

# **TURN OUT**



**Fall/Winter 2009**

# 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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### 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*.

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### Deadlines

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## 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 Photographer Assn.  
Connecticut Special Signal Assn.  
Essex County Fire Wardens Assn.  
Middlesex County Firefighters & Fire Wardens Assn.  
Providence Citywide Fire Network  
Special Signal Fire Assn.  
The Leather Helmet Society

### Region 3

Anne Arundel Alarmers Assn., Inc.  
Box 234 Assn., Inc.  
Box 414 Assn., Inc.  
Central Alarmers, Inc.  
Central Pennsylvania Fire Buff Assn.  
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  
Hamilton Fire Relief Co. 20  
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 Support Group 620  
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 & Rehab 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.  
Second Alarmers' Assn. & Rescue Squad of Philadelphia, Inc.  
Signal 22 Assn., Inc.  
Society for the Preservation and Appreciation of Antique Motor Fire Apparatus in America (SPAAMFAA)  
South Jersey Fire Photographer's Assn.  
The Fire Bell Club of New York, Inc.  
Third Alarm Assn., 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.

# 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

# Special Signal Fire Association

## Providence, Rhode Island

The following is a list of the officers for the  
Special Signal Fire Association:

President: Paul O'Rourke  
Vice President: Jim Scotti  
Secretary: Robert Paulin  
Treasurer: Raymond Hull

Special Signal Fire Association  
P.O.Box 25009  
Providence Rhode Island 02905

See our website at: [firedeptrehab.net](http://firedeptrehab.net)

Submitted by George Donovan, member,  
[georlo@aol.com](mailto:georlo@aol.com)



Warwick residents Russell Smith, left, and James Scotti check the supplies on the new Special Signal Fire Association truck that goes to emergency scenes to provide food and drink to responders. The group is now sponsored by Able Restoration.

*The Providence Journal / Steve Szydlowski*

# ***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.

Ladies Auxiliary of Box 414 Assn.

S. H. C. Assn.



## WASHINGTON DC FIRE/EMS VOLUNTEER PRESIDENT “STEPS DOWN”

After more than 52 years as an active volunteer in the fire/rescue service, Walter Gold is ready to step aside after serving the last 13 of those years as president of the volunteer branch of the (Washington) DC Fire & EMS Department.

But he won't step far - - Walter still will help coordinate the administrative efforts of the all-volunteer Friendship Fire Association (FFA), and will continue to serve as Executive Director of FFA's DC Fire & EMS Museum, which just opened on Capital Hill to the general public in late January.

In his spare time, Walter also heads up the DC Fire & EMS Foundation, Inc., a group of local businessmen and women who do fund-raising for DC Fire & EMS. He's also a Life Member of the Bethesda-Chevy Chase (MD) Rescue Squad, which he joined in 1957 shortly after being discharged from an Army Airborne medical branch.

Last August, Walter Gold was co-chair of the International Fire Buff Associates (IFBA) convention held in downtown Washington. Nearly 150 delegates from across America and Canada attended the four-day, action-filled event.

“That convention was one of the best ever held,” commented several top IFBA of-

ficials. “But it darn near wore me out for good,” said Gold, who reported that he slept for 24 hours straight after the convention ended. His co-chair was Vito Maggiolo, also a long-time FFA member and officer.

Walter Gold started his professional career as a reporter for the former Washington Evening Star. His last 18 years in the news business was as President and General Manager of the Washington News Network, then the largest independent TV news bureau in

the Nation's Capital. In between his newspaper and his TV careers, Walter also held several mid-level positions in the Federal Government, including serving as an official of five Presidential Inaugural Committees over a 20-year time span.

In Walter's spare time, he and his wife,

Bobbie, enjoy the company of their little white dog, Beeje (a Bichon), both at their home in North Bethesda, Maryland, and at their high-rise condo right on the beach in Ocean City, Maryland.

“It's going to be nice to be able to spend more time in Ocean City . . . but every time I hear their department's house siren go off, my ears will perk up, and I know I'll just have to turn on my scanner,” Walter confides.





# Friendship Fire Association

C/O DCFD Engine Company 3  
439 New Jersey Ave. NW  
Washington, DC 20001



alarm with several special calls was required to control this fire. The following evening, flames engulfed the top floor and attic of a large, vacant apartment building on Rhode Island Avenue N.E. That blaze also required a second alarm assignment and had to be fought with exterior master streams. The photo of Tower 3 operating at

Washington D.C. firefighters battled two major blazes in the final days of July. The first took place on the evening of the 29<sup>th</sup>, and destroyed a wood frame mansion in the Spring Valley section of the city. The first floor of this very large home was fully engulfed when the first units arrived, as can be seen in this photo by FFA member Chris Oliphant. Firefighters battling this blaze were hampered by severe water supply problems, and a second



that fire was taken by FFA member Vito Maggiolo.

# 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 Support Group 20

Plano Fire Rescue Associates

Signal "51" Group



# Photos of Interest from North Texas



(Above) Firefighters attempt to put the final touches on a stubborn fire in a one story wood frame dwelling in Alvarado, Texas on March 30, 2009. Heavy fire was showing when the first company arrived and crews discovered the fire had already extended into the attic. Several Johnson County fire departments provided mutual aid.



(Right) An automatic alarm call usually conjures up images of a faulty smoke detector head or a malicious pull station alarm. But on the morning of April 27, 2009 the fire alarm system at the Cotton Belt Depot apartment complex in downtown Ft. Worth, Texas did exactly what it was supposed to. When Engine 1 arrived on scene they found a lightning strike had started a fire in the attic of the four story complex that measured 60' x 600'. The sprinkler system did exactly what it was supposed to as well: it contained the fire to the attic space over one 4<sup>th</sup> Floor unit. Shortly after this photo was taken a "mayday" was transmitted from the fourth floor as the weakened ceiling came down on several firefighters.

(Bottom) The owner of this single family dwelling in Rendon, Texas was starting to mow his grass on Saturday May 30, 2009 when he noticed something rather unusual – his garage was on fire. First in companies got a quick knockdown on the garage, but fire had already found its way into the attic over the rest of the house.

Although the fire was eventually knocked down, the house was pretty much a total loss.





On a warm August afternoon with the temperature around 100 degrees, the Joshua, Mid-North, and Godley, Texas Fire Departments were alerted to a possible structure fire off Farm Road 917. Even though first arriving companies got a quick knockdown on the interior fire, the smoke never cleared and it was discovered that the fire had spread to the void spaces in the walls as well as the attic. Crews made this an exterior attack from that point on.

All photos and captions by Jeff Harwell, [jeffliz-harwell@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jeffliz-harwell@sbcglobal.net)



*Calling all photographers!*

**We know you like to take 'em, now see your fire photos PUBLISHED!**

**Send your pictures and captions to [turnout@ifba.org](mailto:turnout@ifba.org)**

# GREATER HOUSTON FIRE BUFFS

PO Box 697

Bellaire, Texas 77402

## OFFICERS

President: Jerald Ricks

Vice President: Mike Pack

Secretary/Treasurer: Tom McDonald

## Fall 2009 "Turnout" Edition

*By Tom McDonald*

### GHFB web site a hit

The GHFB's new web site, [www.ghfb.org](http://www.ghfb.org), has been a smash hit since it debuted early this year. Created and edited by member Stephen Lasley, the site provides photos of the latest HFD (and other Houston area) incidents as well as club and fire service news.

### Region 5 meeting in Dallas

The 2009 IFBA Region 5 Meeting was held in Dallas on May 15-16, hosted by the "Box 4" club. Wally Banks was elected Region 5 Vice President for the coming year, and he was sworn in at the IFBA Convention in Washington DC in August. Wally is from Houston, but temporarily misplaced himself (for about 40 years) in Dallas. As a result of his guilt for leaving "Heaven on Buffalo Bayou," Wally recently joined the Houston club, too, despite his long affiliation with and years of yeoman service to Box 4's renowned Canteen/Rehab operation. He can be contacted at [424-896wgb@verizon.net](mailto:424-896wgb@verizon.net).

### Report from the IFBA Convention

Charlie Womack and Tom McDonald represented GHFB at the IFBA's Convention held in Washington DC on August 12-15, 2009. Wally Banks was sworn in as Region 5 Vice President.

### Two new HFD stations nearing completion

As mentioned in the last edition of *Turnout*, the HFD has two new firehouses under con-



On August 9, 2009, a mid-day thunderstorm sent a bolt of lightning down on this Reliant Energy substation in Midtown (just south of Downtown Houston) at La Branch & Drew. The smoke column from the resulting transformer fire could be seen from all across the city for more than an hour. Despite that, only one alarm was used and even those units simply stood by blocking traffic until power company crews arrived. (Photo by Tom McDonald)

struction. One is a replacement and the other is a new station. Firehouse No. 24 is being



built on Reed Rd. just west of Highway 288 in far south Houston. It is a new station for a part of town experiencing rapid development. Station No. 37 is being finished up on Stella Link Road just north of Bluebonnet St. It will replace a 50-plus-year-old house a few blocks away.

(Below) The Texas delegation to the IFBA Convention held August 12-15, 2009 included: (top row L-R) Evelyn Banks, Charlie Womack, Tom McDonald, Darrell Scott and (bottom row) Wally Banks, Pat Kempe, and Bill Kempe. (Photo by Debra Hoover)



**Keep me informed**

Please e-mail your comments to me at [TMcFire@Aol.com](mailto:TMcFire@Aol.com). Also, please put the word **Turnout** in your e-mail heading so I don't mistake it for spam.



