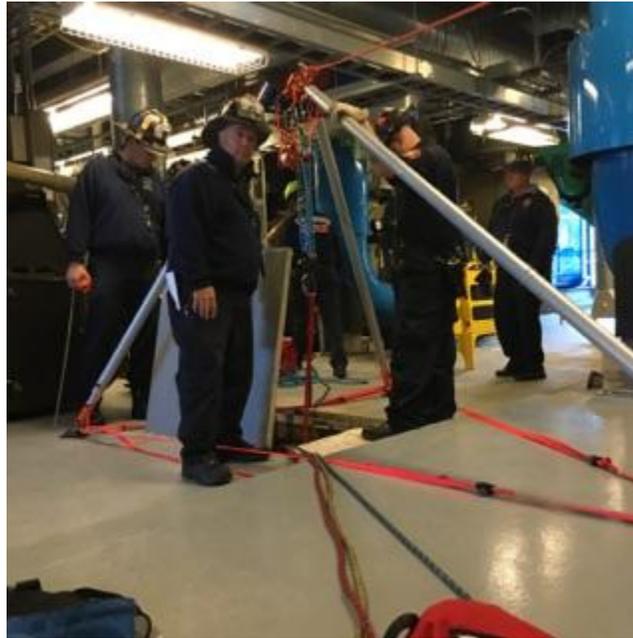


Photo courtesy FF D. DeGrace

Companies conducted a confined space and then high angle operation in a simulated victim removal at the MIT power plant in October 2014. **Lt. Mike Francis (Engine Co. 1)** supervises the confined space operation.



Photo by J. Gelinis

Firefighter Marvin Ramos (Engine Co. 5), Firefighter Reneau Cherant (Squad Co. 4), Firefighter Jerry Bernardo (Engine Co.1), Massachusetts DFS employee Adrian Temple and Lieutenant Steve Boyle Jr. (Ladder Co. 2) assist at Danehy Park Day in October 2014.



Photo J Gelinas

Danehy Park Day September 2015



Photo by Ed Morrissey III

FF Marifote (Ladder 3) and FF Kenney (Engine 2) doing some ALS interface training in Lafayette Square.



Photo courtesy Captain R. Vallaincourt

Firefighter Hugh Devlin and Captain Ray Vallaincourt (Squad Co. 4) conduct a funeral detail for Somerville Firefighter Robert Quinn in October 2014.



Photo credit to Lt. Melendy

Group 3; Headquarters celebrated the Thanksgiving holiday with a group shot in front of the station.



Photo by E. Morrissey III

All crews underwent annual CPR Training in October 2015. New this year were training aids that monitored the student's compression rate and depth for correctness. **FF Gene Myrtil (Engine 5)** looks on as **FF John Gallagher (Ladder 4)** and **Lt. Brian Casey (Squad 2)** work on the "patient"



Photo provided

Pro skateboard legend Andy MacDonald and **FF Jeremy Marrache; Engine 1** at a detail at the recent opening of the Lynch Skatepark on Education way. Andy was a local guy who grew up in Melrose and Somerville.



Photo Courtesy Frank Maffa Jr.

Firefighter Francis Maffa; Engine 9 Retired recently celebrated his 80th. Members of the CFD past and present helped Frank celebrate. (L-R) **Capt Patsy DeMaio (E9, Ret)**; **FF Stephon Kinn (E8)**; **FF Jim Marcantonio (E8, Ret)**; **DFC Paul Sheehan (Div 2)**; **Capt Mark Cunningham (E8)**; **DFC Frank Murphy III (Div 2)**; **FF Bob Currier (R1, Ret)**; **FF Frank Maffa (E9, Ret)** and **Lt Edward Comerford (E2, Ret)**.

Happy Birthday Frank!!



Photo credit to Charlie Fopiano

Lt. Jamie Ferreira; Engine 2 surveys the scene at the Working Fire that occurred at 114 Columbia Street on October 22, 2015

Holiday Trivia

Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer was created as a promotion for what department store?

Celebration of the Jewish New Year is known as what?

Eggnog was first consumed in what U.S. city?

The real St. Nicholas was born in what modern-day country?

What holiday was established in California in 1966 by scholar/activist Dr. Maulana Karenga?

How long does Hanukkah last?

Answers on last page!

