

IFBA'S 55th ANNUAL CONVENTION



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Spring 2007

TURN OUT

TURN OUT

The Official Newsletter of the IFBA

Published Twice Yearly—Spring and Fall

The purpose of the IFBA is

"To serve as a common ground for Fire Buffs, active in promoting the general welfare of Fire Departments, allied emergency services, their officers and members."

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Turn Out is available free of charge via internet website at www.ifba.org. You may download and print each edition free; however, you may not sell or otherwise profit from selling printed copies.

Those individuals or clubs wishing a printed copy of *Turn Out* in lieu of obtaining through the website should contact Jim Williamson for additional information and pricing.

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Submission Policy

Turn Out has an "open submission" policy. We encourage immediate submission of stories on fires and events "when they happen." More than one submission per issue is welcomed and encouraged.

Authors are strongly encouraged to submit articles electronically to the e-mail address noted below. As an alternative, articles may be submitted on CD or disk, or as a last alternative, in written form.

Electronic files should be prepared using a major word processing program, such as *Word* or *WordPerfect*. You may always submit an article in "text" format also.

Pictures should be digitized at 300 dpi resolution to allow for sizing. **All photographs must be captioned** and acknowledge the photographer. Of course, photos should be sharp and clear. Full color photos are encouraged.

Once submitted, all articles and pictures become the property of *Turn Out*.

Deadlines

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INTERNATIONAL FIRE BUFFS ASSOCIATES, INC.

MEMBER CLUBS

Region 1

Boston Sparks Assoc., Inc.
Box 22 Associates
Box 41 Associates
Box 52 Assn., Inc.
Box 61, Inc., Portland Fire Buffs
Connecticut Fire Photographers Assn.
Connecticut Special Signal Assn.
Essex County Fire Wardens Assn.
Middlesex County Firefighter & Fire Wardens Assn.
Providence Citywide Fire Network
Special Signal Fire Assn.
The Leather Helmet Society
TAC-9 Radio/Paging

Region 2

The Fire Bell Club of New York, Inc.
New York Central Radio System, Inc.
Massey Shaw and Marine Vessels Preservation Society LTD
Society for the Preservation and Appreciation of Antique Motor Fire Apparatus in America (SPAAMFAA)
Third Alarm Assn., Inc.

Region 3

Anne Arundel Alarmers Assn., Inc.
Box 234 Assn., Inc.
Box 414 Assn., Inc.
Central Alarmers, Inc.
Central Pennsylvania Fire Buff Assn.
Firecom / Newslink
Friendship Fire Assn.
Greater Springfield Volunteer Fire Department, Inc.
S. H. C. Assn.

Region 4

Box 15 Club, Inc.
Box 27 Associates
Box 42 Associates, Inc.
Central Ohio Fire Buff Associates
Extra Alarm Fire Assn., Inc.
Fire Notification Network of Michigan
Fire Page Ohio
Hamilton Fire Relief Co. 20
Western Reserve Fire Buffs Assn.
Western Reserve Fire Museum of Cleveland Ohio, Inc.

Region 5

Box 4 Fire Buff Assn., Inc.
Firefighting Historical Society, Inc.
Fort Worth Red Helmets
Greater Houston Fire Buffs
International Fire Photographer's Assn.
Little Elm Box 620 Support Co.
Plano Fire Rescue Associates
Signal "51" Group

Region 6

5-11 Club, Inc.
10-87 Club of Greater Rockford
Extra Alarm Assn. of the Twin Cities
Metropolitan Emergency Support Services, Inc. (M. E. S. S.)
Metropolitan Fire Associates, Inc.
Milwaukee Fire Bell Club, Inc.
Milwaukee Fire Historical Society, Ltd.
Moline Second Alarm Assn.
Racine Fire Bell Club, Inc.
Waukesha County Emergency Support & Inc.

Region 7

2-11 Assn. Phoenix Fire Buffs, Inc.
Box 15 Club of Los Angeles
Fire Associates of Santa Clara Valley
Mountain NewsNet
Peninsula Fire Buff Club
Phoenix Society of San Francisco
Pioneer Hook and Ladder Company
St. Francis Hook & Ladder Society
Seattle Fire Buff Society
Tacoma/Pierce County Fire Buff Battalion

Region 8

Box 8 Club of St. Louis, Inc.
Box 55 Assoc.
Indianapolis Fire Buffs

Region 9

Bayonne Fire Canteen, Inc.
Bell & Siren Club, Inc.
Box 54 Club
FireCom Emergency Radio of NJ
Gong Club, Inc.
Signal 22 Assn., Inc.
South Jersey Fire Photographer's Assn.
Second Alarmers' Assn. & Rescue Squad of Philadelphia, Inc.

Region 10

Box 12 Assn., Toronto
Box 43 Assn.
Club Appel-99 Quebec
The Ontario Fire Buffs Associates, Inc.
Greater Toronto Multiple Alarm Assn.

Region 11

Broward Assn. For The Relief of Firefighters
Central Florida Fire Buffs
Metropolitan Fire Assn. of Atlanta, GA.

MESSAGE FROM IFBA EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT

WILLIAM M. MOKROS



Executive Office, International Fire Buff Associates, Inc., 11017 N. Redwood Tree Court, Mequon, WI 53092-4338

April 2007

Greetings fellow buffs,

Spring is a great season. Glad to be rid of the cold and snow and very happy to be seeing the flowers and green grass.

This office has received quite a few of the required rosters of club officers. For those of you that need a reminder, this would be it.



Also another reminder, the Fire Buff of the Year nominations are due now. I quite honestly cannot understand why we shouldn't get a nomination from each club. Certainly, you must have one person in your club or group that is deserving of the honor. What can it take? Fifteen minutes? A half Hour? An hour to write a nomination letter. And if you have already nominated a member of you club that was passed over, a simple request for reconsideration is all that is needed for the committee to take another look at your candidate.

The Spring Board Meeting held in Cambridge was well attended and quite productive. I believe the consortium of groups hosting the convention this year have done an outstanding job of making preparations and I am sure the convention will be one you will not want to miss. Details are available in this issue of TURNOUT or on the IFBA web site by clicking on the convention tab.

I look forward to the meeting in Cambridge. I am purchasing an extra memory card for my camera.... The morning of the Executive Board meeting, Cambridge had a 2nd alarm in a "three decker" just a short distance from the convention hotel.

See you in Cambridge!

Sincerely,

William M. Mokros, Executive Vice President
262-512-0234, Fax 262-236-0095
E-mail: executiveoffice@ifba.org



International Fire Buff Associates, Inc.

11017 N. Redwood Tree Court
Mequon, WI 53092-4338

Executive Office

January 28, 2007

To: All IFBA Member Groups and Associate Members

Subject: Nominations for the "Henry N. Wilwers Fire Buff of the Year" Award—2007

According to Article 8 of the IFBA By-Laws, all Active Member Groups and Associate Members are eligible to submit nominations for the "Henry N. Wilwers Fire Buff of the Year" award to be presented at the 55th Annual Convention in Cambridge, MA on Saturday, August 11, 2007 at the convention banquet.

Names of candidates for the award along with a resume stating the reasons for the person's nomination must be received by the Executive Office no later than June 1, 2007 in order to be considered by the Fire Buff of the Year Committee for the 2007 presentation. The IFBA operates on a fiscal-year basis, July 1 to June 30, for this award.

The Executive Office urges you to make this subject matter a top priority. This is a very great honor for the recipient and we are asking all clubs to put forth their effort in submitting these resumes. Surely you all have outstanding fire buffs in your midst, who may be deserving of this honor. If you have previously submitted a candidate and your candidate has not been selected, that name may be re-submitted. Only members of the IFBA Member Groups and Associate Members are eligible for this award. Our most recent award was given posthumously to **Jim Rasmussen** of the **Great Houston Fire Buffs** and a Past President of the IFBA. Please refer to the attached information regarding this award as provided by the "Fire Buff of the Year" Committee and the list of previous honorees. You may contact me at the address below for any information concerning this award.

It will be greatly appreciated if the nominations and resumes are forwarded to this office at the below address as soon as possible to allow the Fire Buff of the Year Committee sufficient time to study these nominations and make their final selection. Any names submitted after June 1 will not be considered.

Note: Do not submit these resumes to any member of the committee, as they must be officially logged in with the Executive Office for the permanent file. Otherwise, they will not be considered. We appreciate your attention and cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely your in good Fire Buffing,

William M. Mokros, Executive Vice President
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*TURN OUT
Spring 2007*

“HENRY N. WILWERS FIRE BUFF OF THE YEAR” AWARD

We, the members of the “Fire Buff of the Year” Committee, would like to take this opportunity to re-emphasize IFBA’s interest in the continuation of this Award for many years to come, and to expand somewhat on the information contained in the accompanying letter from the Executive Vice President regarding the nominations for the 2007 Award.

The “Fire Buff of the Year” Award, as it was first known, was established in St. Louis in 1967 to honor the man or woman who best exemplifies the qualities that distinguish a Fire Buff’s outstanding achievements in the interests of the IFBA and/or the avocation of Fire Buffing. It has been awarded annually since that time. In April 1976 the name of the Award was changed to further honor its first recipient, Henry N. “Hank” Wilwers.

Any Active Member Group or Associate Member may nominate a member of an IFBA Member Group or an Associate Member to receive the honor. Nominations must be made, in writing, to the Executive Office, as described in the attached letter.

There are no specific “qualifications” or “standards” that must be met. The Committee considers (among other attributes): service to IFBA, service to the local buff club or clubs, service to local fire departments or agencies, service to national fire agencies, assistance to the fire service community in general. The “key word” is, of course, “**service**.” A simple resume, supported by letters of recommendation, is all that is required by the Committee.

If a nominee is not selected, this does not signify a “pink slip” rejection for all time. It simply results from the fact that only one candidate is chosen annually. Should the nominator(s) wish a nominee to be re-considered the next year (or at a later date), a letter to that effect is the only requirement (all files are maintained for a number of years). The Committee does not automatically review these files each year - a re-nomination must be made.

The Committee protects the confidentiality of its deliberations and the identity of the honoree is not made public until the Award Ceremony at the annual convention banquet, nor does the Committee divulge the rationale for its selection, beyond the biographical data presented at the banquet, when all present learn of the accomplishments of the Award winner.

We would like to urge all IFBA Regional Vice Presidents and Member Group officers to make their constituents more aware of this fine opportunity to honor one of their own with this prestigious Award. There are many IFBA’ers who are qualified to join the previous honorees who have been recognized for their accomplishments.

Phil Reid, Chairman
Noel Kerkhoff
Stuart M. Nathan

Region 1

Boston Sparks Assoc., Inc.
Box 22 Associates
Box 41 Associates
Box 52 Assn., Inc.
Box 61, Inc., Portland Fire Buffs
Connecticut Fire Photographers
Assn.
Connecticut Special Signal Assn.
Essex County Fire Wardens Assn.
Middlesex County Firefighter & Fire
Wardens Assn.
Providence Citywide Fire Network
Special Signal Fire Assn.
The Leather Helmet Society
TAC-9 Radio/Paging



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A Member of the International Fire Buff Associates
<http://www.box41.com>

Preserving Lynn's Firefighting History Since 1914

Officers 2006:

President: Raoul Vincent
Vice-President: Joseph Carritte
Secretary: Fred Berube

Directors:

Julian Olansky
Donald Beliveau
Frank Fitzgerald

*Greetings from the North Shore of Greater Boston,
the crossroads of Fire Districts # 5 & # 15.*

Received on the Bell Circuit

There have been enough fires in Lynn since our last report that we will not be able to cover them all in this issue. So, we will hit the more notable ones.

November 19, 2006

A Lynn Police Route Car on routine Cruiser Patrol spotted smoke coming from a building at 21 South Street near the Western Burial Grounds at Market Square, a short distance from Fire Headquarters and the home of Engine # 3 and Ladder # 2. This building had been the scene of a previous fire and was filled with junk. First on the scene, Eng # 3 and Lad # 2 found LPD Officers on the front porch pulling a "Gentleman of the Road" through a window of the 2 story wood frame SFD. With fire visible around the door, Eng # 3 pulled a 1 3/4" attack line and hit the fire knocking it down in about 30 seconds. Eng # 7 arrived laying a supply line into Eng # 3 and Eng # 9 ran an attack line to the rear. As the man removed by the PD began to be treated, a second person emerged from the fire building and reported a third person inside. Ladder # 2 started a primary search on floor 1 and a Working Fire Signal was transmitted followed immediately by a Second Alarm. Responding to the working fire, Ladder Tower

4 and Med #1 went right to work on arrival. LT # 4 started a primary search on floor 2 while Med # 1 began treating two patients. With 2 serious burn injuries and another potential serious patient, Med #1 declared a Level I MCI which resulted in special calls for one additional ALS and four additional BLS ambulances. Engines # 1-5-10 assisted with overhaul and secondary search. No other persons were found in the structure.

**1129 Hours CB # 642 for 21 South St. Eng #s
3-7-9 Lad # 2 H-1 C-4**

1132 Hours WF-642 LT # 4 Med # 1

1133 Hours 2-642 Eng #s 1-5-10

**1133 Hours S/C 642 X 1 ALS X1 BLS Act
ALS 20 Act BLS 90**

1141 Hours S/C 642 X 1 BLS Act BLS 86

1151 Hours S/C 642 X 1 BLS Act BLS 107

1233 Hours 2-2-642

December 25, 2006

It was Christmas Day. The FAO received a report of a fire at 75 Chatham Street. First arriving units found fire showing from a 2 1/2 story with basement, wood frame dwelling with 2-3 apartments. This house was unusual in that it was at least a story above grade. A nearby railroad right of way requires a cut so Chatham Street may pass under it. Several of the structures here are 1-2 stories above grade. A fence around the property made access even

more difficult. Fire was in the basement apparently extending when companies started their initial attack. The fire was hit with water as the trucks opened up and the fire was quickly knocked down. That's when the members discovered that one occupant didn't make it out. According to reports, a mattress caught fire in the basement. When three occupants tried to remove the burning mattress it became lodged in the hall. This blocked the egress trapping one man. The Red Cross was called to assist the residents with shelter and their grief.

1208 Hours CB # 324 for 75 Chatham Street
Eng #s 5-10-7 Lad #1 H-1 C-4

1210 Hours WF-324 LT # 4 Med #1

1210 Hours S/C-324 X 1 BLS Act 91

1222 Hours S/C-324 X 1 Eng Eng # 3

1245 Hours S/C-324 FIU K-11 K-7 C-2 C-1

1543 Hours 2-2-324

February 17, 2007

I was a very cold night. The fire building was a 2 ½ story wood frame. It may have been a one or a two family.

In any event it had been vacant and boarded up for years after being acquired by a nearby paper box manufacturer. Eng # 9 first in, found fire showing from floor 1 on the C-D corner of the building. Eng #

3 next in dropped a feeder into Eng # 9 and pulled a big line to the Bravo side and opened up horizontally. As they opened up they found a well advanced fire condition which limited the interior attack. LT # 4 went to the roof but had to get off quickly.



Fire at Lynn 2-651 57 Linden St. Photo by Doug Boudrow EMT

The fight was hampered by hydrant problems and was an outside job early.

0003 Hours CB # 651 for 57 Linden St.

Eng #s 9-3-7 Lad#2 H-1 C-4

0007 Hours WF-651 LT # 4 Med #1 K-11 (FIU)

0009 Hours S/C-651 X 1 BLS Act 107

0011 Hours 2-651 Eng #s 10-1-21 C-2

0011 Hours S/C-651 X 1 Lad Lad # 1

0314 Hours 2-2 -651

February 19, 2007

This was a fire once again in a wood frame dwelling. This fire was in the middle of the day and the story is as much about meeting the needs of the whole community as about the fire itself. There were multiple simultaneous incidents. Picture if you will the two Fire Alarm Operators on duty. They must take the call, EMD Triage and give pre-arrival instructions if a medical aid, call ambulances, track hospital status for diversions, notify staff officers including the "Arson Squad" units, call for Mutual Aid units to cover, arrange for pilots to guide Mutual Aid units and give them

directions until they can hook up with the pilots, notify and update the Mutual Aid Control Centers, assist with tactical Fireground traffic, field calls from the media, etc.

