

A photograph of two firefighters in full gear standing on an extended aerial ladder. They are positioned against a multi-story brick building. Thick white smoke is billowing from the upper floors of the building. The scene is set during the day, with a clear sky. The ladder is angled upwards from the bottom left towards the center of the frame. The firefighters are facing right, and one is slightly ahead of the other. The building has several windows and a chimney is visible in the lower right. The overall tone is professional and action-oriented.

All Hands Herald

Massachusetts Department of Fire Services

June 2023

Joint ASHER Training *Gets High Marks From MFA Instructors*

**Hazmat Team Assists
at Brockton Hospital**

**DFS Rehab Units and Fire Service
Canteens – A Perfect Pair**

**Fireworks Incidents Rebound
from 2021**

Editor
Jake Wark

Chief Copy Editor
Art Director
Julie Weinstein

Copy Editor
Kerry Weihn

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 issues that 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.

If you have suggestions, ideas, questions or want to make a contribution to the *All Hands Herald*, contact:

Jake Wark
Public Information Officer
Department of Fire Services
1 State Road
Stow, MA 01775
Jake.Wark@mass.gov
978-567-3189

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From the Fire Marshal

As many of you know by now, this will be my last column for the *All Hands Herald*. After 40 years in the fire service and seven years as State Fire Marshal, I plan to retire at the end of June—with the caveat that I will do whatever I can to support the agency and its next leader during the transition.

These seven years have been a remarkable period for DFS, and I am deeply grateful for the partnership that all of our staff have demonstrated in meeting the needs of the Massachusetts fire service. DFS is first and foremost a service agency, and the men and women who work here show an unwavering commitment to delivering that service every single day.

2½ Years Without a Child Fire Fatality

For the first time in Massachusetts history, we went more than two and a half years without losing a single child in a fire. We have come a long way since the late 1980s and early 1990s, when child fire deaths could number as many as 25 in a single year. This is a remarkable accomplishment that every fire service professional can take pride and satisfaction in. While the factors that contributed to this success are many and varied, there is no doubt in my mind that our decades-long emphasis on youth fire safety through the Student Awareness of Fire Education (S.A.F.E.) grant program played a major part, along with the dedicated efforts of fire prevention officers, fire and life safety educators, and fire/rescue personnel on the front lines.

2018 Merrimack Valley Gas Explosions

We confronted a monumental crisis in helping local officials respond to and recover from the Merrimack Valley gas explosions in 2018. The fires and explosions were the primary emergency, drawing well over 300 pieces of apparatus from across Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Maine to support the herculean efforts of firefighters in Lawrence, Andover, and North Andover. The aftermath posed its own hazards, however, with a massive push to ensure that all residents—whether in temporary housing or back in their own homes—used electric heating and cooking equipment safely, had working smoke and carbon monoxide alarms, and were protected by all the life safety provisions of the Fire Code, without exception or compromise.

DFS Bridgewater Campus Opens

We turned a vacant correctional site in southeastern Massachusetts into a thriving center for fire service training and

support. More than 400 recruits have graduated from the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy's Bridgewater campus since it opened in 2019, and the search and rescue prop that opened there last year is just the first in a series of developments that will serve our customers for decades to come. At the same time, Bridgewater serves as a regional hub for the Code Compliance & Enforcement Unit, Boiler & Pressure Vessel Program inspectors, the Academy's Technical Rescue program, and the State Police Fire & Explosive Investigation Unit's K-9 training team, all of whom provide vital public safety resources to communities statewide.

Continued Service During COVID-19 Pandemic

From technical assistance and code enforcement to recruit training, fire investigations, and PPE distribution, DFS maintained mission-critical services and took on new duties to support local fire departments throughout the unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic. In addition to fulfilling all their traditional emergency response roles, Hazmat, Special Operations, and Academy personnel also stood up and staffed testing sites for the public safety personnel and front-line workers who were and remain a lifeline for Massachusetts residents. The MFA and its staff turned on a dime to overcome the myriad challenges, training and graduating some 18 recruit classes during the first nine months of the crisis. Necessity is the mother of invention, and the pandemic accelerated the adoption and use of the Virtual Classroom, remote meeting capabilities, and other communication tools that we now take for granted.

Addressing Cancer in the Fire Service

With an eye to the health and safety of those who protect us all, we've dramatically expanded our occupational cancer awareness, prevention, and early detection programs, which help safeguard Massachusetts firefighters from the leading cause of death in the fire service. Thousands of firefighters have benefitted from the updated *Taking Action Against Cancer in the Fire Service* presentation we offer through the MFA. Our partnership with Dr. Christine Kannler to conduct free skin cancer screenings



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Joint ASHER Training Gets High Marks

From MFA Instructors

In March of 2023, more than a dozen Massachusetts Fire-fighting Academy (MFA) instructors joined public safety professionals from the fire service, law enforcement, and the State 9-1-1 Department at two train-the-trainer courses helping to advance an integrated approach to active shooter and hostile event response throughout the Commonwealth.

The weeklong Active Attack Integrated Response (AAIR) courses were led by the Advanced Law Enforcement Rapid Response Training (ALERRT) Center at Texas State University, which was recognized in 2013 by the FBI as the national standard in active shooter response training. They were coordinated by the Executive Office of Public Safety & Security (EOPSS) and Massachusetts Municipal Police Training Committee (MPTC) and were held at Merrimack College and Holyoke Community College.

Massachusetts is the first state in the nation to adopt NFPA 3000, *Standard for an Active Shooter/Hostile Event Response (ASHER) Program*, as a statewide standard, and EOPSS Secretary Terrence M. Reidy directed Massachusetts' state-run public safety training facilities to use NFPA 3000 as the framework for integrated ASHER training. The AAIR train-the-trainer courses helped to advance that goal while the MFA, State Police Academy, and MPTC continue to develop symmetrical training for fire/rescue and police personnel. Almost 100 first responders were certified as AAIR trainers through the Merrimack College and Holyoke Community College courses in March.

MFA Instructors Valued the Training

MFA instructors spoke very highly of the Merrimack College training.

"I have taken active shooter courses before, and I was not disappointed with this one," said Instructor Joe Hickey, who is also a deputy chief of the Everett Fire Department. "The presentation and information were professional and allowed fire and law enforcement to demonstrate their strengths and capabilities respective to each discipline. The ability to train and deploy as a unified force to mitigate an active threat is paramount to providing the most favorable outcome to an already challenging situation."

MFA Instructor Bryan O'Neil, who serves as the Academy's EMS coordinator and is a lieutenant with the Cambridge Fire Department, also found the course extremely valuable.

"Training like this, where it's integrated with multiple agencies and multiple disciplines, is huge," he said. "We don't often get to work that closely together before an incident occurs. Bringing us together in the classroom and in realistic scenarios is going to prove extremely valuable to the Commonwealth. Unfortunately, it's not a matter of if an active shooter event will take place in Massachusetts – it's when."

Instructor Mike Quinn, a lieutenant on the Waltham Fire Department, said training firefighters and police officers together improved their ability to communicate with one another.

"As firefighters, it can sometimes feel like we speak a different language than police," Quinn said. "This experience gave us some common terminology and a chance to work side by side in unified command, as staging managers, and on a rescue task force so we could see and understand each other's roles. And for a lot of us, it was especially important to know that the police on our rescue task force would stay with us no matter what might be happening in another room or on the radio."

