

All Hands Herald

Massachusetts Department of Fire Services

January 2019

Merrimack Valley Gas Explosions *Fire Service Response*



29th Annual Firefighter
of the Year Awards

Massachusetts Fire & EMS
Mobilization Plan in Action

Smoke Alarms and
Smoke Detectors

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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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The Mass. Fire & EMS Mobilization Plan successfully provided the resources to respond to the Merrimack Valley gas explosions and ensured continued local coverage in affected and responding communities.

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From the Fire Marshal

Merrimack Valley Gas Explosions

The Merrimack Valley gas explosions and fires on September 13 tested the leadership and training of the Lawrence, Andover, and North Andover Fire Departments. And they certainly rose to the challenge. The incidents were also a full-scale test of the Massachusetts Fire & EMS Mobilization Plan. The plan worked as it was designed to do, bringing resources to the incident when local and fire district mutual aid resources were exhausted. DFS was happy to assist in both the response and recovery in every way that it could. Governor Baker arrived on the scene that night and demanded answers, and a response and recovery plan from Columbia Gas. The Governor coordinated the massive state agency response both that night and every day since.

The recovery posed an enormous fire prevention challenge as people struggled to cook, keep warm and use hot water without gas service in their homes. And again, the Lawrence, Andover, and North Andover fire departments rose to the challenge. Knowing that people would buy space heaters, a working fire safety group of the three fire chiefs in affected towns, and the Division of Fire Safety, insisted that all appliances be listed by an approved testing lab and meet all fire code requirements. The team insisted that a licensed electrician evaluate each home's electrical system for safety (no space heaters were delivered to homes with systems that could not safely support space heaters) and that specific outlets be labeled as safe for space heater use. The team also insisted on the installation of new combination smoke and carbon monoxide alarms in all homes, whether or not a space heater was delivered. These steps helped to ensure fire safety in this unprecedented situation.

Although it was warm on September 13, the heating season began while most residents were still without gas service. History has shown that life without heat, hot water or the ability to cook can lead people to use dangerous alternatives that may cause fires. The fire chiefs for Lawrence, Andover, and North Andover worked hard to help residents make the safest possible choices under very difficult circumstances.

DFS Employees Donate to Help Victims

I was incredibly touched by the response of DFS employees to the Merrimack Valley crisis. Two employees organized two bake sales. Dozens of employees baked delicious

goodies and dozens more filled the fire boot to buy them. Another employee donated a Patriot's team shirt which was raffled off. In total, \$1,700 was raised and donated to the Essex County Community Foundation to assist victims of the Merrimack Valley gas explosions.

29th Annual Firefighter of the Year Awards

On November 20, Governor Baker, Lt. Governor Polito, Public Safety Secretary Bennett and Undersecretary McMurray presented the 29th annual Firefighter of the Year Awards to 91 honorees. This included the Norman Knight Award for Community Service, the Excellence in Leadership Award, the Stephen D. Coan Fire Marshal's Award, eight Governor's Citations for Meritorious Conduct to individuals and groups, 12 Medals of Valor, and one Medal of Honor, presented posthumously to the family of Montgomery Fire Chief Stephen Frye. This moving ceremony allowed us to recognize the heroic acts of many brave men and women in the fire service, and to publicly thank their families for the sacrifices they make.

Assistance to Firefighters Grant

DFS received an Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) to build a 2-story combination burn tower and search and rescue building at the DFS Springfield campus. The building will have burn rooms, a hallway, and a bulkhead to simulate a basement entry. It will complement the current burn building and training tower in Springfield and will result in consistent training at both of the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy facilities. The building is currently in the design phase and should be completed by next summer.

Southeastern Massachusetts Campus

DFS is seeking a location for a southeastern Massachusetts campus. This part of the state has long waiting lists for Career and Call/Volunteer Firefighter training and other programs. Some of the six counties in southeastern Massachusetts (Barnstable, Bristol, Dukes, Nantucket, Norfolk and Plymouth) face challenging transportation issues for commuting to classes in Stow or Springfield. One site we are exploring is a vacant Department of Corrections



29th Annual Firefighter of the Year Awards



Abington

On November 20, Governor Charlie Baker, Lieutenant Governor Karyn Polito, Public Safety Secretary Daniel Bennett and Undersecretary Patrick McMurray today joined State Fire Marshal Peter J. Ostroskey to honor firefighters from 13 Massachusetts fire departments for heroic acts of bravery at the 29th annual “Firefighter of the Year” Awards ceremony, held at Worcester’s Mechanics Hall. Maria Stephanos of WCVB-TV 5 emceed the event.

“We are incredibly proud to honor these courageous firefighters for their bravery and service to their local communities in times of danger,” said Governor Baker. “Massachusetts cities and towns are better places to live, work and raise a family because so many first responders selflessly answer the call to serve each and every day.”

“It is our privilege to honor the brave men and women



Centerville-Osterville-Marston Mills

who have each done something remarkable to earn this recognition,” said Lieutenant Governor Polito. “We also want to thank the families of Massachusetts firefighters for the daily sacrifices they make as their loved ones serve to protect the community.”

“Firefighters are who we call when someone is stranded, has fallen through the ice, mixes up pool chemicals, has a heart attack, or has a fire in their home,” said Secretary Bennett. “We do everything we can to support firefighters with state-of-the art training, gear and resources to make a dangerous job a little less so.”

The Governor and the Secretary presented 91 individuals with 23 awards: the Norman Knight Award for Excellence in Community Service to volunteer and call firefighters who developed a unique Explorer’s Program that teaches young

From the Fire Marshal, *continued from page 1*

property in Bridgewater. This could also be a good home for technical rescue training. The Legislature and the Administration have passed legislation that created the Technical Rescue Council and authorized the creation of five tech rescue districts, modeled on the hazardous materials response districts. Tech rescue training props are large and not easy to transport. The Bridgewater property could accommodate the props as well as needed classroom space. The site would be a good re-use of existing state property.

Public Awareness Campaigns

DFS has created public awareness campaigns on many fire safety topics. Each campaign includes a toolkit of resources for fire departments. When the fire service presents accurate

and consistent messages, residents hear our messages clearly. Some of the DFS public awareness campaigns include paid television and radio time, donated transit advertisement space, educational handouts to download or order in several languages, logos to use, customizable press releases and op-ed pieces, public service announcements you can ask local cable access television to air, and social media support. The campaigns are: *Keep Warm, Keep Safe – Winter Home Heating Safety*; *Smoke Alarms: A Sound You Can Live With*; *Breathe Easy: Using Home Oxygen Safely*; and the *Cooking Fire Safety Campaign* which features three firehouse chefs and their delicious recipes. I want to thank the firehouse chefs and the many regional transit agencies for their help with our public awareness campaigns.



Norman Knight Award - Marion, Mattapoisett and Rochester

adults about the fire service; an Excellence in Leadership Award to a firefighter and veteran who founded a program for firefighters to address post-traumatic stress disorder; an Individual Award for Meritorious Conduct to a paramedic/firefighter from Wilbraham for a water rescue; seven Group Awards for Meritorious Conduct to teams of firefighters from Abington, Centerville-Osterville-Marston Mills, Chicopee, Revere, and Worcester and to the Western Massachusetts Technical Rescue Team; and 12 Medals of Valor to individual firefighters from Ayer, Centerville-Osterville-Marston Mills, Fall River, and Worcester. The Medal of Honor award was presented posthumously to Montgomery Fire Chief Stephen P. Frye.

The Stephen D. Coan Fire Marshal Award was presented to the Northwestern Youth Fire Intervention Response, Education and Safety Partnership (NoFIREs). "The members of



Northwestern Youth Fire Intervention Response, Education and Safety Partnership (NoFIREs)

NoFIREs work tirelessly to reduce the number of youth-set fires in western Massachusetts using effective intervention strategies," said State Fire Marshal Ostroskey. "They bring together fire investigators, law enforcement, juvenile justice professionals, fire educators and mental health clinicians to share best practices to help at risk children and their families." For more information, go to www.mass.gov/dfs and search for *Firefighter of the Year*.