Think of this as you look at the

log of events.

1245 Hours CB # 361 for 86 Alden St.

Eng #s 5-1-10 Lad#1 H-1 C-4

1245 Hours S/C-361 Med # 1

1249 Hours WF-361 Lad #2 K-11 (FIU)

1249 Hours Cover Broadway Stat. Pea Eng # 5
 1249 Hours Cover Fayette St. Stat. Sal Eng # 4
 Sau Eng # 1
 1251 Hours Med Aid 147 Washington St.
 Act 67
 1254 Hours Med Aid 150 Lewis St.
 Eng # 7 Act 30 Act 111
 1259 Hours Water Leak 53 Arlington St.
 Eng # 3
 1304 Hours 2-361 Eng #s 9-7-Pea 5
 1304 Hours S/C-361 X1 BLS Act 79
 1306 Hours Stalled Elevator 147
 Washington St. TL # 4
 1306 Hours Cover Western Av.
 Stat. Rev Eng # 5 Rev Lad
 # 2
 1313 Hours Med Aid 500 Essex St.
 Act 104
 1322 Hours Med Aid 317 Eastern
 Av. Sau Eng #1 Act 30
 1325 Hours S/C-361 X 1 Lad LT # 4
 (Air Cascade)
 1332 Hours Med Aid 301 Essex St.
 Sal Eng # 4 Act 20 Atl 201
 1337 Hours S/C-361 X 1 BLS Atl 204
 1359 Hours Cent Sta Fire Alarm 148 Liberty
 St. Eng # 3 Rev Lad # 2
 1406 Hours Med Aid 66 Essex St. Act 67
 1414 Hours Med Aid 19 Union St. Act 76
 Then things began to settle down
 1442 Hours 2-2 -361

March 9th, 2007

First arriving companies found smoke banking
 down to the street as they pulled up on a 2 ½
 story, wood frame, two family dwelling at 174-
 176 Eutaw Avenue. Acting Lt. and Box 41
 Member Bob Leeman ordered the Working fire
 Signal transmitted and began to stretch in.
 Pushing up the stairs, high heat was hindering
 the advance. Then a propane tank on the rear
 porch failed, accelerating the fire. Unable to
 move in, Eng # 5 held their ground while the
 trucks were opening up until they ran out of
 air. Fire extended to floor 3. Eventually 4 lines
 would be stretched and despite the heavy fire

condition, units maintained an interior attack.

2211 Hours CB # 23 for 174-176 Eutaw Av.
 Eng #s 5-10-1 LT#4 H-1 C-4

2212 Hours WF-23 Lad # 1 Med # 1 K-11 (FIU)

2214 Hours 2-23 Eng #s 3-7-9

2221 Hours 3-23 Eng #s 21-Sal 4 Sau 1 Lad #2

2221 Hours S/C-23 X 1 BLS Act 92

0021 Hours 2-2-23



Fire in Rear of Building on Eutaw Av. Photo by Pat Carritte

March 14th, 2007

The first call to the FAO was for a report of an
 elevator explosion at 150 Market Street.
 Elevators don't just explode. As it turned out
 this was another case of domestic violence.
 Massachusetts has some of the toughest
 firearms laws in the U.S. Unfortunately that
 does not necessarily stop the violence as people
 often turn to fire to seek satisfaction. According
 to reports, a male went to the workplace of his
 girl friend and dragged her into an elevator
 where he set off a fire bomb. First arriving units
 stretched two attack lines to cut off the fire in
 the elevator and shaft. An extra engine was
 special called to feed the sprinkler system. With
 unknown structure damage, a smoke condition
 and people injured, the Incident Commander
 struck the Second Alarm. This incident took a
 strange turn after the All Out had been
 sounded. The fire detail companies were
 standing by with the investigators from local
 and state police along with the Lynn FD FIU. It



Fire at Lynn 2-443 150 Market St. Photo by FF Paul Wilson

was observed that the alleged culprit's car was in front of the building. In fact Eng # 3 had spotted next to it on arrival. It was felt that there may have been more "Infernal Machines" in the auto. Eng # 3's crew had to stand by with a charged line using their apparatus as a shield while the Mass. State Police Bomb Squad surveyed the vehicle. Watch where you spot the pump at your next fire.

1433 Hours CB # 443 for 150 Market St.

Eng #s 3-5-7 Lad # 2 H-1 C-4

1438 Hours S/C-443 X 1 ALS X 1 BLS Act 30 Act 70

1441 Hours S/C-443 X 1 Eng Eng # 10

1443 Hours 2-443 Eng#s 1-9 LT#4 K-11 K-7 C-2

1457 Hours S/C-443 X 1 ALS Med # 1

1531 Hours 2-2-443

Received on the Mutual Aid Circuit November 22nd, 2006

This night will be remembered for many years on the North Shore. Return with me now to that thrilling night of last year. Picture yourself on cruiser patrol in the City of Beverly Massachusetts. It is 2 O'clock in the morning (0200 in Dispatcher Time), the Homeland Security Threat Level is "Elevated", the world is tense, war in the Middle East, terrorism threats at home, North Korea has nuclear missiles. You

are making the rounds (they only coop in N.Y.C. right?). In the Fire Alarm Office, the lonely Fire Alarm Operator on duty reaches over to hit the "Deadman Switch" before it wakes the headquarters station. Suddenly, an explosion nearly knocks the operator from his chair. On the police radio the speaker squawks with the inquiries from the prowl cars. One calls in "Car XXX to Control there's been

an explosion. I can see a **red glow** and there's a mushroom

cloud in the sky!" This is not a good sign. As it turned out the fire was at 128 Water Street in the Danversport section of the Town of Danvers. An explosion had occurred at the CAI Chemical Company. The blast was felt as far away as York Beach in Maine. A Third Alarm was struck while units were still responding. The blast essentially vaporized the original business as well as an exposure. A significant fire threatened the neighborhood including a local Italian restaurant popular with North Shore Buffs "Sam & Joes" and a nearby marina. What was equally as devastating was the blast damage. A large number of homes were affected. Immediately thoughts went to the possible casualties. In addition to all the Danvers Companies, an Engine and Ladder from both Salem and Peabody responded. As the call went out over the Essex County Radio System, additional units responded from several communities. Lynn LT # 4 and Engine # 10 along with the Marblehead Engine set up a water relay from Margin Street and North Shore Road in Peabody across the line into Danvers to feed a Danvers company. Eng # 31 from Nahant pumped into a hydrant assist valve to feed the scene. Middleton's Engine and the Peabody Engine also worked on the Fire. Responding also were Companies from

Beverly, Topsfield, Hamilton and Wenham. Lynnfield responded with an Engine, Ambulance and their medium Rescue. In addition was Lynnfield CoD and Box 52

Member Chief Paul Romano. Arriving at the staging area they found an Engine from Wakefield along with Gloucester Fire's Ambulance and North Reading Engine and Ladder.

Chief Romano became the staging officer. Chief # 21 CoD Carmody of Swampscott, Chief # 31 CoD Ward of Nahant and CoD Cody of Salem improvised Light USAR teams and conducted a search of the area for persons trapped in their homes. While many ambulances were dispatched, there were surprisingly few injuries. Nearly 20 Buildings were destroyed or made unsafe and had to be torn down with many more damaged. The

Massachusetts FEMA USAR team and Dept. of Fire Services HAZMAT Teams responded and the operation became a long drawn out hazmat and investigation.



Explosion and Fire in Danvers Photo by Doug Boudrow EMT



Blast Damage in Danvers Neighborhood Photo by J. McElligott EMT

City of Salem December 19, 2006

Those old street fire alarm boxes are always false, right? And what about those automatic fire alarms? What a waste of time. It's the hospital?

Jeeeee, why don't they just send an electrician, I gotta go. Shortly after half past noon, the Salem FAO received the Master Fire Alarm Box for the Salem Hospital on Highland Avenue. The box was transmitted and first arriving companies encountered a smoke condition

in the vicinity of the emergency room. The incident

commander declared a working fire as they searched for the source. Lad # 1 threw the aerial to the roof where they found fire

showing. The Roof Division Officer called for saws and axes to open up and a hose line. With all companies now committed, Peabody Eng # 4 was called to the scene as a R.I.C. Salem Eng #'s 4-5 ran a line to the roof while companies worked inside on property conservation. The RIC was put to work and Beverly sent an engine. Swampscott Eng # 21 covered at Salem HQ. Apparently the exhaust pipe from a roof mounted generator had ignited a fire in the roof area and void space underneath.

City of Salem, January 14, 2007

At 1503 hours, Salem FAO began receiving calls for 47 Bridge Street. One caller was a 3rd floor tenant who had been forced out the window onto a 2' ledge. While maintaining telephone contact, FAO Lerner transmitted City Box # 27. Responding on the Box were Eng's # 1-2 Lad # 1 and DpC Lynch. The assignment was filled out with Eng's # 4-5. Approaching the fire Eng # 1 reported heavy smoke showing. DpC Lynch ordered a Second Alarm on his arrival, with fire going good in a 3 story wood frame OMD. Lad # 1's crew pulled and threw a 35' ground ladder immediately to remove the person trapped on the ledge. Eng # 1's crew stretched an attack line via the front and were slowed by high heat and much fire. Eng # 2's crew assisted Eng #1 pushing in. Engine companies # 4 and # 5 went to the rear of the building and pushed their line to floor 2. After completing the rescue, Lad # 1 went to open up. Engine companies from Peabody and Beverly responded to the fire. A Lynn engine and truck along with a Marblehead engine covered Salem HQ. All Out was sounded at 1753 hours.

City of Peabody, January 23, 2007

An Alarm of Fire was transmitted for 5 Park Street in a congested area of the Downtown section. First arriving companies found fire showing from floor 3 of a 3 ½ story wood frame OMD with people trapped. A Working Fire was ordered at 2238 hours with a request for ambulances. The primary search was started and 2 lines stretched to attack the fire. At 2248

a 2nd Alarm was transmitted after companies found fire extending and the fire escape unsafe. Lynn Eng # 10 and Ladder Tower # 4 along with a Danvers Engine Company responded to and operated at the fire. Swampscott Engine # 22 covered at Peabody Engine # 5's house along with other county units.

Town of Danvers April 7, 2007

A few years ago, after allegations of abuse, the Danvers State Hospital, a mental health facility, was closed. Built on 44 acres of land, the property lay fallow (some might say feral) for years becoming home to many expeditions by people who make it a hobby of exploring abandoned buildings. As an aside, who are we to question strange hobbies? The facility was used as the set for the movie "Session 9" starring David Caruso. Many years ago, your humble author, while working as an EMT for a private ambulance service, had to transport a psych patient to this facility. It was in the middle of the night, on Halloween! The full moon peeking around the Victorian tower of the Administration Building and semi abandoned status at that time was decidedly spooky. The property had been the scene of previous fires. The Avalon Bay Co. acquired it for conversion to and construction of 64 Condo and 433 apartment units. Danvers PD Dispatch began receiving calls around 0200 hours. When Danvers Eng # 3 (a 75' Quint) hit the street, fire was already visible from 3 miles away. Arriving units found 4 Garden Style Apartment Structures, totaling about 144 units, which had been 60-70% completed, well involved. Burning also were 3-4 garages and utility buildings. No sprinklers had yet been installed. Responding on the Line Box Middleton Eng #3 and Eng # 4 (a Tanker) went to work. The water supply on the property has been a problem for years. Topsfield's Engine assisted Middleton Eng # 3 in completing a 2000' lay to operate a master stream. An All-Nighter ensued as it was a surround and drown operation with multiple master streams. Responding companies



Greeting for Companies Arriving at Danvers 4th Alarm Photo by PST John Duffill

Danvers Quint # 1, Quint # 3, and Eng's #2-4-5. Mutual Aid to the fire included Engines from Wenham, Hamilton and Salem, Peabody Lad # 1, Lynn Ladder Tower # 4 and Beverly Quint # 5. Engines from Lynnfield, Marblehead and North Reading along with a North Reading Ladder covered at Danvers HQ. Both Danvers Quints received damage from radiant heat. By the way this is the same firefighting platoon that was working for the explosion in November.

Smells, Bells and Medicals

City of Salem on January 11th, 2007 the Salem Fire Alarm Office received a call to assist the Salem Municipal Police Department. A Still Alarm assignment of Eng # 4, Lad # 1 and Deputy Chief Beaudet, was sent to the Shaughnessy-Kaplan Hospital on the campus of the Salem Hospital-North Shore Children's Hospital Medical Center. This facility is built on the side of a hill. Upon arrival SFD units found hospital staff and SPD officers negotiating with a man walking on the fourth floor ledge. The



Fire at Danvers State Hospital Photo by PST John Duffill

man had used a window to access the ledge and



Essential Structure Lost in Battle at Danvers State Hospital Fire Photo by PST John Duffill

now was threatening to jump. Talking with the disturbed individual was proving fruitless and the situation was deteriorating. Lad # 1's crew led by Capt. Alan Dionne positioned the apparatus below the ledge. Firefighter Randy

Theriault with Lt. Robert Lemelin operated the "stick" while Capt. Dionne and Firefighter Scott Hebert ascended. The man would not come down. The firefighters were forced to grab him. A wrestling match ensued on the fourth floor ledge. Unable to bring the struggler down over the aerial, the firefighters had to hold him on to the ladder as it was lowered to the ground. The patient was successfully removed and turned over to hospital personnel.

Talk Heard Over the Beltline

The Town of Saugus continues their budget woes. Like many Massachusetts communities, it is having trouble funding many essential services. As a result, temporary closing of one of their two engine companies and the Cliftondale Firehouse has begun on a shift by shift basis.

The City of Salem (Witch City is that?) has placed in service a rehabilitated pump at Engine # 4 on Essex Street and new Chief's Buggy at HQ.

The City of Peabody had received a new KME pumper intended for Engine # 7 in West

Peabody. This apparatus has been sent back to the dealer for some additional work.



Salem Engine # 4's Rehabbed Pumper. Photo by FAO Jeff Brown



New Buggy in Salem. Photo by FAO Jeff Brown

Open Mics

The City of Lynn is seeking funding to upgrade its radio system by repeaterizing Channels #2 and # 3.

The City of Salem has installed a new set of Zetron Radio Control panels. These complement a Zetron Station Alerting system installed a few years ago. While functional and a necessary replacement, they do lack a certain "Buck Rogers Panache" of the old Motorola Centra-com One console.

The Essex County Mutual Aid System is in the process of reconfiguring its radio system. A

new UHF frequency has been installed. This will integrate with a cross band repeater to the existing VHF frequency to create a hybrid system tying the communities on separate bands together. This channel is intended primarily for dispatch communications. The County is in the process of acquiring an additional UHF/VHF frequency pair for a repeaterized Countywide Tactical Channel. The new UHF Dispatch Frequency is 460.1375

PI 131.8.

The new UHF Simplex Tactical (RED) Channel is 487.3875 PI 229.1

Days Off For Cause

In the last submission, the report on the Fire in Nahant stated that FF Howard was operating Lad # 31. Actually he was on Eng # 31. FF Mahoney was the Crew Chief on Lad # 31. A Second Alarm on the mea culpas.



**Look what happened in
Cambridge the morning
of the IFBA Spring Board
Meeting...**

Several photos from the Third Alarm, Cambridge Box 17, Saturday March 31, 2007. This was the same day as the IFBA National Board Meeting at the Royal Sonesta. Smoke from this fire was visible from the hotel. All photos by Cambridge Fire Lieutenant Jeremy Walsh.

