

All Hands **HERALD**

October 2009

DEPARTMENT OF FIRE SERVICES • STOW, MASSACHUSETTS



NEW HOOD CLEANING REGULATIONS

**HAZMAT • CPSC RECALLS • PUBLIC EDUCATION • CODE COMPLIANCE
FIRE INVESTIGATION • MASSACHUSETTS FIREFIGHTING ACADEMY**

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About the *All Hands Herald*

The *All Hands Herald* is published quarterly by the Department of Fire Services in January, April, July and October. The newsletter is meant to incorporate the traditional fire service meaning- all hands working to extinguish the fire. In the case of our newsletter, all hands includes the DFS staff providing each of you with information, training and assistance in dealing with the fire service issues which confront all levels of the fire service.

We hope that you enjoy our new look and feel and we encourage you to 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. If you have suggestions, ideas, questions or want to make a contribution to the *All Hands Herald*, contact Jennifer Mieth 978-567-3381, Jennifer.Mieth@state.ma.us or Donna Nelson 978-567-3149 Donna.Nelson@state.ma.us

Judy O'Brien is the keen-eyed copy editor; and Jeff Harris is the graphic artist who pulls it all together. ♦

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FROM THE FIRE MARSHAL



Photo by: Barry Hyvarinen

All Hands HERALD

DEPARTMENT OF FIRE SERVICES • STOW, MASSACHUSETTS

Since the last issue of the *All Hands Herald*, the construction project at DFS has taken a giant step forward. We have moved into the new administration building and fire station, and the old administration building has been gutted for a complete rehabilitation. Mass. Firefighting Academy (MFA) staff has moved to temporary quarters in modular buildings.

Governor Directs Stimulus Funds to Fire Departments

Governor Patrick is the only governor we know of who has directed federal stimulus funds to local fire departments. Under his leadership, \$20 million is being sent to 90 communities in three rounds. The three categories fire departments could apply for are: restoration of laid off firefighters; refilling positions left vacant by attrition; and restoration of overtime funds for fire suppression. The first round, restoration of laid off firefighters, was announced in Fall River during Fire Prevention Week, with the second and third rounds to come shortly thereafter. These grants are for a one-year period only and as the governor said, these grants are a "patch", a short-term stop-gap measure that we hope will shore up fire departments as the economy rebuilds. I want to acknowledge the work of the members of the Fire Service Commission in helping the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security to review the grant applications in a thorough but expeditious manner.

Firefighter of the Year Awards

Governor Patrick will be hosting the 2009 Firefighter Heroic Awards ceremony on the 10th anniversary of the Worcester Cold Warehouse Storage fire, December 3, 2009, in Worcester at the Hanover Theatre. Afterwards, participants will proceed to a ceremony recognizing this somber anniversary of losing six brave Worcester firefighters.

New Commercial Kitchen Exhaust System Regulations

As a result of a tragic restaurant fire that killed two Boston firefighters, new regulations on cleaning and installing commercial kitchen exhaust systems will take effect next January 1. A license from the Office of the State Fire Marshal will be required to conduct inspections or to install these systems. This adds another level of safety for patrons and staff of restaurants and for responding firefighters. Presently two examinations are being offered monthly

Joint Hazardous Materials and Bomb Squad Response Team (JHAT)

We have developed a response protocol and trained personnel for a joint hazardous materials and bomb squad response. This important cross training allows bomb and hazmat technicians to safely perform their jobs in situations that require their expertise. There have already been several successful joint responses this year since the training was completed and the protocol developed. Once again, Massachusetts is ahead of the curve having developed this innovative emergency response capability.

Keep Warm Keep Safe

Last year circumstances lead ev-

eryone in the fire service to fear we would see a rise in fires and fire deaths from heating, particularly from alternative heating sources. Together, fire officials from Pittsfield to Provincetown used the materials developed as part of the *Keep Warm Keep Safe* campaign to educate the people who live in Massachusetts about how to heat safely. The results were surprisingly effective. Instead of the increase we had feared, home heating fires actually decreased in the Commonwealth from 2007-2008. The economy has not improved since last year and many more people have lost jobs or face losing their homes, so we should continue being concerned about the people in our communities. I would urge fire officials to use the materials from the *Keep Warm Keep Safe* public education campaign to deliver a uniform safety message. Let us use the best weapon we have to keep our worst fears from coming true. The website is www.mass.gov/keepwarmkeep-safe and the toolkit is still useful.



Legislative Year

Leaders of the Fire Chiefs' Association of Massachusetts and I have met with Senator Timilty, co-chair of the Public Safety Committee, and his staff on several important legislative priorities. Some of the issues we discussed were the proposed ban on novelty lighters that look like toys and creating an appeals board for the Board of Fire Prevention Regulations, which is a precursor to adopting any model fire code. ♦

Opening the New DFS Campus

Administration Building, Warehouse, Fire Station & Crib Room Now Complete

The new administration building officially opened in mid-August 2009 with the move-in of the agency's administrative staff. This includes the Executive Office, which includes the State Fire Marshal and Deputy



Admin. building Photo by: Donna Nelson

Fire Marshal's offices as well as the office of the General Counsel, the Office of the State Fire Marshal, Hazardous Materials Response Division, Special Operations, Fire Investigation & Explosives Section of the State Police, the offices of fiscal affairs, information technology, human resources and facilities administration.

In addition to expanded office work areas, the new two-story 39,000 sq. ft. office building, which is handicapped accessible, includes: five conference rooms, numerous copy and file rooms, one large boards & commissions meeting room and an operations/communications room for use by Special Operations and the Hazardous Materials Response Division. The building is also considered a "green building" and includes energy efficient lighting and HVAC systems, rainwater harvesting systems for toilets, irrigation and fire training water supply, as well as 230 solar panels on its roof to generate electrical power. The Department of Fire Services (DFS) will see signifi-

cant utility cost savings due to these environmentally friendly features.

As this *All Hands Herald* goes to press, DFS is in the process of re-locating into the new firehouse and crib room and will be completely re-located before the end of October. This new section of the DFS campus, which is approximately 18,921 sq. ft., includes: the crib room offices and all of its equipment; vehicle maintenance repair bays and storage areas; special operations' vehicle storage; Mass. Firefighting Academy (MFA) training vehicles and apparatus storage and training space; and facilities' maintenance vehicle storage. In addition, a locker room for turnout gear and new shower and toilet facilities is included in this area and is adjacent to the crib room. Both recruits and instructors are temporarily using this area, which will eventually only be used for instructors' turnout gear when the renovated academy building is completed.

Renovation of the academy, or the former main building, began within a week after DFS administrative staff, including MFA staff members, moved out in mid-August. MFA administrative support staff as well as MFA Recruit Program staff and program coordinators are now located in the grey trailers along the front parking lot. The MFA ready room has been relocated to the red trailer (formerly Room 501). The temporary classrooms and meeting areas in the trailers, which include Rooms 502, 109 and 128, remain in place until the academy building work is completed next year.

In the midst of all the staff moves, the new 11,600 sq. ft., warehouse, which includes the print shop, the mailroom, shipping and receiving, and high-bay storage for all DFS divisions, has remained operational.

DFS moved into the warehouse in March 2009.

New construction work now continues in the academy building and on the 8,173 sq. ft. "link" which will connect the administration building to the academy building. This glass-enclosed, ultra-modern space will include the new kitchen and cafeteria and adjacent seminar/meeting space as well as a hallway connection to the crib room, locker rooms and the firehouse. It is expected that



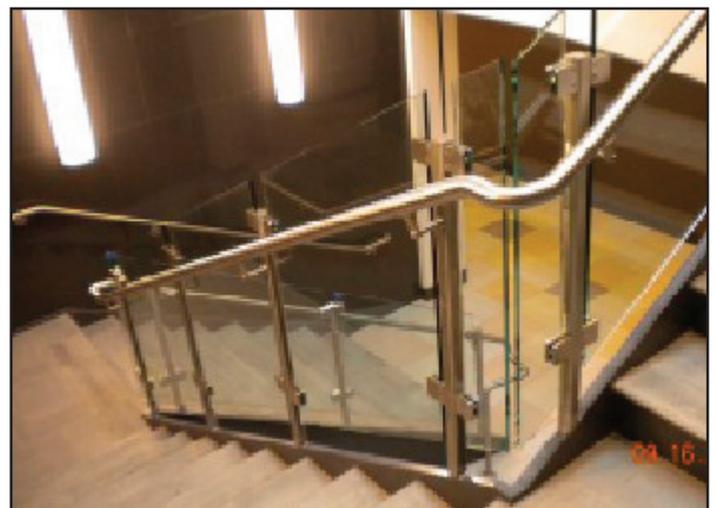
Fire station

Photo by: Donna Nelson

this area and the renovation of the academy building will be done by late summer or early fall of 2010.

Jake's Café continues to operate throughout all of the ongoing construction work and will do so until the new kitchen and cafeteria areas are completed next year. Due to the ever-changing construction site, DFS visitors and students are requested to check in with DFS staff on the best access routes to Jake's from the classrooms and/or meeting areas.

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Administration building

Photo by: Donna Nelson

Bio-terrorism Response: Does the Way Forward Lie in Our Past?

Reprinted with permission from *Fire Engineering*, September 1, 2009
By David M. Ladd and Cheryl Gauthier

Ever since the “Amerithrax” attacks of 2001, a debate has raged throughout much of the collective homeland security community regarding field-testing of biological agents. Despite multiple reports and mandates citing a priority of need to develop an improved bio-detection capability, no national strategy presently exists.

The following commentary offers the hypothesis that we as the homeland security community, collectively, need to step back and reevaluate our approach, shifting from a technology-driven solution to a deliberated strategy. For nine years, the “national” effort has been narrowly focused on finding the “perfect” technology without resolving the fundamental questions of what we are seeking to accomplish. Although it is late, it isn’t too late to take the lessons learned and work to provide America with what it expects from us and what it has invested tens of billions of dollars to achieve.

What Went Wrong

In October 2001, vast differences in preparedness became suddenly and boldly apparent as communities, institutions, and states responded to a national panic generated by a relatively small-scale bio-terrorism attack. In some locations, well-planned responses using “advanced” detection techniques were the order of business, while others did the best that they could with what they could pull together. Every conceivable level between these extremes was demonstrated.

