

**TURN  
↑↑ OUT**

*Summer 2021*



# TURN OUT

## The Official Newsletter of the IFBA

Published Twice Yearly  
Summer and Winter

[turnout@ifba.org](mailto:turnout@ifba.org)

**“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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### Publication News

A multitude of outstanding submissions have resulted in a very extensive and informative Summer 2021 issue. Despite pandemic restrictions on annual conventions, the IFBA continues sharing knowledge and experience among its membership.

Under discussion are plans for a 9-11 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary remembrance special issue. Your thoughts, reminiscences and suggestions are welcomed.

In lieu of an annual convention this year, the association is embarking on a project to capture our history before any more of it disappears forever. Now is a good time to check the closets and attic for old publications that can be electronically archived for all. See the History Committee reports.

The next regular issue will be Winter 2021/2022. Thank you for timely submitting the many articles and photographs and thank you for the many kind and supportive comments. They mean a lot. It is your magazine.

### Cover

New Orleans multiple apartment buildings – Chris Mickal

### Back Cover

Box 414 units at Domino Sugar fire – Stu Nathan

Steamer on display, Connecticut Firemens Historical Society Museum

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### Subscription Information

Turn Out is available free of charge via the IFBA internet website ([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.

Feel free to share the link with club members, potential members, and others who may share interests.

Those individuals or clubs wishing a printed copy of Turn Out in lieu of downloading from the website should make arrangements through their local club organizations or Regional Vice-President.

### Submission Policy

Turn Out has an "open submission" policy. We encourage timely and continuous submission of stories of fires and events "when they happen." More than one submission per issue by individuals or clubs is welcomed and encouraged. Club news should be forwarded via your Regional Vice President.

Authors are strongly encouraged to submit articles electronically by email to [turnout@ifba.org](mailto:turnout@ifba.org) or on CD or flash drive. Written submissions by snail mail work too.

Electronic files in Word (.doc or docx) are preferred.

Please avoid headers, footers, and automatic page numbering.

Text files (.txt) also work.

PDF (.pdf) files can be submitted if the authors wish to retain their original page formatting.

Photos in .jpg format are preferred.

Please identify the author and photographer.

The most important issue is to submit material. The editors will fix format and spelling if necessary. Consider texting to [turnout@ifba.org](mailto:turnout@ifba.org) if that makes participating easier.

Submitted articles and photos become the property of IFBA.

### Submission deadline

Winter 2021/2022 issue - deadline December 31, 2021; publishing date February 1, 2022



# Summer 2021

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2020/2021

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**2021**  
**Ottawa Convention**  
**POSTPONED**  
**To 2025**





## International Fire Buff Associates, Inc 2021 IFBA Convention Update

I regret to inform you that the 2021 IFBA Convention scheduled for September in Ottawa has been cancelled due to the ongoing confusion and uncertainty about restrictions related to the Covid 19 Pandemic. The organizing committee, consisting of members of GTMAA, PAM and the OFBA, have submitted a bid to host the 2025 Convention in Ottawa.

President Carolyn Wignall reported on a video conference on June 12, 2021, at noon EDT attended by the Ottawa Convention Committee, Chairman Schaetzle, Executive Vice President Banks, and Secretary Mahoney to report on the Ottawa Convention.

- Stores are not open.
- Restaurants are not open,
- 14-day quarantine for visitors to Canada.
- There are stricter border controls.
- Social distancing required on bus and at meetings and banquet.
- Mask and social distancing order extended to the end of September.
- The Ottawa Committee cannot see an avenue that they can use to hold a successful convention and wish to cancel the 2021 Convention. All registrations will be refunded, the committee expects to get a full refund from the hotel.
- The Ottawa Committee would like to propose an Ottawa Convention in 2025.

After a full and free discussion of the 2021 Ottawa Convention and Covid 19 in the U.S. and Canada Wally Banks moved we cancel the 2021 Convention, Bob Bowers seconded. After further discussion, the motion passed unanimously.





# **EVENTS**

## **Save the Date**

# **YO !** **YOU'RE INVITED TO** **THE PHILADELPHIA 2ND** **ALARMERS**



**THE PHILADELPHIA 2ND ALARMERS  
TURNS 100 YEARS OLD | WE ARE CELEBRATING**

**OCTOBER 9, 2021 | OPEN HOUSE | OUR STATION  
2900 ROBERTS AVENUE | PHILADELPHIA PENNSYLVANIA 19129  
FROM 11AM - TILL**

**FOR MORE INFO: SA100ANNIVERSARY@GMAIL.COM**







## Philadelphia 2nd Alarmers Association

January 2, 2021

Dear I.F.B.A. Member:

The Second Alarmer's Association and Rescue Squad of Philadelphia Inc. as a totally volunteer 501c3 organization provides emergency disaster support services at the highest quality level. Its primary service area is the city of Philadelphia and other locations as needed.

Working in cooperation with emergencies services charged with protecting the lives and property of the area, the Second Alarmers provide rest and rehabilitation, and supplies, wide area lighting and emergency power supply as needed. The provision of the highest quality emergency rest and rehabilitation services lies at the heart of the history and purpose of the Association, while other activities provide natural supplement to the development of comprehensive membership.

The organization maximizes the talents of its volunteer force and continually locates and develops with which simulate continues interest and additional membership. Financial resources – limited solely to contributions- are managed to provide the greatest return to those serviced and to represent and establish a nationwide quality standard.

As 2020 is a year that many will not forget, let us now focus on 2021 a year that will surely be remembered as The Second Alarmers' Association of Philadelphia is embarking on it's 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

We are asking for your support in the form of an ad in our program book. You will find the information enclosed with this letter to recognize and show your support for the volunteers who serve our First Responders. Our event will be held on Saturday October 9, 2021 with all activities to be held at our station located at 2900 Roberts Avenue, Philadelphia PA 19129.

If you are able to attend our event in person we would love it if you could bring your companies apparatus to showcase.

Any questions you may have please feel free to contact me via the references below.

Respectfully,

Lieut. Peter J. Specos Sr.  
Committee Chairman  
215-495-9405  
sa100anniversary@gmail.com





## Silver City July 2021

The 11th Annual Silver City Fire Fest, co-sponsored by the Connecticut Fire Photographers, Meriden Firefighters Benevolent Society and the Southern Connecticut Antique Fire Apparatus Collectors will be held on Saturday July 17th from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm at the Comfort Inn, 900 east main Street, in Meriden, CT. Numerous in-service and collector-owned apparatus and emergency vehicles will be on display along with

hundreds of scale models built by some of the northeast's best model builders. Photography displays and firematic vendors round out what is sure to be another great event. Please call or email Mike Quinn to reserve space or ask any questions - [M1968Q@aol.com](mailto:M1968Q@aol.com) (203) 213-3056. Come early and stay for the day as some of the apparatus will be changing as the day goes on!



Box 42

Supporting the fire community since 1942

Ferndale ED emergency vehicle show and parade. *The Ferndale Emergency Vehicle Show will take place on Friday, August 20, 2021 from 1:00 P.M. - 6:00 P.M., in downtown Ferndale, Michigan. Around 100 emergency vehicles will be on display which will include modern and antique ambulances, fire apparatus and police units. At 6:00 P.M., the very popular "Lights & Sirens" cruise will take place.*

Nine Mile Road just east of Woodward.

For more information, contact Anthony Rzcudlo at [ajr107@peoplepc.com](mailto:ajr107@peoplepc.com).



**The Ontario Fire Buff Associates**  
*30th Annual*  
**FIRE SERVICE COLLECTIBLES**  
**SHOW & SALE**

**NEW THIS YEAR!**  
**TORONTO FIRE HISTORICAL SOCIETY**  
**ANTIQUE FIRE APPARATUS DISPLAY & BBQ**

Toronto Fire Services – Training Academy  
(895 Eastern Ave. at Knox Ave., M4L 1A2)

**Saturday, November 6, 2021 from 08:30 to 12:00**  
**FREE ADMISSION – PUBLIC WELCOME**

If you are looking to add to your firematic collection or purchase a Christmas gift for that special someone, or you have anything of a firematic nature that you wish to sell, such as books, photos or slides, toys, diecast or plastic models, patches, pins, or other fire memorabilia, please join us.

Sales tables are readily available at no charge. For further information, please call  
Robert Herscovitch at (416) 497-8968.

**Directions to the Toronto Fire Academy**

From the East: West on Kingston Rd., continue onto Eastern Ave. and turn left on Knox Ave. The academy is on the right. The entrance to show and parking is at the rear of the building.

From the West: Take the Gardiner Expressway to the end onto Lakeshore Blvd. and continue east to Leslie St. Turn left and go north one block to Eastern Ave. Turn right on Eastern and turn right on Knox Ave.

From the North: South on the Don Valley Parkway to Lakeshore Blvd. Turn left onto Lakeshore Blvd. and follow above directions to Leslie St and Eastern Ave.

**Covid 19 Notice:** Please visit our website: [www.ofba.ca](http://www.ofba.ca) for up to date information on the Show.



# **IFBA**

## **Executive Office**

**INTERNATIONAL FIRE BUFF ASSOCIATES, INC.**  
**SPRING 2021 EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING**  
**VIDEO CONFERENCE**  
**SATURDAY JUNE 26, 2021**

Called to order by Chairman Schaetzle at 12:01pm EDT.

Due to absence of Secretary, Wally Banks appointed by Chairman Schaetzle to take minutes of this meeting.

Roll Call of Officers, Regional Vice-Presidents, and Committee Chairs by Wally Banks.

Present: Schaetzle, Wignall, Garnett, Short, Banks, Beliveau, Korb (joined in progress), Bowers, Cohen, Sullivan, Nathan, DeWalt, Kapalczynski, Oliphant, and Biltrey.

President Carolyn Wignall reported on a video conference on June 12, 2021, at noon EDT attended by the Ottawa Convention Committee, Chairman Schaetzle, Executive Vice President Banks, and Secretary Mahoney to report on the Ottawa Convention.

- Stores are not open.
- Restaurants are not open,
- 14-day quarantine for visitors to Canada.
- There are stricter border controls.
- Social distancing required on bus and at meetings and banquet.
- Mask and social distancing order extended to the end of September.
- The Ottawa Committee cannot see an avenue that they can use to hold a successful convention and wish to cancel the 2021 Convention. All registrations will be refunded, the committee expects to get a full refund from the hotel.
- The Ottawa Committee would like to propose an Ottawa Convention in 2025.

After a full and free discussion of the 2021 Ottawa Convention and Covid 19 in the U.S. and Canada Wally Banks moved we cancel the 2021 Convention, Bob Bowers seconded. After further discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

Iggy Kapalczynski, Chairman History Committee led a discussion of capturing the IFBA history which included input from the Board:

- Turnout special edition on 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of 9-11.
- History articles in future issues of Turnout.
- Digitize Turnout, convention books, club newsletters, IFBA and club records.
- Locate past editions of Turnout.
- Locate the past audio/video recordings on IFBA patriarchs/matriarchs.
- Officers and committees should submit articles to Turnout.

Wally Banks inquired if the Board would be interested in attending the New York 9-11 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and/or the Philadelphia 2<sup>nd</sup> Alarms 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary October 9<sup>th</sup> and perhaps include the IFBA Fall Board Meeting as a face to face/video meeting.

After a lengthy free and frank discussion, Wally will send an email to the Board members to inquire about their preference on the above topic. Wally will also inquire about an alternate date for the Business Meeting for 2021 and an alternate date for the Fall Board Meeting.

Bob Bowers brought up the subject of why we must give six months' notice on the date of the business meeting and why we cannot hold conventions in December, January, or February. Wally will ask Dennis Ahrens to investigate the matter and contact Bob to identify his concerns.

Joe Sullivan led a discussion of the benefits of being a member of the IFBA.

Iggy will have an article in Turnout on the NYCFire.net Zoom meetings.

Paul Schaetzle said the end of the fiscal year is June 30<sup>th</sup> and dues collections look good.





## Notes from the IFBA Executive Office

Dear IFBA Clubs and Associate Members –

### Odds & Ends

In the Summer 2021 issue of Turn Out, please find the Boston Sparks Annual Report. I loved reading the box cards and assignments for the fires. I hope to attend a meeting this year and buff New England.

Also in the Summer 2021 issue, please find the Annual Report for 2020 of Box 15 Club of Columbus Ohio. I found the report interesting, informative, and very well presented and I recommend it to you for your reading pleasure. Please share this with your members, friends, and fire buffs.

I look forward to the reports of other clubs that can be shared with you all.

Region 3 Vice President Steve Korb asked me to share a USFA booklet on retention and recruitment for the volunteer emergency services challenges and solutions. It is a frequent discussion topic by the IFBA Executive Board and member clubs.

<https://www.iafc.org/topics-and-tools/resources/resource/usfa-s-retention-and-recruitment-for-the-volunteer-emergency-services-challenges-and-solutions>

It is too large a pdf file for me to send you the document, please use the above link to access the document, if you have any trouble please contact me.

Next topic is long time IFBA member Peter Aloisi has produced his ever-popular Fire Apparatus Fighting Fires 2021 Calendar. I treasure my copy. Due to Covid-19 Peter is unable to attend swap meets, musters, and club meetings to sell his fine product. I always believe in helping a fire buff so I encourage you to buy his calendar. I thank Rick Cutts for identifying this need of Peter, a long time IFBA fire buff.

Peter tells me the calendars are now discounted for \$10.00 each plus \$4.00 shipping. You can send a check (no credit cards) to Chariot Publishing Co. 210 Broadway, Lynnfield, MA 01940. Enjoy your reading, you got to have a calendar!

Let me remind you that we are still accepting nominations for Fire Buff of the Year, please send your nominations to the Executive Office.

Please share this with your members, friends, and fire buffs.

Wally Banks  
Executive Vice President IFBA

# Who Are We?

## Fire Buffs and the IFBA

### *An Introduction*

Most people have specialized interests and passions through the course of their lives. Some individuals affiliate their interests with the fire service in general or with particular fire departments. Their interest is often expressed by supportive activities such as photography, historical preservation, fire ground rehabilitation services, antique fire apparatus restoration, friendship and camaraderie with active firefighters.

Individuals known for such interests and activities are called fire buffs. This is not a title but rather a description of the person and their activities. Like-minded individuals get to know each other when they recognize each other at fire incidents and fire department functions. Historically, this has resulted in the formation of fire buff clubs. These clubs pool their resources to establish canteen services, rehab units, photography units, and fire museums among many such activities.

In 1953, locally centered buff clubs began to network on a national and international level with the creation of the International Fire Buff Associates. This umbrella organization enables individual clubs to interact, share ideas, visit other clubs and departments beyond their own neighborhood and in general foster relationships among fire buffs on a larger scale. The IFBA sponsors regional meetings and activities among clubs, and an annual organization-wide national convention that is hosted in different cities in the US and Canada. Contact among clubs and members is supported by regional vice presidents, Turn Out magazine, club newsletters, and through the hospitality of NYCFire.net forums. The IFBA provides guidance and support to existing clubs and aids in the organization of new local clubs.

**The IFBA's fundamental purpose is to foster *'Fun, Fellowship, and Fire Trucks.'***

Information about the IFBA, membership, conventions, and organizational guidance can be found on the website or by contacting a regional vice president. All are welcome.



[IFBA.org](http://IFBA.org)

## ***Another Way to Stay in Touch and Be Engaged***

Announcing another avenue of communication for fire buffs in the IFBA to stay in touch and be informed. Through the hospitality of NYCFire.net and with the approval of the IFBA Executive Board, IFBA members are welcome to participate in the site's many forums related to fires, fire apparatus, history, firefighters, and fire buffs.

Once known as electronic bulletin boards, discussion sites are now called message boards, news groups or blogs. The New York City area was at one time home to seven different fire buff clubs and its own IFBA Region. While most of the clubs are no longer active, the area still has many individuals interested in "*Fun, Fellowship and Firetrucks*" of the fire service. Through the NYCFire.net/forums blog, they are sharing their fire buff interests. The forums are no different than a large virtual fire buff organization with a virtual clubhouse where anyone can drop in anytime to join the conversations.

If IFBA were to have a virtual forum of its own, it would be very similar to this. The site nearly has 3,500 members and about 10,000 guests from all over the world, all talking about all things FDNY, fires, apparatus, fellowship, and fire trucks.

Visitors can read the forum posts anonymously. People who want to join the discussions are asked to register (free). Site moderators keep the posts professional, polite, and respectful.

In the General Discussion topic, an IFBA – Fun, Fellowship, and Fire Trucks thread has been established for IFBA news and events.

Many IFBA members, including several regional vice presidents, already participate on the site. IFBA and NYCFire.net invite you to check it out.

For those who have never seen the site a couple of screenshots are provided below. All are welcome to check it out.

**[NYCFire.net/Forums](http://NYCFire.net/Forums)**

## Nycfire.net

New posts

## Nycfire.net



## Site News and Info

Threads

184

Messages

2.3K



5/21/21 Feeds Down

Yesterday at 8:45 AM · nfd2004



## General Discussion

Threads

2.5K

Messages

18.7K



ANOTHER WAR YEARS VET PASSES.

Today at 10:30 AM · fdny747

## Incident Alert



## Citywide

Threads

239

Messages

2K



Fire Duty

Saturday at 8:18 AM · twoteamtease



## Staten Island

Threads

2.2K

Messages

8.2K



6/20/21 Staten Island All-Hands Box ...

Yesterday at 2:51 PM · Extra One &amp; Oni



## Queens

Threads

8.2K

Messages

22.7K



6/21/21 Queens 10-75 Box 5178

Yesterday at 3:47 PM · Signal73



## Manhattan

Threads

6.5K

Messages

22K



6/22/2021 Manhattan 10-75 Box 8204

Today at 10:23 PM · t123ken



## Brooklyn

Threads

10.6K

Messages

29.8K



6/21/21 Brooklyn 10-75 Box 3550

Today at 8:58 PM · FDNYSTATENISLAND



## Bronx

Threads

5.7K

Messages

20.6K



6/22/21 Bronx 10-75 Box 4452

Today at 4:15 PM · scoobyd



## Westchester

Threads

1.2K

Messages

2.5K



New Rochelle (Westchester), NY- 2nd...

Today at 10:25 PM · truck4



## National

Threads

15.7K

Messages

25K



Shelton, Ct Condo Fire 6/22/21

Today at 7:44 PM · EMSR2



## International

Threads

1.3K

Messages

2.2K



Paris,France Building Fire (Delayed) 6/...

Yesterday at 1:50 PM · mikeindabronx

## Members online

skylerfire, nap72, fdce54, TgmHol,  
Sfdc111, no1special, 68jk09

Total: 104 (members: 10, guests: 94)

## Latest posts

4/23/21. NEW SEAGRAVE  
TOWER LADDERSLatest: scoobyd · 38 minutes ago  
ApparatusNew Rochelle (Westchester),  
NY- 2nd Alarm 06-22-21Latest: truck4 · Today at 10:25 PM  
Westchester6/22/2021 Manhattan 10-75  
Box 8204Latest: t123ken · Today at 10:23 PM  
Manhattan

Covering bosses

Latest: t123ken · Today at 10:17 PM  
Fire Operations6/21/21 Brooklyn 10-75 Box  
3550Latest: FDNYSTATENISLAND · Today  
at 8:58 PM  
Brooklyn

## Forum statistics

Threads: 66,107  
Messages: 216,450  
Members: 3,489  
Latest member: CaptLinnakangas

## Multimedia



## Photography

Threads

459

Messages

1.5K

Portraits of  
Saturday a

## Videography

Threads

416

Messages

1.8K

They Still C  
Jun 12, 202

## Audio Clips

Threads

19

Messages

77

Old Bostor  
Nov 15, 20



## General Category

 <b>Fire Operations</b>	Threads 420	Messages 3.6K	 <b>Temporary</b> Today at 1
--	----------------	------------------	--

 <b>EMS Operations</b>	Threads 158	Messages 1.1K	 <b>Is the FLY</b> Jun 12, 20
---	----------------	------------------	---

 <b>News and Events</b>	Threads 2.1K	Messages 9.6K	 <b>1</b> <b>News of M</b> Yesterday
--	-----------------	------------------	--

 NYCFire.net

**Forums** ▾

**What's new** ▾

**Media** ▾

**Members** ▾

 <b>Apparatus</b>	Threads 909	Messages 12.7K	 <b>N</b> <b>New Seag</b> Yesterday
--	----------------	-------------------	---

 <b>Communications / Technology</b>	Threads 247	Messages 2K	 <b>FDNY freq</b> Yesterday
--	----------------	----------------	---

 <b>Equipment / Tools</b>	Threads 135	Messages 1.1K	 <b>WORK TO</b> Saturday a
--	----------------	------------------	--

 <b>History</b>	Threads 734	Messages 15.8K	 <b>B</b> <b>FDNY and</b> Tuesday at
--	----------------	-------------------	--

 <b>Training &amp; Seminars</b>	Threads 100	Messages 244	 <b>THE FLOO</b> Jun 4, 202
--	----------------	-----------------	---

 <b>For Sale or Trade</b>	Threads 69	Messages 264	 <b>FDNY BOC</b> Saturday a
--	---------------	-----------------	---

# Register



**Username:**

Required


This is the name that will be shown with your messages. You may use any name you wish.

**Email:**

Required

**Password:**

Required

 Show

Entering a password is required.

**Full Name:**

Required

Must provide a valid full name for registration.

**Department Affiliation:**

Required

Department Affiliation or other Affiliation, Photo, News, Buff, Etc

**Verification:**

Required

☐

I'm not a robot



reCAPTCHA  
[Privacy](#) - [Terms](#)

☐ I agree to the [terms](#) and [privacy policy](#).

## [IFBA Online Store](#)



[Shop embroidered IFBA swag, delivered right to your doorstep!](#)

We welcome you to visit our online shopping store. Search no further if you are looking to spice up your wardrobe !! We offer a wide variety of swag such as: short sleeve polo, long sleeve fleece shirt, baseball caps, spring/fall jackets, golf towel or even a beach towel and so much more. Many styles and colors to choose from and all items are embroidered.

The online store offers a wide range of IFBA products so come have a looksie !!!

Visit us at: [www.ifbastore.qbstores.com](http://www.ifbastore.qbstores.com)

Safe, secure online shopping.



# **IFBA**

## **Committee**

### **Articles**



Office of the Vice President at Large  
Joseph P. Sullivan

April 11, 2021

Report of the Vice President at Large for the Spring Board Meeting of May 1, 2021

Due to work considerations this report is being prepared about three weeks prior to the scheduled Board Meeting. Modifications will be reported verbally as needed at the meeting.

The Report is presented in bullet format with points expanded on as appropriate. The order is by no means one of priority or chronology.

- Buffed Baltimore with Buffs from Illinois, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Virginia, and Maryland.
  - o Visited the Fire Museum of Maryland 4 times with most of the people I buffed Baltimore with.
  - o Many of the buffing tours included visits to the 414 Museum.
  - o I also had the opportunity to buff a working fire around the corner from The Anne Arundel Alarmers quarters and took the opportunity to visit with the membership of the AAA.
- Attended the SPAAMFAA Winter event in York Pa.
  - o Met with Past President Mark Platek
  - o Distributed IFBA information and applications.
- Met with several members of the National Fire Heritage Center.
- Handled hundreds of phone calls and emails.
- Scheduled to buff Boston and Providence in late April with hopes of visiting with various members of local IFBA clubs. Visited with the President of the Boston Sparks, Box 52 and buffed with some CONVENTION MEN. Also met with the Friday Night crew of the Providence Canteen.
- Hope to attend at least virtually as many Regional meeting as practical.
- Met on several occasions with Region 3 VP Korb
  - o Visited old Engine 17 in Richmond that the Flying Squad has recently taken possession of.
  - o Began very early planning for the 2024 convention.
  - o Discussed several Region 3 IFBA applicants
  - o Brought VP Korb up to speed on Region 3 key people and practices.



- Developed and submitted a position paper on the benefits of being a member of the IFBA at the request of the EVP.
- Requested to attend, at least virtually, as many committee meeting as possible. Only got responses from the C/BL and Convention Committees.
- Presented a proposed "Board Meeting Etiquette" paper to the EVP.
- Developed and submitted a Job Description for the Vice President at Large Position.
- Attended virtual club meetings in Atlanta, Washington, D.C, Boston, Providence and with the NYCFires.net group.
- Committee Work
  - R and R Team Lead
    - A full report has been submitted.
    - Assisted with retention issues.
    - Continued aggressive recruitment.
  - C/BL
    - Assisted in writing an Harassment Policy
  - Convention
    - Attended virtual committee meeting.
    - Met with VP Korb as previously noted.
    - Met with principals from Mass. SPAAMFAA about 2022 joint event.
- Plans for balance of 2021-2022 term.
  - Attend Regional, Committee and Club meetings as practical.
  - Attend Philadelphia Second Alarmers 100 Anniversary event in October.
  - Attend IFBA Convention in Ottawa in September.

Respectfully Submitted

Joseph P. Sullivan  
Vice President at Large



## *Retention and Recruitment*

### *Engaging our Future*

To: Chairman, President, EVP and Board of Directors

Ref: Spring Board Meeting Report of the Retention and Recruitment Committee

Prepared: April 11, 2021

Team Members: Executive Vice President Wally Banks, Vice President at Large Joseph Sullivan, Regional Vice Presidents Ken Beliveau and Dave Williams, Application Coordinator Chris Oliphant

Despite the Covid 19 situation the Retention and Recruitment Team has continued to reach out to potential members, both at the club and individual level. Applications have been made available online, and if anyone requests one from an IFBA member the requesting party should be provided one with all due haste. Please be sure to advise the applicant of the current dues structure. If there are issues in providing an application, please let the R and R Team know.

- The Team met virtually on January 23, 2021. The notes from this meeting are attached.
- Brochure
  - o Through the continued efforts of Cody Daniels, Ian Duke Paul Schaetzle and Bob Bowers an updated brochure has been produced and will be printed when the need arises. The printing should take place prior to the next in person Convention. Anyone needing brochures should contact VP Sullivan
    - A budget item for funds to print professional print the brochures has been submitted.
- 11 inquiries have been received and process as follows:
  - o Region 1 ~ 0
  - o Region 3 ~4 The Regional VP is working with a group in Petersburg, Va.
  - o Region 5 ~0
  - o Region 6 ~2 1 of which is a potential club in Southwest Missouri
  - o Region 7 ~0
  - o Region 9 ~3 1 of which is a canteen group in the Passaic area.
  - o Region 10 ~1 Note this interested party is in British Columbia and when the time is right, it may well be best that a combined effort between Region 10 and a group in the Seattle area will be needed, due to travel considerations.
  - o Region 11 ~1
    - When an inquiry is received the inquiring party is contacted and information is forwarded to the Regional VP for follow-up and action.
    - Regional Vice Presidents may get requests and handle them expeditiously without the involvement of the R and R Team. This is perfectly acceptable and in fact preferable. It is requested that the R and R Team be advised of application that are distributed, for tracking purposes.

- Challenges/Opportunities:
  - Several members of the National Fire Heritage Center have inquired and/or applied for membership in the IFBA. We will continue to work with and assist these potential IFBA members.
  - Aggressively work with interested groups in Missouri and New Jersey that have expressed interest in IFBA membership. Additional information will be provided by the Regional VP.
  - Since the last report 2 longtime IFBA Member clubs have questioned the value of belonging to the IFBA.
    - The first one was in Region 3. VP. Korb and VP Sullivan quickly investigated and resolved the issue.
    - The second one is in Region 6. The issue was appropriately delegated to the Region 6 VP in January 2021. As of this writing it is believed the Regional VP has not addressed the issue or contacted the club. Fortunately, Chairman Schaetzle, IT Chair Ian Duke and VP at Large Sullivan have reached out to the club and it appears the issues will be resolved. It has been suggested to the Region 6 VP that he work to arrange for the IFBA to participate in that clubs April 21,2021 meeting. As of 1544 hrs. on April 29, 2021 no additional information has been received.

- GOALS

- **Continue To recruit with the Committee standing ready to assist in any way.**
- Browse the electronic media for persons and organizations that fit the profile of a “Fire Buff”
- Encourage the Regional Vice Presidents to look for new members in their geographic area.”
- Maintain the application as appropriate and verify that the most recent changes are effective, efficient, and included in the application. Application Coordinator Oliphant has suggested that in concert with the IT committee we provide an updated application on the Web Site and the application be such that the applicant can type their information into the report. At this time the R and R does not have access to modify the application.
- Attempt to garner additional participation from some of the more active buff clubs, that do not participate much with the IFBA. Examples are the Philadelphia Second Alarmers, Fire Bell Club of New York and the South Florida group.
- Continue to attend the virtual NYCfires Kitchen Round Table events and develop a strategy to partner with this website to promote the IFBA. At the most recent virtual meeting, at least 25% of the attendees were IFBA members. (4/29/21 Update. Iggy and a member of the MFA in Atlanta who is retired from FDNY, have some solid ideas, that the R and R Team will begin to coordinate)
- Finish and publish the updated “Code of Fire Buffing.”
- Develop a Power Point presentation answering the questions “Why Belong to the IFBA”. Again, Chairman Schaetzle has provided a solid foundation upon which to build.

The R and R Team continues to thank Cody Daniels, Ian Duke and Paul Schaetzle for their support.

Any IFBA member interested in becoming a Team Member on the IFBA Team, please contact the Executive Vice President. We welcome enthusiastic newcomers.

Respectfully submitted.

Joseph P. Sullivan  
Vice President at Large/ R and R Chair

## **Report of the History Committee**

The History Committee has embarked on a project to capture and electronically digitize the documentation and records of the IFBA and its member clubs that request assistance. In existence since 1953, The IFBA has produced magazines, newsletters, convention books, buff guides and organizational documents that reflect the organization and the fire service. In review of the many local buff clubs, some in existence nearly 100 years and many which lapsed from existence, a tremendous amount of historical information has been captured in their publications over the decades. Most of these documents remain in the possession of individuals or club quarters. As the IFBA approaches its 70th anniversary, the connection of the organizations to their pasts are fading rapidly. Many original members are gone and many of the younger members, who remember the original members, will someday be gone themselves.

As in any organization, the organization will be handed down to a younger generation.

The History Committee wishes to preserve the documentary records and publications before they are lost forever. The committee would like to capture these collections digitally and preserve them on electronic media, distributed among the Executive Board members and placed on the IFBA website to permanently preserve the materials and to make them available to future generations who may wish to know about the origins of the clubs and the fire service that they served.

To date, the History Committee has already identified and acquired a fair representation of publications from 1970 to the present. With a mere 17 years of materials prior to 1970 to go back to the origin of the IFBA, the committee would like to request that any club or individual who may have earlier editions of IFBA and club newsletters to consider making them available by loan for a one time, non-destructive, digitalization of those publications.

If any reader has or knows someone who has early copies of an IFBA and club newsletters that they would be willing to share for the benefit of the future IFBA, please consider contacting any member of the historical committee so that we can make arrangements digitize your collection for you and for all future members. History Committee members and their emails are listed on the Board and Committee pages.

The historical archive project was discussed and approved at the recent Board of Directors meeting as an association project in place of the annual conventions which had to be canceled. Why not make a trip to that storage box in the attic or closet to see if we can save some our history for the future? Thanks to all.