Massachusetts cities and towns are better places to live, work and raise a family because so many first responders selflessly answer the call to serve each and every day.

Online Course Updates

FPO Basic and Confined Space Awareness

DFS has two online courses with new or updated content for students: The online *Confined Space Awareness and Fire Prevention Officer Credential – Basic* (298) focuses on how to be safe during a confined space rescue. There have been many rescuer fatalities in confined space emergencies. This training is targeted at all first responders. This course offers 2 hours of OEMS continuing education credit. The *Fire Prevention Officer Credential – Basic* (POB_v2) online course was rewritten and updated to accurately reference the current State Fire Code. This course is the prerequisite to *Fire Prevention Officer Credential – Level I* (PC1).

Loss of Christopher Roy

Worcester Firefighter

As this issue goes to press, our hearts are heavy with grief at the December 9 loss of Worcester Firefighter Christopher Roy. On behalf of all DFS staff, I offer our deepest condolences to the Roy family and the members of the Worcester Fire Department. This is a difficult time of year for the fire service, and particularly for Worcester firefighters, as we remember the loss of other firefighters. Early December is the anniversary of the 2017 loss of Montgomery Fire Chief Frye, the 2011 loss of Worcester FF Jon Davies, and the six who perished in the 1999 Worcester Cold Storage Warehouse fire.

— State Fire Marshal Peter J. Ostroskey

Merrimack Valley Gas Explosions

and the Fire Service Response



The Incident

On September 13, 2018 around 4:15 p.m., 131 fires, 3 explosions and numerous gas leaks struck Lawrence, Andover and North Andover. A large number of state, fire and law enforcement resources were mobilized for fire suppression and public safety. About 25 people were injured and one man died when a chimney fell on the car he was sitting in after an explosion. Affected neighborhoods were evacuated, Columbia Gas depressurized the system, and National Grid shut off electricity to the area as the sun set. Then, utility and public safety teams began the process of going door to door to shut off gas service to about 8,000 meters.

The Response

Governor Baker, Lt. Governor Polito and administration officials responded quickly and were in the Merrimack Valley through the night and for several days. They worked with Lawrence Mayor Dan Rivera, Andover Town Manager Andrew Flanagan, and North Andover Town Manager Andrew Maylor. The Governor continued to visit the Merrimack Valley frequently and has a daily conference call on the situation. He also appointed a “czar” to coordinate the recovery effort.

Local, state, regional and federal public safety partners continue to coordinate response and recovery to the incident with local officials. The Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) officials have been on the scene since it began.

The Statewide Fire Mobilization Plan was activated to respond to this extraordinary incident and deployed eight structural fire task forces over several days to assist Lawrence, Andover and North Andover with fire suppression. The Mobilization plan provides for the activation and sustained response of aid to communities in the event of a localized disaster. The plan is activated when an event overwhelms the local fire department and its normal mutual aid resources. Many law enforcement resources from across the state were deployed to assist with safety and traffic in the evacuated areas.

Gas Pipeline Investigation

The initial focus of the investigation was that the fires and explosions were related to the gas distribution system. The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) and the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Organization (PHMSA) arrived on September 14 to conduct their investigation into the cause, working closely with the state Department of Utilities (DPU). The Federal Bureau of Investigations is also working closely with the NTSB whose preliminary findings confirm that the incident was caused by over-pressurization of a gas main during utility work.

Fire Investigations

The DFS Fire & Explosion Investigation Unit (which is staffed by State Police investigators) worked with local fire and police officials to investigate and determine causes for the fires. It was important to ascertain whether the fires were related to the over-pressurization or to another cause. Documenting the dozens of scenes took many days and many fire investigators from across the unit.

Evacuees Return Home

Fortunately, electricity was restored quickly and evacuated residents were allowed to return home within a few days. Many discovered that furnaces and hot water heaters had been damaged by small fires that did not spread. However, as the weeks dragged on and temperatures dipped, alternative housing situations became necessary for those without gas service.

Fire Safety Group Formed

When it became clear that thousands of residents would be without gas to cook, heat water, or keep warm for weeks and weeks, Columbia Gas was eager to put alternatives in place. The fire chiefs from Lawrence, Andover and North

Andover and the Division of Fire Safety formed a working group with the utility to make sure fire safety was considered during crisis response. The group worried that residents might make a bad situation worse as they struggled to cope, using space heaters, hotplates, and electric skillets in potentially unsafe ways. Knowing that residents would buy heat-generating appliances anyway, the group developed a list of appliances that are approved by an independent testing laboratory and meet Massachusetts fire code requirements. The group also asked that a licensed electrician inspect each home to verify that the electrical system could support the use of space heaters, and to show residents which outlets were safe for the appliances. This was important because the electricians found that many homes had electrical systems that could not support the safe use of space heaters. No space heaters were left at those homes. The fire safety group also asked that new combination smoke and carbon monoxide alarms (that meet the fire code) be installed in each home that was inspected, whether or not they were going to use a space heater. Over 5,600 combination smoke and carbon monoxide alarms were installed in at-risk homes in the three communities.

Shortly after hotplates were handed out at distribution centers, there was a hotplate fire. The cause was not a malfunction of the hot plate or overload of the electrical system. It was your standard every day cooking fire and we know that cooking fires are the number 1 cause of residential fires. It will be important to continue fire safety education in the Merrimack Valley due to the risks of using new appliances, electrical system overload, and standard cooking and heating safety

The fire safety group agreed that while there was a need to streamline permitting processes to help the community get back on its feet quickly, that the fire code could not and would not be violated. In an effort to streamline permitting, fire, building and other code enforcement officials set up a location where residents and contractors can apply for all permits at once. The group of officials is working closely to make sure that safety is not undercut.

Public Education

DFS helped the chiefs in reviewing fire safety tips in English and Spanish for space heaters, hot plates and electric skillets. Every hot plate distributed had these tips taped to the box. Every space heater distributed had safety tips from DFS along with it. The Governor, DFS, MEMA, and officials in the affected communities promoted fire safety



AK9 Vasco taking a break during disaster operations.



Temporary housing for the thousands who could not return home, on South Common, Lawrence.

messages for heat-generating appliances and for safe cooking and heating in press releases and social media, and will continue to do so throughout the recovery in the Merrimack Valley and the winter. For more information about using DFS safety materials in your community, visit www.mass.gov/dfs and search for *Resources for Fire and Life Safety Educators* and *Fire Safety for the Public*.

The Statewide Fire Mobilization Plan deployed eight structural fire task forces to assist Lawrence, Andover and North Andover with fire suppression. The Plan provides aid to communities in a localized disaster and is activated when an event overwhelms the local fire department and normal mutual aid resources.

Fire & EMS Mobilization Plan in Action



On September 13, 2018 at about 4:15 p.m., Lawrence, Andover and North Andover experienced a series of natural gas explosions and fires that drained their normal response capabilities and exceeded their local and district mutual-aid resources. This event tested the Massachusetts Fire & EMS Mobilization Plan and showed it in action.

The plan provides for the activation and sustained response of aid to communities in the event of a localized disaster. Disasters can include major fires, tornadoes, train derailments, hazardous materials incidents, wildland fires, domestic terrorism and more. The plan is activated when an event overwhelms the local fire department and its normal mutual aid resources.