For a myriad of reasons, those who had invested in preparedness for bio-terrorism and believed that they were highly capable quickly found themselves under harsh criticism and their detection methods being termed as unreliable and even irresponsible. Scientists and government agencies lined up to literally warn the public against responders using field

detection. The effort and objective of preparedness was now more severely criticized than was the failure to plan and prepare.



(1) Bio-terrorism Lab Director Cheryl Gauthier evaluates a hazmat technician on downrange sample screening. (Photos courtesy of Massachusetts Department of Fire Services.)

In retrospect, what had transpired was a national planning failure. The focus of this failure became the field detection technology; thus, the answer was sought through more technology. All eyes were on the development of an “assay” that worked. Yet, fundamental questions, such as the following, went unasked and unanswered:

- What was/is the role of emergency response in bio-terrorism?
- Why do we need detection at all?
- What will we do with the information?
- How do we conduct testing yet preserve a sample for laboratory confirmation?
- What level of fidelity is required of field detection?
- Who is qualified to conduct field-testing?

How do the responders in the field and the bio-terrorism response laboratory work together to better protect the public?

In effect, responders were attempting to fill an undefined mission with equipment that had no performance expectation, all of which was not supported by specific experience in the field.

The direct result was that responders who had purchased equipment for bio-detection operated on principles and expectations based largely on the performance cited in sales and promotional literature. Honest and well-intentioned developers, manufacturers, and sales forces sold equipment to responders to meet what they thought the responder mission was without fully comprehending the implications of its use and need for reliability and accuracy.

While we need not revisit the result in detail, it is now clear that the proverbial cart had gained a substantial lead on the proverbial horse. The essential relationship among public health, Laboratory Response Network (LRN) laboratories, and the responders and the very effort to develop and deploy an effective bio-terrorism response remain as the predominant casualties.

Sadly, if the events of 2001 were repeated today, we would be in the uncomfortable position of advising the American public that, some \$85 billion and nine years later, we are no better off in detecting biological threats than we were in 2001. In fact, some would argue that we are in worse condition, as large numbers of field-testing devices have been purchased and fielded since 2001 in the absence of joint planning and training. Such claims foresee a possibility of more widespread confusion and more frequent disagreement with response actions and field-testing results.

Parallels From Our Past

Older responders in America may have memories of the 1960s and 1970s, when provocative advances in emergency response were emerging across the country. In various locations throughout America, and supported by a national study,¹ a new approach was taking shape to improve survival from out-of-hospital medical

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Bioterrorism

Continued from page 3

emergencies and traumatic injury. The practitioners of this new capability became known as paramedics. The story of how paramedics came to be, the efforts to overcome opposition, and the successes and even the failures should have served as a roadmap to developing an effective bio-terrorism response. It did not.

Today, paramedics are available in nearly every area of the country, though response times vary by population density. In the early days, many dedicated physicians were firmly convinced that it was neither prudent nor possible to train firefighters and “ambulance drivers” to provide sophisticated medical care including invasive procedures and the administration of dangerous medications. Many others held the position that, although potentially useful where long-distance transports were required, this level of care was unnecessary to counterproductive in urban environments with multiple fine teaching hospitals.

Ultimately, the concept and practice proved to be highly effective and has now become the standard across America. Although there is a vast difference from bio-terrorism response in that medical and traumatic injuries happen every day in staggering numbers, the approach, evolution, and deliberate narrow focus of paramedicine should have been applied or now should be applied to the development of a national bio-terrorism response strategy.

A Mission

When paramedics were trained in



(2) The Hazard Assessment Field Isolation System (HAFIS) invented by Mass Hazmat for field analytics. The HAFIS is a negative-pressure, HEPA-filtered shelter with a disposable liner.

those early days, they were told that it was not their job to cure patients but rather to deliver a stable patient to the emergency department. The lack of a clear and consistent mission in bio-terrorism response is the first fundamental flaw. Absent a clear mission, every other aspect is open to broad interpretation and expectation.

The mission directly impacts the training and competency of the responder in both procedures and technology. The mission also drives what technology is needed and its performance requirements. The mission should be scalable, proving an appropriate and sustainable capability level that can be assumed and targeted in large, resource-rich and high-risk jurisdictions through small, low-probability rural communities.²



(3) A view inside the HAFIS, where analytical instruments can be used. It's like a glove box, only bigger.

By analogy, the hazmat responder's mission is not to “cure the patient” or resolve the entire issue—e.g., initiate prophylaxis of those potentially exposed or decontaminate a building. The medical practitioners tell us that where medical care is indicated, it need not be initiated in less time than is required to conduct confirmatory testing and that prophylaxis itself poses some health risks. Decontamination and clearance of a contaminated building can be a multimillion-dollar and long-term process. So it is necessary, then, to examine the appropriate mission of response.

As a continuum, the priorities are protection of the public and responders, collection and transport of a suspicious substance to an LRN laboratory for testing, and providing the necessary data and materials to healthcare

to make its decisions on medical treatment. An aspect of protecting the public that must also be addressed in the strategy is the support of criminal investigations through the preservation of the potential crime scene/evidence and support to law enforcement in investigative operations.

The stabilization activities required of the responder mostly revolve around public protection and “short-term tactical decision making.” Among the decisions are matters such as the following:

- Committing emergency resources for an extended period of time to the scene, pending confirmatory testing.
- Activation and commitment of additional resources from the state or federal levels, including law enforcement.
- Prioritization of samples for laboratory testing in the face of multiple incidents.
- Denying reoccupancy, with its associated impacts on infrastructure and commerce.³
- Risk communication.
- Identifying for future contact all “exposed” persons.

If limited to these objectives, the responder mission in biothreat situations is, as in pre-hospital care, limited to stabilization and protection. With this narrowed mission, training and technology requirements become clearer and more realistic.

Training and the Need For a National Standard

As the benefits of extending medical care into the field were recognized, so, too, were the risks. Clearly, the need existed for confidence from both patients and the medical community in the training and competence of those providing invasive medical care under austere and critical conditions. To address the critical matter of confidence, a national training curriculum was developed and state certification and optional national registry created.

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Arrest on Oxford CRB Case

On June 25, 2009, an adult male was charged and an arrest warrant for a second adult male suspect was issued as a result of a chemical reaction bomb (CRB) incident in Oxford. Nine CRBs

were detonated on June 19, 2009. The investigation was conducted jointly by the Oxford Police Department and the State Police Fire Investigation Unit's Central Team. ♦

Man Convicted of Fire Bombing Children's Bed

On September 4, 2009, Jose Reyes was found guilty in Barnstable Superior Court of seven counts of attempted murder, burning a dwelling house, possession of an infernal machine and seven counts of assault with attempt to murder. On April 3, 2008, a fire at 50 Hiram Road in Hyannis started when a Molotov cocktail was thrown through a window and ignited a bed in a child's room. He was sentenced to

15-18 years for the seven counts of attempted murder, 15-18 years for arson of a dwelling, and 15-18 years for the possession of a Molotov cocktail, to be served concurrently. There are additional defendants in this case. The investigation involved the Barnstable and Revere Police Departments, the Hyannis Fire Department and State Police assigned to both the South and North fire investigation teams. ♦

Fire Destroys Ipswich Boat House

State Fire Marshal Stephen D. Coan and Ipswich Fire Chief Arthur Howe III said that the fire at Melanson's Boat Shop in Ipswich will remain undetermined. Investigators determined that the fire originated in the basement of the building. There are several possible causes in the basement including electrical and mechanical malfunction and there is no evidence to suggest that an intentional act caused the fire. However, the roof collapsed and much of the building fell in the water making it impossible to reconstruct the fire scene.

On Friday, August 7, 2009, an intense fire completely destroyed the Melanson's Boat Shop at 27 Water Street in Ipswich, with three boats and six motor vehicles inside. In addition, the fire heavily damaged the adjacent residence at 29

Water Street and at least four boats moored close by.

The fire was jointly investigated by the Ipswich Fire Department, Ipswich Police Department and State Police assigned to the Office of the State Fire Marshal's North Team. The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (Mass-DEP) and the U.S. Coast Guard also responded to the scene.

Chief Howe said, "We are very fortunate that no one was injured in this fire." He added, "Fire is fast and time is your enemy. I would like to take this opportunity to remind Ipswich's residents and visitors how important it is to have the early warning that working smoke alarms provide and an escape plan to allow you to use the extra seconds to get out safely." ♦

Middlesex District Attorney Gerry Leone, State Fire Marshal Stephen D. Coan, Waltham Fire Chief Richard Cardillo and Waltham Police Chief Thomas M. LaCroix announced that the cause of the fatal fire at 187 Adams Street, Waltham on August 12, 2009 was electrical. Investigators traced the source of the fire to a fluorescent light fixture on the basement ceiling. The fire claimed the life of 22-year-old Muthukumar Karthikeyan, who was living in what is believed to be an illegal basement apartment with no smoke alarms. Further inspection of the other apartments in the building found smoke alarms that did not work due to missing batteries.

The fire was jointly investigated by the Waltham Fire Department, Waltham Police Department, State Police assigned to the Office of the State Fire Marshal's North Team and the Middlesex District Attorney's Office. An electrical inspector and a code compliance officer from the Office of the State Fire Marshal also assisted with the investigation.

There had been a fire in the same apartment the day before caused by candles igniting the mattress. The fire department notified the building inspector of the suspected illegal basement apartment, warned the occupant to vacate the apartment immediately and if he did not to install a smoke alarm for his own protection.

Chief Cardillo said, "It is always tragic to lose someone to fire and it is highly unusual to have two fires in the same place on consecutive days from two separate causes. I wish the young man had heeded the advice of the fire department and at least installed a smoke alarm for his own protection."

Coan said, "The fire service has been very concerned about the issue of illegal basement apartments since last March's tragic fatal fire in Quincy that took the life of a man, his two small children and seriously injured his wife." ♦

Smoking Materials Cause Dudley Fire

State Fire Marshal Stephen D. Coan and Dudley Fire Chief Jeffrey E. Phelps announced that their joint investigation into the September 6, 2009 fire at 40 Fish Road has determined the most probable cause was improper disposal of smoking materials. Investigators believe the early morning fire started in a kitchen trash barrel.

The sole occupant of the home was awakened by his dog only seconds

before the smoke alarms sounded.

“It is fortunate that no one was injured in this fire, but smoking is the leading cause of fatal fires in Massachusetts and has been going back at least to World War II,” said Coan.

