

All Hands Herald

Massachusetts Department of Fire Services September 2015

New Fire Science *and Transitional Attack*

**Fall and School
Fire Prevention**

**DFS Wins Settlement
from Tobacco Company**

**Operation Swift Response
Mobilization Exercise**



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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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On the Cover

Honorary Framingham Fire Chief Jim Rousseau brought his 1935 Maxim to DFS on July 7. Jim and his brother Charlie restored Framingham's old Engine 3 and the 1970 vintage engine pictured behind it.

From the Fire Marshal

Welcome to New Undersecretary

New Executive Office of Public Safety and Security Undersecretary for Homeland Security and Emergency Management Patrick McMurray visited the Department of Fire Services on June 19. He met with senior staff, learned about the work of different divisions, toured the facility and attended the graduation ceremony of Recruit Firefighter Class #229. We look forward to working closely with him in the months ahead.

HazMat Fleet Upgrade

Fiscal Year '15 closed with the completion of the \$8.5 million upgrade of the Hazardous Materials Response Division's 24 vehicle fleet including seven new Technical Operations Modules (TOMs) and ten new equipment trucks (Operational Response Units – ORUs). An additional Tactical Support Unit (TSU) was built for specialized equipment not carried in every district. Eighteen years of experience with the current fleet allowed DFS staff to design improvements to the new units. This investment by the Administration and Legislature in the Hazardous Materials Response Division is a testament to the system which is considered a model for the nation. In June, we hosted Dr. John W. Fischer, director of the Chemical and Biological Division of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, and John Woodill, deputy director of the Weapons of Mass Destruction Directorate at the Federal Bureau of Investigation. They were able to see the new vehicles and equipment and learn about the system's design and response capabilities.

New Fire Apparatus at MFA

The Massachusetts Firefighting Academy (MFA) purchased three new Emergency One pumpers for use in training. Each has a 530-gallon booster tank, and is capable of pumping 1,250 gallons of water per minute. These



New Emergency One pumpers for use in training.

trucks were built with International commercial cabs which can accommodate five people. They are specially designed for teaching, although they are capable of handling fire emergencies. To help teach pump operations,

the main pressure and compound gauges are installed on an elevated angled plate, which allows students gathered around the apparatus to see them. Students can also easily observe the water tank quantity gauge and the tachometer, which are vitally important when operating a pump. This \$480,000 investment upgrades an aging fleet that is used daily in firefighter training at the Stow campus. The upgrade also means that new firefighters will train on the same type of modern equipment that is used in their departments.

Springfield Campus

As you read this issue of the *All Hands Herald*, we are closing in on completion of the DFS Springfield Campus and look forward to “cutting the ribbon” shortly and moving in. I am certain that our staff as well as the western MA fire departments are also looking forward to this facility opening. We have all waited a long time for this day.

Legislation

There are several pieces of legislation pending this session that are of interest to the fire service. They include measures about smoke alarms, fire sprinklers and carbon monoxide detection in schools.

Local Option Sprinkler Law

One bill is a local option law that allows cities and towns to choose whether to require fire sprinklers in newly built one- and two-family homes. If passed, this legislation would not mandate the installation of sprinklers, but rather gives citizens the opportunity to decide whether sprinklers are right for their community's fire protection plan. Sprinklers buy precious time for people to escape fires, especially children, the elderly, and the disabled who may need more time. Sprinklers minimize property loss and danger to firefighters by keeping fires smaller and cooler until the fire department arrives.



Continued on page 3

Operation Swift Response

Full Scale Mobilization Exercise

By Chief Kevin M. Nord



Operation Swift Response was the second in a series of full scale exercises to test the technical rescue capabilities of a newly formed statewide collaborative of regional technical rescue teams. The Fire Chiefs' Association of Massachusetts (FCAM) in cooperation with the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA), the Department of Fire Services (DFS) and the Regional Homeland Security Councils are collaborating to create a statewide network of regional technical rescue teams that can deploy immediately and assemble at an incident in as few as 20 minutes. The teams will be able to operate at full strength with all equipment within one hour of any event.

Operation Swift Response took place on June 8 and 9, but planning for the exercise began in January. The exercise simulated a statewide natural disaster that created two areas of devastation, one on the north shore in Topsfield and one on the south shore in Plainville. The scenario required technical rescue team deployment to two separate areas simultaneously over two days. Many local, regional and state agencies worked together to challenge their own assets and make the drill a success.

The four core objectives for Operation Swift Response were: 1) Deploy to two sites simultaneously for two days and provide search and rescue; 2) Demonstrate interoperability with all the fire-based technical rescue teams representing the north and south groups and the National Guard CBRNE Enhanced Response Force Package (NG CERF-P) soldiers; 3) Demonstrate capability to move all teams and equipment into sites using Blackhawk helicopters provided by National Guard Aviation; 4) Demonstrate command and control using a newly formed technical rescue Incident Support Team (IST) and expand its capability with the Multi Agency Coordination (MAC), Area Command.

On day one, both sites used aviation to assemble their teams. Crews had to plan mobilization, prepare the proper manifest documentation, pack the Blackhawk helicopters, and deploy teams and equipment efficiently. On site, crews had to assemble search and rescue teams while maintaining a steady force in the field and providing for rehab and rapid intervention teams.

Continued on next page

Long Life Sealed Battery Smoke Alarms

Several pending bills require the installation of long life sealed battery smoke alarms in homes when they are sold or transferred. A long life sealed battery smoke alarm is relatively new technology that provides an additional layer of safety because the alarms cannot be opened and the battery cannot be removed. Smoke alarm batteries seem to fail at the most inconvenient times (like the middle of the night) and this leads to disabling them. A long life sealed battery will make it easier to maintain smoke alarms and will reduce the opportunities and the desire to disable alarms.

Close the Smoke Alarm Inspection Gap and Replace Aged Smoke Alarms

Most people do not know that, in general, smoke alarms last only 10 years before they must be replaced. In the past 20 years, I have responded to so many fires where smoke alarms were disabled or had missing batteries. Time after time, this led to tragic consequences. As part of the revised Comprehensive Fire Safety Code, one- and two-family homes built prior to 1975 cannot be sold with smoke alarms that are more than ten years old, don't work, or have exceeded their useful life. The alarms must be replaced.

There is also proposed legislation to close the so-called "gap" on smoke alarm inspections upon sale and transfer. The current law (c. 148 s. 26F) requires homes built before the State Building Code was created (in 1975) to be

equipped with smoke alarms upon sale and transfer. Most mortgage companies require a fire department smoke alarm inspection regardless of when a home was constructed, but the new law would make the legal requirement for these inspections uniform and clear. The proposed legislation further requires that in order to pass such an inspection, smoke alarms cannot exceed the useful life recommended by the manufacturer.

CO Detection in Schools

I have felt for several years that the next logical expansion of our carbon monoxide law is to protect schools. The majority of schools that called fire departments for CO incidents did not have carbon monoxide alarms, posing a risk to students and teachers from sudden high levels of carbon monoxide or from exposure to elevated levels over time. The CO incident last year in a Douglas kindergarten underscores the need to protect children and teachers from the "invisible killer".

In the past five years, there have been an average of 24 CO incidents in Massachusetts schools. Most incidents were in elementary schools (including kindergartens), some were in middle and high schools. Statistics show that most carbon monoxide calls occur between 7 a.m. and 11 a.m. in the months between October and March and when heat is in use.

Operation Swift Response, *continued from previous page*

Incident Support Teams (IST) followed into each site with 150 to 200 people, maintaining a safe and steady flow of personnel from the helicopter landing zone. Area Command was established according to the NIMS National Response Plan and managed resource needs between sites as well as those resources that were filled by the State Emergency Operation Center (EOC) Emergency Support Function (ESF) Desks. Area Command maintained accurate situational awareness for both sites and assisted in the development of Incident Action Plans (IAP) for each operational period.

