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MEMORANDUM

TO: Heads of Fire Departments

FROM: Stephen D. Coan
State Fire Marshal

DATE: March 1, 2008

SUBJECT: **Cigarette Fire Investigation Checklist and MFIRS**

On January 1, 2008, **Fire Standard Compliant** (FSC) cigarettes became the law in Massachusetts. To track compliance and to see if these new types of cigarettes are reducing the number of smoking fires and fire deaths, I am asking the heads of all local fire departments to make it department policy to determine, whenever possible, if cigarettes involved in fires were or were not fire standard compliant. I have also tasked the State Police commander of the Fire Investigation Unit attached to the Office of the State Fire Marshal to make it unit policy. This information is considered to be most probable based on the initial results of the investigation. This checklist is in addition to and not a replacement for a fire department's mandatory reporting of fires via the Massachusetts Fire Incident Reporting System (MFIRS).

The information acquired from these investigations will be entered into a database and when linked to MFIRS will become a powerful new tool in the fire prevention arsenal. The data would be available to local heads of fire departments upon request.

To help us in this endeavor, I am requesting that a completed checklist be sent to the Fire Data & Public Education Unit at the Office of the State Fire Marshal any time you have a fire that the investigation determines was started by a cigarette. This can be sent by using the hard copy of the form attached or by downloading the FP-38 form from our website www.mass.gov/dfs, clicking on "quick links – DFS" from our home page, then clicking on "Forms – OSFM" and scrolling down to form FP-38. The form has dropdown boxes for Brand, Type, FSC Cigarette, How Involved in Ignition. In the remaining fields, you will have to enter the information.

If you have any questions about reporting these fires or in use of the form, please contact Derryl Dion, the Research Analyst and MFIRS Manager at (978) 567-3382 or Derryl.Dion@state.ma.us.

SDC/jlm/djd
Attachment