



# The Extinguisher

A Publication of the Holden Fire Department



JULY/AUGUST  
2015

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## Newsletter Editor

Ethan Naiman

### DEPARTMENT SCHEDULE

07/21/15 – Fire -- Department Driver Training, 1830

07/28/15 – EMS – IFT Refresher 1000

08/04/15 – Fire – Foam Ops, 1830

08/18/15 – Fire – Hoseline/Hydrant Ops, 1830

08/25/15 – EMS – Lifelight Operations, 1830

## *Chief's News*

By Jack Chandler, Fire Chief



Holden Fire lost its third member in six months to yet another premature death. Steve DeWitt died from an accident on July 5, 2015, following his longtime friend Jim Oberg and his father, Rich DeWitt. These deaths have put a toll on everyone but I am proud to say that the full department has stepped up to the plate to recognize all of them. A big thank you from

the Chief to everyone!

Please don't forget the families of these firefighters! Reach out to them from time to time to see if they need anything, or just to say hi! A quick call to check in can mean a lot after you have lost someone. Make a point to call every month, at least!

These losses have been tough on all of us too, especially those close to these firefighters. Remember that you and your families can access the town Employee Assistance Program (EAP) at no charge and with full anonymity. Call 800-451-1834 24/7 to speak to a counselor. Chaplin John is also available on his cell at 774-242-4778.

The department has issued a big challenge to the Chaffin's members to fill Dewey's roll as the main engineer for engine three. Anyone needing help with driving experience is welcome to reach out to any officer, even the Chief! All call firefighters and officers are also asked to increase their participation as Jim and Dewey were two of the more active call members and they will leave a big void.

Please have a safe and enjoyable rest of the summer and cherish the time you can spend with your families!



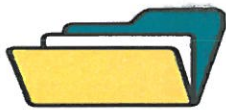
# EMS Update

By David Russo, EMS Coordinator

Ambulance 3 has returned and is back in service after having the box repainted and re-lettered, making all three ambulances similar in appearance.

The old Ambulance 2 has been removed from service and traded-in to Greenwood Emergency Vehicles.

There will be an Inter-facility transfer (IFT) refresher on 7/28/2015 from 10am until noon, which is mandatory for all department Paramedics.



## Administration News

By Leah Francese-Wood, Administrative Assistant

### July Anniversaries

Peter Lacy – 12 years

Jeremy LaFlamme – 6 years

David Russo – 4 years

### August Anniversaries

Chuck Borowy – 9 Years

familiarizes herself with day to day business. She starts full time on July 27<sup>th</sup>. Welcome, Kim!

- Coming Soon, there will be a new style of department baseball hats. They will have a new design featuring a maltese cross on the front.
- Heidi's last day is August 7<sup>th</sup>. She has worked with us for 8 years and will be missed! Keep a lookout for an upcoming date to take her out for a great "Wong Goodbye."
- In the interim, Heidi will be training the new Senior Clerk, Kimberly Lederer. Please welcome Kim when you see her! This position brings on a different working environment for Kim, though I'm confident she will be great, please be patient as she is new and needs to become acclimated with all our procedures and
- Also new is Jim Shackenback. You've probably seen him around already with Ira. Jim is taking over the position of department photographer and Public Information Officer. Welcome, Jim!
- Thank you to Bob Connor and Paul Pierce for organizing and facilitating the first in-house firefighter I/II Class that began in March. Congrats to Recruit Members Nicholas Gezotis, Max Jette, Ryan Murphy, Ryan Pescaro, Connor Shamlian, and Andrew Rodriguez for working hard and completing the class. The state test will be coming up within the month, and if they pass they will be certified to Firefighter I/II level. The department wishes them luck on their certification exams!



## Deputies Desk

By Peter W. Bergstrom, Deputy Chief

As the current Recruit Firefighters are close to finishing the in-house FFI/II class, we are looking to add possibly 3 – 4 new Auxiliary Firefighters at the end of September. The thought right now is to provide them initially with basic in-house skills needed and look for a FFI/II Class in 2016.

Mass Call/Vol. Firefighters Association dues for 2015 are now due. Anyone interested, who has not already seen me, please see me as soon as possible. Dues are \$15.00 again this year. If you are not familiar

with the Mass Call Association, I'll be glad to explain the organization and what they have to offer. You can also visit their web page at [www.mcvfa.org](http://www.mcvfa.org).