This mobilization exercise identified both strengths and areas for improvement thanks to the hard work of all the participants. Areas for improvement indicated in the After Action Report (AAR) will be addressed with a plan for next year's exercise. In 2016, the mobilization exercise will include newly established regional teams and focus on a hazardous materials disaster scenario.

Governor Charlie Baker and DFS Special Operations staff during Operations Swift Response.



New Fire Science & Transitional Attack

MFA Offers Education and Training

Modern Materials Have Changed Fire Behavior

Changes in the furnishings and contents of virtually all buildings have altered the nature of fire behavior. With few exceptions, the furnishings and contents of modern buildings are constructed with plastics and other synthetics that tend to burn faster with higher heat release rates. Consequently, the time required for flashover — the transition from the growth stage to the fully developed stage where everything in a compartment ignites simultaneously — has significantly decreased and may often coincide with, or be accelerated by, the activities of the first due companies on the scene. Routine but necessary activities such as forcing entry, hose line advancement through an open door, search and rescue, and ventilation using traditional techniques may actually put firefighters in greater peril. Several National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) firefighter fatality investigation reports combined with fire dynamics computer modeling from the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) make this point abundantly clear. Two firefighter fatalities at 3146 Cherry Road in Washington D.C., May 1999; three firefighter fatalities in Keokuk, IA, December 1999; one firefighter fatality at 30 Dowling Circle in Baltimore County, MD, January 2011; and one firefighter fatality at West 50th Place in Chicago, IL, November 2012 are just four examples of how the modern fire ground is conspiring to kill firefighters.

Transitional attack cools the fire compartment from the exterior in order to prevent flashover prior to “transitioning” to an interior attack, improving survival for both victims and firefighters.

Tactics pioneered two generations ago by Chief Lloyd Layman, reinforced by the heavy fire duty of the time, and continuously passed on through an era of decreasing fire activity may not always be relevant on the modern fire ground. New and innovative tactics that improve the survivability of firefighters and victims alike may be appropriate - but where is the proof?

Studies Provide Data for Changing Tactics

In 2010, Underwriters Laboratories (UL) embarked upon a project to compile scientific data regarding the impact of

ventilation (intentional and unintentional) on fire dynamics given synthetic furnishings, contents, and conditions encountered with energy efficient and modern, open construction. The first set of live-fire experiments were conducted in two houses built in UL's research facility in Northbrook, IL. The second set of experiments occurred in partnership with NIST and the Fire Department of New York (FDNY) at an abandoned military housing area on Governor's Island near the southern tip of Manhattan. The Governor's Island evolutions created scenarios with legacy construction and synthetic furnishings using traditional and revised tactics. Each fire in the experiment was fully instrumented with video and temperature data streams from multiple points within the structures.

Data reduction from the entire experiment produced three findings that are contrary to a number of closely held fire service beliefs. The first finding from the experiments is that water applied by means of an exterior attack does not push the fire. The second finding is that applying water directly into the fire compartment as soon as possible (generally from the exterior) results in the most effective means of suppressing the fire as well as improving victim survivability. This finding is contrary to the popularly held belief that exterior water application will scald potential victims with steam but consistent with the notion that a properly placed hose stream will do more to enhance life safety and mitigate the incident than any other single action. The third finding is the importance of understanding the flow path — the movement of low temperature, low pressure air to the fire and the movement of high temperature, high pressure gases away from the fire. The traditional practice of increasing ventilation to a ventilation-limited building fire by forcing entry, advancing hose lines through an open door, and creating horizontal and vertical openings actually accelerates fire growth and shortens the time to flashover.

Effectiveness of Transitional Attack Proved

The UL/NIST studies proved the effectiveness and practicality of a transitional attack. The transitional attack — also referred to as “hitting it hard from the yard” — is a means to cool the fire compartment from the exterior in order to prevent flashover and thereby improve survivability for both victims and firefighters prior to “transitioning” to an interior attack. Combining the transitional attack with the concept of controlling the flow path has resulted in the



Demonstration of transitional attack at the MFA in July.

SLICE-RS acronym — commonly referred to as “slicers” — for use by the first due company officer to help decide if a transitional attack is appropriate. SLICE-RS stands for: S—size-up; L—locate the fire; I—identify and control the flow path; C—cool the compartment from the exterior; E—extinguish the fire (generally using traditional interior firefighting tactics); with R—rescue and S—salvage being tasks of opportunity that are accomplished as needed. In simplistic terms, the approach to first-due is the same as it always was with one exception: doors found open on the 360 are initially closed to control the flow path and water is applied from the exterior into the fire compartment if the fire has auto vented to cool the space and delay flashover. More importantly, Lloyd Layman’s RECEO-VS acronym (R—rescue; E—exposure; C—confinement; E—extinguishment; with V—ventilation and S—salvage as tasks of opportunity) remains applicable for the incident commander.

MFA Prepares Training on the New Fire Science

This description of the UL/NIST studies, transitional attack, and use of SLICE-RS is only a brief summary of these concepts. Consequently, the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy (MFA) has a responsibility to educate and train the Massachusetts fire service about this knowledge which is often referred to as the “New Fire Science”. The MFA will offer a three tiered approach to the education and training associated with the tactical changes driven by the scientific analysis of the UL/NIST studies. The first tier of training will be a 3-hour classroom Impact-like program delivered by an MFA instructor, available for

download by a training officer, or taken on-line that will introduce students to the UL/NIST fire dynamics study and new tactics. The second tier of training will be a full day seminar that expands on the first tier with guided, interactive discussion and case studies involving firefighter fatalities that reinforce the concept of flow path and suggest the incorporation of new tactics. The third training tier will include a classroom review of tactics followed by practical evolutions in the burn building using a transitional attack while students rotate through interior positions using a thermal imaging camera to observe first hand that fire cannot be pushed from an exterior hose stream. Each tier of training will be a pre-requisite for the next tier.

Call/Volunteer Firefighter Recruit program instructors, under the direction and instruction of Program Coordinator Christopher Norris, conducted a very successful instructor improvement day on April 18, 2015. The program included a morning of guided discussion followed by an afternoon of practical evolutions focusing on the UL/NIST studies, transitional attack, and SLICE-RS. This instructor improvement day laid the foundation for the MFA’s approach to “The New Fire Science” and demonstrated to many veterans of the Massachusetts fire service the importance of exploring this combination of cutting edge knowledge and tactics.

The Massachusetts Firefighting Academy plans to roll out this training in the fall of 2016.

Firefighter Rehabilitation

A Program to Live With



By Mike Aries

Nearly every week I read about another firefighter who died in the line of duty. Statistics show that many firefighter deaths are related to physical stress from over exertion and working in extreme heat and cold conditions. Firefighters are dying from cardiac arrest both at emergency scenes and shortly after returning to their station or home at the end of a shift.

Over the past three years, the Massachusetts fire service has moved to address firefighter safety by fully implementing the NFPA 1584 Rehab Standard. Although the Rehab Standard has been in existence since 2008, many in the fire service consider rehab as drinking a bottle of water while resting on the tailgate of a pumper. NFPA 1584 is much more. The challenge has been to fully implement the standard statewide.

The leadership of the Fire Chiefs' Association of Massachusetts (FCAM), the Professional Fire Fighters of Massachusetts (PFFM), and the Massachusetts Call Volunteer Firefighters Association (MCVFA), facilitated by the Department of Fire Services (DFS), worked collaboratively to develop a plan to implement firefighter rehab statewide. Over the summer, DFS delivered a series of train-the-trainer programs to educate firefighters across the Commonwealth on the new Rehab plan. The training program includes a sample Rehab standard operating protocol or guideline (SOP/SOG) that local fire departments can adopt or modify for local demographics. An online training program, *Rehab for All Emergency Responders*, will be available this fall on the DFS website. The program will ensure both a consistent approach and consistent treatment for all emergency responders in the state.

Stress and overexertion are among the leading causes of firefighter deaths, so the committee focused on how to minimize that impact through early intervention and

medical monitoring in accordance with the Rehab standard. They first identified the routine components of proper Rehab then discussed how to implement them in a way that addressed firefighters' concerns.

