

All Hands Herald

Massachusetts Department of Fire Services

May 2024

Outdoor Fires *Spring and Summer Fire Hazards*

New Equipment Enhances
Tech Rescue Training

NFPA 3000 Update

To Protect Human Life: A Bomb
Squad Robot's Last Mission

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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 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.

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Fire and Life Safety Education Conference

Special thanks to Dean Babineau, Abby Baker, Chief Fire Warden David Celino, Scott Cluett, Derryl Dion, Stephen Gaughan, Mark McCabe, David Procopio, Susan Sykes, and Julie Weinstein for their contributions to this issue.

From the Fire Marshal

Emerging Drug Hazards

The powerful animal sedative Xylazine—also known as “Tranq”—has been detected in about 30% of opioid samples tested across Massachusetts in recent years, more than doubling from 2020. The numbers are even higher in Western Massachusetts. Our Clandestine Lab Enforcement Team has found it being used as a cutting agent for other drugs such as fentanyl and methamphetamine. In February, the Executive Office of Public Safety & Security convened a panel of experts from the Police Assisted Addiction and Recovery Initiative (PAARI), Brandeis University Health Services, and Thomas Jefferson University to raise awareness of this growing danger. The training equipped about 400 firefighters, EMTs, and police officers with knowledge and best practices to confront a colorless, odorless, and potentially deadly substance that’s only becoming more common.

Boston Marathon

Each year, the Boston Marathon presents a massive logistical and operational task for the local, state, and federal agencies who ensure a safe and successful race. I would like to recognize the Hazmat, Bomb Squad, and JHIRT personnel who worked so hard to develop and execute this year’s multilayered CBRNe security plan alongside our partner agencies, as well as the Special Operations staff who supported all of these activities and personnel in the field. The average runner and spectator likely have no idea of the care, consideration, and forethought that go into keeping them safe from harm along all 26.2 miles of the world’s oldest annual marathon, but the public safety community deeply appreciates your contributions.

Service Recognition Ceremony

One of the most remarkable things about the Department of Fire Services is the depth of experience that our staff members bring to the job. This was on display at the annual Length of Service and Performance Recognition Ceremony on February 21. We recognized more than 125 staffers representing every branch of the agency, including many whose service began with our predecessor agencies before DFS was established to bring us all under one roof. More than a dozen employees have 30 or more years on the job here – including Paul Zompetti of the Hazmat Division, with 45 years of service! There is simply no substitute for that level of experience, and the benefits it provides to

our customers is incalculable. We also recognized Assistant Coordinator Mike Barry of the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy’s Hazardous Materials program, who received this year’s DFS Citation for Outstanding Performance, and Hazmat

Division Director Jeff Winn, who took home the trophy for our annual Chili Cook-Off. As a firefighter, chief, and Hazmat tech, I always appreciated the knowledge and experience that DFS staff shared with local departments. I have a different perspective now as Marshal, and that appreciation has only grown as I see how hard these staffers work behind the scenes.

Home Oxygen Safety Flyers

Every year in Massachusetts, people are injured and killed in fires that start with smoking on home oxygen. So far this year, smoking is the leading cause of fatal fires, and it’s even more dangerous in an oxygen-rich environment where upholstery, bedding, clothes, and hair will burn faster and easier. Older adults are at greatest risk. DFS recently updated its Home Oxygen Safety flyer, which is available to local fire departments, senior centers, clinicians, caregivers, and others online. You can find this and many other flyers addressing common hazards and geared toward vulnerable populations at www.mass.gov/dfs (search for *Fire Safety Flyers*). This flyer is also available in bulk through the Massachusetts Health Promotion Clearinghouse. Visit <https://massclearinghouse.ehs.state.ma.us>.

Youth Firesetting Prevention & Intervention Task Force

As more and more fire service professionals recognize that youth firesetting is a serious issue, more and more departments are seeking referrals to Youth Firesetting Intervention & Prevention (YFPI) programs. Unfortunately, Massachusetts does not yet have enough programs to meet this growing demand. On April 16, DFS welcomed stakeholders from the public safety and social service communities to serve on a Youth Firesetting Prevention & Intervention (YFPI) task force with two preliminary goals.



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Outdoor Fires

Spring and Summer Fire Hazards

Spring weather elevates the chance of brush or wildland fires in Massachusetts, and this risk continues as people spend more time outdoors in the warmer months.

As part of an overall strategy to manage wildfire risk across the state, the Department of Conservation and Recreation, Bureau of Forest Fire Control and Forestry, conducted a prescribed burn at Myles Standish State Forest on March 22. The well-planned operation treated 82 acres of volatile shrub fuels in a collaborative effort that included more than 25 staff from DCR Forest Fire Control and the Plymouth Fire Department.

"Reducing hazardous fuel buildup, maintaining critical fire dependent ecosystems, and providing a safe live-fire training experience for state and local fire departments are the main objectives of our prescribed fire operations," said DCR Chief Fire Warden David Celino. Ignition patterns, risk management, and command and control are all carefully planned and anchored to an approved national standard burn plan.



Statewide, the winter of 2023-2024 brought little snow, so dead grass, leaves, and twigs have had plenty of time to dry out. While it was a very rainy winter in many parts of the state, springtime weather such as high winds, low humidity, and bright sunshine can quickly dry out these surface fuels and contribute to perfect conditions for serious brush and wildland fires. There were more than 1,100 of these fires across Massachusetts last year, Chief Celino said, and 106 fires through March of this year.

