

# All Hands Herald

Massachusetts Department of Fire Services September 2013

## *Back to School With Fire Prevention*

**New Breathing  
Equipment Test  
Begins September 1**

**Senior SAFE  
Program Created**

**Fire Prevention  
Regulations Appeals  
Board Formed**

# Contents

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The *All Hands Herald* is published three times a year by the Department of Fire Services. Our title incorporates the traditional fire service meaning of all hands working to extinguish a fire. In this publication, all hands is DFS staff providing information, training and assistance with fire service issues which affect all levels of the fire service.

Let us know how you like the *All Hands Herald* and what we can do to make it even more useful to you – our dedicated fire service members and customers.

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## 4 School Fire Prevention

In the new school year, fire departments must meet with school and police officials to review multi-hazard evacuation plans. It's also a great time to review EMS plans, and to discuss fire prevention and the S.A.F.E. Program.



## 6 New Breathing Equipment Test Goes into Effect September 1st

As of September 1, the facepiece lens of firefighter breathing apparatus must pass a rigorous, new test designed by NIST in order to be certified.



## 8 Public Education News: Senior SAFE Program Created

The Senior SAFE Program was created in this year's budget. Fire departments will be able to apply for grants to support fire and life safety education programs for older adults — those most at risk of dying in fires.

- 1 From the Fire Marshal
- 2 Youth Firesetting: Improving Data Collection to Improve Outcomes
- 3 School Fire Data
- 7 The Maze Trailer: Building Firefighter Confidence
- 10 Plans Review Desk: Taking a Stand on Standpipes
- 11 Fire Standard Compliant Cigarette Program Enforcement News
- 12 The Next State Fire Code
- 12 DFS Employees Honored
- 13 Fire Marshal Advisories
- 14 New Fire Prevention Regulations Appeals Board
- 14 New Mack Tractor-Trailer for the DFS Fleet
- 15 Westfield Senior Fire Program: *Retire the Fire!*
- 15 DFS Dedicates New Search and Rescue Prop
- 16 Public Education Grant Recipients
- 17 In Memory of Lt. John V. Baudin
- 18 Graduations from the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy
- 20 License Actions
- 20 License Examination Schedule
- 21 Senior Fire Officer Forums
- Back Cover** Northampton Arsonist Sentenced to Twenty Years

# From the Fire Marshal

## Senior SAFE

I am extremely proud that the Administration and the Legislature recognized both our past success with the S.A.F.E. program and the pressing need to improve senior fire safety. In this year's budget, the state created a new grant program called Senior SAFE for fire departments to reach out to older adults. This program will give the fire service an opportunity to further reduce fire deaths in Massachusetts and to increase the fire safety of older adults. The school-based Student Awareness of Fire Education Program (S.A.F.E.) has had a tremendous impact on the number of childhood fire deaths and total fire deaths in the Commonwealth over the past 19 years. Deaths of people under 18 have dropped 70% and only one person under 18 has died in a fire in each of the last three years (2010-2012). Seniors are now the age group most at risk of dying in a fire, accounting for one-third of fire deaths.

## Model Fire Code

A top priority at the Department of Fire Services (DFS) is to complete the work necessary for the Board of Fire Prevention Regulations (BFPR) to adopt NFPA 1 as the new fire code in Massachusetts. Each chapter must be reviewed and where necessary, modified, to either mirror state laws or to maintain the level of safety we have already achieved. The modifications will be incorporated into the final fire code. Several DFS staff members are dedicated to this project in order to meet our goal to promulgate the new code by the end of 2014.

## Fire Prevention Regulations Appeals Board

One of the long-term goals of the fire service was finally achieved with the creation of the new Fire Prevention Regulations Appeals Board. The new board creates a structure for the Board of Fire Prevention Regulations to hear appeals of orders by state and local fire officials similar to the appeals board at the Board of Building Regulations and Standards. The jurisdiction is limited to matters of fire protection in buildings or structures governed by the State Fire Code (527 CMR). The Appeals Board creates a new way to challenge decisions of local officials. Ultimately, this should lead to more uniform application of the fire code across the state. Also, the Board of Fire Prevention Regulations was expanded to sixteen members by adding the Boston Fire Commissioner and a member who is a municipal building inspector.

## Safe Supervised Fireworks

Local fire officials should be proud that not a single incident or injury was reported at the many supervised fireworks displays this holiday season. The safety of these shows was no accident. Effective enforcement of the regulations governing the supervised displays of fireworks provided a safe Fourth of July in Massachusetts. By contrast, a terrible incident occurred at a show in Simi Valley, CA most likely caused when an improperly secured mortar rack tipped over igniting all the shells. This year, we had only one report of unexploded shells being found after a show ended. They were found by the shooter conducting the required first light search. This was in contrast to last year, where civilians found unexploded shells after shows.

Despite negative media attention, the fire service managed to get an effective public education message on fireworks to our citizens. I am especially grateful to the state's Highway Department for using their electronic billboards to educate drivers that it is illegal to transport fireworks into or through Massachusetts, even if they were purchased legally elsewhere. The absence of major fireworks fires and injuries this season suggests that our message was effective. Citizens often feel that no policing is being done because they hear many illegal fireworks around the Fourth of July. However, fire incidents in other states suggest that things could be much worse if fireworks were legal here. Injury rates are lower in Massachusetts than in states where fireworks are allowed.

## DFS-Springfield Campus

Firefighter training continues at the Department of Fire Services – Springfield Campus as design work for renovations takes place. The project is on track for demolition of the existing building in January 2014 followed by 17 months of construction. Training will continue to take place during construction, but office space will be moved temporarily. The anticipated move-in date for the renovated facility is mid-2015.

Upon completion, the new building will be roughly 18,000 square feet with classrooms, locker and shower facilities,

*Continued on page 2*



# Youth Firesetting

## Improving Data Collection to Improve Outcomes

Today, statistics and data about youth fire setting are primarily collected through the National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS). However, professionals wonder if the data is providing a complete picture of youth firesetting and its relationship to the national fire problem. Professionals want data that will accurately quantify the extent of the problem and will support the development of evidence-based intervention strategies.

**Professionals want data that will accurately quantify the extent of the problem and will support the development of evidence-based intervention strategies.**

The International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF) Charitable Burn Foundation has been working on this issue through two Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Fire Prevention and Safety Grants. It has formed a national advisory committee, pulled together subject matter experts and is looking at how data are collected, both nationally and in regional programs. Significant

progress has been made to document the gaps in the data collection process, and this work is leading to ideas for potential fixes. A report on the first phase of the project is in the works and will be published shortly, but the consensus is leading towards a more robust data collection system that will help practitioners develop evidence-based intervention strategies with demonstrable results. If you would like more information, contact Phil Tammaro from the IAFF at [3rddistrictburnfoundation@iaff.org](mailto:3rddistrictburnfoundation@iaff.org) or contact Ed Comeau at 918-926-6328 or [ecomeau@writer-tech.com](mailto:ecomeau@writer-tech.com).



*From the Fire Marshal continued from page 1*



*Illustration of DFS West, courtesy of Cole + Russell Architects, Inc.*

and three fire apparatus bays. In addition to being a firefighter training facility, it will provide office space for the Massachusetts State Police Fire Investigation Unit West Team and the Code Compliance and Enforcement Unit's western Massachusetts staff. Special Operations vehicles will also be stationed at the new facility. In addition, the Springfield Fire Department will house their

training coordinator and other office personnel at the new campus.

### Staff Changes

Ed Walker stepped down from his position as Massachusetts Firefighting Academy (MFA) Director in June to pursue an advanced degree in management. He will continue to be an MFA instructor. Ed's pursuit of educational goals underscores that learning is a lifelong process, and we wish him well. Retired Deputy State Fire Marshal Tom Leonard will serve as policy advisor on Firefighting Academy issues during the search for a new MFA director. Tom brings stability and continuity to the transition as he works closely with new MFA Deputy Director Joe Klucznik.

It is with great sadness that I learned of the passing of Lt. John Baudin of the Worcester Fire Department in July. John worked for the MFA and DFS for over 30 years. He will be deeply missed.

