



Department of Fire Services  
Commonwealth of Massachusetts

# About the Department of Fire Services

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

**DFS Stow Headquarters**

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978-567-3100 • Fax 978-567-3121

**DFS Springfield Campus**

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Springfield, MA 01151-1055  
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The mission of the Department of Fire Services is, through coordinated training, education, prevention, investigation, and emergency response, to provide the citizens of Massachusetts with the ability to create safer communities; to assist and support the fire service community in the protection of life and property; to promote and enhance firefighter safety; and to provide a fire service leadership presence in the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security in order to direct policy and legislation on all fire related matters.

As the State Fire Marshal and the head of the Department of Fire Services, I am very proud of the progress we have made to provide much needed resources to the fire service community. As you browse this pamphlet, you will see all the services that are now available through the Department of Fire Services whether it is for training, uniform application of the fire codes, fire data, code enforcement, life safety education, hazardous materials response, special operations, support services or fire investigation.

Peter J. Ostroskey

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Peter J. Ostroskey". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long horizontal line extending from the end of the name.

*State Fire Marshal*

About the . . .

# Department of Fire Services

The State Fire Marshal heads the sole agency within state government responsible for overall coordination of fire service policy and operations. The Department of Fire Services consists of the following:

## Executive Office

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- State Fire Marshal
- Deputy State Fire Marshal
- Operations Section Chief
- Director of Administrative Services
- Fire & Explosion Investigation Section
- Office of the General Counsel
- Public Information Office
- Administrative Staff

## Operations Section

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- Massachusetts Firefighting Academy
- Hazardous Materials Emergency Response Division
- Special Operations
- Division of Fire Safety
- Fire Standard Compliant (FSC) Cigarette Program

## Administrative Services

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- Human Resources
- Fiscal Affairs
- Capital Asset Management
- Information Technology

## **Fire Safety Division**

All units work cooperatively to preserve life and property from fire and explosion through prevention, education, investigation, regulation, code enforcement and technical assistance to fire departments, the public, and regulated trades and industry.

### **Technical support services/code compliance and enforcement**

- Fire protection engineering support in reviewing plans for new or substantial construction;
- Staff interpretation, opinions on the use, application and enforcement of fire safety laws and regulations;
- Licensing of people and companies engaged in fireworks, blasting, explosives, special effects, cannon and mortar firing, special hazard systems, portable fire extinguishers, and commercial cooking;
- Investigate complaints of violations of the fire prevention regulations and laws including fireworks, commercial cooking and blasting;
- Inspect marine fueling, explosive storage and fireworks operations;
- Investigate code issues in large loss and all fatal fires;
- Plan review and permitting of aboveground storage tanks greater than 10,000 gallons.

### **Fire data and public education**

- Fire data collection and analysis - Mass. Fire Incident Reporting System (MFIRS); Mass. Burn Injury Reporting System (M-BIRS), Property Insurance Loss Register (PILR) and Mass. Burned/Recovered Motor Vehicle Reporting System;
- Public fire and safety education initiatives, including the Student Awareness of Fire Education (S.A.F.E.) and Senior SAFE Programs.

### **Boiler and pressure vessel program**

- Manages registration and inspection of all non-residential boilers and pressure vessels;
- Licensing of steam firemen and engineers (power plant operators), boiler and pressure vessel inspectors and oil burner technicians;
- Investigates non-residential boiler or pressure vessel incidents and accidents.

### **Fire Standard Compliant (FSC) Cigarette Program**

Manages the mandatory safety compliance requirements of all cigarettes being sold in the Commonwealth through statewide cigarette wholesale and retail inspections and independent laboratory testing of cigarettes being sold in Massachusetts.

## **Boards & Commissions - *Appointed by the Governor***

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### **Board of Boiler Rules**

Promulgates regulations on boilers and pressure vessels (522 CMR). The members are appointed by the State Fire Marshal.

### **Board of Fire Prevention Regulations (BFPR) and Appeals Board**

Promulgates fire prevention regulations enforced by the Fire Safety Division and municipal fire departments. Members also serve on the BFPR Appeals Board.

### **Hazardous Materials Mitigation Emergency Response Advisory Board**

Advisory body to the Hazardous Materials Response Division.

### **Massachusetts Fire Safety Commission and Automatic Sprinkler Appeals Board (ASAB)**

Promulgates all rules and regulations for the installation of automatic sprinklers in all buildings and structures more than 70 feet tall, built before 1/1/75. The ASAB of the Commission conducts hearings for people seeking relief from fire department orders enforcing certain enhanced sprinkler laws.

### **Massachusetts Fire Service Commission**

The appointing authority for the State Fire Marshal and administers the Fire Chief Credentialing program.

### **Massachusetts Fire Training Council**

Policy making body for the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy and the sole certifying agency for certification of all levels of fire service personnel in the Commonwealth.

## **DFS Facilities**

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### **Stow Facility Features**

#### **Administration Building**

This building provides offices for: the Executive Office, the Fire Safety Division; the Massachusetts State Police Fire Investigation & Explosion Section; the Hazardous Materials Emergency Response Division; the Special Operations Unit; and other agency-wide administrative support personnel in fiscal, human resources, information technology and facilities.

#### **The Link**

This area "links" the Administration Building to the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy (MFA); is home to our reception area, a classroom that seats up to 120 people, and the café.