HFD firefighters wait for water in their hose lines during a 2-11 fire at 6770 Westbranch near Bellaire Blvd. in far west Houston on September 5, 2009. Low water pressure resulted in a rapid spread of flames through one occupied apartment building and, as shown here, near involvement of a second building. (Photo by Tom McDonald)

(Below) A ladder pipe from HFD Ladder 55 is directed at this church fire on the city's south side on August 8, 2009. The blaze destroyed much of the long, L-shaped building at 4341 Brinkley between Scott and Cullen in the Sunnyside section. (Photo by Tom McDonald)





This was one of the first of a series of arson fires in the Heights section of the city (a couple of miles northwest of Downtown). Firefighters are shown here battling a one-story house fire on Ashland near West 11<sup>th</sup> Street in the pre-dawn hours of August 11, 2009. Since then, by mid-September, there have been more than half a dozen fires within a few blocks of this one, all relatively small though. (Photo by Brandon Jacob)



RIT members stand ready as other firefighters battle this one alarm residential fire on 10-5-09. No injuries were reported. (Photo by Tod Parker)



# 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.

**By Chuck Bleck and Mike Penchar**

Greetings from the Windy City. Our club membership has been very active these last few months having held or participated in several events. On June 20<sup>th</sup>, the 5-11 Club, along with our friends the Fire Buffs of Illinois, held their 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Chicago Fire Academy Muster and Flea Market. Sixty-five vendors and over 600 guests attended this event, taking in the flea market and static displays provided by antique rig owners and the Chicago Fire Department. On September 19<sup>th</sup>, one of the most successful fundraisers in the 5-11 Club's history was held by the North Side Fire Brigade. Nearly 1,600 50/50 raffle tickets were sold along with over 100 "Rehab Unit" (canteen) tee-shirts. The 5-11 Club's Bill Worman, Fundraiser Chairman, and Mitch Ludwig of the North Side Fire Brigade deserve a pat on the back for this successful event. On September 27<sup>th</sup>, the 5-11 Club canteen participated in the 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Fallen Firefighter Memorial held by Chicago Firefighter's Union Local 2 and the Gold Badge Society. This year, 120 members of Local 2 were

remembered for their service to the City. On October 1<sup>st</sup>, our canteen service joined CFD members, families and friends at the CFD Firefighter and Paramedic Memorial Park on the City's lake front to honor the 17 members of the Chicago Fire Insurance Patrol who had died in the line of duty. The Insurance Patrol was an active part of Chicago's fire scene for 88 years until it was disbanded on June 29, 1959. The ceremony included the dedication of 17 paver stones engraved with the names of those members who made the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty. Also in attendance were the authors of the History of the Chicago Fire Insurance Patrol, Keith Seafeld and Mike Pack.



Battalion 9's New Chevy Tahoe Buggy (Photo by Chuck Bleck)



5-2-3 CFD Special Ops Compressor Truck (Photo by Mike Penchar)

Fire action is on an upswing with over 39 multiple alarm fires that we have responded to since the beginning of the year. Our canteen is now also responding to police SWAT incidents. As of October, our unit has responded to over 61 requests for service. Our canteen service now has about 30 active members.

On the apparatus scene, the six new Spartan-Crimson pumpers received earlier this year have been assigned. Engines

5, 23, 32, 69, 119 and 122 have received these new rigs. Engine 5 has a 3-stage 1500 GPM due to its proximity to the high-rise downtown area. The five remaining units have a 2-stage 1500 GPM pump. Four new Battalion Chief Buggies have been placed into service at Battalions 1, 9, 17 and 20. These new buggies are now Chevy Tahoes, a change from the Ford Excursions ordered previously. Three new Braun ambulances have been placed into service. These ambulances have been upgraded to the Ford F450 Series.

The new small fire boat mentioned in the last issue has been placed into service. The boat is a 31-foot 2008 Lake Assault Patrol craft with one forward 750 GPM turret. It has a top speed of approximately 35 knots and can traverse shallow waters. It can also pump while traveling at half speed. Although not named, the unit is identified as 6-8-8. The Special Operations Unit continues to add vehicles to its fleet with the addition of a new compressor truck on a 2008 Ford F550 chassis. An Ingersol-Rand compressor sits on a Heil stake body.

Scuttlebutt has it that the City is ordering three new squads to replace the units now

in service since 2000. Also, a new large fire boat is being built in Canada by Hike Metal Products. It will be similar to the Buffalo, New York fire boat which was built in 2007. The new fire boat will replace Engine 58 (Victor Schlaeger) that was built by Christie in 1949 and refurbished in 1998.



6-8-8 CFD's New Small Fire Boat-Dockside (photo by Mike Penchar)

A new fire house is being planned for Engine 109. It will have a smaller footprint than the four new houses opened last year. A little side note: Engine 59 is still quartered with Engine 70, Truck 47, Ambulance 13 and Battalion 9 on the north side of the City. This is the first time two engine companies have shared the same quarters since the early 1980s.



6-8-8 In Service (Photo by Chuck Bleck)

The recent IFBA convention was an event the DCFD and the Friendship Fire Association can be proud of. The tours, events and especially the hospitality made this an enjoyable convention.

Please visit our website [www.5-11club.org](http://www.5-11club.org) for any information on the 5-11 Club or the Chicago Fire Department. Also, don't pass up the photo galleries. If you are planning to visit Chicago, please call one of our members or see our website on how to contact us. We'll be happy to show you around.

# Seymour Volunteer Fire Department 100th Anniversary Parade & Fire Apparatus Muster

Hello to All:

I hope you all are well. As you can imagine, it's been quite a few years since we've last spoken. On behalf of my late father James (Jim) and my Mom, Sue Rasmussen, I would appreciate your help to publicize an upcoming muster for our local volunteer fire department here in our home state of Wisconsin. They're a good bunch of guys doing thankless work for no pay. Sounds familiar, doesn't it?

If you could help spread the word, they would appreciate it. Here are the details:

**June 12, 2010.** Seymour, Wisconsin. Seymour Volunteer Fire Department 100th Anniversary Parade & Fire Apparatus Muster. 2:00 pm Parade Start. Muster to follow. New and Old Trucks Welcome. Several Award Classes. Vendors Welcome. Free Admission to the Parade & Muster. Fun, Food, Beer & Music Featuring The Oak Ridge Boys @ 8:00 pm.

Seymour is located just 15 minutes from Green Bay, the Packers and historic Lambeau

Field. Pierce, Oshkosh Truck, FWD/Seagrave factories all nearby. Visit: [www.seymour.govoffice.com](http://www.seymour.govoffice.com) or contact Wayne at (920)-660-2348 for parade & vendor registration.

You read correctly, The Oak Ridge Boys are releasing a new album in 2010 and will be the featured entertainment that night.

If there's a strong turnout and interest, the guys might catch the muster bug and host it again during the opposite years of Milwaukee. They are hoping for 100+ antique and front line fire apparatus for the parade and muster. The Seymour VFD will feature their first motorized pumper, a beautifully restored 1929 Waterous pumper. The guys appreciate old fire equipment and would be really awestruck to see some beautiful old equipment.

If there are any questions, please feel free to call or email me as well at (920) 360-7127. I look forward to seeing you all once again.

Thanks,

Erik Rasmussen

# Milwaukee Fire Bell Club, Inc.

## ESU COMMITTEE – SPECIAL REPORT

### The Patrick Cudahy Fire

July 5-11, 2009

By Gary Schmidt & Dan Rode

Photos by Chuck Liedtke

"This was the largest structure fire in the state of Wisconsin and it was nothing short of a world-class response," Cudahy Fire Department Chief Dan Mayer said.

At 9:52pm, Sunday July 5<sup>th</sup>, Patrick Cudahy Security called the Cudahy 911 center to report heavy smoke conditions. A still alarm was dispatched: Cudahy Engine 1463, commanded by Lt. Dean Nelson, and Truck 1474. Based on the initial report, upon leaving quarters, Lt. Nelson called for a full assignment.

#### **JULY 5, 2009**

**9:59pm – Special Call for a full first alarm assignment**

**Patrick Cudahy Plant – One Sweet Applewood Lane**

Engines	Trucks	BLS / ALS	Special Equipment	Chiefs
Cudahy E1461	South Milw T1	Cudahy 1487	Oak Creek Command Post	Cudahy Chief
Cudahy E1462		Cudahy 1488		St. Francis Chief
St. Francis E1				South Milw Chief
Oak Creek E4				Oak Creek Chief

This was just the start. By the time the incident was declared out, 64 fire departments would be utilized:

Big Bend/Vernon	Elkhorn	Kenosha	Port Washington	Thiensville
Bloomfield/Genoa City	Elm Grove	Lake Geneva	Racine	Tichigan
Bristol	Franklin	Lake Mills	Raymond	Twin Lakes
Brookfield, City of	Germantown	Lisbon	Richfield	Union Grove/Yorkville
Brookfield, Town of	Grafton	Menomonee Falls	Rochester	Wales/Genesee
Burlington, City of	Greendale	Mequon	Salem	Waterford
Burlington, Town of	Greenfield	Milwaukee	Saukville	Waukesha, City of
Butler	Hales Corners	Milwaukee Cty Airport	Sharon	Waukesha, Town of
Caledonia	Hartford	New Berlin	Somers	Wauwatosa
Cedarburg	Helenville	North Shore	South Milwaukee	West Allis
Cudahy	Jackson	Oak Creek	South Shore	West Bend
Delavan, City of	Jefferson	Pewaukee	St. Francis	Wind Lake
East Troy	Johnson Creek	Pleasant Prairie	Tess Corners	



The South Shore Fire Department is a merger of Sturtevant and Mt. Pleasant in Racine County

## Initial Fire Response

Upon arrival, Lt. Nelson established a mobile command. Having a water source secured, he ordered Truck 1474 to accompany his crew to search for the cause of the smoke. Patrick Cudahy personnel took the Cudahy firefighters to a condemned portion of the plant - which allowed the plant to no longer maintain safety criteria such as exit signage. Lt. Nelson's crew went deeper and deeper into the structure, with moderate to heavy smoke conditions but nothing showing up on the thermal imaging cameras. As soon as St. Francis Engine 1 arrived on the full assignment, Lt. Nelson passed command to them.

The building was enormous. With no fire found yet, Lt. Nelson proceeded into another building (the plant consists of numerous buildings, portions over 100 years old). More smoke but no fire. Lt. Nelson then discovered water coming from the ceiling. Sprinklers must have activated on the third floor, so up they went. They still had no indications of fire on the thermal imaging cameras. Smoke was thickening. They proceeded hunched over due to low clearances. There were also many obstacles along the floor. Lt. Nelson knew whatever they had was going to take a lot of resources, so he called for a MABAS Box.



DEPARTMENT NAME: Cudahy		BOX ALARM TYPE: Structure Fire			EFFECTIVE DATE: December 12, 2008		MABAS DIVISION 107	
BOX ALARM # 14-01		LOCATION OR AREA: Entire City			AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE: Gary Posda			
<b>LOCAL DISPATCH AREA:</b>								
ALARM LEVEL	ENGINES	TRUCKS	SQUADS	AMBULANCES	CHIEFS	SPECIAL EQUIPMENT	CHANGE OF QUARTERS (Station #)	
STILL	Cudahy	Cudahy						
FULL ASSIGN.	Cudahy Cudahy St. Francis Oak Creek	South Milwaukee		Cudahy Cudahy	Cudahy South Milwaukee Oak Creek St. Francis	Command	St. Francis on call their station (EMS) South Milwaukee on call their station (EMS)	
<b>MABAS BOX ALARM:</b>								
ALARM LEVEL	ENGINES	TRUCKS	SQUADS	AMBULANCES	CHIEFS	SPECIAL EQUIPMENT	CHANGE OF QUARTERS (Station #)	
BOX	Greenfield Greendale	Franklin			Wauwatosa Greenfield	Milwaukee Fire Bell Wauwatosa Rescue 33 Wauwatosa RIT	Greendale Engine (1) Greendale Chief (1) West Allis Engine (2)	
2ND	West Allis Hales Corner	North Shore			Greendale	Milwaukee County Bus *	Mount Pleasant Engine (1) City Brookfield Truck (2) *	
3RD	South Shore Caledonia	City of Brookfield *			North Shore	ARES Communication *	West Allis Truck (2) North Shore Engine (1)	
4TH	Oak Creek North Shore	West Allis			West Allis		Racine Engine (2) Waukesha Engine (1)	
5TH	Racine Waukesha	New Berlin *			Racine			
INTERDIVISIONAL REQUEST		1st Choice 102	2nd Choice 106	3rd Choice 101				
INFORMATION      * Designates Local Dispatch Must Call      ( W/ EX ) Designates extrication equipment needed								
Station 1 4526 S. Packard Ave. (One block North of Packard & Layton Ave.) MABAS Knox Box at front door. Station 2 3115 E. Ramsey Ave. (Corner of Barland & Ramsey) MABAS Knox Box at front door.								

