

All Hands Herald

Massachusetts Department of Fire Services

January 2018

New Fire Code

Effective January 1

28th Annual Firefighter
of the Year Awards

DFS Offers New
First Responder Training

Homemade Explosives
Recognition Training
Available Now



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The *All Hands Herald* is published three times a year by the Department of Fire Services. Our title incorporates the traditional fire service meaning of all hands working to extinguish a fire. In this publication, all hands is DFS staff providing information, training and assistance with fire service issues which affect all levels of the fire service.

Let us know how you like the *All Hands Herald* and what we can do to make it even more useful to you – our dedicated fire service members and customers.

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From the Fire Marshal

Winter is always a difficult time for the fire service. We respond to more fires and to more fatal fires. They are harder to fight and fire grounds are more dangerous when water freezes.

Firefighter of the Year Awards

This fall, Governor Baker, Public Safety Secretary Daniel Bennett and Undersecretary Patrick McMurray recognized heroic acts at the 28th annual Firefighter of the Year Awards. This year's event was emceed by WCVB-TV anchorwoman Maria Stephanos. I want to offer my congratulations to all the firefighters honored. I know you think you were just doing your job, whether you were on the clock or not, but I know you gave a little bit extra and went a little further to help a member of your community, and I thank you for that. I also want to thank the Honor Guards, the pipe and drum bands, and Lianne Ferguson, the Worcester High School student who sang the National Anthem, for making the event such a wonderful tribute to our hometown heroes.

The Medal of Honor was presented posthumously to Watertown Firefighter Joseph Toscano who died fighting a fire on March 17, 2017. With the remembrance of this loss fresh in our minds, two weeks later on December 5, Montgomery Fire Chief Stephen Frye died fighting a house fire. He will be honored at next year's Firefighter of the Year Heroic Awards ceremony. The Massachusetts fire service has suffered so many tragic losses this year both on the fire ground and from occupational cancer.

Winter Fire Safety

In 2016, nearly 40% of fire deaths in Massachusetts happened in buildings that did not have working smoke alarms. Winter is the time when people need to hear our messages on smoke alarms and heating safety more than ever. DFS will air public service announcements (PSAs) on smoke alarms that will support local fire department efforts to help people have working smoke alarms in their homes. Our campaign is *Smoke Alarms: A Sound You Can Live With*, and we have a toolkit of resources for local education programs. Many fire departments have smoke alarm installation programs, particularly as part of their Senior SAFE programs which help make sure the smoke alarms are less than 10 years old and are working. This fall, DFS promoted the *Keep Warm, Keep Safe* winter heating safety campaign messages with a focus on prevention: have

the furnace tuned-up and the chimney cleaned. This winter we are promoting heating safety especially about space heaters, extension cords, wood stoves, and ash disposal. I hope that you will take advantage of the resources available in these toolkits.

State Fire Code

November 28, 2017 was the 75th anniversary of the Cocoanut Grove nightclub fire that killed 492 people. The Board of Fire Prevention Regulations (BFPR) was created in the wake of that fire to implement a statewide, uniform fire code. Their work continues to this day. The board has moved from a home-grown code started in the 1940s to using the National Fire Protection Association 1 (NFPA 1) as the backbone of the code with Massachusetts amendments. The BFPR started with the 2012 edition of NFPA 1, and the first code revision cycle took effect on January 1, 2018 with the adoption of the 2015 edition (with Massachusetts amendments). This has allowed the board to more easily keep the code up-to-date and to take advantage of the knowledge and expertise behind the model code. There is more information about the fire code changes and the training for fire departments that will be conducted throughout the winter in this issue of the *All Hands Herald*. The new edition of the State Building Code also took effect on January 1.

Vehicles for Firefighter Training

Through a federal Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG), DFS has acquired another maze trailer and has another flashover trailer and a tow vehicle for both on order. Our new Ladder 1 is in service and replaces the old Ladder 1 that has been in heavy use training recruits since 1992.

Explosives Recognition and Investigation Training

Through a Homeland Security Grant, the Fire and Explosion Investigation Unit is working with the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy to develop homemade explosives recognition training for all first responders, police and fire. In addition, they are working on a post-blast investigation course that will have the Basic and Advanced Fire Investigation classes as prerequisites.



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New Fire Code Effective January 1, 2018

The Board of Fire Prevention Regulations (BFPR) promulgated the new edition of 527 CMR 1.00, *Massachusetts Comprehensive Fire Safety Code*, effective January 1, 2018. Unlike the State Building Code (780 CMR), there will be no concurrency period between the new and old editions of the code. The new edition is based on the 2015 edition of NFPA 1, with Massachusetts-specific amendments.

Changes to the new edition of 527 CMR 1.00 include updates to the referenced NFPA standards which will coordinate with the 9th edition of 780 CMR. There are other changes throughout the code including:

- A certificate of registration for hood cleaning companies is now required. This will help with enforcement of companies maintaining safe and code-compliant hood cleaning techniques and practices.
- Hot work operators are required to obtain a hot work permit. The permit authorizing individual, who oversees the hot work and ensures site safety, must be qualified through a state-recognized training program to assess site safety and ensure good practices and housekeeping measures are practiced during and after hot work operations. This provision will be effective July 2018.
- NFPA 45, *Standard for Fire Protection for Laboratories Using Chemicals*, has been incorporated through the adoption of Chapter 26. This adoption will allow laboratories using small amounts of a variety of chemicals to comply with more appropriate provisions, rather than treating laboratories the same as facilities that use much larger quantities, such as those subject to the provisions of Chapters 60 through 75.

Addition of Certificates of Registration for Hood Cleaning Companies

Currently, when code compliance officers identify substandard hood cleaning work, they can only take action against the individual hood cleaner. Frequently, these low-paid individuals work for companies that do not allow them enough time to do the work properly, do not provide the correct tools, or do not provide instruction in thorough work. Registration of the companies, as well as the individuals performing the work, would allow code officials to hold companies responsible for such practices. It is similar to what is currently required for companies that service fire extinguishers, provide fireworks displays, and conduct blasting where both the company and the individuals doing the work must have a license (1.13.8.3).

Changes to Chapter 41: Welding, Cutting and Other Hot Works

One of the most significant changes to Chapter 41 affects welding operations and the requirement for welders to complete training programs approved by the State Fire Marshal. The change is proposed in response to the deaths of two Boston firefighters in a fire caused by welding on Beacon Street in 2013.

The Boston Fire Department has had a training requirement for hotworks operators for some time. They have been working with the NFPA to offer approved training to the industry throughout greater Boston. Starting in July 2018, this training requirement will be statewide. The start date was postponed in order to give people enough time to attend training sessions.

DFS is working with NFPA to make their classroom training available in an online format.

Adoption of Chapter 26: Laboratories Using Chemicals

When the board first adopted NFPA 1 it did not adopt Chapter 26 which specifically addresses smaller laboratories such as those found in colleges and small research and development companies. They were regulated by the same code provisions as large chemical processing facilities. NFPA 45, *Standard for Fire Protection for Laboratories Using Chemicals*, has been incorporated into the fire code through the adoption of Chapter 26. This will allow labs that use small amounts of chemicals to use alternative fire and life safety protocols without requiring the large scale fire protection systems needed for large chemical processing facilities, such as those subject to the provisions of Chapters 60 through 75.

Key revisions to the 2015 edition of NFPA 1 adopted by Massachusetts

Updates of all Extracts through the Annual 2014 NFPA Revision Cycle

Various technical updates to the NFPA standards were incorporated into the 2015 edition of NFPA 1. These changes have been approved on a national level and have undergone the NFPA code development cycle which includes review by a cross-representative technical committee, published draft, public comment period, re-evaluation by a technical committee, and final publication. Additionally, the BFPR code committees reviewed and accepted these revisions through the 2015 edition code review process. By accepting these revisions through the

adoption of the 2015 edition of NFPA 1, Massachusetts is maintaining safety standards proposed, reviewed, and promulgated on a national level.

