

BELMONT FIRE DEPARTMENT

ANNUAL REPORT

2022



David DeStefano, MPA
Chief of Department

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Chief's Message

January 2023

On behalf of the entire Fire Department, I would like to thank the residents of Belmont for their continued support. Our firefighters value the relationship that we have with built with the community as we work to prevent fires and other emergencies and respond with efficiency and expertise when an emergency does occur.

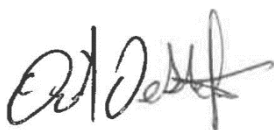
As the Fire Chief, I appreciate the time and cooperation of the Select Board, Town Administrator, and fellow department heads. I also value the commitment and discussion with the many residents that I interact with on the numerous boards and committees. The high level of community involvement is an asset in assessing the needs of our residents and working cooperatively to find the best solutions.

I am proud to report the Belmont is served by a fire department whose members are innovators who are dedicated to providing the highest quality service and embracing the emerging challenges of emergency services in the 21st century.

Our all-hazards service model, and community-based approach to interaction, education and care has begun to identify community risks and needs. This direction is helping us guide our mission in terms of messaging, education, and service delivery. In the following report we will outline our progress, goals, and vision.

No matter what the future holds, the Belmont Fire Department will seek every opportunity to provide service, and make our community a safer place to live, work and enjoy.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David DeStefano". The signature is stylized and cursive.

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

Andrew Tobio

Administrative Assistant

Jacqueline Mahoney

Fire Prevention Division

Fire Prevention Officer

Captain Robert Wollner

Part Time Administrative Secretary

Vacant

Training Division

Training Division/ Assistant Fire Prevention

Lieutenant Ace Elefteriadis

Operations Division

Shift Commanders

Captain David DeMarco Captain Wayne Haley Captain Scott Spuria Captain Richard Nohl

Lieutenants

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

Firefighters

| | | |
|----------------------|-------------------|----------------|
| James Bing* | Michael Goode* | Brian O’Neill* |
| Brian Campana | Christopher Hadge | Derek O’Rourke |
| Shaun Campana | William Hubbard | Justin Perino* |
| Jonathan Carabello* | Ryan Keane* | Steven Reilly |
| Matthew Cherkerzian | James Kelly* | Sean Ryan |
| John Conaty* | John MacDonald | Alec Thompson |
| Brandon Cunningham* | Matthew McCabe | Daniel Tyler* |
| Christopher Drinan | Ryan McIntosh | Thomas Vezeau* |
| Peter Donovan* | Dennis Maher | Ross Vona |
| Nathan Dubreuil* | Michael Nolan* | Adam Wesley* |
| MaryCatherine Dunne* | | |

*Paramedic

2022 Promotions

FF Michael Dayton to lieutenant

Retirements/Transfers/Resignations

Lt. Gerard Benoit-resignation FF Michael McNamara- resignation (hired by another FD)
 FF Tracy Mullen-retirement FF Elizabeth Kinch-resignation

Apparatus Inventory

| VEHICLE | VEHICLE | ASSIGNMENT |
|----------------|-------------------------|------------------------|
| CAR 1 | 2017 FORD INTERCEPTOR | Chief |
| CAR 2 | 2017 FORD INTERCEPTOR | Assistant Chief |
| CAR 3 | 2021 CHEV.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 | Brush Unit/Plow |
| ENGINE 1 | 2014 E-ONE PUMPER | Headquarters |
| ENGINE 2 | 2021 E-ONEPUMPER | Station 2 |
| ENGINE 3 | 2008 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 | Town Yard |
| BOAT TRAILER | RESCUE BOAT TRAILER | Station 2 |
| SPILL RESPONSE | SPILL RESPONSE TRAILER | Headquarters |

