

Franklin Fire Department

Annual Report 2007



Fire Headquarters
40 West Central Street
Franklin, Massachusetts 02038

(508) 528-2323

<http://www.franklin.ma.us/auto/town/fire/>

The Department

The Franklin Fire Department is divided into two divisions: Operations and Maintenance, which is the largest and responsible for dispatch, emergency medical services, fire suppression and hazardous materials response. Administration and Support Services is responsible for personnel, budget and finance, training, code compliance and coordinating the Town's emergency preparedness.

Our Mission

The mission of the Franklin Fire Department is to:

...Have a positive impact in the lives of citizens and visitors of Franklin in their time of crisis by providing compassionate, contemporary, community driven services.

...Safeguard human life from the perils of fire, sudden illness, injury or other emergency medical condition, natural and man-made disasters as well as preserve the environment and property from ensuing destruction.

... Be responsible for a safe, productive and pleasant work environment for our employees, and provide them opportunities to gain new skills and advance their personal career goals.

Operational Objectives

- Initiating advanced life support to patients within 8 minutes of receiving the telephone call at our communications center.
- To access, extricate, treat and transport and transport trauma patients to a level one trauma medical facility within one hour of the occurrence of the injury.
- Interrupt the progression of fires in structures within 8 minutes of open flame ignition.
- To insure response readiness remains more than 70%.
- Provide safety and survival skills for all school students in grade K through 5 consistent with the Student Awareness Fire Education (SAFE) initiative of the Commonwealth.
- Provide educational opportunities for department members to insure optimal performance and safety.
- To develop and maintain "best practice" to insure personnel and citizen safety.
- Insure fire safety through timely, consistent code compliance services to all external customers.
- Provide all department services in a manner that satisfies the needs of our customers.

Message from the Fire Chief

This year proved to be a year of growth for the department in our attempts to meet the ever expanding needs of the community. With the support of the Town Council and Town Administrator, the department began the process of upgrading our Headquarters Building on West Central Street. The beginning phase of the project was to move department resources between our King Street Station and a Temporary Fire Station developed at the end of Fisher Street. Thanks for the diligent efforts of

department members and personnel from facilities, the move and subsequent transition to these facilities went smoothly without impact to emergency services. Demolition of the site and subsequent construction is now well underway, with an anticipated completion date of May 2008. I would like to recognize the hard work and efforts of the members of the Fire Station Building Committee for their long hours of work in making this process successful. They are: Lou Allevito, Chair, Ken Norman, Vice Chair, Vinnie De Baggis, Councilor Deb Bartlett, Bill Dowd and Steve Sims. These folks have spent many hours reviewing proposals, reports and visiting various fire stations to insure the completed facility will meet the needs of the community for years to come. The department also received authorization to replace our aerial ladder vehicle which is over 20 years old. This vehicle is a vital piece of safety equipment – the replacement is scheduled for delivery in May of 2008 and will be a measureable improvement for the safety of our Fire fighters and the Citizens we serve.

This year the department responded to nearly 3,500 emergency responses – a decrease of about 6% from last year. We thankfully saw a minor reduction (9 less) in fires occurring in occupied buildings. We hope that with heightened emphasis on fire prevention we can continue this trend in the future. In addition to emergency response, the department also continued to expand its fire prevention education activities, providing safety and survival education to the most vulnerable population to fire – our children and seniors. Through the dedicated efforts of SAFE Officer Robert Donovan, the department continued to educate over 100 children per month as well as attend various activities at the Senior Center. Firefighters Tom Carlucci and Keith Darling provide dedicated assistance in completing this important service to our citizens.

The department has also continued to develop our system of regular continuing education for fire-rescue services. Under the Direction of Captain Jim Klich, department members complete a total of nearly 1,300 hours of continuing fire education as well as over 1,700 hours of emergency medical service training. These

regular on-going classes are augmented by various specialty training attended by members

This year saw the retirement of Captain Raymond Shiner after 22 years of service to the department. Captain Shiner retired as a result of injuries suffered in-the-line-of-duty, saw his career cut much too short. We wish him the best of health and happiness in his retirement and are greatly indebted to him for his years of dedicated service in keeping the citizen of Franklin safe. This year also marked the leaving of long-time Head Dispatcher Kevin Smith. Kevin served the department for over 15 years and we wish him the best in his future. The department hired a total of 3 new employees to replace open positions. In February 2007, Ted Flanagan, Jared Liberti and Doug Perro joined the ranks of the department's Firefighter Paramedics. Also in February Joe Mignone was hired as a full-time dispatcher with Susan Walsh promoted to the position of Head Dispatcher. With the addition of these employees the department marked the first time in more than a decade the department was at a full complement of fire fighters.

