



# Third Alarm



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Former OFBA President Rick Loiselle accepts his award recognizing his 22 year contribution to the OFBA executive from President Bob Rupert at the start of the Burlington Photo Tour held on May 31. The plaque features two London ALF rigs along with the inscription. (D. Brett photo)

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**Volume 44 Number 3**  
**May-June 2014**

**OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER  
of the  
ONTARIO FIRE BUFF ASSOCIATES**  
(Incorporated in 1979)

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The Editor reserves the right to edit all material  
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## **President's Message...**

Will return next issue -  
Bob Rupert

## **From our Membership Secretary...**

Your international correspondent managed to do some more travelling in March, this time to the Far East. Since my previous visit to Hong Kong several years ago, it appears that some things have changed with regard to visiting their fire stations. For whatever reasons, the regulations regarding visits are much more restrictive than we in the west are used to. Approval from appropriate authorities must now be obtained for any visits to local fire stations. Without prior approval, visits are strictly forbidden, as is any photography. (This was not the case when I last visited. And I have only been refused once before in not being allowed to take photos – and that was in Beijing.

In addition to the above, applications for visits by individual citizens, tourists or delegates is not now entertained. I learned all of this in a letter I received from the Hong Kong Fire Services Department, in answer to one I had written expressing my great disappointment at the reception I had received when attempting to visit one of the stations. The only consolation in this case is that if one wants to find out about this department, they do have a very informative website. However, it still does not take the place of an actual visit.

I did manage, however, to do some photographing in Manila, Bali and Singapore. Singapore also has restrictions, in that they only have open houses at their stations on Saturdays. We happened to be leaving for home on Saturday morning, but fortunately, through a contact with Kenneth Lai, a fire buff colleague in Singapore, who some of you may know from his stay in Toronto some years ago, prior arrangements had been made for a visit during the week. Kenneth and I spent several very pleasant hours at the Central Fire station which, with 11 apparatus bays in total, happens to be one of the busiest, and is also an architectural landmark in the City. It also houses the Civil Defense Heritage Gallery, which includes many fire related exhibits. For those of you who have never seen this impressive structure, take a look at Kenneth's beautiful photos which appeared in the Sept/Oct 2013 electronic issue of the T/A.

I would advise those interested to take advantage of the warm reception received when visiting any of our stations and those in most other countries. And join our photo tours whenever possible.

Robert Herscovitch, Membership Secretary

## **From the Editor...**

Newly introduced in this issue is a system signifying the pump manufacturer in the Apparatus Roundup. As there isn't really room for extra words, this will consist of a letter code, in brackets, after the pump capacity. C=CET, D=Darley, H=Hale, P=Pierce, W=Waterous and you can assume that Rosenbauer rigs have Rosenbauer pumps unless otherwise noted..

I am indebted to Bill Hickin and Walt McCall for their articles and gratitude for photos in this edition goes to Doug Holmes, Kenneth Lai, Robert Herscovitch, Shane MacKichan, Walt McCall, Dave Stewardson, Bill Hickin, Gary Dinkel, Mark Appleman, John Bowerman, Rick Loiselle, Terry Yip and, as always, Neil McCarten.

Also thanks for info provided by Robert Herscovitch, Walt McCall, Ken Buchanan and Doug Holmes and Bob Rupert.

Desmond Brett, Editor, Third Alarm



## Calendar

**Photo Tours:** 14 June – North Hamilton rural stations and Milton starting at 09:00, Hamilton Station 24, 256 Parkside DR., Waterdown.  
12 July – Brant County  
9 August – Grimsby, Lincoln, West Lincoln, Binbrook  
20 September – Norfolk County  
4 October – Oakville

<b>Other Events:</b> June 25-28	SPAAMFAA Annual Convention, Columbus, OH
July 1	Caledonia FD 150 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Parade (see below)
July 25-26	Frankenmuth Muster, Frankenmuth, MI
Sep 3-6	2014 IFBA Annual Convention, Dallas TX
Sep 19-20	Firefest 2014, Chatham (see below)

### **Saturday, November 1 OFBA Flea Market & Annual Meeting**

On July 1<sup>st</sup>, the Caledonia FD is holding a large parade through downtown at 1030, followed by a show n' shine at the Caledonia Fair grounds until 1700. They are looking for rigs to participate, you can reach the CFFA at (905) 765-4757 or [jackiestaats@me.com](mailto:jackiestaats@me.com) and [ppoulin0130@gmail.com](mailto:ppoulin0130@gmail.com).

