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PETER J. OSTROSKY
STATE FIRE MARSHAL

MEMORANDUM

TO: Heads of Fire Departments

FROM: Peter J. Ostroskey
State Fire Marshal

DATE: March 1, 2016

RE: **Fire Standard Compliant (FSC) Cigarette Program & Cigarette Fire Investigation Checklist**

A recent initiative has been undertaken by the DFS Fire Standard Compliant (FSC) Cigarette Program, the Fire Safety Division's Code Compliance Office, and the State Police Fire & Explosion Investigation Unit (F&EIU) to more robustly investigate fires caused by cigarettes.

Beginning this past January, the State Police fire investigators have been making a concerted effort to not only identify, photograph, and document which specific cigarette brand style(s) are involved in these fires but also to identify the retailer(s) that sold them. The Division of Fire Safety's Code Compliance Officers are then purchasing this same brand style in bulk at that retailer. The cigarettes from both the fire scene and the store are then sent to our independent lab to ensure they pass the required ignition strength test. The results are then tracked to identify if certain brand styles perform better than others. The goal is to evaluate the effectiveness of the FSC cigarette standard and to ensure that cigarettes sold in Massachusetts, especially those that are involved in fires, are actually meeting it.

Attached is a revised version of the [Cigarette Fire Investigation Checklist](#) (Form FP-38) that the Department of Fire Services has asked local fire departments and the State Police fire investigators assigned to the agency to complete since the Fire Standard Compliance (FSC) Cigarette Program was created in 2008. I am requesting your help with this initiative and ask that your department complete this form and forward it to the Fire Data and Public Education Unit any time your community has a fire that was started by a cigarette. You may also download this FP-38

form from the DFS website from the [Fire Prevention Forms page](#). Please note this checklist is in addition to and not a replacement for a fire department's mandatory reporting of fires required by the Massachusetts Fire Incident Reporting System (MFIRS).

If you have any questions about reporting these fires or use of this form, please contact Derryl Dion, Research Analyst and MFIRS Manager at (978) 567-3382 or Derryl.Dion@state.ma.us.



Department of Fire Services Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Cigarette Fire Investigation Checklist (FP-038)

On January 1, 2008, fire standard compliant (FSC) cigarettes became the law in Massachusetts. The State Police Commander of the Fire Investigation Unit (FIU) has set unit policy to determine, whenever possible, if cigarettes involved in fires were FSC or not. The State Fire Marshal is requesting local chiefs to adopt similar policies. This information is considered most probable based on the initial results of the investigation.

If possible, attach a copy of the fire department's MA Fire Incident Report (MFIRS).

Fire Date: _____ Fire Time: _____ FDID #: _____ Incident #: _____

Fire Address: _____

Casualties: Civilian Injuries _____ Civilian Deaths _____
Fire Service Injuries _____ Fire Service Deaths _____

Brand		Type	FSC	Material First Ignited
<input type="checkbox"/> Maverick	<input type="checkbox"/> USA Gold	<input type="checkbox"/> Regular	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> Bedding
<input type="checkbox"/> Marlboro	<input type="checkbox"/> Merit	<input type="checkbox"/> Menthol	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Clothing
<input type="checkbox"/> Camel	<input type="checkbox"/> Grand Prix	<input type="checkbox"/> Non-filter	<input type="checkbox"/> Unknown	<input type="checkbox"/> Mulch
<input type="checkbox"/> Winston	<input type="checkbox"/> Vantage	<input type="checkbox"/> 100s		<input type="checkbox"/> Potting Soil
<input type="checkbox"/> Basic	<input type="checkbox"/> Old Gold	<input type="checkbox"/> 120s		Other _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Newport	<input type="checkbox"/> L&M	<input type="checkbox"/> Hard Pack	UPC Pack Code #: _____	
<input type="checkbox"/> Roll Your Own Cigarette		<input type="checkbox"/> Soft Pack		
Other _____				

Store location(s) where cigarettes were purchased? _____
Store Name/Town

FIU Case#: _____ Report by: _____
Rank, Name, Department or Agency

Return completed checklist to Fire Data Unit

Mail: Department of Fire Services, P.O. Box 1025 – State Road, Stow, MA 01775

Fax: 978-567-3199

Email: MFIRS.Report@state.ma.us