

All Hands Herald

Massachusetts Department of Fire Services

January 2020

30th Annual Firefighter of the Year Awards

Turnout Gear & Washer-Extractor
Grant Programs

Springfield Search and Rescue
Prop Dedicated

Massachusetts Fire Training
Council Reaccredited



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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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Photos by DFS staff



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From the Fire Marshal

Last year closed on a somber note. Massachusetts lost a firefighter who was heroically searching for a baby trapped on the third floor of a triple-decker in Worcester. When the fire service loses one of its own, whether we knew the firefighter personally or not, we all feel the loss. Our hearts are heavy with grief for the family of Lt. Jason Menard and for the members of the Worcester Fire Department who are still mourning the 2018 loss of Firefighter Christopher Roy.

30th Annual Firefighter of the Year Awards

This most recent loss was on the minds of all who attended and participated in the 30th annual Firefighter of the Year Heroic Awards ceremony on November 26, 2019. Governor Charlie Baker, Lieutenant Governor Karyn Polito and Undersecretary Jeanne Benincasa Thorpe celebrated many heroic acts by firefighters around the Commonwealth during the past year. They presented the Medal of Honor posthumously to Christopher Roy's family, who certainly know the pain of the Menard family.

The Firefighter of the Year Awards ceremony allowed us to honor firefighters from Andover, Boston, Everett, Fall River, Fitchburg, Lawrence, North Andover, Revere, Rochester, Rockland, Saugus, Sudbury, Westborough, and Worcester. They were awarded Medals of Valor, Citations



Worcester Fire Lt. Jason Menard

for Meritorious Conduct, Excellence in Leadership awards, and the Norman Knight Community Service Award. The Stephen D. Coan Fire Marshal's Award was presented to the entire Andover, Lawrence and North Andover Fire Departments for their response to, and leadership in, the recovery from the Merrimack Valley gas explosions.

Grants to Fire Departments

In December, Governor Baker awarded grants from the Firefighter Turnout Gear Grant Program and the Washer-Extractor Equipment Grant Program to local fire departments. Both programs were made possible through funding appropriated by the Massachusetts Legislature and the Administration. We appreciate their support. These grants will help fire departments to combat

occupational cancer by preventing and reducing exposures to carcinogenic byproducts of combustion.

MFTC Reaccredited For 4 Years

The National Board on Fire Service Professional Qualifications (commonly referred to as The Pro Board) reaccredited the Massachusetts Fire Training Council (MFTC) in October. The accreditation is for four years and covers 19 different levels. I want to thank the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy staff, and in particular, Bob Rand, for their hard work in making sure we met all the requirements for this important accreditation.

Fire Prevention, Electrical and Boiler Regulation Updates

The proposed changes promulgated by both the Board of Fire Prevention Regulations (BFPR) and the Board of Boiler Rules (BBR) took effect in October, significantly sooner than the January 1, 2020 date we had anticipated. The Massachusetts Firefighting Academy (MFA) and staff in the Fire Safety Division have already rolled out training for the fire service in order to quickly bring local code enforcement staff up to speed on the changes. The BBR changes were mostly housekeeping issues now that the board is affiliated with DFS and the Boiler and Pressure Vessel Program has been integrated into our agency. Major revisions to the Mass. Electrical Code (MEC) based on the 2020 edition of NFPA 70 with Massachusetts amendments will take effect this month.

Bridgewater Campus

This fall, work continued on making the new Bridgewater campus ready for the first Recruit Firefighter Training class in January. Our facilities staff have been working at a break-neck pace to bring this unused state property into working order. We know that there is a long wait list for the Career Recruit program and that many on that list are from the southeastern part of the state. Bringing this facility on line will help us to train more firefighters more quickly. Code compliance and Fire Investigation Unit staff assigned to the southeastern part of the state are already housed there.



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New Search and Rescue Training Prop *Dedicated in Springfield*

On November 5, 2019, Congressman Richard Neal, Undersecretary for Criminal Justice Andrew Peck, State Fire Marshal Peter J. Ostroskey, Springfield Mayor Domenic J. Sarno and public safety and fire officials dedicated a new Search and Rescue Training Prop at the Department of Fire Services' Springfield campus. The prop was funded by a \$434,783 fiscal year 2017 Assistance to Firefighters Grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

The new training prop allows firefighters to practice searching for and rescuing victims in a fire without taking the live fire training building out of service. The new prop has one room where live fire training can also take place. The prop increases the flexibility of the training schedule particularly for the Career and the Call/Volunteer Firefighter Recruit Firefighter Training Programs and for the Springfield Fire Department.

"Congratulations to the Department of Fire Services' Springfield campus for securing the federal funding from the FEMA to open this important facility where lifesaving training will occur," said Congressman Richard E. Neal. "Firefighters constantly face new challenges. When we help them train to face them, they are better able to protect their communities. An investment in training is an investment in every community in the Commonwealth. I am proud to be a partner on the federal level."



"Training saves lives, and training sites like this one help save the lives of firefighters and the people who count on them," said Secretary of Public Safety and Security Thomas Turco. "We're deeply grateful to Fire Marshal Ostroskey, his team, and the local, state, and federal partners whose hard work helps to deliver consistent training to firefighters at all state fire training facilities."

"This facility is an incredible example of a local, state and federal partnership that works and pays real dividends to the cities and towns of Massachusetts. I want to thank all our partners for improving our ability to train firefighters who put themselves on the line for us every day," said Springfield Mayor Sarno.

"This training facility has made the rigorous training the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy offers more accessible to firefighters in western Massachusetts," said Northampton Fire Chief Duane Nichols, representing the Western Massachusetts Fire Chiefs' Association. He added, "It has also made training more available statewide as more classes can be held allowing new hires to be trained sooner."

State firefighting academies have been eligible for federal Assistance to Firefighter Grants (AFG) for only six years. The Massachusetts Firefighting Academy has made successful grant requests each year and has received \$2.4 million in funding for vital training resources. Several other training props funded by the AFG program were on display during this dedication: the forcible entry prop, the maze trailer, the flashover training prop, and the new search and rescue training prop.



Left to right: Mayor Sarno, State Fire Marshal Ostroskey, Representative Neal, David Parr, Chief Condon, David Evans.

Massachusetts Fire Training Council

Reaccredited

In October 2019, State Fire Marshal Peter J. Ostroskey, Massachusetts Fire Training Council Chair Paul Medeiros, and Massachusetts Firefighting Academy Director David Evans announced that the National Board on Fire Service Professional Qualifications (commonly referred to as The Pro Board) reaccredited the Massachusetts Fire Training Council. The accreditation is for four years and covers 19 different levels:

- Firefighter I, II, and I/II
- Fire Instructor I, II, and III
- Hazardous Materials Technician
- Hazardous Materials: Operations Level Responder
- Fire Officer I, II, and III
- Driver/Operator – Pumper
- Driver/Operator – Aerial
- Technical Rescuer: Rope Rescue I/II, Confined Space Rescue I/II, Trench Rescue I/II, Surface Water I/II, Swift Water Rescue I/II
- Incident Safety Officer: Fire Suppression
- Incident Safety Officer: Hazardous Materials Operations

“Certification stimulates professional development in the Massachusetts fire service. It allows firefighters to demonstrate their ability to meet professional qualification standards through an objective measure of their knowledge, skills, and abilities,” said State Fire Marshal Ostroskey.

The Massachusetts Fire Training Council (MFTC) is the sole statutory authority to certify the Massachusetts fire service. The Governor-appointed council meets regularly to discuss and develop policies, which drive the certification system. The Massachusetts Firefighting Academy (MFA) is the operational arm of the council and develops examinations to various professional qualification standards. The MFA also administers



Pro Board visit to MFA, September 13, 2019.

exams and documents the activities of certification candidates. Certification is an entirely voluntary process, but some local fire departments may require some levels of certification. MFA Director Evans added, “The council participates in this system to validate their programs against international expectations. This rigorous assessment assures evaluations meet best national practices.”

Hyannis Fire Lieutenant Paul Medeiros, chair of the Massachusetts Fire Training Council (MFTC), said, “It is important for firefighters and fire officers to know their training meets national standards and may demonstrate proficiency through certification exams.”

Robert Rand has been working on certification since 1988. He has shepherded the MFA through every reaccreditation process since the first one in 1990. At the end of 2019, he retired from the Westborough Fire Department and from the Department of Fire Services. We deeply appreciate his years of hard work on accreditation.

In 2017, Rand received the Johnny Wilson Award from the National Board of Fire Service Qualifications at their annual conference from his peers across the county.

