



Stamford Fire & Rescue Department

Engine Company #7 - Springdale

Wednesday, September 23, 2008

Chief John Didelot
Belltown Fire Department
8 Dorlen Road
Stamford, Connecticut 06905

Dear Chief Didelot:

The purpose of this letter is to acknowledge the efforts of **Belltown Volunteer Fire Fighter Tom Costello** at the scene of a motor vehicle collision (with fire) on Tuesday, September 23, 2008

At approximately 10:52 hours, Engine 7 and Springdale Units were dispatched to the area of 8 Viaduct Road for a reported motor vehicle collision involving a car and a truck. Fire Dispatch also advised that one of the vehicles was reported to be on fire.

Shortly after responding, Fire Dispatch advised Engine 7 that a Belltown Fire Fighter was on scene reporting the fire had been extinguished and all occupants were out the vehicles. Engine 7 arrived on scene at 10:56 hours and found a two-vehicle collision involving a sanitation truck and a taxi/sedan. The taxi had a moderate amount of front-end damage and clear evidence of a recent fire. An extensive amount of dry-chemical extinguisher agent was also found throughout the area.

As I stepped off Engine 7, Fire Fighter Costello met with me and gave a brief summary of his actions prior to our arrival. It was quite evident to me that Fire Fighter Costello worked diligently to extinguish the vehicle fire using several portable extinguishers prior to our arrival. Because of his efforts, the fire was contained to the engine compartment of the taxi.

Fortunately, the driver of the taxi sustained only minor injuries. However, had the driver suffered serious life threatening injuries, which prevented him from exiting the cab, Fire Fighter Costello's actions would have prevented a tragedy from occurring.

I am hoping that you will consider reading this letter at your next Company meeting so that all of Fire Fighter Costello's colleagues can also acknowledge his efforts and a copy be placed in his personal file.

On behalf of the Fire Fighters from Engine 7, Group 4, I would like to thank and commend Fire Fighter Costello for his quick actions and service.

If you should have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me directly at 203.848.9119.

Sincerely and Gratefully,

Matt Palmer

Matthew T. Palmer
Fire Captain, Engine 7, Group 4
Stamford Fire and Rescue Department

Cc: Fire Chief Robert McGrath, Deputy Chief David Jones