All Hands HERALD

April 2010

DEPARTMENT OF FIRE SERVICES • STOW, MASSACHUSETTS

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

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Featured Articles

Cover Photo by: *Prof. R. James Duckworth, WPI*

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 Meaghan O'Connell is the graphic artist who pulls it all together. ◆

DEPARTMENT OF FIRE SERVICES

PO Box 1025
State Road, Stow, MA
01775

www.mass.gov/dfs
978.567.3100

From the Fire Marshal

Photo by: *Barry Hyvarinen*

All Hands HERALD
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2010 began with many transitions. I would like to welcome the new Secretary of Public Safety and Security Mary Beth Heffernan and to wish outgoing Secretary Kevin Burke well. We are looking forward to working closely with the new secretary on important fire service and fire prevention issues.

Tom Leonard Retires

After 27 years of working side by side first at the Mass. Firefighting Academy and then at the Department of Fire Services, Tom Leonard has retired as the first Deputy State Fire Marshal for Massachusetts. He served in that position since 1996 when the agency was created by combining the Office of the State Fire Marshal, the Mass. Firefighting Academy and the Hazardous Materials Response Program. You think you know how much work and how many projects a person touches, but once they leave, you realize how much more they really did every day. Fortunately Tom will be coming back part-time to help oversee completion of the construction project for us.

Construction Project

The construction project is moving along fairly swiftly and the rehabilitation of the old Academy building is well underway and the building is starting to take shape. We are also seeing progress with the construction of the link area housing the new cafeteria and serving as a connector between the new administration building and the fire academy.

Record Low Fire Deaths in 2009

In 2009, Massachusetts experienced a new record low number of fire deaths – 35 that included 17 men, 13 women, and five children. When I first started my career in the early 1970s, we lost between 150 and 180 people per year to fire and 35-40 of them were children. While 35 are still too many, it shows that with technology such as smoke alarms, code enforcement and public education, we can make a real impact in driving down the number of fire deaths. Residential sprinklers in all new homes is the next step we must take to harness ready technology to further reduce that number and protect our citizens from fire.

Board of Fire Prevention Regulations

The Board of Fire Prevention Regulations has spent the past eighteen months working on several important new or revised regulations that have become effective in the first few months of 2010. I value their ability to thoroughly research complex, technical issues, and their thoughtful, deliberative process that has lead to good regulations. As of January 1, 2010, anyone cleaning or inspecting commercial kitchen exhaust systems (hoods and ducts) must hold a DFS-issued certificate of competency. To date, several hundred people have been tested and issued certificates. Another key regulation addresses the floor refinishing trade and their use of highly flammable liquids. These revised regulations address the many different fire hazards of floor finishing – improper electrical hook-ups, the storage of waste materials, and dust explosion hazards, as well as the application of flammable liquids

One of the things our government does best, is to learn from terrible tragedies how similar occurrences can be prevented. The commercial kitchen exhaust system cleaning "license" is a result of the Boston restaurant fire that killed two firefighters. The floor finishing regulation was as a result of several fatal explosions that killed people in the wood floor refinishing trade.

Smoke Alarm Regulations Revisions

In addition, the board carefully researched smoke alarm technology and as of April 5, 2010, when selling a home with less than five dwelling units that is not governed by the state building code (built pre-1975), only photoelectric smoke alarms can be installed within 20 feet of the kitchen or full bath, and both photoelectric and ionization smoke alarm technology must be in place beyond the 20 feet from kitchens and baths. You never know which kind of fire you are going to have, so this affords the maximum protection against both smoldering and flaming fires. This revision reflects what the science tells us about how to have the maximum protection from an early warning of fire.

However, it is important that people realize that the most important thing is to have working smoke alarms, regardless of type. A working smoke alarm doubles a family's chance of surviving a fire.

Crowd Manager Regulation

The board is in the final stages of completing the crowd manager regulation that is the final piece of action recommended as a result of the Station nightclub fire. This would require nightclubs and other venues to have staff who are trained and re-

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From the Fire Marshal

Continued from Page 1

sponsible for crowd management in a way that helps prevent overcrowding, makes sure exits and pathways are accessible, and to assist patrons in evacuating in case of an emergency.

We have just passed the seventh anniversary of that tragic fire that impacted so many people from Massachusetts. Our state has been on the forefront of implementing changes based on what we learned from that fire. The passage of the Massachusetts Fire Safety Act in 2004 required sprinklers in certain places of public assembly, created criminal penalties for dangerous conditions in public assembly buildings, including blocking ingress or egress; shutting off or failing to maintain fire protection systems; storing flammables or explosives; and using fireworks or pyrotechnics without a permit and exceeding occupancy limits. It also established criminal penalties for individuals who violate provisions of the state building or fire codes when a violation results in significant injury or death, as well as a "ticketing" system for fire and building code regulations rather than clogging district or housing courts with these complaints. ◆

Division Name Change

The Office of the State Fire Marshal division is now called the Division of Fire Safety as the legislation that originally created the Department of Fire Services specified. The responsibilities, the work and the staff remain the same. These are the people you call for code compliance and enforcement, plan review, fire protection engineering, fire data, public education, and licensing.

The Office of the State Fire Marshal will now be used to refer strictly to the executive offices of the State Fire Marshal and his senior staff. ◆

Manual Adjustment of Automatic Slack Adjusters

NIOSH Publication No. 2010-102 (October 2009)
The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) recommends that all fire departments operating fire apparatus equipped with automatic slack adjusters (ASAs) immediately take the following actions to reduce the risk of firefighters being injured in an apparatus crash due to brake failure:

- Ensure that ASAs are not manually adjusted.
- Establish procedures to ensure maintenance on fire apparatus is conducted as recommended in NFPA 1911 Standard for the Inspection, Maintenance, Testing, and Retirement of In-Service Automotive Fire Apparatus.
- Ensure maintenance is only performed by qualified technicians who meet NFPA 1071 Standard for Emergency Vehicle Technician Professional Qualifications.

An automatic slack adjuster is a mechanical component of the air brake system that adjust brakes as necessary when the vehicle is in operation to compensate for wear in the brake shoes (drum brakes) or pads (disc brakes). When an ASA is found to be out of adjustment, it signifies the existence of a larger braking system problem that needs correction. Manual adjustment of ASAs should only be done by qualified technicians during installation or when absolutely necessary to move the apparatus to a repair facility (NTSB 2006, 2007; IAFC 2006).

In 2006, the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC) warned the fire service of this potential problem (IAFC 2006) following an investigative report released by the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB 2006). While conducting an investigation of a recent apparatus crash-related fire fighter fatality, NIOSH learned that fire departments may not fully appreciate the hazards related to manual adjustment of ASAs. NIOSH would like to renew efforts to bring this to the attention of all U.S. fire departments, fire fighters, and fleet maintenance departments who are tasked with preventive maintenance or operation of apparatus equipped with ASAs. The manual adjustment of ASAs may contribute to unexpected brake failure on fire apparatus. When an ASA is found to be out of adjustment it signifies the existence of a larger problem with the braking system that needs to be corrected immediately. Vehicles found to have ASAs that are out of adjustment should be taken out-of-service immediately until corrective brake service is completed.

Fire departments should ensure that all technicians conducting brake service on fire department apparatus: (1) are certified in air brake repair to the level (T-4) required by the Automotive Service Excellence Medium/Heavy Duty Truck Technician Certification and (2) have, at a minimum, Level 1 Fire Apparatus Technician Certification as certified by the Emergency Vehicle Technician Certification Commission. Additionally, fire departments should adhere to manufacturer guidelines and recommendations and applicable federal, state or provincial, and local laws regarding apparatus inspection and maintenance [NFPA1911].

Further, the NTSB has recommended, and NIOSH agrees, that all drivers of fire apparatus equipped with air brakes must undergo training and testing to demonstrate proficiency in the inspection and operation of air-braked vehicles. Such training should emphasize that manual adjustment of automatic slack adjusters is dangerous and should not be done, except during installation, or in an emergency situation when it is absolutely necessary to move the vehicle to a repair facility.

To see the full NIOSH publication, go to: http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/fire/SafetyAdvisory10202009.html ◆

Deputy State Fire Marshal Tom Leonard Retires After 44 Years of Service

By Donna Nelson, Assistant to the Deputy State Fire Marshal

The hours were long, the paperwork never ending, the personnel issues always complicated and the money always an issue, yet he always took the time to say "thank you" with a smile and a tip of the helmet. From being able to respond to fires 24/7 to creating a shared mission in a new state agency to building facilities to house the staff and develop two state-of-the art fire training facilities, Tom Leonard has been at the side of State Fire Marshal Stephen Coan since 1983.

Tom began his fire service career with the Town of Mansfield as a call firefighter in 1966 and then became a full-time firefighter in 1971. He continued his firefighter career with Mansfield, where his father was also a firefighter, and moved up to acting deputy fire chief in 1977, and finally to fire chief in 1978. Tom served as chief until 1983, when the then Massachusetts Firefighting Academy (MFA) Director, Stephen Coan, hired him as Assistant MFA Director. Unbeknownst to either of them, this would be, as Humphrey Bogart said at the end of the film, Casablanca, "…the beginning of a beautiful friendship."

Tom was appointed as Deputy State Fire Marshal in January 1995, with the creation of the Department of Fire Services (DFS) that combined the MA Firefighting Academy, the Office of the State Fire Marshal and the Hazardous Materials Response Program. Tom became responsible for all the day-to-day operations and administration of the new, growing state agency.

Photo by: *Christina Mitchell*

In his 27 years with the state, Tom has been responsible for the development and construction of the original Stow campus in the late 1980's, including the completion of the new academy building, the gas school, burn building and training tower. He was also very involved in the current Stow campus expansion project for the past five years, which is providing much needed office space, classrooms, locker rooms, public meeting space and equipment storage areas. In addition, he has been instrumental is making sure that DFS has a capable staff and the appropriate budget to meet its statewide mission of protecting the citizens of the Commonwealth as well as training exceptional firefighters throughout the state.