FIREFEST 2014 - the largest annual antique and vintage fire apparatus and emergency vehicle show of its kind in Canada, the third edition of FireFest will be held in Chatham-Kent, Ontario the weekend of September 19-20, 2014. In addition to a public display of more than 70 fire trucks, ambulances and related vehicles, FireFest 2014 will feature special guest appearances by Randy Mantooth – paramedic John Gage of the 1970's television show Emergency!; Brendan Milewski, who co-starred in the searing Detroit Fire Department documentary, BURN, and fellow firefighter Tim Cheveldae, formerly of the Detroit Red Wings. Teams of firefighters from across North America will also compete in the FireFest Combat Challenge. For additional information, contact [info@firefest.ca](mailto:info@firefest.ca)



The TA continues to honour Neil McCarten, this is his shot of Muskoka Lakes Pump 77, a 2007 Sterling/Fort Garry pumper with a 1050igpm pump, 500gwt and 25gft. It carries serial number A534.





Two Hamilton station have received extensive re-fits recently. Station 11 on Ray Ave. had extra living quarters added on the upper right, Station 25 received substantial apparatus bays and additional rooms (also on the right) for HFD apparatus, Hamilton EMS now occupies the former fire bays. (Doug Holmes, photo below: Ken Buchanan)



Waterloo's new Tanker 1, a 2013 Pierce Impel 1050igpm/2455gwt/33gft (Gary Dinkel photo)





In service in January is Windsor Engine 3, a 2013 Sutphen 70' mini-tower. It also has a 1500gpm Hale pump, 400gwt and 25gft. Truck 4, below, started work in April, it's a 2013 Sutphen 95' tower, with 1500 gpm Hale pump, 300gwt and 25gft. Both have FoamPro 2002 foam systems. Ser. #HS-5329.



Windsor Command 1, also a 2013 model, is a GMC Sierra. (All photos Walt McCall)



## The apparatus floor...

Clarification in **Hamilton**, the HFD has eight new units coming from KME (not HME) in total this year, only one is a brush unit, Brush 23. The department is also getting two engines, two pumper-tankers and two quints. **Burlington's** new aerial will be a 2014 Spartan/Smeal 75' quint with 1500gpm/400gwt/20gft.

**Markham** has two pumps and a quint on order, also from Smeal, on Spartan chassis. The pumps will be on Metro Stars for 911 and 961 with 2000igpm pumps, 525gwt and twin 20gft, the aerial, also for station 91, on a Gladiator chassis, will have a 2250igpm pump, 300gwt, 2x25gft and a 100' stick.

**Toronto** shut down a station and four fire companies in the biggest closure in the history of firefighting in the city. Station 424 on Runnymede Rd. opened in 1928 as TFD Station 31 with a hose company, acquiring a ladder truck soon after. The station was long slated to be shut due to its proximity to Station 422, former City of York Station 3. The aerial company in the hall was disbanded after amalgamation. Station 413 in north Etobicoke lost its pump and in the east end, Pump 215 and Pump 213 were shut down. Personnel from these rigs have been disbursed throughout the department, P.215's relatively new rig has been sent to replace R.225, P.213 became a spare. In 1935, three TFD companies were closed due to budget cuts and the fact, with motorisation, their districts were easily covered by nearby stations. They were former Junction Station 2 (TFD 21) on Ford St., TFD Station 6 on Queen St. W. and TFD Station 16 on Richmond St. E., which was built to handle the overflow from Station 5. Work is nearing completion on Station 221 on Eglinton Ave. at Midland Ave. Pumper 224 will be moved to the hall as Pumper 221 when it opens, a move not popular with residents and businesses in the Woodbine Heights and Woodbine Gardens neighbourhoods that Station 224 covers.

**Windsor Fire & Rescue** has placed all four of its new Sutphen Aerial Towers into service. Ordered last year at a cost of more than \$4 million, the 2013 Sutphens replace four of the five nearly identical Sutphen Towers Windsor purchased in 1998. The first two 2013 Sutphens – 70-foot Mini-Tower quints – were delivered late last year. Both were placed into service in January – one as Truck 1 at the WFRS Headquarters station on Goyeau St. in the downtown area and the other as Engine 3. Two 95-foot Sutphen Towers were delivered in January. One went into service as Truck 7 in late March. The second went into service in mid-April as Truck 4. Two of the 1998 Sutphens – Truck 7's former 95-footer and one of the Mini-Tower quints – were traded back in to Sutphen. The other 95-footer will reportedly be sold to the nearby Town of Essex, and the other 70-footer is up for sale. One of the original three 95-footers (ex-Truck 1) was sold to Essex several years ago and is in service at Essex's Harrow station. Windsor Fire also recently sold one of its spare pumpers – a 1993 Carl Thibault/Spartan – to St. Clair College for its fire training program. (Walt McCall)