MDA Update

Brothers and Sisters,

We had 2 successful "Fill The Boot" drives in October. We raised \$2,200 on Monday 10/26 (0730-0930) with 10 volunteers, blanketing Mass Ave & RT16 and along Alewife Brook Parkway. Today (Friday 10/30), we raised another \$1,442 on the Gilmore Bridge (0730-0930) with 5 volunteers. The grand total for both days (4 hours total) was \$3,642. I'd like to thank the following members who volunteered their time with me: **Stephanie Crayton, Blake Crist, Anthony Cyrus, Nick DiPace, L.J. DiPietro, T.C. Harris, Mike Lencki, Matt McDonald, Ryan Meehan, Tim Norton, Derek O'Leary, Bryan O'Neil, Jon Powers, Matt Pires, and Pat Sullivan.**

With the money raised from these 2 boot drives and all the other events, I'm proud to announce that Local 30 has met the fundraising goal of \$20,000 for the MDA this year (\$20,602 to be exact). As always, this success wouldn't have been possible without all of you! I would also like to bring to your attention that Local 30 has raised \$98,377 in the last 5 years! That is a great amount of money that has done a lot of good things for local families battling this disease. Congratulations and another big thank you for all of the continued support.

To keep things fresh and not seem so repetitive each year, please contact me with suggestions on any new fundraising ideas that you'd like to see us try. Also, I'm looking for 1 member from each group to restart a MDA committee. These members will be needed to assist me in getting some boot drive volunteers from your respective groups. My goal is to have 4 boot drives next summer/fall (1 for each group).

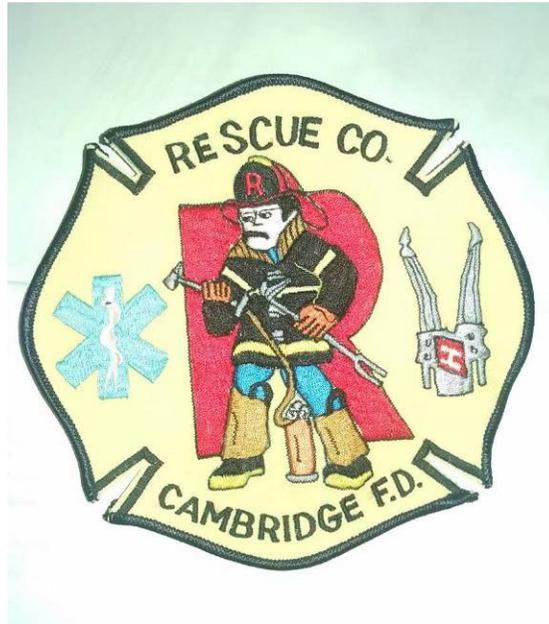
I hope to hear some new ideas from you and I look forward to us raising even more money next year!!!

Thank you,

Lieutenant Brandon Hugh

Engine 5 / Group 3

From the Archives



Old school Rescue patch from the collection of **FF H. Smith; Ladder 1**



Old school Fire Alarm patch from the collection of **FF H Smith; Ladder 1**

Through the Lantern Lens



Through the Lantern Lens

by Mose Humphrey

In the last edition, **Asst. Chief J. Gelinas; Retired** wrote about “the good ole days” and included a story about a beach umbrella. A few days after publication, we found a photo in a photo album given to us by **FF Walter Grace, Aide to Division 1; Retired** that we think is the same umbrella. Here is the excerpt from the last newsletter:

One anecdote: Jim Harrington, when he was the Captain of Ladder 4, rigged up a large, colorful beach umbrella to cover the open cab of a spare truck that Ladder 4 was using. Unfortunately, the Chief of Department at that time did not see the humor and ordered him to remove it immediately. Jim retired as a Deputy Fire Chief and has since passed away. RIP Brother.



Photo courtesy of FF Walter Grace; Retired

“The beach umbrella” over the cab of Ladder 4. **FF Walter Grace; Retired** is driving.

Signal 10-15

Special Signal 10-15 The Chief of Department regrets to announce the death of **Firefighter Robert Byrne; Engine Co. 4-Retired** in October 2015



Condolences to:

The Brothers and Sisters on the Somerville Fire Department on the active duty death of **Firefighter Robert F. Quinn** on October 4, 2015. FF Quinn was assigned to Rescue Co. 1.



Lieutenant Vinroy Paul; Ladder Co. 3 on the passing of his Mother,
Ms. Vivienne Campbell

The family of **Firefighter Allen Gaudet; Fire Headquarters-Retired** on the passing of his
Brother,
Alfred Gaudet

Firefighter Kevin Conroy; Engine Co. 2 on the passing of his Uncle,
Reverend Philip Conroy