The fire was jointly investigated by members of the Dudley Fire Department, Dudley Police Department and State Police assigned to the Office of the State Fire Marshal. ♦

New Bedford Fatal Fire Electrical

State Fire Marshal Stephen D. Coan and New Bedford Fire Chief Paul E. Leger said the cause of the October 8, 2009 fatal fire at 363 Coggeshall Street was electrical. The fire started in the first floor living room and tragically took the life of a 51-year old woman. Investigators have determined an overloaded power strip was the cause.

State Fire Marshal Coan said, “Every fatal fire is a tragedy but it is even more poignant when we have a fatal fire during fire prevention week like this.” He added, “Electrical fires are the second leading cause of fire deaths, so it is important to practice electrical fire safety.”

The fire was jointly investigated by the New Bedford Fire Department, New Bedford Police Department, State Police assigned to the Office

of the State Fire Marshal’s South Team and the Office of Bristol County District Attorney Sam Sutter.

According to the Massachusetts Fire Incident Reporting System (MFIRS), there were 656 electrical fires reported in 2008. They caused seven civilian deaths, 34 civilian injuries, 79 fire service injuries and \$36.5 million in estimated damages.

Coan said, “It is important not to overload electrical outlets or power strips and watch for signs of trouble such as fuses or circuit breakers tripping frequently, unusually warm or faulty outlets or switches, a vague smell of something burning, or a sizzling sound in the wall. Contact a licensed electrician or call the fire department if you notice any of these signs.” ♦

Basic Fire Investigation

By Lt. Eric Fowler

On September 3, 2009, 79 students graduated from a Basic Fire Investigation training course held at Northern Essex Community College by the Department of Fire Services. On August 25, 2009, the students from varying backgrounds came together for advanced training. Shortly after arriving, they were split into ten different groups. Team leaders, team names and slogans were soon selected. The newly formed teams went right to work and were quickly bombarded with tons of information. It seemed overwhelming at first, but by day two everyone settled in and was working well together. As the course went on the instructors kept the information coming at a fast and furious pace. They not only taught from the text, but also related their own experiences to what was being explained and painted a picture to help the learning process. There is no doubt the instructors are knowledgeable at what they do and teach. They are truly committed to making students the best investigator they can be. The classes and graduation were held at The Northern Essex Community College’s Haverhill campus. ♦

Bioterrorism

Continued from page 6

Adherence to a national standard training curriculum and demonstrated competency through examination, internship, and skill performance evaluation were critical elements to ensuring competency and gaining confidence from the collaborators and “customers” of these services. Although the paramedics have vast responsibility for a single patient under their care, the hazardous materials technicians carry the responsibility for the safety and security of populations in the accuracy of hazard and risk analysis and in the responsible use of information.



Demonstrated competency assessment: (4) A hazmat technician examines a packaged sample.

Generally, it can be assumed that hazardous materials technicians

undergo a certification process at the conclusion of training. In accordance with Occupational Health and Safety Administration regulations,⁴ however, the only recognized certification is the certification by the employer of competency without definition or scope. In fact, certified hazardous materials technicians vary widely in training duration, depth, and content. Thus, it cannot be stated with any documented support that a hazmat technician has a singular training standard.

Significantly, for the discussion of

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Chemical Reaction Bombs

The State Police Bomb Squad and fire investigators recently responded to a tragic incident in Tewksbury involving a recreation department employee and a chemical reaction bomb or CRB. The worker was cleaning up trash at a local park and punctured a CRB that had expanded but not exploded until he hit it. The worker suffered hearing damage and there was concern at first that he might also suffer vision damage. The bomb squad would like public safety and public works employees to know just how dangerous these things are, how to recognize a possible CRB, and to understand why they should not be touched and the importance of calling the bomb squad.

Some of the possible hazards of a CRB are permanent hearing loss as the explosion can be quite loud. Exposure to the acids can cause very serious burns with permanent damage – especially if the eyes and hands are injured. Holding one when it explodes probably won't result in the loss of digits, but eyes, hands and the belly area can easily be burned. Hearing loss from the noise is also possible. Standing next to a residential mailbox when one explodes inside could cause shrapnel injuries in addition to burns and hearing loss.

Most CRBs are made inside of 1-liter plastic soda bottles which is why they are often called *soda bottle bombs*. So if someone finds a soda bottle inside a mailbox they did not put there, they should leave it alone and call local emergency services who should call the State Police bomb squad. Many CRBs are made by teenagers and young adults and they place them or try to set them off in open areas like parking lots, playgrounds and parks or in wooded areas. One indication that a 1-liter soda bottle is not just trash is if it is bulging or distorted. If it looks like it might blow up, it just might.

Just because a soda bottle bomb has not gone off yet, does not mean

it won't. Sometimes picking it up or somehow shifting its position is just enough to re-energize the stalled chemical reaction going on inside and set it off.

When the State Police Bomb Squad responds to a CRB they understand and respect just how dangerous they can be. Even they do not touch them. They use remote means to vent and disable them because they are aware that the slightest change in orientation or movement can set them off. By their nature, these items are highly unstable. Given that the trained professionals won't touch them directly, local police and fire officials should do likewise.

When the bomb squad responds to a CRB they usually also bring a trained fire investigator who will collect evidence and initiate an investigation. They are often able to figure out who placed the bombs and then bring charges. Experience has shown that these incidents tend to mushroom if the community does not respond quickly and hold people accountable. These CRBs often destroy property and put people in harm's way – like the Tewksbury recreation department worker.

To contact the State Police Bomb Squad for an emergency response, call (508) 820-2121, for business calls, (978) 567-3310. ♦

IED Recognition and Response Training

The Massachusetts State Police Bomb Squad in the state Department of Fire Services will be offering a



one-day course on improvised explosive device recognition and response. The course will familiarize first responders with explosive materials, assist in identification of Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs),

Vehicle Borne Improvised Explosive Devices (VBIEDs), Homicide / Suicide bombers, and homemade explosives (HMEs) and identify proper response guidelines to such incidents. It will cover current trends, case studies and information sources. A "live" explosives demonstration & explosives detection canine (EK9) demonstration will be included when possible. The training will be offered in Worcester on November 12. Prospective participants may complete an application online at www.mass.gov/dfs or fax the course specific student application to the MFA Registration office. This is a priority selection course. ♦



Photo by Frank San Severino www.firenews.org

Blood Drive in Memory of Worcester 6

The Department of Fire Services will host a Blood Drive on Friday December 4, 2009 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

The American Red Cross of Central Massachusetts will coordinate this Blood Drive being held in memory

of the six Worcester firefighters killed on December 3, 1999 at the Worcester Cold Storage Warehouse.

Scheduling information and other details will be posted on the DFS website shortly; check it out at www.mass.gov/dfs. ♦

UPS Overcharge Issue

The following memorandum was sent by Thomas Ashe, Deputy Executive Director of the State 911 Department to all Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) Supervisors on September 9, 2009 regarding an overcharge issue with uninterrupted power supplies (UPSs).

This memo is serving as an update to the memo sent on September 1, 2009. The apparent root cause of the UPS overcharge issue has been identified and corrective action by Verizon and Eaton Powerware, manufacturer of the 911 uninterruptible power supply (UPS), is in progress. There are two conditions that must be met for the overcharge condition to occur; 1) the UPS batteries must be significantly drained due to preventative maintenance (PM) procedures or a commercial power outage event where your generator power is not immediately available, and 2) there must be one or more defective battery cells in the UPS. When the UPS batteries are significantly discharged the UPS will send

a heavy current into the batteries to recharge them as quickly as possible. If there are bad cells in the UPS batteries, the UPS may be unable to reach the designated charge voltage, currently set at 144 volts, which may cause the batteries to overheat and emit a vapor. Eaton Powerware has recommended that the charge voltage of 144 volts be lowered to 138 volts to take into account when there are some defective battery cells that may be present. Verizon will be contacting your site to schedule a visit by a Verizon technician as well as an Eaton Powerware technician to make these setting changes as well as to perform an overall check of the UPS. This work will not cause any operational interruptions at your public safety answering point (PSAP) and will not require you to be on commercial power.

If you suspect an overcharge condition is occurring at your PSAP, take precautions by avoiding the area near where the sulfur smell is detected, obtain fresh air, and if nec-

essary contact the fire department. Additionally, please immediately call the Verizon Customer Care Center (CCC) at (800) 391-1435 to report the trouble. The CCC can provide verbal directions to shut off the UPS if it is determined an overcharge condition is occurring.

Please also be advised that Infrared, the UPS subcontractor, performs yearly PM checks on each UPS. Part of the PM process checks the condition of the batteries. Any batteries that are found to be defective during these checks are changed out by Infrared at that time. As part of the PM plan, Infrared also changes all batteries in each UPS every three years.

A copy of this memo and the memo dated September 1, 2009 can be found on our website at (www.mass.gov/e911) under "Quick Links". Please contact Norm Fournier. ♦

2009 PERFORMANCE RECOGNITION PROGRAM

Award Recipients

By Michelle Andrade

The Performance Recognition Program (PRP) committee would like to congratulate Tom Leonard, Julie Kilbride, Arthur Lambert and Matt Stockwell on being the recipients of this year's Pride In Performance Awards. They were nominated by their coworkers and recommended by the PRP Committee and State Fire Marshal Stephen Coan to receive this prestigious award. There were many worthy recommendations this year, but these four individuals stood out for their dedication and valuable work towards the mission of the Department of Fire Services.

Here are a few excerpts from the nomination forms highlighting our PRP recipients for this year.

"It is an appropriate time to reflect upon the tremendous contributions that Tom has made to the development and growth of DFS. It is very clear that he has dedicated himself to better the fire service and has served as an extraordinary #2 person within both MFA and DFS for the past 25+ years."