Still in **Windsor**, the city has awarded the contract for a new station to Gulf Developments. The replacement for Station 2 will be constructed at Chandler Rd. and Milloy St., it will be a single story, 10,150 sq ft facility with LEED elements, to be finished by December. **Milton** has awarded the job of building the new training centre to Pop's Restoration of Toronto. It will be on the grounds at Station 1, 405 Steeles Ave. E. **East Gwillimbury** is putting a 2,500 sq ft addition onto Station 28 in Queensville. Newton Group of Guelph is the general contractor. Oakville Station 7, 210 Joshua's Creek is getting similar treatment, with 1, 500 sq ft being added, by DeFaveri Construction. A major new renovation will be added to Burlington HQ to include 2,800 sq ft of additional office space, locker rooms and washrooms, along with a new, free-standing service building in the rear. Jasper Construction got the award to be done by August, 2015. (Info supplied by Robert Herscovitch)

**Eastway Emergency Vehicles** has been named the sales and service distributor for **HME Ahrens Fox** for Ontario, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Quebec.

The Ontario Government has expanded the list of cancers now presumed to be the result of on the job exposure for firefighters. The LODD list now includes testicular, skin, breast, lung & prostate cancers and multiple myeloma.

This just in: **Smeal Fire Apparatus** of Nebraska has announced the acquisition of **LTI** and **Snorkel** aerial devices, vastly broadening the range of options they can supply.





On it's way to Whitehorse, YT, Pumper 6 is a 2014 Spartan Sirius/Smeal 1500gpm/900gwt. SN 4260.  
(Shane MacKichan photo)



Above: Newly in service with Black River/Matheson, ON is this 2014 Freightliner M2/Fort Garry medium rescue with a 16' box. The truck has smaller wheels so it will fit in the hall, the photographer assures me that it still delivers a nice ride. It is assigned as Unit 10. Below: Ramara Township, ON. P-3 2014 IHC 4400/Fort Garry 1050igpm/1000gwt #M523 PTD 26 Feb 2014 (Dave Stewardson photos)





## Apparatus Roundup ONTARIO

Windsor	T.4	2013	Sutphen SP95 1050igpm(H)/300gwt/95' Quint, Ser. #HS-5329
Markham	P.971	2014	Spartan Metro Star/Smeal 2000gpm/500gwt/2x20gft
Toronto	R434	2013	Spartan Metro Star/Crimson/DEV 2000gpm/500gwt
Perth East	R.1	2014	Spartan Metro Star/Spartan ERV/DEV heavy rescue
Clearview Twp.	T.33	2014	Freightliner M2/Midwest PP/2000gwt SN 2541
Clearview Twp.	T.53	2014	Freightliner M2/Midwest PP/2000gwt SN 2542
Kitchener	Car 23	2014	Ford F450/remounted box from previous command unit
Orillia	R.1	2014	Spartan Metro Star/Spartan ERV/DEV heavy rescue
Black River/Matheson U.	10	2014	Freightliner M2/Fort Garry rescue, 16' box
Mississauga	P.101	2014	Spartan Metro Star/Spartan ERV/DEV 2250gpm/600gwt/60gft SN 213061
Mississauga	P.108	2014	Spartan Metro Star/Spartan ERV/DEV 2250gpm/600gwt/60gft
Mississauga	P.110	2014	Spartan Metro Star/Spartan ERV/DEV 2250gpm/600gwt/60gft
North Huron (Wingham)		2014	Pierce Quantum 2000gpm(W)/500gwt/105' RM quint
Moonbeam		2014	Freightliner M2/Pierce 1050igpm(W)/800gwt Husky FS
Kawartha Lakes (2)		2014	Spartan Metro Star/ Spartan ERV/DEV 1500gpm/2000gwt 213075-1&2
Kawartha Lakes		2014	Spartan Metro Star/ Spartan ERV/DEV 1500gpm/1000gwt 213074
Ottawa		2014	Spartan/Eastway command unit
Hamilton Brush 23		2013	IHC 4x4/KME 1050igpm/750gwt/20gft

