

A photograph of three firefighters in full gear, including helmets and jackets with reflective stripes, working on a fire scene. They are positioned in front of a large, dark-colored metal structure, possibly a fire truck or a large container. The firefighter on the left has the number 226 on their helmet. The firefighter in the middle has the number 232 on their helmet. The firefighter on the right has the number 234 on their helmet. The background shows a clear blue sky and a white building with windows.

# All Hands Herald

Massachusetts Department of Fire Services

February 2022

## A Master Plan for DFS Bridgewater

32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Firefighter  
of the Year Awards

3 Fire Service  
Milestones Celebrated

Listed Antifreeze to Be Required  
in Sprinkler Systems

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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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In November 2021, officials and fire service members gathered to honor heroism and dedication in the Massachusetts fire service at the 32<sup>nd</sup> annual Firefighter of the Year Awards ceremony.



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In October 2021, Governor Baker recognized three important anniversaries for the Massachusetts fire service with an official proclamation during *Fire Prevention Week*.

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# From the Fire Marshal

## Together Again

During the latter half of 2021, the Department of Fire Services began observing some major events in person again, including Academy graduations, the Public Fire & Life Safety Education Conference, and the Firefighter of the Year Heroic Awards. Seeing one another in person for these longstanding and valuable traditions was something we all welcomed after a year apart, and you can read more about them elsewhere in this issue. It remains clear, however, that coronavirus variants present a challenge for public events of all sorts. DFS will continue to follow the latest public health guidance and exercise appropriate safety precautions both at large gatherings and in our day-to-day work in order to protect our staff, our visitors, and the communities we serve.

## Another Year with Zero Child Fire Fatalities

When 2021 came to a close, it marked the second calendar year in a row during which no children's lives were lost to fire in Massachusetts. This remarkable and unprecedented trend is due to a variety of factors, not the least of which are the efforts of firefighter-educators who teach fire safety to Massachusetts schoolchildren through the Student Awareness of Fire Education (S.A.F.E.) program. While fire fatalities have been trending downward for all ages since the tragic highs of the 1970s, child fatalities have declined more sharply since the S.A.F.E. program began in the 1990s. A generation of fire-safe kids is raising a new generation of fire-safe families, but we can't take it for granted. Let's keep fire prevention and public education front and center in our community engagement efforts.

## "Dear Grandma" PSAs

While we've made great strides in driving down child fire deaths, data shows that older adults are still at disproportionate risk. In response to this challenge, DFS has rolled out a new round of public service announcements on local television stations and our social media channels. The "Dear Grandma" PSAs promote smoke alarm awareness among older adults, who account for just 14% of Massachusetts residents but comprised 41% of fatal fire victims in 2020. I encourage you to help reach this important audience by sharing the video clips, which are available on our [YouTube channel](#) and at our website on the [Smoke Alarm Public Awareness](#) page.

## 3G Sunset

Major cellular service providers are retiring their 3G networks in 2022 to make room for faster and more reliable network services such as 5G. This change will mean older phones and devices may no longer be able to contact 9-1-1, and upgrades may be necessary for monitored fire alarms and related technologies. The Federal Communications Commission and the Massachusetts Executive Office of Public Safety & Security have urged consumers with phones older than the iPhone 6 or Samsung Galaxy S4 to contact their local mobile carrier or visit their carrier's website to determine if a new device or software upgrade is necessary. Additional information is available on the FCC's website or in this [press release](#) from the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security.

## Little Support for Legalized Fireworks

Throughout the summer of 2020, Massachusetts firefighters responded to a significant increase in fires, injuries, and complaints related to illegal fireworks. DFS, the fire service, and our law enforcement partners sent a strong and unified message in 2021 that fireworks are illegal because they are dangerous – and Massachusetts residents appear to have taken that message to heart. By December 1, 2021, proponents of a ballot initiative to legalize fireworks failed to gather the necessary number of signatures and the measure will not be brought back for at least six years. This is welcome news to those of us who witness the property damage and physical injuries, especially to children, caused by fireworks each year and had grave concerns about making them widely available.

## Tragedies in Philadelphia and the Bronx

In the first few days of 2022, Philadelphia and New York experienced devastating residential fires that claimed the lives of 29 people, including 17 children. The scope of these tragedies is almost beyond words. Our hearts break for the victims, their families, and their communities. Our thoughts are also with our brother and sister firefighters, who witnessed the unimaginable as they gave everything they had to prevent further loss of life. As we emphasize



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# A Master Plan for DFS Bridgewater

## *18-Acre Site Will Be a Full-Service Regional Facility*

In October 2021, construction crews broke ground for a new search and rescue prop at the Department of Fire Services (DFS) Bridgewater campus. This prop, expected to be unveiled this year, is the first of many additions to come in the years ahead under a new Master Plan for the 18-acre site.

Developed over the past year by State Fire Marshal Peter J. Ostroskey, DFS staff, the Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance (DCAMM) and other partners, the Master Plan reflects an exciting long-term vision with enormous benefits to the Commonwealth and its firefighters.

### **DFS Bridgewater Master Plan**

“The Master Plan calls for building the Bridgewater campus into a full-service regional facility,” said State Fire Marshal Ostroskey. “It will make the entire array of DFS services available to the fire departments of southeastern Massachusetts and their communities. The Massachusetts Firefighting Academy will have a strong and visible presence there, but the site will also provide permanent office and operational space for Special Operations, the Boiler & Pressure Vessel Program, Code Compliance & Enforcement Unit, Fire & Explosion Investigation Unit, and other DFS teams while protecting the Commonwealth’s environmental assets and respecting our neighbors.”

The design strategy at Bridgewater has two key objectives. The first is to maximize usage across the entire campus so the use of one feature won’t interfere with the use of others or with deliveries, resupply, and other day-to-day business. Toward this end, storage spaces for tools, equipment, pallets, straw, and other supplies will be built into or near the locations where they’ll be used.

Public-facing operations such as parking and administrative offices will be closest to public access routes at the south end of the complex. Live fire training will be at the northern end, near a water reclamation system that takes advantage of the site’s natural grading, capturing rainwater and re-using water from firefighter training. Placement of live fire training at the northern end of the complex has the additional benefit of keeping smoke as far as practicable from the southern buildings and spaces that are regularly occupied by staff, students, and visitors.

The second objective of the design strategy is to allow for flexible, modular development of the site over time. This means prioritizing the paving, water, sewer, electricity, gas, drainage, and communications systems for the undeveloped sections of the site and then populating them with desired structures over time.

“The Bridgewater campus will be built up over time like a city,” Fire Marshal Ostroskey said. “As funding streams support new structures and features, the infrastructure will already be in place to support them.”

In addition to the search and rescue prop currently in development, long-term plans include:

- Administrative, warehouse, and firehouse buildings, providing modern office space, classrooms, locker areas, apparatus bays, and crib room storage and support;
- A three-story Class A burn building with concrete pads for resupply by tractor trailer units, trench drains connected to the water reclamation system, and electrical/communications access;
- A 20,000-gallon concrete drafting pit;
- A mini gas field prop;
- A five-story Class B fueled training tower;
- A 6,600 square foot concrete pad for Hazmat training

Background image: Construction for search and rescue prop underway.