(At left): **The IFBA President at work!**
Cambridge Box 3-17, 3-31-07.

International Fire Buff Associates Inc.

Gerard E. Mahoney President

3 Ferrier Rd.

Medford, MA 02155

April 23, 2007

Greetings from the Boston area where the springtime rain has finally subsided and warm sunny days have arrived!

Since the last issue deadline the IFBA tragically suffered the loss of one of its' own "in the line-of-duty". David Kelty of the Signal 22 Association in Trenton, NJ was killed in a motor vehicle accident while responding to get the canteen in February. On behalf of all the members of the IFBA I extend condolences to Brother Kelty's family, and brother and sister members of the Signal 22 Association.

I'd like to thank those of you who spent a few days with us during the Annual IFBA Spring Executive Board meeting the weekend of March 30 through April 1. All indications are those who attended had an excellent time with a third alarm eight blocks from the hotel included!

The morning of Saturday March 31 was a bright, sunny, mild morning when Cambridge Box 17 was struck for "receiving calls" for rear porches of a three-story occupied wood frame building. In New England it's commonly known as a "three-decker". Cambridge Ladder 2 ordered a second alarm on arrival when they observed heavy fire and smoke when turning into the block.

I was in my office picking up materials for the meeting when I called Stu Nathan at the Royal Sonesta Hotel and advised him to "turn everybody out" for the building fire at Seventh and Otis Streets. To give an idea of the proximity to the hotel; Land Blvd. is one block east of First St. and the fire was on Seventh St.

While I could make no promises this was a preview of things to come in August, several of our guests were able to observe the Cambridge FD in action. Cambridge units were ably assisted by companies from Boston and Somerville as well.

A very productive meeting followed the activity, complete with a nice luncheon for our guests. The afternoon allowed us to tour the area with visits to the Cambridge Fire Repair Division, Fire Headquarters (Engine 1, Ladder 1, Rescue 1, Haz-Mat and Tactical Rescue), and then on to Boston where we visited the quarters of Engine 10, Rescue 1 and Tower Ladder 10. We concluded our tour for the afternoon with a visit to the Vendome Memorial on the Mall on Commonwealth Avenue in Boston's historic Back Bay. The black granite monument commemorates the tragic death of nine Boston firefighters on June 17, 1972 when during overhauling operations the "under renovation" hotel collapsed without warning.

Later in the evening we gathered at a local favorite spot, La Hacienda Restaurant for a traditional Italian dinner. Following dinner Cambridge Chief Gerry Reardon joined several of us back at the hotel for "coffee and" in the lobby. All in all we felt it was a successful weekend.

As of today we have just over three months to go before our convention opens. As I have tried to communicate to all, our hotel rooms are going fast! The guaranteed room rate of \$149.00 per night will expire on July 8, 2007. Any reservation made after that date will be a higher rate. The convention hotel, The Royal Sonesta is also extending that rate to three nights prior to and three nights after the convention. With so much to see and do in the area you are encouraged to "come early and stay late!"

Our seminar agenda has been finalized and is included in this issue of Turn-Out. All of our information is available on our web site www.nefcon07.com.

If we can be of any assistance please contact us at nefcon07@comcast.net.

We look forward to seeing you in August!

**TURN OUT
Spring 2007**

On behalf of the Region One clubs of the IFBA, the convention planning committee of NEFCON '07 Inc. would like to extend a warm invitation to attend the 2007 International Fire Buff Associates Inc. convention, August 8 through 11 at the Royal Sonesta Hotel 40 Edwin Land Blvd. Cambridge, MA. The hotel sits alongside the historic Charles River with a spectacular view of the Boston skyline.

This will mark the first visit to the metropolitan Boston area for the IFBA since 1984. That convention still holds the record for attendance with over 600 participants.

The convention itinerary is as follows:

Tuesday August 7, 2007 7:00pm IFBA Executive Board Meeting

Wednesday August 8, 2007 9:00am Opening Ceremonies
 1:00pm Assorted Seminars
 7:00pm Cruise on Boston Harbor

Thursday August 9, 2007 8:00am Buses depart for Coastal Maine. Stops in Portland and the Seashore Trolley Museum in Kennebunkport. Lunch is included with option for Lobster bake.
 7:30pm Future Convention Previews

Friday August 10, 2007 9:30am IFBA General Business Meeting

Saturday August 11, 2007 8:30am Buses depart for Providence, RI with stops in Dorchester, Foxboro area and Providence, RI for apparatus displays and lunch.
 6:30pm Cash Bar Cocktail Reception
 7:30pm Convention Banquet and Awards

The convention room rate of \$149.00 per night has been guaranteed for 3 nights prior to and 3 nights after the convention. Guests are encouraged to make room reservations as soon as possible. Call 1-800-SONESTA or visit the convention web site www.nefcon07.com.

Numerous attractions and points of interest are near the hotel: Boston's Museum of Science, The Boston Duck Tours, and the CambridgeSide Galleria Mall with over 120 shops and restaurants. Come early and stay late! Explore the history and the charm of the Hub!

For those planning on attending the 2007 IFBA Convention in Cambridge this August below you will find some web links on points of interest in the area.

<http://www.usconstitution.navy.mil/> The USS Constitution
<http://www.mos.org/> Boston Museum of Science
<http://www.cambridgesidegalleria.com/> CambridgeSide Galleria Mall
<http://www.harvardsquare.com/> Harvard Square
<http://www.bostonducktours.com/> Boston Duck Tours
<http://charlesriverboat.com/> Charles River Boat Company



UPDATED CONVENTION SEMINAR INFORMATION

The following is the schedule for seminars at the 2007 International Fire Buffs Convention

Wednesday August 8, 2007

- 9:00 am Convention Opening Ceremonies and Memorial Service
- 10:15 am Worcester Cold Storage Fire, December 3, 1999.
District Chief John Sullivan, Worcester FD will present a moving account of the fire that tragically took the lives of six Worcester Firefighters.
- 12:30pm Break for Lunch on your own (Approximate Time)
- 1:45 pm Boston Fire Photographer and Author Bill Noonan will present a historical perspective on the greater Boston fire service.
- 3:00 pm Camper/Rehab Operations. A joint presentation by the Special Signal Association of Rhode Island and the Gong Club of Jersey City, NJ.

Friday August 10, 2007

- 9:00 am IFBA Annual Business Meeting
- 12:00 Noon Vendor area will be open for display and sales of numerous fantastic items.
To
5:00 pm

IMPORTANT

The rates for partial registrations for NEFCON '07 have been set. Visit www.nefcon07.com for the easy to download pdf form.

The rates are:

Boston Harbor Evening Boat Cruise \$30.00

All Day Bus Trip to Maine \$75.00 (Add \$10 for Lobster)

All Day Bus Trip to S.E. Massachusetts and Providence, RI \$75.00

Convention Banquet and Awards \$75.00

NOTE:ALL PRICES WILL INCREASE BY \$10.00 PER PERSON ON JUNE 15, 2007!

*TURN OUT
Spring 2007*



NEFCON '07 INC.
2007 INTERNATIONAL FIRE BUFF ASSOCIATES INC. CONVENTION

Name(s) _____
Address _____
City _____
State/Prov. _____ Postal Code _____
Telephone _____ Cell Phone _____
E-Mail _____
IFBA Club _____ Delegate _____ Alternate _____
IFBA Officer _____
Emergency Contact Information _____
Full Registration(s) _____ At \$ _____ Lobster Bake _____ At \$10.00 pp _____
Total \$ _____

Lunch will be provided as part of the bus trip to Maine. Those wishing to partake in the optional traditional Down East Lobster Bake will pay an additional fee of \$10.00 per person.

All Registrations must be paid in United States Dollars by check or money order. Do Not Send Cash

REGISTRATION FEE:

\$235.00 if paid by May 15, 2007
\$260.00 if paid by June 15, 2007
\$300.00 if paid after June 15, 2007

All Rates are "per person". Partial Registrations for selected events will be handled on an as available basis.

Convention Hotel is the Royal Sonesta Hotel 40 Land Blvd., Cambridge, MA 02142
Call 1-800-SONESTA for reservations.

Mail to:
NEFCON '07 INC.
P.O. Box 400213
Cambridge, MA 02140

E-Mail: Nefcon07@sonesta.net

Web Site: www.nefcon07.com



NEFCON '07 INC.

2007 INTERNATIONAL FIRE BUFF ASSOCIATES INC. CONVENTION
CONVENTION AD-BOOK FORM

The 2007 IFBA Convention Ad-Book will be an 8 1/2" X 11" book with a color cover.

Full Page	\$125.00
Half-Page	\$ 75.00
Quarter-Page	\$ 50.00
Business Card	\$ 30.00

Please submit Ads in print-ready electronic fashion such as pdf if possible!

The deadline for accepting material is **June 15, 2007**

The outside back cover is reserved for the 2008 Convention in Racine, WI.

Ad material along with payment in U.S. Funds only should be mailed to:
NEFCON '07 INC.
PO Box 400213
Cambridge, MA 02140

Name _____ Size Ad _____

Address _____

City _____ State/Prov _____ Postal Code _____

E-Mail _____ Telephone _____

For additional information visit our web site www.nefcon07.com or send e-mail to nefcon07@comcast.net

Rhode Island Special Signal Fire Association Founded in 1968

By George A. Donovan

Greetings from Rhode Island! We may be the smallest state in the Union, but we operate one of the busiest clubs in the nation. We haven't appeared in "Turnout" for a while, so a little background is in order: Starting as a small group in 1968 in Providence, our capital city, members used a station wagon as a canteen and responded to about 12 fires a year. Over the years we have grown in numbers and evolved to the two large canteen trucks now in service. We operate with the powerful support of the Providence Fire Department; the financial backing of the Salvation Army; and the operations conducted by the Special Signal members who man the trucks 24 hours a day. This three-way partnership has allowed us to expand our services to the entire state as well as to nearby Massachusetts and Connecticut.

We are currently headquartered in the former Pawtuxet volunteer fire station in Cranston, adjoining Providence. Purchased by the Salvation Army, this two-bay station houses our two trucks, has a day room, and quarters for the on-duty crew. We monitor many area radio frequencies and are directly connected to Providence Fire Dispatch, which strikes a large old firebell in our quarters when Providence has a "Code Red", and also relays requests for the canteen from other jurisdictions. The Rhode Island "Citywide" radio network's volunteers assist us by pinpointing locations and updating us on the status of working fires

or other emergencies.

We stock ample food supplies in our station and each duty crew is responsible for keeping the trucks cleaned and restocked for the next shift. Each canteen can usually respond within five minutes after receiving an alarm.

We recently took delivery of a new Canteen truck purchased with Homeland Security funding. We hope to retain the oldest truck as reserve Canteen three. Canteens one & two are fully equipped with up-to-date communications systems; GPS units to aid in finding remote locations; large capacity coffee pots; out-board cold beverage dispensers; large grills; microwave ovens; stoves for hot food preparation; large capacity freezers & refrigerators; powerful generators, air conditioning and a bathroom. Under Rhode Island state law our trucks are classed as emergency response vehicles and required to be equipped with the authorized sirens and light bars.

We are currently making over 500 runs annually. These include working fires, hazmat incidents, floods, searches, hostage situations & water rescues. In the past, Canteen one responded to NYC on 9/11 and was the only supportive services truck of this type allowed to set up directly in ground zero, remaining on scene for five days, being re-supplied daily by Providence Police officers and others making supply runs from Providence, a distance of 180 miles. Canteen one also assisted the Salvation Army in Florida after hurricane Jean in Sept. 2004, feeding thousands of storm victims & emer-



Canteen 1 and 2 in quarters. Photo by: Tom Bloomingburgh

agency workers. The worst fire disaster in R.I. history was the Station nightclub fire of February 2003. 100 people were killed and 200 were injured, many severely burned. The canteen remained on scene throughout this disaster, a terrible ordeal for all first responders.

After hurricane Katrina, hundreds of homeless people were flown to other states for temporary housing. When many arrived at Quonset Point Air Base they were brought into a huge National Guard hangar for greeting and processing by many state and federal agencies. Canteen one was set up inside the hangar, powered by its generator placed outside. Aided by Salvation Army volunteers we served meals to the multitudes once again.

Nowadays, we are participating in all of the large-scale drills for homeland security which involve hundreds of people: terrorist attacks; bomb explosions; air-

plane crashes; building collapses; hurricanes & other natural disasters. As we come more under the umbrella of Homeland Security, our crew members are taking the Incident Command System courses required by FEMA to better coordinate the roles of volunteer organiza-

tions.

While we can handle the big jobs, our prime customer is still the hardworking firefighter: grimy, overloaded, overheated in heavy clothing or in steamy hazmat suits; tired, hungry & thirsty. Rehab has become more vital than ever to their survival.

Recently Keith Milligan stepped down as treasurer of Special Signal. A "Plank Owner", Keith was one of the founders of the club in 1968 and has served continuously over the past 39 years. A little creaky in the joints, but still going strong, Keith has been the mainstay of this organization forever.

Our officers are: President; Paul J. O'Rourke.....Vice President; Thomas F. Saccoccia.....Secretary; Brian M. Brazenor.....Treasurer; Raymond Hull.

We are looking forward to playing an important role in the IFBA convention; NEFCON 07, to be held in Cambridge Mass. in August. See you there!

Region 4

Box 15 Club, Inc.

Box 27 Associates

Box 42 Associates, Inc.

Central Ohio Fire Buff Associates

Extra Alarm Fire Assn., Inc.

Fire Notification Network of Michigan

Fire Page Ohio

Hamilton Fire Relief Co. 20

Western Reserve Fire Buffs Assn.

Western Reserve Fire Museum of
Cleveland Ohio, Inc.



BOX 15 CLUB

COLUMBUS, OHIO



2007 Activity way up at the start of the year

January started off unseasonably warm and the low fire activity trend that we've seen over the past few years appeared that it would continue - until late in the month and we went into the deep freeze. For the period from January 31 to March 31, Box 15 made 13 responses.

2693 West Broad Street / 01-31-07, 13:06 hours - Large two-story funeral home. The fire originated on the 2nd floor with entry gained through an outside staircase. The fire was ruled an arson. Damage on the 85 year building was estimated at \$300,000.00 for the 2 alarm fire. Temperatures were in the mid-20's and moderate wind conditions were encountered. Box 15 was onsite for approximately an hour and served around 75 fire personnel.

805 East Long Street / 02-04-07, 16:42 hours - The fire originated in vacant 2 story frame dwelling just east of downtown. Crews faced extremely cold conditions during the operation. Due to this weather situation, the Rehab Unit responded and provided service to on-scene crews. Again, another cold and windy day - temperatures in the upper teens. Box 15 served approximately 35 firefighters and was on scene for more than an hour.



18 North Nelson Road / 02-05-07 - The initial alarm was declared at 03:03 hours. Arriving crews found the rear of the commercial establishment well-involved. Box 15 was requested by the FAO just after 03:30 hours to respond to the scene to provide rehab services. The temperature was +2 degrees. Many special requests for additional equipment were made during the duration of the incident. The Box 15 Rehab Unit remained at the scene just west of the fire building for slightly over 2 hours. The response involved approximately 75 firefighters and was declared "contained" at 05:25 hours. The damage to the structure, **The Old Bag of Nails Restaurant**, was declared a total loss. More than 4 gallons of hot beverages were served over a period of 2 hours.

4140 Silver Rod Lane / 02-05-07 - The Box 15 Rehab Unit had just been released from service at the 18 North Nelson address when the response crew learned of yet another extra company fire in the Northeast portion of Columbus. The crew headed north to the fire scene. The fire originated in the front room of a multiple occupancy apartment complex and was caused by an unattended candle. Damage was estimated at \$400,000.00. The temperature was only +5 but felt much colder due to very brisk winds. Box 15 was on the scene about 75 minutes.

