

# All Hands **Herald**

Massachusetts Department of Fire Services

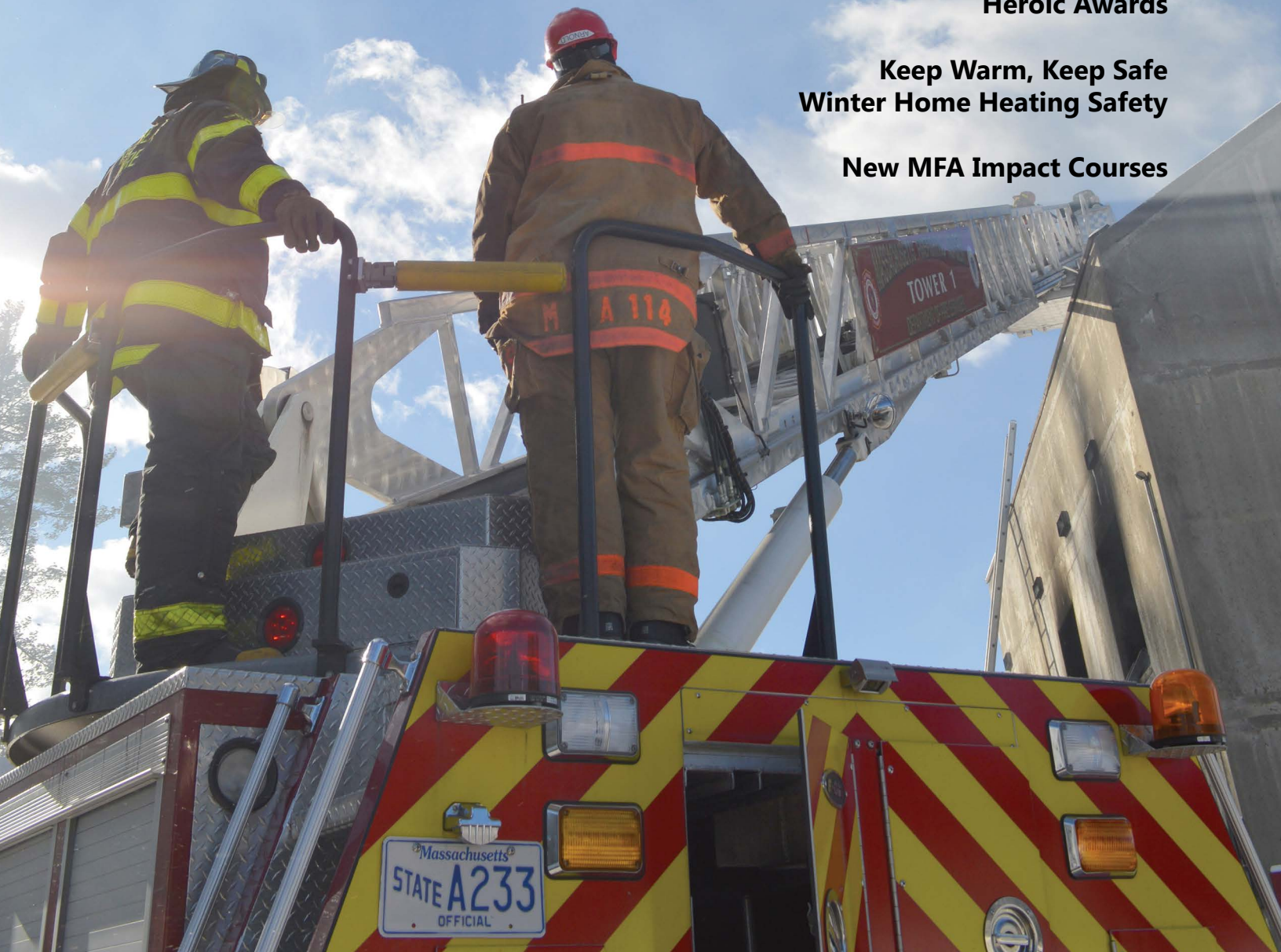
January 2017

## *New* **Smoke Alarm Regulations**

**Firefighter of the Year  
Heroic Awards**

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Winter Home Heating Safety**

**New MFA Impact Courses**



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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

## Firefighter of the Year Awards

Governor Baker, Lieutenant Governor Polito, Secretary Bennett and Undersecretary McMurray presented the 27th annual Firefighter of the Year Heroic Awards on November 29. The ceremony included several firsts this year: my first participation as State Fire Marshal; our first celebrity emcee, Randy Price, WCVB-TV 5 anchor who did a wonderful job; and I selected an honoree for the State Fire Marshal's award. I was pleased to recognize the longest serving State Fire Marshal in the Commonwealth's history, my predecessor, retired State Fire Marshal Coan. Beginning next year, this award will be known as the Stephen D. Coan Fire Marshal's Award and recipients will be recognized in his honor and for his devotion to the fire service. It was a great privilege to showcase so many heroic acts of bravery and kindness by firefighters from across the state during the ceremony.

Most of our instructors and support staff are active, full-time firefighters. Several DFS employees were honored at the Firefighter of the Year Awards ceremony: Saugus Fire Captain Christopher Rizza and Fitchburg Lieutenant Patrick Roy, MFA instructors, and Fitchburg Lieutenant John Gilmartin and Firefighters John Girouard and Timothy O'Kane, who work in training support positions in the Crib Room. We are proud of their commitment to excellence in the fire service whether it is training firefighters or rescuing fellow firefighters or local residents.

## Pride in Performance

I am also proud of the DFS employees honored by the Governor as part of the annual Pride in Performance recognition ceremony: Fire Protection Engineer Jake Nunnemacher, Code Compliance Supervisor David Beaudin, and the facilities team of Fred Corazzini, Mary Kittredge, Peter Shipman, Betti Perry, and Christine Sullivan. Crib Room Coordinator and contract employee Rick Stevens was honored by DFS as part of the annual recognition.

## Rand to Receive Wilson Memorial Award

In January 2017, MFA Certification Coordinator Robert Rand will receive the prestigious Johnny Wilson Award from the National Board on Fire Service Professional Qualifications (Pro Board) at their annual conference. The award is given to an individual who has devoted a significant part of their life to the advocacy of professional qualifications through the accreditation and certification

process. Bob Rand certainly fits those criteria. He has been involved in certification at the MFA since certification began in 1988. The very first certification approved by the Mass. Fire Training Council was Fire Instructor I. Today the certification program includes 20 levels. Bob's work has included assisting with initial accreditation, writing all subsequent reaccreditations, and representing the MFA at all national reviews. He is extremely professional and aware of the ethical responsibilities of his position. DFS is fortunate to have such a dedicated professional on our team and it is a great pleasure to see his accomplishments recognized by his peers across the country.



## Staff Changes

Two long-time employees of the Hazardous Materials Response division recently retired: Casey Jensen, who as the administrative assistant quietly supported the division for decades; and David Ladd, division director. In addition, Bruce Gauvin, Career Recruit Firefighting Training Program Coordinator and Usha Patel, the long serving Fire Data and Public Education Unit data entry clerk both retired. We wish them well, but they will be missed.

## Updated Smoke Alarm Regulations

The Board of Fire Prevention Regulations now requires that homes built before 1975 cannot be sold or transferred with expired smoke alarms. Fire officials have long recommended that smoke alarms be replaced every ten years (or whenever they expire). Now the code requires it. Older homes can no longer be sold with smoke alarms that cannot be relied upon to work when needed. Regulation changes in the type of alarms allowed for replacement are intended to reduce nuisance alarms, the need to replace batteries twice a year and other maintenance issues that lead people to disable alarms. Transitioning to new alarms with 10-year sealed, non-replaceable, non-rechargeable batteries will take time. I hope that we will start to see data showing fewer disabled alarms when we respond to fires. I want to thank the Smoke Alarm Task Group of the Board of Fire Prevention Regulations for all their hard work bringing this to fruition.

*Continued on page 3*



# 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Firefighter of the Year Awards



*Watertown*

Governor Charlie Baker and Lt. Governor Karyn Polito joined Public Safety Secretary Daniel Bennett and State Fire Marshal Peter J. Ostroskey to honor firefighters from 11 fire departments in Massachusetts for heroic acts of bravery at the 27<sup>th</sup> annual “Firefighter of the Year” Awards ceremony. The ceremony was held at Mechanics Hall in Worcester on November 29. The event was emceed by WCVB’s Randy Price and Public Safety Undersecretary Patrick McMurray.

