

# All Hands Herald

Massachusetts Department of Fire Services September 2014

*New*  
**State Fire  
Code**  
*Adopted*

Dealing with Stress in  
the Fire Service

Technical Rescue

Campus Fire Safety  
Resources

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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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Photos by Julie Weinstein and other DFS staff

# From the Fire Marshal

## New State Fire Code

The Board of Fire Prevention Regulations has voted to adopt a new state fire code based on the National Fire Protection Association 1 (NFPA 1), effective January 1, 2015. The adoption of a model code with Massachusetts amendments preserves the critical provisions of its predecessor that reflect the experiences and needs of the Commonwealth, setting the stage for a code that is both adaptable to new technologies and emerging trends and is also easy to maintain. I applaud the board for their work with subcommittees and a large number of stakeholders and interested parties. I also want to thank members of my staff – Tim Rodrique, Rich Fredette, Steve Rourke, Peter Senopoulos, Peter Ostroskey, and their staffs for their work on the new code. The Massachusetts Firefighting Academy, with help from the National Fire Protection Association, will offer several 2-day training sessions (schedule on page 2) for fire prevention officers to learn about substantive changes, and about how to navigate the new code. I encourage all fire officers to take advantage of the training.

## Back to School Fire Prevention

In this issue of the All Hands Herald and in the August DFS Briefs, fire departments will find information about school fire prevention, including the extremely important 363 meetings. The meetings are named for the section of law that requires the fire chief, police chief and superintendent of schools to meet to develop and review a multi-hazard plan each year before school begins. While these meetings and plans have long been required, the recent **report** of the Governor's School Safety Task Force highlights the importance of not only having a plan, but practicing it and making sure that those who must implement the plan in a real emergency know it well. The task force's report focuses in large part on the rare event of intruder violence, but also addresses common school events including: fires, carbon monoxide incidents and emergency medical responses.

## Campus Fire Safety Month

September is campus fire safety month. A *Boston Globe* Spotlight series last May addressed a fatal fire in off-campus student housing and uncovered that some unscrupulous landlords take advantage of students and fail to provide even the most basic life safety protections: working smoke and carbon monoxide alarms and two viable exits. Unsafe housing is both a code enforcement and a public education

issue. We must educate young adults on their own for the first time to take responsibility for their own fire safety. We must educate parents who often foot housing bills to insist on fire safety. Fire officials must work with building and health inspectors to enforce fire, building and health codes. The Massachusetts Fire Safety Act (passed in 2004 after the Station nightclub fire) provided new tools to enforce fire and building codes and more stringent penalties against those who put tenants in harm's way by failing to provide safe housing.

## Welding Commission

State Senator Ken Donnelly, a retired Lexington firefighter, filed legislation to create a special commission to investigate current requirements for licensing or permits governing cutting, welding, and other hot work processes that could initiate fires or explosions. The special commission will determine if the industry is adequately regulated to protect the public. The commission will also study the use of supervised details and fire watches; adequacy of fees for inspection and oversight; deterrent effects of penalties for violations of rules and regulations; and potential cost recovery and assessment for damages resulting from failure to comply with rules and regulations. The legislation was written in response to a March 26 fire in the Back Bay that killed two firefighters who were trapped in a basement by wind-whipped flames as an apartment fire hit nine alarms. The fire was reportedly caused by welders working on the building next door.

## Lowell Fire: Worst Loss of Life in 20 Years

The July 13, 2014 fire in a Lowell apartment building took the lives of seven people. This was the worst loss of life in a building fire in 20 years in Massachusetts. After a thorough investigation, the cause was determined to be electrical. The fire started in a void space between the second and third floors and traveled the entire length of the building without fire stops. By the time the fire was visible, the entire building was involved. While there were illegal fireworks inside the building, they were not involved in the ignition of this fire.



*Continued on page 3*

# New Comprehensive Fire Safety Code

## Training Available from DFS

On August 7, 2014 the Board of Fire Prevention Regulations (BFPR) voted to adopt the new Massachusetts Comprehensive Fire Safety Code, 527 CMR 1:00 effective January 1, 2015. This adoption is the culmination of many years of work including constituent input, community outreach and collaboration. “Now the work begins for the entire fire service community as we transition to the new code, learn to navigate and understand it, and enforce it uniformly across the Commonwealth,” said BFPR Chairman Kevin Robinson.

The new Massachusetts Comprehensive Fire Safety Code, 527 CMR 1:00, is designed to assist local fire prevention

officers in providing effective fire prevention measures in their communities. The base code for 527 CMR 1:00 is the National Fire Protection Association 1 (NFPA 1, 2012 edition). It was adopted with Massachusetts amendments.

Training is critically important for code enforcement officials because 527 CMR 1:00 references, and is used in conjunction with, other standards. Officials must understand the fire code as an integrated whole because of this interconnection.

The Department of Fire Services (DFS) and the NFPA are offering 18 trainings from September to December across the state. These two-day, 16-hour seminars will provide local fire officials with a

basic understanding of the significant changes in the new fire code. The first day of training introduces the National Fire Protection Association's fire prevention code (NFPA 1, 2012 edition) because this is the base code for the new Massachusetts code. NFPA instructors will orient participants to the document and will explain how NFPA codes and standards are formulated and utilized. The second day of training features instruction on Massachusetts-specific code amendments by instructors from DFS. The training covers the code's general scope and layout. Students should not anticipate in-depth discussion of technical aspects of fire prevention regulations during this training.

All workshop participants receive a complimentary copy of the 2012 edition of NFPA 1, and a copy of the Massachusetts amendments.

Effective fire prevention is critical for keeping our communities safe from fire in

Training Date	Time	Location
September 29 – 30	0800-1600	NFPA Headquarters, Quincy
September 30 – October 1	0800-1600	DFS, Stow
October 1 – 2	0800-1600	Centerville-Osterville Fire Dept., Centerville
October 2 – 3	0800-1600	Andover Public Safety Building, Andover
October 7 – 8 and October 21 – 22	0800-2200	Greenfield Community College, Greenfield
October 16 – 17	0800-1600	Clean Harbors Headquarters, Norwell
October 27 – 28	0800-1600	UMass Medical Center, Worcester
October 28 – 29	0800-1600	DFS, Stow
October 28–29, and November 18, 25	1800-2200	Sturbridge Fire Headquarters, Sturbridge
November 1 – 8	0800-1600	Great Barrington Fire Department, Barrington
November 6 – 13,	0800-1600	Bourne Community Center, Buzzards Bay
November 13 – 14	0800-1600	Salem City Hall Annex, Salem
November 20 – 21	0800-1600	Mass. Mutual Learning Center, Chicopee
November 19 – 20	0800-1600	Fall River Training Academy, Fall River
November 15 – 22	0800-1600	DFS, Stow
November 18 – 19	0800-1600	DFS, Stow
December 2 – 3	0800-1600	DFS, Stow
December 3 – 4	0800-1600	UMass Police Headquarters, Amherst

*Continued on next page*



homes, schools, workplaces, and at recreational facilities. It is important for code enforcement officials to receive this training. Fire chiefs and fire officers must also be well-versed in the new code. These trainings will fill quickly, so register now.

Register on-line at [www.mass.gov/dfs](http://www.mass.gov/dfs). To register by mail, complete a standard DFS/MFA student application and mail to Registrar, Massachusetts Firefighting Academy, P.O. Box 1025, State Road, Stow, MA 01775. To register by fax, complete a standard DFS/MFA student application and fax to (978) 567-3229.

