Letter from the Chief

It is with a tremendous sense of honor that I present this 2011 Annual Report to the citizens of the Bartlett Fire Protection District. I present this report humbly from the leadership of the Bartlett Fire Protection District’s Board of Trustees and the compassionate and courageous work of the men and women of the Fire District.

This is the first year this report has been submitted in this format. The change from the typical verbiage based report to this style is to aim at and connect more at the audience of our residents. The Bartlett Fire District exists to serve its residents and this report attempts to communicate just how we work to accomplish that.

It is incredibly important to highlight that the work our Fire District accomplishes today is possible due to the efforts and dedication of the men and women who served the Fire District all the way back to 1897. The tremendous character that exists today is a culmination of 115 plus years of dedicated individuals serving the Bartlett community.

The Bartlett Fire Protection District today consists of a total of 73 personnel, including full-time, part-time, and a small group of contract employees as well. This dedicated staff is educated and trained to serve the residents in every facet of emergency planning and response. This includes all types of fire, emergency medical services, water rescue, hazardous materials, technical rescue, and many other emergency scenes. In addition, the District is directly responsible and sworn to enforce the applicable fire codes adopted by the different governing bodies. This fire prevention effort is coupled with a very progressive and comprehensive public fire education plan that aims targeted programs at different age groups within the community.

The future of the Bartlett Fire Protection District is incredibly bright. There is a tremendously positive spirit within the organization that is an essential building block to providing quality public service. The development of personnel and delivery of high quality and compassionate service to our residents are the highest priorities over the next several years. These objectives coupled with a very appropriate budget strategy and financial plan are essential for the future success of the District.

It is my hope that this report provides important information to you and answers questions that you may have. I also hope it raises your interest and maybe even helps you form additional questions for us. I offer a sincere invitation to you to visit one of our fire stations and see the operations of the Fire District. I also invite you to visit my office and share your thoughts, questions, and or concerns with me at any time.

Michael W. Falese
Fire Chief
Bartlett Fire Department

Special Thanks to Roshni Delwadia for her help in preparing the annual report.

2011 Accomplishments
• Received the “Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting” award from the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada.
• Selected an architect and construction management firm to work closely with the redesigning of Fire Station #2
• Integrated a concerted effort to communicate with residents and resident groups about the Bartlett Fire Protection District initiatives and endeavors. These strategies included:
  1. Homeowners association meetings
  2. Newspaper press releases
  3. “After The Fire” neighborhood meetings

2012 Goals
• Transition the District’s portable, mobile, and base radios to a new DuPage County digital radio system.
• Replace the retiring Assistant Chief.
• Reevaluate Fire District fire prevention goals, codes, and fee structure.
• Renovate the Fire Station #1 lobby.
• Continue reaching out to residents about Fire District information through the groups mentioned above
• Implement a new community and resident targeted annual report

District Emergency Incident Statistics

Calls for Service by Call Type:

- Rescue & Emergency Medical: 72%
- False Alarms & Good Intent Calls: 17%
- Service Calls: 7%
- Hazardous Situations: 4%

Total Incident Responses: 3,206
Facilities and Staffing

Minimum Daily Emergency Response Staffing = 14

234 North Oak Avenue
Bartlett, IL 60103
(630) 837-3701

Engine 1
3 Firefighters
Medic 1
2 Paramedics

1575 West Bartlett Rd
Bartlett, IL 60103

Ladder Truck 3
3 Firefighters
Battalion 3
1 Battalion Chief

501 Struckman Blvd
Bartlett, IL 60103

Engine 2
3 Firefighters
Medic 2
2 Paramedics
When Firefighter/Paramedics are not busy responding to emergencies, they spend a lot of time training. These training sessions ensure that their skills are at their best. More importantly, these drills keep the emergency response personnel up-to-date with the necessary certifications required by the state of Illinois and other regulatory agencies.

There are many techniques that the crews are trained in. Below are a few of the most commonly executed drills:

- **Live Fire Training:**
  The live fire training tower provides firefighter/paramedics with opportunities to train in a fire environment. Here they practice pulling and advancing hoselines, proper hydrant usage, and fire pump engineering.