## Turn Out magazine

Editions of Turn Out since 2006 have been digitized and are available on the IFBA website. Print copies from 1970, with some issues missing, are being digitized presently. If any club or individual can loan missing issues for digitizing, please contact Turn Out. The goal is to have a complete set available on the IFBA website. Missing issues listed below.

Fall 1956 – 1964, 1966, 1969, 1973, 1974, 1976, 1978, 1982, 1985, 1986, 1987,

Spring 1957 – 1965, 1972 – 1976, 1978, 1979, 1982 – 1984, 1986, 1988, 2003

## Convention books

Some IFBA members who have faithfully attended annual conventions for many years have indicated that they have convention books from the years that they attended. If we can get a list together, a fairly complete set of convention books may be assembled.

## Buffing Guides

Over the years some clubs created separate buffing guides when hosting a national IFBA convention. Others produced buffing directories in their convention booklet. The History Committee is looking to verify which of these guides may still be in existence.

## IFBA Organization Minutes and Proceedings

IFBA officers are asked to check if they have any historical documentation of organization minutes. The Past Presidents Committee is also requested to check if any past officers have kept records that they would like to share.

## Clubs

Does anyone have records from past or present clubs that should be preserved? See list of known member clubs.

## Newsletters

Many club newsletters are the best source of history about the clubs, their members, and the local fire service. A list of known club newsletters follows.

## Project Coordinators

Ken Beliveau

Iggy Kapalczynski



# Lapsed IFBA Clubs

## (REGION 1 – New England NE)

Tapper Club of Boston  
Central CT Fire Buffs  
Citywide Communications  
Connecticut Special Signal Assn  
Hartford Citywide Radio Assn  
Middlesex County FirefighterNetwork

Norfolk County Firefighters & Fire Wardens Assn  
Worcester West Forest Wardens  
Box 25 Club, Saugus  
Box 41, Lynn  
Tac-9 Radio/Paging

## (REGION 2 – 2008 NYC)

255 Fire Club Inc, Brooklyn  
Fire Bell Club of Buffalo  
Signal 6-6 Club Assn of Aux Firemen of NYC  
Signal 7-7 Fire Club NYC  
Signal 8-8 Fire Buff Club Inc, Staten Island  
Third Alarm Assoc, NYC

Box 700 Assoc, Broad Channel  
Hardware City Box 5 New Britain  
Box 22 Associates, New Haven  
Fairchester Hose Haulers Assoc  
New York Central Radio System

## (REGION 3 – Mid Atlantic, DelMarVa)

Central Alarmers Baltimore County  
Ladies Aux Box 414-1957  
Pompier Club, Baltimore

Central Pennsylvania Fire Buff Assn  
Tidewater Fire Photographers Assn

## (REGION 4 – N Central)

321 Association, Grand Rapids  
Box 12 Associates – Detroit  
Box 27 Associates  
Central Ohio Fire Buff Associates  
Detroit Fire Buffs Assoc

Fire Notification Network of Michigan  
Fire Page Columbus  
Western Reserve Fire Buffs Assn  
Box 65 Assoc, Bay City, MI  
Grand Rapids Metropolitan Fire Buffs Assn

## (REGION 5 – S Central)

America 76 Hose Co, Houston  
Central Florida Fire Buffs, Orlando  
Dallas Emergency Corps  
Firefighting Historical Society, Metairie  
Greater Miami Code One Assn  
Nashville Fire Buffs

Box 3432 Fire Buff Club, OKC  
Chimneyville Fire Buffs Assn, Jackson, MS  
Tulsa Fire Buff Assn  
Wichita Sedgwick County Fire Reserve  
Greater Houston Fire Buffs  
International Fire Photographers Association

## (REGION 6 – Mid West N)

Brookfield Fire Associates, WI  
Chicago Fire Fans Assn  
10-87 Club of Rockford

Burlington Third Alarmers  
Wauwatosa Fire Reserves

## **(REGION 7 - 1968 – Pacific Coast SW)**

2-11 Fire Buffs Assoc of Phoenix  
6-6 Fire Buff Club of Arizona  
Mission Valley Fire Associates  
Mountain NewsNet  
Peninsula Fire Buff Club, CA

Riverside Area Fire Buffs  
Denver Fire Buffs  
Pioneer H&L Co, San Diego  
St Francis H&L Society, San Francisco

## **(REGION 8 – 2012 Mid West Central)**

Box 8 Club of Saint Louis  
Box 13 Associates, Cincinnati  
Extra Alarm Fire Assoc, Cincinnati  
Central Ohio Fire Buff Associates  
Wichita Fire Reserve

Indianapolis 2<sup>nd</sup> Alarm Buffs  
Pioneer H&L, Omaha  
Music City Pompier Club-Nashville  
Western Reserve Fire Buffs

## **(REGION 9 – Mid Atlantic Jersey PA)**

10-86 Club of Hoboken  
Antique Fire Association of New Jersey  
Atlantic City Fire Reserves  
Central Pennsylvania Fire Buff Assoc  
Moyamensing Fire Club, Chester, PA  
Delaware Valley Fire Buffs Assoc  
Fire Apparatus Model Builders

FireCom Emergency Radio of New Jersey  
Signal 22 Assn – Trenton  
South Jersey Fire Buffs, Camden  
South Orange Fire Auxiliary  
Union Historical Fire Society  
Willow Grove 2<sup>nd</sup> Alarmers

## **(REGION 10 – Canada AK HI)**

Box 12 Association Toronto  
Box 690 Canteen, Waterloo  
Regional Niagara Fire Buffs  
Lakeshore Fire Buffs Assoc

Hawaii Fire Buffs Assoc  
Historic Fire Engine Assn of Australia  
Visiting Fireman  
Greater Essex Fire Brigade

## **(REGION 11 – Atlantic SE)**

Broward Assn for the Relief of Firefighters  
Florida Antique Bucket Brigade

Central Florida Fire Buffs



## Fire Buff of the Year



## **"HENRY N. WILWERS" FIRE BUFF OF THE YEAR 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 the 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 that have been recognized for their achievements.



## REGION 1

Boston Sparks Assn. - 1938  
Att: Secretary  
344 Congress St.  
Boston MA 02210-1204  
[info@bostonsparks.com](mailto:info@bostonsparks.com)

Box 52 Assn. - 1912  
c/o William H. Wilderman  
P. O. Box 848  
Medford MA 02155-0009  
[bwilderman@firefire.com](mailto:bwilderman@firefire.com)

Box 61, Inc. - 1966  
c/o Carleton Winslow  
257 Auburn St.  
Portland ME 04103  
[carletonwinslow@yahoo.com](mailto:carletonwinslow@yahoo.com)

Connecticut Fire Photographers Assn - 1975  
PO Box 1181  
Hartford CT 06143-1181  
[stretchinandlovinit@gmail.com](mailto:stretchinandlovinit@gmail.com)

Essex County Fire Wardens - 1938  
c/o Norman Stone

170 County Rd.  
Ipswich MA 01938-2721  
[Box343@hotmail.com](mailto:Box343@hotmail.com)

Providence Citywide Fire Network - 1994  
54 Coral Rd.  
N. Attleboro MA 02760  
[Pcfu51@comcast.net](mailto:Pcfu51@comcast.net)

Southern Maine Fire Notification Assn.  
c/o Carleton Winslow  
257 Auburn St.  
Portland ME 04103  
[carletonwinslow@yahoo.com](mailto:carletonwinslow@yahoo.com)

Special Signal Fire Assn. - 1968  
PO Box 25009  
Providence RI 02905  
[pfdcanteen@yahoo.com](mailto:pfdcanteen@yahoo.com)

The Leather Helmet Society - 1992  
131 Calef Rd.  
Manchester NH 03103  
[cpierson@manchesternh.gov](mailto:cpierson@manchesternh.gov)  
[vinctoland131@comcast.net](mailto:vinctoland131@comcast.net)





## BOX 52 ASSOCIATION, INC. BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

ORGANIZED TO PROMOTE FIRE PREVENTION AND  
EXTINGUISHMENT IN METROPOLITAN BOSTON

ESTABLISHED 1912  
INCORPORATED 1918

### OFFICERS

**PRESIDENT** Richard A. Conway  
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Well, it certainly has been a very interesting and difficult year for our Association. For the second time in our 109 years we have faced a global pandemic. We are happy and relieved that all of members and their families came through safe and sound.

In October of 2020 we switched to a virtual format and with a few bumps in the road we were able to get it all working and average an online attendance of 50 persons per month. We plan to carry on with virtual meeting format when we get back to in person meetings in September. This allows members who cannot drive at night, living away from the area and may be working a chance to partake in the meetings.

### FIRE DUTY

Fire duty has seen a slight uptick over the late winter and into the spring. Numerous second alarms were sounded all throughout the METROFIRE Districts. Third alarms were mix in, but it wasn't till April rolled around that the greater alarms started to bang in.

#### Somerville Fourth Alarm Box 479 April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2021

Just past noon on Saturday April 3<sup>rd</sup> 911 calls started to flood the Somerville Fire Alarm Office reporting a fire at 195 Morrison Avenue a house under heavy renovations @ 1219 hrs. Box 479 was quickly transmitted. Engine 6 was returning to quarters and was assigned reported smoke showing. Engine 7 arriving first due reported a building under construction heavy fire showing and ordered the second alarm at 1221 hours. The fire was had already spread to the Bravo and Delta exposures. Companies made the initial attack with master stream devices and big lines. The third alarm was sounded at 1228 followed by the fourth alarm at 1231 hours.

Aggressive tactics prevented this fire from assuming conflagration portions in this tightly packed neighborhood of large 2 and a half and three story woodframe dwellings. The Bravo exposure located at 201 Morrison Ave. and the Delta exposure at 191 Morrison Ave suffered heavy damage. The Charlie exposure located at 193 near Morrison Ave suffered minor damage and the house across the street from 195 Morrison Avenue had its entire front vinyl siding melted off.



Revere Fifth Alarm Fire Box 46

May 20<sup>th</sup> 2021

By all accounts Thursday May 20<sup>th</sup> was a very pleasant spring day, blue skies and warm temps. Inside a large 3 story multiple occupancy dwelling ignited in the rear and by the time the alarm was raised the back of the building was well involved. Box 46 was sounded for 139 Endicott Avenue at 1408 hrs. As the box was striking a firefighter on detail about a mile away reported that he could see heavy fire and smoke showing,

Engine 1 pulled into Endicott Ave reported a Working Fire and ran a big line doing the driveway to the rear. Once in position the Officer of Engine 1 ordered a second alarm transmitted at 1410 hrs. The fire was now threatening the Bravo and Charlie exposures. A third alarm was ordered at 1416 hours. Chelsea E2 had been ordered to feed Revere Ladder 2's ladder pipe, but reported only 50 pounds pressure at the hydrant. Cambridge Engine 5 was ordered to assist them and get on another hydrant farther away. Chelsea E2 was not the only ones with water problems. Most of the pumps that had grabbed hydrants on Endicott Avenue barely had any pressure in the hydrants. Revere C1 ordered that Water Dept. respond to the scene. Incoming companies were ordered on to hydrants farther away.

As if the problems couldn't get any worse, C7 reported he had a fire at 104 Bellingham Street from flying brands and ordered a box be struck. The fourth alarm was transmitted and the fourth alarm companies directed into this fire. Malden Engine 4 was able to quickly knock down the fire on the side porch.

The fire continued and as water problems were corrected master streams were made ready to attack the blaze. The fight lasted throughout the afternoon. The fifth alarm was transmitted at just about 1520 hrs. The firefighters gained the upper hand on the blaze. By the time the fire was knocked down, 15 families were left homeless and the buildings at 139, 141, 143 Endicott Ave heavily damages and the dwelling at 104 Bellingham Street, nearly a quarter mile from the original fire damaged.



Box 52 Assoc. Photo by member Peter Aloisi



## **HUGE FIRE THREATENS DOWNTOWN BUSINESS DISTRICT OF GLOUCESTER DURING A BLIZZARD; ONE DEAD**

**February 4, 1961**

By David Parr

Line Box Staff Member

All photos by late member L. Murray Young collection of David Parr

February 4<sup>th</sup> marked the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of a huge fire in the heart of downtown Gloucester, Massachusetts, that resulted in one fatality, occurred during a northeaster blizzard, and for a time threatened to spread to the entire business and waterfront district of the Fish City.

Saturday, February 4<sup>th</sup>, 1961, marked the end of a record breaking 17-day cold wave, with temperatures rising to 32 degrees and a forecast that called for a snowstorm. The wind was from the northeast and rising rapidly. Two hours after the first alarm the wind reached gale force with snow starting as moderate, rapidly changing to heavy snow. The temperature dropped from 32 degrees to 20 degrees during the fire. It was the fourth major snowstorm of the 1960 – 1961 winter season!

The fire, believed to be one of the very worst in Gloucester's history, originated in the Bradford Building, a two-story brick building at 211 Main Street at Water Street, that housed three stores on the first floor and sixteen apartments on the second floor. The building dropped off to four stories in the rear or Rogers Street side. One of the Main Street stores was a shoe repair shop, and the other two stores were vacant. A lobster processing shop was in the basement, and there was a sub-basement that contained the boiler room. The fire spread to the 3-story brick building (exposure 4) at 205 Main Street known as the Masonic Building housing the Almy, Bigelow, and Washburn Department Store on the first floor with offices located on the second floor and a large open hall on the third floor.



Just about 1:00 AM, an oil delivery was made to the Bradford Building. The oil delivery inadvertently resulted in the basement oil tank being overfilled, with oil flooding the basement floor and collecting in the boiler pit. Shortly thereafter, the boiler fired, immediately igniting a raging flammable liquid fire in the basement.

The building quickly filled with a black, oily smoke. There were 11 tenants sleeping on the second floor. Mrs. Sadie Thompson was up late, making herself a cup of coffee when her apartment filled with black smoke. She went to a front window and started screaming for help. Police Officers Edward Rowe and Walter Johnson happened to be in a cruiser right out front on Main Street, heard Sadie's screaming, and noticed black smoke pushing from the basement.

Officer Johnson ran to Box 31 at Main and Duncan Streets, Post Office Square, and pulled the hook. The first alarm registered at Headquarters at 1:19 AM. Officer Rowe ran up the stairs to the second floor and started banging on doors to awaken the sleeping tenants.

Arriving firefighters were directed to the Bradford Building by Officer Johnson, and found a heavy smoke condition, a cauldron of fire filling the basement, and the second floor full of tenants. Captain Albert Noble sized up the situation and ordered a second alarm transmitted at 1:22 AM. The second alarm brought Gloucester's outskirt station engines to the fire downtown and recalling all off duty, call, and auxiliary firefighters.

The firefighters from Combination A joined police in evacuating the tenants. Six tenants made it to the street, but five tenants had to escape to the roof of the building. Ladder 1 set up their Pirsch 88-foot metal aerial ladder at the rear of the building and gingerly but successfully removed the frightened tenants from the roof. However, one tenant, Hjalmar Johnson, age 73 and a retired fisherman, returned into the building to retrieve possessions from his room. Firefighter Hugh Curley, a former Gloucester High School football star, along with Firefighter Jack Day donned all service masks, and with lifelines tied to their waists, made their way into the second floor to search for Johnson. They had not traveled far into the black smoke when Firefighter Norman Garland pulled them back, as fire was rapidly engulfing the area just below them.



Fire showing from the Water Street side of the Bradford Building

Firefighters launched an interior fire attack that was hampered by the two closest hydrants that were frozen but were quickly driven out by the intense fire conditions. Deputy Chief Henry B. Lowe ordered a third alarm transmitted at 1:34 AM. Fire Chief Willard Goldthwaite arrived on the scene and made a special call for 3 additional engines at 2:00 AM. The Gloucester Ladder 1 ladder pipe was operated in the rear, Rockport Ladder 1 ladder pipe operated at the corner of Main and Water Street, along with numerous hand lines and deluge guns as water became available.



Gloucester Ladder 1 operating ladder pipe at rear.



Rockport Ladder 1 a 1954 American La France 700 Series 75 foot aerial operating its ladder pipe at Main & Water Streets

The fire then extended into the Almy's Department Store (exposure 4) and soon took full possession of the large three-story building. This was a surprise to firefighters as the Almy's Building was sprinklered, but it was later discovered that the main sprinkler supply line was frozen. In addition, unknown to firefighters, the basement of the Bradford Building was connected to the basement of the Almy's building.





Fire showing from sides 2 and 3 of the Bradford Building

With the Bradford Building fully involved with the danger of collapse, Chief Goldthwaite ordered the attack to concentrate on the Almy's building to stop the spread of the fire into exposure 4A, the Hub Building, another three-story brick commercial building. Gloucester Ladder 1 and Beverly Ladder 1 worked together in the rear, and Rockport's Ladder 1 was relocated to protect the exposure from the Main Street side. Chief Goldthwaite, fearing that the fire, pushed by northeast gales, could spread westerly right down the central business district along Main Street, ordered deluge guns, ladder pipes, and hand lines to be concentrated on the Almy's building to stop the spread.



Beverly Ladder 1 and Gloucester Ladder 1 at the rear of the building.

Other exposures threatened by the fire included the Fisherman's Institute on Duncan Street, where 35 occupants were evacuated, and the Gloucester Police Station – District Court at Duncan and Rogers Street. Although the Police Station was not evacuated, records, guns, and the one prisoner in custody were placed in the guard room ready to be moved at a moment's notice.

At 3:40 AM and again at 5:40 AM, the Chief ordered additional engines and ladders from as far away as Malden, Wakefield, and Reading, to provide a force in place in order to stop the spread of the fire further along Main Street. But fortunately, the refocused attack prevented the fire from spreading into the 3-story Hub Building at 195 Main Street, (exposure 4A) although it did receive heavy damage. The sparks and embers from the fire were a concern and started a roof fire 3 blocks away that was quickly controlled by a crew from Combination A's 300-gallon booster truck and Ladder 3's city service truck. It was felt at the time that the heavy snow falling prevented many other fires.



Main St. side - Bradford Building in foreground, Almy building fully involved in background.

This was a long, dangerous, and punishing fire fight. Chief Goldthwaite said that the fire burned out-of-control spreading for 5-hours and continued to burn out-of-control but not spreading for another 8-hours! In addition to the intensity of the fire and blizzard conditions, falling walls presented another hazard as daylight arrived Saturday morning. Firefighter Norman Garland was thrown some ten feet from the concussion of the rear wall collapsing, sustaining shoulder, leg and elbow injuries.

Nineteen other firefighters were injured including Deputy Chief W. Elliot O'Hearn – leg injury; Captain Carlton McKay – chest injury; Captain James Cooney – strained groin; Firefighter Harold MacArthur – hernia; Callman Charles Lowe – leg injury and smoke inhalation; Callman Larry Colby – back injury; Firefighter Robert Zager – back injury; Firefighter Francis Clark – hip injury; Callman Charles Anderson – back injury; Firefighter Howard Cusick – knee injury; Firefighter Edwin Lowe – gasoline in eyes; Firefighter Robert Clark – gasoline in eyes; Firefighter Hugh Curley – smoke inhalation; Firefighter Adam Maliski – foot injury; Firefighter Dana Blatchford – ankle injury; Firefighter Albert Frost – strained right side; Captain Edmund Marble – strained leg; Captain Albert Noble – knee injury, and Reading Lieutenant Van Horn – leg injury.

Gloucester Fire Captain Carlton McKay was in command at fire headquarters, only three blocks away, coordinating the response to the fire and managing the covering companies. When transmitting the third or general alarm, the steam whistle failed to operate, so many off duty firefighters were recalled by tapper or telephone. Gloucester's water department was notified to boost the pressure in the system and responded to address the issue of frozen hydrants.





Gloucester Water Dept. crew works to thaw a frozen hydrant at height of blaze.

Mr. Johnson, who returned into the building to retrieve his possessions, could not be located after the fire and a search was started. Firefighters carefully combed the rubble for several days but never located Johnson's body. He is presumed to have died in the fire.



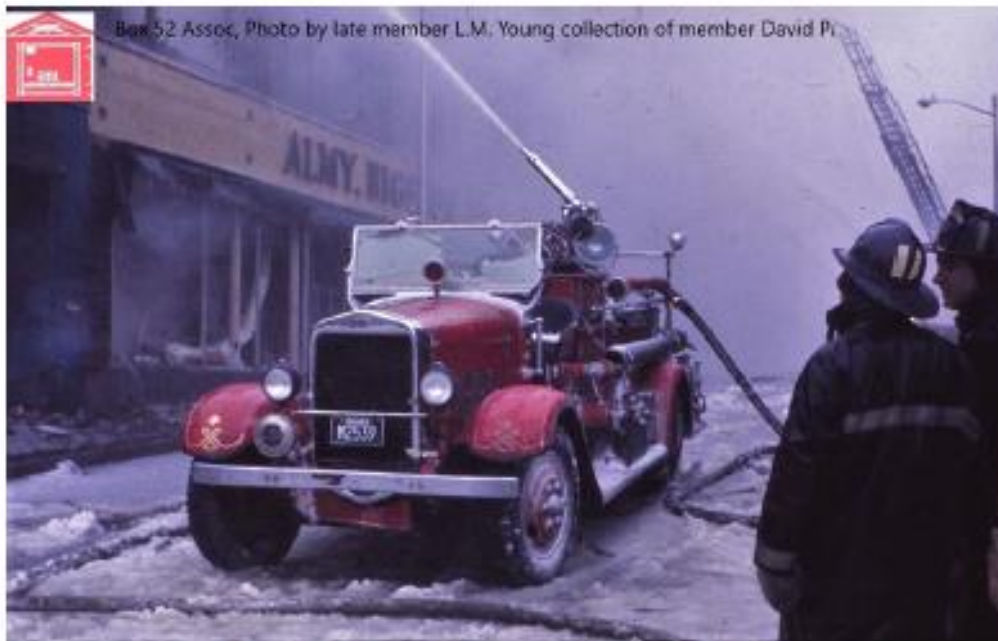
Rockport Ladder 1 relocated in front of the fully involved Almy building

The sixteen mutual aid companies responding to the fire made the trip in the early portion of the snowstorm but returning to their respective cities in a blizzard Saturday was another factor! Peabody Engine 1 broke down and had to limp to the Gloucester DPW garage. Reading Engine 2 made it as far as Beverly and had to seek shelter. Wakefield Engine 1's 1956 Mack B-85 pumper got stuck on Route 128 at Essex Avenue in Gloucester, freed themselves, but got stuck again on Route 128 at the North Shore Shopping Center in Peabody. Low on gasoline and the pump in danger of freezing up, the crew was rescued just in time by a state highway plow who pulled the engine out of the snow and then led them back home.

The total loss of the fire was estimated at 1.8 million in 1961 dollars. Both buildings were demolished in the days following the fire. Today the site of one of Gloucester's biggest fires is the home to the Gloucester Police Station and the Veteran's Administration Health Clinic. Water Street is now a parking lot for a Walgreens Drug Store.



Daylight-Looking west on Main St. from Water St. Bradford Building in foreground, 3 story Army building in background



Gloucester reserve Engine 1 a 1934 Maxim operating at the front on Main St.

# TIME LINE

Time	Alarm	Engines	Ladders	Other	Comments
0119	31	3, 6,	1	Combination A	
0122	2-31	5, 4, 3, 2, 1	3	Rescue	
0122	Sp. C	Rockport E3	Beverly L1 Rockport L1	Forest Fire 1	To the fire
	Cover	CD Aux. Engine Manchester E3			Cover GFD Headquarters Cover Magnolia Station
0134	3-31	Manchester E3			Relocate to HQ Station
0200	Sp. C	Beverly E8 Danvers E1 Salem E8			To the fire
0205	Sp. C	Cd Aux. Engine Manchester E3			To the fire
0255				Combination A	From fire to brand patrol downtown area
0340	Sp. C	Lynn E2 Peabody E1			To the fire
0540	Sp. C	Essex E3, Hamilton E3, Reading E2, Wakefield E1 Ipswich E2	Lynn L4 Malden L2		To the fire
0800		5			Cover GFD Headquarters
					To HQ to reload an cover. Starting to release mutual aid companies
1827	Still			Combination A	To fire scene for rekindle
1915	Still	3			To fire assist Comb. A
2200	Allout 31				

A fire detail was maintained at the site until 2000 on Sunday, February 5<sup>th</sup>



Box 52 Assoc. Photo by late member L.M. Young collection of member David Parr  
Ladder 1 1937 85 foot metal tiller aerial. Note – A new aerial ladder was installed in 1965 to replace the original aerial that was damaged at a fire, and in 1966 a Mack B-85 tractor replaced the original Pirsch tractor.



## GLOUCESTER FIRE DEPARTMENT 2-4-1961

Chief – Willard C. Goldthwaite Permanent Men – 56, Call Men – 12

Population – 25,500

Fire Alarm Headquarters: Headquarters Station, Gamewell Class B System

### HEADQUARTERS – School Street at Procter Street

Engine 3 – 1959 Maxim, 750 GPM

Engine 6 – 1949 Mack, 750 GPM

Combination A – 1953 International Booster Truck

Ladder 1 – 1937 Pirsch, 86' Metal TT Aerial

Ladder 3 – 1942 Dodge Tractor with a  
1884 Gleason and Bailey City Service Trailer

Rescue – Cadillac Ambulance

### MAGNOLIA STATION – Fuller Street near Shore Road

Engine 2 – 1953 Maxim, 750 GPM

Forest Fire 1 – 1955 Ford

### EAST GLOUCESTER STATION – Mt. Pleasant Ave and Chapel Street

Engine 5 – 1939 Diamond T – Local Build, 500 GPM

Auxiliary Engine – 1942 Seagrave Quad, 750 GPM

### BAYVIEW STATION – Washington Street and South Kilby Street

Engine 4 – 1953 Maxim, 750 GPM

Engine 1 – 1934 Maxim, 750 GPM (Reserve)

**NOTE:** The West Gloucester Fire Station was not opened until 1967



Gloucester Ladder 3 1942 Dodge tractor pulling an 1884 Gleason & Bailey city service trailer. This truck was mainly used to respond to fires in the outlying rural sections of the city and served until 1972.

*Special thanks to the following for their assistance in this article.*

*All photos are from the collection of the late L. Murray Young; Frank San Severino; Chief Eric Smith, Gloucester Fire Dept; Retired Chief Barry McKay, Gloucester Fire Dept; Retired Firefighter Hugh Curley and Retired Firefighter Gene McDonald, Gloucester Fire Department; Jacklyn Linsky, Local History Librarian, Gloucester Lyceum & Sawyer Free Library; A Pictorial History of the Gloucester Fire Dept. by the late Gloucester Firefighter Larry Colby.*





## BOSTON FIRE UPDATES

By the time you read this article, the switch over to a ten alarm running card for every box in the City will have been completed. Chief Officers felt that too many companies were arriving on the second alarm, which when ordered brought 4 engine companies, 2 ladders and many special units, when only a few units were actually needed and put to work. Under this new plan the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> due engines have been dropped and the two engines added to new 10<sup>th</sup> alarm level. The same amount of apparatus will still responded on the new run card as responded to the old 9<sup>th</sup> alarm. The other change is that the ladder companies which responded on the odd numbered alarms, have been switched to the even numbered alarms. Each odd numbered alarm will receive 2 engines and the even number will receive 2 engines and 1 ladder up to the 8<sup>th</sup> alarm, where the 8<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> alarms will receive two engines only.

Apparatus: An order has been placed with Emergency-One for nine (9) pumps to be delivered over the next 3 fiscal years. The first will be delivered in June 2022, with 3 each following through FY24.

A new Mobil Command Post has been delivered. Built by LDV on a 2021 Freightliner tandem rear axle chassis.



In the Metro District: Lexington has moved into their newly built fire headquarters located at the site of the former fire HQ built in 1948.

Somerville has placed the first Toyne pumper in the area in service with Engine 3 it is equipped with a 1,250 gpm pump, 500 gallon tank and carries a 30 gallon foam tank.

### Box 52 Association Notes

As stated elsewhere or virtual meetings have been well attended and as in keeping with our long history of providing great entertainment to the membership we continued to do so using this new format. Some of programs featured: Chemical Apparatus and Equipment of the Lynn, MA Fire Department. Providence RI Firefighter Dan Rinaldi on surviving a MAYDAY. Other presentations included a photo retrospective of B-Mack Fire Apparatus and a evening of Old Chicago Fires, among many others.

2022 will be the sesquicentennial of the Great Boston Fire of November 9 and 10 1972. The first alarm for the fire was transmitted from Box 52. A committee has been formed and many events will be held during the year leading up to date of the fire. Keep checking our Facebook page and our website at [www.box52.org](http://www.box52.org) for more information.

We hope that everyone has a safe and enjoyable summer.

See ya at the big one!



## Boston Sparks Association

05/20/2021 City of Revere Box 5-46



On this warm spring day just after 14:00 hours Metro North Regional Communication Center transmitted Revere Box 46 for a reported building fire at 139 Endicott Avenue in the Beachmont section of the city; a highly congested area at the top of a very hilly street. This area is made up of three deckers and 2-1/2 story multiple and single family dwellings. Fire Detail 1 on a remote site in another section of the city radioed to fire alarm that he had heavy fire and smoke visible. First arriving Engine 1 and Ladder 1 found the rear of a large six family 50' x 75' three decker at number 143 Endicott Ave. heavily involved with fire on all three floors of the rear porches and extending to the exposures on both sides and the rear porches of the two buildings on Bellingham Ave. Lt O'Hara of Engine Company 1 transmitted the working fire signal and within 30 seconds he ordered the second alarm transmitted.

Deputy Chief Tom Tedesco C7 arrived shortly after and upon seeing the heavy fire conditions ordered the third alarm transmitted to bring additional help to the scene of this now raging inferno that had spread to exposure 1 which is # 149 Endicott a fully occupied 2 1/2 story 20' X 40' residence and #139 Endicott Ave. on exposure 4 which is a 3-1/2 story 30' X 40' dwelling.



As companies began to hook up to hydrants and started running lines there was an immediate lack of water pressure which hampered initial operations and the fire spread in intensity and volume with a very heavy smoke condition banking down to the street. Large firebrands began to rain down on the upwind side which is the Bellingham Ave. side of the fire and sparked several smaller fires on buildings in the immediate area.

The incoming second and third alarm pumps were forced to seek water sources several streets away and began relay pumping operations to find adequate water sources to feed the several ladder pipes, Blitz guns and large caliber handlines in operation.

Revere C 1 Chief Chris Bright arriving on scene ordered the fourth alarm to bring in additional companies to tap hydrants several blocks away to get adequate water supplies to fight the fire now in five buildings. Malden Ladder 1 took up a position on Bellingham Ave at the rear of the main fire building and set up ladder pipe operations. Chelsea Ladder 2 got close on Endicott Ave by the exposure 2 building and put their ladder pipe in operation as well as Revere ladder 1 with their stick in the front of 143 Endicott Ave.,. A fifth alarm was transmitted to bring in additional pumps to supply feed lines and boost the water supply already in force.

At the height of the fire three ladder pipes, six Blitz guns and six handlines were in operation. Firefighters made an aggressive attack under a severely constrained water supply and prevented this fire from spreading further. After about two hours of an intense fight, the fire was contained to the three buildings on Endicott with some extension to the houses on Bellingham Ave.