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From the Fire Marshal, continued from page 1

Technical Rescue Coordinating Council

The Technical Rescue Council held its inaugural meeting on September 19, 2019. The council coordinates five state-wide tech rescue teams that can respond rapidly to specialized rescue needs across the state. They have begun the work of creating uniform rules, standards procedures and regulations for operation. They are also developing cost recovery mechanisms for services that the enabling legislation called for. Duxbury Fire Chief Kevin Nord was elected as chairman at the meeting.



First meeting of the Council.

30th Annual Firefighter of the Year Awards



Andover, Lawrence, North Andover

On November 26, Governor Charlie Baker, Lieutenant Governor Karyn Polito and other state officials joined State Fire Marshal Peter J. Ostroskey to honor Worcester Firefighter Christopher Roy, who gave his life in the line of duty last year, along with firefighters from 14 Massachusetts fire departments for heroic acts of bravery at the 30th annual “Firefighter of the Year” Awards ceremony at Worcester’s Mechanics Hall. Officials also recognized Worcester Fire Lieutenant Jason Menard, who died in the line of duty on November 13 while fighting a house fire on Stockholm Street. WCVB’s Doug Meehan emceed the event.

“The Commonwealth’s first responders put themselves in harm’s way each day, and these awards provide an opportunity to recognize their bravery and sacrifice. This year, our administration is proud to honor Christopher Roy, his family, and his legacy of heroism and sacrifice,” said Governor Baker. “Massachusetts cities and towns are safer places to live, work and raise a family because of the men and women like him, who selflessly answer the call to serve knowing the danger that may await them.”

“It is our privilege to recognize the heroes who take such remarkable action to protect our communities, even at great cost to themselves,” said Lieutenant Governor Polito. “Our administration also wants to thank their families, who make sacrifices of their own as their loved ones keep us safe.”

The Excellence in Leadership Award was presented to Westborough Captain Daniel J. Hehir for his work on peer support and critical incident stress management. “The wounds that first responders suffer are not always visible,” said Secretary of Public Safety Thomas Turco. “Captain Daniel Hehir is working to help change the stigma of mental health. He works behind the scenes in often stressful situations to ensure that fire and police get the help they need after an incident so they can be ready for the next call.”

The Governor and Undersecretary recognized 91 individuals with 23 awards: two Norman Knight Awards for Excellence in Community Service to Fitchburg and Rochester firefighters for work addressing and supporting victims of occupational cancer; an Excellence in



Fall River



Worcester



Rockland



Rochester

Leadership Award to a Westborough captain for his work on peer support and critical incident stress management; ten Group Awards for Meritorious Conduct to teams of firefighters from Boston, Everett, Fall River, Revere, Rockland, Saugus, Sudbury, Westborough and Worcester; and ten Medals of Valor to individual firefighters from Boston, Everett, Fall River, Revere, Rockland, and Worcester. The Medal of Honor award was presented posthumously to Worcester Firefighter Christopher Roy.

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Firefighter Turnout Gear & Washer-Extractor Grant Programs

Governor Charlie Baker awarded grants from the Firefighter Turnout Gear Grant Program and the Washer-Extractor Equipment Grant Program last December. Both programs were made possible through funding appropriated by the Massachusetts Legislature and the Administration. The programs aim to improve firefighter health and safety in the Commonwealth by preventing and reducing exposures to carcinogenic byproducts of combustion and other hazardous materials that firefighters come in contact with regularly.

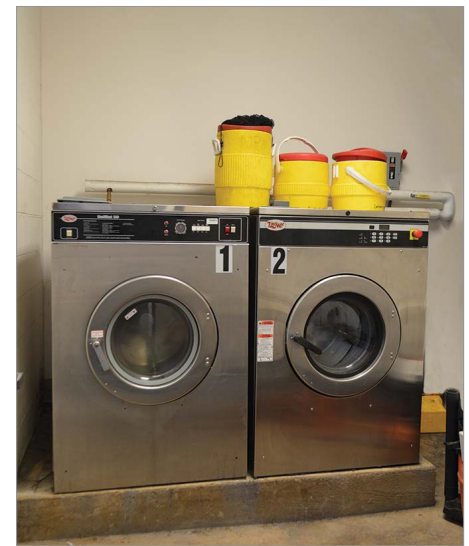
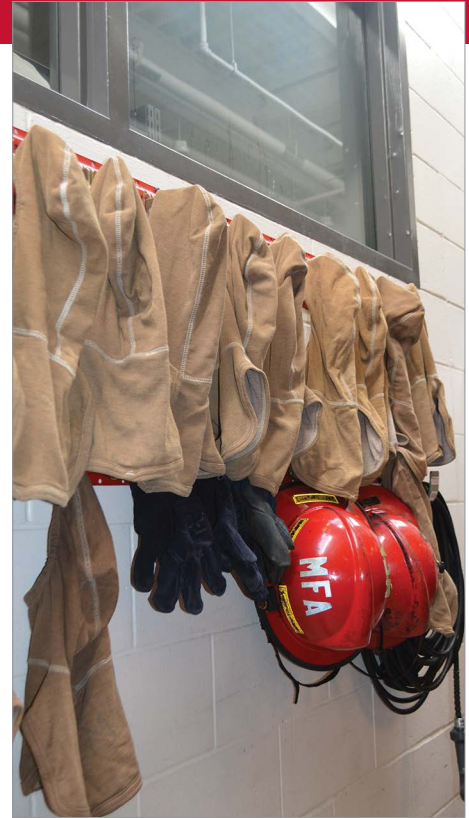
Established data now shows increased rates of many types of cancer in firefighters, as compared to rates in the general population. Equipping firefighters with properly fitting NFPA-compliant gear, and cleaning it regularly, are two of the most effective methods of reducing carcinogen exposure and associated cancer risks by firefighters. The grant programs will enable many Massachusetts fire departments to enhance their cancer prevention initiatives by providing firefighters with effective protective gear, and the ability to professionally clean it for safe reuse.

One hundred fifty-three applications were submitted for the Firefighter Turnout Gear Grant. One hundred forty-four (144) were awarded in full or in part for \$500,000 in total. The grants will enable many departments to give personnel a second hood or set of gloves, which means that firefighters can exchange contaminated gear for clean gear immediately after exposure, instead of using dirty gear for an entire shift.

Seventy-five applications were submitted for the Washer-Extractor Grant, and every applicant received an award in full or in part for a total of \$420,000. The grants will allow many departments to buy new machines that are in compliance with current standards. Several of the applications were regional requests for shared machines, which means that the program will provide 84 departments with access to new machines. Replacing outdated gear cleaning machines will reduce the level of contaminants in turnout gear and extend the usable lifespan of the gear.

Limitations on the amount of funding available prevented some applications from being awarded. However, DFS understands the financial stress that equipping firefighters with compliant turnout gear and purchasing modern gear-washing machines causes individual departments, and will continue to pursue opportunities to help departments with these challenges.

For more information about cancer prevention in the fire service, visit www.mass.gov/service-details/occupational-cancer-in-the-fire-service.



Firefighter of the Year, *continued from previous page*

The Stephen D. Coan Fire Marshal Award was presented to the entire Andover, Lawrence and North Andover Fire Departments for their response to the Merrimack Valley gas explosions and their role in the long recovery. “The civilians and first responders from these three communities showed tremendous leadership, professionalism, and care during the first chaotic hours of the

Merrimack Valley gas explosions and during the months of recovery,” said State Fire Marshal Ostroskey. “Many were personally affected by the situation, yet worked everyday to protect their fellow residents.”

For more information, go to www.mass.gov/dfs and search for *Firefighter of the Year*.

Fire Safety Code Amended to Include Cannabis Regulation

Safety Measures for Cannabis Production Facilities Now Enforceable

On October 18, 2019, an amendment package was published to 527 CMR 1.00, Massachusetts Comprehensive Fire Safety Code, which incorporated several entirely new topics. One change brought the 2018 NFPA 1 Chapter 38, Cannabis Growing, Processing, or Extraction Facilities into Chapter 38 of the amendment package. Although many facilities in Massachusetts have been following this national model of safety voluntarily, it is now enforceable by the local fire department.

Cannabis is defined as: the plant or any product derived from the plant of the family *cannabaceae*; also known as marijuana or hemp. It is impossible for an authority having jurisdiction (AHJ) to determine by visual inspection whether a plant contains enough tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) to be considered marijuana by the Cannabis Control Commission (plants containing more than 0.3% THC). Also, the extraction process for THC and cannabidiol (CBD) is essentially the same for marijuana and hemp and carries the same risks.

Basics

The occupancy classification for cannabis growing, processing or extraction facilities is Use Group F-1, moderate hazard factory industrial, unless the facility is limited to growing only in a greenhouse. Greenhouses are defined as: a structure or thermally isolated area of a building that maintains a specialized sunlit environment used for and essential to the cultivation, protection or maintenance of plants. Traditionally, greenhouses are built specifically for plant cultivation. Existing buildings with skylights do not meet the common definition of a “sunlit environment”.