"The training was truly premier," said Instructor Mark Cafarelli, a lieutenant with Ashland Fire. "In the near future and for years to come, this will be standard training in the fire service. As other specialized disciplines within the fire service have evolved, this too will find its place as a necessary component in public safety."

The state's ability to sponsor these comprehensive training opportunities and implement the





NFPA 3000 standard successfully depends on the funding recommendations of the Healey-Driscoll Administration's FY24 budget. The Administration's proposal ensures the MPTC, Department of Fire Services, Massachusetts State Police, Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency, and State 9-1-1 Department can support local community partners, procure necessary equipment, and develop consistent training.

NFPA 3000 Fills a Critical Need

NFPA 3000 was developed through consensus among stakeholders from law enforcement, the fire service, public health, emergency management, homeland security, and other disciplines. It identifies the minimum program elements needed to organize, manage, and sustain an active shooter and/or hostile response program and to reduce or eliminate the risks, effects, and impacts on an organization or community affected by these events. It emphasizes the need for interagency coordination when police, fire, and EMS responders are all deployed to the same critical incident.

State Fire Marshal Peter J. Ostroskey serves on the NFPA 3000 Technical Committee on Cross Functional Emergency Preparedness and Response and has been a

"We all got into the fire service to save people. As a result of this course, we're learning a better, faster, more efficient way to save them."

MFA Instructor Mike Quinn

strong advocate for the standard's adoption by public safety professionals in Massachusetts and elsewhere.

"Effective hostile event response requires first responders to work together across agencies and often across municipal lines," he said. "As Massachusetts adopts NFPA 3000 as our statewide ASHER framework, joint training events like this one are vital to our goals of unified command and integrated response. I'm grateful to the MFA instructors who are helping us build a life-saving knowledge base across the Commonwealth."

According to FBI statistics, the U.S. has experienced over 370 active shooter incidents in the last twenty years. These incidents have resulted in nearly 3,000 casualties and continue to rise, more than doubling from 2019 to 2021.

"We all got into the fire service to save people," said Mike Quinn. "As a result of this course, we're learning a better, faster, more efficient way to save them."

DFS Hazmat Team Assists at Brockton Hospital

Electrical Fire Prompts Evacuation and Closure

At about 7:00 a.m. on February 7, 2023, the Brockton Fire Department responded to a master box alarm at Signature Healthcare Brockton Hospital. The fire was in the hospital basement in the electrical service space. Smoke and gases migrated up through the hospital, presenting a life safety hazard for all occupants, especially medically vulnerable patients.

The fire prompted a major response by Brockton and regional firefighters, the evacuation of more than 180 patients, and the long-term closure of the hospital. Among the dozens of agencies that assisted at the scene was the Department of Fire Services' District 1 Hazardous Materials Response Team.

Hazmat Response

Hazmat technicians were called to Brockton Hospital to provide fireground air monitoring, which is used to detect potential hazards to first responders or the surrounding community. Fireground air monitoring is generally a "Tier 1+" mission, with five Hazmat technicians on the Tier 1 and additional techs with a Technical Support Unit. In Brockton, two additional members were added due to the needs and anticipated workload of this unique incident.

Once on scene, Hazmat techs divided into three operational teams: two atmospheric monitoring survey teams and one hospital services team. Additional members were assigned to team leader, safety, planning, and logistics positions. Their collective mission was to evaluate all interior and exterior environmental hazards to support incident operations and long-term recovery. The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection was included in the incident action plan.

The two atmospheric survey teams split up to cover the building more efficiently. One team worked from the basement up, while the second team worked from the top floor down. Because not all occupants could be evacuated at once, they utilized various atmospheric monitoring equipment to ensure that patients and staff who had to remain in the building were in a safe atmosphere and ventilation environment.

Meanwhile, the hospital services team consulted with hospital staff and key personnel. This team evaluated air quality and potential hazards in sensitive areas, including the MRI, imaging, medical gases, blood bank, pharmacy, morgue, and

hazardous waste collection departments. The evaluations saved valuable resources and assisted hospital staff in mitigating losses. The Hazmat team quickly prepared a written report for the incident commander and hospital staff with the status of all monitored areas and information about additional ongoing monitoring.

The Hazmat Technical Support Unit deployed AreaRAE monitors in eight locations in the hospital to monitor air safety where firefighters were operating and where patients were held in safe areas of refuge. AreaRAE monitors continuously sample and measure eight different hazards. They establish a mesh network with each other and transmit live readings back to a laptop at the Hazmat operations command center, where planning team technicians monitor hazard levels. The Hazmat team told all hospital staff and firefighters that if the devices found threats, the Hazmat teams would immediately respond to evaluate the area.

"The deployment of Hazmat survey teams, the hospital services team and the addition of the eight AreaRAE monitors was integral to maintaining safety and order within the building," said Brockton Fire Chief Brian Nardelli. "The Hazmat team performed critical functions in a professional manner that both responders and hospital staff were grateful for."

In addition to performing their underlying mission successfully, the Hazmat personnel alleviated much of the anxiety that staff and patients experienced while waiting to be evacuated by taking the time to explain how the monitors work.

"The hospital staff was grateful for the work of the Hazmat team," said Dr. Daniel Muse of Brockton Hospital.



“Their presence and evaluation of the atmosphere made it possible for us to focus on patient care and the important task of safely moving each patient to the appropriate transport and destination facility.”

The Brockton Hospital response, like many large-scale incident responses, was multi-jurisdictional, multi-agency, and operated over a long period of time. District 1 Hazmat techs provided real-time, actionable intelligence in a hazardous and dynamic situation and assured scene safety during the unprecedented crisis at Brockton Hospital. Their contributions to the overall fire and life safety mission were indispensable.



Special Operations Response

DFS Special Operations Resources also responded to Brockton Hospital on February 7, delivering an array of personnel, apparatus, and services for firefighters and incident commanders.

The fireground and hospital campus contained multiple hazards and hundreds of first responders, hospital staffers, and patients. To support their efforts and safety, the Special Operations South Team members were at the incident for the entire day. Special Ops Program Coordinator Dennis Nazarro described the complex scene.

“The front of the hospital was the site of patient evacuations with at least 100 ambulances, EMS services, canteen services, and hospital staff who were waiting for an all-clear signal to re-enter the building,” he said. “Firefighting happened from the back of the hospital. This area housed fire apparatus and our personnel.”

Special Operations deployed Incident Support Unit 3, Rehab 6, and two drone units, each with the staff necessary to maximize its benefits at the scene.

The Incident Support Unit, which can serve as a mobile command center, was staffed with three

technicians who monitored and logged all radio calls in one area of the unit. A second area in the unit provided a conference room for command staff meetings and briefings, as well as video screens on which they could watch footage from drones and other remote sources.

The Rehab Unit provided a place for firefighters and other first responders with a temperature-controlled environment to rest and rehydrate. If the need arises, this apparatus is outfitted with equipment for local EMS to monitor a firefighter’s vital signs or change into dry t-shirts and socks.

Finally, two drone units gathered aerial imagery for personnel on the ground, including direct video and infrared footage that helped command staff direct their resources for maximum benefit.

While these are some of the most frequently requested Special Operations resources, many more are available. Visit mass.gov/dfs and search for *Special Operations* to learn about the Gator UTVs, trailer-mounted lighting and HVAC units, Zumro tents, and other support options that DFS makes available to local departments.