Revisions to NFPA 654 Extracts for Dust Explosion Prevention (Chapter 40)

NFPA 654 was updated to include more specificity with regards to cleaning and storage of combustible dust based upon the specific types of duct cleaning and storage containers. It provides several specific methods to assess a facility and/or operations and to determine safe cleaning methods and frequency. Although such provisions have been in the code, the amended provisions provide more clarity for the end users.

Expanded Ammonia Refrigeration System Maintenance and Testing Requirements (53.3)

New requirements are included in the revised code and incorporate existing industry standards such as American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE) and American National Standards Institute (ANSI), already used throughout the industry.

New Provisions for Alcohol-based Hand Rub Dispensers (60.5.2)

Due to the increased use of alcohol-based hand rub dispensers and the fire risk associated with a suspended hazardous material container, additional requirements from NFPA 101 were extracted into NFPA 1. Where dispensers are most frequently installed, such as hospitals and nursing homes, the NFPA 101 standard has been a requirement for a while in order to acquire industry certification or necessary for various government approvals.

Revisions to Aerosol Product Classifications from NFPA 30B (61.1.3)

The 2012 code included aerosol product standards for a wide range of aerosol products that present hazards. However, such standards were impractical for newer and less hazardous categories for some spray products in plastic containers. The NFPA-1 (2015), includes NFPA 30B requirements that apply to such products with more particularity, often resulting in relaxed requirements.

New Requirements for Cleaning and Purging Gas Piping Systems from NFPA 55 (63.3.1.19)

Extracts from NFPA 55 are included in NFPA 1 2015 edition to regulate when, how, and how frequently to clean and purge gas piping systems. NFPA 55 is the national standard for compressed gases and is used throughout the industry as a “best practice”.

New Provisions for Cooking Oil Storage Tank Systems in Commercial Kitchens in NFPA 30 (66.19.7)

Extracts from NFPA 30 are included in the revised code for cooking oil storage tank systems in commercial kitchens. The 2012 version included such provisions in the general, and often more restrictive, manner relative to combustible liquids. These provisions are more specific and address hazards particular to cooking oil, rather than combustible liquids in general.

Training for the Fire Service on Code Changes

Training for fire departments on the code changes began in December and will continue into the spring. These 3-hour sessions include an update from NFPA on the changes between the 2012 and 2015 editions of NFPA 1, and discussion about the Massachusetts-specific amendments. Visit the MFA web page and login to the Learning Management System (LMS) for more information and to register for an upcoming training session. Trainings are scheduled for January 22 at DFS West, January 23 in Worcester and January 29 in Fall River. More sessions will be added.

Separate training on the provisions of *Chapter 41, Hot Work* is under development.

New Editions of the Code, Amendments, and More

Each department that attends training on the revised code will receive a copy of the 2015 edition of NFPA 1 and the Massachusetts amendments at no cost. Additional printed copies of the revised code, including the 2015 edition of NFPA 1 and Massachusetts amendments, are available for purchase at the Secretary of State's Office. The Massachusetts amendments to NFPA 1 are available for free viewing on the DFS website at <http://www.mass.gov/eopss/agencies/dfs/osfm/fire-prev/527-cmr-index.html>. The NFPA also provides free access to the 2015 edition of NFPA 1 at <http://www.nfpa.org/1>, and of all related NFPA reference documents at <http://www.nfpa.org>.

Many fire departments have the full NFPA subscription service for viewing and printing all NFPA codes and standards. If your department does not have a subscription, NFPA is offering the *National Fire Codes 2015 Archive PDF CD*, which includes the 2015 edition of NFPA 1 and corresponding NFPA referenced standards at reduced cost to the Massachusetts fire service. Unlike the free online version, the CD is searchable and can be copied and edited. To purchase the CD, contact NFPA Customer Support at (508) 895-8300.

For questions about the new edition of 527 CMR 1.00, contact the code compliance help desk at 978-567-3375.

28th Annual Firefighter of the Year Awards



Boston



Cambridge



Westwood, Dedham, Canton, Norwood, Walpole



Lowell



Brockton

On November 21, Governor Charlie Baker, Lt. Governor Karyn Polito and Public Safety Secretary Daniel Bennett joined State Fire Marshal Peter J. Ostroskey to honor Firefighters from 22 Massachusetts fire departments for heroic acts of bravery during the 28th annual Firefighter of the Year Awards ceremony at Mechanics Hall in Worcester. Maria Stephanos of WCVB was the emcee for the program.

“The Commonwealth’s firefighters make tremendous sacrifices and risk their lives on a regular basis to protect the members of their communities,” said Governor Baker. “We are proud to salute this year’s award recipients, who drew upon their training and experience to perform remarkable acts that saved lives.”

“Our firefighters deserve our thanks and praise every day of the year, and it is important to recognize the incredible acts of bravery performed by these public servants in cities and towns across Massachusetts,” said Lt. Governor Karyn Polito. “Whether battling house fires or educating children and seniors on fire prevention and safety, we are grateful for their selfless acts.”

“Each of the 42 people who lost their lives to fires so far this year is a vivid reminder of the need to remain ever vigilant in our fire prevention efforts,” said Secretary Bennett. “Firefighters will always face danger in the work they do but through better technology and training we are working to mitigate those risks while supporting the courageous men and women of the fire service.”

The Governor and Secretary presented 33 awards: three Norman Knight Awards for Excellence in Community Service to a dedicated Wellesley fire and life safety educator, a Lowell firefighter going above and beyond to prevent deaths in the Community Opioid Outreach Program, and an Uxbridge Deputy Chief whose work led to a recall of a faulty combination smoke/carbon monoxide alarm; five Individual Awards

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DFS Offers New First Responder Training

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH) establishes emergency medical service (EMS) training requirements for first responders in Massachusetts. The requirements are found in 105 CMR 171.000. First responders initially have one year to complete the requirements and must also complete refresher trainings once every three years.

Last year, the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy (MFA) noticed that many students in the Call/Volunteer Recruit Training program had no medical training. At the end of the Call/Volunteer training, these students were ineligible to be certified to Firefighter I/II because first responder training is a prerequisite for the certification. Many were not taking their certification exams until months after completing their training. Fire departments struggled to find first responder training for just one or two new employees.

The feedback from call and volunteer fire chiefs noted that first responder training was a huge unmet need, so the MFA developed this new First Responder program.

The 18-hour class was first delivered at the Stow campus in September. It includes medical and trauma assessments, cardiac and respiratory emergencies, child-birth, splinting, pediatric emergencies, and epi-pen and Narcan administration. The program is taught by experienced fire and emergency medical service instructors and includes classroom lectures, video presentations and practical, hands-on training. At the end of the program students



receive a certificate of completion valid for three years. This tuition-free program meets the requirements of CMR 171.000 (excluding CPR & AED) and the Office of Emergency Medical Services (OEMS) Administrative Requirement 2-100 dated December 15, 2016. Before enrolling, students must submit a current and valid Healthcare Provider CPR/AED card that is good at least through the end of the training program.

EMS training is a significant component of the fire service mission. Fire service personnel are an integral part of any EMS delivery model and the goal of this First Responder training program is to help complement these services. The Department of Fire Services, through the Massachusetts Fire Academy, will continue to work with all partners in an effort to provide the highest quality training to all fire service personnel. We are extremely excited and proud of this current initiative and hope that it supports many departments across the state.

Please visit the online course catalog on the Department of Fire Services website to request this training.

From the Fire Marshal, *continued from page 1*

Fire Investigation Unit

The four fire investigation unit teams, North, South, Central and West, are always busy assisting local fire departments with origin and cause fire investigations. I want to mention that between September 16 and October 12, 2017, seven arsonists were arrested and one was indicted for domestic violence. Among these arrests were three serial arsonists that had been terrifying neighborhoods in the New Bedford, Fall River and Brockton areas. One of these arsonists had already served prison time for serial arson.

Fentanyl Summit

In late November, the Hazardous Materials Emergency Response Division hosted a summit of 35 state, federal and non-governmental partners to discuss issues around responding to the growing number of drug overdoses

where Fentanyl and related drugs may be involved. The meeting led to helpful dialogue and sharing of key information that can lead to recommendations for best practices. This model was used in the past for preparing to respond to Ebola and Avian Flu epidemics, which thankfully never erupted in Massachusetts. However, the opiate epidemic is already here in full swing and puts users, first responders and innocent bystanders at risk.