The limitations of 780 CMR 9th edition, Massachusetts State Building Code, Section 903.2 and M.G.L. c.148 s.26G apply to the Use Group F-1 building in terms of sprinkler systems. Fire alarm, emergency responder radio coverage, and other life safety features apply to the building as applicable in the building code. 527 CMR 1.00 provides jurisdiction to the local fire department to allow approval of the process and storage of hazardous materials where a cannabis product is processed.

Plan Reviews

Begin a plan review with a meeting of the building official, fire official, building or business owner, cannabis business representative, and the registered design professional. Discuss details of the project. Good preliminary questions include:



- 1. Will there be processing or extraction of the cannabis?** Most growing facilities include some means of extraction to process damaged product into a usable form (oils, distillate, etc). Most owners refer to trimming bud and preparing the plant for sale as “processing” but do not associate the term with a hazardous materials processing permit issued by the local fire department (527 CMR 1.00: 60.8). There are forms of processing that do not involve hazardous materials such as a rosin press; however, they are not widely used in Massachusetts because they yield only small batches of product.
- 2. What is the extraction medium?** Currently, there are three different “hazardous” means of extraction: carbon dioxide, ethanol, or LPG (butane/propane). Sometimes, owners use ethanol for “post-oil processing,” which they do not consider a means of extraction. However, this use is considered a hazardous materials process under the fire code.
- 3. How much and where will hazardous materials be stored and used?** There is always a surplus of hazardous material storage associated with processing which is required to be reported [527 CMR 1.00: 60.1.7.1; 780 CMR 414.1.3]. The building and fire codes set limits on hazardous materials storage based on the amounts proposed, storage and use configurations, and the total amount of hazardous chemicals throughout the building (if the cannabis facility will be in a tenant space). The registered design professional should provide a hazardous materials inventory statement, safety data sheets for all chemicals, and clearly indicate where materials will be stored and used on the plans and in a narrative.
- 4. Is the facility compliant with 527 CMR 1.00: Chapter 38 (previously 2018 NFPA 1, Chapter 38)?** Grow rooms that use carbon dioxide enrichment equipment

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Be Careful Buying Smoke and CO Alarms Online

Online Retailers May Be Selling Counterfeit Alarms



When a single-family home is sold in Massachusetts, all smoke and CO alarms must meet certain standards. Each home must earn a Certificate of Compliance for smoke and CO alarms before a sale can be finalized.

Massachusetts has specific smoke and carbon monoxide (CO)

alarm requirements for single-family homes depending on when the home was built or 'substantially' renovated. The different requirements tied to the home's construction or renovation can lead to confusion for homeowners preparing homes for sale.

As homeowners have purchased more and more smoke and CO alarms online, a separate problem has arisen: many online alarms are not listed by a Nationally Registered Testing Laboratory (NRTL), or are counterfeits, and cannot pass inspection for the Certificate of Compliance needed to finalize a sale. Homeowners may be confused and frustrated when their alarms do not pass inspection. When homeowners search for smoke or CO alarms online, they find alarms for as little as \$1.00. Homeowners may not know that these alarms are either for another market (European or Asian), have not been tested according to U.S. standards, or have a counterfeit approval mark. The price for a properly tested and listed alarm for the U.S. market starts at about \$15.00. All alarms tested to US standards have a UL or ETL approval mark.

The Massachusetts State Building Code (780 CMR) and Massachusetts Comprehensive Fire Safety Code (527 CMR 1.00) require that all smoke and CO alarms (whether or not they are required by code) be installed in compliance with their respective National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) standards. Smoke alarms must be installed in accordance with 2013 NFPA 72, National Fire Alarm and Signaling Code, while CO alarms must comply with 2015 NFPA 720, Standard for the Installation of Carbon Monoxide Detection and Warning Equipment.

Both 2013 NFPA 72 and 2015 NFPA 720 require alarms be listed by a NRTL to the appropriate testing standard. Smoke alarms must be listed to the Underwriter's Laboratory (UL) Standard 142, Standard for Smoke

Alarms; while CO alarms must be listed to UL Standard 2034, Standard for Single and Multiple Station Carbon Monoxide Alarms. Alarms that have not tested to this standard may not accurately detect fire, alert the consumer in a timely fashion, operate for the desired time period or perform other critical functions.

Currently, only UL and Intertek Testing Services NA, Inc. (Intertek) are permitted to test and to list smoke and/or CO alarms. If an alarm passes the testing requirements, the NRTL approval mark is placed on the back of the alarm, and the alarm is recorded on the NRTL's list of approved devices (accessible through the NRTL's website). The approval marks for UL and Intertek are shown below.

Educating the public is key. The fire service should inform homeowners and realtors about the pitfalls of purchasing alarms online. Consumers should check to see if alarms are listed either by UL or Intertek, and if the price of an alarm seems too good to be true, it probably is. For UL, visit <https://iq.ulprospector.com/info/> Register in 'iQ Product' prior to first use. For Intertek, visit [https://ramuk.intertekconnect.com/WebClients/ITS/DLP/products.nsf/\\$\\$Search?OpenForm](https://ramuk.intertekconnect.com/WebClients/ITS/DLP/products.nsf/$$Search?OpenForm). Fire inspectors should be empathetic when they deny certificates due to nonlisted alarms. Take the time to explain the problem with the devices and how to find the correct devices when shopping. Educated fire service inspectors and well-informed homeowners can avoid the frustration of failed smoke and CO alarm inspections by knowing which life-saving alarms to purchase when they are selling a home or when they are replacing old alarms.

For questions and more information please contact the Division of Fire Safety's fire protection engineers. Communities north of the Turnpike, contact Kristen Nich, P.E. at 978-567-3376 or kristen.nich@mass.gov. Communities south of, or on the Massachusetts Turnpike, contact Jake Nunnemacher at 978-567-3377 or jacob.nunnemacher@mass.gov.

If you suspect that you have found a counterfeit smoke or CO alarm, please contact Jake Nunnemacher directly at the Division of Fire Safety.



Massachusetts Maritime Academy Students

Train at MFA

The Massachusetts Maritime Academy (MMA) has asked the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy (MFA) to train its students. Firefighting education is a graduation requirement for MMA students. This fall, training started for the graduating seniors.

Beginning March 2020, the MFA will train MMA freshmen, sophomores, juniors, and seniors in a progressive 4-year curriculum. Each grade will spend two days training with the MFA each academic year. Students will have a day of lecture training and a day of hands-on practical experience. The curriculum will include: how and when to use different types of fire extinguishers; how to conduct search and rescue; hose handling; experience in the Mobile Training Unit to learn the signs of flashover; flammable gas training; and advanced live firefighting.

The MFA taught this program for the MMA in the past

and is currently updating the curriculum to ensure it meets current U. S. Coast Guard requirements. The MFA is also ensuring that all instructors in the program are Coast Guard certified.

The MFA looks forward to providing this comprehensive, required training to all MMA students beginning this year. DFS currently has employees who fondly remember their MFA firefighting training when they were MMA undergraduates. Maybe one day, some of these new MMA students will join us.



MMA students train at DFS.

Fire Safety Code Amended to Include Cannabis Regulation, *continued from page 6*

have specific requirements for carbon dioxide monitoring and alarms. The code provides detailed requirements for extraction rooms and processing equipment based on the extraction medium. If equipment is not listed to a UL standard (as is the case with many acceptable cannabis apparatus), 527 CMR 1.00: 38.6.1.5.6 provides a prescriptive means for the design professional of record, and the AHJ, to inspect and verify compliance.

Existing Facilities:

Unfortunately, the provisions of 527 CMR 1.00: Chapter 38 do not apply retroactively to currently operating facilities. However, a process safety permit is required for any extraction process using hazardous materials and must be renewed annually [527 CMR 1.00: 1.12.8.34.2; 60.8.4.1.1].

- 1. Is a hazardous materials process being conducted without a permit?** If so, the AHJ can require compliance with 527 CMR 1.00: 38 as it applies to the hazardous materials process. If the building does not have a sprinkler system, fire alarm system, or other fire protection measures, renovations to the facility require compliance with the building code.
- 2. Has a hazardous material storage permit(s) been issued by the local fire department?** If not, the building owner must submit a hazardous materials inventory statement and SDS documents to the local fire department for the storage of hazardous materials [527 CMR 1.00: 60.1.7.1]. Many extraction apparatus cleaning

materials are just as flammable as the extraction medium itself and must be included in the inventory statement. A description of the method of storage, size of containers, and location in the building must also be evaluated.