Stats and Fires

FY 2015/2016 RUN TOTALS

| | Jul-15 | Aug-15 | Sep-15 | Oct-15 | Nov-15 | Dec-15 | SBTTL | TOTAL |
|------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|----------|--------------|--------------|
| Engine 1 | 206 | 230 | 213 | 197 | 174 | | 1020 | 1020 |
| Engine 2 | 312 | 329 | 312 | 316 | 259 | | 1528 | 1528 |
| Engine 3 | 142 | 123 | 161 | 128 | 128 | | 682 | 682 |
| Engine 4 | 133 | 129 | 128 | 137 | 127 | | 654 | 654 |
| Engine 5 | 138 | 153 | 189 | 160 | 124 | | 764 | 764 |
| Engine 6 | 112 | 137 | 128 | 118 | 98 | | 593 | 593 |
| Engine 8 | 86 | 102 | 116 | 129 | 100 | | 533 | 533 |
| Engine 9 | 77 | 87 | 89 | 101 | 99 | | 453 | 453 |
| Truck 1 | 165 | 206 | 165 | 176 | 146 | | 858 | 858 |
| Truck 2 | 104 | 95 | 124 | 97 | 69 | | 489 | 489 |
| Truck 3 | 195 | 199 | 192 | 182 | 175 | | 943 | 943 |
| Truck 4 | 106 | 141 | 133 | 145 | 130 | | 655 | 655 |
| Rescue 1 | 208 | 202 | 212 | 214 | 202 | | 1038 | 1038 |
| Squad 2 | 281 | 325 | 329 | 310 | 256 | | 1501 | 1501 |
| Squad 4 | 157 | 151 | 144 | 172 | 147 | | 771 | 771 |
| Division 1 | 158 | 135 | 164 | 160 | 130 | | 747 | 747 |
| Division 2 | 121 | 124 | 128 | 115 | 115 | | 603 | 603 |
| HazMat 1 | 3 | 3 | 6 | 4 | 1 | | 17 | 22 |
| Spec & HQ Units | 25 | 21 | 14 | 24 | 23 | | 107 | 107 |
| Mutual Aid Units | 16 | 21 | 16 | 12 | 19 | | 84 | 84 |
| TOTAL | 2745 | 2913 | 2963 | 2897 | 2522 | 0 | 14040 | 14040 |

| FY 2015/2016 Incident Totals | | | | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|--------------|--------------|
| | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | SBTTL | TOTAL |
| Responses | 2745 | 2913 | 2963 | 2897 | 2522 | 14040 | 14040 |
| Incidents | 1228 | 1278 | 1302 | 1259 | 1133 | 6200 | 6200 |
| Division 1 incidents | 727 | 746 | 787 | 702 | 619 | 3581 | 3581 |
| Division 2 incidents | 501 | 532 | 515 | 557 | 514 | 2619 | 2619 |
| Building fires | 3 | 5 | 9 | 7 | 6 | 30 | 30 |
| Inside fires | 56 | 49 | 68 | 85 | 80 | 338 | 338 |
| All fires | 70 | 73 | 87 | 89 | 85 | 404 | 404 |
| EMS | 526 | 546 | 542 | 550 | 471 | 2635 | 2635 |
| Elevator Rescue | 22 | 9 | 11 | 15 | 10 | 67 | 67 |
| Hazardous materials | 24 | 26 | 20 | 18 | 14 | 102 | 102 |
| CO emerg | 3 | 9 | 3 | 3 | 4 | 22 | 22 |
| Electrical hazards | 27 | 39 | 21 | 19 | 20 | 126 | 126 |
| Malicious false | 24 | 24 | 28 | 23 | 16 | 115 | 115 |
| Malfunction | 115 | 139 | 145 | 127 | 89 | 615 | 615 |
| Unintentional | 99 | 150 | 140 | 118 | 123 | 630 | 630 |
| Bomb threats/susp | 34 | 18 | 26 | 27 | 39 | 144 | 144 |
| Bomb/expl removal | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | 0 | 0 |
| Structure collapse | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | | 3 | 3 |
| Total Multiple Alarms | | 1 | | | 1 | 2 | 2 |
| 2nd Alarms | | 1 | | | 1 | 2 | 2 |
| 3rd Alarms | | | | | | 0 | 0 |
| 4th Alarms | | | | | | 0 | 0 |
| 5th Alarms | | | | | | 0 | 0 |
| 9th Alarms | | | | | | 0 | 0 |
| Working Fires | | | | 2 | | 2 | 2 |
| HM Lev 1 "Working" | | | | | | 0 | 0 |

Cambridge Fire Sweatshirts

**CAMBRIDGE
FIRE HOCKEY STYLE**

1/4 ZIP SWEATSHIRTS
LACE UP HOODIES
SHORT SLEEVE SHIRTS
LONG SLEEVE SHIRTS
YOUTH SIZES

If Your Size or Style is Out Of Stock
Contact Roger Kendrick
Boston Fire Department
617-970-315
roger@bostonfiregear.com

www.bostonfiregear.com

Boston Fire Lieutenant Roger Kendrick has some CFD logo sweatshirts for sale – please contact Roger directly for any ordering information! Members are reminded these are not approved for on-duty use.