1279 Harmon Avenue / 02-13-07 - A special request at 04:30 hours from the Columbus Alarm Office resulted in the Box 15 Rehab Unit responding to Columbus' southwest area to provide service during the very cold morning hours. The 1 story manufacturing facility was well involved upon arrival of first due companies. The business manufactured wooden pallets. The closest hydrant required a hose lay of about 1000'. The fire occurred at the beginning of a significant snow and ice storm. By the time the rehab unit had left the scene an hour later, more than 2 inches of snow had fallen.

7502 Canal Highland Blvd / 02-16-07 15:41 hours. - The fire, which began in an attached garage, during the late afternoon hour quickly spread through one home before causing damage to an adjacent home. Box 15 was requested to report to the fire scene in the Canal Highland subdivision which is located in the Canal Winchester area, south-east of Columbus. One Box 15 member who works in downtown Columbus could see the smoke column from his office, 15 miles away. The resident thought the fire was extinguished but flames later spread throughout the house resulting in a total loss. Temperature was in the upper teens with a 10 mph westerly wind. Box 15 was on scene for an hour and served approx. 40 firefighters.



5519 Oak Knoll / 02-17-07 02:09 hours - The fire building was a two-story apartment located in the north Columbus area. Box 15 was contacted just as a 2nd alarm was being declared and requested to respond to the scene to provide service. This was yet another cold weather response with much snow still on the ground. The Rehab Unit remained on the scene for just over 90 minutes. We served more than 35 fire personnel.

4009 Broadway St., Grove City (Graeter's Ice Cream) / 08:05 hours - First arriving Jackson Township firefighters found a 2-story brick commercial structure heavily charged with smoke. A working fire was declared and extra companies were dispatched. One Box 15 member who lives in the area made a single-member response and served hot chocolate that was donated by a local restaurant. The fire had started in the kitchen area of this popular store and was ruled accidental.

2346 Shore Blvd West (Eastland on the Lake Complex) / 03-04-07 - The initial alarm was struck at 00:10 hours. The first arriving crew noted that fire was coming through the roof of the structure and declared an immediate "Standby 2nd". The fire building was a 2-story wood frame structure containing 8 apartments. The Box 15 Rehab Unit was able to establish a good locale (just west of the building and a short walking distance for firefighters) with the help of the EMS Coordinator assigned to the incident. Our response crew of 2 remained at the fire scene just over 75 minutes. Poor weather conditions including snow and high winds hampered efforts to gain control of the fire.

32 W. Columbus Street, Lithopolis / 03-06-07 - At approximately 11 AM, this fire erupted in a historic log cabin. Fighting it was difficult, because the owners had enclosed the heavy timber structure with studs, sheathing blown-in insulation and siding. The skin of the building had to be totally stripped to fight the fire. Box 15 was on-scene for 2 hours, served more than 100 bottles of water, 2 gallons of coffee and distributed pizza to the 60+ firefighters on scene.

476 S. State Street, Westerville / 03-13-07 - While responding to an apparent rekindle of a fire earlier in the day, crews observed heavy smoke pouring from this 2-story house. The fire, able to sustain itself with barely enough oxygen, had smoldered for quite some time and made significant head-

way throughout the structure. Upon opening the building it immediately became totally involved. Due to the extensive overhaul, the IC made a call to Box 15 to provide rehab for some very spent crews. Our Truck #1 was on-scene for more than an hour, dispensing water, coffee, Squincher and granola bars.

7888 W. Broad Street, Prairie Twp. / 03/17/07 – March 17 was a cold and very windy day. Box 15 had been requested to respond to a fire in an abandoned manufacturing structure but were cancelled enroute by the IC. Before they got back to quarters, they were notified of a major fire in Prairie Twp, west of the city. We offered our services, which were immediately accepted. The fire was in an 80 year old 2-story wood frame farmhouse with exposure problems to several outbuildings. Crews from 5 different fire departments were called in, including a tanker task force.

1122 Parsons Ave. / 03-20-07 - Columbus Fire companies responded to a structure fire at Columbus Steel Castings located at 2211 Parsons Avenue on Tuesday, March 20, 2007 at 9:18 p.m. This was a 2nd alarm fire. Three plant workers were rescued from the structure by firefighters. Box 15 Member, Alan Barnes was driving near the plant when the fire broke out. He found two of the workers stranded on the roof of the 500' long structure and notified arriving fire companies of their situation. There was one firefighter injury reported. Firefighter Herman Tidwell was transported to Grant Medical Center where he was treated and released.

2006 Activity Report

Whether you attribute it to an effective fire prevention program, responding with enough equipment and manpower to effect quick suppression or just plain luck, through 2006, Central Ohio experienced another year with very few multiple alarm incidents. While this is good for public safety and for controlling insurance rates, it tends to leave fire buffs wanting for action. To counter this lack of run activity, Box 15 has placed greater emphasis on participating at (live burn) training exercises and fire department related civic events. This has kept our membership involved and maintained our exposure to all area fire departments. We still provide support services to the police and the local EMA office.

Total Incident Types

2nd Alarms 8

3rd Alarms 1

Req. Responses / CFD & OCL 5

Req. Responses / CFD & CPD 1

Req. Responses/Training / CFD 3

Req. Responses / Training / OCL 2

Req. Responses/ Law Enforcement/ OCL 1

Haz Mat / 2nd Alarm 1

USAR / C.O.S.T. Training 1 (3 Day Remote Locale Exercise)

NAS*T Training 3

FEMA / FCEMA 0

Civic Activities / Station Dedications 3

Total Responses: 29

Date	Mileage	Served	Jurisdiction Type
1/19/2006	19	30	Columbus 2nd Alarm
1/29/2006	19	25	Columbus Fire & PD Requested Response/ SWAT
1/31/2006	33	45	Westerville PD & Fire Requested Response/ Meth Lab
2/15/2006	10	60	Columbus Requested Response/Training
3/5/2006	6	45	Columbus Requested Response
3/17/2006	3		St Paddy Parade/CFD Requested Participation
3/18/2006	32		Dorsey Funeral Box 15 Activity
3/31/2006	28	25	Columbus Requested Response/HazMat
4/6/2006	13	35	Columbus 2nd Alarm
4/7/2006	21	40	Westerville Requested Response/Fire
4/10/2006	18		Public Relations Tour
4/11/2006	8	55	Columbus Requested Response/Fire
4/17/2006	38	80	NAS*T Training
5/25/2006	20	75	Columbus 3rd Alarm
6/1/2006	10	60	Columbus Requested Response/Training
6/2/2006	21	25	Columbus 2nd Alarm
6/21/2006	17	25	Washington 2nd Alarm
6/24/2006	49		Muster Public Relations Tour
7/15/2006	30	25	Madison Requested Response/Fire
7/18/2006	141	105	C.O.S.T. 3 Day Training(Dayton)
8/10/2006	26	25	Madison Requested Response/Training
8/13/2006	9	45	Columbus Requested Response/Training
8/17/2006	32	85	Columbus 2nd Alarm
8/29/2006	50		Jerome Township Public Relations Tour
9/2/2006	9		1st Sat/Greenlawn/CFD Civic Event/Public Re lations..
9/12/2006	21		Mifflin Township 2 nd Alarm/Cancelled Enroute
9/25/2006		25	Madison Requested Response/Training
10/8/2006		75	FF Memorial Civic Event/CFD Memorial.
10/11/2006	33		Columbus Req.Resp/Disaster/Cancelled En route
10/24/2006	11	30	Columbus 2nd Alarm
10/25/2006	16	45	Columbus 2nd Alarm/Standby 3rd
11/8/2006	5	85	NAS*T Training (Unit #2)
11/8/2006	17		NAS*T Training (Unit #1)
11/29/2006	30	45	Columbus 2nd Alarm
12/9/2006	9	35	Columbus Requested Response
Totals	795	1215	

**COLUMBUS DIVISION OF FIRE OFFICIALLY GRANTED ACCREDITATION STATUS
FROM THE COMMISSION OF FIRE ACCREDITATION INTERNATIONAL**

The Columbus Division of Fire has officially received Accredited Agency status with the Commission on Fire Accreditation International, Inc. (CFAI) for meeting the criteria established through the

CFAI's voluntary self-assessment accreditation program. Columbus Fire is one of ten agencies that achieved Internationally Accredited Agency status with the CFAI and the Center for Public Safety Excellence, Inc. (CPSE) during the semi-annual CFAI Accreditation meeting in Orlando, Florida this morning.

The Columbus Division of Fire is the second largest metropolitan fire department in the country to achieve this high standard and the Division is the third of the twenty-five largest fire departments in the United States to be granted accreditation.

"When I became Fire Chief, achieving accreditation was one of my highest priorities," said Fire Chief Ned Pettus, Jr., "We have been working toward this great accomplishment for over four years and I am thrilled that our Division will now be internationally recognized as one of the finest fire departments in the land." "Our firefighters are America's best, and I'm glad that the Commission on Fire Accreditation International's in-depth review will show just how great a job the Division is doing from the Office of Chief Pettus, to every neighborhood Fire Station," said Mayor Coleman. "While there will always be challenges in this dangerous line of work, we are excelling and working together to keep our firefighters ready for anything."

The CFAI accreditation process is the most stringent assessment and peer review system for the fire service. Achieving accreditation is a very prestigious award of recognition, authenticated by fire service professionals. "This prestigious award is a tribute to the leadership of Fire Chief Ned Pettus, Jr., and his outstanding team," said Safety Director Mitchell J. Brown. "National accreditation also validates the Fire Division's high level of EMS and Fire services to our citizens."

The Commission of Fire Accreditation International is a nonprofit organization dedicated to assisting the fire and emergency service agencies throughout the world in achieving excellence through accreditation in order to provide continuous quality improvement and the enhancement of service delivery to their communities. The accreditation program grants accreditation to fire and emergency service agencies upon the successful completion of an in-depth self assessment and on-site evaluation.

Rob Browning, CFAI Peer Assessor, states, "Accreditation is an onerous improvement journey for an organization. It must produce objective evidence proving it has satisfied a number of core competencies outlined in the CFAI manual. Any organization undertaking this journey is to be commended for conducting a self assessment and analyzing its service levels with the goal of improving fire and emergency services to its citizens."

During the on-site evaluation last fall, the team assessed all of the Division's policies, procedures and processes which addressed more than 250 performance indicators, 108 of which are classified as core competencies. "In its report to the Commission, the team conveyed that our Division is a very dynamic and progressive agency," said Deputy Chief Robert Coles, Columbus Fire Accreditation Manager. "Obtaining accreditation is a significant achievement in which each member of the Division of Fire can take great pride. I would like to thank all Division members for a job well done."

Vanner Corp. donates Inverter to Box 15

When Box 15 put our latest vehicle in service, it was decided to install a 3 "burner" Bunn commercial brew station. However, this unit requires a 14-minute preheat time. This delayed our ability to provide hot beverages. We would have to setup the rehab sector, start

our on-board generator and then start the clock. Vanner Corp., an industry leader in the power conversion and inverter products provided an 1800 watt inverter for our primary response vehicle. They even provided us the fuse block, power cabling, terminations and technical guidance for the installation. The Columbus FD shops performed the actual installation and added a third 8D battery to handle the load when the truck is operating at low speeds. As a result, we are now able to provide hot beverage service within 60 seconds of arrival. The inverter was installed in January and within 2 hours it was pressed into service at the Spears Funeral Home fire. It has performed flawlessly on 11 incidents to date.

Box 15 publishes in the Ohio Fire Chief's Association "In Command"

In January, Box 15 was invited to submit an article on firefighter rehabilitation for "In Command", the Ohio Fire Chief's Association magazine. President Barber wrote it and the article was published in the February 2007 issue. Copies of this article are available upon request. Send requests to President@box15.org.

Update – WWW.BOX15.ORG

In case anyone has tried to visit our website over the past several months, we apologize, but you've received an "Under Construction" message. This is about to change. Our newly designed website, with a lot of additional functionality is about to go on-line.

2007 Firefighter of the Year Award winners

Every year, at Box 15's Annual dinner, we honor an outstanding Columbus Firefighter and County Firefighter. At the dinner, held on Friday, April 13, Lieutenant Jeffrey Jahn, an EMS Coordinator for the Columbus Division of Fire was honored with the Max Haverman Columbus Firefighter of the Year award. Max Haverman was the founder and long-time leader of Box 15. Battalion Chief John Bokros from the Westerville Fire department was presented the Larry Parlett County Firefighter of the Year award. Both are very deserving individuals who are dedicated to serving their communities. Jeff is a third generation firefighter. Both his father and uncle served as Chief's of Franklin and Pleasant Township Fire Departments. B/C Bokros is the quintessential public servant. Not only has he served the Westerville FD, he has been a leader with the Northwest Area Strike Team (we've featured the NAS-T organization in a prior issue of Turnout), has been an educator for Franklin County EMA. He is also very active in other civic areas. We salute them - both very deserving individuals, whom we are proud to call friends.

Region 5

Box 4 Fire Buff Assn., Inc.

Firefighting Historical Society, Inc.

Fort Worth Red Helmets

Greater Houston Fire Buffs

International Fire Photographer's Assn.

Little Elm Box 620 Support Co.

Plano Fire Rescue Associates

Signal "51" Group

GREATER HOUSTON FIRE BUFFS

PO Box 697

Bellaire, Texas 77402

OFFICERS

President: Jerald Ricks

Vice President: Mike Pack

Secretary/Treasurer: Tom McDonald

By: Tom McDonald

2006 HFD Multiple Alarms

The year 2006 ended with a new record of 72 multiple alarm fires (or the equivalent) in Houston, one more than the year before, which had been a new record itself. A major district chief realignment occurred in May mainly in southwest Houston. That southwest section of the city, especially around new District 68, is by far the hottest part of town for multiples.

The single hottest area was inside a 2 ½ mile radius of the intersection of Bissonnet & US-59, an apartment-rich 20-square-mile section (only 3% of the city's 617 square miles) which spawned an incredible 17 multiples (24% of the total citywide). This is the heart of new District 68, which, combined with its predecessor District 82, racked up 16 multiples for 2006, twice as many as the next busiest districts.

On May 20, southwest Houston district chiefs were realigned with D-10 moving north to Sta. 83 as D-83, D-69 west to Sta. 78, and D-82 north to Sta. 68. D-96, which had been overseeing just one station (the one it was housed at), was relocated to Sta. 59 in deep southwest Houston for better utilization.