- 3. Has there been, or is there a proposed change in extraction methods?** A change in the extraction medium is a trigger for reevaluation of the extraction room and compliance to 527 CMR 1.00: 38. For example, because ethanol vapor is lighter than air and LPG vapors are denser than air, ventilation provisions must be met for the change. This extraction medium change also requires the issuance of a new hazardous materials process safety permit.

Next Steps:

Typically, plan submissions do not include all the necessary information for both fire and building officials. Most projects in Massachusetts require a resubmittal and a call for more information. The process safety standard outlined by 527 CMR 1.00: 60.8 is unique to Massachusetts and many design professionals are not aware of the additional documentation needed.

The Fire Safety Division has fire protection engineers to assist with plan reviews, answer technical questions, and accompany the local fire department on inspections. Do not hesitate to reach out to the Code Compliance help desk, Monday through Friday from 8:00am to 4:00pm at 978-567-3375 to be connected to an engineer.

Massachusetts Corps of Fire Chaplains

Celebrates 20th Anniversary

On October 21, 2019, 20 years to the day of its commissioning, the Massachusetts Corps of Fire Chaplains held an anniversary celebration at the historic Longfellow's Wayside Inn. Many people who helped with the initial founding of the Corps were present including retired Fire Marshal Stephen Coan and John "Spike" Lawless. Representatives from the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy (MFA), Needham Fire Chief Dennis Condon, President of the Fire Chiefs' Association of Massachusetts, State Fire Marshal Peter Ostroskey, Undersecretary for Homeland Security Jeanne Benincasa Thorpe, and Chair of Public Safety, state Representative Harold Naughton also attended the celebration. Eleven of the 30 founding members of the Corps were present and were presented with commemorative pins.

The evening included camaraderie, joyful reconnections and great food. But the highlight of the event was an address by the Right Reverend Larry Provenzano, Episcopal Bishop of Long Island, N.Y. and former Chief of the Massachusetts Corps of Fire Chaplains. "Fr. Larry" (as he is known) wears a pectoral cross given to him by the Mass. Corps of Fire Chaplains when he was ordained as Bishop ten years ago. The cross is in the shape of the Maltese Cross that firefighters wear, and contains a piece of steel from Ground Zero. About 30 Mass. Corps Chaplains responded to Ground Zero following the 9/11 attack. Fr. Larry reminded us that our task as fire chaplains is to be the presence on a fire scene of all that is holy and divine in spite of tragedy, chaos and disaster. He noted that chaplains are the prayers on a fire scene, representing all fire service personnel. Through a funny and revealing story, Fr. Larry reminded us that we are, "to serve those who serve". Our day-to-day interactions at fire houses, events where



Undersecretary Thorpe presents Reverend Tilbe with a citation.



The Right Reverend Larry Provenzano.

we pray and offer spiritual comfort, and at places and times allow us to get to know the many firefighters and chiefs.

Undersecretary Thorpe reminded us that members of the fire service can experience cumulative trauma because they "see strangers' lives and homes consumed by fire, or respond to scenes of death and terrible injury on our streets and highways." Fr. Larry reminded us that the Mass. Corps is known and respected across the country; that we have 20 years of experience and wisdom; and that by being true to our mission of offering spiritual comfort to all those we come in contact with, we will be here in another 20 years for another celebration.

The evening was a blessing and a joy. We gathered to remember those who served and supported us in the past and those who do so today. And we had a chance to reconnect, and to reflect on the future of the Corps.

Submitted by Rev. Dr. Susan Suchocki Brown, Chaplain, Leominster Fire Department and Deputy Chief Central Massachusetts Corps of Fire Chaplains and a founding member of the Corps.

In Memory of Rich Fredette

Rich Fredette, code administrator and executive director of the Board of Fire Prevention Regulations (BRPR) at the Department of Fire Services (DFS) passed away in November. After serving as the longtime executive director of the Board of State Electrical Examiners, Rich joined DFS in the Fire Safety division in 2010. He was instrumental in

assisting the BFPR transition from a home-grown fire code to the national consensus code we have today: NFPA 1 with Massachusetts specific amendments. The loss of his knowledge about the fire and electrical codes is immeasurable, but his legacy will have a lasting impact on the Massachusetts fire service and beyond for years to come.

Fire Investigation News

Sprinklers Save Stoughton Rooming House

The cause of the September 19, 2019 fire at the Fieldbrook House was unattended incense igniting clothing. No one was injured in the fire at the 27-unit rooming house, but 29 people were displaced.

The fire started in a room where the resident lit an incense stick and then left for a short walk. The incense stick was not in a holder and investigators believe it fell into a clothing basket, starting the fire.

“The sprinkler system did its job. It triggered the alarm. It contained the fire. Everyone got out. It was safer for the firefighters who extinguished it and no one got hurt,” said Stoughton Fire Chief Michael Laracy. In 1995, Stoughton Firefighter Victor Melendez died searching for victims on the third floor of an unsprinklered rooming house.

Laracy added, “There is always water damage with every fire, but it is easier to fix wet than burned. While a number of people are temporarily displaced, most will be able to return home much sooner than if the fire had happened in a building with no sprinklers.”

State Fire Marshal Ostroskey said, “The decline in rooming house fire deaths is one of the great fire prevention success stories.” The July 4, 1984 Elliott Chambers rooming house fire in Beverly killed fifteen people. In the wake of that tragedy, the Legislature passed a local option law that if adopted by local communities requires sprinklers in rooming houses. Many communities quickly adopted it. In 1985, there were nine fire deaths in rooming house fires. There have been no deaths in rooming house fires since 2007 in Massachusetts.

Arson

Arson Conviction

Newton resident Daniel Kim, 49, was found guilty of setting fire and using two incendiary devices on August 28, 2019 at a building owned by his father on Walnut Street in Newton. The single story building housed the Broken Grounds Café and was attached to an apartment building. Mr. Kim became trapped in the basement after setting the fire and was rescued by firefighters and taken to Mass. General Hospital. On October 31, 2019, he was sentenced to MCI Cedar Junction for 3-5 years for the arson, and 5 years of probation on and after for each count of possession/use of an incendiary device. This sentence was ordered to be served on and after a 7-10 year sentence he is currently serving for a previous case in Norfolk Superior Court. The Newton Fire and Police Departments and State Police assigned to the Office of the State Fire Marshal jointly investigated the fire. The Middlesex District Attorney's Office prosecuted the case.

Not Guilty by Lacking Criminal Responsibility

On November 12, 2019, Rafael Ayala was found not guilty by lacking criminal responsibility in Lawrence Superior Court for setting fire to a 2-family home at 94 Rockaway Street in Lynn on September 9, 2018. The fire was set on an exterior porch. Video from a Ring doorbell surveillance system led to the suspect. When he was arrested, Mr. Ayala appeared to suffer from paranoia but admitted to being at the location on the date of the fire. The Commonwealth filed a motion for a court-ordered mental evaluation. Mr. Ayala was held at Worcester Recovery for further evaluation and was due back in court in December.

Arrest Made in Athol Church Fire

On October 19, 2019, Trevor J. DeFrancesco was arrested, for setting a fire at Our Lady Immaculate Church, 192 School Street in Athol. The fire occurred shortly after midnight. The 21-year-old homeless man was charged with burning a building and breaking and entering in the nighttime with intent to commit a felony.

Investigators found multiple points of origin inside the church basement and concluded that the fires were intentionally set. The fire was controlled with fire extinguishers and damage was moderate, but the building sustained smoke and water damage. A damaged water pipe helped to control the fire.

The Athol Fire and Police Departments, and State Police assigned to the Office of the State Fire Marshal jointly investigated the fire. The case is being prosecuted by the Office of the Northwestern District Attorney.

Barnstable House Fire Deliberately Set

A 3-alarm fire at 84 Allyn Lane in Barnstable on October 20, 2019 was intentionally-set. Investigators know the identity and location of the person who set the fire and the public is not at risk.

The fire was reported at 1:28 p.m. The vacation home is a total loss and damages are estimated at \$520,000. No one was home at the time of the fire and no one was injured. Barnstable Chief Pulsifer said, “The fire was burning for some time before it was reported. As a result, it got a good head start on us.”

The Barnstable Fire and Police Departments, and State Police assigned to the Office of the State Fire Marshal jointly investigated this fire. The investigation is ongoing.

Fatal Fires

The October 22, 2019 fire at 354 Coffin Avenue in New Bedford was accidental. The fire took the life of 85-year old Louise Barboza who lived in the 3-family home. A towel she put on top of a room gas heater ignited. When the fire

started, she was on the telephone with a relative and described what happened before she was overcome by the toxic smoke.

The New Bedford Fire and Police Departments and State Police assigned to both the Office of the State Fire Marshal and to the Office of the Bristol District Attorney jointly investigated this fire.