Firefighters tend to avoid the medical screening process at scenes for several reasons. The most obvious issues are medical documentation and returning to full duty at the scene if a firefighter's vital signs do not meet established medical criteria. To address both concerns, the committee opened discussions with the emergency physicians of Metro Boston Region 4. The physicians learned about the significant and immediate physical and emotional demands that are part of firefighting. The discussions led to the establishment of a new and more flexible Rehab Flow Chart which allows an extended recovery time for a responder's vital signs. The committee also addressed documentation issues. The requirement to generate a Patient Care Report (PCR) for every responder passing through Rehab was eliminated. A new Rehab/Accountability tag was developed to track a responder's medical screening. This becomes part of the incident documentation.

Rehab is separate from the medical treatment area, but a responder can be moved to the treatment area if a medical condition is identified by the Rehab screening. In that case, a traditional PCR is used. Treatment is provided according to the appropriate Statewide Treatment Protocol.

These revisions were eventually approved by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health's Medical Services Committee and adopted into the EMS Pre-hospital Statewide Treatment Protocol (STP) in September 2014 (version 12.03). Funding from Regional Homeland Security Councils provides the new "tags" for all responders, regardless of discipline. This summer, DFS deployed a fourth Rehab

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DFS Wins Settlement from Lorillard Tobacco

For Violating FSC Cigarette Law

As a result of violations of the Massachusetts Fire Standard Compliant (FSC) Cigarette Law, Lorillard Tobacco Company has agreed, through a voluntary Administrative Disposition Agreement, to pay the Department of Fire Services (DFS) \$239,359 in costs and fines.

The violations are the result of an investigation conducted by the Office of the State Fire Marshal beginning in January 2015. The agency, through its contracted independent lab, conducted hundreds of ignition strength tests of Lorillard's Maverick Gold 100s brand style. The tested cigarettes were purchased randomly, in diverse locations throughout Massachusetts. According to the FSC ignition strength test requirement (M.G.L. c. 64C § 2B (a) (3)), "no more than 25% of the cigarettes tested in a test trial in accordance with this section shall exhibit full length burns. Forty replicate tests shall compromise a complete test trial for each cigarette tested." Results showed that 32% of the test trials failed the required ignition strength test.

Massachusetts is a national leader in enforcing the FSC law. The state has completed over 110,000 cigarette testing evaluations and 4,300 retailer and distributor compliance inspections.

The average historical ignition strength failure rate of most cigarette brand styles is 2.5%. Based on this data, DFS immediately had Lorillard stop shipping Maverick Gold 100s to Massachusetts until further testing was completed. Lorillard cooperated throughout the investigation and agreed to supply the independent lab with a new production run (400 packs) for further testing. The new test results showed 100% ignition strength compliance.



In addition to the fine, Lorillard has agreed to cease and desist from directly or indirectly marketing, selling, distributing, or providing any cigarettes for sale in Massachusetts that are not fully in compliance with the FSC Cigarette Law (M.G.L. c. 64C § 2A-2F). They also agreed to remove all Maverick Gold 100s from Massachusetts distribution channels that were associated with the problematic runs identified in the original independent testing.

Since the inception of the FSC law in Massachusetts on January 1, 2008, DFS has taken a national lead through independent testing and enforcement activities. As one of only three states currently conducting independent testing, (Hawaii and Kansas just started testing programs) over 110,000 cigarette testing evaluations have been completed to date. Additionally, 4,300 cigarette retailer and distributor compliance inspections have been completed with over 13,000 packs of non-FSC compliant cigarettes seized.

This case underscores the importance of independent testing by states and that the checks and balance design of the program implemented in Massachusetts is a model for other states. The FSC law is working successfully to protect public safety in Massachusetts.

Firefighter Rehabilitation, *continued from previous page*

truck in its Special Operations Division. In addition to the regional Rehab trucks located in Stow, Northampton (soon to move to DFS's Springfield campus), and Middleboro, the Lynnfield Fire Department now hosts one. The location of this fourth Rehab truck will better serve the Rehab needs of the north shore and the Merrimac Valley. Any incident commander can request activation of the DFS Rehab Team. Rehab is a component of the National Incident Management System (NIMS) and works in conjunction with the locally designated EMS provider (fire service or private) that does the medical screening. Can-teen services complement the Rehab operation and should

be located in close proximity to the Rehab sector. Rehab remains under the direction of the local incident commander. There are no financial charges to a community for activation of DFS Rehab services.

State Fire Marshal Coan praised leadership efforts of Massachusetts Fire Service organizations stating, "Through these progressive efforts, Rehab in Massachusetts now has a comprehensive and consistent approach to the health and safety of firefighters working at emergency scenes."

A Rehab Unit can be activated 24 hours a day, seven days a week by calling 508-820-2000. For questions and planned events, call 978-567-3171.

Fall Fire Prevention



Crop Mazes

The revised Comprehensive Fire Safety Code (527 CMR 1.00, s. 10.15.11) introduces specific regulations on crop mazes in Massachusetts. The primary danger at a crop maze is a medical or fire emergency for which staff are not prepared. However, owners and operators can take preventive and precautionary measures to ensure that staff are prepared to handle emergencies. The Department of Fire Services has a Crop Maze pamphlet for owners and operators. It provides an overview of the new regulations along with safety recommendations. It is important for local fire departments and crop maze operators to discuss safety precautions for each unique crop maze. Visit www.mass.gov/dfs and click on *Fire Safety Division*, then on *Fire Prevention Resources*. You can also type *Crop Mazes* in the search box from any DFS webpage.

Haunted Houses and Special Amusement Buildings

Halloween is a fun time of the year, but haunted houses and/or fun houses can generate life safety issues. This is true regardless of occupant load (i.e., either *Assembly Use* or *Business Use* buildings or portions thereof). These issues 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 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.

The Special Amusement Building requirements in the State Building Code (780 CMR) were a direct result of this fire. The Comprehensive Fire Safety Code (527 CMR 1.00) also has provisions that impact such facilities regarding flammability of decorations, curtains and draperies, maintenance of fire rated doors, smoke barriers, electrical wiring, means of egress, and development and drills of emergency plans with staff.

Fall is a fun time of the year, but haunted and fun houses and crop mazes can generate life safety issues.

For more information on haunted house safety, contact the Fire Safety Division's Code Compliance Unit at (978) 567-3375 or in western Massachusetts at (413) 587-3181. Building officials can contact the Department of Public Safety at (617) 727-3200.

School Fire Prevention

The Division of Fire Safety has updated its *School Fire Prevention* pamphlet with references to the revised Comprehensive Fire Safety Code. The pamphlet summarizes the main fire prevention regulations and laws governing schools and can be found on the DFS website (www.mass.gov/dfs) by typing *school fire prevention* in the search box or by clicking on *Fire Prevention Resources* from the Fire Safety Division's home page. The pamphlet covers:

- School Fire Reporting Law, M.G.L. c. 148, s. 2A;
- Multi-Hazard and EMS Plans;
- Fire drills;
- Crowd manager requirements;
- Flammability of upholstered furniture, molded chairs and re-upholstered furniture and of decorations, curtains, draperies and window treatments;
- Special issues concerning place of assembly (theaters, auditorium, gym, cafeteria), and chemistry labs;
- School wall decorations (uses of paper materials);
- Fire suppression systems;
- General housekeeping; and more.

Multi-Hazard and EMS Plans

Section 363 of Chapter 159 of the Acts of 2000 M.G.L. c. 69, s. 8A requires the head of the school, fire and police departments to meet each year prior to the start of school to review and revise multi-hazard and EMS plans. Taking the *School Fire Prevention* pamphlet to that annual meeting could be helpful in discussions with school staff on the fire safety requirements.

