



Service Spotlight—Prospect Volunteer Fire Department/EMS



The Volunteer Fire Department of Prospect was officially established on September 11, 1945. Originally called Prospect Hose Company #1, it was formed by a handful of local residents in response to an increased number of fires in the community.

It wasn't until 1957 that the department would take on emergency medical care and transport of its residents with the purchase of a used Packard ambulance. The ambulance was sold to the fire company at a discount by Waterbury Hospital. With Red Cross training and some basic equipment, the ambulance went into service. At this time, the fire and ambulance volunteers were dispatched by community members with special telephone lines in their homes. "Those early dispatchers would take shifts answering the phone at

their house", explained PFD EMS Captain Matt Comeau. "They would then start calling members by phone and activating the town wide sirens".

Over the years, the training improved, additional equipment was added and newer ambulances were purchased. The call volume also increased as Prospect grew from a rural farming community to a bedroom town. Two-way radio capability was also added in the early 1960's, giving dispatchers a way to communicate with apparatus and the ambulance. The system of volunteer home dispatchers remained in place until the early 1980's, when Northwest CMED took over dispatch duties for the town.

As the 1980's drew to a close, PFD experienced a shortage of volunteers able to answer ambulance calls. They decided to cease ambulance service and entered into an agreement with Campion Ambulance in Waterbury. PFD members would respond to medical emergencies with fly cars and render care prior to Campion's arrival. Campion is now Trinity EMS.



Today, PFD boasts 37 EMS certified members who answer an estimated 800 medical calls a year. They operate two fly cars fully equipped with supplies, medication, AED's and Lucas CPR devices. "We have a very active EMS group here", said Comeau.



STATISTICS:

Established: 1945, EMS Added 1957

Chief: William Lauber

EMS Captain: Matthew Comeau

Annual EMS Call Volume: 800

Number of EMS Vehicles: 2

EMSPRO Expo is Back for 2021

After taking 2020 off due to the pandemic, New England's largest Fire/EMS expo will return this October. Packed with exhibitors, speakers, and plenty of extras; it will be held at Foxwoods Resort Casino.

For information or registration, visit: emspro.org



EMT's at Waterbury HEALTH's Vaccine Clinics

Waterbury Hospital, the Borough of Naugatuck, and the Town of Watertown have hired several local Firefighters and EMT's to work at its clinics.

In Naugatuck, they recently celebrated 5,000 doses however because the daily doses have increased, they will soon hit 10,000. The EMT's at Naugatuck's clinic come from Beacon Hose Company and the Naugatuck Fire Department. Naugatuck's clinic is a very efficient clinic and a favorite spot for a lot of the staff and patients because most are in and out within 45 minutes to an hour. The EMS staff provides the inoculations and are in the observation area providing patient care as needed and follow up appointments.

Today, our staff at Post University is celebrating 25,000 vaccines given. The clinic is currently staffed by Waterbury Hospital's EMT's and the Waterbury Fire Department. The two crews work closely together to ensure each patient goes home. Only a few have needed to be transported due to allergic reactions. The EMT's at Post are on the fun side, so if you do plan to work there you won't go home without laughing a dozen times.

On Saturdays, the Watertown Fire Department's EMT's and Firefighters run the Watertown clinic. They are the only walk-in clinic and they do about 300-400 vaccinations during the 8 hour day. This is the only clinic that operates on a Saturday but many locals appreciate it due to their busy schedules during the week.

EMS Courses

- **Accelerated EMT (Days)** - May 17 through June 30
- **EMT (Nights)** - May 24 through August 25
- **Accelerated EMT (Days)** - July 5 through August 17
- **EMR/EMT Recertification(s)** - June 5 and 6, September 18 and 19

Offered by Seymour EMS Training Center.
Call Lee Ives @ 203.888.8843



- **Accelerated EMT (Days)** - June 15 through August 19

Offered by Wolcott Ambulance Training Center. Call 203.879.4122 extension 113 or email: training@wolcottambulance.com