“This year’s award recipients used their training and experience to perform remarkable acts that helped save lives,” said Governor Baker. “We are proud to salute the sacrifices and excellence of these firefighters and all firefighters who willingly risk their lives on a regular basis to protect their community.” “The brave firefighters we honor today entered homes on fire, cars submerged in water, and rescued victims against tremendous odds,” said Lt. Governor Polito. “Today’s ceremony allows us to express our appreciation to them and their families who sacrifice so much to keep us safe from harm.”

“The 48 people lost to fires so far this year are each reminders of the need to remain vigilant in light of the very real dangers that exist,” said Secretary Bennett. “Fighting fires will always be dangerous work but we will never stop looking for ways to mitigate the risks and support the courageous men and women of the firefighting community.”

“My predecessor and mentor State Fire Marshal Stephen Coan is honored today for his leadership and foresight to protect the public from fire through some of the strongest fire codes and the best trained and equipped firefighters in the country,” said State Fire Marshal Ostroskey. “He sought to learn from every major incident to provide training and equipment to firefighters, to improve codes, and to better educate the public.”

The Governor and the Secretary presented 23 awards: two Norman Knight Awards for Excellence in Community Service to a Boston Lieutenant who works at the training academy and trains Boston firefighters and those from surrounding communities; and a Hyannis firefighter who



*Fitchburg*

is involved in countless initiatives in his community related to children, and provides CPR training; an Excellence in Leadership Award to a Boston Deputy Fire Chief for his lifesaving and progressive approach to educating firefighters on the link

between the carcinogens they breathe and cancer and how they can help protect themselves; two Individual Awards for Meritorious Conduct to firefighters from Boston and Lynn for heroic rescues – one in a fire and the other in a submerged car; five Group Awards for Meritorious Conduct to teams of firefighters from Boston, Fitchburg, Scituate, Watertown and Weymouth; and 12 Medals of Valor to individual firefighters from Boston, Fitchburg, Lynn, Malden, Saugus, Swansea and Weymouth.

The State Fire Marshal’s award was presented to retired State Fire Marshal Stephen D. Coan, who was the longest serving State Fire Marshal in the Commonwealth’s history. His leadership and vision led to well trained firefighters, strong fire codes, and a safer Commonwealth. State Fire Marshal Ostroskey announced that the award will now be named after Coan, who began the Firefighter of Year Awards Ceremony 27 years ago.



*Marshal Coan receives award.*



*Boston*

# Massachusetts State Police Medal of Valor

## *Awarded to Sergeant Paul Horgan*

On March 19, 2016 Sergeant Paul Horgan had just completed a State Police Bomb Squad security detail at the 41<sup>st</sup> Annual Holyoke Saint Patrick's Day Road Race and was leaving the area when he witnessed a shooting.

Sergeant Horgan attempted to stop the two suspects, but both fled. Horgan pursued them on foot from the intersection of Dwight and Linden Streets to Avery Field. With great determination and tenacity, Sergeant Horgan was able to catch up to and apprehend the armed man. While maintaining control of the suspect, Horgan identified himself to two residents and asked them to call the police and provide the location of the apprehension. Holyoke Police arrived shortly and took custody of the suspect.

Sergeant Horgan's actions and assistance proved critical to the investigation into the shooting. For his dedication to duty, Sergeant Paul A. Horgan was commended in Personnel Orders and awarded the Massachusetts State Police Medal of Valor in a ceremony at the State House on October 24, 2016.



*Sergeant Horgan and Colonel McKeon after State House awards ceremony.*

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

#### **Board of Fire Prevention Regulations**

The Board of Fire Prevention Regulations (BFPR) has been working to review the 2015 edition of the National Fire Protection Association Standard 1 (NFPA 1-2015). One benefit of having adopted NFPA 1, 2012 edition, as the basis for the Massachusetts Comprehensive Fire Safety Code is the ability to maintain the currency of the code through a three year update cycle. It allows the board to react quickly to current events including the revision of welding and smoke alarm regulations. The board's review is coming to a close. Next, the code revisions will go through a series of administrative steps before it can be promulgated. Completion is expected in 2017. This review process required a lot of work by several subcommittees and task groups, as well as engagement by the fire prevention community to provide feedback to the board based on real world experience.

#### **Public Awareness Campaigns**

Last winter, the Commonwealth experienced a higher than usual number of fire deaths and the lack of working smoke alarms was a major factor. DFS is promoting two public awareness campaigns this fall and winter in the hopes of educating people and supporting the educational efforts of local fire departments. This fall our *Smoke Alarms: A Sound You Can Live With* public service announcements remind people to replace aging smoke alarms. Later in the

season, the *Keep Warm, Keep Safe* campaign will address winter heating safety. Look for the spots on TV and radio and visit [www.mass.gov/dfs](http://www.mass.gov/dfs) to take advantage of the toolkit of resources for fire educators that come with these campaigns.

#### **Active Shooter**

Gun violence involving mass casualty incidents continue to occur with alarming frequency. The fire service is the largest provider of emergency medical service in the state and must grapple with how to reduce fatalities at these incidents while not becoming victims ourselves. A Massachusetts working group has been examining national standards and best practices in order to provide guidance to local communities as they develop protocols. You can read more about this project on page 8. Sadly, active shooter incidents are a reality that the fire service must prepare for in order to save as many lives as possible.

#### **AFG Grant**

This fall Congresswoman Niki Tsongas and FEMA Regional Director Paul Ford presented DFS with a 2015 Federal Assistance to Firefighters Grant in the amount of \$353,044 that allows us to purchase cutting edge vehicle extrication equipment for training. Tsongas and Ford visited DFS to formally present the award on the same day that MFA instructors were testing the new equipment.

# Keep Warm, Keep Safe

## Winter Home Heating Safety

Last winter (December 2015 - March 2016), there were 31 home fire fatalities in Massachusetts. One third of the victims were seniors over the age of 65, and there were no working smoke alarms for more than half of the 31 deaths (55%). The Department of Fire Services has developed public education campaigns and tool kits to assist fire departments in winter public education efforts. The resources help local fire departments to promote accurate and consistent safety messages. The tool kits includes PSA's (radio and television), logos, information in multiple languages, handouts and customizable press releases.

### Winter Heating Safety

The *Keep Warm Keep Safe* (KWKS) campaign to promote winter heating safety began in 2008 and, home heating fires dropped 46%, from 2,700 in 2007 to 1,464 in 2015. When the fire service speaks with one voice to the media, schools, civic organizations and older adults, we have a major impact on public safety. Visit [www.mass.gov/dfs](http://www.mass.gov/dfs) and search for *Keep Warm, Keep Safe Tool Kit* for public education materials.

Many heating devices can cause fires including space heaters, fireplaces, and wood or pellet stoves. One in every 4 space heater fires causes an injury. Injuries also result from stoves and fireplaces. Improper disposal of stove and fireplace ashes is another source of fire.

### Chimney and Wood Stove Fire Safety

In 2015, there were 689 incidents involving chimneys, fireplaces and wood stoves. Most chimney fires occur due to



a build-up of creosote. Alert citizens to clean chimney flues before each heating season and to burn only dry hardwood to reduce creosote accumulation. Ashes removed from fireplaces or stoves must be placed in a covered metal container outdoors and away from buildings. Visit [www.mass.gov/dfs](http://www.mass.gov/dfs) and search for *Heating Safely with Solid Fuels* to access public education materials.

### Carbon Monoxide, the Silent Killer

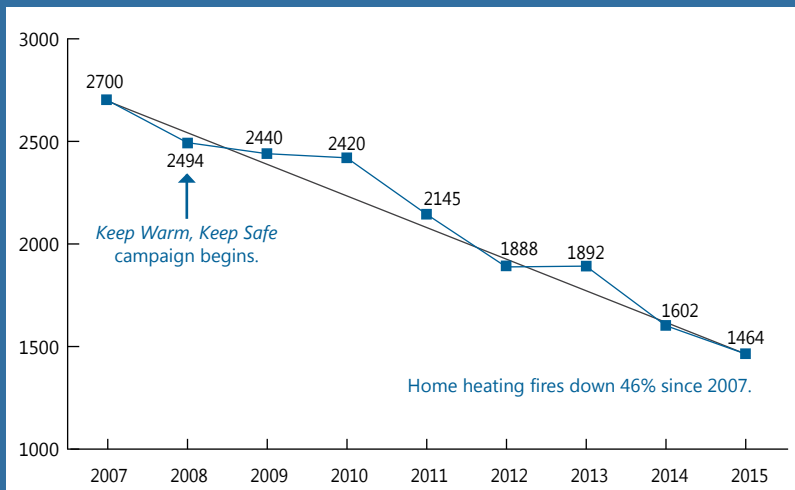
One of the key messages of the *Keep Warm, Keep Safe* campaign is carbon monoxide poisoning prevention. In 2015, there were 4,782 reported calls where CO was found to be elevated. Poorly running or malfunctioning heating systems are the leading cause of CO in the home. Sadly, two people died in Acushnet in December from CO poisoning caused by a faulty furnace. There were no CO alarms in the house. DFS has education materials on CO safety as well as

the on the requirements for CO alarms in homes. (See article on updated regulations for smoke and CO alarms in older homes elsewhere in this issue.) Visit [www.mass.gov/dfs](http://www.mass.gov/dfs) and search for *Carbon Monoxide Safety* for public education materials.

