

BELMONT FIRE DEPARTMENT ANNUAL REPORT 2021



David DeStefano, MPA
Chief of Department

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Chief's Message

January 2022

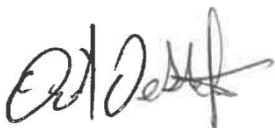
I am pleased to report to the residents of Belmont on the operation and status of the fire department. Since being appointed fire chief in March 2021 I have learned to appreciate the close involvement that many citizens have with the operation of their government. The level of activism and support for community activities is refreshing, as is the support for the fire department by members of the community.

I appreciate the time and cooperation of the Select Board, Town Administrator, fellow department heads, and the many committee and board members that have assisted me with their expertise and institutional knowledge.

Members of the Belmont Fire Department of all ranks have been instrumental in sharing their experience and have provided the cooperation necessary to move the fire department forward as we strive to exhibit the qualities of our core values- professionalism, respect, integrity, diversity, and excellence.

The Belmont Fire Department will continually assess the needs of the community and initiate creative solutions and partnerships to leverage our resources to best advantage for the residents of Belmont. I consider myself fortunate to lead such an innovative group of professionals. We will seek every opportunity to be of service. Together the Belmont Fire Department and the citizens of Belmont can make this community a safer place to live, work, and enjoy.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David DeStefano', written in a cursive style.

David DeStefano, MPA

Chief of Department

Organization

The Belmont Fire Department is organized around divisions that perform specific activities. All uniformed members of the department are either Firefighter /Paramedics or Firefighter/EMTs, meaning that everyone is capable of a functional assignment during incident response. Using fully trained dual role responders helps to boost the deployment model for the BFD during hours when members of the department may be assigned to administrative, training or inspectional functions and a major incident occurs or numerous smaller incidents are reported simultaneously.

Fire Department Roster

Administrative Division

Chief of Department

David DeStefano

Assistant Chief of Department

Wayne Haley

Administrative Assistant

Kimberly Kaufman

Fire Prevention Division

Fire Prevention Officer

Captain Andrew Tobio

Part Time Administrative Secretary

Wendy McDonald

Training Division

Training Division/ Assistant Fire Prevention

Lieutenant Ace Elefteriadis

Operations Division

Shift Commanders

Captain David DeMarco Captain Robert Wollner Captain Scott Spuria Captain Richard Nohl

Lieutenants

David Alesse	Thomas Deneen	Michael Madruga*
Gerard Benoit	Andrew Goneau	James McNeilly*
Brian Corsino	William Kaufman, Jr.	Daniel Scannell
Jason Corsino	Michael MacNeil*	David Toomey

Firefighters

James Bing*	Michael Goode*	Justin Perino*
Brian Campana	Christopher Hadge	Steven Reilly
Shaun Campana	William Hubbard	Sean Ryan
Jonathan Carabello*	Ryan Keane*	Daniel Tyler*
Matthew Cherkerzian	James Kelly*	Thomas Vezeau*
Brandon Cunningham*	Elizabeth Kinch*	Ross Vona
Michael Dayton*	John MacDonald	Adam Wesley*
Christopher Drinan	Dennis Maher	
Nathan Dubreuil*	Michael McNamara*	
MaryCatherine Dunne*	Brian O'Neill*	

*Paramedic

2021 Promotions

FF Ace Elefteriadis to lieutenant

Retirements/Transfers/Resignations

Lt. Geoffrey Harvey- retirement FF Joseph Baptista- retirement

FF Dana Harrington- retirement

FF Michael Nolan-transfer FF Charles Gerrard- transfer FF Jonathon O’Bryan- transfer

FF Brittany Taylor- resignation (hired by another FD)

Apparatus Inventory

VEHICLE	VEHICLE	ASSIGNMENT
CAR 1	2017 FORD INTERCEPTOR	Chief
CAR 2	2017 FORD INTERCEPTOR	Assistant Chief
CAR 3	2021 CHEVROLET TAHOE	Shift Commander
CAR 4	2013 FORD INTERCEPTOR	Fire Prevention
CAR 5	2015 FORD F-150	Training Officer
CAR 6	2015 FORD EXPEDITION	Spare
SQUAD 1	2008 FORD F-550	Utility
ENGINE 1	2014 E-ONE PUMPER	Headquarters
ENGINE 2	2021 E-ONEPUMPER	Station 2
ENGINE 3	2007 INT'L 7300 Pumper	Station 2 (Reserve)
ENGINE 4	2005 E-ONE PUMPER	Headquarters (Reserve)
LADDER 1	2014 E-ONE LADDER	Station 2
LADDER 2	1999 E-ONE LADDER	Station 2 (Reserve)
RESCUE 1	2017 FORD/ HORTON F-550	Headquarters
RESCUE 2	2012 FORD/HORTON F-450	Headquarters (Reserve)
TECH RESCUE	TECH RESCUE TRAILER	Headquarters
BOAT TRAILER	RESCUE BOAT TRAILER	Station 2
SPILL RESPONSE	SPILL RESPONSE TRAILER	Headquarters