General Statistics

The Belmont Fire Department Responded to 3869 incidents in 2022

Historical Data

2021- **3280** 2019- **3007**

2020-**2678** 2018- **3055**

A sample of fires and incidents for 2022 are as follows

| | | | |
|--------------------------------|----|---|--------------|
| STRUCTURE FIRES | 66 | SMOKE SCARE | 17 |
| ALL HANDS | 4 | GOOD INTENT CALLS | 372 |
| WORKING FIRES | 2 | DISPATCHED AND CANCELLED ENROUTE | 147 |
| COOKING FIRES | 42 | SYSTEM MALFUNCTION | 316 |
| OUTSIDE FIRES | 20 | UNINTENTIONAL ALARMS | 225 |
| REFUSE FIRES | 12 | MALICIOUS FALSE | 14 |
| VEHICLE FIRES | 9 | WATER CALL | 47 |
| CARBON MONOXIDE ACTIVATION | 63 | MUTUAL AID GIVEN | 230 |
| CARBON MONOXIDE INCIDENT | 8 | MUTUAL AID RECEIVED | 93 |
| SPILL, LEAK, NO IGNITION | 28 | ASSIST POLICE OR OTHER AGENCY | 15 |
| NATURAL GAS/LPG LEAK | 51 | PUBLIC SERVICE | 213 |
| HAZARDOUS ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT | 63 | TOTAL SERVICE CALLS ALL CATEGORIES | 3,869 |



Fire Prevention Division

The Fire Prevention Division is located on the second floor of the FF Roland A Weatherbee Fire Headquarters at 299 Trapelo Road. From January 2020 until April 2022 the Division was under the direction of Captain Andrew Tobio. In late April, Captain Robert K. Wollner, the former Shift Commander of Group 2, assumed the role of Fire Prevention Officer.

Lieutenant Ace Elefteriadis, in addition to his primary duties as the Department's Training Officer, is designated as the department's Assistant Fire Prevention Officer. Lt. Elefteriadis has been the Training Officer/Assistant Fire Prevention Officer since October 2021.



Administrative support for the Fire Prevention Division is provided by a part-time civilian administrative assistant. The part time assistant is responsible for scheduling activities as well as providing telephone and in-person customer assistance.

The Fire Prevention Division delivers a well-structured inspection program of commercial occupancies, residential properties, schools, institutions, and other places of assembly. These buildings are inspected with the intention of removing hazards and correcting unsafe conditions. In addition, the Fire Prevention Division works to ensure compliance with Massachusetts General Law, the Code of Massachusetts Regulations, and By-Laws of the Town of Belmont that are under the authority of the Belmont Fire Department. The Fire Prevention Division works to provide fire and life safety protection to the public by confirming code compliance and enforcing fire prevention laws and codes. 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.

In calendar year 2021, the Fire Prevention Division began tracking the processing times for permitting and plan reviews. The intent of this data collection was to help provide our customers with the best possible service, and identify any problem areas. As indicated in the 2021 Annual Report, Fire Prevention is reporting the first full year data in the tables below for the processing times for permits and plan reviews. This data was generated from the issuance of 769 permits and 84 plan reviews. The processing time for both permits and plan reviews averaged less than one day.

PROCESSING TIMES FOR PERMITS

| | |
|---------|-----------|
| AVERAGE | 0.39 DAYS |
|---------|-----------|

PROCESSING TIMES FOR A PLAN REVIEW

| | |
|---------|-----------|
| AVERAGE | 0.53 DAYS |
|---------|-----------|

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. The most common 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.

Some notable new projects undertaken by the Fire Prevention Division in 2022 include:

1. Ongoing work with the Town’s Facilities Department to upgrade the fire alarm system at the Butler Elementary School to install a modern fire protection system. This new system at the Butler, is scheduled to go on line in early 2023.
2. The Belmont High School/Middle School project continues with the Middle School side of the building still under construction. Fire Prevention continues its efforts in support of the installation of the fire alarm, sprinkler and other life safety systems in the building.
3. Fire Prevention is working with stakeholders on the proposed Belmont Hill School facilities/maintenance building on Prospect Street.