### Smoke Alarms, A Sound You Can Live With

In the majority of fatal fires during the winter of 2015-2016, smoke alarms were either not present or not working. DFS has developed a new smoke alarm campaign that is designed for use by the Massachusetts Fire service. One key point in the campaign is to educate homeowners about the 10-year life

Massachusetts Home Heating Fires



Continued on page 6



# New Smoke Alarm Regulations When Selling Older Homes

## No Expired Alarms; Replacement Alarms Must Have 10-year Batteries

Starting December 1, older one- and two-family homes cannot be sold with expired or out-of-date smoke alarms. The Board of Fire Prevention Regulations has revised the State Fire Code to require that one- and two-family homes built before 1975 must have working smoke alarms that have not expired. Working smoke alarms installed prior to December 1, 2016 (that met previous requirements) can continue to be used until they are ten years old or have exceeded the manufacturer's recommended life, whichever occurs first.

Smoke alarm manufacturers indicate that alarms have a service life of about ten years and recommend replacement after that because the sensing technology deteriorates over time.

### New Requirements When Replacing Alarms

When replacing expired alarms, the regulations now require that new alarms be photoelectric with a hush button feature to silence nuisance alarms. Intensifying smoke will override the hush feature. Alarms can be photoelectric alone, or in combination with ionization technology. They may also provide smoke and carbon monoxide (CO) detection in the same device. The biggest change in the regulation is that newly installed battery powered alarms must have a 10-year, sealed, non-replaceable, non-rechargeable battery. These batteries will not have to be changed for the life of the smoke alarm. The entire unit, the smoke alarm and the battery, must be replaced at the end of ten years, and the alarm will give an end-of-life warning.

### Guide for Homeowners and Realtors

The Department of Fire Services has posted an updated version of our *Consumer's Guide to Smoke and Carbon Monoxide Alarm Requirements for Selling 1- and 2-Family Homes* on our website. The guide will help realtors and homeowners preparing to sell homes. Go to [www.mass.gov/dfs](http://www.mass.gov/dfs) and type "Smoke Alarm Regulations" in the search box. Fire departments may want to proactively share the Guide with local realtors and offer to explain the code changes.

The goal of the new regulation is to have working smoke and CO alarms when people really need them. Alarms that are easier to maintain ought to reduce the reasons people disable alarms. Last winter too many people died in homes without working smoke alarms. No one thinks fire will happen to them, but a majority of fire deaths occur in homes without working alarms. Last winter (December 2015 – March 2016), there were 31 fire deaths in homes and in 55% of the homes, there were no working smoke alarms. One-third of those who died in fires were seniors – people over 65.

# New *Impact* Courses from MFA

The Massachusetts Firefighting Academy (MFA) has developed several new *Impact* courses this year. New online courses include:

- Rehab for All Emergency Responders
- Chemical Suicide Awareness for Emergency Responders
- Introduction to Transitional Fire Attack and Flow Paths
- Fire Service Air Management
- Photovoltaics for the Fire Service
- Traffic Incident Management
- Compressed Natural Gas

With the exception of Compressed Natural Gas and Traffic Incident Management, these courses can be delivered onsite. Municipal fire departments usually host the programs for state and federal fire service personnel.

Additional *Impact* programs available for delivery:

- Cancer Awareness
- 3502 Fire Emergency Operation Elevators
- Common Emergencies
- Handling Gas Emergencies
- Fire Attack
- Vehicle Fires
- Lightweight Construction

Full descriptions for all *Impact* courses can be found in the online *Training Resource Guide* at <http://www.mass.gov/eopss/agencies/dfs/mfa-trng/training-resource-guide.html>.

## Updated Blasting Detail Orientation Online Training

The Department of Fire Services offers online training for public safety employees and fire personnel who are working blasting details. The e-learning course covers basic knowledge required to work a blasting detail including the transportation, storage and use of explosive materials. The program also covers the fire code regulation 527 CMR 1.00 (formerly 527 CMR 13) and NFPA 495 relative to air blast, ground vibration, and fly rock. The course has been updated recently and includes a testing component. The MFA's goal is to make this training available to fire departments whenever they need to have trained personnel ready to supervise blasting. Proper enforcement of the regulation protects public safety and the regulated industry. Visit [www.mass.gov/dfs](http://www.mass.gov/dfs) and look under *Online Services* or *Fire Prevention Training* for the link to the training.



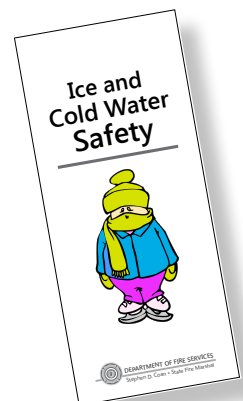
## Keep Warm, Keep Safe: Winter Home Heating Safety, *continued from page 4*

span of smoke alarms. Fire Prevention Week highlighted this message. DFS has a tool kit that fire departments can use to support their fire prevention messages. Visit [www.mass.gov/dfs](http://www.mass.gov/dfs) and search for *Smoke Alarm Campaign Toolkit*.

### Ice Safety

Each winter many people are injured from exposure in cold water. Skaters and ice fishermen fall through the ice; boaters and canoeists capsize. No one can be absolutely sure that ice is safe except in an ice skating rink. Visit [www.mass.gov/dfs](http://www.mass.gov/dfs) and search for *Ice and Cold Watery Safety* to find public education materials.

For more information on winter safety, go to [www.mass.gov/dfs](http://www.mass.gov/dfs) and type in winter safety.





# History of the Crib Room

The Crib Room is a hub of training operations for the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy (MFA) in both Stow and Springfield. But where did the term “Crib Room” come from?

The term crib room is not unique to the fire service. It has been around since the industrial revolution when large mills and shoe shops were in full swing. Tools were hung in the tool crib or crib room with an image of each tool painted on the wall so that users could tell which tools were missing at a glance. Tool cribs allowed workers to share tools, saving companies the cost of outfitting each individual with their own set of tools.

At the MFA, the term crib room dates back to the days when recruit firefighter training was done at the former Cushing Hospital in Framingham. At that time, the MFA had so little equipment that students brought much of what they needed from their home fire departments. The MFA had some donated equipment that included hydrant wrenches and valves (known as appliances), as well as fire extinguishers, hoses, and a few other items. The equipment was kept in a small room at Cushing known as the tool crib or crib. Any tool that could not fit in a tool box was kept in the tool crib.

As the MFA grew, so did the equipment inventory, the storage place, and the support staff needed to maintain, deliver and keep track of the equipment. The tool crib became known as the crib room, or the crib.

The crib has much more than tools today. Currently, 71 support staff maintain and deliver equipment and haul specialized training trailers and tractor trailers. Crib support staff also light fires for training and drive and pump training apparatus. They do everything needed to help set up training onsite and off. The crib room staff has sometimes been called the FedEx® of DFS for the numerous pickups and deliveries they accomplish daily.



Currently, 71 support staff maintain and deliver equipment and haul specialized training trailers and tractor trailers. Crib support staff also light fires for training and drive and pump training apparatus. They do everything needed to help set up training onsite and off.

Paul Vincequere, former MFA coordinator and retired Westborough firefighter, recalls that around the time that the Academy burned down, the fire apparatus used for training was very old. One day, instructors were leading an industrial firefighting training when the engine they needed for the water supply would not start. At that time, most engines had standard transmissions. The students had to push the engine to jump start it! Can anyone imagine that happening today?

When you see the crib support staff in action, remember to thank them for all they do to keep the MFA running smoothly.



