



# The Extinguisher

A Publication of the Holden Fire Department



March/April  
2013

1370 Main Street, Holden, Ma 01520. (508)210-5650.

**Newsletter Editor**  
FF/EMT James Hanna

## Training Schedule

**March 5<sup>th</sup> 19:00-22:00**  
**March 19<sup>th</sup> 19:00-22:00**  
**April 2<sup>nd</sup> 19:00-22:00**  
**April 16<sup>th</sup> 19:00-22:00**

## Chief Corner

*By Chief Jack Chandler*



A big thank you for everyone who came in and did stand by coverage for the February snow storm! While I was stuck in a nicer climate it was good to know that we had excellent coverage at both stations! I still can't believe we only had one non-call but our job is to prepare for the worst and hope for the best!

We are in the middle of the budget cycle for FY 2014 and so far the budget looks reasonable. We do have a number of big projects coming up and I am looking for members to get involved and help oversee them. **The projects are:** an inventory bar coding system so we can label all our equipment; the implementation of Opitcom traffic control system to help us navigate through the Holden traffic; and the implementation of a Radio Box system for the town buildings. If you are interested in getting involved with any of these projects please let me know!

In March we are implementing call shifts during the afternoon/evening hours Monday through Friday. We hope this will eliminate the need to do as many call backs and to make sure we have better coverage after 14C and C4 leave for the day. Our busiest times are 7 AM to 9 PM and then it drops slightly until 11 PM at which time it really drops off. FF/EMTs will get a priority and regular Firefighters will get shifts after that. The sign-up sheets are now posted at headquarters. **Shifts will run from 4PM to 9PM** but if you can't get here until later because of work that is OK, just note it when you sign up.

## EMS News

By EMS Director David Russo

All call-FF/EMT are encouraged to work the weekend shifts (7am-2pm and 2pm-9pm). Sign-up sheets are at headquarters.



For all new EMT's please contact the Lt's for scheduling 3<sup>rd</sup> ride shifts.

There will be new Ambulance vehicle check lists. Please refer to the checklists when performing weekly inventory of equipment.

The Ambulances running order continues to be adjusted. Please make sure, you as EMT's are aware of each vehicle and where equipment is stored.

## Administration Staff News

By Leah Francese-Wood



### March Birthdays:

Amanda Beahn  
Dan Deptula  
Rich Dewitt  
Tim Fitzgerald  
Rick McGinn  
(Lt) Josh Poznanski

### March Anniversaries:

Charles Borowy - 7 years  
Brendon Connor – 3 years  
Tim Fitzgerald – 10 years  
Ryan Mouradian – 7 years  
(Lt) Sean Smith – 7 years  
(Lt) Dave Chapin – 12 years

### April Birthdays:

(Dep. Chief) Pete Bergstrom  
(Lt) Scott Charbonneau  
Brendon Connor  
Mike Himmer  
Mark Ponte  
Adam Parslow

### April Anniversaries:

(Asst Chief) Russ Hall – 4 years  
(Lt) Andy Miller – 13 years

- **Full-timers:** Please check your balance of clothing allowance before making a purchase.
- When you change your email, please let Leah know immediately. We have a mass department email list serve that must be kept up-to-date at all times.
- When you have received a new license, please make a copy for Leah.
- See Heidi if you need Rubens, sweatshirts, or long sleeve shirts. The administration office has a price list if you have questions.

**Congratulations** to **Dave Eddy** and **Lt Barry Tupper** for becoming ***Firefighter I/II certified!*** While this takes time and commitment it's well worthwhile the effort!

## Deputies Desk

*By Deputy Chief Bergstrom*



The individual Call Firefighter run statistics should be complete in the next 2 – 3 weeks. I should have info in your mailboxes on your percentages for 2012 soon after they are compiled. Other than a busy stretch in January, we have been a bit slow for calls in 2013. With that said, blame it on me if it picks up. Spring is just around the corner.

I know many of us go to the web and checkout many of the fire service based web pages that are out there. Have you considered taking an online training class to keep up your training? The National Fire Academy has a number of online courses available. Check out [www.usfa.fema.gov/nfa/](http://www.usfa.fema.gov/nfa/) for a listing. Better yet, consider traveling to the NFA at some point in your career for some of the best training in the U.S. The Mass Fire Academy posts all of their available courses online. Go to [www.mass.gov/eopss/agencies/dfs](http://www.mass.gov/eopss/agencies/dfs) and follow the link to the course listings. Remember to get approval from Chief Chandler before registering. The DFS web page has a lot of other good information as well for the Massachusetts Fire Service.

Even when emergency calls are low, you should still stay involved with continued training. As always, attend department drills. Consider taking outside courses if they fit your schedule and look at what's available online. We never know when the next call will come that will challenge our skills. Staying current and aware will certainly help.

**478 GREEN ST. BOYLSTON, MA. 2-1-2013**



**TRAINING, 242 BAILEY RD. 2-19-2013**





# Fire Prevention: New Construction

By Assistant Chief Hall

Building construction is a very important part of the fire service. Understanding how buildings are constructed and in turn how that affects the buildings reaction under heat and fire conditions are a very important part of our job.

Currently we have 2 projects in town which are under construction and under fire conditions could pose a safety concern to our firefighters. **The Reserve on Salisbury and Val's restaurant** are both being constructed using lightweight truss construction. *An excerpt from Firehouse magazine explains truss construction and its hazards:*

*Lightweight truss construction consists of top and bottom members that run parallel. These are referred to as chords and are made of wood. These chords are cross -connected for support by wood that forms a web like pattern. All wood usually consists of 2x4's or 2x3's. The wood members are connected together with a fastener made of stamped sheet metal containing spikes ("gusset plates").*

*Unlike conventional construction, lightweight wood truss construction does not obtain its strength from the size of the materials used but rather from compression and tension of the materials used in its construction. The top chord is supported by load bearing walls. It acts as a bridge between these walls. With this being under a load, the top chord is being placed under compression while the bottom unsupported chord provides tension.*

*Conventional construction techniques do not rely on a sum of the total members for structural stability whereas lightweight truss construction does. Because of the bottom chord providing tension, a failure of any one connection point ("gusset plate") will cause the load of that truss to be transferred to another which may already be weakened thus causing a collapse of multiple trusses.*

*Another hazard of lightweight trusses exists with the connection points of the wood members themselves. These are often referred to as "gusset plates" or "gang nails". They are usually made of 18 gauge stamped steel and penetrate the wood only 1/2 to 3/8 of an inch. New technology has even introduced gusset plates that are now fabricated of plastic.*



**Reserve Interior Roof**



**Gusset Plates**



**Reserve Structural Beams**

The Reserve not only has a lightweight truss roof, but the main support beams throughout the structure are engineered truss construction. What this means is that the main support for the floors are constructed with 2x4 truss and gusset plates. Both Val's and the Reserve have fire protection systems installed which add some safety factors to the buildings. The Reserve will have sprinkler protection between the floors in the concealed spaces due to the truss construction. One thing to remember when dealing with truss construction is after 10-15 minutes under fire conditions; they will start to fail and can lead to collapse.

As the apartment complex gets further along, we hope to spend some training nights there and that will give everyone a chance to view the type of construction before the sheetrock covers it up.