



# THE LINE BOX

Volume 10, No. 2

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## Boston Multiple Alarms October – November 2013

Date	Box	District	Address	Building Type
10/11	2-2911	D-12	112 Beech Street	2.5 story wood frame
10/26	2-5184	D-11	56-58 Ridgemont St	2.5 story wood frame
10/28	4-294	D-12	Washington @ LaGrange Sts. Stony Brook Reservation	Extensive brush
10/29	2-294	D-12	Washington @ LaGrange Sts. Stony Brook Reservation	Extensive brush
11/03	4-3421	D-8	44-46 Colonial Ave.	3 story wood frame
11/16	2-2182	D-9	100 Seaver St.	4 story brick apartment
11/26	2-3537	D-12	14 Hildreth St	
11/23	2-2171		10 Wyoming St	2.5 story wood frame
11/27	3-		19 Pond Circle	



Not everyday Boston transmits multiple alarms for extensive brush, These two photos are companies working at the fourth alarm for the fire in the Stony Brook Reservation. Photos courtesy of the Boston Fire Department.

### ***APPARATUS NEWS – FALL 2013***

By Michael Boynton  
All photos by the Author

We seem to hit a bit of a lull here in the Fall of 2013 in terms of new apparatus deliveries. In the Metro Fire area, only Somerville has received a new piece since our last update. Somerville took delivery of a new 2013 Pierce Arrow XT 95' MMA for Tower 1. Outside of the Metro area, Gloucester received their new Engine 2, Salem's new Tower Ladder 2 arrived in the City, and Bourne welcomed a new Engine 121. And, way out west, Plainfield, MA placed their new Tanker 2 in service while a little closer to home Princeton acquired a 1998 Pierce Quantum from Virginia.

We tip our cap to our friends at the Box 4 Special Services Association in Worcester as they place their new Rehab Canteen Unit 1 in service. This 2013 Freightliner/Mobile Kitchen Equipment rig will provide much needed relief to fire and emergency scenes throughout Central Massachusetts. Like their colleagues at the Boston Sparks, Rehab 5, and the Providence Canteen, we thank all of these volunteers for their great help to the Fire Service.

Looking toward the end of 2013 (Dreaded Winter) and into 2014, several communities will be receiving new apparatus, starting with Boston who will soon receive 5 new KME Foam pumpers and a new Spartan/EVI Decon Unit. Brookline, Everett, Lynn, Massport, Malden, Medford, Needham, Quincy, Revere, Stoneham, Wakefield, Waltham, and Weymouth also have new apparatus on order with delivery expected in 2014. Plenty to keep us busy as we close one year and start anew in '14!

### **DELIVERIES**

#### ***METROFIRE***

Brookline – Quint 5 – Expected To Be Reassigned As Quint 4 - That Rig To Be Reserve  
Randolph – Squad 2 – Place 1986 Chevrolet Military 125/250 Into Service

Somerville – Tower 1 – NEW 2013 Pierce Arrow XT 95' MMA

***OUTSIDE METRO BOSTON***

Bourne – Engine 121 – NEW 2013 E-One Typhoon 1250/750/30F

Foxborough – Ladder 26 – Returned To Service From Greenwood Rehab

Framingham – Engine 7 – Returned To Service With New Paint Scheme

Gloucester – Engine 2 – NEW 2013 Pierce Arrow XT 1500/750/30F

Norfolk – Ladder 1 – Returned To Service With New Paint Scheme

Plainfield – Tanker 2 – NEW 2013 International/V-Tec 1000/3000

Princeton – Engine 2 – “New” 1998 Pierce Quantum 1500/750/30F

Salem – Tower Ladder 2 – NEW 2013 Pierce Arrow XT 95' RMA



The sisters, Somerville and Salem's new Pierce Towers





Foxborough, after decades still specs. white fire apparatus



Framingham Engine 7



Gloucester Engine 2



Impressive tanker for the western Mass. Town of Plainfield!



