

# TURN OUT

**Spring/Summer 2010**



The Opryland Hotel stands in floodwaters one story deep in Nashville, TN, on Monday, May 3, 2010. (AP Photo by Mark Humphrey, as published in the *Huffington Post* on-line)

## **Nashville Floods Cancel 2010 Convention**

**58th Annual Meeting  
Moves to Indianapolis  
in October**

# 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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## Subscription Information

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

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

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## Submission Policy

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

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

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

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

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

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## Deadlines

Publishing date November 15, 2010 - **Submission deadline November 1, 2010**  
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# INTERNATIONAL FIRE BUFFS ASSOCIATES, INC.

## MEMBER CLUBS

### Region 1

Boston Sparks Assoc., Inc.  
Box 22 Associates  
Box 41 Associates  
Box 52 Assn., Inc.  
Box 61, Inc., Portland Fire Buffs  
Connecticut Fire Photographers Assn.  
Connecticut Special Signal Assn.  
Essex County Fire Wardens Assn.  
Middlesex County Firefighters & Fire Wardens Assn.  
Providence Citywide Fire Network  
Special Signal Fire Assn.  
The Leather Helmet Society  
Mass. Statewide Fire Notification Network

### 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.  
Extra Alarm Fire Assn., Inc.  
Fire Notification Network of Michigan  
Western Reserve Fire Museum at 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.  
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  
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  
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 43 Assn.  
Club Appel-99 Quebec  
The Ontario Fire Buffs Associates, Inc.  
Greater Toronto Multiple Alarm Assn.

### Region 11

Central Florida Fire Buffs  
Metropolitan Fire Assn. of Atlanta, GA.

Updated Spring 2010

# UNOFFICIAL RECAP OF THE IFBA 58th ANNUAL SPRING BOARD MEETING

May 1 & 2, 2010

(OFFICIAL MINUTES WILL FOLLOW FROM THE NATIONAL OFFICE)

By Jerry Traub, *Turn Out* editor

Meeting was called to order at 11:30 a.m. by president Ron Huff, followed the Pledge of Allegiance, Roll Call and previous minutes.

Treasurer's report from Paul Schaetzle. Ron Huff reported on partial plans for September convention. Chairman Dozier was absent, dealing with emergency response to rising floods in Nashville area.

\*\*\*\*\*Early on in the course of the meeting, repeated questions about the Nashville convention and preparations, mailing notifications and activities caused a recess. After reconvening, president Ron Huff announced that he would resign immediately, as his physician has recommended that he limit his activities for medical reasons. In order to continue the meeting, recently named 1st Vice-President and Region 8 Vice President Jim Williamson assumed the president's chair and continued. \*\*\*\*\*

Executive VP Mokros gave his report. This was followed by Regional Vice-Presidents present:

Ken Beliveau, Rgn 1

Kurt Jakobsen, Rgn 3

Frank Novak, Rgn 4

Wally Banks, Rgn 5

Chuck Liedtke, Rgn 6

Jim Williamson, Rgn 8



(Left to right): Exec. VP Bill Mokros, Secretary Gerry Mahoney, President Ron Huff, and Treasurer Paul Schaetzle. (Photo by Jerry Traub)

Marc Wallace, Rgn 9

Gary Wignall, Rgn 10

Bill Celentano Jr, At-Large

Future Convention Update:  
2011—New Jersey—  
Sep 6-10, Room \$129

2012—Toronto,  
CA—TORCON 2012; August 14-18, 2012;  
Sheraton Downtown, Rooms \$199 CA

2013—Milwaukee

2014—OPEN Texas club might make a formal bid

2015—Hartford, Ct. Fire Photographers are considering a formal bid.

Committee Reports:  
Fire Buff of the Year—June 1 deadline for nominations ((may be extended because of other changes))

Past Presidents Advisory—Tom Mc Donald

Turn Out—Jerry Traub

Web Page—Bill Mokros—Bids for revision still open.

Publicity—Stewart Nathan

Resource/Canteen—Ira Cohen, Rick Cutts

Insurance Advisory—Paul Schaetzle



Fire & Life Safety—Gerry Mahoney commented on Nashville running late on deadlines

Historical—Bill Mokros, will continue to record and post

CFSI—Stewart Nathan attended 2010 Washington, DC event with treasurer Paul Schaetzle.

#### OLD BUSINESS:

Authority granted to re-supply IFBA window decals.

Nashville Convention: In order to verify a convention would be available by published September dates, Executive Board voted to require final plans from convention committee within the month or alternate plans would be needed. No future Executive Board meeting date was set, as convention calendar was not available. Meeting was adjourned.

NOTE: President Williamson, Secretary Mahoney and Region 6 Vice-President Chuck Liedtke were sworn into office during this meeting.



IFBA Executive Vice President William Mokros swears in Jim Williamson (above left) as IFBA President following Ron Huff's resignation, Gerry Mahoney (above right) as IFBA Secretary, and Chuck Liedtke (below) as Region 6 Vice President. (Photos above by Chuck Liedtke; photo below by Gerry Mahoney)



58<sup>th</sup> Annual IFBA Annual Meeting  
October 15-16, 2010  
Indianapolis, IN (hosted by Indianapolis Fire Buffs/ Region 8)

**Tentative Schedule of Events (official notice due shortly from National office)**

Friday, October 15

Arrive at your convenience at Extended Stay Deluxe Hotel, 5350 W. Southern Ave, Indianapolis, In, (317) 241-0700. (West of downtown off I-70 W) Rooms \$65-\$75 + Tax. Hospitality Room. Transportation available from Indianapolis International Airport to hotel. Call 317-902-6482 (Ed McMichael) to arrange pick-up.

6:00 pm Depart hotel in car pools to Shapiro's Deli, 808 S. Meridian St-- dinner on your own. Complete meals avg \$8-\$10. Excellent food, Indy's finest deli.

Saturday, October 16

(Saturday arrivals should check in at Hospitality Room until 8:30 a.m.))

**Continental breakfast at hotel.**

8:30 am Car Pool to Rathskeller Bldg, 401 E Michigan St. for Executive Board Meeting, Lunch, and IFBA Annual meeting.

9:00 am Committee meetings until 9:45 a.m.

10:00 am IFBA Exec Board meeting called to order

Noon or later Buffet Lunch at Rathskeller (sandwiches, salad, vegetables, dessert tray and beverages)—on your own—est. \$12 total.

2:00 pm 58<sup>th</sup> Annual IFBA Business Meeting. Election of officers, Region reports, Committee reports, future convention news, old & new business

Return to hotel following meeting (est. 3:30 pm.) Hospitality Room open.

6:00 pm Car pools to Rathskeller, 401 E. Michigan St. for dinner, ON YOUR OWN. Casual dress. Dinner off menu. Bar service available. Installation of officers and presentation of annual awards.

Car pool returns to hotel—Hospitality Room open.

Sunday, October 17

**Continental breakfast at hotel.**

Transportation to airport will be provided.

**\*\*See you in New Jersey in 2011\*\***





## **International Fire Buff Associates, Inc.**

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

### **Executive Office**

February 12, 2010

To: All IFBA Member Groups and Associate Members

Subject: Nominations for the "Henry N. Wilwers Fire Buff of the Year" Award—2010

According to Article 8 of the IFBA By-Laws, all Active Member Groups and Associate Members are eligible to submit nominations for the "Henry N. Wilwers Fire Buff of the Year" award to be presented at the 58th Annual Convention in Nashville, TN on Saturday, September 25, 2010 at the convention banquet.

Names of candidates for the award along with a resume stating the reasons for the person's nomination must be received by the Executive Office no later than June 1, 2010 in order to be considered by the Fire Buff of the Year Committee for the 2010 presentation. The IFBA operates on a fiscal-year basis, July 1 to June 30, for this award.

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

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

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

Sincerely your in good Fire Buffing,

William M. Mokros, Executive Vice President  
11017 N. Redwood Tree Ct., Mequon, WI 53092-4338  
262-512-0234, Fax 262-236-0095  
E-mail: [executiveoffice@ifba.org](mailto:executiveoffice@ifba.org)

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

We, the members of the “Fire Buff of the Year” Committee, would like to take this opportunity to re-emphasize IFBA’s interest in the continuation of this Award for many years to come, and to expand somewhat on the information contained in the accompanying letter from the Executive Vice President regarding the nominations for the 2010 Award.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Phil Reid, Chairman  
Noel Kerkhoff  
Stuart M. Nathan



6-15-10: 2010 summer storms in the Midwest have been very electrifying, including this strike of Indianapolis' Channel 13 (NBC) on the far north side of the city. (Photo by Tod Parker)



Come to Indianapolis next spring and enjoy when Lucas Oil Stadium is goalpost to goalpost full of the latest apparatus and fire-fighting equipment during Fire Engineering magazine's FDIC 2011. (Photo by Tod Parker)

# ***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

May 2010 - Greetings to all buffers from the Special Signal Fire Association of Rhode Island.

The club is continuing its successful first year of operation since dissolving its association with the Salvation Army. The SSFA is currently based in Warwick, RI and will eventually move back to the Providence area.

Two new canteen trucks are in regular use: Canteen One is fully equipped with refrigerators, freezers, gas stove & oven, coffee makers, microwave ovens, exterior Gatorade & water dispensers and a bathroom.

The smaller Canteen Two serves smaller incidents or teams up with Canteen One for the really big jobs. We serve the entire state of Rhode Island and our Southeastern New England neighbors in Connecticut and Massachusetts.

Our members staff the trucks 24 hours a day, seven days a week, responding to all working fires in the area. Fire chiefs request our services by calling the Providence Fire Dept., which then "tones out" the canteen. Our run total for last year was 563 with an average of

over 500 runs per year.

At the end of March and into early April, Rhode Island was devastated by the worst floods in its history. The firefighters of our area worked tirelessly around the clock with police & other emergency agencies, rescuing victims from homes and businesses in every community. The amazing fact that no lives were lost is a testament to their excellent strength and training. Fire departments continued the night and day, pumping out of homes and businesses for weeks after the flood. Throughout this disaster our two canteens worked at many locations, feeding all emergency workers as needed. Members using pickup trucks made frequent re-supply runs from our base to the canteens with food and water supplies. We served over 5000 meals during this disaster.