When a jurisdiction experiences a disaster, the fire service Incident Commander first requests assistance by using the local mutual aid system, and then additional mutual aid from the fire district. When a local jurisdiction cannot get enough additional assistance through their mutual aid system, they can activate this plan. It provides a third level of mutual aid for disasters. Incident command remains with the local jurisdiction after the plan goes into effect. Developed by the Fire Chiefs' Association of Massachusetts, the Massachusetts Fire & EMS Mobilization Plan

defines in advance of a major emergency what resources will be sent by which department, based on the need. For instance, a structural task force will provide a specific group of resources with the manpower and equipment to fight building fires. A wildland task force will send resources and manpower for fighting wildland fires. The plan recognizes that there are several different mutual aid systems in Massachusetts and it is not intended to replace or inhibit the development of any local or regional mutual aid system.

In the case of the Merrimack Valley gas disaster, the impact was so large that it was quickly apparent that the Mobilization Plan should be activated. Incident commanders for Lawrence, Andover, and North Andover acted swiftly, contributing to the success of the response.

On the evening of the 13th, four structural task forces were activated in Massachusetts, supplemented by task forces from New Hampshire. Over the next three days, 11 additional Massachusetts structural task forces, plus two groups from New Hampshire, assisted with normal incident responses and tasks associated with the gas incident. The Mobilization Plan names district and regional coordinators. These coordinators evaluated needs during each operational period and activated the appropriate resources for the next shift.

On Sunday, September 16, several task forces assisted Lawrence with fighting a 3-alarm fire at an apartment complex. By the end of the weekend, Massachusetts had mobilized one of the largest number of fire resources in

If it wasn't for the Fire Chiefs' preplan of a mobilization program, the Merrimack Valley would have suffered even greater losses.

The Mobilization Plan was extremely effective in providing us with the necessary fire and rescue resources to deal with this large scale multi-jurisdictional event. Once our dispatch personnel contacted MEMA with the original request for additional resources, the rest was taken care of by the Chiefs who fulfilled their roles as district coordinators.

recent memory. In total, 199 communities from three states responded. Massachusetts deployed 246 pieces of apparatus. New Hampshire added 92 pieces and Maine added one. These included 180 engines and 68 ladders as well as many other types of equipment.

Lawrence Fire Chief Brian Moriarty said, "If it wasn't for the Fire Chiefs' preplan of a mobilization program, the Merrimack Valley would have suffered even greater losses."

Andover Fire Chief Michael Mansfield said, "The Mobilization Plan was extremely effective in providing us with the necessary fire and rescue resources to deal with such a large scale multi-jurisdictional event. Once our dispatch personnel contacted MEMA with the original request for additional resources, the rest was taken care of by the chiefs who fulfilled their roles as district coordinators."

North Andover Fire Chief William McCarthy said, "It provided us with the needed resources that were not

immediately available to us because Lawrence and Andover were also experiencing this unprecedented event. Our local mutual aid system was quickly exhausted. The State-wide Mobilization Plan gave all three communities the help that was required for the response to this incident."

While recovery in the Merrimack Valley continues, the fire service response and the use of the Massachusetts Fire & EMS Mobilization Plan was a success. It effectively provided the resources to respond to the emergency and ensured continued local coverage in the affected and the responding communities.



Archambault Recognized

35 Years Service on the Board of Boiler Rules

The Massachusetts Board of Boiler Rules formulates rules for the construction, installation, and inspection of boilers and pressure vessels. See M.G.L. c 146 § 2 for a full description of the Board's authority.

The Board of Boiler Rules recognized Ray Archambault's 35 years of service on November 1, 2018. He is continuing to serve. Pictured from left to right: Charlie Perry, manufacturers representative; Edward Kawa, Chief of Inspections; Ray Archambault, operating engineers representative; Maribel Fournier, Deputy State Fire Marshal; Leah Francis, insurance companies representative; and Anthony Lucia, users representative.



Smoke Alarms and Smoke Detectors

Using Correct Terms for the Different Devices



The terms “alarm” and “detector” are used interchangeably in discussions and written materials about residential fire protection devices. But the two terms are **not** interchangeable. Incorrect references are everywhere: in the laws, the building and fire codes, and even educational materials. The terms are used incorrectly by the fire service, design professionals, installers and the general public. The terms are also used incorrectly in discussions of carbon monoxide (CO) and heat protection.

The Massachusetts Comprehensive Fire Safety Code (527 CMR 1.00) and *The Massachusetts State Building Code* (780 CMR) both reference the 2013 Edition of National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 72, *National Fire Alarm and Signaling Code*, for installation and maintenance requirements for smoke alarms and smoke detectors. NFPA 72 calls the equipment used for residential fire protection “fire warning equipment”. This equipment includes both smoke alarms and household fire alarm systems.

The NFPA has been using the phrase “smoke alarm” instead of “smoke detector” in its recommended educational messages for a decade. You can download their free reference book on educational messaging by visiting

www.nfpa.org and searching for *educational messaging*. The Department of Fire Services’ Fire Data and Public Education Unit has also been working to make sure it’s language is correct and to encourage fire educators to make the switch in their vocabulary as well.

What is a Smoke Alarm?

A smoke alarm includes both detection and notification components in a single housing. Smoke alarms have been a backbone of residential fire protection since they were first mass produced in the mid-1970s. Popular brands of smoke alarms include First Alert, Kidde, NEST, and BRK. Smoke alarms can be powered by: an integral battery (9 volt, AA, or long life battery), an external AC power supply (AC hard-wired), or both (hard-wired with battery back-up). Smoke alarms can be either single-station (stand-alone) or multiple-station (interconnected with other alarms). All smoke alarms must be tested, and listed, to ANSI/UL 217.

What is a Smoke Detector?

A smoke detector senses the particles of combustion. The detector sends a signal to a household fire alarm system. A household fire alarm system includes a fire alarm control panel that notifies building occupants of a fire. More popular companies/brands of smoke detectors include ADT, Honeywell, System Sensor, Brinks, and Protection1. All smoke detectors must be tested, and listed, to ANSI/UL 268. See *Figure 1*.

Figure 1

Device	Alarm	Detector
Smoke	ANSI/UL 217	ANSI/UL 268
Carbon Monoxide (CO)	ANSI/UL 2034	ANSI/UL 2075
Smoke/CO Combo	ANSI/UL 217 and ANSI/UL 2034	ANSI/UL 268 and ANSI/UL 2075
Heat	ANSI/UL 539	ANSI/UL 521

All smoke alarms and detectors must be tested, and listed, to their respective standards. Devices must be listed by a nationally recognized testing laboratory (NRTL). A UL (Underwriter’s Laboratory) listing is not a requirement, although it is common. Another common NRTL for smoke devices is Intertek, identified with an ‘ETL’ mark.

While the general public may not understand the differences between smoke alarms and smoke detectors it is critical that laws, codes, designers, installers and

Continued on next page

Using MFIRS Data

Winter Heating Fires and CO Incidents

The Division of Fire Safety maintains the Massachusetts Fire Incident Reporting System (MFIRS). By law, fire departments must report any fire or explosion resulting in a dollar loss or human casualty to the Division of Fire Safety. Data from fire incident reports are analyzed in order to identify and address fire issues. An analysis of MFIRS data helped to identify the high number of heating related fires in Massachusetts. In 2007, DFS developed the *Keep Warm, Keep Safe* public awareness campaign to address winter heating fires and fire fatalities. The campaign includes a toolkit fire departments can use for community education which was updated for 2018. Since the *Keep Warm, Keep Safe* campaign began, all residential heating fires have dropped 51%.

Prior to the *Keep Warm Keep Safe* campaign, one in seven space heater fires caused a death. After the campaign began, the number of fire deaths attributed to space heaters declined. During the past ten years, space heater fire deaths have dropped to one in every 34 space heater fires. Space



heaters are still dangerous; one in every seven space heater fires causes a civilian injury.

Many winter fires are also caused by the improper disposal of woodstove and fireplace ashes. Franklin County is the only county where heating is the number one cause of fires. In 2017, a family of five died in a heating fire. Education is key to keeping people safe during the heating season.

