



The Extinguisher



**DEPARTMENT
UPDATES**

10/14/22 - 10/21/22

Our annual Open House, the highlight of our fire prevention week was held last Saturday 10/15. This was the first public event that we have held in the station since the beginning of the pandemic. It was well received and well attended by the community. Thank you to those department members who took the time out of their weekend to come in and help out. Also, thanks to our Public Education Coordinator FF Joe Sposato for setting everything up. It is events like this that raise the department's profile within the community.

Next Friday 10/28, FF Rob Walters will be graduating from the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy Springfield Campus. This is the culmination of his 10 week recruit program and celebrates the hard work in completing the program. The graduation is scheduled for 11am and it would be great for members to attend and support him.

As a combination department, we rely on recalls for certain fire calls to ensure that we can have the staffing to meet NFPA requirements. Over the course of 2022 through September we have had roughly 210 "all calls", but the attendance is lacking at best, often leaving our response to only the on-duty staff. Without proper staffing for our more complex incidents, this will be unsustainable moving forward. As you have seen from the new West Boylston alarm cards, departments are moving to a system of automatic aid on the initial call for the assets that are needed. Ultimately, the best answer is for better attendance when an "all call" is struck, but if the sparse attendance continues, we will be looking to enhance our response by using more automatic aid.

The Fire Chiefs of the 4 towns represented in the Wachusett Regional Emergency Communication Center met this week to review the centers operation. We have made the decision that we will only be doing 1 tone test per day and it will be at 18:30 hours. The dispatchers have asked crews to hail dispatch and wait for a response before sending your message. This will ensure that they get what you are communicating, especially if they are on the phone or one of the other 7 radios that they monitor.

SAVE THE DATE – The Holden PD will be holding a 5K road race to help raise funds for the Police K9 program on Sunday 11/20. The race will start and end at Seven Saws Brewery on Industrial Drive. Sounds like a fun day for some exercise and craft beer! We will pass along the information once we have all the details.

Vehicles

- 1. Engine 1: Back in service**
- 2. Engine 3: Any leaking fuel had stopped. There is an issue with the fuel tank fill neck and it leaks some when filled to high. Please keep an eye on this when fueling and if there are any further problems, please let a shift officer know.**

Training

- 1. The property on Princeton Street used for training is no longer available as they are beginning asbestos remediation and will be taking the building down once completed. I hope everyone who took part in the trainings at that location enjoyed using an aquired structure, which is the best training site we can have.**

Stations

- 1. Adams Road: Still no updated timeline for the DPW to move out of the building. They are awaiting equipment to put their new building online.**