The Annual Holden Association of Firefighters Golf Tournament is fast approaching. This year's tournament will be held Saturday, August 29<sup>th</sup>, at Holden Hills. Open to everyone so pass the word to family and friends.

We are in the summer months, many people will be away and on vacation at various times. Please respond whenever you are available.



## FIRE PREVENTION & TRAINING

By Russ Hall, Assistant Chief

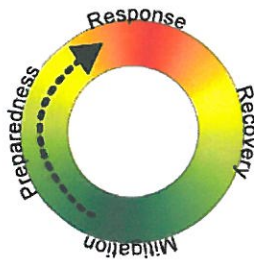
### TRAINING:

Training has been well attended in 2015, everyone keep up the good work. The training schedule is moving forward for the rest of the year as planned with the exception of September. The live fire training that was scheduled for the month will now be reduced to one session to be held on 9/1/15. If you did not complete this requirement at the live burn on Fisher Road, then plan on attending in September. This will be the last department opportunity of the year. The other change is the re-scheduling of the Mandatory SCBA training to 9/15/15. This was due to its cancellation in February.

As the FF I/II training program draws to a close, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize both FF Paul Pierce and FF Bob Connor for all the work and effort that they have put into instructing and coordinating the class. With the FF I/II examination scheduled for the recruits, most parts will be held here in Holden. This is a great opportunity for those department members who do not have their FF I/II certification completed. As time passes, the FF I/II certification will become more and more important to have for operating as a firefighter.

## FIRE PREVENTION:

Department inspections are on the rise this year so far over the previous years. With home sales off the charts, we are out most days providing smoke detector inspections to the residents. In these inspections, we check to ensure that resident's houses meet the standards of MGL Chapter 148 Section 26F and 26F1/2. What that means is we check all of the smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors within the structure for placement, type and age. During the inspection we operate all of the detectors and check that the proper technology is in the proper location. Photoelectric smoke detectors are used in areas near a bathroom or kitchen because they tend to alarm with more of a free burning fire, and lessen false alarms from cooking/showering. Ionization detectors are away from the kitchen/bathroom, usually in a basement because they detect smoldering type fires. One thing to remember as firefighters, when on a call for service to a residence, is that you can always inform the homeowner of illegal or missing smoke detectors based on the code. This is a good practice to get into since most people we deal with have no idea what the smoke detector/Carbon Monoxide codes are or where they should put them.



## Emergency Management News

By Chris Montiverdi, Emergency Management Coordinator

Although the Hurricane Season in New England is defined as June 1<sup>st</sup> through November 30<sup>th</sup>, the vast majority of the 40 tropical systems that have impacted our region over the past century have struck during the months of August and September. Because Massachusetts is a relatively small state, it is important to realize that these are not just 'coastal events', but, in fact, everyone in the Commonwealth can be severely impacted by a major storm.

A hurricane is a tropical cyclone with sustained winds of at least 74 mph. Hurricanes are categorized based on a 1 to 5 rating based on a hurricane's sustained wind speed. This scale estimates potential property damage.

Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Wind Scale		
Category	Sustained Winds	Types of Damage Due to Hurricane Winds
1	74-95 mph	<b>Very dangerous winds will produce some damage</b>
2	96-110 mph	<b>Extremely dangerous winds will cause extensive damage</b>
3 (major)	111-129 mph	<b>Devastating damage will occur</b>
4 (major)	130-156 mph	<b>Catastrophic damage will occur</b>
5 (major)	157 mph or higher	<b>Catastrophic damage will occur</b>

The primary hazards associated with hurricanes are:

- Storm Surge
- Heavy Rainfall & Inland Flooding
- High Winds

- Tornadoes
- Rip Currents

Tropical cyclones and hurricanes often produce widespread, torrential rains in excess of 6 inches, which may result in deadly and destructive flooding. In fact, flooding is the major threat from tropical cyclones for people living inland. Hurricane Diane in 1955, Westfield, MA (which is approximately 90 miles from the coast) received nearly 20 inches of rain. During Tropical Storm Irene in 2011, areas of western Massachusetts received over 7 inches of rain.

Hurricanes and tropical storms can also produce tornadoes. These tornadoes most often occur in thunderstorms embedded in rain bands well away from the center of the hurricane; however, they can also occur near the eyewall. Usually, tornadoes produced by tropical cyclones are relatively weak and short-lived, but they still pose a significant threat.