Bomb Threat Protocols

Multi-hazard plans should include *Bomb Threat Response Plans* that spell out how school, fire and



police agencies will work together when responding to school bomb threats. Last year, a working group of fire, school, local police and the State Police Bomb Squad developed a *Bomb Threat Guidance Document* after experiencing a spike in such threats and seeing the variability in local community's plans for response. You can obtain a copy of the pamphlet by contacting the Fire and Explosion Investigation Section at 978-567-3310, or the Fire Data and Public Education Unit at 978-567-3381, or the Public Information Office at 978-567-3189.

Massachusetts Bomb Threat Response Guidance

For local police, fire and school officials.

- Although no bomb has ever been found in a Massachusetts school after a communicated threat, take each threat seriously.
- Every school should have a **Bomb Threat Response Plan** as part of an **All Hazard Plan**.
- Use these guidelines to review and revise the bomb threat response section of your All Hazard Plan.
- Every bomb threat is unique and should be handled in accordance with the needs of the facility.



This information has been approved by:
Fire Chiefs' Association of Massachusetts
Massachusetts Police Chief's Association
Massachusetts Major City Chiefs
Mass. Association of School Superintendents

MASS. STATE POLICE BOMB SQUAD
DEPARTMENT OF FIRE SERVICES
Stephen D. Coan • State Fire Marshal

Requirement to Replace Aging Smoke Alarms

One of the provisions in the revised Comprehensive Fire Safety Code (527 CMR 1.00, s. 13.7.2.1.5) is that smoke alarms in one- and two-family homes (built before 1975) cannot be more than ten years old. They cannot remain in service if they fail operability tests, if they have exceeded the manufacturer's listed life-span or if they are more than ten years old. The enforcement of this provision is the *26F inspection*, upon sale or transfer. The Board of Fire Prevention Regulations is developing guidance for local fire departments on how to recommend this same level of protection when they are invited to inspect homes built after 1975, usually as a condition of the mortgage. Fire departments understandably want the same level of protection for every resident. In addition, there is pending legislation that could clarify the matter if it is passed.



Fire Prevention Officer

Credentialing Program

The Department of Fire Services (DFS) and the State Fire Marshal offer credentialing for fire prevention officers (FPOs). The credentialing program is designed to encourage FPOs to seek further education and maintain a high level of professionalism throughout their careers. DFS offers training for FPO Basic and FPO Level I. FPO Level II training is in development. The requirements for a fire prevention officer are constantly expanding and are more complicated than ever before. Today, fire prevention officers must understand: firefighting; hazardous materials; fire protection systems; fire inspection principles; Massachusetts General Laws; Massachusetts Fire and Building Codes; and national standards (from the National Fire Protection Association and the International Code Family).

The Fire Prevention Officer credentialing application allows officers to document: fire service certifications; continuing professional education; work on boards, commissions and technical committees; professional memberships; and work experience. Visit www.mass.gov/dfs and search for *Fire Prevention Officer Credentialing* for the application.

Many Massachusetts Firefighting Academy (MFA) classes, as well as trainings from outside agencies, are approved for credits that contribute toward the credentialing and re-credentialing process. MFA class topics for FPO training include Fire Investigation, Youth Fire Setting Prevention and Intervention, Sprinkler Demonstrations and Fire Safety House Orientation. The annual Fire and Life Safety Education Conference, the Fire Chiefs' Association of Mass. (FCAM) Professional Development Conference, the Fire Prevention Association of Mass. (FPAM) Professional Development Conference, and the DFS Quarterly Fire Prevention Seminars are also on the approved course list for credentialing. Trainings offered by outside agencies can be reviewed for credits by completing the Training Program Request for Credential Application form on the FPO credential web page. DFS and MFA staff are currently submitting additional Division of Fire Safety trainings for approval and acceptance into the

credentialing program. The list of approved trainings programs will increase over time.

All training program curricula are evaluated to the NFPA Standard 1031 Professional Qualifications for Fire Inspector and Plan Examiner. Depending on the course, other potentially applicable standards include: NFPA 921, Guide for Fire and Explosion Investigations; NFPA 1033, Standard for Professional Qualifications for Fire Investigator; NFPA 1035, Standard on Fire and Life Safety Educator, Public Information Officer, Youth Firesetter Intervention Specialist, and Youth Firesetter Program Manager Professional Qualifications.

In order to maintain the Fire Prevention Officer Credential, officers are required to accumulate 72 points of

FPO Criteria Credit Scoring Matrix	
FPO Criteria	FPO Points
Fire Certifications & Exams	15
Fire Officer I: Fire Lieutenant	5
Fire Officer II: Fire Captain	10
Fire Officer III: Deputy/District/Assistant Chief	15
Certifications & Exams	15
Fire Inspector I	5
Fire Inspector II	10
Fire Inspector III	15
Fire Instructor I	5
Fire Instructor II	10
Fire Instructor III	15
Fire Investigator	10
Hazardous Materials: Operations	5
Hazardous Materials: Technician	10
Incident Safety Officer	10
Public Fire and Life Safety Educator I	5
Technical Rescuer: Confined Space Rescue I/II	5
Technical Rescuer: Rope Rescue I/II	5
Technical Rescuer: Trench Rescue I/II	5
Professional Memberships	10
	1 point/year/membership
Boards/Commissions/Technical Committees	30
	4 points/year/board
Professional Development	70
Fire Prevention Officer Work Experience	6
Per Year Served as Fire Prevention Officer	2
Required Points	72

Continued on next page

Changes to MFA Policies

from the Massachusetts Fire Training Council

In April and May, the Massachusetts Fire Training Council (MFTC) made several policy changes for the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy (MFA). The changes impact the grading system for written examinations, dismissals, withdrawals, and readmission for the Career Recruit Firefighter Training Program, and reasonable accommodations for all MFA programs.

State Fire Marshal Coan issued advisories to the heads of fire departments about these changes. Visit www.mass.gov/dfs and click on *DFS Advisories*. The Rules and Regulations for the Career Firefighter Recruit Training Program are on the Advisories page and on the Fire Chief's Full-time Recruit Application Package page. The Rules and Regulations for the Call/Volunteer Firefighter Recruit Training Program are on that program's page. Visit www.mass.gov/dfs. Click on *Massachusetts Firefighting Academy* and then *Call/Volunteer Firefighter Training Program*.

Grading Written Examinations

On May 6, 2015, the Massachusetts Fire Training Council (MFTC) made changes to the grading system for written examinations for the Career Recruit Firefighter Training Program. A student who does not successfully complete the final examination will be allowed to take one re-examination. If he or she does not successfully pass the retake examination, he or she will be dismissed from the program without prejudice. The retake will be at the discretion of



the student who, after consultation with the sponsoring chief, has the following options: 1) to retest the following afternoon; 2) to re-test during an open enrollment certification exam, if one is already scheduled; or 3) on Training Day 13-C of the next graduating class. The student will be presented with these options and must make a decision by the close of business on the day they have failed the final examination.

Dismissal, Withdrawal, Readmission and Reasonable Accommodation

On March 12, 2015, the MFTC made several important changes to its policies regarding dismissal, withdrawal and readmission for students attending the Career Recruit Firefighter Training Program. The Council also made changes to its Reasonable Accommodations Policy, which applies to all Massachusetts Firefighting Academy programs. The changes are summarized below.

Continued on page 19

Fire Prevention Officer Credentialing Program, *continued from previous page*

approved attendance and activities within a 36-month period from the date of issuance of the credential. If officers do not accumulate at least 72 points in 36 months, the credential becomes void. If an officer allows their credential to expire, they must comply with the current minimum standards for re-credentialing and re-take the FPO I course to be considered for reinstatement. All FPOs currently holding certificates with an expiration date of 2015 or 2016 have an extension to 12/31/16. These people must submit for re-credentialing by 12/31/16.