Here is a complete list of HFD multiple alarms for 2006:

(Abbreviations used below: F = fire fatality; HR = high rise; MD = firefighter in mayday; UC/D = under construction/demolition)

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Sh</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Alarms</u>	<u>Occupancy</u>
0101	0746	D	1210 Provident Oaks	2-11	House
0101	2015	D	10555 Spice Ln	2-11	Apts
0101	2020	D	7700 Corporate	3-11	Apts
0102	0900	A	2916 Milam	2-11	Restaurant
0103	0110	A	6407 Antoine	3-11	Apts
0108	1810	C	6519 Hollow Oaks	2-11	House, MD
0116	0845	C	8801 S Braeswood	2-11	Apts
0123	1153	D	4400 Memorial	2-11	Apts
0124	1000	C	1400 Texas	2-11	HR-UD

0126	1512	A	7100 Renwick	3-11	Apts
0203	1107	A	7575 Bissonnet	2-11	Apts
0208	0130	C	3012 Sampson	2-11	3 houses
0209	2310	C	7324 SW Frwy	2-11	HR
0213	0310	B	230 Delmar	2-11	House, 1F
0214	2146	B	6 Burress	2-11	Apts
0226	0110	C	5929 Queensloch	2-11	Apts
0226	1735	D	695 Pineloch	2-11	Apts
0305	1643	C	6807 Thornwild	2-11	House
0307	1612	A	9153 Briar Forest	2-11	Apts
0309	0320	B	3401 Ocee	2-11	Apts
0324	1630	B	500 W Crosstimbers	2-11	Apts
0325	1255	A	3500 W Little York	2-11	Apts
0407	1736	D	400 Dallas	2-11	HR
0413	1640	D	12751 Whittington	2-11	Apts
0416	0815	A	4901 N McCarty	2-11	Restrnt, MD
0416	1400	A	10440 South Dr	3-11	Apts
0416	1530	A	8443 Wednesbury	2-11	Apts
0417	1750	B	3401 Ocee	2-11	Apts
0423	2350	D	12700 Rip Van Winkle	3-11	* Apts
* - companies from 2 heavy boxes plus a special call for 4Es & 2Ls were used to control this fire, so it is listed here as a 3-11 (it certainly was a large enough fire for it)					
0424	0150	D	537 Barringer	2-11	Apts
0430	0300	D	12246 Beamer	2-11	Apts
0430	0610	D	7025 Harrisburg	2-11,	Whse
0502	1611	A	IAH, RW 15L	2-11	Arcrft emgy
0507	0600	C	2802 W T C Jester	2-11	Apts
0522	0852	C	2508 Brun	2-11	House
0524	1308	C	6363 San Felipe	4-11	Apts UD
0603	0957	A	14238 Industry	2-11	Mob home
0613	1616	A	10110 Forum West	4-11	Apts
0627	1453	A	8250 Park Pl	2-11	Apts,3F(Kids)
0703	0453	D	742 Thicket	3-11	Apts
0706	2323	B	10535 Wilcrest	2-11	Cmcl
0713	1745	A	10403 Forum Pk	2-11	Apts
0719	1850	C	909 Fannin	2-11	HR
0730	1829	B	9909 Harwin	2-11	Whse
0803	1815	D	10403 Forum Pk	3-11	Apts
0804	2100	C	6001 Pickfair	2-11	Apts
0806	1830	A	8601 Wednesbury	2-11	Health care
0820	0613	D	5404 Market	2-11	Apts
0823	1432	B	5850 W Gulf Bank	2-11	Apts
0911	1102	C	3000 Greenridge	2-11,	Apts
0926	0522	A	4800 La Monte	2-11	Apts
0928	1819	D	7618 W Airport	2-11	Apts

1016	2035	D	11917 Bob White	2-11	Apts
1018	1720	B	727 Bunker Hill	2-11	Apts, 1F
1103	1832	B	5500 Navigation	2-11	Whse
1106	1909	C	1313 Matthews	3-11	Church
1110	2015	A	3900 Dennis	2-11 *	Whse

* - companies from 2 heavy boxes were used to control this fire, so it is listed here as a 2-11

1112	1834	A	428 Van Molan	2-11	Bldg
1119	0125	A	7600 Kempwood	2-11	Tire co
1121	0529	A	2010 Naomi	2-11	Ofc & whse
1124	1830	C	8039 Boone Rd	3-11	Apts w/rescues
1126	0638	A	8701 Gustine	2-11	Apts
1126	1516	A	5200 Navigation	2-11	Whse, MD
1203	0823	D	9105 Ley Rd	2-11	Whse
1203	1644	D	10200 Lansdale	2-11	Vac apts
1204	2343	A	10101 Forum Park	2-11	Apts
1205	1828	B	5550 Holly View	2-11	Apts
1210	0040	D	8000 Westheimer	2-11	Vac bldg
1210	0533	D	10001 Westheimer	3-11	Shop Ctr
1212	2123	A	10202 Forum Park	2-11	Apts
1221	0248	A	1600 Blodgett	2-11	Shop Ctr
1225	0959	D	2950 Sage	2-11	HR hotel

By alarm level:

2-11	60 (a new record, beating 54 last year)
3-11	10
4-11	02

Greater00

Total	72 (a new record, beating 71 last year)
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HFD firefighter contract and pension system

IAFF Local 341 serves as the official bargaining agent with the city for all Houston firefighters, even though all are not members of the local and there are a number of smaller organizations which represent specific groups of HFD members, based on race, ethnicity, and job assignments (e.g. Inspector's Caucus).

In 2005, a new contract was ratified by both labor and management and it lasts for three years. Pay, of course, was a major issue during negotiations. The city initially offered firefighters a whopping 30-plus percent raise over three years. That initial draft was turned down by firefighters, though, who felt they had to give up too much in other benefits that the city sought to curtail. Instead, they finally agreed to a near 26 percent raise over the three years which included fewer changes to job conditions.

So, the highest-grade firefighter's base pay goes from \$42,934 to \$54,000 annually between 2005 and 2008; a "two-bugle" captain goes from \$54,857 to \$68,894; and a "three-crossed-bugle" deputy chief goes from \$69,426 to \$87,319. All of these figures are base pay only

and are invariably just the main component to a member's total compensation, which also can include EMS and Firefighting certification bonuses, years of service bonus, overtime, special duty pay, and other add-ons.

Houston firefighters' pension system is ordained legally by the State of Texas, but is managed by a Board of Trustees, some members of which are elected by firefighters and retirees themselves, and some are appointed by city officials. That Board hires an executive staff to run the fund. In mid-2006, the fund had a market value of nearly \$2.6 billion and was considered one of the best-managed pension systems in the US.

That fund value goes to support more than 2,200 current beneficiaries, and is the corpus to support nearly 4,000 active HFD members and their families in the future. A basic service retirement is earned after 20 years of active service, to which a firefighter is then entitled to a monthly benefit equal to 50 percent of his/her highest salary (averaged over three years worth of paychecks) including all bonuses and overtime. The maximum service payout is reached with 30 years of service which pays 80 percent.

However, that earned service retirement is not the hottest topic with retiring firefighters. Several years ago, the pension fund offered a DROP (or Deferred Retirement Option Plan) in which a firefighter can retire "on the pension fund's books" after earning a service pension; but instead of staying home, the firefighter actually keeps on working as normal for up to ten more years.

Instead of his/her service pension benefit checks going to the firefighter, they go to the pension fund and are put in the firefighters' DROP account (also managed by the fund). The firefighter continues to make pension contributions, too, while on the DROP, which also go into his/her DROP account. The best part, though, is that the DROP money building up in the account does so tax-free and at an annual interest rate based on the pension fund's total rate of return each year (a minimum of 5 and maximum of 10 percent), which is currently far more than what banks pay.

As a result, some higher ranking retirees, or those who have earned a bunch of overtime, and who stay in the DROP for the full ten years see their DROP balances rise to close to or even above \$1 million. And, when they retire, they not only have access to that million, they begin receiving their regular monthly pension checks, too. Not bad for government work, as the saying goes.

Club news

As of this writing, I am preparing to go next week to San Antonio with about seven of my fellow GHFB members (and more than 20 others from regional clubs; plus IFBA Exec. VP Bill Mokros and Chuck Liedtke are coming from Milwaukee) to host the IFBA Region 5 annual meeting. San Antonio has no IFBA club, but has a big fire department which most of us have never seen and, of course, good Mexican food. We have 28 confirmed attendees as of a week beforehand. I will try to give a brief synopsis of that meeting in the next edition.

Also in next issue's column, I will continue with the same pattern which seems to be popular: talking about fires and the job HFD firefighters do. There are no new stations to report and only a few new rigs. I will also try to get some photos included; they have been requested. Please e-mail your comments to me at TMCFIRE@AOL.COM. Please put the word *Turnout* in your e-mail heading so I don't confuse it for spam.

Region 6

5-11 Club, Inc.

10-87 Club of Greater Rockford

Extra Alarm Assn. of the Twin Cities

Metropolitan Emergency Support Services,
Inc. (M. E. S. S.)

Metropolitan Fire Associates, Inc.

Milwaukee Fire Bell Club, Inc.

Milwaukee Fire Historical Society, Ltd.

Moline Second Alarm Assn.

Racine Fire Bell Club, Inc.

Waukesha County Emergency Support & Inc.



Moline Second Alarmers

By Dave Coopman

Fire action for the Second Alarmers really slowed up at the end of the year. But in compiling our yearly statistics, while we knew they would be large, we didn't realize that the figures would be as large as they were.

Total member turnouts for fires, training sessions, and various educational and PR events were 466. Total hours of volunteer time were 1,068. Total air bottles filled at fires and training sessions were 1,198. Active? I would



Condo fire. Photo courtesy of the Dispatch/Argus.

say so.

Turning to fire action, the calls for service were rather light at the beginning of 2007: one small house fire and a trailer fire. However, in



March, action picked up quickly. On Sunday, March 4, a general alarm was called at 0140 hours for an explosion and fire in a 12-unit condominium complex in Moline. The first arriving company reported the building fully involved with one victim lying in the front yard. A sweep of the building found three victims dead. Fire had also jumped to a closely located apartment building just west of the condo. One apartment received heavy damage from fire on the roof.

After a week of investigation by local, state, and a private engineering firm, it was determined that the victim who was found in the front yard had allegedly tried to commit suicide by disconnecting a natural gas line. Unfortunately, an explosion occurred and three innocent neighbors died. The man is undergoing psychiatric examination and is being held by US Marshals for malicious arson.

Two days later, the Second Alarmers responded to a house fire that started in a bedroom. The source of the fire was a small transformer for an armoire light, sometimes called a wall wart. The fire was quickly extinguished.

On March 16, a garage fire produced a



Remnants.. Photo by Willy Lartz.

general alarm. The garage was heavily damaged and its contents were a total loss. Three days

later, we responded to a mutual aid call to East Moline for a house fire.

Evidently it's true what they say about the Ides of March. Twenty-two members turned out for these fires, 67 man-hours of time were volunteered, and 68 air bottles were filled – most of them at the fatal condo fire.

Our headquarters is now equipped with our own compressor for truck refills, so we don't have to spend



MSA members Mike Welch and Joe Tilley changing airpacks. Photo by Willy Lartz.

additional time at either East Moline or the Moline Emergency Center after a fire to wait for the compressor to restock our on-board tanks. We can now back in, hook up the compressor, and go home.

Finally, we are very happy to report that member Mike Herrick was hired on the Moline Fire Department as of April 2. While we hate to lose a good member, we're extremely proud of Mike's accomplishment. Congratulations

Milwaukee Fire Bell Club, Inc.

By: Gary Schmidt, Director

The winter of 2006-2007 was a period of slow activity for the Milwaukee Fire Bell Club, however, it was punctuated by a tragic event that Milwaukeeans will remember for a long time.

December 6, 2006, was a cool, cloudy Wednesday morning, the temperature at 33 degrees. The City of Milwaukee's morning traffic rush was in progress. The Menomonee River divides the city in half, forming an industrial valley from west-to-east traversed by three viaducts going north and south. Just to the

west is Miller Park, home of the major league Milwaukee Brewers baseball team, unoccupied for the winter, save for a few office employees. To the east,

the skyline of Milwaukee's downtown, less than 2 miles away.

Occupying over 60 acres in this valley is the Falk Corporation, one of Milwaukee's oldest manufacturing firms with origins dating back to 1850. It is a



Falk Corporation explosion and fire showing the shell of the building that exploded. All photos by Chuck Liedtke (Milwaukee Fire Bell Club)

world leader in industrial power transmission products. Shortly after 7am, an annual test of a backup propane system was conducted. The propane is used to supply power to the plant's water pumps should an electrical outage occur.

Over a half million gallons of LP is stored on site. During

the test, the gas is pumped under pressure to the power plant. The pipes travel underneath a one story wood frame 150'X500' maintenance-parts ware-

house.

Soon thereafter, workers began smelling gas. The testing was halted and partial evacuations were ordered. There was some confusion as to the gravity of the situation. Many of the over 500 workers in the overall complex continued working.

At 8:07am, an explosion rocked the greater Milwaukee area. Office workers in downtown high rises felt their buildings sway. Windows and homes shook 10 miles in all directions. This included the quarters of E28/Med14, located 4 blocks north of Falk Corporation. Within 2 minutes, the crew of E28 responded in



Falk Corporation shows damage to cars parked on the grounds at the time of the explosion.

the direction of a large plume of black smoke coming from the Valley. By 8:10am, a full first alarm was sent. Two minutes later, E28 reported a structure collapse and requested the Heavy Urban Rescue Team (HURT), and 20 ambulances. There were dozens of walking, dazed wounded that overwhelmed incident commanders at the onset. With reports of unknown air quality, the HAZ MAT team was called. Limited water supply required the High Volume (Large Diameter Hose) Unit.

By 9am, Milwaukee's Emergency Operations Center was activated and the immediate area of the city was in a lockdown – the viaducts were sealed shut by sanitation trucks until their structural integrity could be verified. Water, sewer, and other infrastructure engineers rushed to the area. With only 1 point of egress, all 500+ workers had to funnel past the danger zone. The County Transit system sent numerous busses to shuttle the workers to nearby Miller Park.

With mounting concern with the still standing propane storage tanks and a fire still out of control, a 4-alarm fire was eventually transmitted. There were no further explosions. The Fire Bell's ESU-1 was on scene by 9am and served 8 gallons of cocoa, 5 gallons of coffee, 4 gallons of Gatorade, 30 bottles of water, and handed out 2 pair of socks.

In all, 17 engines, 7 trucks, and 4 paramedic units responded. Over 47 workers were injured and three were killed. The response log:

1st Alarm : 8:09 AM (still for E-28) E-28

8:10 AM Fill out 1st Alarm E-2, 26 L-2, 9 B-1, 3 M-14

2nd Alarm: 8:12 AM (With HURT request and 2 Meds) E-12, 1, 20, 5, 9 L-1, 11, 16

M-7,3 CAIR 1, COMM, CAR 3, RESCUE 1, HURT 2 and 20 Private Ambulances

3rd Alarm: 8:17 AM (With Haz-Mat request) E-3, 33, 32, 25 L-14 B-5 M-15

S.C. 8:24 AM High Volume rig with E-10

4th Alarm: 8:26 AM E-11, 31 L-6 (For EMS assistance at triage area)

Other Fire Bell Club responses:

December 12, 2006, a four alarm fire in the basement of an old church with a two story school attached at 1420 W. Scott St. on Milwaukee's near south side. Heavy smoke in both buildings upon fire departments arrival. Floor collapsed during fire operations. Fire contained to church area. One firefighter transported to hospital with minor leg injury. The Fire Bell Club served 2 gallons each of coffee, Gatorade, and cocoa were served along with 16 Nutri-Grain bars and 3 pair of socks.

1st Alarm: 10:21 PM E-12, 26, 3, 31 L-11, 2 M-3 B-3,1

S.C. 10:25 PM E-2 L-1

2nd Alarm: 10:27 PM E-20, 9 L-6 COMM, CAIR 1, CAR 3

3rd Alarm: 10:37 PM E-1, 33, 28, 11 L-9, 14 B-4 M-14, RESCUE 1, HURT 2

4th Alarm: 10:40 PM E-7, 5, 23

February 5, 2007, a 4-alarm fire in a 2 story self-service storage facility at 535 S 84th Street on Milwaukee's west side across from the Wisconsin State Fair grounds. Approximately 20 storage garages were involved. Initial response was a still alarm for E-25 for smoke in the area. Fire was in the center of the building on the first floor. Wind Chill Temps below -15 degrees. Crews at the scene until 1:30 AM.

1st Alarm: 8:25 PM E-25 L-16 Still alarm for smoke in the area
8:30 PM Request for Full Assignment E-28, 34, 35



Fire scene at the self storage garages.

L-9 B-2, 3 M-14

2nd Alarm: 8:45 PM E-2, 33, 9 L-1, 2 Comm, Cair 1, Car 3

3rd Alarm: 8:58 PM E- 1, 13, 12, 20 L-13 B-1 M-3 Rescue 1, HURT 2

4th Alarm: 9:38 PM E-10, 18, 24

The ESU served: 125 Cheeseburgers, 2 gallons Gatorade, 4 gallons coffee, 6 gallons cocoa, 36 bottles of water, 2 pair of socks, 16 Nutri-Grain bars.