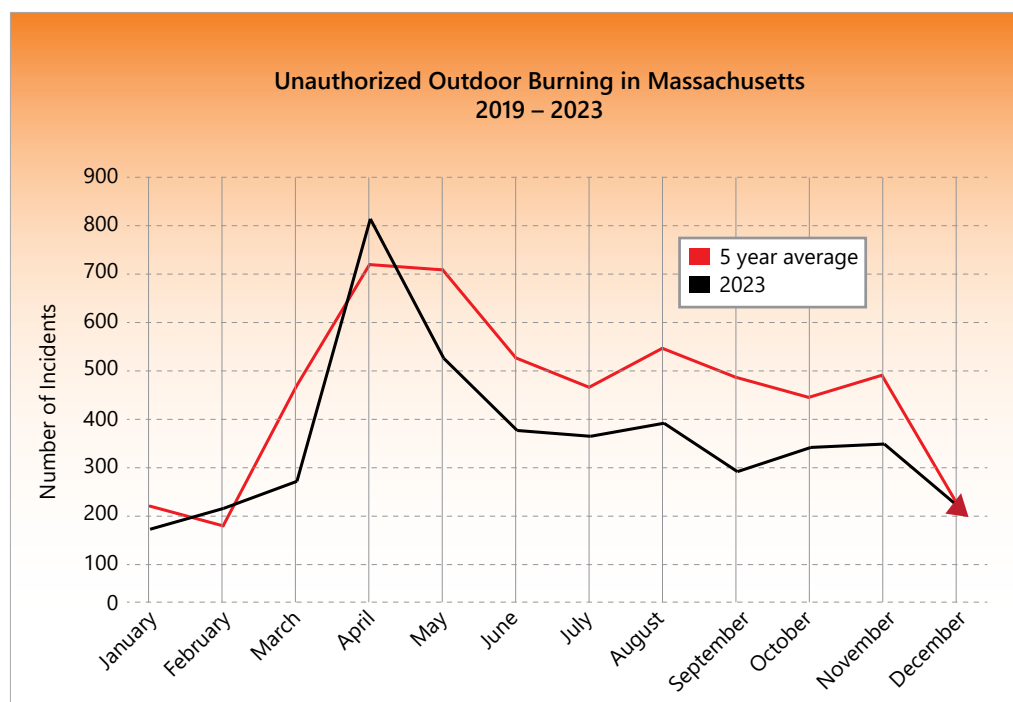
Almost all these fires start with human activity of one sort or another. Open burning and unauthorized burning contribute to many of them, including one fire last year that tragically claimed a homeowner's life. Some of these events likely involve residents who are rushing to burn before the end of the season but not taking the necessary safety steps.

Many other fires begin unintentionally, and these factors are present through the summer. Careless disposal of smoking materials, unsafe outdoor cooking (including grilling and campfires), and sparks or radiant heat from power equipment and vehicles all contribute to outdoor fires. Combustion of wood mulch is another frequent cause, and may occur in urban and suburban environments.

In a state like Massachusetts, where human development abuts or mingles with the natural environment, these fires pose a reciprocal hazard. Over 40% of Massachusetts homes are in Wildland/Urban Interface or Intermix zones, so wildland fires put people and property at risk. At the same time, residential fires can easily spread to nearby wooded areas, creating a much larger fireground that requires many more resources to battle.

Brush or wildland fires can spread rapidly, grow quickly in size, and burn for weeks or months under drought conditions in areas without easy access to water. They are physically taxing and can divert firefighters, apparatus, and other assets away from all the other day-to-day emergencies that local fire departments manage.

Prevention is the most effective way to reduce this hazard. Spread the word about fire risks posed by smoking, cooking, camping, off-roading, and other factors, especially



when we endure long periods without precipitation. DFS has printable, shareable flyers on many of these fire safety topics online. Visit www.mass.gov/dfs and search for *Fire Safety Flyers*.



New Equipment Enhances Training

in Trench, Confined Space and Water Rescue

The Massachusetts Firefighting Academy's Technical Rescue Group has three new pieces of equipment: a 26' Trench Truck, a Mobile Confined Space Training Unit, and two boats on a trailer. These additions enhance the Academy's ability to deliver first-rate tech rescue training to Massachusetts firefighters.

Trench Truck

In October 2023, the Technical Rescue Group began using the new trench truck, which is the culmination of two years of work on design, specifications, and construction. The committee that worked on design produced a layout that works perfectly for the team's current equipment, but also allows for flexibility so that future changes in trench rescue equipment and training can be accommodated. This vehicle replaces a 17-year-old truck that barely held the team's equipment and was due for retirement. This new truck provides safer, more efficient course deliveries.

Confined Space Mobile Training Unit

In September of 2023, the Technical Rescue Group began using a new Confined Space Mobile Training Unit. Instructors trained on this new prop earlier in the year. Every year, the tech rescue group presents approximately four confined space trainings around the state. In each location, local fire departments scout for appropriate confined spaces in which to hold the training. Some of these sites had potential atmospheric, mechanical, and even thermal hazards. While the host communities and MFA instructors always



made things work for the students, this mobile unit makes a safe, realistic, standardized training environment available to teams around Massachusetts. With two rooms and three points of entry, it allows the training group to create challenging, real-world confined space rescue conditions. This prop allows instructors to deliver much more efficient trainings, enhancing student knowledge and skills.

Rescue Boats and Trailer

In early 2023, the MFA received two new inflatable boats on a double stack trailer for the *Surface Water Rescue* course. The new boats match the size and configuration of the boats that many fire departments and technical rescue teams have across the state, allowing students to practice on the same type of crafts they're most likely to use in an emergency.

The new boats and trailer are larger and more robust than the older models they replaced. Each is a ONE Boat iSeries 14' inflatable craft capable of carrying eight people with a capacity of 2,395 lbs. The carrying trailer has a collapsible upper deck for easy launching and retrieval of the boats. Integrated motor mounts make outboard transportation and classroom demonstrations easier. The new boats allow students to practice rescuing patients from the water using a variety of techniques. Students also learn and practice boat operation skills, navigating specific courses, and docking the boat under varied conditions.





The Department of Fire Services and its partner agencies continue to provide training opportunities for first responders and their communities as we implement NFPA 3000 as Massachusetts' Active Shooter/Hostile Event Response (ASHER) framework.

In February, the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy launched an updated online *ASHER for EMS* course to align with statewide training. The 90-minute course is for certified EMTs at all levels, and all first responders. It applies to those employed by fire departments, ambulance services, and anyone staffing an emergency vehicle. All EMTs must complete an ASHER awareness-level course every two years.