*From the Fire Marshal continued from page 1*

### Choosing Sprinklers

I was disappointed that local option legislation allowing communities to decide for themselves whether to require fire sprinklers in newly built one- and two-family homes did not pass in this session of the Legislature. The Lowell apartment building where fire took the lives of seven people was not required to have sprinklers. Sprinklers could have saved lives there. That fire is a striking example of how we can change fire safety for future generations by requiring sprinklers now. A home built today with sprinklers will be an old building one day, and the inhabitants of the future should have the protection of sprinklers.

### Preventing Firefighter Suicide

I was struck by Springfield Fire Commissioner Joseph Conant's recent letter to the editor in *Fire Engineering* magazine entitled *Extend the "Brotherhood" To Cover*

*Emotionally Troubled Firefighters*. Conant bravely uses his personal story to advance the discussion of preventing firefighter suicide. In the letter he makes a powerful plea for fire departments to provide suicide prevention training for all members.

Massachusetts has a network of critical incident stress management (CISM) teams and the Corps of Fire Chaplains, both of which can aid firefighters dealing with tragedies. The On-Site Academy in Westminster, Massachusetts also treats public safety personnel in emotional distress. Information on how to access these resources and more are included in this issue.

However, more can be done. This fall, this agency will be coordinating a focus group to look at the issues around firefighter suicide. The goal will be to identify and coordinate outreach training for firefighters, fire managers and supervisors so everyone can truly go home.

# Everybody Goes Home

## *Dealing with Stress and Crisis in the Fire Service*

Inspired by Fire Commissioner Joseph Conant's letter in *Fire Engineering* (reprinted here) about caring for emotionally troubled fire service personnel, this special section of the *All Hands Herald* is devoted to resources for fire service professionals facing stress of all kinds.

## Critical Incident Stress Management Teams

Massachusetts has a network of 16 Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) teams staffed by specially trained public safety peer volunteers and clinicians. The teams are coordinated through the Massachusetts Peer Support Network (MPSN) and can be activated 7 days a week, 24 hours a day. Because confidentiality is paramount to the work of CISM teams, many first responders are unaware of this important resource. Anyone with behavioral health concerns can reach out to a team for assistance, whether for themselves, a colleague or their department. What is traumatic for one person or department may not be for the next, but here is a list of just ten reasons to call in a CISM team:

1. Line of duty death
2. Suicide of a colleague
3. Injury or death of a child
4. Victim known to the responder
5. Discharge of a firearm
6. Prolonged failed rescue
7. Mass casualty incident
8. Excessive media coverage of incident
9. Administrative betrayal
10. Personal safety

All CISM team members are volunteers. The Department of Fire Services provides funding for training and

some operational needs of the MPSN. CISM teams provide crisis intervention to keep public safety personnel on the job and safe, and to suggest referrals to clinicians where appropriate.

### **New MPSN Services**

The MPSN has received funds to launch a statewide train-the-trainer suicide prevention program this September for team members. The Question, Persuade, and Refer (QPR) program will train 2 or 3 people per CISM team to deliver the program to local fire departments. Also in September, the MPSN will roll out an *Operational Guide for Fire Chiefs* and a 1-page fact sheet on suicide awareness.

### **Contacting a Team**

CISM team contact names and information are on the DFS webpage ([www.mass.gov/dfs](http://www.mass.gov/dfs)) under *Emergency Response* and then *Activation of Emergency Resources*. The same list can be found inside the *Fire Service Resource Directory*. Soon, the fire service will be able to contact a CISM team through the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency, as they do for so many other resources. For further information regarding CISM or crisis intervention for first responders, contact MPSN Statewide Coordinator Charlie Popp at (617) 967-4141.

## Crisis Hotlines

If you or someone you know is thinking about suicide, please call one of these 24-hour crisis hotline numbers right away:

- Samaritans Statewide Hotline: 1-877-870-HOPE (4673)
- National Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 1-800-273-TALK (8255); Press # 1 if you are a Veteran
- The Trevor Helpline: 866-4-U-TREVOR (488-7386) - Specifically for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender youth and young adults

- National Volunteer Fire Council Fire/EMS Helpline - 1-888-731-FIRE (7473)

More information and resources are available from:

Massachusetts Suicide Prevention Program  
Massachusetts Department of Public Health  
250 Washington Street, 4th Floor  
Boston, MA 02108-4619  
Tel: 617-624-5438  
Fax: 617-624-5075

# Extend the “Brotherhood” to Cover Emotionally Troubled Firefighters

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June 23, 2014

“The brotherhood of firefighters.” “We take care of our own.” “Everybody goes home at the end of the shift.” These are statements we have heard in movies, read in books, and used around the firehouse for years, but do they accurately portray what is happening today? Are we taking care of our own when it comes to behavioral health issues?

Is everybody going home at the end of the shift with the proper state of mind? Does the brotherhood exist, or are we turning a blind eye toward emotionally troubled firefighters? These are the questions every member of the fire service, especially chief officers, should be asking themselves.

Firefighters are ordinary people who are called on to do extraordinary things. They run into burning buildings when everyone else is running out. They operate at horrific accident scenes and are the last hope for someone needing to be rescued. Through all this, they are dealing with the day-to-day problems everyone faces, such as financial issues and family crises. They are provided with the tools to put out fires and rescue people, but what about the tools to handle the stressors placed on them from doing their job.

As a member of the Marine Corps, a correctional officer, and a member of the fire service for the past 26 years, I have been exposed to many of these job stressors. They include serious injuries, fatalities, and most recently the stress involved with leading a large urban city fire department with reduced staffing and budget. Throughout my career, I have received very little training in behavioral health issues until recently. When my training director approached me in 2012 with a request to bring suicide-prevention training to the department, he had prepared himself with a thorough argument in case I said no. Much to his surprise, I immediately agreed to the training for reasons known only to myself and a select few. The training director was unaware that my father, a retired firefighter, had died as a result of suicide four years earlier.

I am not sure if my father was an alcoholic prior to entering the fire service in 1970 or if that was something he acquired with on-the-job training. Back then, it appeared that drinking on the job or working “under the weather” was an accepted practice, so it was easy for an alcoholic to blend in. Although his “brothers” thought they were helping by



*(Continued on page 6)*

covering up his problem, in reality they were slowly allowing him to die and destroy our family at the same time. Looking back, I wish a supervisor or a chief officer had identified his problem and found a way to help before it was too late. I wish there was access to the readily available behavioral health training we have today. I also wish the culture of the “macho” firefighter who is impervious to fear and unaffected by stress did not exist back then, and I hope that it does not still exist in departments today.

Along with the alcoholism, there were other factors I believe contributed to his eventual decision to take his own life. Early in his career, while operating at a fire scene, he sustained a back injury that would impact the rest of his life. He had two discs removed, which caused him constant pain and limited his activities such as playing sports with his sons. I can recall days where he was literally confined to his recliner because the pain was so severe, yet he never opted for an early retirement. Throughout his 31-year career, there were many tragic incidents he responded to that troubled him deeply, two in particular.

One was early morning on Thanksgiving Day when his engine company was first to respond to a horrific motor vehicle accident. On arrival, it was discovered that the victim of the fatal accident was a fellow firefighter. I can remember marching next to my father in the funeral procession later that week; he struggled mightily to control his emotions.

