



**A Tradition of
Excellence
in Public Safety
Since 1872**

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Salisbury Fire Department Newsletter

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Oh How Far We Have Come

Assistant Chief Bryan W. Records



It would be safe to say that nearly every member knows the Salisbury Fire Department was organized in 1872 and the city burned down in 1860 and 1886. A few could tell you that some of the biggest fires in the City's history were the Peninsula Hotel, Southern States and the Civic Center fires. There is a vital piece of information that until recently only a handful of people knew of or even cared about. That information is the statistical data from many years ago that reported the call volume of our department. Most of the information that dealt with this particular topic was buried in annual reports to City Hall or the Fire Marshal. Today, Deputy Chief Tull provides

the statistical data that covers every aspect of the services we provide. Several months ago I was tasked with gathering call volume information by Chief Hoppes and DC Tull for a critical presentation they were making. Fortunately I had saved years of Annual Reports and documents that were required by the Fire Marshal and the project came together very well.

It was during my research that I realized this would make a great article for this newsletter. It is easy for anyone to check the web and see that Salisbury responded to 3,120 fire and 8,645 EMS calls in 2014. Good luck finding that same information for 1948. Some may ask, what difference does it make? Why is it important? The answer is simple: in order to appreciate today's department, you have to know where we came from. There are many events and improvements sandwiched in those reports that have shaped the way we do business today.

Let's start with the year 1948. That year would be a landmark year for the department. An insurance underwriters report made front page news in late 1947. At the time Salisbury had a fire loss rate three times higher than Baltimore City. The report called for a full time Chief, a municipal fire alarm system and 12 full time firemen. At the time the department responded to approximately 200 fire calls a year. Ambulance service began in 1939 with a donated Packard ambulance from the Lions Club.

Oh How Far We Have Come

Continued

Fire alarms were sounded by a bell at the old Headquarters station located at 143 S. Division Street and the Chief was elected annually. As a result Austin Moore was appointed as the City's first paid Fire Chief. A new Federal Signal air horn system was installed in the bell tower and 12 full time paid firemen were hired. A first run engine was staffed with an Assistant Chief, Firefighter First Class and a Driver to supplement the Volunteers at Headquarters. Four House Men would soon follow to serve at Station 2.

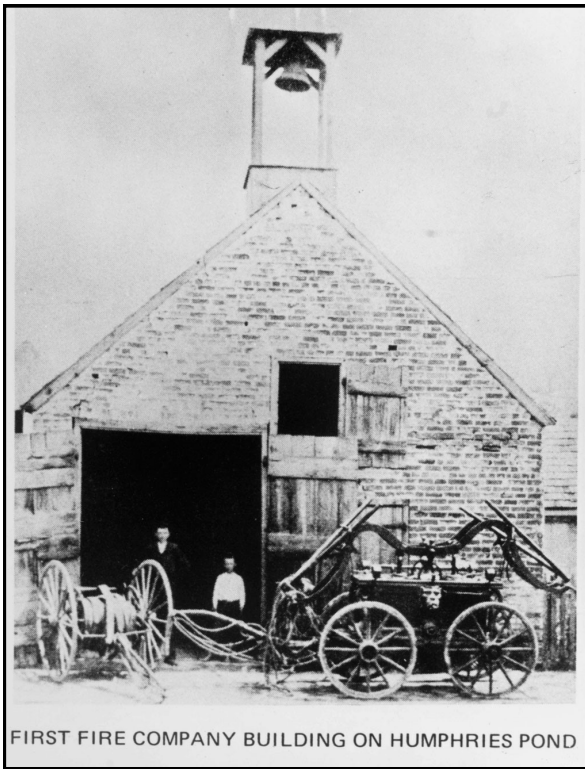
Let's fast forward to 1965. The department had grown to 71 Volunteers and 26 Career members handling 369 fire and 1,115 EMS ambulance calls. They were listed as ambulance calls because in 1965 Emergency Medical Services was still a distant vision of what we know today. A single ambulance was staffed by one member with Basic First Aid and may or may not have any fire training. The department had 15 pieces of apparatus with the largest pump listed at 750 G.P.M. There were only 6 S.C.B.A. in the department and they were kept at the ready in boxes on the apparatus. A new Central Fire Alarm was established in a small room on the engine room floor of Headquarters in July of 1965. A full time dispatcher would receive and dispatch calls for the entire county. Calls were received on 9-4141 and dispatched on 33.98. Long before 911 or 410-749 existed. If the dispatcher took off or was sick, a fireman had the pleasure of being the dispatcher for the shift. The 1965 work schedule consisted of 8 hours shifts of 7 – 3, 3 – 11 and 11 – 7 with a long weekend in between every third week. The average salary of a Firefighter was approximately \$4,100. I found an old pay schedule for my father as a Captain in 1967 making a whopping \$5,178 annually. The department had two Cadillac ambulances and would often handle emergency transports to Baltimore. If you were the bottom man you could have the pleasure of handling these calls at any time during your shift. There was no such thing as overtime and these transports often extended beyond the regular end of shift. 1966 saw the first closed cab fire engine with the arrival of Engine 5. In 1967 the department received its first modular ambulance mounted on a Chevrolet truck chassis. A revolutionary development in ambulances at the time.