## OUT WEST

Whitehorse, YT	P.6	2014	Spartan Sirius/Smeal 1500gpm(W)/900gwt SN 4260
Skeetchestn Band		2014	Freightliner M2/Hub 1050igpm(H)/1000gwt FoamPro 1600FS
Teck Coal		2014	Kenworth T370/Hub 1050igpm(H)/300gwt FoamPro 2001 FS
N. Vancouver Dist.	E.1	2014	Pierce Arrow XT, 1750 IGPM(W), 330gwt, 25gft, Husky Foam System, # 27192
West Vancouver		2014	Pierce Arrow XT, 1750 IGPM(W), 330gwt, 25gft, Husky Foam System, # 27189
Malakwa		2014	Freightliner M2/Hub DSL-AFL(C)/1600gwt FoamPro 1600FS
Parksville		2014	Freightliner M2-112/Hub 840igpm/2500gwt
Maple Ridge	OSU	2014	Spartan Gladiator/SVI 20' box airlight unit SN 873
Maple Ridge	T.2	2014	Freightliner M2-112/Smeal 1250igpm(H)/3600gwt/25gft
Abbotsford	E.6	2014	Spartan Metro Star/Hub 1500igpm(H)/500gwt
North Fraser	T.15	2014	Freightliner M2-112/Hub 840igpm(H)/2500gwt
North Vancouver	E.9	2014	Pierce Arrow XT, 1770 IGPM(W), 328gwt, 25gft, Husky Foam System, # 27188
Saanich Command Veh		2014	Spartan Metro Star/SVI 26' box, also used by Saanich PD.
North Fraser		2014	Freightliner M2/Hub 840igpm(H)/2500gwt FoamPro 1600FS
Peerless Lake, AB		2014	Freightliner M2-106 4x4/Rosenbauer 840igpm/1250gwt/40gft
Holden		2014	IHC/ 7400Acres 1050igpm/1000gwt/25gft s/n #140513116
Parkland County		2014	Spartan Metro Star/ Fort Garry heavy rescue s/n M515
Trout Lake		2014	Freightliner M2-106 4x4/Rosenbauer 840igpm/1250gwt/40gft
Magrath		2014	Freightliner M2-106/Fort Garry 1050igpm/800gwt/25gft CAFS s/n M509
Strathcona County		2014	Spartan Gladiator/Spartan ERV/DEV 2000gpm/600gwt/120gft SN 213009-01
Cypress County	E.4	2014	IHC 7400 4x4/Fort Garry 840igpm/1000gwt/2x20gft s/n #M500
Regina, SK	TRRU	2014	Rosenbauer Commander EXT heavy rescue SN 43719
Martensville	E.1	2014	IHC/ 7400Acres 1050igpm/1000gwt/25gft s/n #140404115
White City		2014	Ford F-550 Crew Cab 4x4/Blanchat B-27 Minuteman 200gpmPP(H)/300gwt/CAFS
Carrot River	E421	2014	Freightliner M2-106/Fort Garry1050igpm/1500gwt/25gft CAFS s/n M530

## QUEBEC, MARITIMES

Sainte-Euphémie-sur-Rivière-du-Sud		2014	Freightliner M2/Levasseur 1050igpm/1000gwt
St.-Eustache	209	2014	Ford F-550 Crew Cab 4x4/Rosenbauer 840igpm/300gwt mini-pumper
Norton, NB	No.3	2011	Spartan Metro Star/Fort Garry 1050igpm(H)/800gwt/25gft SN M296 (Stock Unit)
Campbellton	E.1	2014	Pierce Sabre 1250gpm/1800gwt Husky FS SN 27062
Dieppe	T.23	2014	Spartan/Metalfab 1050igpm(H)/2500gwt
Brookfield, NS	T.321	2014	Freightliner/Metalfab 2500gwt
Truro	A.4	2014	Pierce Arrow XT 2000gpm/300gwt/95' tower SN 27093
Berwick & District		2014	Freightliner/Lantz 2500gwt
Chester	U531	2014	Spartan Metro Star/Fort Garry 1050igpm/800gwt/50gft SN M480
Halifax		2014	Pierce Arrow XT 2000gpm/480gwt/75' rearmount SN 26851
Halifax		2014	Pierce Arrow XT 2000gpm/300gwt/100' tower SN 26852
Conception Bay, NL		2014	Pierce Sabre 1500gpm/750gwt Husky FS SN 26991



Delivered in April to Sioux Lookout, this is Pump 71, a Fort Garry product on a 2014 Freightliner M2 4x4 chassis with 1050igpm pump, 1000gwt and 25gft. SN: M428. (Dave Stewardson photo)



Just delivered to North Vancouver, this is Engine 9 a 2014 Pierce Arrow XT pumper with a 1770 igpm Waterous pump, 328gwt, 25gft a Husky Foam System and a Night Scan light tower, job # 27188. This and two very similar rigs were received by north shore communities (see the round-up), apparently another five to nine are expected. (Info and photo from John Bowerman)





Oak River, MB received this long rig in the spring, it's a 2014 IHC 4400/Acres pumper equipped with a 1050igpm pump, 1000gwt and 25gft. SN 140228113



Green Acres, MB recently bought this 2008 IHC 4400/Pierce pumper rebuilt in 2013 by Acres. It has a 840igpm pump, 1500gwt and 25gft.