After 44 years in the fire service, including 27 with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Tom decided to retire as of January 31, 2010. He is looking for the many new challenges of retirement but won't be missing the daily commute from Mansfield to Stow. He still resides in Mansfield with his wife, Ellen, and son, Tim.

There is no doubt that Tom spent many, many hours at work, dealing with one crisis after another and was often late for many family events because of his work. Yet, his door was always open to listen to a staff person's issues and he somehow found the time to send handwritten "thank you" notes. Many times, he would even stop by a home or hospital after hours to deliver a kind word to a sick firefighter or a staff person. He also took the time to go to many after hours award ceremonies, wakes, retirement parties or any type of event that involved the people of DFS.

The people of DFS will miss Tom Leonard. ◆

22nd Annual CFSI Dinner and Seminars: April 28-29, 2010

The 22nd Annual CFSI National Fire and Emergency Services dinner and seminars will be held April 28-29, 2010 in Washington D.C. The seminars will continue to feature the preeminent leaders in public safety from both the federal government and national fire organizations. All seminars will take place in the newly renovated Hilton Washington conference facility. For more information contact the Congressional Fire Services Institute, 900 2nd St. NE, Washington, District of Columbia 20002 or online at www.cfsi.org. ◆

Tim Rodrique Receives Water Works Award

Tim Rodrique, Director of the Division of Fire Safety, received the James R. Fuller Award for 2009 from the Massachusetts Water Works Association for his work on residential sprinklers. The award is presented annually to a federal or state employee who best exemplifies Jim Fuller's dedication to the water supply field and his ability and willingness to work with others. This was the first time the award was not presented to someone who works for the Mass. Department of Environmental Protection or the federal Environmental Protection Agency. He was recognized for the work he has done to foster an open dialogue between water suppliers and the fire service. ◆

Fire Investigation Unit

Arrest in Northampton Fatal Fire and Arson Spree

On Sunday December 27, 2009, the City of Northampton experienced a terrifying arson spree that took an elderly man and his disabled adult son. In the end there were 14 motor vehicle fires, five building fires, and three attempted arsons of a building, all within an hour and a half of each other. As firefighters were putting out one blaze, the report of another came in. The Northampton Fire Department had their hands full and mobilized many mutual aid companies to manage this large scale incident. While fear gripped the city, citizens mobilized to assist one another and to establish crime watches, and a task force worked hard to determine who was responsible for this wave of arson fires. On January 4, 2010, just eight days later, 25-year old Anthony Baye of Northampton was arrested. Aggressive, tactical police work, and help from the community solved the case. There were many tips to the state Arson Hotline and that helped investigators to focus on Mr. Baye. He was found on surveillance video at times and places that contradicted what he told investigators. Initially he was charged with two counts of murder and two counts of arson for the fatal fire at 17 Fair Street, and one count of armed burglary and held without bail. On February 23, 2010, a grand jury indicted him on two counts of murder; 14 counts of arson of a motor vehicle; five counts of arson of a dwelling; two counts of attempted arson of a dwelling; one count of arson of a building; two counts of armed burglary; nine counts of breaking and entering a motor vehicle in the night time with an intent to commit a felony; and five counts of burning of personal property.

There have been a number of unsolved fires in the neighborhood around Mr. Baye's home over the past several years, but he is only charged with crimes that occurred on the night of December 27, 2009.

The task force included members of the Northampton Fire Department, Northampton Police Department, State Police assigned to the Office of the State Fire Marshal, the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives and Staet Police officers and assistan district attorneys from in Northwestern District Attorney Elizabeth Scheibel's office. ◆

Two Clinton Arsonists Convicted

In November 2009, John Rousseau and Michael Dreslinski, both of Clinton, were sentenced to two 15-year prison terms, to be followed immediately by 30 years of probation, and to pay more than $200,000 in restitution for a series of arsons across the state. They were convicted of setting fire to a Florida (MA) railroad shed, the former Usher Paper Mill in Erving on July 30, 2007, the historical Sawyer homestead in Sterling, also known as the "Mary Had a Little Lamb" house on August 12, 2007, and a Holden barn on August 13, 2007. State Police were able to secretly put a global positioning device on Dreslinski's truck that put the vehicle at the scene of all four fires and security camera videotapes put the two men in establishments near the fire scenes at times close to the fires. The fires were jointly investigated by the local fire and police departments, State Police assigned to the Office of the State Fire Marshal and to the Attorney General's Office, and the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. The case was prosecuted by Attorney General Martha Coakley's office. ◆

Blue Bombs

The State Police Bomb Squad recently responded to a local police department for a hand grenade brought into the station. While this is common enough, and these items are usually inert, what happened next is a lesson about when a little knowledge is a dangerous thing. Some of the members of the police department had prior military experience and in the military, when ordinance is painted blue, it means it is inert. This hand grenade was painted blue so the local police officers started to disassemble it. Fortunately they realized they could be making a fatal mistake and called the Mass. State Police Bomb Squad before going too far. The grenade did have explosive powder inside and had to be countercharged. It was made more dangerous by the partial disassembling as well.

The State Police Bomb Squad can be activated 24/7 by calling 508 820 2121. Police and fire departments should never hesitate to call. ◆

PLYMOUTH MAN SUES HP OVER

Laptop House Fire

John Norrie of Plymouth is suing Hewlett Packard after his laptop computer started a fire in his home in November 2006 while he was asleep. His home was destroyed and he was injured escaping the flames. The fire was jointly investigated by the Plymouth Fire and Police Departments and State Police assigned to the Office of the State Fire Marshal. The investigation determined that the cause of the fire was related to the laptop overheating. The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission issued a joint recall with Hewlett-Packard for the fire hazard with the HP Pavillion Notebook. In recent years, several computer makers have recalled laptop computer batteries for posing a fire hazard. It is not clear if it is the surfaces that the computers are placed on that causes these fires, or if the overheating is due to internal problems with the computers. ◆

Conviction in Brockton Fatal Fire

On July 6, 2006, a woman started a fire at 779 Montello Street in Brockton at 5:45 a.m. by putting her hand through the window and using her lighter to ignited the curtains. There were 14 people in the house at the time. The second floor tenants jumped out the windows. Olinda Calderon, a 28-year old mother died in the fire. Firefighters rescued three other third floor residents. Only a few days before, Chitera Thomas had threatened to burn down the house after a dispute with one of the first floor tenants. On March 1, 2010, the 25-year old woman was convicted of first-degree murder, 13 counts of attempted murder, and burning a dwelling. She was sentenced to life in prison without parole on March10. The fire was jointly investigated by the Plymouth Fire Department, the Plymouth Police Department and State Police assigned to the Office of the State Fire Marshal. The case was prosecuted by the Plymouth District Attorney's Office. ◆

Photo by: *Robert Myers, Brockton Fire*

Weymouth Man Convicted of Threatening Police with IED

On December 14, 2009, a Weymouth man was found guilty of possession of an infernal machine and illegal and improper storage of firearms. The man had made threats against the Weymouth Police Department and individual members of the police department on March 17, 2008 (St. Patrick's Day). A search of his home found an actual explosive device, which was rendered safe by the State Police bomb squad, as well as several illegal firearms. The device was intended to harm responding Weymouth Police officers. The man was sentenced to 8-10 years in state prison. State Police assigned to the South Team investigated the incident. ◆

Worcester Firefighter Convicted of Arson

On Thursday December 3, 2009, a man was convicted n Worcester Superior Court on charges of burning a dwelling, burning insured property, and larceny over $250 for an arson fire at 65 Heywood Street in Worcester on August 15, 2006. What is truly sad about this case is that the man was a Worcester firefighter out on injury leave at the time of the fire. He was sentenced to 5-7 years in state prison. The fire was jointly investigated by the Worcester Fire Department, Worcester Police Department and the State Police assigned to the Central Fire Investigation Team. ◆

Chemical Reaction Bombs Charges

John Soares, 19, was arrested in December 2009 for a series of so-called chemical reaction bombs in New Bedford's South End on weekends in November 2009. The "soda bottle bombs" were placed in front of convenience stores, restaurants and even the South End Police Station in the late evening and early morning hours. Fortunately, there were no injuries or serious property damage. He escaped from police custody and was re-arrested a few days later in East Greenwich, RI. The State Police Bomb Squad was called to render one device safe. Soares is charged with setting at least five chemical reaction bombs and with larceny under $250 for the handcuffs he took when he fled policy custody. ◆

WPI Receives $1 Million to Develop Integrated Monitoring System Aimed at Preventing Firefighter Injuries and Deaths

By Worcester Polytechnic Institute

The System Will Locate Firefighters, Monitor Their Health, and Detect the Risk of Flashover to Avert Tragedies Like the 1999 Worcester Cold Storage Warehouse Fire

WORCESTER, Mass. – Nov. 30, 2009 — Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI) has received a one-year, $1 million award from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to develop the final component of an integrated monitoring system designed to reduce firefighter deaths and injuries by precisely locating and tracking them inside buildings in three dimensions, continuously monitoring their vital signs to warn incident commanders when they are at risk of stress-related heart attacks, and taking floor-to-ceiling temperature readings inside buildings to provide an early warning of impending flashover.

Work on the location and tracking and physiological monitoring components of the system began as a direct response to the 1999 Worcester Cold Storage Warehouse fire, in which six firefighters died when they became lost in dense smoke inside the mazelike, windowless structure. With more than $4 million in funding from the Department of Justice, the Department of Homeland Security, FEMA, and the U.S. Army, the WPI Precision Personnel Location (PPL) research team has developed and extensively tested a system that uses advanced radio frequency and radar technology to locate firefighters to within a few feet in three dimensions and display their locations and movements on a display screen at the incident commander's station. Physiological monitoring is provided by a wireless pulse oximeter developed by WPI researchers that is worn on the forehead and a sensor-embedded T-shirt made by Foster-Miller. Physiological information is integrated into the incident commander's display.