- **Auto Extrication:**
  The firefighter/paramedics train regularly for situations involving vehicle entrapped victims. Firefighters practice techniques using a hydraulic device (the Jaws of Life) and many other extrication tools.

- **Ice Rescue:**
  Since winter in the midwest is inevitable, the crews train annually on ice rescue exercises. The firefighters stage real ice rescue scenarios and practice saving each other from ice holes in local ponds.

- **Rural Water Drills:**
  Through joint efforts with Hoffman Estates and Streamwood Fire Departments, mutual aid operating guidelines were created for situations where water is not directly available (no hydrants) for firefighting. The firefighter/paramedics practice fire operations using portable water tanks, water tenders, and large supply hoses to better prepare for rural fires.

The Bartlett Fire Protection District makes training a daily component in the firefighters’ lives. Routine training ensures that Fire District personnel are well prepared and better able to serve and protect our community.

**Total EMS incidents for 2011: 2,229**

Our Emergency Medical Services Division works to enhance the quality of life in the community by providing the highest level of pre-hospital medical care possible with the aim to improve the patient outcomes of catastrophic illness and serious injury.

- **Emergency Medical Dispatch (EMD):**
  When a 9-1-1 call is placed for an injured or sick person, the dispatcher guides the call through protocols that may help save the victim’s life. Among these protocols are CPR and 24 other basic first aid techniques. A common misconception is that the EMD assistance delays the dispatch and ultimate arrival of the ambulance. This is not true. While one dispatcher is giving the 9-1-1 caller medical instructions, another dispatcher is simultaneously dispatching the ambulance.

- **Where will the ambulance take you?**
  If the patient’s condition is life-threatening, firefighter/paramedics will transport the patient to the closest hospital in order to ensure timely care and stabilization. However, for non-life-threatening medical transports, the patient may select transportation to one of four area hospitals. The hospitals that the Bartlett Fire District transports to are:

  - Sherman Hospital, Elgin
  - St. Alexius Medical Center, Hoffman Estates
  - Provena St. Joseph’s Medical Center, Elgin
  - Central Dupage Hospital, Winfield

**EMS Goals for 2012**

Relatively new, but proven, scientific evidence shows that reducing the core temperature of a patient after cardiac arrest can significantly improve the long-term patient recovery. The Bartlett Fire Protection District ambulances will receive new equipment and paramedics will be trained on new policies to begin performing hypothermia treatment in 2012.
Bartlett Fire District’s Open House:

Once a year the Fire District opens its doors to allow the community to explore and discover how the Fire District operates. Among many displays, this past year’s open house included car extrications, a sprinkler demonstration, as well as a live helicopter landing on site. Additional activities included hands-on experiences where children sprayed water at a flame house prop, slid a fire pole, and toured the vehicles. To show their support, Sherman, St. Alexius, and CDH hospitals, joined the Fire District along with many others to make this event fun and educational for all age groups.

Public involvement

We believe that the most effective way to truly educate the public about fire and fire safety is to talk to them on a personal level. This year’s public outreach included:

- 37 scheduled station tours
- 12 ride along participants
- 2 “Firefighter for the Day” participants
- 78 class room visits where 2,049 students were taught fire safety
- “Firefighter for the Day” participants
- 12 ride along participants
- 85 class room visits where 2,049 students were taught fire safety

.31 Cent Scoop Night at Baskin-Robbins

Bartlett Fire Protection District firefighters/paramedics served ice cream to the local residents to help raise funds for the “National Fallen Firefighters Foundation.” With thanks to Baskin-Robbins for hosting this event, a generous donation was made to help those who were injured while protecting their communities.

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Fire Prevention Bureau

The Bartlett Fire Prevention Bureau conducts annual fire and life safety inspections at businesses in Bartlett and unincorporated areas of DuPage and Cook Counties. Annually, Fire District personnel inspect approximately 540 locations. The purpose of the inspection program is to identify items that may cause fire or life safety issues. Following inspection, the inspectors work with the business owners to correct these issues.

Listed below are some of the more common items that need to be maintained to protect the safety of all occupants:

- Fire Extinguishers
  All businesses are required to have a fire extinguisher and have the extinguisher checked on an annual basis by a recognized service company. Annual servicing ensures that the extinguisher will be operational if needed.