General Statistics

The Belmont Fire Department Responded to 3280 incidents in 2021

Historical Data

2020- **2648** 2018- **3055**

2019-**3007** 2017- **2804**

A sample of fires and incidents for 2021 are as follows:

STRUCTURE FIRES	55	SMOKE SCARE	18
ALL HANDS	4	GOOD INTENT CALLS	254
WORKING FIRES	3	DISPATCHED AND CANCELLED ENROUTE	92
COOKING FIRES	33	SYSTEM MALFUNCTION	312
OUTSIDE FIRES	13	UNINTENTIONAL ALARMS	226
REFUSE FIRES	11	MALICIOUS FALSE	7
VEHICLE FIRES	5	WATER CALL	50
CARBON MONOXIDE ACTIVATION	49	MUTUAL AID GIVEN	227
CARBON MONOXIDE INCIDENT	5	MUTUAL AID RECEIVED	60
SPILL, LEAK, NO IGNITION	17	ASSIST POLICE OR OTHER AGENCY	15
NATURAL GAS/LPG LEAK	66	TOTAL SERVICE CALLS ALL CATEGORIES	3,280
HAZARDOUS ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT	59		



Station 2- Belmont Center

Fire Prevention Division

The Fire Prevention Division operates out of fire headquarters. Since January of 2020, the Fire Prevention Division has served the community under the direction of Captain Andrew Tobio.



Lieutenant Andrew Goneau served as the assistant fire prevention officer in addition to his primary role as the training officer for the majority of 2021. In October of 2021, Lieutenant Andrew Goneau transitioned back to Operations, and the current training officer, Lieutenant Elefteriadis, assists the Fire Prevention Division. Following an extensive furlough, as a result of the pandemic, Wendy McDonald, the administrative secretary of the Fire Prevention Division since 2006, returned in July of 2021. Some of the innovation and restructuring of the Fire Prevention Division that occurred as a result of the pandemic has remained, to shorten turnaround time for tasks such as permitting and plan reviews.

With the assistance of Operations members, the Fire Prevention Division is able to provide a well-structured inspection program of commercial occupancies, residential properties, schools, institutions, and other places of assembly. These occupancies are inspected with the intention of removing hazards and correcting unsafe conditions. This is accomplished by ensuring compliance with Massachusetts General Law, 527 CMR 1.00 Massachusetts Comprehensive Fire Safety Code Based on the 2015 edition of NFPA 1, and By-Laws of the Town of Belmont that are under the authority of the Belmont Fire Department. The Fire Prevention Division provides fire and life safety protection to residents and visitors by confirming code compliance and enforcing fire prevention laws and codes as required. Working towards this goal, the Division provides plan consultations with architects, contractors, lessees, business owners, property owners, and legal representatives in an effort to review all life safety systems. This review includes the

inspection and testing of any installation, alteration, modification, or repair to any fire alarm, sprinkler system, or other suppression system. General questions and specific concerns from residents regarding fire and life safety are addressed successfully through various mediums.

Partway through the third quarter of 2021, the Fire Prevention Division began tracking processing times for permitting and plan reviews. The goal of the initiative is to provide our customers with the best possible service, noting any problem areas presented. Moving forward the Department will continue to keep tabs on this data and additional items, identifying any potential to improve services. The two tables below identify the processing times for permits and plan reviews for the fourth quarter of 2021. This data was compiled from over 215 permits and 13 plan reviews that were issued in said quarter. The processing time for both permits and plan reviews was slightly less than one day.

PROCESSING TIMES FOR PERMITS

AVERAGE	0.97 DAYS
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PROCESSING TIMES FOR A PLAN REVIEW

AVERAGE	0.80 DAYS
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Projects throughout the community require a substantial time commitment from the Fire Prevention Division to ensure that all fire codes and regulations are being followed appropriately. Most commonly, construction projects comprise renovations or construction of residential dwellings and commercial buildings, but there are other major construction projects under the supervision of the Fire Prevention Division. The Department is thankful for established relationships with contractors that have afforded the Department opportunities to acquire structures, prior to renovation or demolition, for training purposes.