Continued on page 10

Smoke Alarms and Smoke Detectors, *continued from previous page*

especially the fire service clearly understand the differences, and use the terms correctly. The current editions of the Massachusetts Comprehensive Fire Safety Code and Massachusetts State Building Code define smoke alarm and smoke detector, but the definitions are nonspecific and don't necessarily help a lay person to understand the differences between them (one includes notification and one does not, and they are tested to different standards).

Smoke Alarms Requirements

- Multiple-station smoke alarms may include up to 12 interconnected alarms (or combination smoke/CO). Up to 6 additional devices (CO only and/or heat) may be interconnected with the 12 smoke alarms so that the system includes no more than 18 devices. If more than 12 smoke alarms or 18 devices are needed, NFPA 72 requires a household fire alarm system to be installed.
- Smoke alarms cannot be interconnected with alarms from different manufacturers unless they are listed as compatible.
- Smoke alarms must be replaced 10 years from the date of manufacture. This is true for smoke alarms installed as a requirement of either the building code or the fire code.

- Since 1975, all smoke alarms required for new construction in Massachusetts must be hardwired. There are very few exceptions.
- In Massachusetts, houses constructed prior to 1975 can have either hardwired or battery-operated smoke alarms. When new battery-operated alarms are installed (even when replacing older ones) they must have a sealed, long life battery, unless the building was renovated so that a smoke alarm upgrade was required by the building code.

For more information, contact Jake Nunnemacher at 978-567-3377 or jacob.nunnemacher@mass.gov.

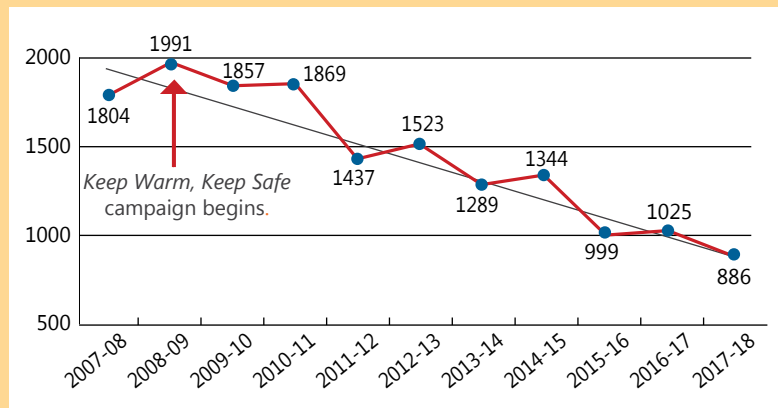
Smoke Alarms

include detection and notification components in a single housing.

Smoke Detectors

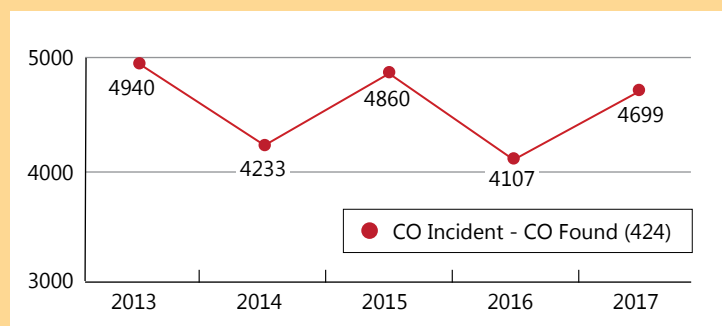
sense the particles of combustion. A detector sends a signal to a household fire alarm system.

Number of Residential Heating Fires by Winter



- Having heating systems serviced by a licensed professional at least once a year.
- Making sure smoke and CO alarms are working. Replacing smoke alarms at 10 years and CO alarms at 7 years.
- Having a practiced home escape plan.
- Learning the symptoms of CO poisoning including: nausea, headaches, flu-like symptoms, shortness of breath, dizziness and fatigue. High levels of CO poisoning result in progressively more severe symptoms including: vomiting, confusion, loss of coordination and ultimately, death.
- Keeping space heaters and other heat-generating appliances away from things that can burn.

Carbon Monoxide Incidents 2013 - 2017



In 2017, there were 1,417 heating equipment fires resulting in six civilian fire deaths, one fire service death, 14 civilian injuries, 27 fire service injuries and \$11.6 Million in estimated damages. The average dollar loss from a heating fire was \$8,194.

Carbon Monoxide Incidents

Carbon Monoxide (CO) is a significant danger during the heating season. Most CO calls occur in homes and are caused by faulty heating systems.

In 2017 there were 15,778 CO calls reported to MFIRS. That is a 10% increase from the 14,397 reported in 2016. CO was found in 4,699, or 30% of the responses. This is a 14% increase from the 4,107 calls where CO was found in 2016.

Prevent Heating Fires and CO Incidents

Heating fires are declining, but the fire service still needs to remind people that they can prevent fires and CO tragedies by:

Annual Fire Fact Sheets

Data from the MFIRS system allows DFS to provide an annual fire fact sheet to the fire service. You can use the fact sheet for public fire safety education. The 2017 Fire Fact Sheet is included on the next page. You can cut it out to copy and distribute. You can also find the Fact Sheet online at www.mass.gov/dfs. Search for *Fire Data and Statistics*.

Keep Warm Keep Safe Public Education Resources

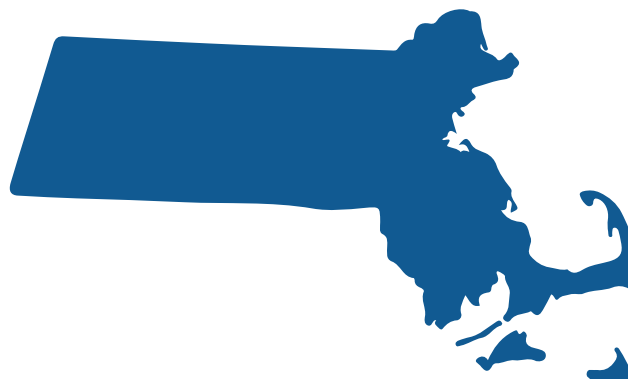
The *Keep Warm Keep Safe* public awareness campaign includes resources for the public, fire departments and educators. Resources include a logo, an op-ed piece for local newspapers, a customizable press release and a presentation. The campaign also includes a PSA you can show and brochures in seven languages. The new color brochure in English and Spanish is available in quantity, free, from the Massachusetts Health Promotion Clearinghouse. Visit www.mass.gov/keepwarm-keepsafe for more information about winter home heating safety.



Massachusetts Fires in 2017

27,895 Fires - Down 13% From 2016

56 Civilian Deaths
2 Fire Service Deaths
269 Civilian Injuries
434 Fire Service Injuries
\$390.4 Million in Property Damage
671 Reported Arsons



Structure Fires

17,098 Fires - Down less than 1%
49 Civilian Deaths
2 Fire Service Deaths
210 Civilian Injuries
382 Fire Service Injuries
\$364.7 Million in Property Damage
187 Arsons Reported



Motor Vehicle Fires

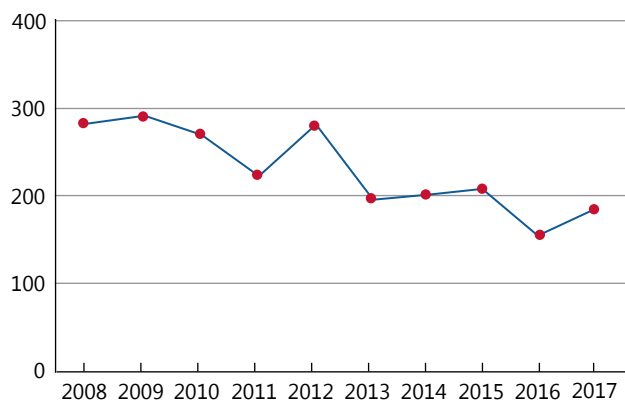
2,367 Fires - Down 1%
7 Civilian Deaths
19 Civilian Injuries
19 Fire Service Injuries
\$21.2 Million in Property Damage
68 Arsons Reported