**10:16pm – MABAS Division 107 Structure Fire Box 14-01 – Alarm Level: BOX**  
**Staging Location: East Layton Avenue and Sweet Applewood Lane to west parking lot**

Engines	Trucks	Special Equipment	Chiefs	Change of Quarters
Greenfield E1	Franklin TL2	Wauwatosa Resc 33	Wauwatosa	Hales Corners E601 to St 1
Greendale E402		Wauwatosa T1 (RIT)		Greendale Chief to Sta 1
		Milw Fire Bell ESU1		West Allis E3 to Station 2

Conditions were worsening. With the distance he had covered and not having reached the fire yet, Lt. Nelson decided 4 minutes later to upgrade to a MABAS 2<sup>nd</sup> alarm. Little did he know that he would be on duty for 5 days with only 9 hours off in between.

**10:20pm – MABAS Division 107 Structure Fire Box 14-01 – Alarm Level: 2nd**

Engines	Trucks	Special Equipment	Chiefs	Change of Quarters
West Allis E3	North Shore T3		Greendale	South Shore E123 to Sta 1
Hales Corners E601			City of Brookfield	City of Brookfield TL2171 to Station 2

### **Initial Fire Bell Response**

ESU Chairman Gary Schmidt was monitoring the scanner and heard Lt. Nelson's transmissions. Upon hearing a call for the MABAS Box, he alerted fellow member Terry Schmidt to get ready to respond and then listened for the MABAS Box tones on both VHF 154.265 and the Milwaukee County Trunk Radio System (MCTRS) MABAS 800 Talkgroup. Division 107 began announcing the MABAS Box Assignments for the Engines and Trucks, but then suddenly went silent. Was the ESU to respond? What was going on?

Unknown to Gary, the box was upgraded to a 2<sup>nd</sup> level. Division 107 stopped transmitting when they got word of the upgrade. The MABAS tones again sounded. This time Division 107 dispatch announced a combined Box level and 2<sup>nd</sup> level assignments, including the Milwaukee Fire Bell Club. Division 109 (City of Milwaukee Dispatch) heard the call and paged out the ESU Response Team. Driver Dick Nailen responded along with Gary Schmidt and Terry Schmidt to E33. Members Chuck Liedtke and Art Nunemaker responded to the scene.



The ESU picked up Art and Chuck upon entering Sweet Applewood Lane and was escorted to the east side of the plant by Cudahy Police. The ESU was ordered by command to stand-by. Incident Command needed to see where the responding rigs were going to be placed before committing the ESU to a rehab/serving area as the roadway along the east side of the plant was narrow, hemmed in by a fence along

railroad tracks. Finally a rehab area was selected for the ESU.

## Access to the Fire



The fire, once it was located, was difficult to access as it was in a 4<sup>th</sup> floor cockloft area above the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor sprinklers. Roofing material also ignited. For a while, foam was tried. The affected areas of the plant were very wide. Companies were deployed to both the east and west sides of the building. They just could not get to the fire. More equipment was speacial in:

### **11:13pm – MABAS Division 107 Structure Fire Box 14-01 – Special Call # 1**

Engines	Trucks	BLS / ALS	Special Equipment	Chiefs
		Greenfield Med 9 (in spare amb 3)	Cudahy Car 1491	
			Cudahy Pickup 1490	
			Cudahy Spec Ops Haz Mat Trailer 1499	

Seven minutes later, the MABAS Box was upgraded to the 3<sup>rd</sup> alarm level (given there was a full assignment at the onset, this was now a 4-alarm fire).

### **11:22pm – MABAS Division 107 Structure Fire Box 14-01 – Alarm Level: 3rd**

Twenty minutes later, the box was elevated to the 4<sup>th</sup> alarm level:

Engines	Trucks	Spec Equip	Chiefs	Change of Quarters
South Shore E123	City of Brookfield TL2171		North Shore	North Shore E2 to St 1
Caledonia E221				West Allis T2 to Sta 2

### **11:47pm – MABAS Division 107 Structure Fire Box 14-01 – Alarm Level: 4th**

Around this time, ESU Command knew this was a widespread operation, but did not know how

Engines	Trucks	Spec Equip	Chiefs	Change of Quarters
North Shore E2	West Allis T2		West Allis	Waukesha E1567 to Station 1
Oak Creek E2				Racine E2 to Station 2

long it would take. Keeping within the discipline of the Incident Command System, Gary offered up to Incident Command the set up of a second staging area on the west end to be manned by the Racine Fire Bells. Gary was told to hang tight.



At 12:20am, Incident Command approved the special call of the Racine Fire Bells. Gary then had to determine the best way to do that – this was the first time doing this under the MABAS system. Gary knew that the Racine Fire Bells were dispatched via the Division 102 Racine County Sheriff. With IFERN radio traffic very heavy, Gary decided to call Division 107 Dispatch at Wauwatosa via cell phone and explained that Division 102 should be contacted to page out the Racine Fire Bells.

**JULY 6, 2009**

**12:31am – MABAS Division 107 Structure Fire Box 14-01 – Special Call # 2**

Engines	Trucks	BLS / ALS	Special Equipment	Chiefs
			Racine Fire Bells Rehab 65, Rehab 65R	

Rehab 65 called Division 107 on VHF IFERN to acknowledge that they were responding and soon called the ESU via the ESU radio to get directions. Rehab 65 set up on the west side of the plant. As the night waned, Gary & Terry needed to get some sleep before working the next day. Around 3am, Chuck drove them back to E33 and then loaded up with some more water & ice before returning.



As more equipment was used to try to contain the fire, getting water to the scene became challenging and innovative methods were employed

When ESU member Art Nunemaker saw a solitary firefighter struggling with the layout of LDH, he assisted with the pulling of the hoseline.

Unfortunately, two other firefighters arrived down

the road and gave the line a hard tug. The jolt to Art caused a torn bicep tendon. Art stayed on scene until mid-day and returned on each of the following 2 days before seeking treatment.

As dawn broke, over 100 firefighters were on scene, exhausted, being up all night long trying to extinguish the stubborn fire. Then the roof collapsed shortly after firefighters were ordered off. This led to the fire not only spreading throughout all floors of the original building, but also to three adjoining buildings.



Paramount to the effort was to prevent major damage to the meatpacking plant. Besides providing local employment to the area, Patrick Cudahy also is a major contributor to the tax base of the City of Cudahy. This could be devastating to the area already suffering in a catastrophic economy. Additionally, the plant uses

anhydrous ammonia in the processing of the meat and there were concerns of a large release.

Throughout the night, Patrick Cudahy's Haz Mat team worked to evacuate the ammonia from the piping in the affected buildings, but there was concern about low levels in the air at the scene. Also, the fire kept advancing that threatened a 186 pound ammonia storage tank. This precipitated calling the Milwaukee Fire Department's Haz Mat team to monitor that situation. The ESU was also moved to the west staging area.



### 6:33am – MABAS Division 107 Structure Fire Box 14-01 – Special Call # 3

Engines	Trucks	BLS / ALS	Special Equipment	Chiefs
Milwaukee E25			Milwaukee Haz Mat 1 (Level A)	
			Milwaukee Haz Mat 2	

Soon after, the MABAS Box was upgraded:

### 6:58am – MABAS Division 107 Structure Fire Box 14-01 – Alarm Level: 5th

Engines	Trucks	Spec Equip	Chiefs	Change of Quarters
Waukesha E1567	Wauwatosa Quint 3			
Racine E2	Menomonee Falls T2773			
New Berlin E1				

## **Daylight - Monday July 6<sup>th</sup>**

The plant has a total of 177,000 pounds of anhydrous ammonia, the largest concentration in Wisconsin. Should a worst case scenario occur, the city had to be proactive, especially with shifting winds. A one-mile radius (15,000+ people) of the City of Cudahy was to be evacuated. Similar to the Fire Department's MABAS system, the Police were able to summon Law Enforcement aid from local departments such as West Allis and UWM, but also from as far away as Pewaukee and Oconomowoc to go house-to-house and move citizens out of a potential danger zone. Evacuees were told to bring meds and pets. The final evacuation center was South Milwaukee High School (under 400 stayed there).

In the meantime, several Special Calls were made by Incident Command:

### **7:21am – MABAS Division 107 Structure Fire Box 14-01 – Special Call # 4**

Engines	Trucks	BLS / ALS	Special Equipment	Chiefs
				Milwaukee Car 9 (Special Ops)

### **8:00am – MABAS Division 107 Structure Fire Box 14-01 – Special Call # 5**

Engines	Trucks	BLS / ALS	Special Equipment	Chiefs
		South Shore Res 133 (ALS)		
		North Shore Med 85 (ALS)		

### **9:00am – MABAS Division 107 Structure Fire Box 14-01 – Special Call # 6**

Engines	Trucks	BLS / ALS	Special Equipment	Chiefs
				Greenfield DC 830

The fire began to escalate once again. With all five MABAS box levels used, it was no longer safe to continue to draw upon Division 107 (Milwaukee County) resources. Per MABAS procedures, **interdivisional requests** were next to be used (see bottom of the box card).

These are preplanned packages that another division puts together to assist the stricken division without compromising the fire protection in the outlying division. Units that respond gather at a mustering location before traveling together to the destination.

There are two types of responses:



**Strike Team:** a set number of resources of the same kind and type

**Task Force:** a combination of resources assembled to support a specific mission or operational need. A Fire Task Force would typically consist of 3 engines, 1 truck, 1 heavy squad or extrication engine, 3 ambulances, 1 chief.

