

REPORT OF THE FIRE ALARM DIVISION

The Fire Alarm and Communications Division is continuously advancing in technology with both alarm reporting and fire ground radio communication means. In the latter part of 2008 the fire department began the incorporation of radio signal transmitted fire alarm box systems. These wireless radio signal systems are a means of notification to the fire department without needing the hardware, maintenance and equipment to supply a transmission over aerial wires from telephone pole to telephone pole. Front end equipment needed to receive these wireless signals is installed and operational at both headquarters and station 2. The first radio transmitted fire alarm boxes began installation at properties located on Avalon Bay Drive. Shortly after, the properties at Rosemont all conformed to the radio transmitted fire alarm boxes. From new alarm installations, to upgrading existing 100 mil hard wire fire alarm boxes, there are now approximately forty radio fire alarm boxes installed. Several private sector businesses have converted to this new system along with all of our public schools in the town. I would like to thank Michael Caliri of the Randolph School Department for working closely with the Fire Alarm Division and Fire Prevention Division in upgrading all public schools in the Town with radio box notification which insures the quickest and safest notification systems available.

With the beginning of the underground utility project in the Town of Randolph we believe the Fire Department has taken advantage of the wireless transmittal of fire alarm notifications and is addressing the issue of our 100 mil hard wired system. Although these wires are still in service on all of the telephone poles along South Main Street and North Main Street we are making strides to eventually convert to this advanced technology.

The Fire Alarm Division is also nearing completion of a "Fire Tide" computer network installation through microwave technology. This included hardware installed at Headquarters and Station 2 along with a municipal radio communications tower at Station 2. This technology allows the Fire Department to communicate with enormous amounts of bandwidth through a computer mesh network system to both fixed locations and mobile units throughout town.

All communication radios received the annual maintenance check. At the time of this report no fireground radios, both mobile and portable, are out of service or inoperable. Weekly tests on all mobile and portable units along with weekly tests on emergency notification systems in dispatch were conducted.

Public school fire alarm systems were tested prior to and during the school year and all found to be functioning properly.

All fire alarm annual fees were billed and collected along with any connection fees for new master box installations.

Many fire alarm projects are conducted jointly with Fire Prevention. I would like to thank Captain James Hurley, Captain Jason Cox and Lieutenant Richard Lynch for their accommodating alliance. Thanks to firefighter Rick Potter for his assistance as well.

Respectfully submitted,

Captain Albert J. Karsay

Randolph Fire Department