Architectural rendering of DFS Bridgewater master plan.

and a 3,000-square foot concrete pad for vehicle extrication training. Both pads will feature adjacent spaces to stockpile, store, stage, and deliver materials;

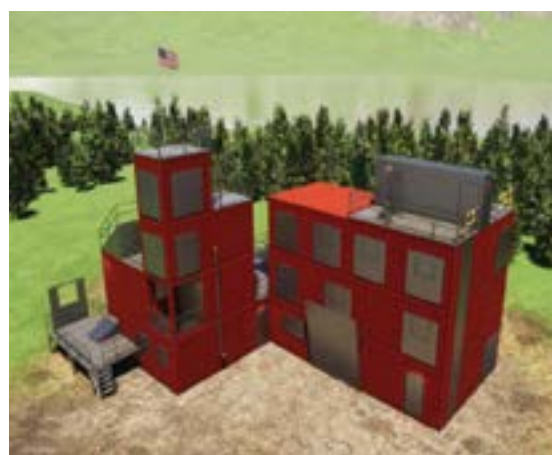
- A technical rescue prop with structural collapse prop, rubble pile, and confined space rescue training areas;
- Sheltered outdoor classrooms at locations across the campus; and many other features.

Throughout Bridgewater's development, DFS will implement strategies to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions and other environmental impacts. The goal is to achieve Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification for the buildings and campus. This includes generating renewable, clean energy on-site, monitoring utility data in real time to better manage use, and installing

infrastructure to keep pace with emerging alternatives to fossil fuels.

The fire service has already seen the benefits of expanding firefighter training to southeastern Massachusetts, and DFS will apply those lessons to expanding the critical services that every division of DFS provides, day in and day out. Planners will continue to seek and incorporate input from DFS staff and the fire service as the process moves forward in the months and years to come.

"The long-term development of the Bridgewater campus represents an investment in the future of the fire service and DFS," said State Fire Marshal Ostroskey. "The Master Plan is a road map to that future, and we look forward to following it with our colleagues and communities in southeastern Massachusetts."



Architectural rendering of search and rescue prop.

# 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Firefighter of the Year Awards



Springfield



Saugus

On November 23, Governor Charlie Baker, Lieutenant Governor Karyn Polito, and Public Safety Secretary Terrence M. Reidy joined State Fire Marshal Peter Ostroskey to honor the heroism and dedication of the Massachusetts fire service at the 32<sup>nd</sup> annual Firefighter of the Year Awards ceremony. WCVB's Doug Meehan emceed the event at Worcester's Mechanics Hall.

"Firefighters have helped make Massachusetts a national leader in fire prevention strategies and one of the most fire-safe states in the country," said State Fire Marshal Ostroskey. "But when a fire does break out and puts people in danger, Massachusetts firefighters are there to bring them to safety – no matter when, where, or what the call might be. The Firefighter of the Year Awards recognize their individual and collective acts of bravery and service that truly go above and beyond the call of duty."

"These awards recognize acts of bravery and dedication that are remarkable even by the high standard set for Massachusetts firefighters," said Governor Charlie Baker. "Through their courage, compassion, and commitment to helping others no matter the risk to themselves, the men and women we honor today represent the very best of the fire service."

"The Commonwealth's firefighters demonstrate bravery and professionalism every day, and our communities are grateful for the service of these dedicated public safety professionals," said Lt. Governor Karyn Polito. "It's a privilege to recognize this year's award winners and thank fire service personnel across the Commonwealth for doing such a difficult, dangerous job so well every day."

"These recipients' actions personify the qualities of bravery and heroism," said Public Safety and Security

Secretary Terrence Reidy. "Guided by their training, experience, and instinct to help, each person we honor today used their training to serve people in their greatest hour of need. On behalf of all the state's public safety professionals, I offer them my congratulations and gratitude for their examples of excellence."

The Governor, Secretary, and State Fire Marshal presented six medals of valor, six individual awards for meritorious conduct, and six group awards for meritorious conduct. The awards reflected acts of bravery and heroism on firegrounds, at vehicle crash scenes, in a water rescue, and even in the face of armed assailants. The awards and recipients are as follows:

## Medals of Valor

- Lt. Christopher J. Mahoney - Carver
- FF Paul Medeiros - New Bedford
- FF Greg Cinelli - Saugus
- Lt. Danielle O'Hearn - Somerville
- FF George Vasquez - Springfield
- FF Jon Paul Paige - Worcester

## Individual Awards for Meritorious Conduct

- FF/Paramedic Nicholas W. Sheehan - Attleboro
- FF/Paramedic Gretchen Riley - Brewster
- FF Josh Ford - Harwich
- FF Christopher J. Veracka - Kingston
- FF /EMT Nicholas M. Holmes - Lynnfield
- Fire Chief Matthew Belsito - Sutton

## Group Awards for Meritorious Conduct

- Brockton: Lt. Benjamin Denny, Lt. James W. DuBeau Jr., FF Christian Bugbee, FF Corey Lacey, FF Edward J. Lee III, FF Robert Orcutt, and FF Alexander Warren





Somerville



New Bedford

*"Through their courage, compassion, and commitment to helping others no matter the risk to themselves, the men and women we honor today represent the very best of the fire service."*

*- Governor Charlie Baker.*

- Dartmouth Fire District 1: Cpt. Ryan Cabral and Lt. Ryan P. Snell
- New Bedford: Cpt. Kurt Houghton, Lt. Louis Miranda, FF Eric Britto, FF Andrew W. Coderre, FF Darien Jacintho, FF Kenneth Letourneau, FF Paul Medeiros, and FF Manuel Mota, Jr.
- Saugus: Captain Chris Vinard, FF Sean Bohannon, and FF Greg Cinelli
- Somerville: Deputy Chief Michael Anzalone, Lt. Thomas Bellini, Lt. Danielle O'Hearn, FF Christian Carroll, FF Charles Conway, FF Ryan M. Epps, FF Douglas Henry, FF Alex Massiah, FF John O'Connor, and FF Mark Wall
- Springfield: FF Jonathan Shea and FF George Vasquez

New Bedford Firefighter Bryce Fortes received the Norman Knight Award for Excellence in Community Service for volunteering thousands of hours to help vulnerable members of his community. The Stephen D. Coan Fire Marshal's Award was presented to Jennifer Mieth, former public information officer for the Department of Fire Services, who retired last year after nearly 40 years at the forefront of Massachusetts' fire and life safety education efforts.


Since their inception in 1990, the Firefighter of the Year Awards have grown from a simple ceremony to the



Brockton



premier annual event for the Massachusetts fire service, honoring truly remarkable acts of courage, service, and sacrifice by the Commonwealth's firefighters and recognizing their invaluable contributions to the communities they serve.



# Listed Antifreeze to Be Required *in Sprinkler Systems*

The days of using unlisted antifreeze products in fire sprinkler systems will soon be behind us. NFPA 25, Standard for the Inspection, Testing, and Maintenance of Water-Based Fire Protection Systems, has set a deadline of September 30, 2022, for existing antifreeze fire sprinkler systems to begin using antifreeze products that are listed by UL or similar organizations. It's important to ensure that building owners are aware of this deadline so they can remain in compliance with the requirement.

## History of Antifreeze in Sprinkler Systems

For many years, sprinkler systems using antifreeze were fairly common. Starting in July 2010, NFPA issued multiple safety alerts about the newly recognized dangers that antifreeze in fire sprinkler systems could pose. The dangers came to light after several incidents, including a kitchen grease fire where a sprinkler system containing high concentrations of antifreeze operated but intensified the fire rather than suppressing it. That incident, which resulted in one fatality and serious injuries to another person, prompted new concerns and research regarding antifreeze combustibility.

By April 2011, NFPA had issued four Tentative Interim Amendments (TIAs) applying to the NFPA 13, NFPA 13R, NFPA 13D and NFPA 25 standards, which limited the use of antifreeze for fire sprinkler systems in both new and existing systems.

Starting with the 2013 editions of NFPA 13, NFPA 13R, and NFPA 13D, the use of antifreeze in new sprinkler systems was only permitted if the antifreeze solution was "listed for use in sprinkler systems," with few exceptions. When the standards were published, the requirement virtually stopped the use of antifreeze in new sprinkler systems as there were no antifreeze solutions listed for use in sprinkler systems available on the market.