DFS Rehab Units and Fire Service Canteens

A Perfect Pair for the Fireground



DFS Rehab Unit and Providence Canteen in Sutton on October 15, 2022.

Firefighter Keefe Chesmore knows the value of firefighter rehab. On the evening of April 14, the Holliston firefighter went into cardiac arrest after fighting a massive brush fire in Northborough for several hours. Fortunately, he was on DFS Rehab Unit 7, where firefighters from Northborough and Westborough were present and immediately sprang into action. They performed CPR and utilized an AED to revive him, then rapidly transported him to the hospital.

“I am grateful for the Rehab truck that was on scene because if it wasn't there I wouldn't be here today,” Firefighter Chesmore said. “Even though my vitals checked out, I still knew that I didn't feel okay. I was encouraged to stay and rest as my health was first priority. The medics recognized that even if I walked out of there, I needed to go get checked out at a hospital for further evaluation. I collapsed in the Rehab truck and was very lucky to have medics right there with experience and knowledge to jump into action immediately. I am so thankful. You have to know your own body and know it's okay to ask for help.”

Firefighter Chesmore is recovering, but the incident highlighted the immense stress that firefighting puts on the human body, especially at long-duration incidents like the Northborough fire.

Emergency incident rehabilitation, or rehab, is essential to firefighter health and safety. According to the U.S. Fire Administration, it's “the process of providing rest, rehydration, nourishment, and medical evaluation to responders who are involved in extended and/or extreme incident scene operations. The goal of rehab is to get firefighters either back into the action or back to the station in a safe and healthy condition.”

More than a quarter of all firefighter injuries are related to stress or overexertion. Firefighters at major, long-duration events need proper rehabilitation to protect themselves, each other, and the public. To meet this need,

the Department of Fire Services (DFS) has four Rehab units that respond on request across the state for emergencies and planned events. Public and non-profit fire service canteens also serve emergency personnel at these incidents, usually within a specific geographic area. Across Massachusetts, fire service canteens and DFS Rehab units complement each other and can serve first responders side-by-side.

The pairing of these two services provides the best possible support for responders who are hard at work, and we are lucky to have both an extensive network of fire service canteens and DFS Rehab units to serve and support firefighters statewide.

What do DFS Rehab Units Provide?

During a bitterly cold three-day Arctic blast this winter, DFS Rehab units responded to more than a dozen multiple-alarm fires to support Massachusetts firefighters in wind chills as low as -40°F. And during last summer's brutal brush fire season, Rehab units fulfilled 30 missions in August alone as several major wildland fires broke out across the state. Having these temperature-controlled environments on scene, stocked with hot and cold beverages, was critical in keeping firefighters healthy, safe, and ready to work.

DFS Rehab units have all the fundamental resources for proper firefighter rehab in extreme heat, extreme cold, and anywhere in between. They are stocked with fluids for hydration as well as socks, t-shirts, towels, gear dryers, and medical monitoring equipment to assist EMS.

Because mental rehab is just as important as physical rehab, DFS Rehab units also have resting areas that are sheltered from the fireground so that those on a break can mentally disengage from the emergency, however briefly, in order to get the needed rest to return to work safely.

DFS Rehab units are stationed in West Newbury, Springfield, Middleborough, and Stow so they can reach all corners of the Commonwealth rapidly. The units are staffed according to incident needs, with a minimum of one driver and one technician. These units are part of the DFS Special Operations team, and they are funded through the DFS operating budget.

What do Fire Service Canteens Provide?

For many decades, fire service canteen organizations have supported Massachusetts firefighters and other first responders. Canteens serve every corner of the state and are generally private, non-profit, volunteer organizations supported by donations and grants. During the century of canteen service in the state, new canteens have formed at different times to serve different areas. The organizations have also grown in capability over time. Some of the more common – in no particular order – are Providence Canteen from Providence, RI; Box 4 Special Services from Worcester; A-10 Canteen/Rehab from the Boston Sparks Association; Rehab Five from the North Shore; the Salvation Army Emergency Disaster Services; and Hinsdale Fire in Berkshire County, as well as many more throughout the Commonwealth.

Fire service canteens respond to fires, emergencies, and planned events where first responders are working. They began with the simple provision of food, but have grown in sophistication and services over the years. Most canteens provide both hot and cold food and drink. Some provide restrooms, particularly at long incidents. Some provide cooling and warming equipment depending on the season.

Several canteens have partnerships with certain fire departments and are automatically called out under specified conditions. Many canteens also respond to larger incidents outside their normal coverage area when needed.

Rehab or Canteen – Why Not Both?

Having both a DFS Rehab unit and a fire service canteen on the site of an emergency is ideal for firefighters and incident commanders at a major incident. Unlike canteen services, DFS Rehab units cannot self-dispatch and must be requested. Because DFS Rehab units and volunteer canteens work perfectly together in the field, the DFS Special Operations team recommends that fire departments include calling DFS to request a Rehab unit in a department's standard rehab plan and include DFS Rehab on their run card. That way, personnel can be assured that they'll have the resources they need to work safely and effectively. If DFS Rehab units aren't part of a pre-determined plan, consider calling to activate them early in an incident response to have their services on hand when needed.

For Emergency Activation of DFS Rehab Units

Fire Departments can activate DFS Rehab units 24/7 by calling the MEMA Dispatch number: 508-820-2000.

For Planned Responses at Public Events

Fire Departments can plan ahead for DFS Rehab Units to support the fire service at large public events such as races, parades and more. Call DFS Special Operations at 978-567-3171.

Additional Special Operations Resources

DFS Special Operations also has special HVAC units that can heat or cool a building or tent at any incident or event. Use the phone numbers above to activate this equipment for either an emergency or a planned response.



Rehab 5 Canteen at Breakheart Reservation fire in Saugus on August 23, 2022.



DFS Rehab 6 and Providence Canteen in Brockton on May 21, 2022.

Fireworks Incidents Rebound from 2021

Fireworks Enforcement to Resume this Summer

Photo: Arthur Chauvineau, Unsplash

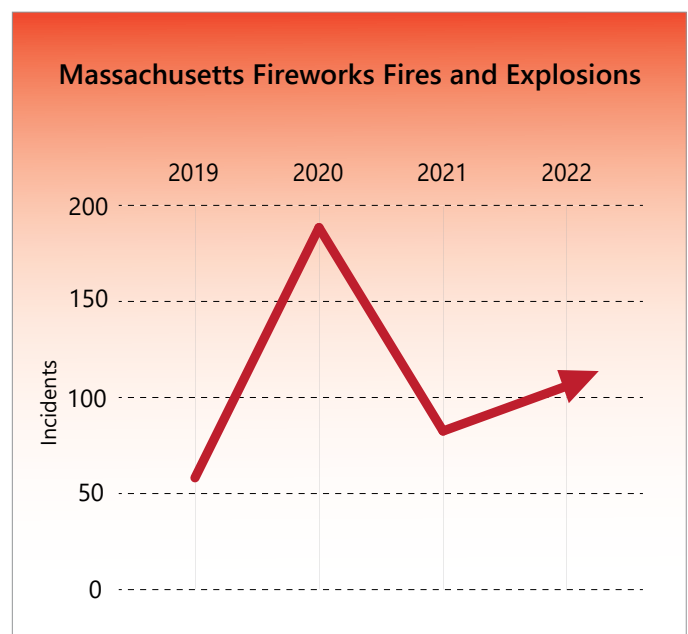
After a record-setting number of fireworks-related fires and explosions in 2020 and a sharp decline in 2021, fireworks incidents in Massachusetts rebounded last year. Summer safety messaging should include reminding residents to leave fireworks to the professionals and that safe, professional fireworks displays are listed on the web.