The most notable project in Town is the new middle and high school. This project requires almost daily interaction including conversations, planning, permitting, site visits, testing, and

inspections. Continuous collaboration with contractors at the project and other agencies in Town is essential. New construction, renovations, and improvements began at 55 Brighton Street, 628 Trapelo Road, a new Consumer Value Store (CVS) on Leonard Street, Ace Hardware, and both marijuana establishments on the south side of Pleasant Street. Some other high-profile tasks include preparation for the McLean Zone 3 development, addressing concerns related to the Beatrice Circle development, a new Subaru dealership, and potential construction at the Belmont Hill School. The Division is also assisting Town Facilities in the process of exploring the outdated fire alarm systems at the Butler School, the Winn Brook School, and the Town Hall that are in desperate need of replacement. Work concluded at the police station, the Station at Waverly Square, which encompasses 493 and 505 Trapelo Road, Belmont Hill School Bolles Innovation Space, and the Boston Massachusetts Temple. Fire suppression members must continuously train at these sites to ensure that they are familiar with the building layouts and hazards throughout the construction process. This preparation works to ensure that the Department is prepared to handle the challenging responses or calls for service that may take place within the construction area. In 2022, the Fire Prevention Division is looking to add functionality for permitting and information on the Town website, encompass additional public education, including meaningful aspects of community risk reduction, and provide more smoke alarm and carbon monoxide detector installation programs.

Although hampered by the pandemic, continuing education on current and changing fire prevention laws and codes is always a top priority. The fire officers assigned to the Fire Prevention Division are members of the Fire Prevention Association of Massachusetts (FPAM). These fire officers often attend the monthly meetings and seminars presented by the Fire Prevention Association of Massachusetts and the Department of Fire Services. The Prevention Division also works in conjunction with the Department of Fire Services to obtain the latest information for compliance with and enforcement of Chapter 148 of the Massachusetts General Laws, 527 CMR 1.00 Massachusetts Comprehensive Fire Safety Code based on the 2015 edition of NFPA 1, and fire protection sections of the Massachusetts State Building Code 780

CMR. Captain Tobio obtained the Fire Prevention Officer 2 credential at the Massachusetts Fire Fighting Academy in December of 2021.

Working together in pursuance of life safety and property protection, citizens, visitors, and business owners of the Town are encouraged to contact the Fire Prevention Division with any concerns that pertain to fire protection and fire safety. As part of public education, the Fire Prevention Division works with public schools, private schools, and various other children’s groups to schedule visits at the Belmont Fire Department. The Fire Prevention Division hopes to continue to address the needs of the community, responding to identified risks, while maintaining the best possible customer service.

VALUE OF PROPERTY INVOLVED IN INCIDENTS		\$ 92,296,100.00
TOTAL PROPERTY LOSS		\$ 953,050.00
TOTAL PROPERTY SAVED		\$ 91,343,050.00
VALUE OF PASSENGER VEHICLES INVOLVED IN INCIDENTS		\$ 119,200.00
TOTAL VEHICLE LOSS		\$ 117,200.00
TOTAL VEHICLE VALUE SAVED		\$ 2,000.00

2021 PERMITS

844 PERMITS WERE ISSUED IN THE CATEGORIES IDENTIFIED BELOW

26F - HOME SALES	416
ABOVE GROUND TANK INSTALL	42
ABOVE GROUND TANK REMOVAL	71
BUILDING PLAN REVIEW	90
ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEM	3
FILM PRODUCTION	2
FLAMMABLE/COMBUSTIBLE STORAGE	37
HOT WORKS	22
IMPAIR FIRE ALARM SYSTEM	9
IMPAIR FIRE PROTECTION SYSTEM	6
INSTALL FIRE ALARM SYSTEM	69
INSTALL FIRE PROTECTION	4
INSTALL OIL BURNER	13

INSTALL KITCHEN SUPPRESSION SYSTEM	5
MODIFY FIRE ALARM SYSTEM	10
MODIFY FIRE PROTECTION SYSTEM	12
PROCESS HAZARDOUS MATERIALS	1
REPAIR FIRE ALARM SYSTEM	1
REPAIR FIRE PROTECTION SYSTEM	1
STORE PROPANE	20
TENTAGE	9
UNDERGROUND TANK REMOVAL	1
TOTAL	844