By 1978 the department had grown to 100 Volunteer and 48 Career members. The department responded to 775 fire and 2,437 ambulance calls. Career shifts had switched to a new schedule known as the 10s and 14s. A new level of medical training known as Cardiac Rescue Technician had begun to arrive to compliment a young Emergency Medical Technician program. In 1982 the department added what could be described as the first Special Operations service with the addition of a Dive Team. The first fully enclosed cab fire engines were placed in service in October 1988 and riding the tail board was quickly becoming a memory in SFD history. By the late 80's a third ambulance was added to the fleet along with an EMS Supervisor. The department's Cardiac Rescue Technicians began Paramedic training in 1989 and added a third ALS provider to each shift. In just twenty years the call volume had grown to 1,961 Fire and 4,883 EMS calls in 1998. By 2005 the department had grown to 105 Volunteer and 56 Career members responding to 3,268 Fire and 7,654 EMS calls.

Oh How Far We Have Come

Continued

Obviously this is a quick summary of statistical data and highlights of our history over the last 50 plus years. The complete list of Fire and EMS statistics is far too large for this article, but will soon be made available for everyone to see. The numbers speak volumes of the department's growth and how our services are more valuable today than ever before. What's hidden behind the numbers are the huge strides the department has made to keep pace with the growing demands for service. So the next time you respond to an EMS call with a Paramedic or EMT as your partner, on a 24/72 shift, in a modern ambulance, from a modern station with additional manpower only a dispatch away; think back to 1965. When you respond to a fire aboard a fully enclosed cab fire engine in modern turnout gear with SCBA's and portable radios in every position, reflect back to when Iron Men responded with open cabs, no radios, a metal helmet, canvas coat, $\frac{3}{4}$ boots and no SCBA. Appreciate the modern stations, great salary and work schedule that today's members enjoy. Be proud that you are the most highly trained members in the department's history and your services are needed more now than ever before. I doubt anyone could ever question how far we have come.



Emergency Medical Services

Acting Lieutenant Chris Truitt

What can I do to prepare for an ambulance call?

Over the past few newsletters we have discussed the basics of what to expect when you call 911 for an ambulance, as well as the training the personnel go through for their certifications. This time, let's take a look at a few basic items you can do to prepare for an ambulance call, just in case you should ever need one.

When an ambulance is called for service, there are three main areas of concern the emergency medical services providers will look/ask for, alongside the reason for the current complaint/injury. The first is the medical history, meaning any chronic illnesses (high blood pressure, heart conditions, etc.) to include anything the patient is begin treated by a doctor for. The second and third items go hand in hand with one another; is the patient allergic to any medications (any medication that caused a rash, swelling, or breathing trouble in the past) as well as the patient's current medications, both over the counter and prescribed by a physician. These items can be listed on a piece of paper that can be kept with the patient or somewhere in the house (posted on the fridge is a common place) so it can be easily obtained by EMS personnel.

These may seem insignificant, however if you think an ambulance may need to come for you or a family member or friend, having this list can save precious time on the scene. Alongside this, please try to remember that a wide, straight path through the house will aid in getting the stretcher to the patient. If you can direct the EMS personnel to an entry door that has a straight path way, and try to keep it clear of large items, you will be helping EMS quite a bit.

Thank you and have a safe summer!



