

Franklin Fire Department

Annual Report 2009



Fire Headquarters
40 West Central Street
Franklin, Massachusetts 02038

(508) 528-2323

http://franklinma.virtualtownhall.net/Pages/FranklinMA_Fire/index

The Department

The Franklin Fire Department is divided into two divisions: Operations and Maintenance, which is the largest and responsible for dispatch, emergency medical services, fire suppression and hazardous materials response. Administration and Support Services is responsible for personnel, budget and finance, training, code compliance and coordinating the Town's emergency preparedness.

Our Mission

The mission of the Franklin Fire Department is to:

...Have a positive impact in the lives of citizens and visitors of Franklin in their time of crisis by providing compassionate, contemporary, community driven services.

...Safeguard human life from the perils of fire, sudden illness, injury or other emergency medical condition, natural and man-made disasters as well as preserve the environment and property from ensuing destruction.

... Be responsible for a safe, productive and pleasant work environment for our employees, and provide them opportunities to gain new skills and advance their personal career goals.

Operational Objectives

- Initiating advanced life support to patients within 8 minutes of receiving the telephone call at our communications center.
- To access, extricate, treat and transport and transport trauma patients to a level one trauma medical facility within one hour of the occurrence of the injury.
- Interrupt the progression of fires in structures within 8 minutes of open flame ignition.
- To insure response readiness remains greater than 70%.
- Provide safety and survival skills for all school students in grade K through 5 consistent with the Student Awareness Fire Education (SAFE) initiative of the Commonwealth.
- Provide educational opportunities for department members to insure optimal performance and safety.
- To develop and maintain "best practice" to insure personnel and citizen safety.
- Insure fire safety through timely, consistent code compliance services to all external customers.
- Provide all department services in a manner that satisfies the needs of our customers.

Message from the Fire Chief

This year marked a year of continued growth of the department to meet the ever increasing needs of the community. This year saw the leaving of a few employees to pursue different career paths. This included Dispatchers Seth Hagerty and Jeff Quinlan as well as Firefighter Paramedics Ted Flanagan and Andy Joseph. We thank them for their efforts in making the department strong and wish them the best of luck on their future endeavors. Due to the looming budget

climate neither Firefighter paramedic position will be replaced. This year also saw the retirement of Virginia "Ginny" McLaughlin. Ginny worked for the Town for more than 20 years working for the DPW and Board of Health and completed her career with the Town in the Fire Department. Her presence in our administrative office will be greatly missed and we wish her health and happiness in her retirement.

This year the department responded to more than 3,400 emergency responses – a decrease of about .4% from last year. This reduction in emergency responses followed the decline in the economy in general and is a typical reaction to downturns in the economy. We thankfully saw a minor reduction (1 less) in fires occurring in occupied buildings. Additionally, the wet spring and early summer seasons provided a substantial decrease in the number of outside fires normally experienced within the Town

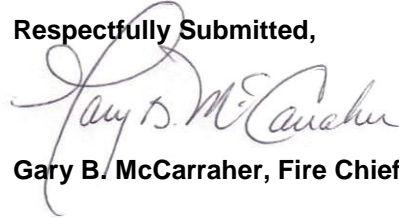
In addition to emergency response, the department also continued to expand its fire prevention education activities, providing safety and survival education to the most vulnerable population to fire – our children and seniors. Through the dedicated efforts of SAFE Officer Robert Donovan, the department continued to educate over 100 children per month as well as attend various activities at the Senior Center. Firefighters Tom Carlucci and Keith Darling provide dedicated assistance in completing this important service to our citizens.

The department has also continued to develop our system of regular continuing education for fire-rescue services. Under the Direction of Captain Jim Klich, department members complete a total of over 1,000 hours of continuing fire education as well as over 1,200 hours of emergency medical service training. These regular on-going classes are augmented by various specialty training attended by members.

In conclusion, I would like to thank the members of the Fire Department and their families for their dedicated efforts in serving the citizens of Franklin. The past several years have been challenging due to the decreasing amount of resources

available to provide an increasing demand for services. Throughout this time, department members have continued to strive to provide the best services possible. We should all be proud of their efforts and grateful for such a dedicated and skilled workforce.