With the temperature at about 75 degrees rehab was an important resource needed, A-10 crew member Justin Holstrom was in our quarters on Congress Street and quickly began to load A-10 with additional supplies of water, Gatorade, ice and other supplies as member Paul Boudreau responded in. Both members left Congress Street with A-10 at about 14:20 hours.





A-10 arrived on scene and immediately set up a rehab station on the Bellingham Ave. side and then proceeded to Endicott Ave. to assist our partners in rehab, Cataldo Ambulance, with rehab resources on the front of the building. Squad 10 with members Dave Stewart and Neal Miller responded with additional supplies and later A-11 with Tom Leone and Steve Corbett arrived to provide additional support. Captain Kevin Johnson of the Salvation Army arrived on scene with their canteen rig and several members and provided assistance to us in the rehab, care and comfort of the troops on scene.

Rehab units supplied 7 cases of Gatorade, 9 cases of water, 125 cold towels, 4 packs of wipes, 100 Squencher Pops, 50 pizzas, 60 hot dogs, 40 corn dogs, four gallons of coffee and numerous snacks. A-10, A-11 and Squad returned to quarters at 21:30 hours.

### 05/26/2021 Boston Box 7-1783

With temperatures hovering at 92 degrees and moderate humidity in the air, Boston Fire Alarm transmitted box 1783 at 11:07 hours for the address of 84 Fayston Street in the city's Dorchester neighborhood on a report of rear porches on fire. As the Box was being sent out CITYWIDE Fire Radio member Damian Drella reported in with a very heavy loom up for that area visible from his location in South Boston.

As Engine 21 under the command of Lt. Kevin Preston turned onto Mascoma Street from Quincy Street he reported to Fire Alarm that he had three buildings on fire and ordered the second alarm transmitted at 11:10 hours. A minute later Lt. Larry Buechs of Engine 17 ordered the third alarm transmitted due to heavy fire conditions and rapid fire spread in this very densely populated area. The neighborhood is filled with narrow streets lined with traditional Boston three deckers on each side of the street.



The main fire building at 84 Fayston Street along with exposure 2 #82 and exposure 4 #86 are all three decker, flattop dwellings and measure 30'X40' with minimum separation between them. The fire had gained headway into each floor of the fire buildings and communicated to the exposure 3 which is 7 Mascoma Street to the rear and is a 2-1/2 frame dwelling. All the fire buildings are located on a hill making the efforts even more difficult. District 7 Chief Jeff Whitman was responding from Division Headquarters and upon arrival transmitted the fourth alarm at about 11:21.

The heavy fire conditions created a very dense smoke condition and also sent flying brands throughout the neighborhood. The brands started another porch fire around 207 Quincy Street that was quickly extinguished.

Additional alarms were transmitted to bring supplemental resources to the fire. At one point during the firefight seven aerial ladders and 11 handlines were in use to quell the flames and bring this 7 alarm fire under control.

A-10 with crew members Paul Boudreau and Steve Corbett responded and were out the door quickly from our Congress Street station. They were met on scene by member Tom Leone to initiate the large rehab operation. Squad 10 with members Dave Stewart and Justin Holstrom arrived a short time later with additional supplies soon followed by member Ed Hassan with A-11.





Full rehab operations were set up with the large shade tent, misting fans and multiple coolers with Gatorade and water and several buckets of ice cold towels to distribute to the weary and fatigued members operating at this fire. At one point we had three areas of rehab in operation assisting Boston's W-25 crew members Darren and Frankie. Over 150 firefighters were on scene at the highpoint of this 7-alarm blaze with three being transported to the hospital for various non-life threatening injuries.

All of the structures were fully occupied and all residents made it out safely with about 48 being displaced and assisted by the Boston FD Victim Assistance Unit, Boston OEM and Red Cross.

We were assisted at the scene by the members of the Salvation Army Kroc Center in Roxbury and the S.A. Disaster Unit from Fitchburg. The Boston School Department also dropped off about three dozen prepared meals and a case of fresh oranges from the nearby school cafeteria which were distributed to the displaced families.

During this operation we provided the following to the members on scene, 17 Cases of water, 15 cases of Gatorade, 200 cold towels, 300 lbs. of ice, 150 hot dogs, wipes, assorted snacks, 6 dozen frozen pops and we used the tent, portable generators and misting fans for about three hours.

A-10, Squad 10 and A-11 returned to quarters by 15:50 for cleanup and restocking. Also, a big thank you to off duty Boston FF Marvin (first name) of Engine 52, who did a tremendous job on the fire ground assisting A10 members.



**05/29/2021 Town of Arlington Box 3-26**

Arlington Fire Alarm started receiving calls for a house fire a little after 16:00 hours Saturday afternoon with initial reports of a fire on Milton Street but later corrected to the address of 30 Egerton Road off Massachusetts Avenue. Box 26 was sounded and first arriving companies found heavy fire showing from the rear of a large 2 ½ story wood frame dwelling. Residents had safely self-evacuated on arrival. The fire rapidly progressed to the interior of all floors and eventually thru the roof. Second and third alarms were transmitted bringing in mutual aid from the surrounding cities and towns to assist the Arlington jakes in suppressing this blaze.

The Arlington tower and Somerville Ladder 3 had the front of the fire building covered and the crews from Cambridge Ladder 1 made a great maneuver and got their truck in the driveway in the rear from Melrose Street and operated their ladder pipe.

Numerous handlines, the tower ladder and a ladder pipe were used to quell the flames from the outside and then companies moved interior for the arduous task of chasing the fire in the walls of the balloon frame construction house.

Great efforts by the members on scene kept the fire from spreading in this densely packed neighborhood not far from the Cambridge line.

A-10 with members Ed Hassan and Paul Boudreau responded to the scene to provide rehab for the weary crews operating at the fire. While on scene we distributed 3 gallons of hot coffee, 2 cases of Gatorade, 2 cases of water, numerous snacks, towels and wipes to the members operating at the fire. Member Tom Leone responded to our quarters to cover with Squad 10.



distance from our quarters. Companies were located at Rowes Wharf and on the Fort Point Channel bridge as the moored vessel burned through its line and drifted with the current towards the courthouse.

In the rehab business scenarios change fast, we went from 94 degree temperatures on Wednesday to 46 degrees on Saturday! Being prepared with the proper and essential rehab tools is paramount to a successful operation and the crews of the BSA Rehab/Canteen are always prepared.

A-10 returned from the fire at 19:50 hours and on the way back to quarters we stopped at Boston Box 1293 for a boat fire that ended up behind the Moakley Courthouse which is a short



**Special Signal Fire Association  
Providence Canteen  
Rhode Island  
Region 1**

**By Christopher Palmer**

**The Special Signal Fire Association (SSFA) better known as the Providence Canteen was started by a small group of local fire buffs back in 1968 in the city of Providence, RI. Since the SSFA was organized over 50 years ago we have grown to a group of over 100 members, 40 of them active members operating 4 canteen rehab units. We service all of Rhode Island and neighboring Connecticut and Massachusetts.**

**We are currently headquartered at 100 Minnesota Ave in Warwick, RI where we monitor area radio frequencies so that our members can respond to critical incidents such as structure fire, hazmat incidents, police incidents and searches at a moment's notice as our trucks are manned 24 hours a day 7 days a week 365 days a year. The services of the SSFA can be requested through Providence, RI Fire Department via Intercity Radio or by landline at (401)234-3345 where they will dispatch us out over Providence Fire Channel 1.**

**Our Executive Board Members include President Paul O'Rourke, Vice President Charles Fuller, Secretary Jim Vose and Treasurer Raymond Hull. Our membership meets the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of every month to discuss numerous things and upcoming events happening in the organization.**

**We are a 501(c) 3 organization that operates on donation. We currently hold two fundraisers per year starting with our annual fundraising raffle in March and a golf tournament held in September. All funds raised from these events are used for the operation of the Canteen units such as truck repair and utility bills and supplies for our trucks. We currently have a sponsor that donates \$1,000 a month that covers our rent. We also do a payroll deduction with the members of the Providence Fire Department where \$2 a month is deducted from the members paychecks.**

**Our main vehicle Canteen 1 is a 2009 Freightliner 30 foot mobile kitchen on wheels. This truck has a 6 burner stove/convection oven and a 4 top steam table that are run off a propane tank. 2 refrigerators and 2 freezers. 3 Bunn coffee makers, 2 microwaves and a fully stocked pantry. This truck is also equipped with an onboard restroom which comes in handy for the prolonged incidents. We also operate a 3 other vehicles Canteen 2 which is a 1996 Ford Ecoline bus (formerly Pawtucket Police Command Vehicle) Canteen 3 a 2008 GMC Rescue donated by the City of Attleboro MA and the Attleboro Fire Department and Canteen 4 a 1970's Chevrolet step van.**







Throughout the summer months our members attend many community events such as hot dog roast for local Housing projects throughout Providence. Our members do all the grilling for these events as we are equipped with 4 grills. We also do the cooking for big events such as the John Martins Annual Car and Tow Truck Show at McCoy Stadium in Pawtucket RI and also the RI Antique Fire Apparatus Society's annual truck show held at New England Tech in East Greenwich.

Recently our members participated in a drill at TF Green Airport which consisted of a mock airplane crash with victim on the runway. Many area departments were included in this event. Our members provided breakfast and lunch to all participants. Canteen 1 was staged out on the closed runway during this drill. Pictured above.

Each year since the 2013 Boston Marathon bombings our members have worked alongside the members of the Boston Police Patrolmen's Association to feed the members of the Boston Police, Fire and EMS working the detail that day. We also serve with them during the Caribbean Festival in August.



We also use Facebook and Twitter to keep our followers up to date on incidents happening in our area and also post photos from the scene. To follow us on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram search with the username of @PVDCanteen.

# Incident Support/Rehab Unit 2020 End of Year Activity Report



Boston Sparks Association, 344 Congress Street, Boston MA 02210



## President's Greeting

With the unprecedented events of the year 2020 we all were faced with challenges both personally and professionally in the way we work and live our lives.

The role we play in the support on the fireground was altered a bit due to the COVID protections we had to implement but we managed to not miss a run and in addition to the fire service activity the A-10 members did yeoman service to support the law enforcement agencies on multiple days.

Through these many hurdles we all persevered and did the best we could to adapt and get through it, I am proud of the members of the Boston Sparks A-10 Rehab teams who stepped up under extremely difficult times, performed admirably and made it our mission to support the members of public safety even with pandemic and civile disturbances conditions being the norm, they got the job done!

Hopefully, the year 2021 will see a remedy to the pandemic and heal the personal and civil strife that we have all endured and allow us to resume the new normal, we will all be better for it.



Boston Sparks Association, 344 Congress Street, Boston MA 02210

**Total Responses**  
**January 1<sup>st</sup> 2020 to December 31<sup>st</sup> 2020:**

**166**

<b>Month by Month</b>	
January	12
February	9
March	14
April	8
May	14
June	13
July	13
August	16
September	14
October	5
November	18
December	18

<b>Responses by Alarm Level/Type</b>	
Working Fire	32
Second Alarm	68
Third Alarm	18
Fourth Alarm	6
Fifth Alarm	2
Hazmat	3
Law Enforcement Support Detail	17
Special Call	9
Funeral Detail	6
Non-Emergency Detail/ Community Service	23

<b>Law Enforcement Support/Event</b>	
Boston/Mass State Police	16
Brookline	1
Hingham	1
Medford	1

Boston Sparks Association, 344 Congress Street, Boston MA 02210



## Communities Served

**35**

<b>MetroFire District 13:</b>	
Arlington	3
Belmont	1
Boston	56
Brookline	2
Burlington	1
Cambridge	6
Chelsea	5
Everett	1
Malden	2
Medford	4
Melrose	2
Newton	2
Reading	2
Revere	7
Somerville	11
Stoneham	1
Waltham	3
Watertown	4
Wellesley	1
Weston	3
Winchester	1
Winthrop	2
Woburn	1

<b>Fire District 4: Norfolk County</b>	
Braintree	4
Holbrook	1
Milton	2
Quincy	10
Randolph	1
Norwood	1
Westwood	2
Weymouth	4

<b>Other Fire Districts</b>	
Hingham	3
Rockland	1
Goffstown NH	2

Boston Sparks Association, 344 Congress Street, Boston MA 02210



Boston Sparks Association, 344 Congress Street, Boston MA 02210

## **In Service Hours**

**Total On Scene Time: 594 Hours**

**Total Man Hours Volunteered: 2198 Hours**

### **Participating Members**

<b>Member</b>	<b>Total Hours</b>
Paul Boudreau	385
Steve Corbett	76
Dave Florin	30
Anthony Fowler	76
John Harris	77
Billy Hodges	43
Brian Kerins	278
Dan Lally	21
Tom Leone	332
Matt McSheehy	145
Neal Miller	115
Dan Paglia	125
Mike Salvi	45
Dave Stewart	165
Christian Waterman	4
Mike Wyatt	33
Dave Walsh	3
Joe O'Connell	8
Ed Hassan	46
Justin Holstrum	15
John Cotter	
Matt Buckley	
Pat Dooley	
Barry Oakley	



Items Dispensed	
Coffee	286 Gallons
Bottled Water	755 Cases
Gatorade	605 Cases
Hot Chocolate	35 Gallons
Donuts/Breakfast Sandwiches	18 dozen/210
Cookies	922 Cartons
Sandwiches/Hot Dogs	4945/3200
Pizzas/Hot Meals	165/2,678
Rescue Wipes	54 Packages
Hand Warmers	135 Boxes
Clean Towels	2223
Ice	2,230 Lbs.
Winter Gloves	275 Pairs
Rock Salt	600 Lbs.
Winter Socks	48 pairs
Winter Hats	186

Boston Sparks Association, 344 Congress Street, Boston MA 02210





Special Equipment	
Misting Fans	14 Hours
Pop up shelters	28 Deployments
Light Tower	81 Deployments
Onboard Generator	648 Hours
Portable Generators	232 Hours



Boston Sparks Association, 344 Congress Street, Boston MA 02210





## **Largest Emergency Event for 2020**

2020 Civil Unrest Support



Boston Sparks Association, 344 Congress Street, Boston MA 02210

## Quarters & Apparatus



**Boston Sparks Association/Boston Fire Museum**  
344 Congress Street, Boston



**A-10**  
Primary Rehab/Incident Support Unit

Boston Sparks Association, 344 Congress Street, Boston MA 02210



**Squad 10/A-9**  
Secondary/Backup Rehab/Incident Response Unit



**A-11**  
Support/Logistics Response  
**BSA Rehab Services Activation**

Boston Sparks Association, 344 Congress Street, Boston MA 02210



Emergency Response:

Metro Boston

Contact

Boston Fire Alarm

617-343-2880

Norfolk/Plymouth Counties:

Holbrook Regional

781-767-6830

Pre-Planned Events:

Email

[president@bostonsparks.com](mailto:president@bostonsparks.com)

[bkerins@bostonsparks.com](mailto:bkerins@bostonsparks.com)

[afowler@bostonsparks.com](mailto:afowler@bostonsparks.com)

## **Boston Sparks Association**

### **2021 Officers**

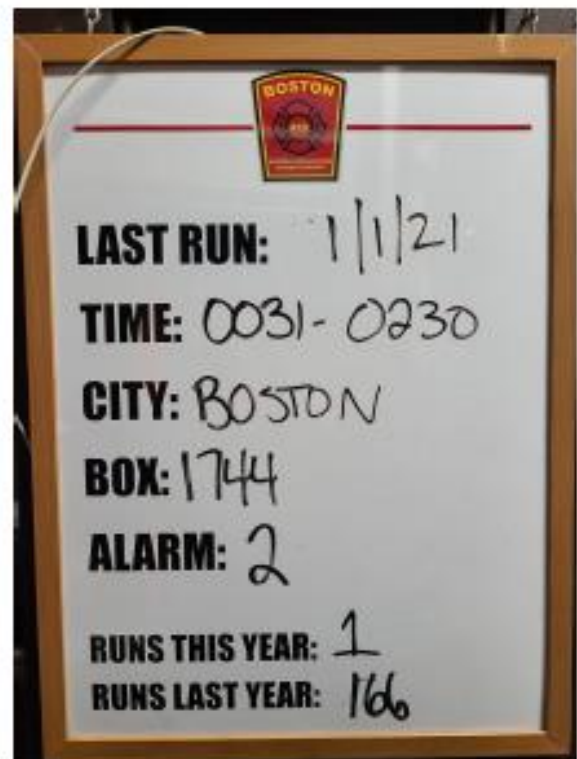
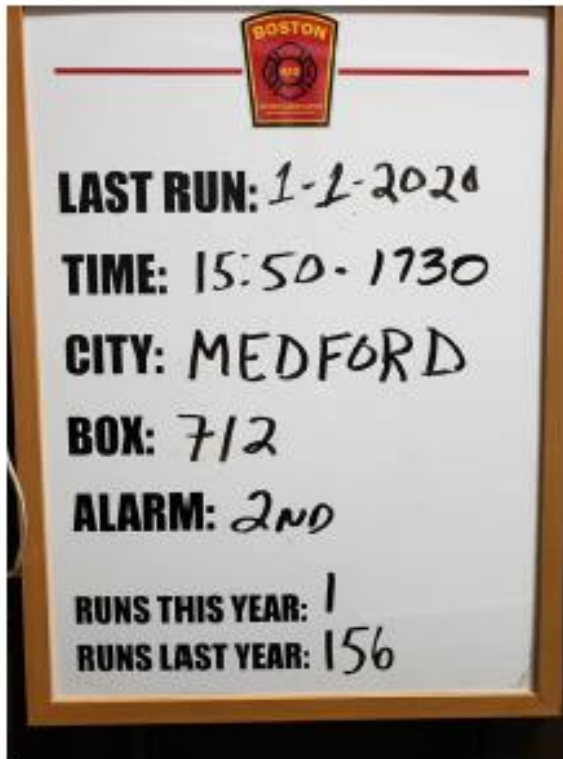
Paul Boudreau	President (2022)
Brian Kerins	Vice President (2022)
Bill Hodges	Treasurer (2023)
Peter Sturgis	Secretary (2023)
Anthony Fowler	Chair (2022)
Dan Paglia	Director (2021)
Christian Waterman	Director (2021)
Will Warnock	Director (2022)
Steve Corbett	Director (2023)
Pat Dooley	Director (2023)

Boston Sparks Association, 344 Congress Street, Boston MA 02210





Boston Sparks Association, 344 Congress Street, Boston MA 02210



Boston Sparks Association, 344 Congress Street, Boston MA 02210





# The 5A



Newsletter of the Leather Helmet Society Fire Buff Club of Manchester, N.H.

IFBA Region 1 Member

Spring 2021 Issue

**The Leather Helmet Society Fire Buff Club is having our first "Live" meeting Wednesday June 16th @ 7 p.m.!**  
**The meeting will be at the new offices of President Wayne Perkins' business, W.D. Perkins Pump Specialists in Bedford, N.H. off of South River Road.**

We have missed out on fellowship with friends who enjoy the fire service and it is time to get back at it. Shown below are photos taken by LHS members at fire scenes and of apparatus. As we get back to buffing and attending live meetings in 2021-2022 we will have more great photos & stories to share with our IFBA Brothers and Sisters throughout the United States and Canada. Onward to Ottawa, Ontario in Sept.!!



Lawrence, Ma.



Lowell, Ma.



Boston, Ma.







Nashua, N.H. New Ladder 3



Nashua, N.H. New Engine 6



2nd Alarm in Nashua, N.H.



Fitzy the "Can Man"



Two multiple alarms on Spruce Street in Manchester, N.H. two weeks apart





Buff trip run in Boston & Belmont, Ma.



Boston Firehouse E2 & L19 in Southie



Manchester, N.H. New E-One Truck 1



That's it folks...  
Time for a Dunks!!!



Pembroke, N.H. Seagrave Engine 2



Photo credits: Dave Morin, Bob Fitz, Jr., Dylan Conway, Charlie Tentas, unknown.





Greetings from the Connecticut Fire Photographers Association, as we come out of covid hibernation, Incidents are remaining the same, but firematic events are finally being held around our coverage areas. In June we held our first in person meeting/annual picnic. The two events we are directly involved in are listed below.

CFPA membership continues to grow, and we have added two West coast members, out of Oregon, like all of our members they have been brings us some great photos. Incident have been well covered, Apparatus shots have been elusive due to covid lockdowns, but some members have been able to sneak a few over that last few months, this summer a lot of new apparatus is slated in our area, our photographer are waiting for them to arrive. You can view some of them on our Website @CTfirephoto.org.

For our live incident's coverage, you can follow us on Twitter, Facebook and now for live video we have switched platforms and are now using HAPPS app. The app is still trial and error but has been working well. For the HAPPS app direct follow, you must follow the individuals. Most of the members that use live video have linked it to their Twitter page and our multimedia team, share them on our CFPA Twitter page.

CFPA Multimedia pages are, Web site: Ctfirephoto.org, Twitter: @ctfirephoto, Facebook: CTFirePhotographersAssociation Instagram: CTFirephotographers. For more info on the club and membership see our website.

### Silver City July 2021

The 11th Annual Silver City Fire Fest, co-sponsored by the Connecticut Fire Photographers, Meriden Firefighters Benevolent Society and the Southern Connecticut Antique Fire Apparatus Collectors will be held on Saturday July 17th from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm at the Comfort Inn, 900 east main Street, in Meriden, CT. Numerous in-service and collector-owned apparatus and emergency vehicles will be on display along with hundreds of scale models built by some of the northeast's best model builders. Photography displays and firematic vendors round out what is sure to be another great event. Please call or email Mike Quinn to reserve space or ask any questions - [M1968Q@aol.com](mailto:M1968Q@aol.com) (203) 213-3056. Come early and stay for the day as some of the apparatus will be changing as the day goes on!



The Connecticut Firemen's Historical Society is hosting the 4<sup>th</sup> Biennial of the Connecticut Fire Photographers' Association show in the Connecticut Room Gallery at The Fire Museum. This season's show features the work of 21 photographers who submitted over 150 photographs of apparatus, fires, and firefighters on the job.

The Fire Museum opened for the 2021 season on Saturday June 5, and will be open for visitors Friday and Saturday afternoons, noon to 4:00 until November 13.

The Fire Museum is housed in an original 1901 wooden firehouse in the Cheney National Historic District in Manchester, CT. The museum contains three floors of exhibits that include a 1911 water tower (the only water tower to serve in CT), a 1912 Seagrave Chemical engine, a 1921 Ahrens Fox pumper (both were originally bought and served out of our building a hand-pulled steamer, several hand-pulled and operated engines, early artwork, and the tools of the job. There is also an original Gamewell alarm room on the second floor.

For information about the museum, exhibits, and how to schedule group tours, you may call the museum at 860-649-9436. Or visit the website: [www.thefiremuseum.org](http://www.thefiremuseum.org).





**Greg Muhr**  
6/19/21 Residential Fire  
2239 SE 147th Ave. Portland, OR



**Sean Fesko**  
Merrimack Fire Rescue, struck 2 alarms plus special calls  
for ambulances for this building fire on Shore Dr.



**Robert Ladd**

06-06-21 Norwich Ct 3rd Alarm +, Roath St 2 Dwellings.



**Dave Kempter**

Fishkill Multiple Alarm

Jefferson Blvd

April 18th, 2021



**Jon Tenca**

FDNY firefighters in Queens worked an 8th alarm fire in an occupied multiple dwelling on 34th Ave



**Michael Quinn**

At 9:25 this evening Meriden Fire Engines 4, 3, 2, Truck 1 and Car 3 were dispatched to 87 Park Avenue





**Glenn Duda**

New Haven, CT LODD Funeral for Firefighter Ricardo Torres, Jr.



**Glenn Duda**

New Haven 358 Chapel St. scrap yard fire

05/28/21 New Haven, CT - The Emergency Unit, while responding to a medical, gave a verbal for fire in the area of Chapel St. near East St. The box was transmitted followed by additional sources reporting the scrap yard on fire. Companies arrived to find a large scrap pile, two stories tall with heavy fire showing. Multiple hand lines were stretched and Truck Three's ladder pipe was put into operation to control the fire. Companies were aided by the crane operator who pulled apart the pile for final extinguishment. The fire took about an hour to bring under control in heavy rain conditions.



**Jeff Arnold**

May 1, 2021 - 2 alarm commercial building fire at a recycling business on Broadway in Cheektowaga, NY



**Kevin White**

Lawrence firefighters work the first line on a fast moving 3rd alarm fire at 30 Shawsheen Ct on June 10th 2021. The large occupied 2.5sty apartment row was well involved in fire on arrival with a defensive posture taken immediately. Dead end water mains hampered efforts to establish an adequate water supply until mutual aid arrived and set up a relay pumping operation. The building was a total loss with a cause yet to be determined.





**Linda Akerman**

On 6/1/21, the Colchester Hayward Fire Department responded to 38 Levy Road where a complex known as the Lincoln Lake Lodge is located for a reported structure fire. First arriving units found a large wood building with heavy fire showing from the roof and windows. Car 28 assumed command and called for a Second Alarm which brought mutual aid from Marlborough, Hebron, Salem, East Haddam, East Hampton and Yantic for their FAST team. An exterior attack was initiated by ET128 using water from draft and ET328 attacked the fire from the opposite side supplied from a hydrant. The fire was declared under control after 90 minutes, units remained on scene for overhaul for a number of hours. The fire is under investigation by the Colchester Fire Marshal's Office and the CT State Police Fire and Explosion Investigation Unit.



**Sayje Benjamin**

On the morning of June 30, 2021 the Bridgeport fire department responded to a house fire in the 100 block of Plankton St, companies found a fire in the attic which was quickly knocked, 2 cats were rescued.





## REGION 3

Anne Arundel Alarmers Assn. - 1958  
115 Glenmont Ave., Ferndale  
Glen Burnie MD 21061  
alarmers11@verizon.net  
alarmers8@verizon.net

Box 234 Assn., Inc. - 1956  
22 Walker Ave.  
Baltimore MD 21208  
kjakobson@verizon.net  
col56@bcvfa.org  
pvfc3251@verizon.net

Box 414 Assn., Inc. - 1949  
414 North Baltimore MD 21202  
Rkatzenberg1014@msn.com  
Labelguy414@gmail.com  
sfreund@yahoo.com

Metro Richmond Flying Squad, Inc. - 2017  
Att: Steven Korb  
6806 Park Ave.  
Richmond VA 23226  
Stevekorb804@gmail.com

S.H.C. Assn. - 1949  
c/o Guy Cephas  
203 N. Carey St., 1st Fl.  
Baltimore MD 21223

Friendship Fire Assn. - 1940  
Engine 3, D.C.F.D.  
439 New Jersey Ave. NW  
Washington DC 20001  
walterlgold@aol.com  
jkembrey@msn.com  
dewalt50@aol.com

Greater Springfield Vol. Fire Dept., Inc.  
7011 Backlick Rd. PO Box 833  
Springfield VA 22150  
Canteen22@aol.com  
jjjackson@aol.com

Old Dominion Historical Fire Society - 1984  
PO Box 4196  
Chester VA 23831  
gdhoerman@gmail.com  
tom-herman@att.net  
odhfswebchief@gmail.com



## INTERNATIONAL FIRE BUFF ASSOCIATES

### REGION 3

*"Buffin' the DM"*

### *Region 3 Meeting*

By R Wayne Powell

The Region 3 IFBA Meeting was held on Saturday, June 19 at the Anne Arundel Alarms Association stationhouse in Ferndale, Maryland. AAA members were excellent hosts and had everything well organized including box lunches and plenty of drinks, too.

A number of IFBA members showed up early and got to take a tour of the facility, apparatus and equipment plus gained insights on how canteen and rehab support has evolved from the old days of coffee, donuts and cigarettes to proper hydration and improved meal service during long-term incidents. Owing to emergency services personnel being more health conscious today - the AAA had not served a donut in some 5 year and no canteen unit in the country anymore likely offers smoking materials.

Each member group provided an update on their recent activities and projects underway plus special guest SPAAMFAA President Frank Tremel provided an excellent overview of their organization plus also underscored the universal appreciation for the first-ever joint SPAAMFAA/IFBA gathering set for next summer in Massachusetts. New Region 3 Vice President Steve Korb did a superb job of managing the session which was enjoyed by all 20 persons who attended.



# BOX 414 Association, Inc.

FIRE – POLICE

MEMBER OF IFBA



QUARTERS  
414 NORTH GAY STREET  
BALTIMORE, MD 21202  
410-727-2414  
0-727-2414  
QUARTERS  
BALTIMORE, MD 21202  
410-727-2414

By Stuart M. Nathan

As we hopefully come to the finish line for the pandemic and stay safe, let's take a look back at last year's statistics. During 2020, the Box 414 Coffee Wagons did 39 fire service responses last year down significantly from prior years. We did 19 multiple alarm fires (16 seconds, 2 thirds, and 1 fourth alarm), 8 working fires, 6 hazmat incidents, and 6 special calls. We did 122 responses or standbys due to extremely hot or extremely cold weather.

By comparison in 2019, we responded on 73 fires, including 24 two alarm fires, 3 three alarm fires, 2 four alarm fires, 24 working fires, 6 hazmat incidents, 6 fires with fatalities, and 8 other runs. The total of 29 multiple alarm fires during 2019 was a slight increase from the 25 multiples in 2018 and 21 in 2017. Back in the busy 60's and 70's, we often had about 100 additional during a year, now we run about 20-30 multiples per year.

We served 363 gallons of Gatorade, 313 gallons of water, 39 gallons of coffee, 271 cups of hot chocolate, 861 hot dogs, 241 sandwiches, and 158 breakfast sandwiches during 2020.

Our coffee wagon traveled 1166 miles during last year, and in addition to fires, we went on 107 details. Our details include serving at the Fire Academy graduations, police incidents, funerals of active duty members of the Fire and Police Departments, and the like. Our many volunteers not only served on the wagon but also worked many hours staffing our museum. The top volunteers were Charles Shultz with 366 hours, Shaun Freund with 317 hours, Dan Polanowski with 138 hours, Roger Katzenberg with 123 hours, and Sam Katzenberg with 98 hours.

We only had one fire go to a fourth alarm, which was the church fire featured in an earlier edition of Turnout. On March 28, 2020, lightning struck the 256 foot high steeple of the Urban Bible Fellowship Church, a former Roman Catholic parish, causing the steeple to collapse and onlookers to cry out, "Holy smoke!" The wagon served for 6.5 hours at the fire.





Domino Sugar Fire

This year has already seen more major fire than in all of last year. On April 20<sup>th</sup>, a huge storage shed full of raw sugar ignited at the iconic Domino Sugar plant on the Baltimore waterfront. The three alarm fire with several special calls kept firefighters busy for days, along with the Box 414 canteen units, before all units were able to take up. One wag referred to this fire as the world's largest creme brulee.

Only a few days later, a wind whipped five alarm blaze damaged a dozen homes in southwest Baltimore. Flames jumped from street to street and made for a difficult battle with the equivalent of five separate fires in a three block area.