**9:23am – MABAS Division 107 – Interdivisional Request # 1 for a Fire Task Force  
Responding: Division 102 (Racine County)**

Engines	Trucks	BLS / ALS	Squad	Chiefs
Rochester E825	City of Burlington TL924	Raymond Rescue 2 (BLS)	Union Grove Yorkville E322	South Shore Car 141
Tichigan E725		Waterford Resc 735 (ALS)		Union Grove Yorkville
Tn of Burlington E961				

This was followed by more special calls:

**10:25am – MABAS Division 107 Structure Fire Box 14-01 – Special Call # 7**

Engines	Trucks	BLS / ALS	Special Equipment	Chiefs
	Greenfield TL8			

**10:35am – MABAS Division 107 Structure Fire Box 14-01 – Special Call # 8**

Engines	Trucks	BLS / ALS	Special Equipment	Chiefs
			Menomonee Falls Utility 2789	
			Menomonee Falls Rehab Trailer 2741	

**11:00am – MABAS Division 107 Structure Fire Box 14-01 – Special Call # 9**

Engines	Trucks	BLS / ALS	Special Equipment	Chiefs
				Mequon 970

**11:20am – MABAS Division 107 Structure Fire Box 14-01 – Special Call # 10**

Engines	Trucks	BLS / ALS	Special Equipment	Chiefs
				Menomonee Falls 2701

**12:00pm – MABAS Division 107 Structure Fire Box 14-01 – Special Call # 11**

Engines	Trucks	BLS / ALS	Special Equipment	Chiefs
			New Berlin Utility 5	

**Fire Bell On-Scene Support – Monday July 6th**

On Monday, July 6<sup>th</sup>, member Bob Ristic came on scene at 9:30am. Members still on scene from 10pm the previous night gradually left the scene: Chuck at 11:30am, Dick at Noon, and Art at 12:30pm. Bill Mokros came on site at 1pm.

Gary continued to monitor from his job and coordinate coverage. When it appeared that it would be another overnigher; Bill volunteered to take that shift and left at 3pm. When fire-fighters began asking for soda, Gary consulted with Division 107 Chief Bill Rice and both agreed that it was contrary to MABAS Division 107 nutritional standards. Gary also called



Roundy's corporate headquarters to see if any nearby Pick N Save stores had any extra food that could be used to serve at the fire. Gary also spent time tracking down the whereabouts of his mother-in-law, who lived within the evacuation zone in Cudahy.

Art, Gary, and Terry returned to the scene at 5pm. Bob Ristic assisted Gary at picking up ice and sub sandwiches from Pick N Save at Layton & Pennsylvania where the store manager was a retired Captain from the Tess Corners Fire Department (he donated several coolers of ice). Bob then left for the day at 7:45pm.

Bill returned with his wife Vickie at 9pm to take the night shift. Ed Naczek also joined them. Art left at 10pm and Gary and Terry left by 10:30pm. At one point, pizzas were delivered unexpectedly while Bill was at McDonalds picking up a few hundred cheeseburgers. Fortunately, the pizzas went very fast, so no food was wasted / got spoiled. The Red Cross also continued to supply bottled water. Supplies were shared with the Racine Fire Bells who were setup a little closer to the fire on the west side while the ESU took care of the staging area. The Racine Fire Bells were also able to rotate crews (they had around a dozen members that helped throughout the incident).

### **Fire Tactics - Monday Afternoon – July 6<sup>th</sup>**

The fire continued to burn. Incident Command continued to work with Cudahy Emergency Management, Patrick Cudahy Management, and Wauwatosa Deputy Chief Bill Rice at MABAS Division 107 Dispatch Center to consider the next moves.

Keep in mind, for each agency sending in mutual aid, those communities had to back fill with personnel on overtime. And if any of those departments got calls in their own jurisdictions, they could be strapped for both personnel and equipment.



Chief Rice began working out long term interdivisional strategies with counties that never contemplated ever having to respond to Milwaukee County. And for some, they were just in the startup phases of MABAS – this would be their first use of the system.

### **12:15pm – MABAS Division 107 – Interdivisional Request # 2 for a Truck Strike Team Responding: Division 109 (City of Milwaukee)**

Engines	Trucks	BLS / ALS	Squad	Chiefs
	Milwaukee T6			Car 24
	Milwaukee T14			
	Milwaukee T17			



**2:20pm – MABAS Division 107 – Interdivisional Request # 3 for a Fire Task Force  
Responding: Division 101 (Kenosha County)**

Engines	Trucks	BLS / ALS	Squad	Chiefs
Pleasant Prairie E5613	Kenosha TL7		Bristol Sq. 5251	Somers
Salem E5815				Pleasant Prairie
Twin Lakes E6512				

**3:30pm – MABAS Division 107 Structure Fire Box 14-01 – Special Call # 12**

Engines	Trucks	BLS / ALS	Special Equipment	Chiefs
				Milwaukee Bn 4A

**4:00pm – MABAS Division 107 Structure Fire Box 14-01 – Special Call # 13**

Engines	Trucks	BLS / ALS	Special Equipment	Chiefs
				Hales Corners

**4:18pm – MABAS Division 107 Structure Fire Box 14-01 – Special Call # 14**

Engines	Trucks	BLS / ALS	Special Equipment	Chiefs
			Airport R6 Foam	Airport Rescue 2
			Airport R8 Crash Truck	



Later in the afternoon, the Milwaukee Fire Department's Haz Mat team was called back to the scene, this time to monitor runoff.

**4:36pm – MABAS Division 107 Structure Fire Box 14-01 – Special Call # 15**

Engines	Trucks	BLS / ALS	Special Equipment	Chiefs
			Milwaukee Haz Mat 1 (Level A)	
			Milwaukee Haz Mat 2	

**5:25pm – MABAS Division 107 – Interdivisional Request # 4 for a Fire Task Force Responding: Division 119 (Ozaukee County)**

Engines	Trucks	BLS / ALS	Squad	Chiefs
Thiensville E562	Mequon TL960		Saukville Res 356	Thiensville
Cedarburg E163	Port Washington TL460			Port Washington
Grafton E865				

**5:30pm – MABAS Division 107 Structure Fire Box 14-01 – Special Call # 16**

Engines	Trucks	BLS / ALS	Special Equipment	Chiefs
Franklin E1				

Throughout the day, there were mounting concerns about the water supply. Cudahy maintains its own water utility, and it could not keep up with the demand. Water from the Cities of Milwaukee and St. Francis Water Utilities supplemented the Cudahy system for a while. As a precaution, a Tender Strike Team (water tankers) was called to stage at the fire in case there was a sudden loss of water:

**7:25pm – MABAS Division 107 – Interdivisional Request # 5 for a Tender Strike Team Responding: Division 106 (Waukesha County)**

Tenders	Chiefs	Special Equipment
Tess Corners Tender 1491	City of Waukesha	Butler Light Unit 2386
Big Bend/Vernon Tender 1192	Elm Grove	
Wales/Genesee Tender 3792		
Town of Lisbon Tender 2695		
Town of Waukesha Tender 1691		
Elm Grove Tender 2492		

**7:30pm – MABAS Division 107 Structure Fire Box 14-01 – Special Call # 17**

Engines	Trucks	BLS / ALS	Special Equipment	Chiefs
		West Allis Med 100	Oak Creek Gator	Butler



By late evening, the citizens of Cudahy were able to return to their homes. The fire was still active, but considered “contained”. It appeared that the most important buildings of the plant were unscathed.

### **Fire Bell On-Scene Support – Tuesday July 7<sup>th</sup> during the day**

Chuck Liedtke arrived at 8:30am for a second stint after his initial 13 hours the day before. Bill and Vickie Mokros left at 9am after a 12 hour overnight shift. During the day, Ed Naczek returned.

### **Fire Attack – Tuesday July 7<sup>th</sup>**

#### **7:30am – MABAS Division 107 Structure Fire Box 14-01 – Special Call # 18**

Engines	Trucks	BLS / ALS	Special Equipment	Chiefs
Franklin E3				

#### **7:32am – MABAS Division 107 Structure Fire Box 14-01 – Special Call # 19**

Engines	Trucks	BLS / ALS	Special Equipment	Chiefs
	Oak Creek TL1			

Wauwatosa Deputy Chief Bill Rice of the Division 107 Dispatch Center continued to plan for another long day, getting very creative with Task Force formation. Being able to schedule out hours in advance was a big help to outlying divisions, many of which rely on volunteer or paid on-call firefighters. Equipment was being summoned from over 60 miles away in some cases, taking over 1 hour to arrive as Chief Rice used partial task forces from divisions close by for a second time interspersed with divisions from farther away that were not used yet. If things suddenly got out of hand, Chief Rice had MABAS Illinois Divisions, which were a little closer, alerted to the situation.

#### **10:30am – MABAS Division 107 – Interdivisional Request # 6 for a Fire Task Force Responding: Division 103 (Walworth County)**

Engines	Trucks	BLS / ALS	Squad	Chiefs
East Troy E1724	Elkhorn T2650		City of Delavan Sq. 2508 (Cmd Van 8)	Sharon
Sharon E4022				Lake Geneva
Bloomfield/Genoa City E3123				





**11:22am – MABAS Division 107 Structure Fire Box 14-01 – Special Call # 20**

Engines	Trucks	BLS / ALS	Special Equipment	Chiefs
			Airport R6 Foam	Airport Rescue 2
			Airport R8 Crash Truck	

**2:30pm – MABAS Division 107 – Interdivisional Request # 7 for a “Light” Task Force  
Responding: Division 118 (Jefferson County)**

Engines	Trucks	BLS / ALS	Squad	Chiefs
Lake Mills E32	Jefferson TL12		Helenville Sq. 4	Johnson Creek
Johnson Creek E22				Lake Mills

**2:50pm – MABAS Division 107 – Interdivisional Request # 8 for a “Light” Task Force  
Responding: Division 102 (Racine County)**

Engines	Trucks	BLS / ALS	Squad	Chiefs
Racine E1	Waterford T746			South Shore Car 144
Tichigan E725				Wind Lake

**Fire Bell On-Scene Support – Tuesday July 7<sup>th</sup> Late Afternoon/Evening**

Art Nunemaker was on scene on Tuesday through mid-afternoon. Bill and Vicki Mokros came back at 4pm, picking up dinners from Cash & Carry Catering on the way. Around this time, the Racine Fire Bells left due to lack of resources.

Bob Ristic came onsite at 5pm and Terry Schmidt arrived at 6pm. Nick Padway with son Ethan came to the scene at 6:30pm. Chuck Liedtke and Bob Ristic left at 7:30pm.

Gary Schmidt, who had to work late that night, continued to monitor the situation and was preparing to take the overnight shift, especially with another Task Force responding.