The SSFA enjoys the strong moral and financial support of the firefighters and other first responders in our area. We also enjoy the support of our major sponsor, The Able Restoration Company, which provides quarters and two excellent canteen trucks to the Special Signal Fire Association.



# ***Region***

# **4**

Box 15 Club, Inc.

Box 27 Associates

Box 42 Associates, Inc.

Central Ohio Fire Buff Associates

Extra Alarm Fire Assn., Inc.

Fire Notification Network of Michigan

Fire Page Ohio

Hamilton Fire Relief Co. 20

Western Reserve Fire Buffs Assn.

Western Reserve Fire Museum of  
Cleveland Ohio, Inc.





## Greetings from Box 15 in Central Ohio

Winter passed rather quietly in Central Ohio, although February set an all-time record for snowfall, with more than 30". Still, we participated in some memorable incidents. On January 5, Fire and HazMat companies were dispatched to a truck fire in the far northeast area of Franklin County. Because the chill factor was below zero, Resource Support Unit #2 responded with the other companies. The incident was a 24' box van loaded with old lead-acid batteries and drums of used motor oil. The truck was fully involved when the first engine arrived. The rehab team setup a tent and propane heater, then provided water and hot liquids for the crews.



On February 6, the first of several snowstorms was blanketing the area with 10" of snow when we were requested by Hamilton Twp to assist at a house fire, south of Columbus. The structure, a 1.5 story wood frame single-family dwelling had heavy fire throughout and overhaul was hampered by an excessive amount of flammable material packed into the building. Box 15 served crews from 5 area fire departments. Later the same day, we responded to a house fire in northeast Columbus when a Columbus Fire officer collapsed during firefighting efforts. He was rescued and is still recuperating at this time.

Other runs so far in 2010 include 6 apartment buildings, 2 large houses, a barn & house and a wood mulch yard. As of this writing, Box 15 has responded to 14 incidents so far in 2010.

## Summary of 2009 service activity

Throughout 2009, **Box 15** responded to 41 incidents, along with 7 training exercises and 11 other civic events. We served in excess of 2,400 personnel, dispensing 102 cases of bottled water, 44 gallons of coffee, 41 gallons of hot chocolate, 9 gallons of Squincher and nearly 1400 granola bars. In addition, more than 20 dozen meals were served, as well as 146 large pizzas.



In Mid-September we were surprised when we received a donation of a truckload of bottled water. To be more specific, 22 pallets containing 1584 cases of water that had been refused by the shipper's customer. Rather than returning it, the vendor advised that it be donated to local public safety forces. **Box 15**, with a huge amount of assistance from Thompson Building Associates, off-loaded the semi trailer and handled distribution to 38 different local public safety agencies, including fire and police departments, EMA offices, county Sheriff's, bomb squads - even K-9 units. Nearly 30,000 bottles of water were handed out across a 5-county area. Shown is Jon Hale with

Thompson Building Associates, moving the first of 22 pallets.

For more on what we've been up to, visit our newly-designed website ([www.box15.org](http://www.box15.org)) and view our 2009 Annual Report.



### **Box 15 partners with the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation**

Continuing a partnership that was started in 2009, Box 15 again provided rehab and support services for Cystic Fibrosis' "Battle of the Badges". The event, a competitive stair climb, up 40 floors (880 steps) in the Rhodes State Office Tower was held on Saturday, February 20. With more than 350 climbers competing, some as solo climbers, others in 4-person teams, the event raised nearly \$75,000 for Cystic Fibrosis. We had teams from all over the state and as far away as Washington DC. Box 15 established rehab stations at the 10<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup> and 40<sup>th</sup> floors. During the event, we dispensed 30 cases of water, used nearly 200 pounds of ice and assisted with 6 climbers who were in distress. The photo shows firefighters "suiting up" prior to the climb.



### **2010 Annual Awards Dinner**

As has been tradition for Box 15 for more than 40 years, Box 15 held their annual banquet on April 9 this year. Since 1985, we have presented the "Max Haverman – Columbus Firefighter of the Year" and since 2004, the "Larry Parlett – County Firefighter of the Year". This year, we had 2 more outstanding recipients. The dinner was held at Columbus Firefighter's Local 67 Union Hall. This turned out to be a great venue for the event. Many thanks go out to Local President Jack Reall and to Columbus firefighter Scott Baker who made all the arrangements.

The Parlett award was presented to Captain Jeffrey Route of the Prairie Township Fire Department. Captain Route, a veteran of 30 years, is an outstanding EMS instructor and a well-respected house captain at Station #241. "Serving the people has always been my biggest enjoyment," Route said. "When I leave at the end of the day I feel like I have made a difference in somebody's life." Route started his career in fire service as a volunteer with the Jefferson Township Fire Department in Madison County in 1980. He was appointed to a full-time position with Prairie Township in 1984 and was promoted to lieutenant that same year. He earned his promotion to captain in June 2005.



Route is a certified fire instructor and is an instructor for Tolles Technical Center. Over the years he has coordinated various activities to coincide with EMS Week.

The 2010 honoree for the Haverman award was 34 year veteran Columbus firefighter John P. Moore. However, a week after we advised him of his selection, John suffered a fatal heart attack, while on duty at the Training Academy. His passing was a severe blow to the Columbus Division of Fire as well as to Box 15. He had been a dear friend to our group for many years. Having never been presented with such a situation before, our Board met and unanimously decided that the award should still be presented in his honor. The only question was when and how. John's funeral was held on Tuesday, April 6, only 3 days before the awards dinner. Following the funeral, a discussion with the family determined that the presentation should indeed take place in his honor. Columbus Fire Chief Ned Pettus and Steven Moore, John's son accepted the award on behalf of the Division and the family.



Since it was a “Line of Duty” death, a funeral with full honors was conducted. More than 600 firefighters from all over the state traveled to Columbus to pay their respects. Since John was such a well-known and respected leader of the community, the funeral was held at the Franklin County Veteran’s Memorial Hall with nearly 1000 people in attendance. Following the service and interment, Columbus Firefighter’s Local 67 held a reception at the union hall. Box 15 members assisted with hosting this tribute. Included are several photos both from the funeral and at the awards dinner.



**In order – Some of the 600+ firefighters paying tribute; John’s casket being moved to Medic 16, which transported him to the cemetery; the traditional Ladder Arch at the cemetery entrance; Columbus Fire Chief Pettus with President John Kuczek and MC Robert Hess; Steven Moore speaking on behalf of his late father**



## **Prairie Twp Firefighters donate digital cameras**

Box 15 members are all firebuffs and all firebuffs like to take photos at fires. Upon occasion, copies of our photos have been requested by the firefighters and by the fire inspectors. However, sometimes we've been on scene and no one thought to bring a camera. Knowing this, the Prairie Township Firefighters Association donated 2 digital cameras, one for each of our response units, to assure that we would always have one available. The cameras – Nikon Coolpix models feature an “auto” mode so practically anyone can use them. And it didn't take long. Within a week, one was used at a 2<sup>nd</sup> Alarm (+ specials) in a 10-unit apartment building.

## **Thompson Building Associates extends commitment to Box 15**

Thompson Building Associates, who have generously underwritten to cost of bottled water for Box 15 since 2005 has extended their commitment with the recent delivery of another pallet (88 cases) of water. “Keeping firefighters hydrated is one of the most important aspects of keeping them healthy” says Jon Hale, VP of Marketing for the Thompson group. “We are happy to support Box 15 in this effort. We feel this is one way to give back to the community.” continued Hale. Box 15 has benefited greatly from the support offered by Thompson and has awarded them Honorary Membership in the Club. Shown are Past President Brett Barber and Thompson's Jon Hale.



## **Looking forward to a summer full of activity**

Box 15 will participate at the 2010 Annual Ohio Association of Professional Firefighters Conference, to be held May 9-12 at the Hyatt Regency in downtown Columbus. This annual conference draws several hundred firefighters from all over the state. We will host an information booth promoting the importance of firefighter rehab.

May 15 will feature Norwich Township's Fire Safety Day and we will welcome a new firefighter recruit class with Columbus on June 16.

June 26 will be the date for the annual Central Ohio Antique Fire Apparatus Association Muster & Flea Market. Box 15 participates every year, displaying both Resource Support Units, selling CFD shirts and assisting with fire safety education.

And in August, the Washington Township Fire Department will host the Canadian-American Police & Fire games. This weeklong Olympics-style event will feature a stair climb challenge, a golf tournament and many other sport and fitness activities. Box 15 has committed 300 cases of bottled water as well as performing rehab services for the more strenuous events.

Until the Convention, we wish you a safe and enjoyable summer. See you at “the Big One”!

# ***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

# GREATER HOUSTON FIRE BUFFS

PO Box 697

Bellaire, Texas 77402

## OFFICERS

President: Jerald Ricks

Vice President: Mike Pack

Secretary/Treasurer: Tom McDonald

### ***Houston Fire Chief Resigns***

Houston's fire chief Phil Boriskie resigned that post after six years of service and reassumed his classified rank of District Chief in January 2010. The move came on the heels of Annise Parker's inauguration as the city's new mayor. Parker is a former city council member and city comptroller. She gained national attention by being the city's first openly-gay mayor.

Boriskie, a 28-year veteran of the department, served six years as fire chief, coinciding closely with Parker's predecessor's term. Houston has term limitations for its elected officials. The mayor and council members are each limited to three, two-year terms in office. The departing mayor Bill White appointed Boriskie shortly after taking office in 2004.

Parker immediately appointed Rick Flanagan, an executive assistant fire chief with 32 years in HFD, as interim fire chief. The mayor would neither confirm nor deny that she was interviewing outside the department for candidates for the job. The HFD has recently come under intense scrutiny resulting from accusations last year by two female firefighters that they had been harassed by coworkers.

In fact, Boriskie's departure came shortly after his presence at a Bush Airport (IAH) ARFF station was questioned. During that incident, Boriskie and several members of his command staff were at the station reportedly

to hold a "team building" exercise with firefighters and one of the two women who had made the harassment allegations. By all accounts, that exercise did not go well.

