



2008 ANNUAL REPORT FIRE DEPARTMENT



Palmer Fire District No.1 &
Palmer Water District No.1
Fire Department Annual Report

**PALMER FIRE DISTRICT NUMBER ONE
REPRESENTATIVES**

PRUDENTIAL COMMITTEE

Charles F. Abbate, Sr.
James L. St.Amand
W. Brian Donovan

FIRE DISTRICT CLERK

Charles M. Callahan, III

FIRE DISTRICT TREASURER

William K. Cole

FIRE DISTRICT AUDITOR

Charles M. Callahan, III

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Robert M. Laviolette
David P. Russo
Joseph Mastalerz
John F. Swiatlowski
James Thompson

MODERATOR

Stephen L. Marhelewicz

DISTRICT COUNSEL

Joseph R. White

FIRE DEPARTMENT

In 2008, the Palmer Fire Department responded to 760 calls for service. Of these calls, 392 fire, non-fire, and rescue responses, 368 permits, occupancy and regulatory inspections with numerous fire prevention education activities and pre-plan inspections. The busiest fire and service responses during the weekday was Friday and the busiest time was at 12:00 PM. The total property loss of \$290,900.00 is a significant increase from 2007 totals. There were 2 civilian fire injuries and 2 fire fatalities reported in 2008. A complete statistical report of the years fire/rescue response activities are included in this report.

The department is currently comprised of 3 Full-Time, 20 On-Call Firefighters, 2 Fire Dispatchers, Photographer and Fire Chaplain. The following activities occurred during the year:

- There are 4 Recruit Firefighters enrolled in the 2009 Massachusetts Call/Volunteer Firefighting Academy.
- Reverend Mr. Gary Doane was appointed Fire Department Chaplain

The Palmer Fire Department secured the following grants in 2007:

- Commonwealth of Massachusetts – Bioterrorism – Mass Decontamination Unit Grant - \$3,500.00
- Commonwealth of Massachusetts – Student Awareness of Fire Education (S.A.F.E.) - \$1,941.54
- Commonwealth of Massachusetts – Firefighter Safety Grants - \$5,296.00

Fire Prevention/Education Activities

The Palmer Fire Department maintains awareness of fire prevention and safety procedures to residents of the Town of Palmer. We focus on pre-school children, school children, youth organizations, civic groups, and senior citizens. The Palmer Fire Department maintains a comprehensive fire education program that is interesting and fun for all audiences.

The Palmer Fire Department maintains our relationship with the media to insure that the importance of fire prevention is heard by the public we serve. In conjunction with the "Fire Safety Trailer" and the Fire Safety House" we have added a live "Fire Prevention Magic Show" which has received excellent reviews. All these tools and instructions reduce the number of "children playing with matches and lighters".

The Palmer Fire Department and S.A.F.E. partnership has maintained a positive impact on the Town of Palmer. We hope, for the safety of our citizens, that the S.A.F.E. Program will continue to be funded. It is a proven program. I sincerely thank Fire Prevention Officers James Haley and Laurie Rocco and the Three Rivers and Bondsville Fire Department Fire Prevention Officers for their dedication and commitment to a successful program.

Training and Education

The Palmer Fire Department continues our efforts to increase training and education for command and firefighter staff. This years training and education activities:

- Officers and Firefighters attend training courses offered by the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy.
- Officers and Firefighters attend monthly, bi-monthly, and mandated training programs.
- Officers and Firefighters attend scheduled training and live drills on the deployment and operations the mass decontamination unit in partnership with local, state agencies and the UMass Wing Memorial Hospital staff.

Fire Apparatus and Vehicles

The following is a list of the department's fire apparatus:

Engine 1	2007 Smeal Pumper – 1 year of service
Engine 2	1989 Maxim Pumper – 19 years of service.
Tower 1	1995 Sutphen Aerial Tower – 13 years of service.
Rescue 1	1999 Freightliner Rescue Truck – 9 years of service.
Tanker 1	1992 Mack Tanker – 16 years of service.
Car 1	2004 Chevrolet Tahoe – Chief's Vehicle – 4 year of service.