**8:00pm – MABAS Division 107 – Interdivisional Request # 9 for a Fire Task Force  
For Deployment: 9:00pm – 1:00am    Responding: Division 106 (Waukesha County)**

Engines	Trucks	BLS / ALS	Squad	Chiefs
Pewaukee E2863	Elm Grove TL2471		Pewaukee Sq. 2804	Elm Grove
Tn of Waukesha E1667	Tn of Brookfield TL2272			Tn of Waukesha
Lisbon E2661				Pewaukee

**8:19pm – MABAS Division 107 Structure Fire Box 14-01 – STRUCK OUT  
THIS CANCELLED THE PRECEDING TASK FORCE WHILE ENROUTE**

**The Milwaukee Fire Bell Club Leaves  
After Serving 47 Straight Hours**

Not since the Rieb's grain elevator fire (639 S. 29 St. Milwaukee) of November 11-13, 1971, had the Milwaukee Fire Bell Club been on scene for so many hours straight (at that fire, the Fire Bell was on scene 50 hours). What is remarkable is that two members that were at the Patrick Cudahy fire were also at the Rieb's fire: Dick Nailen and Art Nunemaker (Art spent 40 hours at the Rieb's fire). There are 6 other current members on the Club that were on the Club roster in 1971, but were not at both fires (R. Adlam, Bugenhagen, K. Franz, Holtzman, Merz, and Mokros).

At 9pm Tuesday evening, Terry Schmidt left the scene with excess bottled water to put back in the store room at E33. Nick & Ethan Padway also left at 9pm. Ed Naczek went on some final food runs to McDonald's before Bill & Vickie Mokros brought the ESU back to quarters by 10:30pm.

**Additional Task Forces Were Scheduled**

As noted earlier, Chief Bill Rice worked feverously with Cudahy Incident Command to contact other Divisions and plan for deployment to Cudahy in 4-Hour on-scene shifts. Of course, with drive times and equipment preparation, that easily turns into a 6+ hour assignment.

These task forces were set up and were going to respond had the box not been struck out:

**Wednesday July 8, 2009 1:00am – 5:00am (cancelled)  
MABAS Division 107 – Interdivisional Request # 10 for a Fire Task Force  
Responding: Division 111 (Washington County)**

Engines	Trucks	BLS / ALS	Squad	Chiefs
Richfield	West Bend		Germantown	Germantown
Jackson				West Bend
Hartford				Hartford

**Wednesday July 8, 2009 5:00am – 9:00am (cancelled)**

**MABAS Division 107 – Interdivisional Request # 11 for a Fire Task Force**

**Responding: Division 119 (Ozaukee County)**

Engines	Trucks	BLS / ALS	Squad	Chiefs
Cedarburg	Mequon TL960		Saukville	Thiensville
Thiensville	Port Washington TL460			Port Washington
Grafton				

### **Facts and Figures**

Patrick Cudahy, Inc., meatpacking plant

1 Sweet Applewood Lane, Cudahy, WI 53110-1635

- Fire Buildings C, D, E, & F
- Large 4-story brick mill-constructed building (Warehouse, boiled ham & microwave bacon processing lines, and locker rooms). 270,000 sq. ft. destroyed.
- Heavy fire in the cockloft (above the sprinkler line) and through the roof.
- Severe exposure, access, water, & haz-mat (immediate threat to a 186 pound tank of anhydrous ammonia in Buildings G/H) problems due to the size and age of the complex.
- 33 million gallons of water used.
- 1 mile square evacuation of 387 residents (due to concern of contaminants in the smoke).
- \$50 million dollars in damage (estimate).
- Largest structure fire in the history of the State of Wisconsin.
- 64 Fire Departments involved
- Approximately 69 pieces of Heavy Equipment (Engines, Trucks) Responded
- Over 400 Fire Service Personnel Responded

### **Milwaukee Fire Bell Club Serving Totals:**

18	Gallons of Coffee	360	Donuts
10	Gallons of Cocoa	48	Hot Pretzels
23	Gallons of Gatorade	615	Sandwiches
5	Gallons of Water	24	Bags of Potato Chips
8	Liter Bottles of Soda	150	Brats / Sausages
1,300	Bottles of Water	6	Pizzas
75	Bags of Ice	2	Pair of Socks
221	Nutri-Grain Bars		
659	Hamburgers		
75	Chicken Dinners		
6	Gallons of Beef Stew		
6	Gallons of Ravioli		
5	Gallons of Tomato Soup		

**Racine Fire Bell Club Serving Totals (also served portions listed above):**

576	Bottles of Gatorade (RFB)
132	Cans of Soda
224	Bottles of Water
24	Pizzas
21	Boxes of Various Snacks and Cakes

**Saturday July 11<sup>th</sup>**

Cudahy Fire Crews remained on scene through Friday July 10<sup>th</sup> before turning the scene over to Patrick Cudahy Security. Then on Saturday July 11<sup>th</sup>, a sunny, hot, and humid day, there was a structure collapse within the ruins that started cardboard and similar material on fire buried deep beneath the rubble. Around 10:30am, Cudahy Fire Department got the call and responded with a still alarm assignment of E1463 and T1474.

**10:42am – Special Call for a full first alarm assignment  
 Patrick Cudahy Plant – One Sweet Applewood Lane**

Engines	Trucks	BLS / ALS	Special Equipment	Chiefs
Cudahy E1461	South Milw T1	Cudahy 1487	Cudahy Cmd Post	Cudahy Chief
Cudahy E1462		Cudahy 1488		St. Francis Chief
St. Francis E1				South Milw Chief
Oak Creek E4				Oak Creek Chief

**12:10pm – MABAS Division 107 Structure Fire Box 14-01 – Alarm Level: BOX  
 Staging Location: East Layton Avenue and Sweet Applewood Lane to west parking lot**

Engines	Trucks	Special Equipment	Chiefs	Change of Quarters
Greenfield E1	Franklin TL2	Wauwatosa Resc 33	Wauwatosa	Hales Corners E601 to St 1
Greendale E402		Wauwatosa T1 (RIT)	Greenfield	West Allis E3 to Station 2
		Milw Fire Bell ESU1	Greendale	
		Oak Creek Cmd Post	Franklin	

**12:18pm – MABAS Division 107 Structure Fire Box 14-01 – Special Call # 1**

Engines	Trucks	BLS / ALS	Special Equipment	Chiefs
	Greenfield TL8			

**12:40pm – MABAS Division 107 Structure Fire Box 14-01 – Alarm Level: 2nd**

Engines	Trucks	Special Equipment	Chiefs	Change of Quarters
West Allis E3	North Shore T3		North Shore	South Shore Res 132 - St 1
Hales Corners E601				City of Brookfield TL2171 to Station 2

**12:52pm – MABAS Division 107 Structure Fire Box 14-01 – Alarm Level: 3rd**

Engines	Trucks	Spec Equip	Chiefs	Change of Quarters
South Shore E123	City of Brookfield TL2171		Hales Crnrs	North Shore E2 - St 1
Caledonia E221				West Allis T2 to Sta 2

**1:29pm – MABAS Division 107 Structure Fire Box 14-01 – Special Call # 2**

Engines	Trucks	BLS / ALS	Special Equipment	Chiefs
		Greenfield Med 9		

**1:58pm – MABAS Division 107 Structure Fire Box 14-01 – STRUCK OUT****Milwaukee Fire Bell Club Response**

Gary Schmidt, Terry Schmidt, and Ed Naczek responded to the quarters of Milwaukee Engine Company 33 to begin loading up the Emergency Support Unit (ESU). Given the circumstances (hot weather, escalating conditions), besides the normal 35 gallons of fresh water, 60 bottles of cold water, and 6 bags of ice in 4 coolers, and additional cooler of 20 bottles of water and a cooler of 3 bags of ice were loaded, along with a third rehab tent. With seven damaged chairs still on board the ESU from the original event, the ESU stopped enroute at the residence of Gary and Terry to pick up 20 additional chairs.

Upon arriving at the scene, Command ordered us to set up in the north parking lot and set up our misting fans. A County bus followed us and eventually Greenfield Med 9 joined us. We setup the 3 rehab tents parallel to the ESU, attaching them to each other with bungee cords for stability.

A while into the incident, a gust of wind picked up the end tent and lifted it upside down onto the center tent. The framework of that tent was damaged beyond repair (8 trusses were completely cracked). The middle tent also suffered damage (4 trusses were severely stressed). A week later, Terry and Gary were able to salvage 4 good trusses from the worst tent and used them to replace the bad trusses of the middle tent. Since then, we have devised a method of using extra long bungee cords (48”) and will secure the frame to the cooler handles.

While the box was struck out around 2pm, that only meant that there was no expectation of further escalation and Division 107 departments could reset their IFERN alerting receivers. Companies continued working for several hours. The ESU returned to quarters around 5pm.

Served were 73 bottles of water, 112 Nutri-Grain bars, 12 donuts (donated by a Patrick Cudahy employee) and used were 5 bags of ice.

It should be noted that the previous evening, the ESU responded to a 3<sup>rd</sup> alarm fire at a 14 story elderly high rise on Milwaukee’s east side and then 3 days later, on July 14<sup>th</sup>, the ESU responded to a 4<sup>th</sup> alarm fire in a 12 unit apartment building on Milwaukee’s far northwest side in the middle of the night.

So beginning with July 4<sup>th</sup>, the ESU was staffed on 7 days out of an 11 day period.

**To view all of the pictures taken by Racine Fire Bell member Tim Stein and Milwaukee Fire Bell Club member, Chick Liedtke, visit: <http://www.mabaswisconsin.org>**

### Brothers charged in Patrick Cudahy fire

Two brothers who police say launched a military flare that burned the Patrick Cudahy meat plant this month were charged Thursday with second-degree recklessly endangering safety and were released on \$25,000 signature bonds.

The charge is punishable by up to 10 years in prison, according to a criminal complaint.

Joshua Popp, 23, of Twentynine Palms, Calif., and Kurtis J. Popp, 25, of Milwaukee appeared before Milwaukee County Court Commissioner Grace Flynn. Joshua Popp voluntarily returned to Milwaukee from his California home to face the charge. After the hearing, he was handcuffed and walked by Milwaukee County sheriff's deputies to be booked.



**Estimated Path of alleged military flare that caused the fire**



# ***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





## ***FIRE ASSOCIATES OF SANTA CLARA VALLEY***

**November 5<sup>th</sup> will mark the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of 'Fire Associates' formation.** In the evening of the first Thursday in November, 1969, a group of 13 men met at San Jose F. D. Sta. 2 at 5<sup>th</sup> and Julian, as the formative group of Fire Associates. Also present were the late San Jose F.D. Batt. Chiefs Tony Sapena and Leonard Marks, who carried the ball in getting SJFD to authorize the group's formation. Five of the 13 charter members remain as either active or associate members: Bob Gundrum, current vice president; Fred Oehm, charter president; and Len Williams, Newsletter editor, are active members; Ed Ryan and Don Tustin are Associate Members.

