



COLLINGSWOOD FIRE DEPARTMENT

**20 West Collings Avenue
Collingswood, New Jersey 08108**

Annual Report for 2002

Report Presented To:

**DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SAFETY
MAYOR M. JAMES MALEY JR.**

**by
Chief of Department
Michael A. Hall**

Executive Summary

The year 2002 saw new changes for the Collingswood Fire Department. The addition of seven new career personnel allows us to provide emergency medical service 24 hours a day with Firefighter/EMTs. These new members also provide additional manpower to fight fires, control other emergencies, and perform inspections and pre-planning functions.

Fire Service

The demand for service for fire calls stayed approximately the same. Unfortunately, an increase was recorded in civilians' injuries and deaths. Firefighters injured in the line of duty also increased slightly. The types of incidents that we respond to remain consistent.

Emergency Medical Service

Emergency Medical Service responses increased to a new all time high by 10%. This increase can be attributed to the lack of response of our neighboring town's squads. Mutual aid call increased approximately 35% over last year's totals.

Fire Prevention Activities

The Fire Prevention Bureau remains very active. Increases in all aspects of the inspection bureau continue. The number of initial and re-inspections in both the fire prevention and housing inspections have increased by 10% or more. The number of violations cited have increased by **40%**. The other dimension of the Fire Prevention Bureau is the education division. This group visited each elementary school, grades K-6, for the first time in many years. A class lesson plan was developed and delivered by our members, bringing fire prevention education to over 770 students and teachers. Our bi-annual fire prevention open house experienced another night of miserable weather. Despite the terrible weather more than 1000 people attended the event. Two other programs were instituted this year, Nicky's Memorial Pizza Giveaway and Welcome to Collingswood Fire Prevention bags. Nicky's Pizza Giveaway saw several families receive a FREE pizza. The Welcome to Collingswood program has members visiting new residents of the town, introducing them to the fire department and the services we provide. Fire safety literature, the offer of a home inspection and assistance in completing our pre-plan information form are just a few of the services we perform when visiting new homeowners.

Training

The number of training events has increased each year, along with the members attending training. This year saw several members enrolled in courses at the Camden County College and numerous members attend the Camden County Fire Academy. All aspects of our training have increased, with Driver Training seeing a huge increase. Our total hours of instruction have increased by 50%.

The year 2002 will be remembered by our members for the year that three Firefighters and three children lost their lives in a tragic fire in Gloucester City, July 4th. Many of our members responded the night of the fire and assisted the Gloucester City Fire Department (GCFD). The following weeks of coverage and assisting the GCFD were demanding and sorrowful. Chief James E. Sylvester of the Mount Ephraim Fire Department, Deputy Chief/Deputy Fire Marshal John D. West of the Mount Ephraim Fire Department and the Camden County Fire Marshals Office and Firefighter Thomas G. Stewart III of the Gloucester City Fire Department gave their lives in an attempt to rescue three little girls. They will never be forgotten by the Collingswood Fire Department.

Michael St. Hall

Fire Emergencies

Number and Type of Alarms

Total Alarms and Services	1304
In Collingswood	1244
West Collingswood Extension	20
Woodlynne	9
Oaklyn	5
Camden City	10
Pennsauken	6
Westmont	3
Gloucester City	4
Cherry Hill	2
Haddonfield	1
 Total Mutual Aid Calls	 60
 Day Alarms and Services (0800-1659 hours)	 625
Night Alarms and Services (1700-0800 hours)	676
Day General Alarms	163
Night General Alarms	176
Total Number of General Alarms	339
Day Silent Alarms and Services	464
Night Silent Alarms and Services	501
Total Number of Silent Alarms and Services	965

Classifications of Fires

Fire, Other	
Building Fire	36
Cooking Fire, contained to container	32
Fuel burner/boiler malfunction, contained	6
Passenger vehicle fire	8
Brush, or brush & grass mixture fire	15
Outside rubbish fire, other	3
Outside rubbish, trash or waste fire	9
Overpressure rupture, explosion, overheat, other	4
Overpressure rupture from steam, other	5
EMS call	660
Lock-in	5
Extrication of victim(s) from vehicle	4
Water and ice related rescue, other	1
Swimming/recreational water areas rescue	1
Rescue or EMS standby	1
Hazardous Condition, other	19
Gas leak (natural gas or LPG)	2
Oil or other combustable liquid spill	34

Overheated motor	2
Powerline down	31
Arcing, shorted electric equipment	43
Accident, potential accident, other	1
Vehicle accident, general cleanup	1
Service call, other	32
Lock-out	6
Water problem, other	9
Smoke or odor removal	12
Animal rescue	8
Public service assistance, other	1
Assist police or other government agency	8
Police matter	2
Defective elevator, no occupants	7
Unauthorized burning	2
Cover assignment, standby, move up	20
Good intent call, other	13
Wrong location	2
Vicinity alarm (incident in other location)	1
Steam, other gas mistaken for smoke, other	5
Smoke scare, odor of smoke	6
Steam, Vapor, fog or dust thought to be smoke	1
False alarm or false call, other	13
Malicious, mischievous false call, other	17
Central Station, malicious fals alarm	1
System malfunction, other	124
Smoke detector activation due to malfunction	4
Heat detector activation due to malfunction	2
Alarm system sounded due to malfunction	6
CO detector activation due to malfunction	1
Unintentional transmission of alarm, other	60
Smoke detector activation, no fire-unintentional	3
Detector activation, no fire, unintentional	1
Alarm system sounded, no fire-unintentional	3
Severe weather or natural disaster, other	1
Special type of incident, other	1
Citizens complaint	1