"Julie remains the watchdog of the certification process ensuring the security and confidentiality of testing. Her CAN DO attitude, work ethic and belief that every problem has a solution makes her a strong candidate for this year's award"

"Arthur stays focused on the work at hand and stays in tune with all customer requests. He is part of a group

of talented individuals that support one another, take pride in their work and support the overall mission of the agency on a daily basis"

"Matt's ability to triage day-to-day problems, oversee complex IT construction related issues, manage a flawless budget and participate with sound advice on IT consolidation at EOPSS – All without a division manager is highly commendable"

These employees set high standards for themselves and they motivate and influence their fellow workers to adopt similar standards. Please take the time to congratulate them on a job well done. ♦

PUBLIC EDUCATION

15TH ANNUAL MA FIRE & LIFE SAFETY

Education Conference at Devens

Over 150 classroom teachers, nurses, firefighters, school resource officers and injury prevention experts gathered at the Devens Common Center on September 23 and 24, 2009 for two days of training and skill development in 30 workshops and four general sessions

presented by 40 speakers. There were core workshops for new fire and life safety educators; workshops on new ideas, programs and teaching techniques to keep educators current; and workshops that continue to challenge and develop new skills for experienced educators. ♦

2009 FAIR PLAN POSTER CONTEST

Awards to Fire Departments

The Hatfield, Westport, and Worcester Fire Departments received cash awards from the Mass. Property Insurance Underwriting Association for their public education programs because students in those com-

munities won the 2009 Arson Watch Reward Program Poster Contest. This is the first year fire departments received an incentive to partner with their middle schools to promote the fire safety poster contest. ♦

2009 FIRE AND LIFE SAFETY

Educator of the Year Award

State Fire Marshal Stephen D. Coan presented the *2009 Fire and Life Safety Educator of the Year Award* to FF/EMT Bonnie Lopez of Upton for her decade of work using her early childhood education degree to deliver effective community education programs at all age levels, to mentor other firefighter-educators, and to partner with area businesses to support fire education programs.

- Lt. William McCarthy, North Andover Fire Department
- FF Pamela Murphy, Agawam Fire Department

Fresno's Fire Chief Randy Bruegman Key Note Speaker

Randy Bruegman, Fresno (CA) Fire Chief delivered the keynote address, *Framing Your Message to Make a Difference*, on September 23, 2009. Chief Bruegman is featured in many of the Fresno California Fire Department's video public service announcements (www.fresno.gov/Government/DepartmentDirectory/Fire/PSA/Default.htm). These PSAs manage to grab the audience, and using humor and high production quality they inform, educate and persuade the public. One of the best known is one on residential fire sprinklers that makes the case that a fire sprinkler is like having a firefighter in every room, maybe even better. He is also a noted lecturer and author on leadership and managing change in the fire service. He served as president of the International Association of Fire Chiefs from 2002 to 2004 and currently serves as the president of the board of directors for the Center for Public Safety Excellence. ♦



Eight finalists were also honored:

- Lt. James Armstrong, Yarmouth Fire Department
- Insp. Michael Arruda, Fall River Fire Department
- Mr. Arthur Burtman, American Red Cross of Mass. Bay
- Christine Farrell-O'Reilly, MA Department of Public Health
- Nicholas Garrity, Lanesboro
- FF/EMT-P Robert Reardon, Yarmouth Fire Department

NATIONAL CANDLE ASSOCIATION Fire Safety Report

Author: James J. Becker, President,
Candle Solutions, NCA Safety Committee

Candle Fire Safety Update

August 2009

ASTM F 15.45, (American Society for Testing and Materials) with strong support and participation from all of the different groups interested in candle safety, including the National Candle Association (NCA) and its members, has been very active in developing and promoting candle fire safety standards for all candle products sold in the US market. This effort began in 1997 with the formation of F 15.45 Candle Products Subcommittee under ASTM, International. At the time of the subcommittee's inception, home candle fires were growing in number, the percentage of fires in the category including open flames and smoking materials, the number of injuries, deaths and the costs associated with these fires. The Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) approached the NCA with a request to help address the causes of these fires and to find ways to reduce their number and severity.

F 15.45 has developed and published six fire safety standards in the short history of the subcommittee. These standards have defined terms, developed label language and safety messages for candle labels, set standards for glassware used for candles, developed a measurement method for visible emissions, addressed the root causes of candle fires in the candle fire safety standard and set requirements for some accessories used with candles which could be involved with the candle's flame and help to initiate a fire. We at F 15.45 are very proud of the progress we have made in addressing the primary causes of home candle fires which has been accomplished with the help of the NCA and its member companies and their associate's expertise in candle performance and safety.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

The progress that we have made as an ASTM subcommittee can be monitored by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) and their reports on "Candle Fires in the Home". This report comes out approximately every year and is based on data received from "fire departments and state fire authorities who participate in the National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS) ... and the U.S. Fire Administration who develops, coordinates and maintains NFIRS". The data from these reports takes time to gather together and tabulate, therefore the most recent yearly reports generally cover the calendar year three years previous to the report year. For instance, the most recent report covers the year

YEAR	FIRES	INJURIES
2001	19000	1940
2002	18300	1680
2003	17000	1520
2004	17000	1500
2005	15600	1270
2006	14200	1110

2006. Another factor to keep in mind is the fact that in 1999, the NFIRS software was updated resulting in a "smaller share of NFIRS data collected in the period 1999-2001", so these data "should be viewed with caution". Quotes in this paragraph are taken directly from the NFPA report titled "Candle Fires in the Home by Year, 1980-2006" authored by Marty Ahrens of NFPA. When the data is looked at for the period 2001-2006, our progress can be readily seen in the statistics for number of fire incidents and the number of injuries caused by these incidents. Here is the data for that period according to the 2006 report by NFPA.

While the data for year 2001 is to be viewed with caution, it is included in this table because it clearly shows the downward trend in the number of fires and injuries during this time period. In fact, 2001 data represents the highest numbers seen for these two categories in the entire spectrum of data produced by NFPA in this report.

How do these numbers relate to the development and publication of the standards referred to earlier in this report? As I mentioned before, the subcommittee began developing standards in 1997. The process looked at the data available at that time and it was determined that a great majority of the candle fires involved potential consumer misuse of the product involved. After the development of the terminology standard, we established a task group to look at the data and come up with some "WARNING" statements that would be put on labels to try and educate the consumer about the proper use of candles. The labeling standard was published in 2000 and included the following statements, which covered the major causes of candle fires according to the data;

TO PREVENT FIRE

- Keep burning candle within sight
- Keep out of reach of children and pets
- Never on or near anything that can catch fire

This standard was closely followed in 2002 by a Provisional candle fire safety standard covering the primary causes of candle failures (stability/tip over, flame height, secondary ignition and end of useful life) and a glass standard which put requirements on glass containers used for filled candles. The Provisional candle fire safety standard was expedited using the Provisional standard option by ASTM because the subcommittee felt that the requirements contained in that standard were very important to the safety of candle products. This standard was finalized with the publication of the candle fire safety standard in 2004. All of these standards mentioned, the labeling, glass and fire safety standards, were instrumental in educating the public on how candles should be burned and putting requirements on candle manufacturers which would result in safer products in the marketplace. In addition, these standards were published and in force during the timeframe when

the data shows that candle fires and injuries were declining. We feel strongly that these candle standards have helped to bring these numbers down through consumer education and an elevation of candle quality.

What was the candle market doing during this timeframe? According to Mintel International Group Limited, "the annual growth rate of the (candle) market is estimated to be roughly 5% between 2002 and 2007, although some sources contend that between 2006 and 2007 growth reached 10%". Using the 5% average growth rate of the candle market and starting with the 2002 figures of 18,300 fires and 1680 injuries, that equates to a potential 22,200 fires and 2,040 injuries. Instead, the data shows only 14,200 fires in 2006, a reduction of 36% from the potential fires, and 1110 injuries, a reduction of 45% from the potential injuries during this timeframe. Even if you discount the potential growth of the market and assume it remained at 2002 levels through 2006, the reduction in fires is 22% and for injuries is 34%.

These are remarkable statistics and much of the credit should be given to F 15.45 Candle Products Subcommittee standard's development efforts. As mentioned earlier, the subcommittee continues to revise and add new requirements and/or standards as the data indicates the need. As an example of this effort, we recently added a new standard on candle accessories and added requirements for plastic tealight cups into the fire safety standard. We want to thank NCA for their support and sincerely hope that the fire and injury numbers continue to come down as we continue to revise and enhance the candle fire safety efforts through standards development, consumer education and raising the quality of candles in the marketplace. ♦

CODE COMPLIANCE & ENFORCEMENT

The following advisories were recently sent to local fire departments from the Office of the State Fire Marshal. The full text of the advisories may be found online at www.mass.gov/dfs then in the right hand column click on OSFM Advisories. If you have any questions, please contact the Code Compliance & Enforcement 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. As of May 1, 2009 all OSFM Advisories will only be posted online and fire departments will receive an e-mail notice in the *DFS Briefs*.

DEADLINE EXTENDED FOR Crowd Manager

The Board of Fire Prevention Regulations has extended the implementation date for the crowd manager and building safety checklist from July 1, 2009 to July 1, 2010. This is covered in 527 CMR 10.13(2)(d) and 527 CMR 10.13(2)(e). ♦

Quarterly Inspection Reports

Fire departments no longer need to forward reports to DFS concerning quarterly inspections of institutions. The appropriate state licensing agency will provide departments with the proper form. Once completed the form should be returned to that agency.

In addition, inspection reports or cards for innholder licenses need not be forwarded to DFS. They should be retained by the fire department, and can be shared with the local licensing authority. ♦

DANGERS OF PRE-MIXED

Two-Cycle Fuel Mix

Fire departments need to be aware of the sale of premixed two-cycle fuel (gas and oil) typically for use in outdoor yard equipment. The product is sold in a 32 oz, re-sealable cans and contains a specially formulated synthetic oil, 90+ octane gasoline and fuel stabilizer, pre-mixed to a 40:1 ratio. The label indicates that the fuel stabilizer keeps the gas fresh up to two years after can has been opened.

Although this is a mix of gas and oil, we must not lose focus on the fact that it must be treated in accordance with the appropriate flammable liquid classification. This product is no different than any other Class 1 flammable liquid. A material safety data sheet will provide further information to determine which type of Class 1 product it is: Class 1A, 1B or 1C. Once this information is obtained it must be reviewed against 527 CMR 14.03.

There are several sections for review prior to issuance of a permit for

the storage under 527 CMR 14:

- 527 CMR 14.03(15) - regarding container design, construction and capacity.
- 527 CMR 14.03(17) - regarding means of egress
- 527 CMR 14.03(18)(e) and NFPA 30- 2000 edition, section 4.5.6 - regarding mercantile establishments.

Again, retail stores selling flammable and combustible liquids must have a permit from the local fire department (527CMR 14). If the amount stored is in excess of the quantities in 527 CMR 14, a land license would also be needed.