# School Fire Data

## 30% of School Fires Occur Between October and December

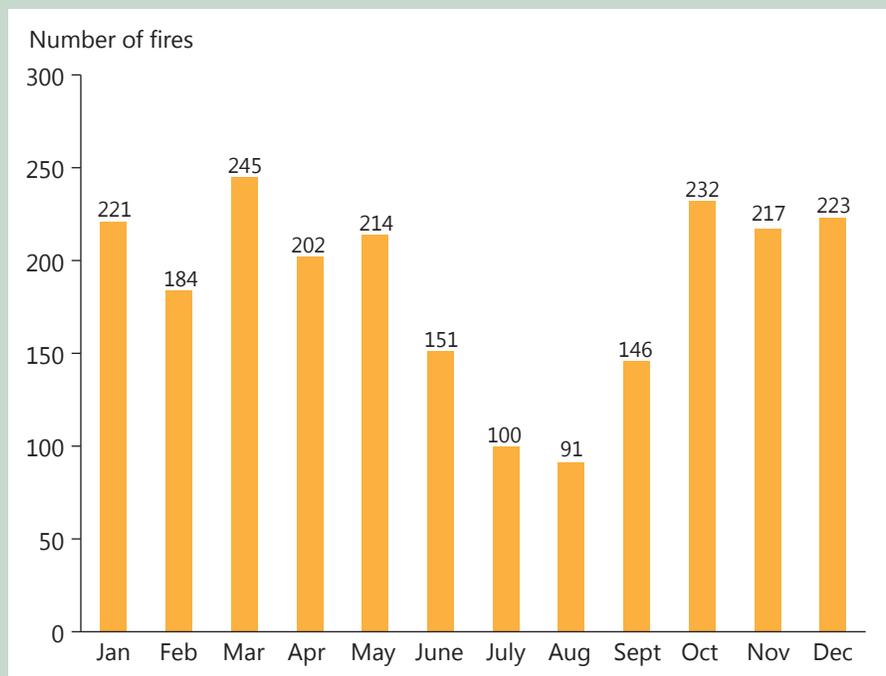
Students all over Massachusetts are heading back to school. During the last 10 years, 2,226 building fires were reported in the Commonwealth's schools (K-12). Three of the top five months for school fires were in the fall. October, November and December accounted for 30% of all school building fires between 2003 and 2012.

## 47% of School Fires Were Cooking Fires

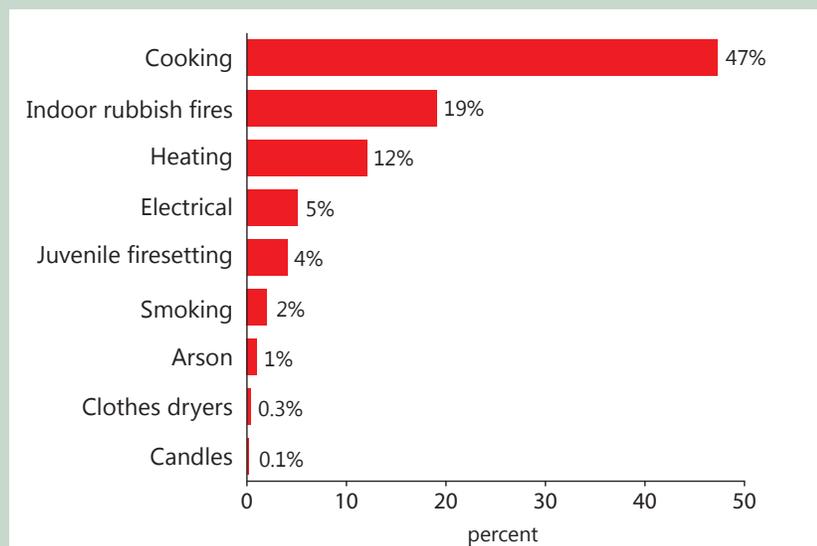
Forty-seven percent (47%) of the 2,226 school fires reported between 2003 and 2012 were caused by cooking. Nineteen percent (19%) of the school fires were confined indoor rubbish fires. No causal information was reported for these fires<sup>1</sup>. Heating equipment problems accounted for 12% of school fires. Another 5% of school fires were caused by electrical problems. Four percent (4%) of the school fires were identified as being set by juveniles. Smoking caused 2% of the fires. Arsons caused 1%. Clothes dryers and candles each caused less than 1% of the reported fires in schools in 2011. Smoking by students and faculty is generally prohibited in schools.

<sup>1</sup> Confined fires, such as indoor rubbish fires, do not require causal information to be reported. However some reports do include this information and we are able to classify these fires as other types of fires such as arson or juvenile-set fires.

Massachusetts School Building Fires, 2003 - 2012



Leading Causes of Fire in Massachusetts Schools, 2003 - 2012





# School Fire Prevention

*Working Together on School Safety*

The beginning of the school year is a good time for fire departments to work with school administrators to remind them of the need to ensure the safety of students and staff.

To assist fire officials in their work with schools, the department has issued advisories on mandatory requirements for reporting school fires (along with form (FP-200) which is used by schools to report fires); a memo on special effects in school productions; the Multi-Hazard Plans required by the Massachusetts Legislature under Section 363 of Chapter 159 of the Acts of 2000; the EMS plans required by Chapter 77 of the Acts of 2012; the 527 CMR regulations in regard to schools; and the *Fire Prevention in Schools* pamphlet. Please download and use this information in discussions with school administrators prior to the start of the school year.

If you have any questions, contact the Fire Data and Public Education Unit at 978-567-3380 or the Code Compliance and Enforcement Unit at 978-567-3375, or in Western MA 413-587-3181.

## **Multi-Hazard Evacuation Plans**

Section 363 of Chapter 159 of the Acts of 2000, by the Massachusetts Legislature, requires all school districts to formulate specific school emergency plans prior to the start of the school year. The Act puts the responsibility for developing the plans on the superintendent of each school district and requires the superintendent to work with local fire and police departments in its development. Fire chiefs are encouraged to initiate these meetings and to work closely with the police chief and the school superintendent. The law says, in part, "Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, the superintendent of each school district shall, prior to the beginning of the school

year, meet with the fire chief and police chief of the city, town or district to formulate a school specific 'multi-hazard evacuation plan' for each school under the superintendent's supervision. Said multi-hazard evacuation plan shall encompass, but not be limited to, evacuation for fires, hurricanes and other hazardous storms or disaster in which bodily injury might occur, shootings and other terrorist activities, and bomb threats. Said plan shall be formulated for each school building after a review of each building. Said plan shall include, but not be limited to: (1) establishment of a crisis response team; (2) designation as to who is in charge of said team and designated substitutes; (3) a communications plan; (4) crisis procedures for safe entrance to and exit from the school by students, parents and employees; and (5) policies for enforcing school discipline and maintaining a safe and orderly environment during the crisis. Each district, with the assistance of the local police and fire departments shall annually review and update as appropriate said plan. At the beginning of each school year, students at each school shall be instructed as to the plan that is developed."

## **New Law Requires Schools to Have EMS Plans**

Chapter 77 of the Acts of 2012 amended Chapter 69 of the General Laws to require schools to have an EMS plan in place at the start of last school year (fall 2012). This is in addition to the required multi-hazard evacuation plans.

"Section 8A. (a) Each school committee and commonwealth charter school board of trustees shall ensure that every school under its jurisdiction has a written medical emergency response plan to reduce the incidence of life-threatening emergencies and to promote efficient responses to such emergencies. The plan shall be in



addition to the multi-hazard evacuation plan required under section 363 of chapter 159 of the acts of 2000.”

### **School Fire Reporting Law**

MGL Chapter 148, Section 2A requires that the principal of any public or private school of grades 1-12 shall immediately report any incident involving the unauthorized ignition of any fire within the school building or on school grounds, to the local fire department. It also requires fire departments to report all school fires to the Massachusetts Fire Incident Reporting System (MFIRS).

When a fire occurs in a public or private school, the principal should submit a written report of the incident to the head of the fire department within 24 hours on a form provided by the Department of Fire Services. The report should be filed without regard to the extent of the fire or whether there was a response by the fire department.