New Cooking Fire Safety Campaign

While cooking fires are rarely fatal, they are the most frequent type of fire in Massachusetts. This fall, just before Thanksgiving, DFS launched our new cooking campaign with three PSAs that feature fire house chefs and their delicious fire house dishes. We hope that the public will be drawn to our website not only for the recipes, but also for cooking fire safety tips.

School Safety

Code Compliant Door Locking Solutions



Security and safety are key concerns when public spaces are designed. In schools, security and lock down procedures are considered at the beginning of new design projects. Current and historic tragedies have made the ability to lock out intruders and to compartmentalize a building to minimize the impact of a potential attack absolutely critical. Unfortunately, some security measures can be in direct conflict with free emergency egress and provisions of the building and fire codes.

The 9th edition of the Massachusetts State Building Code (780 CMR) is effective January 1, 2018. The updated version of the building code incorporates the 2015 edition of the International Building Code (IBC) with Massachusetts-specific amendments. 780 CMR Section 1010.1.9 describes compliant methods for locking doors. These include delayed egress locking systems, sensor release electrically locked doors, and electromagnetically locked egress doors. All of these systems can be implemented to allow unobstructed travel in the direction of egress. Free egress is crucial to allow people rapid means of escape. In schools, the need for free egress is especially high because young children are a high risk population.

Many anti-intruder devices are intended to be added to existing schools. But many of these devices do not conform to the requirements for door locking as found in 780 CMR. The devices make door handles ineffective, or

prevent the door from opening from either side. The devices are installed at the top or bottom of the door, which is outside the accessible reach range requirements contained in 521 CMR, Massachusetts Architectural Access Board.

Schools can retrofit with code-compliant locks which can be engaged from inside a room, but release when the handle is turned from the inside. This solution satisfies code requirements for classroom door locking and also maintains the requirement that handles be within accessible reach ranges specified in 521 CMR.

Before schools in your community purchase and install new locking devices, we recommend that you work with the local building official, fire department, police department, school safety officer, and other town officials to ensure that security solutions for schools will not violate building and fire codes. Safe, compliant locking solutions are available if everyone works together.

We suggest that you work with local building officials, fire and police, school safety officers, and other town officials to ensure that security solutions for schools do not violate building and fire codes.

Homemade Explosives Training

Now Available

The Department of Fire Services is pleased to announce a new training series about homemade explosives and post-blast investigations. The trainings were made possible through a Homeland Security Grant.

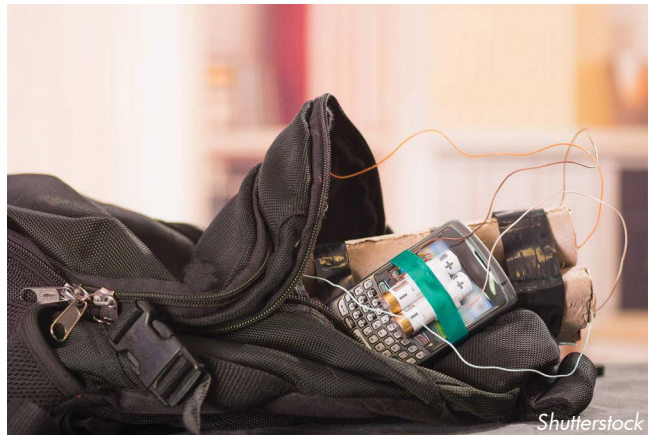
The single day, operational level class is designed to train first responders in homemade explosives, with a focus on energetic materials used in terror attacks. The program provides an opportunity to observe the explosive properties of formulations from locally-purchased non-restrictive products. The class is for all first responders including law enforcement, fire service, and emergency medical personnel.

The course teaches first responders to identify precursor chemicals that are used to manufacture homemade explosives. This will help first responders to recognize suspect behavior and activities related to the manufacture of homemade explosives, and to recognize and reduce threats in their communities.

The first program will be held on January 23, 2018 in Stow. Programs will run throughout the spring. Visit the MFA Learning Management System online to see course schedules and to register.

Post-Blast Investigation

The Homeland Security Grant has also supported the development of a post-blast investigation course that will be held at the DFS Stow campus April 9-11, 2018. The three day course will introduce experienced fire investigators to improvised explosive devices (IEDs) and post-blast



In this training, first responders learn to identify chemicals used to manufacture homemade explosives, in order to recognize suspect activities and to reduce threats in their communities.

scenarios. The program will include both instruction and practical work. Students will work in teams to document a post-blast scene through photography, scene diagramming and witness interviewing. Students will also collect, process and submit evidence to the crime lab, review articles, brief cases and present them to the class. The program will include team presentations about each scenario and courtroom testimony. Basic and advanced fire investigation courses are both prerequisites for this program.

Firefighter of the Year, *continued from page 4*

for Meritorious Conduct to firefighters from Douglas, Lawrence, Middleborough, and Pittsfield. One event occurred on a school trip in Switzerland; eight Group Awards for Meritorious Conduct to teams of firefighters from Boston, Brockton, Cambridge, Hyannis, Holyoke, Lowell, Turners Falls and Gill, Westwood with Canton, Dedham, Norwood and Walpole; 15 Medals of Valor to individual firefighters from Boston, Braintree, Brockton, Brookline, Holyoke, Mansfield, and Norwood. The Medal of Honor award was presented posthumously to Watertown Firefighter Joseph A. Toscano.

The State Fire Marshal's award was presented to the Western Massachusetts Safety and Fire Education Association for outstanding collaborative work making western Massachusetts safer for all residents. "The

members of the Western Massachusetts Safety and Fire Education Association work tirelessly to improve the safety of residents in our four westernmost counties," said State Fire Marshal Ostroskey. "Their use of the mutual aid model for public education allows them to accomplish more together."

Earlier this year, Governor Baker signed H. 3448, which doubled the line of duty death benefit for the families of first responders from \$150,000 to \$300,000. This benefit is for any full-time or reserve firefighter or police officer, as well as public prosecutors, municipal or public emergency medical technicians and correction officers who are killed in the line of duty or who sustain injuries in the line of duty that are the direct cause of death.

Joint Biological Threat Response System Protocol

For Responding to the Threat of White Powders

Beginning one week after the terrorist attacks on 9/11, letters containing anthrax were sent to news media offices in Florida and New York and to two U.S. Senate offices in Washington. Five people were killed and 17 were infected. The Amerithrax attacks (from the FBI case name) victims included two postal workers, an elderly woman from rural Connecticut, a Manhattan hospital worker from the Bronx and an employee at a Florida tabloid magazine. After the attacks, the Postal Service distributed 4.8 million masks and 88 million gloves to employees, and 300 postal facilities were tested for anthrax. Over 32,000 people took antibiotics after possible exposure to anthrax. To date, no arrests have been made.

Following these attacks, local police, fire and hazmat teams were inundated with white powder calls that ranged from simple sugar spills in diners to intentional white powder hoaxes. Although the frequency of white powder calls diminished over time, more than 800 white powder incidents are reported across the country every year. These involve baking soda, sugar, ground-up antacids, corn starch, baby powder, dried toothpaste and every kind of white powder. Fortunately, Massachusetts has not had any *Bacillus anthracis* attacks.

In 2009, the Massachusetts Department of Public Health Bioterrorism Response Laboratory and the Department of Fire Services, created the Joint Biological Threat Response System (JBTRS) to establish a standardized protocol for district Hazardous Materials teams responding to suspected biological threats. The first objective of the protocol is to protect the State Public Health Laboratory from unknowingly receiving hazardous samples that could injure laboratory personnel or damage this critical facility. As part of this protocol, Hazmat team members are taught that the Public Health Lab is the only state facility that can definitively identify suspected biological threat substances. Field testing performed by Hazmat teams is presumptive and is used as a decision-making tool for the incident commander. The JBTRS protocol is used for all white powder calls that may pose a threat to responders or to the public. The protocol has been adopted by other agencies in the Commonwealth and by Hazmat teams throughout the country.

