

# Code Red

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## *Fire Rips through Pawtucket, RI Community*

On November 14, 2003, The Pawtucket Fire Department fought there worse fire in over a decade. At around 3:00pm they were called for a possible structure fire at the Greenhaugh Mill Complex on Kenyon Street. When first companies arrived on scene they were faced with a fast spreading fire due to high winds. When all was said and done the mill complex and 13 homes were damaged or destroyed.



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# Presidents Message:

*As we embark on this year of 2004 a special event will occur. In a little office on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of Providence's Ladder Co 4 a special man had a dream. Along with a few friends and \$100.00 Providence Citywide was formed into what you here today. The radio system was shared with a construction company and we could only talk after 5pm or on*

*weekends. Many nights went by with radio traffic of "Harry, I need a typewriter" or "Can you bring the Backhoe to my location" and in between those important messages you would here "Working fire Providence RI.*

*Our founders were simple characters, Noel Kerkoff a lieutenant on one of the busiest ladder companies in the city, John Troll, a quiet man who had an knack for dispatching, Rick Blais (The Ranger) was a never tiring big hearted Firefighter on Providence Engine Co-14, Tim Delaney, a kid with the ambition to be a fire*

*fighter and nothing else, Tim ate, slept and dreamed fire. And myself, Ray Taylor a fireman from a small town who loved the radio and the excitement. We all met one evening and under the wing of Boston Citywide started an organization that had ties to the gong club, Canteen Units, Providence Fire Dept and a goal to promote the Fire service in anyway we could. As we began getting more members we continued to grow and mature. In the first year our membership was at 30. We had members like, Jim Morton (PFD), Peter Lamb (Tiverton Chief), Bob Woodard (Warwick*

*Firefighter), Richard Kelly (AP Photo) and many that are still here today like Bob Farrell (Sparky) Channel 10 Photographer and Bob Myers.*

*This year will mark our 10 year anniversary, our membership continues to grow with dedicated members and a following that any group would love to have.*

*Our voices are heard 24 hours a day and seven days a week on scanners in Chiefs vehicles, Fire apparatus and homes throughout Southern New England. Not to mention on the internet which brings us to all parts of the world. Our group in the last 10 years has gone from a single borrowed radio to 5 channels which two we own and lease the*

*other three.*

*Providence Citywide is respected throughout the buff community and is one of the major groups in the IFBA Region 1. Our group for the last 3 years has put together a great event for Fire safety in Rhode Island with the Public Safety Expos, promoting fire prevention and safety for*

*kids. Our organization has assisted the Providence Fire Prevention division on numerous prevention days along with assisting the Providence Canteens on a daily basis. Our Website designed by a former member Steve Cloutier is one of the best website for Fire Photography in*

*New England*

*In the coming year we will celebrate or anniversary with a Special Photo Night with a few of the finest Fire Photographers and Videographers in Southern New England. Some of my other goals this year will be to plan our 4<sup>th</sup>*

*Public Safety Event, put more dispatchers on the radio for coverage and plan our next radio site in Southern RI.*

*Our purpose is simple "To promote the Fire Service and make notifications on major events as they happen". "Remember it is a*

hobby”

*Be safe all and be proud of your club, it is a great example of what fire buffing truly is in New England and the world.*

*Ray Taylor, President Providence Citywide Fire Network*



Members take break at the Rehab Unit.

**A night of Fun turns into a night of Tragedy**  
By Daniel Taylor

*West Warwick, RI:* On February 20<sup>th</sup>, 2003 West Warwick became victim to yet another senseless tragedy. Around 10:45pm a call came in to West Warwick Fire Department. The call was for a fire at the Station Night Club on Cowesett Avenue. Engine 4 quickly arrived on scene. When they arrived

on scene they thought they were watching a movie. The building was completely involved in fire and people were walking around the outside of the structure dazed and confused. Some of the people who were walking around were badly burned and had numerous cuts and abrasions.

West Warwick Fire Department immediately asked for ten more rescues to the scene. Fire Departments from around the area heard what was going on and decided to go on their own. They quickly mobilized the mass casualties' team.

When that was mobilized you had units from as far north as Norton, Mass and as far south as North Stonington, CT.

The people who were in the night club when the fire started only had about 3 minutes to get out. The building being so hold went up rather quickly. People were stacked on top of each other at the front door trying to get out. Firefighters pulled out at least 100 people from the door before the front collapsed. Once the front collapsed it became a search and recovery.

All together 100 people lost their lives that night. What was sup-

posed to be a night of fun turned into a night of terror and tragedy. The State of Rhode Island had never seen anything like this before. The bravery that the emergency teams showed that night was unbelievable. It made me realize why they are called, "The Bravest." Providence Citywide has their thoughts and prayers with all the fire victims and their families. Let's try and prevent anything like this from happening again anywhere.

# Hot Shots



These photo's were taken by two of our members: Mike Porowski and Ray Taylor. This was a late night fire on the south side of Providence on Hawthorne St.

*Were on the web  
Www.intap.net/~pcfn*