

# FIRE DEPARTMENT

2014 was a very active year for the Littleton Fire Department with our emergency response volume increasing by 8% over 2013. On several occasions, we exceeded our resources and had to request mutual aid for assistance, primarily for medical emergencies.

During the year, LFD added 5 new call firefighters to our ranks. These 5 individuals attended a five-month call/volunteer recruit training program at the Massachusetts Fire Academy in Stow. The time requirements for the program consisted of two nights per week and every Saturday. Upon completion, they graduated with a certification level of Firefighter I/II. Along with the call members, 3 of our newly hired full-time members completed their mandatory nine-week career recruit training program at the Massachusetts Fire Academy as well.

In October of 2014, Tom Clancy was promoted to career Deputy Chief. Tom has been a member of the department since 2000.

## **Department Overview**

The Littleton Fire Department is a combination career/call department. We know this to be an extremely cost effective means to provide fire and emergency services to the town. 9 career firefighter/EMT's work alternating 24 hour shifts with the Chief, the Deputy Chief and the Fire Prevention Officer. This enables the Department to provide basic emergency services coverage every day, 24 hours a day. The call department consists of 34 dedicated firefighters and EMT's that augment the full time staff when needed. They respond to emergency incidents when paged from their homes to the fire station and then to an emergency scene with the appropriate apparatus.

Although a combination department is extremely cost effective, there are disadvantages. The time needed to travel from home and assemble a crew can take 8 or more minutes. Include a 1 to 5 minute travel time to the emergency from the station and the result can be a delayed response times in some instances. The national standard for emergency apparatus to arrive on scene is within ten minutes of the 911 call for help, eighty percent of the time. The only way to meet the standard is to have the fire station staffed at all times. With the development of The Point, 15 Great Road and other areas of town, the calls for emergency service will continue to grow. Clearly with budgets as they are, we will continue to assess creative and cost effective ways to achieve additional coverage.

## **Senior SAFE**

2014 marked the beginning of LFD's new Senior SAFE program. LFD successfully applied for and was awarded a Senior SAFE grant from the Commonwealth in January. The grant is designed to enable fire departments to provide public education and services relating to fire and home safety to our elder population. Massachusetts has seen an amazing reduction (71%) of fire deaths in the youth population in the past 19 years. This has largely been attributed to the Student Awareness of Fire Education programs that fire departments run in schools to educate our youth about fire safety. The senior population now accounts for 40% of fire related deaths in the state. In most of those fires, the home did not have working smoke detectors. Also, anyone following the news the last few years has heard of many deaths due to carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning.

In partnership with the Littleton Council on Aging, LFD implemented a smoke/CO detector program. The grant funds were used to purchase battery operated combination smoke and carbon monoxide detectors. The program itself was advertised by flyers placed at multiple locations in town, an article in the COA's newsletter and a "meet and greet" style presentation by members of LFD about the program at the COA's public breakfast. Seniors could then request LFD to come by and inspect their homes and install the new detectors as needed free of charge.

The program was a huge success. LFD quickly expended all the 2014 Senior SAFE grant monies to purchase the first two orders of detectors. The volume of calls we received was well beyond our expectations. In order to keep

the program running, LFD used an extra \$1998.50 from various gift accounts to purchase 50 more detectors. Those were also quickly exhausted.

Seniors could make appointments by calling the Fire Department direct or leaving their contact information with the COA. To our surprise, almost all of the homes visited needed to have detectors installed either because there were no detectors in the home or the current ones were not in working order. Department personnel conducted voluntary home safety inspections in nearly 50 homes and installed more than 100 new, battery operated combination smoke and CO detectors.

These visits fostered an environment where the home owners felt comfortable talking about their concerns and allowing firefighters to answer questions and offer advice in everything from home escape plans to fire extinguisher use. We look forward to continuing and expanding this program with the help of the COA.