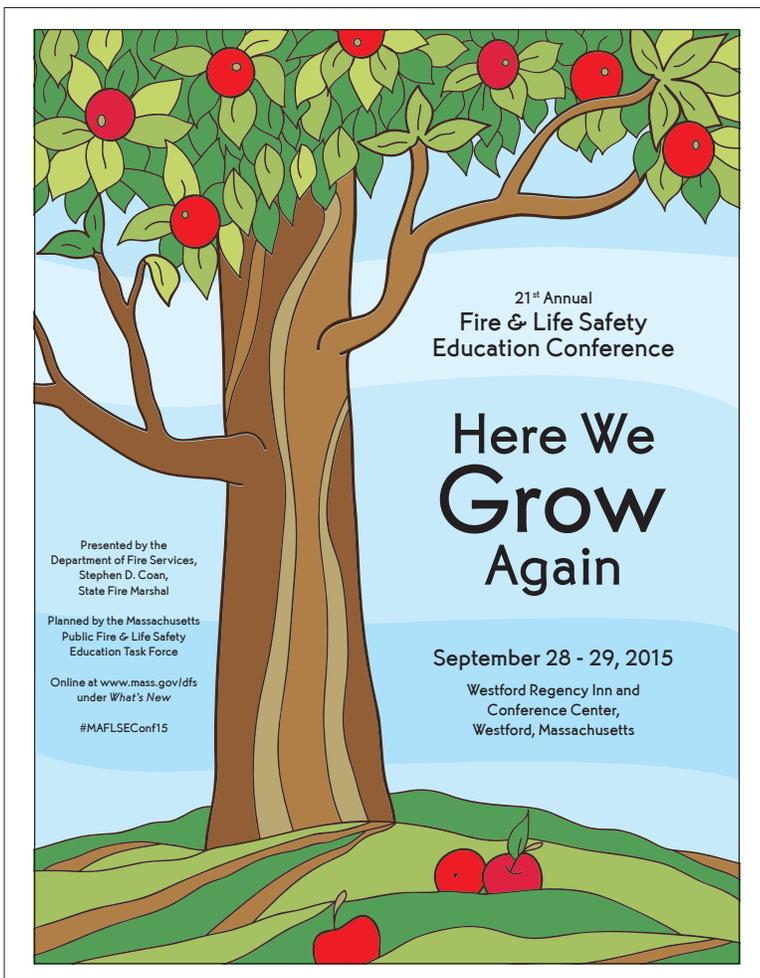
Criteria Credit Scoring Matrix for Fire Prevention Officer Re-Credentialing

The credential credit scoring matrix provides a weighted point system for various credentialing activities. An example of a completed application and an application form are available on the DFS website at: <http://www.mass.gov/eopss/agencies/dfs/fpo-training.html>. Completed re-credentialing applications can be submitted to DFS, credentialing@state.ma.us or mailed to the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy, Attention: Alanna Malatos, Department of Fire Services, P.O. Box 1025, Stow, MA 01775. For questions about the program or assistance, call Alanna Malatos, program coordinator, at 978-567-3210.

Fire Prevention Week 2015



This year, Fire Prevention Week is October 4 – 10 and the theme is *Hear the Beep, Where You Sleep: Every Bedroom Needs a Working Smoke Alarm*. Fire Prevention Week is a great opportunity to educate the public about the importance of working smoke alarms and their placement in bedrooms and throughout all homes. The Massachusetts State Building Code only requires smoke alarms in bedrooms of newly built homes, but it is a good recommendation for everyone, especially smokers and heavy sleepers. The National Fire Protection Association sponsors Fire Prevention Week and they have great educational materials on their website at www.firepreventionweek.org.



Register Now

for the 21st Annual Public Fire and Life Safety Education Conference

On September 28 and 29, the Department of Fire Services and the Massachusetts Public Fire and Life Safety Education Task Force will present their annual fire and life safety education conference. This year's theme is *Here We Grow Again*. Public fire and life safety educators, EMT's, teachers, administrators, nurses, police, senior agency partners and new fire and life safety educators can all benefit from this year's conference. With workshops and speakers for both seasoned and new educators, everyone will go away with new information and contacts to help advance public fire and life safety education in Massachusetts.

Register now on the DFS website at www.mass.gov/dfs under *What's New*.

Resources for Fall Fire Safety Education

The Department of Fire Services has information pamphlets that are helpful to fire educators. They can be found at www.mass.gov/dfs, under *Fire Safety Topics and Flyers*. Many are available in multiple languages. Here we highlight several that are useful in the fall and winter.

Smoke Alarms

The Department of Fire Services FireFactor on Smoke Alarms includes information on what to do when a smoke alarm sounds; the importance of alarms; where to place smoke alarms and how to take care of them; and a reminder that smoke alarms should be replaced after ten years when they have reached the end of their useful life.

Halloween Safety Tips and Change Your Clock, Change Your Battery

DFS offers a flyer with Halloween safety tips aimed at both children and adults. Tips include using battery operated candles in carved pumpkins. The flyer also has information about changing the batteries in smoke alarms when we set our clocks back one hour for daylight savings time, on Sunday, November 1 at 2:00 a.m.

Candle Fire Safety

The DFS FireFactor on Candle Safety explains that the use of candles increases the risk of fire in homes. Tips in this FireFactor include using flameless candles in the home for holidays and keeping a 1 foot circle of safety around candles, away from things that can burn.

Keep Warm, Keep Safe

Heating fires increase during the winter months. DFS offers information on home heating and space heater safety at www.mass.gov/dfs, under *Fire Safety Topics and Flyers*. Check out *Space Heaters*, *Keep Warm, Keep Safe* and *Heating Safety with Solid Fuels*. Information in these flyers includes: having your heating system or chimney cleaned and checked by a licensed professional before you begin heating; giving space heaters the space they need, and more.

Winter Holiday Fire Safety

The *Winter Holiday Fire Safety* flyer from DFS reminds people to be aware of the potential for fires during the holiday season. Cooking and candle fires increase during the weeks from Thanksgiving to New Years and Thanksgiving and Christmas are the busiest days of the year for home fires. The *Winter Holiday Fire Safety* flyer is available in English, Spanish, and Portuguese.

For more information and safety tips about fire safety and prevention, please visit www.mass.gov/dfs.



Fire Investigation News



Trooper Dana Pullman, president of the State Police Association of Massachusetts (SPAM) presented State Fire Marshal Coan with a plaque for his support of the canine-handler teams in the State Police Fire and Explosion Investigation Section assigned to the Department of Fire Services. They discussed plans for a possible K-9 Memorial at DFS.

Mulch Fires

Each spring, as the brush fire season ends, mulch fire season begins. This year, mulch fires killed one person and displaced many others. Quick work by investigators in determining the causes of these fires allowed local fire officials to educate the public, homeowners, property managers, and landscaping companies about fire safety regulations (527 CMR 1.00 s. 10.14.10.4) governing mulch.

Cigarette Discarded in Mulch Ignited Fatal Arlington Fire

A May 5 fatal fire in Arlington began with improper disposal of smoking materials in a mulch bed. The early morning fire claimed the life of 47-year old Wai Cheong Lee who was unable to escape his apartment. The unit had only one exit and no fire sprinklers because of when it was constructed. The fire began when discarded smoking materials ignited a mulch bed. The fire spread to a motor vehicle, and then to the exterior wooden balconies and stairway of the 36-unit building. Residents had extinguished a similar mulch fire around 11 p.m. the night before.

The fire was jointly investigated by State Police assigned to the Office of the State Fire Marshal (North Team) and to the Office of Middlesex District Attorney Marian T. Ryan, and members of the Arlington Fire and Police Departments.

Southampton Home Ignited by Smoking Materials in Mulch

On May 18, a fire in Southampton was ignited by the improper disposal of smoking materials in mulch. Workers at the home had extinguished a small mulch fire earlier in the day with a garden hose. It is important to call the fire

department for a thorough examination of a fire even if you think you have successfully extinguished a fire. A fire can smolder under the surface of mulch for a long time before breaking out into open flames. The fire was jointly investigated by the Southampton Fire Department and State Police assigned to the Office of the State Fire Marshal's West Team.