The other incident occurred when two young brothers fell through the ice on a pond behind a middle school two days before Christmas in 1996. My father was in the boat that found one boy under the ice. When they pulled the boy into the boat, my father began to resuscitate him. The child vomited in my father’s mouth, but he continued his resuscitation efforts all the way into shore until the boy was handed off to paramedics. That boy survived while his younger brother died, but that experience would continue to bother my father throughout his career and beyond. I am sure there were other incidents he did not mention that had an emotional impact on him but which he buried deep inside and did not seek any help to deal with.

My father was a deeply troubled man, but he was also a good man who loved his family very much and would help anyone in need. He was a good firefighter who earned the nickname “Code Red” because no matter where he worked, the fires seemed to follow him. But as he got older and his illness progressed, he became much more isolated and withdrawn from his friends and family. There were changes that were obvious to all who knew him. Despite all the signs pointing to this slow demise, no one took any

steps to prevent it—not his friends, not his fellow firefighters, not his family until it was too late.

My father made the decision to take his life in August 2008, more than six years after he suited up for his final shift as a firefighter. That is a day I will never forget. I held him in my arms. I was in shock, waiting for the first responders to arrive to take his lifeless body from me. I often blame myself for not recognizing the signs that led up to his suicide or not wanting to believe them.

That is the reason I have become such a strong believer in and advocate for behavioral health and suicide prevention training for every member of the fire service. Behavioral health training is just as important to firefighters as rapid intervention or first responder training, and that message needs to come from the top. If you are a chief and are not advocating for this type of training, you are doing a disservice to your department and yourself.

The program provided to the members of the Springfield (MA) Fire Department consisted of an hour and a half of training in Question, Persuade, Refer (QPR) from Sarah Gaer, a suicide prevention specialist at Riverside Trauma Center. QPR is an evidence-based suicide prevention program that teaches community gatekeepers how to identify the risk factors and warning signs of suicide, and then how to question the individual, persuade the individual to seek help, and refer the individual to the appropriate resources. Springfield firefighters were asked to engage in pre- and post-surveys to gauge shifts in attitude concerning suicide prevention as well as their confidence in their own ability to handle psychiatric crises. The department consistently showed improvement in all areas based on those surveys. This program was funded by the Massachusetts Department of Mental Health. Additional information about QPR is available at [www.qprinstitute.com/index.html](http://www.qprinstitute.com/index.html). Sarah Gaer can be reached at [sgaer@riversidecc.org](mailto:sgaer@riversidecc.org), or visit <http://www.riversidetraumacenter.org>.

The issue of firefighter suicide is not going away. We as fire service leaders need to confront the issue head on and provide the tools necessary for action. I do not want any firefighter to have to go through what I have witnessed, a senseless death that may have been prevented through education and intervention. It is time we take the statements “We take care of our own” and “Everybody goes home at the end of the shift” seriously and make them primary goals in our departments.

Joseph Conant

*Fire Commissioner, Springfield, Massachusetts*



## Services Available through On-Site Academy

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The Department of Fire Services' (DFS) budget provides funding for residential and peer support for critical incident stress management through the On-Site Academy in Westminster. Under the umbrella of DFS, the On-Site Academy provides specialized residential care focusing on a return to duty for firefighters that struggle with critical incident stress and/or substance abuse. The program includes residential and out-patient trauma and substance abuse services and education.

The On-Site Academy is a non-profit residential training and treatment center for critical incident stress management and/or substance abuse, serving first responders and their families. The On-Site Academy provides 24/7 services, including crisis intervention, residential stabilization, educational presentations and

treatment for critical incident stress and substance abuse. DFS will coordinate with the On-Site Academy to provide education and outreach to fire departments and fire chiefs across the state.

For more information or for help, contact the On-Site Academy at (978) 874-0177. In an emergency use the On-Call Emergency pager at (781) 553-0542. Call Arianna Setzco, administrator at the On-Site Academy with any questions or concerns regarding the contract or services via the office number.

The fire service has long recognized the value and importance of CISM in helping our firefighters stay healthy and productive. Effective stress management for the first responder is important and DFS is pleased to be able to help provide this service.

## Share the Load™

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### *A Support Program for Firefighters and EMTs*

The National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC) has launched a new behavioral health program called Share the Load™ that provides access to critical resources and information to help first responders and their families manage and overcome personal and work-related problems. This

includes the Fire/EMS Helpline (1-888-731-FIRE (3473)) which offers free 24-hour assistance with issues such as stress, depression, addiction, PTSD, and more. The program also includes resources for departments. For more information visit [www.nvfc.org/help](http://www.nvfc.org/help).

## Massachusetts Corps of Fire Chaplains

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Chaplains have served fire departments in Massachusetts for more than a hundred years. Fire chaplains have always had the same goals: to support firefighters and to support civilians who are affected by fire and other incidents.

The Massachusetts Corps of Fire Chaplains organized in 1999 with the aim of providing training and support for fire chaplains across the Commonwealth, and facilitating mutual aid among chaplains for large incidents. The Corps motto remains relevant today: *Serving Those Who Serve*.

Chaplains respond to a wide variety of incidents, including large structure fires, fatal incidents, and incidents involving injury to firefighters. Chaplains are also available to meet with firefighters about issues affecting their work and home life. Many of our chaplains are involved with Critical Incident Management System (CISM) teams, helping first responders cope with difficult incidents.

The Corps of Chaplains has responded to many large incidents, including the 1999 Worcester fire that took the lives of six firefighters, the Station nightclub fire in Rhode Island and the tornadoes that struck western and central Massachusetts in 2011. After the attacks of 9/11, the Massachusetts Corps sent 28 chaplains to New York City.

The Corps of Chaplains has an active training program including CISM and more. The Corps facilitates the establishment of chaplains in departments across the state.

The Massachusetts Corps of Fire Chaplains is available 24/7 for spiritual and emotional support. Regional contacts follow:

**The Rev. James Tilbe, Chief Chaplain**

774-696-4587 – cell  
508-822-6177 – office  
508-824-4816 – home  
jtilbe@comcast.net

**The Rev. Gary Blume, Deputy Chief Chaplain, East**

508-326-9173 – cell  
781-335-1686 – office  
508-697-9074 – home  
revgblume@yahoo.com

**The V. Rev. Peter Preble, Deputy Chief Chaplain, Central**

508-864-8095 – cell  
508-765-5276 – office  
ppreble@charter.net

**The Rev. Bruce Arbour, Deputy Chief Chaplain, West**

413-883-3051 – cell  
413-219-6412 – home and office  
afdchaplain@juno.com

## Video for Firefighters Coping with Suicide

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### *Self-Care Steps and Risk Reduction Measures Detailed in Educational Video*

The Carson J. Spencer Foundation, in partnership with the National Action Alliance for Suicide Prevention and the American Association of Suicidology, launched a video last year entitled *Firefighters Coping with the Aftermath of Suicide*, detailing steps for self-care, peer support measures, suicide warning signs, and nationwide resources to help firefighters cope with suicide.

“Fire service professionals can sometimes be overlooked when thinking about the impact of suicide. When a suicide occurs, their role often shifts from rescuer to fellow griever. This can sometimes be challenging for firefighters who may be unprepared for the intense, complicated, and lengthy trauma involved with suicide,” said

Sally Spencer-Thomas, CEO and Co-Founder of the Carson J. Spencer Foundation and producer of the video.