February 12, 2007: 9am: Suburban West Allis Fire Department had a stubborn fire on a 2 story commercial building. Served was 2 gallons of cocoa and 3 bottles of water.



West Allis Ladder Co 2 set up at the fire at a commercial establishment.

Fire Department News

On October 1, 2006, the 11 Fire Departments that provide protection to the 17 suburbs of Milwaukee County officially began using the MABAS system as Division 107. MABAS, the Mutual Aid Box Alarm System, originated in Illinois, has been recognized as an official protocol by the State of Wisconsin, and has been slowly migrating northward after years of use by Wisconsin counties along the Illinois border. The system has been used successfully about 8 times since in Milwaukee County (nothing has exceeded the MABAS Box Alarm level).

The City of Milwaukee Fire Department made changes effective January 1, 2007. With Truck company staffing being reduced to 4 (officer, HEO, 2 firefighters) except for a few JAWS companies, matching the already reduced staffing of engine companies, a full first alarm assignment now has an extra engine:

1st Alarm: 4 Engine Companies, 2 Ladder Companies, 2 Battalion Chiefs, 1 Paramedic Unit.

This allows for a dedicated RIT team. Additional alarm staffing is as follows:

2nd Alarm: 3 Engine Companies, 2 Ladder Companies, Compressed Air Unit, Communications Unit with Engine Company for staffing, Firefighting Deputy Chief (Car 3)

3rd Alarm : 3 Engine Companies, 1 Ladder Company, 1 Paramedic Unit, 1 Battalion Chief, Heavy Urban Rescue Team (HURT) Engine 12, Ladder 11, Rescue 1, HURT 2 for RIT operations.

4th Alarm: 3 Engine Companies

5th Alarm: 3 Engine Companies

There was also a reduction in Battalion Chiefs from 6 to 5. The Milwaukee Fire Department also changed a tradition by going to clear text transmissions.

“Serving Waukesha County’s Finest”

Waukesha County

2755 S. Johnson Rd.

Emergency Support & Rehab, Inc.

New Berlin, WI 53146

262-896-6661

414-588-6688

By: Roger M. Lawton

Hello and Greetings from Waukesha County Emergency Support & Rehab, Inc.

out needs. With only 12,000 original miles on it, I purchased it and my daughter and I drove it back to Wisconsin during the December blizzard of 2005.

This new club was founded by Roger M. Lawton in January of 2006. It all started when the Brookfield Fire Associates disbanded in 2005 after 37 years of honorable service to Waukesha County. Their dissolution left a void in canteen and rehab services for much of the county so I looked for and located a suitable rig. I found a 1979 Chevrolet step van that came from Toulon Community Fire Protection District in southern Illinois. The truck has an automatic transmission, 454 engine, an on-board 5000 watt generator, scene lights, light-bar and siren, and tunnel and side lights. Coincidentally, the vehicle happened to be fire engine red. It seemed the perfect vehicle for



Waukesha County Emergency Support & Rehab vehicle.
Photos by Roger M. Lawton.

Next, it was time to start rehab on the unit. After removing existing fixtures we put in new cabinets and countertops, a three-burner LP cook top, and a 14,000 BTU rear heater to warm firefighters. We also installed a microwave oven, supply cabinets, and a compartment holding two 30-gallon LP tanks. After mounting a folding desktop, cup dispensers, assorted hardware, a fire extinguisher and first aid kit, the vehicle was ready for lettering. It finally went into service on October 10th

of 2006. We mounted a driver's side self-service window allowing the rig to be operated by one person if necessary. The vehicle carries two 18-quart coolers, six 5-gallon

water jugs, and a portable table for outside service. Some of the supplies we carry are coffee, cocoa, lemonade, Gatorade, Nutri-Grain Bars, canned stew, canned soup, and Red Cross vouchers to buy hot food for large-scale incidents.

Our first run came in mid-October only a few days after the rig was placed in service. The incident was an explosion in a large shed at the Bartalotta Fireworks factory in Whales, Wisconsin. Several fire departments along with ATF, FBI, State Fire Marshals, EMS personnel and our club all responded. We served 200 double cheeseburgers, 2 gallons of hot cocoa, 1 gallon of coffee, 1 gallon of Gatorade and we were on the scene for almost three hours. I took the first run alone as the unit was housed out of my live-in firehouse museum.

Our second run was on December 26, in the Town of Waukesha, Wisconsin. It was a house fire that started in the garage after the homeowner put hot cinders from his fireplace in a plastic garbage can, consequently burning down his home. Charles Grady and I responded to serve the several departments on the scene of the early morning fire. We served two gallons of cocoa, 1 gallon of coffee, and several snacks.

We have had no runs during January, February, or March of 2007. On February 7th the canteen and rehab unit was moved from its former quarters to its new quarters in the Town of Brookfield Fire Station. Special

thanks to Town of Brookfield Fire Chief Andy Smerz and Assistant Chief Tony D'Amico for their continued help and generosity in supplying us with quarters for the rig. Also, a very special thanks to my friend, carpenter Kevin Angelroth who gave countless hours to this project as well as the many people, too numerous to mention, who contributed, each in their own way. You are all very special and we thank you for your support. Also thanks to the IFBA for granting membership to our club in 2006. We look forward to working with you.

Our first formal business meeting was held on March 7th, 2007. At that meeting appointments were made to the following offices; president—Roger Lawton, vice president—Ron Rebatzke, secretary—Lynn Reynolds, treasurer—Laura Lawton, director—Pete Putchinski, director—Preston Reynolds, and director—Mark Kirschling. Charter members include the above listed parties as well as Mandy Lawton, Willie Lawton, Karin Lawton, Ruben Martinez, Charlie Burbach, Charles Grady, Chad Stiles, and Larry “Mick” Vinchattle.

Donations are much needed and greatly appreciated. Anyone wishing to donate to the Waukesha County Emergency Support & Rehab can do so by contacting Roger Lawton at the above address/phone numbers. We thank you for your support and interest.



Region 7

2-11 Assn. Phoenix Fire Buffs, Inc.
Box 15 Club of Los Angeles
Fire Associates of Santa Clara Valley
Mountain NewsNet
Peninsula Fire Buff Club
Phoenix Society of San Francisco
Pioneer Hook and Ladder Company
St. Francis Hook & Ladder Society
Seattle Fire Buff Society
Tacoma/Pierce County Fire Buff Battalion



OF SAN FRANCISCO

P.O. BOX 31847

San Francisco, CA 94131

By Phil Reid

After a very busy first half of the year 2006, things quieted down here in San Francisco over the last six months. As reported in the last issue of "Turnout" the arrival of the ten commemorative engines from American La France and subsequent assignments took the better part of the January – June time period. In addition the celebration of the 100th anniversary of the April 18, 1906 Earthquake and Fire resulted in a multitude of activities. However the one constant over the year was that greater alarm fires were at an all time low. The seventeen greater alarms during the first half of the year were followed by only sixteen more in the second half. The total of thirty-three equaled the previous low set in 2003. The 2006 total was 25% less than the forty-four multiples recorded in 2005. The breakdown on the fires was 24 Second Alarms, 7 Third Alarms, and 2 Fourth Alarms. The first of the Fourth Alarms occurred during the late evening hours of Feb. 27, 2006 in a large four story apartment complex located on Gardenside Dr, in the Twin Peaks area. Fighting the fire was complicated by the fact that the weather was very bad with heavy rain and strong gusty winds. In addition the rear of the complex was up against a steep hill making access from the back impossible. Further complicating the problem were narrow winding streets and haphazard parking hindering the placement of apparatus. The initial alarm came in at 22:36 with a Working Fire being declared at 22:41. When the fire spread from the unit of origin a Second Alarm was struck at 22:53. As the weather worsened and the wind increased Third and Fourth Alarms were struck at 23:27 and 00:10. The fire was finally brought under control at 01:05. The other Fourth Alarm occurred during the early afternoon of Oct. 2, 2006 in an apartment building

with commercial stores on the ground floor on the corner of 5th Street and Clara in the South of Market area of the city. The box came in at 14:09 and was quickly followed by Working Fire. Second and Third Alarms at 14:11, 14:13, and 14:17. A Fourth Alarm was struck at 14:56 and it took another two hours before the fire was declared under control at 16:51. The first part of 2007 has not seen any increase in multiple alarms with only six Second Alarms through the end of February.

In the latter part of 2006 the SFFD placed in service a new type of unit. Designated as a Light Rescue, it consists of a Ford 450 chassis with a utility body towing a Wells Cargo trailer. Its purpose is for "Emergency Structural Collapse" and carries heavy rescue equipment used for major collapses. The trailer contains additional heavy rescue gear. Two of these units were placed in service one at Station 5 the other at Station 7. They are called Light Rescue 5 and Light Rescue 7. These units are unmanned and are cross staffed by Trucks 5 and 7. The department's new Haz-Mat Unit, an American La France similar in design to Rescues 1 and 2, should arrive soon and be in service by mid year. A major Communications Unit is being built and should arrive by early 2008. At present bids are being requested for four engines and three trucks. However the city's bidding process can be cumbersome at times so no time frame has been set as to their delivery dates. There is one change to the apparatus assignment listed in the last issue of "Turnout". The 1993 Spartan/3D that had been Engine 40 and assigned to the relief fleet has now been assigned to Engine 39, and 39's '90 Spartan/3D has gone into relief. With this reassignment there are none of the original eight 1990 Spartan/3D engines now in front line service. The oldest two front line engines in the SFFD are the '91 Spartan/3D's at 24 and 26.

Region 8

Box 8 Club of St. Louis, Inc.

Box 55 Assoc.

Indianapolis Fire Buffs



Box 55 Association

Nashville Fire Buffs

Since 1952

By Melissa Fuller

. For those of you that are new to Turnout Magazine, Box 55 Association sends greetings from Nashville, TN. For those that are returning, welcome back.

Our Rehab has been very busy over the last six months. We have been busy responding and serving our Nashville firefighters and also with our winter fundraiser, officer elections and EVOC training (written and driven).

I will start with our club news first and move on to some of our responses in a moment.

A nominating committee was formed at our October meeting with the purpose of presenting a slate of officers at the November meeting. The offices being voted on would be: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasure and Supply Officer. The slate of officers were determined by the committee and presented to current president, Rick Short, on October 30th. The president notified the members of the committee's choices via special emails and pages prior to the regular November meeting. Nominations would also be taken from the floor the night of the meeting prior to the actual vote.

The nominating committee chairperson, Melissa Fuller, presented the slate of officers as selected by the nominating committee at the November meeting. Those selected were: President – Rick Short; Vice President – Christopher Parks; Secretary – Dot Ketchum; Treasurer – Jimmy Roberson and Supply Officer – Paul McCreight. The floor nominations were: President – Christopher Parks; Vice President – Bill Ketchum and Secretary – Melissa Fuller. Parks and Ketchum accepted their nominations and Fuller declined. A written ballot vote was taken to determine who would be President. Rick Short was the winner of the written ballot vote and was re-elected club President. The remaining officers voted on and accepted were: Vice-President – Bill Ketchum; Secretary – Dot Ketchum; Treasurer – Jimmy Roberson and Paul McCreight – Supply Officer.

EVOC training was scheduled for Saturday, November 11, 2006. Those members wishing to receive certification took the written portion of the course in November and the driving portion was given in February. Fourteen members passed the written portion and driving course and have been certified to drive either the new Springer Van or the larger Rehab truck. Some were certified to drive both. Congratulations to all members who received certification. Thanks as well to Wynn Batson, who coordinated both the written and driving portions, and to Rick Parks and Jimbo Nelson who helped set up the driving course.

Our winter fundraiser usually begins the weekend of Thanksgiving but this year the event kicked off a week early. Members of Box 55 visited each firehall (all three shifts) and related agencies to sell flowers in Christmas themed or all occasion planters. We also sold stuffed bean bag fire dogs and Box 55 caps. Bill Ketchum used the new Sprinter Van to transport flowers and merchandise to the firehalls and much of our money raised will be used to outfit and customize the new van. By using the Sprinter during our fundraiser, this left our larger Rehab truck available for fire runs and gave our firefighters a first glimpse of the new addition. Thanks to all members who helped make this a successful fundraiser for our club.

Rehab at Fire Scenes:

The fire scene the last six months have been very busy as well. We have had several unique and unusual circumstances that have contributed to the rise of fires and fire deaths over the last few months. The weather this winter was of particular concern as this was one of the coldest winters in recent years. I have included some of the incidents for the last six months.

In October, Rehab 55 responded to 8 – one alarm fires and 4 – two alarm fires. On October 10, 2006, a two alarm apartment fire at Hidden Valley Apartments left 50 people without a place to live. The apartments located on Vultee Boulevard began around 12:30 a.m. When firefighters arrived they found smoke pouring from one of the buildings. Crews had a difficult time

finding the source of the blaze because the smoke was so thick. Authorities said the fire was electrical and started inside the building walls. Four apartment units were destroyed. Most of the fire victims were Egyptian and did not speak English.

November 1st started with 60 firefighters responding to a two alarm fire at a popular, longtime Nashville restaurant. A fire broke out at Mario's Restaurant a little before 5 a.m. on 20th Avenue South. When firefighters arrived, flames and heavy smoke were shooting through the roof. A firefighter was hurt when he was hit by a falling wall. He was burned on the back on his neck and taken to Vanderbilt Medical Center with non life threatening injuries. Firefighters were able to save the building but there was heavy fire and smoke damage throughout the restaurant. An extensive wine collection of about 700 bottles were destroyed by the blaze. An electrical problem with one of the refrigerator systems is believed to have sparked the fire. The owner, Mario Ferrari, said he plans to reopen the restaurant but it may take several months.

A fire tragedy occurred the next day, November 2, when fire crews responded to a house fire on Green Street. Two females, a mother and daughter, died and one male was in extreme critical condition. CPR was being administered as the victims were taken away by ambulances. The fire was reported at 10:30 a.m. and witnesses say the smoke could be seen for miles. Firefighters had to force their way in to get to the people inside. One firefighter was injured by cuts to his hands and was treated at a local hospital. The next day, it was reported that the male victim had succumb to the injuries he received in the fire. An investigation into the cause of the fire concluded that an extension cord was to blame. The report found that the cord was not overloaded but it has been placed directly under a mattress on a bed.

Fire crews and Rehab 55 were kept busy over the long Thanksgiving holiday weekend. Crews responded three times to the same apartment complex. The last occurring around 1 a.m. on Saturday. The fire spread so fast that some residents of the Jamestown apartment complex jumped from their windows to escape. Many residents suspected the fire was arson. A 13-year old boy was accused and arrested for starting this blaze as well as a fire in the laundry room trash can on Thursday (Thanksgiving), then starting another fire two hours later that damaged two apartments and injured three people. All totaled, the fire left 19 families homeless. The boy was charged with two counts of aggravated arson and at last report was in custody. In

addition to the ones listed above, Rehab 55 responded to 11 – one alarm fires; 3 – two alarm fires and 3 – Wood/brush fires in November.

The weather forecast for December 1st called for high winds, falling temperatures and sleet or freezing rain. It seemed to be a sure bit that with this type of forecast, we needed to be prepared for anything. The call came at 2:30 a.m., heavy smoke and fire reported at a condominium complex in the Green Hills section of town. Heavy winds made it hard on firefighters attacking the three alarm fire. Firefighters were pulled out of the complex for their protection once the fire broke through the roof. It took firefighters 3 hours to bring the fire under control. By this time, the temperature had dropped and sleet was beginning to fall. The fire destroyed the roof and second floor of a building that housed 20 condos. There was also water damaged to the first floor.