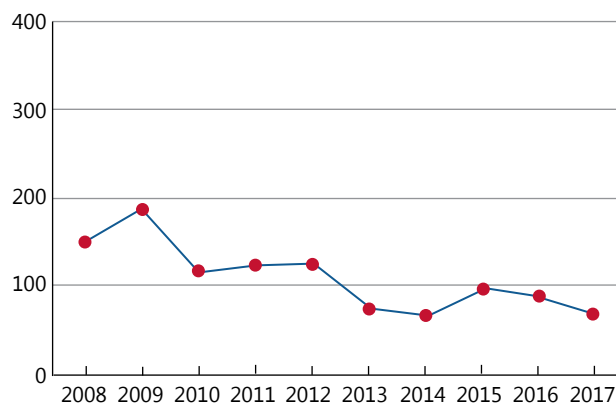
Other Fires

8,430 Fires - Down 34%
0 Civilian Deaths
40 Civilian Injuries
33 Fire Service Injuries
\$4.6 Million in Property Damage
416 Arsons Reported

Structure Arson by Year



Motor Vehicle Arson by Year



Structure arson increased by 19% and motor vehicle arson decreased 25% from 2016 to 2017. Since 1985, motor vehicle arson has fallen 98.7%. For statistical purposes, a fire is considered arson when the cause is listed as intentional & age is not a factor or the person involved was over 18. This definition excludes undetermined and juvenile-set fires.

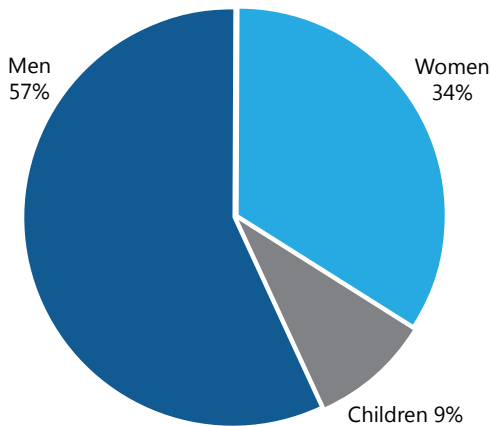


Department of Fire Services

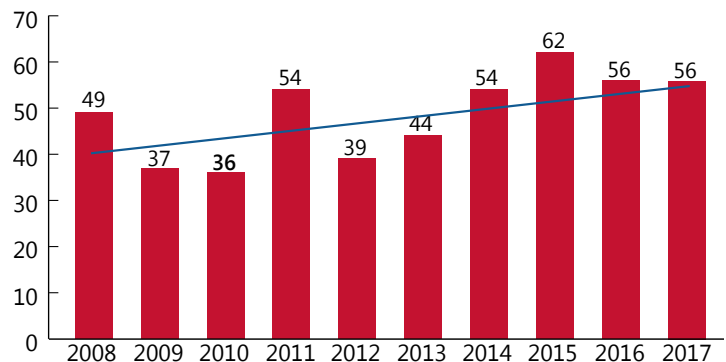
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Massachusetts Fires in 2017

Civilian Fire Deaths

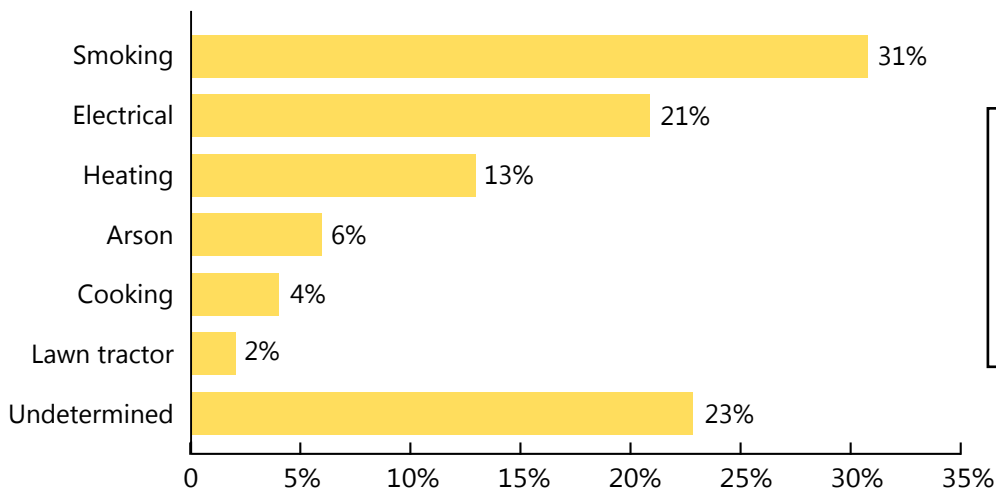


Fire Deaths by Year



- 43 fatal fires killed 56 civilians - 32 men, 19 women and five people under age 18.
- 2 firefighters died in fire-related incidents.
- Forty-one percent (41%) of fatal fire victims were older adults (over 65).
- Fire deaths remained the same with 56 deaths reported in both 2016 and 2017.
- Eighty-six percent (86%) of the civilian fire victims died in their homes.
- In 2017, smoking fires were the leading cause of residential fire deaths; smoking fires caused 15, or 31% of home fire deaths.

Causes of Residential Structure Fire Deaths



**Test your smoke
alarm and plan
your escape!
Fire doesn't wait!**



Department of Fire Services

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2019 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, special hazard systems, portable fire extinguishers, marine fueling facilities and above ground tanks. Register for exams and see detailed information at www.mass.gov/dfs. Search for *DFS Licensing*. For questions, contact the Licensing Desk at 978-567-3700 or at 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 at www.mass.gov/dfs. Search for *BPV exams*. For questions contact the Boiler & Pressure Vessel Program at (978) 567-3780 or at BPV.Exams@MassMail.State.MA.US.

Licensing Status

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

Examination Schedule	Examination Dates Exams start at 10:00 a.m.	Deadlines for Applications (Fridays)
FSD Exams		
Fire Suppression	January 23, 2019	January 4, 2019
Commercial Hood Cleaning	March 20, 2019	March 1, 2019
	May 22, 2019	May 3, 2019
Cannon/Mortar, Fireworks, Special Effects, Blasting, Blasting R&D	February 13, 2019	January 25, 2019
	April 17, 2019	March 29, 2019
	June 19, 2019	May 31, 2019
BPV Exams		
Oil burner, fireman & engineer (all classes)	February 27, 2019	January 25, 2019
Oil burner, fireman & engineer (all classes)	March 27, 2019	February 22, 2019
Oil burner, fireman & engineer (all classes)	April 24, 2019	March 29, 2019
Oil burner, fireman & engineer (all classes)	May 29, 2019	April 26, 2019
Oil burner, fireman & engineer (all classes)	June 26, 2019	May 24, 2019
Oil burner, fireman & engineer (all classes)	July 31, 2019	June 28, 2019
Oil burner, fireman & engineer (all classes)	August 28, 2019	July 26, 2019
Oil burner, fireman & engineer (all classes)	September 25, 2019	August 23, 2019
Oil burner, fireman & engineer (all classes)	October 30, 2019	September 27, 2019
Oil burner, fireman & engineer (all classes)	November 21, 2019 (Thursday)	October 25, 2019
Oil burner, fireman & engineer (all classes)	December 18, 2019	November 22, 2019

To see the licensing status of an individual or company, visit www.mass.gov/dfs and search for *DFS licensing*.

2018 Public Fire & Life Safety Education Conference



State Fire Marshal Peter Ostroskey; Fire and Life Safety Educator of the Year, Firefighter Todd Winner; Wayland Fire Chief David Houghton.