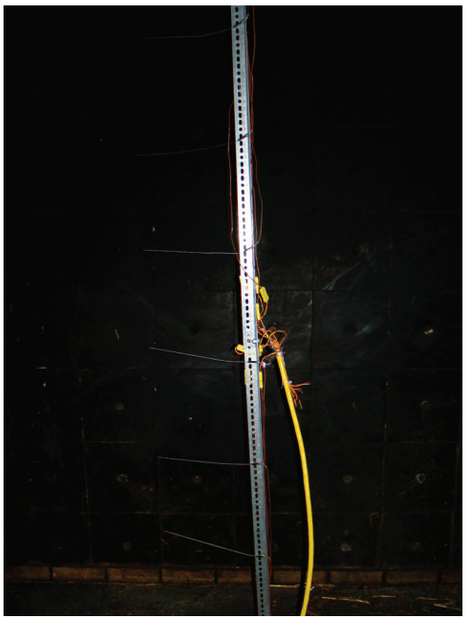

Photo by: *Prof. R. James Duckworth, WPI*

With the FEMA award, the PPL team, which consists of faculty members and students in WPI's Electrical and Computer Engineering Department, will work with researchers in the university's world-renowned Fire Protection Engineering Department and engineers at the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) and QinetiQ North America/ Foster-Miller to develop an inexpensive, portable, disposable wireless sensor array called the Fireground Environment Sensor Monitoring (ESM) System that can be carried into a building and placed in selected rooms by firefighters. Once in place, the device will deploy a mast that will rise to the ceiling. The mast will have temperature sensors every 30 centimeters and a heat flux sensor in its base.

Data from the sensors will be transmitted to the incident command station where it will be processed by custom-designed algorithms. The risk of extreme heat stress and time to flashover (the point when all combustible materials in a room simultaneously erupt in flames) will be displayed on the incident commander's screen, along with the firefighters' locations and vital signs. The WPI researchers estimate that the system will extend the warning time firefighters have of pending flashover from about eight seconds (with modern heat-resistant gear, firefighters often don't sense extreme heat until it is too late) to well over a minute.

The ESM is designed to help lower the incidence of injuries (particularly burns) related to extreme temperatures and flashover. It will also help incident commanders plan an attack on a developing fire using the right number of firefighters and the safest and most effective route and better plan rescue missions for civilians and downed firefighters. With the addition of the new device, the WPI monitoring system will help address all three of the primary causes of firefighter fatalities: stress-related heart attacks, traumatic injuries, and becoming lost or disabled inside burning structures. "The prediction of the time to flashover will give the incident commander a critical piece

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Photo by: *Prof. R. James Duckworth, WPI*

Teens, Fire, Education and Medical Officials Launch Burn Awareness Week

Winners of High School Burn Awareness Video Contest Announced

On February 8, 2010, State Fire Marshal Stephen D. Coan and Thomas D'Esmond, administrator, Shriners Hospitals for Children Boston launched Burn Awareness Week (February 7-13, 2010) at a presentation hosted by Shriners Hospitals for Children in Boston, a pediatric burn hospital. The winners of a statewide contest for high school media students, the YouTube™ Burn Awareness Video Contest, sponsored by the state Department of Fire Services, the Mass. Association of Safety and Fire Educators (MA SAFE), and the Mass. Property Insurance Underwriting Association, were announced at the event.

"There are many negative, false and just plain scary messages about fire and burns in the videos teenagers make and watch on the Internet," said Fire Marshal Coan. "Our goal is to allow teenagers to research the truth for themselves without being lectured to by adults and without getting hurt."

Teens Talking to Teens

"The contest was designed to have teens explore the issues around burn prevention for themselves and convey those messages in a way other teens are likely to pay attention to," said Capt. Rick Tustin, president of MA SAFE. "Our goal was to partner with high school media teachers and use burn prevention as a vehicle to help them reach their own education goals while allowing the students to harness their creativity."

Winning Videos

This is the second year of the contest and 30 teams from nine high schools in Agawam, Beverly, Cambridge, Cheshire, Everett, Marlboro, Sharon, Springfield and Westford submitted entries. While all 30 videos were creative and interesting, the first place winners were from Nashoba Valley Technical High School for their video *Burn Awareness Trio*; the second place winners were from Sharon High School for their video *The Birthday Party*; and the third place winners were from Marblehead High School for their video *Fire Safety*. To see the winning videos on the Department of Fire Services You Tube™ channel, go to www.YouTube/DSFOSFM.

Honorable Mentions

Teams from the Landmark School in Beverly, the High School of Science and Technology in Springfield and second teams from Sharon High School and from the Nashoba Valley Technical High School received honorable mention for their entries.

Burn Awareness Video Contest

The contest was open to grade 9-12 students enrolled in Massachusetts' schools and submissions had to be from school-sponsored communications courses or sponsored extra-curricular groups. Communications teachers or faculty sponsors were required to review and approve all storyboards before filming started. Videos were required to be one to three minutes long, explore burn prevention topics, be well researched, not demonstrate risky or unsafe behavior, and to be both educational and informative. This contest addressed learning standard

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WPI Receives $1 Million to Develop...

Continued from Page 6

of information that, when combined with the location of each firefighter, will greatly enhance the natural decision making process" noted Kathy Notarianni, associate professor and head of the WPI's Department of Fire Protection Engineering.

The heat flux sensor for the ESM will be developed by WPI engineers, while the team at QinetiQ North America/Foster-Miller will develop the deployable temperature sensor mast. Initial testing of the system will be conducted in the burn chamber in WPI's fire science laboratory. Larger-scale tests will be conducted in the large burn building at the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy in Stow, Mass. Results of the tests will be evaluated with fire models developed by WPI's Fire Protection Engineering Department and NIST to determine and fine-tune algorithms for predicting the risk of flashover. The Worcester Fire Department will assist with the integration of the temperature data and flashover risk information into the existing incident command display developed by the WPI PPL team.

"Firefighting technology has always been borrowed from other fields," said David Cyganski, professor of electrical and computer engineering at WPI and a member of the PPL research team. "New important advances for saving firefighters will come from projects like this that address their specific needs directly." Added James Duckworth, associate professor of electrical and computer engineering, "We believe this work will help provide firefighters with the necessary technology to ensure that there is not a repeat of the 1999 warehouse fire tragedy." ◆

Teens, Fire, Education

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components 27.6 (Gr. 9-10) and 27.8 (Gr. 11-12) of the Massachusetts English Language Arts Curriculum Framework (June 2001), Media Strand - General Standard 27: Media Production. School districts offering communications classes, which include the design and creation of media productions, were encouraged to promote this contest through an independent or group assignment as part of its curriculum delivery.

For more information about burn safety or the contest go to www.mass.gov/dfs, then click on *Fire Safety Topics*, then select *Burn Awareness* or www.burnawarenessweek.org.

Prizes

MA SAFE and the Mass. Property Insurance Underwriting Association sponsored prizes for the top three winning videos. The Grand Prize was a digital video camera for the school and members of the winning team shared $200 in gifts cards from Best Buy™. The Second Place team shared $100 in gift cards from Best Buy™. The Third Place team shared $50 in gift cards from Best Buy™.

Judges

The judges included Capt. Rick Tustin, president of MA SAFE, Ron Meehan from the Mass. Property Insurance Underwriting Association, Christine Farrell-O'Reilly, Director, of the MA Department of Public Health's Residential Fire Injury Prevention Program, and Melissa Gorman, R.N. and Kathy Golden from the Shriners Hospital for Children.

"The Mass. Property Insurance Underwriting Association is pleased to be part of this innovative approach to teaching fire and burn safety to teenagers," said Ron Meehan, representing the property and casualty insurance companies of Massachusetts. "Our company has sponsored an annual poster contest in the middle school since 1982 and this is a great way to reach older youths," he added.

Shriners Hospitals Sponsors of National Burn Awareness Week

"The theme of this year's Burn Awareness Week is preventing scald and gasoline burns. It is an opportunity to remind ourselves of the proper use of gasoline, that hot liquids burn like fire and the necessary safety measures we can take to keep our families as safe as possible," said Tom D'Esmond. "Because gasoline is so commonly used to fuel our cars, lawnmowers and other outdoor machinery, people often forget that gasoline can be dangerous and precautions need to be taken to prevent injury," he added. Shriners Hospitals and Shriners International are the national sponsors of Burn Awareness Week.

Teens and Young Adults at Risk for Both Scald and Gasoline Burns

"Many of the videos teenagers and young adults see and post on popular video websites such as You Tube™, demonstrate risky or otherwise unsafe behavior but never tell the rest of the story – the painful, enduring injuries that occur," said Coan. According to the Massachusetts Burn Injury Reporting System (M-BIRS), which by law collects injury reports on all burns affecting 5% or more of the entire body surface area, individuals in the 15-24 year-old age group accounted for one-fifth of the gasoline related burns and nearly one-quarter of scald burns in 2008," said Coan.

"This high school video contest builds upon the successful relationships that school and fire departments have built over the past 15 years of the Student Awareness of Fire Education or S.A.F.E. Program here in Massachusetts," said Fire Marshal Coan. The S.A.F.E. Program provides grants to fire departments to make trained fire and life safety educators available to work with classroom teachers to deliver age-appropriate lessons. ◆

S.A.F.E. Young Heroes

SAFE
STUDENT AWARENESS OF FIRE EDUCATION

Brewster

Krista Svenningsen
On October 4, 2009 at 8:10 a.m. smoke detectors were sounding in the home of Krista Svenningsen. Krista's mother was cooking with oil when the rug in the kitchen caught fire. The mother and children all knew to go to their meeting place and Krista called 9-1-1 from a neighbor's phone. Krista knew what to do and how to react during a fire thanks to the training she received in the 4th grade at the Eddy Elementary School by the Brewster Fire Department's S.A.F.E. Program.