Mulch is shredded bark and can be easily ignited by improperly discarded smoking materials. The risk is that what starts as a small outdoor mulch fire can quickly spread to buildings. A mulch fire can be well underway before someone notices or is alerted by smoke alarms.

Fire Prevention Regulations on Mulch

The Massachusetts Fire Code has regulations on the use of mulch that prohibits the new application of mulch within 18" around combustible exteriors of buildings, such as wood or vinyl, but not brick or concrete. Residential buildings with six units or less are exempted from this regulation, but all homeowners may want to adopt these safety practices. The regulation applies to all other buildings including commercial properties. The mulch around the building in the Arlington fatal fire was closer than the required 18-inch barrier and the management company received a non-criminal citation for violating the fire code.

Prevent Mulch Fires

- In many mulch fires, smoldering mulch tunnels under the surface and then breaks out into open flame.
- Mulch that is piled too deeply, more than a few inches, can build up heat and spontaneously catch fire.
- Mulch fires start more readily when the weather is hot and it has been dry for an extended time.
- Factors such as below-average rainfall, dry conditions, warm temperatures, and high winds increase the risk of mulch fires.

Be a Responsible Smoker Put It Out. All the Way. Every Time.

In a two week period this spring, there were almost two dozen fires across Massachusetts that started outdoors and spread to buildings. Cigarettes were put out on the ground, in leaves, mulch, trash cans, dry potted plants, paper bags, wooden steps and window sills, all causing fires.

- Always use appropriate receptacles for disposal of smoking materials and matches.
- Do not discard cigarettes in mulch or potted plants.
- Use ashtrays that won't burn or catch fire and that are deep enough to contain butts. Wet butts down before throwing them out.
- Be smart in your choice of containers for butts. Consider

using metal cans filled with sand for outdoor cigarette disposal.

As more people smoke outdoors rather than inside, more fires started by smoking begin on decks, porches, and exterior stairways. See chart at right.

For more information on mulch fire safety or the regulation, go to www.mass.gov/dfs.

Fires from Improper Disposal of Oily Rags

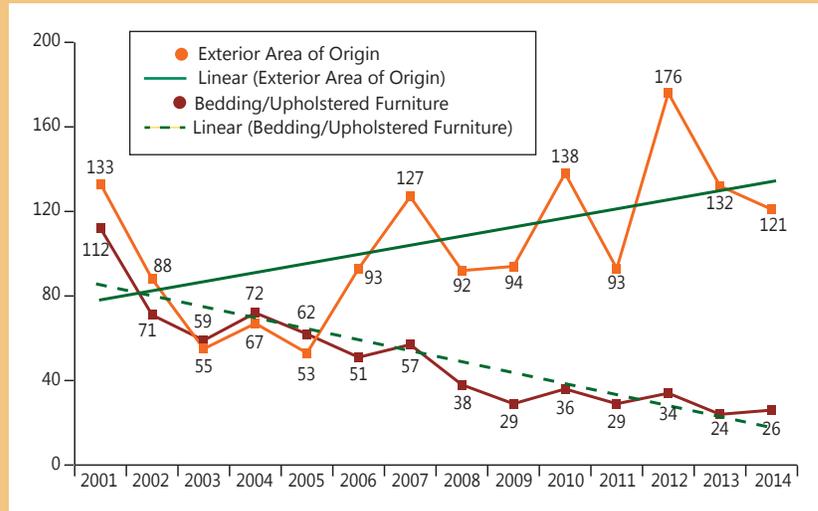
This spring there were a number of serious fires caused by improper disposal of oily rags. The Department of Fire Services, in conjunction with local fire chiefs, communicated the causes of these fires to the public as quickly as possible in an effort to prevent additional incidents from either professional or do-it-yourself (DIY) repair projects.

A May 6 fire in Burlington was caused by spontaneous combustion of improperly disposed of oily rags. A flight of stairs had been stained, and the used rags were put in a box in the garage, which is where the fire started. No one was living in the townhouse at the time and no one was injured in the fire. Damages are estimated at \$30,000. This fire was investigated by the Fire Investigation Unit's North Team and the Burlington Fire Department.

In June, there were two fires in less than a 24-hour period from the improper disposal of staining materials in the Commonwealth.

- A 3-alarm fire in Northampton on June 14 started in the garage. Newspaper with linseed oil had been rolled up and put in the trash where it ignited spontaneously and spread to other trash. The fire was fueled by gasoline and garden chemicals in the garage, and by the open door. The homeowner was injured when he opened the inside door to the garage. Two firefighters were also injured. This fire was investigated by the Northampton Fire Department and the Fire Investigation Unit's West Team.
- On June 13, a fire broke out in the maintenance building of a camp in Hinsdale. Workers had been staining a dock and placed the stain-soaked rags in an open bucket inside the building where they spontaneously combusted. The fire broke at around 7 p.m. It was investigated by the Hinsdale Fire Department and the Fire Investigation Unit's West Team.

Massachusetts Residential Cigarette Fires, 2001 - 2014



Spontaneous Combustion of Oily Rags

Do-it-yourself projects often involve using products with high VOC's (volatile organic compounds), which makes them flammable. Examples of these products are oil-based paints and stains, varnishes and polyurethane, paint thinners, and more. Even cooking oil is a flammable liquid. It is important to read warning labels on the products that you use. People often don't realize that the chemicals in some products can spontaneously combust.

Oily rags that are folded, balled up, or tossed on the floor are in danger of going through a process that starts with oxidation. As the oil dries on the rag, it produces heat. Air gets trapped in the folds or balled up portions. Heat, oxygen and the rag combine to provide the fuel for fires that start very easily. "One minute you're making your home better. A few hours later, you and your family are homeless. Taking the extra time to safely handle oily rags means you will get to enjoy your hard work," said State Fire Marshal Stephen D. Coan.

Safe Handling of Oily Rags

Always read the directions on the container of the product you are using. In most cases, following these steps will provide safe disposal for oily rags:

- Hang rags outdoors to dry in a safe area or spread them out flat, making sure they are weighted down. They should not be in a pile. Store the dry rags in a small, airtight, non-combustible (metal) container with a tight-fitting lid. An old paint can is one good example. Cover the rags completely with a solution of water and an oil breakdown detergent. Do not add any other

Continued on page 18

Graduations

Massachusetts Firefighting Academy

Career Recruit Firefighting Training

Class #227

On May 1, 2015 members of Class #227 of the Career Recruit Firefighter Training program graduated after nine weeks of training. The 25 graduates, 21 men and four women, represent the 15 fire departments of Andover, Auburn, Belmont, Beverly, Burlington, Dracut, Duxbury, Gardner, Hingham, Kingston, Milton, Seekonk, Sudbury, Taunton, and Winthrop.

Class #228

On May 22, 2015 members of Class #228 of the Career Recruit Firefighter Training program graduated after nine weeks of training. The 24 graduates, all men, represent the 15 fire departments of Amherst, Abington, Beverly, Cambridge, Lexington, Ludlow, North Andover, Northampton, Orleans, Somerville, Southbridge, Southborough, Swampscott, Weston, and Woburn.

Class #229

On June 19, 2015 members of Class #229 of the Career Recruit Firefighter Training program graduated after nine weeks of training. The 21 graduates, all men, represent the 16 fire departments of: Abington, Andover, Ashland, Attleboro, Concord, Fitchburg, Harwich, Leominster, Littleton, Marblehead, Natick, Southborough, Swampscott, Tewksbury, Westford, and Wilmington.

Class #230

On July 10, 2015 members of Class #230 of the Career Recruit Firefighter Training program graduated after nine weeks of training. The 23 graduates, 22 men and one woman, represent the 16 fire departments of: Acton, Amherst, Belmont, Bourne, Cambridge, Clinton, Gloucester, Hanson, Haverhill, Hudson, Natick, Norton, Oxford, Saugus, Upton and Westwood.

