

Fire Chief's Report

August-2020

Summary

The Bristol Fire Department responded to 402 calls for service with a total of 508 responses including Fire Marshal's Office. For Storm Isaias, the Bristol Fire Department had 151 calls for service with 184 responses August 4th through 5th. This is a difference of 212 more calls from this time period last year. No interior surveys were completed in August due to Covid-19 restrictions.

Personnel

Firefighter Joseph Nazzaro was sworn in on August 6th and began his orientation shifts at HQ on C Shift. He did not have to go to the Recruit Class because he had gone in the Spring of 2019 with UCONN FD.

Firefighters Anthony Bentivengo and Jordan Terrier were sworn in at the August 20th Fire Board meeting in an outdoor ceremony in front of City Hall. Due to the Recruit Class being delayed until September 8th, Bentivengo and Terrier worked Monday through Friday, from August 24th to September 4th, with Training Captain Blaschke on a modified orientation and Recruit Class preparation.

Employee Recognition

All members of the Bristol fire Department who worked during Storm Isaias are to be commended for their efforts. The call volume and amount of damage was not expected. Despite the obstacles the storm placed in front of the members, the members rose to the challenges as the true professionals they are.

I would like to commend the efforts of DC Poggio, who was the DC for the 24 hour period during the storm. Despite the large call volume and Dispatch phones going down, DC Poggio was still able to coordinate the resources available to take care of any and all emergency and non-emergency issues. During the storm the Bristol Fire Department responded to 3 structure fires.

I would also like to commend the efforts of the Bristol Dispatchers. Along with the extremely large call volume, the entire phone system went down in Dispatch. Dispatchers were coordinating calls from their personal cell phones and were relocated to Cheshire Dispatch Center.

Fire Stations/Facilities

The Headquarters Renovation Project: Work continues to progress. Weekly meetings are held at 08:00 every Thursday morning with the principal players to provide updates and address any concerns. Clerk of the Works (Retired BFD Lt) Don Nadeau continues to stay on top of the project ensuring the Fire Department's concerns and best interests are properly handled. The second floor HVAC, ceiling, and kitchen portions of the project are progressing. The first floor offices HVAC and ceiling portions of the project are progressing. On Thursday 8/20 the Fire Marshal's Office and Chief's Office were relocated to Station 4's Training Room and Training Office. Some materials are delayed due to Covid-19 issues. The project is scheduled to be completed on 11/31/2020.

Station 2 Roof Project: A meeting was held on Monday August 31st with the roof contractor, David Oakes, Chief Flynn, and Engine 2 personnel to discuss project details.

Station 3 HVAC: is being further evaluated and solutions are being proposed to get the system working properly.

Station 5 HVAC: is being further evaluated and solutions are being proposed to get the system working properly.

Apparatus

Annual Apparatus Pump Testing and Ladder Testing were held the week of August 10th.

Annual Hurst extrication equipment test was held August 20th-21st.

Meetings and Public Functions

Monday August 1st Statewide Isaias Storm call, Tuesday 4th Emergency Manager's Meeting, Wednesday 5th meeting with Fire Marshal's Office, meeting with Chief Haviland Burlington FD, Thursday 6th HQ Project Meeting, Statewide Storm damage call, Firefighter Nazzaro sworn in at City Hall, Station visits to check generators and propane status, Friday 7th Fire Marshal Clerk Oral Interviews, Tuesday 11th meeting with Dawn Leger regarding FEMA grants, Wednesday 12th Storm Isaias Debriefing, Governor's phone conference, City Council meeting, Thursday 13th HQ Project meeting, FEMA grant Zoom meeting, Meeting with Paster Dustin from Liberty Baptist Church, Monday 17th Ocean State Job Lot for PPE Donation, Tuesday 18th Emergency managers meeting, Site Planning meeting, Wednesday 19th Carousel Museum meeting, Thursday 20th HQ Project meeting, Fire Board meeting, Friday 21st FD Staff meeting, Monday 24th Burlington FD water supply drill, Tuesday 25th Board of Finance meeting, Wednesday 26th Tree issues meeting, Governor's phone conference, Thursday 27th HQ Project meeting, Congressman Larson press conference at Station 4, Friday 28th Fire Station tours with Fire Commissioners, Monday 31st Station 2 roof project meeting.

Miscellaneous

I would like to thank the Commissioners who were able to join us for the tours of the firehouses on Friday the 28th. It was eye opening for the Commissioners to see each station for their good and bad points. From the comments it seems that one of the things that made the most impression was when Captain Blaschke turned on the smoke machine in our Burn Building. The Commissioners got a quick sense of what it is like to be in a light smoke condition in a safe environment.

It is our hope to have the Commissioners observe more of the training we do on a regular basis. This will again give the Commissioners a better perspective on what it is we do on a daily basis and what our needs are.

Respectfully submitted:

Chief Mark Flynn