All new members of the Massachusetts district Hazardous Materials teams are required to attend training in the JBTRS protocols. The training includes one day of classroom sessions followed by a written test, and a second

day of practical application testing. Each year, team members complete an online refresher test. They must pass the test in order to continue responding to calls and remain on the team. These high training standards ensure that a consistent, safe response happens for every call.

Local fire departments can request Hazmat teams around the clock through two state control centers; one in Holbrook covering the eastern part of the state and the other in Amherst for western Massachusetts responses. The typical response for a white powder call is a Tier 1, which includes five hazmat technicians and a Technical Operations Module (TOMs) vehicle. The vast majority of white powder calls are mitigated with this level of response. If a larger response and a higher tier level is needed, technicians on scene discuss options with the incident commander.

Nearly two decades after the Amerithrax attacks, white powder calls remain a regular part of hazmat responses. District Hazmat teams respond to an average of 35-45 white powder calls annually. The recent increase in opioid use has had a profound impact here in Massachusetts. Hazmat teams are being called to overdoses as well as to clandestine labs throughout the state. Hazmat teams responded to 29 calls for clandestine labs and overdoses in 2017 (as of this writing), separate from white powder calls. Our first Fentanyl call was in January 2017 and concern about the presence of Fentanyl and related drugs has increased, along with calls for advice and response. In collaboration with other agencies, Hazmat teams will continue to apply proven JBTRS protocols to all white powder calls in order to protect the public, first responders, and themselves from harm.



JBTRS training at the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy in Stow.

Federal Homeland Security Grant for DFS

The Department of Fire Services (DFS) recently received \$290,000 in FFY17 Federal Homeland Security (HLS) funding. The funding will be used for one Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, and Explosive (CBRNE) Assessment Team (CAT) bag for the Hazmat Division's Joint Hazard Incident Response (JHIRT) team.

JHIRT is a team within the DFS Hazardous Materials Emergency Response Division made up of technicians who provide technical or operational assistance at incidents involving reactive or energetic materials that may harm people. The JHIRT team works in conjunction with the Massachusetts State Police Bomb Squad. Members of each agency rely on the other for their expertise in hazardous materials detection, identification and mitigation. The collaboration between the two agencies decreases equipment and resource duplication and expenses.

DFS received two CAT bags from last year's HLS funding. With the CAT bag acquired this year, DFS is closer to our goal of having seven CAT bags strategically located throughout the state and on State Police Bomb Squad vehicles.

Before the JHIRT team had CAT bags, incident responders had to wait for equipment to be delivered.



Often, this meant waiting for a Tier 1 hazmat response to arrive on scene, delaying information that could protect life and property. The new CAT bags allow the JHIRT team to initiate hazard risk assessment rapidly. Storing CAT bags on State Police Bomb Squad vehicles across the state significantly decreases assessment time and increases response capabilities.

Recent uses of the CAT bags include a JHIRT response for a double fatal overdose in the city of Lawrence, the Sail Boston event in the summer of 2017, and a JHIRT response to a drug lab in Sandwich, Massachusetts.

Taking Action Against Cancer in the Fire Service

Cancer is an ever-increasing cause of firefighter deaths. Firefighters have much higher rates of cancer than the people they serve because of exposure to carcinogens on the fireground and in the firehouse.

This course provides information about immediate actions that all ranks from firefighter to chief can take to reduce occupational cancer risk and how the nonprofit

Firefighter Cancer Support Network can help firefighters cope with cancer. The course addresses the importance of promoting a new culture of safety and fitness in order to help prevent cancer, heart disease, and injuries. This course is for on-duty firefighters. The course is being offered regionally with two (2) OEMS credits.

Course Code: 010-422-E73

December 15, 2017, 0900-1200

Location: DFS, 1 State Road, Stow

Course Code: 010-422-E90

January 24, 2018, 1830-2130

Location: Lee Fire Department HQ, 179 Main Street, Lee

Course Code: 010-422-E74

Date and time: January 27, 2018, 0900-1200

Location: DFS, 100 Grochmal Ave., Springfield



Fire Investigation News

Three Serial Arsonists Apprehended and Held

Between September 16 and October 12, 2017, seven arsonists were arrested and one was indicted, making Massachusetts safer for everyone. Among these arrests were three serial arsonists that had been terrifying neighborhoods in the New Bedford, Fall River and Brockton areas. One of these arsonists had already served prison time for arson.

Convicted and Released Arsonist Arrested Again

Mark Sargent, 49, was arrested October 4, 2017 for setting fire to 175 East Ashland Street, Brockton, a single-story commercial building. He was charged with burning a building and malicious destruction of property over \$250, arraigned in Brockton District Court and held on \$250,000 bail. Sargent is also a person of interest in at least 10 additional fires in Plymouth and Bristol counties.

Investigators used surveillance video from the building on East Ashland Street in the investigation. The video clearly shows a male subject and his vehicle. The subject exits the car with a gallon jug and spreads something from the jug on the building. The subject returns to his car and exits again with a burning object in his hand which he puts on the building. Investigators were able to identify the subject due to his prior convictions.

The investigation was jointly conducted by the Brockton Fire and Police Departments, State Police assigned to the Office of the State Fire Marshal, the Plymouth District Attorney's Office and the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF). The investigation is ongoing.

In 2014, the Plymouth County District Attorney recommended an 8 – 12 year sentence for a series of arson fires set by Sargent in 2012 and 2013. Sargent was instead given a two to three year sentence.

Several regional fire chiefs spoke out on the short sentence (two years) served by Sargent for the fires in 2012

and 2013 and noted that had he served a longer sentence, many fires could have been prevented.

Arsonist Held for Nine Fires in New Bedford

Jose DeBrito, 30, of 492 Sawyer Street, New Bedford is being held without bail for nine counts of arson in a three month period. He was located when a resident called saying that her brother was chasing a man who had set fire to his car. DeBrito was known by the car owner and the two had been having problems.

At the time of the call about the car fire, the New Bedford police were investigating a series of arson fires, most of which had occurred in one small neighborhood.

When detectives searched DeBrito's apartment, they found a butane torch lighter, a can of gas, and a bicycle that was seen in video footage of one arson, and other items they suspected were used in the series of arsons they were investigating. DeBrito lives in the vicinity of seven of the suspected arsons and he is connected to two fires that were set farther away.

DeBrito is charged with nine counts of arson: 79 Adams Street on July 28; 475 Coggeshall Street on July 31; 470-472 Sawyer Street on August 2; 140 Hathaway Street on August 8; 78 Penniman Street on August 8; Purity Linens at 405 Myrtle Street on September 7; 231 Myrtle Street on September 30; 149 Myrtle Street on October 11; and 245 State Street on Oct 12. The home at 140 Hathaway Street is the home of a former girlfriend and DeBrito was formerly employed at Purity Linen.

The investigation was jointly conducted by the New Bedford Police and Fire Departments, the Bristol County District Attorney's Office and State Police assigned to the Fire Investigation Unit's South Team.

On September 16, 2017, Troy Borden of Fall River was arrested and charged with setting a dumpster fire outside a large mill building in Fall River the night before. The fire impacted the loading docks. There were about 60 people

Continued on next page



Finding Common Ground

Collaborative Training for the Cultural Heritage and Emergency Response Communities

The Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners, in partnership with the Department of Fire Services, has received funding for a preparedness and response training project for cultural heritage and emergency responder personnel. The training will be shared nationally with other states' fire service and cultural heritage institutions.

The trainings developed from the recognition that disasters affect and disrupt people's lives, severely impact continuity of government functions, and jeopardize the very existence of our nation's humanities collections, cultural institutions, and historic sites and properties. The cultural and emergency response communities have joined forces in the recognition that once life safety has been addressed following a disaster, the health and welfare of a municipality depend on the recovery and vitality of all sectors of the community, including cultural heritage.

