

COMMISSIONERS UNIT CITATION

The Fire Commissioner is pleased to commend the members of Engine Company 16 for their actions on November 12, 2009. On that date Box 3495 was struck for a building fire at 83 Evans St., District 8, with reports of a person trapped inside. Upon arrival Engine Co. 16 reported heavy fire showing from the basement windows, with fire extending rapidly up the interior stairwell. Fire Fighter Brian Martinage and Fire Fighter Michael Sweeney immediately advanced the attack line down the driveway knocking down the fire emanating from the windows and up the exterior. They then entered the basement via a three foot drop and continued the attack under extreme fire conditions.

As other occupants confirmed that someone was still inside, Fire Lieutenant Michael Sameski and Fire Fighter Robert Dillon Jr. attempted to enter the building, but intense heat and thick smoke drove them back. They then re-entered the front door and proceeded again down the hallway ten to fifteen feet past the open door to the basement from which the heat and smoke was rising.

Searching through zero visibility Fire Lieutenant Sameski located the victim and with the assistance of Fire Fighter Dillon removed the victim to the outside. Pump Operator Fire Fighter Michael Ahern came to the aid of the victim and along with Lieutenant Sameski determined that she was not breathing and had no pulse. They immediately initiated CPR for two or three minutes until the arrival of Boston EMS. Fire Lieutenant Sameski then went to the basement and Fire Fighter Ahern continued to operate numerous attack lines off of Engine 16's pumper.

Because of their initiative and teamwork under chaotic conditions, the victim was saved from more serious injuries or possible death. Therefore the Commissioner's Unit Citation is hereby awarded to:

Engine Company 16

Fire Lieutenant Michael Sameski
Fire Fighter Michael Ahern
Fire Fighter Brian Martinage
Fire Fighter Robert Dillon Jr.
Fire Fighter Michael Sweeney