## Listed Products Available

Starting in 2018, multiple manufacturers released antifreeze products listed for use in fire sprinkler systems. Ensuring that they are used in accordance with the manufacturer's listing requirements is paramount. Listed antifreeze manufacturers place a number of restrictions on these products' use, including minimum temperatures, system volume limitations for certain types of systems, use limitations for certain hazard classifications, and calculation adjustments to ensure that system piping is sized appropriately for the unique thermal expansion and density properties of the solution.

## Challenges for Building Owners

One major challenge some building owners will face with conversion to a listed antifreeze is that the listed products currently available may require system modifications for effective use. The most difficult limitation for many will be the system volume limits, which can vary depending on the manufacturer and type of sprinkler system (NFPA 13, 13R, or 13D). Based on current manufacturers' listings, it appears that NFPA 13R and 13D systems usually do not have a volume limit, but NFPA 13 systems typically do.

**Fire departments can help to ensure future compliance by notifying building owners who have antifreeze systems about the impending deadline.**

Existing antifreeze sprinkler systems with volumes that exceed the listing limitations will require modification to meet volume restrictions or conversion to a different, non-antifreeze system. In most cases, antifreeze was used because the system might be exposed to freezing temperatures, so conversion to a traditional wet system may not be an option. In those cases, dry or pre-action systems may need to be considered to achieve compliance going forward.

Although conversion may pose challenges, it is well worth the benefit in terms of lives and property saved from fire. Moreover, it is important to note that the September 30, 2022, deadline has been in place in NFPA 25 since the 2014 edition of the standard, giving building owners more than eight years to plan for compliance. Those who have not yet begun working on a plan for compliance with the deadline should begin working on one as soon as possible in case significant system modifications are necessary.

Fire departments can help to ensure future compliance by notifying building owners who have antifreeze systems about the impending deadline. After building owners work with design professionals to develop a plan for compliance, they need to get a building permit prior to any system modifications.

For questions, or more information please contact the Division of Fire Safety's fire protection engineers. Communities north of the Massachusetts Turnpike, contact Kristen McDonough at 978-567-3376 or [kristen.mcdonough@mass.gov](mailto:kristen.mcdonough@mass.gov). Communities south of or on the Massachusetts Turnpike, contact Jake Nunnemacher at 978-273-7366 or [jacob.nunnemacher@mass.gov](mailto:jacob.nunnemacher@mass.gov).



# 3 Fire Service Milestones Celebrated with Governor's Proclamation

On October 3, 2021, Governor Baker recognized three important anniversaries for the Massachusetts fire service with an official proclamation during Fire Prevention Week. The proclamation highlighted the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Board of Fire Prevention Regulations; the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Fire Training Council and the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy; and the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Fire Service Commission and the Department of Fire Services.

## 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Board of Fire Prevention Regulations

2021 marked the 75<sup>th</sup> year since the first meeting of the Board of Fire Prevention Regulations. The Board was established to protect Massachusetts residents through a comprehensive fire safety code, the provisions of which are drawn from Board members' experience and expertise in a variety of disciplines. The Board was established after the Cocoanut Grove nightclub fire, the deadliest nightclub fire in U.S. history, took the lives of 492 people in November of 1942. The fire made clear the need for fire safety laws and the comprehensive fire safety code grew out of those laws.

## 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Fire Training Council and the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy

2021 was the 50<sup>th</sup> year since Chapter 842 of the Acts of 1971 established the Fire Training Council and the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy (MFA) to provide Massachusetts firefighters the skills necessary to preserve life and protect property under inherently dangerous conditions. The MFA provides free fire training to firefighters across Massachusetts. The Massachusetts Fire Training Council is the sole certifying agency for certification of all levels of fire service personnel. The Council promulgates rules and regulations for the operation of the MFA and approves courses and curriculum.

## 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Fire Service Commission and the Department of Fire Services

Finally, 2021 was the 25<sup>th</sup> year since Chapter 151 of the Acts of 1996 established the Fire Service Commission and the Department of Fire Services (DFS) within the Executive Office of Public Safety, providing an administrative and organizational framework to support the professionalism and capabilities of the Massachusetts fire service and its leadership. DFS helps keep Massachusetts communities safe by providing firefighter training, public education, fire prevention, code enforcement, licensing, fire investigation,

hazardous material response, and emergency response. The Fire Service Commission appoints the State Fire Marshal; promulgates regulations and policies about the Office of the State Fire Marshal; reviews the annual budget of the Office; advises the Office on state and national fire codes; and consults with the Massachusetts Fire Training Council to develop standards for fire investigation and certification.

The Proclamation also celebrates that the number of fire deaths in Massachusetts per 100,000 residents has fallen by more than 75% in the last 75 years and is now among the lowest in the nation, as calculated by the United States Fire Administration.

In the days following the October 3 proclamation, State Fire Marshal Peter Ostroskey read its text into the record at meetings of the Board of Fire Prevention Regulations, Fire Training Council, and Fire Service Commission, thanking all members, past and present, for their contributions to a fire-safe Commonwealth.



Proclamation presented to the Board of Fire Prevention Regulations.



Proclamation presented to the Fire Training Council.

# Fire Investigation News

## Suspect Charged with Arson after Restaurant Fire

On the night of November 29, 2021, the State Police Fire & Explosion Investigation Unit was called to assist Springfield Police with an incendiary fire, leading to an arson arrest.

At about 9:40 that night, Springfield Police were called to the El Morro Bakery and Restaurant on Page Boulevard for an alarm activation. Arriving officers immediately saw a fire in the back of the building. The Springfield Fire Department arrived and extinguished the fire. No one was inside at the time.

Trooper Patrick Clayton responded to the scene with Accelerant Detection K-9 Bijou. Bijou alerted to the back of the restaurant, in the area of origin, where the suspect had poured an ignitable liquid. Together with the Springfield Arson & Bomb Squad, they conducted a joint investigation and collected evidence including video footage. The suspect captured on video was positively identified as 48-year-old Josue Ortiz-Velez.

On December 30 at around 12:00 p.m., a Springfield arson investigator was parked across the street from the restaurant when he observed Ortiz-Velez return to the scene and drive away. Springfield Police conducted a traffic stop of the suspect's vehicle on Duryea Street and placed him under arrest for arson.

## Foxborough Fire Linked to Cannabis Operation

A two-alarm fire in Foxborough was caused by an unspecified electrical event in the building's basement, where firefighters discovered lighting, a dehumidifier, and other appliances used in a large marijuana growing operation.

About a dozen people were displaced after the December 15, 2021, fire on Central Avenue. Because some cannabis processing methods utilize toxic, flammable, and explosive materials, a District 1 Hazmat team was called to the scene. Clandestine Lab Enforcement Team personnel, who are cross-trained to assess and mitigate these hazards, also responded to assist.

## From the Fire Marshal, *continued from page 1*

our external messaging on fire safety strategies like maintaining smoke alarms and practicing home escape routes in light of these two tragedies, let's look inward as well and remember that firefighters are not immune to grief and trauma. Critical Incident Stress Management is a crucial part of firefighter health and well-being, especially after painful events like these. Massachusetts has a network of CISM teams ready to support the fire service 24 hours a day, seven days a week: if you or a colleague need help, please don't hesitate to use them. Visit our website for [CISM contact information](#).



K-9 Bijou assisted Trooper Patrick Clayton and the Springfield Arson & Bomb Squad with an arson investigation in November.