DFS and the Board of Library Commissioners delivered the first part of this new training across the state this fall. Part two of the training will be delivered across the state later this month. For more information about these trainings and the program, contact Gregor Trinkaus-Randall, Preservation Specialist at the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners (GTrinkaus-Randall@MassMail.State.MA.US).



Boston Public Library. Shutterstock.

Fire Investigation News, *continued from previous page*

inside the building at the time of the fire. This fire was jointly investigated by the Fall River Fire and Police Departments and State Police assigned to the Fire Investigation Unit's South Team. Borden has also been charged with setting an earlier fire at 859 Pine Street, Fall River, an occupied apartment building.

Methuen Man Arrested for Setting Fire to Church

On September 24, the Methuen Police and Fire Departments extinguished a fire in the Christian Church Voice of Salvation at 5 Pleasant Street. The fire damaged a rug and some furniture.

An investigation was jointly conducted by the Methuen Police and Fire Departments and State Police assigned to the office of the State Fire Marshal. After the investigation, Lys Walker Vincent, 45, of Lawrence was arrested and charged with breaking and entering and arson. He was arraigned in Lawrence District Court.

Two Suspects Arrested in New Bedford Arson

Brad D. Westgate, 39, of 75 Chipaway Road, East Freetown and Rose Bowman, 33, of 596 County Street, New Bedford were charged with arson in a fire that severely damaged a 6-unit building at 314 North Front Street. That property

and one other building suffered a combined \$230,000 in damage. No one was hurt. Investigators say that Westgate had issues with the property owner of 314 North Front Street and that he lied about where he was at the time of the fire.

Video surveillance shows Westgate with a container at the scene of the arson. He was out on bail for a pending gun charge in Fall River and his bail was revoked in that case. Westgate will be held until his trial.

Smoking Causes Fatal West Springfield Fire – Home Medical Oxygen Fueled the Fire

A November 10, 2017 fatal fire was caused by the use of smoking materials while using home oxygen. Home oxygen use fuels fire because it increases the amount of oxygen in the air, furniture, bedding, clothing and hair, making it easier for a fire to start and spread and to burn hotter and faster. The elderly resident was smoking when his clothing caught fire. He was severely injured and died three days later.

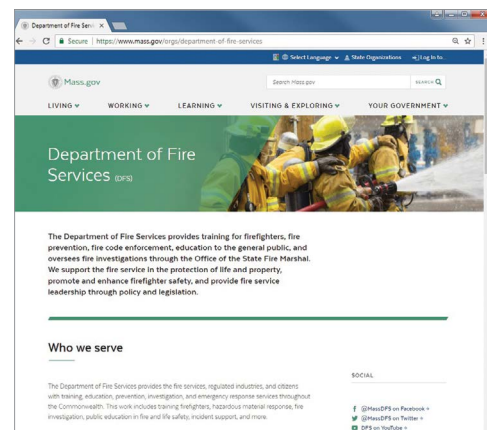
The fire was jointly investigated by the West Springfield Fire and Police Departments and State Police assigned to both the Office of the State Fire Marshal and the Office of the Hampden District Attorney.

Resources for the Fire Service on Mass.Gov

In October of 2017, the Baker-Polito Administration launched the new **Mass.Gov** website which has been in design and development since late 2016. DFS has been steadily adding content to the new site. Find our home page by searching for **DFS** in the search box on the **Mass.Gov** home page, or by searching for www.mass.gov/dfs.

The DFS home page is organized into the following areas: **Fire Safety for the Public**, **Massachusetts Firefighting Academy**, **Information for Industry**, **Resources for the Fire Service**, and more. The main areas of interest to the fire service are the **MFA**, **Resources for the Fire Service** and **Fire Safety for the Public**.

Click on the box for the **MFA** to find the LMS log in and all MFA training materials, courses, and more. Click on **Resources for the Fire Service** to find links to **Code Compliance and Technical Support**, **Hazardous Materials Emergency Response**, **Fire & Explosion Investigation Unit**, **Emergency Activation of Resources**, **S.A.F.E.** and **Senior SAFE** grant information, and **Fire Data and Statistics**. **Fire Safety for the Public** contains links to all public education information. The home page also has links for **Boards and Commissions**, **Public Record Requests**, **Information for Industry** (licensing), **News & Announcements** and **Events**.



Kidde Recalls Fire Extinguishers

On November 2, 2017, Kidde recalled certain fire extinguishers with plastic handles because these items can become clogged or require excessive force to operate and so can fail during a fire emergency. Also, the nozzle can detach from the extinguisher with enough force to cause impact injuries. Consumers should contact Kidde immediately to request a free replacement fire extinguisher and for instructions on returning the recalled unit.

Recall Details

The recall involves 134 models of Kidde fire extinguishers manufactured between January 1, 1973 and August 15, 2017,

including models that were previously recalled in March 2009 and February 2015. The extinguishers were sold in red, white and silver, and are either ABC- or BC-rated. The model number is printed on the fire extinguisher label. For units produced in 2007 and beyond, the date of manufacture is a 10-digit date code printed on the side of the cylinder, near the bottom. Digits five through nine represent the day and year of manufacture in DDDYY format. Date codes for recalled models manufactured from January 2, 2012 through August 15, 2017 are 00212 through 22717. For units produced before 2007, a date code is not printed on the fire extinguisher.

Push-Button Pindicator Fire Extinguishers

The recall involves eight models of Kidde Pindicator fire extinguishers manufactured between August 11, 1995 and September 22, 2017. The no-gauge push-button extinguishers were sold in red and white, and with a red or black nozzle. These models were sold primarily for kitchen and personal watercraft applications.

For more information and a complete list of every fire extinguisher affected, visit the Consumer Product Safety Commission at <https://www.cpsc.gov/Recalls/2018/Kidde-Recalls-Fire-Extinguishers-with-Plastic%20Handles-Due-to-Failure-to-Discharge-and-Nozzle-Detachment-One-Death-Reported>.

A safety recall poster for Kidde fire extinguishers. The poster is titled "SAFETY RECALL" in large red letters. It is divided into two main sections: "Plastic Handle Fire Extinguishers" and "Push-Button Pindicator Fire Extinguishers". The "Plastic Handle" section shows a red fire extinguisher with a plastic handle and a label indicating the hazard. The "Push-Button Pindicator" section shows a white fire extinguisher with a push-button handle and a label indicating the hazard. Both sections include a "Description of Products" and a "Remedy for Both Fire Extinguisher Types". The poster also includes a "Consumer Contact" section with the phone number 1-855-271-0773 and a QR code for more information. The poster is dated "Post through February 2018" and is in cooperation with the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission.

National Fire Academy Programs at MFA

The Massachusetts Firefighting Academy is pleased to host the following National Fire Academy programs in 2018. Register through the DFS Learning Management System (LMS). Visit www.mass.gov/dfs, click on Massachusetts Firefighting Academy, then log onto the DFS Learning Management System (LMS).

Emergency Response To Terrorism Strategic & Tactical Considerations for Supervisors: F0549

**March 6 -7, 2018. 0800-1700
Massachusetts Firefighting Academy, Stow**

This two-day course is for first responders who may be responsible for initial and expanded command of incidents involving terrorism. The course builds on students' existing skills as incident commanders (ICs) and practitioners of Incident Command System, with knowledge of the National Incident Management System, the National Response Framework, and terrorism. Officers will learn to prepare an effective response to the consequences of terrorism. ICs must be prepared to operate as part of a multi-agency, multidisciplinary and multi-jurisdictional response. The course uses lecture, case studies and practice scenarios to address command and control challenges that confront ICs. Students will apply their knowledge of pre-incident planning, managing emergency incidents, and operating as part of a unified command structure to ensure safety and to bring the incident to a successful conclusion.

Leadership in Supervision Creating Environments for Professional Growth: F0646

**April 3-4, 2018. 0800-1700
Massachusetts Firefighting Academy, Stow**

This two-day course teaches supervisors basic leadership skills and tools needed to perform effectively in the fire service environment. The course covers a successful transition to supervisory and leadership roles including concepts of adaptive leadership, change management, active followership, effective communication (difficult conversations and advocacy-inquiry based dialogue), ethics, authority, power, decision-making and active engagement through development of a personal plan.