ASHER for EMS teaches participants about the NFPA 3000 framework and covers the terminology used in an integrated response with law enforcement agencies, tasks of fire/EMS personnel on an ASHER scene, and a review of the Massachusetts Statewide Treatment Protocols specific to management of trauma patients. Students review ASHER statistics, trends, and lessons learned. The course also provides a review of information about the unified command system, National Incident Management System (NIMS), Incident Command System (ICS), and more.

This course complies with OEMS Administrative Requirement 2-280 and is approved for 1.5 hours of OEMS credit. Use course code 33E_v2 at the DFS Learning Management System (<https://hraccess-us.technomedia.com/mfa>).

ASHER for EMS is not a substitute for more detailed Rescue Task Force or tactical medicine courses. It must be supplemented by local orientation, policies, drills, and exercises. Interested students are encouraged to participate in the two-day *Active Attack Integrated Response* course (course code 33B in LMS) in addition to this program.

In partnership with the Advanced Law Enforcement Rapid Response Training (ALERRT) Center, Municipal Police Training Committee, and Executive Office of Public Safety & Security, DFS hosted a series of active shooter trainings in recent months. Between December 2023 and March 2024, the ALERRT Center's *Active Attack Integrated Response* (AAIR) train-the-trainer curriculum served more than three dozen fire/rescue instructors from Boston, COMM Fire, Dennis, East Longmeadow, Edgartown, Holyoke Hyannis, Lee, Lynn, MassPort, Nantucket, Norwood, Oak Bluffs, Rehoboth, Rockland, Sandwich, Sutton, Turners Falls, Wellesley, and Yarmouth, along with dozens of law enforcement officers from these and other communities.

Each of these graduates is now certified to train their personnel in the two-day AAIR class. If you or your department are interested in hosting a class, be sure to submit an MFA Course Request Form (www.mass.gov/forms/mfa-course-request-form) to be added to the list. Classes are held in your community, ideally in an unoccupied building with classroom space and wide hallways for

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To Protect Human Life

A Bomb Squad Robot's Last Mission

At noon on Wednesday, March 6, 2024, Massachusetts State Police Bomb Squad Troopers John Ragosa, Michael Rockett, and Stephan McKay responded to a residence at 24 St. Francis Circle in Barnstable to assist a SWAT Team comprised of local Cape Cod police officers with a situation involving an armed barricaded subject.

Upon their arrival, the troopers learned that the subject had fired upon officers with a rifle and barricaded himself inside the residence. The troopers deployed two PacBot 510 tracked robots and a Spot four-legged robot, commonly referred to as a robot dog, to assist in locating the subject inside the residence. Deployment of the remote-controlled robotic platforms allowed the team to safely gather crucial intelligence and provide situational awareness of the suspect and the home's interior.

The troopers conducted interior and exterior robotic operations to systematically check the house. Trooper Ragosa first deployed the Spot robot through the two top floors of the residence and cleared them. He then deployed the Spot—nicknamed “Roscoe”—into the home's basement. Controlling Spot remotely, he first cleared a closet in the basement and was about to open another door when the male suspect suddenly appeared from a bedroom armed with a rifle.



The suspect attempted to knock Roscoe over and was eventually successful in doing so. After Roscoe was knocked down, the suspect, still carrying the rifle, began to ascend the stairs leading out of the bedroom. Unbeknownst to the suspect, Spot robots have a self-righting function, and Trooper Ragosa was able to return Roscoe to his feet. Trooper Ragosa then began to walk Roscoe up the stairs behind the ascending suspect. When the suspect realized, with apparent surprise, that Roscoe was behind him on the stairs, he again knocked the robot over and then raised his rifle in Roscoe's direction. The robot suddenly lost communications.

The troopers would later discover that Roscoe had been shot three times by the suspect and had been rendered inoperable.

After shooting Roscoe, the suspect shot at one of the PacBot robots that was outside a sliding door, missing it and striking an above-ground pool in the backyard. SWAT operators subsequently introduced tear gas into the house; a short time later the suspect surrendered without further incident. He was taken into custody by Barnstable Police.

At the request of Barnstable Police, Roscoe was left in place inside the basement until the State Police Crime Scene Services Section and Firearms Identification Unit documented the scene.

The incident provided a stark example of the benefits of mobile platforms capable of opening doors and



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Firefighter Safety Equipment Grants Awarded

\$5 Million for 321 Fire Departments

In February, the Healey-Driscoll Administration announced \$5 million in awards to 321 Massachusetts fire departments through the state's Firefighter Safety Equipment Grant program.

Fire departments across Massachusetts applied to the program, which provides reimbursement on purchases of 135 different types of eligible equipment including: hoses and nozzles, turnout gear, ballistic protective equipment, gear washers and dryers, thermal imaging cameras, hand tools and extrication equipment, communications resources, hazardous gas meters, and more. In many cases, the new equipment will help departments comply with Occupational Safety & Health Administration or National Fire Protection Association safety standards. This is the fourth year that funding has been awarded through the program.

"The Firefighter Safety Equipment Grants are an investment in the health and safety of Massachusetts firefighters," said State Fire Marshal Jon Davine. "The flexibility of the program is especially valuable because it allows each department to make purchases based on their specific needs and resources. I'd like to thank the Healey-Driscoll Administration and the Legislature for supporting firefighters through this vital grant program."

For the second year in a row, many departments used the program to acquire ballistic vests and helmets for use on rescue task forces in active shooter situations. As Massachusetts continues its statewide implementation of NFPA 3000, DFS expects to see more departments purchasing ballistic protection in the months and years ahead.

Departments also focused on mitigating risk from the leading cause of death in the fire service—occupational cancer. Fire departments will acquire new protective gear and specialized washer/extractor units to clean that gear and reduce firefighter exposure to carcinogens with the grant funds.

"Firefighters who have the proper protective gear and contemporary rescue tools are much better able to protect themselves and the residents they serve," said Hyannis Fire Chief Peter Burke, President of the Fire Chiefs' Association of Massachusetts. "These grant awards will have immeasurable impacts on public safety in Massachusetts for years to come."