Type of Incidents

Unintentional	28
Failure of Equipment or Heat Source	3
Cause Under Investigation	5
Cause Undetermined After Investigation	6

Injury Statistics

Civilians Injured	5
Firefighters Injured	2
Civilian Deaths	1
Firefighter Deaths	0

Equipment and Manpower Statistics

Number of Firefighters Answering Alarms	9063
Hours in Service	4859

Equipment Used

Truck Responses

1611	109
1612	204
1613	1178
1614	141
1615	97
1601	121
1616	113
1617	4
1619	90
1647	36
1648	316
Boat	6

Fire Prevention

Number of Fire Inspections Conducted	708
Number of Fire Re-Inspections Conducted	736
Number of Housing Inspections Conducted	615
Number of Housing Re-Inspections Conducted	574
Complaints	12
Follow-up Inspections	4
Other Inspections	1
 Total Inspections:	 2633
 BOCA Inspections	 14
Home Safety Inspections	4

Violations Cited

Fire	1696
Housing	1709
 Total Violations Cited:	 3449

Miscellaneous Fire Prevention Activities

Smoke Detector Inspections for Sale of Property	330
Knox Box Installations	9
Smoke Detector Installations	33

Fire Prevention Activities and Demonstrations

School Fire Prevention Demonstrations	
Students	721
Adults	49
Fire Prevention Demonstrations Other Than Schools	
Students	663
Adults	132
Youth Week Activities	
Students	35
Adults	2
Tours of Station	
Students	197
Adults	50
 Total Number of Activities	
Students	1616
Adults	233
 Nicky's Pizza Give Away Activities	8
Other Fire Prevention Activities	1

Training Statistics

Regular Drills	
Number of Drills	21
Total Firefighters Attending	477
Hours of Instruction	1131.75
Driver Training	
Number of Drills	28
Total Firefighters Attending	79
Hours of Instruction	132
Special Drills	
Number of Drills	232
Total Firefighters Attending	553
Hours of Instruction	2373.5
Career Training	
Number of Drills	62
Total Firefighters Attending	341
Hours of Instruction	672.75
Explorer Training	
Number of Drills	3
Total Firefighters Attending	15
Hours of Instruction	32.5
New Man Training	
Number of Drills	13
Total Firefighters Attending	38
Hours of Instruction	81.5
Total Number of Drills	359
Total Firefighters Attending	1503
Total Hours of Instruction	4424

Emergency Medical Calls

Emergency Medical Services

Total Number of Calls	1926
Number of Emergency Calls	1926
Number of Transport Calls	0
Total Number of Personnel Responding	3866
Daytime EMS Calls	899
Nighttime EMS Calls	1027
1647 Responded	193
1648 Responded	1685
Male Patients Transported	696
Female Patients Transported	1022
Mutual Aid Calls	
West Collingswood Extension	27
Woodlynne	92
Oaklyn	175
Camden City	30
Pennsauken	16
Westmont	181
Gloucester City	1
Cherry Hill	1
West Collingswood Heights	1
Audubon	65
Audubon Park	13
Haddonfield	13
Haddon Heights	2
Merchantville	2
Lawnside	1
Total Mutual Aid:	620

Classifications of Emergency Medical Calls

Other	63
Lifting assist only	34
Unknown	28
Diabetic symptoms	41
Hypoglycemia	2
Hypovolemic (disease)	42
Behavioral Disorder	16
Cardiac Arrest	16
Cardiac Rhythm Disturbance	20
Chest Pains	112
Stroke/CVA	42
Change in Mental Status	55
Airway Obstruction	6
Hypertension	1
Vaginal Hemorrhage	3
Pregnancy/OB Delivery	15
Altered Level of Consciousness	11
Numbness/Loss of Feeling	12
Syncope/Fainting	51
Seizure	55
Hypothermia (Disease)	1
Respiratory Distress	188
Chest Pain/Discomfort	15
Abdominal Pain/Problems	88
Obvious Death	9
Respiratory Arrest	1
Traumatic Hypovolemia	1
Back Pain/Limb Pain	71
Traumatic Injury	438
Alleged Sexual Assault	1
Bleeding/Hemorrhage Not Trauma	46
Poisoning/Drug Ingestion	37
Smoke Inhalation	2
Stings/Venomous Bites	15
Allergic Reaction	9
General Malaise	143
Recalled Prior to Arrival	228
No Response	8

This report was made possible by the through the efforts of the members of the department who are diligent in their record keeping. The creation of this document was completed by Lieutenant John T. Ball Jr.