As public fireworks displays were canceled during the COVID-19 pandemic, the use of illegal fireworks skyrocketed. Fires and explosions did, too, jumping from 57 in 2019 to 189 in 2020. These numbers declined significantly in 2021, when 80 incidents were reported statewide.

In 2022, Massachusetts fire departments reported 106 fires and explosions attributed to fireworks, an increase of nearly a third over the prior year. More than half of these incidents took place the week of July 4, 2022. All told, fireworks-related incidents last year caused \$414,279 in damages – more than double the property loss caused by fireworks in 2020. This includes major damage to a Dracut home, where nine people were displaced after careless disposal of sparklers started a three-alarm fire.

State law allows for criminal penalties for the unlicensed possession, use, and sale of fireworks. Last year, joint enforcement efforts by the Massachusetts State Police and Department of Fire Services led to about 40 criminal summonses for violating the state's fireworks laws. They also took off the streets nearly 3,000 packages of aerial shells, cakes, fountains, bottle rockets, large rockets, Roman candles, sparklers, and other dangerous, illegal devices worth upward of \$46,000. Those enforcement efforts will resume this year.

Fireworks are inherently dangerous. Even professionals face risks when working with them under strictly monitored conditions, such as the off-duty firefighter who was badly injured while working as a licensed pyrotechnician in North Andover.



In 2022, Massachusetts fire departments reported 106 fires and explosions attributed to fireworks, an increase of nearly a third over the prior year.

As we gear up for summer, spread the word that fireworks are dangerous. They cause injury and property damage, and they can land you in a courtroom for violating Massachusetts law. Play it safe: Leave fireworks to the professionals.

DFS has fireworks safety information at www.mass.gov/dfs. Search for *Fireworks*. Resources include a flyer, press releases, information about fireworks laws, a link to 2023 professional fireworks shows, and videos to share.

From the Fire Marshal, *continued from page 1*

at firehouses statewide has blossomed, with more than a dozen new volunteers joining MFA staff to meet firefighters where they work and live. Nearly 4,000 firefighters have been screened, and hundreds more have taken advantage of the chest CT scans and PSA blood tests we offer. And the state grants we've coordinated to provide new turnout gear and washer-extractors over the past four years can't be overstated: our partners in the Executive and Legislative branches made a lifesaving investment in the programs that make these purchases possible for so many local departments.

Statewide Adoption of NFPA 3000

Most recently, we've been part of a successful effort to make Massachusetts the first jurisdiction in the nation to adopt NFPA 3000, *Standard for an Active Shooter/Hostile Event Response (ASHER) Program*, at the statewide level. The need for symmetrical training among fire/rescue and law enforcement personnel on active shooter incidents and related events has never been greater. Establishing, promoting, funding, and utilizing consistent and reliable training will help communities across Massachusetts respond more rapidly and effectively should the unthinkable occur. I would particularly like to thank Secretary Terrence M. Reidy and the Executive Office of Public Safety & Security for driving this initiative.

Partnerships Make It Possible

Work like this is not done in a vacuum, and results like these are not accomplished individually. They are the result of strong partnerships, including those at the organizational level. The boards and commissions that help to

guide fire service policy have been instrumental, and I would like to recognize members of the Fire Service Commission, Fire Training Council, and Board of Fire Prevention Regulations in particular for their contributions to the Department's ability to fulfill our duties. The 2017 transition of the Boiler & Pressure Vessel Program and Board of Boiler Rules to DFS ensured that their important and highly specialized inspection, enforcement, licensing, and regulatory functions remain public safety priorities. Equally valued are our fellow fire service leaders at the Fire Chiefs Association of Massachusetts, Professional Fire Fighters of Massachusetts, and Massachusetts Call/Volunteer Firefighters Association, whose advocacy and collaboration have helped us to identify and meet emerging needs across the fire service.

On a more personal level, it's difficult to express the gratitude I have for the many mentors, friends, and partners I've worked so closely with at DFS. These men and women are far too many to count, but I would be remiss if I didn't single out former State Fire Marshal Stephen Coan and Deputy State Fire Marshal Maribel Fournier, whose contributions to the agency are exceeded only by the number of times I relied on their advice and counsel.

As a young boy in Uxbridge, I looked forward to the day when I would ride an engine or a ladder truck instead of just chasing them down the street. I couldn't imagine the pride and honor I feel today looking back on a career in the fire service, or the kinship I feel with my brothers and sisters in every firehouse across the Commonwealth and around the globe.

It really is the greatest job in the world.



Search and Rescue Building at the Bridgewater campus of DFS.

Home Fire Sprinklers Save Lives

Resources for Public Educators



Last year, the U.S. Fire Administrator's Summit on Fire Prevention and Control noted that people have less time to safely escape a fire at home than at any time in history.

Today, new homes are commonly built with unprotected lightweight wood construction, and designed with large, open spaces. Homes are filled with synthetic furnishings that burn hotter and faster than natural materials and produce toxic smoke. Regardless of age, home fires now burn faster than ever.

"When things go wrong and a fire starts, home fire sprinklers work automatically and very effectively," says Lorraine Carli, NFPA vice president of Outreach and Advocacy and president of the Home Fire Sprinkler Coalition (HFSC). "Mistakes happen, but the real transgression is that approximately one million new homes will be built each year and only a fraction of them will be protected with home fire sprinklers."

"The simple answer is to install fire sprinklers in new home construction," says Carli. "What thwarts progress is the lack of public awareness, rampant myths, and the influence of special interests." The HFSC responds with powerful educational tools, including a virtual reality resource that helps stakeholders, homebuilders, and consumers see and believe how important fire sprinkler protection is.

HFSC's virtual reality (VR) videos were created from actual home fire flashover and fire sprinkler activation footage. Unlike animated VR films, the footage was shot live as the fires burned. The result is memorable. With user-controlled 360-degree, full-room views, viewers experience the fires as if they were actually in the room, seeing the fires and sprinkler activation from any angle. The VR

videos can be watched with 3D glasses or headsets for an immersive experience as well as in 2D on HFSC's website.

Side-By-Side Sprinkler Trailer

Bring it to Your Community

The Department of Fire Services has a Side-by-Side Sprinkler Demonstration Trailer that was donated by the National Fire Sprinkler Association (NFSA). This prop gives fire departments a dramatic teaching tool that demonstrates how sprinklers save time, and time buys lives in a fire. The mobile unit has two identical rooms that are set on fire. One room has a sprinkler, and one does not. During the fire, observers see how quickly fire spreads and how little time there is to escape a fire. After viewing this demonstration, the public walks away knowing that fires are fast but sprinklers are faster.

For details about the program, including what is required to host a demonstration, visit www.mass.gov/dfs and search for *sprinkler trailer*. For a reservation, contact Vicky Giguere at 978-567-3813 or vicky.giguere@mass.gov.

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Fire Investigation News

Multiple-Fatality Fires

The State Police Fire & Explosion Investigation Unit responded to a terrible series of fatal fires this spring, including five fires in less than a month that each claimed two lives. The joint local and state investigations determined that there was no single factor shared by all these tragedies, but there were no working smoke alarms in three of the five fires, four of the fires took place in one- or two-family homes, and six of the 10 victims were adults over the age of 65. These are factors we see in far too many fatal fires.