Frequently Funded Item Categories, 2024

Item	Quantity
Hoses, Nozzles, Fittings, and Adapters	1,262
Coats	659
Gloves	618
Hoods	539
Ballistic Vest	515
Helmets	436
Pants	409
Ballistic Helmet	371
Boots	351
Combustible/Hazardous Gas Detectors	166
Thermal Imaging Cameras	133
Hand Tools	119
SCBA Facepieces	104
SCBA Bottles	102
Portable (handheld) Radios	97
Rescue Litters	76
Cold Water Immersion Suits	63
Extrication Tools	54
Rescue Saw	49
Vehicle Stabilization Struts	43

Fire Officer Program Updates

An engine company arrives at the scene of a motor vehicle crash with occupants trapped. An aerial ladder is extended to a third-floor window to remove occupants from a structure fire. A rescue is underway after a child falls through the ice. Massachusetts firefighters are at the center of these and countless other emergencies every day.

Supporting those firefighters are lieutenants, captains, and chief officers who provide leadership, management, guidance, and direction, both at the firehouse and on scene. The Massachusetts Firefighting Academy Fire Officer program provides these officers with a solid foundation of skills to lead safely, effectively, and professionally.

The MFA's Fire Officer program has more than a dozen multi-day courses, from *Fire Officer I* to *Fire Officer III* to *Incident Safety Officer*, and numerous one-day classes, including *Strategies and Tactics* and *Managing Fires in 2½ Story Wood Frame Dwellings*. All Fire Officer program courses were recently redeveloped to better meet the demands placed on today's fire officers and to ensure alignment with the job performance requirements defined by the applicable National Fire Protection Association standards. The most significant changes to the courses have been the introduction of several in-class activities. Although the officer courses have always had some in-class work, these updates develop participants by placing them in situations they may face as officers or by allowing them to think through scenarios they may encounter. Additionally, the workload outside the classroom has been redeveloped to incorporate the latest research and better reflect situations and topics that today's fire service leaders may encounter.

The fire officer series builds upon the knowledge and experience that firefighters gain through their careers and fosters the development of changing viewpoints. *Fire Officer I* is designed for entry-level and aspiring officers and provides a foundation in supervision, administration, and emergency response, primarily focusing on single-unit management. *Fire Officer II* builds on these skills while introducing additional skills focusing on multi-unit operations, and is designed for the working supervisor. *Fire Officer III* is intended for officers leading multiple units, divisions, or, in some instances, entire organizations. Today, all these courses have components related to Active Shooter/Hostile Event Response. Although the fire officer



"We encourage firefighters and officers to develop their leadership skills in the Fire Officer program. The courses are an investment in yourself, your team, and your department."

**- MFA Special Hazards Training Coordinator
Dean Babineau**

courses do not offer practical response training, they provide participants with some of the same information recruit firefighters are receiving, helping ensure that personnel at all levels of the fire service are working from the same shared understanding. The Incident Safety Officer program focuses on safety as it relates to the various incident types most fire departments respond to, ranging from structure fires to motor vehicle crashes to technical rescue responses and beyond. The Fire Officer program will continue to ensure that our offerings meet or exceed NFPA standards, meet the needs of the participants, and reflect the changing landscape of emergency response.

"We encourage firefighters and officers – at all levels – to develop their leadership experience through the Fire Officer program," said MFA Special Hazards Training Coordinator Dean Babineau. "The courses may be challenging at times, but they're an investment in yourself, your team, and your department."

Courses in the Fire Officer program and associated certification exams may have different prerequisites. Learn more about them at the Department of Fire Services Learning Management System. Visit <https://hraccess-us.technomedia.com/mfa/index.cfm> and search for *Fire Officer*.



New Hazmat Leak Prop

The Massachusetts Firefighting Academy recently took delivery of a new prop that will allow firefighters in hazardous material response courses and members of the Department of Fire Services' Hazardous Material Response teams to practice controlling leaks in industrial environments.

The multi-purpose leak prop includes a series of two-inch through eight-inch pipes connected through a series of valves to an input that can run water or air, simulating liquid and vapor leaks through punctures, cracks, seams, and valves. The prop will primarily be used for the MFA's 30-day *Hazmat Technician* course, which is offered twice a year. It was customized for mobile use so it can also be delivered to district Hazmat Response teams for use at their monthly training drills.

"This prop simulates industrial and commercial properties, where we see a lot of valves and piping," said Assistant Coordinator Stephen Gaughan of the MFA's Hazardous Materials Training program. Leaks can be simulated using a 1¾" hose to generate a liquid leak or an air line to simulate a vapor or a gas, allowing students and technician to practice patching or sealing an active leak while wearing Level A, B, or C suits depending on the scenario.

"Two technicians at a time will operate in a downrange format," Mr. Gaughan said. "There will also be an instructor who operates the control valve and an instructor to make sure that all technicians are safe in their operation."

The prop was fabricated by Kirila Fire USA and funded through the FY21 FEMA Assistance to Firefighters Grant program.



To Protect Human Life, *continued from page 6*

ascending stairs in tactical missions involving armed suspects. In addition to providing critically important room clearance and situational awareness capabilities, the insertion of Roscoe into the suspect's residence prevented the need, at that stage of response, from inserting human operators, and may have prevented a police officer from being involved in an exchange of gunfire.

The following day, Trooper Ragosa brought Roscoe to manufacturer Boston Dynamics to have the company assist in removing the projectiles and to conduct a damage

assessment. The company has expressed an interest in keeping Roscoe for research, and the process of replacing him with a new Spot platform is underway.

Roscoe was one of two Spot robots operated by the MSP Bomb Squad, which is assigned to the state Department of Fire Services. The Massachusetts State Police and the Department of Fire Services are committed to the use of advanced technology such as mobile robotic platforms to resolve hostile situations while reducing the threat to human life.

How to Apply for Skin Cancer Screening. . .

And Other Cancer Screenings with the MFA

Among all the hazards that firefighters confront, cancer is the one most likely to take their lives. The Department of Fire Services offers a wide array of cancer awareness, prevention, and early detection programs to support Massachusetts firefighters' health and well-being. These screenings are available at no cost to the firefighter or their fire department.