Respectfully Submitted,



Gary B. McCarraher, Fire Chief



Department Staffing

Summary

Division	Full Time Employees	Part Time Employees
Administration and Support Services	5	0
Operations and Maintenance	52	4

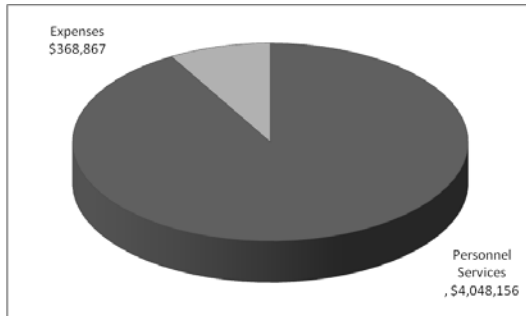
Fire Chief	Gary McCarraher
Deputy Fire Chief	Paul Sharpe
Captain	James Hagerty <i>Equipment Manager</i> Edward Lovely <i>Dean Liason Officer</i> James Klich <i>Training Officer</i> Steven Sims Stephen Parchesky <i>Fire Prevention Officer</i> <i>Chief Fire Investigator</i>
Lieutenant	Paul Beach <i>MIS Officer</i> David Baker Thomas Konieczny Daniel Lewis
Firefighter	Dennis Alger – Paramedic Charles Allen - Paramedic Dale Allen – Paramedic Charles Bailey – Paramedic Joseph Barbieri - Paramedic James Brady – Paramedic Richard Bravoco – EMT Thomas Carlucci– Paramedic <i>Asst. SAFE Officer</i> Michael Carter – Paramedic <i>Assistant Fire Investigator</i> Robert Cassano – Paramedic Jonathan Chalk - Paramedic Keith Darling – Paramedic <i>Asst. SAFE Officer</i> Jonathan Desouza – Paramedic Robert Donovan – Paramedic <i>SAFE Officer</i> Edward Flanagan – Paramedic Leo Gallagher – Paramedic Stephen Geer – EMT Darrell Griffin – Paramedic

Firefighter <i>(continued)</i>	Brian Hagan – EMT <i>SCBA Officer</i> James Josselyn - EMT Andrew Joseph - Paramedic Matthew Kelly – Paramedic <i>ALS Coordinator</i> Richard Lietch – EMT Steven Lewis – EMT Jared Liberti - Paramedic Sean Lovely - Paramedic Robert Mahoney – Paramedic Kevin Marshall - Paramedic Leslie Miller – 1st Rspndr Paul Molla - Paramedic John Monterotti - EMT David Morris – Paramedic Joseph Mullen - Paramedic Raymond Nasuti 1st Rspndr Dan Paglia - Paramedic Douglas Perro - Paramedic Mark Petitt – Paramedic Laurie Roy – Paramedic <i>Infectious Control Officer</i> David Smith – Paramedic <i>BLS Coordinator</i> Robert Tucci – EMT
Admin. Staff	Kathy Carloni <i>EMS Billing Clerk</i> Virginia McLaughlin <i>Administrative Assistant</i>
Dispatchers	Susan Walsh Head Dispatcher Di Ana Airous Joseph Mignone Corey Robitaille
Part-time Dispatcher	Seth Hagerty Michael Kaas Jeremiah Hart Charles Wood



Budget Summary

Title/Description	FY'08 Approved	FY'09 Approved
Personal Services	4,006,418	\$ 4,048,156
Expenses	411,496	\$ 368,867
Equipment Outlay	\$ -	-
Capital Equipment	\$ -	\$ -
	\$ 4,372,000	\$ 4,417,023