The law was created to mandate that schools report fires that may have previously gone unreported. The effect will be greater protection of our children and the ability to identify possible juvenile firesetters to provide appropriate early intervention.

Juvenile firesetting is one of the leading causes of school fires (although cooking is the #1 cause), so fire and law enforcement authorities should stress the need to react appropriately and swiftly to intentionally-set fires in schools, no matter how big or small the fire may be. All fires start small.

### **Special Effects**

In meetings with public and private school officials, include a review of the law on the use of special effects in school plays and at special events. Note that the use of flash paper

and flash powder is prohibited by law, unless under the direct supervision of a person holding a current Certificate of Competency for Special Effects.

Because of the obvious hazards of unlicensed individuals working with special effects, the State Fire Marshal asks that you contact schools in your community to alert them that all special effects in their productions must be conducted by licensed, permitted individuals. School officials should review plans for each production, and notify the fire department to determine permitting requirements, regardless of the quantity of materials involved.

**All school districts must formulate specific school emergency plans prior to the start of the school year. Superintendents are responsible for developing the plans in consultation with local fire and police departments.**

### **Crowd Manager Rules May Impact School Dances**

A crowd manager is needed in facilities that feature entertainment with a live band or recorded music producing above normal sound levels. These facilities also have a specific area selected for dancing. Although crowd manager requirements usually apply to nightclubs, dance halls, discotheques and bars, schools may need a trained crowd manager for school dances. Schools should discuss events with local fire departments early in the school year to determine if crowd managers are required.

# New Breathing Equipment Test

*Goes into Effect September 1st*

Reprinted from *Homeland Security News Wire*, June 28, 2013

<http://www.homelandsecuritynewswire.com/dr20130627-new-firefighter-breathing-equipment-test-goes-into-effect-1-september>

As of September 1, 2013, standard firefighter breathing equipment cannot be certified to National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) standards unless the facepiece lenses pass a new rigorous test developed by the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST).

The NIST-developed test is designed to reduce the degradation and possible failure of the facepiece lens in self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) under high-heat firefighting conditions. NFPA incorporated the NIST test into the 2013 update of its standard for SCBA units (see NFPA 1981: Standard on Open-Circuit Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) for Emergency Services).

A NIST release reports that the 2013 version of NFPA's 1981 standard, published in January, 2013, contains a new "Elevated Temperature Heat and Flame Resistance Test" that exposes the SCBA to 500 °F (260 °C) for five minutes in an oven. This test is followed by ten seconds of direct flame contact.

In addition, the new version contains a new "Lens Radiant Heat Test" that subjects the SCBA facepieces to a radiant heat flux of 15 kilowatts per square meter (kW/m<sup>2</sup>) for five minutes. As part of this test, the facepiece is required to maintain an air supply (positive pressure) inside the mask for a total of twenty-four minutes.

In controlled experiments (see NIST Study of Hazard to Firefighters Leads to Safety Alert; and Thermal Performance of Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus Facepiece Lenses Exposed to Radiant Heat Flux [NIST Technical Note 1785, February 2013]), NIST researchers determined that an incident radiant heat flux of 15 kW/m<sup>2</sup> would be a representative test criterion for determining the performance of SCBA facepiece lenses. It is representative of the flux experienced by firefighters approaching the onset of the deadly phenomenon known as flashover, a state of total surface involvement in a fire of combustible material within an enclosure. Also, the researchers found that measuring internal facepiece pressure was indicative of when holes formed and the effect of holes on firefighter air-supply duration and breathing protection.



The new test and test conditions are important advances in improving the performance of what may have been, perhaps, the most vulnerable component of a firefighter's protective gear in high-heat conditions.

Failure of a lens can expose a firefighter to toxic gases and can result in burns to the respiratory tract as well as asphyxiation. Documented problems include holes and extensive crazing as well as bubbling and deforming of lenses.

In several SCBA-related deaths, degraded masks were found affixed to the faces of victims who suffered thermal burns to their airways.

The release notes that in the United States, SCBA makers submit their products for certification testing before they are sold. Until August 31, 2013, compliance to NFPA standards only requires passing a less severe "heat and flame test," specified in the 2007 version of NFPA 1981 and retained, with the new NIST test, in the recent update.

NIST experiments conducted during development of the new facepiece-lens test were supported, in part, by the Department of Homeland Security Science and Technology Directorate (S&T) and the United States Fire Administration. The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) Fire Fighter Fatality and Injury Prevention Program played a critical role in identifying the lens degradation issue.

— Read more in NFPA 1981: Standard on Open-Circuit Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) for Emergency Services; NIST Study of Hazard to Firefighters Leads to Safety Alert; and Thermal Performance of Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus Facepiece Lenses Exposed to Radiant Heat Flux (NIST Technical Note 1785, February 2013).

# The Maze Trailer

## Building Firefighter Confidence

By Robert A. Haskell  
Program Coordinator

### Mobile Training Props

The Massachusetts Firefighting Academy has several mobile training props that are used in training programs. The props can also be requested by fire departments to assist them in local training initiatives and for the direct delivery of programs. This is the third in a series of *All Hands Herald* articles highlighting the training props.

### The Maze Trailer

One of the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy's (MFA) best-kept secrets is our Maze Trailer. As part of our Protective Breathing Search and Rescue Program, this mobile unit has been used to train firefighters all over Massachusetts and at the MFA for more than 25 years. The Maze Trailer and the Protective Breathing Search and Rescue (PBS&R) Program are tools that allow firefighters to train for dangerous and challenging environments.

An important aspect of firefighting operations is to be able to enter a dark, smoke filled, heat charged environment to rescue trapped people, or to find the seat of the fire. Training in the Maze Trailer builds the confidence of new firefighters so they can enter these environments.

Individual confidence is one of the leading factors in reducing firefighter air consumption while using SCBA, but the confidence gained in initial training can degrade over time. The MFA's SCBA Maze Trailer and our team of trained instructors can be the key to building and maintaining this confidence in both new and experienced firefighters.



Training in the Maze builds the confidence of new firefighters so that they can enter dark, smoke filled, heat charged environments to rescue trapped people, or to find the seat of the fire.

The trailer is a self-contained maze that includes three levels and allows firefighters to move through tubes, to ascend and descend through ceiling/floor hatches, to navigate low profile openings, and more. Training is conducted in a dark environment. While students are in the maze, they are in direct contact with an instructor in a control room who is monitoring their every move through infrared lighting and movable cameras.

The maze is both a maintenance training tool and a valuable training tool for departments who are upgrading or replacing SCBA and want to provide firefighters with a chance to train on, and build confidence with the new equipment. The maze can be delivered and set up at any department in Massachusetts for use over a series of days. One department or several regional departments can make use of the prop at one site.

### Information and Scheduling

For more information contact MFA Deputy Director Joe Klucznik at (978) 567-3220 or [joseph.klucznik@state.ma.us](mailto:joseph.klucznik@state.ma.us).

# Public Education News

from the Department of Fire Services



## Spanish Home Oxygen Safety Pamphlet

On the recommendation of the Home Oxygen Fire Safety Task Force, the Department of Fire Services has printed a Spanish language version of its *Breathe Easy – Home Oxygen Fire Safety* pamphlet. The pamphlet can be downloaded and printed from the DFS website, [www.mass.gov/dfs](http://www.mass.gov/dfs), or it can be ordered by contacting the Fire Data & Public Education Unit at (978) 567-3380. A Portuguese version of the pamphlet is in the works.

## Senior SAFE Program Created

The school-based Student Awareness of Fire Education (S.A.F.E.) Program has reduced the fire deaths of people under 18 so significantly that people over 65 are now most at risk of dying in a fire in Massachusetts.



Older adults account for roughly one-third of Massachusetts fire deaths each year. The Department of Fire Services is pleased to announce that a Senior SAFE Program has been created by the Legislature using fees from the Fire Standard Compliant Cigarette Program. Given the tremendous success of 19 years of school-based S.A.F.E. programs, the Fire Service is confident that a Senior SAFE program will significantly reduce senior fire deaths in the years to come.