2021 FIRE PREVENTION TASKS

FIRE PREVENTION ACTIVITIES							
	FP DUTIES	ENFORCEMENT	PLAN REVIEW	INSP	MASTER BOX	LICENSE REVIEW	PUBLIC RECORDS
JANUARY	24	6	5	31	0	2	0
FEBRUARY	12	0	8	26	0	3	0
MARCH	60	7	8	45	6	9	0
APRIL	49	6	1	62	1	6	0
MAY	14	6	10	74	3	5	0
JUNE	20	5	7	76	0	0	8
JULY	32	2	7	79	0	5	2
AUGUST	53	5	18	72	0	0	4
SEPTEMBER	53	5	9	69	1	3	2
OCTOBER	30	5	5	69	2	11	2
NOVEMBER	49	15	2	71	10	37	5
DECEMBER	38	6	4	47	3	26	3
TOTAL	434	68	84	721	26	107	26

FP ACTIVITIES	
JANUARY	68
FEBRUARY	49
MARCH	135
APRIL	125
MAY	112
JUNE	116
JULY	127
AUGUST	152
SEPTEMBER	142
OCTOBER	124
NOVEMBER	189
DECEMBER	127
TOTAL	1466

FIRE PREVENTION DATA

FP DUTIES – Follow up, review or prepare documents, site visits, meetings, fire alarm system testing, addressing community concerns and questions, documentation of applicable conversations, review hot works checklist, facility tours for fire suppression, and memorandum generation to keep Operations members informed.

ENFORCEMENT – Red tags for service, code enforcement, and inspection violation follow up

LICENSE REVIEW – Business license reviews, certificate of occupancy, demolition sign off, updating Town databases applicable to the Fire Prevention Division, and liquor license inspection certificates

410 COMPANY LEVEL INSPECTIONS WERE ASSIGNED IN THE CATEGORIES IDENTIFIED

FIRE EXIT DRILLS – 181

- PUBLIC SCHOOLS, PRIVATE SCHOOLS, NURSERY SCHOOLS, PRESCHOOLS, AND CHILD CARE

QUARTERLY INSPECTIONS – 116

- MCLEAN HOSPITAL, NURSING HOME, LODGING HOUSES, AND GROUP HOMES

SCHOOL INSPECTIONS – 78

- PUBLIC SCHOOLS, PRIVATE SCHOOLS, NURSERY SCHOOLS, AND PRESCHOOLS

ANNUAL ASSEMBLY INSPECTIONS – 35

OVER 700 ADDITIONAL INSPECTIONS IN A SAMPLE OF THE CATEGORIES LISTED BELOW

- ALCOHOL LICENSE INSPECTIONS
- ABOVE GROUND AND UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANK REMOVAL
- GENERAL PERMIT INSPECTIONS
- OIL BURNER AND OIL TANK INSTALLATIONS
- TANK TRUCK
- “RED TAG” SERVICE NOTICE
- BLASTING
- SMOKE DETECTOR AND CARBON MONOXIDE INSPECTIONS
- BUILDING PERMIT PLAN REVIEW
- PROPANE USE AND STORAGE
- CUTTING AND WELDING
- FLAMMABLE AND COMBUSTIBLE STORAGE

Respectfully Submitted,

Captain Andrew Tobio



Sprinkler room in a mixed-use occupancy



Service station tank removal

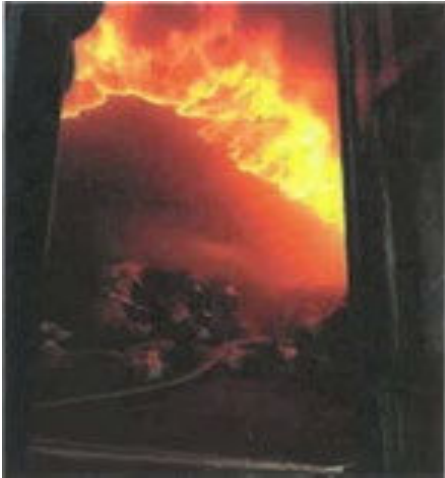
Training Division

The Belmont Fire Department (BFD) Training Division is staffed by a single Lieutenant. BFD Training is responsible for all training activities: scheduling, coordinating, delivery and record keeping for fire suppression, rescue, and emergency medical services. In support of our training goals, Belmont is an active member of the Massachusetts Institute of Fire Department Instructors (MIFDI). MIFDI consists of current and past instructors who share the best practices for industry training. The Belmont Fire Training Division relies heavily on support from the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy. The academy conducts courses, when available, which are both cost efficient and effect. Belmont Firefighters fill many different roles to protect the community. Firefighters are cross- trained in emergency medicine, auto extrication techniques, rescue disciplines, fire control and suppression, safe responses to hazardous materials spills, water rescue and many other techniques in order to meet the needs of the community. Training all Belmont Firefighters for numerous emergencies is ongoing and challenging. As changes to current standards by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) and the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) are constantly altering training requirements, training staff are continuously revising and updating training programs to meet new standards. The steady growth of the Town of Belmont presents numerous challenges for operations and training alike. New building designs, new construction methods, and increasing density combine to present unique problems for our firefighters.