New Hires, Transfers, Promotions & Retirements

October 20, 2015

GENERAL ORDER NO.49, Series of 2015

TO THE COMMANDING OFFICER

RE: **Transfers**

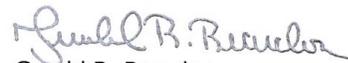
Effective Sunday, October 25, 2015 at 0700 hours:

Captain Charles Anderson from Ladder Company No. 4 to Ladder Company No. 2

Captain William J. Brathwaite from Fire Headquarters to Ladder Company No. 4

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

Per Order,



Gerald R. Reardon
Chief of Department

October 27, 2015

GENERAL ORDER NO.50, Series of 2015

TO THE COMMANDING OFFICER

RE: **Transfers**

Effective Sunday, November 1, 2015 at 0700 hours:

Lieutenant Thomas G. Kotowski from Engine Company No. 8 to Fire Headquarters

Lieutenant Joyce T. Bowden from Squad No. 4 to Engine Company No. 8

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

Per Order,



Gerald R. Reardon
Chief of Department

CAMBRIDGE FIRE HEADQUARTERS
CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS

November 12, 2015

GENERAL ORDER NO. 52, Series of 2015

TO THE COMMANDING OFFICER

RE: **Promotion**

Effective Sunday, November 15, 2015 at 0700 hours:

Acting Fire Lieutenant Mark N. Tiede promoted to Fire Lieutenant

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

Per Order,



Gerald R. Reardon
Chief of Department

GENERAL ORDER NO. 54, SERIES OF 2015

December 9, 2015

TO THE COMMANDING OFFICER

SUBJECT: **Retirement of Firefighter Daniel M. Harrington
Effective, December 13, 2015 at 0700 Hours**

Effective December 13, 2015 at 0700 hours, Firefighter Daniel M. Harrington retired from the Cambridge Fire Department. Firefighter Daniel Harrington was **appointed on March 17, 1985.**

- **May 5, 1985** **Aerial Tower No. 1**
- **January 5, 1992** **Engine Company No. 6**
- **July 19, 2015** **Fire Headquarters**

Firefighter Harrington has faithfully served the citizens of Cambridge.

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

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

Per order,



Gerald R. Reardon
Chief of Department

Quotes of the Day

A few wise words from the "Oracle of Omaha", Warren Buffet:

Planning: "Someone's sitting in the shade today, because someone planted a tree a long time ago."

Values: "Live your life by an inner scorecard."

Mistakes: "The rearview mirror is always clearer than the windshield."

Risk: "Risk comes from not knowing what you are doing."

Commendation

September 24, 2015

GENERAL ORDER NO. 46, SERIES OF 2015

TO THE COMMANDING OFFICER

RE: COMMENDATION

On Friday August 21, 2015 Engine Company 6 and Ladder Company 3 responded to two separate fires within minutes in the vicinity of 240 Albany Street.

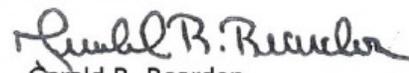
The company officers; Lt. Kevin Mercer of Engine Company 6 and Act. Lt. Jay Martel of Ladder Co. 3 immediately noticed a suspicious person in the area and had ECC contact Captain Cahill of the Fire Investigation Unit. They occupied the individual and also secured video of the suspect to hold until Captain Cahill arrived.

This resulted in the arrest of the suspect who was also wanted for four additional outstanding warrants.

Detective Anthony Grassi of the Cambridge Police Department felt the actions of Lt. Mercer and Act. Lt. Martel were instrumental in securing an eventual confession from the suspect. Detective Grassi and Captain Cahill both mentioned the prompt notification of the Fire Investigation Unit as being important in this case, along with the casual, non-interrogatory conversation they engaged in with the suspect.

The actions of Lt. Kevin Mercer and Act. Lt. Jay Martel are in the highest traditions of the fire service and the Cambridge Fire Department and they are hereby commended for their actions.

Per Order



Gerald R. Reardon
Chief of Department

September 24, 2015

GENERAL ORDER NO. 47, SERIES OF 2015

TO THE COMMANDING OFFICER

RE: COMMENDATION

On Wednesday September 2, 2015 Firefighter Michael S. Murphy; Ladder Company 4 was working a paid fire detail at 240 Sidney Street due to cutting operations being performed in the basement of a four-story wood-frame building.

Prior to the commencing of cutting operations Firefighter Murphy ensured the area was clear of debris and that charged fire extinguishers were in place, in accordance with department Standard Operating Guideline #40; Paid Detail Program.

Within moments of the contractor beginning his cutting operation, the insulation barrier between the parking garage and the wood frame building ignited and rapidly began to spread across the ceiling.

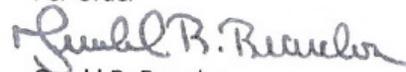
Firefighter Murphy expended three Class A Fire Extinguishers before bringing the situation under control. He also notified ECC to initiate a fire response to the location. Once it was determined the fire had been held in check with no extension he held the scene until the arrival of Captain Cahill of the Fire Investigation Unit.

If not for Firefighter Murphy's attention to detail in preparing the site for the work being performed, coupled with his immediate response to the situation, Captain Cahill stated "there likely would have been a significant loss of a building with dozens of contractors working inside."