The video features real firefighters, many from South Metro Fire Station 34 of Lone Tree, Colorado, who describe their struggles coping with suicide calls and the suicide of a fellow firefighter. The video highlights the importance of raising suicide awareness among firefighters who are trained to face traumatic events but may be unprepared for the unique trauma associated with suicide.

Watch the video *Firefighters Coping with the Aftermath of Suicide* on YouTube™ at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ryy7EyAiyEQ>.

# Technical Rescue News

The demand for technical rescue training in Massachusetts has increased steadily in the last few years. Between January of 2013 and June of 2014, technical rescue staff delivered more than 28 classes in Rope, Trench, Confined Space, Water, Ice, and Incident Command Systems for Structural Collapse Incidents across the state. We continued to do contract training for county technical rescue teams including Barnstable, Bristol, Essex, Norfolk, Plymouth, Dukes, and Suffolk Counties. During the last year we also began training the Western Massachusetts Technical Rescue Team (with members from departments in Hampden, Franklin, Hampshire, and Berkshire Counties) and Fire District 7 in Worcester County. The technical rescue staff delivered an average of one class each week. The fall semester of 2014 is shaping up to be just as busy.



Technical rescue classes are delivered in *live* environments that challenge both students and instructors. For each class, instructors must evaluate and define a plan for rigging, set up, and class delivery that provides a safe and effective learning environment.

The Massachusetts Firefighting Academy continues to offer certification in the disciplines of Rope, Confined Space and Trench Rescue. Student evaluations are conducted at each class and documented. If a student wants to pursue certification after a class is done, they take a written exam. We are also planning a certification exam for students who participated in our programs prior to July 2012, or who have been trained by other agencies to the applicable standards.

Based on feedback from both students and chiefs, we continue to evaluate future expansion of the program and how we can best provide training that is current and relevant.

For more information about training, or if you want to host a class in any technical rescue discipline, contact the Technical Rescue Program Coordinators at (978) 567-2314.



# September is Campus Fire Safety Month

## Resources Available for Campus Safety Campaigns

by Ed Comeau

In September, Massachusetts welcomes thousands of students to colleges across the state. Many live on-campus, but many more are living off-campus and on their own for the first time. September is a good time for fire educators to reach out to resident assistants (RAs) in dormitories, sororities and fraternities, and to students living off-campus. A *Boston Globe* series (May 2014) looked into a fatal off-campus housing fire and documented how some unscrupulous landlords fail to provide the very basics of safety: working smoke and carbon monoxide alarms and two ways out of each and every room in a building. Addressing off-campus fire safety is both a code enforcement and a public education issue. The majority of campus-related fire deaths occur in off-campus housing, so this is a good time to educate students and their parents (who often pay the rent) about fire safety.

Many resources are available for campus fire safety education campaigns. Some have been developed through FEMA's Fire Prevention and Safety Grants and are available on-line, free. The following resources were developed by the Michael H. Minger Foundation, The Clery Center for Security On Campus and Campus Firewatch.

The majority of campus-related fire deaths occur in off-campus housing. September is a good time to educate students and their parents about fire safety.

### The Alarming Truth

*The Alarming Truth* is a video project from the Clery Center for Security On Campus. It was written, filmed and produced by students from Rowan University and chronicles the impact of a fatal off-campus fire. The film can be downloaded from the web along with a screening guide with ideas for using the film for education, along with links to additional resources.

### Nine Fires

In 2012, a series of nine campus-related fires happened during a three-week period across the nation. The Minger Foundation and Campus Firewatch set out to document the impact of these fires on the families, survivors and communities involved. The film is available either in its entirety or in chapters that focus on laboratory, on-campus and off-campus fires.

### Campus Firewatch Information Sheet

Campus Firewatch maintains a two-page summary of campus-related fatal fires that is continuously updated. This is useful information for articles, press releases and outreach material.

### Firelogs

Campus Firewatch maintains two firelogs: the Fatal Firelog lists all fatal campus-related incidents going back to 2000, and the Non-Fatal Firelog that lists all incidents in the same time period. These firelogs include details such as date, type of occupancy and location, and also a short summary of each incident. The Firelogs have been invaluable in identifying where problems exist in campus fire safety (predominantly off-campus).

### Campus Fire Safety Posters

The Minger Foundation produced a series of posters about on- and off-campus fire safety. They are available for download in two sizes and can be used by RAs for bulletin boards in dorms and around campus.

### Guides to Teaching Fire Safety

The Minger Foundation produces two guides on teaching fire safety: *The RA's Guide to Teaching Fire Safety* and the *Guide to Teaching Fire Safety to Students with Disabilities*. These are written to help make teaching fire safety as simple and meaningful as possible. The guides cover a wide range of fire safety topics, so users can pick and choose content for individual audiences.

### RAs Discuss Fire Safety on Video

RAs discuss fire safety in this series of videos developed by the Minger Foundation. The videos work well with other Minger Foundation resources such as the posters and guides described above.

### Disability Videos

The Minger Foundation also has a series of videos featuring students with disabilities (hearing, vision, mobility, learning) talking about the importance of fire safety with a focus on egress, smoke alarms and cooking.

### Tip-a-Day

Each September during Campus Fire Safety Month, Campus Firewatch tweets a daily fire safety message with links to videos, information and resources. You can download



## **This is where...**

**I woke up surrounded by smoke.  
I tore my skin to get out.  
I lost my best friend.**

**This is where I found  
my *second exit*.**

[www.mingerfoundation.org](http://www.mingerfoundation.org)

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Michael H. Minger  
FOUNDATION

the list or follow @campusfirewatch on Twitter and retweet the messages to students.

### **Campus Fire Safety Month Proclamations**

Each year Campus Firewatch sends a letter to the nation's governors asking them to issue proclamations for Campus Fire Safety Month. The letter is co-signed by 25 parents who have lost children in campus-related fires. Visit the Campus Firewatch website to download the proclamation and see the list of states that have issued proclamations going back to the beginning of the program in 2005.

### **Map of Fatal Campus-Related Fires**

Campus Firewatch maintains a map of campus-related fatal fires going back to 2000 that includes short summaries of each incident. The map can be embedded on your website.

Addressing off-campus fire safety is both a code enforcement and a public education issue.

### **Library of Campus-Related Videos**

YouTube™ is a great resource for campus-related videos, both good and bad. Campus Firewatch has compiled a list of useful videos that show both what students are doing behind closed doors, and fire safety programs on a number of campuses.

### **Center for Campus Fire Safety**

The Center for Campus Fire Safety is another great resource. The Center is the focal point for the efforts of a number of organizations and is also as a clearinghouse for information relating to campus fire safety. Visit <http://www.campusfiresafety.org/>.

# Save the Date

September 29 - 30, 2014

for

# Destination SAFE

20th Annual  
Fire & Life Safety  
Education Conference

Westford Regency Inn and Conference  
Center, Westford, Massachusetts

BE SAFE

## Register Now!

The 20<sup>th</sup> annual Massachusetts Public Fire and Life Safety Education Conference will be held at the Westford Regency Hotel and Conference Center on September 29 and 30. The conference celebrates twenty years of public fire and life safety education, bringing firefighters, educators, medical professionals, school administrators, and law enforcement together to further this important work. *Destination SAFE: Fire and Life Safety for All Ages* is our theme, acknowledging both school-based education and new efforts to educate older adults about fire and life safety.

