



ISSUE 48

Newsletter Date 12/01/2015

# BFD Times

## Our Lady of the Angels Catholic School

On December 1, 1958, a fire broke out in the basement of Our Lady of the Angels catholic school in Chicago, educational home to approximately 1,600 students in Kindergarten through 8th grade.

While legally in compliance with the fire safety laws of the time, the school was woefully unprepared for any kind of fire. There was only one fire escape, no sprinklers, no automatic fire alarm, no smoke or heat detectors, no alarm connected to the fire department, no fire-resistant stairwells and no fire-safe doors from the stairwells to the second floor.

Was It Arson?

Although the cause has never been officially determined, all indications point to arson. A boy (age 10 at the time, and a fifth grader in room 206) later confessed to setting the blaze, but subsequently recanted his confession. He was more afraid of confessing to his mother and step-father than to the police. Officially, the cause of the fire remains unknown.



The fire started in the basement sometime between 2:00 and 2:20 that cold December afternoon, in a cardboard trash barrel at the foot of the northeast stairwell.

The fire burned undetected for an estimated 15 to 30 minutes, gradually filling the stairwell with super hot gases and smoke. In the intense heat, a window at the foot of the stairwell shattered, giving the smoldering fire a new supply of oxygen.

The wooden staircase itself burst into flames and, acting like a chimney, sent super hot gases, fire and smoke swirling up the stairwell. The first floor landing was equipped with a heavy wooden door which effectively blocked the fire and heat from entering the first floor hallway. But the second floor landing had no doors - the fire, smoke and heat were free to roam the second floor halls at will.

As the fire was climbing (consuming) the stairway, a pipe chase running from the basement to the cockloft above the second floor ceiling gave the superheated gases a direct route to the attic, where the temperature rapidly rose higher and higher until it finally reached ignition temperature.

Eighty-seven children and three nuns died on December 1, 1958 as a result of the Our Lady of the Angels fire. Three more critically injured children died before Christmas followed by two more in 1959, the last one on August 9. In the end, 92 children and 3 nuns perished, bring the ghastly death toll to a staggering 95. Fire Safety requires vigilance. We must continue to ensure that occupancies where we work, play, sleep, and go to school are at or exceed minimum fire & life safety standards or history is destined to repeat itself.

### Important Dates:

**Officers Meeting is:  
Wednesday,  
January 20th**

### Happy Birthday To:

Darcy Crisp 12/3

Mike Lavoie 12/25

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Our Lady of the Angels Catholic School	1
Coffee Break Training	2
SOG REVIEW	3
Belmont Fire Department's 2015 YTD Statistics	3



## Coffee Break Training - Training and Professional Development

### Professional Development in the Modern Fire Service, Part 2 of 3

**Learning Objective:** *The students will be able to understand the concept and tools of professional development as a lifelong commitment to their own education and safety.*

**W**e left our last discussion with the definition of professional development. Now we will take a look at some of the tools we may use to achieve our professional development goals.

Henry Ford has been quoted as saying, “If you always do what you’ve always done, you’ll always get what you’ve always got.”

Our current system promotes leadership by the oldest (most experienced) of our group. Without taking anything away from anyone, we can identify those leaders who are excellent tacticians and Incident Commanders. But would you trust them to manage your bills? On the other hand, we can all identify leaders who really understand business and know how to work a boardroom. But would you trust them to command a dumpster fire?

Our current education and training system is moving away from the redundancy found in requiring students who take a course through their department training division to then repeat the same material for college credit. This was a traditional waste of resources.

The U.S. Fire Administration (USFA) is working collaboratively with the fire and emergency services professional development community to standardize training, education, experience and certification activities and create a national, competency-based professional development system. The national system will help to eliminate duplication of efforts and enhance the overall professional development of the fire and emergency services.

**Education:** The National Professional Development Model and Matrix and the Fire and Emergency Services Higher Education (FESHE) standardized courses were developed as our guides to professional success. You may find them at

[http://www.usfa.fema.gov/training/prodev/about\\_feshe.html](http://www.usfa.fema.gov/training/prodev/about_feshe.html).

Over 80 colleges and universities have been recognized by USFA for their commitment to teaching the standardized core courses to achieve the rigorous learning outcomes defined by the FESHE curriculum committees.

Education and training go hand in hand. How many chapters did you read or lectures did you attend before you were allowed to hit the training ground? Education without training remains only theory. We all agree that responding to life-threatening incidents without training or education only ensures chaos and disaster.

Find out more by going to <http://www.usfa.fema.gov/training/prodev/>.

**Summary:** Education plays just one important part in our professional development system. Next, we will look at the significance of training.