A formal commemoration of the event will be held simultaneously with Fire Associates'

annual holiday party and officer installation, at the Santa Clara Historic R/R station, on December 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Our membership remains strong at around 34 members, where it has remained for many years. The vacancies created by people passing on to the next world have been filled by a good corps of new members.

We've had 59 responses so far this year, as of 10/18/09. At the end of October last year we'd had 75. These fluctuations are normal.

We have three Fire Support Units (i.e. can-tees). For pictures of our group in action with them, as well as pictures of our newest Fire Support Unit, FSU #2, please visit our blog: <http://fascv.blogspot.com>.



Group picture of Fire Associates of Santa Clara Valley taken this past summer at Station 17 of the Santa Clara County Fire Department, located in Saratoga, CA. Club founder and former IFBA Secretary Len Williams is shown front row, second from left.

# **Region 8**

Box 8 Club of St. Louis, Inc.

Box 55 Assoc.

Indianapolis Fire Buffs



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

By Jerry Traub

2009 proved to be a busy year for the Indianapolis Fire Buffs. Membership has increased, with several Active and Associates joining recently.

Several members assisted with hosting SPAAMFAA's national convention west of the city at Wayne Township training center and other local venues. IFB antique apparatus were displayed.

Historically speaking, work continues on the IFD 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary yearbook. Editors are

using pictures, slides and printed materials from club archives to develop content. Current department information, stations and apparatus photos are available at [www.indy.gov/eGov/City/DPS/IFD](http://www.indy.gov/eGov/City/DPS/IFD)

Ed McMichael, Mark Burke and Jim Williamson attended IFBA Capital Blazes '09, Washington, D C. Jim was sworn in as Region 8 Vice-President. He replaced Ron Huff, who began his term as IFBA president. They accepted a Certificate of Appreciation given at the closing banquet to *TURN OUT* staff for valuable contributions to IFBA members.

Our club was invited to donate artifacts for a time capsule that was provided at Crown Hill



Down the alley ... and through the trees, IFD Tiller 7 used every trick to get water on this two-alarm double-residence fire in Woodruff Place. (Photo by Tod Parker, [www.PhotoTac.com](http://www.PhotoTac.com))



cemetery during Indianapolis Fire Department's 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary activities. Our X-Bloomington, IN Ford pumper, RSU 1 and RSU 3, along with The Salvation Army's emergency canteen, participated in the anniversary parade through downtown Indianapolis on September 12. Mechanical issues kept our 1927 ALF Water tower from its much anticipated ride in this event. We'll have her ready for the 175<sup>th</sup>!

Maintenance is a continuing task at our (IFD) Reserve Station 12. Painting, plumbing, concrete and brick repair, and wall reinforcement have kept volunteers busy during weekend work parties.

Dennis Chambers has handled our Dispatch Notification digital pager network. To keep up with technology, pagers are being returned and alerts will now be text messages to cell phones. Subscriber cost has been significantly reduced. Also, the tracking of lost units and late user payments will no longer be a financial drain on the club.

Rehab support units continue to serve local public safety. Run count is slightly less during 2009. However, Urban Search & Rescue

and Dive Team responses are up. Special calls have included services to law enforcement and EMS at such activities as 500 Mile race festivities, Indiana Black Expo, Brickyard 400 NASCAR events and IFD 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary parade. Daytime workweek coverage continues to be a challenge.

Our liability insurance coverage was expanded this year to include a Workers Compensation policy. No salaries are paid, but the city's requirements to complete our "personal services contract" led to this solution. A two-year deal will provide funding for our insurance and mechanical repair bills.

The annual Hawaii trip fundraiser raffle was a success. We netted our largest income in our 31 year history of this event. Thirteen lucky fire department active and retired personnel split the \$3,550 pot. Trip winner Steve Combs of IFD #18A and his shift were grateful hosts for a steak dinner at his station.

Election of officers for 2010 terms:  
President: Mark Burke; Vice-President: Jim Williamson; Secretary: Dennis Huff; Treasurer Paul McMichael will complete the 2<sup>nd</sup> year of his term.



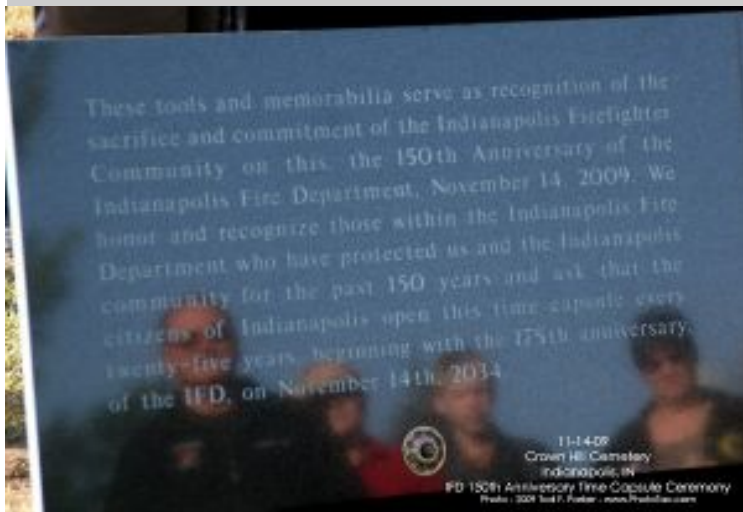
IFB's antique ex-Bloomington, IN Ford engine and the Salvation Army Canteen in line as the 150th Anniversary Parade approaches the reviewing stand. (Photo by Tod Parker)



Tactical 7 and Squad 13 use “Jaws” to extricate pinned driver at a two vehicle collision at a downtown Indianapolis intersection. (Photo by Brett Jackson)



IFD and US Army personnel unveil a plaque dedicated to IFD Captain Gary Henry, who was killed in action while serving in Iraq. The dedication occurred during the annual “Reading of the Names,” held this year on October 1. (Photo by Brett Jackson)



Engraved cover plate for time capsule crypt at Crown Hill Cemetery. Fire Buff items were included. (Photo by Tod Parker)

downtown and friendly folks in the area fire departments guarantee a great time for Buffs and their families.

It should be noted that the photographs included in our Spring 2009 article for the downtown building fire included the work of Brett Jackson.

Indianapolis will be hosting the Fire Department Instructors Conference April 18-24. IFB will be supplying rehab support at HOTS training sites and display apparatus staging areas.

See you all in Nashville for the 2010 convention. Grand Old Opry, General Jackson showboat, Jack Daniels trip, nice



IFD Urban and Rescue Teams prepare to bring an injured runaway victim out of a creek bed. Tactical 7 also responded as a rope rescue team since this involved a lift of approximately 12 feet up a sheer stone wall. (Photo by Brett Jackson)

# 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

### GETTING YOUR MONEY'S WORTH!

Since 1991, the Gong Club has funded its operations primarily through a voluntary payroll deduction by Jersey City fire fighters. Participation has been 100% and since its inception, the requested contribution was \$1.00 per pay period. As we all can appreciate, costs have risen since 1991, necessitating the Club to re-examine the program. After conferring with Fire Director Armando Roman and Chief of Dept. Michael

O'Reilly, permission was granted to solicit an increase in the deduction to \$3.00; the first increase in 18 years!

A schedule was prepared, new deduction authorization cards were printed, a power point presentation was produced and on July 11, 2009, meetings with each on duty group commenced by battalion. Not once did the Club have to show the power point presentation. Every group in every battalion simply signed the cards without hesitation, with a

number of fire fighters opting to increase their contribution to \$5.00 per pay. It is indeed gratifying to see such a testament to the value placed by the troops on our services.

Group D, the first platoon to receive the sales

pitch, wasted no time in cashing in on their investment! Barely 3 hours after the first day's campaign was completed, the F. D. J. C. fought their first 3<sup>rd</sup> Alarm of the year. Box 694 was transmitted at 1813 hours for a fire at 99 Clifton Place. The location was practically the geographic center of the city, opposite the south end of the former Jersey City Medi-



3-3 694 Jersey City 7/11/09 99 Clifton Pl.

Despite a huge volume of fire showing on arrival, as evidenced by the charred brickwork, Jersey City Fire Fighters nipped a disaster in the bud with a quick knockdown! (Charles Choffey Photo)

cal Center complex, now being redeveloped as "The Beacon", luxury condominium apartment houses. Eng. Co. 9 arrived to find fire showing from an occupied 4 story brick apartment building. As the first handline advanced into the building, fire autoexposed out the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor into the upper floors. A live power line burned and dropped across the charged inch and ¾ line, halting forward progress of the first line. Capt. David Barbossa, Ladder Co. 12 ordered the 2<sup>nd</sup> Alarm, soon followed by Batt. 4, Batt. Chief Timothy



**2-2 929 Jersey City 7/11/09 522 Garfield Ave.**

View from the serving window of Car 26 of “customers” taking a break after battling their second multiple alarm fire of the tour. (Jack Cole Photo)

sions that had been converted into multi-unit dwellings over the years. Tower Ladder 4, using a spare 1995 Spartan Baker 95’ tower, set up their bucket and darkened down the fire in both buildings. Handlines then moved in and after extensive overhauling, fire was controlled in both structures. Car 26 operated at several hours at this fire before heading out to make the payroll deduction presentation to Group A.

Still trying to recoup their increased investment, Group D’s next tour proved to be just as eventful. At

Foy, striking a 3<sup>rd</sup> Alarm.

Despite fire rapidly engulfing the front façade of the building, the flames were quickly knocked down and lines were stretched to each floor to check extension into the upper floors. Car 26, the Gong Club canteen, turned out with a heavy crew, as members were about to enjoy the regular Saturday night meal whipped up by Gong Club Chef Bob Bozewski.

But, Group D’s tour was not complete, nor was fire duty! At 0550 hours on Sunday, July 12, 2009, Box 929 was struck for 522 Garfield Ave. Eng. Co. 13, operating at a still alarm several blocks to the south reported smoke in the area of that box. Eng. Co. 22, Capt. James Farrell, called off with a large 2.5 story duplex frame dwelling with fire showing. “Fire extending into the exposure; transmit a 2<sup>nd</sup> Alarm” was Capt. Farrell’s next message. Both buildings were older “Queen Anne” type Victorian man-

0150 hours, in the wee hours of Thursday, July 16, 2009, Box 683 was transmitted for a gas leak at the still under construction Public Safety Communications Center at Cornelison Ave. & Bishop St. As companies were investigating a diesel fuel leak at that location, Box 551 was struck for 614 Montgomery St., located across the street from the north side of the aforementioned Jersey City Medical Center. Several companies normally assigned to that box were operating at the Bishop St. location. Although some units were released from the first box to respond to Box 551, Eng. Co. 15 was now first due and reported fire showing from a 2.5 story frame dwelling. Fire leapt out the first floor windows, up the alley with the adjacent exposure and into the next building. Somehow, the fire bypassed the second floor of the original fire building and extended into the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor and attic. Deputy Chief Thomas Kearney ordered the 2<sup>nd</sup> Alarm, once again turning out Car 26. One occupant was rescued from the

original fire building and one fire fighter sustained injury before this fire was declared under control.