FY '14 S.A.F.E. grant applications will allow educators to apply for either the school-based S.A.F.E. Program or the Senior SAFE Program, or both.



## Keep Warm, Keep Safe Campaign

Last winter, the Department of Fire Services sent copies of the updated English and Spanish *Keep Warm, Keep Safe* pamphlet to fire departments. Fire educators are encouraged to share this pamphlet with local senior centers, fuel assistance agencies, WIC offices, libraries and community agencies. For additional copies, contact the Fire Data & Public Education Unit at (978) 567-3380. The Department of Fire Services also has a toolkit on heating safety for local fire departments at [www.mass.gov/keepwarmkeepsafe](http://www.mass.gov/keepwarmkeepsafe). The toolkit includes the *Keep Warm, Keep Safe* pamphlet, as well as a FireFactors on space heaters, woodstoves, and carbon monoxide alarms.

## Western Massachusetts SAFE at the "Big E"

The Western Massachusetts Safety and Fire Education Association (Western MA SAFE), is once again staffing a booth at the 17-day agricultural fair known as the Big E. This is a fun and interesting venue to get fire safety messages out to many Massachusetts residents who come to the fair. The booth is housed inside the Massachusetts Building. Western MA SAFE is seeking public education mutual aid to staff the booth for all 17 days of the fair. Two people are needed for two shifts per day. If you can help, contact Palmer Firefighter Laurie Rocco at [laurie\\_rocco@yahoo.com](mailto:laurie_rocco@yahoo.com) and she will send you a Doodle meeting link to sign up for a shift.



Western MA SAFE Association booth at the "Big E" in 2012  
Photograph by Neil Hawley

## Plan Ahead for Fire Prevention Week

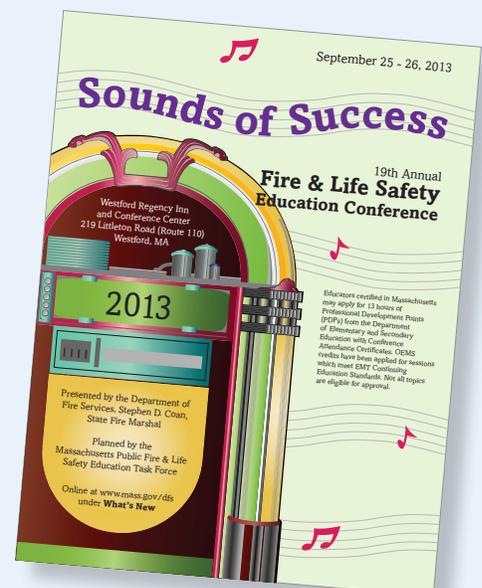
October 6th – 12th is Fire Prevention Week. Fire Prevention Week gives the fire service the opportunity to reach out to the community and empower citizens to prevent home fires and protect their families. This year's theme, **Prevent Kitchen Fires**, reminds people how important it is to practice fire safety in the kitchen - where so many home fires occur.



National Fire Prevention Week is sponsored by the National Fire Protection Association. For more information go to: [www.firepreventionweek.org](http://www.firepreventionweek.org) or the Department of Fire Services (DFS) website [www.mass.gov/dfs](http://www.mass.gov/dfs) and click on Public Education. DFS has been running a statewide campaign on cooking fire safety for several years that has two basic messages: **Put A Lid On It** and **Stand By Your Pan**. We have a toolkit for fire departments on our website that may be helpful in promoting this year's fire prevention week theme.

## 19th Public Fire & Life Safety Education Conference

The 19th annual Public Fire & Life Safety Education Conference will be held on September 25 and 26 at the Westford Regency Inn and Conference Center. The keynote speaker will be retired Fire Chief Reggie Freeman, formerly of Hartford, CT and Fort Worth, TX. Chief Freeman has been very active in the Vision 20/20 project and is a longtime practitioner of community risk reduction. The 2013 Fire and Life Safety Educator of the Year Award will be presented at the conference on September 26th. The full registration brochure is available on our website at [www.mass.gov/dfs](http://www.mass.gov/dfs).



# Taking a Stand *on Standpipes*

This edition of *Plans Review Desk* takes a look at the Massachusetts requirements for when standpipes intended for fire department use must be installed in facilities. The requirement to install Class I and Class III standpipe systems, those that include 2.5-inch diameter hose connections, come solely from the Massachusetts State Building Code – 780 CMR. Significant changes to 780 CMR for the 7th and 8th edition resulted from the adoption of the 2009 International Building Code (IBC) and the associated 780 CMR amendments.

In past editions of the Building Code, the requirements for when to install standpipe systems were primarily based on occupancy type. In the current Building Code, these requirements are primarily driven by distance into the building from the fire department apparatus access point, regardless of occupancy type. The code provides specific measurements as thresholds.

First, the code requires Class III standpipes in new construction if the distance between the lowest level of fire apparatus access and the floor level of the highest story exceeds 30 feet. Note that these two levels are unique to the standpipe thresholds. Many incorrectly confuse the measurement with the height of the building, measured from an average grade level around the building to the roof level. In one recent project, it was incorrectly determined that standpipes were not required because the engineer measured from the highest floor level down to the grade level – 30 feet. The engineers did not account for the 6-inch drop from the slab/sidewalk at grade to the parking lot where the fire apparatus would typically park. A ramp in that area was suggested to raise part of the parking lot, but that was not a correct solution because the code requires measurement from the lowest point of fire apparatus access. Note that the measurement is to the pavement, and not to the level of the pumper outlet. Also, many fire departments have falsely believed that standpipes are required when a building roof is more than 30 feet from the lowest fire lane level. Unfortunately, the code does not reference the roof level for this measurement, but rather the highest floor level in the building. See Section 905.3.1 in the 2009 IBC.

The code also requires Class I standpipes in new construction if the shortest travel distance to a fire department apparatus access point from *anywhere in a building* exceeds 400 feet. Note that this requirement is found in the 780 CMR Chapter 9 amendments to the 2009 IBC (Section 905.3.9). The specific measurement for travel is often confused. The measurement is from the nearest fire apparatus point, not from the nearest doorway. If an architect subdivides a building into multiple buildings with fire walls, installs excess access doors not on a suitable fire lane, or specifies seasonal apparatus roadways around the building, this measurement will not be affected. Also, the measurement is not a straight-line measurement, but rather the actual length from the nearest fire apparatus point to the access door, around/navigating the building walls and layout, up any stairs, and to the various places in the building.

Other situations where 780 CMR requires standpipes for new construction are: assembly occupancy buildings with occupant loads greater than 1,000; certain covered mall buildings; stages; underground buildings; certain marinas/boatyards; and certain locations of high-piled storage. As with any code, be sure to read through the details of Section 905.3 to determine if there are any applicable exceptions.

In existing buildings where Level 2 or Level 3 renovations are undertaken, or there is a change in use, standpipes may be required in accordance with Section 3401.1 of 780 CMR, referencing Sections 704.3 and 801.2 in the 2009 International Existing Building Code (IEBC). These sections reference the same vertical measurement as seen for new construction, but specify a threshold of 50 feet rather than 30 feet. For additions to existing buildings, standpipe requirements for the addition are going to be the same as for new construction.

For more information, contact fire protection specialists in the Division of Fire Safety (formerly the Office of the State Fire Marshal). For jurisdictions south of, or containing the Massachusetts Turnpike, contact Jake Nunnemacher at 978-567-3377 or [jacob.nunnemacher@state.ma.us](mailto:jacob.nunnemacher@state.ma.us). For jurisdictions north of the Turnpike, contact Dana Haagensen at 978-567-3376 or [dana.haagensen@state.ma.us](mailto:dana.haagensen@state.ma.us).

# Fire Standard Compliant Cigarette Program

## Enforcement News

By Jim DeSimone

The Fire Standard Compliant (FSC) Cigarette Program manages the mandatory safety compliance requirements of all cigarettes sold in the Commonwealth through statewide cigarette wholesale and retail inspections, as well as independent laboratory testing of cigarettes.