### **Protect Your Property Before A Hurricane:**

- Learn the particular hurricane risks for your area:
  - Citizens in coastal communities should "[Know Your \(Evacuation\) Zone](#)". Learn if you're in one of 3 hurricane evacuation zones (A, B, or C): <http://www.mass.gov/knowyourzone>. Residents and visitors are encouraged to find out whether they live or work in a hurricane evacuation zone by using these interactive maps. Those who are located in potential evacuation zones should plan for and be prepared to evacuate during a hurricane and should listen to local public safety officials and weather forecasts before and during a hurricane for evacuation information. The best way to be prepared for the possibility of a hurricane [evacuation](#) is to know your evacuation zone and develop your [emergency plan](#) (such as your destination and travel routes) ahead of time.
  - Citizens in ALL parts of the state, even away from the coast, should be prepared for flooding, damaging winds, and power outages with a hurricane.
  - Visit [www.floodsmart.gov](http://www.floodsmart.gov) or call 1-888-379-9531 to learn more about flood risks, flood maps, flood zones, and flood insurance.
- Make a record of your personal property for insurance purposes. Take photos or a video of the interior and exterior of your home. Include personal belongings in your inventory. Keep an itemized list of your furniture, clothing and valuables to assist adjusters in case of a claim and support the list with photos or video.
- Store important documents such as insurance policies, deeds, property records and other important papers in a safe place, such as a safety deposit box away from your home.
- Keep trees and shrubbery around your home trimmed. Remove diseased or damaged tree limbs that could be blown down, causing damage, during a storm.
- Clear clogged rain gutters. Hurricanes/tropical storms often bring torrential rain. Providing clear drainage will help prevent misdirected flooding.
- Make sure storage sheds, children's playhouses or other outbuildings are securely anchored, either to a permanent foundation or with straps and ground anchors.
- Learn where gas pilots and water mains are located and how to safely shut off all utilities.
- Consider installing a generator and take preparations in case the storm brings [Power Outages During Warm Weather](#)
- Make preparations for your home in case you need to evacuate. Elevate items, secure outdoor items and take other precautions. Learn more about steps to take in advance of an [Evacuation](#).
- If you do not evacuate, you will likely "shelter-in-place". As part of your emergency plan, consider what you would need or would need to do in advance of sheltering in place. This includes building an [Emergency Kit](#) and preparing your home.

### **During a Hurricane**

- Lock doors and windows to ensure that they are closed tight to help protect against strong winds and rain.
- Consider turning off propane tanks if you are not using them.
- In anticipation of loss of power, turn your refrigerator and freezers to the coldest settings and keep the doors closed. ( [Power Outages During Warm Weather](#) ).
- If you are sheltering-in-place during the storm, stay away from windows and glass doors that could break.



# EXPLORER POST 2012 NEWS

By Dave Eddy, Firefighter

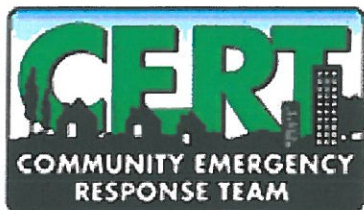


We are wrapping up loose ends as the explorers are ending their 2014/2015 year. I would like to thank them and the advisors who worked hard as a team this year. Over the course of the year we have touched many parts of the fire service from SCBA's, identification of hand tools, knowledge of compartments of a truck, laying and rolling hoses and other subjects they need to know as part of the explorer program. The upcoming events

that the explorers will be taking part in over the summer will be Rutland's July 4th parade, attending Princeton's drill on Stokes/Rescue on Mount Wachusett and attending informal drills every other Thursday during July and August.

At this time, we would also like to thank the DeWitt family for choosing the Holden Fire Explorer Post 2012 as an organization for donations in memory of Richard DeWitt. We also would like to thank the Holden Fire Department and Chief Jack Chandler for their support throughout the year.

In conclusion, we would like to extend out to individuals in the fire department to either become an advisor or to teach a class for the explorers in a specialty that they would like to teach. On a final note we would like to especially thank the families of the explorers for their time supporting the post. Have a wonderful summer.



## The C.E.R.T. Spot

by Rebecca Evanoff, CERT Director

No News for July/August submitted

# DEPARTMENT PICTURES



*Department Ladder Training (Photo by Ira Hoffman)*



*Bomb Squad Training (Photo by Ira Hoffman)*



*Forestry 1 first run, FF Hirons(L) and FF Beahn (R) (Photo by Ira Hoffman)*



*Steven DeWitt Procession (Photo by Ira Hoffman)*