Norton, NB just purchased this stock unit from Fort Garry Fire Trucks. Mounted on a 2011 Spartan Metro Star chassis, it has a 1050igpm pump, 800gwt and 25gft. SN M296 (Dave Stewardson photos)





Kingsville pumper 123, a 2013 Spartan Metro Star/Metalfab product, with 1050igpm/1000gwt, seen below sporting its Roto-Ray. (Walt McCall photos)





Among emergency vehicle warning devices, perhaps the most iconic – right behind the Federal “Q” siren -- is the *Buckeye Roto-Ray*. Introduced by the Buckeye Iron Works of Dayton, Ohio, in 1927, the *Roto-Ray* consisted of three alternately flashing red lights which spun like a whirligig on a central axis. At a time when one or two forward-facing flashing red lights were typically the only warning devices on fire trucks -- besides a siren and bell -- the *Roto-Ray* marked a quantum leap in fire apparatus warning lights. Most Roto-Rays were mounted on a steel post, towering above the apparatus. The *Roto-Ray* became quite popular in major U.S. cities like Detroit and Philadelphia – although not all big cities adopted them.

The first-generation Roto-Rays had drum-shaped lights with red lenses attached to a mailbox-shaped motor housing, but by the 1940s the Roto-Ray was restyled with contemporary bullet-shaped lights and rotor drive pod. Philadelphia's big fleet of American-LaFrance 700 series aerials sported distinctive post-mounted Roto-Rays on the left side of their open cabs. But the Roto-Ray's popularity went into steep decline following the introduction in the late 1940s of new warning devices like Federal's Beacon-Ray and “Q” siren. But by the 1970s, the legendary Roto-Ray was enjoying a minor revival, especially among tradition-minded fire departments in the U.S. northeast. Today, *Roto-Rays Inc.* makes a modern version of the classic Roto-Rays with LED lighting, at its facility in Herndon, Virginia.

For some reason, Roto-Rays were never very popular in Canada. We know of only three on new, factory-built apparatus. Bickle Fire Engines Ltd. of Woodstock delivered a Roto-Ray equipped Bickle custom city service ladder truck to Sault Ste. Marie in 1931. That same year, American-LaFrance's Canadian subsidiary, LaFrance Fire Engine & Foamite Ltd. of Toronto, delivered a Master Series pumper and city service ladder truck to Winnipeg – both equipped with whirling Buckeye Roto-Rays. We're unaware of any others. At least, up to now.

Bob Kissner is Chief of the Kingsville Fire Department at the tip of Southwestern Ontario, not far from Windsor. Bob is one of those rare individuals – a second-generation volunteer firefighter and chief who's a fire buff at heart. When his hometown fire department retired and sold its 1958 Marsh/International pumper to a fire department in Manitoba some years ago, Bob eventually went out there and bought it back. Chief Kissner and his rig are regular participants in Great Lakes Chapter SPAAMFAA events and musters in the Windsor and Detroit area. Bob always admired those spinning Roto-Rays on classic Ahrens-Foxes, Seagrave and Alfies.

So, maybe it wasn't all that surprising that when Kingsville went shopping for a new pumper a year or so ago, Bob made sure the specs included – *Roto-Rays!* Sure enough, when MetalFab delivered the Spartan-chassised pumper late last year, its stainless steel grille feature a set of whirling Roto-Rays mounted at passenger car windshield level. The new pumper was placed into service at the department's Cotton firehall – *the first Roto-Ray equipped fire apparatus in Ontario – and Canada – in 82 years!*

It gets even better. At the time he placed the order for the new pumper, Chief Kissner ordered *two extra* sets of Roto-Rays, which he had retrofitted to Kingsville's first-out pumper and rescue squad. So, from Canadian fire buffs everywhere, “Thanks, Bob”. *Spin on.....!*





Metchosin, BC Tender 5, a 2010 Freightliner M2/Hub tanker with a 420igpm pump and 1700gwt.



Westshore Coal Terminals in Delta, BC recently received this 2013 Hub Freightliner M2 pumper with a 1050 GPM pump and a 906gwt. Job Number 1162 (Terry Yip photos)





Recently delivered to the SCDF, Singapore, this is Aerial Ladder 171, a 2014 Scania 310/Metz L56 turntable ladder, which tops out at 184' {56m}. (Kenneth Lai photo)



This is Antigua Engine 17, a 1999 Dennis pumper with a 1500gwt. It's used as an all purpose truck and to fight brush fires (Robert Herscovitch photo)





This is E.2.9, an Iveco/Magirus major pump, normally stationed in Floriana but running from Kordin during construction. E.3.1 below, is a light pump. (All Malta photos from Bill Hickin)





Malta is a popular holiday destination for Britons and has had a long association with the UK, with both English and Maltese its official languages. The resident population is currently around 412,000 and the land area, including the adjacent islands of Gozo and Comino, is 121 sq. m/316 sq. km., comparable in size to the Isle of Wight in England. It is the fourth most densely populated country in Europe and much of the population reside in the Greater Valletta area, which is mostly comprised of small urban municipalities.