Working smoke alarms and a practiced home escape plan are fundamental fire safety tools and they're especially important in homes with older adults. People over 65 comprise about 17% of Massachusetts residents, but they represent more than 40% of fatal fire victims over the past three years—and nearly 75% of fatal fires through April 2023. These residents may have limited mobility or face other challenges getting out safely in an emergency, and they may live in a family home that hasn't undergone a 26F inspection in decades.

Reaching these residents, particularly those living independently in one- or two-family dwellings, has been a longstanding challenge, but we must continue to address it. In addition to safety messaging geared directly toward older adults, this may include tailoring messages to the general public suggesting that they check in with older relatives, friends, and neighbors to see if they need help installing, testing, and maintaining smoke alarms.

The "Change Your Clocks/Check Your Alarms" message at the beginning and end of Daylight Saving Time is helpful, but smoke alarm safety is relevant all year long. Smoke alarms should be replaced after 10 years, and if they take alkaline batteries the batteries should be changed

twice a year. If the alarm is out of date, it should be replaced with one that's listed by a nationally recognized testing laboratory like Underwriters Laboratories (UL) or Intertek (ETL) and has a sealed, long-life battery.

Finally, multiple-fatality fires can be especially hard on responding companies. Firefighters may benefit from Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) services to address the emotional and psychological impact of these tragic events. Remember that the Massachusetts Corps of Fire Chaplains, CISM teams, and Massachusetts Peer Support Network are available to assist. Visit www.mass.gov/dfs and search for *CISM*.

March 26, 6:52 am: East Dennis Two-Family Duplex Fire

An East Dennis fire claimed two lives in the early morning hours of March 26. Responding firefighters observed smoke showing from the two-story duplex. Crews worked quickly to make entry, extinguish the fire, and search the residence. They located a man and woman, both in their early 60s, inside. Both parties were transported to Cape Cod hospital but succumbed to their injuries. One dog also perished in the fire.

Investigators found no working smoke alarms in the home. Members of the Dennis Fire and Police Departments, and State Police assigned to the offices of the Cape & Islands District Attorney and State Fire Marshal determined that the fire began in the living room. The exact cause is undetermined but not suspicious.

March 28, 3:15 pm: New Bedford Rooming House Fire

A March 28 electrical fire in New Bedford took the lives of two men ages 59 and 63. Five other occupants of the four-story rooming house were hospitalized, dozens more were displaced, and the structure was a total loss.

The New Bedford Fire Department responded to the fire at about 3:15 that afternoon following an alarm activation. On arrival, firefighters found heavy smoke and flames and occupants hanging from the windows and jumping from the building to escape the fire. Firefighters immediately began ladder rescues and five people were transported from the scene for medical care. A general alarm brought all New Bedford apparatus and off-duty personnel to the scene along with firefighters from surrounding communities. The building sustained catastrophic damage, but firefighters kept the blaze from extending to nearby homes and businesses.

The fire was investigated by the New Bedford Fire and Police Departments, the State Police Fire & Explosion Investigation Unit assigned to the State



New Bedford rooming house fire.

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Spring and Summer Fire Safety

and Public Education

Adobe Stock Images

Spring brings new growth and better weather. . . and different fire risks than those in the fall and winter. Now is the time to plan community risk reduction efforts about warm weather fire safety topics. DFS has resources to help with all your public education activities.

Smoking Fire Safety

The improper use and disposal of smoking material is the leading cause of fire deaths in Massachusetts and across the nation. Smoking fires can smolder undetected for a long time before bursting into flames on a bed or couch, and tragically these fires occur all year long. Warm weather brings more people outdoors, and we begin to see more fires start on porches, decks, balconies, and surrounding areas. They may begin on the structure itself, in a potted plant, or in nearby mulch, vegetation, or debris. Cigarettes, matches, and other smoking materials can also start brush fires when carelessly discarded on foot or out a car window. Remind everyone in your community to be a responsible smoker: use a sturdy ashtray with water or sand and be sure to *Put It Out, All the Way, Every Time*.

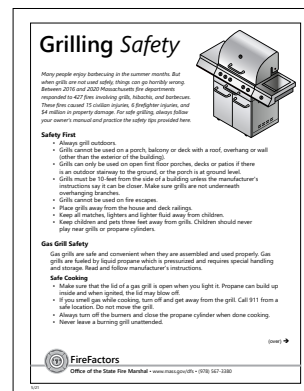
DFS has smoking safety resources including radio and TV PSAs in both English and Spanish. You can download and share them on social media and with local radio and

firefighters required medical care. The fire heavily damaged the building and caused additional damage to residential structures on both sides.

Chelsea Fire Chief Leonard Albanese said, "Porch fires are especially dangerous because they can grow and spread to the rest of the building before anyone inside is aware of the danger. In a densely built area, the fire can also spread to nearby buildings and put many, many people at risk. It's especially important to practice fire safety on your porch, balcony, or deck."

Include the dangers of porch fires in spring and summer community education events. Most of these fires begin with improper disposal of smoking materials so smoking fire safety messaging is critical. Key messages include:

- Never discard cigarettes in mulch or potted plants.
- Never toss cigarette butts from porches or windows.
- Use a sturdy ashtray or metal can filled with water or sand for disposal.
- Put it out. All the way. Every time!



**Smoking is the
#1 cause of
fatal fires.**

**Put It Out.
All the Way.
Every Time.**

Massachusetts Department of Fire Services • www.mass.gov/dfs

TV stations. Visit www.mass.gov/dfs and search for *Smoking Fire Safety*. Our web page has a smoking fire safety flyer, a porch safety flyer from Chelsea, and links to materials from the U.S. Fire Administration.

Porch Fires

Last summer, a fire that began on a rear porch in Chelsea displaced more than 30 people. The fire happened in the middle of the night. Fortunately, working smoke alarms alerted residents to the danger and averted what could have been a disaster. However, four residents and two

Grilling

Many people enjoy barbecuing in the summer months. But when grills are not used safely, things can go horribly wrong. Every year, fire departments respond to fires involving grills, hibachis, and barbecues that cause serious injuries and property damage.

75% of all grill fires in Massachusetts happen between May and September. In the past five years, Massachusetts fire departments reported more than 400 fires involving grills, hibachis, and barbecues. In addition to one death, these fires caused seven fire service injuries, 10 civilian injuries, and \$4.6 million in damages.

The fire service can help educate communities about safe grilling. Urge the public to follow advice in their grill owner's manual and to practice these safety tips:

- Never grill indoors.
- Grills must be 10 feet from the side of a building. Make sure grills are not underneath overhanging branches.
- Grills cannot be used on a porch, balcony or deck with a roof, overhang, or wall (other than the exterior wall of the building).
- Grills can only be used on open first floor porches,

Continued on page 15

Investigators are seeking the public's assistance in the Cambridge church arson on April 9th. Please call the FBI's toll-free tipline at 1-800-CALL-FBI (1-800-225-5324) or visit tips.fbi.gov.

Fire Marshal's office, and State Police assigned to the Bristol District Attorney's office. Collectively, they determined that the fire started in Room 205, located at the left rear of the second floor. Investigators were able to rule out all potential causes except an event involving a microwave in that location or the wall outlet it was plugged into. The microwave had been in use a short time before the fire broke out.