### Compliance Officer

In January, John Araujo was hired as the sole full time FSC Compliance Officer. John is a retired New Hampshire firefighter and has previously worked part time for the Division of Fire Safety on the Underground Storage Tank (UST) program.

### Fines for Selling Non-FSC Compliant Cigarettes

As of August 1, 700 Massachusetts cigarette retail inspections have been completed this year and 100 cigarette brand styles have been randomly purchased and sent out for independent testing. The inspections resulted in five separate confiscations of non-FSC compliant cigarette product being sold in the Commonwealth. The administrative hearings held to date with the DFS legal office for these violations include two major Massachusetts cigarette distributors being fined \$20,000 and \$10,000 respectively, and a major retail chain being fined \$6,000. Additionally, a \$1,000 fine was issued to a retailer for selling non-FSC out-of-state cigarettes, as well as a first offense warning issued to a distributor for non-compliant product.

As prescribed by law, the funds collected from these fines are kept in trust and are used by the Department of Fire Services (DFS) for fire safety and prevention programs. In the past, these fines have been used to support the home oxygen fire safety campaign, the cooking fire safety campaign and the Keep Warm, Keep Safe campaign.



As of August 1, 700 retail cigarette inspections were completed this year and 100 cigarette brand-styles were randomly purchased and tested. The inspections resulted in five separate confiscations of non-FSC compliant cigarette product being sold in Massachusetts.

### More Hearings on RYO and Novelty Lighter Violations

In addition to the non-compliant cigarette confiscations, an illegal Roll Your Own (RYO) machine operation has been identified (also pending with the legal office) and 17 retail stores have been identified selling illegal novelty lighters. These retailers have been ordered to remove the illegal products from their shelves (MGL C.148, S.60).

# The **Next** State Fire Code

The Board of Fire Prevention Regulations (BFPR) is in the process of adopting the National Fire Protection Association Standard 1 (NFPA 1) as the basis for the State Fire Code. The board is currently reviewing each chapter of the code and comparing it with the existing 527 CMR. Each section of 527 CMR is being matched to NFPA 1 and if necessary, an amendment will be brought forward. When the BFPR adopts NFPA 1 it will do so with a series of Massachusetts amendments to ensure we maintain the level of safety we have already achieved. These amendments will be incorporated into the final document.

## Value of Adopting a National Code

The fire code, as we know it today, has not kept pace with changes in national standards or creating newer standards to address changes in technology and risks. Many of the referenced standards in the current code are old, outdated, and in some cases no longer available. For many years we have heard of the need to move to a model fire code and away from the way current fire prevention code is promulgated. At the end of the process, NFPA 1 will exceed the ability of the current 527 CMR ensure a safe environment in the Commonwealth.

## 3-Year Revision Cycle

NFPA 1 is on three year revision cycle and once it is adopted as the basis for our State Fire Code, the goal will be for Massachusetts to also be on a three year revision cycle. The Massachusetts Electrical Code, which is part of the State Fire Code, is already updated every three years.

## Participate in the Process

The BFPR has three fire chiefs and a representative of the Fire Prevention Association of Massachusetts (FPAM). The fire chiefs and fire prevention representatives serve on

the subcommittees along with a mix of other professionals and building officials. Feel free to contact these fire service representatives about the updates to the model code and to share your insights and concerns.

## Publication

The Department of Fire Services is working with the National Fire Protection Association to be able to print the new 527 CMR. It should be a fully integrated single document rather than two separate documents — NFPA 1 and the Massachusetts amendments. A copy of the new 527 CMR will be provided free to fire officials who attend the roll-out training program.

## Referenced Standards

However, just as the current 527 CMR refers to other documents and standards, so will the new one. It is important to have access to these in order to properly interpret and enforce the code. It is also important to understand the fire code as an integrated whole, as chapters are connected to each other. This is why training is so important for code enforcement officials.

## Timeline

DFS expects to provide a draft of the new model code to the BFPR by the end of this calendar year. It is our goal to complete the hearings and vote on the code by the end of 2014. It will then proceed through the state regulation promulgation process. Once the regulatory process is complete, training will then take place throughout the Commonwealth. We expect it will be placed into effect sometime in 2014. If you have questions or suggestions, contact Tim Rodrique at [Timothee.Rodrique@state.ma.us](mailto:Timothee.Rodrique@state.ma.us) or Richard Fredette at [Richard.Fredette@state.ma.us](mailto:Richard.Fredette@state.ma.us).

## DFS Employees Honored

Code Compliance Officers John Wood and Matt Allen, Warehouse Supervisor Joe Dupre, and Public Information Officer Jennifer Mieth received the state's Pride in Performance Award at the State House on Friday, July 20, 2013.

*Pictured left to right: John Wood, Joe Dupre, Matt Allen.  
Not pictured, Jennifer Mieth.*



# Fire Marshal Advisories

State Fire Marshal Stephen D. Coan has sent recent advisories to local fire chiefs in order to spread awareness of dangers and to prevent dangerous situations from happening. All advisories are posted on the DFS website under *DFS Advisories* and as part of the monthly *DFS Briefs*.

If you have any questions, or require assistance, please contact the Code Compliance and Enforcement Unit at (978) 567-3375, or in western Massachusetts at (413) 587-3181.

August 1, 2013

## 527 CMR 6 – Liquefied Petroleum Gas Containers and Systems

A recent amendment to 527 CMR 6 – Liquefied Petroleum Gas Containers and Systems updated the regulation. Major changes include: adoption by reference of NFPA 58 - 2008 edition; odorization and testing requirements for railcars arriving for distribution in the Commonwealth; odorization thresholds and standards; certified employee training requirements; and testing and filling requirements for newly installed LP tanks. A copy of the amended regulation is on the DFS website.

August 1, 2013

## Solicitations/Donations to Produce Fire Safety Education Materials

The Department of Fire Services has recently become aware of several entities soliciting local businesses for donations to produce fire safety education materials for children. Please be advised that none of these entities have any affiliation with the Department of Fire Services or the S.A.F.E. Program.

As you may know, charities and fundraisers must be registered with the Attorney General's Office and private companies must be registered with the Secretary of State's Office. If you want to verify information about any charity, contact the Attorney General's Non-Profit Organizations/Public Charities Division at (617) 727-2200 ext. 2101. For information on private companies, visit the Secretary of State's website at <https://www.sec.state.ma.us/cor/corpweb/corcor.htm>.

If such organizations are working in your city or town, you may want to notify your local Chamber of Commerce or the public that the organizations are not affiliated with your department or the Department of Fire Services.

September 1, 2013

## Corn Mazes

The Department of Fire Services receives multiple calls each year about corn maze regulations. There are no regulations that apply directly to corn mazes; however there are broad statutes and regulations that guide fire personnel in situations that may lead to fire - MGL 148 § 5 and 527 CMR 1.06. The Department of Fire Services also has a pamphlet for



owners and operators of corn mazes. The pamphlet is designed to encourage discussion between local fire chiefs and corn maze operators to determine the safest approach to operating a corn maze. Each corn maze is unique and may meet some or all of the recommendations outlined in the pamphlet. It can be found in the Sept. 2013 *DFS Briefs* on our website at [www.mass.gov/dfs](http://www.mass.gov/dfs).

September 1, 2013

## Haunted House Safety Special Amusement Buildings for Halloween and Other Special Events

I am reissuing this memo as a reminder that Massachusetts is in the Halloween season. The memo was originally sent to all fire officials and building departments in the Commonwealth.

The Halloween season is a fun time of the year, but it generates life safety issues when *haunted houses* and/or *fun houses* are operated and open to the public. This is true regardless of occupant load (i.e., either *Assembly Use* or *Business Use* buildings or portions thereof). This updated memo contains information from the

*Continued on page 14*

# New Fire Prevention Regulations Appeals Board

Massachusetts has a new board that hears appeals involving the State Fire Code. The Fire Prevention Regulations Appeals Board was recently created by statute (M.G.L. Chapter 22D, s. 5) and is made up of the members of the Board of Fire Prevention Regulations. Appeal hearings are conducted by three-member panels selected by the appeals board chair. The new board has jurisdiction to hear appeals filed by people aggrieved by determinations of officials charged with the enforcement of the State Fire Code, relative to fire protection requirements for buildings and structures. The board anticipates that most appeals will arise out of technical issues relating to fire protection requirements of the State Fire Code.