The fire loss was approximately \$10,000.00 in just a matter of seconds, but it was contained due to the quick actions of Firefighter Murphy.

His actions were in the highest traditions of the fire service and the Cambridge Fire Department and he is hereby commended for his actions.

Per Order



Gerald R. Reardon
Chief of Department

Congratulations



Photo provided

FF Larry Pacios (Ladder Co. No. 4) and 10 year old son Patrick celebrate winning a Championship football game in November 2015.



Patrick played both running back and defensive end for the Northborough Thunderhawks. They won 21-7 and Patrick scored 2 touchdowns for his team.

Congratulations to **FF Jeremy Collins; Ladder 2** on his making it to the top 6 of the Survivor: Second Chance, Cambodia. As of press time, we believe the taping of the finale is taking place in Hollywood as we speak. Lets hope for good news!!



Photo by Capt. M. Roche – Newton FD

Cambridge Ladder 3 with Mass. Fire Academy Tower 1 displaying the Colors at the 2015 Massachusetts Firefighter of The Year Awards Ceremony held at MIT on November 23, 2015. Congratulations to all the Brothers and Sisters that were recognized during the annual awards ceremony held at the Kresge Auditorium at MIT.

Safety

WINTER FIREFIGHTING – The following is an article in Firehouse.com written by JEFFREY PINDELSKI, a Firehouse.com Contributing Editor, who is a 20-year veteran and student of the fire service and is the deputy chief of operations with the Downers Grove, IL, Fire Department.

Editor note: Please use this only as a general guide for preparing yourself for a difficult job that becomes even more difficult during the coming winter months. If you have any questions, please check with your Officer or the Training Division on how some of these guidelines may differ with our SOPs.

With winter conditions soon approaching, the fire service is left to contend with additional demands due to heavy snowfall and extreme temperature conditions. The hazards and complications of winter firefighting can be overcome by firefighters developing a basic understanding of those hazards and conditions and properly preparing for them beforehand.

Response Safety

Year after year, responding to and from emergency calls is one of the leading activities being performed in studies of firefighter fatalities. Cold weather, contributing to extreme road conditions, will only increase the amount of risk that we are exposed to.

Preparing for winter response starts with making certain that our apparatus is ready and in top operating condition (as it should be at all times). In particular, driver/operators should make certain that they are familiar with the operations of window defrosters, heat vents and brake retarders on their particular apparatus as well as their department's guidelines for operating a "dry" versus "wet" pump during winter months.

Coating the threads of any fittings or port caps with straight antifreeze will help prevent them from freezing without damaging any gaskets and should be performed as needed in daily vehicle checks. A spray bottle can be filled with antifreeze and kept on the rig for this purpose.

Increased stopping distances, decreased visibility and unpredictable actions of civilian motorists can all be expected in extreme weather and will have a negative impact on response. Routes of travel to alarms will need to take snow/ice removal and accessibility to the incident into consideration.

Is there a plan in place to have the public works department assist the fire department with snow removal resources in the event of an extreme winter storm? Discussing this and having a plan in place prior to needing it will definitely be advantageous.

Taking the proper precautions necessary in extreme weather is going to cause extended response times. How will this influence the actions of the first due companies? The important point to remember - the fire department is of no value unless it is able to arrive on scene safely.

Fireground Concerns

Once having arrived on scene, the company officer will have to make critical decisions on the commitment of apparatus. Questions that need to be considered: are tactical positions attainable or are they blocked by snow banks? Are additional lengths of hose needed to be added to pre-connected lines to make it to the building? Can personnel access all sides of the building and are there any hazards or obstacles present that are not visible due to snow or ice such as stairs, drop offs or in ground swimming pools?

Are fire hydrants visible and accessible - both prior to and after streets are plowed? Firefighters should ensure hydrants are accessible after severe storms before they freeze by routinely checking on them and clearing snow from them. Attaching flags or a marking device that sticks up a ways in the air can also make it easier to spot a hydrant covered by snow.



Photo H. Smith collection

The open cab of Engine 6's hose wagon collects snow during a 2 alarm fire on Upland Road in 1951.

Another solution that has been successful is a program where the fire department makes certain that fire hydrants are distinguished with a marker pole prior to a winter storm and are also given the responsibility of clearing their assigned fire hydrant of snow after a storm.

Once finding the hydrant, is it usable or frozen? Small hand held propane torches can be of great use to free frozen hydrant caps or hose couplings during cold weather and should be placed on the rig for winter months.

Once committed and flowing water, engine companies will need to keep water moving in some manner to keep hoselines, ladder pipes, valves and pumps from freezing solid. Static water will freeze readily as we already know at 32 degrees Fahrenheit but if enough movement is provided, water will not freeze spontaneously until the ambient temperature reaches -40 degrees Fahrenheit.