*Crib Room staff at work.*



# *Responding to Active Shooter Incidents*

Dave Clemons  
Operations Section Chief

On April 20, 1999, one of the most referenced and studied active shooter incidents occurred at Columbine High School in Colorado. Twelve students and one teacher died. SWAT teams took 47 minutes to enter the school building. In the years following Columbine, the United States has experienced a steady increase in active shooter incidents. Unfortunately, active shooter events in schools, businesses and places of worship are far more prevalent than most are aware, and the severity and frequency of the incidents continues to escalate every year.

One of the most comprehensive studies of these events was conducted by the Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigations. The FBI research entitled, "Study of Active Shooter Incidents," documented 160 incidents between 2000 and 2013 where 557 people were wounded and 486 died. In the first seven years studied, an average of 6.4 incidents occurred. In the last seven years, an average of 16.4 incidents occurred each year.

While public-safety officials were adapting to handling the incidents and learning how to increase survivability, the theories and procedures developed were as varied as the locations of these incidents.

Today, the agreed-upon definition of an active shooter by U.S. government agencies is an individual actively

engaged in killing or attempting to kill people in a confined and populated area. The keyword and impetus for incident guidance is the term "active." Active indicates that a shooting is in progress and implies that both first responders and citizens have the potential to affect the outcome of the event by what they do. The sooner that injured victims are moved to safety, the more likely it is that they will survive, but putting first responders at risk can dramatically increase the number of victims. However, those inside the situation can begin first aid that can increase the likelihood that the injured will survive.

Because the public safety response can improve outcomes during these tragic events, the Massachusetts Executive Office of Public Safety and Security convened a work group to develop guidance for local communities as they develop their own active shooter protocols. The work group is multi-disciplinary and multi-level by design. Members were selected by the recognized public safety associations and directed to provide guidance to communities based on national standards and best practices.

While work on the guidance document continues, the national standards are built on a common premise: that having relationships with partner agencies and mutual-aid before incidents occur is critical to a successful response. It is imperative that local law enforcement agencies have common tactics, common communications capabilities and a common lexicon for seamless, effective operations. Local fire and law enforcement agencies should establish standard operating procedures to deal with these unusual, highly volatile, and extraordinarily dangerous scenarios.

To assist communities in implementing the advice in the guidance document, the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy will develop training in consultation and partnership with the Municipal Police Training Committee. The guidance document is scheduled for release in the first part of 2017 and training will be available in the same time frame.

**National standards are built on a common premise: that having relationships with partner agencies and mutual-aid before incidents occur is critical to a successful response. It is imperative that local law enforcement agencies have common tactics, common communications capabilities and a common lexicon for seamless, effective operations.**





## New SCBA Gear in Use *Thanks to Grant*

In July of 2014, the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy (MFA) was awarded a \$496,956 Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for the purchase of new self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) equipment. The funding allowed the MFA to replace most of the 20-year old SCBA equipment that has been used for firefighter training. The new equipment includes 118 units of SBCA equipment that meets the latest National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) standards, 65 additional face pieces and 60 cylinders.

The new equipment was put into use in January 2015 and provided a critical update for all MFA training programs. The use of 20 year old equipment in training had been a necessity, but was also wasteful as firefighters were trained on equipment they would never use on the job. And firefighters need to know how to use and maintain their gear. Now, our newest firefighters are trained on how to use and maintain the gear they will use, making them safer in their new jobs.

Not only are recruits safer and better trained due to the new equipment, but training programs themselves are running more smoothly. In the past, aging SCBA equipment malfunctioned during training on a regular basis. Air pack components including regulators and reducers were particularly vulnerable. When equipment malfunctioned, it had to be taken out of service in the middle of training, wasting the time and energy of instructors, support staff and students. The new state of the art SCBA gear has fewer maintenance requirements, making for efficient training operations that can proceed without interruptions, and with tremendous cost savings on parts and repairs.

The AFG program has allowed most cities and towns in Massachusetts to purchase and use the latest NFPA standard SCBA equipment. Using this same up-to-date equipment in MFA training is a win for students, instructors, departments, firefighters and most especially the public. New recruits trained on current equipment results in safer, better equipped firefighters to respond to the emergencies they will face in their home communities.

**The new equipment provides a critical update for MFA training programs. The use of 20 year old equipment in training had been a necessity, but was also wasteful as firefighters were trained on equipment they would never use on the job.**

The AFG grant has helped support all of the training at the MFA. Our applications for Assistance to Firefighters Grants have been successful each year since the application opened up to state fire academies. (Prior to FY13, the AFG application was only open to fire departments and non-profit EMS organizations. Starting in FY13, 3% of available AFG funding was available for state fire training academies.) To date, DFS and MFA have received over 1.2 million dollars in AFG grant funding. Firefighters and the public are safer today due to the funding provided by FEMA and the Assistance to Firefighters Grants.



# Fire Investigation News



*After the May 2015 fire in Lawrence.*

## **Lawrence Arsonist Pleads Guilty**

On November 16, 2016, Jason Given pled guilty to setting a major fire in Lawrence on May 7, 2015. The 6-alarm fire destroyed a 2-family home under construction and an occupied triple-decker next door. Five additional 3-family homes were damaged and nine vehicles were damaged or destroyed. Six family pets died in the fire. The investigation involved the entire North Team, members of the West and South Teams, command staff, Crime Scene Services, Lawrence Fire investigators and Lawrence Police detectives. DFS uses the team concept of fire investigation and this case required a large team. The neighborhood was frightened and anxious until the arrest was made.

## **Woman Arrested for Lawrence Arson**

Grace Ordonez, 41, was arrested on November 15, 2016 for setting the August 25, 2016 fire at 29 Summer Street in Lawrence. The building had been damaged by a previous fire and several homeless people, including Ms. Ordonez, were using the building. The 4-alarm fire damaged seven buildings, five significantly, and displaced 52 people. Three firefighters were injured fighting this fire and damages are estimated at over one million dollars.

Ms. Ordonez is charged with five counts of burning a dwelling. She was booked at the Lawrence Police Department and arraigned in Lawrence District Court. The fire was jointly investigated by the Lawrence Fire and Police Departments and State Police assigned to the Office of the State Fire Marshal. The case will be prosecuted by the Essex District Attorney's Office.

## **Man Charged with Setting Lawrence Brush Fires**

James Iannazzo, age 45, of Lawrence, was arrested for setting five brush fires in Lawrence between August 8 and August 31. Four were along the railroad tracks between Amherst and Andover Streets and one was in a wooded area behind South Bowdoin Street. Two occurred on August 17, two on August 31, and one on August 8. The investigation into a series of fires in this neighborhood was conducted jointly by the Lawrence Fire and Police Departments and State Police assigned to the Office of the State Fire Marshal.

## **Unscrupulous Floor Sander Causes 3<sup>rd</sup> Fire**

On November 16, four people in Medford were displaced by a fire started by the spontaneous combustion of floor sanding materials. The fire began in the backyard, against an exterior wall of the building where several trash bags filled with floor sanding debris, discarded polyurethane cans, floor staining cans and sanding belts had been left. This was the third fire this year involving the same floor sanding contractor. In each case, the improper disposal of floor sanding materials was the cause of the blaze. Medford building and health officials were notified of the code violations and the floor sanding company's insurance company was also notified.