Station I Volunteers

Lieutenant Ben Waples

During these first three (3) months of 2015, our members have already responded to 106 calls for service. Our membership has challenged ourselves to decrease our turnout time (time of dispatch to time of response) to less than four (4) minutes. Thus far we have made progress with this challenge; however we recognize that there is always room for improvement.

As summer approaches we are looking forward to returning to the Delmarva Shorebirds for fireworks standbys. Our first standby was on April 11th, and we had a terrific membership turnout for that night with nine (9) people attending. This is an excellent opportunity for our members to interact with our community and discuss fire safety, give tours of the apparatus, recruit future volunteers, and provide information about services provided by the Salisbury Fire Department.

We would like to congratulate Captains Joel Dixon, Ron Montgomery, and Ben Waples on their recent promotions. Currently, we have several members enrolled in the Emergency Medical Technician-Basic (EMT-B) class. Those members are: Justin Elliott, Eric Foskey, Gaije Hallstrom, Tom Councillor, and Roy Woods. Captain Montgomery recently completed the Fire Instructor II class, and Captains Dixon and Waples completed a class on safe live fire training. Lastly, Assistant Chief Polidore attended the week long National Fire Service Staff and Command course in Towson and has brought back new ideas and concepts that can help Station I provide even better service to our community.

The officers of Station I want to thank our members for all that they are doing and the dedication they have to Station I. We would like to personally thank retired member Larry Kent for his years of service as he retired on January 1, 2015. Keep up the strong work!

Cory Polidore
Assistant Fire Chief

Ronald Montgomery
Fire Captain

Ben Waples
Fire Captain



Fire Prevention & Public Education

Assistant Chief James E. Gladwell

The yearly quarter that encompasses 1 January through 31 March is normally a bit slower. The colder weather may increase the SFD's fire call volume, but the calls for Community Service and Public Education usually decrease. That can't be said about this past quarter! The SFD provided home safety inspections, installed smoke detectors, participated in After The Fire programs, and numerous other Pub Ed/Community Service events.

Perhaps the most interesting and impactful event for the quarter was the department's participation in the Blazing a Trail for Literacy program. Members spent time at district elementary schools reading books of different genres to second graders. The young folks were also encouraged to read as much as possible outside of the classroom. The respective schools held internal competitions and picked winners based on total documented reading minutes. Chief Donaway was instrumental in coordinating and obtaining various sponsors and prizes for the top three winners at each school. The Grand Prize winners received the title of Fire Chief for the Day of the SFD. Each top reader came to SFD HQ, received some fire prevention "goodies", received an extensive tour of the facility, and was then transported to their respective school as the Officer In Charge of Engine 16. The SFD was extremely proud to have been a large part of a program encouraging young people to get involved in reading.

For the quarter, based on information documented in Firehouse Software, the department participated in 46 different Community Service/Public Education events. Six (6) After the Fire programs were completed and 51 smoke detectors were distributed/installed to our constituents with 310 staff hours expended to complete all the various events. The extended harsh weather certainly did not curtail the efforts of all of the members of the SFD to continue to ensure the Mission of the Salisbury Fire Department is continually met.

A huge "Thank You" to everyone who assisted, and a quick reminder to ensure to document anything you may do to either assist or educate the public. Please give yourself the credit you deserve for all you do!

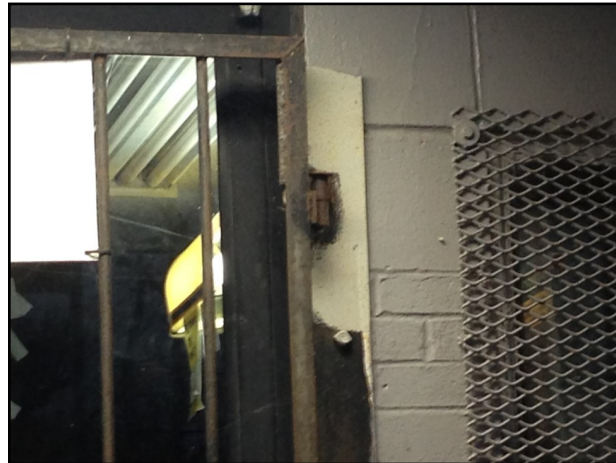
Stay Safe.



Knowing Your First Due

Firefighter/Paramedic DJ Messick

This is a liquor store in our first due, just like many around the country. We often drive by these types of buildings, but seldom give them much thought. This building is **not** occupied 24 hours a day. The following are pictures of the security measures they employ.