A guidance document about the new board, including information about its jurisdiction and procedures is available. The guidance document and additional information about the

Appeals Board can be found on the Board's website. Go to [www.mass.gov/dfs](http://www.mass.gov/dfs) and click on *Boards and Commissions*, then *Fire Prevention Regulations Appeals Board*, or contact the Appeals Board staff at (978) 567-3181.

## BFPR Increased to 16 Members

At the same time, the law was changed to (M.G.L. Chapter 22D, s. 4) add two new members to the Board of Fire Prevention Regulations (BFPR). The new sixteen member board will include the Boston Fire Commissioner and a position representing local building inspectors to be appointed by the Governor.

*Fire Marshal Advisories continued from page 13*

original memo referencing current relevant sections of the fire and building codes. We strongly recommend that local fire and building officials work together to address these life safety issues.

The life safety issues surrounding haunted houses are glaringly apparent in a review of two tragic fires. A May 11, 1984 fire in the *Haunted Castle* at Six Flags Great Adventure Park in New Jersey resulted in the deaths of eight visitors because they could not find the exits in time. An October 27, 1973 Washington Reid School PTA haunted house fire occurred one half hour before a PTA-built haunted house maze was to open. The maze caught fire killing one of the PTA volunteers helping to construct it. At the Six Flags fire, major factors<sup>1</sup> contributing to loss of life included:

- failure to detect and extinguish the fire at its incipient stage by means of fixed fire detection and suppression systems;
- ignition of synthetic foam materials and combustible interior finishes contributed to the spread of fire and smoke;
- the difficulty of escape from fire in a *haunted-house* type environment.

To assist local building and fire officials and the regulated community, three items were attached to the advisory:

- an overview of the requirements of the current 7th or 8th Edition of the Massachusetts State Building Code (780 CMR) regarding these Code-classified *Special Amusement Buildings*;
- an overview of requirements of the Massachusetts Fire Code (527 CMR) for such building operation and maintenance;
- and an overview of the two fatal fires.

For the full advisory and attachments see the September 2013 *DFS Briefs* on our website.

<sup>1</sup>BOCA National Building Code/1993 Commentary, Section 413 SPECIAL AMUSEMENT BUILDINGS

## New Mack Tractor-Trailer



The new Mack tractor-trailer pictured above will help the Massachusetts Fire-fighting Academy to keep up with the growing demand for program delivery.

As a gesture of appreciation for the sale, and in support of firefighter training, the Mack dealer donated turnout

gear for the hood ornament in the picture at left.



# Retire the Fire!

By Tina Gorman, Director, Westfield Council On Aging

In 2011, older adults in Massachusetts accounted for 14% of the Commonwealth's population, but 39% of the State's fire deaths. Sadly, in the last two years Westfield has experienced four fire fatalities among the city's older population and two major senior housing fires. In an effort to prevent future tragedies, the Westfield Council On Aging partnered with the Westfield Fire Department and the Office of the State Fire Marshal on an initiative that we have dubbed, *Retire the Fire!* With support from the Westfield News, we launched a weeklong fire prevention and safety campaign for the city's older adults, through media attention and educational news articles.



Our first goal was to make sure that older adults in Westfield have a working smoke alarm and carbon monoxide detector in their home. Half of the state's seniors who died in fires last year had no working smoke alarm. Massachusetts law requires certain types of smoke detectors based on the year that the home was built. The Westfield Fire Department provided written guidelines (available at the Senior Center) for homes constructed prior to 1975, between 1975 and 1997, and those built after 1997. A limited number of discount coupons were available at the Senior Center for those needing to purchase a detector.

Our second goal involved the replacement of detector batteries. Batteries should be replaced twice a year. A good rule of thumb is to replace the batteries in the spring and in

the fall when we change clocks for daylight savings time. We launched our campaign in March and encouraged seniors to use the switch to daylight saving time to replace the batteries in their smoke alarms. Unfortunately, many older adults cannot and should not replace smoke detector batteries themselves. Most detectors are installed in the ceiling of a room and the use of a ladder is necessary for battery replacement. For safety reasons, older adults should enlist the help of relatives, friends, and neighbors to change the batteries in their smoke alarms. Seniors who needed assistance were encouraged to call the Council On Aging, who recruited reliable volunteers to help.

Our third goal was to educate the public about fire prevention and safety specifically geared toward older adults. Toward that end, the Westfield News published a series of articles throughout the week on those topics that are most pertinent to this unique population. In addition to the articles, informational brochures and handouts were available at the Senior Center.

During the week, Westfield residents saw *Retire the Fire!* flyers hung throughout the city. Buttons with the *Retire the Fire!* slogan were worn by Council On Aging staff, seniors, and community leaders. The flyers and buttons were reminders that fire safety for Westfield's older adults is a personal, family, and community effort. People were encouraged to take the time to check on older relatives, friends, and neighbors and to volunteer to drive them to the store to purchase a smoke detector or to help by changing the batteries in their smoke alarms. After four major fires in Westfield in the last two years involving older adults, it is time that we all help to *Retire the Fire!*

## DFS Dedicates New Search and Rescue Prop

Sixteen juniors, seniors and post-graduate students from Lexington-based Minute-man High School spent the 2012-2013 school year building a small replica house in the drill yard of the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy. The search and rescue prop is a unique training tool that allows firefighters from across the Commonwealth to train and practice rescuing trapped citizens and firefighters in realistic conditions.

At the official dedication of the training prop, State Fire Marshal Stephen Coan said, "This has been an excellent partnership between the school and the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy. The new training prop reflects our continuing commitment to firefighter safety and provides a new opportunity that enhances our ability to reduce the risk of an inherently dangerous profession through rigorous skill development."



Students and teachers in front of the finished training prop in May, 2013.

# Public Education Grant Recipients

Grant writing can be a daunting task for those unfamiliar with the jargon. But one thing is certain: if you never write a grant, you will never receive one. This article features six firefighters who wrote successful grants. Here are their stories.

## **Lt. Israel Gonzales, Lynn Fire Department**

In 2009, the Lynn Fire Department developed a billboard campaign targeting immigrant households. The campaign led to a measurable reduction in fires in those households. The success of the campaign was due largely to the use of multi-lingual materials.

This year, Lynn Fire Lt. Israel Gonzales applied for and received a \$295,388 U.S. Fire Administration Fire Prevention and Community Education grant to reduce injuries and accidental fires in Lynn, reduce overtime costs to the city, and to preserve property values and neighborhoods. Lt. Gonzales will use the grant to build on and expand the successful 2009 campaign to reduce fires in immigrant households. During the campaign, the fire department will install 5,000 smoke detectors in 1,000 low-income immigrant homes. The department will reach immigrant households with a multimedia approach including billboards, newspaper advertising, presentations at open houses, street fairs, public access television shows, and ethnocentric community groups. A direct mail campaign to landlords of multi-family housing units will also be a part of the effort.

## **Lt. AnnMarie Pickett, Worcester Fire Department**

Lt. AnnMarie Pickett recently received two grants from FEMA. The first grant for \$12,500 was written to address fire safety education for developmentally disabled children and their parents. She volunteered at a Special Olympics event and realized that “Pluggie,” a large fire plug robot, was a draw that encouraged athletes and their families to come meet firefighters. It was obvious that the occasion provided a great opportunity to present fire safety education to families. The new grant will allow Lt. Pickett to purchase *Home Fire Prevention* and *Fire Safety for People with Disabilities* brochures, and to have “Pluggie” repaired. Also under the umbrella of educating people with disabilities, she was able to purchase CO alarms for seniors. During a previous initiative, Lt. Pickett had identified many seniors who needed smoke alarms and CO detectors but had only been able to provide smoke alarms. With this grant, Lt. Pickett and her colleagues will be able to install both smoke and CO detectors for these seniors.