5th Alarm Fire 300 block S. Fulton Avenue Photo by Stan Jaworski

RUN TOTALS FOR FIRST 3 QUARTERS OF FISCAL YEAR 2021  
JULY, 2020-MARCH 31, 2021

<u>Engines</u>	<u>Runs</u>	<u>Boxes</u>	<u>Fires</u>	<u>Trucks</u>	<u>Runs</u>	<u>Boxes</u>	<u>Fires</u>
Engine 13	3823	415	130	5	3737	272	83
Engine 33	3792	386	99	16	3475	283	90
Engine 14	3708	363	119	1	3248	332	90
Engine 6	3410	425	118	27	2597	182	42
Engine 29	3331	247	53	10	2232	349	122
<u>Chiefs</u>	<u>Runs</u>	<u>Boxes</u>	<u>Fires</u>	<u>Other Units</u>	<u>Runs</u>	<u>Boxes</u>	<u>Fires</u>
BC 3	890	763	209	Rescue 1	2642	224	70
BC 2	852	721	178	Hazmat 1	116	10	6
BC 6	796	663	203	Fireboat 1	28	5	0
				FRes Boat 1	56	5	0
				FRes Boat 2	43	0	0

Note: Engine 8 led all Engines with 457 boxes and 148 fires.  
Our thanks to Capt. Paul Novak Jr., Fire Communications Bureau for compiling these statistics.

#### MUSEUM UPDATE

We continue to operate the Baltimore City Fire Museum in historic old 6 Engine House and have made a number of improvements to the Museum during the year. A dedicated crew led by Charles Shultz and Bob Brown has been refurbishing the display cases and updating these displays. We hope to be open each Sunday very soon.

We are finally back to doing a combination of in person and virtual meetings for those more comfortable with that platform.

Everyone stay safe as we battle through the COVID-19 health emergency, and we hope to see our fellow buffs soon.

## BALTIMORE

### EDMONDSON VILLAGE SHOPPING CENTER 1-23-21 3-ALARMS

Articles & Photos By  
HOWARD MEILE III

Once again, another devastating fire struck the Edmondson Village Shopping Center in west Baltimore. Since its opening in 1947 six major fires have struck this historic shopping center located in the heart of Edmondson Village. The last one was a 3-alarm fire that destroyed nine stores on November 22, 2019. Those stores have since been torn down and have yet to be rebuilt. This latest one occurred on January 23, 2021 around 2200 hours. Fire Communications started receiving 911 calls reporting smoke at the top of several stores including the Family Dollar Store in the shopping center.

Engine 53, stationed right across the street from the shopping center, arrived first and reported smoke showing from the ridge line above several stores. As other units arrived they began dropping lines and setting up ladders. Truck companies began forcing entry into the closed and secured stores. Battalion Chief 3, Joe Bloom arrived and took command. Seeing iron grates and secured overhead roll-up doors on all of the stores he special called Rescue 1 to assist with forcible entry. As truck companies began opening up the boarded up dormer windows on the roof heavy black smoke billowed from the openings. Chief Bloom called for a working fire assignment followed quickly by a second alarm and a special call for Tower 81.





As with the two previous fires the deep seated fire was in the void space in the false gable roof above the storefronts and just travelled the whole length across several stores before it hit the firewalls at each end. The rear of the stores were about 100' deep and one story high and only accessible via a narrow roadway behind the stores. And once again companies in the rear were having trouble breaching the heavily secured steel doors. Around this time fire was breaking through the rooves of several stores as ladder pipes were being placed in service.

Another special call was placed about 20 minutes into the incident bringing several more engine companies to supplement the low water supply in the area. Among these were Engine and Truck 13 from the Baltimore County Westview station along with their Battalion Chief 22. Low water pressure was hampering the firefighting efforts and more special calls brought some more county units to the scene, including several engines from Catonsville and Woodlawn. Another special call brought Pikesville Volunteer's Tower 323.



Temperatures were in the 20's this night and as water was being poured onto the fire it quickly began freezing everywhere in the parking lot around the building site.

As the fire was being contained around 0230 hours on Sunday morning a potentially dangerous situation unfolded. Somehow a drunken driver managed to drive past all of the police, fire apparatus and hoses in the adjacent street and drove into the parking lot damaging hoses and equipment before coming to rest next to the fire engines at the front of the fire building. He was quickly detained and arrested at the scene by Baltimore Police. Luckily no one was injured in the accident.

The fire was brought under control around 0330 hours and most units were gone by sunrise. A few units remained on fire watch throughout the rest of the night. Around 0900 hours fire was spotted at the roof of one of the stores and was quickly put out by the companies on the scene.

90 firefighters with 30 pieces of apparatus battled the fire and no injuries were reported. Fire Investigation was also on the scene to determine the cause. The fire this time involved 4 stores, one of which was vacant at the time.







Metro Richmond Flying Squad Inc.

Telephone: 804.912.6369

Email: [rvaflightsquad@gmail.com](mailto:rvaflightsquad@gmail.com)

*"Professionally operated by Volunteers"*

April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2021

MRFS Run Number 21-040

On the morning of April 30<sup>th</sup> at 09:59 the City of Richmond 911 center began receiving calls reporting a fire in a dwelling in the 3200 block of Delaware Ave. This area is in the Northside area of Richmond, known for large houses built in the early 1900's.

Responding crews reported a large column of smoke from several blocks away. Upon arrival, Engine 15's officer reported, *"a two-story frame house with heavy fire and smoke showing throughout, all incoming companies prepare to go to work"*

On arrival neighbors reported that a resident could still be possibly inside, so crews went into immediate rescue mode. During the search on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor a firefighter fell through an opening in the floor and a "mayday" was declared. A 2<sup>nd</sup> alarm was immediately struck, and additional medic units were called.

The firefighter was safely removed from the hole and fortunately only suffered an orthopedic injury. The

trapped occupant was located and removed from the structure and turned over to the on-scene medic unit for treatment. Unfortunately, the occupant did not survive.

Flying Squad members responded to the incident with Rehab 1 and Car 17 and setup in the street for an extended operation. Our crews remained on scene until mid afternoon and provided support and did a lunch run for the remaining crews.



Figure 1 Rehab area



Figure 2 Richmond Truck 3





## REGION 5

Box 4 Fire Buff Assn., Inc. - 1963  
PO Box 181914  
Dallas TX 75218  
Ksd573@aol.com

Firefighting Historical Society, Inc. - 1974  
c/o Chris Mickal  
143 40th St.  
New Orleans LA 70124  
firelinephotos@aol.com

Fort Worth Red Helmets, Inc. - 1971  
PO Box 17484  
Fort Worth TX 76102

Greater Houston Fire Battalion - 1992  
P. O. Box 697  
Bellaire TX 77402  
tmcfire@aol.com

Signal 51 Group - 1968  
PO Box 7512  
Bossier City LA 71171-5712  
Signal51group@suddenlink.net

## Firefighting Historical Society Buff Meeting

May 13-May 16 2021



The best laid plans of mice and men are about equal.....Our Region 5 meeting disappeared in the wind due to a lack of interest, but the buffing agenda was too good to pass up for some of us.

### Thursday May 13, 2021:

Dinner at highly recommended New Orleans Food & Spirits, Harvey. Voted one of the best eateries by our Region 5 food critic Wally Banks.

### Friday May 14 2021:

Depart for Baton Rouge , LA at 07:30 approximate 90 minute ride to our first stop:

09:00 Office of the State Fire Marshal in Baton Rouge for tour of Louisiana Fallen Firefighter Memorial Site, hosted by Boyd Westbrook. They have the Spirit of Louisiana fire apparatus on site, which was donated to FDNY after 911 attacks, and came back to Louisiana after Hurricane Katrina.



10:30 Depart to East Baton Rouge Parish 911 Communications Center for a tour, hosted by retired EMS Supervisor Andre Toups. Next door is Baton Rouge EMS will be some units available to view. Many thanks to Andre for getting this lined up for us.



12:30: Lunch at TJ Ribs. This is a popular local BBQ eatery with a nice display of LSU memorabilia.

14:00: Tour of the Baton Rouge FD Fire Museum. Many thanks to Michael Pasternatro, the museum's director, for doing a special opening for our group.





**Saturday May 15, 2021:**

**09:00** Visit to the “world famous” F & D Sales for a quick tutorial on challenge coins, plus a demo of our new digital UV printer & how it works, plus free gift bag for everyone attending.

**10:30** Visit to a Jefferson Parish West Bank Fire Station.



**11:30** Visit to the Louis Armstrong (New Orleans) Intl Airport new CFR station for a tour & photo shoots of their CFR rigs.





2PM: Return to hotel. District Chief Chris Mickal will present a digital "slide show" of photos from the Hard Rock Café Hotel Collapse, and other NOLA fires.



6PM: Reservations at Venezia Italian Restaurant. This long-standing New Orleans favorite is also the "2<sup>nd</sup> home" for our co-host District Chief Chris Mickal.

8PM: On January 10, 1997 Firefighter Alan "Gonzo" Martin, NOFD Ladder 8 gave the supreme sacrifice while he & other members searched the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of a vacant burning building for what turned out to be a false claim of 2 people still inside. We will gather in front of 1214 Felicity Street, (on the corner of Camp Place & Felicity St) the site of the fire, to hold a brief memorial ceremony, hosted by now Deputy Chief Dave Castle, then Firefighter Dave Castle on Engine 16 that responded with Ladder 8 on that tragic night. Chief Castle will give us a detailed narrative of the events as they unfolded that night. Then a brief memorial to Firefighter Alan "Gonzo" Martin, NOFD Ladder 8, and NOFD Muster Competition Team member.





Sunday May 16, 2021:

09:00 Gather at the quarters of Engine 16/Ladder 8, 2000 Martin L King Dr, NOLA 70113, as the guests of Engine 16/Ladder 8, assisted by Capt. Ronnie Beaulieu & crew Engine 29, for a pancake breakfast. View the Memorial wall of the members that gave the supreme sacrifice from this station, which is the busiest station for fires in the City.







The remainder of this day can be visiting other New Orleans FD stations, as members wish.



# Crescent City Blazes

## *New Orleans Area Fires*

Courtesy of Chris Mickal  
DISTRICT CHIEF  
NEW ORLEANS FIRE DEPARTMENT  
[www.FIRELINEPHOTOS.com](http://www.FIRELINEPHOTOS.com)

4 Alarm fire on 01/13/2021 at 6000 Chef Hwy in two, 3 story wood, occupied apartment buildings that are parallel to each other. the fire jumped from one side to the other











## REGION 6

5-11 Club, Inc. - 1953  
PO Box 8511  
Chicago IL 60680  
webmaster@5-11clubchicago.org

Box 15 Club, Inc. - 1947  
Att: Brett Barber  
PO Box 23  
Columbus OH 43216  
board@box15.org

Box 42 Associates - 1942  
PO Box 1810  
Royal Oak MI 48068-1810  
Box42det@gmail.com

Box 8 Club of St. Louis - 1941  
Att: Larry Quick  
3222 St. Joachim  
St. Ann, MO 63074  
lrquick@charter.net

Extra Alarm Assn. of the Twin Cities - 1974  
4340 17<sup>th</sup> Ave. South  
Minneapolis MN 55407  
jtdegenhardt@comcast.net

Indianapolis Fire Buffs - 1962  
2205 E. 58<sup>th</sup> St.  
Indianapolis IN 46220  
president@indianapolisfirebuffs.org

Metro Emergency Support Services - 1994  
Att : Ms. Debra Francisco  
1234 S. Route 12 #4  
Fox Lake IL 60020

Metropolitan Fire Associates, Inc. - 1969  
P.O. Box 725  
South Bend IN 46624-0725  
mrzepnic@southbendin.gov

Milwaukee Fire Bell Club, Inc - 1947.  
300 S. 84<sup>th</sup> St.  
Milwaukee WI 53214  
Bob342892@msn.com

Milwaukee Fire Historical Society - 1981  
1615 W. Oklahoma Ave.  
Milwaukee WI 53215-4539  
rleach4@wi.rr.com  
milwfiremuseum@gmail.com

Moline Second Alarmers - 1952  
1630 8<sup>th</sup> Ave.  
Moline IL 61265  
d.coopman@mchsi.com

Racine Fire Bells, Inc. - 1948  
PO Box 081042  
Racine WI 53408  
racinefirebellclub@gmail.com

West Licking Firefighters Assn. - 2020  
PO Box 1120  
428 Jefferson St.  
Pataskala OH 43062

Western Reserve Fire Museum (WRFBA) 1972  
310 Carnegie  
Cleveland OH 44115  
nelsonp@wrfmc.com



## 5-11 Club, Inc.

POST OFFICE BOX 8511

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60680

By Chuck Bleck and Mike Penchar

With the constraints of the pandemic starting to ease and summer only weeks away, things are starting to return to normal. Chicago is experiencing a dry spell with little or no rain and snow for the past six months and both the City's baseball teams are in first place in their divisions.

The 5-11 Club, along with other fire related groups in the area, have had to cancel all of their annual events including the fire muster and swap meet, usually held at the Quinn Fire Academy. Only the Peotone, Illinois swap meet has been rescheduled for later in the year.

Fire action has slowed for 2020 with 31 2-11s, five 3-11s and one 4-11. Our support service units registered 111 total responses in 2020. For the first five months plus one week of 2021, our units have responded to 27 calls for assistance including seven 2-11s. As mentioned previously, our unit 4-0-4 is undergoing a complete rebuild to convert it into a porta-potty truck. The company doing this conversion has kindly donated time and materials to complete this project. However, the pandemic had hit their staff hard and, as a result, the introduction into service has been delayed.

Many changes and events have occurred with the CFD. First, Commissioner Richard C. Ford II has reached the mandatory retirement age of 63. Mayor Lori Lightfoot has appointed Annette Nance-Holt to be the first woman and first woman of color to head the CFD in its 162-year history. She will be "Acting Commissioner" until her approval by the City Council.

New fire equipment on order from E-One include eight 1500 GPM pumpers and eight aerial ladders. The City has received and put into service a new E-One 100' tower ladder at O'Hare Field. Aerial Tower 8 had to have their aerial replaced after a run-in with a low viaduct. The rig has recently been placed back into service.



O'Hare Airport Truck 63 (Photo by Steve Redick)



The CFD has finally completed construction of a giant new firehouse on the City's far south side at 1024 West 119<sup>th</sup> Street. The 27,000 sq. ft. facility will house Engine 75, Engine 115, Tower Ladder 24, Ambulance 5, Ambulance 76, EMS Field Chief 4-5-6, Deputy District Chief 2-2-5 and District Chief 2-1-25. The structure also contains classrooms and a communications tower, all powered by solar energy or the local power grid.



Engine 115's new quarters at 1024 West 119<sup>th</sup> Street (Photo by Mike Penchar)



Front view of Engine 115's new quarters (Photo by Mike Penchar)

Ground-breaking for a new public safety training center has occurred at 4339 West Chicago Avenue on the City's west side. The new facility will be used to train both Chicago firefighters and police officers. The three-quarter square mile facility will include a hot drill building, a high level drill tower, a gun range and classrooms.

On a sad note, in March, the 5-11 Club lost member Dan Hamilton. Dan was a member of the Chicago Civil Defense Corps for many years. He will be missed.

Please visit our website, [www.5-11clubchicago.org](http://www.5-11clubchicago.org), for the latest news about our 5-11 Club activities and a growing photo gallery. The 5-11 Club now has a Twitter page. The link for the site can be found on the 5-11 Club's home page. We look forward to hearing from you. Also, it would be appreciated if you currently shop at Amazon, please use Amazon Smile, select the 5-11 Club as beneficiary, and continue your regular shopping as you normally would on this site. A portion of the sales will support the 5-11 Club of Chicago.



## Box 15 CLUB, INC.

### DBA: BOX 15 FIRE REHAB

Greetings from Columbus and Central Ohio, where you can sit on the patio in 77-degree temperature one afternoon and then wake up the next morning with 3" of snow on the ground. Overall, the winter here was relatively mild and we only did three nights of Cold Weather Standby.

Here's hoping that everyone is still Covid free. Most Box 15 members (including all of our frequent run-takers) have been fully vaccinated, although we still follow the masking, sanitization and social distancing protocols as dictated. In April, we were able to resume "in-person" meetings. Since we have a few new personnel, it is very important that we can resume hands-on training.



*Cold Weather Rehab crew masked up L:R Gary Witt, Pat Mignagno, Cameron Corbisello, Joe O'Brien - J. O'Brien photo*

Before we get into what we've been up to, we'd like to acknowledge and say Thank You, to Executive Vice President, Wally Banks. He has done a fantastic job of keeping member clubs informed on what's going on. Sir, your efforts are very much appreciated. We'd also like to acknowledge the Philadelphia Second Alarmers for their upcoming 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary. We offered up an ad and they sent back a recommendation that wowed us. If they do as good a job with the celebration as they are doing on the program book, this will be something to look forward to.

If you haven't visited in a while, we launched a new website this spring. It is still a work in progress, so you'll see some more additions in the future. Check it out at [www.box15.org](http://www.box15.org). We still use Facebook, Twitter and Instagram to post the day-to-day activity, including messages of broad-range public safety.



So far, 2021 has been “average” as far as fires go. We only had one “big” callout – an explosion and fire at a paint manufacturing plant. We’ve done a lot of training support rehab – approximately 50% of our activity. We wholly encourage rehab for training activities. Firefighters will put in 3 to 5 times as much effort that they would do at a working fire. And while we’re at it, it’s been a while since we defined what fire responses are in Central Ohio. A “report of a fire” in a single-family structure will get two engines, a ladder, a rescue, a Battalion Chief and a medic. If it’s a multi-family or business, a third engine and second ladder will be added. Upon confirmation that it’s a working fire (smoke and flames showing), the card adds another engine and ladder along with a second Battalion Chief. This may be a full blown second alarm for a lot of fire departments. So far, we’ve rolled out on 23 working fires, along with five 2<sup>nd</sup> alarm blazes since January.

2021 did not take long for our first callout. The structure was a large wood frame duplex that had been remodeled into multiple apartments. Due to the remodeling, there were some “hidden” utility chases that allowed the fire to travel in several directions, this making extinguishment a challenge.



438 W. 3rd Ave. 2<sup>nd</sup> Alarm fire - J. O'Brien photo





*Decontaminating PPE at W. 3rd Ave. fire - J. O'Brien photo*

Twice, it appeared contained, only to blow out in another area. Box 15 was on scene for nearly six hours, not only serving hot beverages, but also decontaminating firefighters PPE. Run #2 was a storage facility on the Ohio State University campus and our third was in far northeast Fairfield County, in the community of Millersport. January 28<sup>th</sup> began early with a callout for an industrial 2<sup>nd</sup> alarm fire at 5:42 AM. We were already scheduled to support "vent, entry, search" training at the Columbus Fire Academy. As fate would have it, we were released from the scene just in time to travel three miles to the Academy and arrive on time. This began a pair of "training support" days. During the unseasonably warm stretch in late May, we staffed for four days of Hot Weather Standby and responded to four working fires. One of those was a 4-story hotel. This was an extended response due to heavy smoke conditions that took hours to ventilate. As we look forward to June, it appears things will remain busy, with seven training days already scheduled.

The City of Whitehall (east side) had been granted custody of a derelict housing development and has allowed multiple fire departments and law enforcement agencies the opportunity to do a lot of training. The complex has a total of 308 housing units, all being wood frame, two & a half story structures, with full basements. You can only imagine the training opportunities. The complex is scheduled to be razed this summer, but in the interim, it has been a godsend for training. The "Fraternal Order Of Leatherhead Society" (FOOLS) was able to secure several structures for a weekend of training. Box 15 was there to provide rehab and other support. Columbus Fire, as well many other FD's have conducted "VES", "S&R", Saving Our Own (SOO) and many other training sessions. We've been there, right with them. Law Enforcement units including Franklin County Sheriff, Whitehall, Reynoldsburg, Gahanna Police and other groups have had many training days here, as well. On several occasions, Box 15 has been there to provide them with rehab support, as well





*Rehab Sector at FOOLS training event - C. Maupin photo*



*Saving Our Own training (both photos) - J. O'Brien photos*

As previously mentioned, we've been doing a lot of training support, including a three-day structure burn with Jackson Township (Grove City), "Saving Our Own" classes for both recruits and "in-service" personnel. Saving Our Own consists of the "Denver Drill", the "Pittsburgh Drill" (which many fire departments practice), and the "Nance Drill" based on the loss of Columbus firefighter John Nance, who fell through the floor while fighting an arson blaze. We also spent several days of rehab support for a rescue tech class with Columbus Fire.

The "big" one, at least so far, hit just after midnight on Thursday, the eighth of April. At 12:15 AM when a 3,000- gallon chemical tank ruptured, sending a fireball 200' in the air and shaking homes as far as 5 miles away. The ensuing fire escalated to a 2<sup>nd</sup> alarm and took hours to extinguish. It was all contained to the plant area of the complex. Unfortunately, one employee did not survive and two others suffered serious injuries. Box 15 rolled out within just a few minutes of the initial alarm and stayed on scene for five hours. We returned later to bring food and beverages to crews still working.



*Yankin-Majestic explosion & fire - Columbus Fire photo*

As it turned out, April had been a very busy month with the explosion, two working fires and thirteen days of training support.

March saw the opening of new Columbus Fire Station #16. It replaces a two-bay station that was built in the '50s. The new facility incorporates the latest "clean station" technology and is large enough to accommodate the Engine, Heavy Rescue and Medic in separate bays. It also allows for the "station truck" to be parked inside overnight in the moderately high crime area.



In April, we held our first "in person" Box 15 meeting, in over a year. We had a great turnout, including some new and a couple of prospective members. After a fairly short business meeting, we broke out into teams and conducted several training scenarios.

May rolled around and once again, we heard from our friends at MSC Supply. For the past several years, they have donated surplus Gatorade and Squincher products. We share this "bounty" with as many other rehab groups as possible. This year, seven groups were able to take advantage of this windfall. We can't thank MSC enough for their generosity. May was also quite busy with training evolutions. And, as the month was winding down, we experienced a string of days where we needed to activate our "hot weather standby" protocol.

*Training on the decontamination shower - J. O'Brien photo*



*A portion of the sports drink donation from MSC - J. O'Brien photo*

May has been memorable for another reason. Campbell Restorations, who had previously purchased a decontamination shower for us, had approached us to do a Golf Outing. We've always been intimidated by these because we had no idea on how to run one. With Campbell's offer, this was no concern. The event was held on Friday, May 21<sup>st</sup>. The weather couldn't have been better. We had a "sell out" crowd of golfers and great sponsorship support. Check our Facebook page for more photos.



*The Box 13 crew (and family)*

At the close of the day, they presented us with a personalized 10x10 tent, along with the donation check.



*Tent logo - J. O'Brien photo*



Financially, it was very successful and we are looking forward to (hopefully) making this an annual event.

We have some other activities on the books, as well. In July, the Ohio Fire Chiefs Association will hold its annual Officer Development Conference. Box 15 provides overnight security for the vendor exhibits, as well as an information table, during the conference. Our other upcoming event is the Firehouse Expo, scheduled for September. Box 15 will be providing rehab support for three different training venues, as well as staffing a booth in the vendor show. We sincerely hope we get our new truck in service by then. The holdup is Ford's difficulty in obtaining computer chips. Ours is one of more than a thousand vehicles that are sitting in storage. The body for the truck is here in Columbus, waiting to be mounted.

Two other events that we always look forward to are the Annual 911 Memorial Stair Climb (Sept) and the Annual Columbus Military Veterans Parade (Nov). We'll have more about these in the next issue of Turnout.



*New Columbus Fire station #16 - J. O'Brien photo*

Something else to look forward to – the possibility of a new release of NFPA-1584 “Standard on the Rehabilitation Process for Members During Emergency Operations and Training Exercises”. It was delayed last year due to COVID, but may be adopted later this year. It contains a lot of updates and changes from the 2015 release.

Other happenings around town include both a new engine and tower platform at the Ohio Fire Academy. Both trucks are Sutphen units. The 2020 aerial platform is a model SPH-100 and the engine is a 2020 custom cab 1500 gpm pumper with electronic engine and pump controls and many other advanced features.





*New Ohio Fire Academy Apparatus - Ohio Fire Academy photo*

These replace two units that were 25 years old. The Westerville Fire Department placed their Pierce TDA in service in March and Norwich Township (Hilliard) put a new Engine/Rescue in service, also in March. While mentioning Norwich, we need to congratulate Assistant Chief Greg Young on his retirement, closing out a 40-year career. Late breaking news – our deepest sympathy goes out to Norwich over the recent passing of retired Battalion Chief Greg Collier. Greg was a 40-year veteran and a great friend to Box 15. He had been a recipient of the Larry R. Parlett Distinguished County Firefighter award.

Other notable personnel activities include Hamilton Township welcoming back, as Chief of the Department, Martin Hafer. Our final mention is a hearty congratulations and wishes for a complete recovery from cancer, to Groveport Police Chief, Ralph Portier, whose career spans more than 40 years in Fire, EMS and Law Enforcement. During the past several years, he conducted hundreds of seminars about dealing with PTS in the first responder community. Ralph has been a dear friend to Box 15 for many years.

And finally, we'd like to publicly welcome our newest members:

- Selwin Dias - January
- Khalifa Dabo - March
- Gary Witt – March

Until the Autumn/Winter Issue, we bid everyone a safe and healthy 2021! Hope to see you in Philadelphia in October. Sorry to say that we'll not be coming to Ottawa in September. We have the Firehouse Expo in Columbus at the same time and are committed to supporting four venues. Perfect time to get a 4-alarm fire going on a 98-degree day.

Just the same, enjoy the Convention, take lots of pictures and make new friends up there.

The Western Reserve  
**FIRE MUSEUM**  
and Education Center

310 Carnegie Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio 44115-2816

Greetings from the Lands of the Western Reserve. It has been a tough time this last year but the Western Reserve Fire Museum and Education Center is now open with a new exhibit featuring Akron, Hudson and Twinsburg fire departments in Summit County. Summit County is located directly south of Cleveland.

The city of Cleveland Fire Department received six new rigs in 2020 including two Rosenbauer heavy rescues that were assigned to Rescue Squads 1 & 2. In addition, they also received three new pumpers. Two of the pumpers were built by Howe/Ahrens-Fox with 1500gpm pumps and 500 gallon tanks and were assigned to Engines 7 and 33. The other pumper was built by Pierce and also has a 1500gpm pump and a 500 gallon tank. It was assigned to Engine 43. A Pierce tower completes the list of new equipment with a 1500 gpm pump and a 300 gallon tank. The rig was assigned to Tower 20. In 2021, Cleveland Fire also has on order a 40- foot fire boat which will replace the Anthony J. Celebrezze which was built in 1961. The Department is also planning to build a new Fire Station which will consolidate Engines 26 and 41 into the new station.

The Museum is open Wednesday thru Saturday from 10am to 4pm. If you are ever in Cleveland stop by and see our new exhibit. We will be more than happy to give you a tour.



Cleveland's New 2020 Pierce Tower T-20





One of two 2020 Howe Ahrens-Fox Engines, CFD E-7 and E-33



One of two 2020 Rosenbauer Tactical Rescue Squads, TR-1 and TR-2





## Milwaukee Fire Bell Club, Inc.



Charter Member

By Bill & Vickie Mokros with  
Contributions by Members Robert Domrois and Dan Rhode

The Milwaukee Fire Bell Club members are looking forward to their first 'post-COVID' social on June 17, 2021. Like other clubs, we have continued to provide rehab for local fire departments as needed, but all board and business meetings have been held using ZOOM.

The following list of club responses, since last Spring, is provided by President and Rehab Chairman Bob Domrois:

### SPRING 2020-2021 RESPONSES

May 19<sup>th</sup>, 166<sup>th</sup> & Cleveland New Berlin, Waukesha County, structure fire at an industrial structure. Four members responded with both units and one joined at the scene offering Mc Donald's breakfast sandwiches in addition to our usual rehab beverages, snacks and bars.

May 30<sup>th</sup> & 31<sup>st</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> & St. Paul, Milwaukee, civil unrest staging. Five members responded with both rigs and five joined at the scene offering Mc Donald's burgers and cheeseburgers in addition to our usual rehab beverages, snacks and bars.

June 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> & St. Paul, Milwaukee, civil unrest staging. Six members responded with both rigs and six joined at the scene offering our usual rehab beverages, snacks and bars. On June 5<sup>th</sup> the staging area was relocated to the Summerfest parking lot along the river as the protestors were headed towards the staging area.

June 6<sup>th</sup>, Summerfest parking lot along the river, Milwaukee, civil unrest staging. Four members responded with Rehab 2 and two joined at the scene offering our usual rehab beverages, snacks and bars.

June 7<sup>th</sup>, 326 E. Mason, Milwaukee, structure fire in a historic commercial building. Four members responded with both units and offered our usual rehab beverages, snacks and bars.

June 20<sup>th</sup>, 2929 S. Chase Ave, Milwaukee, structure fire at a commercial facility. Two members responded with Rehab 2 and offered our usual rehab beverages, snacks and bars.

June 23<sup>rd</sup>, in Washington Park, Milwaukee, staging for civil unrest. Six members responded with both units and offered our usual rehab beverages, snacks and bars. Staging was subsequently relocated to Miler Park, as the protesters were coming right at us.

July 16<sup>th</sup>, 2841 N. 29<sup>th</sup> St., Milwaukee, recruit class burn. Six members responded with both units and two joined at the scene offering our usual rehab beverages, snacks and bars.

August 16<sup>th</sup>, 6260 S. Lake Drive, Cudahy, structure fire in a high-rise apartment building. Four members responded with both units and four joined at the scene offering our usual rehab beverages, snacks and bars.

August 18<sup>th</sup>, Mequon Rd. & Fond du Lac Ave., Germantown, Washington County, grass fire along railroad tracks. Five members responded with both units and four joined at the scene offering our usual rehab beverages, snacks and bars. Units were relocated twice as the fire moved up the tracks.

September 17<sup>th</sup>, 5300 S. Howell Ave., Milwaukee, full scale, mass casualty exercise at Mitchell Field. Six members responded and four joined at the scene. Subs, chips, cookies and coffee were served after the exercise.

November 8<sup>th</sup>, 102 Main St., Thiensville, Ozaukee County, structure fire at a restaurant, with apartments above. Three members responded and three joined at the scene offering our usual rehab beverages, snacks and bars.

November 20<sup>th</sup>, 2500 N. Mayfair Rd., Wauwatosa, shooting injuring 8 people at a mall. Eleven members responded and one joined the scene offering our usual rehab beverages, snacks and bars.

December 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup>, 2929 North 28<sup>th</sup> Street, Milwaukee, recruit class burn. Nine members responded with both units from the station on one or both days and three joined at the scene offering our usual rehab beverages, snacks and bars.

April 2, 2021, Silver Spring & Marcy, Menomonee Falls, Waukesha County, grass fire. Five members responded with all three units and three joined at the scene. We served water, Gatorade, Multigrain bars, snacks, McDonald's hamburgers and cheeseburgers and our famous stew. We received donations of water, Gatorade, cookies and donuts, which we also served. Time on scene was 9 hours.

April 13, 2021, 1 Sweet Applewood Lane and 3240 E. Van Norman Avenue, Cudahy natural gas leak. Rehab 2 with three members was recalled while in route to the scene. Six members had responded directly to the scene or were in route.

### **PR Events**

Due to the Covid 19 crisis there were no events for us to appear at.

### **MILWAUKEE FIRE DEPARTMENT update by Dan Rode**

Since the last TURN OUT magazine, there are several updates on the Milwaukee Fire Department (M.F.D.) to report.