Georgetown

Jake Richards
On July 21, 2009 at 9:03 p.m. 5-year old Jake Richards was watching television with his father. Jake's mother was in the kitchen and his brother was upstairs with a friend. Jake got up to use the bathroom and said he could smell smoke. Initially his parents thought it was just from the cooking. Jake insisted he smelled smoke and could hear something in the garage. Jake's father opened the door to the garage and saw flames. As the home smoke alarms sounded, Jake remained calm. While his mother called 9-1-1 to report the fire, Jake helped his brother and friend out of the house. Jake knew what to do and how to react during a fire thanks to the training he received in Kindergarten at the Perley School from the Georgetown Fire Department's S.A.F.E. Program.

Groton

Jordan, Shaelyn, and

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S.A.F.E. Young Heroes

Continued from Page 8

Meagan Sweenie
On the morning of July 2, 2009, the 8-year-old triplets smelled smoke in the house and alerted their parents that it was coming from the basement. There was an electrical fire in the basement and the smoke detectors never activated. As they had been taught in their S.A.F.E. class at the Florence Roche Elementary School by the Groton firefighters, the girls quickly got out of the house and stayed out. They did not stop to grab belongings. When the parents reentered the house to investigate, the girls reminded them that the firefighters say, "Get Out and Stay Out!" No one was injured in the incident.

Hanson

Christian Silva
On Monday, February 1, 2010, 6-year old Christian Silva's mother suffered a medical emergency and her son called for help. Christian phoned 9-1-1, spoke clearly, stayed calm, gave the correct address, and waited for the arrival of the fire department and EMS personnel. During the emergency, Christian had the presence of mind to secure the family dog in its crate and met the fire department at the front door upon their arrival. Christian learned about 9-1-1 at home from his parents and the Hanson S.A.F.E. program reinforced his learning in school. When it counted, he put his knowledge and skills to use and his actions resulted in a very quick response by the fire department to help his mom.

Springfield

Ian Marron
On the morning of February 14, 2010, Ian Marron awoke about 4:30 in the morning to the sound of smoke alarms going off in his manufactured home. He immediately realized that there was a fire in his house and without hesitation Ian ran to awaken family members, one of whom has a hearing impairment. After waking everyone Ian remembered from his S.A.F.E. education in school and at community events to go directly to his family meeting place in front of the house. A neighbor called 9-1-1. Ian also remembered from his training not to return to a burning building which was a hard desire to fight because he wanted to save his beloved dog DJ, who perished in the fire.

Wakefield

Tommy Frohlichstein
On the evening of January 13, 2010 at 6:30 p.m. 6-year old Tommy Frohlichstein's mother was dealing with a smoke condition in their house caused when she started a fire in the fireplace and the damper was accidentally left in the closed position. She told him to call for help. Tommy called the seven-digit emergency number for the fire department and reported that smoke alarms were going off and there was smoke in the house. He spoke clearly, stayed calm, gave the correct address, and waited for instructions from the dispatcher. After receiving instructions, he promptly went outside with his 4th grade sister. Tommy's quick actions resulted in a very quick response by the fire department.

Mila Frohlichstein
On the evening of January 13, 2010 at 6:30 p.m. 10-year old Mila Frohlichstein's mother was dealing with a smoke condition in their house caused when she started a fire in the fireplace and the damper was accidentally left in the closed position. Mila stayed calm, observed her brother correctly report the emergency and immediately assisted her younger brother and mother in exiting their home together to the meeting place.

Weymouth

One July 2009 morning after a Weymouth block party where fireworks had been used, a group of four 8-12 year old boys found a pack of unused fireworks. Resisting temptation was great for this group of boys, but they did not touch the fireworks; they simply went and told an adult what they had found. This incident could have turned tragic, but it didn't.

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Plymouth Teens Charged with Making Molotov Cocktails

On January 11, 2010, three 15-year old Plymouth high school students were charged with making Molotov cocktails, which were found underneath one of the student's back porch. The two boys and a girl had practiced their Molotov cocktails in the basement of a vacant house at 77 Cypress Street in Plymouth. They were charged with making, selling, using and possessing a Molotov cocktail, attempt to burn a dwelling, breaking and entering in the nighttime and malicious destruction of property. While there was no threat to the school, community members were concerned because the information came to light on the same day that a survivor of the Columbine, CO High School massacre was addressing students at South Plymouth High. The matter was investigated by the Plymouth Police Department and State Police assigned to the Office of the State Fire Marshal's South Team. ◆

Home Oxygen Safety Campaign

On January 21, 2010 State Fire Marshal Stephen D. Coan, Dr. Colleen Ryan of Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH), and the state Task Force on Home Oxygen Safety unveiled a public awareness campaign on the fire danger of home oxygen use at MGH.

"Tragic blazes such as the Quincy fire on December 26, 2009, the Whitman fire last May, and the South Boston fire of 2002 — where a smoker using home oxygen ignited a fire resulting in the death of an eight-year-old girl — highlight the risks associated with home oxygen use," says State Fire Marshal Coan.

"As the baby boomer generation ages, more and more patients are treated in their homes with portable medical oxygen," says Colleen Ryan, MD, Staff Surgeon, Sumner Redstone Burn Center, Massachusetts General Hospital and an Associate Professor of Surgery, Harvard Medical School. "It's crucial that patients, their families, physicians and other caregivers are aware of and understand fire risks associated with home oxygen use," she adds.

The campaign will include television and radio public service announcements, a printed brochure, and educational guidelines for firefighters, injury prevention professionals, and first responders. The television and radio public service announcements will run through June. Home Oxygen Safety campaign materials are available on the Department of Fire Services website at Home Oxygen Safety (www.mass.gov/dfs then *Fire Safety Topics*, then *Home Oxygen Safety*.)

Since 1997 home oxygen has been involved in 26 fire deaths in Massachusetts, caused more than 50 serious injuries, seven firefighter injuries and 71 identifiable incidents. In 2009 alone there were five severe fire incidents with home oxygen; one involved a candle and four involved smoking. Two weeks after the campaign was launched, there were two fatal fires involving smoking and home oxygen over Valentine's Day weekend. One was in Lynn and the other was in Worcester.

"Physicians who care for patients with chronic lung disease look forward to using these new materials to help patients and their family members understand the fire risks of home oxygen use," says Paul F. Currier, MD, MPH, Director of Quality of the Pulmonary and Critical Care Division of Massachusetts General Hospital. "There are more resources for patients trying to quit smoking today than ever before. I would encourage any smoker to ask their doctor about what help is available."

"While smoking is the leading cause of fires involving home oxygen, it is not the only cause. It is important to keep ten feet away from any flame or heat source such as electric razors, gas stoves, heaters, hair dryers, and candles. Don't wear oxygen near heat sources or when using these appliances," says Coan. "Home oxygen increases oxygen levels in the air, making fires burn faster and hotter. Furniture, clothes, bedding and hair absorb oxygen and can catch fire easily. This is a key point that most people don't understand and is why home oxygen increases fire risk."

"People need to think about how flammable products such as hair spray and petroleum-based lip balms and lotions can catch fire in the presence of increased oxygen. A cigarette, a candle or other heat source can ignite them quickly which poses a significant risk for these patients," adds Ryan.

Understanding that increased oxygen present in the air, furniture, hair, clothing and bedding can ignite and accelerate a fire, patients using home oxygen need to know that even though the tank may be shut off, the danger still remains.

Less Dangerous Smoking

There is no safe way to smoke if you use home oxygen. However, until you do quit there is a less dangerous way. Shut off the oxygen. Wait ten minutes and go outside to smoke. This will stop adding new oxygen to your clothes and hair and then it will allow the oxygen to dissipate more quickly into the larger atmosphere instead of adding to an already oxygen-enriched home environment.

Risk to Firefighters

Increased oxygen in a fire building increases the danger to firefighters. Their protective gear will catch fire at a lower temperature when there is more oxygen in the room. Along with risks to the patient, their family, and other building residents, home oxygen fires also pose a greater threat to firefighters, as their equipment catches fire at a much lower temperature leaving them vulnerable to life threatening injuries.

"Understanding that there is no way to smoke safely when using home oxygen, patients who smoke can best protect themselves, their loved ones and neighbors by quitting," says Currier. "There are a variety of resources available for smokers looking to quit and having a conversation with their doctor is a great way to start." ◆

S.A.F.E. Young Heroes

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Wilbraham

¨Michael Farnham

On the evening of January 21, 2010, 14-year-old Michael Farnham phoned 9-1-1 after a serious medical emergency occurred at his home involving his 3-year-old sister. Michael remained calm; his sister could be heard crying in the background as he described the emergency in detail to the operator and gave her emergency care while awaiting the arrival of the fire department and EMS personnel. Michael's parents credit his actions to first aid lessons he learned in school from the Wilbraham Fire S.A.F.E. Program and reinforcement of those skills at home. ◆

Use of Houses of Worship as Shelter During Cold Weather Emergencies

State Fire Marshal Stephen D. Coan and state Department of Public Safety Commissioner Thomas G. Gatzunis announced in December that the Board of Building Regulations and the Board of Fire Prevention Regulations passed tandem regulations for using houses of worship as temporary shelter during cold weather. These regulations are in effect as of December 1.

State Fire Marshal Stephen D. Coan said, "This balances the need to protect people from extreme weather with the basic public safety concerns reflected in the fire, building and health codes."

Commissioner Gatzunis said, "Places of worship are not necessarily designed to accommodate overnight guests. However, board members recognized the need to provide warm, safe shelter to those who may otherwise be subject to the, sometimes, brutally cold conditions of a New England winter. The new regulations take into consideration the limitations of an existing place of worship and overlays additional safety features and inspection processes"

Limitations, Keeping Exits Clear, No Smoking and Alarms

Houses of worship can now be used as temporary shelters for a maximum of 35 days between September 15 and June 15 each year with a maximum of seven consecutive days to ensure a truly temporary use. No smoking is allowed inside. The installation and maintenance of smoke and carbon monoxide alarms is also required. A plan showing the occupant load, seating diagram and location of exits and of aisles leading to them must be posted near the main entrance and a copy given to the fire department. If the Governor declares a state of emergency, there is a provision that would allow these limits to be extended.