- Emergency Lights
  Emergency lights are needed to illuminate the path to an exit. These lighting units contain batteries and operate upon loss of power to help people locate the exits. The batteries on these units need to be replaced on a regular basis. Non-working emergency lights is one of the most common violations found on inspections.

- Exit Signs
  Exit signs help people locate the way out of a building in the event of an emergency. These signs contain battery backup power in the event of a power loss. It is common to find non-working units due to burned out bulbs and battery failure.

- Lock Box
  Buildings with fire alarm or fire sprinkler systems are required to have a lock box. The lock box is a secure box that is mounted on the building to which the Fire Department has access in the event of an emergency. The lock box allows emergency response crews to gain access to a building without causing damage. When changing keys to a building, it is important to notify the Fire District so the keys in the lock box can be changed.

- Fire Alarm and Sprinkler Systems
  Installed fire alarm and fire sprinkler systems are very important components of a building’s life safety system. Fire alarm and fire sprinkler systems are required to be inspected and operated on an annual basis to ensure they will work in an emergency.

- Fire Extinguishers
  All businesses are required to have a fire extinguisher and have the extinguisher checked on an annual basis by a recognized service company. Annual servicing ensures that the extinguisher will be operational if needed.

The District appreciates the cooperation from the business community in maintaining fire safe buildings!
Bartlett Fire Protection District Milestones

December 22, 1897

26 Bartlett men gathered for the purpose of creating a volunteer fire department.

Elmer Hecht is hired as the District’s first full-time Fire Chief.

July 1968

The department moved into the completed Fire Station #1 at 234 North Oak Avenue.

October 1973

An agreement was drawn up to participate in the multi-agency dispatching service provided by DuPage County Communications (DuComm).

March 1976

Kevin Heine, the first full-time firefighter is hired by the District.

November 1979

The volunteer-based fire district enters into a contract with a private company to provide 24-hour hour paramedic staffing at Fire Station 1.

November 1980

Six Sworn full-time firefighters/paramedics are hired to staff Fire Station 1 & 2.

August 1986

New station #2 at 501 Struckman Boulevard was completed for part-time personnel.

January 1992

The volunteer-based fire district enters into a contract with a private company to provide 24-hour hour paramedic staffing at Fire Station 1.

October 2008

The fire department hosts the “Pink Heals Tour” and with combined efforts of area residents and schools, helped to raise $11,000 that was donated to the Alexian Brothers Foundation to offset costs to local cancer patients.

September 2009

Fire Station #3 was dedicated and opened for service with full-time staff.

BEGINNING

TODAY
Significant Incidents

February 1st, 2011: Snow Storm
The snow started falling on late Monday evening and continued well into the next day in the Chicago-land area. Bartlett was hit with over 20 inches of snow and high winds. In anticipation of the predicted storm, the Fire District increased emergency staff and placed a pick-up truck with a snow plow in service, which responded ahead of emergency response vehicles. This plow also provided a path for the ambulances during transport to the area hospitals.

November 3rd, 2011: Train Derailment
On a chilly Thursday morning, a long freight train derailed near Spaulding Road, outside of Bartlett corporate limits, but within the Bartlett Fire Protection District. Twenty-two cars derailed, three were on fire and two full acid tankers rolled off the tracks and into a ditch. Bartlett Fire officers assumed command over the incident with more than 37 fire departments, police, state, and federal agencies responding to the emergency. While the emergency was mitigated in 23 hours, the clean-up continued over the following 10 days. No homes or people were harmed in the incident.

After The Fire Meetings:
After a significant event, such as a house fire, Fire District personnel will frequently meet with the affected neighborhood and discuss the incident. In that meeting, members of the crews will discuss what they saw, their actions, and essentially what their responsibility was at the incident. District members will also talk about things that residents can do to prevent the same incident from occurring again. Residents have a chance to ask questions and provide comments.

Homeowner Association meetings:
The area served by the Bartlett Fire Protection District is large and includes many townhomes, condominiums, and home owner associations. The Fire Chief makes it a priority to make himself available to speak with these associations at their meetings. The Chief presents an overview of the District and answers questions from the group. If anyone is interested in having the Chief attend their meeting, call Fire Administration at (630) 837-3701.