4. Fire Prevention is working with the developers of two independent marijuana dispensaries, who plan to open on Pleasant Street in 2023.

During the 4th quarter of 2022, the Fire Prevention Division began an expanded and more robust inspection program for businesses and organizations who seek the renewal of Liquor Licenses, Business Licenses or Common Victualler Licenses. The license renewal process for these businesses now includes a safety inspection of the occupancy, and requires the business owner to provide supporting documentation for fire alarm system maintenance and testing, sprinkler system maintenance and testing, along with cleaning inspection and testing reports for restaurants with hood and/or Ansul systems. This program has added more than 70 inspections to the annual schedule, but has already proven its worth by identifying several safety issues that have since been mitigated, in concert with the fire department's risk analysis and reduction posture initiated by Chief David DeStefano.

Continuing education on current and changing fire prevention laws and codes is always a top



priority for the Fire Prevention Division. The fire officers assigned to Fire Prevention are also members of the Fire Prevention Association of Massachusetts (FPAM). These members attend monthly meetings and seminars presented by FPAM and the Department of Fire Services.

The Fire 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 2021 edition of NFPA 1), and fire protection sections of the Massachusetts State Building Code 780 CMR.

The Board of Fire Prevention Regulations adopted the most recent version of 527 CMR 1.0 which took effect on December 9, 2022. This version was updated to reflect the 2021 edition of NFPA 1 (with Massachusetts amendments). Prior to this adoption, Massachusetts was working off of the amended 2015 edition of NFPA 1 as the state fire code.

As part of our public education initiative, the Fire Prevention Division works with public schools, private schools, and various other children’s groups to schedule visits at the Belmont Fire Department. Working together in pursuance of life safety and property protection, citizens of the Town are encouraged to contact the Fire Prevention Division with any concerns that pertain to fire protection and fire safety. The Fire Prevention Division will to continue to identify and reduce the risk of fire in our community while maintaining the best possible customer service and highest standards of professionalism.

2022 PROPERTY LOSS vs. PROPTERTY SAVED

| | | |
|---|----|----------------|
| VALUE OF PROPERTY INVOLVED IN INCIDENTS | \$ | 141,942,800.00 |
| TOTAL PROPERTY LOSS | \$ | 532,450.00 |
| TOTAL PROPERTY SAVED | \$ | 141,410,350.00 |
| | | |
| VALUE OF PASSENGER VEHICLES INVOLVED IN INCIDENTS | \$ | 56,000.00 |
| TOTAL VEHICLE LOSS | \$ | 52,500.00 |
| TOTAL VEHICLE SAVED | \$ | 3,500.00 |

2022 PERMITS

769 PERMITS WERE ISSUED IN THE CATEGORIES IDENTIFIED BELOW:

| | |
|--|-----|
| 26F/26F ½ - HOME SALES | 300 |
| ABOVE GROUND STORAGE TANK INSTALL | 69 |
| ABOVE GROUND STORAGE TANK REMOVAL | 106 |
| UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANK INSTALL | 1 |
| UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANK REMOVAL | 2 |
| INSTALL OIL BURNER | 11 |
| BUILDING PLAN REVIEW | 81 |
| ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEM | 5 |
| MODIFICATION OF AN ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEM | 1 |

| | |
|--------------------------------|----|
| FLAMMABLE/COMBUSTABLE STORAGE | 15 |
| HOT WORKS | 29 |
| IMPAIR FIRE ALARM SYSTEM | 6 |
| IMPAIR FIRE PROTECTION SYSTEM | 1 |
| INSTALL FIRE ALARM SYSTEM | 83 |
| INSTALL FIRE PROTECTION SYSTEM | 2 |
| MODIFY FIRE ALARM SYSTEM | 16 |
| MODIFY FIRE PROTECTION SYSTEM | 6 |
| REPAIR FIRE ALARM SYSTEM | 8 |
| REPAIR FIRE PROTECTION SYSTEM | 6 |
| STORE PROPANE | 8 |
| TENTAGE | 12 |
| TRANSFER TANKS | 1 |