Gatzunis said, "This is an important piece of regulation that will assist municipal authorities and well-intentioned citizens to provide safe assistance to those in need during the long winter ahead."

Response Person on Premises

A responsible person must be on the premises to maintain clear exits, assure there is no overcrowding, and initiate a fire alarm if necessary. The person must also have training in emergency evacuation, a landline to report an emergency, and enforce the no smoking rule.

Notify the Building Department

In order to operate a temporary overnight shelter a temporary certificate of occupancy must first be obtained from the city or town building official. The building official must forward the application for a temporary certificate of occupancy to the fire chief and health official for review. Finally, the building, fire, and health officials must conduct a site visit with the building owner and the applicant.

Notify the Fire Department

The fire department must be noticed before a house of worship becomes a temporary shelter and must be provided with the number of people to be housed, the hours of operation, and the name and contact information for the responsible party, as well as when the property ceases to be used as a temporary shelter.

"Most fatal fires occur in homes at night when people are asleep. When we temporarily convert a house of worship to a place where people sleep, we need to make sure safety from fire is adequately provided for so we don't trade one risk of harm for another," said Coan.

In the past five years (2004-2008), there were 392 fires in houses of worship according to the Mass. Fire Incident Reporting System (MFIRS). They caused 16 firefighter injuries and $16.4 million in property damage. "Fires in houses of worship profoundly affect not only the worshipers but also the entire community," said Coan. ◆

The High Cost of Fires vs. Low Cost of Sprinklers by Zip Code

Greg Rogers from South Kitsap Fire and Rescue in Washington sent this information on an insurance company's program that let's you see the cost of different types of claims by zip code.

I received ths information at the Residential Fire Safety Conference in AZ. During the Allstate insurance presentation, they showed a program from the Allstate web site that was called the most common and costly claims. This program allows you to enter a zip code and see the five most common claims and the most costly claims. Some interesting facts you will see is the most costly claim is usually due to fire. I would suggest everyone enter your own zip code and compare them to a community with a residential sprinkler ordinance for over the last 20 years. Scottsdale, AZ zip codes are 85261, 85266, 85267, 85271. You will see some very interesting dollar figures on the most costly and common claims.

http://www.allstate.com/landingpages/common_and_costly_claims.aspx ◆

Commercial Hood & Duct Cleaners and Inspectors Must Now Be Certified

As of January 1. 2010, the state's Board of Fire Prevention Regulations requires anyone inspecting or cleaning commercial cooking exhaust systems, such as those found in restaurant kitchens, to have a certificate of competency from the State Fire Marshal. Additionally, all inspections must be done according to standards established in the new regulation, 527 CMR 11.00, which adopted many provisions contained in the nationally recognized standards of the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA).

Photo by: *Matt Allen, DFS*

Certificates of Competency

There are two levels of certificate of competency available. Both of these certificates require that the individual pass a written examination offered by the State Fire Marshal's Office. One is for those who are in the business of cleaning and inspecting commercial cooking exhaust systems (Type 1). The other is a restricted certificate of competency (Type 2) for those who only clean commercial exhaust systems in businesses they own or operate. However, only those with a Type 1 certificate can conduct inspections.

Notice of Non-Compliance

If a person holding a certificate of competency finds that a commercial cooking operation, after cleaning or inspection, is still not in compliance with 527 CMR 11 (relative to grease build up), a written notice on a form developed by the Marshal, shall be given to the local fire department within 48 hours and a copy given to the owner. The form is prescribed in the regulation. The cleaner or inspector must be able to clean or inspect the entire system, from the stove to where it vents to the outside in order to meet the requirements of the code.

Both the certified inspector, cleaner and the owner or operator of a commercial kitchen must maintain all cleaning and inspection records for at least three years on the premises. The minimum requirements for what needs to be in these records can be found on the Department of Fire Services website, www.mass.gov/dfs.

Tips on Hiring a Hood and Duct Cleaning Company

Here are some tips for restaurant owners and managers:

- Only a professional with the proper type of certificate of competency can now inspect and clean commercial cooking exhaust systems. The frequency of inspection is determined by the regulation and is based upon the type of cooking operation.
- Ask to see the technician's certification, which has a photograph on the back. You can double check that a person is certified with the Department of Fire Services by calling the Licensing Unit at (978) 567-3700.
- If you have any questions about who the employee is, feel free to contact the hood cleaning company.
- Only people you have approved and contracted with should be performing this work. Do not allow people who show up unexpectedly to perform hood cleaning or inspections. (If your home office contracts and schedules this work, check with them first.)
- The manager of the restaurant should accompany the technician during the inspection or cleaning and ask questions about the work that is being performed.
- Always ask for a written record of each inspection/cleaning activity, which shall be kept on the premises for three years. If the record does not have the company name listed, that should raise concerns and does not comply with the regulation.
- Pay for services by check instead of cash. Paying by cash makes fraud harder to track.
- Talk to other business owners. Ask whom they use for this work and if would they recommend them.
- If someone implies that they are from a government inspection agency, ask to see their identification. True government officials will gladly show you their identification. If you have any doubts, contact the agency for verification prior to the work.

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Board of Fire Prevention Regulations Address Floor Refinishing

State Fire Marshal Stephen D. Coan and David P. Demers, Chair of the Board of Fire Prevention Regulations' announced that the board revised its regulations on floor refinishing in late 2009.

Over the past several years there have been several tragic fires stemming from the many fire hazards that the floor refinishing process poses. Coan said, "These revised regulations address the many different fire hazards of floor finishing – improper electrical hook-ups, the storage of waste materials, and dust explosion hazards, as well as the application of flammable liquids."

In September 2004, a Somerville explosion and fire in a triple-decker caused the deaths of two workers, injured two workers and four firefighters. It is believed that vapors from the flammable liquids were ignited by the pilot light on the gas water heater. In July 2005, a 43-year old man was part of a floor sanding crew that was refinishing the hardwood floors in a Hull single-family home. Once again, fumes from the sealant came in contact with the pilot of the gas water heater causing an explosion and the ensuing fire.

Permit and Notice to Fire Department Required

The regulations amended to address the fire hazards of wood floor sanding, finishing or refinishing originally applied to such work only in bowling alleys. Starting June 1, 2010, a fire department permit will be required when certain flammable liquids are going to be used in floor refinishing.

Preventing Flammable Liquid Fires

The regulations require the removal of ignition sources such as pilot lights prior to the application of finishing products considered flammable liquids until the product has dried. It also prohibits using flammable liquids when direct ventilation of the space to the outside is not possible. The new regulation also requires posting warning signs in buildings with more than one dwelling unit when flammable liquids are used in floor finishing.

Preventing Electrical Fires

It reinforces the fact that an electrical wiring permit is required by the Massachusetts Electrical Code when connecting equipment directly to an electrical panel. Some floor refinishing equipment use larger amounts of electricity than home outlets typically provide, so the equipment is often connected directly to the electrical panel in violation of the code. This poses a fire risk and bypasses the normal circuit protection in electrical systems.

Preventing Fires From Dust and Rags

The regulations also address the safe storage of flammable and combustible products and waste materials. There have been many fires started by the spontaneous combustion of the dust from floor sanding put into airtight bags and from rags soaked in combustible and flammable liquids. Some floor finishing products such as linseed oil are considered combustible but not flammable. Rags soaked in combustible chemicals still pose a serious fire risk if not properly handled. The regulations require use of a metal waste can with a self-closing cover for all waste products including wood dust and rags. The can must be removed from the building daily and the materials properly disposed of.

On May 24, 2008, a fire started in a North Reading home where they were refinishing the hardwood floors. It started in a corner where there was trash, urethane soaked rags and sawdust from sanding the floors. ◆

Commercial Hood...

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Report Possible Violations to Local Fire Department

Please report to the local fire department anyone performing this work who does not hold proper certification or fails to complete the work. These are violations of the fire prevention regulations and can create a dangerous condition.

Fire Suppression Inspections

Regular inspections of the hood and duct fire suppression system are also required and can only be done by someone holding a Pre-Engineered Fire Suppression Systems Certificate of Competency from the State Fire Marshal. These inspections should be done twice a year.

Consumer Protection Issues

If you are dissatisfied with the vendor's service or believe that you have been over charged, you should contact the Attorney General's Consumer Protection Division at (617) 727-8400, or online at www.mass.gov/ago and click on *Consumer Protection*. They have a network of local consumer programs that can address consumer issues. If you suspect fraud call the local police department.

More Information on the Regulation and Getting a Certificate of Competency

The fire code regulation on commercial cooking systems is 527 CMR 11 and can be viewed on the Department of Fire Services website at: www.mass.gov/dfs. If you have any questions about commercial fire suppression system regulations, please contact your local fire prevention office or the Division of Fire Safety, formerly the Office of the State Fire Marshal, at (978) 567-3375, or in western Massachusetts at (413) 587-3181. Information about obtaining a certificate of competency is also on our website. ◆

Fire Prevention Board Revises Smoke Detector Regulations

The Board of Fire Prevention Regulations recently revised smoke detector regulations for homes with five or fewer units that will take effect on April 5, 2010. The board and Department of Fire Services' staff spent many months studying and researching the available technology before adopting these changes to the smoke detector regulation. State Fire Marshal Stephen D. Coan said, "I believe these changes in the regulation provide the best level of public safety by providing the earliest possible warning of a fire."