What tools are needed for entry into the structure?

What tools would make our job easier for this procedure?

Why is it important to remove these obstacles?

Statistics - January through March 2015

Fire Incidents by Fire Station	3rd Qtr.	FY15 YTD	% of Quarter
Station 1	169	555	22%
Station 2	198	591	26%
Station 16	400	1148	52%

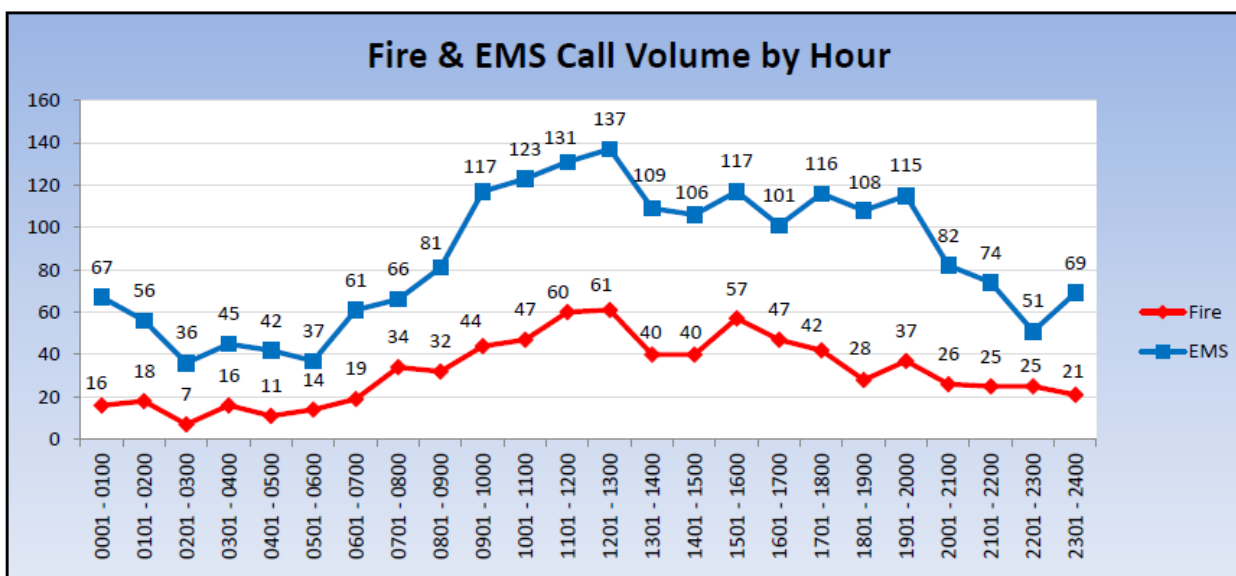
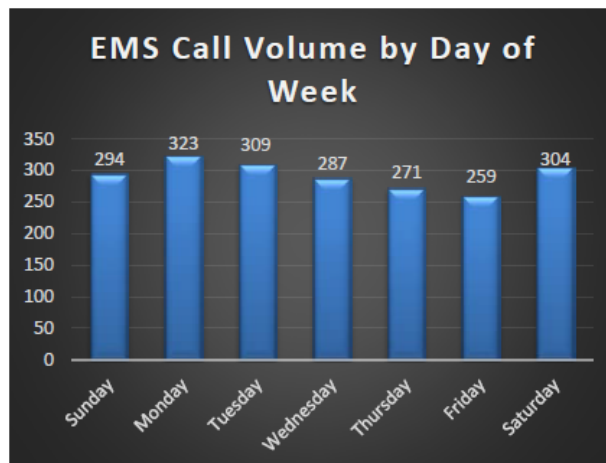
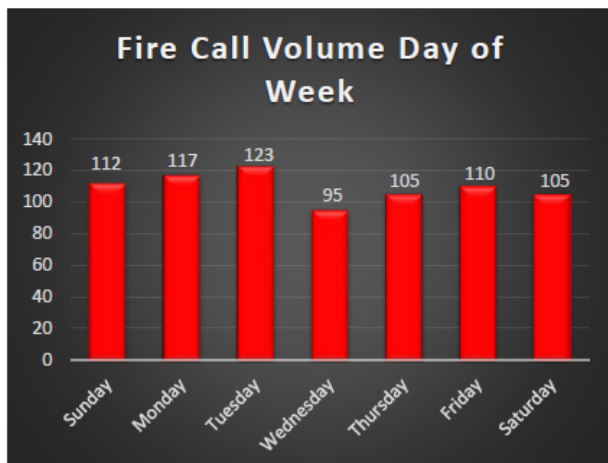
Fire Loss Data	3rd Qtr.	FY15 YTD	% of Quarter
Property Value	\$7,288,138	\$19,790,275	N/A
Property Destroyed	\$836,139	\$2,843,564	11%
Property Saved	\$6,451,999	\$16,946,711	89%