**Created by:** Michael McCabe, USFA Education Program Specialist.

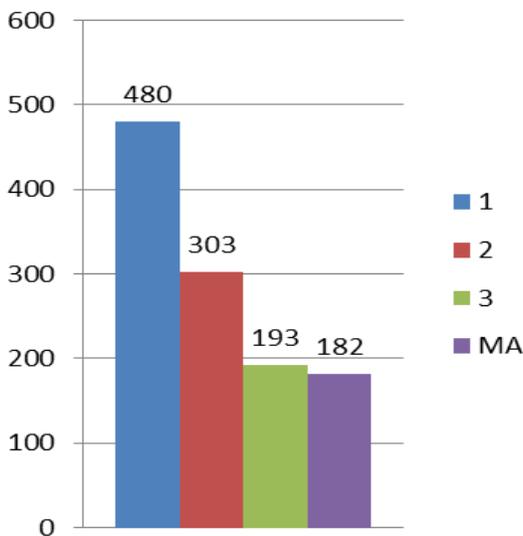
# SOG REVIEW

Starting this month, the BFD Times will have a new feature called “SOG Review.” Each month we will identify one department SOG to review and discuss. Officers are encouraged to review each SOG presented with their crews and to enter a training record into Firehouse when completed. This month we will discuss **SOG OPS 10-001 Initial Fire Attack**. This SOG is rated as a HRLF event and is therefore considered a critical document. The purpose of the SOG is to outline guidelines for initial attack during fire operations. As we are all aware, each and every fire incident is unique, and as such, we must quickly conduct a risk-benefit analysis before beginning any operations. This SOG provides responders with a tool to assist them with this analysis. One of the most important concepts of this SOG is for the responders to determine if victims are known to be or suspected to be in the hazard zone and are unable to self evacuate, and in the opinion of the officer in charge, the situation is tenable (safe). If the responders determine that this is the situation, every effort will be made to safely rescue the victims prior to having the minimum number of personnel (4) on scene. If the situation is that all viable victims are accounted for and the situation is untenable, initial operations shall begin from outside the imminent hazard area until such time there are sufficient personnel on scene to safely proceed within the hazardous area. This is not an easy decision for most of us as we want to be aggressive firefighters and always attack the fire. The key to this SOG is determining if the situation is tenable or not. To make this decision, the OIC must consider the extent and location of the fire upon arrival, building construction, available resources and responding resources, and most importantly what is the probability of success. To successfully complete this task responders must be familiar with buildings in their response area (in our case, this is the entire town), available water supply, and district run cards. This is one reason why pre-planning and shift training is so critical. Take a few minutes each shift to review some occupancies and discuss how to apply this SOG to each occupancy!

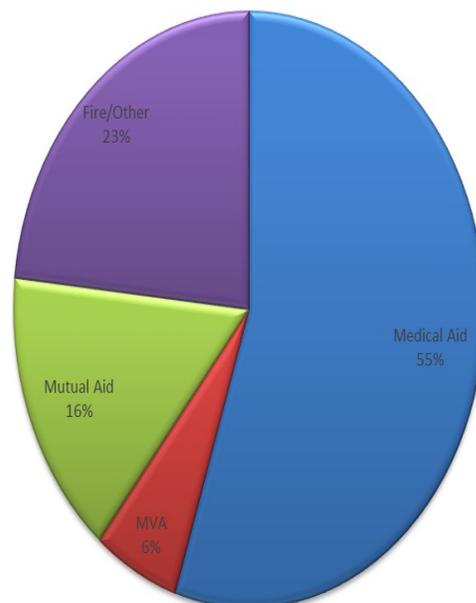
HR	HR
LF	HF
LR	LR
LF	HF

## Belmont Fire Department’s 2015 YTD Statistics

**2015 Incidents by District**



**2015 YTD Alarm Type Summary**



Belmont Fire Department  
PO Box 837  
14 Gilmanton Rd  
Belmont, NH 03220

Phone: 603-267-8333  
Fax: 603-267-8337  
E-mail: bfd@belmontnh.org



*"In Omnia Paratus"*  
*(In all things ready)*

*Follow Us on  
Twitter  
#BFDNH*



*Visit our  
Facebook  
Page @  
Belmont Fire Department*



### **BFD Mission Statement**

The mission of the Belmont Fire Department is to provide fire, emergency medical, and fire prevention services in a caring and compassionate manner. To be prepared to respond to any request for assistance and to ensure that every member of the department returns home safely.

### **BFD Vision Statement**

The Belmont Fire Department will continuously work to meet the changing needs of our community by striving to be the premiere fire department in the Lakes Region. We will do this by maintaining a high level of readiness and by focusing on the professional development and training of all our personnel.

## **OUR CORE VALUES**

All members of the Belmont Fire Department adhere to the following values:

**Service** - We strive for excellence in the service we deliver through on-going evaluation and involvement.

**Teamwork** - We embrace the concept of teamwork through skillful communication and personal cooperation to achieve our common goal.

**Accountability** - We are responsible, as professionals and individuals, for our actions.

**Integrity** - We act ethically, we expect honesty, loyalty and dedication.

**Respect** - We practice mutual respect by setting a personal example of trust and fairness.