March 30, 2:30 am: East Springfield Single-Family House Fire

A residential fire in Springfield claimed the lives of two older adults on March 30. The Springfield Fire Department responded to find the two-story, single-family home fully involved. Two women, ages 65 and 70, and one dog were found deceased inside.

Springfield firefighters battled the fire for about two hours before it was fully extinguished. There were no working smoke alarms in the home.

Preliminary evidence suggests that the fire was accidental but the exact cause is under investigation by the Springfield Fire and Police Departments, State Police assigned to the State Fire Marshal's office, and State Police assigned to the Hampden DA's office.

April 9, 1:12 am: Hopkinton Single-Family House Fire

The Hopkinton Fire Department responded to 69 Hayward Street in the early morning hours of April 9 and found heavy fire showing. They learned of two people still in the house and immediately began an aggressive interior search.

Firefighters located a 61-year-old man and 68-year-old woman inside. Both were transported to an area hospital, and both succumbed to their injuries. A pet dog also perished in the fire. No working smoke alarms were found in the home. The structure was declared a total loss.

The Hopkinton Fire Department, Hopkinton Police Department, and State Police assigned to the offices of the State Fire Marshal and Middlesex County District Attorney determined that the fire was accidental and began in the area of the front porch.

April 20, 1:40 pm: New Bedford Single-Family House Fire

The New Bedford Fire Department encountered heavy fire on arrival at 260 Chestnut Street on the afternoon of

April 20. They immediately used ground ladders to make entry through windows and then made their way up an interior staircase. They rescued a 78-year-old man and 79-year-old woman, both of whom were transported to an area hospital. Both victims succumbed to their injuries.

The home had working smoke alarms. Two children escaped safely, and two adults escaped with injuries that were not life-threatening.

The investigation by New Bedford Fire Department, New Bedford Police, and State Police assigned to the offices of the State Fire Marshal and Bristol County DA determined that the fire began in a second-floor bedroom. They identified multiple potential factors, all of which were accidental.

Officials Seek Public's Help in Cambridge Church Fire Investigation

The Easter Sunday fire that consumed a Cambridge church is considered suspicious. Investigators are seeking the public's assistance.

The fire at Faith Lutheran Church at 311 Broadway was first reported shortly before 5:30 pm on April 9, 2023. The fire quickly grew to six alarms, drawing a massive response from the Cambridge Fire Department and mutual aid companies from Arlington, Belmont, Brookline, Boston, Chelsea, Lexington, Malden, Medford, Newton, Somerville, Waltham, and Watertown. Firefighters battled the blaze until about 4:00 the next morning. No injuries were reported.

The joint investigation into the fire is being conducted by the Cambridge Fire Department, Cambridge Police Department, State Police Fire & Explosion Investigation Unit assigned to the State Fire Marshal's office, Federal Bureau of Investigation, and Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, & Explosives.

"We are asking anyone with information on this fire, or who made observations in the area of the church that Sunday evening, to share it with investigators," said Cambridge Fire Chief Thomas F. Cahill Jr. "No piece of information is too small to share. We are keenly aware that any place of worship is a cornerstone of the community, and we want to reassure residents that we're approaching this case with the seriousness and gravity that it deserves."

Tips can be made to the FBI's toll-free tipline at 1-800-CALL-FBI (1-800-225-5324) or online at tips.fbi.gov. Investigators are also asking anyone with photographs or videos of the scene, including the day before the fire, the day of the fire, and during the firefighting operations, to submit them to fbi.gov/cambridgechurchfire.

Pride in Performance Awards

DFS Recognizes Staff Accomplishments



Deputy State Fire Marshal Maribel Fournier and MFA Staff.

Each year, a committee of Department of Fire Services (DFS) staff selects employees from among nominees for recognition with Pride in Performance awards. This year, the committee recognized two individuals and two teams of employees for distinguished dedication and commitment to the agency's mission. They were recognized during a February 27 ceremony at the DFS Stow campus.

"Even by the high standards that DFS personnel set every day, these staff members have truly gone above and beyond the call of duty," State Fire Marshal Ostroskey said. "From stepping up to meet the needs of the agency to protecting the health and safety of our firefighters, they've made outstanding contributions to the Commonwealth."

Deputy State Fire Marshal Maribel Fournier

Deputy Fournier stepped up to take on the role of acting director of the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy (MFA) at the end of 2020, when the previous director moved on. She filled that role for more than a year, overseeing day-to-day DFS operations while also ensuring the professional delivery of critical training services to more than 13,000 firefighters at every level of their careers. As acting MFA director, she was instrumental in the modernization of the Bridgewater campus and the development of the Academy's Structural Collapse Rescue Technician program.



Program Coordinator Mark Chetwynd.

Program Coordinator Mark Chetwynd

Mr. Chetwynd worked tirelessly at the new DFS Bridgewater campus to stand up its Crib Room and ensure that MFA recruits and instructors have the equipment and support necessary to train safely and effectively.

Additionally, at the outset of the COVID-19 pandemic, he took part in Personal Protective Equipment distribution at the MEMA warehouse so that the fire service and other public safety personnel would have access to PPE during their interactions with the public.

Cancer in the Fire Service Group

Cancer is the leading cause of death in the fire service. Through the MFA, DFS offers a variety of cancer awareness, prevention, and early detection programs for Massachusetts firefighters. Last year, the team behind this program delivered more than 100 presentations online, on campuses, and at local fire departments; crisscrossed the state with volunteer dermatologists to screen more than 1,000 firefighters for skin cancer; and supported ongoing programs that allow eligible firefighters to receive free chest CT scans and PSA blood tests. The team members are: Norm Aubert, Abby Baker, William Barry, Frank Falcone, Steven Gaughan, Greg Karsner, Robert Ljunggren, Veronica Mard, Susan Mondy-Sykes, Brian Nardelli, Bryan O'Neil, Lucas Perry, Michael Ragucci, Robert Rogowski, Patrick Roy, John Spillane, and Jason Wilson.



Abby Baker and Susan Mondy-Sykes representing the Cancer in the Fire Service Group.

Technical Rescue Structural Collapse Development Team

This team developed the first Structural Collapse Rescue Technician course to be offered in Massachusetts, filling an urgent need for the Commonwealth's fire service. Developing content that met the requirements of Chapter 6 of NFPA 1006, *Standard for Technical Rescue Personnel*



Technical Rescue Structural Collapse Development Team.

Continued on next page

New Email Address for MFIRS Reporting

The Massachusetts Fire Incident Reporting System (MFIRS) has a new email address. Please start using the new address immediately: MFIRS.FireSafetyDivision@mass.gov. Please stop using the old email address MFIRS.Report@state.ma.us when you make monthly submissions to the DFS Fire Data Unit.

The first time you use the new address, please confirm that we received your monthly submission by contacting Derryl Dion at 978-567-3382 or Derryl.Dion@mass.gov, or Julie Bergeron at 978-567-3384 or Julie.Bergeron@mass.gov.

If your MFIRS software automatically sends the monthly report to us, please contact your vendor to confirm that they are using the new MFIRS email address.



Spring and Summer Fire Safety, continued from page 12

decks, or patios if there is an outdoor stairway to the ground, or the porch is at ground level.

- Grills cannot be used on fire escapes.
- Keep all matches, lighters, and lighter fluid away from children.
- Keep children and pets three feet away from grills. Children should never play near grills or propane cylinders.

DFS has a grilling fire safety flyer at www.mass.gov/dfs. Search for *Grilling Fire Safety*. The U.S. Fire Administration (USFA) also has resources.