## Administrative Services

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Supports the agency through:

**Human Resources** provides payroll, hiring, termination, position classification, attendance, benefits and appeals.

**Fiscal Affairs** provides budget development and tracking, accounts receivable and payable, and purchasing and contracting services.

**Capital Asset Management** provides a healthy work environment, maintaining facilities, vehicles and other equipment, and construction.

**Information Technology** manages the technological infrastructure of telephone and computer networks and systems.

## Fire & Explosion Investigation Section

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Four teams of state police fire investigators – North, South, Central, and West – investigate the origin and cause of fire and explosions.

- Support local fire investigators using “team concept” and a witness-driven protocol. Several agencies working together can put more investigators on the scene of a fire quickly to interview witnesses to the fire immediately.

Working with federal, state and local agencies to deter the crime of arson by helping to identify, arrest and prosecute those responsible for such criminal acts.

- Six nationally certified accelerant detection canines and trained handlers.

The Bomb Squad responds to and investigates circumstances involving hazardous devices, explosive devices, and military ordnance, and the neutralization of those dangerous devices that threaten public safety.

- Provides training on fireworks safety, bomb recognition and bomb threat protocols, and in the past few years has worked closely and extensively with local school and public safety officials.
- Eight nationally certified explosive detection canines and trained handlers.

### Phone Numbers

**Emergency Access:** (24 hours/day, 7 days/week)

State Police Troop Duty Officer

[www.mass.gov/eopss/law-enforce-and-cj/law-enforce/msp-troops/](http://www.mass.gov/eopss/law-enforce-and-cj/law-enforce/msp-troops/)

**Regular Access:** 978-567-3310

**Arson Hotline:** 800-682-9229

## Operations Section

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### Massachusetts Firefighting Academy (MFA)

The motto “safety through training and education” guides us in the delivery of tuition free training to over 13,000 firefighters across the Commonwealth annually. Program highlights include:

- 10-week Career Recruit Training Program
- Call/Volunteer Recruit Training Program
- Over 300 programs of topical interest

Through the Massachusetts Fire Training Council, the MFA provides nationally recognized certification to 20 levels.

### Hazardous Materials Emergency Response Division

Oversees the operation of the Regional Hazardous Materials Response Teams throughout the state.

- Specialized services to enable communities to protect the public, the environment, and property during incidents involving a release or potential release of hazardous materials.

Six Regional Hazardous Material Response Teams.

- Strategically located for a 30-minute response.
- Support local fire departments with technical information and specialized equipment to handle hazardous materials incidents.

**To activate a HazMat Response Team, call: 877-385-0822**

### Special Operations

Provides support services to the local incident commander in a timely manner from convenient locations across the state. Each response district has an Incident Support Unit (ISU) and a Rehabilitation (Rehab) Vehicle.

- Each ISU has the ability to track incidents and resources, facilitate communications, and work as a fully functional command post for unified command.
- Each Rehab Vehicle is designed for the rehabilitation of emergency personnel working at a long duration incident.

**Other available resources include:**

- Vehicle Staff
- Lighting Trailers
- Generator Trailers
- HVAC Unit
- Misting Fans
- Zumbro Tent
- Gator with Medical Bed

**Emergency Access (MEMA): (24 hours/day, 7 days/week) 508-820-2000**  
**Regular Access: 978-567-3171**

## **Massachusetts Firefighting Academy (MFA)**

Five classrooms, computer lab, physical training area for students and employees, first aid room, locker rooms, and MFA administrative staff offices.

### **Live Fire Training Facility**

The four-story, 17-room, live fire training building is specially constructed to allow repeated live fire training evolutions without structural damage to the facility. The Draeger Maze builds confidence in firefighters' abilities to maneuver inside building fires. The drill yard has these additional training props: search & rescue prop; car fire prop; outdoor classroom; extinguisher area; dumpster prop; drafting pit; confined space rescue prop; arson prop; vehicle extrication; roof prop; and the flashover simulator prop.

### **Training Tower**

A 6-story structure that is used for ladder, stair, hose, and rope training with a sprinkler lab on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor and an entanglement prop on the 5<sup>th</sup>.

### **Flammable Gas Training Area**

Provides an opportunity for students to be exposed to firefighting techniques involving three types of flammable and/or cryogenic liquids and gases: liquefied petroleum gas, liquefied natural gas, and natural gas.

### **Water Recovery and Treatment System**

Inasmuch as the use of water is a major part of our training, both the Stow and Springfield facilities have water recovery and treatment systems that are capable of capturing, treating, and recycling up to 75% of the water used for training.

### **Springfield Facility Features**

The western Massachusetts campus of the MFA is a 6-acre complex with a 3-story live fire training building, a 6-story training tower, and a new administration and classroom building, and associated utility buildings.

### **Springfield Administration Building**

The new administration building is 18,000 sq. ft. with classrooms, locker and shower facilities, and three fire apparatus bays. It provides office space for the Mass. State Police Fire Investigation Unit's West Team, the Department of Fire Services' Division of Fire Safety's Code Compliance and Enforcement Unit's western MA staff, and DFS Special Operations vehicles are also stationed here.

The **Springfield Fire Department Training Division** staff housed at this facility are part of a unique state-local partnership.

### **Live Fire Training Facility**

The 3-story live fire training building is specially constructed to allow repeated live fire training evolutions without structural damage to the building. The drill yard has these additional training props: outdoor classroom; car fire prop; dumpster prop; extinguisher area; vehicle extrication; drafting pit; confined space rescue prop; and the roof prop.