#### **Retirements**

Retirements have occurred in the upper echelon of the M.F.D.:

- Chief Mark Rohlfing has retired from the M.F.D. after 10 ½ years of service.
- Assistant Chiefs John Schwengel & Dave Votsis.
- Deputy Chiefs Mike Blackwood, Kevin Hafemann, John Litchford, & Todd Van Roo.

Promotions have filled these critical positions:

- Assistant Chief Aaron Lipski has been chosen to be the next Chief of the M.F.D.
- Deputy Chiefs Joshua Parish & Andrew Timm have been promoted to Assistant Chief.
- Battalion Chiefs Schuyler Belott, William Kowalski, Sharon Purifoy, Erich Roden, & De'wayne Smoots have been promoted to Deputy Chief.

#### **New apparatus**

In 2020, new Pierce Enforcer engines went in service at Engines 23 & 36.

Apparatus to be placed in service in 2021 include two Pierce Velocity Ascendant 100' mid-mount platforms to be assigned to Trucks 2 & 9 as well as a Pierce Enforcer heavy-duty rescue to be assigned to Haz-Mat 1.

Apparatus on order for 2021 include one additional Pierce Velocity Ascendant 100' mid-mount platform (tentative assignment to Truck 1) as well as two Med Units.



#### New B.L.S. transport companies

On May 09, 2021, two new Ambulance Companies, 1 and 2, went into service at Stations 4 & 35. Each unit is staffed with a Fire Officer & Firefighter. These units provide B.L.S. transport capabilities when calls are turned back by private ambulance providers.

#### Milwaukee County Shared Services Initiative

This past April saw the last four municipalities (Cudahy, Greendale, Hales Corners, & South Milwaukee) join the initiative. Now all municipalities in Milwaukee County (MABAS Division 107) share resources on all fire, E.M.S., rescue, & service calls. The closest most appropriate resource (s) is now dispatched regardless of border lines.

#### Budget constraints

Due to budget constraints on the 2021 budget, Engine 17 was taken out of service last December. Their partner, Med 17, was relocated to Station 12 (resulting in the relocation of Compressed Air Unit 1 to Station 35). Med 15 also relocated to Station 7 & the Mobile Survive Alive House relocated to Station 11.

#### Numbers

Last year was a busy year with (20) greater alarm fires: (17) 2<sup>nd</sup> alarms & (2) 3<sup>rd</sup> alarms. Unfortunately, there were (6) fire fatalities. So far this year there have been (9) 2<sup>nd</sup> alarms and (6) fire fatalities.

#### D.N.C.

A hybrid of the Democratic National Convention (D.N.C.) was held here in Milwaukee last August 17-20 at the Wisconsin Center. The M.F.D. provided a critical role in the public safety aspect of the event with crews assigned for fire, E.M.S., & Haz-Mat operations.

## **WISCONSIN WILDFIRES**

Hearing the word 'wildfire' usually brings up images in a person's mind of the wildfires we see pictures of from out West, like California, Montana, Arizona, etc. It's rare that you would think of Wisconsin as having a significant amount of them, but that is exactly what occurred here in early Spring.

Up through the beginning of May, Wisconsin had over 350 wildfires throughout the State with nearly 1800 acres of burned areas. The last week of March up through April 6, 2021 Wisconsin had 149 wildfires including one in Menomonee Falls just outside of Milwaukee.

Menomonee Falls Fire Chief Gerard Washington, former Assistant Chief in Milwaukee, informed the public that 60 fire departments from surrounding areas helped with the fire. The Milwaukee Fire Bell Club was on scene providing rehab. Rehab 1 and Rehab 2 (restroom vehicle) were both on scene and then our newest vehicle arrived. We were fortunate enough to receive a used 'gator' from the Milwaukee Fire Department to use at incidents.



Rehab 3 parked in quarters waiting for another assignment. (Picture by W. Mokros)



LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING ALL OF YOU IN 2023!

## 'It Gives Back': Racine Fire Bells Make a Difference by Helping First Responders and Fire Victims

By [Alyson Bruner](#) Milwaukee

PUBLISHED 7:15 PM ET Apr. 03, 2021

RACINE, Wis.— It is common knowledge that when an alarm sounds at a fire station the crews dispatch to the fire, but in Southeast Wisconsin there is a second group that also is dispatched known as The Racine Fire Bells.

It is a group that has been around since 1948; they are all volunteers that don't get paid and at times are called in the middle of the night.

The Racine Fire Bells don't fight the fire, but they are just as important when at the scene.

"We provide everything from food, drinks to warming tents and cooling tents that the firefighters and fire victims can use at the scene," said Adrian Machalik, vice president of the Racine Fire Bells.

The volunteers provide rehab coverage in Racine, Kenosha and Walworth Counties, serving the fire departments and law enforcement agencies.

"I do it because I know it gives back to the firefighters and that is something they need; they need rehab," explained Machalik. "I do it because I know it gives back to the firefighters and that is something they need; they need rehab," explained Machalik.

The Fire Bells average more than 100 emergency calls per year, with about 25 non-emergency events, which includes training fires. The Fire Bells support and maintain two in service rehab units and also one spare.

Along with rehab support, the Fire Bells also supports Fire Safety and Education by maintain the Fire House 3 Museum in downtown Racine.

However, this has been a tough year financially for The Racine Fire Bells because COVID-19 has cancelled all fundraising events.

"When we don't have those, that \$9,000, it hinders our availability to help our community fire departments," said Machalik.

The Racine Fire Bells are a nearly 75-year tradition of service that has never lacked volunteers. If you'd like to help the volunteer group or learn more about the Fire Bells [click here](#), or email them at [racinefirebellclub@gmail.com](mailto:racinefirebellclub@gmail.com).



## Racine Fire Bells Making a Difference



The Racine Fire Bells have been volunteering to help firefighters and fire victims since the 1940s.  
*Photo courtesy of The Racine Fire Bells*



The Racine Fire Bells are able to provide AC and heated tents to fire victims and firefighters alike.  
*Photo courtesy of The Racine Fire Bells*



The Fire Bells average more than 100 emergency calls per year, with about 25 non-emergency events, which includes training fires.  
*Photo courtesy of The Racine Fire Bells*



Take a peek inside the Fire Bells pop-up rehab center.  
*Photo courtesy of The Racine Fire Bells*



The volunteers provide rehab coverage in Racine, Kenosha and Walworth Counties, serving the fire departments and law enforcement agencies.  
*Photo courtesy of The Racine Fire Bells*



The group has three donated ambulances that they use for rehabilitation purposes.  
*Photo courtesy of The Racine Fire Bells*



Along with rehab support, the Fire Bells also support Fire Safety and Education by maintaining the Fire House 3 Museum in downtown Racine.

*Photo courtesy of Fire House 3 Museum*



The museum highlights the history of the Racine Fire Department. It re-opened in September 2018 after a year-long renovation.

*Photo courtesy of Fire House 3 Museum*



The Racine-based museum is located on 700 6th Street.

*Photo courtesy of Fire House 3 Museum*



To volunteer, or learn more, email The Racine Fire Bells at [racinefirebellclub@gmail.com](mailto:racinefirebellclub@gmail.com).

*Photo courtesy of Fire House 3 Museum*



# 2020 Annual Report

## Box 15 Club, Inc.



Serving Columbus and Central Ohio since 1947

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## President's Message

Hello and welcome to 2021. 2020 was a very different year for all of us, given the COVID-19 Pandemic. The beginning of 2021 still feels the same. We made several adjustments during the year in order to provide Rehab to the departments we serve, while keeping everyone healthy. Normally Box 15 members would attend a monthly business/training meeting at a local Fire Station. In March we had to go virtual and used Google Meets to hold our meetings. We still responded to incidents and training events with the Fire Departments, while wearing PPE and social distancing. Last summer's heatwaves, had us on duty 44 days for over 764 volunteer hours, to perform extreme weather standbys. The number of incidents we responded to in 2020 was the same as 2019, though we did see a large drop in civic events as they all were cancelled due to the pandemic. Social distancing forced us to cancel our fundraising apparel sales, however we did find a few other ways to raise funds and obtain Grants. Our team of dedicated volunteers staffed our trucks for over 2,000 hours. This commitment shows our appreciation to all of the firefighters and first responders that serve our communities. I greatly appreciate and thank our active members for their service and dedication.

Please review our statistics, the numbers which reflect the volume of products we dispensed. We are very fortunate to have generous businesses and personal donations that provide us with water, sports drinks, and equipment. The financial donations help us with the cost of other supplies and maintenance of our trucks. In November we were able to order a new Rehab truck to replace our oldest truck, Rehab 3, which is a 24-year-old vehicle. The new truck is expected to be in service by late spring 2021.

We are very proud to say all donations/Grants we receive, or funds raised during apparel sales, goes back to our first responders, again thank you to those who support us. As we look forward to 2021, we will continue to serve the men and women in public safety whenever and wherever we're needed.

Regards,

*Joe O'Brien*

Box 15 President

## Mission Statement

The Box 15 Club, Inc. is dedicated to providing Canteen and Firefighter Rehab Services, and to support, as best we can, in every practical way, the work of our "first line of defense against the ravages of fire - the men and women of the fire service".

## Meetings

Box 15 meets on the last Tuesday of every month except December. Our meetings are typically held at various locations, mostly area fire stations. Meeting times are generally at 7:00 PM (1900 hours). However, due to COVID-19, most of our 2020 meetings were conducted from members' homes virtually, using Google Meets. That will be the case for 2021's meetings, until such time that public access to area



fire stations has been restored. Certain meetings have associated activities and begin at 6:00 PM. Information about meeting dates, times, and locations can be requested by emailing [Board@Box15.org](mailto:Board@Box15.org).



*Exec Board meeting via Google Meets - B. Barber screen capture*

## Compliance

Box 15 operates under the guidelines set forth in NFPA-1584 "Standard on the Rehabilitation Process...". However, since we serve 40+ fire departments across three counties (and mutual aid to other Rehab Groups beyond those limits) and considering the potentially diverse range of EMS protocols, we rely on the "jurisdictional" agency to provide the EMS monitoring portion of the standard, in order to make sure their firefighters are adequately served in compliance with their department's standards. We concentrate our efforts on hydration, nutrition, core temperature stabilization, rest, and skin (as well as) PPE (turnout gear) decontamination.

## Activity – Month by Month

Last year, we changed the format for monthly reporting and it was well received. This year, we're again "tweaking" things a little by reducing verbiage and trying to squeeze in more action photos. While COVID-19 did severely limit our Civic, Public Safety and other cooperative activities, it did nothing to slow down our core mission – to provide support for emergency and training incidents. During 2020, the Executive Board decided that Cold and Hot Weather Standby shifts should count as responses, since they required staff to be committed exclusively to Box 15, for several hours at a time. As such, these are now considered "incident responses", even though there may not have been a working incident during that shift. For 2020, 152 was a new record for callouts.

### January

2020 was less than a day old when our "tones dropped" for our first run. Less than an hour later, we had our second run for the year. For the month, three 2<sup>nd</sup> Alarm fires, 6 Working fires, 2 shifts of Cold Weather standby and 3 days of firefighter training support.

Date	Location	Run Type	Weather	# Served
1/1/2020	3379 Retriever Rd. Columbus	Working Fire	Pt. Cldy, 30 deg, 5 mph	30
1/1/2020	8170 Mills Rd. Scioto Twp. Del. Cnty	Working Fire	Pt. Cldy, 30 deg, 5 mph	40
1/9/2020	2748 US #425, Tri-Twp. Del. Cnty	Working Fire	Pt. Cldy, 50 deg, 3 mph	25
1/15/2020	2405 Meadow Springs Cir., Columbus	2 <sup>nd</sup> Alarm	O'cast, 48 deg, 0 mph	65
1/17/2020	3663 Parsons Ave., Columbus (CFD TA)	Training (500)	Cldy, 25 deg, 5-10 mph	45
1/19/2020	3087 Huntington Dr., Columbus	Working Fire	O'cast, 12 deg, 10 mph	20
1/19/2020	CFD #3, 220 Greenlawn Ave., Columbus (D)	Cold Standby	Wind Chill 2, 10 mph	
1/19/2020	CFD #33, 440 Lazelle Rd., Columbus (N)	Cold Standby	Wind Chill -2, 12 mph	
1/20/2020	2590 Sullivant Ave., Columbus	Working Fire	Clear, 17 deg, 0-5 mph	18
1/20/2020	3991 Parkside Ct., Norwich Twp.	2 <sup>nd</sup> Alarm	Pt. Cldy, 14 deg, 5 mph	50
1/21/2020	574 S. 18 <sup>th</sup> St., Columbus	Training (500)	Pt. Cldy, 15 deg, 5 mph	50
1/21/2020	801 S. 22 <sup>nd</sup> St., Columbus	2 <sup>nd</sup> Alarm	Clear, 17 deg, 0-5 mph	65
1/29/2020	3663 Parsons Ave., Columbus (CFD TA)	Training (Night Ops)	O'cast, 32 deg, 10 mph	45
1/30/2020	2125 Gloucester Ave., Columbus	Working Fire	Clear, 32 deg, 0-5 mph	35



8170 Mills Rd., Ostrander, OH - J O'Brien photo



CFD Recruit Training - J O'Brien photo



CFD Saving Our Own training - J O'Brien photo



Tri-Twp house fire 1/19/20 - J. O'Brien photo





Meadow Springs 2nd Alarm - J. O'Brien photo



Gloucester Ave. house fire - J. O'Brien photo

## February

The bitter cold had failed to materialize as it normally does. Still, we did one more shift of Cold Weather Standby, in addition to a Working fire, two 2<sup>nd</sup> Alarms (one was an explosion) and a Civic event, during the month.

Date	Location	Run Type	Weather	# Served
2/3/2020	400 W. Main St., Westerville (W'ville FD)	Civic Event	Pt. Cldy, 56 deg, 0 mph	n/a
2/4/2020	4411 Janice Marie Blvd., Hamilton Twp.	2 <sup>nd</sup> Alarm/Explosion	O'cast, 46 deg., 0-5 mph	35
2/12/2020	505 King Ave., Columbus	2 <sup>nd</sup> Alarm	Cldy, 40 deg, 0-5 mph	40
2/14/2020	CFD #3, 220 Greenlawn Ave., Columbus (N)	Cold Standby	Wind Chill 0, 5-10 mph	
2/26/2020	1177 Forest Glen Rd., Westerville	Working Fire	Snow, 27 deg, 5-10 mph	23



Janice Marie Blvd., Mobile Home explosion - J. O'Brien photo





*Rehab 2 on scene at Forest Glen, Westerville - J. O'Brien photo*

## March

March only saw three days of recruit training support for the Columbus recruits, plus two working fires. Temperatures had become spring-like, so we're done with Cold Weather Standby's for the season.

Date	Location	Run Type	Weather	# Served
3/5/2020	8895 E. Main St., (Ohio Fire Academy)	Training (LP/Auto)	Pt. Cldy, 42 deg., 7 mph	50
3/9/2020	284 Linda Lee Ln., Columbus	Working Fire	Pt. Cldy, 62 deg., 15+ m/h	42
3/9/2020	4626 S. OH-229, Ashley (Del Cnty)	Working Fire	Cldy, 62 deg., 18-20 mph	42
3/13/2020	8895 E. Main St., (Ohio Fire Academy)	Training (FF-II)	Cldy, 48 deg., 17-20 mph	42
3/20/2020	8895 E. Main St., (Ohio Fire Academy)	Training (Div Ops)	Rain, 64 deg., 20+ mph	40



*CFD recruit training at Ohio Fire Academy - both photos courtesy of J. O'Brien*

## April

April was a very quiet month with only two second alarm blazes, but a very busy summer is waiting in the wings.

Date	Location	Run Type	Weather	# Served
4/3/2020	7471 Joshua Trace., Columbus	2 <sup>nd</sup> Alarm	Clear, 50 deg., 0-5 mph	44
4/23/2020	1480 N. Grant Ave., Columbus	2 <sup>nd</sup> Alarm	Pt. Cldy, 46 deg., 0-5 mph	60



Rehab 2 at Joshua Trace. T. Knowles photo



Rehab 2 on N. Grant Ave. 2nd Alarm - photo courtesy of a Friend of Box 15

## May

May got a little busier with training support and also saw our first Hot Weather Standby's for the season. It also included one of the more spectacular fires in recent history.

Date	Location	Run Type	Weather	# Served
5/5/2020	3663 Parsons Ave., Columbus (CFD TA)	Training (SOO)	Rain/Slt, 45 deg., 15 mph	30
5/6/2020	2440 Dawnlght Ave., Columbus	Training (SOO)	Rain, 39 deg., 10 mph	60
5/14/2020	3663 Parsons Ave., Columbus (CFD TA)	Training (Night Ops)	O'cast, 75 deg., 12 mph	30
5/26/2020	CFD #33, 440 Lazelle Rd., Columbus (D)	Hot Standby	Sun, 89 deg., Ht. Ind. 90+	
5/27/2020	CFD #33, 440 Lazelle Rd., Columbus (D)	Hot Standby	Sun, 88 deg., Ht. Ind. 90+	
5/31/2020	65 S. Washington St., Columbus*	3 <sup>rd</sup> Alarm	Clear, 49 deg, 0-5 mph	85
5/31/2020	65 S. Washington St., Columbus*	3 <sup>rd</sup> Alarm	Clear, 60 deg, 5-108 mph	77

\* Rehab 1 replaced Rehab 2 after 6 hours (fresh crew).



Rehab sector at Washington St. - J. O'Brien photo



Saving Our Own on Dawnlght Ave. - J. O'Brien photo





Both shots: 65 S. Washington St. 3rd Alarm arson - J. O'Brien photos

## June

In June the warming trend really kicked in. We did 11 day shifts of hot standby (Noon to at least 8 PM), plus we were honored to serve for the funeral of retired Fire Chief John Bernans. A couple of 2<sup>nd</sup> alarm fires, two working fires and two days of CFD recruit training rehab rounded out the month.

Date	Location	Run Type	Weather	# Served
6/1/2020	8895 E. Main St., (Ohio Fire Academy)	Training LP/Auto)	Clear, 86 deg., 0-5 mph	50
6/3/2020	CFD #3, 220 Greenlawn Ave., Columbus	Hot Standby	Sun, 88 deg., Ht. Ind. 90+	
6/4/2020	CFD #3, 220 Greenlawn Ave., Columbus	Hot Standby	Sun, 87 deg., Ht. Ind. 90+	
6/5/2020	CFD #33, 440 Lazelle Rd., Columbus (D)	Hot Standby	Sun, 87 deg., Ht. Ind. 90+	
6/6/2020	CFD #33, 440 Lazelle Rd., Columbus (D)	Hot Standby	Sun, 88 deg., Ht. Ind. 90+	
6/8/2020	8895 E. Main St., (Ohio Fire Academy)	Training (FF-II)	Sun, 86 deg., 0-5 mph	60
6/9/2020	CFD #33, 440 Lazelle Rd., Columbus (D)	Hot Standby	Sun, 95 deg., Ht. Ind. 100+	
6/17/2020	4000 Lyman Dr., Hilliard	Truck Repairs	Sun, 82 deg., 0-5 mph	0
6/18/2020	8895 E. Main St., (Ohio Fire Academy)	Training (Div Ops)	Cldy, 78 deg., 0-5 mph	62
6/19/2020	CFD #3, 220 Greenlawn Ave., Columbus (D)	Hot Standby	Sun, 88 deg., Ht. Ind. 89	
6/19/2020	27 W. Jenkins Ave., Columbus	2 <sup>nd</sup> Alarm	Clear, 71 deg., 0-5 mph	65
6/20/2020	CFD #3, 220 Greenlawn Ave., Columbus (D)	Hot Standby	Sun, 93 deg., Ht. Ind. 95+	
6/21/2020	CFD #33, 440 Lazelle Rd., Columbus (D)	Hot Standby	Sun, 90 deg., Ht. Ind. 90+	
6/21/2020	5357 Tartan Ln., Columbus	2 <sup>nd</sup> Alarm	Pt. Cldy, 92 deg., 0-5 mph	70
6/22/2020	450 W. Olentangy St., Liberty Twp.	Funeral	Pt. Cldy, 84 deg., 0-5 mph	40
6/23/2020	9571 N. High St., Lewis Center (Lib. Twp)	Funeral	Cldy, 76 deg., 0-5 mph	40
6/27/2020	CFD #33, 440 Lazelle Rd., Columbus (D)	Hot Standby	Sun, 89 deg., Ht. Ind. 90+	
6/29/2020	CFD #33, 440 Lazelle Rd., Columbus (D)	Hot Standby	Sun, 90 deg., Ht. Ind. 90+	
6/29/2020	1330 Presidential Dr., Columbus	Working Fire	Pt. Cldy, 89 deg., 0-5 mph	25



6/29/2020	2398 Wood Ave., Columbus	Working Fire	Pt. Cldy, 82 deg., 0-5 mph	40
6/30/2020	CFD #33, 440 Lazelle Rd., Columbus (D)	Hot Standby	Sun, 90 deg., Ht. Ind. 90+	



2nd Alarm 27 W. Jenkins Ave. - J. Panty photo



2nd Alarm Tartan Lane - J. O'Brien photo



Wood Ave. Warehouse fire - J. O'Brien photo



2nd Alarm 27 W. Jenkins Ave. - J. O'Brien photo

## July

July was an unprecedented month for Box 15, almost a third of our total incidents for 2020 occurred during July. We had 23 days of hot weather standby as the temperatures were ranging from 90 degrees to heat indexes above 105. We responded to 10 fires, 1 Haz-Mat, and provided rehab at 16 training events. A few of these fires required meals, on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July we served up traditional the cuisine of burgers, hot dogs, and pizza in Hilliard. Chief Honeycutt of Genoa Township requested we get Yabo's Tacos at a fire in

Westerville, it was such a hit when we responded with the same departments 3 days later, the guys were hoping we stopped to pick up Tacos again. The unbearable heat took its toll at two different fires. In Columbus a fire on South Champion we pulled up as crews were coming out for Rehab, and we passed out 175 bottles of water and 55 bottles of Gatorade. We also used a bunch of chilled rehab towels which were much appreciated. Two days later we were in Delaware County for a fire, partnering with Delaware EMS. Our Rehab sector was loaded with multiple fans, and chairs. The heat index was at 99 at the time of the fire, we passed out 150 bottles of water and 60 bottles of Gatorade. Box 15 also assisted EMS with a dog overcome by smoke in a house fire. The high temperatures brought more requests from CFD for rehab at training events in some cases at the Rosemont school we supported the Recruits at one location and the Rescue Techs at another. At these training events it was the norm to pass out over 180 bottles of water. During the month we were making several runs to the stores to resupply our water. After one of the saving our own training event we passed out 213 bottles of water, and 65 bottles of Gatorade. We only had 5 bottles of water left on the truck when we were released. We really are grateful for the Meijer store in Lewis Center during the month they donated 50 cases of water.

Date	Location	Run Type	Weather	# Served
7/1/2020	3663 Parsons Ave., Columbus	Training (recruits)	Sun, 90 deg., 0-5 mph	30
7/1/2020	CFD #3, 220 Greenlawn Ave., Columbus (D)	Hot Standby	Sun, 91 deg., Ht. Ind. 95+	
7/2/2020	CFD #33, 440 Lazelle Rd., Columbus (D)	Hot Standby	Sun, 92 deg., Ht. Ind. 95+	
7/2/2020	3663 Parsons Ave., Columbus	Training (recruits)	Sun, 92 deg., 0-5 mph	30
7/3/2020	CFD #33, 440 Lazelle Rd., Columbus (D)	Hot Standby	Sun, 94 deg., Ht. Ind. 95+	
7/4/2020	4589 Crystal Ball Dr., Norwich Twp.	2 <sup>nd</sup> Alarm	Sun, 94 deg., 0-5 mph	75
7/4/2020	CFD #3, 220 Greenlawn Ave., Columbus (D)	Hot Standby	Sun, 91 deg., Ht. Ind. 95+	
7/5/2020	CFD #33, 440 Lazelle Rd., Columbus (D)	Hot Standby	Sun, 92 deg., Ht. Ind. 95+	
7/6/2020	3663 Parsons Ave., Columbus	Training	Sun, 96 deg., 0-5 mph	29
7/6/2020	CFD #33, 440 Lazelle Rd., Columbus (D)	Hot Standby	Sun, 97 deg., Ht. Ind. 100+	
7/6/2020	1109 Cassidy Ave., Columbus	Working Fire	Sun., 97 deg., 0-5 mph	20
7/6/2020	815 S. Champion Ave., Columbus	Working Fire	Pt. Cldy, 93 deg., 0-5 mph	25
7/7/2020	CFD #33, 440 Lazelle Rd., Columbus (D)	Hot Standby	Sun, 97 deg., Ht. Ind. 100+	
7/7/2020	2440 Dawnlight Ave., Columbus	Training (Rescue)	Sun, 90 deg., 0-5 mph	23
7/7/2020	3663 Parsons Ave., Columbus	Training (recruits)	Sun, 92 deg., 0-5 mph	25
7/7/2020	6440 Mt. Royal Ave., Genoa Twp.	Extra Co. Fire	Rain, 82 deg, 5-10 mph	60
7/8/2020	CFD #33, 440 Lazelle Rd., Columbus (D)	Hot Standby	Sun, 94 deg., Ht. Ind. 95+	
7/8/2020	3982 Creek Rd., BST&G (Del. Cty)	Extra Co. Fire	Sun, 94 deg., 0 mph	65
7/9/2020	2440 Dawnlight Ave., Columbus	Training (Rescue)	Sun, 94 deg., 0 mph	24
7/10/2020	CFD #33, 440 Lazelle Rd., Columbus (D)	Hot Standby	Sun, 92 deg., Ht. Ind. 95+	
7/10/2020	2440 Dawnlight Ave., Columbus	Training (Rescue)	Sun, 89 deg., 0 mph	24
7/10/2020	7505 Hawksbeard Ct., Genoa Twp.	Working Fire	Cldy, 77 deg., 0-5 mph	28
7/15/2020	CFD #3, 220 Greenlawn Ave., Columbus (D)	Hot Standby	Sun, 90 deg., Ht. Ind. 95+	
7/16/2020	CFD #33, 440 Lazelle Rd., Columbus (D)	Hot Standby	Sun, 92 deg., Ht. Ind. 95+	
7/17/2020	CFD #33, 440 Lazelle Rd., Columbus (D)	Hot Standby	Sun, 91 deg., Ht. Ind. 95+	
7/17/2020	2440 Dawnlight Ave., Columbus	Training (Rescue)	Sun, 89 deg., 0-5 mph	24
7/18/2020	CFD #3, 220 Greenlawn Ave., Columbus (D)	Hot Standby	Sun, 97 deg., Ht. Ind. 100+	
7/19/2020	CFD #3, 220 Greenlawn Ave., Columbus (D)	Hot Standby	Sun, 97 deg., Ht. Ind. 100+	
7/19/2020	588 S. Waverly St., Columbus	Working Fire	Sun, 95 deg., 0-5 mph	25
7/20/2020	CFD #33, 440 Lazelle Rd., Columbus (D)	Hot Standby	Sun, 92 deg., Ht. Ind. 95+	
7/20/2020	2440 Dawnlight Ave., Columbus	Training (SOO)	Sun, 89 deg, 0-5 mph	65
7/21/2020	CFD #33, 440 Lazelle Rd., Columbus (D)	Hot Standby	Pt. Sun 91 deg, Ht. Ind. 95	
7/22/2020	CFD #3, 220 Greenlawn Ave., Columbus (D)	Hot Standby	Pt. Cld, 91 deg, Ht. Ind. 95	
7/24/2020	CFD #3, 220 Greenlawn Ave., Columbus (D)	Hot Standby	Pt. Cld, 88 deg, Ht. Ind. 90	
7/25/2020	8425 Walton Pkwy, Plain Twp.	Hazmat	Sun, 90 deg, 0-5 mph	12
7/25/2020	CFD #3, 220 Greenlawn Ave., Columbus (D)	Hot Standby	Pt. Cld, 91 deg, Ht. Ind. 95	
7/26/2020	CFD #33, 440 Lazelle Rd., Columbus (D)	Hot Standby	Pt. Sun 91 deg, Ht. Ind. 95	



7/26/2020	5588 Copenhagen Dr., Westerville	Working Fire	Sun. 89 deg., 0-5 mph	28
7/26/2020	462 Townsend St., Columbus	Working Fire	Sun., 92 deg., 0 mph	26
7/27/2020	3663 Parsons Ave., Columbus	Training (500)	Sun, 93 deg., 0 mph	52
7/27/2020	CFD #33, 440 Lazelle Rd., Columbus (D)	Hot Standby	Pl.Sun 93 deg, Ht.Ind. 100	
7/27/2020	86 N. Hampton Rd., Columbus	2 <sup>nd</sup> Alarm	Sun, 93 deg, 0 mph	44
7/28/2020	3663 Parsons Ave., Columbus	Training (500)	Sun, 87 deg., 0-5 mph	52
7/29/2020	1235 W. Broad St., Columbus	Training (500)	Sun., 88 deg, 0-5 mph	50
7/29/2020	CFD #33, 440 Lazelle Rd., Columbus (D)	Hot Standby	Sun 90 deg, Ht.Ind. 95+	



N. Hampton Mayday/2nd Alarm, 103 deg. - J. O'Brien photo



S. Champion Ave extra company worker - J. O'Brien photo



Crystal Ball Dr. July 4. J. O'Brien photo



Extra Co. fire on S. Champion Ave. - J. O'Brien photo



Westerville fire 7-26-20 - J. O'Brien photo





Creek Rd., Sunbury rehab sector - J. Penty photo



Rescue Tech training - J. O'Brien photo



Saving Our Own training on W. Broad - J. O'Brien photo



Saving Our Own training 7/29/20 - J. O'Brien photo



CFD TA Saving Our Own. 103 deg. J. O'Brien photo



Crystal Ball Dr., Hilliard - J. O'Brien photo

## August

August arrived with fewer 90 plus days however we still had six Hot weather standbys and responded to ten fires, a confined space rescue and a Hazmat run. We supported four training events. Two of the training events were in Jackson Township, on 90-degree heat index days.



During the training events This Week Community News, featured us and helped share the story of the services we provide. The newspaper article both in print and online lead to some generous donations. At the same time Thompson Building Associates reached out to us to set up a Go Fund Me Account on Facebook. Both of these have helped us gain additional financial donations.

