

December 30, 2010

## Barnstable Fire Department Annual Report

The department responded to 970 incidents for FY '10 broken down as follows:

571 EMS Calls

46 Fires of various types

5 Boat Rescues

119 Fire Alarms

229 Other incidents including investigations, hazmat spills, electrical problems and public assists.

On November 16, 2009, we hired Francis M. Pulsifer as our new Deputy Chief. Frank comes to us from the COMM Fire Department where he was a Fire Prevention Officer. He has previously served on the Northborough Fire Department and has over 20 years experience as a firefighter and fire prevention officer. He was selected from a wide range of candidates from around the country that applied for the position. Immediately upon starting, he has been updating and working on our fire prevention programs and has applied for several grants to assist the department. He lives with his wife Deana and daughter Hope in Centerville.

EMS calls continue to make up about 60% of our calls. Run statistics show that district two, the center of the village, is still the busiest response area. The industrial park area, district four is increasing each year and is slated for several large projects which impacts on responses that will need to be addressed in the future. We are planning for these changes now so we will be ready to meet the changes in demands.

## Fire Loss

The Fire District had many emergency incidents throughout the year, including structural fire responses. Despite the fact that we had several structural fires in the district, our fire loss was kept to a minimum. Our largest fire loss was from a fire at the Unitarian Church that occurred in May 2010. Units encountered heavy fire conditions on arrival but were able to quickly bring the fire under control and minimize further damage to the structure. The fire damage limited their ability to use part of the structure during reconstruction, but religious services were not impacted. Fire damage for this incident was estimated at \$45,000.00. With the quick fire department response and efficient firefighting tactics, crews prevented this from becoming a large loss fire.

We provided Mutual aid to other communities 46 times and we received aid 67 times during the year.

## Medal of Valor

Four firefighters of the Barnstable Fire District were awarded the Medal of Valor by Governor Deval Patrick at the Firefighter of the Year award ceremony on December 3, 2009 in Worcester, Massachusetts. Lieutenant Richard Pfautz, Lieutenant Stephen Iacovelli, Firefighter EMT Brian Cabral, and Firefighter Paramedic Christopher Mailloux received the Medal of Valor for a water rescue that they had performed in Barnstable Harbor on June 22, 2009. This incident involved a wind surfer that had been knocked off his board and in distress under very deteriorating weather conditions. The four firefighters were able to navigate through the harbor, locate the victim, pull the victim from the water, and transport him to safety under extreme conditions.

The Medal of Valor is the second highest distinction that may be awarded to a firefighter in the State of Massachusetts.

These same firefighters were awarded The Red Cross Hero Award at the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Red Cross Heroes Breakfast in March 2010. Lieutenant Richard Pfautz, Lieutenant Stephen Iacovelli, Firefighter EMT Brian Cabral, and Firefighter Paramedic Christopher Mailloux received the awards after being

nominated for the water rescue that they had performed in Barnstable Harbor on June 22, 2009.

### 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

2010 marks the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Barnstable Fire District. In 1935, residents of Barnstable village voted to create the Barnstable Fire District. This was an organized fire department that was made up of volunteers in the community, to protect the village from the threat of fire. As time evolved, the fire department took on more technical responsibilities geared toward public safety including rescue, and emergency medical services. The fire department has transitioned into a full service, all-hazards, career fire department. We are very proud to serve the citizens of the Barnstable community. During 2010, we plan to reflect on how the fire department has evolved since 1935 and offer some special events for the public in remembrance of those who served before us. Some of these events include the annual Road Race, Fire Department Open House, and Fireman's Ball. You may even see the original 1935 Mack fire truck around the district

### Paramedic Achievement

Firefighter J. Neil Tuepker has received Massachusetts certification as an EMT- Paramedic. Neil has been with the Barnstable Fire District for over six years serving as a Firefighter and EMT. Over the past year, Neil participated in the EMT Paramedic program which involves approximately 300 hours of classroom participation and over 400 hours of clinical study. The clinical time Paramedic students encounter is spent supervised in a hospital setting by doctors and nurses, as well as actual ride time in ambulances supervised by other paramedics. Once didactic and clinical portions of the program are completed, students may test with the State of Massachusetts to become Paramedic certified. In May 2010, Neil successfully completed testing and became certified as an EMT- Paramedic. Neil completed this training mostly on his own time and at a fraction of a cost to the district.

### Child Passenger Safety Program

The Barnstable Fire District renewed its popular child passenger safety program. The program is designed to educate and provide assistance to the public with child car seat installations. The program is managed by two

department members, Deputy Chief Pulsifer and J. Neil Tuepker, who are both certified technicians. To schedule an appointment to have your child seat installed correctly, please call the fire department and ask to speak to one of the technicians. The installations usually take less than 30 minutes and are free of charge to the public. Last year, 25 installations were completed by our technicians.

### Public Education Activities

The members of the Barnstable Fire District conducted many fire prevention programs for the public throughout the year. Fire and life safety education was provided to all children in the public and private schools in the Barnstable Fire District. These programs range in content from recognition of a firefighter in full turnout gear, E-911 awareness, Stop-Drop-Cover-Roll, and Exit Drills in the Home (EDITH). In addition, the department provided adult training in fire safety awareness and fire extinguisher training to various businesses and groups in the community. Public education programs are managed by Lieutenant Richard Ogonowsky. Public education programs are free of charge to the public and may be scheduled by contacting Lt. Ogonowsky or Deputy Chief Pulsifer at the fire department.

I would like to extend my thanks to the Firefighters and Officers of the department for their hard work during the year, and to the Dispatchers of the Barnstable Sheriff's Office for their assistance during the year.

Chief Robert M. Crosby