In accordance with 527 CMR 1.06(2) maintenance of automatic sprinkler systems shall be reviewed by their own licensed sprinkler contractor, or fire protection engineer in accordance with NFPA Standard 25, to insure the hazard is adequately protected. ♦

Compact Fluorescent Lights (CFLs) (UPDATE)

Several months ago, State Fire Marshal Coan sent out an advisory indicating that over the past several years, his office had received a number of telephone calls regarding various failures of Compact Fluorescent Lights (CFLs). In response to those calls, an "Unsafe Product Report" was filed with the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC). Recently there have been several reports of these bulb failures reaching the "flaming stage". CPSC continues to actively investigate these incidents.

Fire Marshal Coan encourages departments that become aware of these types of incidents to report them directly to the CPSC. These reports may be filed on-line at the following address: <http://www.cpsc.gov/talk.html>

For a recent lamp industry report regarding various common CFL failure modes, please visit: <http://www.nema.org/stds/LSD40.cfm> and download a free electronic copy. If you have any questions, or require assistance, please contact Jacob Nunnemacher, Fire Protection Engineer at 978-567-3377. ♦

New Commercial Cooking Exhaust System Regulations

Any person engaged in the cleaning or inspection of commercial cooking exhaust systems after January 1, 2010 must hold a Certificate of Competency issued by the State Fire Marshal. All cleaning and inspections that currently take place shall comply with the new regulation.

Inspections

Under the Massachusetts Fire Code, 527 CMR 11.00 and NFPA 96 – 2008 Edition, commercial cooking exhaust systems shall be inspected for grease build-up in accordance with the table below.

Schedule of Inspection for Grease Buildup	Type or Volume of Cooking Inspection Frequency
Systems serving solid fuel cooking operations	Monthly
Systems serving high-volume cooking operations such as 24-hour cooking, charbroiling, or wok cooking	Quarterly
Systems serving moderate volume cooking operations	Semiannually-
Systems serving low-volume cooking operations, such as churches, day camps, seasonal businesses or senior centers	Annually Based on the results of the inspection, a determination is made by the inspector if the system needs to be cleaned.

Licenses

There are two levels of Certificate of Competency available. Both certificates require that the individual pass a written examination offered by the State Fire Marshal's Office.

Type 1: This Certificate of Competency is issued to those individuals who are in the business of cleaning and inspecting commercial cooking exhaust systems. It requires that the individual have inspected/cleaned commercial cooking exhaust systems for a minimum of 500 hours within the past six (6) months.

Type 2: This "restricted" Certificate of Competency is issued for those individuals who conduct cleaning

activities for commercial cooking operations that they own or operate.

Cleaning with a Type 2 License

The owner or operator of a commercial cooking operation, or employee thereof, shall not be prohibited from conducting the actual cleaning and grease removal of hoods, grease removal devices, fans, ducts and other appurtenances in their own commercial cooking, as long as the owner or operator holds a "restricted" Certificate of Competency. The restricted Certificate of Competency does not

ed licenses cannot perform inspections, only cleaning of systems on their own property.



Notice of Non-Compliance

If a person holding a Certificate of Competency finds that a commercial cooking operation is not in compliance with 527 CMR 11 (relative to grease build up), a written notice shall be given to the local fire department within 48 hours and a copy to the owner on a form prescribed by the marshal.

The owner/operator of a building shall maintain all cleaning and inspection records for a minimum of three years.

Additional information regarding this new program, including an unofficial copy of the regulations, applications and exam information can be found at www.mass.gov/dfs.

allow the holder of the certificate to conduct cleaning services for other commercial cooking operations. Owners and operators will still need to have an individual holding a Type 1 Certificate of Competency conduct all inspections.

Inspections Must be Done by Type 1 License Holders

Inspections must be done by holders of a Type 1 license. Holders of the Type 2 restrict-

If you have questions concerning the certificates of competency, please contact Lydia Bogar at 978-567-

3700 or by email at Lydia.Bogar@state.ma.us.



If you have questions concerning the regulation, or compliance issues, please contact the Code Compliance Desk at 978-567-3375, or in western Massachusetts at 413-587-3181. ♦

UST Transition Information

Effective July 1, 2009, the Underground Storage Tank Program was transferred to MassDEP. This has been done as part of the Governor's Article 87 legislation filed earlier this year and enacted into law as Chapter 4 of the Acts of 2009. This transfer will better align the program goals with each agency's overall mission. As a result of this transfer, there are several items that State Fire Marshal Coan wants to make you aware of as part of that transition.

First, as of July 1 non-criminal citations may not be written against 527 CMR 9 as it relates to the environmental aspects of the UST program. DFS will notify the courts so that these are removed from the list of approved fire department citations. Any citations written prior to July 1, 2009 should be resolved following the normal procedures governing non-criminal citations.

Second, as part of DFS' outreach to the regulated community and regulators, DFS has compiled three documents that deal with the transition on behalf of the MassDEP. These documents, such as a *Frequently Asked Questions sheet*, may be found on the DFS website, www.mass.gov/dfs, under the **July DFS Briefs**. These documents have been jointly prepared to provide a continuity of information to the regulated community and regulators. DFS wanted to make sure you had the opportunity to see the same documents, in the event any questions come to you or your department.

Finally, what does the transfer of the UST program mean to fire departments? The role of the fire chief or fire department has not changed with respect to permitting the installation and removal of USTs, nor the permits and licensing requirements under 527 CMR 14. Permitting should continue in the same manner at the local level. For years prior to the UST Program coming to the Office of the State Fire Marshal, the

Board of Fire Prevention Regulations had regulations governing the fire and explosion hazards relating to tanks, containers, fuel dispensers, self-serve gas stations, etc., which were and still remain under the authority of the local fire chief. The aspects of the UST Program with respect to environmental concerns and leaks will effectively be transferred to MassDEP. MassDEP will have rule making authority to promulgate regulations governing USTs that relate mainly to leak prevention.

Under the Article 87 legislation, no fire chief is required to perform any act on behalf of MassDEP. The fire chief will still have the sole authority to issue abatement orders as it relates to a fire and/or explosion hazard. In addition, the fire chief still retains the ability to require records from tank owners and issue abatement orders if the fire chief believes there is a fire and/or explosion hazard as a result of a leaking UST. ♦

Resources Activation

State Fire Marshal Coan would like to provide you with the most current information on the activation procedures for various Department of Fire Services resources at your disposal. There have been previous requests for resources that have been delayed when the requests have not gone to the correct location.

Quick reference sheets with activation contact numbers and additional information on when to contact these DFS resources may be found at www.mass.gov/dfs under DFS Briefs. Please share these quick reference sheets with your dispatchers for the:

- Hazardous Materials Response Team
- Incident Support Unit (ISU)
- Rehab Unit
- Code Compliance & Enforcement Unit
- Fire Investigation Unit
- Hazardous Devices Unit, or Bomb Squad. ♦

Timeliness of MFIRS Reports

Each year fire departments submit incident reports to the Massachusetts Fire Incident Reporting System (MFIRS). These reports together with thousands of incident reports submitted by other fire departments throughout Massachusetts make it possible to look at the total fire experience, to identify our fire problems, to develop strategies to address these issues and to measure their effectiveness. In 2008, 98.6% of Massachusetts fire departments participated in MFIRS. To be useful, our data needs to be comprehensive, of the highest quality, and timely.

The U.S. Fire Administration (USFA) has requested that we submit and release all of the MFIRS reports by July 1st of the following year so that they too can make policy decisions. To meet the USFA's cutoff date, the Department of Fire Services must

receive all incident reports by March 31. This timeline would ensure that departments still receive our annual year-end quality control and feedback reports in enough time to make any necessary corrections or edits before we forward the data to the USFA. Then the USFA would be able to include Massachusetts data in their annual release.

State Fire Marshal Coan asks for your cooperation to examine internal operations to ensure that your records management system (RMS) permits you to meet the March 31 deadline each year.

If you have any questions or need additional information please contact Derryl Dion of the Fire Data Unit in the Office of the State Fire Marshal at Derryl.Dion@state.ma.us or (978) 567-3382. ♦

MASSACHUSETTS FIREFIGHTING ACADEMY

New Prop for Flammable Gas School

On September 24, the Flammable Gas Firefighting program officially took possession of a recently retired bobtail propane delivery truck. Eastern Propane of Danvers first donated it to the Propane Gas Association of New England (PGANE) who then donated it to us. This new truck will join the one previously donated by PGANE to add new scenarios to the gas schools hands on training programs. PGANE has been a long time partner of the Flammable Gas Firefighting program with a relationship spanning over 20 years. ♦

Pictured: (Left) Matt Stevens – Chairman, PGANE Emergency Response Committee

(Center) Norm Seymour – Coordinator MFA Flammable Gas Firefighting Program

(Right) Paul Bogan – PGANE, Chairman of the Board



PLANS REVIEW DESK

Sprinkler System Notables

There are a couple of important requirements specified in the 7th edition of the Massachusetts State Building Code (780 CMR) for fire sprinkler system arrangements that are unique to Massachusetts and are not captured in NFPA 13 itself. The 7th edition of 780 CMR became the mandatory building code requirements effective March 1 of this year.

780 CMR:903.4 requires the fire sprinkler system waterflow alarms, of systems required by the Building Code, to be connected to an approved fire alarm notification system throughout the building. Alarm notification devices must also be installed in an approved location on the outside of the building. These requirements were also contained in the 6th edition of 780 CMR.

780 CMR:903.3.2 Item 4 is a new provision of the Building Code for the 7th edition related to fire sprin-

kler type. This paragraph requires that residential-type fire sprinklers be used in any areas arranged for residential or sleeping use (i.e. dorm rooms, apartment units, hospital sleeping rooms). The intent of this requirement is to require sprinklers in residential and sleeping areas that have been listed to maintain tenability in the space for a 10-minute occupant escape window with residential hazards present. Other types of fire sprinklers are not necessarily listed to maintain tenability in the space of fire origin. The requirement also restricts the use of dry-pipe fire sprinkler systems to protect residential and sleeping areas due to the NFPA 13, NFPA 13R and NFPA 13D restriction of using residential fire sprinklers on a dry-pipe fire sprinkler system only where the sprinklers are specifically listed for such use.

Also, separate from 780 CMR, be aware that Section 26G in Chapter

148 of the Massachusetts General Laws, requiring the installation of fire sprinkler systems in certain buildings, will be enforceable for all jurisdictions throughout the Commonwealth beginning January 1, 2010. The language of the statute has been modified and will no longer need to be adopted locally. Please see the official version of the statute to determine the applicability of the requirements to a particular project.