Every firefighter in Massachusetts is eligible for a free skin cancer screening through the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy. This includes career, call, volunteer, and retired firefighters. Firefighters may be eligible for additional free cancer screenings after they have had a skin cancer screening or attended the MFA's *Taking Action against Cancer in the Fire Service* lecture.

Local dermatologists and other professionals volunteer to provide the skin cancer screenings. They use the American Academy of Dermatology (AAD) Spot Skin Cancer® screening protocol. Dr. Christine Kannler started the screening program in 2018 after her brother, Chelsea Firefighter and MFA Instructor Peter Kannler, died of occupational cancer at the age of 37. More than a dozen volunteer clinicians have joined the program since that time. Other screenings are provided through medical facilities contracted by the Department of Fire Services.

Firefighters are much more likely to develop certain cancers, develop cancer at younger ages, and receive a later diagnosis than the public they protect. Don't wait to take advantage of this potentially lifesaving benefit. Here's how!

Apply for a Free Skin Cancer Screening

For Yourself:

- Log onto the DFS Learning Management System (LMS) at <https://hraccess-us.technomedia.com/mfa>.
- Use course code SCA to view and sign up for an upcoming screening in your area.
- We *do* accept walk-ins at scheduled screenings, time permitting.
- You have until midnight on the day of your screening to register in LMS to get credit.

For Your Department/Firehouse:

- Use the Course Request Form at <https://www.mass.gov/forms/mfa-course-request-form>.
- Fill out all fields and use course code SCA for the *Course # Requested* field.
- The screening schedule depends upon volunteer clinician schedules and the date you submit the request.



Christine Kannler, MD, Neil Houston, MD, and Molly Chartier, MD with Methuen firefighters who participated in a skin cancer screening in January 2024.

Apply for Additional Free Cancer Screenings

Firefighters who meet certain criteria are also eligible for CT Scans, Ultrasounds, Mammograms, and PSA (Prostate Specific Antigen) blood tests. To be eligible, a firefighter must:

- Be a resident of Massachusetts;
- Be 40 years of age;
- Have 10 years as a firefighter;
- Attend a skin cancer screening or the *Taking Action against Cancer in the Fire Service* lecture with the MFA;
- Have a primary care provider (and provide their contact information);
- Sign a waiver.

Firefighters who meet the criteria can log onto the LMS at <https://hraccess-us.technomedia.com/mfa> and follow these directions:

- Scroll down to *Catalog Search*
- Enter the activity code in the search box:
 - * CTS – CT Scan
 - * USD – Ultrasound
 - * MAM – Mammogram
 - * PSA – Prostate Specific Antigen blood test
- Scroll to find the screening/course you are looking for.
- Click the blue arrow to open the course.
- On the next screen, on the right widget menu, scroll down to *training sessions*
- Find the session you want and click on it
- Add the session to your cart
- On the next screen read and agree to the session waiver, then click *Register*
 - * This will transfer into your learning activities and will show up as *Enrolled*.

Continued on next page

New Fire Academy Director

Eric S. Littmann, a career firefighter with 30 years of experience in Massachusetts and Nevada, was named director of the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy on January 8.

Mr. Littmann most recently held the rank of captain at the Medfield Fire Department and previously served more than 20 years with the Las Vegas Fire Rescue Department. He has held a series of high-level training positions, including training captain of the LVFR Training Center and regional flashover instructor for three fire departments in the Las Vegas Valley area.

A 1997 graduate of the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy's Career Recruit Training Program with a degree in Fire Science Management, Mr. Littmann is a Massachusetts native who began his career at the Cotuit Fire Department. In his new role, Mr. Littmann supervises about 450 part-time instructors, all of whom are active duty or retired firefighters, as well as more than a dozen full-time employees.

State Fire Marshal Davine said, "Mr. Littmann's extensive fire service background, his leadership experience, and his commitment to firefighters' professional development will serve him and our Commonwealth well in the months and years to come."

"As a graduate of the Academy, I have the highest level of respect for the institution, its staff, and its mission," Mr. Littmann said. "I look forward to working with our instructors, our partners, and our stakeholders to meet the emerging needs of Massachusetts firefighters, their departments, and the communities they protect."



NFPA 3000 Update, *continued from page 5*

scenario evolutions. Closed or vacant schools work very well for these purposes.

Finally, NFPA 3000 has been updated! Effective January 10, 2024, the latest edition is now available through NFPA and includes updates to terminology and an increased emphasis on incident command. Requirements for the establishment of Unified Command (UC) at all ASHERs were added to ensure that multiple agencies with jurisdictional authority or functional responsibility can effectively organize and manage their response to a single incident together. The UC structure permits all

agency representatives to share command responsibilities without affecting any individual agency's authority, responsibility, or accountability. New requirements were added to define the need for all personnel involved in an ASHER program to meet the training requirements of the authority having jurisdiction's established incident management system. The 2024 edition also emphasizes the recovery phase as a critical ASHER component, not a separate response, and includes examples of integration under the Unified Command.

How to Apply for Skin Cancer Screening, *continued from previous page*

- You will receive an enrollment email. **Pay attention to this email.** It should arrive right away.
 - * If it doesn't, you can find the email in the LMS by going to the home screen and clicking on *Messages*. The email should say *Enrollment Email* in the subject line. **Please check your profile and make sure that your email is correct for future communication.**
 - * In the email, scroll down and click on *Link To Questionnaire*.
 - * Answer all the questions, then click *submit*.
 - After you apply, the process of determining eligibility may take several days/weeks. We carefully read each questionnaire to determine eligibility.
 - If approved, you will receive an email with instructions on how to make your appointment through the vendor in your area. You will also get instructions on how to print the voucher/certificate to bring to your appointment. (The email is sent from LMS. Be sure your email is correct in your LMS profile).
 - If not approved, you will get an email informing you why you were not eligible, and how to correct that. The email will also list self-pay options for the screening.
- The worst cancer diagnosis you can get is a late one. Don't wait. Explore your free screening options today. If you have additional questions, please contact Abby Baker at Abby.Baker@mass.gov.

The Power of Fire Sprinklers

We have less time to safely escape a fire at home than at any time in history.