### **Fire Station Project**

2014 was a slow year for the progression of the new fire station. There were a few financial discussions throughout the year to determine when it best fits into place to have the least effect on the taxpayers of Littleton and all indications are that funding mechanisms will begin in the Spring of 2016. The Board of Selectmen did vote to raze the old police station when construction starts on the new station. In the meantime, the department will continue to use it for training purposes.

### **Training**

Fire department personnel train 3 times each month on the first, third and last Monday evening. Training is an essential part of the fire service and our firefighters and EMT's must be familiar with the safe and efficient handling of many incident types. Knowledgeable and highly skilled personnel are more likely to perform in a safe and efficient manner and are less likely to be injured while doing so. Members must attend trainings to maintain their status on the department.

### **Explorer Post 1**

The Littleton Fire Explorer Post 1 continues to be a valuable resource in augmenting the Fire Department. 3 Explorers were promoted to the call department this year. This group of teenage men and women assist the department during training exercises and major incidents when called upon. The Post meets every Tuesday for training. Membership is open to young men and women ages 12-21 that have an interest in learning about the fire service and helping the community.

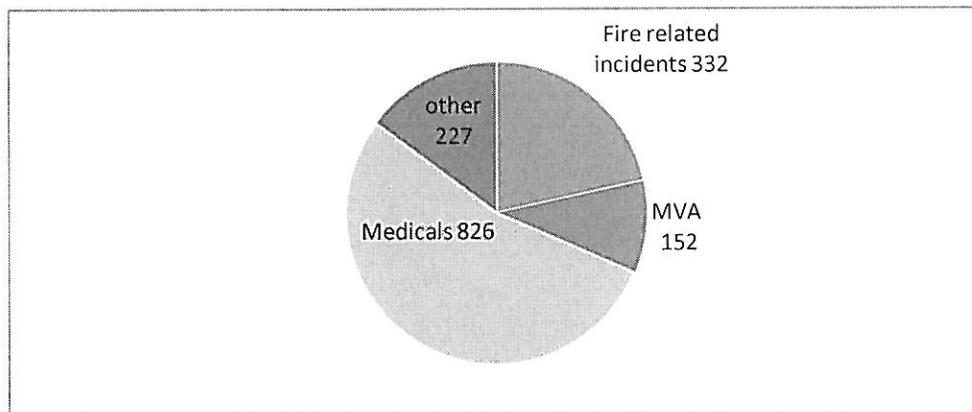
### **Emergency Responses**

Our emergency responses include:

- Fires
- Medical emergencies
- Motor Vehicle Crashes
- Hazardous materials incidents (e.g. spills, leaks and releases)
- Rescues (e.g. vehicle entrapment, confined space incidents, structural collapse and water rescue)
- Hazardous conditions (e.g. electrical wires down, and carbon monoxide inside homes)
- Alarm calls (e.g. fire alarms, carbon monoxide, and medical alert)
- Service calls (e.g. water leaks, and house lockouts)
- Severe weather emergencies and related incidents

In 2014, the Littleton Fire Department responded to 1537 emergency calls. This was a 7.16% increase in calls over 2013.