Fatal Brimfield Fire Intentionally Set

The September 25, 2019 fire at 35 Oakwood Road in Brimfield was intentionally set. Brimfield firefighters had to force entry into the building because doors were barricaded from the inside. They found a man, believed to be the resident of the single-family home, overcome by heavy, thick smoke. Firefighters performed CPR and transported him to the local hospital where he succumbed to his injuries. The Office of the Chief Medical Examiner will determine the manner and cause of death. There were no other injuries and fire damage to the building was limited.

Investigators found multiple points of origin inside the home. An accelerant detection canine indicated that an ignitable liquid was used to spread the fire. Samples were sent to the State Police Crime Lab for confirmation. State Fire Marshal Ostroskey said, "The investigation team has determined that the fire was intentionally set. The investigation has concluded and there is no threat to the public."

The Brimfield Fire and Police Departments, and State Police assigned to both the Office of the State Fire Marshal and the Office of the Hampden District Attorney jointly investigated this fire.

Pepperell Fatal Fire Accidental

The July 30, 2019 fatal fire at 50 Main Street in Pepperell was accidental. The fire took the life of an elderly, disabled woman who lived on the first floor. The fire began in the first floor living room near the woman's chair. There are two possible accidental causes: a burning candle igniting nearby combustibles or the malfunction of a power strip with several items plugged into it. Damages to the 6-family building are estimated at more than \$300,000.

Southwick Fatal Fire Undetermined, Possibly Electrical

The September 29, 2018 fatal fire at 13 Bugbee Road in Southwick, will officially remain undetermined, but the most likely cause is electrical. The early morning fire claimed the lives of Orlando Cruz, 29, and Sarah Phelps, 25. Another occupant of the home escaped the fire.

The fire began in the basement, at or above the ceiling over the electrical panel. The extent of damage to the wiring in the area prevented investigators from pinpointing a more specific cause. Additional evidence supported an

interruption in the home electrical system before the fire was discovered. Investigators believe the fire is the result of an unspecified electrical event.

The Southwick Fire and Police Departments, and State Police assigned to both the Office of the State Fire Marshal and to the Hampden District Attorney's Office jointly investigated this fire. Assistance was received from the Southwick electrical inspector, additional electrical experts, and the Department of Fire Services' Code Compliance Unit.

Electrical Fires

Granville Electrical Fire

An early morning October 30, 2019 fire at 15 Granby Road in Granville was electrical. Two adults and two children escaped safely. Damage is estimated at \$50,000. The fire started in the second floor bedroom where a laptop, cell phone and lamp were plugged into a power strip. The precise electrical malfunction could not be identified due to extensive damage to the wiring.

Electrical Failure Sparked Bourne Fire

The 3-alarm fire at 1 Sandwich Road in Bourne on May 28, 2019 was an unspecified electrical failure. The fire in the 100-year old, 9-unit apartment building resulted in an \$800,000 loss and displaced 12 people. One person was transported to a local hospital with minor injuries. There were no firefighter injuries at this fire.

The building had balloon frame construction and the fire began in the confined space between the ceiling and a second floor-unit. The fire quickly spread up the balloon frame and into the attic, resulting in a major collapse of the roof. A third alarm was struck and nine fire departments from the Upper Cape assisted.

Metal Cutting Cause of Lawrence Fire

Workers cutting metal sparked the 3-alarm fire at 274 Haverhill Street in Lawrence on August 28, 2019. A crew was working on a metal fire escape with a reciprocating saw when the fire began. The fire traveled quickly up the exterior of the building to the roof. Two firefighters suffered minor injuries.

The building is considered a total loss and damages are estimated at \$408,000. Twelve people were displaced from the 3-family home.

The home was sold two days before the fire. The seller had a building permit to replace the rear stairs but the fire department had not received an application for a new hot works permit. The new owner should have applied for a new building permit.

Continued on page 14

Nantucket HazMat Response

On September 9, 2019, a Tier 1 HazMat response was requested for an unknown white powder in the United States Post Office (USPS) receiving station on Nantucket, with reports of people taken to the local hospital. A District 1 Hazardous Materials team responded and conducted staging operations at Hyannis Harbor. During staging, the team leaders split the team for a faster response. Team #1, with five HazMat technicians, took advantage of previous training with the Hyannis Fire Department and boarded the Hyannis fire boat with meters and select gear for an immediate response. Team #2 with two HazMat technicians loaded response Squad Truck 14 onto the ferry at 12:30 p.m.

Team #1 on the Hyannis fire boat arrived quickly at the Nantucket docks and the Nantucket Fire Department took them to the scene. The Nantucket Chief briefed the team when they arrived. He reported that USPS workers were transferring mail into a cart when there was a release of an unknown white powder. USPS staff began to complain of symptoms including difficulty breathing, cough, and skin irritation, which prompted the Tier 1 HazMat response.

By arriving at the scene before the ferry and the squad truck, Team #1 was able to coordinate with the incident



Hyannis Boat fire boat during a Hazardous Materials Maritime Incident Response Team (MIRT) training. New Bedford Harbor, 2019.

commander (IC), set up operations and plan mission objectives. When Truck 14 arrived, the plan was set and additional set up was minimal. The HazMat team entered the facility with personal protective equipment (PPE) and numerous detection instruments. The white powder turned out to be Cimetidine, an antacid for horses. USPS employees that were taken to the hospital were released quickly without any diagnosis.

Technical Rescue Update



The Massachusetts Firefighting Academy (MFA) Technical Rescue Program was established in 1992. Today the Program serves more than 550 students a year. It offers the following technical rescue classes: Operational Rope Rescue, Technician Rope Rescue, Confined Space Rescue, Trench Rescue, Swift and Standing Water Rescue, Ice Rescue, and the National Fire Academy's Incident Command System for Structural Collapse Incidents. All courses are updated every five years when National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) standards are updated or changed. The MFA holds 28 classes per year and conducts contract training for groups that may include a single community, a county team or other groups.

The MFA has a coaching/mentoring program for new instructors that introduces them to each discipline we teach. Senior instructors work with new instructors as they learn about delivering classes to students.

One thing that makes technical rescue programs successful is our diverse instructors, who all have real-world

Continued on next page

Fire Safety in the Movie Industry

Massachusetts hosts a growing number of studio and independent film, commercial, and television productions each year. With both studio and onsite filming happening on a regular basis in the state, fire service personnel and those in the movie industry need to know how to stay safe and compliant as they work.

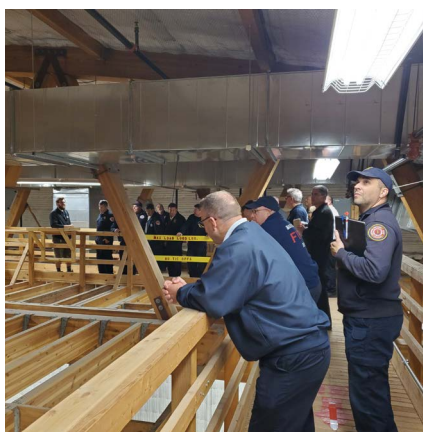
Last October, the Devens Fire Department and New England Studios hosted a training on fire safety in the movie industry. The training included:

- Fire safety codes and compliance from Matthew Murray, code compliance and enforcement supervisor, Department of Fire Services;
- Special effects in the movie industry and required safety measures from Ocean State Pyrotechnics;
- Importance of the film industry to the Massachusetts economy from Lisa Strout, director of the Massachusetts Film Office;
- Pyrotechnic demonstrations and safety measures by Jay Stone and his Ocean State Pyrotechnics staff; and
- Tour of a movie studio from Mike Stay of New England Studios.

The training was made possible by the Devens Fire Department, New England Studios, the Department of Fire Services, Ocean State Pyrotechnics, and the Massachusetts Film Office. The group hopes to offer the class again next year.

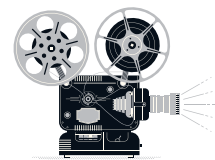


John Ruggieri describing special effects to local firefighters.



Mike Stay of New England Studios shows attendees how the rafters serve as a rigging point for lights and sets.

Motion Picture and Television Production



Fire Safety Requirements in Massachusetts



For more information on fire safety in the movie industry, visit www.mass.gov/dfs and search for Code and Fire Prevention Support. Scroll down to Fire Prevention Resources and view or download our pamphlet on Motion Picture and TV Production Fire Safety Requirements.

Technical Rescue Update, *continued from previous page*

experience and are members of technical rescue teams or companies in their respective fire departments. Another strength of our program is constantly changing practical locations that offer diverse experiences with techniques. Students who have applied their tech rescue skills in real-world incidents say that their training more than prepared them for the challenges of the incidents. This is a testament to the skills and professionalism of our instructors.