Total collected from permit fees..... \$62,295.00

2022 FIRE PREVENTION TASKS

| FIRE PREVENTION | FP DUTIES | ENFORCEMENT | PLAN REVIEW | INSP | MASTER BOX | LICENSE REVIEW | PUBLIC RECORDS |
|-----------------|-----------|-------------|-------------|------|------------|----------------|----------------|
| JANUARY | 33 | 8 | 5 | 39 | 0 | 2 | 3 |
| FEBRUARY | 53 | 8 | 4 | 36 | 0 | 19 | 1 |
| MARCH | 38 | 23 | 9 | 44 | 0 | 4 | 8 |
| APRIL | 48 | 3 | 9 | 38 | 1 | 11 | 0 |
| MAY | 75 | 5 | 13 | 60 | 3 | 3 | 2 |
| JUNE | 45 | 10 | 10 | 51 | 0 | 13 | 3 |
| JULY | 71 | 4 | 5 | 53 | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| AUGUST | 64 | 18 | 8 | 57 | 0 | 3 | 1 |
| SEPTEMBER | 65 | 8 | 7 | 44 | 0 | 6 | 5 |
| OCTOBER | 54 | 9 | 5 | 102 | 0 | 4 | 3 |
| NOVEMBER | 61 | 4 | 5 | 85 | 0 | 15 | 1 |
| DECEMBER | 43 | 10 | 4 | 60 | 0 | 46 | 0 |
| TOTAL | 650 | 110 | 84 | 669 | 5 | 128 | 30 |

| FP ACTIVITIES | |
|----------------------|-------|
| JANUARY | 90 |
| FEBRUARY | 121 |
| MARCH | 126 |
| APRIL | 110 |
| MAY | 161 |
| JUNE | 132 |
| JULY | 139 |
| AUGUST | 151 |
| SEPTEMBER | 135 |
| OCTOBER | 177 |
| NOVEMBER | 171 |
| DECEMBER | 163 |
| TOTAL | 1,676 |

412 COMPANY LEVEL INSPECTIONS WERE ASSIGNED IN THE CATEGORIES IDENTIFIED:

FIRE EXIT DRILLS – 179

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

QUARTERLY INSPECTIONS – 116

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

SCHOOL INSPECTIONS – 80

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

ANNUAL ASSEMBLY INSPECTIONS – 35

MORE THAN 770 ADDITIONAL INSPECTIONS WERE CONDUCTED IN THE AREAS LISTED:

- 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
- BELMONT BUSINESS LICENCES
- COMMON VICTUALLER LICENCES

Respectfully Submitted,

Captain Robert K. Wollner, MPA
Fire Prevention Officer



Division of Training

Also assigned duties as the Assistant Fire Prevention Officer, as well as the Staff Support Officer. The Division of Training (DOT) lieutenant is responsible for the scheduling, coordination and record keeping of all training. The DOT frequently engages the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy to conduct courses and provide training props necessary to achieve our annual training goals. This support, as well as the assistance of the Massachusetts Interlocal Insurance Association (MIIA) is integral in our mission to facilitate a robust training program.



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 updates to current standards by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), The Massachusetts Division of Emergency Medical Services, and industry best practices are constantly evolving, training staff are continuously revising and updating

training programs to match our missions. New building designs, new construction methods, and increasing population density combine to present numerous complexities for our firefighters.

A majority of our skills training is conducted during a firefighter's normal work shift balanced between inspections, equipment maintenance, and incident response. 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. In 2022 the department hired seven new recruits, five of which successfully completed the departments 20-day in-house training program and the Massachusetts Fire Academy (MFA). These five firefighters are coming up to the end of their 12-month probationary period in the start of 2023. The remaining two recruits had already received training at the MFA and will still undergo

probationary training and evaluation by the DOT.