Boriskie's new assignment is chief over District 78 in far west Houston. Each HFD district is numbered for the station that houses its chief, not a consecutive numbering system as many other departments use. HFD has 21 geographical fire suppression districts.

If Parker were to select an outsider as fire chief, a job that pays close to \$150,000 annually, it would be only the second time in HFD's history for such an occurrence. In 1985, then-mayor Kathy Whitmire chose Seattle's fire chief for the top HFD job. Robert Swartout assumed the post for just a few months before he abruptly resigned and moved back to Seattle.

### ***2009 HFD Multiple Alarms***

Last year ended with 67 multiple alarms in Houston, down 16 percent from 2008. There were 55 second-alarms, 11 three-alarms, and one fourth alarm in 2009.

Unquestionably the largest fire, the fourth alarm, was at the Gallery Furniture Co. warehouse at 6006 North Freeway (I-45) on May 21. That fire was later determined to be arson. The spectacular blaze that evening resulted in the response of units from 31 fire stations across the city.

## ***HFD Stats for 2009***

The HFD's web site gives the following statistics for 2009 (the figure to the right of each in parentheses is the average per day):

### Events

44,867 of Fire nature (123)  
229,004 of EMS nature (627)

### Busiest station

14,687 by unit: Sta. 46 (40)  
10,284 by event: Sta. 46 (28)

### Busiest units by type

#### **EMS**

5,780 Squad 68 (16)  
5,057 Ambulance 68 (14)  
4,119 Medic 10 (11)  
2,646 EMS Supervisor 30 (7)

#### **Fire**

4,902 Engine 55 (13)  
1,928 Safety Officer 2 (5)  
1,236 Ladder 51 (3)  
1,022 District Chief 68 (3)  
781 Haz Mat 22/1 (2)  
677 Rescue 42 (2)  
236 Cascade 30 (<1)  
183 Rehab 17 (<1)

Note from the busiest station data that HFD Station 46, at 3902 Corder & Scott on the city's south side, AVERAGES 40 unit responses per day of which 28 are separate events. The station houses an engine, ladder, district chief, squad, and two ambulances. An "event" means the lights and speakers come on in the firehouse and affect everybody there with alert tones and a digital voice message; thus, 28 separate alerts for calls daily, on average, occur there... and HFD members work 24-hour shifts!! NoDoze, anyone?

## ***Article submissions?***

Send me your input: photos or articles. I don't want to have to do the whole thing!

Tmcfire@aol.com. Say "Turnout" in your title, please.



4/8/10: Hughes Road & Sageglen, HFD 2-11 church fire (Photo: Tom McDonald)



4/4/10: Delano & Drew, HFD 1-11 fire involving multiple structures (Photo: Tom McDonald)



3/13/10: Bellaire & Loop 610, City of Bellaire, mutual aid by HFD Haz-Mat 22 for an overturned gasoline tanker (Photo: Stephen Lasley)

# Box 4 DALLAS, TX

By Wally Banks, Box 4 President, Dallas, Texas

In 2009 the canteen made emergency runs to 2 one alarm fires, 24 two alarm fires, 12 three alarm fires, 1 four alarm fire, 3 five alarm fires, 1 six alarm fire, 1 seven alarm fire, 1 HazMat/Gas leak, 1 overhaul operation and 6 Mutual aid runs to neighboring cities. In the form of non emergency runs the canteen went to 4 Night Burns at the Recruit Training Center, 3 SWAT DPD DFR assist rescue runs, 1 US & R drill and 12 Public Service runs such as the union Easter egg hunt, the Health/Safety Fair days at the Dolphin Road facility, and the two Denton State School days.

Our first major fire of 2009 was an abandoned Dallas Housing Project at Bexar Street and Bethurum Avenue which went to five alarms on March 9<sup>th</sup>. The fire was at Box 242500 with Engine and Truck 24 getting out on a housing project with four separate buildings on fire. A total of 15 Engines, 6 Trucks, 6 Rescue Ambulances, and numerous Chief Officers attended the fire. The cause was determined to be an arsonist who was arrested at the scene.

Our next 5 alarm fire was on July 15<sup>th</sup> in an Assisted Living Center of five stories in height with a fire on the roof in the HVAC system with smoke throughout the building. The fire was at 2516 Wedge Drive at Box 365018 with Engine and Truck 36 first in to the fire. A total of 15 Engines, 5 Trucks, numerous Rescue Ambulances, and a host of Chief Officers made the fire. There were numerous heroic rescues of the elderly. Box 4

was furnishing fluids and food to both the firefighters and the numerous citizens displaced by the fire. The cause of the fire was a HVAC malfunction.

The next day on July 16<sup>th</sup>, brought another 5 alarm fire at 2900 Dilido at Box 530002 in a two story apartment. A lady who was a mental patient has started the fire. Responding to the fire were 15 Engines, 5 Trucks, 3 Rescue Ambulances, and a host of Chiefs.

Continuing a hot July, we had a 6 alarm fire on July 18<sup>th</sup> at Box 295000 at 12351 Abrams Road at a 2 story apartment project. 17 Engines, 5 Trucks, 2 Rescue Ambulances, and a covey of Chiefs responded to the fire. A total of 28 apartment units were destroyed with the overhaul assisted by a backhoe. The fire cause was undetermined.

Our last big fire of the year was a 7 alarm fire on November 23<sup>rd</sup> at a four story apartment under construction that took up about a city block. The fire at Box 100025 at 4855 Gramercy Oaks Drive came in at 1744. The contractor had tested the electrical system and the electric generator which caused an explosion and fire between the floors and behind the walls throughout the building. 24 Engines, 8 Trucks, 3 Rescue Ambulances and a plethora of Chiefs and others. Our canteen was on the scene for over 30 hours and during the course of the fire all but four of the fire companies in the Dallas Fire Department attended the fire.



Our volunteer members are on call 24/7 and we are available for dispatch by pager, radio, or blue light. The top ten members responding to Dallas Firefighters needs were.....in first place Dale Aymond making 65 runs (90% of all runs); in second place Brett Willard making 54 runs (75%); in third place Wally Banks making 51 runs (70%); in fourth place was Ken Johnstone making 45 runs (62%). Our fifth and sixth place responders were Bill Marshall and Jason Ladewig making 35 runs (48%); in seventh and eighth place were John Billingham and Don Matson making 33 runs (45%); holding down ninth place was John Fesperman mak-

ing 31 runs (43%); at tenth place were Larry Palmer and Brian Fant making 27 runs (37%). Another 18 Box 4 members made between 26 and 1 runs. We appreciate all those who volunteer and belong to the club. Box 4 continues to function as the largest mobile dispenser of Gatorade in Dallas.

In 2009 we mourned the loss of our long time members Houston Maddox and John Fitzgerald.

For more information please visit [www.Box4.org](http://www.Box4.org).

## Photos of Interest from North Texas



Joshua, Texas Engine 277 is pictured in front of fully involved two story residence on February 25, 2010. The house was actually situated in the Mid-North Fire District, but Mid-North could not get a crew together right away on this weekday morning, so the Joshua unit arrived first. At one point, firefighters were waiting for the tanker shuttle to get established since there

were no hydrants in the immediate area. The fire was fanned by strong south winds. A total of six departments from two counties battled the blaze.

All photos and captions by Jeff Harwell,  
[jefflizharwell@sbclglobal.net](mailto:jefflizharwell@sbclglobal.net)





A Burleson, Texas firefighter from Engine 3 stretches the first line on a well involved one story residence fire on November 19, 2009. The first due unit from Station 1 was on an auto accident call which meant Engine 3 ended up being first on scene. Firefighters from neighboring Crowley assisted.

On the afternoon of March 23, 2010 Terrell, Texas Stations 1 and 2 were alerted for an apartment fire on Mineral Wells Street on the city's south side. Both of the city's engines responded and first due Engine 2 reported at least one unit heavily involved on arrival. The fire soon began running the attic and crews were withdrawn for an exterior attack. Mutual aid was requested from the city of Kaufman and Forney.



# ***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

The 5-11 Club has been very active the last six months with the Club realizing a ten percent gain in membership and the completion of several projects. Many of the newest members were recruited for the Support Service Units. Our second canteen was placed back into service and covers the south side of the City and is quartered at Engine 80's house. We had a total of 76 runs for SSU-1 while SSU-2 was out of service for mechanical overhaul including a rebuilt engine and electrical upgrades.

A historic event for the 5-11 Club occurred on January 31<sup>st</sup> when both Support Units took in two separate multiple alarm fires within several hours. The first fire was in the Edgebrook Lutheran Church on the far Northwest side of the city, which went to a 3-11 alarm. Only 40 minutes later, a restaurant fire occurred in Greektown at Halsted Street and Van Buren Street just west of the Loop. The fire started in the duct work and spread through the entire building requiring a 4<sup>th</sup> alarm to control it. After completing canteen ops at the church fire, SSU-1 responded to the restaurant fire to join SSU-2 for an all night stand.



Units working at Edgebrook Lutheran Church fire (Photos by Tim Olk)

The Club recently participated in the annual CFD Family Focus Day at the Quinn Fire Academy. Over 500 members of the CFD and their families spent an enjoyable few hours learning about the many groups and agencies that are available to the CFD members and their families.





Units working at Edgebrook Lutheran Church fire (Photos by Tim Olk)



Our recent Club election saw Dennis Ahrens elected as President, Ray Carl as Vice President, while Harold Klein and Mike Penchar remained as Recording Secretary and Corresponding Secretary, respectively.

On a sad note, members of the 5-11 Club joined with the fire service to remember Father Matthew MacDonald, retired CFD chaplain who passed away at the age of 94. He had been the CFD chaplain from 1968 to 1987, one of the busiest periods in Chicago for multiple alarm fires. Starting in 1987 Father MacDonald spent several years as the chaplain for the Skokie Fire Department. Father MacDonald had a good

background in the fire service as his father was a 31 year member of the CFD. Several members of our Club had the good Father officiate at weddings, baptisms and funerals. Many of our members recall that the canteen operations were not open until Father MacDonald drank that first cup of coffee.

