



# “Called to Duty”

## The Official Newsletter of the Methuen Fire Department

FEBRUARY 2024

Volume 7, Issue 2

### MFD Links

[Methuen.gov](http://Methuen.gov)

[Methuen Fire  
Department Web Page](#)

[MFD Facebook](#)

[MFD Twitter](#)

[MFD Instagram](#)

### Regional Links

[MA Dept. of Fire  
Services](#)

[MEMA](#)

[National Fire Protection  
Assoc.](#)

[Office of Emergency  
Medical Services](#)

### Contact Us

Office Hours:

Monday - Thursday:

7:00 am to 4:30 pm

Friday - Sunday: Closed

Phone:

(978) 983-8940

Fax:

(978) 691-5056

Emergency: 911

Address:

24 Lowell Street

Methuen, MA 01844

See map: [Google Maps](#)

## MFD Participates in Boston Bfit Challenge

Congratulations to our Methuen Firefighters who took part in the recent BFit Challenge at TD Garden in Boston. They made us proud in running the arena stairs to benefit the On-Site Academy, which provides training and treatment for emergency personnel struggling with critical incident stress and/or substance abuse.



Our Methuen group raised \$1450 for the cause.  
Pictured are Firefighters Kyle Sheehy, Derek Michienzi, Bobby Cole,  
James Traverso, Cooper Brown, and Liam Sheehy. Congratulations, guys!

## ++ Message from the Fire Chief ++

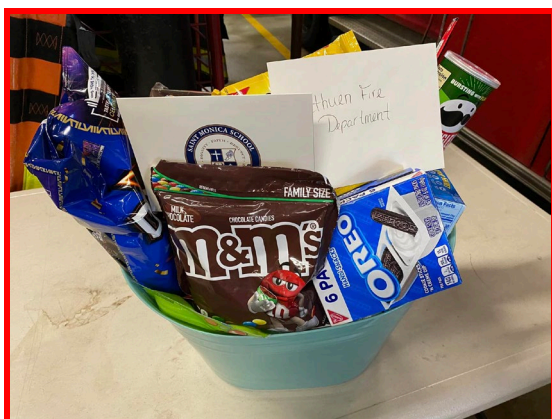


Thanks for taking the time to read this edition of "Called to Duty." Spring is definitely in the air as we look forward to better weather moving into March. This month's newsletter features stories on some great news and happenings in our department, as well as several fire safety tips and options. As always, If you have any questions or concerns regarding fire-related issues, please call our general business line at 978-983-8940. For all emergencies, please call 911.

Regards,

*J. Tim Sheehy, Fire Chief*

## Methuen Fire Department Offers Thanks to St. Monica's School



Methuen Fire Department,  
Please accept this basket on behalf  
of Saint Monica School to show our  
sincere appreciation for being one of  
our community collaborators.

Sincerely  
Donna Henderson  
Principal

The Methuen Fire Department wants to send out a special thank you to Principal Donna Henderson, the faculty, and the great students at St. Monica's School in Methuen. The school recently sent over a huge basket filled with a variety of snacks and goodies.





Thanks so much to Emma Dobson, a student at the school, and her mom, Katie, a secretary at St. Monica's for stopping by our Central Station. Several of our firefighters are Saint Monica's alumni, and we appreciate your generosity! Pictured with Emma in the center are Firefighters Zach Tulley, Eric Moreau, Captain Tracy Blanchette, Firefighter Danielle Grenier, Lt. Tim Smith, and Firefighters Mike Bodenrader and Matt Coco.

## MFD Ice Rescue Training Exercises



Our Methuen firefighters have recently been undergoing ice rescue training in the city. This is important training given our proximity to the Merrimack River, Forest Lake, and several ponds.



Lieutenant Jim McLachlan is constantly developing new training plans and modalities to keep our firefighters up-to-date and able to protect our citizens.

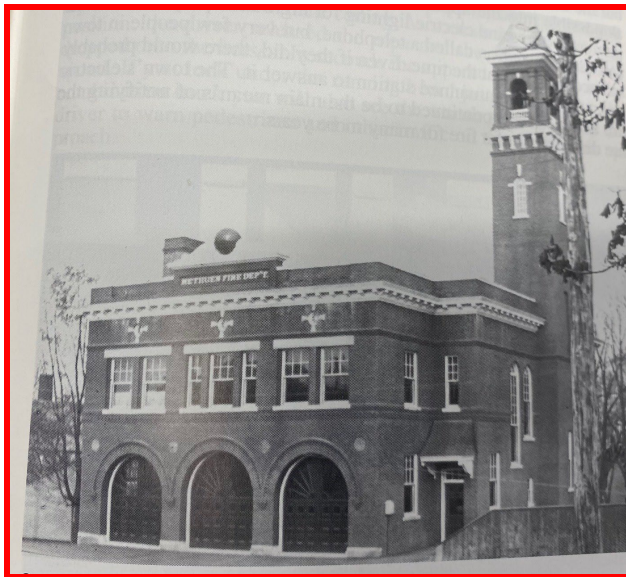
— If your clothes are on fire, —  
**stop | drop | roll**

## Through the Fire, Through the Years

**“Through the Fire, Through the Years” looks back at Methuen Fire Department history with a memory from 124 years ago.**

The first through passenger train goes from Cairo to Khartoum. L. Frank Baum's *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz* is published in Chicago. American temperance agitator Carrie Nation begins her crusade to demolish saloons.