**Cannabis extraction methods that use propane, butane, and similar substances are illegal in residential settings because they're highly flammable and extremely dangerous.**

Cannabis extraction methods that use propane, butane, and similar substances are illegal in residential settings because they're extremely dangerous. The vapors are highly flammable. If they accumulate in a basement or any enclosed area, they can be ignited by a furnace pilot light or spark, causing a devastating explosion.

The December 15 fire was jointly investigated by the Foxborough Fire and Police departments and the State Police Fire & Explosion Investigation Unit assigned to the State Fire Marshal's office. The investigation determined that the fire began in a basement room in the middle of the building. It spread to the building's attic before being fully extinguished by Foxborough firefighters.

Cannabis Fire Safety is an important topic for public education. DFS has a [Cannabis Fire Safety](#) flyer you can download and share from our website.

## Help Us to Help You

A lot has changed since the first edition of the *All Hands Herald* rolled off the presses in 2006. News sources are evolving every day and we're no exception. Please take a moment to share your thoughts on the magazine and help us keep it relevant to your needs, interests, and reading habits! Please take the short [All Hands Herald Reader Engagement Survey](#) today. Thank you!



# Brush Fire Dangers

Spring weather elevates the chance of brush fires in Massachusetts. When snow melts, it reveals dried grass, leaves, and fallen branches. This tinder, combined with days of high winds, low humidity, and bright sunshine, provides ideal conditions for brush and woodland fires.

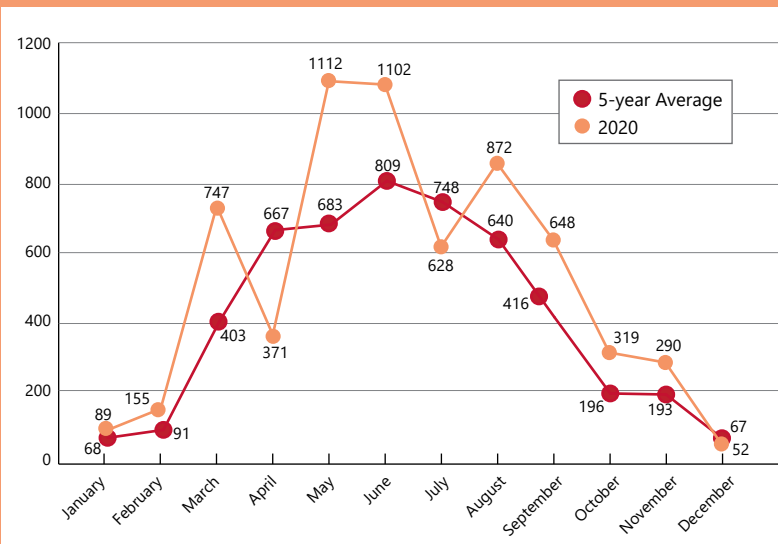
## Brush Fires Rose in 2020

According to data from the Massachusetts Fire Incident Reporting System (MFIRS), there were 6,385 tree, grass, and brush fires in 2020. The fires caused one civilian death, two civilian injuries, 20 firefighter injuries, and an estimated dollar loss of \$223,061. The number of fires was a 114% increase from the 2,985 incidents reported in 2019. 2020 saw the seventh highest number of reported brush fires on record. The number of brush fires changes each year based on weather conditions, but the pandemic's effect on patterns of human activity may have contributed to the increase seen in 2020.

## April and May the Worst Months for Brush Fires

Historically, April has been the worst month for brush fires. However, during the last six years (2015 – 2020), May has

Massachusetts Brush Fires, 2016 - 2020



become the worst month for brush fires. Both open burning and unauthorized burning contribute to the number of brush and woodland fires in April and May.

## Brush Fires Tax Firefighting Resources

Brush fires take time and manpower to bring under control and multiple brush fires severely tax firefighting resources. Prevention is the best approach. DFS has brush fire safety information on our website at [Open Burning Safety](#). The information includes a downloadable pamphlet for public education.

## MFIRS Coding Tips for Brush Fires

### Fire vs. Wildland Fire

Third party software must allow users to use the Fire Module instead of the Wildland Module. In Massachusetts, we strongly recommend using the Fire Module to report brush fires. The Wildland Module is an optional module that can be used for Incident Types: 140-143, 160, 170-173, 561, 631 and 632. If a software program does not allow this option, contact the vendor to remind them that USFA and Massachusetts NFIRS/MFIRS rules allow you to report this way.

### Permit Fires and Unauthorized Burning

Code an out-of-control permit fire as Incident Type = 631: Authorized controlled fire or 632: Prescribed fire. If the fire expands beyond the focus of the permit,

then use 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.

### Mulch Fires

There is no one Incident Type code for a mulch fire. The correct way to code a mulch fire is using Incident Type = 140: Natural vegetation fire, other. On the Fire Module, code Item First Ignited as 72: Light vegetation (not crop). Includes grass, leaves, needles, chaff, mulch, and compost.

# Local Firefighters Answer the Call in Louisiana

A group of Massachusetts firefighters who assisted in Louisiana following Hurricane Ida put their skills to work and earned a shout-out from that state's fire marshal.

On September 7, 2021, ten firefighters from Carlisle, Dalton, and Lynnfield traveled to Louisiana under the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC), the national emergency management mutual aid system that facilitates state-to-state disaster assistance. Their mission was to assist local first responders in the devastating aftermath of Hurricane Ida.

During the early morning hours of September 14, several of them were dispatched to a fully involved car fire in the City of Houma on behalf of the Grand Caillou Fire Department. Captain Kevin Mutti, Firefighter Jeff Fiorintino, and Firefighter Andrew Nardone of the Lynnfield Fire Department and Firefighters Nico Amuso, Jordan Anderson, and Zach Morrissey of the Dalton Fire Department responded. As the first and second due companies, they were able to extinguish the blaze, limit the damage to an adjoining home, and prevent the fire from spreading further.

"We got the Mass boys in the action," Louisiana State Fire Marshal H. "Butch" Browning wrote to Massachusetts

officials that day before he recognized their efforts on Twitter. "They made a great stop and saved a home this morning."

"Massachusetts firefighters know the value of mutual aid, whether it comes across municipal borders or state lines," said State Fire Marshal Ostroskey. "Our counterparts in Louisiana were confronting high temperatures, power and resource shortages, the fire and health risks associated with increased generator usage, and concerns about their own families. Firefighting is a physically and mentally demanding job even under the best conditions, so we know the challenges they were facing."

More than 30 deaths in Louisiana were attributed to Hurricane Ida, which left more than a million people without power and caused billions of dollars in damages. Massachusetts was one of 21 states to send aid under EMAC, which functions as the nation's all-hazards mutual aid system to coordinate the provision of certain emergency management assets.



## Fire Safety for Newcomers

Now Available in Pashto . . . and Khmer, Farsi, and Somali

About 1,000 Afghans have resettled in Massachusetts or are expected to arrive in the coming months. Among their needs is helpful, reliable, and accurate fire safety information. The Department of Fire Services (DFS) has translated our *Fire Safety for Newcomers* booklet into **Pashto**. This new translation is a one-page flier. It is available on our website at [www.mass.gov/dfs](https://www.mass.gov/dfs). Search for [Fire Safety for Newcomers in Pashto](#).

*Fire Safety for Newcomers* is an excellent resource on fire safety for everyone. The original booklet includes information in **English, Spanish, Portuguese, Chinese, Haitian Creole, Russian, and Vietnamese**. We also have one-page fliers in **Khmer, Farsi, Somali**, and now **Pashto**. The booklet and one-page fliers are available at [www.mass.gov/dfs](https://www.mass.gov/dfs). Search for [Fire Safety for Newcomers](#).