On December 7th, a spectacular fire lit up the later afternoon sky after a car driven by two Hispanic males jumped a retaining wall and hit one end of the Highland Ridge apartment complex. The building was engulfed when fire crews arrived on the scene a little after 4:00 p.m. Winds gusting up to 35 mph fanned the flames, blowing smoke across Interstate 65 during rush hour traffic. The apartment had 32 units, 20 were occupied. Many residents were still at work when the blaze started. The temperatures were in the upper 20's, however, the cold did not hamper the water supply. One firefighter suffered minor burns on his neck and ears. The fire was put out in two hours.

Rehab 55's total for December was 11 – one alarm fires and 3 – special events (2 brush fires and 1 explosion at the renovated Nashville Courthouse that injured 2 Nashville Electric Service workers).

The New Year remained cold and windy with temperatures dropping into single digits at night and not above freezing during the daytime. Fires seemed to be on the rise as residents of Nashville tried to stay warm. On January 22, firefighters responded to a reported house fire of a well known retired physician. Light smoke was reported as fire crews reported on the scene. The doctor was found in the hallway of his home overcome with smoke. In a period of less than 24 hours, a second house fire claimed the life of a female victim. A third fire, again less than 24 hours of the second fire, brought crews out again but luckily no one was injured at this fire. All of the fires were believed to be caused by electrical problems.

Three working house fires and one building collapse kept fire crews busy and Rehab crossing the city on January 26th. There were no injuries or deaths related to any of the house fires but left several families homeless. A building collapse at a former Antique store claimed one life and injured one other worker. The building was being demolished so the brick and steel could be sold for salvage. The workers were inside the building to cut off the gas lines. The first company on the scene reported the building collapse. An initial search determined that one person on the inside of the building was critical and a second victim was dead on arrival. Search dogs and the urban search and rescue team were called to the scene for assistance. The Occupational Safety and Health Administration investigated the accident with the Nashville Fire Marshal and building codes officials.

An emergency call around 8:28 a.m. on January 30th had firefighters responding to a two alarm apartment fire. The fire was a two alarm fire partly because of the harsh weather. The fire was believed to have started in the building attic. One firefighter was injured when part of the roof collapsed on him while he fought the fire. The firefighter was transported to a local hospital with non critical injuries. Eight units were heavily damaged on the third floor and at least four other units were damaged by water and smoke.

Additional Rehab 55 responses in January included 19 –one alarm calls and 4 – special calls (1 Haz-Mat; 1 Mutual Aid; 2 brush fires).

February brought milder weather and a decline in fire calls and rehab responses. Our Rehab responses dropped to 11 – one alarm calls and 1 – two alarm call.

March also brought a slight decrease in Rehab runs and fire calls. We have had a few special requests for police and neighboring counties for assistance. On March 2, 2007, Rehab 55 was requested by Metro Police to respond to a hostage situation. Rehab 55 stayed on the scene well into the night as the suspect barricaded himself and his girlfriend in a Nashville hotel. The scene ended early in the morning, with the suspect being taken into custody. The hostage had been released earlier.

March 4th was another busy multi call day for Rehab 55, first responding to a one alarm house fire in the morning, a two alarm building fire in the early afternoon and a two alarm apartment fire mid afternoon. The apartment fire destroyed two units. Rescue workers said they found flames coming from the roof when they arrived. An aggressive interior attack kept the fire

from spreading to other units. The fire was declared under control in less than two hours.

March 9th, Rehab 55 responding to our second special request call for the month. Rehab was requested to the scene of a 14 vehicle wreck on Interstate 40 at the 154 mile marker in the eastbound lane. One person was killed and three others injured in a seven tractor-trailer, sever car pile up around 8:00 p.m. The cause of the crash was still being investigated by the Critical Incident Response Team of the Department of Safety. The crash closed down the eastbound lane for 18 hours.

A mutual aid call sent Rehab 55 to Goodlettsville on March 21st. A 5,000 square foot house was fully engulfed when Nashville firefighters arrived to assist the Goodlettsville Fire Department. At first report, it was believed that there were people inside the house; thermal imaging cameras were used to determine that there was no one in the home. The family who lived in the house was at church at the time of the fire. Renters that lived in the basement were o.k. as well.

In addition to the incidents listed above, Rehab 55 also responded to 3 – one alarm fires; 2- two alarm fires; 2 – Special calls (haz-mat and brush fire).

Nashville Fire Department News:

The new Incident Command Vehicle has arrived and has been placed in service. The 40' emergency response vehicle will respond to support operations involving public safety agencies at major emergency incidents requiring command and control of fire, medical, and communications needs. It is a completely self-sufficient stand-alone mobile platform that can perform a multitude of functions in any situation.

The new command vehicle will be stationed at the downtown Station 2 location and some of the features include the following:

- There are two distinct areas, one for operations including strategy and tactics control and an area for conference and planning. The communications vehicle can hold up to 10 command officers and personnel.
- The operations area includes seating at six stations which is equipped with radios, phone and data connections and a computer hookup with a monitor.
- Three electronic equipment racks provide data, phone and radio transmission as well as satellite communications.

Nashville has purchased two new Pierce trucks. The first is due to arrive around the middle of April. The 100' foot aluminum rear mounted aerial fully loaded Pierce truck on a Dash chassis will be assigned to Station 27. By the end of the year, Nashville will receive a 105 ft steel rear mount Pierce truck which will bring the number of Pierce trucks used by the Nashville Fire Department to 7. Assigned for the last truck has not been established at this time.

There was a groundbreaking ceremony on December 14, 2006. The new Fire Headquarters will consolidate administrative functions into one building that will include the Director Chief and staff, EMS and fire suppression staff, the fire marshal's inspectors and investigators, and other administrative personnel. The two-story, 25,000 square foot building will be built with future expansion capability and is expected to open in the fall of 2007.

On February 28, 2007, ground was broken for the new Fire Station 9. The station, formerly known as the "Bottoms" was relocated in August 2003 from their location at 134 4th Avenue S. to a temporary location at 63 Hermitage Avenue. New Station 9 will house two engines, a hook and ladder, an air/rescue truck and a chief officer. In addition to this equipment, future growth plans include an ambulance. The station will serve the Nashville downtown area for fire, medical, and rescue emergencies. The firefighters serving this area have responded to some of the

biggest fires in the history of the department. The existing equipment and personnel will relocate to the five-bay, 15,000 square foot station which is being built with the capability of future expansion. This station is expected to open in the fall of 2007.

Twenty-nine new firefighters graduated from the Nashville Fire Department's Training Academy on December 18, 2006. Mayor Bill Purcell and Chief Steve Halford lead the ceremony that included 15 paramedics and 12 emergency medical technicians that have completed firefighter training after the initiation of a cross-training program. The cross-training program first began in 2001 and is designed to expedite training by teaching existing department paramedics and emergency medical technicians (EMT) firefighting skills. This shortens the time in the academy from the normal 25 weeks, to an 11-week training program.

As you can see, Rehab 55 has been very active during this last six month period. We have met and exceeded our goal which remains to be, to respond quickly when called and to provide rehabilitation and re-hydration to the fire department.

We hope that if you are ever in Nashville or the surrounding area that you will let us know. We would love to show you around. Our club meets the third Thursday of each month. Contact information can be found on our website at www.box55.org. See ya next time!



Indianapolis Fire Buffs
2205 East 58th Street
Indianapolis, Indiana 46220

By Jerry Traub

Indianapolis Fire Buffs have maintained membership and activities into 2007.

Our reserve station #12 has a new roof, after its age and a thundering hail storm last Spring made its repair necessary. New gutters and downspouts were a

part of the upgrade. Internal repairs of blistered paint and watermarked ceilings are due any time. With that done, our home should be ready for another upgrade in ninety-one more years.

Wishard Hospital Medic #27 continues to use our building for their base from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. daily. Our location is in an area where ambulance service

is regular and frequent for several reasons. We are paid rent for this occupancy by Health and Hospital Corporation that operates the city ambulance service.

FDIC was held again in Indianapolis and IFB rehab was stationed at two HOTS training areas for two days and at the Apparatus and Vendors staging area for two days. For this service, a donation is made to The Salvation Army and our members receive complimentary passes to the exhibits inside the RCA Dome and Convention Center.

We also sponsored the Eastern Kentucky University Public Safety alumni gathering at IFBA Local 416 hall. This is a reunion and meal for current students and the alums who are in town during FDIC week. For our assistance, EKU makes a \$500 donation to the IFD "Survive Alive" child safety training site that operates inside the Union Hall for grade-schoolers.

Region 8 vice-president Ron Huff visited during FDIC with members of Box 55 from Nashville, a rep from Box 8 in St. Louis and several local Buffs for an impromptu Spring regional. Each club updated the others on their local events and approved Ron's reappointment as Region 8 v-p. to be finalized at Cam-

bridge NEFCON '07 in August.

Warren Township fire department in Eastern Marion County will join the Indianapolis Fire Department, effective July 1, 2007. You may recall that Washington Township did this January 1 of this year. It will add five stations, multiple apparatus and approximately 150 more personnel. While the city anticipated the State Legislature's approval of a bill to complete the county consolidation program, it was just this week defeated in the last session. So, at this time, each of the remaining departments can choose to join IFD or remain in their own jurisdiction.

Canteen runs are increasing for this year. With Ed McMichael's SUV outfitted for quicker and smaller responses, we are providing rehab where it was not timely in the past for a response from Reserve Station 12 with the regular rig.

Several members are going to Cambridge for NEFCON '07. We look forward to seeing our friends on the Eastern end of I-90 after visiting the Western end at Seattle last year.

Hope to see you there!



IFD Ladder 22, is working the west exposure, while Ladder 10 (in the background) protects the east exposures at a second-alarm fire at 2200 E. 38th Street. The fire occurred at 10 p.m., April 9, 2007. Photo by Tod Parker.



April 22, 2007: IFD Ladder 6 is set up in master stream operations while fighting an early morning apartment fire on Indianapolis' far north-side. The fire originated on the back balcony and steps (above) and quickly spread to the entire roof. Ultimately, eight units were burned out. Photos by Tod Parker.



Region 9

Bayonne Fire Canteen, Inc.

Bell & Siren Club, Inc.

Box 54 Club

FireCom Emergency Radio of NJ

Gong Club, Inc.

Signal 22 Assn., Inc.

South Jersey Fire Photographer's Assn.

Second Alarmers' Assn. & Rescue
Squad of Philadelphia, Inc.



GONG CLUB, INC.

JERSEY CITY, NJ

by Paul Schaetzle

CHANGING OF THE GUARD

The New Year brought a new Chief of Department for the Jersey City Fire Department. Chief Frederick Eggers, who had led the Department since September 20, 1995, "put his papers in", effective December 26, 2006. Deputy Chief William Sinnott was named by Jersey City Mayor Jerramiah Healy as the new Chief. A formal Appointment Ceremony was held at the City Council Chambers on January 5, 2007.

Chief Sinnott was appointed to the FDJC on May 9, 1966 and assigned to Eng. Co. 17. As a company officer, Sinnott commanded Eng. Co. 10 as Lieutenant (7/21/76) and Captain (3/26/84). He rose to the rank of Battalion Chief on July 5, 1987, assigned to Battalion 3, Group D, and to Deputy Chief on October 5, 1995. Prior to his recent promotion, Chief Sinnott commanded Group A.

The new Chief is a life-long resident of Jersey City, a graduate of St. Peter's Prep, and a good friend of the Gong Club. When Group A was working Saturday nights, the Chief and his aide would frequently join in the famous Gong Club Saturday night meals! We wish the best of luck to Chief Sinnott as well as our best wishes to out-going Chief Eggers, an equally good friend of the Gong Club!

BATTALION 2 GROUP D SOLVES FIRE DROUGHT!

As the cold weather approaches, one could also anticipate an increase in fire activity. In 2006, however, multiple alarm fires and cold weather took a vacation! After battling two 2nd Alarm fires on September 23, 2006, the Jersey City Fire Department fought only one more 2nd Alarm the rest of the year! That fire was an automatic 2nd Alarm in a high rise building at 700 Newark Ave. on October 22, 2006, with the 2nd Alarm assignment dismissed in short order. Christ-

mas Day, 2006 saw temperatures in the fifties. In contrast, Easter 2007 dawned with a temperature of 30°.

The "drought" ended abruptly on January 3, 2007. In the space of 16 hours, Jersey City's 2nd Battalion area was the scene of not one, not two, but three fires, two 2nd Alarms capped by a roaring 3rd Alarm at Box 720, 506-10 Ocean Ave., in the pre-dawn hours



3-3 720 Jersey City 1/4/07 506-10 Ocean Ave. Eng. Co. 22 and Lad. Co. 4 hard at work down the street from their quarters.; their third multiple alarm of the tour! (Robert Scollan Photo)

of January 4, 2007. Fire was out several windows of an attached three story mixed occupancy; a rude wake-up call for Eng. Co. 22 and Tower Ladder 4, whose quarters are one block to the south. The fire extended to adjacent, similar attached exposure buildings before it was brought under control.

That tour has set the pace for 2007 thus far. Of the fourteen multiple alarms in Jersey City as of April 15, 2007, half of them have been in the 2nd Battalion while Group D was on duty! The next step of this "super" pace was appropriately on Super Bowl Sunday. As the pre-game festivities were underway, fire erupted from a three story frame, occupied multiple dwelling at 19 Rutgers Ave. at 1659 hours, February



3-3 827 Jersey City 2/4/07 19 Rutgers Ave. Companies going to battle on Super Bowl Sunday. (Robert Scollan Photo)

4, 2007. Battalion Chief Peter Gasiorowski transmitted a 2nd Alarm at 1703 on Box 827. Companies mounted an aggressive interior attack, but heavy fire conditions forced a hasty exit. Deputy Chief Thomas Kearney struck a 3rd Alarm shortly after his arrival at 1712 hours. Companies succeeded in preventing the fire from spreading to similar large tenement buildings on either side of the fire building. However the building was heavily damaged leaving several families homeless.

While units were still engaged at this incident, a working fire at Box 772, 252 Clinton Ave., at 1814 hours, strained fire protection even thinner in the rest of the city. Kearny, North Hudson and Bayonne companies were assigned to that fire. Jersey City Batt. 4, Eng. 11-9-14

and Lad. Co. 7 later joined in the fight.

This unlucky streak continued on Friday the 13th, bringing the same units to a vacant three story brick building a few short blocks north of the Super Bowl Sunday fire. At 1915 hours, Friday, April 13, 2007, Box 858 was struck for 3 Parnell Pl. at McAdoo Ave. Eng. Co. 19 reported a working fire in a boarded-up corner structure. Fire soon vented out several windows of the top floor, prompting Batt. Chief Gasiorowski to transmit a 2nd Alarm. Master streams were set up with Deputy Chief Kearney again assuming command and striking a 3rd Alarm. Once again, companies managed to keep the fire out of the exposure buildings. A large turn out of buffs were present, as the Gong Club's monthly business meeting was scheduled

to start at 2000 hours. The meeting was finally convened when Car 26, chauffeured by Member Ken Sikora, returned to quarters.



3-3 858 Jersey City 4/13/07 3 Parnell Pl. 2nd Battalion companies again going to work; this time on Friday the 13th! (Robert Scollan Photo)

BAYONNE APRIL FOOL'S FIRE NO JOKE!

Bayonne fire fighters had their hands full on April 1, 2007 when a fire raced through a row of attached two story frame buildings at 37 through 43 W. 18th St. at 0323 hours. First arriving units found heavy fire in the basement of an occupied, attached dwelling at 39 W. 18th St. An immediate 2nd Alarm was transmitted, followed by orders for all Bayonne companies to respond. To make matters worse, Bayonne Squad 7 and Ladder 3 were closed due to manpower problems for the tour. Recalled personnel eventually manned these companies and responded to the fire. However, a large movement of Jersey City companies responded into Bayonne, first to cover and then to the fire. At 0332 Eng. Co. 13-22 and Lad. Co. 8-11 relocated to various Bayonne companies. However at 0348 hours these companies were redirected to the fire. An additional wave of companies, Eng. Co. 9-10-11 and Lad. Co. 3, relocated to Bayonne at 0417. All of these units, except Eng. Co. 11, eventually responded to the fire. Eng. Co. 2 and Lad. Co. 6 also moved into vacant Bayonne firehouses.