A majority of our skills training is conducted as part of the Firefighter's normal workday. With COVID 19 and social distancing restrictions in mind, much of this training is overseen by the company officer assigned to a crew or station. The Training Division Lieutenant provides training in specialty topics or high risk, low frequency training such as Water Rescue, Confined Space, Mayday Operations, Auto Extrication, etc. These topics are taught in formal courses conducted in-house, monthly, throughout the year, and are referred to as Department Oriented Training. These classes are in addition to the monthly Company Level Training (CLT), and Task Oriented Training (TOT), assigned to each company. The department has made physical fitness an important part our culture in order to improve the Firefighter's health and wellness and reduce injuries. Three new recruits are scheduled to begin the Bridgewater Fire

Academy on January 31, 2022, and three more are scheduled to attend on March 7, 2022. All recruits will go through a 20-day academy based in house training before beginning the academy.

The Training Division has some exciting training scheduled for the Spring of 2022. Each group will



participate in a 2-day search and rescue ropes training and confined space training. We are also pleased to be able to host the Massachusetts Fire Academy Flashover Simulator. This 1-day flashover recognition course introduces the warning signs of imminent flashover to firefighters conducting interior fire attack. Total department training hours for 2021, including individual, company level, group level, and department-wide training is 3339 hours.

Respectfully, Submitted,

Lt. Ace Elefteriadis

Training Officer



Belmont recruits participating in training activities

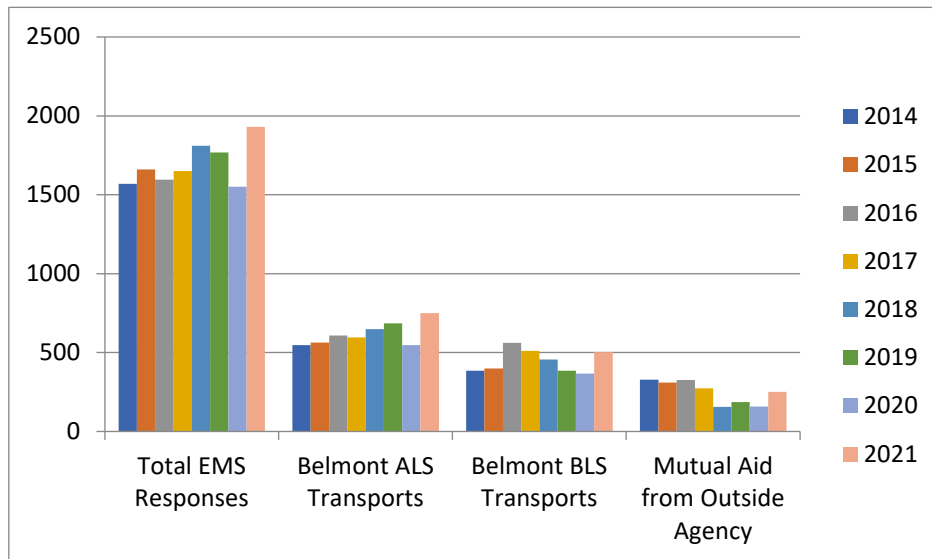
Emergency Medical Services Division



Department’s Emergency Medical Services Program. The EMTs and Paramedics who staff our fire apparatus are a remarkable team of highly trained, proficient and dedicated professionals. These pre-hospital providers take their roles and responsibilities very seriously and are truly committed to serving our community.

It is our pleasure to present the 2021 Annual Report of the Belmont Fire Department. During calendar year 2021, the department responded to 1,930 calls for emergency medical services. The Belmont Fire Department utilized Advanced Life Support (ALS - Paramedic Level) care to 1,096 patients while the remaining patients, 834 received care at the Basic Life Support (BLS) level. A total of 1,504 patients were transported to the hospital. Of the 1,930 medical calls, our Rescue (Ambulance) responded to 1,524 and

transported 1,253 sick and injured individuals to the hospital. Outside EMS agencies transported 251 patients.



It is important to note that Belmont Fire Companies render first response care (ALS and BLS), when the Rescue unit is not available. Fire Companies provide care while awaiting

the arrival of an outside transporting agency. In addition, some patients decide to be treated on scene and refuse to be transported to a medical facility. This demographic is not depicted in the graph.