Most new homes—and many older homes that have undergone substantial renovation—are designed with large, open spaces that give fire plenty of oxygen to feed on. They are filled with synthetic furnishings that burn hotter and faster than natural materials and produce toxic smoke. Most residential fires now burn faster whether the home is new or old.

Fire sprinklers are a powerful tool that saves lives, property and much more. Unfortunately, they are sadly missing from most one- and two-family homes, where fires are most likely to cause deaths and serious injuries.

This was the case at a tragic fatal fire in Sudbury early this year. A three-alarm fire in a 9,000-square-foot home claimed the life of a 74-year-old woman, injured a family member who attempted to save her, and caused significant damage to the remodeled structure. "Having sprinkler systems would've helped in this case, you know, in any house," her son later told reporters.

The man's comments highlighted a consistent pattern in the Massachusetts fire experience. Almost 70% of last year's fire deaths took place in residential occupancies, and nearly half of them took place in single-family homes. While landlords are required to install working smoke alarms in rental properties, and while they must be in place for a home to pass a 26F inspection for sale or transfer, DFS code compliance officers only found them at about half of all residential fire fatality scenes.

For reasons that range from simple carelessness to severe physical limitations, many people remove, disable, or fail to install working smoke alarms in the very place where they are most at risk. Home fire sprinklers, on the other hand, work automatically with minimal maintenance. This was the case in two commercial fires this year.

On January 4, the Woburn Fire Department responded to a commercial site for an alarm activation to find that the building's sprinkler system had effectively suppressed a fire that started with a chemical reaction involving lithium-ion batteries. The incident prompted a significant public safety response, but the only injury came from the chemical reaction—the fire was extinguished, the damage was contained.

On January 24, the sprinkler system in a Leominster business controlled a lithium-ion battery fire, preventing what could have been serious damage. The Leominster Fire Department responded to an alarm at a manufacturing



business at 501 Lancaster Street shortly before 5:00 am. On arrival, firefighters observed smoke but no fire. On further examination, they found that an overhead sprinkler had activated, suppressing the fire. Investigators determined that the fire was accidental and started with lithium-ion batteries that overheated on a workbench.

"The sprinkler system at this site operated exactly as intended," said State Fire Marshal Jon M. Davine. "It effectively extinguished a fire and prevented serious damage or injury. Tragically, none of the 31 Massachusetts residents who died in fires at home last year had that protection. If you're buying or building a home, choose one with fire sprinklers. There is no faster or more efficient way to control a serious fire until firefighters arrive."

Educational Resources

The Home Fire Sprinkler Coalition and the Department of Fire Services have powerful educational tools, including a live sprinkler demonstration trailer and a virtual reality resource that help stakeholders, homebuilders, and consumers see and believe how important fire sprinkler protection is.

Continued on next page

Spring and Summer Fire Safety

Now is the time to plan public education around spring and summer activities. The Department of Fire Services has many resources to help you teach about warm weather fire safety.

Smoking Fire Safety

Smoking remains the leading cause of fire deaths in every state including Massachusetts. Smoking fires start on couches, beds, and carpets all year long. In the warmer months, they also begin on porches, decks, balconies and on the ground. They can start in a potted plant, mulch, debris, or vegetation. Carelessly discarding smoking materials on the ground or out a car window can also start fires. Remind everyone in your community that there's no truly safe way to smoke: If you must do it, 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 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.

Fireworks are illegal in Massachusetts

Fireworks-related fires have been on the rise again in recent years. Spring is a good time to remind your community to leave fireworks to the professionals.

Fireworks are illegal in Massachusetts because they are dangerous. There were nearly 1,000 fires and explosions involving illegal fireworks in Massachusetts in the past 10 years, causing millions of dollars in damages. On average, illegal fireworks injure about 45 people in Massachusetts each year—this number is too high, but it's about one-fifth the national average because of Massachusetts' common-sense fireworks laws. Police are required to confiscate any illegal fireworks they encounter, and anyone who possesses them could face a fine of up to \$100. The illegal sale of fireworks carries potential jail time.

DFS posts a list of permitted professional fireworks displays on our website each summer. We also have safety messaging, information on fireworks laws, and other resources. Visit www.mass.gov/dfs and search for *Fireworks*. Help us spread the word: don't risk fire, injuries, or a day in court. Leave fireworks to the professionals!

**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

The Power of Fire Sprinklers, *continued from previous page*

Side-By-Side Fire Sprinkler Demonstration Trailer

One powerful tool to build awareness about fire and the power of fire sprinklers is the Department of Fire Services 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 how 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.

Virtual Reality Videos

Another powerful tool is the Home Fire Sprinkler Coalition's (HFSC) virtual reality (VR) videos, created from actual home fire flashover and fire sprinkler activation footage. The powerful videos allow viewers to experience fires as if they were 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.

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," said Lorraine Carli, NFPA vice president of Outreach and Advocacy and president of the Home Fire Sprinkler Coalition.

For resources and media information visit the Home Fire Sprinkler Coalition at www.homefiresprinkler.org.

Fire Investigation News

Incendiary Fires

Lowell

On March 31, 2021, Lowell firefighters and police officers responded to a Varnum Avenue home for a report of a fire. On arrival, they found smoke and flames coming from a first-floor bathroom and a woman suffering grievous burn injuries. The woman, later identified as Celeste Marte, was rushed to the hospital, where she remained in a medically induced coma for three weeks before succumbing to her injuries. The investigation revealed that her husband had poured gasoline over her body and set her alight. In February 2024, members of the State Police Fire Investigation Unit testified at her killer's trial, contributing to his March 4 conviction for first-degree murder and a mandatory life sentence. The case was prosecuted by Middlesex County District Attorney Marian T. Ryan's office.

Revere

On the afternoon of November 19, 2021, the Revere Fire Department responded to a fire involving a Chevrolet Astro on Revere Beach Parkway. The inside of the cabin was completely destroyed, and two nearby trailers were damaged, but there was no damage to the vehicle's engine compartment. The investigation by Revere FD, Revere PD, and State Police fire investigators led to one suspect, who was later indicted by a Suffolk County Grand Jury. On Feb. 20, 2024, he pleaded guilty to burning a motor vehicle and was sentenced to 2½ years in state prison followed by two years of probation. The case was prosecuted by Suffolk County District Attorney Kevin Hayden's office.

