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STEPHEN D. COAN
STATE FIRE MARSHAL

MEMORANDUM

To: Heads of Fire Department

From: Stephen D. Coan
State Fire Marshal

Date: May 1, 2014

RE: 527 CMR 17.00 – Forest Products

Spring is the traditional time for sprucing up landscaping outside buildings and this spring will be the second one with the new mulch fire safety regulation in effect. Fire chiefs may wish to conduct education efforts through the media and directly with local landscaping companies and business organizations. In the DFS Briefs is a *FireFactor* on mulch that you may wish to use.

527 CMR 17.00 entitled *Forest Products* uses the provisions contained in NFPA 1, 2009 edition.

There is a requirement, which became effective September 1, 2012, that prohibits the **new** application of mulch within 18” around combustible exteriors of buildings such as wood or vinyl but not brick or concrete (see diagram in regulation for specifics). Residential buildings with six units or less are exempted from this regulation. This provision was added due to several significant fire events within Massachusetts that were related to the combustion of mulch-wood products.

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