Water as we are aware exists in the states of a solid (ice), liquid, and a gas (steam). The major factor that differentiates these three states is the motion of the molecules that comprise water. When heat (as in the form of friction caused by movement) is added, its molecules will move faster and freely interact. As water freezes, the movement of molecules slow down and begin to align in a crystal like structure resulting in ice. As water freezes, its density (or mass per unit volume) will also increase until it reaches a solid crystallized state. If water is constricted as in a hoseline or piping when this expansion of mass takes place, the pressure exerted can cause costly damage. For this reason, keep nozzles, deck guns, ladder pipes etc. partially open with water flowing until ready to shut down and pack up. Hoselines and ladderpipes should be drained and picked up immediately when they stop flowing water and are no longer needed.

Injuries & Rehab

Slips and falls are another prevalent hazard during cold weather operations. The soles of many firefighting boots worn will become harder in colder temperatures preventing them from "gripping" the ground. Removable cleats or spikes that slip over boot soles can be advantageous in this situation.

Water on the ground from cold weather operations will also create an increased potential for slips and falls. Sodium Chloride or road salt is commonly carried on fire apparatus due to its ability to impede ice formation. Road salt is often applied to the ice once it is already formed. Unfortunately, the salt must first be dissolved before it can work effectively. Salt works by breaking chemical bonds and preventing water molecules from aligning in the crystal state that we talked about. If salt is applied before water freezes, it will be readily dissolved and will effectively lower the freezing point of the water. Sand can also be thrown onto the ground to improve traction.

Rehabilitation resources and additional alarms should be requested as soon as possible. The rehab location should get firefighters out of the elements, be located away from vehicle exhaust and concentrate on providing hydration through warm fluids.

One of the most overlooked ways of protecting ourselves from cold stress is through proper hydration. This needs to take place prior to responding to an incident to make certain that our body's systems are working at their best. Vital functions of our body will shut down when not properly hydrated. During work cycles it is recommended that a firefighter drink at least a quart of water per hour.

Firefighters will only be able to battle the elements for short periods of time in extreme weather due to stress and shorter work cycles should be adhered to. Turnout gear does not allow for effective heat dissipation and sweating from performing fireground activity can lead to shivering and lowering of the body core temperature. Body core temperatures falling below accepted levels can cause severe injury to firefighters without them even realizing what is happening to them. Stress from the cold decreases cognitive reasoning as well as focus.

Frost bite is caused by parts of the body being exposed to extreme cold. It can result from a very short time of exposure if cold enough. Fluids contained within exposed body part freeze causing blood vessel damage and necrosis or death of tissue in the affected area. Several factors contribute to the severity of frostbite

- the temperature to which the exposed part is exposed
- the length of time which the body part is exposed
- the condition of clothing covering the exposed area (is it wet or dry?)

Most often the hands, feet, ears and face of a firefighter are most prone to frostbite. Frostbite will appear as changes in skin appearance as discoloration (white or gray) and will be accompanied by numbness and stiffness to the affected area. Often times a patient experiencing frostbite will not even realize it due to accompanying numbness. The best way to prevent frostbite is to protect skin from direct exposure to cold air. Firefighters should dress in layers of loose fitting clothes beneath their turnout gear. Materials of these clothes should allow evaporation of perspiration and not be restrictive as to compromise the body's circulation in helping to keep the body warm. Two pairs of socks and properly fitted footwear are also recommended.

Hypothermia results when the body core temperature falls below normal. Firefighters suffering from hypothermia will exhibit shivering, confusion, extreme fatigue and drowsiness.

The best way to prevent hypothermia is also to dress in layers beneath turnout gear and to keep moving when working on the fireground to maintain a good level of circulation. Firefighters should make certain to keep their heads covered with a hat or hood when working in cold

weather. As much as 50 percent of the body's heat can be lost through the head and wearing a hat will help to minimize that loss.

Firefighters should also replace any wet clothing immediately as wet clothes will cool down the body's core temperature much quicker than air alone. Keeping a bag with a dry change of clothes, extra gloves, socks and hats on the apparatus is a good idea during winter months.

Structural Concerns & Equipment

In addition to the obvious fall hazards, ice will present other hazards and problems on the fireground.

As water is applied to a burning structure it will freeze and not run off. As more and more water is applied, ice will cause additional weight and stress on structural members increasing collapse potential.



Photo H. Smith collection

Cambridge companies work through the cold weather to fight a 2 alarm fire on Upland Road in 1951.

Locks and halyards on ladders can become frozen making them inoperable or difficult to move. Aerial ladders can become caked with ice increasing weight loads on them resulting in failure or twisting of the ladder.

Cold weather can definitely take a toll on firefighters and the equipment that they use. With proper pre incident planning, training and awareness, the hazards of extreme winter weather firefighting can be reduced to allow safe operations on the fireground.