Although, it is impossible to include every aspect of our EMS Program in this report, we hope to provide you with a snapshot of its structure, functions, contributions, and value. The continued support of the Town Administrator, Board of Selectmen and last, but not least, the citizens of Belmont have made and will continue to make both the Belmont Fire Department’s Advanced Life Support Program and Basic Life Support systems successful and beneficial to Belmont citizens as well as visitors.

The Fire Department provides first response Basic Life Support (BLS) and Advanced Life Support (ALS) transporting service for the community. This equates to faster access to basic care from EMTs as well as advanced care from Paramedics including advanced airway control, intravenous (IV) access, medication administration, cardiac monitoring, interpretation, and

treatment/defibrillation. These highly trained Paramedics work together with our Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs) to transport patients to area hospitals.

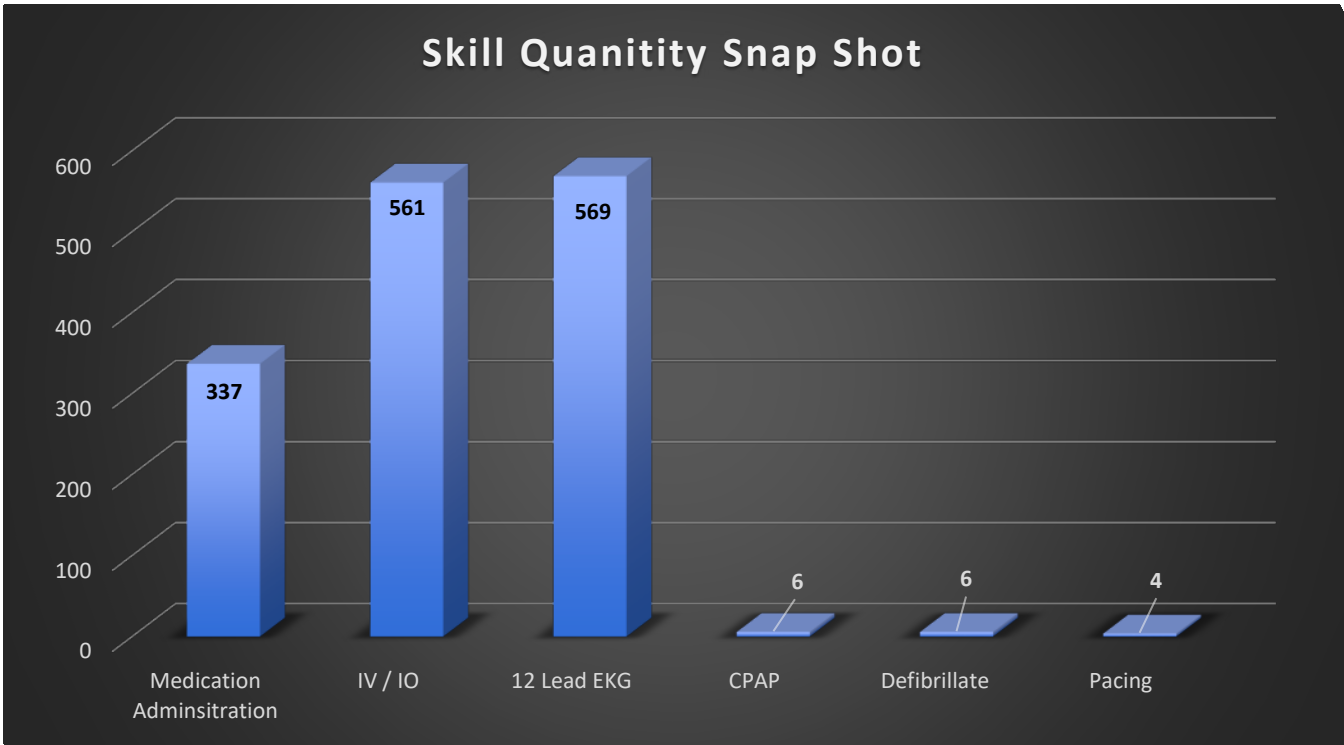


Engine 1's Paramedic Equipment

The Belmont Fire Department continues to be a leader and innovator in out-of-hospital care. All of our in-service companies operate and are equipped at the BLS level. This includes: Defibrillator, Oxygen, Basic First-Aid supplies, Epi-Pens, Albuterol, Aspirin, Narcan, Glucose, Glucometers, Pulse Oximetry as well as the Lucas2 CPR devices, and CPAP. The Rescue (transporting ambulance) operates at the ALS level and carries: Cardiac Monitor, a large compliment of emergency medications, CPAP (an advanced airway care procedure), capnography monitoring, 24 hours a day / 7 days a week / 365 days a year. In addition to Rescue 1, during 2021, Engine 1 and Engine 2 were staffed at the ALS level the majority of the time, while Ladder 1 operates at the Paramedic level when staffing allows.