Date	Location	Run Type	Weather	# Served
8/6/2020	3663 Parsons Ave., Columbus	Training (Night Ops)	Pt. Cldy, 81 deg, 0-5 mph	40
8/9/2020	CFD #33, 440 Lazelle Rd., Columbus (D)	Hot Standby	Sun 90 deg, Ht. Ind. 95+	
8/9/2020	2478 Melrose Ave., Mifflin Twp.	Working Fire	Sun, 88 deg., 0-5 mph	22
8/10/2020	8895 E. Main St., (Ohio Fire Academy)	Training (Div Ops)	Sun, 88 deg., 0-5 mph	50
8/10/2020	2608 Holton Rd., Jackson Twp.	Training (live burn)	Sun, 88 deg., 0-5 mph	40
8/10/2020	CFD #3, 220 Greenlawn Ave., Columbus (D)	Hot Standby	Pt. Cld, 90 deg, Ht. Ind. 95	
8/10/2020	2608 Holton Rd., Jackson Twp.	Training (live burn)	Sun, 84 deg., 0-5 mph	47
8/13/2020	CFD #33, 440 Lazelle Rd., Columbus (D)	Hot Standby	Sun 92 deg, Ht. Ind. 95+	
8/13/2020	1006 W. Walnut St., Madison Twp.	Working Fire	Sun, 92 deg, 0-5 mph	24
8/14/2020	2004 Hendrix Rd. Franklin Twp.	Rescue	Pt. Cldy, 87 deg, 0 mph	34
8/16/2020	5500 Bourbon St., Columbus	2 <sup>nd</sup> Alarm	Sun, 74 deg, 0-5 mph	65
8/18/2020	575 Lazelle Rd., Columbus	Hazmat	Cldy, 78 deg., 0-5 mph	25
8/25/2020	Corr RD & Hillock Rd., Columbus	Working Fire	Pt. Cldy, 94 deg, 0 mph	No Srv
8/25/2020	CFD #33, 440 Lazelle Rd., Columbus (D)	Hot Standby	Sun 93 deg, Ht. Ind. 95+	
8/26/2020	CFD #33, 440 Lazelle Rd., Columbus (D)	Hot Standby	Sun 93 deg, Ht. Ind. 95+	
8/27/2020	CFD #33, 440 Lazelle Rd., Columbus (D)	Hot Standby	Sun 92 deg, Ht. Ind. 95+	
8/27/2020	5181 Northwest Blvd., Norwich Twp.	Civic Event	Cldy, 84 deg., 0-5 mph	4
8/27/2020	225 Illinois St. Westerville	Extra Co. Fire	Pt. Cldy, 89 deg, 5+ mph	40
8/28/2020	1654 Pierpoint Dr., Columbus	2 <sup>nd</sup> Alarm	Cldy, 85 deg., 0-5 mph	75
8/28/2020	1454 Eastwood St., Columbus	Working Fire	Pt. Cldy, 82 deg, 0-5 mph	30
8/29/2020	1788 Kildeer Dr., Jackson Twp.	Working Fire	Sun., 85 deg., 5-10 mph	20
8/31/2020	44 Holmes St., Galena (BST&G)	Extra Co. Fire	Sun, 81 deg, 0-5 mph	44



Eastwood Ave. working fire - J. O'Brien photo



Holton Rd. training burn - P. Mignogno photo





Canal Winchester with Madison Twp. Fire. Temp in the 90's. - J. O'Brien photo



Illinois Ave. Westerville w/f - J. O'Brien photo

## September

Although temperatures still ranged in the 70's and 80's, only two days required standby crews. After much debate over the risk of COVID-19 exposure, it was decided that Box 15 would be needed at the Tri-Annual Disaster Drill at John Glenn International Airport (CMH). Good thing, because it was very humid, that day. The month also included the annual 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb, which was very well attended. To round out the month, we took in three fires, two days of firefighter training and were again honored to serve at a firefighter funeral. This one for a Worthington firefighter with occupational cancer.

Date	Location	Run Type	Weather	# Served
9/3/2020	6899 Cooper Rd., Columbus	Working Fire	Sun, 79 deg., 0-5 mph	30
9/8/2020	CFD #33, 440 Lazelle Rd., Columbus (D)	Hot Standby	Sun, 87 deg, Ht. Ind. 90+	
9/9/2020	4925 Sawyer Rd., Columbus (CMH)	CMH Disaster Drill	Sun, 82 deg., 0-5 mph	70
9/9/2020	CFD #1, 300 N. 4 <sup>th</sup> St., Columbus (D)	Hot Standby	Sun, 88 deg. Ht. Ind. 90+	
9/12/2020	2015 Recreation Trail, Hamilton Twp.	911 Mem Stairclimb	Pt. Cldy, 82 deg., 7 mph	275*
9/12/2020	2015 Recreation Trail, Hamilton Twp.	911 Mem Stairclimb	Pt. Cldy, 82 deg., 7 mph	275*
9/13/2020	1061 McKinley Ave., Columbus	2 <sup>nd</sup> Alarm	Sun, 71 deg., 0-5 mph	50
9/15/2020	8895 E. Main St., (Ohio Fire Academy)	Training (FF-III burn)	Pt. Cldy, 66 deg., 0-5 mph	40
9/21/2020	6699 N. High St. Worthington	Funeral	Sun, 71 deg., 0-5 mph	44
9/22/2020	5556 Wilton St. Worthington	Funeral	Sun, 70 deg., 0-5 mph	80
9/23/2020	7900 Wycombe Ct., Columbus	Working Fire	Sun, 79 deg., 0-5 mph	25
9/25/2020	8895 E. Main St., (Ohio Fire Academy)	Training (Div Ops)	Sun., 77 deg., 0-5 mph	45

\* RSU-1 & RSU-2 covered. Total served was 550 firefighters.



McKinley Ave. 2nd Alarm - J. Pentyn photo



Holmes Rd., Galena - J. O'Brien photo





Box 15 crew at the 9/11 stair climb - J. O'Brien photo



Worthington firefighter funeral - J. O'Brien photo

## October

Temperatures were seasonable throughout the month of October and our run volume was light. It did include three fires that required extra companies, plus a full-fledged second alarm blaze.

Date	Location	Run Type	Weather	# Served
10/3/2020	1600 Oak St., Columbus	Extra Co. Fire	Pt. Cldy, 66 deg., 0-5 mph	35
10/5/2020	7365 High Cross Blvd., Columbus	Extra Co. Fire	Clear, 51 deg, 5-10 mph	40
10/17/2020	62 N. Virginia St., Westerville	Extra Co. Fire	Clear, 32 deg, 0-5 mph	40
10/18/2020	1426 Sharon Brooke Ct., Columbus	2 <sup>nd</sup> Alarm	O'cast, 48 deg, 0-5 mph	50



Sharon Brooke Ct. fire - J. O'Brien photo



Rehab 2 at Westerville 2nd Alarm - J. O'Brien photo



High Cross Blvd condo - J. Panty photo



Old Trolley Car Barn - J. O'Brien photo

## November

One event we always look forward to is the Annual Military Veterans parade, but it was not to be for 2020 – Thanks COVID-19! But we kept busy with five days of firefighter training support, a 2<sup>nd</sup> Alarm condo in Hilliard, a couple of good working fires and an extra company fire that took quite a while to contain.

Date	Location	Run Type	Weather	# Served
11/1/2020	482 Alta View Ct., Columbus	Working Fire	Clear, 49 deg, 5-10 mph	30
11/2/2020	4666 Adams Lane, Norwich Township	2 <sup>nd</sup> Alarm	Pt Cldy 47 deg, 15-20 mph	40
11/4/2020	3663 Parsons Ave., Columbus	Training (SOO)	Sun, 53 deg, 0-5 mph	30
11/5/2020	129 Midcliff Dr. Whitehall (Cots jurisdiction)	Training (SOO)	Sun, 50 deg, 5-10 mph	34
11/9/2020	535 E. College Ave., Westerville	Training (live burn)	Sun, 72 deg, 0-5 mph	30
11/12/2020	1068 Burton Ave., Columbus	Extra Co. Fire	Clear, 47 deg, 0-5 mph	50
11/12/2020	5265 Greens Ridge Ave., Columbus	Working Fire	Clear, 43 deg, 5-10 mph	40
11/16/2020	3663 Parsons Ave., Columbus	Training (Night Ops)	Clear, 38 deg, 10-15 mph	40
11/20/2020	8895 E. Main St., (Ohio Fire Academy)	Training (Div Ops)	Cldy, 55 deg., 10-15 mph	35





*Westerville training burn - R. Hess photo*



*Alta View Ct. working fire - J. O'Brien photo*



*Adams Lane, Hilliard 2nd Alarm - J. O'Brien photo*

*Greens Ridge apartments - J. O'Brien photo*



## December

We finished the year with three days of training support, another second alarmer in Hilliard and a record setting rescue callout. All in all, 2020 is memorable for a lot of reasons, but we managed to stay safe, healthy and accident free!

Date	Location	Run Type	Weather	# Served
12/2/2020	8895 E. Main St., (Ohio Fire Academy)	Training (LP/Autos)	Pt Cldy, 33 deg, 5-10 mph	30
12/3/2020	8895 E. Main St., (Ohio Fire Academy)	Training (FF-II)	Cldy, 32 deg., 5-10 mph	53
12/9/2020	Killen Power Plant, Manchester, OH	Rescue (COST)	Clear, 40 deg, 0-5 mph	50
12/16/2020	8895 E. Main St., (Ohio Fire Academy)	Training (Div Ops)	Snow, 31 deg, 5-10 mph	45
12/27/2020	4890 Edwards Farms Rd., Norwich Twp.	2 <sup>nd</sup> Alarm	Clear, 17 deg, 0-5 mph	25



Above & Left - Killen Power Plant collapse in Adams County - J. Penty photos



Edwards Farms 2nd Alarm - J. O'Brien photo



PPE Decon after training burns - J. O'Brien photo

## Vital Statistics

For those who like to "slice and dice" the numbers, here's how our run statistics break out for the year:

### Total Runs booked for the year - 152

#### Runs by Fire Department/Battalion

Columbus Fire Batt. 1 – 5 runs  
Columbus Fire Batt. 2 – 9 runs  
Columbus Fire Batt. 3 – 4 runs  
Columbus Fire Batt. 4 – 6 runs  
Columbus Fire Batt. 5 – 3 runs  
Columbus Fire Batt. 6 – 4 runs  
Columbus Fire Batt. 7 – 4 runs  
Columbus Fire Training Academy – 36 days  
Norwich Township (Dept. 80) – 5 runs  
Worthington Fire (Dept. 100) – 2 runs  
Westerville Fire (Dept. 110) – 6 runs  
Plain Township (Dept. 120) – 1 run

Mifflin Township (Dept. 130) – 1 run  
Hamilton Township (Dept. 170) – 3 runs  
Madison Township (Dept. 180) – 1 run  
Franklin Township (Dept. 190) – 1 run  
Jackson Township (Dept. 200) – 2 runs  
John Glenn Int'l Airport – 1 run  
Elm Valley (Dept 310) – 1 run  
Liberty Township (Dept 320) – 2 runs  
Tri-Township (Dept 330) – 1 run  
BST&G (Dept. 350) – 2 runs  
Scioto Township (Dept. 370) – 1 run  
Genoa Township (Dept. 440) – 2 runs

#### Runs by Responding Unit

RSU-1 – 32 runs      RSU-2 – 104 runs

RSU-3 – 10 runs      POV – 6 runs

#### Runs by Type

Firefighter Training - 39  
Working/Extra Co Fire - 34  
Second Alarm Fire - 17  
Third Alarm Fire - 2  
Hazmat - 2  
Rescue - 2

Civic Event - 4  
Cold Weather Standby - 3  
Hot Weather Standby - 44  
Funeral Service - 4  
Maint/Other - 1

Personnel Served – 4,846      Mileage – 3,146

Fuel consumed – 428 gal (diesel)

Unit in Service Hours – 793+

Crew in Service Hours – 1949+

#### Equipment Used

Kerosene Heater – 24 hours  
Tent deployed – 12 times  
Truck Awning – 23 times  
Misting Unit – 60 hours

20" fans – 6 hours  
Generators - 52 hours  
Shower – 8 times  
Decontamination Unit - 5 times

#### Supplies Used

Gatorade bottles - 890  
Squwincher mix – 11 gallons  
Squwincher/Gatorade powder sticks - 634  
Coffee (8-cup pots) - 134  
½ L bottled water – 8,661  
Hot Chocolate (cups) - 163

Granola Bars (2-pack) – 1,201  
Ice (pounds) – 2,269  
Rehab Towels (terrycloth) - 483  
Premoistened (Cancer) wipes – 1,892  
Gear Tags - 199

## Food

Donuts – 14 dozen  
Pizza – 10 large, 4 extra large  
Breakfast Sandwiches – 123 (variety)  
Hash Browns – 50 servings  
French Fries – 100 servings  
Sub Sandwiches – 50 each  
Cheeseburgers – 125 each  
Hot dogs – 48 each  
Tacos – 60 each

Wrap Sandwiches – 60 each  
Chips, etc. – 54 servings  
Apples – 40 each  
Cookies, etc. – 12 dozen  
Cheese Sticks – 48 servings  
These totals do NOT include the 600 meals distributed to first responders through the joint effort of Qfm96 Iconic Rock radio and Raising Canes Chicken Fingers.

## Financial Performance

### Funding Sources

Our primary source of funding, over the years, have been the sales of apparel – mostly Columbus Fire, but also specialty shirts for several suburban fire departments. This was severely curtailed in 2020 with the restrictions regarding COVID-19. As such, we turned more toward pleas for donations and are happy to acknowledge that many individuals, groups and businesses “stepped up” in a very positive way.

### Grant Funding

After 30 years of members responding with our personal vehicles and an additional 40+ years of working from re-purposed, used EMS vehicles, President O’Brien began an aggressive push for grant funding, to upgrade our fleet in late 2020. Over the years, as finances have allowed, we’ve set aside extra income into an Apparatus Fund. With a major boost coming from the estate of long-time member, James Henderson, we finally felt comfortable enough to place an order for our “first ever” new vehicle. Along with grants from the American Electric Power Foundation, Buckeye Body & Equipment and Quantum Services, funding has been secured for the first unit. By implementing the grant funding program, we feel that we’ll be able to replace our entire aging fleet of trucks over the next few years.

### Balance Sheet - As of Dec 31, 2020

<b>Assets</b>	
<b>Cash and Bank</b>	
Cash on Hand	\$121.00
CME Apparatus Fund	\$110,490.40
CME Checking Account	\$24,957.18
CME Savings Account	\$15,307.49
<b>Total Cash and Bank</b>	<b>\$150,876.07</b>
<b>Other Current Assets</b>	
Inventory	\$9,001.00
<b>Total Other Current Assets</b>	<b>\$9,001.00</b>



Long-term Assets	\$0.00
<b>Total Long-term Assets</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$159,877.07</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>	
<b>Current Liabilities</b>	
Bills Payable	\$9,397.75
Sales Tax Payable	\$267.08
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<b>\$9,664.83</b>
<b>Long-term Liabilities</b>	
Apparatus Purchase	\$65,000.00
<b>Total Long-term Liabilities</b>	<b>\$65,000.00</b>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>\$74,664.83</b>
<b>Equity</b>	
<b>Retained Earnings</b>	
Profit for all prior years	\$113,801.26
Profit between Jan 1, 2020 & Dec 31, 2020	(\$28,589.02)
<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>\$85,212.24</b>
<b>Total Liabilities &amp; Equity</b>	<b>\$159,877.07</b>

### Income & Expense Statement

Date Range: Jan 01, 2020 to Dec 31, 2020

<b>Income</b>	
Donations Received	\$35,299.98
Grant Donations	\$8,500.00
Interest Income	\$415.86
Member Assessments	\$213.50
Membership Dues	\$695.00
Product Sales	\$33,167.29
Raffles	\$552.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$78,843.63</b>

**Cost of Goods Sold**

Charge Card Service Charges	\$1,061.71
Purchases – Resale Items	\$16,899.42
<b>Total Cost of Goods Sold</b>	<b>\$17,961.13</b>

**Gross Profit**

**As a percentage of Total Income** **\$60,882.50 (77.22%)**

Profit and Loss - Box 15 Club Inc. Created on Jan 05, 2021

Date Range: Jan 01, 2020 to Dec 31, 2020 Page 1 / 2

**Operating Expenses**

Administrative Misc.	\$284.96
Apparatus Purchase	\$2,000.00
Computer Hardware	\$1,250.25
Consumable Supplies Expense	\$3,904.23
Fuel	\$27.06
Licenses & Insurance	\$2,996.00
Operations Misc.	\$82.89
Postage & Office Supplies	\$298.07
Professional Org. Dues	\$50.00
Repairs & Maintenance	\$2,010.27
Tools & Equipment	\$522.87
Verizon	\$631.17
Web Domain Hosting	\$106.00
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	<b>\$14,163.77</b>

**Net Profit**

**As a percentage of Total Income** **\$46,718.73 (59.25%)**

## Benefactor Acknowledgments

Over the years, we've been fortunate to receive the help from a great number of friends and sponsors, in the form of products, services and financial support. Box 15 would be hard-pressed to provide our level of service without the generosity of these individuals and organizations.



*CME Federal Credit Union employees gather with Box 15 for a donation - J. O'Brien photo*

We would like to publicly acknowledge and thank the following for their ongoing support in 2020:

- Columbus Division of Fire
- Columbus Firefighters Local 67
- Columbus Firefighters Foundation
- Delaware County Fire Chief's Association
- Genoa Township Firefighters Foundation
- Orange Township Fire Department
- Fire Chief's Association of Central Ohio
- Retired Fire Chief Scott Skeldon
- American Electric Power Foundation
- Worthington Firefighters Foundation
- Raising Cane's Chicken Fingers
- QFM96 Iconic Rock Radio
- WW Williams Co.
- Meijer Foods – (\$\$ & water) (Lewis Center)
- Bridgeway Cummins
- CME Federal Credit Union
- Thompson Building Associates
- Campbell Builders/Restoration
- 1-800-BOARDUP
- New Albany Firefighters Foundation
- Quantum Services
- MSC Industrial Supply
- Upper Arlington Firefighters
- Buckeye Body & Equipment
- Worthington VFW
- Mifflin Township Fire Dept. (decon unit)
- Columbus Fire Lt. Craig Mignogno
- Plus, many individual donors



*Thank You MSC Supply for supporting firefighter rehab in Central Ohio - J. O'Brien photo*



## Apparatus & Equipment

We made no major changes to our fleet of apparatus in 2020, however, in November, we placed an order for a “service body” truck, to replace RSU-3. The new unit – our first-ever, “brand-new” truck is due for delivery in late spring, 2021 and be stationed at Columbus Fire Station #1. When placed in service, it will become RSU-3. RSU-1 will relocate to the Columbus Fire Training Academy to replace existing RSU-3. At this point, we are considering donating the current RSU-3 to another agency, who either wants a dedicated response vehicle or who may be in need of a replacement unit. Two additions were a Task Force Tips “Decon-Pak”, donated by Mifflin Township Fire and a First Wash shower, from Campbell Builders. Both have proven very beneficial.

### RSU-1 (aka Rehab 1)

**Rehab #1 – 2001 Ford/Horton - Responds from Columbus Fire Station #1**

Equipment on-board:

- 2 ea. 2000 watt portable generator w/8 hour fuel capacity
- 14'x8' power awning
- 40 Gallon liquid capacity (bulk water container)
- 1 ea. 40-quart capacity ice chest
- 1 ea. 120-quart capacity ice chest
- 50' Potable water hose
- Black & Decker “pour-over” Brewing Unit
- Bunn A-10 “pour-over” Coffee maker
- 4 ea. Coffee pots (to serve coffee & hot water)
- 2-burner electric hotplate
- 70,000-BTU Infrared Kerosene Heater
- Gear & skin decontamination (FIFO) kit
- First Wash decontamination shower
- Hazardous Materials Pre-hydration Kit
- 2 ea. Collapsible serving tables
- 1 ea. 100' heavy duty (12/3) electrical extension cord reel pails
- 10 gallon/18" misting unit – 5-hour capacity
- 2 ea. 20" cooling fans
- 10'x10' collapsible tent w/removable side walls
- Fluid (electrolyte) replacement mixes, coffee, tea, hot chocolate & condiments
- Energy (granola) bars (2-3 boxes of 98)
- 200 cup serving capacity
- 8 ea. Folding Chairs
- 2 ea. 6' Folding bench
- Assorted towels & blankets (36-48 towels)
- MARCS IP Radios – direct communications to all fire departments that we serve



### RSU-2 (aka Rehab 2)

Rehab #2 – 2008 Freightliner/Horton - Responds from Columbus Fire Station #33

Equipment on-board:

- 14'x8' Power awning
- 13'x16' Zumro Inflatable Shelter
- 2 ea. 2,200 watt generator w/8 hour fuel capacity
- 40 Gallon liquid capacity (bulk water container)
- 1 ea. 45-quart capacity ice chest
- 1 ea. 120-quart capacity ice chest
- 50' Potable water hose
- High capacity Commercial "pour over" coffee maker
- 4 coffee pots
- 2-burner hot plate
- 70,000 BTU Infrared Kerosene Heater
- Gear & skin decontamination (FIFO) kit
- "First Wash" decontamination shower
- TFT "Decon-Pak" portable wash/rinse detergent dispenser
- Hazardous Materials Pre-hydration Kit
- 2 ea. Collapsible serving tables
- 2 ea. 100' heavy duty (12/3) electrical extension cord reel pails
- 1 ea. 50' 14/3 electrical extension cord reel
- Portable lighting (clamp lights)
- 10 gallon/18" misting unit – 5-hour capacity
- 2 ea. 20" cooling fan
- 2 ea. 10'x10" collapsible tents w/removable side walls
- Fluid (electrolyte) replacement mixes, coffee, tea, hot chocolate & condiments + granola bars
- Energy (granola) bars (2-3 boxes of 98)
- 7 ea. Folding Chairs
- 2 ea. 6' Folding benches
- 200 cup serving capacity
- Assorted towels & blankets (24-36 towels)
- MARCS IP Radios – direct communications to all fire departments that we serve



### RSU-3 (aka Rehab 3)

Rehab #3 - 1997 Ford/Horton - Responds from Columbus Fire Training Academy

Equipment on-board:

- 3,000 watt generator w/8 hour fuel capacity
- 1,000 watt generator w/8 hour fuel capacity
- 40 Gallon liquid capacity (bulk water container)
- 1 ea. 40-quart capacity ice chest
- 1 ea. 120-quart capacity ice chest
- 50' Potable water hose
- Bunn Model VP17-3, High Capacity Brewing Unit
- 4 ea. Coffee pots (to serve coffee & hot water)
- 2-burner electric hotplate



- 70,000 BTU Infrared Kerosene Heater
- Hazardous Materials Pre-hydration Kit (Igloo Playmate)
- 2 ea. Collapsible serving tables
- 1 ea. 100' heavy duty (12/3) electrical extension cord reel pails
- 1 ea. 50' heavy duty electrical extension cord reel
- Portable lighting (clamp lights)
- 10 gallon/18" misting unit – 5-hour capacity
- 2 ea. 20" cooling fans
- 10'x20' collapsible tent w/removable side walls
- Fluid (electrolyte) replacement mixes, coffee, tea, hot chocolate & condiments
- Energy (granola) bars (2-3 boxes of 98)
- 6 ea. Folding Chairs
- 200 cup serving capacity
- Assorted towels & blankets (24-36 towels)
- MARCS IP Radios – direct communications to all fire departments that we serve

## Technology & Social Media

In this day and age of information sharing, a strong Social Media presence is essential and we feel we are fulfilling that need. We do post regularly to Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. Late in the year, we finally restarted development of our web page. This has been long overdue and we look forward to rolling it out in early 2021. It will include a new interface, be much easier to use on hand-held devices and include some new features, including a public library. Kudos go to Pres. O'Brien, Sonny Lewis, Anthony Jorge and Selwyn Dias for taking on this major task. Look for it at [WWW.BOX15.ORG](http://WWW.BOX15.ORG).

Additionally, thanks to the efforts of Anthony Jorge, we've made considerable progress in streamlining our on-line store and the logistics of inventory management and distribution.

## Awards & Honors

Every year, since 1985, Box 15 has traditionally awarded the Max Haverman "Outstanding Columbus Firefighter" award at our annual dinner. Since 2001, we have also honored a "non-Columbus" firefighter with the Larry Parlett "Outstanding County Firefighter" award; and our own membership have also received up to three levels of service recognition – The Fred Hill "Fire Buff of the Year", the Peter Fowler "Distinguished Service" award and the "Harry Knodel "Outstanding Service" awards.

Unfortunately, COVID-19 forced us to cancel the dinner and awards presentations for 2020. We sincerely hope that we can reinstate everything in 2021.

## Membership

The membership roster only grew by one person early in the year; however, we did have more new prospective people toward the latter months. We've temporarily held off adding anyone to the roster. We've felt that meeting "virtually", rather than "face-to-face" was not the best way to introduce new people to our mission. They have been invited to join in the monthly meetings, to participate in FD training activities and other events that do not involve FD emergency incidents. As of the end of the year, our



roster stands at twenty Active, eight Affiliate members and eight Life Members and, as of December 31, we have four potential new members, two of which have been quite active.

<u>Active Member</u>	<u>Years of Service</u>	<u>Active Member</u>	<u>Years of Service</u>
Barber, Brett	28 years	Knowles, Tom	8 years
Corbisello, Cameron	2 years	Lerner, Bruce	5 years
Corcella, J. J.	7 years	Lewis, Sonny	17 years
Davidson, Duane	5 years	Maupin, Chris	17 years
Fichera, Michael	Welcomed in 2020	Mignogno, Patrick	1 year
Fricke, Pete	18 Years	Mills, Zackerie	5 years
Fuhrmann, Mory	14 years	Mullins, Robert	4 years
Hess, Robert	17 years	Northrop, Greg	24 years
Jorge, Anthony	1 year	O'Brien, Joe	10 years
Karr, Ryan	5 years	Penty, Joseph	5 years
Keaton, Jerry	8 years		



*Some of the Crew with Rehab 2 - J. O'Brien photo*

## Training

Not only does Box 15 take an active role in supporting firefighters during their training evolutions, training is an important process for us, as well. Although there is always some deviation, depending upon needs, we try to have a mix of business and training gatherings, with a few social activities scattered in. This was nearly impossible in 2020, due to COVID-19. As such, we tried to concentrate our training to topics that could be discussed on-line, not physically practiced.

## Partnerships & Alliances

Cooperation is essential in life, especially in the fire service. Fire Departments have formal mutual aid agreements. We are fortunate to share cooperative efforts with both the Columbus Fire Auxiliary and the Central Ohio Fire Museum & Learning Center. We would also like to acknowledge the cooperative efforts between Box 15 and several other fire rehab services throughout Central Ohio, including the Union County

EMA, Box 49 in Madison County, Box 65 in Pickaway County, Support 401 in western Licking County, Box 13 in Urbana, Knox Rehab, and both Box 5 and Box 16 in Athens & Hocking Counties. We also appreciate the cooperative effort with Red Cross, Delaware County EMS, and Stark County Fire Department Rehab Unit. We couldn't do what we do without the efforts of all these groups. Most of these groups have signed on to participate in the statewide "Regional Rehab Disaster Response Plan".

Box 15 is pleased to have affiliations with the International Fire Buff Associates (IFBA), the Ohio Association for Rehab Support (OARS), the Fire Chiefs' Association of Central Ohio, the Franklin County Fire Chiefs' Association, the Delaware County Fire Chief's Association, the Fairfield County Fire Chiefs Association, the Franklin County Chiefs of Police Association, Franklin County CERT, Northwest Area Strike Team, and the Central Ohio Strike Team

## Charitable & Community Support

Box 15 also believes in giving back to the community. Each year we participate in several public and civic events. During 2020, we were involved with or donated to the following causes:

- Central Ohio Fire Museum & Learning Center
- National Fallen Firefighters (annual golf outing)
- Ohio Arson School
- 24/7 Commitment/Firefighter Wife – 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb
- Ohio Fire Chiefs' Association
- American Red Cross

## Executive Board for 2021

President – Joseph O'Brien – 4th term, formerly Vice President (2 terms) and Secretary (2 terms)

Vice President – Joseph Penty -3rd term

Secretary – Brett Barber – 2nd term, formerly Trustee (3 terms), Treasurer (1 term), Vice President (2 terms), President (7 terms)

Treasurer – Christopher Maupin – 2nd term, formerly Trustee (3 terms)

Trustee – J. J. Corcella – 2nd term

Trustee – Robert Hess – 2nd term, formerly President (2 terms), Vice President (2 terms), Secretary (3 terms).

## Cover Photo Credit

This year's cover photo is from the camera of Pres. O'Brien and was taken by Columbus Fire Lt. Kylie Reyna-Salvadore.

## Action Shots

A couple of worthwhile photos on the next pages.



27 West Jenkins Ave., Columbus 2nd Alarm - Photo courtesy of Columbus Fire



1068 Burton Ave., Columbus — photo courtesy of Columbus Fire





*E. College Ave., Westerville training burn - R. Hess photo*



*Box 15 at E. College Ave., training burn - B. Barber photo*



65 S. Washington, Columbus 3rd Alarm, May 31, 2020 - Photo courtesy of Columbus Fire







## REGION 7

Box 15 Club of Los Angeles - 1949  
c/o Charles Steele  
2424 Earl St.  
Los Angeles CA 90039  
Box15\_la@hotmail.com

Fire Assoc. of Santa Clara Valley - 1969  
PO Box 494  
Campbell CA 95009-0494  
president@fascv.org

Hall of Flame Volunteer Organization - 2018  
6101 E. Van Buren St.  
Phoenix AZ 85008  
Jay.iacone.az@gmail.com  
Bowersbsa117@gmail.com

Phoenix Society of San Francisco - 1932  
PO Box 31847  
San Francisco CA 94131  
phoenixsocietysf@gmail.com

Seattle Fire Buff Society - 1964  
105 5th Ave. South  
Suite 400  
Seattle WA 98104  
skfick1@aol.com

Tacoma/Pierce County Fire Buff Battalion 1987  
PO Box 64912  
Tacoma WA 98464  
Tacomafirebuffs@outlook.com

## HALL OF FLAME VOLUNTEER ORGANIZATION

The Hall of Flame Museum of Firefighting  
National Historical Fire Foundation



Despite the issues and restrictions due to COVID 19 we have been able to increase actives and museum membership at the museum while staying within the CDC and the City of Phoenix guidelines. We actual had several record-breaking days of attendance in March. While in the same period, we have increased the volunteer organization membership by 30%.

In May, we started back our regular monthly meetings that are held on the second Monday of each month and a Saturday Work Detail each month.

We just finished with a six-week exhibit of the Honor 365 and now planning for the rededication of FDNY Rescue 4, scheduled for August 14<sup>th</sup>. That is being supported by the FDNY Retires of Arizona. More details will be available on our Website.



### Honor 365:

The Hall of Flame Museum of Firefighting was proud to be the Phoenix-area host this past April for a traveling exhibit devoted to the World Trade Center and sponsored by veteran and first responder support service Honor365.



The exhibit is a large, detailed model of the Twin Towers as they appeared in lower Manhattan before the devastating terrorist attacks; a reminder of what was lost on 9/11, depicted here inspiringly intact. Around the base of the model are listed the names of all those who died in the Twin Towers during the 9/11 attacks, first responders and civilians alike, as well as the names of the six fatalities in the 1993 World Trade Center bombing. The model is the four-year project of a young artist and firefighter-in-training from Deurne, The Netherlands named Daan Van der Steijn.

Inspired by a television documentary on the attacks, Daan began work on his model at the age of 14 and completed it when he was 19. Daan comes from a firefighting family and is now in training to join the Deurne Fire Department. His World Trade Center project came to the attention of Honor365, a Utah-based organization founded in 2017 with the mission of ending suicide among veterans and first responders by providing referrals and services for therapy, education, and training.