Editor Note: it is advisable to keep a "warm bag" with some dry socks, gloves, hood and handwarmers for any extended operations during the winter months on your rig. Although, the use vs. benefit of continually putting it on and taking it off the rig at the start of your shift and not using it may become monotonous over time, the time you need it is when you will value the benefit of always having it!



Photo H Smith collection

Typical practice of open cab apparatus was to place a canvas over the cab area during inclement weather to keep the cab dry. This canvas was in place but moved forward for someone to access the cab.
Engine 2 shown at unknown incident.

Letters

The following note was received on November 24, 2015:

On Election Day, we went to vote and foolishly left a pot of rice simmering on the stove, which boiled dry and set off the smoke alarm. Our alarm company called and we raced home, where we were greeted by a house full of smoke and 4 firefighters from our firehouse on Lexington Ave (our old polling place!) under the direction of Paul [not sure of his last name]. The men had assessed the situation and thankfully were checking for a way into the house before smashing in the door. My wife and I wanted to thank them for their professionalism and courtesy. They were thorough without being intrusive, and rather than being accusatory, they were good-natured throughout the visit. Once they had dealt with the smoking pan, they had good suggestions for clearing the smoke. Happily it was a warm night and after a few hours with all the windows open the smoke disappeared, leaving no damage.
Please pass on our thanks,

Peter Wilson and Susan Lapidés
451 Huron Ave

(Oh, and if you have any pull at the Election Commission and could move our polling station back to the fire station so we don't have to drive down to the Armory that would be greatly appreciated.)



CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS
FIRE DEPARTMENT
266 Broadway
Somerville, Massachusetts 02145

PATRICK J. SULLIVAN III
CHIEF ENGINEER

TEL: (617) 623-1700
FAX: (617) 625-8101

October 15, 2015

Chief Reardon and the members of the Cambridge Fire Department,

I would like to take this moment to thank you and all of the members of your department for the assistance given to us on Friday, October 9, 2015 for the funeral of Firefighter Robert Quinn. With your assistance all on-duty Somerville Firefighters were able to attend the funeral.

The comradery of the fire service in times like this is second to none. Please express my heartfelt thanks and the thanks of all the members of the Somerville Fire Department to the men and women of the Cambridge Fire Department.

Respectfully,

Patrick J. Sullivan III
P/Chief Engineer

The following note was received on December 11:

Dear CFD,

I just wanted to say thank you to the Cambridge Fire Department (and the EMTs/paramedics, too). I especially wanted to say how grateful I am to those who were there on the scene and also to the always under-appreciated dispatchers and others behind the scenes making everything work smoothly.

Thank you for waking me up in my smoke-filled room this morning (the JFK street incident) that resulted from my own negligence and stupidity following a 4am cooking attempt. I'm certain that a smoking cooking pan may not be the riskiest situation you have encountered in your line of work, and I truly respect your courage and commitment to your job of helping people in emergencies and saving lives. The world would really be a better place with more people like you. If there are any ways I can help out (even if just through a donation), I would be glad to do so. Thanks again!

Best,
Ethan

America's Heroes

Hugh Bonner Medal/Honor Legion Medal Firefighter Jordan C. Sullivan
LADDER COMPANY 105



Appointed to the FDNY on July 29, 2013. Member of the Vulcan Society. Holds a BA degree in English from St. Francis College. Resides in Brooklyn.

March 16, 2014, 0215 hours, Box 75-583, Brooklyn

When Jordan Sullivan graduated from Probie School, he was assigned to Tower Ladder 105 in Brooklyn. As he soon learned, this firehouse has a long history of excellence and tradition. Members of Engine 219 and Ladder 105, on Dean Street, live up to their motto: The Tradition Continues. The Probie arrived at the firehouse motivated and ready to learn more. Drills were conducted, tools cleaned and assignments made...more preparation for that moment as FF Sullivan and the members of Tower Ladder 105 were confronted with FF Sullivan's maiden first-due fire.

On the evening of March 15, 2014, Probationary FF Sullivan began a tour he would never forget. The company had gone 10-8 from a previous emergency when Ladder 105 received an alarm via the MDT for Box 583. The run was for a report of fire at 3rd Avenue in Boerum Hill. After acknowledgement, the dispatcher called Ladder 105 on the air to update them with reports of children trapped in the fire apartment.

They arrived at the Box location in fewer than two minutes. Grabbing their tools, the team ran up the stairs to the fifth floor, was met by a civilian at the door to the public hall and told that there was a fire in the apartment down the hallway. After donning their SCBA face pieces, the team of Lieutenant John LaBarbera, FF John Crowley and Probationary FF Jordan Sullivan entered the smoke-filled hallway and made their way down to the fire apartment door.