### **REGION 9 CLUBS MOBILIZE FOR TRAGIC POLICE INCIDENT**

Car 26 picked up and members had just returned to their homes when the next run occurred. Shortly after returning to quarters, Batt. 4 and Eng. Co. 9 heard gunfire and a hoard of police units descend upon their neighborhood. Batt. 4, Batt. Chief Kenneth Drennan, reported that a large scale police action was in progress in their neighborhood with reports of a police officer down. Batt. 4 and Eng. Co. 9 would not be able to turn out and would be operating to assist the police and EMS. The incident turned out to be a shoot out at 24 Reed St. with two suspects who had been the target of a manhunt following an armed robbery and attempted murder on June 18, 2009 on Broadway in Jersey City.

At 0630 hours, Capt. Peter Nowak of Eng. Co. 9 requested Car 26 to respond to their quarters with instructions to approach against traffic on Duncan Ave. This response would be the beginning of a series of operations requiring the resources of the four IFBA clubs in Northern New Jersey through their mutual aid pact.

Car 26 arrived at Box 512 as ordered on Duncan Ave., positioned in the midst of police vehicles from not only Jersey City, but the Port Authority, New Jersey State Police, FBI and other federal agencies. After the suspects had shot one police officer on the street, they holed up in an apartment in the 4 story brick building at 24 Reed St. Jersey City and Port Authority Emergency Service Units stormed the apartment, killing both suspects, but four more officers were wounded in the gun bat-

tle, two of them critically.

As the morning wore on, a large contingent and police gathered at the new Jersey City Medical Center on Grand St. At 0930 hours, a request was made for Car 26 to respond to that location. However, as the Gong Club continued to operate at the quarters of Eng. Co. 9, mutual aid was requested from the Bayonne Fire Canteen. Club member Bill Ladell prepared additional supplies at quarters and responded to the Medical Center to meet Bayonne. Car 26 was eventually released from Box 512 at 1120 hours and then responded to the Medical Center.

After conferring with the Office of Emergency Management, it was decided to conclude the operation at the Medical Center and maintain a canteen at Reed St. as the investigation continued. The Bayonne Fire Canteen offered to take that assignment to allow Car 26 to restock. Car 26 then returned to Reed St. at 1800 hours where both units worked until the operation was concluded at 2130 hours.

Sadly, Police Officer Marc DiNardo died of his injuries on July 21, 2009. The Jersey City Police Department requested assistance with the funeral detail, set for Friday, July 24, 2009. Several thousand police officers were expected at the wake and funeral, so the Gong Club immediately requested assistance from its IFBA neighbors. On Thursday, July 24, 2009, Car 26 and the Bayonne Fire Canteen operated at the McLaughlin Funeral Home, 625 Pavonia Ave. for nearly 8 hours during the wake. The following day, those units, along with the Bell & Siren Club reported for the funeral detail. The Box 54 Club stood by in reserve to respond to any fire incidents throughout Bergen, Essex and Hudson Counties during the funeral.





**Jersey City 7/24/09 625 Pavonia Ave.**  
IFBA Resource Chairman Ira Cohen (l) and Region 9 Vice President Marc Wallace (r) discuss logistics for canteen operations at the Funeral of Jersey City Police Officer Marc DiNardo (Conni Spellman Photo)



**Jersey City 7/24/09 800 Bergen Ave.**  
Gong Club members hard at work preparing for the onslaught of police officers attending the Funeral of Police Officer Marc DiNardo (Conni Spellman Photo)

With the volume of police officers attending the funeral, it was necessary to split into several locations to provide complete coverage. Gong Club Chief and Region 9 Vice President Marc Wallace coordinated with Jersey City OEM and then assigned canteen resources to the funeral home and other staging areas as needed. Jersey City OEM also coordinated canteens from the New Jersey State PBA and the Salvation Army to other staging points. All canteens then relocated to the area of St. Aedan's Church, 800 Bergen Ave., to serve over 6,000 police officers, fire fighters and other mourners. The Gong Club deployed its newly acquired tent, using it at Bergen & Highland Avenues to shelter several coolers of bottled water from the midday sun. The tent proved to be a vital acquisition, as the high heat took a toll on the assembled officers, with at least 6 collapsing while standing at attention. Some heat stricken officers were brought directly to the tent for aid. The Bayonne Fire Canteen handled several such problems also at their location, Bergen and Glenwood Avenues. With major streets shut

down for the procession, Eng. Co. 15 responded on foot from Kennedy Blvd. to provide assistance until EMS personnel were able to wade through the crowd. The cooperation of the 4 clubs was splendid, again proving the value of our mutual aid agreement and membership in the IFBA. The Gong Club extends a sincere thanks to the Bayonne Fire Canteen, Bell & Siren Club and Box 54 Club.

The Gong Club also extends its deepest condolences to the family of Police Officer Marc DiNardo, who was posthumously promoted to Detective, as well as to the entire Jersey City Police Department.

### **NINE PERISH IN HUDSON RIVER CRASH REPLAY**

Saturday, August 8, 2009 was a beautiful summer day in our area with nary a cloud in the sky. Shortly before Noon, however the skies above the Hudson River became fraught with danger. Despite the restrictions in air space usage, particularly after Sept. 11, 2001, the skies below 1,000 feet are relatively open



**Hoboken 8/8/09 401 Sinatra Dr.**

Marine Co. 1 of the F. D. N. Y., F. D. J. C., Hoboken and North Hudson departments all operating at the mid-air collision in the Hudson River (Adolf Paasburg Photo)

the U. S. Coast Guard. On the New Jersey side, marine units from Hoboken, Jersey City and North Hudson responded as well. Car 26, the Gong Club canteen, was also dispatched and operated at 4<sup>th</sup> St. and Sinatra Drive in Hoboken, deploying coolers of bottled water to 2 piers used as staging areas by the various agencies on the scene. First responding units were soon joined by a host of other agencies including the Port Authority of NY and NJ, New Jersey State Police, the FAA and the NTSB. New Jersey Governor Jon

to general aviation. Despite unlimited visibility, a single engine plane with 3 persons aboard collided with a sightseeing helicopter above mid river, just north of Pier C in Hoboken. The plane had departed from Teterboro Airport, which is adjacent to the Hasbrouck Heights Hilton, the site of the 2011 IFBA Convention. The helicopter, operated by Liberty Helicopters, had left their base on W. 30<sup>th</sup> St. & 12<sup>th</sup> Ave., Manhattan, carrying a pilot and five tourists visiting from Italy. Both aircraft plummeted into the Hudson River upon impact, with thousands of people enjoying the noon sun witnessing the accident.

Phone lines at departments on both sides of the river lit up instantly. Within seconds of each other, Hoboken dispatched an assignment, Manhattan transmitted Box 501 and Jersey City transmitted Box 272 for a helicopter down. Much like the miraculous emergency landing of U. S. Airways Flight 1549 in nearly the same spot on January 15, 2009, F. D. N. Y. Marine Co. 1 was underway immediately, along with a flotilla of NY Waterway ferries, NYPD Harbor Patrol Units and

Corzine, a Hoboken resident himself, responded to the site with his State Police entourage, stopping briefly by Car 26. Alas, the miracle of the Hudson that occurred in January was not to be replayed in August. All souls aboard both aircraft perished in the collision.

## 2011 CONVENTION PROGRESS

As noted above, the 2011 IFBA Convention site, The Hasbrouck Heights Hilton, is only a short distance from Teterboro Airport. This will prove ideal for any IFBA members planning to travel to the convention in their private jets!

The Convention Committee has met at the hotel in late September following a great Convention hosted by Friendship Fire Assn. in Washington, D. C. Some "lessons learned" from the D. C. experience were discussed with the hotel staff, who have been very accommodating to our ideas.

We are now working on various activities both on and off site to make your visit to New Jersey memorable and enjoyable. Keep

September 6 -10, 2011 circled on your calendar!



**Jersey City Ladder Co. 11 – 2008 Spartan Crimson 103'**

The F. D. J. C. acquired a demonstrator from a well known supplier of Chicago pumpers, with a paint scheme familiar to the Windy City! It is unknown if this will be standard for future rigs, but North Hudson and Hoboken apparatus also echo the CFD! (Ron Jeffers Photo)



## PHILADELPHIA SECOND ALARMERS

2900 Roberts Ave - Philadelphia, Pa. 19129

Phone Number (215) 223-1936 - Fax (215) 223-5753

This year the 2<sup>nd</sup> Alarmers celebrated a very special birthday party for two of our own members. George White & Joseph Farley both had the dubious honor of completing 60 years of active service with the association. Both members as of today are still active and can vividly recall about the "BIG ONES" back in the days. Both were recognized for this achievement with a special 60 year service pin, Photo yearbook depicting their 60 years of service, and the Fraternal Order Of Police presented each with a gold watch for their years of service.



SA MEMBERS WITH GEORGE & JOE





The PFD purchased four 2008 KME pumpers. They are assigned to E-2, 7, 25, 50.



PFD purchased two 2008 KME Ladder Towers. They have been designated Ladder Tower 5 & 22.

## NEW DELIVERIES FOR THE PHILADELPHIA FIRE DEPT



This truck MC-1 is a 2009 International POD. It is one of five planned mass-casualty responders. It was built with grant money from FEMA. It is currently housed at E-16 station in West Philadelphia.



2008 International dry powder chemical truck. It carries 25 - 30lb portable extinguishers of Lith-X, Met-L-X and Ansul powder as well as an on-board Purple K tank.

# 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

Once again the city of Atlanta made headlines within the fire service circles this summer with the announcement that Fire Chief Kelvin Cochran had been appointed and confirmed as the new head of the U.S. Fire Administration. Chief Cochran came to the Atlanta Fire Department from the same post in Shreveport, Louisiana in November of 2007 (Cochran was replacing Dennis Rubin who left for the top post with the Washington, D.C. Fire Department). Twenty one year veteran and former Assistant Chief Joel Baker has been appointed interim Fire Chief by out-going mayor Shirley Franklin. In 2008 Baker volunteered to take a demotion to Section Chief so money could be diverted to save other jobs.