This year's keynote speaker is anchorwoman and reporter Leslie Gaydos from NECN. She will discuss her education about fire safety, prevention and sprinklers while producing her award winning investigative report, *The Forgotten Fire*. The report investigated a Newton office building fire that killed five people and showed how commercial building owners avoided installing sprinklers by expanding incrementally. *The Forgotten Fire* spurred legislative changes that closed the loophole allowing commercial buildings to expand this way.

In twenty years, Massachusetts firefighters have taught thousands of students about fire safety using the Student Awareness of Fire Education (S.A.F.E.) program. This work has led to a 72% reduction in average annual child fire deaths in Massachusetts. During this time, the Public Fire and Life Safety Education Task Force has developed a pre-K to sixth grade *Curriculum Planning Guidebook* to assist fire educators

in developing lesson plans with consistent age-appropriate messages. The Task Force also developed evaluation tools to determine whether students are learning what we are teaching. In twenty years of teaching S.A.F.E. we have come a long way in reducing child fire deaths, yet critical work remains to be done reducing fire deaths among older adults.

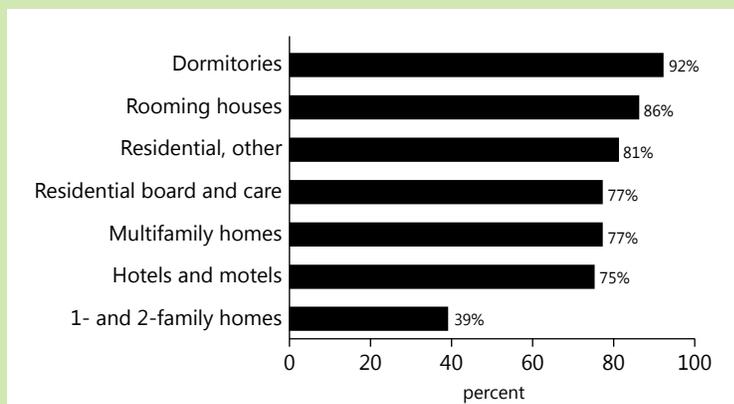
This year's conference will include core workshops that are the building blocks of S.A.F.E., tried and true workshops that help us keep chugging along, workshops that fly us to new places, and offerings to help establish partnerships as we bike along new paths. Registration information is at [www.mass.gov/dfs](http://www.mass.gov/dfs). Click *Public Education Conference 2014* under What's New.

# Working Smoke Alarms Save Lives

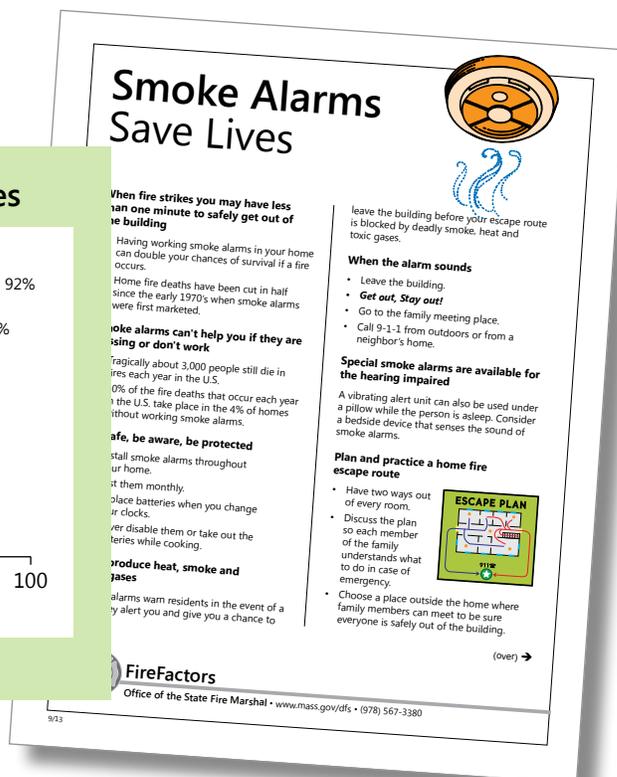
Working smoke alarms are your first line of defense in a fire. They provide early warning in a situation where time is your enemy. Coupled with a home escape plan that you have practiced, smoke alarms greatly increase the chances of surviving a fire. However, a smoke alarm must be functioning in order to aid an escape. Yet, working smoke alarms are least likely to be found in fires in one- and two-family homes than in any other residential building. Sadly, most fire deaths occur in 1- and 2-family homes.

The DFS webpage has important smoke alarm information for the general public including the FireFactor *Smoke Alarms Save Lives*. Fire and Life Safety educators can also download and use this publication. Visit [www.mass.gov/dfs](http://www.mass.gov/dfs) and click on *Public Education*, then on *Fire Safety Topics & Flyers*.

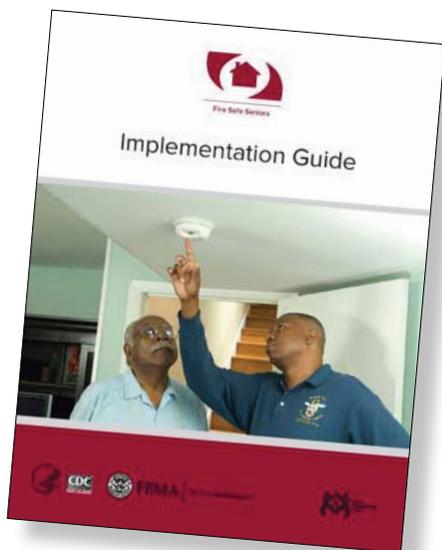
## Operating Smoke Detectors in Residential Fires



Source: Massachusetts Fire Incident Reporting System (MFIRS)



# New USFA Older Adult Fire Safety Program



A new program from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the U.S. Fire Administration (USFA) is available to fire departments and other community organizations to help plan and implement fire safety interventions for the high-risk group of older adults. The *Fire-Safe Seniors* program uses home assessments, smoke alarm installation, education and follow-up to ensure a comprehensive approach to fire prevention. A free toolkit is available to help you implement the program (<http://www.usfa.fema.gov/citizens/older/index.shtml>). Fire departments with *Senior SAFE* program grants may find these materials useful.

Older adults are 2.7 times more likely to die in a fire than the general population. The risk worsens as we age. People ages 85 and older are 4.6 times more likely to die in a fire.

# In Memory of Bill Hollick

By Tom Leonard

August 10, 2014

Last night I learned of the unexpected passing of Bill Hollick, longtime Massachusetts Firefighting Academy (MFA) employee and instructor, and a dear friend. But Bill was much more than that and his influence on, and importance in, both the fire service and fire training as it is conducted today cannot be overstated. When you watch recruits training in the yard at MFA, you should know that one true cornerstone of the program has left us.

Bill was one of the original six recruit instructors along with Jim Harrington, Jack Peltier, Ed Hartin and others whose names have passed into history. In the early 1970's when Ed McCormack was the first academy director, these six worked with chalk and a chalk board, a patch of dirt, beaten down and dilapidated buildings, borrowed apparatus, and less. But they developed the finest recruit fire training program in the country and with it produced generations of well-trained firefighters and a legacy that continues today.

Bill was more than just an instructor. He was the Hudson Fire Chief for several years at a young age before he came to work as the full-time deputy director of program services at MFA in 1986-87. He implemented a firefighter fitness program in concert with his firefighters' union that was recognized nationally as cutting edge for its time. He advocated for the safety of firefighters before it was in vogue to do so. And there was no advance in fire science that he didn't research and implement. For a period of time he even embraced lime green fire trucks, although he and I spent many hours debating that philosophy!