The fire escalated to 4 Alarms, destroying four dwellings and damaging one other home. No serious injuries were reported, but scores of people were left homeless. Car 26, the Gong Club canteen, operated for several hours, as did the Bayonne Fire Canteen.

This fire set off a firestorm of debate in Bayonne on proper staffing levels in light of budget shortfalls, which continues as of this writing.



4-4 Bayonne 4/1/07 37-43 W. 18th St. Bayonne units, aided by seven Jersey City companies, tackled this fire in a row of frame dwellings (Robert Scollan Photo)

APPARATUS ADVANCEMENTS

The Jersey City Fire Department recently took advantage of a canceled order by Memphis, TN to acquire two E-One ladder trucks. A third unit was built on similar specifications as part of the deal. As a result, three 100' E-One ladders joined the Jersey City fleet, which are departures from recently purchased aerial apparatus. Besides the ladder height shrinking by 10 feet, the new rigs also have tandem rear wheels and are all-red. Graphics also differ somewhat from recent acquisitions, including a re-

turn to the traditional lettering font that was a trademark of FDJC rigs in the '40's and '50's.

Ladder Companies 2 and 7 received the Memphis rigs and third rig was assigned to Ladder Co. 9.

Five new pumpers are expected next month from American LaFrance.

These rigs will include 1500 GPM pumps and a reconfigured tank and hose bed arrangement.

The hose bed floor will be significantly lower than prior pumps and the rear of the rigs will have large reflectorized striping as a safety feature. Tentative assignments for the new pumping apparatus are Eng. Co. 2-11-14-19 and Squad Co. 4.

CONVENTION PLANNING CONTINUES

Region 9 clubs have continued planning for the 2011 International Fire Buff Associates, Inc. Convention. Work is in progress to reactivate the Fire Buff Association of New Jersey, Inc., the entity that

was formed by Region 9 clubs to host the 1989 convention. Officers have been selected, financial accounts are being established and corporate filings are being submitted to the State of New Jersey.

The club will soon start preparing drafts of a hotel bid package and discuss events and locations for the eventual convention itinerary. Stay tuned for future updates!

STOP THE PRESSES!!!

HOBOKEN LUMBER YARD DESTROYED; MAJOR COLLAPSE IN UNION CITY DURING NOR'EASTER

Just as the finishing touches were being put on this article, Hoboken companies responded to an enclosed lumber yard at 202 Clinton St. The alarm was sounded at 1715 hours in the midst of full blown Nor'easter. Every community in Northern New Jersey was being deluged with calls for water leaks and downed wires. However the real action would be in Hoboken. First due units reported heavy smoke in the General Lumber Co., a one story frame lumber yard, 100' x 100' with exposures on all sides. A 2nd Alarm was struck, soon followed by an urgent request for North Hudson to send an assignment to 527 Jackson St. for a separate fire.

Fire soon broke through the roof, prompting an immediate request for mutual aid from Jersey City. Batt. 3, Eng. Co. 5-11, Lad. Co. 7 and Car 26 were dispatched at 1738 hours. The fire soon escalated to a 4th Alarm with FDJC Eng. 10-17, MSU and Car 20 joining with the North Hudson

Companies that cleared from the Jackson St. run. The lumber yard eventually became fully involved, with all hands working to keep the fire out of the exposures. A ladder pipe, deck pipe and several handlines beat back the flames from extending into exposed multiple dwellings on either side. With the torrential rains continuing, streets throughout Hoboken were flooded, creating a nightmare for responding units. In a scene reminiscent of post-Katrina New Orleans, Hoboken and Jersey City companies operated handlines from the street while standing in 3 feet of water!

The piles of lumber and the building itself continued to emit considerable smoke through the night. Two Hoboken companies maintained a watchline overnight. As the remaining Hoboken companies and Car 26 were taking up, North Hudson and Jersey City units responded to a reported retaining wall collapse at 2320 hours in the vicinity of Paterson Plank Rd. and Manhattan Ave. on the Union City – Jersey City border. Companies found that a nearly 100 foot section of a stone retaining wall, some 40 feet high, had collapsed onto Manhattan Ave. This roadway runs from the top of the Palisades to the 14th St. Viaduct leading to Hoboken. A pile of debris some 20

to 30 feet high covered the road, with an adjacent section of the wall leaning precariously overhead.

Less than 30 minutes after returning Hoboken, Car 26 was responding once again! A Special Call at 0105 hours resulted in an all night stand at the collapse incident. New Jersey's Task Force 1 USAR team was partially activated, joining a laundry list of various agencies operating at the scene. At day-break, heavy construction equipment was brought in to remove the dangerous sections of the wall and

assist in moving the debris pile. Car 26 was returned at 0930 hours, but the search of the pile continued as it is unknown if any vehicles were caught in the col-



4-4 Hoboken 4/15/07 202 Clinton St. Hoboken, Jersey City and North Hudson companies battled a lumber yard fire during a torrential Nor'easter. (Paul Schaetzle Photo)

lapse. And the rain continues to fall in buckets and the flood waters continue to rise!

Car 26 returned from Hoboken. Responded to Manhattan Ave. & 14th St. Viaduct in Union City. Major collapse of the retaining wall above Manhattan Ave. FDJC & NHRFR both operating with 1st Alarm assignments. Numerous PD, OEM, Port Authority & other agencies on scene. Extended operation; searching for victims in rubble; some buildings on Palisade Ave. Have been evacuated.



4-4 Hoboken 4/15/07 202 Clinton St. No, it's not New Orleans; it's Hoboken. Over 8 inches of rain fell while the fire raged! (Paul Schaetzle Photo)



Union City 4/16/07 501 Manhattan Ave. Jersey City and North Hudson companies were joined by New Jersey Task Force 1 team members to search this retaining wall collapse during the Nor'easter. (Paul Schaetzle Photo)

Region 11

Broward Assn. For The Relief of
Firefighters

Central Florida Fire Buffs

Metropolitan Fire Assn. of Atlanta, GA.

METROPOLITAN FIRE ASSOCIATION OF ATLANTA, GA

By: Jeffrey A. Harwell

Congratulations to MFA Professional Member Bill Brockman who worked his last full shift as Battalion 2-C on October 30th. A formal retirement dinner was planned for Station 8 on December 1st.....On November 18 Cobb County officially dedicated replacement Station #14 at 2905 Library Lane.....On December 14 new Station 26 in DeKalb County opened on the site of the original quonset hut that used to be Station 6 on McAfee Road off Chandler. The two story three bay station was officially dedicated on January 29.....December 19 was the official commissioning ceremony for the new Sandy Springs Fire Department which incorporates a good chunk of northern Fulton County.....Ground breaking was held on January 31 for the new Atlanta Public Safety Building at 170 Grant Street at Pryor on the site of the old municipal court building.....In the “things you don’t hear on the fire radio everyday” category comes the response of Clayton County Engine and Truck 1 on February 19, to assist at the ER ramp of Southern Regional Medical Center for unloading a 900 pound patient from the ambulance!.....After being the fire chief of Atlanta for several years, Chief Dennis Rubin announced his resignation on March 6 in order to take the fire chief’s job in Washington, D.C. His last day was April 13.

The city of Atlanta was the scene of a stubborn Saturday afternoon fire on November 11 in Engine 15's territory. Heavy smoke from a two story frame dwelling greeted first alarm units at 253 15th Street just after two o'clock. Initial preconnects were soon supplemented by a 2-1/2 handline ordered stretched from Engine 6 by Squad 4, which had just picked up the call upon clearing a gas leak call at Georgia Tech. A 2nd Alarm was sounded and these units were put to work as heavy black smoke began pushing out of the structure. Truck 11 reported that fire was

beginning to break through the roof on the C side of the structure and that the fire appeared to be running the attack. However with the fire vented, interior crews began making good progress and the fire was declared under control a full hour after arrival.

The week of Thanksgiving was rather busy for the city of Atlanta and Thanksgiving Day itself was a day that all Atlanta firefighters will remember for all the wrong reasons. On Saturday afternoon November 18th city firefighters responded to a 2nd Alarm for a fully involved 40 x 160 two story garden apartment at 2328 Cambellton Road SW. The Friday after Thanksgiving another 2nd Alarm involved a two story apartment building in the 3000 block of Stone Hogan Connector, also in southwest Atlanta. Later that same day southwest Atlanta was the scene of a working fire in a large two story house over a full basement at 1908 Kimberly Road. As units started setting up for defensive operations command requested a special call for an extra 2 engines and 1 truck above the first alarm assignment. Fire originated in the basement and an interior stair acted as a chimney allowing the fire to spread rather easily into the attic. After finally shutting down master stream operations, crews had to wait for some of the water to drain from the building due to structural issues. And while a fire the next day (Saturday) at 1111 Moreland Avenue SE in a two story house was not that spectacular, crews did find one fire fatality inside the house.

But on Thanksgiving night, a routine house fire turned tragic at 260 Elm Street NW near Simpson Street. An abandoned house fire was reported in a one story frame several blocks northwest of the Georgia Dome - home of the Atlanta Falcons football team. Company 16 just had to travel down Simpson Street and across Lowery Blvd and they were on the scene. As

firefighters were inside attempting an interior attack, conditions suddenly deteriorated and units were ordered out of the house. One firefighter from Company 16 apparently became disoriented or lost and didn't make it out as a portion of the house flashed over. Firefighter Seven Solomon, age 33, was quickly rescued but suffered third-degree burns on his hands, face, and chest. Reports indicated Solomon's heart

stopped beating three or four times during the first 24 hours after the incident. Things appeared to be improving during the weekend as Solomon had fluid drained from his

chest and oxygen saturation level improved from 40% to 97%. Unfortunately, Firefighter Solomon passed away during the early morning hours of November 29th. He leaves behind a wife and four children. Funeral services were held in Macon, where he had been a firefighter for the previous six years before recently joining the Atlanta Fire Department. The last non heart related line of duty death occurred in 1986 when Captain Jerry Prince of Ladder 30 died from a wall collapse at a warehouse fire on Milton Avenue.

Metro Atlanta is apparently attempting to become known as the garden apartment fire capital of the world. The following list covers multiple alarm fires in apartment buildings only since our last report:

November 18 - Atlanta - 2328 Camblellton Road SW - two story 40x160 garden apt F/I.
November 24 - Atlanta - 3000 Stone Hogan Connector - two story - one LP plus H/L's
December 2 - DeKalb - Hillendale Drive, Somerset Condos, defensive w/ L16 flowing
December 8 - DeKalb - 5030 W. Mountain Street Stone Mountain - no hydrants in complex, companies



Vintage Georgia fire apparatus: Atlanta Ladder 29, which is actually an 85 foot Snorkel mounted on a 1973 Pirsch. The photo was taken at a working house fire at Monroe and Piedmont NE on January 2, 1982.

setting up water relays, totally defensive with ladder pipes, dewpoint = 4 and temperature = 37
December 13 - Marietta - 1805 Roswell Road, Plantation Ridge Apts - fire all 3 floors on arrival by

E52, 3rd alarm equivalent on scene including 4 engines from Cobb County
December 21 - Atlanta - 1825 MLK Drive SW, 2 story vacant with 2 LP's and one stinger
January 26 - DeKalb - 600 Hambrick Road - three story fire on all floors on arrival by, Q24 flowing
January 29 - DeKalb - 61 Maypop Lane, Highland Estates Apts - heavy smoke enroute, L16 flowing
January 31 - Atlanta - 62 Harwell Rd NW, F/I two story 45x100, one deck gun and two LP's
February 1 - DeKalb - 91 Treeview Lane, Pinewood Apts - 2nd alarm on arrival by E14, quick KD
February 2 - DeKalb - 93 Treeview Lane, Pinewood Apts - original bldg from previous day plus additional bldg heavily involved, L17

flowing.

February 2 - Gwinnett - 1005 Club Parkway - 20 unit bldg heavy fire, T11 and T5 flowing

February 6 - DeKalb - 3303 Flowers Road, Park Point North Apts - three story 80x150 fire on all three floors on arrival, multiple aerials, call came in as walk up to Sta19

February 17 - Henry - Preston Creek Apts - F/I 10 unit building, McDonough on M/A

February 18 - Atlanta - 88 Williams Holmes Borders Drive SE - 2nd Alarm, actually a high rise

February 18 - Atlanta - 383 Lanier Street NW, 80% second floor involved, T1 flowing & 2/1/2 HL's

February 20 - DeKalb - 6826 Baynes Court - fire on all three floors on arrival, Q19 flowing

February 24 - Sandy Springs - 5501 Glen Ridge Drive, Lexington Apts - four story, 64 units bldg with 16 units destroyed, interior & exterior ops, 1st major fire in newly formed SSFD

March 6 - DeKalb - 3665 Lawrenceville Highway, Highland Glen Apts - three story with fire running the

length of the attic, T18 & T25 flowing

March 12 - Fulton - Old National Highway, Biscayne Club Apts, fire through roof with T7 flowing, units

on scene: Fulton E1-3-5-13-15-17-8, T7-11-23, Fairburn E2 and Palmetto E15

March 14 - Atlanta - 2020 Allison - two story brick, 5 units involved with extension to attic

April 12 - DeKalb - Peppercreek Circle, Wildwood Apartments, most of roof burned away

April 13 - 4719 Central Drive, Highland Forest Apartments, defensive with end of roof burned away

Even though apartments fires kept the departments hoping there were a few other fires worth mentioning. In the wee morning hours of Monday February 19 DeKalb County struck a 2nd Alarm at 2260 Lithonia Industrial Blvd for a working fire in a plumbing supply business. The RIC team had to be activated when one firefighter became trapped by an interior collapse - injuries were reported to be minor.....

Gwinnett County set up three ladder pipes (12-22-5) for a March 3rd fire in a furniture store in Snellville. A number of false ceilings doomed the structure from the beginning..... Yet another mini wild land interface disaster on March 11 when a brush fire in Loganville ignited some wood fences and then spread via vinyl siding into a number of houses with at least four of the houses losing their roof to fire. One ladder pipe, one deck gun, and numerous handlines were operated.. A few days earlier Gwinnett County faced the same situation with a brush fire threatening six businesses but there was no extension with three deck guns and one ladder pipe operating - on a brush fire!..... The largest commercial fire honors go to the city of Atlanta who checked on the scene during the afternoon of April 11 with heavy fire showing from the 2nd Floor of a 200x400 abandoned warehouse/factory. This building, the site of several previous working fires, was well known to firefighters and 2nd and 3rd Alarms soon followed. At the height of the fire four ladder pipes were operating and the Norfolk and Southern Railroad had to shut down it's Atlanta - Macon mainline for a time.

The photo captions and credits for our Fall 2006 submittal were sent in but didn't make it into the final printed version, so here they are:

Top of Page 64 - Not only did Fairburn become the newest metro Atlanta fire department in 2006, but they also ordered a brand new engine to boot. The new Engine 1 is a 2006 Pierce Dash 2000 ALS 1500gpm/750gal water/25gal foam Rescue Pumper (Photo by Karl Organ).

Top of Page 65 - Gwinnett County firefighters going to work at this house fire in the Snellville community on July 13, 2006 (Photo by D.A. Brown, GCPD).

Top of Page 66 - Gwinnett County was also the scene of this fire on March 22 that involved two houses that were situated in close proximity to one another on Stephen Pond Road just east of Snellville (Photo by Gwinnett County FD).



Probably the last time that the 1949 American LaFrance ladder truck belonging to the Augusta Fire Department was used at an actual fire... the date was January 15, 1982 at a general alarm fire at 1025 Broad Street downtown. By this time it was known as L Truck #3 and was housed in reserve at Station #1 in East Augusta.