Class #231

On July 31, 2015, members of Class #231 of the Career Recruit Firefighter Training program graduated. The 25 graduates, all men, represent the 15 fire departments of: Amesbury, Athol, Bedford, Belmont, Cohasset, Fitchburg, Kingston, Lawrence, Ludlow, Mashpee, Medford, Middleton, Northampton, Wilmington, and Yarmouth.

Call/Volunteer Recruit Firefighting Training

Class #52

On June 4, 2015 in West Newbury, Massachusetts, members of Class #52 of the Call/Volunteer Recruit Firefighter Training program graduated after completing 320 hours of training on nights and weekends.



Class #227



Class #228



Class #229



Class #230



Class #231

The 40 graduates, 38 men and two women, represent the 21 fire departments of: Berlin, Boxford, Essex, Georgetown, Groveland, Hamilton, Ipswich, Lancaster, Lincoln, Lynnfield, Manchester, Merrimac, Middleton, Newbury, North Reading, Rockport, Rowley, Sherborn, Templeton, Tyngsborough and West Newbury.

Class #53

On June 10, 2015 in Fall River, members of Class #53 of the Call/Volunteer Recruit Firefighter Training program graduated after completing 320 hours of training on nights and weekends. The 36 graduates, 33 men and three women, represent the 16 fire departments of: Acushnet Fire and EMS, Berkley Fire & Rescue, Dartmouth Dist. 1, Dartmouth Dist. 3, Freetown, Lakeville, Leicester, Marion, Mattapoisett, Millville, Raynham, Rochester, Swansea, Uxbridge, West Bridgewater, and Westport.



Hazardous Materials Response for Air Monitoring at Fires

On June 30, 2015, State Fire Marshal Stephen D. Coan sent the following advisory to heads of fire departments.

Effective immediately, a Department of Fire Services Hazardous Materials Response Team may be requested for certain fires for the purpose of providing monitoring and detection for toxic products of combustion. The purpose of air monitoring is to protect firefighters and the public from extreme hazards and provide risk information to the incident commander.

An enhanced Tier 1 Response for air monitoring may be requested for the following fire conditions:

- A major structure or transportation vessel (truck, ship, or intermodal container) fire known to contain bulk chemicals and/or plastics and/or foams capable of producing highly toxic products of combustion.
- Any major structure fire expected to produce a sustained heavy smoke condition effecting an "at risk population" which cannot reasonably be evacuated.

Response should be requested through the **State Hazmat Control Center** by calling **877-385-0822** (X1 for western counties, X2 for Worcester County and East). Specify Tier 1 response for fire air monitoring when requesting assistance.

Hazmat teams will conduct local and wide area air monitoring and advise the incident commander of the nature and severity of respiratory hazard to fire fighters and the public. This information aids decision making relative to protective actions and for risk communication regarding concerns for exposure to toxic inhalation hazards.

Under M.G.L. Ch. 21K, responsible parties may be billed for cost recovery by DFS. Communities and fire departments WILL NOT be charged for these services provided by the DFS.

Massachusetts Vest-a-Dog

Supports DFS K9s with First Aid Kits

On May 20, Diane Whittaker and Kathy Hinds of Vest-a-Dog came to DFS to present State Fire Marshal Coan with new first aid kits for the accelerant and explosive detection canine teams in the State Police Fire and Explosion Investigation Section.

The kits are distributed to canine handlers in local police departments, county sheriff's departments and state law enforcement agencies, as funds become available. They provide the canine handlers with specialized materials needed to care for their dogs in both routine and extraordinary situations.

"In the simplest of terms, peace of mind is what these K9 first aid kits bring to the handlers, with the knowledge they have the ability to help their K9 partner on scene when an accident occurs," notes Diane Whittaker, Massachusetts Vest-a-Dog Vice President, a Certified Veterinarian Technician with 29 years' experience.

State Police Sgt. Paul Horgan, the canine coordinator for the Fire and Explosion Investigation Section said, "We appreciate the kits and the first aid training that Vest-A-Dog has provided. Our dogs are not only our work partners, but part of our families and we want to take the best possible care of them."

The kits were developed by Whittaker with input from veterinarians and K9 trainers, and handlers. Each kit costs \$200 and is funded through generous donations and volunteer support at a variety of Massachusetts



State Fire Marshal Coan, Trooper Jones, and E-K9 Dash accept new first aid kits from Diane Whittaker of Massachusetts Vest-a-Dog.

Vest-a-Dog fundraisers. The kits are one of many essential equipment items provided by Massachusetts Vest-a-Dog, to work toward their mission, to "support Massachusetts police dogs, helping provide essential equipment and funding for training and dogs." Learn more at www.mavestadog.org.

Fire Investigation News, *continued from page 15*

combustible material (items that can catch fire). Dispose of the rags during a municipal hazardous waste collection day.

- If you use oily rags on a daily or weekly basis, the rags should be placed in a listed oily waste container and emptied by a private contractor.

For more information read *Disposal of Oily Rags*, under *Fire Safety Topics* at www.mass.gov/dfs.

Arrest for Lawrence Arson Fire

On May 7, 2015, an arson fire began when a cardboard box was lit underneath a house under construction at 1-3 Grainger Street in Lawrence. The fire spread to a garage on Grainger Street, then to an occupied 6-family building at

121 East Cambridge Street which was destroyed by the fire. Two pieces of heavy equipment were also destroyed. Five additional triple-deckers on Grainger, East Cambridge and Phillips Streets, another vehicle, and an ice cream truck were damaged. The fire was investigated by members of the Lawrence Fire and Police Departments working with State Police fire investigators from the North, South, Central and West Teams. On May 8, investigators arrested Jason Given, a man in his 40s who lived in the neighborhood. He is charged with setting four past fires at 124 Osgood Street, for a total of four counts of burning a building and eight counts of burning a dwelling. He is being held without bail pending trial. (Note: Everyone is innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.)

1. Dismissals

The biggest changes affect students who are dismissed (for non-disciplinary reasons) such as: absences; poor academic performance or skills; or failing the certification exam. These students will be dismissed “without prejudice,” meaning that he or she may attend a future MFA Career Recruit Firefighter Training program, if they meet all employment and enrollment requirements. This is a substantial change from the previous ‘one and done’ policy that prohibited students who were dismissed from the program for any reason, from ever attending the Career Recruit Firefighter Training program again. These students will now have a second opportunity to successfully complete the training.

Please note that disciplinary dismissals are “with prejudice,” and these students will not be admitted to any future MFA recruit training programs.

2. Withdrawals

Withdrawals will also be treated “without prejudice,” if submitted by the head of the student’s fire department and approved by the director of the MFA. The Council has clarified that withdrawals are only allowed for reasons which are unanticipated and serious in nature including: medical issues affecting the student or his/her immediate family; military duty; and jury duty, etc. Withdrawals are never appropriate for disciplinary reasons.

3. Readmission

Students who have either been dismissed or have withdrawn “without prejudice” will be allowed to attend a

future MFA training program, if they meet all employment and enrollment requirements. Note that no student who has attended the Academy twice will be given any additional chances to complete the program. Any student who is dismissed or withdraws for a second time does so “with prejudice,” meaning that the student may never attend the Career Recruit Training program.

Reasonable Accommodations

The MFTC has modified its Reasonable Accommodation policy to clarify that:

- Requests for reasonable accommodations must be made no later than thirty (30) days prior to the start date of the program.
- Students must provide either medical documentation by a licensed provider documenting the disability and stating the accommodations sought, or if applicable, an Individual Educational Plan (IEP) documenting a learning disability and accommodations which address the disability. The IEP cannot be older than five years from the date of issue.
- All documentation shall be submitted to the Department of Fire Services’ Civil Rights Officer.

The revisions to the Reasonable Accommodation Policy also documents an appeals process consistent with the Governor’s Executive Order No. 246, most recently amended by Executive Order # 526.

For questions regarding these policy changes, please contact the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy, Deputy Director Joseph Klucznik at (978) 567-3220.