Leadership in Supervision Perspectives in Thinking: F0647

**May 1-2, 2018. 0800-1700
Massachusetts Firefighting Academy, Stow**

This two-day course provides the supervisor with the conceptual foundation and framework for success in leadership roles by exploring creative, analytical, political and

critical thinking perspectives. The course addresses skills needed for assessing situations from multiple perspectives, making critical decisions, fostering creativity and innovation, and using persuasion.

Leadership in Supervision Frameworks to Success: F0648

**June 5-6, 2018. 0800-1700
Massachusetts Firefighting Academy, Stow**

This two-day course provides the supervisor with the knowledge and skills to perform successfully in the fire and emergency medical services environments. The course addresses professionalism, resilience, emotional intelligence, situational awareness, managing conflict, delegating, mentoring, coaching, empowering, and building collaboration and synergy for professional growth.

Fire Investigation First Responders: F0379

**September 4-5, 2018. 0800-1700
Massachusetts Firefighting Academy, Stow**

This two-day course is designed specifically to provide a clear definition of the role of first responders in fire investigation and provide essential knowledge to enable them to recognize the potential of intentionally set fires, preservation and protection of evidence, and proper reporting of information to appropriate officials. By strengthening the partnership between first responders and investigators, the chances for successfully solving arson-related crimes will increase. The course includes topics such as fire behavior, critical observations of the first responder, fire causes, scene security and evidence preservation, legal considerations, and documentation of findings.





Department of Fire Services DRONE SERVICE

Unmanned Aerial System (UAS)

Local public safety departments can request a drone deployment for large structure fires, CBRNE (Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, and Explosive) incidents, photo and video documentation, storm damage assessments, missing person searches, pre-planning site and structure evaluations and more.

The drone is capable of recording 4k video, taking 12 megapixel stills and utilizing FLIR® thermal imaging technology to provide incident commanders with information that may not be otherwise available.

For an immediate response of a **drone**:

**Call Massachusetts Emergency
Management Agency (MEMA) 508-820-2000**

Drone missions are weather and location dependent. Missions will be in strict compliance with all Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) regulations, including but not limited to 14 CFR 107.

When you request the drone, you will be asked for:

- Nature of the incident
- City or town of the incident
- Street address (where the response vehicle[s] are needed)
- Contact name and number

Once a response has been activated, the requesting agency will be contacted with an estimated time of arrival (ETA) and for directions to the incident for the incoming vehicles.

For further information or for a scheduled event, call the Special Operations office at (978) 567-3171 or visit the DFS website at www.mass.gov/dfs.



New Ladder 1 Arrives at Stow



The new Ladder 1 was put into service on November 20, 2017. It replaces the old Ladder 1 that has been in heavy use training recruits since 1992. It took a year to procure this new apparatus. KME Fire Apparatus of Nesquehoning, Pennsylvania manufactured the ladder. Bulldog Fire Apparatus of Hopkinton, Massachusetts delivered it. Ladder 1 specifications include:

- 109' steel ladder selected for durability during nearly continuous use
- Remote controlled aerial monitor and nozzle, 165° vertical sweep, and 355° horizontal sweep
- Class 1 multiplex control system with 7-inch display
- Full 750 pound capacity at ladder tip in any position, in a 50 m.p.h. wind with ¼-inch of ice build-up (waterway not charged and chassis within 3% of level)
- *Severe Service* custom aluminum cab
- Five SCBA seats (officers and rear positions) with dura-coat vinyl covering to facilitate cleanliness
- 500 horsepower Cummins diesel engine
- Diesel particulate filter (DPF) system that uses a ceramic membrane filter to trap soot particle emissions
- Selective catalytic reduction (SCR) system that injects a urea-based fluid into the exhaust to reduce emissions
- Allison automatic transmission
- *FireMaxx* rear suspension

On October 17 and 18, DFS facility and vehicle maintenance staff and an MFA instructor traveled to KME to inspect the apparatus. The detailed inspection went smoothly and the apparatus was shipped to Bulldog after final testing at KME.

A KME representative came to DFS after the ladder was delivered and trained DFS/MFA personnel on setup, operation, and routine maintenance of the new Ladder 1.

2017 Public Fire & Life Safety Education Conference

The 23rd annual Massachusetts Public Fire and Life Safety Education Conference took place September 26-27, 2017 at the Southbridge Hotel and Conference Center. This year's theme *Bridging the Gap: Fire Safety for All Ages* recognized the need to keep every member of our community safe from fire at every stage of life. Massachusetts has strong fire education programs for seniors and school-age children, but people between the ages of 18 and 65 also need good fire safety information.



Peter Mitchell, speaker.

Peter Mitchell, a behavior change marketing executive, presented the keynote address *Finding Ways to Make Fire Safety Fun, Easy and Relevant for Adults*, linking his experience with several anti-tobacco marketing campaigns to fire safety behavior changes fire educators would like to see. As chairman and chief creative officer of SalterMitchell, Mitchell has experience creating media messages that can effectively change behaviors.

Patty Underwood, a clinical social worker who facilitates groups and provides therapy for people with mental health challenges, presented a morning general session called *Helping First Responders Understand Hoarding Disorder*. People who suffer from this disorder have a huge fire risk. Helping to reduce that risk is a challenge for fire educators. Underwood spoke about the causes of hoarding, criteria for diagnosis, helpful ways to communicate, and resources available to help. First responders need to know that their interactions with people who suffer from hoarding disorder can determine how receptive those people are to help.

Educator of the Year Award

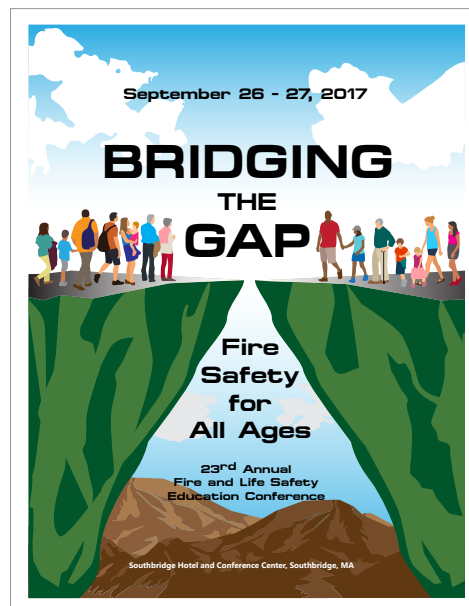
The 2017 Fire & Life Safety Educator of the Year Award was presented to Chelsea Firefighter Omar Frometa, a bi-lingual fire educator. He has inspired fellow firefighters to help educate seniors and school children from kindergarten to high school, including special needs children. FF Frometa is a dedicated, passionate advocate for fire and life safety. He is an engaging communicator and brings an organized, thoughtful, flexible approach to his education programs. Ten years ago, FF Omar began volunteering in classrooms, teaching fire and life safety to his own children and their classmates. Soon he was being invited into other classrooms. When word reached the fire department about his efforts, he was given the position of lead public safety



Deputy Chief Paul Giancola, Fire and Life Safety Educator of the Year, Firefighter Omar Frometa of Chelsea, State Fire Marshal Peter Ostroskey, Chief Leonard Albanese.

educator and the town began applying for and using Senior SAFE and S.A.F.E. grants to support his work. The S.A.F.E. program in Chelsea has grown from one classroom to every classroom in the city. From pre-K to high school, thousands of students have learned about fire and life safety from FF Omar and a growing team of Chelsea firefighter educators.

Other nominees recognized for their efforts in fire and life safety education were: FF Harry Mathews, Duxbury Fire Department; FF Jeff Cormier, Townsend Fire Department; Lt. William Cavanaugh, Wilmington Fire Department; Lt. Ben Juhola, Lincoln Fire Department; and Captain Robert Forde, Cohasset Fire Department. We congratulate the winner and the nominees, and all who work so hard to educate Massachusetts residents in fire and life safety.