For more information: Jake Nunnemacher is assigned to jurisdictions along the Massachusetts Turnpike and south, and can be reached at 978-567-3377 (or by email at jacob.nunnemacher@state.ma.us). Dana Haagensen is assigned to jurisdictions north of the Mass Pike, and can be reached at 978-567-3376 (or by email at dana.haagensen@state.ma.us). ♦

Bioterrorism

Continued from page 6

detection, modern detection technologies in use for chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear (CBRN) detection have not been in existence long enough to have been included in the primary training and certification for a probable significant percentage of hazardous materials technicians. Thus, new technologies have likely been introduced as in-service or annual continued training, which is even less defined in standards or regulations.



(5) A team of hazmat technicians collects a small sample from a desktop.

Anecdotally, it is widely accepted that the manufacturer or seller provides training for most new detection technologies. While this is often excellent training, its objectivity is often questioned and diminishes confidence in responder knowledge among laboratories and others.

The complete retraining of all hazmat technicians to a single, national standard, hazmat technician curriculum is an unrealistic objective. However, the development and delivery of a national program of training and certification, specifically in detection, should be achievable. Given the potential national implications of reported results from advanced detection technologies, the ability of a responder organization to report that detection methods were conducted, interpreted, and acted on in accordance with a standard that is accepted and familiar nationally will prevent or limit the present conflict and assumed inaccuracy. Removing the doubt and lack of confidence expressed by laboratories and public health will improve public confidence and thereby its sense of security.

An additional lesson learned from the past should be applied with regard to who provides training in sampling and detection. In the early days of paramedicine, the very nurses and physicians who would be working with the paramedics in day-to-day practice provided training. The trainers were often the same clinicians who would be communicating with them by radio, recommending or directing care and receiving patients and continuing that care. The mutual trust and confidence gained during training then translated to the communication and trust in actual emergencies. Since hazmat teams responding to bio-terrorism threat incidents are effectively an extension of the LRN laboratory, this principle should strongly carry into detection training.

The LRN lab for the jurisdiction being trained must be actively involved in the training. Such involvement clearly creates the desired understanding, trust, and communication between the lab and the hazmat team.⁵ By extension, the Association of Public Health Laboratories (APHL) is a well suited and logical home for the national delivery and certification. The APHL includes chemical and biological laboratories and presently delivers training to laboratories under contract to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). As a national vehicle, delivering training in conjunction with local or regional LRN laboratories, the APHL would be in a position to support the validity of training conducted in one region to all regions and thereby support national confidence in the strategy.

Technology: the Last Frontier

It's not by accident that technology appears here, as the last portion of a strategy. This placement is largely because technologies, or devices, have driven our response to such a degree that we find ourselves in the current dilemma. For the past nine years, a successful and coordinated bio-terrorism response strategy has been effectively stalled in this country as we argued over and awaited "the perfect detection device." Public health laboratories want responders

to use detection technologies that are comparable in sensitivity and specificity with those that are used in the LRN laboratory. Responders sought reliable, affordable, simple-to-use technologies that required little to no maintenance and limited training and worked under any condition. Both groups have had to learn to deal with disappointment.

The ability of any field detection technology to meet all of the desired, or necessary, characteristics of responders and public health laboratories has proven to be, thus far, impossible. It is entirely likely that no single system will meet these requirements until experience and an active market provide the means to do so. Moreover, just what technology needs to do remains unclear, as the objectives of detection have not been defined. Two analogies can be used to demonstrate the technology question: the smoke detector and the defibrillator.

Smoke detectors are highly unreliable instruments when compared with the standards sought in bio-detection. The false positive alarm rate of smoke detectors is astronomical, likely exceeding the correct detection rate on orders of magnitude in the tens or hundreds. Yet smoke detectors are encouraged, and even required in every occupancy in some states. Smoke detectors clearly save lives!

When a smoke detector alarms, the fire department does not arrive and start breaking windows and spraying water. The smoke detector alerts us to take protective actions (such as evacuation) and to have qualified persons look further for a cause. So it is with biological handheld assays. In a deliberated strategy, handheld assays may not indicate the need for medical prophylaxis but can be used as part of a risk assessment to provide qualitative support for short-term tactical decision-making such as the following:

- Securing a building.
- Holding companies (hazmat).

CONTINUED ON PAGE 18

MFIRS V5 Coding Tips for Heating Fires

The reason we offer coding tips and why consistent coding for similar fire incidents is important, is so that good information can be extracted

Fuel Burner/Boiler Malfunction

- Incident Type: Type = 116 – Fuel Burner/Boiler Malfunction, Fire Confined
- Basic Module only if fire is confined, there are no injuries, and dollar loss is <\$5,000.

Chimney or Flue Fire

- Incident Type = 114 – Chimney or Flue Fire, Contained to Chimney or Flue.
- Basic Module only if fire is confined, there are no injuries, and dollar loss is <\$5,000.

Unconfined Heating Structure Fires

- Basic Module, Fire Module and Structure Fire Module
- Incident Type: 111-112 or 120-123 – structure fire, mobile home
- Heat Source: 10-13 – heat from operating equipment or 43 – hot ember/ash
- Type of Material First Ignited: 11-12, gas, 25, oil/kerosene, 34, creosote, 56, coal;
- Equipment Involved in Ignition 120-152 – heating equipment
- Equipment Power Source Required.
- Equipment Portability Required: 1 – Portable or 2- Stationary.

Some examples are:

Portable electrical heater ignites bedding in an apartment building

- Incident Type = 111 - building fire
- Property Use = 429 – multifamily housing
- Heat Source = 12 – radiated heat from equipment
- Item First Ignited = 32 - bedding

- Type of Material First Ignited = 71 - fabric
- Equipment Involved in Ignition = 141 – space heater
- Equipment Power Source = 12 - electric
- Equipment Portability = 1 - portable.

Sparks from a wood burning stove ignite the carpeting in the room

- Incident Type = 111 – building fire
- Heat Source = 43 – hot ember/ash
- Item First Ignited = 14 - rug
- Type of Material First Ignited = 70 - fabric
- Equipment Involved in Ignition = 123 - stove
- Equipment Power Source = 41 - wood
- Equipment Portability = 2 - stationary

Kerosene heater ignites an interior wall in a mobile home (being used as a fixed structure)

- Incident Type = 121 – mobile home
- Heat Source = 12 –radiated heat from equipment
- Item First Ignited = 15 – interior wall covering
- Type of Material First Ignited = 65 – particle board
- Equipment Involved in Ignition = 141 – space heater
- Equipment Power Source = 33 - kerosene
- Equipment Portability = 1 – portable.

Chimney fire in 1-Family

- Incident Type = 111, building fire
- Heat Source: 11, flame from operating equipment (fireplace)
- Item First Ignited: 95, chimney film or residue
- Type of Material First Ignited: 34, creosote
- Equipment Involved: 126, brick chimney
- Equipment Power Source: 41, wood
- Equipment Portability: 2, stationary ♦

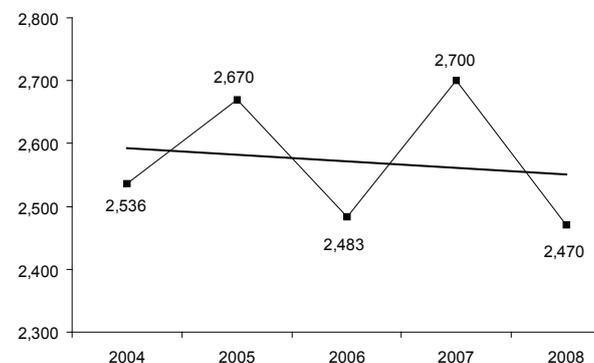
Home Heating Fires

As the mercury drops from the colder temperatures of late fall and early winter we in the fire service must be vigilant in the prevention of home heating fires. In 2008 fires caused by heating equipment were the second leading cause of residential fires. In Franklin and Hampshire counties it was the leading cause of fires in homes. We did not see the expected increase in these types of fires. Due to the *Keep Warm Keep Safe* program, we saw a 9% drop in home heating fires between 2007 and 2008. However we did see a 5% increase in the estimated dollar loss these fires incurred.

During the past five years

in Massachusetts, 12,859 residential heating fires caused 18 civilian deaths, 87 civilian injuries, 132 firefighter injuries and \$35.5 million in damages. Nine of these deaths were caused when space heaters started the fire. During the past five years, 1 in every 6 space heater fires killed a civilian. ♦

of Home Heating Fires 2004 - 2008



MFIRS Training and Administration

Training

If a department needs more training on MFIRS v5 and can guarantee 15 students, please contact Derryl Dion to set up the MFIRS class. It is a 4-hour MFA class that comes with 4 OEMS credits. Enrollment must be open to other departments. Classes may also be held at night.

Upcoming MFIRS Classes

Wednesday, 11/4/09 @ the Barnstable County Fire Academy in Barnstable, MA from 09:00 – 13:00. Course # 200000613 Session B. Please use the standard MFA registration forms and procedures.

Fatal or Large Loss Fires

If you have a fire or explosion with a **fatality** or **large loss (>\$1,000,000)**, please forward a paper copy of the MFIRS report with a completed Remarks section to Derryl Dion within two business days. The report should include the Basic, Fire, Civilian Fire &/or Fire Service Casualty Module(s), and Structure Fire Module (needed for all structure fires). This most likely will be a preliminary report and the complete report can be filed at a later date unless otherwise noted. Every effort should be taken to make sure that these reports are as complete as they can be given all of the information available at the end of your investigation.

If one of the state troopers from OSFM's Fire Investigation Unit (FIU) was involved with the investigation, please contact them periodically to see what they are reporting as their conclusions in their report. FIU reports are separate from your MFIRS reports, and using the Team concept both reports should reflect the same conclusions.

2009 Mid-Year Quality Control & Feedback Reports

By mid October 2009, all chiefs should have received their 2009 mid-year quality control and feedback reports. Please check these reports carefully, especially the fields Civilian Fire Deaths, Fire Service

Deaths and Total Dollar Loss for complete accuracy. If there are any errors or omissions, please contact us as soon as possible.