Lt. Pickett received a second \$12,500 grant from FEMA to address on- and off-campus fire safety for students at Clark University. Through a data review, Lt. Pickett demonstrated a need for fire safety education for these students. She created a plan that will train university personnel and Worcester EMTs to visit on- and off-campus housing at night and on weekends to educate students about fire safety. She has also purchased a number of safety sensors for microwaves because the majority of kitchen fires in student housing stem from improper use of microwaves.

## **FF Michael McLeieer, Merrimac Fire Department**

In his 12 years with the Merrimac Fire Department, Firefighter Michael McLeieer has received many grants. This year he was awarded a \$10,000 Liberty Mutual FireMark award for Community Service and Public Education. Continuing a tradition of excellence among firefighters in Massachusetts, Michael is the third recipient in recent years. In 2006, Upton FF Bonnie Lopez was the first Massachusetts national FireMark Award recipient. In 2012 Brockton Fire Lt. Bob Hendrigan received the award. Firefighter McLeieer will use the grant to purchase firefighter personal protection equipment and to promote public education programs including Senior SAFE.

*Continued on next page*

## In Memory of Lt. John V. Baudin

*Longtime DFS/MFA Employee*

By Tom Leonard

John V. Baudin, 69 of Worcester, died on Sunday, July 14, at his home after an illness. He retired as a lieutenant from the Worcester Fire Department in 2005 after 34 years on the job. He also retired in 2012 after 31 years with the Department of Fire Services in Stow.

Throughout our work years we cross paths with many different folks. John's passing causes those of us who crossed his path to reminisce about the many times we experienced his sometimes caustic and sometimes very dry wit. John was affectionately known as "Boomer," and during his years with MFA, the District 3 HazMat Team, and at DFS, he helped to shape the agency's willingness to help others. John could grumble with the best of them, but deep in his heart he loved DFS and the people who work here.

John liked to do things his own way and he liked to bust chops with the bosses, but he was fastidious to a fault about keeping vehicles and equipment in tip top shape, clean as a whistle, and shining brightly. And when he decided to smile at you (on his own terms), he had a twinkle in his eye. But that smile was as genuine and real as a sunrise.

John "Boomer" Baudin was one of those people who makes MFA, HazMat and DFS special. He came to work every day he could – not in the bright lights, often in the shadows and certainly in the background – but he was the salt of the earth. He was "just a firefighter" doing his job, not asking for anything special, but loving what he did to make this place a little bit better.

Rest in peace JB. Your work here is done . . . and a final tip of the helmet to you for a job well done.

*Grant Recipients continued from previous page*

Michael also received \$54,000 from the FEMA Assistance to Firefighters grant, which he will use in conjunction with his E.S.C.A.P.E. non-profit charity to create public service announcements and educational materials addressing a number of fire safety issues including safe cooking, Fire Is Everyone's Fight™ campaigns, and smoke alarm education. After conducting a risk assessment, Michael noticed inconsistent messaging in his programs. The new grants provide the opportunity to make messages more consistent and to shift the focus from emergency response to community risk reduction. The target audiences are children under the age of 14 and older adults.

### **FF/Insp. Willie Spears and Christian Lewis and FF Pablo Flores; Springfield Fire Department**

Firefighters Spears, Lewis and Flores of Springfield were awarded the Rolf H. Jensen Memorial Public Education Grant from the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), which is presented annually to a local fire department to support community-wide fire and life safety education programs.

The three Springfield firefighters examined the data and recognized the need to reach out to multi-lingual community members. They found a significant language barrier in the community that prevented many from receiving fire safety messages from the usual channels. Their data also showed that people were not calling 9-1-1 in an emergency because of a perceived language barrier.

The grant to Springfield will be used to break down language and cultural barriers between emergency services and the community by partnering with trusted community leaders. One key message that must be delivered is that when people call 9-1-1, interpreters are available. The grant will also help Springfield to work closely with BayState Medical Center to develop educational materials for residents in many different languages. In addition, the grant allows the Springfield Fire Department to increase both the number of presentations to community organizations and participation in ethnic celebrations. So far, community feedback is positive and next year Springfield will have the data to determine if their education efforts were successful.

# Graduations

*from the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy*

May 16, 2013

## Advanced Fire Investigation Course

On May 16, 2013, 26 members of the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy's (MFA) six-day Advanced Fire Investigation course graduated. This rigorous professional training provides firefighters, and state and local police officers with the advanced skills to accurately determine the origin and cause of fires in their jurisdictions and together, build solid, prosecutable cases. The MFA, a division of the Department of Fire Services, offers this program tuition-free.

### Team Concept of Fire Investigation

State Fire Marshal Coan said, "The team concept of fire investigation has been used successfully in Massachusetts for over a decade and it starts with joint training." He added, "When police and fire are trained in the same techniques and procedures together, the consistency leads to solid cause and origin determinations, and when arson is the cause, solid criminal cases."

This course provides students with fire scene experience from investigation through courtroom testimony. They are exposed to the investigatory process as outlined in the National Fire Protection Association Standard 921: Guide for Fire and Explosion Investigations.

### 26 Graduates

The 26 program graduates included five local police officers, one Massachusetts State Police officer and 20 firefighters, representing the following agencies: Belmont

Police, Cambridge Fire, Centerville-Osterville-Marston Mills Fire, Dudley Fire, Dighton Fire, Falmouth Fire, Hardwick Fire and Police, Holyoke Fire, Massachusetts State Police, Medford Fire and Police, Nahant Fire, Natick Police, Newton Police, Norton Fire, Norwood Fire, Saugus Fire, Stoneham Fire, Worcester Fire, and Yarmouth Fire.

The six-day advanced fire investigation course covers the concepts of fire behavior, scene examination, fire scene documentation, evidence collection, witness interviewing, and management of major fire investigations in more depth than the basic fire investigation class. It also addresses the legal issues of managing fire scenes, evidence collection, and concludes with practical exercises of participating in the courtroom process. Students give mock depositions and participate in both a mock grand jury and a mock trial. The program covers unintentional fires, intentionally set fires, automobile fires, fatal fires and wild-land fires.

June 21, 2013

## Recruit Class #199

On June 21, 2013, Recruit class #199 graduated from the academy's sixty-day Recruit Firefighting Program.

### 68 Graduates from 32 Fire Departments

The 68 graduates, all men, represent the 32 departments of Acton, Amesbury, Andover, Athol, Bourne, Dennis, Devens, East Bridgewater, Fitchburg, Franklin, Gloucester, Haverhill, Hingham, Lawrence, Lowell, Ludlow, Lynn, Manchester, Mansfield, Marlborough, Mashpee, Maynard, North Attleboro, Northampton, Oxford, Randolph, Saugus, Seekonk, Southborough, Stoughton, Sudbury, and Walpole.

### Guest Speaker: Westfield Captain Rebecca Boutin

The guest speaker was Westfield Captain Rebecca Boutin. In March 2012, Captain Boutin rescued a member of her team trapped inside a structure fire. She received the Medal of Valor at the 2012 Firefighter of the Year Heroic Awards.



*Call/Volunteer Class #44*

June 26, 2013

### Call/Volunteer Firefighter Training Class #43

On June 26, 2013, the members of the Call/Volunteer Firefighter Training Class #43 graduated in a ceremony at the Kuss Middle School in Fall River, Mass.

#### 40 Graduates from 16 Fire Departments

Class #41 trained at the Fall River fire training complex. The 40 graduates, 38 men and two women, represent the 16 fire departments of: Acushnet, Berkley, Dartmouth District #1, Dighton, Fairhaven, Freetown, Mattapoisett, Middleborough, Raynham, Rehoboth, Rochester, Swansea, Wareham, Weston, Westport, and Whitman.

June 20, 2013

### Call/Volunteer Firefighter Training Class #44

On June 20, 2013, the members of the Call/Volunteer Firefighter Training Class #44 graduated in a ceremony at the Department of Fire Services in Stow, MA.

#### 31 Graduates from 18 Fire Departments

The 40 graduates, 38 men and two women, represent the 16 fire The 31 graduates, 29 men and two women, represent the 18 fire departments of: Ayer, Blackstone, Bolton, Dunstable, Holden, Hopedale, Hudson, Littleton, Lunenburg, Millbury, Millville, Oxford, Princeton, Stow, Templeton, Tyngsborough, Uxbridge, and Westborough.