The fire action for 2009 was about average with 44 multiple alarms. So far, for 2010 our canteens have responded to 13 multiple alarms. The only significant fire occurred in a 51 story high rise condominium near the old Chicago Water Tower on December 10, 2009. The fire came in as a fire alarm for smoke on the 36<sup>th</sup> floor at 12:45 a.m. This is the same building that had another multiple alarm

fatal fire in January 2002. This fire was more severe as the fire blew out the windows, flashed over and roared down hallways. Floors above and below the fire had to be evacuated and several rescues had to be made. Eventually, 19 people including 5 fire-fighters were sent to area hospitals during the three-hour fire. Heavy smoke conditions caused residents to take temporary shelter in a neighboring building. The fire destroyed apartments on either side of the original apartment and resulted in the death of the occupant who had called 911 to report an electrical fire. The fire eventually went to the 5<sup>th</sup> alarm level with an EMS Plan 3 that sent 18 ambulances to the scene. In all, 300 fire-fighters and EMS personnel responded because of the heavy smoke conditions in the hallways resulting in several searches of stairwells and apartments taking 30-40 minutes each. Twenty-eight engine companies, 20 ladder companies, 9 battalion chiefs and 3 EMS field officers along with 10 other chiefs and commanders responded to the scene. Our canteen set up in the lobby of an adjoining building because of the extreme cold and windy conditions. We issued over 600 cups of coffee, hot chocolate and water at the scene.

Apparatus news for the CFD includes three additional pumpers which arrived as an add-on order for Engine Companies 14, 65 and 82. It is expected the new Crimson units will be in service by early summer. Six additional 2009 Ford F-450 Braun ambulances have been assigned to the EMS fleet. Two black Ford Expedition SUVs have arrived; they will go to the Fire Commissioner and the First Deputy Commissioner. Four additional Ford Expedition SUVs in the traditional black over red color scheme have been assigned to Battalion Chiefs 4, 10, 12 and 14. Engine Company 5's 2002 Spartan-Luverne was reassigned to Engine Company 89 and Engine Company 122's 2002 Spartan-Luverne will become a spare pumper. The contract for 30 Spartan-Crimson aerial ladders using 100-foot HD aerials was awarded several weeks ago. It is expected that about 10 of these units will be delivered each year for the next three years. These units are needed to upgrade the aerial ladder fleet to CFD specifications for ALS service. One additional Crash Rescue rig for O'Hare Field is being built by Oshkosh using the Striker 3000 model with a snozzle boom. The fire boat being built to replace the Schlaefer is moving forward with completion scheduled for 2011.

The Fire Department radio system is to be converted to an all digital operation this year. Testing this system with the EMS ambulances is currently ongoing. After completion of these tests, it may take several more months to upgrade the remainder of the fleet. It is unknown if a simulcast of the analog frequencies will be allowed.

The Fire Academy will again be the sight of the Fire Muster which will take place on June 26<sup>th</sup>, 2010, one week later than usual.

If you and your friends are planning to visit Chicago, please call one of our members or see our website at [www.5-11Club.org](http://www.5-11Club.org) on how to contact us. We'll be happy to show you around. See you at the IFBA Convention in Nashville in September.

# Milwaukee Fire Bell Club, Inc.

by Gary Schmidt, ESU Chairman

Just like the weather in the Milwaukee area, things seem to occur in bunches but over a year's time, it all averages out. The year 2009 was like that.

The Milwaukee Fire Bell Club responded to 4 large scale events (full serving of meals), 8 small scale incidents, and 17 PR events for a total of 29. In 2008, we only had a total of 11, but in 2007, we had 28, so it is safe to call 2009 an "average". However, of the 12 fires that we responded to, 7 of them occurred in an eight week period (May 13 – July 14, 2009). It wasn't until December 14, 2009, that we had another emergency run!

In the meantime, we did have many safety fairs and open houses hosted by suburban fire departments that we enjoyed showing off our rig.



General public waiting to see the inside of the Milwaukee Fire Bell Club's Emergency Support Unit (ESU) at the Safety Fair at Menomonee Falls WI High School. Photo by Chuck Liedtke

The economic times and their impact on municipal budgets continue to be controversial topics with local departments. Some suburban departments have lost a few positions.

What takes center stage around here is the City of Milwaukee Fire Department, with its large and powerful union, and the equally vocal Mayor and Common Council.

For most of the twentieth century, the City of Milwaukee Police and Fire Chiefs had a lifetime appointment. This came to head in the 1980's, when the Police Chief in particular, was very defiant by not using the Department budget in the manner the City Officials dictated (the Mayor proposes a budget, approved by the Common Council, but the Chiefs have statutory authority over actual deployment of resources within the budgeted amount).

During one contentious year, the Fire Chief had to endure a budget crisis by having numerous "brownouts" – temporary shutdowns of engine or ladder companies due to not enough funding in the budget provided by City officials. Eventually, a ladder company was eliminated (this is significant, because 20 years later, we are seeing similar circumstances).

This led to City politicians getting a change in State Law, limiting future chiefs to a seven year term in 1986. When that still caused administrative conflict, the law further reduced the term to four years. The first fire chief under the limits retired after the seven year term; the next chief retired after 6 years, then, under the 4-year limit, the next chief was not renewed after 4 years (he resisted numerous suggestions for cutbacks). And the last chief retired after only 2 years (the Milwaukee Fire Department is currently looking for a new Chief).

In the last 10 years, all engine and ladder companies have gradually been reduced to 4-



man companies and with the 2010 budget, one ladder company was decommissioned (the previous year, an engine company was eliminated). Also, with over 100 positions unfilled, the budget only allows for a specific amount of overtime to staff the vacancies; we are back to 1-3 browned out companies each day. The Union is vigorously protesting these moves.

Alarm System) for the first time, filling nine houses with suburban crews. Never before in the history of Milwaukee was suburban help invoked on such a scale; certainly not ever with the current generation of firefighters. This was just more fuel for the Union rhetoric, even though the City pointed out that neighboring Chicago utilizes the MABAS

system in Illinois to backfill their stations during major alarms. It should also be noted that for the 5 hours or so that outlying City houses were manned by suburban departments, not one of them received a run.



Height of the Pizza Man fire, approximately 5 am. (Below) Pizza Man ruins, approximately 2pm. All occupants in upper floor apts rescued with seconds to spare by first arriving companies. Three other businesses destroyed; arson suspected. Church abutting on the far right was saved. (Photos by Chuck Liedtke)

To add to this controversy, the City of Milwaukee had their largest fire in years occur on January 19, 2010. The fire destroyed a landmark restaurant called Pizza Man. While officially a 4-alarm incident, numerous special calls brought it to about a 6-alarm equivalent. With 15 of the 36 firehouses emptied, the Milwaukee Fire Department used MABAS (Mutual Aid Box



# ***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

Indianapolis Fire Buffs continue to welcome new Active and Associate members. Roster increases have been a welcome change to previous reductions. Life member Bob Weedon passed away in May at age 86. Bob was a prudent businessman and assisted the club with his no-nonsense leadership style.

Rehab Support units are busy for fire and other public safety requirements. Several local drivers have had braking problems recently, with calls for Structural Collapse rescue and reinforcement at a record pace. 2010 response count is equal to last year.

Special events in the city have been served,

including the men's NCAA basketball finals at Lucas Oil Stadium. It was especially exciting to have our Butler University Bulldogs in the final game, almost pulling out a victory with a last minute shot. (That B.U. player will be drafted into NBA soon.)

Five units (three from IFB and two from The Salvation Army) served multiple hours during the Fire Department Instructors Conference in April. On-site rehab supported Fire Engineering magazine's HANDS ON training and live burn activities. It's a great week, meeting and greeting firefighters from all over the world. Our members who work the support sites are granted conference admission for workshops and gigantic exhibitor displays that take up the entire Indiana Con-



Rehab Support Unit 3 set up and providing rehab at one of the "Hands-on" training sites (HOTS) during the 2010 FDIC training conference. Five Indianapolis units provided support during this conference. (Photo by Matt Woods)

vention Center and the Lucas Oil stadium. (see [www.phototac.com](http://www.phototac.com) and click on FDIC 2010 for photos)

Our 1950 Ford/Midwest (x-Blomington, IN) engine and RSU 3 were included in the St. Patrick's Day parade March 17 in downtown Indy. Sunny, warm weather brought out the largest crowd since the event started almost thirty years ago.

Another Marion County township department is close to combining with Indianapolis Fire Dept. Franklin Township, in SE part of the county, will add four stations, trained union personnel and several specialty tactical teams. Expected transition is July, 2010.

Paranormal 911 Investigations is a civilian organization (including Indianapolis fire-fighters) that pursues activities in reported "haunted" environments. This includes our Reserve station 12 where they regularly have weekend explorations. They generously share the fees and dues of members with us. A separate article sharing what they have learned about our 95 year old building will be included in the next issue of TURNOUT.

There have been several updates, additional information and new graphics added to our club website [www.indianapolisfirebuffs.org](http://www.indianapolisfirebuffs.org).

Reserve station 12 hosted Primary Election voting for two precincts on May 4. One of the poll workers provided a picture of her father, who was at this station over 60 years ago. We'll open again in November for the General Election.

Jim Williamson, Ed McMichael and Jerry Traub attended the IFBA Spring Board meeting in Nashville, TN on May 1 and 2. Jim will be serving as national president for the remainder of the current term of Ron Huff, who resigned for health reasons. (See related article.)

A series of arson fires in a NE side area of the city upset property owners and residents until an arrest was made recently. Unfortunately, the Fire Investigations found the culprit to be a three-year veteran Indianapolis Police Dept. patrolman. He was also accused of a suspicious fire in his own apartment complex on the other side of town during these other events. Charged but not proven guilty at this time, it appears the young officer was looking for recognition of being "first on the scene."