All of our EMTs and Paramedics are licensed through the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Office of Emergency Medical Services and also hold certifications in Basic Life Support (BLS). These EMTs are required to complete a minimum of 40 hours of continuing education every two years. The Paramedics are also required to maintain a certification in Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS) as well as Pediatric Advanced Life Support (PALS), and Tactical Combat Casualty Care Course (TCCC). In addition to these certifications, they must attend a minimum of 60 hours of continuing education every two years. In 2021, Paramedics received training on performing surgical cricothyrotomy which is a skill we are glad we added but hopefully we will never utilize.

The Belmont Fire Department not only meets, but continually exceeds the minimum training standards - such as providing quarterly HALO – High Acuity, Low Occurrence Training to our staff, utilizing our in-house simulation lab. In the event of the most critical and life-threatening emergency, a cardiac arrest, all the members of the Belmont Fire Department use the latest approach and equipment (the LUCAS CPR Compression Device). This is coupled with quarterly training on “pit crew” CPR, which has been proven to be successful if delivered by highly trained practitioners.



Mount Auburn Hospital’s Medical Directors, Dr.Gary Setnik and Dr. William Porcaro, are continually pro-active in striving to deliver the best pre-hospital care possible. They use the latest science and technology to oversee all EMS activity in conjunction with the EMS Coordinator and ALS Coordinator.

With the continued support of the community, it is our hope that the Belmont Fire Department will continue to train our EMTs and Paramedics to the highest level of care and remain on the cutting edge of prehospital emergency medical care. As additional Paramedics join the ranks of the Belmont Fire Department, we look forward to further increasing the number and frequency of Belmont Fire Department Companies able to provide advanced life support care.

Respectfully Submitted,

Captain David J. DeMarco, EMT-Basic, I/C, EMS Coordinator
 Lieutenant James T. McNeilly, Paramedic, I/C, Advanced Life Support Coordinator

Assessing and Reducing Community Risk

In order for the Belmont Fire Department to effectively provide for the protection of lives and property in our town we must understand the hazards faced by the community. Producing a community risk assessment is a multi- phase process that identifies and prioritizes risks, then develops strategies to mitigate the risks. From those strategies a community risk reduction plan may be developed, implemented and then monitored.

We have recently begun the first phase of this activity by identifying some of significant occupancies in the town and collecting current data regarding their fire protection features, potential hazards, and occupancy. This data will be used to develop policies and pre-plans to help mitigate the risks associated with potential emergencies throughout the community. As we continue these efforts we will identify not only fire hazards, but other areas of exposure and populations in need of service.

In its position statement on community risk reduction the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC) writes, "Fire and emergency service agencies have experienced a radical and often rapid shift in public expectations and service demands over the last few decades. As a result, now more than ever, fire services respond to many more types of incidents than just fires. These incidents, like fires, present firefighters not only with new challenges, but also with new opportunities to engage the communities they serve. This expanded role represents a culture change to many in the fire service, but one that remains incomplete. In truth, this culture change must extend beyond the emergency response and stimulate fire service action in communities even before the call comes in."

In assessing risk, planning mitigation strategies, and moving toward community risk reduction through education and other initiatives, the Belmont Fire Department will embody the evolution of responsibility and readiness.



Belmont Fire Department Training with lifeguards at Underwood Pool

Projects Under Development

The fire department is currently working to prepare an EMS Bike Unit for deployment. In evaluating the many community functions, sporting events, and other activities, as well as the planned Community Bike Path and existing trails, the department wants to be proactive in our ability to respond to medical emergencies at these locations. Our firefighter/paramedics and EMTs along with urgent life-saving equipment can often make patient contact more quickly if they are patrolling nearby on a bike rather than trying to work through a large crowd or remote location with a full-sized ambulance. In addition, the close contact provided by our personnel deployed on a bike will make our firefighters more approachable for residents with questions or concerns about any medical issue, life safety concern, or community hazard that may exist.