Students who successfully complete Operational Rope, Technician Rope, Confined Space, Trench, and Swift/Standing Water rescue are eligible for Pro Board Certification. More classes offering potential certification will be available soon. Although certification is not a

requirement for operating as a rescue technician, many local fire chiefs have pushed for certification and our students have a strong interest in certification.

The Confined Space Rescue course is being updated and will be ready for delivery in the fall of 2020. Structural Collapse Rescue training courses are in development and will be available in the future at the Department of Fire Services (DFS) Bridgewater campus.

Strengths of our technical rescue program include the real-world experience of all instructors and constantly changing practical locations.

Free Skin Cancer Screenings for the Fire Service

The Massachusetts fire service has a great resource for the health of fire service members in Christine Kannler, MD, a MOHS micrographic surgeon specializing in skin cancer at Northeast Dermatology Associates. She conducts free skin cancer screenings for the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy (MFA) and other fire service organizations and departments.

Dr. Kannler provides the service on her own time. She schedules the screenings with assistance from MFA Program Coordinator, Abby Baker. Together, the pair have traveled across the state to conduct screenings. The service is open not only to firefighters, but to family members, administrative staff, and municipal staff (such as public works or police department members).

Since August 2018, Dr. Kannler has screened over 1,300 individuals for skin cancer. She recommended that many people follow up with their primary care physicians. These individuals have had biopsies, and in some cases, skin cancer was been identified and treated. She is saving firefighter lives with these screenings. The MFA has paired this screening with the Taking Action Against Cancer in the Fire Service training so that firefighters can learn about the actions they can take to prevent cancer.

Dr. Kannler was inspired to begin free skin cancer screenings for the fire service after the death of her brother three years ago. Her brother, Peter Kannler, was an MFA Instructor and Chelsea firefighter who succumbed to occupational cancer in September of 2016. Dr. Kannler cares deeply about the fire service and its members.

Dr. Kannler takes advantage of the SPOTme® (spotme.org) program of the American Academy of Dermatology (AAD). The program provides literature about skin cancer and forms for doctors to use during exams. The program helps facilitate screening as many people as possible. The training and the free skin cancer screenings have been very well received by the fire service in Massachusetts.



Dr. Kannler conducting a skin cancer screening.

Cancer Screenings Save Lives Sign up today!

Fire departments can request Taking Action Against Cancer in the Fire Service and/or a skin cancer screening at their department by filling out a course request form (Course numbers 422 and SCA). Visit www.mass.gov/dfs and search for Massachusetts Firefighting Academy. Scroll down to find the course request form, or visit the Learning Management System (LMS) to make a request.

A big thank you to Dr. Kannler for taking such good care of our firefighters!

For more information and resources on occupational cancer prevention in the fire service, visit www.mass.gov/service-details/occupational-cancer-in-the-fire-service.

Fire Investigation News, *continued from page 11*

Firefighters were able to prevent the fire from spreading to surrounding homes in the dense neighborhood. After the fire was out, the building collapsed, damaging several parked vehicles. No one was inside the building and no one was hurt in the collapse.

The Lawrence Fire and Police Departments, and State Police assigned to the Office of the State Fire Marshal jointly investigated the fire.

Arrest for Car Arson

Investigators arrested Colin Clegg in Cambridge on October 18, 2019 and charged him with setting his former girlfriend's car on fire around 10 p.m. on October 17. Witnesses saw Clegg arrive, put something in her car, and the fire started shortly thereafter. This case of domestic violence was investigated by the East Longmeadow Fire and Police Departments and State Police assigned to the Office of the State Fire Marshal.

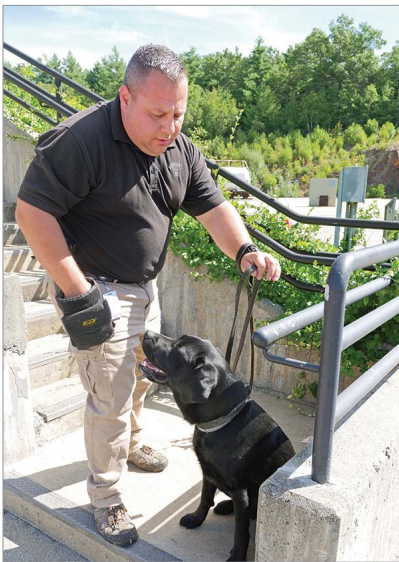
New Canine Teams Train at DFS

The Fire & Explosion Investigation Unit (F&EIU) has had trained accelerant and explosive detection dogs and handlers since the mid-1980s. These teams are a vital tool in fire investigations and in searching for explosives. In the early days of the canine program, our dogs and handlers were trained by the Connecticut State Police. Now, we are fortunate to have three certified canine trainers: Sgt. Paul Horgan, Trooper Michael Fagan and Trooper Greg Spahl. They train not only our own dogs and handlers, but teams from other jurisdictions as well. When the State Police assigned to DFS conduct training, new teams are saved the time and expense of traveling to Connecticut, Maryland or Virginia.

Currently, three teams are in training: Fulton and Trooper Collella and Curtis and Trooper Cormier from the F&EIU; and Alec and Officer Perkins from the University of Massachusetts Amherst Police Department. Alec is an

explosive detection canine who will inspect large venues before and after events, inspect unattended bags on campus, and serve as a comfort dog for students. Other campus police departments including Worcester Polytechnic Institute, University of Massachusetts Lowell, and Boston University also have, or are looking to get, explosive detection dogs (many of whom will also serve as comfort dogs). These campus canines expand the State Police Bomb Squad's capability to provide security at events in large venues. Canine team training also fosters good working relationships between F&EIU troopers and campus police officers which is a benefit when the two groups work together on incidents.

Fulton and Trooper Collella.



Curtis and Trooper Cormier.

Alec and Officer Perkins.



Boiler and Pressure Vessel Unit Retirements

Henry Geryk retired this summer from his position as a supervising district engineering inspector in the Boiler and Pressure Vessel (BPV) Unit after 34 years of service to the Commonwealth. He joined the Department of Public Safety in 1985, when the Office of the State Fire Marshal was also part of that agency. In the intervening years, the Department of Fire Services and the Department of State Police were created, and in 2017, the Department of Public Safety was reorganized and the Boiler and Pressure Vessel Unit was united with the Department of Fire Services. Henry inspected boilers, pressure vessels and other equipment for conformance to safety laws, standards, rules and

regulations, approved plans for the construction or alteration of boilers, pressure vessels and accessories; and examined applicants for licenses.

Mark Sullivan also retired from the BPV Unit this fall as a district engineering inspector after 15 years of service to the Commonwealth.

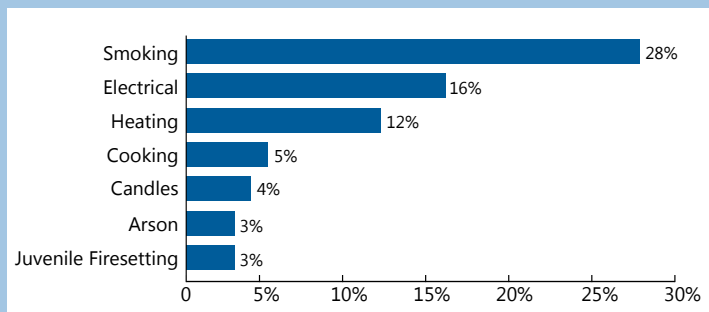
Marking the retirement of Henry Geryk. Front row, left to right: Jeff Ortiz, Holly Bartlett, Henry Geryk, Ed Kawa, Maria Pereira, Diane Rearick. Back row: Mark Sullivan, John Lawrence, Dan Laperle, Robert Schultz, Patrick Kane, David Gosselin, Allen Boston, Jeffrey Isabelle.



What is the Winter Fire Story?

Using Data to Promote Fire Safety

Figure 1: Causes of Residential Fire Deaths
(January - March, 2014 - 2018)



History and data tell us a lot about fire prevention and intervention. Investigating data from past winter fires in Massachusetts gives us the information to educate communities and plan community risk reduction efforts.

We reviewed data from the past five years, January to March, 2014-2018. We learned that there were 32,204 fires reported to MFIRS:

- 24,129 (75%) structure fires,
- 3,036 (9%) motor vehicle fires, and
- 5,039 (16%) outside and other fires.

These fires caused 106 civilian deaths, three fire service deaths, 398 civilian injuries, 598

fire service injuries and \$35.3 million in estimated damages. Forty-five percent of all fire fatalities happen between January and March. The causes include smoking, cooking, heating and arson (see figure 1). Almost 1/3 of smoking fire deaths occurred during the winter, likely due to more people smoking indoors during these months.