\*\*\* Please see other articles in this issue about the cancelled 2010 Nashville Convention, following their flood catastrophe in early May.\*\*\*



2-17-10: Btln. Chief Dennis Musgrave directs suppression efforts in front of downtown restaurant following an explosion in an underground electrical vault. (Photo by Brett Jackson)





3-7-10, 115 E. 9th Street: Heavy smoke and fire upon arrival. Attack immediately went defensive. Exposure problems to the building east and west of the fire building. Very tight quarters involved. Building directly east suffered extensive damage as well. Everyone evacuated safely and relocated. Fire took approximately 90 minutes to get under control. No injuries reported. Cause under investigation. (Photo by Tod Parker)



2-14-10, 5th/3rd Bank: 1-Alarm Building Fire, Heavy Fire upon arrival. Crews managed to contain fire to attic with the fire suspected to have started from an electrical short. No injuries reported. (Photo by Tod Parker)

# ***Region***

# **9**

Bayonne Fire Canteen, Inc.

Bell & Siren Club, Inc.

Box 54 Club

FireCom Emergency Radio of NJ

Gong Club, Inc.

Signal 22 Assn., Inc.

South Jersey Fire Photographer's Assn.

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



## GONG CLUB, INC.

JERSEY CITY, NJ

by Paul Schaetzle

### BEACON BLAZES THROUGHOUT BLIZZARD!

Although a check of the calendar will say that it is not even winter yet, the entire Northeast was slammed with blizzard conditions over the weekend of December 19, 2009. Snow developed in the Mid-Atlantic States on in the early hours of Saturday, the 19th. The storm spread steadily northward, reaching Jersey City by 1300 hours. Companies began salting and shoveling their aprons and placed skid chains on the apparatus as the storm intensified as darkness fell. By 2300 hours over a foot of snow had clogged the city streets.

Gong Club members were dealing with a temperamental snow blower and 2 members planned to stay in quarters that night in the event of a run. The members were about to make one more pass at shoveling the apron when Box 361 was struck for 130 Beacon Ave. at 0039 hours on Sunday, December 20, 2009. Fire Dispatch received a 2nd call for 128 Beacon Ave., but Eng. Co. 7 reported smoke in the area, followed by Capt. Raymond Nickerson ordering the Working Fire. Capt. Nickerson reported the fire was in the walls when Battalion 3, B. C. James Whalen arrived and assumed command. Sizing up the situation, Chief Whalen ordered a 2nd Alarm at 0047 hours. Car 26, the Gong Club canteen, was at the ready with 2 members in quarters and turned out with the rest of the 2nd Alarm

assignment. Gingerly making their way though now treacherous driving conditions, the 2nd Alarm assignment arrived and went to work. However, Deputy Chief Thomas Fitzgerald transmitted a 3rd Alarm at 0056 hours, bringing yet more companies out into the blinding snowstorm.



**3-3 361 Jersey City 12/20/09 130-4 Beacon Ave.**  
Chief of Dept. Michael O'Reilly observes companies in the rear yards battling the fire and a raging snowstorm! (Joseph Devlin Photo)

This would be only the second 3rd Alarm fought by Jersey City companies this year, but this was by far the toughest. Fire was now racing through three attached 3 story



frame multiple dwellings. Conditions inside the fire building and the exposure to the west, #130, soon became more treacherous than the snow and ice on the roadways. All companies were ordered to evacuate the buildings and the heavy artillery was brought into play. Eng. Co. 7 operated their deck gun, while Ladder Co. 3 operated their ladder pipe. Squad Co. 4 lugged the deluge set from Eng. Co. 15 and set that master stream up in front of the fire building. Two and a half inch handlines were operated into the fire building and the exposures. Firefighters soon settled down for a long winter's night, operating the outside streams for hours despite relentless snow and biting cold. An additional engine and truck were special called at 0301 and the North Hudson RAC bus also responded as a warming station. Eventually, arrangements were made to open the cafeteria of Public School #6, one block south of the fire, where firefighters could seek some respite from the elements.

The fire building, #130 Beacon, and the exposure to the west, #132 Beacon, both suffered partial collapses and demolition has been ordered. The fate of #128 Beacon is unknown. Some 20 families are now homeless, less than one week before Christmas. Cause of the fire is unknown and under investigation.

Car 26 operated for over 8 hours and then was asked to return to the fire by Deputy Chief Michael Terpak after Group B relieved Group A at 0800 hours. Frigid firefighters

warmed themselves with 10 gallons of Hot Chocolate, 6 gallons of coffee and 2 gallons of vegetable soup. The Gong Club also dispensed several pairs of hand warmers to combat the frozen fingers that come with every winter job!

#### Response:

Box 361, December 20, 2009, 130 Beacon Ave.

0039 Box 361 Eng. Co. 18-7-5-11 Lad. Co. 3-6  
Res. Co. 1 Div. 1, Batt. 3, MSU,  
Safety Battalion

0043 WF 361 Batt. 1, Sqd. Co. 4, Lad. Co. 9

0047 2-2 361 Eng. Co. 6-15-9 Lad. Co. 7  
Car 3-26

0056 3-3 361 Eng. Co. 2-8 Lad. Co. 2

0301 S/C 361 Eng. Co. 8 Lad. Co. 4

### ANOTHER THIRD IN THE THIRD!

More than half the year had elapsed in 2009 before a 3rd Alarm was transmitted in Jersey City. 2010, however, was barely a week old



**3-3 361 Jersey City 12/20/09 128-32 Beacon Ave.**

This is what buffing is all about! Capt. Mark Lee, commanding Eng. Co. 5 that night, grabs a cup of coffee from Car 26. (Andrew Rhode Photo)

when the FDJC fought its first 3rd Alarm of the New Year. Once again, the action was in the wee hours and in the Heights!

Box 489 was transmitted at 0011 hours on Saturday, January 9, 2010 for 89 1/2 Leonard St. The temperature was hovering at 20 degrees, but a light dusting of snow that fell on Friday morning had all but disappeared when 3rd Battalion companies turned out. The address was 2 blocks south of the city line with North Bergen. Eng. Co. 11 arrived and reported smoke showing; Working Fire. The involved building was a 2 story frame dwelling, 20 x 40 with similar exposures on either side. Units reported fire on the 2nd floor and extending into the cockloft. Ladder Co. 7 reported that fire was venting through the scuttle cover on the roof. Noting similar attached dwellings on either side, Battalion Chief James Whalen, Batt. 3, Group A, for the third time since November 28, 2009, calmly keyed his mic and said "Transmit a 2nd Alarm".

Reports from companies in the exposures were coming fast and furious. Fire was already into both exposures and units would have their hands full to prevent complete destruction of the 3 buildings. Deputy Chief Timothy Kearney arrived and assumed command, coordinating the numerous requests for handlines and hooks to open up the top floors of all three structures. Chief Kearney knew full well this would be a long night and a lot of help would be needed to keep it from getting longer. No need to wait 6 months plus this year; Chief Kearney struck a 3rd Alarm at 00:32!

Despite the frigid temperatures, companies dove headfirst into the fray, knocking down the fire in all 3 buildings within the hour. Although heavily damaged and displacing all occupants, the dwellings appear repairable. The sub-freezing temperature

made Car 26 a favorite stop for all hands once the fire was under control. The Gong Club canteen dispensed 6 gallons of hot chocolate and 3 gallons of coffee to frozen firefighters.

The Third Battalion, covering the Heights section of the city, was traditionally the slowest of the Department's 4 battalions. However the Third outpaced all other battalions for multiple alarms in 2009 and 5 of the last 6 multiple alarms in the city, stretching back to November 28th, were 3rd Battalion jobs.

#### Response:

0011 Box 489 Eng. Co. 11-14-18-7  
Lad. Co. 7-3-6 Res. Co. 1 MSU  
Div. 1, Batt. 3, Safety Battalion  
0014 WF 489 Sqd. Co. 4 Lad. Co. 11 Batt. 1  
Car 30  
0020 2-2 489 Eng. Co. 15-5-9 Lad. Co. 9  
Car 1-3-26  
0032 3-3 489 Eng. Co. 22-13 Lad. Co. 2

## CAR REPAIR SPARKS CONFLAGRATION

Sunday, April 18, 2010, a windy, cool yet sunny spring day might have seemed the perfect time to do some car repairs, but some would be do-it-yourselfers turned into a demolition crew. A vehicle parked in an open lot adjacent to 1301 Palisade Ave. ignited, quickly extending to 3 adjacent cars in the same space and roared up the side of a 3 story frame multiple dwelling. The fire spread rapidly, thanks to "gasoline" shingles on the wall of the tenement. Responding to the 11:24 alarm of fire, units were advised of numerous calls while en route. North Hudson Eng. Co. 1 arrived and reported a working fire, with Battalion 1 right on their heels ordering a 2nd Alarm. A few companies were tied up on a training evolution, making for a somewhat unusual response order.



**4-4 Union City 4/18/10 1303-7 Palisade Ave.** North Hudson Lad. Co. 1 and Jersey City Lad. Co. 12 setting up to halt the spread of fire northward. Note the live wire laying across the cab of Lad. Co. 1. (Michael Phillips Photo)

dwelling at 1307 Palisade. Roof shingles on a 2 story frame dwelling at 308 13th St. were now starting to burn and the vinyl siding of 2 story dwelling on the south side of 13th St., #311 13th St., was now melting. As if things weren't bad enough, a live electrical line fell onto North Hudson Ladder Co. 1, preventing use of its ladder pipe until the line was de-energized. Ladder Co. 2 took a position on 13th St., where heat was so intense that the lenses of the warning lights on the cab melted. Even the chauffeur's seat was singed!

A 4th Alarm was struck at 11:58 hours with companies instructed to find water supply on other mains as the water main serving Palisade Ave. was falling short

Deputy Chief Nicholas Gazillo took command upon arrival, observed fire extending to exposures on both Palisade Ave. and 13th St., and transmitted a 3rd Alarm. A similar unattached tenement at 1305 Palisade Ave. was now heavily involved and flames were roaring toward yet another 3 story frame multiple



**4-4 Union City 4/18/10 1303-7 Palisade Ave.** View from 13<sup>th</sup> Street looking north of the massive destruction left in the wake of the blaze. Even the lenses on Ladder Co. 2' warning lights were melted! (Jack Cole Photo)

of the task at hand. Three ladder pipes, a telesqurt, two deluge sets and several handlines were required to quench the raging inferno. The original fire building was completely engulfed and collapsed, leaving only a solitary chimney standing. 1305 Palisade Ave. also sustained a major collapse. When the smoke cleared, a total of 7 buildings had been damaged, 3 three story multiple dwellings on Palisade Ave., 2 one story garages and 2 two story dwellings on 13th St. The four cars in the open lot at 13th and Palisade Ave. were also incinerated. Miraculously, all residents escaped without harm. Jersey City companies, which comprised most of the 3rd & 4th Alarms, saw 5 of their members transported with minor injuries. Three North Hudson Fire Fighters also sustained injuries.