Fire Incident Type	3rd Qtr.	FY15 YTD	% of Quarter
Structure Fires	12	42	2%
Cooking fire	8	25	1%
Vehicle Fires	5	22	1%
Natural Cover/Brush	7	40	1%
Trash/Dumpster	5	28	1%
Fire, Other	7	18	1%
Medical	360	989	47%
Vehicle Accidents	99	344	13%
Rescue Calls	3	9	0%
Hazardous Conditions	47	112	6%
Service Calls	73	148	10%
Good Intent Calls	58	195	8%
False Alarms	81	311	11%
Other Incident Type	2	11	0%
Totals	767	2294	

Statistics - January through March 2015 Continued

Medical Chief Complaints	3rd Qtr.	FY15 YTD	% of Quarter
Abdominal Pain/GI Problem	103	362	5.03%
Abuse/Neglect	0	3	0.00%
Allergic Reaction/Bites/Stings	3	30	0.15%
Altered Level of Consciousness	44	138	2.15%
Assault/Sexual Assault	0	0	0.00%
Back Pain	40	136	1.95%
Behavioral/Psychiatric	43	105	2.10%
Breathing Problem	48	143	2.34%
Burns/Smoke Inhalation	2	8	0.10%
Cancer	1	6	0.05%
Cardiac/Respiratory Arrest/DOA	36	95	1.76%
Cardiac Problems	171	486	8.35%
Choking/Airway Obstruction	3	10	0.15%
Dehydration	3	11	0.15%
Diabetic Problem	58	176	2.83%
Dizziness/Vertigo	19	71	0.93%
Drug/Alcohol	56	167	2.74%
Headache	27	72	1.32%
Heat/Cold Exposure	4	19	0.20%
Hypertension/Hypotension	17	53	0.83%
Poisoning	5	18	0.24%
Nausea/Vomiting	29	98	1.42%
No Apparent Injury	100	347	4.89%
Not Applicable	20	54	0.98%
OB/GYN/Pregnancy/Childbirth	23	60	1.12%
Other	181	517	8.84%
Pain	236	754	11.53%
Patient Assist	1	5	0.05%
Respiratory Distress	76	234	3.71%
Seizure/Convulsions	72	202	3.52%
Sepsis	10	26	0.49%
Sick Person/Flu-like	102	281	4.98%
Shock	0	2	0.00%
Stroke/CVA/TIA	38	108	1.86%
Syncope/Fainting	39	141	1.91%
Traumatic Injury	71	285	3.47%
Unconscious	24	66	1.17%
Unknown Problem	276	894	13.48%
Weakness	66	177	3.22%
Totals	2047	6360	

Statistics - January through March 2015 Continued



Training	Classes	Attendees	Hours
Administrative	47	150	254.75
Engine Co. Ops	13	94	117.5
EMS	33	231	280
Driver Operator	76	200	269.96
General	141	619	928.01
Incident Command	1	1	2
Rescue Company Ops	20	83	102.51
Special Ops	30	179	236.5
Truck Company Ops	32	134	140.49
Totals - 3rd Quarter	393	1691	2331.72
FY15 YTD Totals	1035	4690	8275.99

Fire Prevention Summary	3rd Qtr.	FY15 YTD
Fire Inspections/Preplans	24	185
Plan Reviews	13	24
Smoke Alarms Distributed	34	70
Smoke Alarms Installed	32	64
Public Education Events		
a. Adults in Attendance	211	4984
b. Children in Attendance	1128	8385

Hazardous Materials

Acting Lieutenant Ron Wismer

When you call 911, for any incident, you can rest easy that highly-trained personnel are on the way. When that call for help happens to be a Hazardous Materials (Hazmat) emergency, those personnel undergo even more rigorous training. So what does it take to become a Hazmat Technician? Well in a word, training. The members of the Salisbury Hazmat Team have taken it upon themselves to subject themselves to more training to answer the call.