Is there a language group in your city or town that needs fire safety information? DFS may be able to help. Contact Matthew Brennan at [matthew.brennan@mass.gov](mailto:matthew.brennan@mass.gov) or 978-567-3381.





# Tech Rescue Instructors Train in Texas

## *in Advanced Structural Collapse*

Over the past 18 months, the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy (MFA) Technical Rescue Division has been developing a structural collapse training program to meet a key training need for the Commonwealth's fire service. As part of this process, several members had the opportunity to train at the Texas A&M Training Engineering Extension Service (TEEX), one of the nation's most respected providers of emergency responder training.

The TEEX *Advanced Exterior and Interior Shoring of Collapsed Structures* course provided two weeks of classroom instruction and practical exercises, with interior and exterior tactics each receiving a week's worth of intensive training. As a prerequisite, each of the six MFA team members who attended had previously completed an 80-hour Structural Collapse Technician program.

The TEEX course was developed for Urban Search and Rescue responders from local, state, and federal teams, as well as municipal and industrial agencies that may have to conduct operations at large-scale structural collapse incidents. The TEEX training site in College Station, Texas, has structures that simulate damage from natural disasters such as earthquakes, floods, and tornadoes, as well as incidents like explosions and motor vehicle collisions. The site has several buildings with walls and floors angled to simulate a partial collapse.

Training in these environments allowed the technicians to become familiar with the wide variety of structural collapse scenarios they may encounter in the real world. In turn, this will bolster the MFA's training as it seeks funding to expand its curriculum to include structural collapse operations, and it will maximize the benefits of technical rescue props that are part of the long-term plan for the Department of Fire Services' Bridgewater campus.



The MFA Tech Rescue instructors learned techniques for supporting structures in the TEEX training. They used lumber, saws, and nails to build supports for compromised walls and flooring. They measured the heights and angles of a compromised wall or floor, then built supports to secure the structure so rescuers could access victims safely. Supports were framed with 2"x 4" and 2"x 6" pine, 4"x 4" and 6"x 6" pressure treated lumber, and 1/2" plywood. Students used a variety of saws including gas and electric chainsaws and circular saws ranging from 7 1/4" to 14" that were powered by portable generators to cut lumber. Students also used hammers, framing squares, speed squares, and tape measures.

The TEEX training reinforced MFA Tech Rescue members' skills, increased their knowledge, and boosted their confidence. They returned to the MFA with new information and fresh strategies that will benefit the development of the new structural collapse program, and ultimately improve the technical rescue capabilities of the Massachusetts fire service statewide.

*Above: Tech rescue instructors learned to assemble a triple insertion raker like this one, which can be used to support the leaning wall of a tall structure. Left: MFA instructors learn how to cut an angle for a double insertion raker.*

# 2021 Fire & Life Safety Education Conference

The 26<sup>th</sup> Public Fire and Life Safety Education Conference took place on September 22 and 23, 2021, at the Cape Codder Resort and Spa in Hyannis, Massachusetts. Nearly 300 fire and life safety educators, prevention officers, teachers, care specialists, and others gathered to share knowledge, build partnerships, and recognize the Fire and Life Safety Educator of the Year. This year's theme was "Taking a Mulligan – Getting Back in the Swing," reflecting the fact that last year's conference was put on hold due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

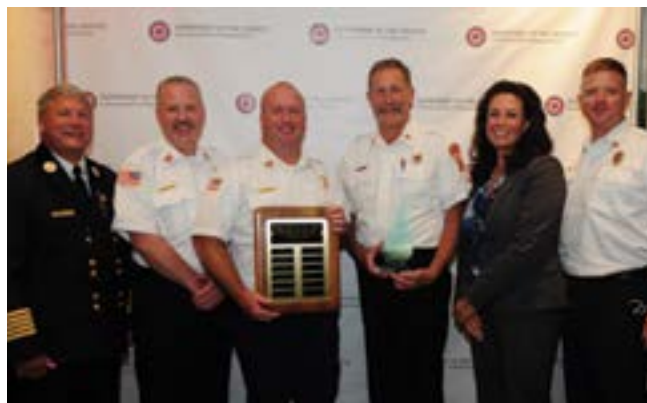
Patricia Mieszala, RN, presented the keynote address, "Youth Firesetting and Intervention Programs – Keeping Your Ball in Flight." Pat is the president and founder of Burn Concerns National Consulting and Educational Services and provides educational services, training, and project reviews to burn care facilities, foundations, and fire service organizations. She spoke about the prevention of, and intervention in, youth firesetting behavior.

Lieutenant Robert Feeney of the Onset Fire Department presented a morning general session called "Life Safety Lessons Learned from the 4<sup>th</sup> Deadliest Nightclub Fire in History." Feeney spoke about how his experience as a survivor of the 2003 Station Nightclub fire in West Warwick, Rhode Island led him to become a fire sprinkler advocate. He currently speaks across the country on the importance of fire sprinklers and addressed that topic at the conference as well.

Attendees also heard from Cynthia Ouellette, who served for seven years as the coordinator of the Department of Fire Services' Fire Data and Public Education Unit. She addressed the pandemic's effect on public fire and life safety education in general and the Student Awareness of Fire Education (S.A.F.E.) program in particular.

## Educator of the Year Award

The 2021 Fire & Life Safety Educator of the Year Award was presented to Captain James Brooks of the Danvers Fire Department. Captain Brooks was recognized for his efforts to teach fire and life safety throughout the pandemic. He worked with the Danvers IT Department and school system to deliver the S.A.F.E. curriculum to students online, completely revamping the program to address the challenges of remote education. He also developed an evaluation tool for the online program.



*Left to right: State Fire Marshal Peter Ostroskey, Chief Robert Amerault, Deputy Chief Brian Barry, Educator of the Year Captain James Brooks, Deputy State Fire Marshal Maribel Fournier, and Centerville-Osterville-Marstons Mills Fire Chief Michael Winn, president of the Fire Chiefs Association of Massachusetts.*

Captain Brooks was also honored for a long history of service in fire and life safety education. During his time as the Danvers Fire Department's Fire Prevention Officer, he educated two "Young Heroes," who kept their cool during fires and used their knowledge to help others escape safely. He elevated the quality of the Department's fire prevention programming and inspired four firefighters to join the Danvers Fire and Life Safety Team. He has also been training his successor well in advance of his retirement this year, ensuring that the program will continue long after he retires.

The other distinguished nominees for Educator of the Year were Weymouth Firefighter Douglas Bocash, Nantucket Deputy Chief Sean Mitchell, and Shrewsbury Firefighter Brendan Palumbo. Firefighter Bocash was nominated for his enthusiastic and successful commitment to teaching CPR in his community. Deputy Chief Mitchell was nominated for his education campaign about the safe handling, storage and cleaning of fire gear and the importance of purchasing PFAS-free gear. He was also recognized for his resolution at the 2021 IAFF Convention to provide firefighters with safer alternatives for personal protection equipment. Firefighter Palumbo was nominated for his educational home escape video and lesson plan that he shared on social media during the height of the pandemic.

State Fire Marshal Peter Ostroskey and the entire DFS team congratulate the winner and the nominees, and all those who work so hard to promote fire and life safety through education.



# Brockton Fire Trained in Handle With Care



## *Communication Protocol Connects Schools and First Responders*



In partnership with the United Way of Greater Plymouth County Family Center, the Plymouth County District Attorney's Office last year conducted eight training sessions with the Brockton Fire Department for the DA's Handle With Care program to support children who experience trauma.

"As firefighters, our first priority will always be to protect lives and safety," said Brockton Fire Chief Brian F. Nardelli. "This program allows us to help protect kids' emotional well-being, too."