2009 Fire Data

Please check to see if your department has sent in all the MFIRS reports to date. The Fire Data Unit should have all your reports from January through September filed on a monthly basis. You can contact the Fire Data Unit to confirm what reports have been received. At the request of the U.S. Fire Administration, the State Fire Marshal has asked fire departments to ensure their 2009 data is submitted no later than the end of March 2010.

Electronic Reporting

The email address to send your electronic MFIRS reports to is:

MFIRS.Report@state.ma.us. One or two days after your first submission via email please call Derryl Dion at (978) 567-3382 to confirm its receipt. Departments that are reporting electronically should be submitting their incidents on a monthly basis. If a department is having trouble with its computer systems, that department should notify the Fire Data unit as soon as possible; and if the problem persists paper copies should be forwarded to DFS so they can be entered into the system here by hand.

Assistance

Please contact Derryl Dion, Research Analyst/MFIRS Manager at (978) 567-3382 or Derryl.Dion@state.ma.us with any questions regarding MFIRS or to conduct fire data or histories research. ♦

BE AWARE OF BURNS AND SCALDS!

2008 M-BIRS Report is Released

On July 29, 2009, State Fire Marshal Stephen D. Coan released the 2008 Annual Report of the Massachusetts Burn Injury Reporting System (M-BIRS). "Last year there were 438 burn injuries reported to M-BIRS," said Coan, "For the 24th consecutive year, the leading burn problem in the state is a preventable one - hot liquid scalds to children under five."

Toddlers 8 Times More Likely to Suffer Scald Burns

Scalds from hot liquids caused 36% of the burn injuries reported in 2008. Scalds have been the leading cause of burn injuries every year since the inception of M-BIRS in 1984. Children under five were at the greatest risk for scald burns. According to the 2000 US Census, this age group comprised 6% of the Massachusetts population but this same age group accounted for 53% of all scalds and burns in 2008. Preschoolers were eight times more likely to suffer scald burns than other age groups.

Massachusetts Burn Injury Reporting System (M-BIRS)

The Massachusetts Burn Injury Reporting System (M-BIRS) is a joint program of the Massachusetts Department of Public Health and the Department of Fire Services. The law requires that every burn injury affecting five percent or more of the body surface area be reported to the State Fire Marshal. Coan said, "M-BIRS was established as a tool for law enforcement to identify arsonists who may be burned and attempt to avoid detection by seeking medical treatment at some distance from the crime. However, the data provides a valuable tool to identify burn injuries that can be addressed through public education, regulation, or other appropriate intervention strategies."

Important statistics from the 2008 M-BIRS report

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CONTINUED ON **PAGE 18**

MBIRS Report

Continued from Page 17

- Scalds were the leading cause of burn injuries to children under the age of five and to young adults between 15 and 24.
- Scalds and fires tied as the leading cause of burns to children between the ages of five and nine.
- Burns from fires and flame injuries tied as the second highest cause of burn injuries.
- Flame burns were the leading cause of burn injuries to children between the ages of 10 and 14 and to adults between the ages of 25 and 84.
- Burns from fires, flame and contact tied as the leading causes of burns to older adults over the age of 85.
- 66% of all reported burn injuries occurred at home.
- 64% of all burn victims were male.
- 11% of burns were work-related. Work-related burn injuries resulted in one death and three life-threatening injuries.

The State Fire Marshal offers these tips for burn and scald safety:

- Put a toddler in a safe place like a high chair when drinking hot coffee and tea.
- Use placemats instead of tablecloths so that toddlers cannot pull hot food and beverages onto themselves.
- Turn pot handles inward over the stove.
- If you suffer a burn or scald, cool a burn for 3-5 minutes in cool running water.
- If the burn is more severe call 911 and receive professional medical care.
- Wear clothing with short or tight-fitting sleeves while cooking.
- Always let a gasoline engine (like a lawnmower) cool down before refueling.

The report is published on line at www.mass.gov/dfs under Publications. Printed copies are available from Derryl Dion at (978) 567-3382 or Derryl.Dion@state.ma.us. ♦

BioTerrorism

Continued from Page 15

- Accounting for potentially exposed persons.
- Expediting sample delivery and testing at a qualified LRN laboratory.
- Advising more senior officials of an increased suspicion.

All of these actions can be taken without delaying sample delivery to an LRN laboratory, consuming the sample in field screening, or actually declaring a "positive" test result. Although the technology is not conclusive, testing with some established level of reliability better supports all of these actions. The field test then becomes one of several indicators, not the sole indicator, for the incident commander to make decisions regarding protective actions and commitment of resources, pending laboratory confirmation.

In the early days of paramedics, defibrillation was undertaken with great concern. Prior to administering the electric shock, a paramedic was required to obtain a doctor's order over the radio. Today, defibrillators are found hanging in airports and shopping malls so as to be readily available for the general public's use.

We have evolved this life saving measure from a guarded skill of a specialist to that of a layperson because we found out, through experience, that it saves lives. Companies invested

heavily in advancing the technology because there was a market. The end result is clear: Advancement saves lives!

The development of technology and the testing to prove its performance are expensive. Had we not studied the outcomes, including error rates and losses, from defibrillation, we would not have advanced this life-saving treatment. Had we said that we could not introduce early defibrillation in cardiac arrest until a perfect defibrillator was produced that the layperson could use, we would never have seen it. No one would have invested the cost of development for an uncertain market. So it is with bio-detection. To support the development of better detection technology, we need to use what acceptable technology exists to meet our needs and thereby gain experience and create a market to support further development.

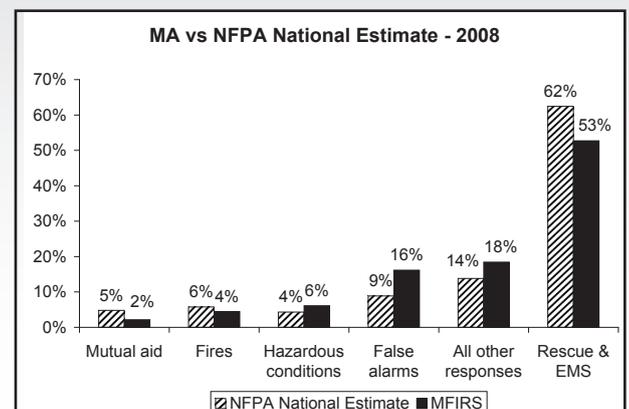
This analogy should not be taken to imply that we should embrace every device or technology. We should independently test every technology used to influence decision making in a potential bio-terrorism scheme to established and accepted performance standards. It is not sufficient to market a device by saying it was "evaluated" by a particular user (e.g. military) as the methods, parameters, and intend-

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CONTINUED ON **PAGE 22**

Fire Data Facts – MA vs USA

In 2008, a little more than half, 53%, of all incidents reported to MFIRS were EMS or rescue type calls. Sixteen percent (16%) were false alarms, 6% were hazardous condition calls, 4% were fires, 2% were mutual aid given calls, and the remaining 18% were all other responses combined. Compared to the results of the NFPA's 2008 *Fire Loss in the U.S.*, during 2008 Massachusetts fire departments responded to a lower percentage of rescue or EMS incidents, fires and

mutual aid calls; and a higher percentage of false alarms, hazardous condition calls and other types of responses. ♦



The following are excerpts from press releases issued by the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) regarding products recalled for fire or burn hazards. Consumers should immediately stop using any of these products and contact the U.S. Consumer Products Safety Commission or the manufacturer for instructions on how to proceed. The web address is: www.cpsc.gov

AIR COMPRESSOR

6/17/2009..... 09-245

Campbell Hausfield Air Compressor

Campbell Hausfield

The compressor's thermal overload, which shuts the unit off when it overheats can fail.

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml09/09245.html>

AMPLIFIERS

8/19/2009..... 09-312

Amplifiers

Krell Industries LLC

A component input device can fail & cause the amplifiers to overheat.

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml09/09312.html>

BATTERY EQUALIZERS

6/18/2009..... 09-249

BattEQ Battery Equalizers

SmartSpark Energy Systems, Inc.

The equalizers can overheat.

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml09/09249.html>

BATTERY RECHARGE STATIONS

8/11/2009..... 09-303

Psyclone Essentials & React Wii 4-Dock Battery Recharge Stations Griffin International Cos., Inc.

The battery pack can overheat.

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml09/09303.html>

CHILDREN'S SLEEPWEAR

6/4/2009..... 09-236

Children's Loungewear Garments

Warm Biscuit Bedding Co.

The garments fail to meet the children's sleepwear federal flammability standards.

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml09/09236.html>

COFFEEMAKERS

6/23/2009..... 09-252

Black & Decker Spacemaker Coffeemakers

Applia Consumer Products Inc.

The brew basket can shift out of alignment allowing the hot water to overflow.

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml09/09252.html>

8/18/2009..... 09-309

Black & Decker Thermal Coffeemakers

Applia Consumer Products Inc.

The coffeemakers can overheat and melt.

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml09/09309.html>

DVD PLAYERS

8/20/2009..... 09-316

Durabrand DVD Players

Wal-Mart Stores Inc.

The DVD players can overheat.

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml09/09316.html>

9/1/2009..... 09-335

Durabrand DVD Players

Wal-Mart Stores Inc.

Expanded to pink & purple -colored versions of the DVD players. The DVD players can overheat.

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml09/09335.html>

ELECTRIC RANGES

8/27/2009..... 09-333

Frigidaire & Kenmore Elite Smoothtop Electric Ranges

Frigidaire

The surface heating elements can turn on spontaneously w/out being switched

on; fail to turn off after being switched off; or heat to a different temperatures than selected.

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml09/09333.html>

FUEL CONTAINERS

7/28/2009..... 09-288

Enviro-Flo Plus Fuel Containers

Blitz USA Inc.

The spout's plunger cap can dislodge, opening the seal of the container & allowing gasoline vapors to escape.

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml09/09288.html>



GAS GRILLS

7/21/2009..... 09-283

Blue Ember Gas Grills

Fiesta Gas Grills

The hose of the gas tank can get too close to the fire box & be exposed to heat.

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml09/09283.html>

GENERATORS

6/25/2009..... 09-257

PowerPlus Generators

Big Muddy Sports

The 220-volt receptacle can fail to produce power correctly & cause power surges that can damage appliances.

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml09/09257.html>

CONTINUED ON PAGE 19

GENERATORS

8/13/2009..... 09-305

Homelite, Husky & Black Max Generators

Homelite Consumer Products, Inc.

The fuel gauge can leak excessive amounts of gasoline.