Incident Type	2010		2011		2012		2013		2014	
Structure Fires	13	0.90%	11	0.73%	11	0.84%	9	0.63%	7	.50%
Chimney Fires	0	0.00%	6	0.40%	5	0.38%	2	0.14%	0	0
Car Fires	9	0.62%	12	0.80%	11	0.84%	14	0.98%	6	.40%
Fire Alarm Investigations	125	8.63%	162	10.79%	149	11.40%	136	9.53%	177	11.70%
Carbon Monoxide Investigations	38	2.62%	45	3.00%	38	2.91%	33	2.31%	25	1.6%
Oil Burner Malfunctions	9	0.62%	3	0.20%	3	0.23%	5	0.35%	5	.30%
Motor Vehicle Accidents (MVA)	111	7.67%	137	9.13%	119	9.10%	127	8.90%	152	9.90%
MVAs with Entrapment	2	0.14%	5	0.33%	3	0.23%	3	0.21%	0	0
Medicals (Non-MVA)	749	51.73%	720	47.97%	679	51.95%	769	53.89%	826	54%
Brush Fires	23	1.59%	6	0.40%	18	1.38%	26	1.82%	13	.90%
Flammable Liquid Spills	16	1.10%	18	1.20%	12	0.92%	8	0.56%	8	.60%
Flammable Gas Release	50	3.45%	36	2.40%	18	1.38%	45	3.15%	28	1.80%
Electrical Hazards	33	2.28%	79	5.26%	25	1.91%	19	1.33%	17	1.2%
Smoke Scares	34	2.35%	44	2.93%	23	1.76%	27	1.89%	20	1.30%
Lock Outs	27	1.86%	22	1.47%	35	2.68%	28	1.96%	40	2.60%
Service Calls	77	5.32%	85	5.66%	32	2.45%	58	4.06%	12	.80%
Illegal Burning	12	0.83%	10	0.67%	21	1.61%	10	0.70%	9	.40%
Cover Assignments	12	0.83%	12	0.80%	16	1.22%	15	1.05%	14	.90%
Citizen Complaints	12	0.83%	5	0.33%	5	0.38%	2	0.14%	2	.10%
Other Fire Incidents	96	6.63%	83	5.53%	84	6.43%	91	6.38%	159	10%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1448</b>	<b>9%</b>	<b>1501</b>	<b>4%</b>	<b>1307</b>	<b>14.84%</b>	<b>1427</b>	<b>8.41%</b>	<b>1537</b>	<b>7.16%</b>



## Statistical Summary

Incident Type	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Structure Fires	6	16	6	13	11	11	9	7
Chimney Fires	5	5	4	0	6	5	2	0
Car Fires	12	8	6	9	12	11	14	6
Fire Alarm Investigations	138	173	109	125	162	149	136	177
Carbon Monoxide Investigations	22	47	17	38	45	38	33	25
Oil Burner Malfunctions	6	4	9	9	3	3	5	5
Motor Vehicle Accidents (MVA)	137	139	137	111	137	119	127	152
MVAs with Entrapment	7	5	3	2	5	3	3	0
Medicals (Non-MVA)	672	682	758	749	720	679	769	826
Brush Fires	13	11	12	23	6	18	26	13
Flammable Liquid Spills	16	9	25	16	18	12	8	8
Flammable Gas Release	18	37	38	50	36	18	45	28
Electrical Hazards	17	48	23	33	79	25	19	17
Smoke Scares	30	24	26	34	44	23	27	20
Lock Outs	26	33	26	27	22	35	28	40
Service Calls	32	42	40	77	85	32	58	12
Illegal Burning	15	35	20	12	10	21	10	9
Cover Assignments	19	13	8	12	12	16	15	14
Citizen Complaints	2	7	9	12	5	5	2	2
Other Fire Incidents	53	64	41	96	83	84	91	159
<b>Total</b>	<b>1246</b>	<b>1402</b>	<b>1317</b>	<b>1448</b>	1501	1307	<b>1427</b>	<b>1537</b>

### Fire Prevention

The Fire Prevention Officer (FPO) remained extremely busy in 2014. In total the Littleton Fire Department issued 900 permits, 392 of which required an onsite inspection. The FPO conducted 290 plan reviews of commercial and residential buildings. These plan reviews assist with the placement of smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors which are required by Massachusetts General Law Chapter 148 § 26F.

As the town continues to grow, the fire prevention office will have an increasing demand for permits and inspections. Each new commercial building or multiple family dwelling under construction requires between 5 and 8 hours of work from the FPO to ensure the safety of the future occupants. The Fire Prevention Officer is also part of the daily staffing to ensure that EMS and rescue services are met. Emergency calls, at times, can delay inspection of projects requiring multiple trips to complete the inspection.