In conclusion, I would like to thank the members of the Fire Department and their families for their dedicated efforts in serving the citizens of Franklin. The past several years have been challenging due to the decreasing amount of resources available to provide an increasing demand for services. Throughout this time, department members have continued to strive to provide the best services possible. We should all be proud of their efforts and grateful for such a dedicated and skilled workforce.

Respectfully Submitted,



Gary B. McCarraher, Fire Chief

Department Staffing

Summary

Division	Full Time Employees	Part Time Employees
Administration and Support Services	6	0
Operations and Maintenance	52	4

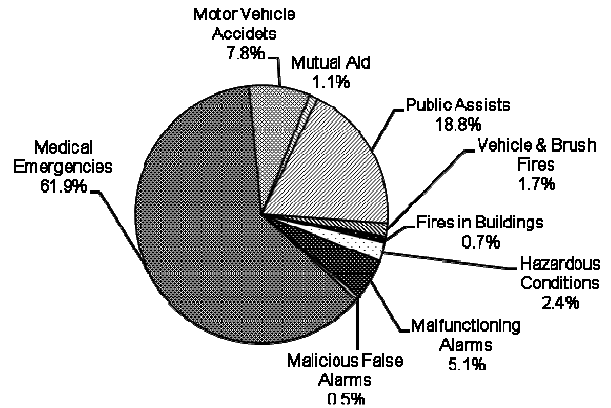
Fire Chief	Gary McCarraher
Deputy Chief	Paul Sharpe
Captain	James Hagerty <i>Equipment Manager</i> Raymond Shiner (Retired) Edward Lovely James Klich <i>Training Officer</i> Steven Sims Stephen Parchesky <i>Fire Prevention Officer</i> <i>Chief Fire Investigator</i>
Lieutenant	Paul Beach <i>MIS Officer</i> David Baker Thomas Konieczny Daniel Lewis
Firefighter	Dennis Alger – Paramedic Charles Allen - Paramedic Dale Allen – Paramedic Charles Bailey – Paramedic Joseph Barbieri - Paramedic James Brady – Paramedic Richard Bravoco – EMT Thomas Carlucci– Paramedic <i>Asst. SAFE Officer</i> Michael Carter – Paramedic <i>Assistant Fire Investigator</i> Robert Cassano – Paramedic Jonathan Chalk - Paramedic Keith Darling – Paramedic <i>Asst. SAFE Officer</i> Jonathan Desouza – Paramedic Robert Donovan – Paramedic <i>SAFE Officer</i> Edward Flanagan – Paramedic Leo Gallagher – Paramedic Stephen Geer – EMT Darrell Griffin – Paramedic

Firefighter (continued)	Brian Hagan – EMT <i>SCBA Officer</i> Andrew Joseph - Paramedic James Josselyn - EMT Matthew Kelly – Paramedic <i>Dean College Liaison</i> Richard Lietch – EMT Steven Lewis – EMT Jared Liberti - Paramedic Sean Lovely - Paramedic Robert Mahoney – Paramedic <i>ALS Coordinator</i> Kevin Marshall - Paramedic Leslie Miller – 1st Rspndr Paul Molla - Paramedic John Monterotti - EMT David Morris – Paramedic Joseph Mullen - Paramedic Raymond Nasuti 1st Rspndr Dan Paglia - Paramedic Douglas Perro - Paramedic Mark Petitt – Paramedic Laurie Roy – Paramedic <i>Infectious Control Officer</i> David Smith – Paramedic <i>BLS Coordinator</i> Robert Tucci – EMT
Admin. Staff	Donna Kinney <i>Administrative Assistant</i> Kathy Carloni <i>EMS Billing Clerk</i> Virginia McLaughlin <i>Administrative Assistant</i>
Dispatchers	Kevin Smith Di Ana Airous Joseph Mignone Jeff Quinlan Susan Walsh <i>Head Dispatcher</i>
Part-time Dispatcher	Seth Hagerty Jason Rose Jeremiah Hart Charles Wood