Historically fire cover was mainly provided by the British Army, RN and RAF Fire Services until the British Forces gradually withdrew from Malta during the 1970s, thereafter cover being provided by the Malta Police Fire Brigade. However, on 15 January 2000 a separate fire and emergency service entitled the Malta Civil Protection Department was formed under the Ministry for Justice and Home Affairs, when all fire service assets and some police personnel were transferred to the new organisation. Its remit included dealing with civil emergencies including line and cliff rescue, flash flooding and USAR as well as firefighting plus some aspects of inshore coastal rescue and humanitarian relief co-ordination, with 130 whole-time uniformed personnel, 40 specialist volunteers and 7 non-uniformed administrators. There is currently a recruitment campaign to increase the uniformed establishment.

Its HQ and Operations Centre is located at a police complex at Siggiewi in the south centre of the island, which includes a Control Room manned by three uniformed staff per shift under a Station Officer, with an adjoining Command Suite, a base for the MCPD Search & Rescue Dog Section plus offices for senior officers and administrative staff.

The rank structure is: Director, Deputy Director, Operations Manager, Station Officer, Leading Assistance & Rescue Officer (LARO) and Assistance & Rescue Officer (ARO). There are five Operations Managers, equivalent to British Area Managers/Senior Divisional Officers, each having HQ references as follows: 1) Operations & Training 2) EU & Procurement 3) Fire Safety 4) Humanitarian Aid, K9 & Volunteers and 5) Marine Unit and Hazmat. Station Officers are in charge of each station, conditioned to day duties and are on call after hours with their own staff cars. Despite the titles of the lower ranks being designed to convey a general emergency service, the term “firefighter” is still used informally and British rank markings have been adopted. Fire safety regulations and codes of practice are closely based on those of the UK.

Operational uniforms comprise the standard bunker coats, overtrousers, boots and Gallet helmets colour coded by rank as follows: ARO-Chrome, LARO-Yellow, Stn O-Red, OM-Black, Deputy Director and Director-White. Nomex working trousers may be worn in lieu of overtrousers and shorts are issued for station wear during the Summer.

Training is undertaken at Hal Far and includes recruit and continuation training, the MCPD using the facilities of the adjoining training centre operated by a private fire training company International Safety Training Centre (ISTC). Facilities include a large drill tower and training building, hot-fire containers, petroleum rigs, an aircraft and a helicopter rig. The SPIDER\* (**S**pecialised **P**ersonnel **I**n **D**isaster and **E**mergency **R**esponse) Unit at Hal Far is a specialist USAR unit crewed by 40 Assistance & Rescue Volunteers of the Civil Protection Volunteer Corps, under a Station Officer and LARO, who train once a week and are on call for any major incidents, for which they are issued with blue and orange field uniforms. A small workshop is also located at Hal Far, with major work outsourced to contractors.

Personnel work a 48 hour week with a 24 hour tour of duty, each station having five men on each shift (A, B and C) which means they take what appliances are required for any given call, thus a property fire will get a Light Pump, Pump Tanker and Turntable Ladder, a Road Traffic Collision a Light Pump and Light Rescue Unit, a rural fire a Pump Tanker and Multi-Role Vehicle, and so on. Owing to the many narrow streets in the older urban areas the Light Pump is favoured, the larger Major Pumps being used less often. Surprisingly there is currently no general hydrant system in Malta, although some large modern complexes have their own pillar hydrants or water tanks, and there is a residual hydrant system in Valetta/Floriana remaining from the British era plus a number of underground water tanks around the island installed during the Second World War. In practice, however, the MCPD tends to rely largely on appliance water tanks and water shuttles at fires, with additional private tankers available on call. The principal fire risks are ship repair yards, factories and tourist hotels as well as apartment blocks and the usual residential areas, although the limestone buildings and relatively low combustible interiors usually enable fire to be confined to the room/area of origin in residential property. The attendance standard for much of the islands is within 8-minutes. In the event of a major incident off-duty personnel are recalled to duty to crew uncommitted appliances on stations and reinforce the incident or stand-by on station. Arrangements are in place for external reinforcement from the Italian National Fire Service (*Vigili del Fuoco Nazionale*) in Sicily but to date these have not had to be activated. Calls average over 6,000 annually.



E1.6, above, is a heavy rescue, and runs from the Hal Far station. E2.6 is a Magirus/EuroFire turntable ladder on an Iveco Cargo chassis with a 37m (120') aerial, normally assigned to Floriana station.