Princeton's Pierce Quantum



Editor Mark Roche has prepared this special report on the simultaneous multiple alarm fires in Newton on Tuesday October 29<sup>th</sup>, 2013

**Newton 03-932, 285 Nahanton Street**



**STILL @ 1922:** Ledgebrook Condominiums, 285 Nahanton St. (Chimney Fire)  
**E-10, L-2, C-2** (D.C. Jimenez)  
**Box 932** by E-10 @ 1930: (Lt. Sbordone) **E-7, E-3, L-1** (RIT), Cataldo Medic I  
**Working Fire @ 1935** by C-2: (D.C. Jimenez) **Coverage:** C-6 (D.C. Thorne) City  
**Coverage:** Watertown **E-2** to Station 1, Weston **E-1** to Station 2  
**02-932 @ 1940** by C-2: (D.C. Jimenez) **E-2, E-4 w/ERU, L-3, C-1** (Chief Proia), C-3 (A.C. Chagnon), H-1 (Safety Officer)  
**Coverage:** Waltham **L-2** to Station 2, Brookline **L-2** to Station 3, Wellesley **E-2** to Station 7  
**03-932 @ 1951** by C-1 (Chief Proia) **E-1**, Boston **E-51**, Boston D-11 (DFC Hogan), K-1 (D.C. Castro),  
**Coverage:** Brookline **E-1** to Station 3, Waltham **E-1** to Station 4, Needham **E-4** to Station 10  
**Special Call** additional ladder @ 2022 by C-1 (Chief Proia) Waltham **L-2**  
**Coverage:** Boston **L-11** to Station 2.

**Newton 02-342, 499 Crafts Street**



**Box 342** transmitted @ 2222, 499 Crafts St.  
Waltham **E-1**, Watertown **E-2**, Weston **E-1**, Boston **L-11**, Newton C-6 (D.C. Thorne), Cataldo Medic II  
**02-342 @ 2230** by C-6) Brookline **E-1**, Needham **E-4**, Wellesley **E-2**, Brookline **L-2**  
Newton C-1 (Chief Proia), Boston D-11 (DFC Hogan), Watertown C-2 (D.C. Iannetta)

Waltham C-2 (D.C. MacInnis), Brookline C-2 (D.C. Flaherty)

**Special Call** Additional engine & ladder

Waltham **E-2**, Boston **L-26**

**Coverage:** C-4 (D.C. Carvelli) City coverage

Belmont **E-1** to Station 4, Cambridge **E-9** to Station 2, Somerville **L-3** to Station 2,

Boston **E-3** to Station 3, Cambridge **L-1** to Station 3, Dedham **E-2** to Station 7.

(NOTE: One male occupant trapped on the third level was rescued by firefighters and transported to the hospital by Cataldo Medic II in critical condition. The man was released one-week later and walked out of the hospital due to the heroic accomplishments of multiple agencies working together to save a life. The rescue effort was conducted in the highest tradition of the fire service)

### STRANGE FIRE DUTY



On Oct. 29<sup>th</sup> Lexington Firefighters battled a stubborn fire in an asphalt melting machine under Route 2. Photo courtesy of LFD.

### FIRE TRAINS

Railroaders are a unique breed. To them, there is no such thing as good enough, they look to improve and innovate wherever possible. Get a group of railroaders together for long enough and odds are they will combine their insight and know-how to improve the world around them, to help others. That desire to be helpful along with a knack for practical application is how BNSF's firefighting train came to be. In 2007, Northwest Division GM Doug Jones (currently AVP Safety and Tech Training) challenged his team with creating a unique concept for fighting fires along the BNSF right of way. Employees from mechanical, work equipment and water service pooled their resources to build a specialized railcar capable of extinguishing flames from the track.

"We took a log car and removed the brackets to create a blank canvas," says Ryan Risdon, Mechanical Foreman, Pasco. "Work equipment built upper platforms on both sides of the car and water services outfitted all of the plumbing and fixtures." Based out of Spokane, Wash. the firefighting train is made up of two tender cars, a fire car and a caboose that serves as a command center. The tender cars contain thousands of gallons of water and the fire car is equipped with aqueous fire-fighting foam (AFFF). An on board generator in the caboose provides power for the cars and can also be used to power work lights, radios and other emergency equipment.

We were just putting the final stenciling on when it was called down to California where a wild fire was headed toward a wooden trestle on our right of way," recalls Risdon, himself a volunteer firefighter. "The system is a boon to firefighters because there is no need to run hose. You can spray a huge water stream right from the deck of the car. We can reach about 300 feet up an embankment." The firefighting train is also useful in overhaul service after fires

have been put out “Not only can [it] be used to fight fire directly, or to refill equipment, but we often use it to spray down the right of way to prevent flare ups after the fire has been contained,” says Risdon.