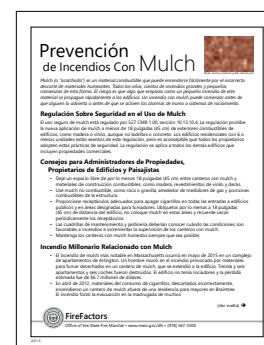
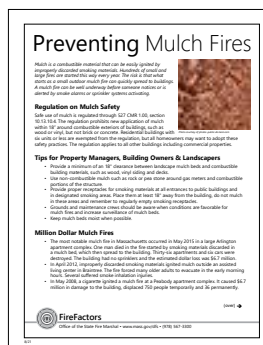
Mulch Safety

Smoking materials discarded in mulch caused 61 structure fires in the last five years. The fires caused one death, three fire service injuries, three civilian injuries, and \$1.8 million in damages.

206 fires in Massachusetts began in mulch in the last five years. The leading cause was improper disposal of smoking materials. Another 20% were caused by hot embers or ash from smoking, grills, or fireplaces.

State regulations govern the spreading, storing, and manufacture of mulch. Commercial mulch users need reminders about regulations and safety. This group includes landscapers, property managers, and building owners. The public needs information about safety, primarily about the fire hazard posed by smoking materials but also about placing mulch next to homes.

DFS has mulch safety flyers in English and Spanish. Visit www.mass.gov/dfs and search for *Mulch Fire Safety*.



Pride in Performance Awards, continued from previous page

Professional Qualifications; identifying and procuring the proper equipment; and training the instructors was a three-year process. The first delivery took place in October 2022 to the unanimous acclaim of students and instructors. The team members are: Robert Anderson, Michael Caddell, Sean Ellis, Ronald Holmes, Scott Jensen, Mark McCabe, Marlene McCabe, Iain McGregor, Alexander Merry, Paul Morrison, David Ogilvie, Robert Pensivy,

Thomas Rinoldo, Jason Saunders, and William Vecchio.

Chili Cook-Off

The annual DFS Chili Cook-Off returned in 2023 after a two-year hiatus during the COVID-19 pandemic. Jim Dennehy of the Hazardous Materials Emergency Response Division, the reigning champion, retained his title with the sweet maple sausage chili that secured his victory at the 2020 cook-off.



Chili Cook-Off Winner
Jim Dennehy.

Firefighter Cancer Awareness Month



Occupational cancer is the leading cause of death in the fire service, and January was Firefighter Cancer Awareness Month. Between 2015 and 2020, 75% of the firefighters added to the International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF) Fallen Fire Fighter Memorial died from occupational cancer.

Department of Fire Services staff wore lavender each Thursday in January to raise awareness of this important health issue, and our free skin cancer screening program went into overdrive. Abby Baker of the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy coordinated 11 screening sessions at local fire departments, with volunteer dermatologists and a nurse practitioner screening nearly 250 firefighters. About 19% were flagged for follow-up — a rate much higher than the general public. Take advantage of DFS cancer prevention and early detection programs. Visit www.mass.gov. Search for *Firefighter Cancer* for more information.

Firefighter Safety Stand Down

June 18 - 24, 2023

Safety Stand Down is a joint initiative of the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC), the National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC), the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), and the Fire Department Safety Officers Association. It is supported by national and international fire and emergency service organizations and health and safety organizations. *Safety Stand Down* focuses on responders taking care of themselves on and off the job. The week is designed to increase awareness and action so that safety and health become a priority in all fire and emergency service departments.

The *Safety Stand Down* theme for 2023 is *Lithium-Ion Batteries: Are you Ready?* The week (June 18–24) focuses



on awareness and safety about lithium-ion batteries. Each day focuses on a different topic: recognition of hazards, firefighting operations, firefighter safety, post-incident considerations, and public education.

Continued on next page

DFS Transitions



David DiGregorio



Paul Vigneau



Brian Ingram



Tom Ferraro

Retirements

David DiGregorio retired from his position as director of the Hazardous Materials Emergency Response Division at the end of April. After three decades in the military, Dave served in the DFS Hazmat Division for nine years, including seven as director. He was an integral part of its steady growth and development during that time. His steady hand and extensive knowledge and experience made him a constant resource for public safety officials across many agencies and disciplines at the local, state, and federal levels and we will miss him. We wish him all the best in the next chapter of his career!

After a 40-year career that took him from the US Marine Corps to the City of Worcester to the Department of Fire Services, Paul Vigneau retired from public service in January. Paul served with DFS as director of the Fire Safety Division for eight years, acting as a friend, colleague, team leader, and a source of knowledge for the fire service community. We wish Paul the very best in his retirement!

New DFS Staff

In April, we welcomed Brian J. Ingram as the new Fire Safety Division director. Brian comes to us by way of

Bentley University, where he was responsible for campus-wide fire and life safety planning, management, supervision, compliance oversight, and system operability, as well as managing the school's fire response and prevention in partnership with the Waltham Fire Department. He has also served as a firefighter and fire educator in Berlin and West Boylston, MA, and in Farmington, CT, and is a credentialed fire prevention officer and certified fire investigator. Welcome, Brian!

In December 2022, Tom Ferraro joined the Fire Safety Division as an Administrative Compliance Officer. Administrative Compliance Officers are the first point of contact for members of the public, fire departments and members of the regulated community when calling for information. Tom joins the Fire Safety Division after a 37-year career with the Billerica Fire Department. Tom spent many years as a Deputy Chief assigned to fire prevention, with his last four years as Assistant Chief of the department. Tom has been very active with the Fire Prevention Association of Massachusetts and with the development of the Fire Prevention Officer Credentialing program at DFS. Welcome Tom!

Firefighter Safety Stand Down, *continued from previous page*

Lithium-ion batteries are growing in use across Massachusetts and the nation. They are in consumer items as small as e-cigarettes and as large as motor vehicles. Because they pack so much energy, they pose serious hazards if they catch fire. Cities and towns alike have confronted major fires involving scooter and e-bike batteries in recent years, including fatal fires.

Fire and EMS departments are encouraged to suspend non-emergency activity during *Safety Stand Down* and to

Fire and EMS departments are encouraged to suspend non-emergency activity during *Safety Stand Down* and to focus on education related to the theme.

focus on education related to the theme. The event lasts for a week so that all shifts and duty crews can participate. Visit www.safetystanddown.org for more information and resources.

Massachusetts Firefighting Academy Graduations



Chief Fire Officer Class



Class #307



Class #S30



Class #BW23

Chief Fire Officer Program

On January 27, 2023, 37 fire service leaders from across Massachusetts graduated from the 28th class of the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy's Chief Fire Officer Management Training Program. The four-month program for new chief officers is delivered jointly by the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy (MFA) and the University of Massachusetts Edward J. Collins Jr. Center for Public Management. The Chief Fire Officer Management Training Program covers a spectrum of topics essential for effective public sector management. These include human resource management, ethics, executive leadership, governmental and organization structures, information management, customer-focused strategic planning, legal issues, budgets and public finance, community awareness, and labor relations. The curriculum helps fire officers improve their ability to lead and manage personnel, understand employees' needs and problems, communicate effectively to a variety of audiences, and leverage inter-agency cooperation.