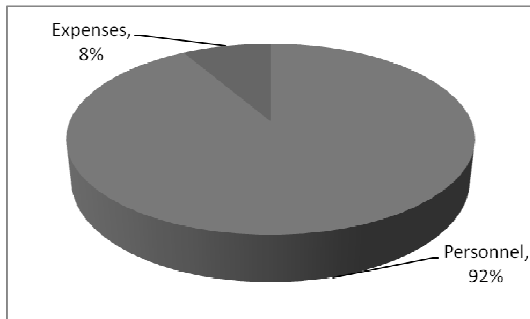


Budget Summary

Title/Description	FY'06 Approved	FY'07 Approved
Personal Services	\$ 3,573,500	\$ 4,004,810
Expenses	\$ 371,580	\$ 366,905
Equipment Outlay	\$ -	
Capital Equipment	\$ -	
	\$ 3,945,080	\$ 4,371,715



Fiscal Year 2007
Emergency Response Breakdown



Budget Breakdown

Emergency Response Comparison

Fiscal Year	2006	2007	Trend Analysis	
			06-07	97-07
Recap of Major Categories				
Fire Emergencies	1,185	1,052	-11%	38%
Medical Emergencies	2,231	2,146	-4%	14%
Motor Vehicle Accidents	270	270	0%	-7%
Total Emergencies	3,686	3,468	-6%	18%

Statistical Summary

Emergency Response

Type of Emergency	2005	2006
Fires in Buildings	35	26
Hazardous Conditions	90	83
Malfunctioning Alarms	253	177
Malicious False Alarms	10	17
Medical Emergencies	2,231	2,146
Motor Vehicle Accidents	270	270
Mutual Aid	42	38
Public Assists	668	652
Vehicle & Brush Fires	87	59
Total Emergency Response	3,686	3,468



**Report of the SAFE Officer –
Robert Donovan, EMT-P**

Assistants

**Thomas Carlucci, EMT-P
Keith Darling, EMT-P**

The SAFE (Student Awareness of Fire Education) program enters its 13th year - a program that has decreased child injuries and death from fire.

Over the past year we have educated Pre-Schools, Day Care, Mom's Clubs, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Daisy's, Cub Scouts and school children from Kindergarten to Grade 5 in the Franklin Public School system, including Ben Franklin Charter School. In addition we conducted an impact program at the Keller Sullivan School on firesetting and the dangers of fire. Members of our SAFE team also helped with quarterly education at the Forge Hill Assisted Living Center – discussing topics pertaining to home safety.

This year the department hosted our annual Fire Prevention Open House in October. In partnership with Papa Gino's, we conducted various demonstrations of fire safety, allowed kids to use fire hoses and allowed children to become acquainted with our protective clothing so they won't be afraid of us and hide in times of crisis. We have also been fortunate to work with the Franklin Police Department at their Annual DARE Camp and educate older children on the dangers of fire.

Our new Fire Hazards House has proved to be a very helpful as an interactive tool for people of all ages to see fire and hazards in the home (it's the size of a doll house).

With the help of Tom Carlucci and Keith Darling, long time safe instructors, and the help of many firefighters throughout the year, the Franklin Fire Department has educated thousands of children and adults.

The purpose and goal of this program is to prevent hazards through education. This coming year we hope to expand our audience and meet with parents and teachers groups so they better understand the importance of fire drills in the schools and at home. We hope these session will show participants that we do not take fire

safety lightly and that education at an early age and continuing through the school years does save lives!

**Report of the EMS Coordinators-
Robert Mahoney, EMT-P and
David Smith, EMT-P**

This year the department sponsored its 1st annual EMS Skills and Education day. This day is designed to allow all EMS personnel to maintain the skills that are critical in patient care with some of our sickest patients. The skills are not part of the daily delivery of care for the average patient and are not maintained through regular performance of the skills. This day also allows the our EMTs, the Physicians, and hospital staff to have input on areas of education that they recognize as needing review or practice to maintain proficiency.