Car 26, the Gong Club Canteen, turned out on the 3rd Alarm, and served 3 gallons of coffee, 5 gallons of Gatorade and 2 gallons of beef ravioli to the hungry troops. Some 144 bottles of water were also dispensed. Kearny, Harrison and Secaucus were among the units that covered North Hudson firehouses. At the height of the fire, there were 4 Chiefs of Department on the scene. North Hudson Chief Brion McEldowney was in command with Chief Michael O'Reilly (Jersey City), Stephen Dyl (Kearny) and Thomas Dolaghan (Harrison) on hand as "interested observers" and county fire coordinators!

#### Rundown:

1124 1st Alarm Eng. Co. 1-3-4-6 Lad. Co. 1-2  
Sq. Co. 7 Batt. 1 Div. 1  
1127 WF Eng. Co. 5-9 Sq. Co. 1 Res. Co. 1  
1130 2-2 Eng. Co. 13-10 Lad. Co. 3 Batt. 2  
1137 3-3 (All FDJC Companies) Eng. Co. 8-10  
Lad. Co. 12 Batt. 3 Car 26  
1158 4-4 FDJC Eng. Co. 5  
Hoboken Eng. Co. 4  
FDJC Lad. Co. 6

## 2011 CONVENTION PLANS IN PLACE

Although it is more than a year out, it will be here before you know it! The Fire Buff Assn. of New Jersey, made up of 5 area clubs has the tentative schedule for the 2011 convention set. A brief outline follows:

Tuesday, September 6, 2011

Executive Board Meeting

Wednesday, September 7, 2011

Opening Ceremonies

Tour of Ellis and Liberty Islands

Evening Cruise on the Hudson

Thursday, September 8, 2011

New Jersey UASI Rescue Apparatus

Display

Neptune System Demonstration

Friday, September 9, 2011

Annual Business Meeting

Seminars

Saturday, September 10, 2011

Antique Apparatus Muster

Annual Banquet

Sunday, September 11, 2011

Observation of the Tenth Anniversary of the September 11<sup>th</sup> Attack

The convention hotel, the Hasbrouck Heights Hilton, is ready to take room reservations at the convention rate of \$135.00 per night, which includes free parking and continental breakfast each morning. The hotel can be contacted at [www.hiltonhasbrouckheights.com](http://www.hiltonhasbrouckheights.com).

The FBANJ is also holding a Beefsteak Dinner on Saturday, June 5, 2010 at Rutherford Eng. Co. 4 to raise seed money for the convention. All you can eat for \$40.00, plus a tri-regional meeting, North Caldwell FD Pancake Breakfast and the Newark Fire Historical Society Muster are all on tap for that weekend.

Check the convention web site at [www.fbanj.org](http://www.fbanj.org) for further updates!





# PHILADELPHIA SECOND ALARMERS

2900 Roberts Ave - Philadelphia, Pa. 19129 - Phone Number (215) 223-1936 - Fax (215) 223-5753

## Summary of Extra Alarm Fires for 2009 for the Phila. Fire Department

<u>Month</u>	<u>2<sup>nd</sup></u>	<u>3<sup>rd</sup></u>	<u>4<sup>th</sup></u>	<u>5<sup>th</sup></u>	<u>6<sup>th</sup></u>	<u>7<sup>th</sup></u>	<u>Total</u>
<u>January</u>	01	01	00	00	01	01	04
<u>February</u>	00	00	00	00	00	00	00
<u>March</u>	01	00	00	00	00	00	01
<u>April</u>	00	01	00	00	00	00	01
<u>May</u>	01	00	00	00	00	00	01
<u>June</u>	01	00	00	00	00	00	01
<u>July</u>	02	00	00	00	00	00	02
<u>August</u>	02	00	00	00	00	00	02
<u>September</u>	00	00	00	00	00	00	00
<u>October</u>	00	00	00	00	00	00	00
<u>November</u>	00	00	00	01	00	00	01
<u>December</u>	02	01	00	00	00	00	03
<b>Total</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>03</b>	<b>01</b>	<b>01</b>	<b>00</b>	<b>01</b>	<b>16</b>

<u>Battalion</u>							
<u>1<sup>st</sup></u>	00	00	00	00	00	00	00
<u>2<sup>nd</sup></u>	03	00	00	00	00	01	04
<u>3<sup>rd</sup></u>	00	00	00	00	00	00	00
<u>4<sup>th</sup></u>	00	00	00	00	00	00	00
<u>7<sup>th</sup></u>	00	00	00	00	00	00	00
<u>8<sup>th</sup></u>	02	00	01	00	00	00	03
<u>9<sup>th</sup></u>	01	00	00	00	00	00	01
<u>10<sup>th</sup></u>	02	01	00	00	00	00	03
<u>11<sup>th</sup></u>	00	00	00	00	00	00	00
<u>12<sup>th</sup></u>	01	01	01	01	00	00	04
<u>13<sup>th</sup></u>	01	00	00	00	00	00	01

<b>Total</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>02</b>	<b>02</b>	<b>01</b>	<b>00</b>	<b>01</b>	<b>16</b>
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### Platoon

<u>A</u>	02	00	02	00	00	00	04
<u>B</u>	00	01	00	01	00	00	02
<u>C</u>	03	00	00	00	00	00	03
<u>D</u>	05	01	00	00	00	01	07

<b>Total</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>02</b>	<b>02</b>	<b>01</b>	<b>00</b>	<b>01</b>	<b>16</b>
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## **Down 23%**

### **Philadelphia Fire Fatalities Lowest in City History**

Fire Commissioner Lloyd Ayers reports that during 2009, the Philadelphia Fire Department (PFD) responded to 268,996 emergency incidents. Of these incidents, 221,133 were emergency medical incidents, and 47,863 were for fire and other 911 emergency public safety service requests.

In 2009 the Department experienced a (1.1%) increase in the total number of emergency incidents, while also recording a (1.9 %) increase in total emergency medical incidents. As in previous years, the number of responses to fire and other 911 emergency public safety service requests continue to decline. In 2009 this decline stands at a little more than two percent (2.5%).

This year the Department recorded a twenty-three percent (23%) reduction in fire fatalities, the lowest loss of life by fire in Philadelphia history. Further, seventy percent of all fire fatalities in 2009 occurred in structures with no smoke alarms, or dead or missing batteries.

“Smoke alarms still remain the best protection for the early warning of a fire and we continue to strive for our goal of Zero Fire Fatalities,” said Commissioner Ayers.

The Department’s Freedom From Fire campaign, an aggressive fire safety and education program, has certainly contributed to the reduction in fire fatalities in our City. The great work done by our Fire Safety Representatives and the willingness of Philadelphia residents to make fire safety and education a priority have resulted in this historic year of low fire fatalities. The strong partnership with our corporate partners, community organizations

and the Faith community continues to play a major role in reducing fatalities and injuries caused by fire.

“Home fire escape planning and practice gives individuals and families the best chance to survive a fire. Our Home Fire Safety Check List, with ALL ITEMS CHECKED YES, provides the highest probability for the prevention of a fire in your home,” said Ayers.

“I am also pleased to announce that the Home Fire Safety Check List is now available in a host of languages”, he said. Commissioner Ayers urges citizens who do not have smoke alarms and can not afford them to call the Smoke Alarm Hotline at 215-686-1176, and the PFD will provide one. The Home Fire Safety Check List and other Fire Safety and Education information are available on the City’s web site [www.phila.gov/fire](http://www.phila.gov/fire) or at local fire stations.

On January 1, 2009 the City of Philadelphia Carbon Monoxide Alarm Law became mandatory. The law requires owners of all one and two family dwellings and small residential care/assisted living facilities (also known as board and care facilities) to install carbon monoxide detection and alarm devices (carbon monoxide alarms) in their buildings.

In the City of Philadelphia, the Fire Department has respond to an average of 131 carbon monoxide incidents annually over the past 5 years. During this same period an average of 55 patients were transported to hospitals for treatment of carbon monoxide poisoning. There has been an average of 19 carbon monoxide incidents resulting in transports per year over the past five years.

This year to date the Department has responded to 406 carbon monoxide incidents resulting in 72 patients being transported to

hospitals for carbon monoxide poisoning. These incident statistics were the catalyst for the Philadelphia Fire Departments drive to initiate the ordinance requiring the mandatory installation of Carbon Monoxide Alarms. The fact that Carbon Monoxide incidents have increased in 2009 is testament to the need for the new law.

“I would like to think the men and women of the Philadelphia Fire Department for their diligence and commitment to the citizens of Philadelphia within their fire safety and education districts.” said Commissioner Ayers.

#### **Following are Fire Statistics by Category:**

- *Smoking was the cause of nine (09) fatalities.*
- *Electrical wiring (non-permanent) resulted in eight (08) fatalities.*
- *Cooking equipment resulted in five (05) fatalities.*
- *Open flame was the cause of four (04) fatalities*
  - *(combustibles too close to heater)*
  - *(open flame from a candle)*
  - *(open flame from stove top)*
  - *(open flame from lit cigarette)*
- *Electric appliance resulted in two (02) fatalities.*
- *Incendiary was the cause of one*

*(01) fatality.*

- *Portable electric heater caused one (01) fatality*

*Seventeen (17) fatalities occurred between 11:00 P.M. and 7:00 A.M. in thirteen (13) separate fires. These seventeen (17) fatalities included thirteen (13) adults and four (04) children. No smoke alarms were present or had dead or missing batteries in twelve (12) of the seventeen (17) fatalities.*

*Thirteen (13) fire fatalities occurred between the hours of 7:00 A.M. and 11:00 P.M. in eleven (11) separate fires. These thirteen (13) fatalities included twelve (12) adults and one (1) child. No smoke alarms were present or had dead or missing batteries in nine (9) of the thirteen (13) fatalities.*

There were four (4) fires that resulted in multiple fatalities. A total of ten (10) fatalities occurred from these four (4) fires. Twenty-four (24) fire incidents claimed a total of thirty (30) lives in 2009.