Appliances are mainly based on Iveco chassis with Mezzi Speciali bodywork and manufactured in Italy, the Pump Tankers, Multi-Role Vehicles and two of the Major Pumps being 4WD; the Multi-Role Vehicles can carry either a brush-firefighting or rescue body but in practice have the firefighting body as primary. These are supplemented by some former British fire appliances converted for local requirements, including a former Cumbria water tender converted to a Foam & Lighting Unit, another former British water tender converted to a Hazmat Unit and a former London heavy fire rescue unit converted to an Equipment Carrier with a hose-laying capability. A former Tyne & Wear TL is also operational at Xemxija as is an unusual Leyland Daf/Bedwas/Simon 3-axle HP. On the inception of the MCPD in 2000 a grant from the Italian government enabled a large number of appliances to be procured but these are now coming up for replacement and an annual appliance replacement programme is planned. As well as their formal designations, some appliances are also referred to by their manufacturers' names i.e. Light Pump -Falcon, MRV - Scout, Pump Tanker - Ranger and Industrial Pump - Bull. Appliances display their station name and call sign e.g. E2.5 is Floriana's TL, E3.1 is Xemxija's LRU, E4. 2 is Kordin's LP and so on. The MCPD also allocate a number of cars to hospital doctors to respond to incidents with the MCPD.

The island is covered by five stations plus one on Gozo with appliance establishment as follows:

1. Hal Far - Birzebbuga Road :Light Pump, Major Pump, Industrial Pump, Heavy Rescue Unit, 2 Pump Tankers, Foam & Lighting Unit, Command Unit (inc. Workshops, Training Centre and SPIDER\* Special Rescue Unit comprising a Special Rescue Vehicle, SCUBA Unit, PC and car).
2. Floriana - Notre Dame Ditch: LP, MP, TL (37m), Light Rescue Unit, 2 PT, 2 Multi-Role Vehicles
3. Xemxija - Xemxija Heights: LP, MP, TL (30m), HP, LRU, 2 PT, MRV, Rescue Diving Unit & RIB, Equipment Carrier- Hose-Layer
4. Kordin (Corradino) - Paola Industrial Estate: LP, MP, IP, LRU, PT, 2 MRV, Water Carrier
5. Marine Unit, Marsa - Moll Is-Shipwrights: Firefighting/Patrol Vessel M/V "Garibaldi" plus several RIB rescue craft, Rescue Diving Unit, Hazmat Unit with Decontamination Trailer plus the Humanitarian Aid Unit. (A private tug M/V "Sea Salvor" equipped for firefighting & pollution control is available to MCPD if required)
6. Victoria, Gozo - Ta'Lambert, Xewkija: LP, TL (24m), LRU, PT, MRV, 2 WrC

Currently, only a Light Pump is operational at Floriana pending opening of a replacement station, its remaining appliances temporarily relocated to Kordin with some consequential relocations to other stations. Interestingly Hal Far and Kordin stations are former Royal Navy Fire Service stations; both the former Fleet Air Arm airfield at Hal Far and the former extensive naval dockyard in Grand Harbour have since become industrial estates, the latter with large ship repair and dry-dock installations.

The Marine Unit at Marsa in the south of Valletta's Grand Harbour comprises the fireboat "Garibaldi". Also based at Marsa are several RIB rescue craft, one of which is on stand-by for any rescue calls in Grand and Marsamxett Harbours and inshore, and a Hazmat Unit, plus the Humanitarian Aid Unit, consisting of trailer containers pre-loaded with food, blankets, tents, etc.

A Major Pump (a former South Yorkshire Mercedes-Benz) and Land Rover Light Pump from the Delimara Power Station Fire Section can be made available to the MCPD during the daytime if support is needed

Cover at Category 9 Malta International Airport, Luqa is provided by the Airport Fire Service with three Rosenbauer Crash Tenders, an ex-BAA Meteor, a Rescue Unit and a M.A.N. pump tanker plus two Ambulances, with seven personnel on each shift.

Since becoming the MCPD the organisation has made progress in its development as a separate fire & emergency service and, as well as an annual appliance procurement programme, future plans include a replacement station for Floriana at Santa Venera, relocation of Gozo station in conjunction with a new airport and, longer term, possibly an additional station at Ta'Qali. A new headquarters and dedicated training facility is also planned to be built at Hal Far Fire Station.

I would like to record my thanks to MCPD Operations Manager Tony Pisani who has been most helpful in providing the information for this article.