As part of a U.S. tour ending in New York for the 20th anniversary of the attacks, the exhibit occupied Gallery 3 at the Hall of Flame from March 27 until May 2. It opened with a gala evening reception at the Museum on Saturday, March 27 and closed with a one hour "Honor Walk" ceremony at 11 a.m. Saturday, May 2 to pay tribute to the 9/11 fallen and to local community heroes.



After departing the Hall of Flame, the exhibit moved on from Phoenix to continue its national tour in Albuquerque, New Mexico. The tour continues through the Midwest, Texas, and the south, with stops in Shanksville, Pennsylvania, crash site of United Flight



93 on 9/11, and the Pentagon, outside Washington, D.C., also attacked from the air on that date.

The tour is scheduled to conclude in New York City on September 11, 2021, the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the attacks.

### Traveling Exhibit:



Having spent the 2020 holiday season on display at the Phoenix Zoo as part of the ZooLights festivities, the Hall of Flame Museum's beautiful 1957 Van Pelt pumper is off on another adventure. This time the rig is headed to a notable Arizona zoological park on the west side of the Valley: The Wildlife World Zoo, Aquarium and Safari Park in Litchfield Park.

The truck currently resides near the entrance to the park, where she has already shown herself to be a popular photo op with zoo-goers.

"The fire truck on display has been a huge hit with our visitors here at Wildlife World!" says Kristy Morcom, Director of Media Relations at the Zoo. "We have all really enjoyed our partnership with Hall of Flame and it's been fun watching younger generations get so excited about such an important part of Arizona history!"

The Van Pelt served in different departments in northern Arizona, starting with the Flagstaff department and later, in 1980, being purchased by the joint department of the communities of Fernwood and Timberline, now served by the Summit Fire Department. It was during her tenure with Fernwood/Timberline that she acquired her trademark, the cheerful firefighting squirrel on the door. Perhaps this nod to the animal kingdom especially suits the rig for residency in a zoo.

Started in 1973 as a private breeding facility by Mickey Olsson, Wildlife World Zoo opened to the public in 1984 and has steadily expanded ever since. It now includes not only a world-class collection of animals but an aquarium with salt water and freshwater species, a safari park and, for cuteness overload, a baby animal nursery. There are also gift shops, of course, as well as restaurants and a few rides. The engineer of the train ride even gives the Hall of Flame a shout-out as he passes the Van Pelt.

## Member Profile:



The volunteers at the Hall of Flame Museum of Firefighting all have fascinating stories to tell, but not many of them can claim to have performed on a USO tour, and later been both the referee and medical staff for martial arts tournaments all over the country, among many other adventures.

Ralph Glasmann, currently serving as the Hall of Flame's Volunteer Captain, and at 78 one of our more senior volunteers, Ralph hails from Denver, Colorado. He attended Doane College a liberal arts college in Crete, Nebraska, majoring in Vocal Music. With the Doane chorus, he went on a USO tour in 1966 with Bob Hope.

While deciding whether to pursue music as a career, a new fire station opened near his home in Denver, and Ralph and his father took a walk over and toured the place at an open house. "While I was there, the guys kept saying to me 'why don't you become a fireman?'" Ralph tells it. "They gave me the job more or less on the spot, I think because I was tall."

It was a different time in firefighting. "I had to buy my own uniforms and turnouts," says Ralph. "We didn't have EMS yet; we had an instructor card for first aid. We'd go to a car accident and pull the victim out and say, 'Hang on buddy, the ambulance will be here in a few minutes.'" (He later became an EMT.)

He worked for Denver FD for a little over three years before taking a full-time position with United Airlines, working in Customer Service and Operations. This career eventually took him to San Francisco, where at one point he supervised a staff of 1250 people.

Alongside all of this, Ralph had a lifelong interest in martial arts. "When I was in junior high one of my friends' Dad was a [martial arts] teacher," he says. "He'd teach us in the backyard." He eventually became a student of the Okinawan discipline Ryu-Te ("Defensive Hands"). He frequently travels the country to work as a ref at tournaments.

Ralph and wife Nancy relocated from San Francisco to the Valley in the '80s. Asked why, he answers with a single word: "Weather." Soon after, he visited the Hall of Flame and became, along with Ron Deutsch, Joe Bakas and Richard Struve, one of the Museum's earliest volunteers. He also teaches EMT classes at Paradise Valley Community College, and has worked, for twenty years, for Phoenix Fire Department, as a "crisis interventionist," providing support to people who have suffered a loss or sudden hardship. In that capacity he is responded to homicides, suicides, domestic violence, fires, SWAT team situations and other harrowing incidents, coming to the aid of people in the wake of such tragedies.

It's challenging work, but Ralph says he finds it gratifying. With characteristic mild understatement, he says "You just do your job and help the people, and then move on to the next."



## **Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport Exhibit:**

In May, a new Hall of Flame exhibit was added at Terminal 4 at the Sky Harbor. The airport is just a 5-minute Cab or Uber ride. A great place to wait out a long layover



### **The Voluneer Organization's Board of Directors**

Captain – Ralph Glasmann

1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant - Joe Bakas

2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant – Tom McLinden

Secretary – Ian Seivwright

Treasurer – Bob Bowers

### **The Hall of Flame Museum of Firefighting**

6101 East Van Buren St

Phoenix, AZ 85008-3421

Executive Director Chuck Montgomery

Visit our Website: [www.hallofflame.org](http://www.hallofflame.org)  
Facebook page: Hall of Flame Firefighting Museum

Summer 2021 edition for Turnout Magazine  
Editors Bob Bowers, HFVO & Mark Moorhead, HOF





## REGION 9

Bayonne Fire Canteen, Inc. - 1994  
c/o Will Chwalyk  
289 Ave. A  
Bayonne NJ 07002  
wchwalykjr@gmail.com

Bell & Siren Club, Inc. - 1949  
P. O. Box 269  
Caldwell NJ 07006-0269  
mrihcohen@aol.com

Box 54 Club - 1952  
PO Box 54  
Teaneck NJ 07666  
Box5474a@aol.com

Fire Bell Club of New York, Inc. - 1939  
204 E 23rd St.  
New York NY 10010  
Ten75aje@msn.com

Gong Club, Inc. - 1950  
PO Box 213  
Jersey City NJ 07303-0213  
gongclub@comcast.net

Second Alarmers Assoc., Inc. - 1921  
2900 Roberts Ave.  
Philadelphia PA 19129  
chiefmasi@gmail.com

SPAAMFAA - 1967  
Att: Stan Socha  
66 Woodhollow  
Brunswick OH 44212-1217



## GONG CLUB, INC.

JERSEY CITY, NJ

by Paul Schaetzle and Ron Jeffers

### APRIL SPRINGS INTO ACTION...

April, a traditionally busy month, lived up to its reputation. In the first 11 days of the month, Car 26, the Gong Club canteen, racked up 7 runs! Twice this month Car 26 has had back to back runs. The frenzied pace included Jersey City's first 4<sup>th</sup> Alarm of 2021, the rig's second run of the year to Secaucus and a mutual aid run to a 4<sup>th</sup> Alarm in Bergenfield to assist the Box 54 Club.

Good Friday, April 2, 2021 brought a mid-afternoon run to a 2<sup>nd</sup> Alarm fire in a large sprinklered warehouse at 100 Castle Rd. in Secaucus, one of two volunteer departments in Hudson County. The rig had no sooner backed into quarters from that run when it was out the door again to 2<sup>nd</sup> Alarm Box 787. Fire involved a large "double H" 5 story apartment building at 630 Bergen Ave. A lot of truck work nipped a potential disaster in the bud!

After a quiet Easter Sunday, the equally quiet Western Slope section of the City was a most unlikely location for Jersey City's first 4<sup>th</sup> Alarm in over one year. The quiet residential neighborhood, as the name implies, sits on the side of a hill overlooking busy Tonnele Ave. and the Meadowlands to the west. In the wee hours of Monday morning, April 5, 2021, Fire Dispatch was bombarded with calls reporting a fire on Terrace Ave. Box 464 was transmitted at

01:21 for a fire at 237 Terrace Ave. Eng. Co. 11 arrived 3 minutes later. Capt. Kevin Kulnis reported "Eng. 11 on the scene; working fire; 2<sup>nd</sup> Alarm!" Capt. Kulnis followed with a quick initial report, "2 ½ Class 5 residential; car on the outside, extended to the building; close proximity to other buildings".

Batt. 3, newly promoted Battalion Chief Jason Kane, arrived at 01:26, reporting "The original fire building is #237; a 3 story frame; detached similar exposures. Fire has extended into the top floor of the B exposure". Fire Dispatch acknowledged and advised Batt. 3 that they were receiving reports of a possible stuck resident at 237 Terrace Ave. Batt. Chief Kane replied "Transmit a 3<sup>rd</sup> Alarm!". He then reported that 2 civilians had been pulled out of #237, requesting EMS to the front of the building and Public Service gas to respond forthwith.

Deputy Chief Anthony Della Rosa arrived one minute later and assumed command. He ordered all 3<sup>rd</sup> Alarm companies to report to the Command Post and then reported, "We have 2 buildings involved; fire is going through the roof; lines stretched into both buildings; protecting the exposures; attacking with a deck gun." Batt. 1, Batt. Chief Constance Zappella, reported the fire was extending to exposure B1. Eng. Co. 9 asked for a 3<sup>rd</sup> line to the top floor of the original building. With a host of tasks to

cover in several buildings, Deputy Chief Della Rosa transmitted a 4<sup>th</sup> Alarm, ordering the companies to stage outside Terrace Ave. and the members to report to the Command Post.

Chief of Dept. Steven McGill arrived shortly thereafter. Eng. Co. 8, Capt. Scott McDermott, asked for another line to the top floor of #233 Terrace. A few minutes later, Capt. McDermott reported that there were 3 lines working in that building and things were "looking better". Deputy Chief Della Rosa then reported he was putting the FAST truck, Lad. Co. 9 to work and was replacing them with Lad. Co. 8 (the 4<sup>th</sup> Alarm truck). He next reported that fire had darkened down in both buildings; the gas had been shut off and all hands were working.

With the situation now well in hand, Deputy Chief Della Rosa returned Engines 13 and 22 as well as Ladder Co. 4. Despite the heavy volume of fire on arrival, tight streets

and no access from the rear due to the steep hill, the fire was brought under control in less than an hour.

Members Jim Fay, Ron Jeffers and Pat Spellman responded to the scene, meeting Car 26 and its chauffeur on the fireground. The intrepid group had to hoof it several blocks due to non-existent parking spots in the neighborhood. The crew served a gallon of coffee; 2 gallons of hot chocolate, 5 gallons of Gatorade and 80 bottles of water.

#### Response:

01:21 Box 464 Eng. Co. 11-14-18-7 Lad. Co. 7-3  
Res. Co. 1 Batt. 3 Div. 1  
01:24 WF 464 Eng. Co. 15 Lad. Co. 9 Batt. 1 Car 14  
01:24 2-2 464 Eng. Co. 5-9-Sqd. 4 Lad. Co. 2 Car 3-26  
01:27 3-3 464 Eng. Co. 17-8-2 Lad. Co. 4 Batt. 4 Car 4 OEM 3  
01:42 4-4 464 Eng. Co. 22-13-19 Lad. Co. 8



04/05/2021 4-4 464 237 Terrace Ave., Jersey City  
Members take a break at Car 26 after knocking down the fire (Adolf Paasburg Photo)



Less than 48 hours later, Battalion 2 companies would have their turn. On Tuesday, April 6, 2021 at 20:39 Box 918 was transmitted for 1 Linden Ave. East, an address all too familiar to 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion units. Sims Metal, a scrap dealer / automobile recycling facility occupies that waterfront address, scene of numerous working fires and multiple alarms for decades. A passerby reported smoke in the area. As Batt. 2, Batt. Chief Shawn O'Connor asked if there was any more information, Eng. Co. 13, Capt. Dominick Vallo, reported a working fire on a barge. Capt. Vallo added the facility's fire pump was operating and to have the truck companies to proceed in to use master streams. Eng. Co. 22, with their nearly brand new Pierce 2020 pump, set up to take draft from the Upper New York Bay.

Chief of Dept. McGill came on the air and asked Eng. Co. 13 if the marine unit would be needed. Eng. Co. 13 replied "Yes", but Fire Dispatch had alertly dispatched Eng. Co. 18 to operate Marine Co. 1. Standard procedure in Hudson County is to activate a fire boat task force for any marine assignment. North Hudson Fire Control is responsible for such activations and the North Hudson and Hoboken marine units were soon underway.

Batt. 2 ordered Fire Dispatch to contact Sims Metal and have all heavy equipment operations stopped.

Deputy Chief Joseph Menendez arrived at Box 918 at 20:40 hours and assumed command. At that same moment, Box 955 was transmitted for a fire at 87 Myrtle Ave., also in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion's response district, about 1 mile northwest of the barge fire.

Squad Co. 4 was first to arrive; all other companies normally on the 1<sup>st</sup> alarm for that box were working at Box 918. Capt. Guido Salandra of Sqd. Co. 4 reported "We have a 2 ½ story wood frame; fire extending to the exposure. We have wires down. Transmit a 2<sup>nd</sup> Alarm!"

Deputy Chief Menendez transferred command at Box 918 to Battalion 2 and took in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Alarm. He also had Battalion 4 redirect and respond to the 2<sup>nd</sup> fire. Meanwhile, the assigned Battalion Chief, Batt. 1, B. C. Joseph Vallo (yes; they're related! Engine 13's Capt. Vallo is his brother.) reported from Myrtle Ave. "2 story wood frame fully involved. Fire has extended to both exposures. Lines are advancing into both buildings. 2 ½ inch lines being stretched to the alleyways."

Batt. 2 released 2 engine companies from Box 918, one of which responded to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Alarm. Batt. 1 reported fire now showing from the B exposure and a partial collapse had occurred. Chief Vallo asked to have PSE&G (the utility company), expedite their response as there were wires down in the front of the building.

There was plenty of radio traffic with 2 simultaneous fires in progress in the same battalion. Batt. 2 reported on Channel 2 at 20:55 that they had water on the fire at Box 918. On Channel 3, D. C. Menendez reported at 21:08 from Box 955 that they were hitting the fire from the outside and the fire was darkening down.

At 21:15 Batt. 2 reported that tugboats were moving the barge closer to the dock and Sims Metal would use a crane to off load

debris. That operation evolved into a tedious all night task. Caution had to be exercised with the master streams so as to not sink the barge!

On Myrtle Ave., 5 minutes later Eng. Co. 17 transmitted an urgent message that the corner post had failed and everyone needed to get out of the building. Res. Co. 1 reported they were bailing off the roof. The building was evacuated, a collapse zone established and a roll call commenced at 21:24. The fire fight continued for another 40 minutes before the fire was placed under control. As a number of companies had been redirected from other assignments, supplementing the assigned response, Car 3, Chief of Dept. McGill, ordered Fire Dispatch to classify Box 955 as a 3<sup>rd</sup> Alarm.

Car 26 was released at 23:40 from Box 955 and inquired via radio if its services were

needed at Box 918. Batt. 2 answered with a resounding "Yes". Car 26 operated for nearly another 3 hours at the Sims Metal facility.

The tale of the tape read as follows:

20:39 Box 918 Eng. Co. 13-22-19-8 Lad. Co. 4-8  
Res. Co. 1 Batt. 2 Div. 1  
20:44 WF 918 Eng. Co. 1 Lad. Co. 11 Marine Co.  
1 Batt. 4  
20:44 S/C 918 North Hudson Marine Co. 1  
Hoboken Marine Co. 1 (fireboat task force)  
20:47 Box 955 Sq. 4-Eng. Co. 17-9-2 Lad. Co. 2-12  
Batt. 1  
20:52 WF 955 Eng. Co. 10 Lad. Co. 3 Div. 1 Batt.  
4  
20:52 2-2 955 Eng. Co. 7-5-22 Lad. Co. 11-9 Car  
3-26 OEM 3  
22:10 3-3 955 Eng. Co. 15-14-6 Lad. Co. 8  
23:32 S/C 918 Eng. Co. 8 Lad. Co. 6 (for relief)  
23:40 S/C 918 Car 26  
00:12 S/C 918 Eng. Co. 11 Lad. Co. 7 (for relief)



04/06/21 WF 918 1 Linden Ave. East, Jersey City  
Round 1 (Ben Stevens Photo)





05/24/21 2-2 918 1 Linden Ave. East, Jersey City  
Round 2 (Warren Zapp Photo)

### **“DÉJÀ VU ALL OVER AGAIN”!**

48 days later, same group, same location! Box 918 was transmitted at 22:56 for Sims Metal, 1 Linden Ave. East, once again. Once again, Eng. Co. 13, Capt. Dominick Vallo, reported a working fire while still responding. A huge column of black smoke was filling the night sky, blowing northwest behind the Statue of Liberty, across the mid-section of the City and beyond. This time, however, the fire was on land, at the south end of the complex. Crushed cars stacked 6 high were aflame, but the stack of cars was about the length of a football field! Capt. Vallo wasted no time seeking help;

“Transmit the 2<sup>nd</sup> Alarm” was his arrival report.

First alarm companies were able to use hydrants but Eng. Co. 7 drafted from the bay this time around. The fire boat task force was dispatched and all 3 marine units operated for several hours. Ladder pipes were deployed by Ladder Companies 8, 9 and 11 while Ladder Tower 4 operated their bucket’s master stream. Eng. Co. 13’s deck pipe also joined in the fray.

Although no structures were threatened, the heavy smoke billowed for hours, resulting in numerous boxes being transmitted for



smoke conditions across the City and adjoining localities in Hudson and Bergen Counties. Even Yonkers, NY received a call reporting smoke from this fire! A few units had to “strategically reposition” as runoff from the fire flooded the large open area to the west of the fire. By dawn’s early light, the fire was extinguished and companies took up from a long, filthy tiring night. Car 26 operated for over 7 hours!

Running assignment for this incident:

20:39 Box 918 Eng. Co. 13-22-19-8 Lad. Co. 4-8  
Res. Co. 1 Batt. 2 Div. 1 FTO  
20:44 WF 918 Eng. Co. 1 Lad. Co. 11 Marine Co.  
1 Batt. 4  
23:01 2-2 918 Eng. Co. 17-7-14 Lad. Co. 9 Haz  
Mat 1 Car 26

### RESURRECTION!

It is not every day that we hear of an old Northeastern city re-activating a fire company. Usually, the news is just the opposite. Fire companies are either disbanded or departments close companies on a rotating basis when manpower is low.

Redevelopment along the Hudson River waterfront has made Jersey City one to the largest centers of banking and finance in the United States. This growing city now boasts some 200 high-rise structures, with many more on the drawing board. Nine of the state’s tallest buildings are located here, according to city officials who believe the population is around 300,000.

With this growth in the Downtown area, fire officials have been preparing plans for improved fire protection for the residents and people who work in this city. One plan was accomplished in 2019 when Engine Co.

6 was assigned a Pierce three-stage pumper for improved water supply in high-rise emergencies and pump failures.

On January 8, 2021, Engine Co. 1, disbanded on March 22, 1991, was re-activated at the Downtown quarters of Eng. Co. 5 and Lad. Co. 2, as additional protection for this congested area. According to F. D. J. C. General Order 21-02, Liberty Engine 1 was re-established as a fully equipped reserve engine company. It will be placed in service whenever staffing is available and/or during recalls of off duty members. The City has been appointing new firefighters on a regular basis. The influx of new firefighters enables every firehouse to be fully staffed. Engine Co. 1 has been on duty most of the time since being reorganized.

The City’s original Engine 1 was known as Liberty Engine 1 when organized in 1829. Hence, the current apparatus has “*LIBERTY ENGINE ONE*” in graphics above its windshield.

The current Engine 1 is a Jersey City veteran; a 2003 Pierce Dash 2000 GPM pumper with a 500-gallon water tank. It was originally assigned to Engine Co. 9. When that company received a 2015 Pierce Arrow XT, it became a reserve unit. In October 2018, after receiving upgrades and new graphics, it was re-assigned to Engine Co. 22. With the acquisition of a 2020 Pierce Enforcer for Engine 22, the 2003 Pierce was slated to become the reincarnated Engine 1. The rig received a new paint job and graphics by Lembo Auto Body before being placed in service.



**F. D. J. C. Engine Co. 1**  
2003 Pierce Dash 2000/500 (Ron Jeffers Photo)



**F. D. J. C. Engine Co. 1, 01/08/21**  
In front of their former quarters, 153 Morgan St. First day on duty since March 22, 1991  
(Ron Jeffers Photo)





**DEPARTMENT OF FIRE  
AND  
EMERGENCY SERVICES  
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF**



**150 YEARS OF PROUD PROFESSIONAL SERVICE**

**HEADQUARTERS**

**MARCH 19, 2021**

**GENERAL ORDER 21-17**

**SUBJECT: CAR 26 – THE GONG CLUB**

The following is a story submitted as part of a monthly series honor our 150 years of professional fire service to the City of Jersey City.

*Car 26 Responding...*

*Welcome words when heard by any firefighter working at a multiple alarm! For 70 of its 150-year history, the Department has depended on the support of the Gong Club, Jersey City's fire buff organization. This month marks the 68<sup>th</sup> anniversary since the first Gong Club canteen responded to a 2<sup>nd</sup> Alarm or greater. Following an official commissioning ceremony at Fire Headquarters, then located at 82 Grand St., the rig's first response was to a 2<sup>nd</sup> Alarm in a foundry at 109 Plymouth St. on March 7, 1953.*

*Prior to the debut of its first vehicle, Club members responded to fires in their personal vehicles, often serving the firefighters from the running boards of apparatus. The Gong Club traces its origin to December 26, 1950 when its certificate of incorporation was issued. Initially formed with 15 members, Warren Zapp was the last of the original incorporators, passing away in 2001. Zapp was also designated as the Department Photographer and Historian for many decades.*

*In late 1952, the Club acquired a 1941 Ford van from the Bond Bread Co. and the members converted the rig into a canteen themselves. The rig was quartered with Engine Co. 7 at 666 Summit Ave. While serving at a 2<sup>nd</sup> Alarm on Christmas Morning, 1958, Chief of Department Thomas Maloney presented the members with the keys to the first floor of the historic former Fire Headquarters at 244 Bay St. The space was quickly renovated into the Club's new quarters, providing meeting space and a permanent home for the canteen unit. A large crowd gathered for the Dedication Ceremony and celebration on February 22, 1959. Chief Maloney, one of the Club's biggest boosters and designer of the Gong Club badge, was the guest speaker.*

*The 1941 canteen served until January 9, 1963 when it was replaced by a 1960 Chevrolet Step Van. The used vehicle was purchased, outfitted by the members and served at every major fire and emergency in the city for the next 23 years. That same year, 1963, member Jack Cole was elected President of the International Fire Buff Associates, Inc. The I. F. B. A. is an association of some 70 fire buff groups throughout the U. S and Canada. Most operate canteen / rehab units similar to Car 26. The Gong Club hosted the annual I.F.B.A. convention*

**CAR 26 – THE GONG CLUB**

**GENERAL ORDER 21-17**



*in June, 1964 at the Hotel Plaza in Journal Square. Some 250 buffs enjoyed a four-day convention, led by the city's number one fire buff, Mayor Thomas Whelan. The Club has hosted I. F. B. A. conventions with other New Jersey fire buff groups in 1989 and 2001. Club members today continue to hold leadership positions in the international association*

*In 1971, the Gong Club achieved its final original goal, the establishment of an annual Valor Award for a deserving Jersey City Firefighter. The Club continues to sponsor this award, along with the Francis and Anna Lee Medal, which was established in 1972 by the family of Fireman Francis Lee, who made the supreme sacrifice at a 2<sup>nd</sup> Alarm fire in 1967. The Gong Club Valor Award was renamed The Carlos Negron Medal in memory of Club Member, Fire Fighter Carlos Negron, who gave his life in the line of duty at 3<sup>rd</sup> Alarm Box 420 on March 20, 1993. Fire Fighter Negron was one of 3 Gong Club members who lost their lives at fires. Hoboken Auxiliary Fireman Edward Rugar and Fire Dispatcher Joseph Lovero, a 9/11 victim, being the others.*

*A major fund-raising effort was initiated to replace the 1960 canteen in 1975 and none too soon! That rig was destroyed in a collision while responding to a 2<sup>nd</sup> Alarm in Bayonne on October 19, 1975. The Gong Club had the good fortune to have valuable friends in its hour of need. The Jersey City Red Cross arranged for the loan of a spare canteen truck until a new vehicle could be constructed. The Club also relied upon its neighbor, The Box 54 Club of Teaneck, for coverage as well. As part of its active role in the I.F.B.A., the Club maintains a mutual aid pact with the Box 54 Club in Bergen County, the Bell & Siren Club in Essex County and the Bayonne Fire Canteen.*

*The replacement vehicle was the Club's first custom designed apparatus; a 1976 Chevrolet Step Van was built to Club specifications by Custom Sales and Service, Hammonton, NJ. The rig was dedicated in ceremonies at the Droyers Point Training School on October 10, 1976 and responded to its first 2<sup>nd</sup> Alarm that same day!*

*The method of alerting members of fires by telephone was replaced in 1980 with a pager system activated from the "Central Office" as Fire Dispatch was known in that era. The system was inaugurated during the Club's Thirtieth Anniversary Dinner Dance by Fire Director Raymond Maloney, the son of Chief Thomas Maloney. The Club's original funding method, an annual raffle, was replaced with a payroll deduction plan in 1991. The plan continues today, with a 100% participation rate. Firematic organizations in the remaining Hudson County communities served by the Club donate an annual contribution to help defray the costs of the canteen service.*

*The 1976 Canteen was refurbished by Kenco Fabricating Co. of Scottsdale, PA in 1989 and served a total of 25 years. The Club's current apparatus, a Utilimaster, was placed in service on December 20, 2001. Yaissle Body Co of Pottsville, PA built the rig to Club specifications. The rig continues to serve firefighters throughout Hudson County today.*

*The rig, the members and the methods from that first run of March 7, 1953 are long gone; even Plymouth St. has disappeared! Rehab and hydration, particularly with the introduction of bunker gear in 1988, have become critical fireground necessities. NFPA Standard 1584 and U. S. Fire Administration Publication FA-114 require fire departments to provide rehab at emergency incidents. Today's rehab rigs carry much more than coffee and hot chocolate. Energy drinks, misting fans, cold towels, portable coolers and heaters, hand warmers and lighting equipment are some of the tools carried on Car 26. To combat the rise in*

*occupational cancer, decon wipes are distributed at every incident. At major summertime incidents, it is common to dispense 300 or more bottles of water to keep firefighters hydrated.*

*The Department is indeed fortunate to have such a dedicated group of volunteers.*




The 1941 rig operating at 3rd Alarm Signal Station 215, the New Jersey American Warehouse at 716 Jersey Ave, March 5, 1959.



Gong Club member driving its rig. Members name not known.

<p align="center"><b>RECEIVED &amp; NOTIFIED ALL PERSONNEL IN MY COMMAND</b></p> <p>A _____</p> <p>B _____</p> <p>C _____</p> <p>D _____</p> <p align="center"><b>FDJC</b> <i>Servare cum Virtute, Fortitudine, Facilitate et Devotione</i></p>	
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**BY ORDER OF**  
  
**STEVEN J. MCGILL**  
**CHIEF OF DEPARTMENT**





## REGION 10

Assn. des Pompiers Auxiliaires de la Monteregie  
200 Rue Josee  
Rougemont, Quebec  
CANADA J0L 1M0

Assn. Pompier Aux Lanaudiere - 2008  
10 Place St. Jean  
Assomption, Quebec  
CANADA J5W 3L7  
[Patricktrudel.apal@outlook.com](mailto:Patricktrudel.apal@outlook.com)

Box 43 Association - 1950  
PO Box 30102  
Upper James PO  
Hamilton, Ontario  
CANADA L9B 0E4  
[Box43chief@gmail.com](mailto:Box43chief@gmail.com)

Box 690 Fire Dept. Canteen Assn. - 1995  
c/o Gary Dinkel  
15 Muskoka Ct.  
Kitchener, Ontario  
CANADA N2B 3M2  
[corhealth@rogers.com](mailto:corhealth@rogers.com)

Appel -99 Quebec - 1989  
Att: Richard Gauvin  
140 Rue St. Jean #307  
Quebec City, Quebec  
CANADA G1R 1N7  
[info@clubappel99.ca](mailto:info@clubappel99.ca)

Pompiers Auxiliaires de Montreal - 1944  
5100 Boul. St. Laurent  
Montreal, Quebec  
CANADA H2T 1R8  
[museedespompiers@videotron.ca](mailto:museedespompiers@videotron.ca)

Greater Toronto Multiple Alarm Assn. - 1975  
3442 Nadine Crescent  
Mississauga, Ontario  
CANADA L5A 3L3  
[gtmaa1975@gmail.com](mailto:gtmaa1975@gmail.com)

The Ontario Fire Buff Assoc., Inc. - 1972  
PO Box 56, Don Mills  
Don Mills, Ontario  
CANADA M3C 2R6  
[ontariofirebuffs@yahoo.ca](mailto:ontariofirebuffs@yahoo.ca)

UCMU Monteregie - 2001  
82 de l'Amandier  
St. Constant, Quebec  
CANADA J5A 2P6  
[Danis.seguin@ucmu.com](mailto:Danis.seguin@ucmu.com)



## Association des pompiers auxiliaires de la Montérégie (A.P.A.M.)



*May 2021*

Last year was a year I think we all would like to forget. This year we are starting to see the light at the end of the tunnel. All of our activities are still on hold due to the pandemic. We are responding to all calls but the socializing at our station is not permitted. We see the effect that it has on all of our members. There is unfortunately a social distancing amongst our members being created due to the closing of the station and less calls. Our members before would drop by often for a coffee and to chat throughout the week but now we are only open for the members on guard and administrative duties. We are maintaining our measures of prevention and decontamination protocols while responding to the calls as well as at the station. Our fire services continue to support us 100% and are respecting our limits.

We finished off the year 2020 with 70 interventions down by 21 from 2019. We responded to (50) general alarms (4) 10-14, (1) 10-13, (1) 10-12 and 14 single alarms. This year we are up by 7 compared to last year at this time. We took care of 2775 fire personnel, 337 other emergency personnel, 526 fire victims and spent 324 hours on the calls.

We have renewed all of our contracts for 2021 with the 45 fire services which cover 80 municipalities over a 4600 square mile territory.

We have increased our membership to 48 members with 4 recruits from the fire academy. Their interest in our mission while doing their studies is opening the opportunity for them to see and appreciate what we do during an intervention. This we find important and encourage them because this is an investment into their future and our mission. We have been doing this for two years now and we are getting positive feedback from the recruits as well as the academy. Last year we had three students who are still with us after they graduated from the academy.

We are hoping to start up our activities at the end of August when the open houses should start at the fire stations. This will greatly help our financial situation which we are currently struggling with.

As for our future projects, there isn't much that we can do until this pandemic is over. We are continuing our work on the transformation of our third vehicle which we hope to put into service this summer. The progress is slow but advancing.





Here are some photos of some of our calls from last year and this year.



\*The last four pictures are from a fire service practice held in April 2021.