BNSF has also placed several water-filled tank cars in strategic positions along the Northwest Division according to a fire protection plan. Each car is equipped with the proper connections so that local fire fighters can refill their equipment or rig hoses directly to the cars to spray water. “[The firefighting train] and our tender cars allow us to get water into spots where fire departments traditionally cannot,” says Victor Ahlf, Mechanical Foreman, Spokane. “It’s like having a pond on wheels.”

The firefighting train has been dispatched to help fight fires in Washington, Idaho, Oregon and Colorado. “Anytime there is a fire within five hours of Spokane we’ll usually send [it] out to help,” says Ahlf.



## TOY FIRE TRAINS

Trains and Christmas just seem to go together. I am sure that many of us remember the displays of Lionel and American Flyer train sets outside of the Enchanted Village at Jordan Marsh.



Today, Box 52 has many members who are either model railroaders and/or railfans.

I did a little research and found that Lionel Trains over the years has made it possible to combine or two hobbies. Starting in the late 50's and continuing up through this decade, they have produced many varied fire, medical and emergency response cars.

So, pour yourself an eggnog and enjoy.

The first car produced was the # 52 Fire Car. It has a bumper at each end and when it strikes an object it reverses direction.



The original # 52



Re-released in PRR livery



In Canadian Pacific livery



As a New York Central unit

Next we have the Fireman and Ladder car. The light flashes and the ladder can extend, the firefighter rotates around as the car is pulled down the track. Several versions have appeared since it first rolled down the track in 1959. And it has also appeared in several colors and liveries.



And like any good fire department, training is key to operations. The firefighters of Lionelville have mobile training cars that bring them the latest in firefighting methods!



Lionel also made some fire and rescue train sets.....



In 2009 Lionel produced this American Fire Rescue Set, it also had an add-on tank car.



1998 saw this special set sold with out any track or transformer. It had a modified # 52 fire car that was equipped with a coupler.

### NOVEMBER 2013 MEEING

At the November 2013 meeting, member Paul Boudreau, who is also President of the Boston Sparks Association was our guest speaker. He arranged for the Sparks to display Re-hab units A-10 and A-11. And a surprise visitor was the BFD's TCU! All photos are by Member Bill Wilderman.







### **OUTLAST UNIFORM**

For the old timer, which includes this editor, back in the late 1970's and into the 1980's the approved buffing wear was the Photo Coat made by Outlast Uniform in Chelsea. No self respecting Buff could be seen at a fire with out one. They were warm and comfy. Now the reason I bring this up.....My loving Bride going through the back of my closet found my Outlast Coat that I had forgotten I still had! So being curious, I Googled Outlast and found that they are still in business in Chelsea. I called the number and spoke with Nick, who bought the business from Steven Gluck 13 years ago. Nick told me that he still makes the Photo Coat and still offers the custom service. If you are interested in getting one please call Nick at 617-889-0510. He is in the shop from 0900-1200 hrs. He suggests that you call the day before you plan to go and make sure he will be in. I will be heading over to get a vest and a new coat!!!

In the photo below, late member Danny Sullivan models an Outlast Uniform Photo Coat circa 1978!



### **SOME NEAT WEBSITES FOR YOUR ENJOYMENT**

If the Holiday stress becomes too much? Well.....your editors can help! So cut and paste the links and kick back and enjoy!

First up, this is the definitive website for the old TV series ADAM-12  
<http://www.adam12code3.com>

Next we have a video that has made it way around the fire service in the last week. It features Seattle Ladder 9 on why a tiller is better than a rear mount or a mid-mount. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QXcqFtPNLn8>

And in keeping with our report on fire trains, how about a fire fighting training film from the Pennsylvania Railroad  
Part 1 [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=luIE\\_3i33Y4](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=luIE_3i33Y4)  
Part 2 [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CVOBJ\\_Uak2k](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CVOBJ_Uak2k)



**Who knew..... even Santa's a buff!**

Photo by Member M. Boynton

*From the Board of Directors and your editors, we wish all members and their families a peaceful and wonderful Holiday Season, and here's hoping that 2014 brings us all good health and prosperity and another great year for Box 52!*

*Merry Christmas to all!*