Bill began his time with the MFA as deputy director of program services and became academy director in 1995 when DFS was formed. He was both a visionary and a leader. Concepts including the design of the ladder tower, the use of multiple doors in the burn building to create different configurations, safety features in the Gas School during construction and early use, the "Hollick Wall" (the clear Lucite panels on the sides of Ladder One allowing students to see and identify the working parts of the fire pump), teaching recruits to rappel safely off buildings, the recruit fitness program, the evolution of the recruit program from 6 to 7 weeks, the recruit grading and deficiency point system, and the development and implementation of the Pro Board firefighter certification program are just a few of the many ideas he built into realities.

He was one of the creators of the instructor pay system that remains in place today and he established instructor development and teaching levels to provide improvement

and motivation as well as increased compensation for fire instructors and support staff. He started at the MFA as an instructor in the days of five dollars per hour pay and so he understood the need for improving the pay system.

Bill never took credit for those innovations, leaving that for the *Boots on the Ground*, but his fingerprints were, and continue to be, all over DFS and MFA. He was one of the co-founders of *Managers Make Brunch* from our days at the old elementary school on Horse Pond Road in Sudbury. The brunch was a way for management to give back to the people who work here, for their work and efforts in making a successful organization.

His depth of knowledge, level of research, and deep and abiding interest in the fire service were not matched by many.

Bill was also a decorated Vietnam veteran who shared very little of some of his terrible experiences overseas during the Vietnam War. He remained true to his Marine Corps training and discipline, with a *Semper Fi* attitude to the end. He exuded discipline and he exerted it, but in a gentlemanly, fair and impartial way. He never raised his voice unless it was to stop a training activity where someone was about to get hurt. He was one of the fairest people you would ever meet, sometimes maddeningly so, but in the end he was there to take care of his people, his programs, and his product – well trained firefighters.

Bill was the consummate family man who idolized his wife Pauline and sons Eric and Mark. It is tough to describe his devotion to his family because I have never met someone more devoted to family than Bill.

On June 16 of this year Bill posted on Facebook (and I'm sure he wouldn't mind me sharing this): 50 years ago yesterday a young woman who was a high school salutatorian at graduation went out on a first date with a member of the graduating class who majored in goofing off and skipping school. What on earth was she thinking? That pretty much says it all about his feelings for Pauline.



*Continued on next page*



## Working Smoke Alarms Save Lives

### Test Yours Every Month!

Fire Prevention Week • October 5–11, 2014  
Go to [FPW.org](http://FPW.org)



This year, Fire Prevention Week is October 5th -11th and the theme is *Working Smoke Alarms Save Lives! Test Yours Every Month!* Fire Prevention Week is an ideal opportunity to educate the public about the importance of working smoke alarms and monthly testing. The National Fire Protection Association sponsors fire prevention week and they have great educational materials on their webpage at [www.firepreventionweek.org](http://www.firepreventionweek.org). National Fire Prevention Week is observed annually during the week of October 9th to commemorate the Great Chicago fire of 1871.

Fire Prevention Week is an ideal opportunity to educate the public about the importance of working smoke alarms and monthly testing.

#### *In Memory of Bill Hollick continued from page 14*

His outside interests were varied and eclectic and he never did anything half way whether it was film photography, motorcycles, woodworking, gardening, country music and line dancing, traveling or technology and his family dogs.

He was a big man with a bigger heart who once tried to eat every hot dog at the Coney Island hot dog eatery in Worcester (not really, but he ate 12-15 that day for lunch), would demolish a Chinese buffet and later in life become a devout vegetarian who always asked if the clam chowder had any bacon in it. And he loved fish and chips at the old Nick's in downtown Hudson.

Bill had a very dry wit with the humor of someone very knowing, but not at all condescending. He was as loyal as anyone could be to his family and friends and also to the fire service and the Marine Corps. It fills my heart with profound sadness to know he is no longer with us.

Now you know a little more about one of the charter members of MFA. Please offer your prayers and thoughts to Pauline, Eric, Mark and their family. And the next time you look at the training yard, know that one of the giants of Massachusetts fire training is now watching from above while you admire what he helped to create.

## DFS Honored for Work on 2014 Marathon

The Department of Fire Services was awarded a Governor's Citation on April 24, 2014 in recognition and appreciation for extraordinary efforts to ensure the success of the 2014 Boston Marathon. The citation recognizes the effort that went into making Marathon Monday 2014 safe and successful. Governor Deval Patrick wrote, "I am proud of the professionalism displayed by the Department of Fire Services leading up to and on Marathon Monday. Thank you for your extraordinary leadership and dedicated service to our Commonwealth."

# Fall Fire Prevention

## Halloween, Haunted Houses, Corn Mazes



The fall fire prevention resources described below can be found online at [www.mass.gov/dfs](http://www.mass.gov/dfs) by entering *fall fire prevention* in the search box or through *Quick Links*.

### Corn Mazes

The Department of Fire Services (DFS) receives calls each year about corn maze regulations. The current code has no regulations that apply directly to corn mazes, however there are broad statutes and regulations that guide fire personnel about situations that may lead to fire – M.G.L. C. 148 § 5 and 527 CMR 1.06. The new fire code that takes effect in January, 2015 does have regulations covering corn mazes. DFS also has a **pamphlet** for owners and operators of corn mazes that is designed to encourage discussion between local fire departments and corn maze operators to determine the safest approach to operations. Each corn maze is unique and may meet some or all of the recommendations outlined in the pamphlet.

### Haunted Houses: Special Amusement Buildings

The Halloween season is a fun time of year, but it generates life safety issues when haunted houses and/or fun houses are operating. This is true regardless of occupant load (i.e., either Assembly Use or Business Use buildings or portions thereof).

DFS and the Department of Public Safety have previously issued an advisory for local fire and building officials called: *Special Amusement Buildings for Halloween and Other Special Events*. The memo references 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.

### Halloween Fire Safety

DFS also has information for the public about Halloween fire and life safety. *Halloween Safety Tips* is a pamphlet for parents and children on celebrating Halloween safely and is available at [www.mass.gov/dfs](http://www.mass.gov/dfs). Click on *Public Safety*, then *Fire Safety Topics and Flyers*.

## Back to School Fire Prevention

Before school begins, the fire chief, police chief and superintendent of schools in every community must hold a *363 meeting* to make and review a multi-hazard plan for each school. These meetings (named for the section of law that mandates them) have been required since 2000, so reviewing and updating existing plans may be the bulk of the agenda. It is especially important to review all plan details when key players change or in planning for a new school building. Training and communication with the people in each building who carry out the plans is crucial. It is also important to include procedures for parent-child reunification in multi-hazard plans to ensure accountability.

A recent report from the Governor's School Safety



Task Force highlighted the importance of *363 meetings* and safety plans. The report emphasized the need for teamwork before, during and after an emergency and encouraged the use of the Incident Command System (ICS) as a framework for collaboration. You can find the report at [www.mass.gov/governor/docs/pdf-school-safety-task-force-final-report.pdf](http://www.mass.gov/governor/docs/pdf-school-safety-task-force-final-report.pdf).