Fire and Explosion Investigation and Prosecution Conference

The State Fire Marshal, Northwestern District Attorney and NoFIREs presents the Fire and Explosion Investigation and Prosecution Conference. The conference will be held on October 27-28, 2015 at the Log Cabin Banquet and Meeting House, 500 Easthampton Road, Holyoke, Massachusetts. The keynote speech will be on the Boston Marathon Bombing Response. Other topics will include bombing investigations, mass casualty incident crime scenes, management, evidence collection, crime lab capabilities, and more. For information or to register go to: www.NoFIREsjfis.com.

The Massachusetts State Fire Marshal, Northwestern District Attorney & NoFIREs presents:

SAVE THE DATE!
Fire & Explosion Investigation and Prosecution Conference

Tuesday, October 27 - Wednesday, October 28, 2015
For Fire & Police Investigators and Prosecutors

Keynote Presentation on
The Boston Marathon Bombing Response

Other topics to include:

- Bombing Investigations
- Mass Casualty Incident Crime Scene Management, Evidence Collection, Crime Lab Capabilities
- Massachusetts Explosive Statute Overview Chapter 266 s102

A 16 hour tested training

Proceeds to benefit NoFIREs, Inc.

2015 License Examination Schedule

The Department of Fire Services' Fire Safety Division 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 or 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.

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 then click on *Licensing*. If your application is received after the deadline, you will not be allowed to take the exam.
- All exams start promptly at 10:00 a.m. unless otherwise noted.
- License exams are given at DFS in Stow at 1 State Road, Stow, MA and at the Northampton office, 1 Prince Street, Northampton, MA. In Stow, please park in the remote lot at the top of the hill. In Northampton, park only in visitor spaces. Directions: 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 28, 2015 (Wednesday)	October 9, 2015 (Friday)
Cannon/Mortar, Fireworks, Special Effects, Blasting, Blasting R & D	November 18, 2015 (Wednesday)	October 30, 2015 (Friday)

New Store at the Department of Fire Services

CSA Graphics of Westford has teamed up with the Department of Fire Services to operate a store that is available for all. Selling all kinds of apparel as well as books, stickers and other novelty items, the store can have personalized items ready within a week. The store is open during every Mass. Firefighting Academy Career Recruit and Call/Volunteer Recruit graduation, whether in Stow or off-site. Regular store hours are Monday, Wednesday, and Friday between 2:30 and 4:00 p.m. CSA Graphics also has an online store at www.csawestford.com.

"I want to bring convenience, service and variety to the store," says Gary Lavelle who is running the new operation. "I can provide customization on any item. Everything is produced in my shop in Westford. I am bringing in a new T-shirt design every 4 – 6 weeks and I am working with fire departments to provide packages for recruits coming to the academy that includes books and required apparel. I customize these packages for each fire department. Please stop by the new store at DFS soon."



Mutual Aid MFIRS Reporting

Anglo Fabrics Mill Fire

On Thursday, June 25, 2015, a large mill fire in Webster destroyed two buildings and damaged a third. The Webster Fire Department responded initially but 20 surrounding departments provided mutual aid before the Massachusetts Mobilization Plan was initiated and structural firefighting task forces from other parts of the state were called to respond.

If a fire department responded to this incident the following information will help in preparation of the responding department's MFIRS report that is submitted to the Fire Data & Public Education Unit at the Department of Fire Services. Correct MFIRS reporting allows an accurate count of the departments and resources that responded to the incident. Because it is aid given, the only modules that need to be completed are the *Basic Module*, the *Apparatus/Personnel Module* (if you do not complete the Resources field on the *Basic Module*) and the *Fire Service Casualty Module* (if any of your department members were injured at the incident).

1. If any of your units responded to the fire scene:
 - a. **Incident Type** is coded as 111 – Building fire
 - b. **Address** is the address of the fire –
35 Pearl St, Webster, MA 01570
 - c. **Mutual Aid** is coded as 3 – Mutual Aid Given
 - i. Webster's FDID # is 27316
 - ii. The state is MA
 - iii. The incident number is 2015341
 - d. **Actions Taken** should be coded with what responding personnel did while they were in Webster.
 - i. Do not use any of the generic codes that end in a zero.
 - ii. You may use up to three actions taken, but you must list at least one action.
 - e. **Resources** – Include only the number of apparatus and personnel that your department provided.
 - i. This field can be left blank if the *Apparatus/Personnel Module* is completed.
 - f. **Casualties** – Fire Service Injuries
 - i. This field must be populated by departments whose personnel were injured at the incident.
 - ii. A corresponding *Fire Service Casualty Module* must be completed for each fire service injury reported on the *Basic Module*.
 - g. **Property Use** is coded as 700 – Manufacturing, processing.



Anglo Fabrics Mill Fire

2. If units did not respond to the fire scene but covered Webster's stations:
 - a. **Incident Type** is coded as 571 – Cover assignment.
 - b. **Address** is the address of the station you were covering
 - i. 55 Thompson Rd., Webster, MA 01570 (HQ)
 - ii. 170 School St., Webster, MA 01570 (Station 2)
 - c. **Mutual Aid** is coded as 3 – Mutual Aid Given.
 - i. Webster's FDID # is 27316
 - ii. The state is MA
 - iii. The incident number is 2015341
 - d. **Actions Taken** should be coded with what personnel did while they were in Webster.
 - i. Do not use any of the generic codes that end in a zero.
 - ii. You may use up to three actions taken, but you must list at least one action.
 - e. **Resources** – Include only the number of apparatus and personnel that your department provided.
 - i. This field can be left blank if the *Apparatus/Personnel Module* is completed.
 - f. **Casualties** – Fire Service Injuries
 - i. This field must be populated by departments whose personnel were injured at the incident.
 - ii. A corresponding *Fire Service Casualty Module* must be completed for every fire service injury reported on the *Basic Module*.
 - g. **Property Use** is coded as 700 – Manufacturing, processing.
 - h. **Narrative** – Put any and all runs you did while aiding Webster in your narrative.



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



www.mass.gov/dfs



NEW SMOKE ALARM CAMPAIGN UNDERWAY

This fall, the Department of Fire Services is airing new radio and television public service announcements about smoke alarms. The campaign focuses on educating people that smoke alarms must be replaced after ten years. The logo and tag line (shown below) are designed to be used by the Massachusetts fire service over the next decade for important smoke alarms messages, just as the *Keep Warm, Keep Safe* campaign is used for winter heating and carbon monoxide safety messages.

Many people are not aware that most smoke alarms last only ten years. Homeowners install smoke alarms and then forget about them. If the alarms occasionally sound from light smoke or steam or when tested, people believe that they can be relied upon indefinitely. However, ten years is the life of a smoke alarm whether or not it continues to sound when tested.

One of the provisions in the revised Comprehensive Fire Safety Code (527 CMR 1.00, s. 13.7.2.1.5) is that smoke alarms in one- and two-family homes (built before 1975) cannot be more than ten years old. This limitation is strongly recommended for **all** homes. Realtors and homeowners selling older one- and two-family homes may be surprised to learn that aging smoke alarms must be replaced before the home can be sold.

A toolkit for local fire departments is being developed as part of the campaign and will be distributed as part of the *DFS Briefs* and posted on the DFS website.

Red Cross Smoke Alarm Project

Many Massachusetts fire departments are collaborating with the Red Cross of Massachusetts in their *Home Fire Preparedness Campaign*, installing smoke and carbon monoxide alarms and delivering fire education during home visits. The campaign is a great way to replace aging smoke alarms, especially for older adults as part of Senior SAFE Programs. Lieutenant Katie Collins-Kalbaugh from Chicopee Fire Department said, "This program has been an eye-opener for me because I've seen many homes with no smoke or carbon monoxide alarms at all. Others had alarms that were more than 30 years old. I'm thankful that I took advantage of this program because I can be assured that more citizens in Chicopee will have early notification in the event of a fire or CO incident in their home." For more information about the program, contact: Luis Matnog, disaster program manager for the Red Cross at (617) 273-5282.



SMOKE ALARMS