Revisions to Regulation

The regulation will now require only photoelectric smoke detectors be installed within 20 feet of a kitchen or bath containing a shower, in order to reduce nuisance alarms from cooking smoke or steam that lead people to disable their smoke detectors. Areas located beyond this 20 foot area will be required to contain dual detection, both photoelectric and ionization, using either a single detector or two separate ones

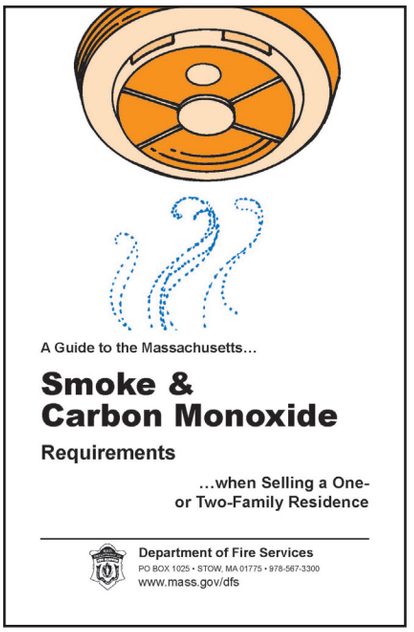
Use of Technology to Provide Earliest Warning of Fire

Smoke detectors use two main technologies: photoelectric and ionization. Photoelectric smoke detectors are more effective in detecting slow moving or smoldering fire situations whereas ionization detectors are slightly more effective in detecting fast moving fires.

Coan said, "The Department of Fire Services is working to make sure the general public, realtors and the fire service understand these new smoke detectors requirements."

Enforcement on Sale or Transfer

The enforcement of the regulation will continue to take place when the residence is sold or transferred. Homeowners selling their homes after April 5, 2010 will have to meet these new requirements.



Pending Legislation

New legislation (S.990) has been filed which will require smoke detector inspections for residential homes with five or fewer units be conducted upon sale or transfer, regardless of the date of construction. The legislation will allow the new regulations to be applied to homes built after January 1975. Fire chiefs across the state believe this change is imperative in order to provide the best possible protection to the public.

Working Smoke Detectors Double Chances of Surviving a Fire

"We must continue to update our fire prevention code to keep pace with evolving technology, knowledge of human behavior, and scientific research," said Coan. "I want to stress that working smoke detectors double your chances of surviving a fire."

Carbon Monoxide Alarms

Since March 2006, homes have been required to install carbon monoxide detectors on each habitable level as well.

For more information about smoke and carbon monoxide alarms, contact your local fire department's prevention office, or the Department of Fire Service's website at www.mass.gov/dfs then click on "Division of Fire Safety". To help guide homeowners and realtors understand the requirements, A Guide to the Massachusetts Smoke and Carbon Monoxide Requirements When Selling a One- or Two-Family Residence has been published and is also available online.

About the Board of Fire Prevention Regulations

The fourteen members of the Board of Fire Prevention Regulations are appointed by the governor and are responsible for promulgating a comprehensive fire safety code (527 Code of Massachusetts Regulations) for the Commonwealth. The Department of Fire Services is responsible for implementing and enforcing these regulations. ◆

Home Oil Heating Upgrade and Insurance Law

Massachusetts has a new law to address oil leaks from home heating systems (see Chapter 453 of the Acts of 2008). By July 1, 2010, homeowners using oil heat must upgrade their home heating system equipment to prevent leaks from tanks and pipes that connect to the furnace. This law has two major provisions that require:

- the installation of either an oil safety valve or an oil supply line with protective sleeve on systems that do not currently have these devices; and
- insurance companies that write homeowner policies to offer coverage for leaks from heating systems that use oil.

Most homeowner policies do not currently include such coverage, leaving many to pay for costly cleanups out of their own pocket. The Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) has information available at http://www.mass.gov/dep/cleanup/laws/hhsl.htm ◆

Plans Review Desk

Townhomes

There remains confusion amongst the fire prevention community about what fire and life safety requirements apply to townhomes. By now, most of you know that the 7th edition of the Massachusetts State Building Code (780 CMR) is in effect for all newly permitted construction. Townhomes, sometimes dubbed row-housing, are typically referred to as single-family dwelling units that are physically attached. There are significant differences between the 7th edition of 780 CMR and the previous 6th edition.

The 7th edition of 780 CMR now requires all townhomes to be protected by fire sprinkler systems, regardless of the rating of the separations between units. This information can be found in Section 903.2.8 and the published Errata to Annex Section 120.Z. See the MA Department of Public Safety's website for the Building Code (www.mass.gov/dps). The Errata explains that Townhomes need to be considered as an R-2 Use Group for the purposes of the Building Code, and should be protected according to Chapter 9 of 780 CMR as if an R-2 Use.

In the previous 6th edition of 780 CMR, the determination of whether fire sprinkler systems were required depended on the fire rating of the separation between townhouse dwelling units or pairs of dwelling units. If a 2-hour fire-resistance rated separation was provided between each dwelling unit, the Building Code did not require fire sprinkler protection. Lower rated separations required different levels of fire sprinkler protection. This information was found in Section 310.4, part of the Chapter 3 Use Group definitions.

Also remember that, under the latest 7th edition of 780 CMR, larger residential use structures require protection using NFPA 13, not NFPA 13R or NFPA 13D. According to Section 903.2.8 of 780 CMR, if the aggregate floor area of the residential building exceeds 12,000 square feet, then the structure must be protected using NFPA 13. For the purposes of Section 903.2.8, the aggregate area of the structure is measured ignoring the presence of any fire walls or fire separations.

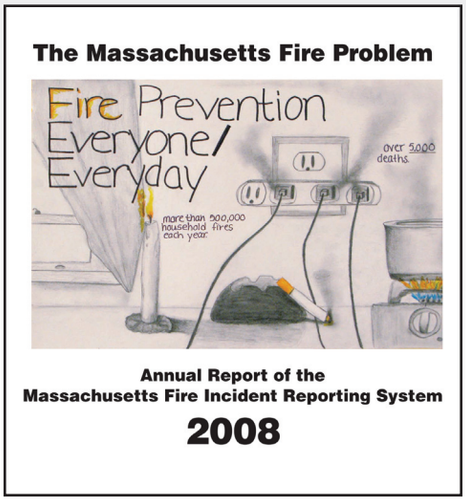
How to contact a Fire Protection Specialist in the Division of Fire Safety (formerly the Office of the State Fire Marshal): if your jurisdiction contains, or is South of, the Mass Pike – contact Jake Nunnemacher at 978-567-3377 or jacob.nunnemacher@state.ma.us. For jurisdictions North of the Mass Pike – contact Dana Haagensen at 978-567-3376 or dana.haagensen@state.ma.us. ◆

2008 MFIRS Annual Report

The *Massachusetts Fire Incident Reporting System – 2008 Annual Report* has been published and is posted on the Department of Fire Services website. This report is based upon the thousands of individual fire incident reports submitted by local fire departments throughout Massachusetts in 2008. This effort makes 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, 98.9% of Massachusetts fire departments participated in MFIRS.

The total number of fires decreased to 30,136 in 2008, an 11% decrease from the previous year. One firefighter lost his life while fighting a fire. Unfortunately 49 civilians also died in 43 Massachusetts fires during 2008. Civilian deaths decreased by 12, or 20%, from the 61 fire deaths in 2007. This is the second lowest recorded number of fire deaths since World War II. A disturbing statistic is that 26% of all residential fire victims were not alerted by smoke detectors. These people mistakenly thought fire wouldn't happen to them.

Cooking caused 60%, of all residential fires, however, smoking was once again the leading cause of fire deaths in 2008, accounting for 26% of the total residential fire deaths. Smoking has been the leading cause of fatal fires as far back as the nineteen forties (1940's). Electrical problems were the second leading cause of fire deaths in 2008.



We hope that fire officials and injury prevention professionals will use this report to map out and measure fire prevention strategies in the coming year. We must sustain our efforts to protect the citizens of the Commonwealth through fire prevention and public education. If you need additional copies, please go to www.mass.gov/dfs and go to *Quick Links,* then *Annual Reports* (MFIRS) to download a copy in pdf format or contact Derryl Dion of the Fire Data Unit in the Division of Fire Safety at (978) 567-3382. ◆

MFIRS Corner

MFIRS Coding Tips for Brush Fires

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

Massachusetts Fire Incident Reporting System

Fire vs. Wildland Fire Modules

Please remember that even if you are using third party software you have the option of using the Fire Module instead of the Wildland Module. In MA, we strongly recommend that you use the Fire Module for these types of fires. The Wildland Module is an optional module that may be used for any of the following Incident Types: 140-143, 160, 170-173, 561, 631 and 632. If your software program does not allow this option please contact your vendor and remind them. If you have any problems, have them contact the Fire Data Unit at the number below.

Permit Fires and Unauthorized Burning

If you respond to a permit fire that you have to extinguish, code as an Incident Type = 631: Authorized controlled fire or 632: Prescribed fire. If the fire expands beyond the focus of the permit, then use an Incident Type = 140-143.

- Do not use Cause of Ignition = 1: Intentional. This is reserved for arsons.
- Use either Cause of Ignition = 2: Unintentional or 4: Act of Nature depending on the reason the fire got out of control.

If you respond to an illegal burning use Incident Type = 561: Unauthorized burning.

Mulch Fires

Mulch fires should be coded as Incident Type = 140: Natural vegetation fire, other.

Do not code any fires as Incident Type = 100: Fire, other, unless it does not fit into any of the other incident types between 111 and 173.