Smoke alarms still remain the best protection for early warning of a fire. Of the thirty (30) fatalities, twenty-one (21) fatalities occurred in fourteen (14) properties that did not have smoke alarms, or had alarms with dead or missing batteries.

#### **SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES**

In one instance (1835 Johnston St.- woman on nasal canula) the fire was very minor and alarms did not activate. In another instance

(532 E. Washington Lane) a smoke alarm was located on first floor but was not mounted and not known if activated; fire was on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor. In the incident at 5309 Chester Ave., the fire occurred on the exterior of the property which was occupied as an assistant living facility.

### **FIRE DEATHS BY AGE**

1- 5 years old	
6 - 9 years old	3
10 - 19 years old	2
20 - 29 years old	2
30 - 49 years old	5
50 - 64 years old	6
65 - 74 years old	7
75 - 84 years old	2
85 and over	3

### **TEN YEAR FIRE DEATH RECORD**

<u>2000</u>	<u>2001</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2004</u>
51	45	32	44	45

<u>2005</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>2009</u>
52	52	47	39	30

Fires resulted in injuries to 315 citizens. Of these injuries, (296) occurred in accidental fires and (19) injuries occurred as a result of incendiary/arson fires.

Individuals ranging in age from 30 to 49 years old received the most injuries from fires again this year. A breakdown of injuries by age group is:

### **INJURIES BY AGE**

0 - 5 years old	41
6 - 9 years old	17
10 - 19 years old	31
20 - 29 years old	49
30 - 49 years old	74

50 - 64 years old	58
65 - 74 years old	22
75 - 84 years old	14
85 and over	09

### **CAUSES OF FIRE RESULTING IN INJURIES**

Chem/Flam	04
Open flame	67
Incendiary	19
Cooking	42
Matches	09
Smoking	40
Electrical Wiring	21
Electrical Appliances	06
Heater – Portable Electrical	03
Heater – Portable Wood	01
Heater – Fixed	08
Heater – Portable Kero.	01
Investigation	14
Explosion	01
Fumes	73
Sparks	03
Undetermined	03

### **TEN YEAR INJURY RECORD**

<u>2000</u>	<u>2001</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2004</u>
251	212	242	247	193

<u>2005</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>2009</u>
239	159	165	271	315

During 2009, there were 16 fires that were multiple alarm incidents.

### **MULTIPLE ALARM FIRES**

10	Two Alarm Fires
02	Three Alarm Fire
02	Four Alarm Fire
01	Five Alarm Fire
00	Six Alarm Fire
01	Seven Alarm Fire

## **CAUSES FOR 16 MULTI-ALARM FIRES**

- 03 Electrical Wiring/Equipment
- 00 Electrical Appliances/Motors
- 03 Open Flame
- 06 Incendiary
- 00 Smoking
- 00 Heater (Fixed)
- 00 Sparks
- 00 CWM
- 00 Portable Kerosene Heater
- 02 Undetermined
- 01 Cooking
- 01 UIFMO (Torres. and Wakeling)

## **CARBON MONOXIDE INCIDENTS**

The Philadelphia Fire Department responded to:

38 CO incidents in 2005  
14 incidents resulted in transportation to hospitals  
69 patients were transported

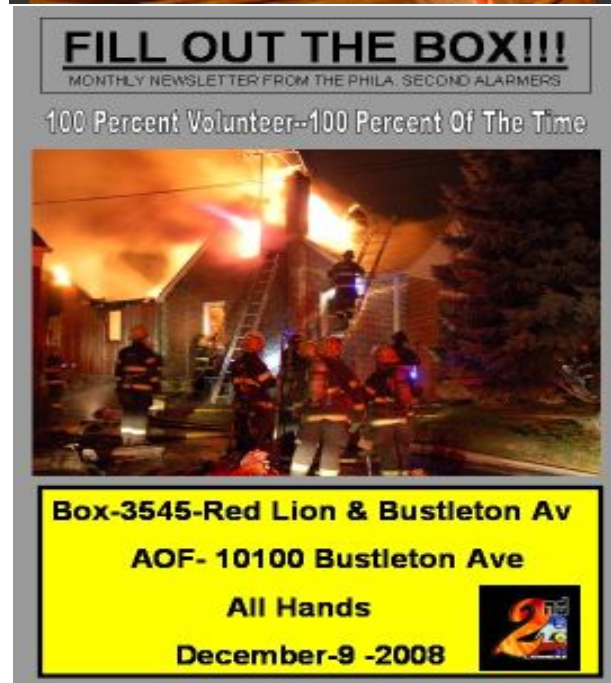
13 CO incidents in 2006  
6 incidents resulted in transportation to hospitals  
9 patients were transported  
1 DOA

68 CO incidents in 2007  
21 incidents resulted in transportation to hospitals  
57 patients were transported

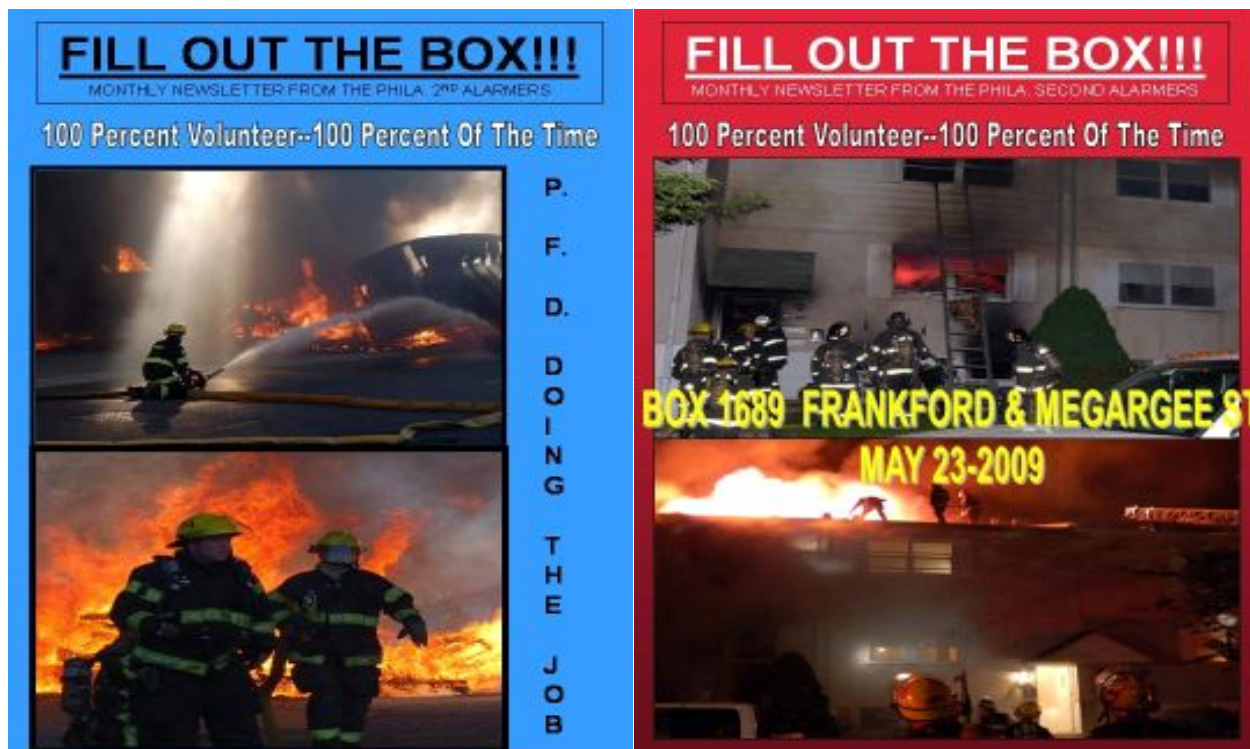
130 CO incidents in 2008  
26 incidents resulted in transportation to hospitals  
69 patients were transported  
1 DOA

406 CO incidents in 2009  
27 incidents resulted in transportation to hospitals  
72 patients were transported

## **Recent Incidents**







## ***THOUSANDS OF NONPROFITS MAY LOSE TAX-EXEMPT STATUS***

By Molly Hottle, AP Writer, May 16, 2010

More than 200,000 small nonprofits across the nation are days away from losing their tax-exempt status because they haven't filed a new form with the Internal Revenue Service.

Many of these groups already operate on razor-thin budgets and some worry an unexpected tax bill could force organizations to close.

"The nonprofits in your backyard, some of them are going to be gone," said Suzanne Coffman, a spokeswoman for GuideStar, which tracks data on nonprofits.

It's most likely the nonprofits aren't aware of the Monday deadline that only applies to groups that report \$25,000 or less in income, excluding churches. Those organizations may not find out until Jan. 1, 2011, when they're notified they have to pay taxes on donations they thought were exempt. And it could be months before their nonprofit status is restored.

Congress required the form, called a 990-N, when it amended the tax code three years ago and groups with a fiscal year ending Dec. 31 had until Monday to meet the deadline.