In addition to the hundreds of hours of training that a member of the Salisbury Fire Department must go through, Hazmat members embark on an even longer journey. They begin this journey with a Hazardous Materials Technician's course. This course introduces them to state and federal regulations. Federal regulations, set down in 29 CFR 1910.120 are the guiding rules for all Hazmat teams nationwide. This document sets the standards by which all Hazmat responders are judged for competency. Hazmat techs also focus on the techniques and skills they need in the field. These skills include a focus on risk management, incident behavior modeling, environmental monitoring, to name a few. At the conclusion of their initial course all responders pass both a written and practical exam.

The initial course of instruction is just the first step for a Hazmat team member. Annually they will be exposed to refresher training, including at least one entry in a chemical protective ensemble. This is how we are able to maintain our readiness. Some team members choose to embark on even more training. Some of our members have attended federal training agencies such as the National Fire Academy or Radiological Technician courses. A few of our members have attended advanced metering training; this allows them to keep our most important tools in service at all times.

I hope this small article can act as a brief look into the dedication of the members of your Hazmat team. All members of the Salisbury Hazmat Team are proud to serve their community. They make a huge investment of their time to better serve you. I also hope that these same members realize how thankful we are that they are out there.



Hot Shots



Correspondence from the Community

Thank you for donating a
Ride to School to the PTA
fall auction. Our event was
a success and we were able to
raise over \$4500. for our school.

Sincerely
Pemberton Elem PTA

Salisbury Fire Dept. Station 1
Fire Chief,

Last Thursday evening 2/5 around 7:30 PM,
our carbon monoxide detector started beeping.
We called 911 and within minutes Ben Waples
was at our home and in a few more minutes about five
more firemen showed up with detectors checking out our
home. We were very impressed with the professionalism
that was shown!

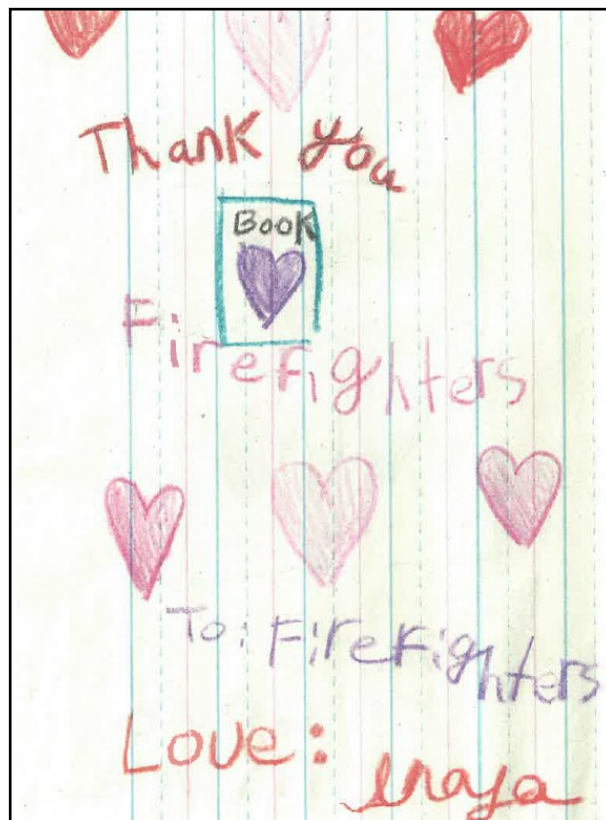
After reading in the paper about Bryan Lewis' ¹/₂
battle with cancer we would like to contribute to his
fundraising.

Thanks again for all you do
Sincerely,
Sandy & Jerry Marshall

Dear Firefighters

Thank You For reading to us!
My favorite story is Just Kidding.
My favorite part was when he saw
his favorite player. Also thank you
for coming to our houses when
we have fires. THANK YOU!!!!

Love,
Ava



Tuesday, March 10, 2015

Dear Firefighters

I wish you can come back to
read more books to us. Thank you
for reading books to us. We will
be happy if you come back to
our class. We miss you so
much! We love the book that you read.
Thank you for coming to our
class. Thank you very very much.
We love to see you again!

Your friend _____,
Natalia
P. S. Thank you for coming