During annual *363 meetings*, chiefs can also educate superintendents about the Student Awareness of Fire Education (S.A.F.E.) program and the school fire reporting law (M.G.L. C148, S2A). Bring the superintendent a copy of the reporting form and make sure they know where to send it. Chiefs can also provide the superintendent with a copy of the *School Fire Prevention* pamphlet and use it to review fire drills, use of theatrical special effects, storage of cleaning products, servicing of fire extinguishers, fire alarms and commercial cooking equipment, chemistry lab safety, school wall decorations, and more. For additional resources on these topics visit [www.mass.gov/dfs](http://www.mass.gov/dfs). Click on *Division of Fire Safety*, then *Fire Prevention Resources*, and then *Schools/Fire Prevention*. Additional school fire prevention information is in the *August DFS Briefs* and on the *Index of DFS Advisories* to fire chiefs.

# DFS Awarded Assistance to Firefighters Grant

## *Grant Used for New SCBA Equipment*

The Department of Fire Services (DFS) has been awarded \$584,654 from the federal Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) program to purchase new self-contained breathing apparatus for the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy (MFA). The funds will be used to buy more than one hundred units of new National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) compliant self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) equipment. The equipment will replace the MFA's 20-year old, obsolete, and damaged SCBA units, reducing ongoing maintenance and repair costs; improving safety for MFA students and instructors; and ensuring that students are being trained on state of the art equipment.

The federal Assistance to Firefighters Grant aims to, "help firefighters and other first responders to obtain critically needed equipment, protective gear, emergency vehicles, training and other resources needed to protect the public and emergency personnel from fire and related hazards." The AFG program is administered by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). This is the first time state fire academies were eligible to apply for AFG funds. \$8 million was available nationwide for state training facilities.



## 2014 License Examination Schedule

The Department of Fire Services' Division of Fire Safety issues licenses, permits and certificates of competency ("licenses") to people and companies engaged in fireworks, blasting, explosives, special effects, cannon and mortar firing, commercial cooking exhaust system cleaning and inspection, special hazard systems, portable fire extinguishers, marine fueling facilities and above ground tanks.

To see the licensing status of an individual or company, visit the DFS License Look Up at [http://elicense.chs.state.ma.us/DFS\\_Verification/Search.aspx](http://elicense.chs.state.ma.us/DFS_Verification/Search.aspx) or [www.mass.gov/dfs](http://www.mass.gov/dfs) and click on *Licensing* and *DFS License Look-Up*.

For information about licensing issues, contact the Licensing Desk by phone at 978-567-3700 or by email at [dfs.licensing@dfs.state.ma.us](mailto:dfs.licensing@dfs.state.ma.us).

### License Exam Schedule

- Applicants must be pre-registered to sit for exams. Completed applications must be received by 5:00 p.m. on the deadline date listed below. Application forms are available at [www.mass.gov/dfs](http://www.mass.gov/dfs) then click on *Licensing*.
- All exams start promptly at 10:00 a.m., unless otherwise noted.
- License exams are offered at the Department of Fire Services, Stow Campus, One State Road, Stow, MA and at the Northampton office, One Prince Street, Northampton, MA. In Stow, please park in the remote lot at the top of the hill. Directions: [www.mass.gov/dfs](http://www.mass.gov/dfs).

Examinations	Examination Dates All exams start at 10:00 a.m. unless noted	Deadlines for Applications
Fire Suppression, 10:00 a.m., Commercial Hood Cleaning, 1:00 p.m.	October 29, 2014 (Wednesday)	October 10, 2014 (Friday)
Cannon/Mortar, Fireworks, Special Effects, Blasting, Blasting R & D	November 19, 2014 (Wednesday)	November 7, 2014 (Friday)

# Guarnera Honored

## *with Fire and Emergency Services Higher Education Award*



*Dr. Denis Onieal presents Joe Guarnera with the FESHE Emeritus Award for his work on the Fire and Emergency Services Higher Education (FESHE) initiative.*

The U.S. Fire Administration honored the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy's (MFA) Joe Guarnera for his work on the Fire and Emergency Services Higher Education (FESHE) initiative. Guarnera is the seventh person to receive the FESHE Emeritus Award since it was first offered in 2002. Joe is vice-chair of the FESHE Baccalaureate & Graduate Degree committee and works with fire science degree programs across the country to achieve national recognition of the FESHE Model Curriculum.

Under the guidance of Dr. Denis Onieal, superintendent at the National Fire Academy, the FESHE model curriculum committees were developed by the U.S. Fire Administration. The goal was to create a standardized model curriculum for all fire and emergency services college and university degree programs that would be recognized by state fire training directors. A common curriculum allows state fire training directors to work with colleges so that college credit can be received for fire training courses, and college coursework can be accepted by training directors. Working together, college and state fire leaders can create a clear path for training and professional development in the fire service. The national challenge is for state and local providers of training, education, and certification to integrate their activities to eliminate duplication while enhancing professional development for the fire and emergency services.

Joe's efforts to help the state fire service and colleges to communicate, collaborate, and coordinate their programs is an extraordinary gift to the fire service.

As the professional development coordinator for MFA, Joe Guarnera has fostered collaboration between the Academy and fire science programs at community colleges. As a result, ten of the eleven community colleges in Massachusetts have adopted the FESHE model curriculum and offer some college credit for courses offered by MFA. Joe is working towards the next step in fire service/college collaboration: the acceptance of specific college coursework as a substitution for some mandatory training requirements in the MFA Certification process.

Joe's sustained efforts to help the state fire service and colleges to communicate, collaborate, and ultimately coordinate their programs is an extraordinary gift to those in the fire service today and those who will train for the fire service in the years to come.

Massachusetts is the first state in the country to have gotten this far in the process and Superintendent Onieal uses Massachusetts as an example for other states as he encourages them to move towards curriculum coordination. Many fire science programs in Massachusetts were facing enrollment difficulties prior to participating in FESHE. Since adopting the FESHE curriculum, the programs have increased enrollment to sustainable levels.

### FESHE-approved Colleges, Massachusetts

Anna Maria College  
Berkshire Community College  
Bristol Community College  
Bunker Hill Community College  
Cape Cod Community College  
Massasoit Community College  
Middlesex Community College  
Mount Wachusett Community College  
North Shore Community College  
Quinsigamond Community College

# Honors and Recognition

## for State Police Bomb Squad and DFS Employees

On July 18, 2014, Department of Fire Services' employees were honored with the state's annual *Pride in Performance Award* for excellence in public service. The honorees included teams who developed the new fire code and redeveloped the firefighter recruit training program, a key member of the Hazardous Materials Division, and the State Police Bomb Squad assigned to the State Fire Marshal's Office.

### State Police Bomb Squad Receives Governor's Award

The State Police Bomb Squad and Captain Jeanne Stewart received the *Manuel Carballo Governor's Award for Excellence in Public Service* for their response to the bombing at the 2013 Boston Marathon and the events that followed. This is the state's highest honor for public servants.

The State Police Bomb Squad provided manpower on the day of the bombing and worked seamlessly with local and federal authorities to establish order in a chaotic environment. They responded to multiple, simultaneous calls for service in Boston and established mechanisms for coordinating law enforcement efforts in order to investigate the bombing and to protect and secure the scenes. They also helped public safety personnel in Cambridge and Watertown, making those crime scenes safe for operations.

The Bomb Squad helped to establish a perimeter at the crime scenes and cleared packages and buildings to ensure the safety of investigators and civilians. The teams also created a unified command center for all law enforcement personnel at a local hotel. Their experience allowed them to assist the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) in the identification and collection of evidence and they found the first clue pointing to a pressure cooker bomb. Teams responded to numerous suspicious package calls and incidents throughout the city that day and during the week that followed, supplementing the Boston Police Department's thinly stretched resources.