Outside Rubbish Fires

If you have an outside rubbish fire, it should be coded as an Incident Type = 150-155. Do not use Incident Type = 118: Confined trash or rubbish fire in a structure. ◆

MFIRS Training and Administration

2009 MFIRS Year End & Quality Control Reports

We are planning on closing the 2009 MFIRS reporting cycle by April 30th. To accomplish this we need your help in performing quality control on your reports as soon as possible. During March 2010, we sent out 2009 MFIRS Year End and Quality Control Reports to each fire department that submitted 2009 data. Please check our reports with your in-house statistics and notify us of any changes as soon as possible. If you have not submitted any or all of your 2009 incidents, please do so as soon as possible. If you did not have

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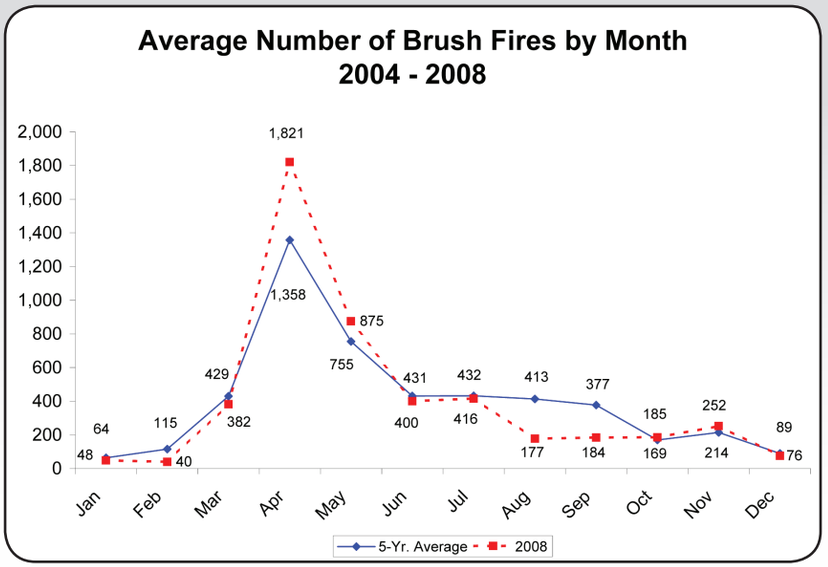
Water in Basement

With the heavy rain and widespread flooding in March many departments were dispatched to pump out basements. For these calls you would use Incident Type code 521 - Water (not people) evacuation. Includes the removal of water from basements. Excludes water rescues (360 series). ◆

Brush Fires

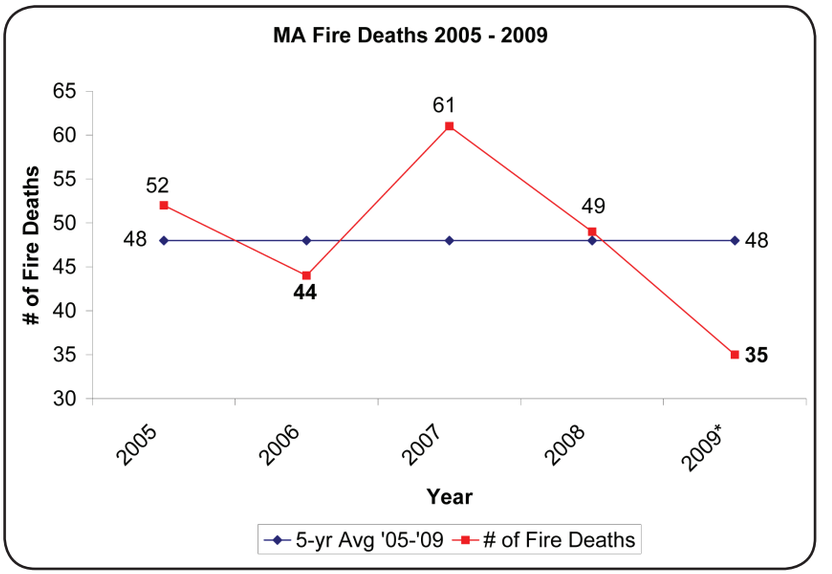
In 2008, there were 4,834 natural vegetation fires (tree, grass, brush) that caused seven civilian injuries, 15 firefighter injuries, and an estimated loss of $340,679. This is 27% decreased from the 6,657 incidents reported in 2007.

As you can see from the graph, springtime means brush fires for the Massachusetts fire service. April is the peak of the Massachusetts brush fire season. On average, the Commonwealth experiences 80% more brush fires in April than it does in its next highest month, May. ◆



2009 Fire Deaths – 35 Deaths – New Record Low

In 2009, preliminary figures show there were 35 civilian fire deaths, the lowest number of fire deaths on record since WWII. It's a 29% drop from the 49 deaths in 2008, and a 20% drop from the previous record low of 44 deaths in 2006. In 2009 there were 35 civilian fire deaths and no fire-related fire service fire deaths. The main reasons for this new all time low were the drop in smoking fire deaths from 17 in 2008 to 11 in 2009; and the decreased number of fire deaths from heating equipment. The chart illustrates the number of fire deaths over the past five years along with the average number of fire deaths for those same fire years. 2009 was 27% lower than the five-year average. ◆



**2009 figures should be considered preliminary*

MFIRS Training and Administration

Continued from Page 16

any reportable fires, please have your chief, sign and date the Certificate of No Reportable Fires that was sent to him or her in February and March.

The statistical feedback reports include:

- 2009 Incident Submission by Month,
- 2009 Fires & Arson Fires by Incident Type.

The quality control reports include:

- 2009 Incidents Returned to Department Corrected Forms Not Received by DFS;
- 2009 Incidents Missing the Arson/ Juvenile Firesetters Module;
- 2009 Error Validation Report;
- 2009 Fires Under Investigation,
- 2009 Structure Fires With Incorrect or No Property Use;
- 2009 Electrical Fires with No Equipment Involved;
- 2009 Civilian Fire or Fire Service Casualty Modules w/ Missing Data for Any Fields;
- 2009 Fire Service Casualty Modules with Missing Data for Any Fields;
- 2009 Detector Status Report by Incident Type in Building Fires.

Training

If you feel your department needs more training on MFIRS v5 and can guarantee 15 students, please contact me to set up an MFIRS v5 class. It is a 4-hour MFA class. Enrollment must be open to other departments.

Upcoming MFIRS Classes

Tuesday, 5/25/10 @ MFA in Stow, MA from 09:00 – 13:00. Course # 200000613 Session A. Please use 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. This most likely will be a preliminary report and you can file the complete report 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" of fire investigation, both reports should reports should reflect the same conclusions.

Electronic Reporting

The email address to send your electronic MFIRS reports to is: MFIRS.Report@state.ma.us. If you are reporting electronically you should be sending us your reports on a monthly basis during the first two weeks of the following month. Your submission file should be an attached file to the email, not a part of the email's text and you should have your department's name and the date range of your submission in the subject line.

Assistance

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

CPSC

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

A/C HEAT PUMP UNITS

12/8/2009..... 10-058

Packaged Terminal A/C Heat Pump (PTAC) Units

Goodman Company LP

The power cords of the PTAC's can overheat.

http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml10/10058.html

AMMONIA

1/7/2010..... 10-100

Food Club Supreme Clean Clear Ammonia

OnLine Packaging Inc.

The bottle which is labeled as containing ammonia, actually contains bleach. If it is accidentally mixed w/ammonia or acid, an irritating or toxic gas could be produced

http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml10/10100.html

BACKPACK BLOWERS

11/12/2009..... 10-037

Homelite Backpack Blowers

Homelite Consumer Products Inc.

The fuel tank can leak gasoline.

http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml10/10037.html

BATTERIES

10/22/2009..... 10-019

Rechargeable Batteries

Coby Electronics Corp.

The rechargeable batteries can overheat.

http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml10/10019.html

11/10/2009..... 10-035

Rechargeable Batteries (sold w/ MVP 5000 Series Wireless Touch Panels)

AMX

Touch panels left uncharged for more then 3 months can fail, causing the batteries to rupture.

http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml10/10035.html

BBQ GRILLS

12/10/2009..... 10-064

Cooks Outdoor BBQ Grills

JC Penney Purchasing Corp.

The drip pan on the grill does not allow for adequate drainage.

http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml10/10064.html

BOOKS

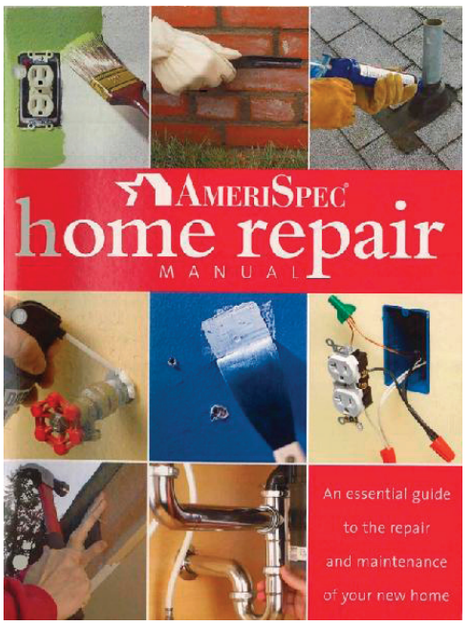
1/8/2010..... 10-104

Home Improvement Books

Oxmoor House Inc.

The books contain errors in the technical diagrams & wiring instrcutions that could lead to incorrectly installed or repairs to electrical wiring.

http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml10/10104.html



CANDLE HOLDERS

1/14/2010.....10-111

Ceramic Santa Tea Light Holders

Pier 1 Imports

The flame from tea lights can ignite these tea light holders.

http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml10/10111.html

CHRISTMAS TREE TOPPERS

12/17/2009..... 10-078

Precious Moments Angel Tree Toppers

Precious Moments Inc.

Undersized wiring can cause the tree topper's switch assembly to overheat & melt.

http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml10/10078.html

CLOTHING

10/22/2009..... 10-017

Full Length Women's Chenille Robes, Jackets, Lounge Jackets & Tops

CA-One Textile & Towel

Some of these products fail to meet the federal flammability standard.

http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml10/10017.html

COMPUTERS

1/7/2010..... 10-103

Acer Aspire-series Notebook Computers

Acer Amercian Corporation

An internal microphone wire under the palm rest can short circuit & overheat.

http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml10/10103.html

COOKWARE

11/19/2009..... 10-044

Stainless Steel Cookware

Kraftwares

The handles on the cookware can break, posing a burn hazard.

http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml10/10044.html

DEHUMIDIFIERS

12/17/2009..... 10-082

Hampton Bay Dehumidifiers

The Home Depot

An internal component can fail causing the dehumidifier to overheat.

http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml10/10082.html

DISPENSER

11/10/2009..... 10-034

Gehl's HOT TOP2 Nacho Cheese & Chili Sauce Dispenser

Gehl Foods Inc.