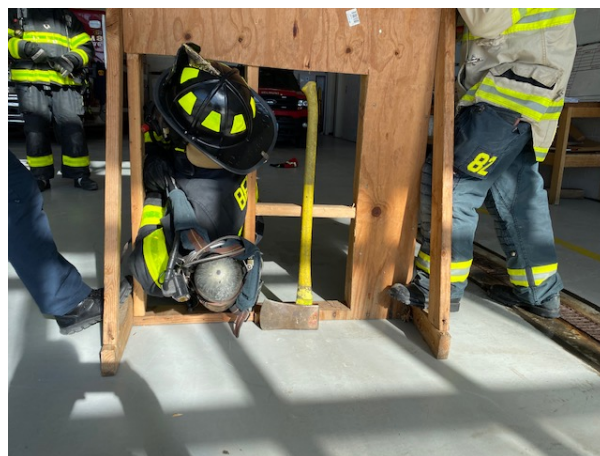
The bicycles, helmets, special gear bags, and training program were all paid for using an emergency management grant through the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. We look forward to conducting training and beginning deployment of the unit in the summer of 2022.



Challenges

The Belmont Fire Department faces several challenges moving forward. Several of the more prominent ones involve our ability to acquire and maintain the very best technology and training to protect our residents and firefighters. The cost of vehicles and equipment has spiked in the last several years and training requirements to achieve and maintain certifications in many emergency service disciplines are becoming more stringent.

In addition, the pool of available applicants for fire service careers has been shrinking nationwide for a number of years. The smaller number of applicants exacerbates the effect of the trend experienced in Belmont over several years; losing our firefighters to other departments. Creating a culture to attract and retain those people interested in the fire service as a career is an ongoing priority of the Belmont Fire Department. The value of the partnership between the fire department and our residents is a relationship that all community stakeholders should acknowledge, value and nurture in order to ensure that our Belmont Fire Department is best able accomplish its mission.



Resource Sharing

The Belmont Fire Department has had a long and successful history of sharing resources to leverage our capabilities and to assist our neighboring communities when they have needs that we can fulfill. Our membership in Metrofire is a prime example of regional resource sharing



that continues to work well throughout the region. With our active participation the Town of Belmont is able to call dozens of pieces of fire apparatus and firefighters to the scene of an emergency in town. While some of these resources may have a significant response time, it allows us to call upon not only additional resources, but specialized technical

rescue teams and others who may be necessary to safely mitigate an incident.

In the past year the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Department of Fire Services Haz Mat Team has housed one of their vehicles at our Headquarters station. This has already enabled a rapid response to a haz mat incident in Belmont and our centralized location helps support efficient deployment throughout the area.

Recently the entire Commonwealth has seen a critical shortage of EMS personnel. The metro area is not immune from this situation. In some instances, private services that have traditionally responded alongside or in the place of fire service EMS simply have not been available when needed due to staffing issues. The Belmont Fire Department, has been



positioned to help facilities here in town as well as our neighboring communities by providing a back up to their resources. Our mutual aid partners have also responded to emergencies in Belmont when our ambulance has been on another call as well. This cooperation between agencies is essential and also allows Belmont an opportunity to leverage as much capacity as possible to provide service.

Our Fire Prevention Division has also partnered with Cambridge Police in providing a Juvenile Fire-setter Intervention program. We have used this resource with success as a diversion for youths who would benefit from this course of action.

Summary & Goals

The Belmont Fire Department is comprised of a dedicated group of highly trained professionals. These individuals work with some of the very best equipment available to serve the residents of Belmont with an all-hazards mission approach to the protection of life and property. Your fire department will respond whenever called, to virtually any situation. We will do our utmost to mitigate a hazard, solve a problem, and provide the best service we are able to our community. We thank the people of Belmont for providing the tools and the opportunity to serve.

- The current goals of the department include continuing to engage the public with more robust programs. These include the EMS Bike Unit, citizen CPR and “stop the bleed” training. We intend to continue our community engagement activities to bring our members closer to those they serve.
- We will also continue our community risk assessment and reduction process outlined in this report, and hope to have significant progress by this time next year.
- Our collection of data has increased as evident in this report. We have also recently begun to track other data points with regard to calls for service and fire prevention/inspection activities. As we develop a depth of information, we will be able to analyze it internally and make it available as a measure of our daily/weekly work engagement.
- We will continue to engage all the members of our community. We have plans to begin to make smoke/carbon monoxide detector installation more available to those in need. Our school and senior SAFE education will continue and expand in the number of instructors.
- The department has reached out and received training from the Human Rights Commission. We have issued a policy to address the needs of transgender individuals in the community and are working with the Diversity Task Force. Our goal is to partner with the community to help make our fire department a more diverse workplace.
- We continue to train robustly each day to be prepared for any emergency that we may face.
- The department is actively seeking opportunities to partner with neighboring communities to fully leverage any capacity we may have to assist their needs, especially in the area of EMS.
- We will continue to be a regional leader in pre-hospital care and actively look to the future of the out-of-hospital care environment with respect to community paramedicine.