Car 2	1996 Ford F150- Utility Vehicle – 12 years of service.
MDU	2002 Mass Decontamination Unit – 6 years of service.
TTU	2001 Technical Rescue Trailer – 7 years of service.
UTL	1967 Utility Trailer (Federal Excess Property Program)
ATV	2006 ATV Bombardier 4X4 (Loaner Program from Bombardier and Flamingo Motorsports of Palmer)

FIRE DEPARTMENT STAFF

Officers:

- Chief Alan J. Roy
- *Captain David Pranaitis
- *Lieutenant William Bernat
- *Lieutenant Gerald Senecal
- *Lieutenant Todd Warren
- *Lieutenant Brian Hagge
- Fire Prevention Officer James Haley
- *Fire Prevention Officer Laurie Rocco

Driver/Operators:

- | | |
|--------------------------|----------|
| Firefighter Brian Sizer | Engine 2 |
| Firefighter Mark Baldyga | Tower 1 |
| *Firefighter Sean Snyder | Engine 1 |
| Firefighter David Hebert | Rescue 1 |

Firefighters:

- Firefighter Shawn Doran
- Firefighter David Doyle
- Firefighter David Majka
- *Firefighter Sean Reynolds
- Firefighter Alan Papesh
- *Firefighter Jason Dimotropolis
- *Firefighter Randy Russis
- *Firefighter Roger Woods

Recruits:

Recruit Matthew Tarsa
Recruit Matthew Caulfield
Recruit Joshual Lloyd
Randy Hawley

Dispatchers:

Dispatcher Chester Bedard
Dispatcher Samuel Adams

Staff:

Fire Photographer Bruce French
Fire Chaplain Gary Doane

** Denotes Commonwealth of Massachusetts Firefighter I/II Certified.*

In closing, the department would like to thank our Officers, Firefighters, and Dispatchers for their dedication and professionalism in providing essential services to the community.

I also thank the Prudential Committee, Treasurer William Cole, Finance Committee, the Central Emergency Dispatchers, Police Department, District Fire Departments, Emergency Management, and all town/district departments for their assistance in 2008.

The department thanks the citizens of the fire district for their support in providing the funds and resources necessary to maintain a safe and effective fire/rescue department for today and the future.

Respectfully Submitted,

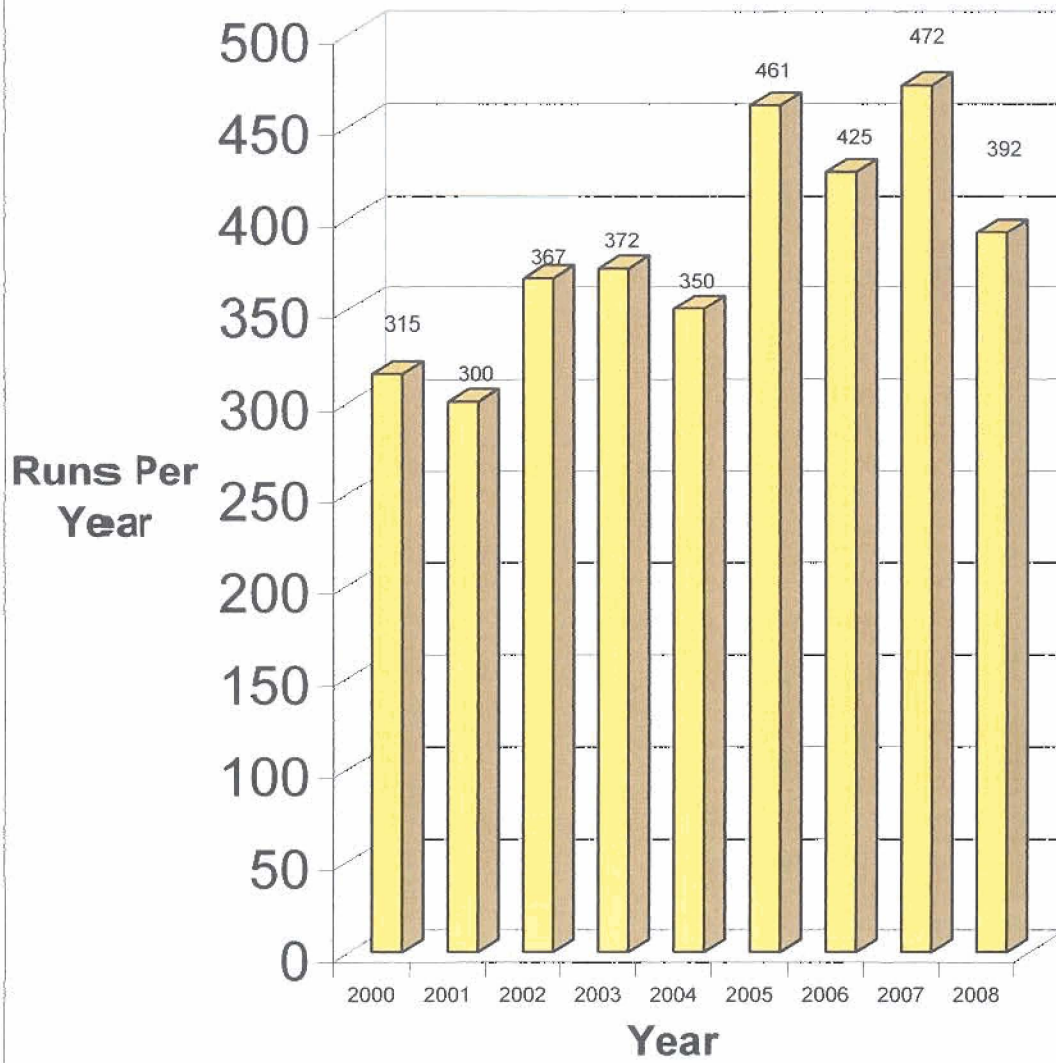
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alan J. Roy', with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Alan J. Roy
Chief of Department