The leading cause of fires between January and March (and throughout the year) is cooking. However, the number of heating and smoking fires increase during these months. Fire departments can use the DFS *Keep Warm Keep Safe* (KWKS) campaign materials to promote fire safety messages. The webpage includes a toolkit, logos and videos promoting safe heating practices. The number of winter heating fires has gone down since the *Keep Warm Keep Safe* campaign launched in 1991 (see figure 2). This is great news!

Carbon Monoxide Safety

Another concern during the heating season is the danger of exposure to carbon monoxide (CO). January has the most CO incidents of any month during the year (see figure 3). Hundreds

Figure 2: Residential Heating Fires by Winter

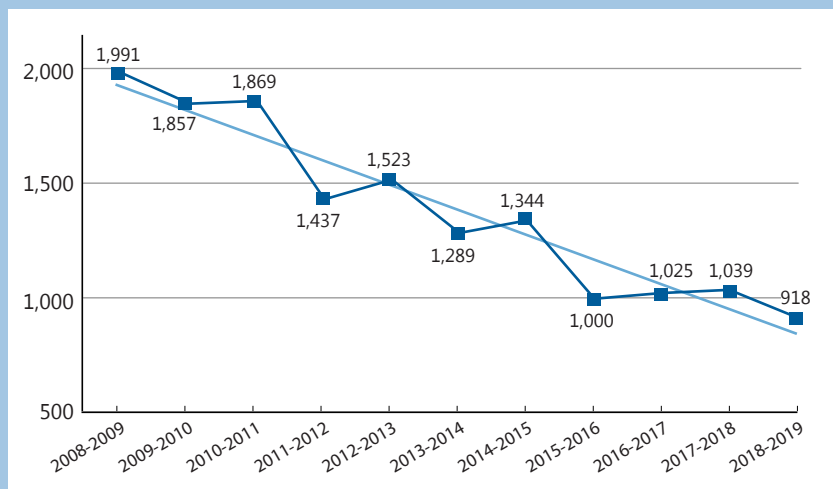
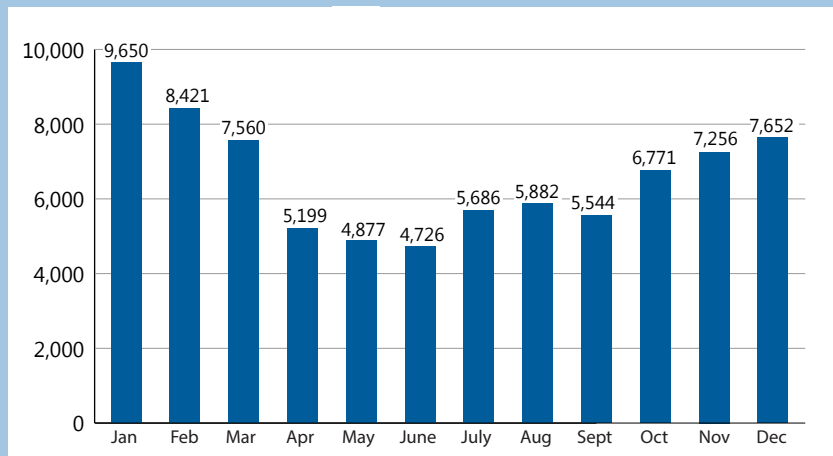


Figure 3: CO Incidents in Massachusetts, 2014 - 2018



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Fire Mobilization Plan Update

In late 2018, Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) received a \$250,000 Homeland Security Grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency. The grant supports a comprehensive, multi-disciplinary planning initiative to review and enhance the Statewide Fire & EMS Mobilization Plan. The Fire and EMS Mobilization Committee is addressing the challenges, gaps and shortfalls found within the Fire Mobilization Plan in order to improve it. After it is updated and approved by the Fire and EMS Mobilization Committee, a tabletop exercise will be held to evaluate and assess it before it is finalized. The grant has four deliverables:

- Conduct a comprehensive review and assessment of the Commonwealth's Statewide Fire and EMS Mobilization Plan, applying lessons learned from national events.
- Update the plan including all statewide mobilization resources. This will include National Incident Management System (NIMS) resource typing.

- Create training modules based on the newly revised plan for chief officers, dispatchers, fire control points, fire department personnel and EMS professionals across the Commonwealth.
- Conduct a tabletop exercise to evaluate and validate the updated Mobilization Plan.

The first two parts of this work were completed in December 2019. Between January and June 2020, training modules will be created and a tabletop exercise will be held.

The Department of Fire Services (DFS) is coordinating the training and the exercise. The training will be used as the basis for the tabletop exercise to validate the updated Mobilization Plan. The training will remain online for use by the fire service.

Look for more information about the training in the DFS Learning Management System in the future.

What is the Winter Fire Story, *continued from previous page*

of people die accidentally each year from CO poisoning caused by malfunctioning or improperly used fuel-burning appliances (EPA data). According to the Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA), CO is the number one cause of poisoning deaths in the U.S. Warning signs of CO poisoning include headaches, nausea, dizziness, confusion, fainting and unconsciousness. CO poisoning can also mimic flu symptoms.

The Department of Fire Services has materials on CO, and other important winter safety topics. Visit www.mass.gov/dfs and search for winter fire safety. The U.S. Fire Administration also offers outreach materials for



community risk reduction programs including memes for social media. Go to www.usfa.fema.gov and select *Fire Prevention and Public Education* to view the materials.

Visit the DFS website at www.mass.gov/dfs to find information about spring safety topics including open burning, smoking and mulch safety.

Massachusetts Fire Training Council Reaccredited, *continued from page 3*

This annual award is presented 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 certainly fits those criteria.

In January 2018, Rand was elected to a 3-year term on the Committee on Accreditation of the National Board on Fire Service Professional Qualifications. This is a recognition of the high caliber and professionalism of the MFA Certification Program. The Committee on Accreditation (COA) is responsible for the day-to-day operations of the National Board on Fire Service Professional Qualifications (Pro Board). The COA reviews applications for

accreditation and self-study documents; conducts initial and 5-year site visit evaluations; approves or denies requests for accreditation; and, ensures compliance with the operating practices of the Board. The COA is comprised of seven members who are elected by the 74-member Advisory Committee and nine who are appointed by the Board.

MFA Director Evans said, "DFS has been fortunate to have such a dedicated professional on our team. It is a pleasure to see his accomplishments recognized by his peers across the country and we are sorry to see him go." Robert Rand retired in late 2019.



Fire & Life Safety Education Conference

Proven Success-Future Challenges

On September 24 and 25, 2019, the Department of Fire Services celebrated 25 years of public education at the annual fire and life safety education conference.

The Best Western Regency Hotel and Conference Center hosted the event and over 250 firefighters, prevention officers, EMT/Paramedics, older adult agency workers and teachers participated in 30 workshops offered by experts in the fields of fire prevention education and older adult safety. In the opening address, Jennifer Mieth, Public Information officer for DFS explained how the first conference occurred. "A group of fire educators organized it. They were frustrated about the lack of support and resources for fire education. It was a start and sometimes good things come to those who show a willingness and a commitment to making a difference."

At the first conference in 1995, Lt. Eric Hubler from the Hyannis Fire Department and Wendy Daly, R.N. at Shriners Burn Institute Boston addressed the question, "Why Teach Fire Safety?" in the general session. The keynote speaker was McLean Stevenson (known for his role as Col. Blake on *M*A*S*H*), a childhood burn victim who was the national spokesperson for the Children's Burn Foundation.

Since the first conference, the search for fire education resources led to the S.A.F.E. (Student Awareness of Fire Education) and Senior SAFE grant programs. The creators of the first conference could not have known that their efforts would subsequently educate thousands, and become the premier public fire and life safety education conference in the northeast. Everyone who attends these conferences has witnessed the growth of fire and life safety education and is excited about the next 25 years.

Keynote Speakers

Keynote speakers are a highlight of each conference. They have included experts from the fire service, media, authors and burn survivors. This year's keynote was Monica Colby who works with the Rapid City Fire Department in South Dakota. She has served on boards including the NFPA, IFSTA and Vision 20/20. Her address: *The Future of Fire Safety Education - What the Fire Service Can Do to Prepare Communities for Current Fire Dangers*, used data to address the fire story in communities, and challenged the fire service to provide up to date messaging to educate residents about staying safe from fire. Dr. Lester Hartman, of Westwood-Mansfield Pediatric Associates discussed



New Bedford/Dartmouth Fire Lt. William Sullivan, Fire and Life Safety Educator of the Year New Bedford/Dartmouth FF Anthony Poente, Deputy State Fire Marshal Maribel Fournier.

the issues, trends and dangers of vaping and juuling. Kelly Ransdell, New England representative of the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), gave the audience a fast and furious look at resources from the NFPA for fire safety educators.