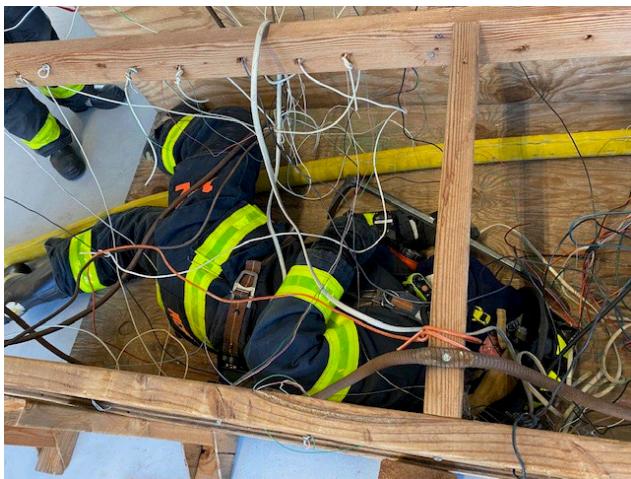
The Training Division had some exciting training in 2022. Each group participated in a 2-day high angle ropes rescue, and confined space training. Members participated in 1 day of advanced pump operations. This tests firefighters' abilities to deploy multiple handlines and master streams simultaneously. In addition, each group was able to run through the Massachusetts Fire Academy's SCBA Maze trailer. This simulation is an important aspect of firefighting operations where members are tested in their ability to enter a dark, smoke-filled environment to conduct search and rescue or firefighting operations. Individual confidence is one of the leading factors in reducing firefighter air consumption while using SCBA. A local business also allowed the fire department to use a commercial building slated for demolition as a training site for several weeks. This enabled each shift to practice hoseline advancement, firefighter rescue, forcible entry and breaching operations in a realistic environment.

Belmont continues to be a leader in the delivery of emergency medical services and as such, there is a significant training requirement to maintain these critical skill sets. All Belmont Firefighters are either EMTs or Paramedics and must meet rigorous requirements to maintain their license and master the latest techniques and equipment. This is done through in-house training utilizing in person classes, online lessons, and practical evaluations. In 2022, all firefighters whose EMT / Paramedic licenses were up for renewal were successfully re-licensed.

In 2021 the fire department conducted 3525 hours of training. This includes individual, company level, group level, and department-wide activities.

Respectfully submitted,

Lieutenant Ace Elefteriadis



Entanglement Simulation



DFS Training Maze

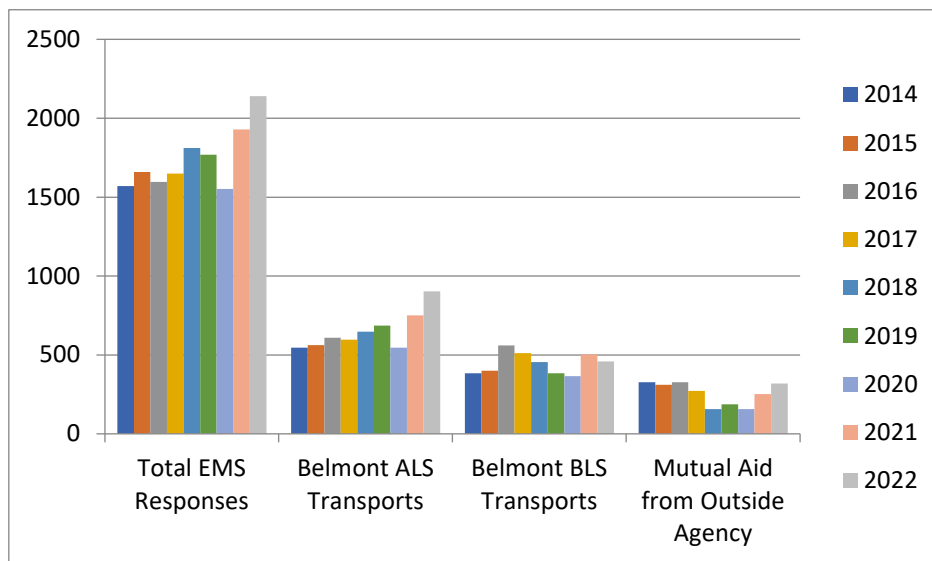


Emergency Medical Services Division

It is our pleasure to present the 2022 Annual Report of the Belmont Fire 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.