In the United States presidential election, Republican incumbent William McKinley is re-elected by defeating Democratic challenger William Jennings Bryan in a rematch, and the second Olympic Games are held in Paris with over 1000 athletes from 26 nations.



Through the Fire, Through the Years goes back to 1900 and the establishment of our Central Fire Station at 24 Lowell Street.

Ground was broken for a red brick fire station in Railroad Square during the first week in May 1899. The cost for the land and the building was \$15,000. In late December, Mr. Charles Tenney donated a large fire alarm bell for the new station as a Christmas present to the town. The fire engineers officially tolled the bell for the first time at the stroke of midnight on January 1, 1900.

An interesting note about the Central Fire Station is that the town never paid for it. When the station was built, town officials had to borrow \$15,000 to cover the cost. The terms of the ten-year loan required annual interest payments for nine years with the principal due in full on the tenth year. However, when the final payment came due, the town didn't have the money.

The only solution to the dilemma seem to be a huge tax increase. That was until Mr. Edward Searles stepped in and generously paid the bill for the town.

***Excerpted from A History of Methuen and it's Fire Department by Retired Methuen Firefighter Kenneth H. Doherty***

## METHUEN FIRE DEPARTMENT SAFETY TIPS

The following pages include several fire safety tips and important information in a variety of areas. Please call the Methuen Fire Department at 978-983-8940 with any questions, and of course, call 911 in any emergency situation.

### Home Heating Safety Information



Winter heating safety is critically important. Heating caused over 7,000 fires in Massachusetts over the last five years. Heating is the second leading cause of home fires in the state. To help prevent home heating fires, adhere to the following guidelines:

- \* Keep Space heaters 3-feet away from anything that can burn.
- \* Plug Space heaters directly into outlets. Don't use extension cords.
- \* Dispose of woodstove and fireplace ashes in a metal can with a lid. Put them outside, away from the house.
- \* Keep anything that can burn 3-feet away from a fireplace.
- \* Keep anything that can burn 3-feet away from a wood stove. [Click Here for Details](#)

### Portable Generator Information and Tips



The Methuen Fire Department would like to share some important information on safe usage of generators.



Generators can be helpful when the power goes out for an extended period of time. It is important to know how use them safely to prevent fires, carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning, and electrocution. [Click Here for More Information](#)

## MFD Reminder: Check Your Smoke & Carbon Monoxide Detectors



Do not forget to change the batteries in your smoke and CO detectors. Smoke alarms should be replaced after 10 years, and CO alarms should be replaced after 5-7 years. If you have any questions about your smoke and CO alarms, please contact the Methuen Fire Department at 978-983-8940.

## Cooking Safety a Priority in the Home



Cooking is the leading cause of reported home fires and home fire injuries, and the second leading cause of home fire deaths. Two-thirds of home cooking fires start with the ignition of food or other cooking materials.

Ranges or cooktops account for over half (53%) of home cooking fire incidents. Unattended equipment is a factor in over one quarter (29%) of reported home cooking fires and half of the associated deaths. The Methuen Fire Department urges you to use caution and care when cooking at home. [Click Here for Details](#) or visit [nfpa.org](http://nfpa.org)

## MFD Shares Apartment Fire Safety Tips



If you live in an apartment or condominium, you need to know how to get out quickly if a fire starts. Follow these steps to stay safe: Don't prop open an exit or stairway doors. Speak to your apartment manager if you see a damaged smoke alarm, fire extinguisher, or a burned out emergency light.

Memorize the number of doors there are between your apartment and the nearest fire exit. Know where all the exit doors and stairs are on your floor. Learn your building evacuation plan. If your door feels warm to the touch, do not attempt to open it, call 911. Never use an elevator to escape a fire. Always use the stairs. [Click Here for More Tips and Information](#)

## MFD Promotes "Close Your Door" Fire Safety



The simple act of closing your bedroom door before going to bed can help prevent fires from spreading and save lives.

The Close Your Door safety initiative comes as the result of years of research by the UL Firefighter Safety Research Institute (FSRI).

Modern synthetic construction materials, home furnishings, and contemporary layouts allow fire to spread and become toxic much faster with just three minutes or less to escape fire.

But a closed door can slow the spread, reduce toxic smoke levels, improve oxygen levels, and decrease temperatures dramatically - and that could make a life-saving difference in your home.

After proving that a closed door could potentially save lives in a fire, UL FSRI has committed to share this finding with the world. [Click Here for Details](#)

## MFD Offers Downed Power Line Safety Tips



Stay away  
from downed  
**power lines.**

Downed power lines can carry an electric current strong enough to cause serious injury or even death. If you come across a low or fallen line, the Methuen Fire Department urges you to adhere to the following safety tips and please call 911:

- If you see a downed power line, move away from it and anything touching it.
- Assume that all downed power lines are live.
- If you see someone who is in direct or indirect contact with the downed line, do not touch the person. Call 911 for help.
- Do not attempt to move a downed power line or anything else in contact with it by using an object such as a broom or stick. Even non-conductive materials like wood or cloth can conduct electricity if even slightly wet.
- Be careful not to touch or step in water near where a downed power line is located.
- Do not drive over downed power lines. If your car comes in contact with a downed power line while you are inside, stay in the car. Honk your horn to summon help, but direct others to stay away from your car.