Incident Type

<u>Incident Type</u>	<u>Occurences</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
Building fire	13	3.3
Cooking fire, confined to container	17	4.3
Chimney or flue fire, confined to chimney or flue	4	1.0
Fuel burner/boiler malfunction, fire confined	7	1.8
Passenger vehicle fire	7	1.8
Road freight or transport vehicle fire	1	0.3
Off-road vehicle or heavy equipment fire	1	0.3
Natural vegetation fire, other	2	0.5
Brush, or brush and grass mixture fire	6	1.5
Grass fire	1	0.3
Dumpster or other outside trash receptacle fire	2	0.5
Medical assist, assist EMS crew	3	0.8
Extrication , Rescue, Other	1	0.3
Extrication of victim(s) from building/structure	1	0.3
Extrication of victim(s) from vehicle	6	1.5
Removal of victim(s) from stalled elevator	1	0.3
Extrication of victim(s) from machinery	1	0.3
Watercraft Rescue	1	0.3
Flammable gas or liquid condition, other	3	0.8
Gasoline or other flammable liquid spill	5	1.3
Gas leak (natural gas or LPG)	2	0.5
Oil or other combustible liquid spill	4	1.0
Refrigeration leak	1	0.3
Carbon monoxide incident	14	3.6
Electrical wiring/equipment problem, other	4	1.0
Arcing, shorted electrical equipment	5	1.3
Vehicle accident, general cleanup	30	7.7
Service Call, other	19	4.8
Lock-out	4	1.0
Ring or jewelry removal	1	0.3
Water problem, other	4	1.0
Water evacuation	1	0.3
Water or steam leak	2	0.5
Smoke or odor removal	2	0.5
Animal rescue	1	0.3
Assist police or other governmental agency	4	1.0
Unauthorized burning	48	12.2
Cover assignment, standby, moveup	23	5.9
Good intent call, other	27	6.9
Dispatched & canceled en route	13	3.3
Smoke scare, odor of smoke	24	6.1
False alarm or false call, other	1	0.3
Municipal alarm system, malicious false alarm	1	0.3
System malfunction, other	1	0.3
Sprinkler activation due to malfunction	1	0.3
Smoke detector activation due to malfunction	16	4.1
Heat detector activation due to malfunction	1	0.3
Alarm system sounded due to malfunction	6	1.5
CO detector activation due to malfunction	10	2.6
Sprinkler activation, no fire - unintentional	2	0.5
Extinguishing system activation	1	0.3
Smoke detector activation, no fire - unintentional	9	2.3
Detector activation, no fire - unintentional	1	0.3
Alarm system sounded, no fire - unintentional	13	3.3
Carbon monoxide detector activation, no CO	5	1.3
Lightning strike (no fire)	1	0.3
Citizen complaint	7	1.8
TOTAL	392	100.0