Winter Fire Safety

Fire deaths rise every winter in Massachusetts. Space heater fires have proven fatal too many times in recent years. These fires caused seven civilian deaths and 21 civilian injuries between 2007 and 2016.

DFS has many resources for winter fire safety, including the *Keep Warm Keep Safe* campaign, which covers the safe use of space heaters, chimneys and wood stoves, smoke and carbon monoxide alarms, home escape plans, and more. DFS introduced a new *Keep Warm Keep Safe* logo this winter. More information and resources can be found at www.mass.gov/keepwarmkeepsafe.

Ice Safety

Ice and cold water safety is an important issue in New England. Each winter, residents are injured from exposure to cold water. Last year, fire departments rescued a large number of unleashed dogs who fell through ice. In many cases, owners also were rescued from the water after they tried to help their pets. DFS has a pamphlet in English and Spanish to help educate the public about ice and cold water safety.

Burn Awareness Week

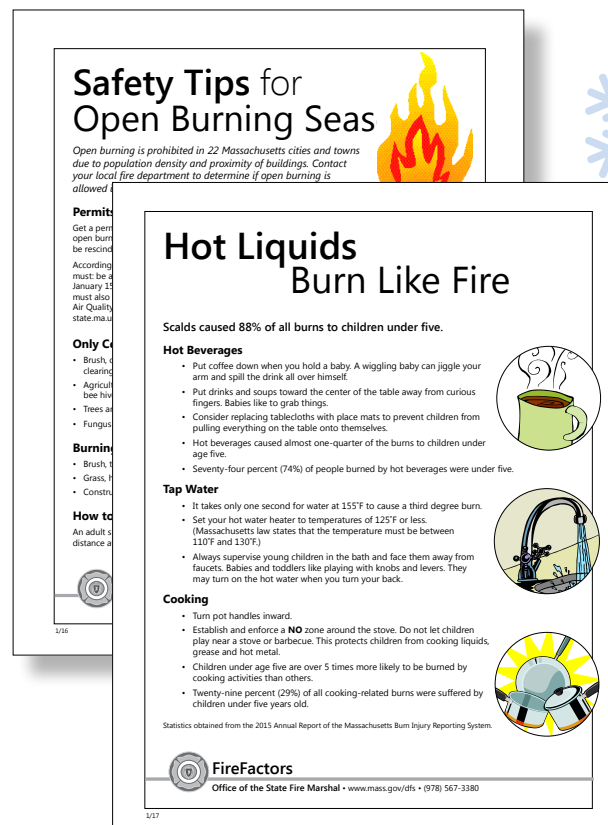
National Burn Awareness Week is February 4-10, 2018. Hot liquid scalds to children under age 5 are the leading burn problem nationally and in Massachusetts. Many burn safety resources are available including those from the American Burn Association. The resources include information on cooking safety for older adults, pediatric scalds and general scald prevention. Visit ameriburn.org/prevention.

The U.S. Fire Administration has burn prevention resources and a customizable Burn Safety handout for downloading. Visit www.usfa.fema.gov and search for burn and scald prevention.

DFS has burn prevention resources including handouts. Visit www.mass.gov and search for *burn and scald prevention* or *M-BIRS*. You can find data on burns in the Massachusetts Burn Injury Reporting System (M-BIRS) annual reports.

Open Burning

Open burning season runs from January 15 through May 1 in communities where it is allowed. Encourage residents to burn at the start of the season when conditions may be wetter, snowier and less likely to cause brush fires than conditions in late April. DFS has a FireFactor on Open Burning and safety tips on the website (www.mass.gov/dfs and type "open burning" in the search box.) The poet T.S. Eliot wrote, "April is the cruellest month," and DFS agrees because April is the month when Massachusetts has the highest number of brush fires. Education can help your community reduce the risks.



Massachusetts Firefighting Academy *Graduations*

Class #256



Class #257



Class #258



Class #S05



Fire Investigation Programs

The Massachusetts Firefighting Academy offers tuition-free Fire Investigation training. The basic and advanced programs provide fire, and state and local police officers, with the technical skills to accurately determine the origin and cause of fires in their jurisdictions and to build solid, prosecutable cases together.

State Fire Marshal Ostroskey said, "The team concept of fire investigation has been used successfully in Massachusetts for over 25 years and it starts with joint training." He added, "When police and fire are trained together, consistency leads to solid origin and cause determinations, and when arson is the cause, solid criminal cases."

Advanced Fire Investigation Course

On October 13, 2017, members of the MFA's six-day Advanced Fire Investigation course graduated. The 12 graduates included five police officers and seven firefighters, representing the following agencies: Brockton Police Department, Cambridge Fire Department, Carver Fire Department, Fall River Fire and Police Departments, Fitchburg Police Department, Framingham Fire Department, Haverhill Fire Department, Marlborough Fire Department, Methuen Police and Fire Departments, and North Andover Fire Department.

The advanced fire investigation course covers the concepts of fire behavior, scene examination, fire scene documentation, evidence collection, witness interviewing, and management of major fire investigations in more depth than the basic fire investigation class. It also addresses the legal issues of managing fire scenes, evidence collection, and concludes with practical exercises that teach about the courtroom process. Students give mock depositions and participate in both a mock grand jury and a mock trial.

Career Recruit Firefighting Training

In the 10-week Career Recruit Firefighting Training program, students receive classroom training in all basic firefighting skills. They practice first under non-fire conditions and then during controlled fire conditions. To graduate, students must demonstrate proficiency in life safety, search and rescue, ladder operations, water supply, pump operation, and fire attack. Fire attack operations range from mailbox fires to multiple-floor and multiple-room structural fires. Upon successful completion of the Recruit Program all students have met the standards of National Fire Protection Association 1001 and are certified to the level of Firefighter I and II, and Hazardous Materials First Responder Operational Level by the Massachusetts Fire Training Council, which is accredited by the National Board on Fire Service Professional Qualifications. Training is held at both the Stow headquarters of DFS and at the new Springfield campus.

Class #256

Members of the Career Recruit Firefighter Class #256 graduated on August 18, 2017 at the Department of Fire Services in Stow. The 33 graduates, all men, represent the 23 fire departments of: Ashland, Bedford, Clinton, Easton, Fitchburg, Franklin, Gardner, Groton, Hanover, Haverhill, Hudson, Lawrence, Lynnfield, Melrose, North Attleboro, Northborough, Sandwich, Scituate, Sudbury, Uxbridge, Weston, Wilmington and Woburn. Retired Lincoln Fire Chief Richard Goddard was the guest speaker.

Class #257

Members of the Career Recruit Firefighter Class #257 graduated on September 29, 2017 at the Department of Fire Services in Stow. The 33 graduates, three women and 30 men, represent the 20 fire departments of: Arlington, Auburn, Bourne, Chelsea, Clinton, Cohasset, Falmouth, Hingham, Hyannis, Leominster, Lexington, Milton, Plainville, Randolph, Taunton, Waltham, Westborough, Westminster, Weymouth and Yarmouth. The guest speaker was Everett Fire Lieutenant Gary Ostler, a member of the federal Urban Search and Rescue Team that responded to Houston after Hurricane Harvey.

Class #258

Members of the Career Recruit Firefighter Class #258 graduated on November 3, 2017 at the Department of Fire Services in Stow. The 33 graduates, two women and 31 men, represent the 18 fire departments of: Burlington, Chelsea, Danvers, Fairhaven, Gardner, Hull, Lynnfield, Marshfield, Methuen, New Bedford, Norton, Reading, Somerville, Tewksbury, Truro, Watertown, Winchester, and Weymouth. The guest speaker was Weymouth Fire Deputy Chief Thomas Murphy, a 20-year veteran of the fire service and a former U.S. Navy submariner.

Class #S05

Members of the Career Recruit Firefighter Class #S05 graduated on September 19, 2017 at the Department of Fire Services in Springfield. The 21 graduates, all men, represent the ten fire departments of Agawam, Amherst, Belchertown, Charlton, Easthampton, Holyoke, Longmeadow, Springfield, West Springfield, and Westfield. The guest speaker was Holyoke Fire Lieutenant Philip Kraus.