#### Basic Firefighter Skills

Students receive classroom training in all basic firefighter skills. They practice first under non-fire conditions and then during controlled fire conditions. To graduate, students must demonstrate proficiency in life safety, search



Recruit Class #199



Call/Volunteer Class #43

and rescue, ladder operations, water supply, pump operation, and fire attack. Fire attack operations range from mailbox fires to multiple-floor or multiple room structural fires. Upon successful completion of the Recruit or the Call/Volunteer Firefighter Training programs, firefighters are certified to the level of Firefighter I/II by the Massachusetts Fire Training Council.

Students must demonstrate proficiency in life safety, search and rescue, ladder operations, water supply, pump operations, and fire attack.

# License Actions

This report details recent compliance and enforcement actions taken by the Office of the State Fire Marshal against companies and individuals for violations of MGL c. 148 and 527 CMR. The effective date of these actions and details are included. While other actions may be

pending, only those individuals and companies who have had administrative hearings with decisions rendered are listed here. Call the Licensing Desk at 978-567-3700 for any questions regarding the status of any license or certificate of competency.

Name	Type of Certificate of Competency	Disposition
Bilodeau, David C.	Fireworks	Suspended for three years until October 1, 2015; must retest after that date to be licensed.
Connors, Richard A.	Hoodcleaning	Suspended for one year until January 7, 2014.
Hunt, Christopher B.	Fire Equipment	Suspended for three years until April 3, 2016; one year probation to serve until April 3, 2014.
Lavain, Todd C.	Fire Equipment	Suspended for one year until October 1, 2015; must retest after that date to be licensed.
Onesty, Michal C.	Hoodcleaning	Suspended for six months until September 27, 2013;
Suffredini, David C.	Fireworks	Permanent revocation.
Tecce, James E.	Fire Equipment	Permanent revocation; prohibited from holding any personal or business permit or license issued by the Dept. of Fire Services.
Tremblay, Peter A.	Fireworks	Suspended for two years until July 13, 2014; must retest after that date to be licensed.

## 2013 License Examination Schedule

- You must pre-register for all license exams. Completed applications must be received by 4:00 p.m. on the deadline date listed below. If your application is received after the applicable deadline, you will not be allowed to sit for the exam.
- All exams start promptly at 10:00 a.m., unless otherwise noted.
- License exams are offered at DFS, 1 State Road in Stow (park in the remote lot at the top of the hill). **License exams will not be held in Northhampton until further notice.** Directions available at [www.mass.gov/dfs](http://www.mass.gov/dfs).
- Effective January 1, 2011, all license exams will be graded by computer.
- For licensing questions, contact Lydia Bogar at 978-567-3700 or at [Lydia.Bogar@state.ma.us](mailto:Lydia.Bogar@state.ma.us).

Examinations	Examination Dates All exams start promptly at 10:00 a.m.	Deadlines for Applications
Fire Suppression, Commercial Hood Cleaning	October 23, 2013 (Wednesday)	October 4, 2013 (Friday)
Cannon/Mortar, Fireworks, Special Effects, Blasting, Blasting R&D	November 20, 2013 (Wednesday)	November 1, 2013 (Friday)

# Senior Fire Officer Forums

*Bringing the Nation's Best Educators to Meet our Best Leaders.*

The Senior Fire Officer Forum (SFOF) series provides Massachusetts chief officers the opportunity to learn directly from national fire service experts without the time and expense of traveling to a national conference. Any Massachusetts fire officer can attend these programs at no cost. The 5-hour forums run from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and include an opportunity to interact with the presenter during lunch. (Lunch is at your own expense). Each year, the forums address some of the new challenges confronting our leaders.

## Spring 2013 Programs

This spring, SFOF presenters covered a number of topics. A forum on leadership, mentoring and succession planning was presented by retired Assistant Fire Chief John Norman of FDNY. The January forum featured a presentation on reading smoke - a means of achieving effective tactical decision-making on the fire ground. February's forum featured an update on research on the effectiveness of smoke alarms as well as an update on fire behavior research. In May, Deputy Chief Frank Viscuso, author of *Stand Up and Lead*, shared his ideas on leadership challenges confronting the industry. Attorney Steven Rourke, general counsel to the Department of Fire Services (DFS), concluded the spring season with a presentation on contemporary legal issues facing chief fire officers.

## Fall 2013 Programs

The SFOF series continues on Tuesday, September 17 at DFS with a presentation and discussion entitled *Future Perspectives for the Chief Fire Officer: What Challenges Await Tomorrow's Fire Service Leader*. The speaker is retired Fire Chief James M Broman. His presentation was originally delivered to members of the 2008 Massachusetts Chief Fire Officer class. Chief Broman is a well-known lecturer on fire department leadership, having served as a chief officer for 33 of his 45 years in the fire service.

On Wednesday, October 9, a forum will be held at the University of Massachusetts Medical Center in Worcester as we spotlight a 10-year look back at the tragic events surrounding the 2003 Station nightclub fire. The speaker is John Barylick, a well known and accomplished attorney



Deputy Chief Frank Viscuso speaks at the May, 2013 Senior Fire Officer Forum at DFS in Stow.

who represented victims in numerous wrongful death and personal injury cases arising from the Station nightclub fire. His work was instrumental in amassing \$176 million in settlements from the people and corporations responsible for the fire. Barylick authored the 2012 book *Killer Show*, which provided a complete chronology of the events leading up to, during, and after the tragic fire of February 20, 2003. The forum will also feature a presentation and discussion by DFS code compliance officials on best practices in the proper enforcement of regulations to protect live entertainment venues.

On Saturday, October 19, the University of Massachusetts at Amherst hosts a presentation on the dangers of Urban/Wildland firefighting. The speaker is Tom DeMint, current chief of the Poudre, Colorado Fire Authority, who served as the incident commander during the third largest wildfire in the history of Colorado. The fire took one life, consumed 87,284 acres, destroyed 259 homes, required the resources of over 2,000 firefighters, and cost an estimated \$31.5 million to extinguish. Chief DeMint will address the lessons learned during the Colorado incident and his concerns regarding the increased threat of urban/wildland fires across the nation.

## Spring 2014

Planning for the spring senior fire officer forums is underway. In May, 2014, Billy Goldfeder (of the Secret List and Firefighter Close Calls) will make two presentations, one in eastern, and one in western Massachusetts. Also in early spring, District Fire Chief Michael Barakey of the Virginia Beach (VA) Fire Department will be speaking about the events surrounding the April 2012 crash of a military fighter jet into an apartment complex in Virginia Beach. One additional spring program is also being planned.



Department of Fire Services  
Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
978-567-3100



[www.mass.gov/dfs](http://www.mass.gov/dfs)

From the Fire Investigation Unit

# Northampton Arsonist *Sentenced to Twenty Years*

This spring, 27-year old Anthony Baye was sentenced to 20 years in prison for setting dozens of fires in Northampton between 2006 and 2009 and manslaughter for the death of two people in one of the fires. He pled guilty to 48 criminal counts involving 28 fires, six days into the jury trial that had been moved to Hampden County.

Baye was finally arrested after setting 18 fires in two hours on the night of December 27, 2009, including the one that killed Paul Yeskie Sr. and Paul Yeskie Jr. Northampton residents had been anxious about the fires being set in the neighborhood, but this one night was horrific and caused understandable outrage and worry. Solving the crime of arson is the only way to address the anxiety and fear people have about who might be the next victim. Baye had been setting fires in the neighborhood where he lived and grew up.

In a ruling that provided additional guidance to law enforcement on how to conduct suspect interviews, the Supreme Judicial Court ruled part of Baye's original confession inadmissible. The Northwestern District Attorney dropped the original charges and then brought a new indictment against him that included fires in addition to those he set on December 27, 2009. The new case was successfully prosecuted by Special Prosecutor Brett Vottero without the confession due in large part to extensive work by troopers assigned to the Fire Investigation Unit's West Team in conjunction with Northampton fire and police department investigators.