[Click Here for More Information](#)





# House Numbers

*Is Your Number Clearly Visible from the Street?*

### Seconds Count in an Emergency

- Protect your family and your property by having large visible house numbers.
- Firefighters, police officers, and paramedics find you faster when your home is properly marked.
- A visitor, child or injured person may be unable to give clear directions.
- Emergency personnel from a neighboring community may be unfamiliar with your area.

### Use Large Visible Numbers

- Numbers need to be at least 4-inches in height and facing the street.
- Put the numbers under lighting, and use numbers with a contrasting background, so they will be visible at night.
- Be sure to use the E-911 address for the property.
- If your driveway is long, post your house number on both sides of a mailbox or sign pole at the end of the driveway near the road.
- Be sure to keep numbers visible by trimming trees and bushes.

### It's the Law

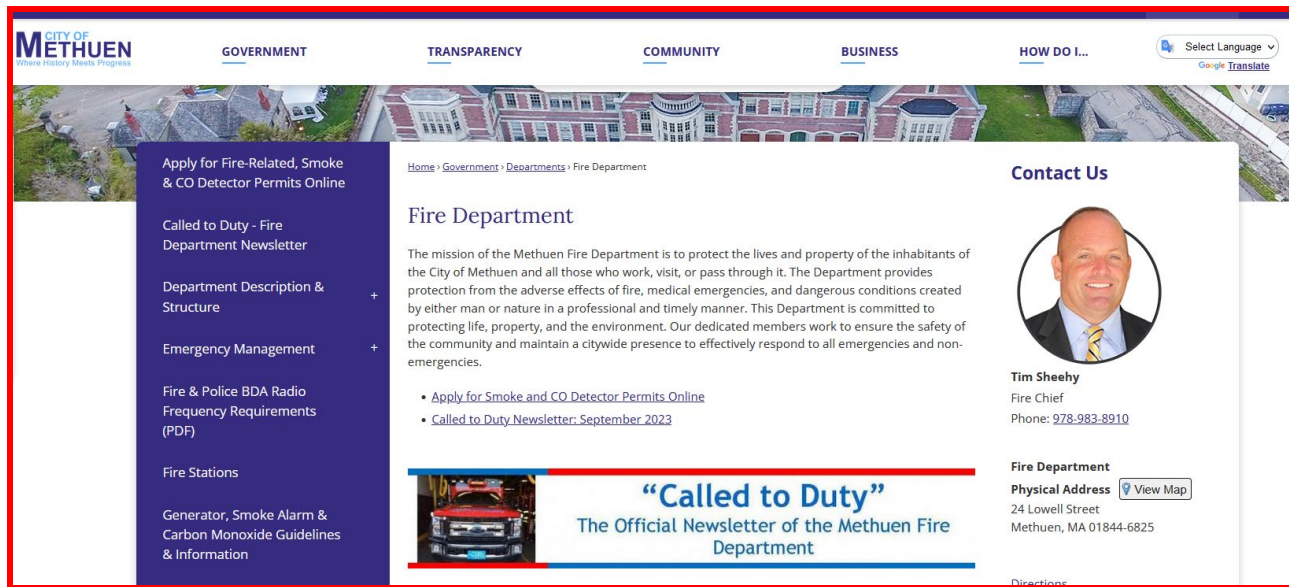
- Massachusetts General Laws C. 148, S. 59. specifies that every building in the state must have clearly visible address numbers posted.



**FireFactors**

Office of the State Fire Marshal • [www.mass.gov/dfs](http://www.mass.gov/dfs) • (978) 567-3380

# Methuen Fire Department on the Web & Social Media



The Methuen Fire Department Web Page features links, safety tips and news you can use. **CLICK HERE** to access the Methuen Fire Department web page. Be sure also to visit the Methuen Fire Department on **Facebook**, **Twitter**, and **Instagram** - a terrific way to keep up with MFD news, happenings, and events.

## Contact Us to Receive the MFD “Called to Duty” Newsletter



**THE MISSION** of the Methuen Fire Department is to protect the lives and property of the inhabitants of the City of Methuen and all those who work, visit, or pass through it. The Department provides protection from the adverse effects of fire, medical emergencies, and dangerous conditions in a professional and timely manner. Our dedicated members work to ensure the safety of the community and maintain a citywide presence to effectively respond to all emergencies and non-emergencies.

**THIS NEWSLETTER** is a way to keep the public informed of Methuen Fire Department news and happenings. If you have any questions or would like to be added to our Email List to receive the newsletter, call John Molori at 978-208-5112 or email **[jrmolori@ci.methuen.ma.us](mailto:jrmolori@ci.methuen.ma.us)**. Please include your name and email address. Thank You!