New Equipment:

Masimo pulse oximeter – allows our EMS providers a fast, accurate and noninvasive way to detect elevated levels of carbon monoxide in the blood. These symptoms sometimes can appear similar to the flu and allows us to determine the exposure to carbon monoxide if metering of the building in question is not safe, practical or accurate by conventional means.

EZ-IO- Allows Paramedic personnel to gain and maintain intravenous access and therapy on nearly 100% of our critical patients by cannulation of the bone if venous access is not possible. This is a drastic change from our old pediatric bone canulation method as it is approved for adult and pediatric patients with decrease in pain at the site and a much greater success rate when it is needed most.

EMS Bikes – 2 additional bikes added to team to make the availability of 4 bikes at the same time. Additional personnel trained in the safe delivery of EMS for the special events and large public gatherings where access can be difficult by conventional means.

Hospital destination coordination – Allows Medical control and the EMS providers to use up to date information to determine the best hospital for specialized care that meet the needs of the patient.

This year also saw two new ambulances being placed into service with emphasis on crew and patient safety in design.

Report of the Fire Investigator Captain Stephen Parchesky, CFI

The Fire Investigation Unit over the past year has conducted twelve investigations for origin and cause of fire. We also received many telephone inquiries regarding fires from homeowners and insurance companies.

“An Act Relative to the Reporting of Fires in Schools” as signed into law by Governor Romney on May 12, 2006. This new law became effective on August 10, 2006. The Unit supplied all school principals with a copy of the law and reporting forms.

The Unit still has a proactive approach to the deterrence of fire. When there is a fire (trash can, brush) of questionable cause, we will go door-to-door to alert neighbors of what happened and see if they may know the culprits. This has stopped the problem in some areas of Franklin. Over the past year three of these door-to-door campaigns were conducted.

Report of the Infectious Control Officer – Laurie Roy, EMT-P

In September 2006, all department members received annual infection control update training during EMS Skills Day. The following topics were covered: tuberculosis, blood borne pathogens, unprotected exposures, and prevention of disease transmission.

All newly hired Firefighter/Paramedics took an initial infection control orientation

program that taught the basics of occupational exposures and department procedures.

Approximately thirty department members were vaccinated against influenza in October. Fran Stone, RN from the Greater Milford VNA administered the vaccines at Station 2.

All department members participated in the annual immunization review and tuberculosis testing program from October through December 2006. The following immunizations were offered to department members who needed them: Hepatitis B, Measles Mumps Rubella, Chickenpox, and Tetanus. All reviews, TB testing, and immunizations took place at Teamwork Occupational Health in Milford Regional Hospital.

Over the course of the year, three department members sustained unprotected exposures. All three had initial evaluations at the emergency department, and received follow up from occupational health.

Fire Emergencies

This year, the department responded to 85 incidents that involved damage due to fire, down from 122 the previous year. The incidence of fire within buildings decreased this year to 26 from 35 building fires from the previous year..

Of all fire incidents experienced within the Town, the majority (55%) occurred at residential property. Commercial property accounted for 17% of the department's fire damage, with special properties (e.g. roadways and outdoor areas) accounting for 16% of the fire problem.

There were no civilian deaths or injuries during the year. There were also no fire fighter injuries resultants from firefighting efforts. There was a total of \$ 51,123,051 worth of property at risk from fire this year and a total of \$ 130,052 lost. This yields a save rate of 99.7% which means that of every dollar at risk or involved in fire, only \$ 0.03 was lost.

The department attempts to determine the cause of each fire. Normally,

the company officer or shift supervisor conducts the cause and origin investigation for minor fire loss. A team of fire investigators lead by certified fire investigator Captain Steve Parchesky investigates fire cause in larger fire damage.

Medical Emergencies

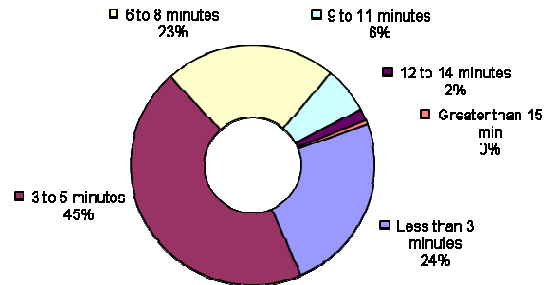
Requests for medical aid continue to be the largest service delivery for the department. In fiscal year 2007, medical emergencies accounted for nearly 62% of the department's emergency responses. The department provided medical assistance to a total of 1,573 patients. On average, the department transported 131 patients per month, up from the average of 122 per month in 2004. Additionally, we served another 33 citizens with non transport services. The department generated \$ 768,753 in revenue for the General Fund through third party billing for ambulance services.