*(Ed. Note: If you are a nonprofit with donations under \$25,000, and you have not filed your Form 990-N, you should do so as soon as possible. The IRS has promised they will assist late-filing groups so they do not have a gap or lose their tax-exempt status.)*

# ***Region***

# ***10***

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



## **Greater Toronto Multiple Alarm Association**

Founded 1975 Incorporated 1994

P.O. Box 173, Station D, Etobicoke, Ont., M9A 4X2



~~~~~Greetings from Toronto,

It has been a while since there has been an article from our club in “Turnout” and it is time to make amends. As most are now aware, we have been awarded the honour of hosting the IFBA convention in 2012. Although it is early stages for us, we have made significant progress to date.

Please mark your calendars for August 14-18, 2012 as the IFBA returns to Toronto for the first time in more than 30 years. We have made arrangements for our base of operations, which will be the Sheraton Center hotel, located on Queen St. W. in downtown. The hotel website is [www.sheratontoronto.com](http://www.sheratontoronto.com) for further information.

The club has a website set up for the convention at: [www.torcon2012.com](http://www.torcon2012.com) which will feature details and information about the convention as we move along. Information will also be



GTMAA member Desmond Brett's photo of the heavy fire conditions at 161 Wheeler Ave. on Jan. 4<sup>th</sup>

On the fire front, the last couple of months have seen some intense fire activity with a number of serious multiple alarms and 8 fatalities, in spite of the best efforts of the Toronto Fire Services. 2 separate double fatal fires and serious residential fires have tested the TFS. Major fires include a 5<sup>th</sup> alarm at 143 Lisgar Street, a 4<sup>th</sup> alarm at 100 Echo Point and a spectacular 4<sup>th</sup> alarm at 161 Wheeler Avenue.

Over the course of the winter, the TFS placed 7 new rescue/pumpers into service at R112, 115, 133, 224, 235, 341 and 411. Built by Smeal on Spartan Metro Star chassis, the rigs are equipped with 6000 lpm pumps and 2300 litre water tanks. The rear bodies are unpainted stainless steel, a first for Toronto.



Mike McNulty  
Co-Chair, Torcon2012



# ***Region*** ***11***

Metropolitan Fire Assn. of Atlanta, GA.

# Metropolitan Fire Association

ATLANTA, GA

Article by: Jeffrey A. Harwell

The major news story from the Atlanta fire service this winter was not the kind of news that a fire chief hopes for. At 1:03am on January 24, 2010 the DeKalb County 911 office received a call from a female resident at 1687 Houghton Court North reporting that she had accidentally set her house on fire. The line was disconnected before the call was completed, and the dispatch office could not reconnect with the caller.

A one alarm response consisting of Engine 12, Engine 18, Quint 21, Truck 18, Rescue 21, Battalion 1 and Battalion 2 were dispatched to investigate. Engine 18 arrived first and reported they were having trouble locating the address and could find no signs of smoke or fire. Truck 18 and Engine 12 arrived on the scene shortly thereafter. Unfortunately, none of the personnel got out of the apparatus to attempt to find the correct address. Several units fanned out in the neighborhood and attempted to locate a house fire. When these units were unable to locate any signs of fire, all units were placed in service.

Later that morning, another call was received for a house fire on Houghton Court North at 6:18am. When units arrived on the scene they found a one story 3,100 square foot dwelling fully involved. The correct address of the incident turned out to be 1687 Houghton Court North, the same as the earlier call. After the fire was brought under control firefighters were able to locate the body of the lone resident of the house.

Public Safety Director William Miller issued a brief public statement on January 25<sup>th</sup> indicating four personnel had been placed on administrative leave pending an investigation (the acting officer of Engine 18, the officer of Truck 18, Battalion Chief 1, and the acting Shift Commander). On January 24<sup>th</sup> the media reported these four personnel had been fired. Two days later reports were received that Fire Chief David Foster had turned in his resignation. One of the firefighters who appealed his termination has reportedly been reinstated. Other appeals are still pending.

On December 28<sup>th</sup> a Douglas County paramedic died from injuries he sustained the previous day in an accident involving an ambulance and another vehicle. Investigators say the incident occurred as the ambulance was trying to pass a car on Anneewakee Road that refused to slow down or pull over, even though the emergency vehicle had its lights and siren operating. The car then turned left into the path of the oncoming ambulance, causing it to flip over and roll several times. The other paramedic was also injured. The driver of the vehicle was transported with serious injuries.

Two significant downtown fires destroyed multiple buildings in two metro Atlanta cities. The first fire started shortly after midnight on the day after Christmas on Church Street in the city of Canton. An art gallery and a Jewelry Store were totally destroyed with a shoe store (the oldest business in the city) receiving heavy damage.



Just after dawn on February 10, 2010 several passing motorists reported a fire at the Artistic Building Supply complex at 18 East Crogan Street in Lawrenceville. Captain Al Horton of the Gwinnett County Fire Department captured these images of the Three Alarm fire. The county had to eventually send sand trucks due to water icing over city streets in front of the fire. The retail and office buildings were a total loss.



Mutual aid units were provided by departments in Cheorokee, Forsyth, Pickens, Cobb, and Bartow counties, along with the city of Johns Creek.

The other major downtown blaze was just southwest of Atlanta in Fairburn on February 11<sup>th</sup>. The fire broke out around 1:00am on

Broad Street near West Campbellton Street. Among the buildings damaged or destroyed were an antique mall, hair salon, and pizza restaurant. Mutual aid was provided by College Park, Union City, Peachtree City, Atlanta, Fulton County, Clayton County, and Coweta County. The MFA canteen was requested around 4:00am. When command was advised there would be an extended ETA, their response was “that’s no problem, we’ll be here all day”. The canteen was released around 9:30am. Both fires gave the statewide mutual aid system a good test.



This photo shows the scene in downtown Fairburn on the morning of February 11, 2010. MFA Member Sean Reilly took the photo. Union City Ladder 2 was one of seven mutual aid departments assisting Fairburn on the fire that started just after 1:00am

Another fire near downtown Lawrenceville put Gwinnett County firefighters to work during the early morning hours of February 10<sup>th</sup>. Several passing motorists reported a fire in a two story building at 18 East Crogan Street just before 7:00am. The retail and office building belonged to Artistic Builders Supply Company. The fire was fought from the exterior, with Ladder 15 going in service on the front side of the building. A total of eight engines and three ladders were on the scene.

A news media headline recently indicated that eighty Rural Metro paramedics and EMTs would soon be looking for new jobs. Their employer is seeking permission to stop providing service to the unincorporated portions of south Fulton County. County commissioners reportedly voted to do away with a \$65,000 per month subsidy for ambulance service. Rural Metro says it will stay on until a new provider can be found.

To sum up other activity in the metro Atlanta area: On September 21<sup>st</sup> major flooding hit the northern metro area, especially hard hit areas included the Austell/Fulton Industrial areas of Fulton and Cobb Counties and the southwestern portions of Gwinnett County.....A twin engine Cessna plane crashed into a house in Gwinnett County near Briscoe Field.....Henry County faced a mass casualty incident when a Morehouse College bus overturned on I-75 near Hudson Bridge Road with a total of 14 patients transported to four area hospitals.....A rural metro ambulance working an accident on Georgia Highway 400 during a winter storm was hit by another vehicle which led to a request for three additional ambulances as a result of the new wreck, then Sandy Springs Quint 4 was involved in a wreck on I-285 trying to reach the scene to assist, seven patients transported from original wreck scene (two of which were the ambulance crew).





(Above): Indianapolis Fire Buffs' Bloomington Ford struts her stuff during the annual St. Patrick's Day parade through the downtown streets. (Below): Indianapolis firefighters are challenged by a 2 1/2 story frame vacant structure in a crowded downtown side street. Flames spread vertically, involving an occupied bungalow on the right and occupied brick apartment to the left. No injuries to firefighters or residents. (Photos by Tod Parker < Phototac.com>)



# **PAST RECIPIENTS OF THE “HENRY N. WILWERS FIRE BUFF OF THE YEAR” AWARD**

| Year presented | Recipient                        | Convention                |
|----------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1967           | * Henry N. Wilwers               | St. Louis, MO             |
| 1968           | * William H. Perkins             | Chicago, IL               |
| 1969           | * Edward R. Damaschke            | Annapolis, MD             |
| 1970           | * William A. Brennan             | Indianapolis, IN          |
| 1971           | * Albert J. Burch                | Philadelphia, PA          |
| 1972           | * Charles C. Price               | New York, NY              |
| 1973           | Keith F. Franz                   | Milwaukee, WI             |
| 1974           | * John I. Hruska                 | Boston, MA                |
| 1975           | * Arthur D. Devlin, M.D.         | Columbus, OH              |
| 1976           | * James H. Blomley               | Baltimore County, MD      |
| 1977           | * Henry G. Nathan                | St. Louis, MO             |
| 1978           | Roman A. Kaminski                | Toronto, Ontario, Canada  |
| 1979           | Walter M. P. McCall              | New Orleans, LA           |
| 1980           | * Edward A. Massmann             | San Francisco, CA         |
| 1981           | * William "Pop" Porter, Sr.      | Indianapolis, IN          |
| 1982           | * Duane W. Troxel (posthumously) | Detroit, MI               |
| 1983           | * Denis E. Williams              | Milwaukee, WI             |
| 1984           | G. Grant Miller                  | Boston, MA                |
| 1985           | Donald H. Cheu, M.D.             | Columbus, OH              |
| 1986           | Harold L. Holtzman               | Seattle, WA               |
| 1987           | William F. Noonan                | St. Louis, MO             |
| 1988           | *Harry W. Knodel                 | Hamilton, Ontario, Canada |
| 1989           | * Jan C. Faulstich               | Secaucus, NJ              |
| 1990           | Malcolm S. "Bill" Ketchum        | St. Paul, MN              |
| 1991           | Gerald J. Hourigan               | San Jose, CA              |
| 1992           | * Frederick M. Hill              | Westlake, OH              |
| 1993           | * L. Murray Young                | Milwaukee, WI             |
| 1994           | George "Smokey" Bass             | Universal City, CA        |
| 1995           | William M. Mokros                | Baltimore, MD             |
| 1996           | George B. Ottley                 | Nashville, TN             |
| 1997           | Stuart M. Nathan                 | Chicago, IL               |
| 1998           | Herb Pearlstein                  | Columbus, OH              |
| 1999           | Owen P. "Phil" Reid, Jr.         | Tacoma, WA                |
| 2000           | Ralph Decker                     | St. Louis, MO             |
| 2001           | William "Bill" C. Celentano, Jr. | Houston, TX               |
| 2002           | Paul Schaetzle                   | Moline, IL                |
| 2003           | Steven C. Hansen                 | Milwaukee, WI             |
| 2004           | Leonard W. Williams              | Quebec City, Canada       |
| 2005           | Gary M. Heathcote                | Indianapolis, IN          |
| 2006           | * James Rasmussen (posthumously) | Seattle, WA               |
| 2007           | Jerry Traub                      | Cambridge, MA.            |
| 2008           | Bob Deibler                      | Racine, WI                |
| 2009           | Hal Bruno                        | Washington DC             |

\* Deceased