State Police Bomb Squad and Captain Jeanne Stewart accept the Manuel Carballo Governor's Award for Excellence in Public Service at the State House.

Later that week, the State Police Bomb Squad responded to the shooting of MIT Police Officer Collier in Cambridge to check for explosive threats and responded that evening to the scene in Watertown where the bombing suspects had deployed additional explosive devices. The Bomb Squad cleared the area of explosives, ensuring safety for law enforcement.

Since the Marathon bombing, the State Police Bomb Squad has responded to a significantly increased number of calls about suspicious packages because the public is vigilant and concerned about safety. The team has also conducted an increased number of security sweeps at public events. Without added staffing, the Bomb Squad continues to respond immediately and professionally to all calls for service.

The State Police Bomb Squad was also involved in the planning and preparation for security for the 2014 Marathon, which was a safe and successful event.

### DFS Employees Honored for Performance

In addition to receiving the *Carballo Award*, other DFS employees were honored at the state's annual *Pride in Performance Award Ceremony*.

*Continued on page 21*

# Graduations

from the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy



Class #211

## Career Recruit Firefighter Training

### Class #211

Members of the Career Recruit Firefighter Class #211 graduated on Friday, May 2, 2014 in a ceremony at the Department of Fire Services, Stow campus. The 22 graduates, all men, represent the 12 fire departments of Devens, Franklin, Greenfield, Holbrook, Lowell, Medway, Needham, Plymouth, Rockland, Salem, Seekonk, and Wrentham. The guest speaker was state Senator Bruce Tarr, Senate Minority Leader. Senator Tarr serves on the Joint Committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security.

### Class #212

Members of the Career Recruit Firefighter Class #212 graduated on Friday, May 23, 2014 in a ceremony at the Department of Fire Services, Stow campus. The 22 graduates, all men, represent the 15 fire departments of Bridgewater, Canton, Dudley, Franklin, Hyannis, Littleton, Lowell, Methuen, Middleborough, Milford, Oxford, Scituate, West Bridgewater, West Springfield, and Westwood. The guest speaker was Bridgewater Fire Chief George Rogers Jr, immediate past president of the Fire Chiefs' Association of Massachusetts (FCAM).



Class #212

### Class #213

Members of the Career Recruit Firefighter Class #213 graduated on Friday, June 13, 2014 in a ceremony at the Department of Fire Services, Stow campus. The 24 graduates, 22 men and two women, represent the 15 fire departments of Billerica, Bridgewater, Fitchburg, Framingham, Gloucester, Lexington, Ludlow, Marshfield, Mashpee, Orleans, Tewksbury, Ware, Wayland, Wilmington, and Yarmouth. The guest speaker was Marshfield Fire Capt. Anthony Boccuzzo, who was part of a team that rescued a trapped firefighter in 2012.



Class #213

### Class #214

Members of the Career Recruit Firefighter Class #214 graduated on Friday, July 18, 2014 in a ceremony at the Department of Fire Services, Stow campus. The 22 graduates, 21 men and one woman, represent the 11 fire departments of Beverly, East Longmeadow, Fitchburg, Framingham, Hingham, Lynn, Northborough, Randolph, Tewksbury, Westminster, and Westwood. The guest speaker was Tewksbury Fire Chief Michael Hazel.



Class #214

### Class #215

Members of the Career Recruit Firefighter Class #215 graduated on Friday, August 8, 2014. The 25 graduates, all

men, represent the 17 fire departments of Acton, Beverly, Bourne, Devens, East Bridgewater, Easton, Gardner, Littleton, Ludlow, Lynn, Marblehead, Mashpee, Melrose, Norton, Plymouth, Walpole and Watertown. Boston Globe Deputy City Editor Mike Bello was the guest speaker.

### Call/Volunteer Recruit Firefighter Training

#### Class #48

On June 19, 2014, Class #48 of the Call/Volunteer Recruit Firefighter Training program graduated having completed 320 hours of training on nights and weekends. The 33 graduates, 31 men and two women, represent the 22 fire departments of: Ashburnham, Ayer, Berlin, Harvard, Hopedale, Hudson, Leicester, Littleton, Lunenburg, Millbury, Oakham, Oxford, Paxton, Pepperell, Shirley, Southborough, Stow, Tyngsborough, Upton, Westford, Westminster and Weston.

#### Class #49

On June 25, 2014, Class #49 of the Call/Volunteer Recruit Firefighter Training program graduated. The 32 graduates, all men, represent the 12 fire departments of: Acushnet, Berkley, Dartmouth Dist. #3, Dighton, Fairhaven, Freetown, Lakeville, Mattapoissett, Rehoboth, Swansea, Wareham, Westport.

*Honors and Recognition continued from page 19*

#### HazMat

The Hazardous Materials Response Division is a complex and highly technical organization that must maintain preparedness for emergencies ranging from small household mishaps to incidents with national homeland security implications. Casey Jensen, a member of the Hazardous Material Emergency Response Division was recognized for her relentless pursuit of excellence and unwillingness to accept less than perfection in her own performance during a period when the division has been expanding to meet an ever increasing challenge. She quietly and consistently orchestrates staff and contractors to manage even the smallest of details necessary to maintain team readiness.

#### Fire Code

The Comprehensive Fire Code Core Committee (Timothee Rodrique, Richard Fredette, Steven Rourke, and Peter Senopoulos) has coordinated a complete revision of the Commonwealth's Fire Code that was approved for promulgation by the Board of Fire Prevention Regulations. The



Class #215



Class #48



Class #49

code will provide improved guidance for the regulated community that is consistent with codes in other states, improving our ability to work with national firms and professionals. The Fire Code has been updated to incorporate current industry reference standards and best practices.

#### MFA

The Firefighter Recruit Training Team at the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy (Bruce Gauvin, Christine Juda, Richard Farrar, and Michele Hebert) has implemented a 9-week recruit training program in order to address a growing waiting list for training. The new program trains 24 students in 9 weeks, the old program trained 72 students in 12 weeks. Lectures, equipment, program format, and staff management all had to change while ensuring both the safety of students and the integrity and quality of training. The change from 12 weeks to 9 weeks means that up to 120 more recruits can be trained in a year.



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



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

# Hazardous Materials Fleet Upgrades



*The first new TOMs Unit is Truck 11.*

DFS is updating the Hazardous Materials Emergency Response fleet with seven new TOMs and ten new equipment trucks this year. Eighteen years of experience with TOMs Units allowed us to design improvements into the new units. Improvements include: a cab that provides six additional feet of space for a 2-person work station, meter set up bench and storage space; and a 5-foot slide-out section that provides additional walking and meeting space.

The body of the truck has three sections. The front section is for science and research and houses four computer work stations for looking up chemical information, keeping incident logs and reports, and developing safety plans.

The center section is for meter storage and set up. The truck has storage compartments for charged meters and portable radios. One compartment is a pass through that allows meters to be accessed from both inside and outside the truck. The pass through also allows equipment to be set out for teams to pick up without entering the truck.

The rear of the truck is for equipment storage that includes suits, boots and gloves, SCBA and powered air purifying respirators. The truck also carries a Hazard Assessment Field Isolation System which can be deployed at bio threat incidents to conduct tests on tactical samples. This allows incident commanders to make on-scene decisions while conclusive testing is being done on samples sent to state labs.