At this time, a highly agitated woman's voice could be heard through the smoke, screaming that there were children trapped in the apartment. Lieutenant LaBarbera informed the LCC, FF Michael Kehoe, to transmit a 10-75 to the Brooklyn dispatcher. The door to the fire apartment was closed, but unlocked. When they opened the door, the members were confronted with punishing conditions and zero visibility. Entering, they searched behind the entrance door, a baby carriage and then were confronted with fire in the hall.

Door control immediately was transferred to Lieutenant James Long, Engine 226, as the team advanced. FF Sullivan was directed to control the fire in the hallway with the can. After doing so and knowing there was a known life hazard present, the trio quickly searched past this area without the protection of a hose-line. Searches were continued and they found and entered

the bedroom where the main body of fire was located. Knowing he had to pass the fire, FF Sullivan crawled in and emptied what was left of his extinguisher to hold back some fire.

The inside team continued past and went deeper into the room. Relying on his search techniques, which he had drilled on many times before, FF Sullivan pushed ahead and continued to search the area within this fire room until he found a crib. He searched it and then indicated that he had found a baby in the crib. The 10-45 was given. He scooped the baby boy up and was directed to protect the infant and take him out of the fire room and out of the apartment.

Again passing the fire, he made his way out of the occupancy to the public hall and handed the baby off safely to Ladder 110 members. The baby was quickly carried down the five floors of stairs to waiting EMS personnel. The baby was rapidly triaged and transported to the hospital. FF Sullivan operated as ordered and then crawled back into the fire apartment to rejoin his team. Another 10-45 was discovered; an adolescent girl. FF Sullivan and the members of Ladder 105 continued to operate until relieved by Command.

This was FF Sullivan's first working fire as a member of a company assigned first-due, which adds to the magnitude of his actions. He operated swiftly and admirably under great duress. He followed given orders and relied on all that he was taught at the Academy that prepared him for that moment: Rescuing a child from a deadly, fiery atmosphere, all without the protection of a charged hose-line. The rescued baby boy was released from the hospital a few days later, directly attributable to the heroic actions of FF Sullivan. He put himself at risk and a life was saved because of his actions.

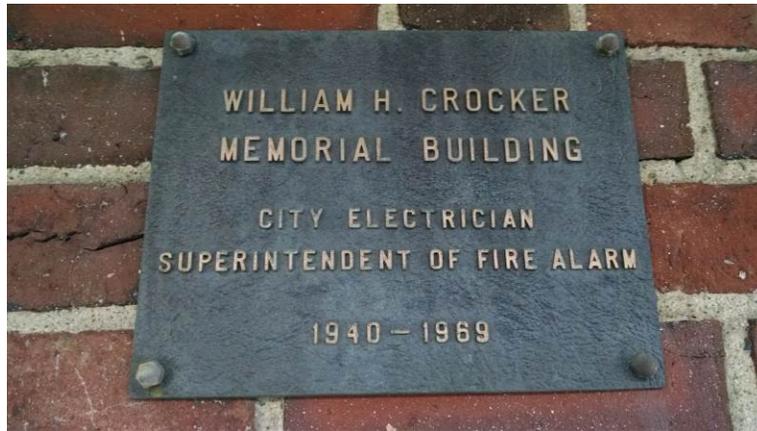
It is for this display of courage that the City of New York, the FDNY and the Officers and members of Engine 219 and Ladder 105 are proud to see FF Jordan C. Sullivan presented with the Hugh Bonner Medal/Honor Legion Medal – TW

Of Interest...



Photo credit Janet Crocker

Photo of two generations of Cambridge firefighters helmets! On the left is the helmet that belonged to **William H. Crocker** who was the Superintendent of Fire Alarm, and his son – **William H. Crocker Jr.** who was a firefighter at Engine 2 from 1952 until 1970. The helmets are owned by William H. Crocker Jr's daughter, Janet – a friend of the CFD!



H Smith photo

The former fire alarm building at 489 Broadway is dedicated to William H. Crocker.

Holiday Trivia Answers

Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer was created as a promotion for what department store?
Montgomery Ward

Celebration of the Jewish New Year is known as what?
Rosh Hashanah

Eggnog was first consumed in what U.S. city?
Jamestown, Virginia

The real St. Nicholas was born in what modern-day country?
Turkey

What holiday was established in California in 1966 by scholar/activist Dr. Maulana Karenga?
Kwanzaa

How long does Hanukkah last?
8 days

From the Tailboard...

Since this is the last newsletter before the end of the year, the staff of the Company Journal would like to wish each and everyone and Happy and Safe holiday season, no matter what holiday season you celebrate! And a Healthy and prosperous New Year. See you in 2016!



Future Issues

Spring Issue – March 2016
Summer Issue – June 2016
Fall Issue – September 2016
Winter Issue – December 2016

Information

Please submit any information, photographs, or narratives for inclusion in the **Company Journal** to FF Howie Smith at hsmith@cambridgefire.org or Hmaxims@gmail.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!**