Palmer Fire District No. 1 Yearly Runs 2000 - 2008



Incident Type Category Breakdown

<u>Incident Type Category</u>	<u>Occurences</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
[100-199] Fire/Explosion	61	15.6
[200-299] Overpressure Rupture	0	0.0
[300-399] Rescue Call	14	3.6
[400-499] Hazardous Condition	68	17.3
[500-599] Service Call	109	27.8
[600-699] Good Intent Call	64	16.3
[700-799] False Call	68	17.3
[800-899] Severe Weather/Natural Disaster	1	0.3
[900-999] Special Type/Complaint	7	1.8
Undetermined	0	0.0
TOTAL	392	100.0

For Districts: All

For Situations: All

For Jursidictions: All

For Street(s): All

For Location: All

\$ Loss by Incident Type/Fire District

<u>Incident Type</u>	<u>Fire District</u>	<u>\$ Loss</u>
Building fire	PALMER	\$27,000
Building fire Total Dollar Loss: \$27,000		
Road freight or transport vehicle fire	MASS. TURNPIKE	\$200
Road freight or transport vehicle fire Total Dollar Loss: \$200		
Passenger vehicle fire	PALMER	\$3,400
	MASS. TURNPIKE	\$2,360
Passenger vehicle fire Total Dollar Loss: \$5,760		
Building fire	PALMER	\$60,500
Building fire Total Dollar Loss: \$60,500		
Passenger vehicle fire	MASS. TURNPIKE	\$1,000
	PALMER	\$500
Passenger vehicle fire Total Dollar Loss: \$1,500		
Building fire	PALMER	\$75,000
Building fire Total Dollar Loss: \$75,000		
Passenger vehicle fire	MASS. TURNPIKE	\$20,500
	PALMER	\$5,200
Passenger vehicle fire Total Dollar Loss: \$25,700		
Building fire	PALMER	\$1,000
Building fire	THORNDIKE	\$197,900
	PALMER	\$74,000
Building fire Total Dollar Loss: \$272,900		
Passenger vehicle fire	MASS. TURNPIKE	\$20,240
Passenger vehicle fire Total Dollar Loss: \$20,240		
Building fire	THORNDIKE	\$1,500
Building fire Total Dollar Loss: \$1,500		
 Grand Total Dollar Loss: \$490,300		

Fire District Breakdown

<u>Fire District</u>	<u>Occurences</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
BELCHERTOWN	1	0.3
BONDSVILLE	1	0.3
MONSON	8	2.0
MASS. TURNPIKE	7	1.8
PALMER	295	75.3
Springfield	1	0.3
THORNDIKE	62	15.8
THREE RIVERS	7	1.8
WARE	8	2.0

WARREN / WEST WARREN	1	0.3
WILBRAHAM	1	0.3
TOTAL	392	100.0

Cause of Ignition

<u>Cause_of_Ignition</u>	<u>Occurences</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
Intentional	1	3.2
Unintentional	16	51.6
Cause under investigation	1	3.2
Cause undetermined after investigation	13	41.9
TOTAL	31	100.0

For Districts: All
For Situations: All
For Jursidictions: All
For Street(s): All
For Location: All

Aid Given or Recieved

<u>Aid Given or Recieved</u>	<u>Occurences</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
Mutual aid received	8	2.0
Automatic aid received	1	0.3
Mutual aid given	22	5.6
Automatic aid given	1	0.3
None	360	91.8
TOTAL	392	100.0

For Districts: All
For Situations: All
For Jursidictions: All
For Street(s): All
For Location: All

**PALMER FIRE DISTRICT NO.1
PALMER FIRE – RESCUE
2008 INSPECTION & PERMITS REPORT**

GENERAL PERMITS & INSPECTIONS	
Underground Storage Tank Program Permits and Closures	2
Fire Suppression Systems	2
Sprinkler Systems	3
Fire Alarm Systems	4
Black Powder Storage	1
Ammunitions Storage	1
Liquified Propane Storage	58
Blasting	3
Health Care Facilities	20
Public Schools/Fire Drills	12
Oil Burning Equipment	87
Underground Storage Tank Removal	33
Smoke Detector & Carbon Monoxide Inspections	108
Senior Citizens Smoke Detector Program	6
Non-Criminal Fire Code Violation Notices	28
Total	368