Educator of the Year Award

The Fire and Life Safety Educator of the Year award ceremony is an important part of the conference. Then Lt. Andrew Melnikas of the North Andover Fire Department was the first recipient of this honor. This year's winner was New Bedford/Dartmouth firefighter Anthony Poente. For 20 years, Firefighter Anthony Poente has been providing creative, engaging fire safety education to children and the elderly in three communities with a combined population of about 130,000. Anthony is a New Bedford firefighter active in fire safety education and is also the lead fire safety educator in two Dartmouth Fire Districts. In 2018, Kazin Chrisman, a 10-year-old student of Anthony's in the Dartmouth Public Schools, earned the Young Hero Award. Firefighter Poente was recognized for teaching Kazin how to react in a frightening medical emergency and saving his grandfather's life. Anthony's work with people of all ages has made, and will continue to make, communities on the south coast safer from fire and other perils.

Other nominees recognized for their contribution to public fire and life safety include: Joan Byington, Woburn Senior Center; FF Katie Harrington, Worcester Fire Department; FF Jeffrey Pugliese, Watertown Fire Department; FF Michelle Sacco, Chelmsford Fire Department; the Southwick Fire Department team nomination; FF Alector Tavares, Boston Fire Department; and FF Vincent

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2020 License Examination Schedule

Fire Safety Division

The Department of Fire Services' Fire Safety Division issues licenses, permits and certificates of competency (licenses) to people and companies engaged in fireworks, blasting, explosives, special effects, cannon and mortar firing, commercial cooking exhaust system cleaning and inspection, hood cleaning, special hazard systems, portable fire extinguishers, marine fueling facilities and above ground tanks. Register for exams and see detailed information 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	Deadlines for Applications
FSD Exams	Exams start at 10:00 a.m.	
Fire Suppression	March 18, 2020	February 28, 2020
	May 20, 2020	May 1, 2020
Commercial Hood Cleaning	July 15, 2020	June 26, 2020
	September 23, 2020	September 4, 2020
	November 4, 2020	October 16, 2020
Cannon/Mortar, Fireworks, Special Effects, Blasting, Blasting R&D	February 12, 2020	January 24, 2020
	April 15, 2020	March 27, 2020
	June 17, 2020	May 29, 2020
	August 19, 2020	July 31, 2020
	October 21, 2020	October 2, 2020
BPV Exams	Exams start at 9:00 a.m.	
Oil Burner, Fireman & Engineer (all classes)	February 26, 2020	January 31, 2020
	April 1, 2020	February 28, 2020
	April 28, 2020	March 27, 2020
	May 27, 2020	April 24, 2020
	June 24, 2020	May 29, 2020
	July 29, 2020	June 26, 2020
	August 26, 2020	July 31, 2020
	September 30, 2020	August 28, 2020
	October 29, 2020	September 25, 2020
	November 25, 2020	October 30, 2020
	December 30, 2020	November 27, 2020

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

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

Zarella, North Reading Fire Department. In the past 25 years, there have been many nominees and winners whose passion and dedication to making their community safe has been recognized. We are fortunate to have such

outstanding fire educators in Massachusetts. We look forward to supporting the next generation of excellence in fire and life safety education for the next 25 years.

Massachusetts Firefighting Academy *Graduations*



Class #276



Class #277



Class #S12



Class #S13

Fire Investigation Programs

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

Advanced Fire Investigation Course

Eleven public safety officers completed the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy's six-day Advanced Fire Investigation course on September 27, 2019. This rigorous professional training provides fire, and state and local police officers with the advanced skills needed to accurately determine the origin and cause of fires in their jurisdictions and together, build solid, prosecutable cases.

The 11 graduates included one local police officer, nine firefighters, and one Massachusetts State Police trooper represent the following agencies: Brockton Police Department, Chelsea Fire Department, Chicopee Fire Department, Concord Fire Department, Dedham Fire Department, Lawrence Fire Department, Lowell Fire Department, Mass. State Police, North Andover Fire Department, Peabody Fire Department, and Southborough Fire Department.

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 Springfield campus.

Class #276

Members of Career Recruit Firefighter Class #276 graduated on Friday, September 13, 2019 at the Department of Fire Services. The 32 graduates, two women and 30 men, represent the 17 fire departments of Bellingham, Canton, Chelmsford, Groton, Hanover, Haverhill, Hingham, Lexington, Northborough, Norton, Norwood, Plainville, Plymouth, Shirley, Watertown, Westford and Woburn.

Class #277

Members of Career Recruit Firefighter Class #277 graduated on Friday, October 25, 2019 at the Department of Fire Services. The 37 graduates, all men, represent the 18 fire departments of Cohasset, Franklin, Gardner, Gloucester, Groton, Holden, Hopedale, Hyannis, Lawrence, Lexington, Lynn, Middleborough, Plymouth, Scituate, Seekonk, Stoughton, Westminster and Woburn.

Class #S12

Members of Career Recruit Firefighter Class #S12 graduated Monday, September 16, 2019 at the Department of Fire Services, Springfield Campus. The graduates, 24 men and one woman, represent the 14 fire departments of Auburn, Charlton, Gardner, Greenfield, Longmeadow, Ludlow, Mashpee, Northampton, Orange, Sandwich, Southbridge, Springfield, West Springfield and Wrentham.

Class #S13

Members of Career Recruit Firefighter Class #S13 graduated Friday, November 22, 2019 at the Department of Fire Services, Springfield Campus. The graduates, 29 men and two women, represent the 13 fire departments of Agawam, Belchertown, Bellingham, Concord, Dudley, Easthampton, Falmouth, Granby, Longmeadow, Mashpee, Springfield, West Barnstable and Westborough.

Call/Volunteer Recruit Firefighting Training

The Call/Volunteer Firefighter Recruit Training program is unique in that it delivers a standard recruit training curriculum, meeting national standards, on nights and weekends to accommodate the schedule of firefighters in suburban and rural areas. Graduates complete 240 hours of training. Bringing the training closer to the firefighters often means more firefighters can participate. The program uses an online format that has students 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 #78

On October 28, 2019 members of the Call/Volunteer Recruit Firefighter Training Class #78 graduated. The 36 graduates, eight women and 28 men, represent the 21 fire departments of Ashburnham, Ashby, Berlin, Bolton, Carlisle, Harvard, Leicester, Mendon, Middleton, Northborough, Northbridge, Paxton, Pepperell, Phillipston, Rutland, Townsend, Tyngsborough, Webster, Westminster, Weston, and Winchendon. This class equals the largest number of women graduates in one class in this



Class #78



Class #79

program. The ceremony took place at the Department of Fire Services in Stow.

Class #79

On October 30, 2019 members of the Call/Volunteer Recruit Firefighter Training Class #79 graduated. The 26 graduates, two women and 24 men, represent the 18 fire departments of Belchertown, Blandford, Charlemont, Egremont, Granby, Great Barrington, Hadley, Lee, Leverett, Monson, New Marlborough, New Salem, Orange, Shutesbury, Southwick, Sunderland, Wales and Westhampton. The ceremony took place at the Department of Fire Services, Springfield Campus.

Fire Departments Do Much More than Fight Fires

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



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Hydrogen-Fueled Vehicles

Expected in New England in 2020

As motor vehicle technology changes, firefighters' training needs to adapt so they are ready to face fires and crashes that involve new cars and their filling stations. When hydrogen-fuel cell cars first hit the market in 2016, the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy (MFA) developed a course to generate awareness of what firefighters needed to know about the new technology and how to respond to incidents with these vehicles. A change is expected shortly to Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) regulations that will allow hydrogen-fueled vehicles inside tunnels. Safety is a key feature of both tunnel and hydrogen-fueled car design and construction. In anticipation of the change in regulations, the MFA held an awareness training in October for first responders in tunnel incidents and safety personnel who work in the tunnels including: MassDOT employees, state troopers, and firefighters. Nearly 50 people were trained in two sessions.

Industry experts explained the science and safety features of the new cars and fill stations. The vehicles and stations are



designed to reduce the risk of hydrogen leaks or explosions. Presenters covered what fire looks like in a hydrogen-fueled vehicle and how to disconnect electricity in the cars after a crash. Two hydrogen-fueled cars were at the MFA for participants to see up close.

Hydrogen fuel technology has come a long way since the Hindenburg disaster in 1937. The risk of hydrogen leaks or explosions is minimal, even if someone deliberately damages the fuel tank. Today's tunnels also have features that can protect against catastrophic events including: positive pressure scram fans, detection equipment, and vents that can dissipate gas fumes in 20 seconds.

Output from a tailpipe in a hydrogen-fueled car is both "green" and safe - water. Hydrogen-fueled cars have been used in California for some time, and are expected to hit the New England and New York markets in 2020. Filling and repair stations will also be constructed.



Fuel cell vehicle at DFS during Awareness training, October 2019.