Brockton is the first municipality in Massachusetts to train its fire department on Handle With Care, which is a communication protocol connecting schools and first responders. When law enforcement, fire service, or other emergency personnel encounter a child who has been exposed to a traumatic event, the protocol provides them a mechanism to give schools a "heads up." School administrators can then notify the appropriate teacher or counselor to observe the student's behavior and learning and be prepared to provide trauma-sensitive support. To protect the child's privacy, first responders do not share

any specific information about the traumatic incident.

Sixty percent of children in the U.S. have been exposed to violence, crime, or abuse. These kids still have to go to class, carrying a burden of stress and trauma that can interfere with their behavior and grades in schools that aren't even aware there's an issue. The Brockton Fire Department joins the Brockton Police Department and Brockton Public Schools in the Handle With Care initiative, which serves to support these youngsters.

Handle With Care started in Brockton in 2008 as "The Red Envelope," when it was used to discreetly alert school staff that a child had been a witness to violence. The program has grown and evolved into Handle With Care, a nationally recognized and utilized model that aims to inform schools when a child has been at the scene of any event that may be traumatic.

For more information on Handle With Care, visit <https://hwc.plymouthda.com/>. To arrange a training for your fire, police, or school department, contact Jennifer Cantwell at [Jennifer.cantwell@state.ma.us](mailto:Jennifer.cantwell@state.ma.us).

## DFS and MassDEP Issue PFAS Advisory

*Immediately Cease Using Aqueous Film Forming Foams  
Manufactured Prior to 2003*



In August of 2021, the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) and Department of Fire Services (DFS) issued an advisory on the use of firefighting foams that contain Poly Fluorinated Alkyl Substances, commonly known as PFAS, which can be harmful even at low concentrations to firefighters, their communities, and public health.

MassDEP and DFS are advising fire departments to immediately cease using Aqueous Film Forming Foams (AFFF) manufactured prior to 2003 and reserve the use of post-2003 AFFF only for situations in which life safety is at risk and it is absolutely tactically necessary. If PFAS foam is used under these circumstances, fire departments are

asked to make a courtesy notification to MassDEP Emergency Response 24/7 at 888-304-1133.

MassDEP and DFS are also advising fire departments to replace their current PFAS foams with Fluorine Free Foam (3F), which does not contain PFAS and may be used without restriction.

With the assistance of DFS, MassDEP has collected 206,415 pounds of pre-2003 PFAS firefighting foam from local departments to date. MassDEP will continue to fund the take back and disposal of pre-2003 foam, and is working with DFS and the Fire Chiefs Association of Massachusetts to seek funding that would include current PFAS foam in the program. Read the full [PFAS Foam Advisory](#) here.



# DFS Retirements



Larry Hodgdon



Steven Rourke



Jennifer Mieth

## **Administrative Compliance Officer Larry Hodgdon**

Larry Hodgdon retired in March 2021 after 22 years with the Department of Fire Services' Fire Safety Division. Administrative Compliance was Larry's second career. In 1999, he retired as a captain after 33 years with the Cambridge Fire Department. Several months later, he started at DFS, where he became one of the voices of the Fire Safety Division and answered thousands of phone calls from fire departments, members of the regulated community, and the general public. Larry willingly shared his vast knowledge and wisdom with compliance staff and others across DFS, as well as helping out with a variety of special projects.

In 2020, Larry was part of a three-person team that received the DFS Citation for Outstanding Performance (Contract Employees) for successfully transitioning the compliance desk to a remote environment during the pandemic. His efforts were instrumental to ensuring that the desk continued to provide critical safety guidance without interruption and maintaining the high standards of customer service that our customers had come to expect.

Larry's expertise and wisdom will be missed at DFS and across the fire protection community. We wish him the very best and continued happiness in retirement.

## **General Counsel Steven Rourke**

Steven Rourke retired in November 2021 after 25 years with the Department of Fire Services. Steve came to the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy in June 1996 following years of service with the Norfolk District Attorney's office and Registry of Motor Vehicles, and helped draft the legislation that created both DFS and the Fire Service Commission.

In the course of his career, Steve led the DFS legal team that developed, drafted, and implemented legislation that strengthened Massachusetts Hazmat response, nightclub safety, carbon monoxide alarm requirements, and the regulation of dangerous explosives. He served as counsel

to many DFS boards and commissions and was a frequent speaker and lecturer for the National Fire Protection Association, Fire Chiefs Association of Massachusetts, the Chief Fire Officer Management Training Program, and others. He was an honored recipient of numerous professional accolades, including the Eugene H. Rooney, Jr. Public Service Award, the Governor's Award for Excellence in Legal Services, and the Arson Prosecution Award from the Massachusetts State Police Fire & Explosion Investigation Section.

Steve's many talents, sage advice, and boisterous laugh will be missed at DFS, especially by the legal team, and by the Massachusetts fire service community, who came to rely on his counsel. He will be sorely missed but we wish him well in the years to come!

## **Public Information Officer Jennifer Mieth**

Jennifer Mieth retired in July 2021 after 37 years with the Department of Fire Services and State Fire Marshal's Office. Jen pioneered the use of fire data to guide DFS in fire protection strategies, enlisted a task force of fire educators, and developed the training that made firefighters welcome guests in Massachusetts classrooms and helped drive child fire deaths down from an average of 22 per year to zero for the longest period in Massachusetts history.

Later, as Public Information Officer, Jen earned a reputation as a reliable, accessible source of information who was always ready to tap her deep well of knowledge for reporters, educators, fire chiefs, and her fellow public safety PIOs. Whatever the topic, she always found a way to work a safety message into her statements and promoted fire education through news coverage.

Throughout her years at DFS, she remained a steadfast supporter of firefighters in every facet of their work and a cherished member of the fire service community. We wish her all the best and continued success as she pursues new goals in retirement.



# Plympton Fire Department Honors Young Hero

State Fire Marshal Peter Ostroskey and State Representative Kathy LaNatra joined the Plympton Fire Department on November 24, 2021, to honor 5-year-old Cayden Galambos for safely evacuating his family from their home during a carbon monoxide incident.

Cayden acted when the carbon monoxide alarms in his home sounded during an October nor'easter. He told his mother they had to evacuate immediately. He wouldn't even let her put her shoes on, which is exactly what firefighters taught him. The family went to their outdoor meeting spot and called 9-1-1. The fire department, including Cayden's father, Firefighter Steve Galambos, responded. Firefighters confirmed elevated levels of carbon monoxide in the home. Wind had blown exhaust from a generator inside. Firefighters ventilated the home before allowing the family back inside. No one was hurt.

The week before, Plympton firefighters visited Cayden's classroom for Fire Prevention Week as part of the Student Awareness of Fire Education (S.A.F.E.) program, which provides resources for fire departments to bring fire and life safety education into schools. Firefighters taught the students that when smoke or carbon monoxide alarms sound, they should exit their homes as quickly as possible and call 9-1-1.

"Cayden and his classmates obviously learned an important lesson from the Plympton Fire Department and the S.A.F.E. program," Fire Marshal Ostroskey said. "We reinforce these lessons by recognizing young heroes and demonstrating the importance of fire safety education for kids everywhere."

"We visit Dennett Elementary School every year to teach the students fire safety," said Fire Captain John Sjostedt, the department's S.A.F.E. coordinator. "We pray the students will never have to use the skills we teach them, but I can't tell you how exciting it is to see the S.A.F.E. program in action. Cayden did exactly what we taught him."

"If he wasn't awake, it could have gone differently," said Cayden's father. "He's a smart kid. He did a good job."

Cayden was presented with a DFS Young Hero Award, which recognizes children who respond to emergencies with fire and life safety behaviors learned from a S.A.F.E. program, as well as a citation from the Massachusetts House of Representatives and a certificate from the Plympton Fire Department.