## **Sturbridge Walmart Fire**

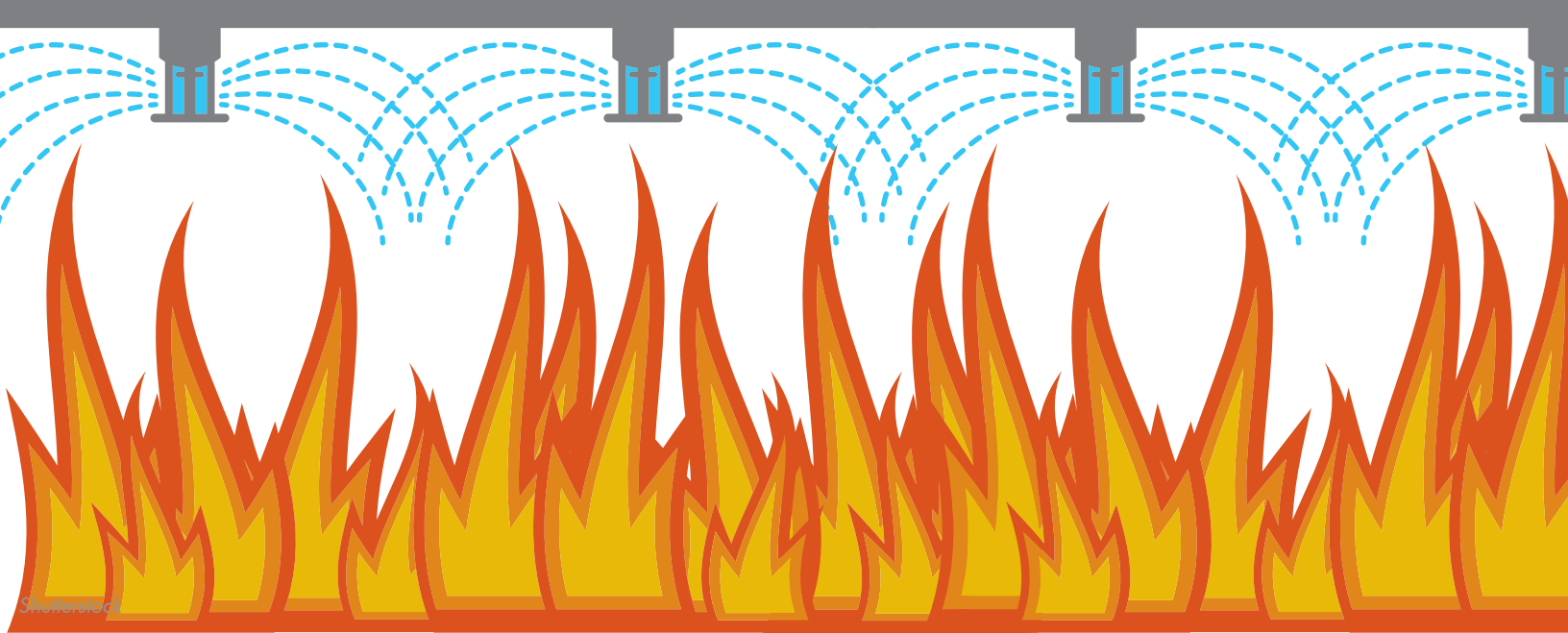
Employee Maiya Cruz was charged with setting the September 27, 2016 fire at the Sturbridge Walmart on Charlton Road. Three separate fires were set throughout the store and all were extinguished by staff and customers using fire extinguishers. Cruz is charged with three counts of burning a building contents, three counts of destruction of property over \$250, as well as disorderly conduct and disturbing the peace.

## **Smoking Caused Greenfield Fatal Fire**

### **No Working Smoke Alarms**

Improper disposal of smoking materials caused the September 25 fire at 140 Meridian Street in Greenfield. The fire took the lives of Brian Tower, 48; Florenda Tower, 49; her son, Raymond Wood, 28, and his son, William Paul Clark, 5. Mr. Tower was a state employee who worked as a Massachusetts State Police radio maintenance technician in Northampton.

The fire originated in the first floor bedroom of the single family home and residents in the second floor bedroom were trapped by the fire. The investigation revealed that there were no working smoke alarms in the



home. During October, every state employee received a reminder with their paychecks about the importance of having working smoke alarms.

The fire was jointly investigated by the Greenfield Fire and Police Departments and State Police assigned to both the Office of the State Fire Marshal and to the Office of the Northwestern District Attorney. Assistance was received from the Department of Fire Services Code Compliance Unit and the State Police Crime Scene Services.

### **Two School Fires in One Hour with Vastly Different Outcomes: Sprinklers Made the Difference**

On Monday, November 14, 2016 there were two school fires between 8:30 and 9:00 a.m. in Massachusetts with startlingly different outcomes. The Bruce Middle School, an older building, had no sprinklers and was closed for at least a week. The Hopkins Elementary School fire in Hopkinton was detected by an alarm connected to the sprinkler system that extinguished it. Students and staff evacuated and then school resumed. In both fires, staff helped students to evacuate without injury. In an emergency, people rely on what they have practiced and both schools had practiced using more than one way out.

A school fire impacts the entire community. Closing a school for even a short time disrupts many lives. And a school building is a focal point not only during school hours but after school and on weekends. The sprinkler system in the Hopkinton fire minimized disruption to the school and to the larger community.

#### **147 Fires in Schools in 2015**

In 2015, 147 school fires in the state were reported to the Massachusetts Fire Incident Reporting System (MFIRS). These fires caused no injuries and an estimated \$6.8 M in damage, most of which was in a single fire. The majority of

school fires are discovered early and kept small. Cooking, indoor rubbish fires, intentionally set fires and juvenile set fires are the leading causes of school fires.

#### **Lawrence's Bruce School Fire Undetermined, Electrical Cause Likely**

The cause of the Bruce School fire in Lawrence will remain officially undetermined, but is most likely an electrical fire. The estimated loss is \$300,000.

The fire originated in a classroom on the second floor of the building. In the area where the fire began, a power strip had several items plugged into it and plastic storage bins were nearby. Investigators believe the fire was caused by a failure of the power strip or one of the items plugged into it. The strip was encased in plastic that melted during the fire, making it nearly impossible to access it to conduct forensic testing that could determine with 100% certainty that it caused the fire. Therefore, the fire will remain officially undetermined.

The fire was jointly investigated by the Lawrence Fire and Police Departments and State Police assigned to the Office of the State Fire Marshal. Assistance was received from the Lawrence electrical inspector. A code compliance investigation is ongoing into the performance of the fire alarm system during the incident. The school does not have fire sprinklers.

#### **Hopkinton School Fire Intentionally Set**

The November 14, 2016 fire in a second floor bathroom at the Hopkins Elementary School was intentionally-set. Hopkinton Police, Fire and State Police assigned to the State Fire Marshal's office are investigating. Occupants were notified of the fire when the alarm attached to the sprinkler system sounded. A single sprinkler head fully controlled and extinguished the fire. School resumed after the initial evacuation.

# Respect History

## *But Stay Open to Innovation*

by Christopher Norris

Changing technologies impact markets, consumers, customers and industries. The fire service is part of this trend. Most people are familiar with the new ride-hailing services Uber and Lyft that are upending traditional taxi services with the use of technology to improve service, lower prices and increase convenience for consumers. But the taxi industry has been left behind.

The fire service faces technological innovations that may upend some of our traditions. Will we be willing to try new technologies? Firefighters are familiar with the adage: One hundred years of tradition unimpeded by progress. Do fire service traditions stymie some of our thinking or limit innovation and creativity in the fire service?

Understanding the challenges and sacrifices that men and women made before us is critical to the fire service we have today. As Edmund Burke said, "Those who don't know history are doomed to repeat it." Openness to innovation and creativity is crucial to the success of the fire service going forward.

Talented firefighters across the country have great ideas. As fire service leaders, we need to provide them with the platforms to experiment, to try innovative ideas and to be creative. We cannot be afraid to fail. Our profession is continually challenged by external stakeholders to justify and rationalize actions. Allow our expert and creative personnel to drive change instead of being dictated to by external forces.

The Massachusetts Fire-fighting Academy's (MFA) Call/Volunteer Recruit Training Program recently had the opportunity to try a new technique. Recruit firefighters are taught the aerial climb and must complete it twice during training. The first climb is seventy-five feet at a 65-70 degree angle wearing full PPE and the second climb is one-hundred feet at 65-70 degree angle wearing full PPE.

Evaluation of the safety of the evolution and the techniques highlighted the opportunity to increase student safety by requiring a class II harness on a belay system during the training. It was different. It was not the norm. But we were experimenting in order to increase safety for recruits with little to no experience climbing ground and aerial ladders without altering the learning that would take place. The change received mixed reviews from both students and staff. Leaders continued to educate individuals about the rationale for the procedure. Today, the harness is an accepted practice in training and everyone understands the reasons it was implemented. I tell many people, "learn from my mistakes because there have been many." In this area, the training program was willing to take a risk and be different in an effort to maximize safety and prevent a tragic outcome such as the one outlined in the NIOSH Firefighter Fatality Report-F2012-01 of June 20, 2012.

As a profession, we need to be open to innovation in both operational and administrative procedures. Whether it's transitional fire attack, or how to develop vehicle specifications, deploy personnel and apparatus, or conduct training, don't be afraid to experiment with new methods.

They may or may not work. If they don't work, re-evaluate and move forward. We have the talent to excel at innovation and to have the source of innovation come from inside the fire service.

What is the next Uber-style innovation in the fire service? We don't know yet, but let the changes be driven by the fire service. Don't let change be thrust upon us by outside factors. Be respectful of history, but don't be afraid to be different. Let's keep the fire service strong for future generations.