Dartmouth

On the afternoon of May 7, 2023, firefighters from Dartmouth Fire District 2 responded to the former Hawthorne



DFS code compliance officers found working smoke alarms at only about half of the fatal fires in recent months.

Country Club for a fire that left the structure a total loss. Based on the preliminary evidence, State Police fire investigators quickly determined that it had been intentionally set and began building a case. Over the next nine months, that investigation continued with search warrants, interviews, and grand jury subpoenas. On March 28, a Bristol County grand jury returned an indictment charging one suspect with burning a building; the suspect was apprehended by State Police that same morning.

Holyoke

On the afternoon of December 22, 2023, the Holyoke Fire Department responded to the Mount Marie Senior Residence for a fire. Based on evidence at the scene, the fire appeared to be suspicious and State Police fire investigators were requested for assistance. The investigation that followed included witness interviews and other evidence supporting charges against one suspect.

East Bridgewater

The East Bridgewater Fire Department responded to a Bixby Drive home on the night of December 5, 2023, for a fire in the first-floor mechanical room. State Police fire investigators aided in the investigation and could not rule out an intentional act. A second fire broke out on the afternoon of January 10, 2024, and State Police fire investigators responded to this event, as well, determining that it had been intentionally set in a second-floor closet. Based on physical evidence, interviews, and other evidence, a juvenile was charged with setting both fires.

Milton

On the morning of January 15, the Milton Fire Department responded to a two-alarm fire that left a Hillside Street home a total loss. The sole occupant was awoken by smoke alarms and escaped without injury. State Police fire investigators determined that the fire had been intentionally set. A joint investigation with local officials led to a former resident, and she was placed under arrest on charges of arson, attempted murder, and violating a restraining order.

Granby

A fire in a restroom at the East Meadow School quickly self-extinguished but was properly reported by the school. The Granby Fire Department responded and requested the State Police Fire Investigation Unit for assistance. Investigators determined that the fire started when two students stuffed a wall-mounted hand dryer with paper towels. The students were identified and referred to a Youth Firesetting Prevention & Intervention (YFPI) program.

Holyoke

On February 11, the Holyoke Fire Department responded to a fire in an abandoned pumphouse that has in the past been used by homeless people for shelter. The structure had no power and State Police fire investigators were requested for assistance. Their investigation determined that the fire was incendiary, and led to multiple search warrants. Following the execution of one search warrant, a juvenile made admissions of responsibility and was referred to a YFPI program. The investigation into other potential suspects is ongoing.

Wales

The Wales Fire Department responded to a fire at a single-family home on the night of February 24. State Police fire investigators also responded and encountered a man who made admissions of responsibility. This man was transported to an area hospital and the investigation continued. The fire was intentionally set, and on February 28 the man was located and charged with attempted arson of a dwelling.

Chicopee

A fire outside a business prompted a response by the Chicopee Fire Department on March 15. The fire was extinguished by employees but damaged the property. In the aftermath of the incident, Chicopee Police identified a juvenile who had been in the vicinity of the fire. They notified State Police fire investigators and a joint investigation led to an interview with the juvenile and a guardian. The juvenile made admissions of responsibility. Investigators are attempting to refer him to a YFPI program.

Holyoke

On the night of March 17, the Holyoke Fire Department responded to a fire in a supermarket dumpster. The investigation included a review of surveillance footage by Holyoke FD and State Police fire investigators at the supermarket. The video depicted an unknown male wearing a distinctive blue jacket and orange shoes in the vicinity of the dumpster immediately before the fire became visible. As investigators left the supermarket, they spotted the same suspect, wearing the same distinctive clothing, outside. Following a brief interview, he was placed under arrest.

Holyoke

On March 25, Holyoke Fire was called to a scrap yard following a police response and found an acetylene torch on and pointed in the direction of a garage door bay. They observed burned items and scorch marks in the vicinity. Witness statements and video evidence indicated that several juveniles were responsible. A joint investigation by



Holyoke FD and State Police fire investigators identified two of these juveniles, who will be referred to a YFPI program.

Fatal Fires

Newton

The Newton Fire Department has battled three fatal fires since December. The first took place on Allen Avenue at about 10:00 am on December 13. One person escaped with injuries that were not life-threatening; firefighters rescued a second man, in his 70s with limited mobility who later died of his injuries. This fire was electrical in nature and involved a living room lamp that had been malfunctioning for some time.

The second fire was reported on Lincoln Road at about 8:30 pm on January 24, and firefighters rescued two people, including a man in his 80s who later succumbed to his injuries. While the exact cause has not been determined, investigators located a space heater in the area of origin, which was in the basement.

The third fire took place at about 8:30 am on March 25 on Walnut Street. One occupant escaped with minor injuries and a second—an older adult—was trapped after attempting to extinguish the fire. He was pronounced deceased at the scene. This fire started with smoking materials in the area of a living room couch.

All three fires were investigated by the Newton Fire Department, Newton Police, State Police fire investigators assigned to the State Fire Marshal's office, and the Middlesex DA's office with assistance from the DFS Code Compliance & Enforcement Unit.

Orange

At about 11:50 pm on December 13, 2023, the Orange Fire Department responded to a fire on West River Street that quickly went to three alarms. One occupant escaped with

Continued on next page

injuries that were not life-threatening; firefighters rescued a woman in her 60s with limited mobility whose injuries claimed her life the following day. The fire is not suspicious but the exact cause remains under investigation by the Orange Fire Department, Orange Police Department, State Police fire investigators, and the Northwestern DA's office. They are assisted by the DFS Code Compliance & Enforcement Unit.

Raynham

Neighbors reported a fire on Peter Street at about 11:50 pm on December 14, and the Raynham Fire Department encountered heavy fire on arrival. Firefighters attacked the fire, made entry, and located a man in his 80s who was deceased at the scene. It took about an hour to fully extinguish the blaze. The Raynham Fire Department, Raynham Police Department, State Police fire investigators, and the Bristol County DA's office determined that the fire began in the bedroom and identified several potential factors, all of which were accidental, but could not reach a conclusive determination as to its cause. They were assisted by DFS code compliance officers, who found no working smoke alarms at the scene.