The 24th annual Public Fire & Life Safety Education Conference took place September 25-26, 2018 at the Southbridge Hotel and Conference Center. This year's theme, *Managing the Message*, was a challenge to think about the safety messages fire and injury professionals deliver, and how to do so more effectively.

Jim Crawford, Project Manager for Vision 20/20, delivered the keynote address entitled: *The Critical Role of Public Education Messaging as Part of the Community Risk Reduction Process*. Vision 20/20 helps the fire service adopt and implement comprehensive community risk reduction strategies. The approach involves fire prevention, smoke and carbon monoxide alarm installations, house visits, and public education that meets community needs.

Lisa Allee, Director of Injury Prevention at Boston Medical Center delivered a presentation on fire and life safety for older adults entitled: *The Effect and Prevention of Injuries on Older Adults*. Injuries can have a devastating impact on the independence of older adults and on the long-term care they need. Fire and life safety educators can be key in preventing those injuries.

Educator of the Year Award

The 2018 Fire & Life Safety Educator of the Year Award was presented on September 26 to Wayland Firefighter Todd Winner for his 16-year career focused on community risk reduction (CRR).

Winner began his career with the Wayland fire department in 2002 as a firefighter/EMT, and within a year began working with Student Awareness of Fire Education (S.A.F.E.). He became S.A.F.E. coordinator in 2013, and his efforts have built a reputable, effective program. Winner is passionate about educating all residents, from preschool to older adults, and this is evident in the programs he has developed. In addition to teaching young students, Todd resurrected a high school internship program, of which he

was the first intern in the 1998-1999 school year. The 16-week program focuses on skills and hands-on training from *Essentials of Firefighting, Fourth Edition*. Winner also developed a program for seniors that provides them with the support and education to remain safely in their homes for as long as possible. WAY-SECURE is a voluntary program for residents of any age, with or without medical or cognitive conditions. It includes a structured data file, a File of Life, a home safety evaluation and the Safety Net tracking system. The program has been well received in Wayland.

FF Winner has successfully built relationships around town that allow him to reach more residents with safety messages. He works with the Recreation Department and takes part in their Summer Adventure camp for children from kindergarten to grade five. Because of his relationships with many groups, Winner is a highly effective, trusted resource for the community. Over time, Wayland has experienced a drop in the frequency and severity of fire incidents which may be directly attributed to the S.A.F.E. and Senior SAFE programs. FF Winner has clearly had a direct impact on the safety of the community. In the spring of 2017, a young girl from Wayland received a Young Hero award for actions she took when she smelled smoke in her home early one morning. She had been educated by Winner. Stories like these show the value that Firefighter Winner brings to the community. He is a positive force for safety, which is reflected in the lives he touches.

Other remarkable nominees recognized for their efforts in fire and life safety education were: Loren Davine, Executive Director of the NoFires Program; Firefighters Mary Reilly and Kirsten Gebauer, Lanesborough Fire Department; Lt. Laurence Fahey, Middleborough Fire Department; and Inspector Jeffrey Medeiros, Fall River Fire Department.



Winter Safety

Ice, Burns and Open Burning

Ice Safety

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

Burn Awareness Week

National Burn Awareness Week is February 3-9, 2019. Hot liquid scalds to children under age 5 are the leading burn problem nationally and in Massachusetts. The American Burn Association has many burn safety resources including information on cooking safety for older adults, pediatric scalds and general scald prevention. Visit ameriburn.org/prevention.

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

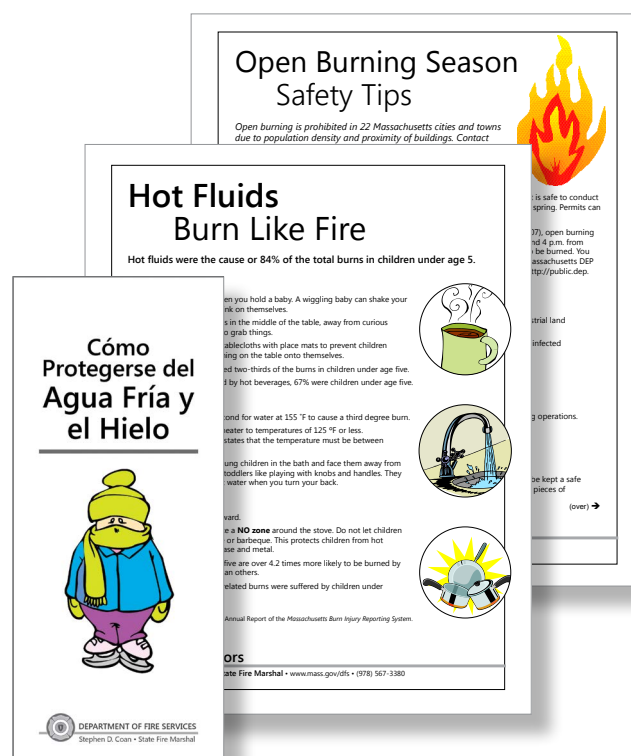
DFS has burn prevention resources including handouts. Visit www.mass.gov/dfs and search for *burn and scald prevention* or *M-BIRS*. You can find data on burns in the Massachusetts Burn Injury Reporting System (M-BIRS) annual reports.

Open Burning

Open burning season runs from January 15 through May 1 in communities where it is allowed. Encourage residents to burn at the start of the season when conditions may be wetter, snowier and less likely to cause brush fires than conditions in late April. DFS has a FireFactor on Open



Burning and safety tips at www.mass.gov/dfs. Search for *open burning*. Massachusetts has the highest number of brush fires in April. Education can help your community reduce the risks.



Certificates Suspended

The State Fire Marshal has suspended the Certificates of Competency and Registration for:

- **Mr. Daniel McCarthy** doing business as **Avoid Fire of Dracut**, Massachusetts, CC 004702 (Fire Suppression) and CR 004665 (Fire Suppression)
- **Mr. William Recalde** doing business as **Extreme Fire Protection** of Worcester, Massachusetts, CC 004740 (Fire Suppression); CR 004660 (Fire Suppression); and HC 000327 (Hood Cleaning)

The certificates are suspended for an indefinite period as a result of an investigation into their work and their failure to appear at a subsequent hearing, as requested by the Division of Fire Safety. They are not allowed to service fire suppression systems or perform hood cleanings in Massachusetts until the certificates are reinstated.

Massachusetts Firefighting Academy *Graduations*

Class #265



Class #266



Class #267



Class #S08



Career Recruit Firefighting Training

In the 50-day Career Recruit Firefighting 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 or multiple-room structural fires. Upon successful completion of the Recruit Program all students have met the standards of National Fire Protection Association 1001 and are certified to the level of Firefighter I and II, and Hazardous Materials First Responder Operational Level by the Massachusetts Fire Training Council, which is accredited by the National Board on Fire Service Professional Qualifications. Training is held at both the Stow headquarters of DFS and at the new Springfield campus.

Class #265

Members of Career Recruit Firefighter Class #265 graduated on Friday, July 27, 2018 at the Department of Fire Services. The 34 graduates, all men, represent the 17 fire departments of: Bridgewater, Fairhaven, Franklin, Hopkinton, Hudson, Lexington, Littleton, Lowell, Mansfield, Marshfield, Methuen, Middleborough, Northborough, Plainville, Wellesley, Westwood, and Winthrop.

Class #266

Members of Career Recruit Firefighter Class #266 graduated on Friday, August 31, 2018 at the Department of Fire Services. The 36 graduates, all men, represent the 18 fire departments of: Acton, Belmont, Billerica, Falmouth, Foxborough, Gardner, Hanover, Hingham, Lexington, Littleton, Lowell, Milton, Plymouth, Revere, Seekonk, Swampscott, Tewksbury, and Winchester.