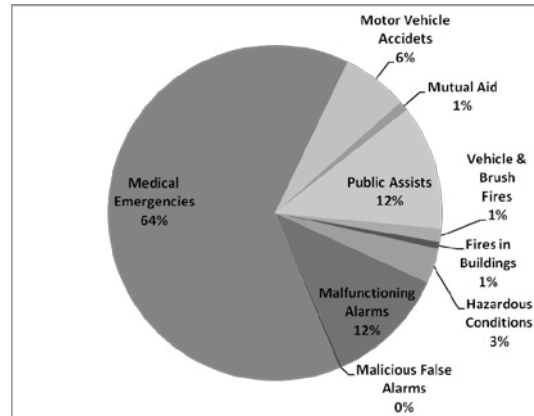


Fiscal Year 2009
Budget Breakdown

Statistical Summary

Emergency Response

Type of Emergency	2008	2009
Fires in Buildings	24	23
Hazardous Conditions	93	115
Malfunctioning Alarms	398	400
Malicious False Alarms	10	7
Medical Emergencies	2,172	2,171
Motor Vehicle Accidents	217	218
Mutual Aid	44	32
Public Assists	394	413
Vehicle & Brush Fires	84	44
<i>Total Emergency Response</i>	3,436	3,423



Fiscal Year 2009
Emergency Response Breakdown

Emergency Response Comparison

Fiscal Year	2008	2009	Trend Analysis	
			08-09	99-09
Recap of Major Categories				
Fire Emergencies	1,047	1,034	-1.2%	8%
Medical Emergencies	2,172	2,171	0.0%	15%
Motor Vehicle Accidents	217	218	0.5%	-
Total Emergencies	3,436	3,423	-0.4%	10%



Firefighters working at Franklin Paint Fire
March 23, 2009

Report of the Fire Investigator Captain Stephen Parchesky, CFI

This year started like the past twenty-five, with the fireworks. The Fire Investigation Unit is in charge of the inspection of the area in which the fireworks are launched. This includes setting up a safe zone. This is done with cooperation of Franklin School Department and Saint Mary's Church.

Over the past twelve months, we have seen an increase of suspicious fires. These fires are mainly in the wooded area of our town. To help curb this problem, we have posted the Massachusetts Arson Reward poster in the area.

The Norfolk Firewall Partnership's Fire Safety School; is the Norfolk County educational program designed and used to help prevent and address youth fire setting. The following members assisted in the teaching of Fire School over the past year FF/P Laurie Roy, FF/P Michael Carter and Captain Stephen Parchesky.

Members of this unit have attended many classes, and hands on training events over the past year. This training is vital to the changing culture of today's environment with regard to the Fire Investigator's safety.

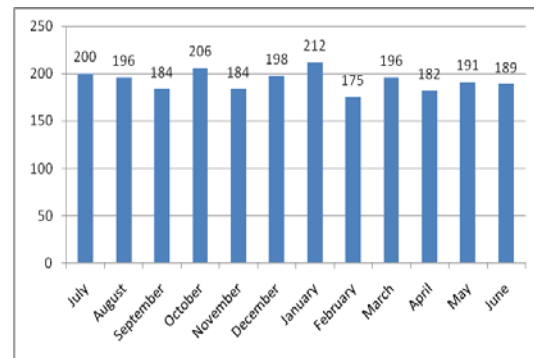
Fire Emergencies

This year, the department responded to 1,046 incidents that involved damage due to fire and other non medical emergencies, up slightly from 988 of the previous year. The incidence of fire within buildings decreased this year to 23 from 24 building fires from the previous year..

Of all fire incidents experienced within the Town, the majority (62%) occurred at residential property. Commercial property accounted for 12% of the department's fire damage, with special properties (e.g. roadways and outdoor areas) accounting for 10% of the fire problem.

Medical Emergencies

Requests for medical aid continue to be the largest service delivery for the department. In fiscal year 2009, medical emergencies accounted for 64% of the department's emergency responses. The department provided medical assistance to a total of 1,629 patients. On average, the department transported 136 patients per month, up from the average of 122 per month in 2004. Additionally, we served another 33 citizens with non transport services. The department generated \$812,985 in revenue for the General Fund through third party billing for ambulance services.