Do you know a Young hero who should be recognized? Visit our website to learn more about the S.A.F.E. program and the [Young Hero Award](#).



Left to right: Plympton Fire Captain John Sjostedt, Cayden Galambos, Plympton Firefighter Steve Galambos.

## Help Us Help You!

### *All Hands Herald* Reader Engagement Survey

A lot has changed since the first edition of the *All Hands Herald* rolled off the presses in 2006. News sources are evolving every day and we're no exception. Please take a moment to share your thoughts on the magazine and help us keep it relevant to your needs, interests, and reading habits!

You can take the short [All Hands Herald Reader Engagement Survey here](#). Thank you!



# Massachusetts Firefighting Academy Graduations



Chief Fire Officer



Class #294



Class #BW12



Class #295

## MFA Celebrates 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

The Massachusetts Firefighting Academy (MFA) marked its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2021. The MFA provides recruit and in-service training at three separate campuses and has graduated nearly 14,000 recruit, call, and volunteer firefighters in more than 430 classes. Read more about the beginnings of the MFA and this milestone anniversary on page 7.

## Chief Fire Officer

On Thursday, January 27, 2022, 34 senior fire officers graduated from the MFA's Chief Fire Officer Management Training Program, delivered jointly by the Edward J. Collins Jr. Center for Public Management at the University of Massachusetts and the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy. The 13-week program provides training in the leadership and management skills essential in municipal management of fire departments. The fire service leaders who complete this program are committed to continually developing their management and leadership skills in order to provide the highest level of service for their communities.

The 34 graduates serve the following fire departments: Beverly, Brookline, Chatham, Douglas, Easton, Groton, Groveland, Hadley, Hampden, Harwich, Lincoln, Mansfield, Marshfield, Mendon, Milford, Nantucket, Norton, Norwell, Plymouth, Rockland, Sherborn, Somerset, Southbridge, Stoughton, Sturbridge, Tisbury, Wayland, Wellesley, Westminster, West Springfield, Wilbraham, Woburn, and Yarmouth.

## Career Recruit Firefighter Training

In the 50-day Career Recruit Firefighter Training Program, students receive classroom training in all basic firefighter 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 Career 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 the Stow headquarters of DFS, the Springfield campus, and the new Bridgewater campus.

## Training Safely During the Pandemic

In response to the pandemic, the 10-week curriculum was reorganized to take advantage of online learning technology



while ensuring plenty of practical skill experience on campus with instructors. Students alternated between the virtual classroom for two weeks, on campus for practical training (using special safeguards and social distancing) for four weeks, back to the virtual classroom for a week, returning to campus for two weeks, and finishing the final week in the virtual classroom. A new matrix started with Classes 291, S23 and BW10. Students were on campus Monday through Thursday for short classroom lessons but mostly practicing and mastering new hands-on skills in the drill yard. On Fridays, students studied in the virtual classroom, where new topics were covered in depth. Recruit training returned to five days per week on campus starting in August 2021 with Class 295, Class BW13, and Class S24.

#### *Class #294*

On August 27, 2021, members of Career Recruit Firefighter Class #294 graduated at the Stow Campus. The 24 graduates represent the fire departments of Bedford, Chelmsford, Fitchburg, Hopedale, Hopkinton, Hudson, Lexington, Lynnfield, Medfield, Medway, Newton, Plymouth, Randolph, Wayland, Westminster, Weston, and Woburn.

#### *Class #BW12*

On August 27, 2021, members of Career Recruit Firefighter Class #BW12 graduated at the Bridgewater Campus. The 18 graduates represent the fire departments of Attleboro, Eastham, Nahant, Salem, Sandwich, Sharon, Stoughton, and Yarmouth.

#### *Class #295*

On October 8, 2021, members of Career Recruit Firefighter Class #295 graduated at the Stow Campus. The 23 graduates represent the 12 fire departments of Burlington, Everett, Gloucester, Haverhill, Lawrence, Milford, Norwell, Stoughton, Wakefield, Watertown, Wilmington, and Wrentham.

#### *Class #S24*

On October 8, 2021, members of Career Recruit Firefighter Class #S24 graduated at the Springfield Campus. The 19 graduates represent the fire departments of Agawam, Chicopee, Milton, Pittsfield, Southwick, West Springfield, Westfield, and Weymouth.

#### *Class #BW13*

On October 8, 2021, members of Career Recruit Firefighter Class #BW13 graduated at the Bridgewater campus. The 18 graduates represent the fire departments of Attleboro, Dedham, Duxbury, East Bridgewater, Falmouth, Hingham, Holbrook, Lakeville, Norton, and Sharon.



*Class #S24*



*Class #BW12*



*Class #BW13*



*Class #295*

*Continued on next page*

# MFA Graduations, *continued from previous page*



Class #BW14



Class #297



Class #S25



Class #BW15

## **Class #296**

On November 15, 2021, members of Career Recruit Firefighter Class #296 graduated at the Stow campus. The 22 graduates represent the 12 fire departments of Billerica, Blackstone, Devens, Everett, Foxborough, Lincoln, Lowell, Natick, Plainville, Upton, Winthrop, and Woburn.

## **Class #BW14**

On November 15, 2021, members of Career Recruit Firefighter Class #BW14 graduated at the Bridgewater campus. The 13 graduates represent the 6 fire departments of Abington, Cohasset, Hull, Hyannis, Norwood, and Westport.

## **Class #297**

On December 17, 2021, members of Career Recruit Firefighter Class #297 graduated at the Stow campus. The 23 graduates represent the 8 departments of Ashland, Concord, Everett, Hopedale, Lowell, Methuen, Revere, and Somerville.

## **Class #S25**

On December 17, 2021, members of Career Recruit Firefighter Class #S25 graduated at the Springfield campus. The 23 graduates represent the 10 departments of Athol, Charlton, Chicopee, Easthampton, Falmouth, Gardner, Ludlow, Pittsfield, West Barnstable, and Westfield.

## **Class #BW15**

On December 17, 2021, members of Career Recruit Firefighter Class #BW15 graduated at the Bridgewater campus. The 17 graduates represent the 9 fire departments of East Bridgewater, Hull, Mashpee, Medfield, North Attleboro, Norton, Scituate, Sharon, and Somerville.

## **Class #298**

On January 27, 2022, members of Career Recruit Firefighter Class #298 graduated at the Stow campus. The 19 firefighters represent the 11 fire departments of Bedford, Everett, Falmouth, Medway, Milford, Natick, Needham, North Andover, Northborough, Sudbury, and Winchester.

## **Class #BW16**

On January 27, 2022, members of Career Recruit Firefighter Class #BW16 graduated at the Bridgewater campus. The 17 firefighters represent the eight fire departments of Melrose, Milton, Norton, Sandwich, Sharon, Somerset, Taunton, and Wellfleet.

## **Call/Volunteer Recruit Firefighting Training**

The Call/Volunteer Firefighter Recruit Training program is unique in that it delivers a standard recruit training

*Continued on next page*



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. Pre-pandemic, the program used an online eBlended format that had students doing more work outside of class and taking quizzes online. During the pandemic, students did more studying in the virtual classroom and engaged in practical hands-on training in smaller groups. This allowed 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 #93**

On November 1, 2021, members of Call/Volunteer Recruit Firefighter Training Class #93 graduated. The 30 graduates represent the 13 fire departments of Acushnet, Berkley, Dartmouth District #1, Dartmouth District #2, Dartmouth District #3, Fairhaven, Freetown, Halifax, Marion, Mattapoisett, Middleborough, Rehoboth, and Wareham. The ceremony took place at the Matthew J. Kuss Middle School in Fall River.