*Christopher W. Norris is the Westhampton Fire Chief and the MFA program coordinator for the Call/Volunteer Recruit Firefighter Training Program.*





# Sprinkler Law Case Heard

## *MacLaurin v. City of Holyoke*

Office of General Counsel, Department of Fire Services

In August, the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court (SJC) issued a decision in the case of *MacLaurin v. City of Holyoke*. The case involved a challenge to the fire chief's determination to require enhanced residential sprinklers in two apartment buildings pursuant to M.G.L. c. 148, s. 26I. This law, once adopted locally, requires sprinklers in residential buildings with four or more dwelling units if that building is newly constructed or "is substantially rehabilitated so as to constitute the equivalent of new construction..." Due to the potentially broad fire safety implications of an adverse decision in the case, particularly as it could impact other enhanced statutory sprinkler requirements found in M.G.L. c. 148, the State Fire Marshal and the Fire Chiefs' Association of Massachusetts filed Amicus (friend of the court) Briefs with the SJC.

The SJC, in a 38 page decision, detailed an extensive historical background about the enhanced sprinkler laws found in M.G.L. c. 148 and acknowledged the Legislature's concerns with fire safety. The SJC noted that, s. 26I, unlike all the other enhanced sprinkler sections of c. 148, does not provide the building owner with a statutory right of appeal to the Automatic Sprinkler Appeals Board (ASAB). The ASAB is able to create a written record and the basis to support a written decision to require sprinklers, thus facilitating subsequent review by a court and providing guidance to enforcement officials. This avenue of administrative appeal to the ASAB provides affected building owners an administrative review process for an order to install automatic sprinklers. In this case, the SJC concluded that the fire chief's decision to require the sprinklers "...neither contains any explicit findings of fact nor sets forward the test used to evaluate the nature of the work done" (p. 5) and indicated that "in these particular circumstances, an appropriate opportunity for MacLaurin to be heard was warranted" (p. 37). In short, the Court was concerned that s. 26I building owners (like MacLaurin) did not have adequate due process to review the chief's determination.

The SJC also concluded that "...the residential sprinkler standard [substantial rehabilitation so as to constitute the equivalent of new construction] under M.G.L. c. 148, s. 26I, is satisfied when rehabilitative work is so extensive that the building itself, considered as a whole, has been rendered 'the equivalent of new construction,' whether in terms of the materials and construction techniques used, the building's systems, its market value, its expected future



useful life, or other comparable measures of equivalence of new construction" (p. 29).

As a result of its findings, the SJC remanded the case back to the Housing Court to vacate the fire chief's order and indicated "that the fire chief shall consider anew, consistent with this opinion and after evaluation of the existing record and such additional information as may be submitted by either party, whether the properties have been substantially rehabilitated within the meaning of M.G.L. c. 148, s. 26I, so as to require the installation of automatic sprinkler systems. Thereafter, if necessary, further proceedings consistent with this opinion will be had in the Housing Court" (p. 37-38).

Although the SJC remanded the case to the fire chief for further findings consistent with the Court's opinion, the SJC did not, notwithstanding Appellant's challenges, either invalidate the statute and its public safety purpose or interfere with the fire chief's authority to enforce the sprinkler law.

As a result of this decision, DFS is currently reviewing the statute to determine if proposing amendments to s. 26I to allow for appeals to the ASAB or if a new definition of "rehabilitation" is warranted in order to ensure the continued effectiveness of s. 26I.

Once adopted locally, M.G.L. c. 148, s. 26I requires sprinklers in residential buildings with four or more dwelling units if that building is newly constructed or "is substantially rehabilitated so as to constitute the equivalent of new construction..."

# Updates to the State Fire Code

In the second half of 2016, there were several changes and updates to the State Fire Code. The updated regulations are on the DFS website at <http://www.mass.gov/dfs>. Below is a summary with links to highlighted code section amendments. Be sure to review the codes in their entirety. For additional questions, code officials should feel free to contact the Fire Safety Division's Code Compliance Desk for additional information at (978) 567-3375.



## Open Burning: 527 CMR 10.11 and Table 1.12.8.1

This section contains permit requirements for outdoor fires for cooking and recreation. The amendments eliminate confusion and create consistency with M.G.L. c.48 s. 13 which relegates the authority for outdoor fires to the State Forester and the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), rather than the Comprehensive Fire Safety Code, 527 CMR 1.00.

## Cooking Equipment: 527 CMR 1.00: 10.11.6

This section contains requirements for outdoor cooking equipment including hibachis, grills, and similar devices. The amendment expands the permissible use of these appliances on balconies (structures that do not include stairs to grade level) and decks (structures that include stairs to grade). The amendment permits outdoor cooking appliances on balconies and decks dependent on building characteristics such as adequate clearances and fire protection capabilities rather than the use of the structure. 527 CMR 1.00: Table 10.11.6 clarifies the provisions into one comprehensive table. In summary:

- Solid fuel is not permitted to be used or stored on any balcony, but is permitted on a deck.
- Gaseous fuel is not permitted to be used or stored on any balcony, unless permanently installed (piped directly to the cooking appliance) but is permitted on a deck.
- Unless a sprinkler system is installed, cooking appliances may not be used or stored:

- On any balcony or deck enclosed by a roof, walls, or any covering that would prevent air circulation
  - Within 10 feet of the exterior wall of the building
  - Except where cooking equipment and its gaseous fuel source is installed in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions and equipment listing.
- Storage of cooking appliances is permitted under overhangs and within 10 feet of the exterior wall of the building when fuel is not present.

For a comprehensive understanding of grill regulations and specific code language, please refer to 527 CMR 1.00.

## Generator Fuel Testing:

### 527 CMR 1.00:2.3.5 and 1.00: 11.7.5

These amendments relate to the standards and specifications for the periodic testing, reconditioning or replacement of stored diesel or biodiesel fuel used to operate stationary generators employed for emergency or legally required standby power systems. The amendment provides more detail, including important technical specification standards that were referenced in the code, but are now being placed into the main body of the code for the ease of the end user. The amendment clarifies the fuel testing standard to be ASTM D 975-11b, or ASTM D 6751-11b and ASTM D 7462-11. These standards were referenced as fuel testing standards through NFPA 20 for fire pumps, but were not specifically referenced for generators. Testing shall be performed at least annually in accordance with the ASTM standards.

## Tank Dismantling Yards:

### 527 CMR 1.00: 1.12.8.40.1.1 and 66.21.7.6

This companion set of amendments reconcile the regulations for the dismantling of underground tanks (USTs) and tank dismantling yards. The amendments eliminate the reference to the State Fire Marshal's regulations, 502 CMR 3.00. which has been rescinded. This action to rescind 502



Effective 12/1/2016, newly installed battery-powered smoke alarms (replacing existing devices) must have: a non-rechargeable, non-replaceable (sealed) battery, the battery must have a 10-year life, the device must have a silence/hush feature, and the alarm must have a photoelectric sensing element (at a minimum).

CMR 3.00 and carry much of the language to the fire code, 527 CMR 1.00, 66.21.7 was necessary as the result of changes to M.G.L. c. 210, s. 1 which transferred the fire safety aspects of the dismantling yards from the State Fire Marshal to the Board of Fire Prevention Regulations.

#### **Fire Department Access Roads: 527 CMR 1.00: 18.1.1.3 and 18.2.3.1.4**

These sections contain requirements for fire department access roads for all newly constructed buildings. The amendment relieves one- and two-family dwellings and their associated structures from the fire department access road provisions. Individual town planning boards, under the state's subdivision control laws, may determine the need and application of requirements for fire department apparatus access.

Additionally, an amendment was made to the provision regarding fire department approval of access roads. The amendment continues the allowance for the head of the fire department to approve alternative proposals to fire department access roads if the alternative is proposed by the project team/building owner. The amendment clarifies that the fire department cannot require an alternative to fire department access roads, but may choose to accept an alternative if proposed.

#### **Smoke Alarms 527 CMR 1.00: 13.7-13.10**

These sections contain requirements for the installation, maintenance and testing of smoke alarms in buildings constructed prior to 1975. Carbon monoxide installation requirements are also included. The amendment reorganizes the previous regulation into three parts: smoke detection requirements, carbon monoxide detection requirements, and maintenance requirements. Notable changes to the smoke detection sections are in regards to newly installed battery-powered devices.



In summary, effective 12/1/2016, newly installed battery-powered alarms (replacing existing devices) must have:

- Non-rechargeable, non-replaceable (sealed) battery
- Battery must have a 10-year life
- Device must have a silence/hush feature
- Alarm must have a photoelectric sensing element (at a minimum).