Class #267

Members of Career Recruit Firefighter Class #267 graduated on Monday, October 15, 2018 at the Department of Fire Services. The 30 graduates, one woman and 29 men, represent the 26 fire departments of: Ashland, Bellingham, Boxborough, Charlton, Dracut, Gardner, Gloucester, Ipswich, Marblehead, Marshfield, New Bedford, North Andover, Northborough, Plymouth, Rockland, Sandwich, Seekonk, Somerset, Stoneham, Sudbury, Taunton, Upton, Walpole, Watertown, Weston, and Winchendon.

Class #S08

Members of Career Recruit Firefighter Class #S08 graduated on Friday, August 10, 2018 at the Department of Fire Services in Springfield. The 21 graduates, three women and 18 men, represent the eight fire departments of: Agawam, Holyoke, Northampton, Northbridge, Oxford, Springfield, Westborough and Westfield.

Class #S09

Members of Career Recruit Firefighter Class #S09 graduated on Friday, November 9, 2018 at the Department of Fire Services, Springfield campus. The graduates, all men, represent the seven fire departments of Agawam, East Longmeadow, Easthampton, Holden, Oxford, Springfield, and Westfield.

Call/Volunteer Recruit Firefighting Training

The Call/Volunteer Firefighter Recruit Training program is unique in that it delivers a standard recruit training curriculum, meeting national standards, on nights and weekends to accommodate the schedule of firefighters in suburban and rural areas. Graduates complete 240 hours of training. Bringing the training closer to the firefighters often means that more firefighters can participate. The program uses an online format that has students doing more work outside of class and taking quizzes online. This allows students more time to practice training skills with instructors in person, and to better control their own workloads and time commitments. Upon successful completion of the program, students have met the standards of National Fire Protection Association 1001.

Class #72

On October 29, 2018 members of Call/Volunteer Recruit Firefighter Training Class #72 graduated. The 13 graduates, one woman and 12 men, represent the nine fire departments of: Dalton, Granville, Great Barrington, Hampden, Lee, New Braintree, Palmer, South Hadley – District 1, and Sturbridge. The ceremony took place at the Department of Fire Services, Springfield Campus.

Class #73

On November 1, 2018, members of Call/Volunteer Recruit Firefighter Training Class #73 graduated. The 26 graduates, one woman and 25 men, represent the 22 fire departments of Ashburnham, Auburn, Ayer, Dover, Groton, Hopedale, Hudson, Lunenburg, Lynnfield, Millbury, Nahant, Pepperell, Phillipston, Princeton, Shirley, Sterling, Stow, Templeton, Townsend, Uxbridge, West Boylston, and Westminster. The ceremony took place at the Department of Fire Services, Stow Campus.

Today's Firefighters Do More than Fight Fires

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

Class #S09



Class #72



Class #73



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.

Call/Volunteer Training delivers a standard recruit training curriculum on nights and weekends to accommodate the schedule of firefighters in suburban and rural areas.

Navigating DFS Web Pages on Mass.Gov

Navigating a new website can be challenging and sometimes frustrating. We've all had the experience: you want to find the information you need quickly, but everything has been moved around.

The redesigned Mass.Gov will get easier to work with in time, but we want to offer some tips for navigating the DFS pages now. In the next few issues of the *All Hands Herald*, we will present different parts of the DFS pages to help you find what you need more quickly.

Important: the best way to find what you need on Mass.Gov is to use the search bars. Navigating works, but using the search bar will get you to the information you want more easily.

Do you have trouble finding what you want on the new Mass.Gov? Help us make things easier to find. Tell us **what you type in the search box** and **what you were looking for**. We'll add your search terms to the site. Email Jennifer.Mieth@Mass.gov to share your search terms.

DFS Home Page

The screenshot shows the DFS Home Page on Mass.Gov. The page has a blue header with the Mass.Gov logo and a search bar. Below the header is a green banner with the text "Department of Fire Services (DFS)". To the right of the banner is a navigation menu with links: LIVING, WORKING, LEARNING, VISITING & EXPLORING, and YOUR GOVERNMENT. Below the banner is a section titled "I want to..." with a dropdown menu. To the right of this section is a search bar labeled "Search this organization". Below the "I want to..." section is a "Contact Us" section with address, phone, and online links. To the right of the "Contact Us" section is a "Who we serve" section with a list of services and a "SOCIAL" section with links to Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube. A large green box at the bottom right contains the text: "The best way to find what you need on Mass.Gov: Use a Search Bar".

Search bar for Mass.Gov

Navigation for Mass.Gov

Home page navigation for DFS

Search bar for DFS

This drop down menu links to all tasks and services on this page. The list of tasks is the same list under *What would you like to do?* (next page) and is the top level of navigation for all DFS pages.

DFS contact information

DFS Mission Statement

The best way to find what you need on Mass.Gov: Use a Search Bar

Links to top level DFS tasks and services. These links are the same as those under the drop down menu *I want to . . .* at the top of the home page.

Top level tasks include the things that visitors to the DFS web pages search for most frequently.

Links to information about the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy (MFA) and to the LMS.

Links to licensing information.

Resources for the Fire Service is the area for most Fire Service needs.

What would you like to do?

Top actions & services

[Fire Safety for the Public →](#)

[Massachusetts Firefighting Academy \(MFA\) →](#)

[Winter Home Heating Safety →](#)

More actions & services

[Information for Industry →](#)

[Crowd Manager Regulations and Training Program →](#)

[Resources for the Fire Service →](#)

[Public Records for the Department of Fire Services →](#)

[DFS Boards and Commissions →](#)

Resources for the Fire Service is the area for most fire service needs.

- View and Register for MFA Courses (LMS)
- Code and Fire Prevention Support
- How to Activate Emergency Services (Special Ops, FIU or Bomb Squad, Hazmat, Code Compliance, CISM, Chaplains)
- Resources for Fire and Life Safety Educators (S.A.F.E. and Senior SAFE grants, public education conferences, S.A.F.E. teaching tools, and more)
- Fire Data and Statistics
- Massachusetts Fire Code and Electrical Code
- Fire Safety Division Forms and Applications
- FSD Technical Advisories for Fire Departments
- Firefighter of the Year Awards
- Massachusetts Fire Service Awards
- DFS Public Awareness Campaigns
- Firefighter Line of Duty Death (LODD) Benefits Summary
- Occupational Cancer in the Fire Service
- DFS Briefs
- All Hands Herald

Includes press releases, DFS Briefs, timely fire prevention messages, and the *All Hands Herald*.

List of all news and announcements, more than can be seen on this page.

Includes graduations, meetings, and special events.

List of all events, more than can be seen on the page.

Recent news & announcements



NEWS
November 2018 DFS Briefs →
11/01/2018 | Department of Fire Services
November 2018 DFS Briefs

[See all news and announcements >](#)

Upcoming Events

Nov 09
Career Firefighter Recruit Class S09 to Graduate from Department of Fire Services' Springfield Campus →
100 Grochmal Avenue, Springfield, MA 01151
11 a.m. - 12 p.m.
Career Firefighter Recruit Class S09 to Graduate from Department of Fire Services' Springfield Campus

Nov 15
Massachusetts Fire Training Council Meeting →
11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

[See all events >](#)

Fire Investigation News

Two Fatal Smoking Fires on Same Day; No Working Smoke Alarms

Fatal Smoking Fire in Orange

Improper disposal of smoking materials caused an October 19, 2018 fatal fire at 43 West Main Street in Orange. One woman died in the fire but a man was able to escape through a second floor window before the building collapsed. The fire was reported at 8:25 a.m.

Heavy equipment was used to carefully remove the debris to recover the victim and investigate the fire scene. The fire began in the living room of the single-family home. The victim was found near a recliner where she smoked. The disabled woman was known to be a heavy smoker of Newport Non-Menthol Gold 100s and there was abundant evidence of smoking materials surrounding the area. There were no working smoke or carbon monoxide alarms inside the home.