The dispenser's fan blade can come into contact w/the heater coil posing fire & burn hazards.

http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml10/10034.html

GAS CANS

1/7/2010..... 10-102

No-Spill 5-Gallon Gasoline Cans

No-Spill LLC

The gas containers can leak fuel at the black plastic collar where the spout connects to the can.

http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml10/10102.html

GAS GRILLS

11/18/2009..... 10-043

Perfect Flame SKG Series Gas Grills

Lucas Innovation Inc.

The burners can deteriorate causing irregular flams & the lids of some models can catch fire.

http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml10/10043.html

GAS GRILLS

1/6/2010..... 10-099

Master Forge 5-Burner Gas Grills

L G Sourcing Inc.

The flexible rubber hose on the LP Gas tank can come into contact w/the burner box causing the hose to melt & rupture when the grill is lit.

http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml10/10099.html

GAS RANGES

11/24/2009..... 10-048

Electrolux ICON & Kenmore 30" Pro Gas Ranges

Electrolux Home Products Inc.

An incorrect part allows more fuel to pass to the range's over than can be burned effeciently, causing incomplete combustion & excess Carbon Monoxide.

http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml10/10048.html

KID'S PAJAMAS

12/10/2009..... 10-063

Little Miss Matched Girls Pajama Sets

Little Miss Matched Inc.

The sleepwear fails to meet the federal children's sleepwear flammability standard.

http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml10/10063.html

LAMPS

2/9/2010..... 10-135

Discovery Kids Animated Marine & Safari Lamps

Innovage LLC

A defect in the lamp's printed circuit board can cause an electrical short.

http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml10/10135.html

LED LIGHTS

1/12/2010..... 10-108

LED Light Kits

Rockler Companies Inc.

Defective wiring in the light kits can cause the battery pack to overheat & explode.

http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml10/10108.html

LIGHT SWITCH

10/21/2009..... 10-014

Handy Switch, Wireless Light Switches

Idea Village Products Corp.

The light switch receiver can overheat & pose a fire hazard.

http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml10/10014.html

LIGHTERS

1/27/2010..... 10-124

Zippo Slatkin & Co. Candle Lighters

Zippor Manufacturing Company

Lighters can produce excessive flame when adjusted to maximum flame setting.

http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml10/10124.html

MATTRESS SETS

1/13/2010..... 10-109

Mattress Sets

Mattress World

The mattress sets fail to meet the federal open flame standard.

http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml10/10109.html

MICROWAVES

11/5/2009..... 10-031

Samsung Over-the-Range Microwave Ovens

Samsung Electronics America Inc.

If an installation bolt comes into contact w/an electrical component inside the unit & the microwave is plugged into an ungrounded outlet it could pose a shock hazard.

http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml10/10031.html

NIGHTLIGHTS

12/10/2009..... 10-060

LED Rocketship PalPODzzz Portable Nightlights

OSRAM SYLVANIA Products, Inc.

The bottom plastic cover on the recharging base of the portable nightlig can break, exposing internal electrical components, posing a shock hazrard.

http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml10/10060.html

OVENS

1/21/2010..... 10-118

Thermador Built-In Ovens

BSH Home Appliances Corp.

The ovens can have gaps in the insulation where overheating can occur & when used in self-cleaning mode it can cause nearby cabinets to catch fire.

http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml10/10118.html

R/C HELICOPTERS

1/26/2010..... 10-121

Danbar Knight Hawk Toy Helicopters

Radioshack Corp.

The battery housing under the helicopter canopy can overheat while charging.

http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml10/10121.html

RELIEF VALVES

12/22/2009..... 10-087

1" 140X-9 Temperature & Pressure Relief Valves

Watts Regulator Co.

The relief valve can fail to reduce pressure & avert failure or rupture of the water heater tand & associated valves.

http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml10/10087.html

SINGLE METER SOCKETS

10/15/2009..... 10-012

Single Meter Sockets

Milbank Manufacturing Co.

A short may occur while in use due to an incorrect bridge installed in the product. All metal parts of the meter could create a shock or burns.

http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml10/10012.html

SURGE PROTECTORS

10/27/2009..... 10-024

SurgeMaster Surge Protectors

Belkin International Inc.

The molding of the plastic 360 degree rotating plug, can crack or detach from the plug assembly.

http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml10/10024.html

TEA LIGHTS

1/14/2010..... 10-112

Silver (& Gold) Glitter Tea Lights

Pier 1 Imports

The flame from the tea lights can ignite the glitter on the candle

http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml10/10112.html

TRAVEL MUGS

11/5/2009..... 10-030

Fall 2009 Newbury Travel Mugs

The S Group

The travel mugs can become extremely hot to the touch when filled w/hot liquids.

http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml10/10030.html ◆

Licensing Exams

The Division of Fire Safety issues licenses to people and companies engaged in fireworks, blasting, explosives, cannon and mortar firing, special effects, special hazard systems, portable fire extinguishers and commercial kitchen exhaust systems. 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. unless noted otherwise

2010 License Examination Schedule

Examinations	Examination Dates	Application Deadlines
Fire Extinguishers	April 29, 2010 (Thursday)	April 21, 2010 (Wednesday)
Commercial Hood Cleaning	May 20, 2010 (Thursday)	May 12, 2010 (Wednesday)
	July 21, 2010 (Wednesday)	July 13, 2010 (Tuesday)
Cannon/Mortar	May 20, 2010 (Thursday)	May 7, 2010 (Friday)
Fireworks & Special Effects	August 18, 2010 (Wednesday)	August 6, 2010 (Friday)
Commercial Hood Cleaning	November 17, 2010 (Wednesday)	November 5, 2010 (Friday)
Blasting & Blasting R&D		

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			
Michael J. Carr	30-day suspension	Completed	12/21/2009
John J. Dillon, Jr.	60-day suspension	Completed	01/13/2010
Timothy E. Keefe	Stayed suspension	1-year probation	09/24/2010
Fireworks Certificate of Competency			
Arnold A. Villatico	1-year suspension	1 year to serve	08/13/2010
Fire Equipment Certificate of Competency			
James Tecce	Permanent Revocation	Prohibited from ever holding a business reg. of any kind from DFS	

GRADUATIONS

Recruit Class #186

State Fire Marshal Stephen D. Coan and Massachusetts Firefighting Academy Director Edmund M. Walker announced the graduation of the 186th class of the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy's sixty-day Recruit Firefighting Program on February 26, 2010. "This rigorous professional training provides our newest firefighters with the basic skills to perform their jobs effectively and safely," Coan said. The Massachusetts Firefighting Academy, a division of the Department of Fire Services, offers this program, tuition-free. The ceremony took place at the Assabet Valley Regional Technical High School in Marlborough, MA.

Class #186 **Photo by:** *Bruce Gauvin*

40 Graduates from 21 Fire Departments

The 40 graduates, 39 men and one woman, represent the 21 departments of: Acton, Agawam, Amherst, Auburn, Cambridge, Charlton, Cotuit, Gloucester, Longmeadow, Marshfield, Medfield, Melrose, Norwood, Plainville, Somerville, Southborough, Taunton, Turners Falls, Wayland, West Springfield, and Westfield.

Northampton Fire Capt John Garriepy Addressed Recruits

Northampton Fire Capt John Garriepy addressed the recruits. On Sunday, December 27, 2009, the Northampton Fire Department responded to a series of nine incendiary fires, including one that killed two people. The response required the mobilization of significant mutual aid and several specialized response teams in the region. The citizens were understandably in a state of high anxiety until investigators finally arrested the arsonist. There was significant media attention to the incident as well. ◆

CALL/VOLUNTEER

Firefighter Training Program

The Call/Volunteer Firefighter Training program is unique in that it delivers a standard recruit training curriculum, meeting national standards, on nights and weekends to accommodate the schedule of firefighters in suburban and rural areas. Bringing the training closer to the firefighters often means more firefighters can participate. This program was held at area fire department training facilities. The Fire Chiefs' Association of Massachusetts persuaded the Legislature to financially support this innovative delivery of off-site training.

Class 29

State Fire Marshal Stephen D. Coan presented certificates of completion to members of the Call/Volunteer Firefighter Training class #29 in a graduation ceremony at 7:30 p.m. on 2/24/10. The recruit graduation took place at Masconomet Regional High School in Topsfield, MA.

33 Local Firefighters Call/ Volunteer Firefighter Training

The 33 graduates, 31 men and two women, represent the 16 fire departments of: Boxford, Essex, Georgetown, Groveland, Hamilton, Ipswich, Lynnfield, Manchester, Merrimac, Middleton, Nahant, Newbury, Rockport, Rowley, Rowley, and Wenham.

Class 30

State Fire Marshal Stephen D. Coan presented certificates of completion to members of the Call/ Volunteer Firefighter Training class #30 in a graduation ceremony at 7:30 p.m. on 2/23/10. The recruit graduation took place at Clinton Town Hall in Clinton, MA.

Class 29 **Photo by:** *Class Student*

Class 30 **Photo by:** *Class Student*

49 Local Firefighters Call/Volunteer Firefighter Training

The 49 graduates, 48 men and one woman, represent the 23 fire departments of: Ashburnham, Ayer, Bellingham, Berlin, Blackstone, Boxborough, Boylston, Carlisle, Dover, Dudley, Groton, Holden, Holliston, Hopedale, Lunenburg, Medford, Pepperell, Princeton, Sherborn, Sterling, Wayland, West Boylston, and Weston. ◆