The graduates serve the fire departments of Acushnet, Barnstable, Belmont, Billerica, Bridgewater, Chelsea, Easthampton, Everett, Fitchburg, Framingham, Grafton, Granby, Halifax, Hanover, Holyoke, Hyannis, Ipswich, Lakeville, Maynard, Medway, Methuen, New Bedford, Newton, North Andover, North Attleboro, Oakham, Palmer, Pelham, Russell, Seekonk, Sturbridge, Tewksbury, Three Rivers, Truro, West Brookfield, Westport, and Worcester.

Career Recruit Firefighter Training

In the 50-day Career Recruit Firefighter Training Program, students receive classroom training in all basic firefighter skills. They practice first under non-fire conditions and then during controlled fire conditions. To graduate, students must demonstrate proficiency in life safety, search and rescue, ladder operations, water supply, pump operation, and fire attack. Fire attack operations range from mailbox fires to multiple-floor or multiple-room structural fires. Upon successful completion of the Recruit Program, all students have met the national standards of National Fire Protection Association 1001 and are certified to the level of Firefighter I and II, and Hazardous Materials First Responder Operational Level by the Massachusetts Fire Training Council, which is accredited by the National Board on Fire Service Professional Qualifications. Training is held at

the Stow headquarters of DFS, the Springfield campus, and the Bridgewater campus.

Class #307

On January 9, 2023, members of Career Recruit Firefighter Class #307 graduated at the Stow Campus. The 24 Graduates represent the 17 departments of Boxborough, Chelsea, Douglas, Eastham, Hingham, Lawrence, Lowell, Lynnfield, Medford, Nantucket, Natick, North Attleboro, Northborough, Reading, Walpole, Watertown, and Winthrop.

Class #S30

On January 13, 2022, members of Career Recruit Firefighter Class #S30 graduated at the Springfield Campus. The 28 Graduates represent the 17 departments of Agawam, Amherst, Belchertown, Chelsea, Chicopee, Dudley, Holyoke, Ludlow, Natick, North Adams, Northampton, Northbridge, Pittsfield, Southbridge, Turners Falls, Westfield, and Westminster.

Class #BW23

On January 20, 2023, members of Career Recruit Firefighter Class #BW23 graduated at the Bridgewater Campus. The 22 Graduates represent the 16 departments of Attleboro, Bedford, Bridgewater, Canton, Cohasset, East Bridgewater, Fairhaven, Holbrook, Hopkinton, Marshfield, Norton, Scituate, Walpole, Wellfleet, West Bridgewater, and Yarmouth.

Class #308

On February 10, 2023, members of Career Recruit Firefighter Class #308 graduated at the Stow Campus. The 24 Graduates represent the 14 departments of Bellingham, Devens, Dracut, Everett, Hingham, Lexington, Lowell, Lynnfield, Medford, Milford, Nahant, Plainville, Sudbury, and Winchester.

Class #309

On March 17, 2023, members of Career Recruit Firefighter Class #309 graduated at the Stow Campus. The 23 Graduates represent the 16 departments of Acton, Chelmsford, Fitchburg, Gloucester, Haverhill, Holden, Hudson, Medfield, Middleton, Nantucket, Shrewsbury, Walpole, Weston, Wilmington, Winchester, and Woburn.

Class #S31

On March 24, 2023, members of Career Recruit Firefighter Class #S31 graduated at the Springfield Campus. The 23 Graduates represent the 12 departments of Barnstable, Bellingham, Dudley, East Longmeadow,



Class #308



Class #309



Class #S31



Class #BW23

Continued on next page

MFA Graduations, continued from previous page

Falmouth, Franklin, Greenfield, Haverhill, Ludlow, Springfield, Westfield, and Westminster.

Class #BW24

On March 31, 2023, members of Career Recruit Firefighter Class #BW24 graduated at the Bridgewater Campus. The 18 Graduates represent the 12 departments of Brewster, Eastham, Fairhaven, Falmouth, Harwich, Mashpee, Norfolk, Norwood, Sandwich, Scituate, Seekonk, and Sharon.

Class #310

On April 28, 2023, members of Career Recruit Firefighter Class #310 graduated at the Stow Campus. The 20 Graduates represent the 11 departments of Andover, Charlton, Danvers, Devens, Littleton, Malden, Middleton, Plainville, Wakefield, Waltham, and Wilmington.

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. Making the training more accessible means more firefighters can participate and allows them more time to practice training skills with instructors. The MFA, a division of the Department of Fire Services, has offered the program since 2003.

“First responders are on the front lines of any crisis and these newest firefighters are needed now more than ever,” said MFA Director Jeffrey P. Winn. “The rigorous training they’ve completed provides them with the fundamental skills and knowledge necessary to protect their communities safely and effectively.”

Class #102

On March 1, 2023, members of Call/Volunteer Firefighting Class #102 graduated at the Lynnfield Middle School in Lynnfield, Massachusetts. The 33 graduates represent the 13 fire departments of Boxford, Dunstable, Hamilton, Ipswich, Lynnfield, Merrimac, Middleton, Newburyport, Rockport, Rowley, Topsfield, Wenham, and West Newbury.

Class #103

On March 2, 2023, members of Call/Volunteer Firefighting Class #103 graduated at the Stow Campus of the Department of Fire Services. The 23 graduates represent the 14 fire departments of Belchertown, Dudley, East Brookfield, Grafton, Hopedale, Leicester, Millville,



Class #310



Class #102



Class #103

Northbridge, Phillipston, Southbridge, Sturbridge, Upton, West Boylston, and Winchendon.

Today's firefighters do far more than fight fires. They train to respond to all types of hazards and emergencies. They respond to chemical and environmental emergencies, rescue people trapped in vehicle crashes, test and maintain all their own equipment including hoses, power tools, apparatus, and much more.

2023 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@mass.gov.

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/Verification/> 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 and Commercial Hood Cleaning	July 12, 2023 September 13, 2023 November 15, 2023	June 16, 2023 August 18, 2023 October 20, 2023
Cannon/Mortar, Fireworks and Special Effects, Blasting and Blasting R&D	June 14, 2023 August 16, 2023 October 18, 2023	May 19, 2023 July 21, 2023 September 22, 2023
BPV Exams		
Exams start at 9:00 a.m.		
Oil Burner, Fireman & Engineer (all classes)	May 31, 2023 June 28, 2023 July 26, 2023 August 30, 2023 September 27, 2023 October 25, 2023 November 29, 2023 December 27, 2023	April 28, 2023 May 26, 2023 June 30, 2023 July 28, 2023 August 25, 2023 September 29, 2023 October 27, 2023 November 24, 2023

Home Fire Sprinklers Save Lives, *continued from page 10*

Fire safety advocates know, and every year national fire data reinforces, installed fire sprinklers reduce home fire injuries, deaths and property loss. "That's why all national building codes require sprinklers in new construction," Carli says. "As a result, every new home built without fire sprinklers is by definition substandard. Today's homebuyers are savvy about safety and when they learn about

fire sprinklers, they want them. The virtual reality, digital, and other Home Fire Sprinkler Week resources underscore not just that we can do better; they underscore exactly how to do better."

For free resources and media information visit the Home Fire Sprinkler Coalition at homefiresprinklers.org.



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

www.mass.gov/dfs



Fire and Life Safety Education Conference



Planning is underway for the 28th Annual Fire and Life Safety Education Conference. You can expect informative workshops, dynamic speakers, a great venue, and lots of networking opportunities with fire and life safety educators from across Massachusetts and the nation.

Watch www.mass.gov/dfs for more information very soon.
Search for *Public Education Conference 2023*.