During calendar year 2022, the department responded to 2,140 calls for emergency medical services. The Belmont Fire Department utilized Advanced Life Support (ALS - Paramedic Level) care to 1,305 patients while the remaining patients, 835 received care at the Basic Life Support (BLS) level. A total of 1,679 patients were transported to the hospital. Of the 2,140 medical



calls, our Rescue (Ambulance) responded to 1,524 and transported 1,361 sick and injured individuals to the hospital. Outside EMS agencies transported 318 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. We look forward to the continued support of the Select Board, Town Administrator, and the citizens of Belmont to provide this award-winning quality of pre-hospital care.

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.



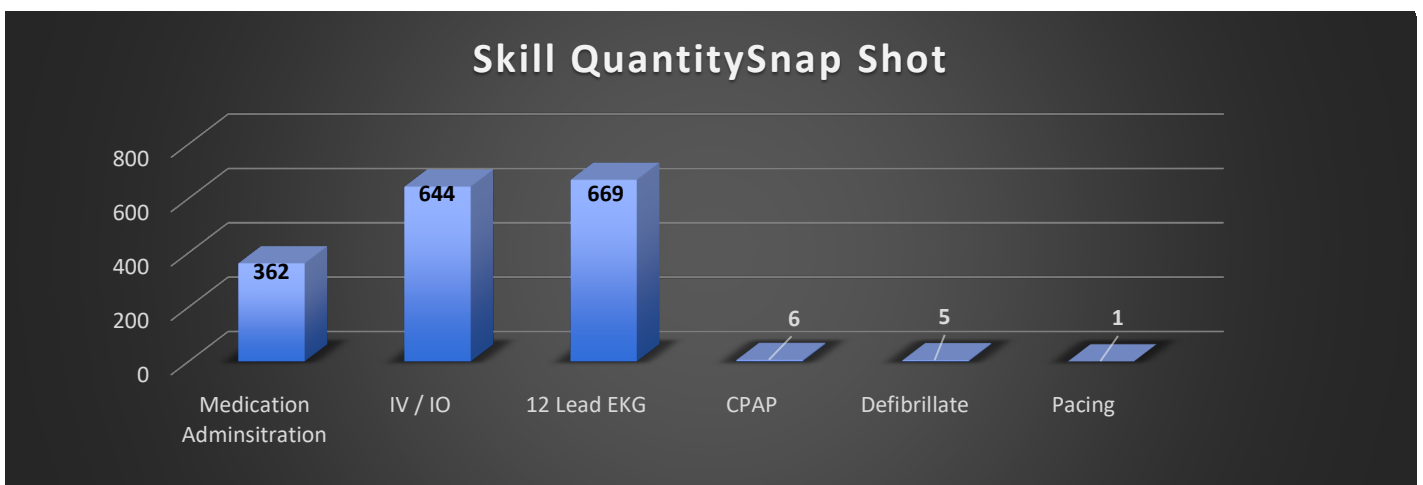
**EMTs and Paramedics Participate
in Nero's Law Training**

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

2022, 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 2022, all EMTs and Paramedics received training to provide medical care and transport to working police dogs, this training was conducted with the help of local veterinarians as well as the Belmont Police Department.

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 proactive in their direction of 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, 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 immediate availability of 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



Community Risk Reduction

The Belmont Fire Department has taken a very pro-active posture in the community. Members participate in many community events, block parties, community meetings, and Council on Aging activities. Our Student Awareness of Fire Education (SAFE) and Senior SAFE instructors provide valuable curriculum concerning fire safety. We have re-introduced our annual open house event and coordinate interaction at summer camps, the library and other venues.