Speaking of Atlanta Fire Department budget problems, on June 30 Engine 23 and Truck 12 were placed back in service as the new budget year got underway. However brownouts (companies being placed out of service for 24 hours) are still taking place when enough personnel are not available on a given shift. In June the anticipated report came back from ISO advising that the city would drop from a Class 2 to a Class 4 department based on current conditions. The city has nine months to make changes to retain their Class 2 rating. You may have noticed that there is no ScanAmerican site for the Atlanta Fire Department at present. In June the city moved to a new digital system and joined several other area departments with digital systems (other departments include DeKalb County, Gwinnett County, Rockdale County, and Walton County). When the analog system was turned off on

June 23 there was no digital station altering system in place, so station watches had to be set up, just like in the old days. And if you were at a station with only 3 firefighters assigned, that meant you had some pretty long watches during the night.

Atlanta's big incident of the summer occurred around lunchtime on June 29 when a partial collapse took out a portion of the 4<sup>th</sup> Floor Synergy Parking Garage near the intersection of Ambercrombie and Spring Street. All searches eventually turned up negative but a call went out through the GMAG mutual aid system for an additional 5 engines, 3 truck companies, and 2 battalion chiefs due to the duration of the incident. The MFA was not needed as a nearby restaurant provided food and drink to firefighters. One MFA member commented the servers were probably better looking as well..... Atlanta Firefighter Wille Surry – a 29 year veteran of the department currently assigned to Engine 31 in far southwest Atlanta – is recovering from serious injuries sustained while operating at an incident on Interstate 285 near Langford Parkway. Totally unrelated to the incident they were on, a tire/wheel came off a passing tractor trailer and struck Firefighter Surry..... And also this summer, Miles Butler, the embattled director of Atlanta's 911 Center was fired by the Atlanta police chief. During Butler's 19-month tenure there were at least two separate incidents in which fire units were delayed by up to 20 minutes due to calls being mishandled in the 911 center. In the fall issue of Turn Out we reported that the Fulton County 911 Center was experiencing similar problems. In the case of Atlanta's 911 problems, one report also cites the 911 database being used by the city as

contributing to the problem..... And if a you're a firefighter in Atlanta discouraged by the numerous budget woes, there is occasionally a bright side to the job. Residents in the far north Atlanta neighborhood protected by Engine 27 felt so sorry for the fireman working at old station that they raised \$223,519 for a complete makeover of the station.

Atlanta was not the only area department with a new fire chief. In July it was announced that College Park fire chief Cedric Scott was leaving to take the top post at neighboring Rockdale County..... Sometimes, fire chief announcements are rather straight forward and other times they are not. In August, Carroll County announce that Carrolton Fire Department Lt. Tracy Smith had been appointed the new fire chief. The reason a new chief was needed stemmed from the fact previous fire chief Gary Thomas, along with E911 Director Debra Lanier were fired in April by Commission Chairperson Chappell in an attempt to combine the city and county fire departments. In the end, Chairperson Chappell's plan was rejected by the board and the county department remained separate, but found itself without a fire chief.

Coweta County, the fast growing suburb to

the southwest of Atlanta, is tripling its aerial fleet overnight. The county's lone 100 ladder truck is being replaced by three 70 foot elevating platforms. The department has 15 stations divided into three battalions, and one

platform will be situated in each battalion. Also on order are three new engine/tankers and one new engine.

There were several noteworthy fires over the past several months that involved mutual aid. On the afternoon of April 17 the south Fulton County sky was filled with



This apartment fire from a while back is pretty typical of the many garden apartment blazes in the metro Atlanta area, especially in DeKalb County. Photographer Greg Simpson captured this north DeKalb image at the West Gate Manor Apartment complex at 5030 West Mountain Street in the Stone Mountain area. There were no hydrants inside the complex and long relays were necessary for the mainly defensive operation. The dewpoint at the time of the fire was 4 with a temperature of 37.

smoke from a working fire in the A to Z Salvage Yard on Gullett Road. An extra air unit was special called from Fayette County due to smoke laying close to the ground forcing firefighters to go through a large number of air bottles. Master streams included at least one ladder pipe and one deluge gun.....Last year we reported on the closing of two East Point stations due to economic conditions. Those companies would have come in handy for a fire in a two story garden apartment at 1994 Woodberry Avenue on May 4. Units went defensive early with EPFD Tower 3. Mutual aid was provided by Fulton County, College Park and Atlanta.....One of the few MFA canteen runs came on May 18 at a large 3 story apartment building fire on Cimarron Parkway in Sandy

Spring. The early morning fire led to a partial collapse at the rear of the building with 24 units destroyed and at least 100 firefighters on scene.....The city of College Park, which borders Hartsfield Airport on Atlanta's south side, only has two stations so it wasn't much of surprise when the fire

department asked for GMAG mutual aid assistance for an apartment fire on July 24 off Camp Creek Parkway. Forest Park, Fairburn, and Riverdale each sent an engine to assist the CPFD units on scene. Atlanta and Fulton County units were already assisting.



July 5, 2009: The Patrick Cudahy Plant Fire was the most costly fire in the history of Wisconsin. The incident required resources from across Southeast Wisconsin to contain and extinguish the blaze. Over 18 million gallons of water was used. (All photos by Chuck Liedtke, Milwaukee Fire Bells)







Units work to contain the fire ... only to have it flare up again.



IFBA Executive Vice President Bill Mokros, with his wife Vickie and other Milwaukee Fire Bells serve hungry firefighters at the Patrick Cudahy extended fire.



The smile says it all. Another satisfied "customer" appreciates the efforts of a local Fire Buff organization.



**EDITOR'S NOTE:** Somehow, in this age of modern technology, “things” happen. In this case, an article submitted by Box 15 Club in Region 4 was properly received and acknowledged, downloaded, then disappeared! We have no rational explanation, so we'll blame in on gremlins and ghosts, or maybe the production editor.

Our sincerest apologies to Box 15 Club. Please enjoy their submission.

-editor

# Box 15 Club

P.O. Box 82510 Columbus, Ohio 43202-0510

Box 15 rehab operations finished the 2008 year by responding to a total of 53 incidents. This included 23 second alarm fires, 2 three alarm fires, 12 self initiated responses to working incidents in extreme heat or cold, 12 special calls, 10 training drills, 3 Haz-Mat / Bomb runs, 1 Alert 3 (Air Crash) and 4 Civic Activities. This provided a total head count of over 3000 members of the Central Ohio Public Safety forces assisted. April 2008 was our “slowest” month with a single response, while August 2008 was our “busiest” month with 8. Over the past year, we continued to be used more & more by all area departments and not just a Columbus Fire resource. It was also a year that our active membership ranks continued to grow.

next county. This was Mutual Aid at its finest!

It all started at about 4:30 PM, on Thursday, January 29 when an automatic alarm was received at Licking County 911 Center, for a possible fire in a warehouse located at 190 Arrowhead Drive near Hebron, Ohio. First arriving companies found heavy smoke conditions, but no visible fire. The large concrete tilt-wall structure was leased to store and distribute insulation that is manufactured about 10 miles away. One possible cause was that the fire may have started during the manufacturing process and went undetected as the insulation was wrapped and packaged. With thousands of rolls of insulation stacked in the warehouse, the fire continued to

## Holy Smoke!

By Box 15 President Brett Barber

Here's the situation – a 300,000 sq. ft. warehouse is heavily charged with smoke and your job is to clear it out. Positive Pressure Ventilation – right? Or – how many PPV units would it take to remove more than 6 million cubic feet of smoke?

In this case, borrow only one from a fire department in the



smolder until it had gained considerable headway. No one was working in the warehouse, so the fire went undetected, until the building's alarm system was activated. Due to the size of the facility, a second alarm was requested. Fire crews from



Heath Fire, Millersport, West Licking Joint Fire District, Granville Township and Licking Township Fire Co. were summoned to the scene. Buckeye Lake and Newark fire departments also were summoned. The Hebron Street Department also assisted with a backhoe to distribute tons of smoldering insulation across the parking lot, so fire crews could soak it.

During the labor-intensive and drawn-out process, the need to ventilate the structure became a priority.

Three days prior to the fire, at a meeting of the Fire Chief's Association of Central Ohio, Madison Township (Franklin County) Fire Chief Cliff Mason announced that his department had just received two large PPV units, designed for this exact purpose. Madison Twp is a major warehousing and distribution center, in the Columbus area. Chief Mason is also the Mayor of Hebron. Even though the units had not officially been placed in service yet, Chief Mason authorized his department to respond with one of the trailer-mounted units. Madison Twp. is located about 35 miles from the fire scene. Battalion and Engine 181 responded and were on scene within 40 minutes and remained for several hours. This high

velocity blower did an excellent job of controlling the smoke while firefighters were still removing the burning insulation from the warehouse, as well as clearing the warehouse after all burning material was removed.

According to Hebron Fire Chief

Randy Weekly, "the damage likely has been contained to the rolls of insulation and did not spread to the structure". No fire could be viewed from the outside of the building, although smoke poured from the loading docks. Weekly advised "the strategy would be to contain the heavy smoke in the building to increase visibility, then go in with forklifts to remove the necessary insulation".

At 6:45 PM, at the suggestion of Mayor/Chief Mason, the Incident Commander placed a request with Columbus Fire Dispatch for Box 15. Our Rehab Unit #1 responded with a crew of three and worked in partnership with Licking County's Salvation Army unit and the Buckeye Lake Firebellees – the Ladies Auxiliary from nearby Buckeye Lake. Due to the size of the scene, two rehab sectors were established, both in fresh air areas, but approximately 400 feet apart. Together, more than 150 firefighters and workers were served 2 dozen pizza's, 4 dozen hot dogs, numerous ham sandwiches, more than 10 gallons of coffee and hot chocolate and bottled water.

**Central Ohio Equipment Updates**  
By Box 15 PIO Bob Hess

Columbus Fire has finished updating it's

EMS fleet and now all front line medic units are Navistar/Horton units. Seven more Spartan/Ferrara pampers should have been delivered by the time this issue is published. Ford Explorers are on order to replace an aging fleet of Ford Crown Vics currently

used by the CFD battalion chiefs. Truro Township has received both a 2009 Chevy/Horton and a 2009 Pierce Arrow XT to replace Medic & Engine 161. Norwich Township has placed in service an 2009 Stuphen Engine Rescue at station 81.



New Truro Twp Medic 161. (Photo by R.J. Hess)





(Above) New Truro Twp Engine 161. (Photo by R.J. Hess)

(Below) New Norwich Twp Engine/Rescue 81. (Photo by Sonny J. Lewis)





## **To our readers:**

**Your *Turnout* staff is creating two broadcast e-mail lists. List “A” will be those persons who would like to receive an e-mail alert when a new issue of *Turnout* is posted on the IFBA website.**

**List “B” would be those persons who would like a reminder, approximately two weeks before submission deadline, that copy and/or pictures are due.**

**To be added to one or both lists, please e-mail the Indy Publishing Group at [turnout@ifba.org](mailto:turnout@ifba.org) with your name, club affiliation, e-mail address, and choice of list A, B, or both.**

**Be sure to let us know of any e-mail changes.**