The amendment does not affect existing smoke alarms if they continue to be operational and are less than 10 years old (date of manufacture is stamped on the back of the device). The amendment exempts wireless network technology smoke alarms from the requirements for a non-rechargeable, non-replaceable, 10-year battery if the device contains a battery with a minimum 1-year life. The amendment does not apply to smoke alarms that are hard-wired. The requirements for smoke alarms must be met when installing new combination smoke/carbon monoxide alarms. The technical requirements only apply to required devices. Alarms installed in addition to those required by 527 CMR 1.00 may be powered by replaceable batteries.

Carbon monoxide requirements were clarified for combination smoke and carbon monoxide alarms and also for alarm requirements in daycare and institutional occupancies, but no changes were made to the scope of the regulation.

The amendment also extracted maintenance requirements from NFPA 72 which had been previously adopted through reference. The intent of the extraction from NFPA 72 into 527 CMR 1.00 was to include the applicable sections in the single 527 CMR 1.00 document for ease of use.

For a comprehensive understanding of the smoke detection requirements and the specific code language, please refer to 527 CMR 1.00.



## 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Public Fire & Life Safety Education Conference

The 22<sup>nd</sup> annual Massachusetts Public Fire and Life Safety Education Conference took place September 26 and 27 at the Westford Regency Inn and Conference Center. This year's theme, Keeping Everybody Safe Every Day, recognizes the need to keep everyone safe from fire at every stage of life. Safety risks change as we move from kindergarten through grade school and high school, when we head off to college, start families of our own and as we age. Over 200 firefighter-educators, classroom teachers, elder service workers and injury prevention professionals gathered for workshops on teaching fire, life safety and injury prevention to all segments of the community, from pre-school children to senior citizens. Ten participants joined us from other regions of the country.

Retired Chief Bob Milne discussed the "state of the S.A.F.E. program", recognizing the many educational activities and programs in Massachusetts during his general session remarks. He noted that formal public fire and life safety education has been promoted since 1884 when Edward Franklin Croker began his career in New York. Chief Milne reminded everyone that Massachusetts is a leader in public fire and life safety education, and recognized the many men and women who dedicate themselves to this work.

Dr. Robert Stadolnik, president of FirePsych, Inc., is well known in the fire service for his work with child and youth firesetters. In his general session talk, Stadolnik spoke about mentally ill and developmentally delayed citizens who have largely been left out of fire and life safety

education. He noted that group homes have not traditionally partnered with local fire officials to promote safety. Dr. Stadolnik shared his research and insights and then challenged participants to think about the impact that they can have teaching mentally ill and developmentally disabled citizens about fire and life safety.



Keynote speaker Michael Ricardi.

A highlight of this year's conference was the keynote presentation, by Michael Ricardi, a survivor of the Station Nightclub fire and author of *Just a Thought Away: A True Story of Friendship, Tragedy and the Will to Carry On*. Michael lost his best friend in the nightclub fire, and he told the story of his friendship with Jim Gahan, his experience in the fire, the impact losing his friend had on his life, and the lessons he has learned about life and about fire. Michael also highlighted the Nightclub safety initiative in Massachusetts. With the force of his experience at the Station Nightclub fire, Ricardi told the audience that it is imperative to educate those who attend nightclubs and to reinforce the message: know two ways out. Ricardi wondered out loud if he knew then what he knows now about escaping buildings how his life might have been different. The audience was enthralled with Ricardi's presentation, and noted that his story was very moving and a call to action. The impact of his speech will be felt for some time.

The 2016 Fire and Life Safety Educator of the Year award was presented to Mrs. Ellen Kennedy, a science teacher at the JFK Middle School in Northampton. She has brought fire science into her classroom and educates students about fire prevention, using her classroom as the springboard for this work. Other nominees recognized for their efforts in fire and life safety education were: FF Tess Didonato, Auburn Fire Department; Lt. Paul Delaney, Wellesley Fire Department; Capt. David Konieczny, Dudley Fire Department; the Western Massachusetts Safety and Fire Education Association; and the Bridgewater Seniors First Team with members from the Bridgewater Fire Department, Bridgewater State University's Office of University Community Initiatives, The Home Depot, and



From left, Northampton Fire Chief Duane Nichols, JFK Middle School Principal Lesley Wilson, FF Natalie Stollmeyer, Ellen Kennedy, and State Fire Marshal Peter Ostroskey

*Continued on next page*

# Performance Recognition Awards



*State Fire Marshal Ostroskey, Dave Beaudin, Peter Shipman and H. Jacob Nunnemacher at the State House.*

Each year, a committee of DFS staff selects full-time employees from among nominees for recognition with the Commonwealth's Pride in Performance Awards. This year two individual contributors and one team of employees were recognized for distinguished dedication and commitment to the mission of the Department of Fire Services. Governor Baker recognized the full-time employee award recipients at the State House on October 21, 2016. The Department of Fire Services recognized all recipients at an event held at our Stow campus on November 14, 2016.

Every year, DFS recognizes one contract employee or group in addition to those recognized by the statewide program. DFS has a unique staffing structure with so many part-time employees who are also full-time firefighters. Rick Stevens was honored this year.

The Stow event also recognized full-time and contract employees who reached milestone years of service with the agency as of June 30, 2016. Each employee was awarded a certificate and pin for their continued commitment to the agency.

## Pride in Performance Recipients

**H. Jacob Nunnemacher**

**Environmental Engineer IV - Fire Safety Division**

For his outstanding job assisting the Fire Safety Division during 2014, 2015, and early 2016 when they were short staffed. Nunnemacher split the responsibilities of chief fire protection engineer when the position was vacant, in addition to his normal duties. In late 2015 through early 2016, Nunnemacher provided fire protection engineering for the entire state (well beyond his regular area of coverage) in addition to the duties normally assigned to the chief fire

protection engineer. During this same period, he also trained a newly hired entry level fire protection engineer.

**David Beaudin**

**Compliance Officer III - Fire Safety Division**

For being instrumental in the development of the training and inspection components of the Fire Prevention and Safety Grant from FEMA. His experience, expertise and institutional knowledge about the development of nightclub safety regulations, inspections, and training following regulations that were enacted after the February 2003 Station Nightclub Fire proved invaluable, and he became the subject matter expert on nightclub safety for the entire agency.

**Facilities Administrative Office**

**Capital Assets Management Division**

Fred Corazzini-Program Coordinator III

Mary Kittredge-Program Coordinator III

Peter Shipman-Administrator III

Betti Perry-Administrative Assistant II

Christine Sullivan-Word Processor II

The group was instrumental in researching, quoting, and processing purchase requisitions for all the materials needed for the fit up of the DFS Springfield Campus. This included several thousand individual items and approximately \$3.6 million in expenditures including everything from apparatus to PPE, SCBA, turn-out gear, appliances, hose, nozzles, hand tools, yard equipment, snow removal equipment, and even pens and pencils. During the process of acquiring all the materials for Springfield, the team maintained their regular duties and kept the Stow campus running smoothly.

**Rick Stevens - Crib Room Coordinator -**

**Capital Assets Management Division (Contractor)**

Rick Stevens was instrumental in staffing the new DFS Springfield campus. He dedicated many hours to recruitment job fairs, conducting interviews, organizing orientation and training programs, and ensuring the crib room operations in Springfield would function at the highest standard. DFS Springfield campus operations are running smoothly and the on-boarding of a high volume of staff in a short period is commendable and has allowed the agency to successfully expand operations into western Massachusetts.

## Public Fire & Life Safety Education Conference, *continued from previous page*

the Bridgewater Office of Elder Affairs. We congratulate the winner and nominees, and all who work so hard to educate Massachusetts citizens in fire and life safety.

Planning for the 23<sup>rd</sup> Public Fire and Life Safety Education Conference is underway. Look for information about the conference in the spring.

# K-9 Graduation Ceremony

## Massachusetts Contingent



Back row L to R: Sgt. Paul Horgan, Christine Doucette, Tpr. Mike Fagan, Lei Chen, Theodore Biv, Sean Mullins, DLt. Paul Zipper. Front row: Tpr. Steve Sicard and K-9 Link, Officer Ed Nofle and K-9 Perky, Officer Brian Lavallee and K-9 Bella, and Officer Tim Getchell and K-9 Buddy (absent: Tpr. Scott Cooper and K-9 Kayak).