Because we believe in the value of safety education and public interaction as major factors in creating a safer community the fire department has reorganized duties to assign the functions of Public Educator/ Community Liaison to Captain David DeMarco, a veteran firefighter and community resident. Captain DeMarco has many years of experience with the Massachusetts Department of Fire Services as a public educator and instructor.

The fire department is working in cooperation with other town departments and community groups to offer additional services to the community in concert with our all-hazards approach to community risk reduction and safety. We have held several CPR classes in 2022 and we are looking to expand this service in the future. Additionally, the fire department has developed a residential safety visit program, offering a fire and life safety survey to help reduce the risk of fires and other emergencies in the home. We have developed and begun to implement a fire safety inspection program for all municipal buildings. In following our community risk reduction model, the fire department now has a Certified Child Passenger Safety Seat Technician. We are able to provide inspection and installation of child safety seats.

Over the summer, the fire department began to deploy our EMS Bike Unit at large public gatherings and events. This method of service delivery has already proven beneficial at local road races and other venues. We envision using EMTs and Paramedics in this deployment model increasingly in the future.

The Belmont Fire Department is in the beginning phase of implementation of the “Fire is Everyone’s Fight” campaign. This initiative, sponsored by the United States Fire Administration (USFA) strives to lower the number of home fires and home fire injuries. The program provides a unified message for the community and works to change how people think about fire prevention using strategies to address all segments of the population.



Belmont Fire Department in the Community



Grant Projects

The Belmont Fire Department was recently awarded funds for grant applications that were filed in 2022. These funds include almost \$19,000.00 for safety equipment and \$6,500.00 in funding to continue our educational programs in schools and with senior citizens.

The fire department purchased five additional sets of ballistic protection to allow our personnel to team with law enforcement officers and rescue victims that may be injured during hostile incidents.

In addition, grant funding allowed the department to upgrade all personnel with safety harnesses that will allow them to work more safely from ladders and roofs, and while engaging in above or below grade rescues.



New Equipment/Initiatives

The fire department also took delivery on new self-contained breathing apparatus that were ordered in 2022. These 40 state of the art air packs were a Capital Budget expenditure and allowed us to comply with current standards, and work more effectively in hazardous environments.

Also, in 2022 all members of the department underwent active shooter/hostile event response training (ASHER). This training reinforced the Rescue Task Force (RTF) concept that allows us to help those in greatest need during a hostile incident. We have formed a close partnership with law enforcement with policies and training as well as plans to conduct additional training sessions with all our response partners in the future. The ASHER initiative combines equipment, policies, training, and interagency cooperation to provide the safest, best coordinated, and most thorough incident response.



A Look-Back to 2021 Goals

- More robust public education
Additional public CPR classes/ “Hot Topics” Belmont Media program/ reorganized coordination of public education and community outreach
- Establish EMS Bike Unit
Established, equipped with grant funds, trained, and deployed to several events in 2022.
- Stop the Bleed Training
Development of a delivery method is in progress
- Community Risk Assessment
Ongoing program in place. Risk reduction activities in progress
- Collection and analysis of data points
Our data points are steadily increasing yearly. A plan to expand our tracking is ongoing
- Workplace diversity
Chief DeStefano is a member of the DEIC and a regular liaison to the HRC. The fire department held an open house in 2022 for prospective applicants and sought diversity in attendance. The process is ongoing.
- Robust training
As indicated in the Division of Training report we continue to schedule an aggressive training calendar and are always looking forward to new opportunities.
- Leveraging available resources
We have increased our coordination with other town departments and actively participate with regional organizations to leverage area resources for training and response capabilities.
- Developing resilient EMS and out of hospital care systems
We continue to provide award-winning pre-hospital care and stand ready to initiate a pro-active out of hospital care program with internal and external stakeholders.

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.