Kitchener has refurbished Car 23, remounting the box on a 2014 Ford F450 chassis. One of a pair of pumpers just delivered to Kitchener by Dependable, this is P.2, a 2013 Spartan Gladiator/ERV/DEV rig with 1250gpm pump, 600gwt, 40gft and Foam Logix. P.1 got the other rig. (Gary Dinkel)



Kudos to Platoon Chief Craig Slack for the excellent Burlington tour on May 31, 21 of us attended.





Two more from Malta, E.2.3, above is a pumper-tanker on an Iveco chassis assigned to Floriana, E.3.4, below, also on an Iveco, is a brush unit, running from Xemjia. (Photos from Bill Hickin)







Recently made famous by Toronto Mayor Rob Ford using it as a backdrop in a photo op, ironically just after his budget proposals resulted in the axing of four fire companies. It is a 1990 Ford C /Amertec 840igpm/500gwt, formerly Brant County P.41. SN VA03037 (Ken Buchanan photo)



Uxbridge Pumper Rescue 1 is a 2005 Spartan Advantage 4x4/Rosenbauer rig with a 1500gpm pump, 500gwt and 30gft. (Mark Appleman photo)





Trent Lakes got this 2014 IHC 4400/Fort Garry pumper 840igpm Darley pump and 900gwt during the winter, serial number M520. It was to be detailed by the department.



Another yet-to-be lettered rig, this went to Holden, AB in May. It's a 2014 IHC 7400/Acres product with a 1050igpm pump, 1000gwt and 25gft. s/n #140513116 (Dave Stewardson photos)





Two fine examples of western scenery from Invermere, BC. Engine 207, above, is a 2008 Pierce Arrow XT pumper with a 1500gpm pump, 650gwt and 25gft. SN#19999. Engine 202, below, is a 2007 Freightliner M2 4x4/Rosenbauer product with a 1050igpm pump and 1000gwt, serial 1388806. (Shane MacKichan photos)



Still on the left coast, Colwood operates this 2009 Ford F450 chassied pick up as Utility 54. The back end was built by Anderson in 2000 and transferred to the new truck. (Terry Yip photo)





A Chevrolet Station Commander's car from SCDF, Singapore. (Kenneth Lai photo)



Antigua Engine 10 is a 2006 Freightliner M2/Seagrave tanker with a 1000gpm pump and 3000gwt. (Robert Herscovitch photo)





Teck Coal, B.C. got this 2013 Freightliner M2/Hub pumper last year. It has a 1500gpm pump, 1000 gwt, 15gft(A) and 30gft (B) with a FoamPro 2001 system. S.N. 5350-1128 was sent to the Cardinal River site.



York Factory FN received this 2014 IHC 4300/Acres rig back in the winter. It features an 840igpm pump, 1000gwt and 25gft. Serial number 140318114. (Dave Stewardson photos)





Two more from the U.K. Both of these appliances are with Devon & Somerset, Dane's Castle Fire Station in Exeter. V32W3 above is a 2001 Man 18.286/Massey water carrier (tanker). V32A1, below is a 2009 Man TGS 26.360 /JDC/Vema 343 turntable ladder. (Desmond Brett photos)







Three English fire stations: Bridport in the County of Dorset.



This one is in Honiton, in Devon & Somerset.



Dorset again, this is the new hall in Dorchester, part of DFRS Headquarters. (Desmond Brett photos)





This unusual looking rig is bound for China, where it will be lettered. It's a 2014 IHC 7400/Fort Garry industrial pumper with an 840igpm pump, 2200gwt and 800gft. s/n #M501. (Dave Stewardson)



Another international rig spotted in Canada, this ex-Syracuse 1997 E-One rescue was parked at a spring shop near his house, so member Gord MacBride stopped to snap it. No word on where it's going or who owns it now. Ken Reid passed on this 700 series ALF 85' shot in Swift Current, SK.







A couple more from Neil's collection, this one is Pickering's Car 55, the command vehicle. It's a 2012 Chevrolet Tahoe 4x4 and it runs from Headquarters.



Kingston Utility 211 is a 2011 Chevrolet Silverado, assigned to Station 1 in Joyceville. (Neil McCarten)





Two vehicles presented on the tour of Burlington on May 31. Pump 301 is a 1996 Spartan Gladiator/Saulsbury pumper with a 1050igpm pump and 800gwt. Ladder 315 is a 2004 Spartan Gladiator/Smeal 105' quint with a 1500gpm pump and 300gwt. It's assigned to Station 8. (Desmond Brett photos)







Also seen on the tour is this 1956 Ford 500gpm pumper originally operated by the Oakville Ford plant. Engine 1 is now owned and being restored by the Station 1 volunteers in Burlington.



Another golden oldie, Box 43's 1966 Mack B-125 1050igpm pumper. (Rick Loiselle photo)