On behalf of our members and myself we hope that you all stay healthy and safe during these trying times. We hope to see some of you soon at the next convention!

Eugene Zalesny, Director  
Association des Pompiers Auxiliaires de la Montérégie (APAM)  
Rougemont, Québec  
Canada





## MONTREAL AUXILIARY (P.A.M)



2021 has begun pretty much the way same way that 2020 ended. The sanitary measures for Covid-19 are still in place and no parades, expositions or special events are being planned yet.

So, what do Montreal fire buffs do when all events have been cancelled? We start a new project!! That is right, we have begun the restoration of our old canteen truck. A long time ago, the fire department had approved the purchase of a brand-new shiny 1953 Fargo route van 3 ton, which was transformed into a mobile canteen. It was retired in 1971 after serving thousands of firefighters and was sadly put into a corner and forgotten. It has not aged well, and it was vandalised several years ago. Our mission is to bring it back to life and make it shine once again. The first step is to see if the engine can be revived. If so, then we begin raising the funds we will need for the restoration. This is a huge undertaking, but with a few enthusiastic members like master mechanic Rene; Barry, the artist, and newcomer Yvan, the wizard machinist, the job will get done and the Fargo will be restored to its former glory.





One of the few things that has not been cancelled and has kept us busy have been the fires. From January to the end of May we have responded to 32 multiple alarm fire calls. With the summer months approaching, the heat and humidity are a huge factor in rehab operations on-scene. Keeping firefighters safe and hydrated is a fundamental part of our mandate.

The NFPA 1584 recommendations are an exceptional source to follow if you are performing rehab in your respective areas and I have heard through the grapevine that new and improved guidelines will be coming out shortly. Below we can see Luc using the pulse oximeter to verify the saturation and pulse of fire fighters in the rehab area and Dan recording the information.











COOLING OFF ON A HUMID NIGHT



READY FOR THE RUSH





PRESIDENT STEVE DOING REHAB LOGISTICS



CAPT. TRACEY KNOWS A SMILE GOES A LONG WAY



KEEPING IT CLEAN AND ORGANIZED IS THE KEY TO SUCCESS





## REGION 11

Box 55 Assn. - 1952  
Att: Rick Short  
P. O. Box 202  
Madison TN 37116  
[Rick.short@box55.org](mailto:Rick.short@box55.org)  
[Thomas.bilbrey@box55.org](mailto:Thomas.bilbrey@box55.org)

Metropolitan Fire Assn. of Atlanta, GA - 1970  
PO Box 80607  
Atlanta GA 30366-0607  
[info@metrofire.org](mailto:info@metrofire.org)

South Florida Rehab - 2011  
& Emergency Support Team  
1722 Sheridan St. #197  
Hollywood FL 33020  
[Darren.wells@southfloridarest.org](mailto:Darren.wells@southfloridarest.org)

Wilson Co. Emergency Rehab Assn. - 2013  
P. O. Box 23  
Gladeville TN 37071  
[Wema603@gmail.com](mailto:Wema603@gmail.com)





Greetings from Atlanta! For a major metropolitan area, we have relatively few multi alarm fires. In fact, sometimes there are several days in a row where Atlanta Fire Rescue will have ZERO working incidents much less multi alarms. Of course, as we write this, Atlanta Fire has a 2<sup>nd</sup> Alarm in a older wood frame brick veneer apartment building in the West End section of the city. All of the water mains in the immediate area are 8-inch and consequently are old, so tuberculation in the cast iron piping quickly became a factor creating an inadequate water supply in both volume and pressure.

For many years, Metro Fire has been desiring to put Atlanta Fire Rescue on Broadcastify. The membership voted on Tuesday, 25 May 2021 to purchase a Uniden SDS 200 base radio for the intended purpose to finally get Atlanta Fire Rescue up and running. One of our relatively new members, Elliot Fried had taken over this project which had previously been bounced around for numerous years. By Wednesday evening the new scanner had been purchased, programed and Broadcastify had approved the MFA providing the AFR feed and they had Atlanta loaded in their system.

On Wednesday evening, Elliott and Dave Williams were keeping a close ear out for Atlanta to strike a box alarm. A full assignment would take radio traffic to one of the Tac channels used for working incidents. This would let us test to be sure the Tac channels were programmed correctly.

The plan Elliott had was to get the scanner configured and then test listen and monitor it for a little while to make sure sound levels and everything else was working properly before sharing an announcement. At approximately 20:22 Atlanta struck a box for 989 Howell Place SW in the West End area of the city for fire in a multi-family dwelling. We thought great, this could test the function of the Tac channels on a working incident. As the incident unfolded it appeared everything was working great.

When this fire went to a 2nd alarm, Elliott posted an "alert" on Broadcastify. This was quickly seen and our listeners peaked out at 323 during the event, going to #5 of Top Feeds at the time. Not bad for having been up and running for only a few hours.

As previously reported, the Metropolitan Fire Association hit 50-years of existent in June 2020. Unfortunately, due to COVID-19 restrictions and personal feelings, members of the MFA stopped having in person meetings in February 2020, thus there was no anniversary celebration.

Thanks to the IFBA, in May 2021, we hit one year of holding monthly meetings virtually with the first one having taken place on Tuesday 26 May 2020. Virtual meetings are a great opportunity and continue to help keep memberships interested and informed of things going on within your club. If your club has not held virtually meetings, contact IFBA Executive VP Wally Banks to have him set up the IFBA Virtual meeting system for your scheduled event.

Another advantage of this is your meeting can then include members and non-members world-wide. Wally Banks is a frequent attendee on our MFA meeting as are many other members of several IFBA Clubs... We normally hold the virtual meetings on the fourth Tuesday of each month. Let us know if you would like an invite!!

The MFA newsletter, HOT NEWS continues to be published monthly and is e-mailed to almost 300 fire departments or individuals throughout the United States. If your club produces a newsletter, please add us to your e-mail list at Firebf881@Gmail.com

On 29 May 2021, Atlanta Fire passed a solemn anniversary. Fifty years ago at 22:23 on Saturday, 29 May 1971 an explosion at the Davis Brothers Cafeteria would claim the lives of four Atlanta Firefighters. The following is taken from the history Dave Williams wrote for the yearbook Atlanta Fire Rescue 130 Years of History published in 2013.

## **THE TRAGIC DAVIS BROTHERS RESTAURANT FIRE & EXPLOSION**

**Saturday, 29 May 1971 at 22:23**

Luckie Street did not live up to its name on a Saturday, evening as four of Atlanta's Bravest perished in a fire at 104 Luckie Street NW between Cone Street NW and Fairlie Street NW in the Central Business District of the city. Captain Lewis Bartow Grady and Firefighter Verlon James Crider of Engine Company 15 and Firefighters Charles Douglas Fernander and Howard Haley Beck of Ladder Company 11 were killed when an explosion ripped through a building that was being used as a typical cafeteria style restaurant where patrons went down a long serving line.

Twenty-three other members of the department were injured and had to be transported from the scene. Those who were treated and released from Grady Memorial Hospital were: Ladder Driver Ralph W. Allison, Acting Lieutenant Danny D. Bowman, Hoseman Garey E. Camp, Frank N. Cooper, Jr., Larry E. Cumming, Captain Max K. Edens, Charles R. Guyton, Ray Steve Leavell, John G. McCarthy, Walter K. Perry, Lt. Howard O. Phillips, J.A. Prince, Captain Charles T. Ragsdale III, Joseph Donald Roberts, and Henry C. Scales. Those admitted to Grady Hospital were FAO David Chamberlin, Jimmy F. Duncan, Ladder Driver Curtis C. Holland, Captain Wyatt Hudson, T.L. Kitchens, Gilbert A. Maner, Edwin O. Warren, and Lieutenant Olin E. Zachery.

This fire marked the second largest loss of life for the Atlanta Fire Department, as well as the first time in the history of the paid or volunteer departments that a Black firefighter had been killed in the Line of Duty. Charles Fernander, affectionately known as "Bo Daddy", was one of the four who perished. Even though it was classified as a typical basement fire, the incident drew national media coverage due to the large and tragic loss of life for the AFD.

Saturday, 29 May 1971

22:23 Engines 3, 4, 1, 6 Ladders 4, 1 Deputy Chief Steve B. Campbell  
22:36 Special Call: Salvage Unit 1  
22:34 E & L 5 to Station 4; E & L 7 to Station 1  
22:40 Special Call: Light Unit 1  
22:41 Second Alarm: Engines 5, 10, Ladder 10; Battalion 5 Chief MF McGill & Department Chief PO Williams  
22:45 E 10 to Station 5  
22:49 E & L 12 to Station 6  
22:51 Third Alarm: Engines 15 (Crider and Grady), 7 (acting 1) Ladder 11 (Beck and Fernander)  
23:52 E & L 23 to Station 11; E & L 26 to Station 23  
23:55 E 16 to Station 1; Battalion 4 to Station 6; Battalion 2 to Station 4; Engine 14 to Station 7  
23:10 Massive explosion occurs. Firefighters down, missing and many seriously injured.  
23:10 Atlanta Fire Radio ordered to send All Available Ambulances to the scene!!  
23:12 Fourth Alarm: Engines 16, (1); 23, (11); 10 (5); Ladders 7 (1); 23, (11); 16 (1)  
23:12 E & L 29 to Station 11; E 14 (7) to Station 1 E & L 25 to Station 7  
23:15 E 22 to Station 16; E 2 to Station 5  
23:17 Special Alarm: Battalion 4, Chief Hornsby to fire  
23:18 Battalion 6 to Station 11  
23:24 Special Alarm: Deputy Chief Lemke from home  
23:30 Arson Squad - Lt. J.A. Byrd  
---- Sunday, 30 May 1971  
00:40 Gas cut off to building.  
03:27 Control sounded.  
05:54 Fire officially tapped out.



The structure was a typical two-story brick-walled taxpayer building with a full basement having a wood joisted floor covered with ceramic tile. The second floor and the roof deck were board on wood joist. It sat on the south side of Luckie Street, between Cone and Fairlie Streets. It was adjacent to the nine-story masonry Georgia Hotel which was being vacated at the time. The electric and natural gas meters were inside the basement. This was something that was typical in many of the older "downtown" buildings. The only shut off for the natural gas supply outside of the basement was a curb box valve covered with a small plate in the sidewalk. Many times, these covers were missing and the tubes down to the valve had been filled with dirt or covered over to prevent a tripping hazard. The lack of utility cut offs outside of the building would lead to a catastrophic explosion and a very tragic event in the history of the AFD.

The valve controlling the gas line into the building would not get secured until well after the ill-fated explosion. Several other factors came into play including the fact the building was not protected by automatic sprinklers. The basement storage area was accessed along the east wall by one stairway near the front of the building and another stairway near the back of the building.

Upon arrival, Engine 3 discovered heavy smoke throughout and heavy fire conditions in the basement. Captain Max Edens of Engine 3 ordered two 1½ inch hand lines stretched into the building and down the front set of basement stairs. They encountered extreme heat but hung in there attempting to get water on the fire which was rolling in the basement forward of their position and close to the Luckie Street end. Crews actually had to go over the seat of the fire to get access to the rear set of stairs. This also meant their hose lines were sitting on the floor above the fire. Firefighter Don Gossett had "plugged" that night and had assisted the engineer on Engine 3 take a plug at Fairlie & Luckie. As he got back to the fire building, he noted the service elevator was coming up out of the sidewalk. Apparently, the heat or a short had made it rise.

Firefighters were now playing a 2½ -inch hand line down the elevator shaft into the fire. Companies were taking a tremendous beating at the bottom of both sets of basement stairs. Captain C.T. Ragsdale of Company 1 ordered everyone out as conditions deteriorated and one line was abandoned at the bottom of the stairs. Companies got fresh air tanks and again fought back to the bottom of the stairs. Conditions were worse than before and this second offensive attack also had to be abandoned. This time all lines were removed to the street.

Glass windows on the front of the building were now ordered broken out to vent heat and smoke; at the same time holes were being cut in the floor. Remember this was a masonry tile over a thick wood floor, so punching these holes was not a quickly accomplished task. A Cellar pipe, supplied from a 2½ inch line was placed through the broken-out window, went into the first hole. The height of the windowsill made the hose sit at an angle so that the feet of the cellar pipe would not sit flat against the floor. The angle of the pipe was bad, and crews worked to correct the issue.

When the firefighters attempted to back the cellar pipe out of the hole in the floor, something in the basement had entangled the tube to a point it could not be efficient moved and turned nor retracted. Even so, when water was supplied the fire in that section of the basement immediately went out verified by what operating members could see around the pipe through the hole in the floor. They then advanced about 25 feet further into the building from the front wall and proceeded to cut another hole in the floor. Within seconds, a tremendous explosion rocked the building!

Virtually everyone on the fire scene was thrown to the ground or against walls and equipment. Firefighters had their helmets blown off and were now grabbing the closest one to them. Lt. George Villano (Aide to Chief Campbell), ordered a short ladder and Firefighter Don Gossett (Engine 3), went searching for one. As he returned, he saw his Captain Max Edens and several other firefighters lying in the street, seriously injured. Within seconds the entire front of the building was fully involved, and a heavy-flame front was rolling out the broken windows.

All pressure regulators on the gas meter assembly had been compromised by the blast and the open broken line was now feeding full street pressurized natural gas into the base of the fire. Atlanta Gas Company crews were trying to locate the cap over the cut off valve in the sidewalk. They were afraid to go in front of the building with the fire now rolling out the window and all along the front of the damaged structure. Firefighter



Gossett took their tools and after a short search, found the valve cap. So much water was flowing out of the building he had to sit down on the sidewalk, backed up to the building so his bottom and legs would deflect enough water so he could see and work on removing the cap. Once the cap was off the Atlanta Gas Company emergency crews came over and secured the flow of gas pouring uncontrolled into the basement of the building.

Companies hit the fire with several big hand lines and additional Cellar Pipes and Bresnan Distributors were now in operation. These were working on the flames beneath the collapse sections of what had been the first floor. After the fire was darkened down, First Deputy Chief J.I. Gibson ordered all hose lines and master streams turned off. A ladder was placed into the basement and he descended the ladder followed by Lt. Lake Hearn, (Engine 5). They were trying to see if they could find the four missing firefighters. Water in the basement was now about three feet deep.

The bodies of the four firefighters were soon located. The explosion had lifted the floor and when it collapsed, eating booths and the heavy steam serving counter slid off the first floor into the cellar. The now deceased firefighters were trapped beneath the booths and the steam serving counter which had come down on top of them. Twenty-three other firefighters were sent to Grady Memorial Hospital, including four who would end up in intensive care.

Following the explosion, Department Chief Dudley Martin and Fire Marshall Eugene Guerry of the DeKalb County Fire Department (D.C.F.D.) responded to the scene, offering the assistance of the D.C.F.D. to help back fill vacated Atlanta stations or provided help at the scene. Mayor Sam Massell and Fire Department Chaplain Repass also responded to the scene. Control was sounded at 03:27 and the fire was officially tapped out at 05:54 on 30 May, the Sunday morning of Memorial Day weekend.

During the overhaul, the initial Cellar Pipe was found sticking through the floor less than six feet from the gas meter in the basement. In the opinion of some of the firefighters, the gas meter was on fire in the basement upon arrival. The flames were extinguished by the first Cellar Pipe thus allowing unburned natural gas build-up. When this accumulation of gas finally reached the active fire on the other side of the basement, the gas ignited, exploding into a massive fire ball with enough force to lift up the floor which then fell into the basement taking eight firefighters and all of the furniture down with it.

Davis Brothers Management Company, along with many concerned citizens and business, contributed to a fund for the fallen firefighters. Coordination and distribution of this fund was handled by the Metropolitan Fire Association at the request of Department Chief P.O. Williams. Mr. Stanley Davis, who had been on the scene that tragic night, personally visited many of the firefighters in the hospital and the families of their comrades who were killed in action. Origin and cause of the fire was not determined.

Mrs. Donna H. Bowman did an extensive review of the fire and wrote a detailed book on the incident. Donna is the wife of retired Forsyth County Department Chief and EMA Director Danny D. Bowman—(Danny Bowman at the time was an Atlanta Firefighter, was on the scene and was injured at this incident). We suggest you obtain a copy of *Tragedy on Luckie Street*; True stories of the second worst loss of life suffered by the Atlanta Fire Department. These may be ordered at:

<https://www.amazon.com/Tragedy-Luckie-Street-Department-Paperback/dp/1610051637>

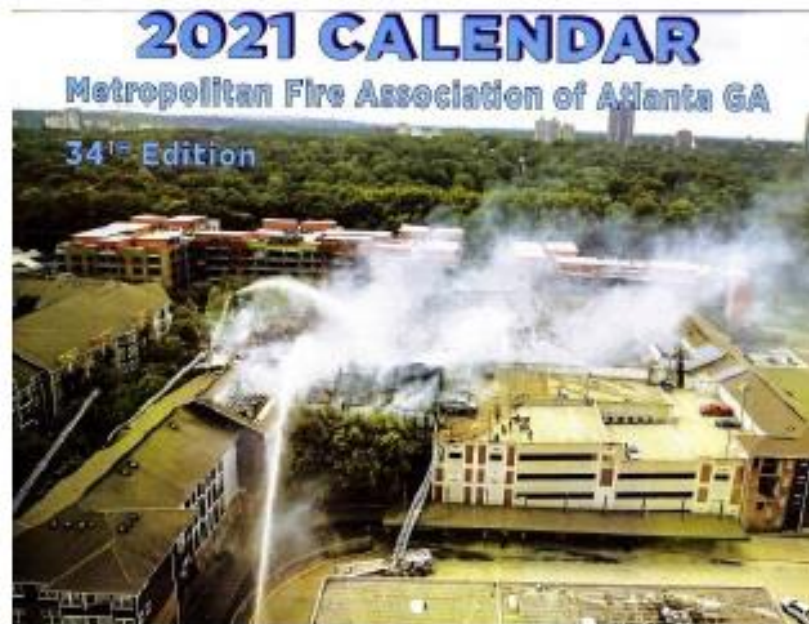
In closing for this edition, MFA members continue to miss *"The VISITING FIREMAN"* which is no longer published. Via FaceBook and other social media we see posts from "buffs" in Georgia that we did not know about. I am sure other buff clubs also see postings from people who might be potential members that they were unaware of. We find that most of these individuals, including some rehab operations are not aware of nearby existing organized buff clubs or the IFBA. Even if just a pay-for online directory, there remains a real need for the VF "publication".....

That's it from Atlanta.... Stay well and keep your camera battery charged to document your buffing.

Dave Williams, CFPS

We continue produce the Metro Fire Association Apparatus & Shift Calendar which has color photos of local fire apparatus and fire history. The first edition was in 1988 and work is getting under way for the 36<sup>th</sup> Edition for 2022.

This full color calendar has a photo of a different fire apparatus from the metropolitan Atlanta area featured on each page. Front and rear covers are fire scenes. The dates are marked for 24 / 24 and 24 / 48 shifts. Many local and other historical fires and as well as upcoming fire related events are also shown. Previous years' calendars have had favorable reviews in *Fire Apparatus Journal*. If interested, we do have previous years' calendars for sale as well.



**JANUARY**  
CONFIRM BEFORE ORDERING: Dates may have changed please call to verify before purchasing.

One working under stress can double your family's chances of survival. This spread will remember to not just about country and to replace your family's safety.

www.metrofire.org

**2021**

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 <small>2021 New Year's Day</small>	2 <small>2021 New Year's Day</small>	3 <small>2021 New Year's Day</small>	4 <small>2021 New Year's Day</small>	5 <small>2021 New Year's Day</small>	6 <small>2021 New Year's Day</small>	7 <small>2021 New Year's Day</small>
8 <small>2021 New Year's Day</small>	9 <small>2021 New Year's Day</small>	10 <small>2021 New Year's Day</small>	11 <small>2021 New Year's Day</small>	12 <small>2021 New Year's Day</small>	13 <small>2021 New Year's Day</small>	14 <small>2021 New Year's Day</small>
15 <small>2021 New Year's Day</small>	16 <small>2021 New Year's Day</small>	17 <small>2021 New Year's Day</small>	18 <small>2021 New Year's Day</small>	19 <small>2021 New Year's Day</small>	20 <small>2021 New Year's Day</small>	21 <small>2021 New Year's Day</small>
22 <small>2021 New Year's Day</small>	23 <small>2021 New Year's Day</small>	24 <small>2021 New Year's Day</small>	25 <small>2021 New Year's Day</small>	26 <small>2021 New Year's Day</small>	27 <small>2021 New Year's Day</small>	28 <small>2021 New Year's Day</small>
29 <small>2021 New Year's Day</small>	30 <small>2021 New Year's Day</small>	31 <small>2021 New Year's Day</small>				

The MFA needs your photos for the cover of the next edition of our shift calendar. Please email to: metrofire.org. Send your photo (landscape or portrait) and high resolution (at least 1 mb), with no adding or filtering, in addition to sending a file in progress. It should include either apparatus or active firefighters, or both. Include the date and time, FD name, address, state level, and a short description. We need the photograph's name (which can be redacted if suggested), and their email address if someone also submits the photo (permission to use for the calendar). Submit photos to: metrofire.org

A plastic pocket calendar color coded for the 24/48 shifts is included with the full-sized calendar.

The calendar is an annual fund-raising project of the Metropolitan Fire Association of Atlanta, Ga., The MFA is also the operates the Hot News Alert Paging Network, commonly known as HAN.



## TIMELY TOPICS



## What's Going to Happen to My Stuff?

Many members of the buffing community collect fire service related materials as part of their interests in the hobby. Collections range from artifacts, equipment, photographs, books, documents and reports, badges, fire trucks, the list goes on. Many of these collections have been gathered over many years or even lifetimes, some having been passed down from older family members or others. The longer some of these collections have been in the making, the greater their historical value. Many personal collections are the only preservation of items that would have been disposed of by their official organizations.

The inevitable question is what will happen to these collections once the collector no longer needs them? In far too many instances, a lifelong collection of unique artifacts or documents changes from 'my historical collection', to 'his old stuff', to 'get that junk out of here.'

When collections need to be cleared out, the sad truth is that removing the 'stuff' for curbside pickup in the local trash is how that life's work often ends up. At other times, collections are broken up and sold off in piecemeal fashion and dispersed, or they are given to individuals who do not appreciate or understand the value of the antiquities and allow them to deteriorate.

Collections of historical value are like real estate and other assets that can be considered a designated inheritance rather than a disposal annoyance. Even an inheritance is easier to donate if some forethought is given.

Here are some considerations about potential recipients if you want your collection to be preserved.

Younger generation family, friends or associates who appreciate the value of the collection and will continue to preserve it or will forward the collection for preservation.

Museums generally accept items that can be placed on display. The items must be consistent with the museum's preservation theme. Written and documentary items, if displayed, may no longer be readily available for research.

Libraries are good destinations for local books and documents. Public libraries are more likely to preserve written documents and leave them available for research. Private libraries may preserve collections but will generally not make their collections publicly available. Numerous fire buff clubs are known to have documentary collections.

Archives such as the National Fire Heritage Center accept documentary and photographic history with the intent of digital electronic preservation for future internet research access. Prior to digital preservation techniques, many documents and film media simply deteriorated with time.

Sometimes private collections are returned to the local fire department. While most fire departments will accept such donations, the sad fact is that these are the same materials that they disposed of in previous times. Also, very few fire departments are in the preservation, public display and research business. They may accept a few items for glass display cases but not for storage as might be found in a retrievable research archive.

Unique collections have been given to dealers and auction houses for resale. In most cases, those collections ended up broken up, dispersed, undervalued, and historically unrecognized as anything more than curiosities and coffee table trophies. With only a few of items of the lot generating a profit, the remainder of the collection was tossed out for lack of commercial value.

Organizations and individuals that have received donations of private collections have been known to dispose of those collections, in whole or in part, if the items did not meet their own display or preservation goals. A common belief is that if the donor/owner was willing to donate the collection to an organization or person that has no plan or use for it, then the recipient can freely dispose of it if they did not need it, since the owner relinquished their ownership.

Among collections of photographs, vast collections of slides and negatives have been left to deteriorate as the equipment and the projectors have become harder to find.

A fate nearly as bad as outright disposal can happen to collections that have been placed into inadequate storage such as basements, garages, attics, or closets where they are forgotten and left to deteriorate in poor environmental conditions, subjected to moisture, mildew, heat, humidity and in the care of critters in need of nesting materials.

The least desirable but unfortunately, most cost-effective alternative for historical collections is local, free, curbside trash pickup. This frequently happens when the inheritor does not have a full understanding and appreciation of the historical value of the collection.

To avoid the unnecessary destruction of lifelong efforts to collect and preserve fire service history, private collectors should plan ahead for where they would like their collections to be continued once they no longer personally need them.

Ignatius Kapalczynski  
IFBA History Committee

## *Communications*

From the first days of fire buffing, when individuals attending fires or visiting a firehouse would recognize each other and start friendships based on their common interests, friendships have led to groups that would get together, to clubs that were formed for camaraderie and service to the fire department in the form of canteens and rehab units, to organizations of clubs in regions, to an association clubs known as the International Fire Buffs Association.

The means of communication have evolved also. From hanging around the firehouse watch desk in order to hear the telegraph bell signals, to telephone call trees, to radios and scanners, to pagers, to websites, the ability to monitor the activities of the local fire department has always adapted.

Through the years, club communications have gone from newsletters, to phones, to radio notification networks, to pagers, to Zello. As communications became more sophisticated, fire buffs have extended their acquaintances and cooperation from local clubs to regions and nationally. Perhaps the grandfather of all fire buff connections on the national level was the Visiting Fireman - a directory of fire buffs and their interests as a forum for contacting each other. Today that forum is the IFBA.



## MONTREAL AUXILIARY (P.A.M)



Listening is a leadership responsibility that does not appear in our "job description" when we were elected to the PAM administration. When we listen to our members, we are in a much better position to lead the increasingly diverse and multigenerational our association is made up of. The "one-approach-fits-all" way of thinking has become outdated, and we who embrace the high art of listening are destined to be the better, more compassionate leaders. As a leader, how we act and the messages we share are crucial to maintaining trust among our team members. Our members want to feel valued and actively cared for. Showing that we genuinely care about their safety and well-being through our actions is vital. Reacting and getting frustrated with team members' concerns — or suggesting that this crisis is not as bad as everyone is saying — is not helpful in showing that we care and are sincerely concerned for them.

In these tough times of Covid-19, our leadership skills are more important than ever. Communicating with our members, listening to what they are saying and showing empathy is what we must do. How well do you do these? Think about these skills the next time you are talking to your team and continue to fine-tune your approach.

Covid-19 has been tough on our members. Some lost family members and have yet to properly mourn their loss, some have family members who were/are sick and can not visit them in the hospital. We as volunteers respond to the same fires and emergency calls that fire fighters respond to, and we are often witness to human tragedy. Whereas Montreal firefighters have access to support programs to help them through difficult job-related events, we the auxiliary volunteers do not. We are just as susceptible to PTSD as a firefighter or first responder. As leaders, we need to listen to what our members are saying and we find ways to support and guide them through these trying times.

In conjunction with the Montreal Fire department, we have had two group meetings with a psychologist. It was a great learning experience for us all. The psychologist led a discussion that enabled us to open up and share our emotional issues. It allowed us to understand each other a little better and pulled our team a little closer together. Listening is a skill that we can all benefit from improving. Most of us listen to react. We are so busy trying to formulate a response to the person speaking, that we do not really listen to everything that the person is trying to say. Actively listening to a person implies just that... Listen. Hear their words, watch their body language. By becoming a better listener, we avoid conflict and misunderstandings. What is more, we can improve our productivity as well as our ability to influence, persuade and negotiate. All of these are necessary for workplace success.

I believe that the experience was greatly beneficial for our group, and I encourage all associations to organize a session with a psychologist or even just have a sit-down session with all your members and have an open conversation, not forgetting that male egos sometimes get in the way. Just remember....it can only be helpful.

Please come and follow us on Instagram @ #pompiersauxiliairesmontreal and stay tuned for our next edition of our newsletter called "Le Ticker". It will be out at the beginning of July.

Until we meet again my friends, take care, be safe and happy buffing!

Steve Garnett  
IFBA  
First Vice President





# Necrology

It is with deep regret that the officers and directors of the Box 52 Association announce the passing of Honorary member Leo D. Stapleton. Commissioner Stapleton became an honorary member of the Association on February 3, 1985. May he rest in peace.



(Boston Fire Department photo)

Stapleton served the Boston Fire Department  
from 1951 to 1991

Fire Engineering: Leo Stapleton, Former Boston Fire Commissioner/Chief of Department, Passes

Stapleton was the author of 11 books about the fire service and firefighting. His most notable work, "Thirty Years On The Line," chronicled his career in the fire service.

[Leo D. Stapleton – Boston Fire Commissioner, retired \(commissionerstapleton.com\)](http://commissionerstapleton.com)

## FirefighterNation Staff

BOSTON, Massachusetts – The Boston Fire Department announced on Monday the death of Boston Fire Commissioner/Chief of Department (retired) Leo D. Stapleton.

Leo Stapleton was a member of the Boston Fire Department for forty years, serving as both Commissioner and Chief of Department during the last seven.

His father was appointed Chief of Department in 1950. He has two sons, Leo Jr. and Garrett, who were also Boston firefighters.

Stapleton was a popular speaker at fire conferences and seminars across the country and has received numerous awards for his contributions to the fire service, including a Lifetime Achievement Award from [Fire Engineering](#) magazine in 2006.

“Leo D. Stapleton, Boston (MA) Fire Commissioner/Chief of Department (Ret.) was the recipient of this year’s award. Stapleton began his fire service career as a firefighter for the Boston Fire Department in 1951. During his career, he rose through the ranks, and was fire commissioner/chief of department from 1984-1991. “There is no higher honor in Boston, other than perhaps being a member of the 2004 World Champion Red Sox,” said Halton. “But for a Boston firefighter, however, it is everything to have your brothers and sisters call you a good Jake. I have the honor this morning, and I say honor with tremendous humility, to present the *Fire Engineering* 2006 Lifetime Achievement award to Boston’s own Jake of Jakes, Commissioner (Retired) Leo D. Stapleton.

During his career, Stapleton was a visiting lecturer on breathing apparatus at the Harvard School of Public Health; a charter member of the International Society for Respiratory Protection; a featured speaker on respiratory protective equipment at the first IAFF Redmond Symposium, Notre Dame University, 1971; a speaker at the International Society for Respiratory Protection Convention, San Francisco 1989; and a keynote speaker at the Michiana School of Fire and Emergency Services, Notre Dame University, June, 2001. “Leo Stapleton was a lifetime union member and always considered a leading force in the advancement of firefighter safety,” said Halton. “It is universally accepted that largely due to Commissioner Stapleton’s initiation of the NASA Firefighters Breathing System Program, the introduction of the high-pressure SCBA was fast tracked for acceptance worldwide. The firefighters’ lives saved by this one act alone are countless.”

Upon receiving the award, Stapleton said, “To be able to work at an occupation which brings tremendous personal satisfaction, and to enjoy the association with the marvelous people we have been privileged to work with, makes firefighting enviable to those sentenced to much more mundane walks of life. The fire service is truly a most noble vocation, and I am extremely pleased to have spent so much of my life as a member of this vital organization.””



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