#### **Class #94**

On November 2, 2021, members of the Call/Volunteer Recruit Firefighter training Class #94 graduated. The 29 graduates represent the 14 fire departments of: Ashby, Athol, Ayer, Douglas, Leicester, Lynnfield, Medway, Millville, New Braintree, Pepperell, Sherborn, Stow, Tyngsborough, and West Brookfield. The ceremony took place at the Department of Fire Services' Stow Campus.

### **Today's Firefighters Do Far More than Fight Fires**

Today's firefighters do far more than fight fires. They train to respond to all types of hazards and emergencies. They are the first ones called to respond to chemical and environmental emergencies, ranging from the suspected presence of carbon monoxide to Fentanyl overdoses or 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 including self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA), hydrants, hoses, power tools, and apparatus. At the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy, they learn all these skills and more.



*Class #298*



*Class #BW16*



*Class #93*



*Class #94*

# Winter Safety

## Heating and CO, Ice and Cold Water, Burns and Scalds, Open Burning

### Winter Fire Dangers: Heating and CO

Fire risks rise with the use of space heaters, fireplaces, and wood stoves for heating. Carbon monoxide (CO) incidents also rise as homes are sealed tightly for the heating season. In 2020, there were 1,317 heating equipment fires. They caused 20 civilian injuries, 19 fire service injuries, and \$9.5 million in estimated damages.

DFS has 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. You can find more information at [Keep Warm Keep Safe](#).

### Ice and Cold Water Safety

Ice and cold water safety is an important issue in New England. Each winter, residents are injured from exposure to cold water. Between 2016 and 2020, Massachusetts fire departments carried out 167 ice rescues.

Every year, fire departments also rescue large numbers of unleashed dogs and other animals who fall through ice. In many cases, owners are also rescued from the water after they try to help their pets. DFS has an [Ice and Cold Water Safety](#) pamphlet in English and Spanish to help educate the public.

### Burns and Scalds

Burns and scalds occur year-round, but they warrant extra attention in winter as residents use their heating appliances and consume more hot beverages. 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](http://ameriburn.org/prevention).

Fire risks rise with the use of space heaters, fireplaces, and wood stoves for heating. Carbon monoxide (CO) incidents also rise as homes are sealed tightly for the heating season.

The U.S. Fire Administration has burn prevention resources and a customizable [Burn Safety flyer](#) for downloading at [www.usfa.fema.gov](http://www.usfa.fema.gov).

DFS has burn prevention resources including handouts on our website at [Burn and Scald Prevention](#) or [M-BIRS](#). You can find data on burns in the Massachusetts Burn Injury Reporting System (M-BIRS) annual reports.

*Continued on next page*

### Safety Tips for Open Burning

Open burning is prohibited in 22 Massachusetts cities due to population density and proximity of buildings. Contact your local fire department to find out if open burning is allowed in your city or town.

**Permits Are Required**

Get a permit from your local fire department to burn on a daily basis. Permits are required for all open burning activities.

**Only Certain Materials Can Be Burned**

- Brush, cane, debris, cleaning materials
- Agricultural waste
- Grass, hay, leaves
- Trees and brush
- Fungus infected

**Burning Leaves**

Burning leaves is prohibited. Do not burn leaves.

- Brush, trees, cane
- Grass, hay, leaves
- Construction material

### Hot Fluids Burn Like Fire

Hot fluids were the cause of 87% of the total burns in children under age 5.

**Prevention Tips:**


- Freeze down when you hold a baby. A wiggling baby can shake your hand and spill the drink on themselves.
- Hot liquids and soups in the middle of the table, away from curious babies like to grab things.
- Use replacing tablecloths with place mats to prevent children pulling everything on the table onto themselves.
- Wetters caused 42% of the burns in children under age five. Victims burned by hot beverages, 80% were children under age five.
- Only one second for water at 155°F to cause a third degree burn. For hot water heater to temperatures of 125°F or less, showers law states that the temperature must be between 100°F and 130°F.
- Supervise young children in the bath and face them away from the tub.
- Babies and toddlers like playing with knobs and handles. They run on the hot water when you turn your back.
- Hot handles inward.
- Do not enforce a **NO ZONE** around the stove. Do not let children near a stove or barbecue. This protects children from hot liquids, grease and metal.
- Children under age five are 5 times more likely to be burned by activities than others.
- All cooking-related burns were suffered by children under age five.

From the 2020 reports of the Massachusetts Burn Injury Reporting System.

**Fire factors**

Office of the State Fire Marshal • [www.mass.gov/dfs](http://www.mass.gov/dfs) • (781) 567-3381

### Cómo Protegerse del Agua Fría y el Hielo



DEPARTMENT OF FIRE SERVICES  
Peter J. Ostrowsky • State Fire Marshal



# 2022 License Examination Schedule

## Fire Safety Division

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, hood cleaning, special hazard systems, portable fire extinguishers, marine fueling facilities and above ground tanks. Register for exams and see detailed information on our website at [DFS Licensing](#). For questions, contact the Licensing Desk at 978-567-3700 or at [dfs.licensing@state.ma.us](mailto:dfs.licensing@state.ma.us).

## Boiler and Pressure Vessel Program

The Boiler and Pressure Vessel Program offers monthly license exams for oil burner technician and all classes of fireman and engineer licenses. Register for exams and see detailed information on our website at [BPV Exams](#). For questions contact the Boiler & Pressure Vessel Program at (978) 567-3780 or at [BPV.Exams@MassMail.State.MA.US](mailto:BPV.Exams@MassMail.State.MA.US).

## Licensing Status

To see the licensing status of an individual or company, visit the [DFS License Look Up](#).

Examination Schedule	Examination Dates	Deadlines for Applications
FSD Exams	Exams start at 10:00 a.m.	
Fire Suppression and Commercial Hood Cleaning	March 16, 2022 May 18, 2022 July 13, 2022 September 21, 2022 November 9, 2022	February 18, 2022 April 22, 2022 June 17, 2022 August 26, 2022 October 14, 2022
Cannon/Mortar, Fireworks, Special Effects, Blasting, Blasting R&D	April 20, 2022 June 15, 2022 August 17, 2022 October 19, 2022	March 25, 2022 May 20, 2022 July 22, 2022 September 23, 2022
BPV Exams	Exams start at 9:00 a.m.	
Oil Burner, Fireman & Engineer (all classes)	March 30, 2022 April 27, 2022 May 25, 2022 June 29, 2022 July 27, 2022 August 31, 2022 September 28, 2022 October 26, 2022 November 30, 2022 December 28, 2022	February 25, 2022 March 25, 2022 April 29, 2022 May 27, 2022 June 24, 2022 July 29, 2022 August 26, 2022 September 30, 2022 October 28, 2022 November 25, 2022

## Winter Safety, *continued from previous page*

### Open Burning

Open burning season runs from January 15 through May 1 in communities where it is allowed. Residents should be encouraged 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 flyer on [Open Burning Safety](#) on our website.



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

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



# New PSA on Smoke Alarms

*Available to Share with Your Community*



## *Working smoke alarms and smoke alarm maintenance for older adults.*

A new public service announcement (PSA) in English and Spanish features a granddaughter writing to her grandmother about all she loves in their relationship. Messages about the importance of working smoke alarms and their maintenance are interspersed with messages about continuing to make new memories together for a long time. The ad was designed with older adults and children in mind.

Older adults are at increased risk of dying in a fire. People aged 65 or over represent 17% of the Massachusetts population but about 50% of last year's fatal fire victims.

The PSA is available in 15- and 30-second versions in English and Spanish. You can view, download, or link to them from the [DFS YouTube channel](#) or on our website at [Smoke Alarm Public Awareness](#).