Community Outreach

In the Fall of 2011, the Bartlett Fire District flew this flag atop their ladder truck to honor the return of a local soldier to welcome him home to his family.

The Bartlett Fire District recently procured a remnant of a steel beam belonging to one of the Twin Towers from New York City. A memorial site for the lives lost will be erected at Station #1 in the following year.
Budget and Tax Levy

We took a look at the tax rates of 15 neighboring fire districts. We are proud to say that we have the 2nd lowest tax rate among these districts. The districts we viewed were: Algonquin, Big Rock, Bloomingdale, Burlington, Carol Stream, East Dundee, Elburn, Hampshire, Huntley, North Aurora, Pingree Grove, Rutland Dundee, South Elgin, Warrenville, and West Chicago.

**The above graph does not reflect values in the order they were listed.**

GFOA AWARD

We’re proud to inform you that we received a very distinguished award.

The Bartlett Fire Protection District was awarded the Certificate of Achievement from the Government Finance Officers Association.

This award recognizes government agencies that go above and beyond the minimum requirements of generally accepted governmental accounting principles.

“Due to the rigor of financial management required, only a few Illinois Fire Districts have been presented this prestigious award. This award recognizes well organized financial spending, which benefits the community.” According to the Government Finance Officers Association.

Where does my tax money go??

We are proud to say that we have achieved our goal of keeping our tax rates low. Below we give you a comparison of where your tax money goes. The Bartlett Fire District strives to keep your taxes low and service quality at the highest standard possible.

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<th>Cook County</th>
<th>Dupage County</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>92%</strong></td>
<td><strong>94%</strong></td>
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Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting

Presented to Bartlett Fire Protection District Illinois

For its Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for the Fiscal Year Ended December 31, 2010

A Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting is presented by the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada to government units and public employee retirement systems whose comprehensive annual financial reports (CAFRs) achieve the highest standards in government accounting and financial reporting.

Linda C. Davidson
President

Jeffrey L. Ever
Executive Director
Discover More About Us

Facebook: Bartlett Fire Protection District
Check us out on Facebook to receive local fire news, updates, and safety tips for fire prevention and extreme weather conditions.

Website: www.Bartlettfire.com
Our website provides detailed descriptions of the Bartlett Fire Protection District. Here you can find information on history, staffing, new training, safety tips, and local public education events that occur annually. The website is the perfect place to see what we have been doing to better serve the Bartlett community.

FAQ:
Q: Who answers the 9-1-1 call?
A: All Bartlett fire, EMS, and police emergency calls are answered by DU-COMM, an intergovernmental communications agency that provides centralized communications for most police and fire departments in Dupage County. 9-1-1 Calls are immediately dispatched to the appropriate fire station, apparatus, and personnel.

Q: Why does the dispatcher ask so many questions?
A: The dispatcher is required to ask as many questions as necessary to gather pertinent information about your emergency call. They relay the information you provide directly to the emergency personnel en route to better prepare the firefighter/paramedics for your specific situation. It is in your best interest to answer as many questions as you can but you are not required to do so and may decline at any time. Also, the 9-1-1 dispatchers are trained to provide pre-arrival instructions to the caller on emergency medical situations. The dispatcher will provide emergency first-aid to the phone caller while firefighter/paramedics are en route to the incident. These instructions DO NOT delay the emergency dispatch and response of the fire department.

Q: Why do fire engines and ambulances from other departments respond to Bartlett calls?
A: The Bartlett Fire Protection District has agreements with neighboring fire departments that include mutual aid. Neighboring fire and EMS vehicles respond into Bartlett when they may be closer than our apparatus or when all of our resources are committed on a simultaneous incident. Fire District personnel often respond to other communities to provide similar assistance. Simply put, the Bartlett Fire Protection District, in conjunction with neighboring departments, work together to provide the timeliest and most efficient care to our residents.

Contacts

Emergency Services: 9-1-1
- Emergency Medical Services (EMS)
- Fire suppression

Non-Emergency Services: (630) 837-3701
- CPR and First Aid training • Incident reports
- Disaster and crisis planning
- Fire prevention • Building inspections
- Fire Investigations • Fire code enforcement
- Lock box questions
- Smoke detector installation and replacement
- Fire Station Tours
- General Fire Department questions