On Friday, October 28, interns from the Massachusetts State Police Fire and Explosion Investigation Section attended the graduation ceremony for the 182<sup>nd</sup> class of Explosion Detection K-9s from the Connecticut State Police Training Facility in Meriden, Connecticut. The graduating class included 12 Labrador Retrievers and their handlers. The Massachusetts members of the graduating class are: Trooper Steve Sicard and K-9 Link, Trooper Scott Cooper and K-9 Kayak, Chelsea Police Officer Ed Nofle and K-9 Perky, Worcester Polytechnic Institute Police Officer Brian Lavallee and K-9 Bella, and Methuen Police Officer Tim Getchell and K-9 Buddy. Other members of the class included three Connecticut State Police Troopers, two officers from the Mohegan Sun Tribal Police Department, one officer from the New Haven Police Department, and one officer from the University of Rhode Island Police Department.

Sergeant Paul Horgan, a member of the State Police Bomb Squad, is also a North East State Police Administration Conference (NESPAC) certified canine trainer. With this nationally recognized certification, he was able to spend eight weeks training the Massachusetts contingent here in the Bay State, saving local agencies money and time developing their canine-handler teams. The teams went to Connecticut for some additional final training and the certification test. State Police fire investigator Trooper Michael Fagan is working through the NESPAC certification process so that DFS will soon have two canine trainers.

## 2017 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](http://elicense.chs.state.ma.us/DFS_Verification/Search.aspx) or go to [www.mass.gov/dfs](http://www.mass.gov/dfs) and click on *Licensing* and *DFS License Look-Up*.

The schedule of testing dates below is subject to change because testing procedures are being updated.

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](mailto:dfs.licensing@dfs.state.ma.us).

Examinations	Examination Dates All exams start at 10:00 a.m. unless noted	Deadlines for Applications
Fire Suppression, 10:00 a.m., Commercial Hood Cleaning, 2:00 p.m.	January 25, 2017 (Wednesday)	January 6, 2017 (Friday)
Cannon/Mortar, Fireworks, Special Effects, Blasting, Blasting R & D	February 15, 2017 (Wednesday)	January 27, 2017 (Friday)

*Continued on next page*



# Memorial to All K-9s Dedicated



*Fire & Explosion Investigation Unit personnel at the K-9 memorial dedication. Photo by Public Safety Multimedia.*

On December 7, 2016, a memorial to all the past, present and future canines assigned to the Fire & Explosion Investigation Unit (F&EIU) was dedicated on the grounds of the Department of Fire Services' Stow campus. The unit is staffed by specially trained State Police officers and is a unique partnership between the Department of State Police and the Department of Fire Services. The first dog assigned to the unit started in 1984 and was an accelerant detection canine shared by two handlers. Today the unit has six nationally certified accelerant detection canine teams (handlers and dogs) and nine nationally certified explosive detection canine teams (dogs and handlers). The State Police Association of Massachusetts (SPAM) President Trooper Dana Pullman led the fundraising efforts to build the memorial. Many individuals, companies and organizations were very generous. The dedication ceremony was attended by Public Safety Secretary Daniel Bennett, EOPSS Undersecretaries Patrick McMurray and Jennifer Queally, State Police Col. McKeon, State Fire Marshal Peter Ostroskey, many current and past State Police members of the F&EIU, and current DFS employees.

## License Exam Schedule, *continued from previous page*

### License Exam Schedule

- Applicants must be pre-registered to sit for exams. Completed applications must be received by 5:00 p.m. on the deadline date listed below. Application forms are available at [www.mass.gov/dfs](http://www.mass.gov/dfs) then click on *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. unless otherwise noted.
- 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. Directions: [www.mass.gov/dfs](http://www.mass.gov/dfs).

# Massachusetts Firefighting Academy *Graduations*

Class #247



Class #248



Class #249



Class #S03



## Career Recruit Firefighter Training

The Career Recruit Firefighter Training program has been 45 days long. 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. The training is held at both the Stow headquarters of DFS and at the new DFS Springfield campus. Starting with Class #247, the training program has expanded to 50 days.

### Stow

#### Class #247

On August 22, 2016, members of Class #247 of the Career Recruit Firefighter Training program graduated. The 29 graduates, all men, represent the 16 fire departments of: Amesbury, Arlington, Chicopee, Fairhaven, Gardner, Gloucester, Haverhill, Lexington, Littleton, Lynnfield, Orange, Seekonk, Sudbury, Walpole, Watertown and Yarmouth. The guest speaker was Yarmouth Fire Chief Philip Simonian.

#### Class #248

On October 3, 2016 members of Class #248 of the Career Recruit Firefighter Training program graduated. The 32 graduates, 30 men and two women, represent the 13 fire departments of: Abington, Attleboro, Concord, Dedham, Foxborough, Lawrence, Leominster, Lowell, Marblehead, Norfolk, Norton, Salem and Watertown. The guest speaker was Marblehead Fire Chief Jason R. Gilliland.

#### Class #249

On November 8, 2016, members of Class #249 of the Career Recruit Firefighter Training program graduated. The 35 graduates, all men, represent the 12 fire departments of: Everett, Framingham, Hopkinton, Lexington, Lowell, Northborough, Peabody, Plainville, Reading, Westminster, Weymouth and Woburn. The guest speaker was Westminster Fire Chief Kevin D. Nivala.

## Springfield

#### Class #S03

On November 18, 2016, members of the Career Recruit Firefighter Class #S03 graduated in Springfield. The 22 graduates, all men, represent the nine fire departments of: Agawam, Amherst, Easthampton, Holyoke, Ludlow, Northampton, Springfield, West Springfield, and Westfield. The guest speaker was Agawam Fire Chief Alan Sirois.

## Call/Volunteer Recruit Firefighter 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 320 hours of training. Bringing the training closer to the firefighters often means more firefighters can participate. In 2014, an online eBlended format was implemented that has students 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 #60*

On November 2, 2016, in Springfield, Massachusetts, members of Class #60 of the Call/Volunteer Recruit Firefighter Training program graduated, having completed 240 hours of training on nights and weekends. The 28 graduates, 25 men and three women, represent the 18 fire departments of: Amherst, Cheshire, Chesterfield, Dalton, East Longmeadow, Great Barrington, Hampden, Lee, Leverett, Monterey, New Marlborough, Palmer, Richmond, South Hadley-District 1, South Hadley-District 2, Southampton, and Tolland.

#### *Class #61*

On November 9, 2016, in Stow, Massachusetts, members of Class #61 of the Call/Volunteer Recruit Firefighter Training program graduated having completed 240 hours of training on nights and weekends. The 35 graduates, 33 men and two women, represent the 24 fire departments of: Ashburnham, Athol, Ayer, Bolton, Boylston, Dover, Harvard, Hubbardston, Leicester, Lynnfield, Medway, Middleton, Millbury, Oxford, Paxton, Pepperell, Princeton, Southborough, Sterling, Sutton, Templeton, Webster, Weston, and Winchendon.

### **Today's Firefighters Do Far 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



*Class #60*



*Class #61*

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 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.

## Requesting MFA Courses

Starting January 1, 2017, fire departments must use the MFA Course Request form to request an MFA program. This will allow the program coordinators to better manage the process and provide the best possible customer service. It will also allow coordinators to measure the volume of requests by course and area. This can be found by clicking on "MFA Applications, Forms, and Polices" in the list on the right hand side of any MFA web page. This is an online form that once completed and submitted will be sent directly to appropriate staff.





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



# Nightclub Safety

## A Survival Guide to Getting In and Getting Out

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*A Survival Guide to Getting In and Getting Out* is a Department of Fire Services nightclub safety video for use in educating young people. Young adults worry about getting into the hot nightclubs, but we want them to make a plan to get out in case of danger.

Nightclub safety has been important in Massachusetts since the 1942 Cocoanut Grove nightclub that killed 492 people. Most of today's college students were infants when the 2003 fire at The Station Nightclub in Rhode Island killed 100 people. Many changes in fire and building codes came about as a result of that tragic fire including a requirement for clubs that hold more than 100 people to have sprinklers and for trained crowd managers to be on site when clubs are open. However, young people also need to be educated to be aware of their surroundings and to always know two ways out of any club, bar or other room they are in.

The DFS video is available to use in all educational efforts and can be found at  
<http://www.mass.gov/eopss/agencies/dfs/nightclub-safety.html>

In 2014, the Department of Fire Services received a Federal Emergency Management (FEMA) Fire Prevention and Safety Grant to promote nightclub safety through training, inspections and education.