Patient Transports by Month

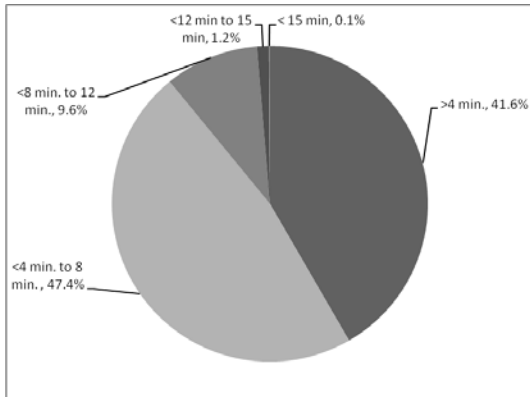


179 Brooks Street – May 9, 2009

Response times

In Franklin, nearly 49% of all requests for emergency aid occur during the routine business day. The least busy hour of the day was 3:00 AM with the busiest hour of the day occurring at 3:00 PM. The department's emergency incidents were distributed in a fairly equal fashion through the days of the week. Sundays were the least busy day with nearly 13% of the call volume with Fridays being the busiest with nearly 16% of the call volume each day; the remaining days of the week ranged between 14% and 15% of the emergency call volume.

This year the department's response time was just shy of meeting the response time parameters established by the National Fire Protection Association. For the first time the department's initial response to emergencies was 8 minutes or less 89% of the time. This is 1% less than the 90% recommended by national consensus standards.



Emergency Responses Time Breakdown

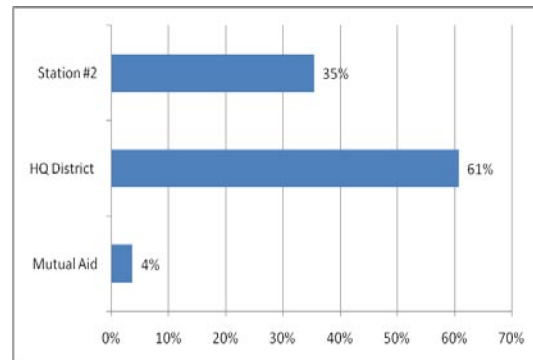
The department's long range planning initiative anticipated this decline in overall response effectiveness which can be attributed to increased call volume to areas of the Town which have developed with increased population over the past several years. To no end, we will continue to monitor this critical benchmark and make appropriate recommendation to insure timely services to all citizens of Franklin.



Visitor at the Fire Prevention Open House

Station	Address
Headquarters	40 West Central St.
Station #2	600 King Street

This year emergency responses between our station locations continued the trend of last year being not as equally divided as in the past. The Headquarters facility responded to the majority of our emergency responses. The King Street Station however continues to respond to a significant number of emergency responses and adds significantly to our ability to respond to requests for emergency aid in a timely fashion.



Response by Station

Code compliance and Inspections Captain Stephen Parchesky, CFI

This was another busy year for Fire Prevention. The annual inspection of the all Liquor License holders, 17 Schools, Day Care facilities, Summer Camps and Multi-family houses along with the daily inspections of homes for resale and new construction, service calls, telephone inquiries, LP gas tanks inspection, oil burner inspection, oil tank removals and plans review is almost too much to be handled by one person.

With this increase of service, I feel that this officer is not making an effective attempt at a fire prevention program. In some cases, the property or business owners do not take code violations seriously enough, which requires many return inspections. When I have to return more than once a year it puts the residents of Franklin in harm's way, and takes away from my other duties. I recommend that the Town adopt a Non-Criminal Fire Code Violation Notice Ticket Books and a fine fee structure. This would allow the department the ability to fine the more serious offenders.

I have increased the number of commercial business inspections along with helping businesses to formulate evacuation plans for their employees. In turn, this has shown an increase in the number of requests for conducted fire drills by this department in occupied business facilities. It is a good sign that employers are concerned with the safety of their employees.

Over the past year I have attended many classes dealing with the changes in the State Building Code, structures and system, evaluating performance based designs and plans review.

I would like to thank the Building Commissioner David Roche, Gus Brown and their staff for their assistance over the past year. Thank you, also, to the dedicated men and women of this department for their assistance in helping me to perform my duties during the past year.

Emergency Preparedness



The department continues to be the lead agency for the Town's emergency preparedness to natural and man-made disasters. This year we have actively worked on the development of an emergency operation plan to insure adequate response and coordination when responding to large scale disaster. This year we continue to process of training for all Town Staff and emergency first responders to insure proper reaction in time of crisis. In addition, with the completion of the department's new Headquarters facility we now have an Emergency Operations Center to manage large scale emergencies. This Center has provisions for all Town Departments to function from one area to insure a coordinated Town response to large scale emergencies.