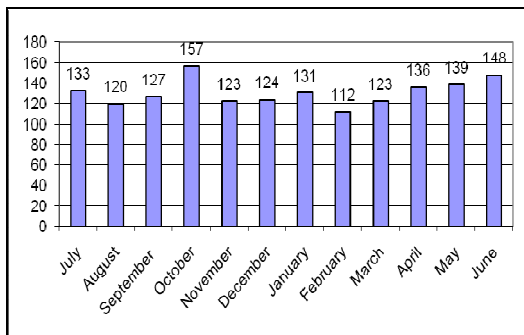
of the week ranged between 14% and 15% of the emergency call volume.

The department responds to requests for emergency services within time parameters established by National Standards. Standards of the National Fire Protection Association require that emergency response occurs within 9 minutes of initial dispatch, 90% of the time. Fire-Rescue units meet this standard (91.5%) with most (69%) responses arriving within 6 minutes of dispatch.

Response Times to Emergencies



Patient Transports by Month

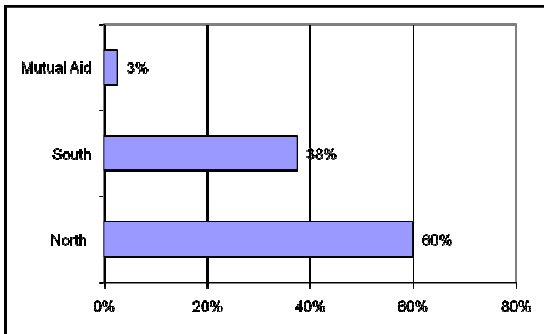


Response times

In Franklin, nearly 55% of all requests for emergency aid occur during the routine business day. The least busy hour of the day was 3:00 AM with the busiest hour of the day occurring at 10:00 AM. The department's emergency incidents were distributed in a fairly equal fashion through the days of the week. Sundays were the least busy day with 12% of the call volume with Tuesdays being the busiest with nearly 16% of the call volume; the remaining days

Station	Address	Telephone Number
Headquarters	40 West Central St.	(508) 528-2323
Station #2	600 King Street	(508) 520-4985

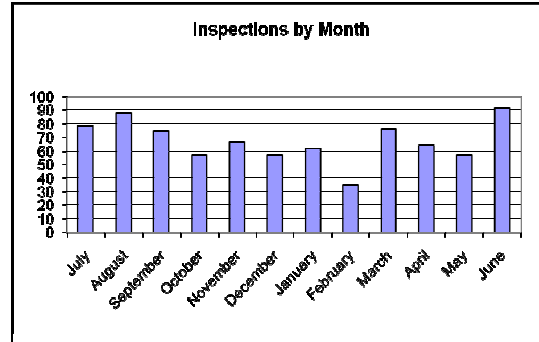
This year emergency responses between our station locations continued the trend of last year being not as equally divided as in the past. The Headquarters facility responded to the majority of our emergency responses. The King Street Station however continues to respond to a significant number of emergency responses and aids significantly to our ability to respond to requests for emergency aid in a timely fashion.



Response by Station

Code compliance and Inspections

The department issued over 800 permits for activities required under the State's Board of Fire Prevention Regulation and ranges from fuel storage to residential smoke detectors. In addition, the department also conducts plans reviews and inspections in conjunction with the building department for new construction and renovation.



Inspection Activities by month



Emergency Preparedness



The department continues to be the lead agency for the Town's emergency preparedness to natural and man-made disasters. This year we have actively worked on the development of an emergency operation plan to insure adequate response and coordination when responding to large scale disaster. This year we completed our first large-scale table top exercise. This exercise simulated a long duration ice storm and provided insight into areas for improvement in our planning cycle. Additionally we began planning to respond have a capable response in the event of an avian flu outbreak. We look forward to working on a town-wide basis to implement this plan in the upcoming year.