

RANDOLPH FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT OF THE TRAINING OFFICER

The following is the Training Officer Report for 2009. This past year has been another busy year for the Randolph Fire Department.

During this past year our five newest members successfully completed 12 weeks of Firefighter recruit training at the T. Dustin Alward Massachusetts Firefighting Academy in Stow, Massachusetts.

The Massachusetts Firefighting Academy – Impact Division conducted In-House training session on Lightweight Building Construction. The use of lightweight construction has been continually growing over the past several years, a more recent example being Avalon Apartments off Canton Street. This course was an excellent awareness course on lightweight construction. This type construction presents firefighters with many different hazards they could face in a building constructed with lightweight construction materials and techniques.

The Norfolk County Control mutual aid system that we belong to has been upgrading their radio system over the past several years. These improvements have allowed for improved communications and interoperability across the county. Mr. Steven Hooke, the Communications Coordinator, delivered a familiarization course to all members. This course covered the operations of our radio equipment as well as, how various Fireground channels may be used county wide to allow for mutual aid communities to all operate on the same frequency.

The Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation – Forest Fire Control division delivered an interface training course on wild land firefighting. This was an awareness level course delivered by the local forest fire wardens who have specific training in this area. We are looking forward to additional training opportunities in the future and appreciate their continued cooperation and assistance in dealing with forest fires in the many acres of the Blue Hills Reservation in Randolph.

Bay State Gas returned and delivered an excellent program dealing with the response to natural gas emergencies, propane emergencies and carbon monoxide emergencies. Although this program is held annually, it serves as a great refresher, and continues to support a good working relationship with the Bay State Gas Company.

This past fall the department took delivery of two new pieces of apparatus. Our new Rescue Pumper, Engine 3 is stationed at Headquarters. The manufacturer, Emergency One, provided a day long training session for each shift to train the members on the vehicle operation. Members also received one day of auto extrication training delivered by Amkus. Amkus is the manufacturer of the hydraulic rescue tools (Jaws of Life) that we have on all of our engines. Also the Department has been selected to house a Foam Trailer. These trailers were secured through grant funding for the Southeastern Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council. There are seven trailers spread strategically over Norfolk, Plymouth, Bristol and Barnstable counties. The foam trailer manufacturer's representative has delivered a hands on training session to all groups, and the trailer is currently ready to be deployed when called for.

The Department has secured grant funding from the Southeastern Regional Planning & Economic Development District to cover the associated costs of our upper-level command staff to attend the next level of Incident Command Training. This next level ICS-400 is a 2-day program that examines the role and responsibilities of the key command staff positions of Planning Section Chief, Logistics Section Chief, and Operations Section Chief all who report to the Incident Commander. This advanced course bridges the gap between the Incident Commander and State and Federal agencies responding to a major disaster in accordance with the National Response Plan. ICS-400 is a NIMS compliant course. Prerequisite: ICS-300 required. This course will continue to keep us current with the Federal Government National Incident Management Systems (NIMS) training requirements.

Along with training provided by outside agencies, we cannot leave out the day-to-day training that occurs at the group levels. Group training ranges from complex subjects like driver training, pump operations, ladder drills, occupancy inspections to simple things such as discussing a fire publication article together or going over a tool that we may not use all the time.

In closing, I would like to thank all of the members who have continued to better themselves over the years. Many members take advantage of training offered outside the department on their own time. The continued dedication of members to this Department is proof that we are all dedicated to this proud profession and serving the citizens of Randolph.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Training Officer