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

Chicopee Woman Dies in Smoking Fire

Improper disposal of smoking materials was the cause of an October 19, 2018 fire at 25 Meadowlark Lane in the Doverbrook Estates condominium complex that took the life of one woman. The fire occurred at 10:21 p.m.

The woman was rescued and resuscitated by Chicopee firefighters but succumbed to her injuries in the hospital. Excessive clutter in the apartment hampered rescue efforts.

The Chicopee Fire Department and State Police assigned to the Office of the State Fire Marshal jointly investigated the fire. Assistance was received from the Code Compliance Unit of the Department of Fire Services. The victim was known to smoke 1st Class Silver 100s.

There were no working smoke alarms in the apartment and the 4-unit condominium did not have fire sprinklers. They were not required when the building was built. However, sprinklers would be a requirement if the same building were built today.

Amherst Woman Dies from Smoking Fire

Early in the morning of November 8, 2018, a fire at 33 Kellogg Street injured a 57-year old. She was transported to a Boston hospital where she succumbed to her injuries a

few days later. The improper disposal of smoking materials caused the fire. The woman was known to smoke Carlton Menthol 100s.

The fire was jointly investigated by the Amherst Fire and Police Departments and State Police assigned to the Office of the State Fire Marshal. Assistance was received from the Code Compliance Unit at the Department of Fire Services.

A heat detector in the apartment notified the fire department and activated the building's fire alarm system. It appears that the woman tried to fight the fire herself before attempting to escape. A pan was found in the kitchen sink with the water still running.

Fatal CO Poisoning in Wales

A coal stove was the cause of the October 17, 2018 fatal carbon monoxide poisoning at 4 Brows Beach Road in Wales. One man died as a result of the incident and his wife was hospitalized.

Investigators determined that the coal stove in the basement was the source of the carbon monoxide in the home. The husband was repairing the stove with the door open, while it was operating. The flu pipe was full of ash which prevented the stove from venting properly. Around 2:30 p.m. the wife called 9-1-1 stating that people were feeling sick. Before the dispatcher could advise her to get out of the house to fresh air, she appears to have lost consciousness. Responding firefighters found the woman and a pet unconscious, and the man overcome in the basement.

A carbon monoxide alarm was found on the kitchen counter without batteries. There were four smoke alarms in the home, one with no battery, and three that had expired as they were more than ten years old.

The incident was jointly investigated by the Wales Fire and Police Departments, and State Police assigned to both the Office of the State Fire Marshal and to the Office of the Hampden District Attorney. Assistance was received from the Department of Fire Services' Code Compliance Unit and from the State Police Crime Scene Services Unit.

Smoking Cause of Fatal Arlington Fire

A September 29, 2018 fatal fire at 20 Osborne Street was caused by smoking. The fire took the life of the first floor resident, 76-year-old Margarita Tsugunyan. Two second floor residents escaped unharmed, but have been displaced by the fire. Investigators found that the deceased woman was smoking in bed, which was located in the living room. She was bedridden.

Continued on next page

New Legislation

Disability for Certain Cancers & Tech Rescue Coordinating Council

The Massachusetts Legislature recently passed two bills of interest to the fire service.

Benefits for Those with Certain Cancers

“An Act Further Regulating the Disability Benefits Provided to Certain Police Officers and Firefighters” (Chapter 148 of the Acts of 2018), amends Section 111F of Chapter 41 regarding the line of duty disability law which requires cities, towns and fire districts, to provide line of duty disability pay to firefighters injured in the line of duty.

The new law creates a cancer presumption, which says if a firefighter is diagnosed with certain types of cancers, the firefighter is presumed to have gotten that cancer as a result of his or her job and will receive 111F benefits (disability pay) while they are out of work.

Technical Rescue Coordinating Council Created

The Legislature also passed Chapter 217 of the Acts of the 2018 entitled “An Act Relative to the Creation of the Commonwealth Technical Rescue Regions and Coordinating Council,” which creates the Technical Rescue



Coordinating Council. The law provides for five technical rescue regions to be created by the Secretary of Public Safety and the State Fire Marshal in conjunction with the Professional Fire Fighters of Massachusetts and the Fire Chiefs’ Association of Massachusetts. The Council coordinates the five statewide regions through the creation of uniform rules, standards, procedures and regulations for the operation of a statewide tech rescue program and the development of cost recovery mechanisms for tech rescue services.

The funds collected through cost recovery will help the tech rescue regions to: (1) maintain and operate the technical rescue regions; (2) maintain and operate technical rescue equipment; and (3) train technical rescue.

Fire Investigation News, *continued from previous page*

Just after 9 p.m., a neighbor saw the flames, reported the fire, then used a garden hose to fight the fire until firefighters arrived. Chief Jefferson thanked the neighbor for their fast action reporting the fire and doing all they could to try to save the victim.

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

Man Charged in Attempted Wilmington Arson

James Colozzi, 50, of Wilmington, was charged on August 16, 2018 with attempting to set fire to the group home where he lived at 8 Parker Street. He was charged on August 14 in Woburn District Court with one count of attempted arson of dwelling, threatening to commit a crime, and wanton destruction of property. On July 18, 2018, Mr. Colozzi broke his kitchen stove’s glass top, placed combustible items on it and then turned the burners on.

The Wilmington Police and Fire Departments and State Police assigned to the Office of the State Fire Marshal

jointly investigated this fire. The case will be prosecuted by the Middlesex District Attorney’s Office.

Chelsea Man Arrested for Hawthorne Street Arson

On November 8, 2018, Chelsea Police arrested a man for setting fire to a building at 28-30 Hawthorne Street on Tuesday, October 2, 2018. The fire was set in an attached shed, and quickly spread to the rear porches causing an estimated \$10,000 in damage.

Edward Watson, 59, of Chelsea, was charged with one count of burning a building, one count of breaking and entering with the intent to commit a felony, and one count of trespassing. The 2-alarm fire occurred at 1:30 p.m. The shed was on the property of a 4-story apartment building that was undergoing renovations. No one was injured in this fire.

The fire was jointly investigated by the Chelsea Fire and Police Departments and State Police assigned to the Office of the State Fire Marshal. The investigative team determined that the fire was intentionally-set. They said that the community itself was very helpful in solving this case. The case will be prosecuted by the Suffolk County District Attorney’s Office.

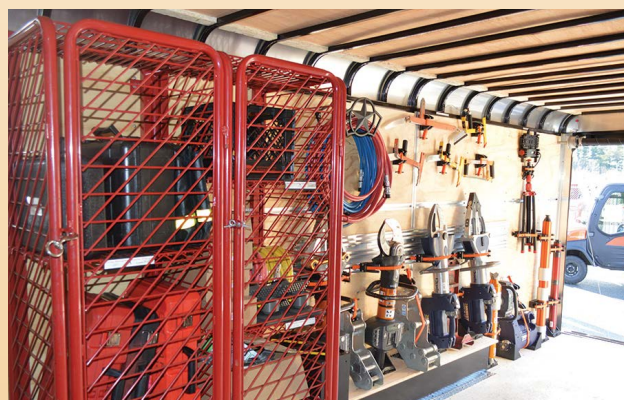


Department of Fire Services
Commonwealth of Massachusetts
978-567-3100

www.mass.gov/dfs



New Vehicle Extrication Trailer *Training Program Coming Soon*



DFS has a new vehicle extrication trailer furnished with the latest tools including battery technology, hydraulic extrication equipment, and hand tools. An Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) funded the equipment inside the training prop. DFS purchased the trailer and the course software that teams are using to create an updated vehicle extrication training program. The teams include three program areas that use these tools: advanced firefighter skills, career and call/volunteer recruit. The new training program will be released in 2019.