Call/Volunteer Recruit Firefighting Training

The Call/Volunteer Firefighter Recruit 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. Graduates complete 240 hours of training. Bringing the training closer to the firefighters often means more firefighters can participate. The program uses an online format that has students

Class #66



Class #67



doing more work outside of class and taking quizzes online. This allows students more time to practice training skills with instructors and to better control their own workloads and time commitments. Upon successful completion of this program, all students have met the standards of National Fire Protection Association 1001.

Class #66

On October 30, 2017, members of Call/Volunteer Recruit Firefighter Training Class #66 graduated. The 25 graduates, 19 men and 6 women, represent the 15 fire departments of: Adams, Amherst, Blandford, Dalton, Deerfield, East Longmeadow, Hadley, Hatfield, Huntington, Orange, South Hadley Dist. 1, Southampton, Southwick, Ware, and West Stockbridge. The ceremony took place at the Department of Fire Services, Springfield campus.

Class #67

On November 1, 2017, members of Call/Volunteer Recruit Firefighter Training Class #67 graduated. The 34 graduates, all men, represent the 19 fire departments of: Ashburnham, Berlin, Boylston, Dunstable, Groton, Haverhill, Leicester, Littleton, Lunenburg, Maynard,

Continued on page 20

2018 License Examination Schedule

The Department of Fire Services Fire Safety Division issues licenses, permits and certificates of competency (licenses) to people and companies engaged in fireworks, blasting, explosives, special effects, cannon and mortar firing, commercial cooking exhaust system cleaning and inspection, special hazard systems, portable fire extinguishers, marine fueling facilities and above ground tanks.

To see the licensing status of an individual or company, visit the *DFS License Look Up* at http://elicense.chs.state.ma.us/DFS_Verification/Search.aspx or go to www.mass.gov and search for *DFS licensing*.

For information about licensing issues, contact the Licensing Desk by phone at 978-567-3700 or by email at dfs.licensing@dfs.state.ma.us.

The schedule of testing dates below is subject to change.

Examinations	Examination Dates All exams start at 10:00 a.m.	Deadlines for Applications
Fire Suppression Commercial Hood Cleaning	January 24, 2018 (Wednesday) March 21, 2018 (Wednesday)	January 5, 2018 (Friday) March 2, 2018 (Friday)
Blasting, Fireworks, Special Effects, Cannon/Mortar	February 14, 2018 (Wednesday) April 18, 2018 (Wednesday)	January 26, 2018 (Friday) March 30, 2018 (Friday)

License Exam Schedule

- Applicants must be pre-registered to take exams. Completed applications must be received by 5:00 p.m. on the deadline date listed above. Application forms are available at www.mass.gov then search for *DFS Licensing*. If your application is received after the deadline, you will not be allowed to take the exam.
- All exams start promptly at 10:00 a.m.
- License exams are given at DFS in Stow at 1 State Road, and at DFS in Springfield at 100 Grochmal Avenue. In Stow, please park in the remote lot at the top of the hill.

MFA Graduations, *continued from page 19*



Millbury, Pepperell, Rutland, Shrewsbury, Spencer, Uxbridge, Wareham, Webster, and Winchendon. The ceremony took place at the Department of Fire Services, Stow campus.

Today's Firefighters Do More Than Fight Fires

Today's firefighters do far more than fight fires. They are the first ones called to respond to chemical and environmental emergencies, ranging from the suspected presence of carbon monoxide to a gas leak. They may be called to rescue a child who has fallen through the ice or who has locked himself in a bathroom. They rescue people from stalled elevators and those who are trapped in vehicle crashes. They test and maintain their equipment, ranging from self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA), hydrants, hoses, power tools, and apparatus.

At the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy, they learn all these skills and more from certified fire instructors who are also experienced firefighters. Students learn all the basic skills they need to respond to fires and to contain and control them.

Performance Recognition Awards

for Distinguished Dedication and Commitment

Each year, a committee of Department of Fire Services (DFS) staff selects full-time employees from among nominees for recognition with Pride in Performance awards. This year, the committee recognized one individual, one team, and one contract employee for distinguished dedication and commitment to the agency's mission. One of our employees also received the Manuel Carballo Governor's Award in Public Service. Governor Baker recognized the full-time employee award recipients at the State House on November 21, 2017.

The Department of Fire Services recognized all the recipients on December 6, 2017 at our Stow Campus. At the Stow event, DFS also recognized full-time and contract employees who reached milestone years of service with the agency as of June 30, 2017. Each employee was awarded a certificate and pin for their continued commitment to the agency. Bob Loomer was recognized for 40 years, Jack Gelinas was recognized for 35, and John M. Blood and James Blanchard for 30. Twelve were recognized for 25 years of service, five for 20 years, 11 for 15 years, 24 for ten years, and 35, including State Fire Marshal Peter Ostroskey, for five years.

Pride in Performance Recipients

- The Learning Management System (LMS) Core Team was recognized for their diligent work over the past two years to implement the LMS. The team worked directly with the vendor, identified each element of data to fit into the new system, analyzed the data, had new data fields created, tested the system with MFA data, identified problems with data drops, corrected data in the new system and retested once corrections were made. The team includes: Loretta Anderson, Heather Antell, Christine Dansereau, Christine Juda, Julie Kilbride, Alanna Malatos, and Susan Mondi-Sykes. Heather Antell and Susan Mondi-Sykes accepted the award in Boston on behalf of the entire team.
- MaryElizabeth Lynch-Lent was nominated for her efforts to set up and coordinate all aspects of the agency's compliance with public records requests. Her system tracks all requests and responses in a uniform manner that meets the law and Secretary of State's regulations. Her personal efforts to process and respond to these inquiries thoroughly and in a timely manner is enormous as the volume is significant, and growing.
- Peter Senopoulos, as part of the Administration and Finance Regulation Review Project Team, received the Manuel Carballo Governor's Award for Excellence in Public Service. He was part of a group of 20 individuals in various state agencies that conducted a review of all the state's regulations for Governor Baker, looking to reduce unnecessary regulations, update where necessary, and remove duplication.



State Fire Marshal Peter Ostroskey with award winners at the State House. Back row: Fire Marshall, Peter Senopoulos. Front row: Susan Mondi-Sykes, Heather Antell and MaryElizabeth Lynch-Lent.

- Nicholas Ferri, Crib Room Assistant Coordinator, was recognized as the contract employee of the year. Since the lead scheduler stepped down in January, Nick became the sole scheduler. He gave up many overtime opportunities at his full-time job to assist DFS during this time of need. Nick gave DFS his weekends and personal time to make sure business went on as seamlessly as possible. After a 6-month vacancy, the position was filled and Nick is helping to train that person and to cross-train other Crib Room assistant coordinators in an effort to strengthen the organization and reduce the vulnerability of reliance on a single person for a key function.

This year, one team and three individuals were honored for distinguished dedication and commitment to the DFS mission and to public service.



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

www.mass.gov/dfs



Winter Home Heating Safety

Keeping everyone warm and safe is a top priority for the fire service. DFS has a toolkit of materials for fire educators about winter home heating safety issues including space heaters, smoke alarms, chimneys, wood stoves and more. Visit www.mass.gov and search for *Keep Warm, Keep Safe* toolkit to download materials.



KEEP WARM KEEP SAFE

Winter Home Heating Safety
Mantenerse Caliente, Mantenerse Seguro

www.mass.gov/keepwarmkeepsafe
Massachusetts Department of Fire Services

Space heaters need space.
Keep anything that can burn 3 feet away.

Los calentadores portátiles necesitan espacio.
Aleje todo lo que pueda arder a 3 pies de distancia.

The *Keep Warm Keep Safe* campaign began in 2008 to educate Massachusetts residents about how to stay safe from fire during the home heating season. Since 2008, the number of residential heating fires has dropped steadily.

This year, the *Keep Warm, Keep Safe* campaign got a new, updated logo. But our safety messages remain the same. Take advantage of all our educational materials to keep everyone in your community warm and safe this winter.

Number of Residential Heating Fires by Winter