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prereel/prhtml09/09305.html>

HAIR DRYERS

6/3/2009..... 09-235

National & Sanyo Hand-Held Hair Dryers

Vintage International

The hair dryers are not equipped with an immersion protection device to prevent electrocution if it falls into the water.

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prereel/prhtml09/09235.html>



HEAT GUN

6/17/2009..... 09-243

Wagner Spray Tech Heat Gun

Wagner Spray Tech Corp.

An electrical component failure inside the heat gun can cause them to produce heat after the power switch is turned off.

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prereel/prhtml09/09243.html>

NIGHTLIGHTS

7/14/2009..... 09-272

Energizer Light on Demand Wallplate Nightlights

Energizer

The nightlight can overheat.

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prereel/prhtml09/09272.html>

REFRIGERATORS

8/25/2009..... 09-322

Maytag, Magic Chef, Performa & Crosley Brand Refrigerators Maytag Corp.

An electrical failure in the relay that turns on the compressor can cause overheating.

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prereel/prhtml09/09322.html>

REMOTE SWITCHES

8/18/2009..... 09-308

Shop Fox Dust Collection Remote Switches

Woodstock International

An incorrectly sized wire inside the switch can overheat

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prereel/prhtml09/09308.html>

RUGS

7/16/2009..... 09-277

Art Collection Leather Shag Rugs

Chandra Rugs

The rugs fail to meet the federal flammability standard.

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prereel/prhtml09/09277.html>

STEAM CLEANERS

7/16/2009..... 09-279

H2O Mop Steam Cleaners

Thane International Inc.

The power cord can wear down and expose the wiring.

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prereel/prhtml09/09279.html>

THERMOSTATS

7/21/2009..... 09-282

208-Volt & 240-Volt Thermostats

OJ Electronics

The floor sensor or its cable can be damaged from cutting, drilling or nailing.

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prereel/prhtml09/09282.html>

TIMERS

7/1/2009..... 09-259

Intermatic In-wall Electronic Timers

Intermatic Inc.

When users try to replace the timer's battery, place a metal object through the battery try slot, they can receive a shock.

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prereel/prhtml09/09259.html>

TORCH FUEL CONTAINERS

9/29/2009..... 09-349

Flame Guards on Clear-Vu Torch Fuel Containers

Lamplight Farms, Inc.

The flame guards can fail causing the containers to melt while the torch is in use.

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prereel/prhtml09/09349.html>

VENT PIPES

8/25/2009..... 09-323

Plexvent & Ultravent HTPV Vent Pipes

Goodman Manufacturing Co.

The pipes could be susceptible to corrosion, crack & joint separation resulting in the release of CO into living areas. This is a continuation of a 1998 recall.

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prereel/prhtml09/09323.html>

WASHING MACHINES

7/30/2009..... 09-292

Crosley, Frigidaire, Kelvinator, Kenmore, Wascomat, & White-Westinghouse to load washers

Frigidaire

A defect in the drain pump can cause heat to build up

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prereel/prhtml09/09292.html>

WOMEN'S ROBES

6/11/2009..... 09-241

Chenille Robes

Blair LLC

Robes catch on fire.

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prereel/prhtml09/09241.html> ♦

LICENSING EXAMS

The Office of the State Fire Marshal issues licenses to people and companies engaged in fireworks, blasting, explosives, cannon and mortar firing, special effects, special hazard systems and portable fire extinguishers. Information on applications, exam dates, to obtain new licenses, or to renew existing licenses may be obtained by calling 978-567-3700. Examinations for licenses are held quarterly. Filing deadlines, exam locations, dates and times can be found online at: http://www.mass.gov/dfs/osfm/license_exams.htm.

All license exams are offered at both Department of Fire Services locations: State Road in Stow, MA and One Prince Street (Northampton State Hospital) in Northampton, MA. Due to construction at DFS Stow, parking is severely limited and may include off-site parking. Please ride-share with co-workers whenever possible.

Applicants must be pre-registered for all license exams, no walk-ins permitted. Completed applications must be received by 5:00 p.m. on the deadline date listed below. If an

application is received after the applicable deadline, the applicant will not be allowed to sit for the exam.

Directions to our offices are listed on the web at:

http://www.mass.gov/dfs/about_dfs/dfsmap.htm

A list of study materials for each examination are listed on the web at:

http://www.mass.gov/dfs/osfm/license_exams.htm

All exams begin promptly at 9:00 a.m. ♦

2009 License Examination Schedule

Examinations	Examination Dates	Application Deadlines
Fire Extinguishers & Hood Cleaning	January 28, 2010 (Thursday) April 29, 2010 (Thursday)	January 15, 2010 (Friday) April 16, 2010 (Friday)
Cannon/Mortar & Fireworks & Special Effects & Blasting & Blasting R&D	November 18, 2009 (Wednesday) February 24, 2010 (Wednesday) May 20, 2010 (Thursday)	November 6, 2009 (Friday) February 12, 2010 (Friday) May 7, 2010 (Friday)

STATUS REPORT OF

Compliance and Enforcement Actions

The following is a status report of recent compliance and enforcement actions taken by the Office of the State Fire Marshal against individuals or companies for violations of MGL Chap. 148 and 527 CMR. The status of the action is provided and notation is made

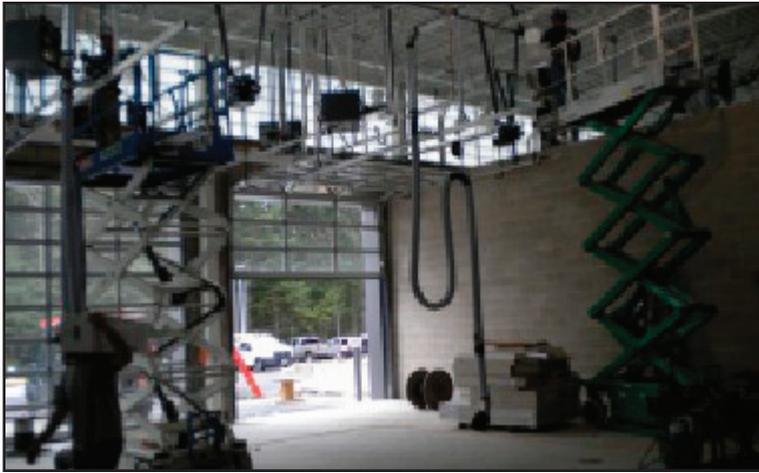
regarding the effective date of the action. While other actions may be pending, only those individuals or companies who have had administrative hearings with decisions rendered will be documented in this space.

Should there be any question regarding the status of any license or certificate, please call the Office of the State Fire Marshal at any time for verification at 978-567-3700. ♦

Compliance and Enforcement Actions by the Department of Fire Services

Name	Action Taken	Terms	Ends
Blasting Certificate of Competency			
A.F. Amorello & Sons	Explosives Users Certificate	1 year to serve	1/5/2010
David V. Anderson	120 day suspension	60 days to serve	7/10/2009
Timothy E. Keefe	Stayed suspension	1-year probation	9/24/2010
Fireworks Certificate of Competency			
Arnold A. Villatico	1-year suspension	1 year to serve	8/13/2010
Fire Equipment Certificate of Competency			
James Tecce	Permanent Revocation	Prohibited from ever again holding a business reg. of any kind from DFS	

Important Site Directions During Construction Between Now and Spring 2010 *Continued from page 2*



Fire station

Photo by: Donna Nelson



Administration building

Photo by: Donna Nelson

- **Administration Building Visitors:** The main reception area for the administration building is temporarily located at the west entrance – the side closest to the warehouse. Please check in at the reception area before proceeding into the building as card access will be required to enter all office and/or meeting areas.
- **MFA Visitors:** Please proceed directly to the grey trailers that are marked as classrooms or MFA staff locations. There is no need to check in at the administration building unless you've been directed to do so or are meeting with staff located in the building.
- **Visitor Parking:** Several marked spots are available next to the warehouse, across from the administration building's west entrance. This parking is available for all visitors. If these are full, then there is parking near the trailers or in the upper parking area.
- **Students Check-in:** Students registered for classes in rooms 109 or 502 may proceed directly to the classrooms. There is no need to check in at the administration building.
- **Student Parking:** All students are requested to park in the upper, or remote parking lot, which is actually closer to the trailers than some of the other parking areas. DFS is trying to keep the parking around the administration building and warehouse available to staff and visitors.
- **Construction Signs:** As the construction site is continually changing, please obey any new construction signs on site as these are posted for public safety reasons.
- **Shipping & Receiving:** All DFS shipping and receiving as well as mail continue to be handled directly out of the warehouse. ♦

Bioterrorism

Continued from page 18

ed use may not be the same for civil responders and the protection of the general public.

Throughout this debate, we have also overlooked an area of technology that supports the integration of all other aspects: communication. In the comparison provided in this article, the need for collaboration and communication has been a constant thread. Communication is the area of technology that has made, perhaps, the greatest gain in the past 40 years. Yet communication is completely missing in the technology discussion of bio-detection.

In 1967, Dr. Eugene Nagel built the first electrocardiogram (ECG) radio telemetry unit from two police motorcycle radios in his garage in Miami, Florida. This invention allowed a physician to be "virtually" on-scene with paramedics, discussing medical care and actu-

ally reading the ECG in real time from a remote base station hospital.

Today teenagers carry on televised conversations with each other from pocket-sized devices around the world—millions at a time. Whatever the technology, with any level of detection, sensitivity, and specificity to be used, it can be enhanced as a tool for decision making by adding the means to share its data with more specialized personnel. This relatively simple addition can increase the confidence in detection and interpretation and substantially improve the confidence in field bio-detection.

As a nation, and as those entrusted to protect the public, we cannot simply refuse to resolve the issues impeding an effective bio-terrorism response. The "we" in this instance refers to the entire body of the "homeland security

community." It is vital to this discussion to recognize that technology alone will not be our solution and that no single solution can be applied in every community.

We must come together, as was accomplished in the '60s and '70s, to define our bio-terrorism strategies from deterrence, through detection, and to recovery. Along the way, we need to be mindful of the need for confidence in each other and, most importantly, from the public and take steps to provide that confidence from coast to coast and with consciousness of the effect of the instant media. And in this process, we will identify what our real technology needs are, but not until we first determine what we need to know and how we will use that information to meet our overarching objective of protecting the public and maintaining their confidence in our ability to do so. ♦