**Inspections**

	<u>oil</u>	<u>smoke/co</u>	<u>propane</u>	<u>other</u>	<u>fire drills</u>	<u>burning permit activations</u>
	15	170	30	376	22	570
<b>Totals</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>376</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>570</b>

	<u>oil</u>	<u>smoke/co</u>	<u>Propane</u>	<u>fire alarm</u>	<u>Sprinkler</u>	<u>transfer</u>	<u>other</u>	<u>Blasting</u>	<u>burning</u>
	42	164	53	14	12	45	82	17	294
<b>Totals</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>164</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>294</b>

**Pre-Incident Planning**

Pre-incident planning is the process of gathering and recording information that could be critical for public safety personnel making life-saving decisions at an incident, such as a fire or natural disaster.

In 2007 the Littleton Fire Department started an aggressive pre-incident planning effort to identify properties with specialized needs in the event of an emergency. The result has been the ability to provide our front line leaders with critical site information at these properties before we arrive on scene. Pre-planning is a team effort between department personnel and the citizens of the Town. This effort allows the Littleton Fire Department to provide better and more comprehensive services in the event of an emergency.

**LITTLETON FIRE DEPARTMENT**

**Fire Chief**

Scott Wodzinski

**Deputy Chief**

James Ray

**Administrative Assistant**

Theresa Trioli

**Deputy Chief**

Tom Clancy

**Company 1**

**Captain** Joe Rock

**Lieutenant** Dave McGloughlin

FF/EMT Don Beltrami

FF Cody Brooks

FF/EMT Ed Burg

FF Lindsay Byrne

**Company 2**

**Captain** Jim Cahill

**Lieutenant** Mike Denehy

**Lieutenant** Tom Kneeland

EMT Brenda Alcott

FF/EMT Bryan Colwell

FF/EMT Mike Gassiraro

**Career Staff**

FPO Keith Dunn

FF/EMT Matt Moniz

FF/EMT Tyson David

FF/EMT Mike Deblasio

FF Sean Coffey

FF/EMT Terence Gardner

FF Nicole Byrne	FF Lowell Kish	FF/EMT Scott Holt
EMT Keith Hevenor	EMT Rich Landers	FF/EMT Matt Robinson
FF Mark Hickox	FF Dave Lelievre	FF Brian St. Gelais
EMT Suzanne Klein	FF/EMT Lindsay McGloughlin	FF/EMT Al Sundquist
EMT Denise Moniz	FF David Parks	
FF Steve Mulone	FF/EMT Tony Polk	
EMT Mireille Nollet	FF/EMT Theresa Rock	
FF/EMT Matt O'Donnell	FF Jeff Surprenant	FF/EMT Eric Byam
FF John Putnam	FF/EMT Sadie Ward	FF/EMT John D'Auria
		FF/EMT Dave Lefebvre

**Specialist**

Photographer John McNamara

**Senior volunteer**

Don Smith (Ret. Captain)

**Celebrating 300 Years**

On September 6<sup>th</sup>, LFD participated in the town's birthday celebration. On a hot, humid day, the entire department marched proudly in our dress uniforms at the front of the parade, quickly returned to the station to change back into our work uniforms, then responded to a number of heat related emergencies all along the parade route. Special thanks to the Groton, Harvard and Westford Fire Departments who provided apparatus and personnel along the parade routes to handle emergency calls along with the Special Operations Unit from the Department of Fire Services who provided logistical and communication support throughout the event.

**Dedicated Service**

In 2014, two longtime members retired after a combined 42 years of dedicated service to the citizens of Littleton. Tony Polk, a call firefighter / EMT for 23 years and Keith Hevenor, a call EMT with 19 years served. Both members will be missed.

Thank you for your service.

In August of 2014 Deputy Chief Steele McCurdy accepted the fire chief's position for the Town of Groton. Steele started with Littleton as a Fire Explorer at the age of 14. He became a member of the call department and rose through the ranks to the position of career Deputy Chief. Steele had served the Town of Littleton for over 13 years. We wish Steele all the best in his new position.

I would like to thank all of the members of the Littleton Fire Department and their families for the dedicated service that they provide to you, the citizens of Littleton. I would also like to thank the members of the Board of Selectmen, all of the Town Department heads and Town Boards and Committees for their continued cooperation, assistance and support.

Respectfully submitted,

Scott Wodzinski,  
Fire Chief