

**9. Case of Fire Fighter Christopher Corwin, Ladder Company 1  
(detailed to Engine Company 8)  
Fire Fighter Michael S. Dannaher, Ladder Company 1**

On December 18, 2002, at 1129 hours, Engine Company 8 and Ladder Company 1 responded to 539 Commercial Street for a reported drowning. Upon arrival, a hysterical, screaming woman was observed at the sea wall approximately sixty yards from the street.

Fire Fighter Christopher Corwin of Ladder Company 1, detailed to Engine Company 8, and Fire Fighter Michael S. Dannaher of Ladder Company 1, ran toward the woman. Arriving first, Fire Fighter Corwin observed a young male in the water approximately seven feet down from the top of the sea wall. The victim was a fourteen year old autistic male, big for his age, and fully clothed in winter weight clothing. It was obvious that there was not enough time to don a survival suit before attempting a rescue.

Fire Fighter Corwin jumped in the water to assist the victim. Fire Fighter Dannaher, then arriving at the sea wall, followed Fire Fighter Corwin, jumping in the water to assist keeping the victim afloat. Both Fire Fighters pinned the then limp victim up against the sea wall allowing fellow rescue workers to pull him to safety. Both members and the victim were transported to Massachusetts General Hospital.

Because this rescue was performed without knowledge of any hidden obstructions or the depth of the water, and the threat of hypothermia afforded by the temperature, Fire Fighters Corwin and Dannaher placed themselves at great personal risk. The Fire Commissioner/Chief of Department highly commended Fire Fighter Christopher Corwin of Ladder Company 1, detailed to Engine Company 8, and Fire Fighter Michael S. Dannaher of Ladder Company 1 in General Order No. 1 of 2003.

The Fire Commissioner, acting on the recommendation of the Board of Merit, hereby orders that the names of Fire Fighter Christopher Corwin of Ladder Company 1, detailed to Engine Company 8, and Fire Fighter Michael S. Dannaher of Ladder Company 1 be added to the Roll of Merit.