Springfield

A fire on Quincy Street claimed the life of an older adult and started with a space heater at the foot of the victim's bed. It was reported at about 11:00 pm and was well involved when Springfield firefighters arrived, made entry, and found a man in his 90s with life-threatening injuries. He later died at an area hospital. The fire was investigated by the Springfield Fire Department, Springfield Police Department, State Police fire investigators, and the Hampden County DA's office. They were assisted by the Department of Fire Services' Code Compliance & Enforcement Unit.

Braintree

A passerby reported a fire on Hobart Avenue in the early morning hours of December 30, and it quickly went to two alarms. Firefighters located one person, an older adult, deceased inside. The exact cause has not been determined, but the potential factors are all accidental and the fire is not considered suspicious. The fire is being investigated by the Braintree Fire Department, Braintree Police Department, and State Police assigned to the offices of the State Fire Marshal and Norfolk District Attorney. They were assisted by DFS code compliance officers, who found no working smoke alarms at the scene.



Chicopee Fire Chief Daniel Stamborski said home oxygen may have been a factor in a recent fire that started with smoking materials.

Yarmouth

At about 9:50 pm February 13, the Yarmouth Fire Department responded to a medical alert and found a woman in her 60s deceased in a studio residence. There were signs of a fire that had self-extinguished. The Yarmouth Fire Department, Yarmouth Police, State Police fire investigators, and the Cape & Islands District Attorney's office determined that the fire started with smoking materials; the office of the Chief Medical Examiner is investigating the cause and manner of the woman's death.

Sudbury

An early morning fire on Goodman's Hill Road brought the Sudbury Fire Department to a single-family home where they encountered heavy fire at the rear of the residence. They found one occupant and one police officer injured and learned that one person, a woman in her 70s with limited mobility, was still inside. The fire went to three alarms and firefighters located the victim deceased inside. The Sudbury Fire Department, Sudbury Police, State Police fire investigators, the Middlesex DA's office, and District 14 investigators determined that the fire began inside a wall after a circuit overheated while powering space heaters. The DFS Code Compliance & Enforcement Unit found no working smoke alarms at the scene.

Middleborough

In the early morning hours of February 24, the Middleborough Fire Department responded to a structure fire on Pearl Street. Firefighters found the single-family home fully involved and battled the fire for nearly an hour and a half. One child and two older adults escaped and were transported for medical care; a second child was found deceased within the home. The fire is not suspicious, but the exact cause remains under investigation by the

Continued on next page

Young Hero Honored in Orange

In the early morning hours of December 11, 2023, 12-year-old Joel Wilkey and his grandfather were asleep when smoke alarms began sounding in their Orange home. Thanks to the lessons he learned from Orange firefighters through the *Student Awareness of Fire Education* (SAFE) program, Joel knew what to do. He roused his grandfather and they quickly left the house.

Because Joel knew what to do and where to go in a crisis, no one was injured. Firefighters responded to their 9-1-1 call and were able to extinguish what turned out to be a chimney fire that extended to the home.

Two months later, in an assembly at the youngster's school, local and state officials recognized Joel as a Young Hero for his bravery and calm during a crisis. Orange Fire Chief James Young, Selectboard members Tom Smith and Andrew Smith, and Orange Town Administrator Matt Fortier were in attendance with school administrators. State Rep. Susannah Whipps was also there and presented Joel with a citation from the state Legislature for his actions.

State Fire Marshal Jon Davine presented him with a certificate, t-shirt, and challenge coin.

"I want to say how proud we are of Joel," State Fire Marshal Davine said. "You kept your cool in a tense and



Chief James Young of the Orange Fire Department, Joel Wilkey, and Richard Wilkey.

dangerous situation, and you helped someone else when they needed it most."

The *Student Awareness of Fire Education* program has helped local fire departments teach fire and life safety to school-age kids for nearly 30 years. And in that time, the number of children who lose their lives to fire each year has dropped by 79%.

Do you know a Young Hero who used the lessons they learned in the *Student Awareness of Fire Education* program? Nominate them for an award! Visit www.mass.gov/dfs and search for *Young Hero* to find nomination forms.

Fire Investigation News, *continued from previous page*

Middleborough Fire Department, Middleborough Police, State Police fire investigators, and the Plymouth County DA's office with assistance from DFS electrical investigators and code compliance and enforcement officers.

Chicopee

On the morning of March 2, the Chicopee Fire Department responded to a 9-1-1 call and found a fire in the first-floor unit of a three-family home on Southwick Street. They made entry and located a man in his 70s with limited mobility deceased at the scene. The Chicopee Fire Department, Chicopee Police, State Police fire investigators, and the Hampden County DA's office determined that the fire began in the first-floor living room. They also located medical oxygen equipment at the scene. Collectively, they determined that the fire started with smoking materials. The DFS Code Compliance & Enforcement Unit found no working smoke alarms at the scene.

Lowell

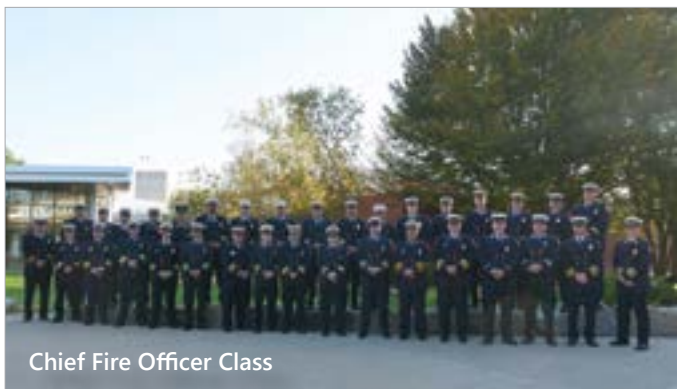
At about 10:50 pm on March 16, the Lowell Fire Department responded to a fire on Farmland Road. They found heavy smoke and flames and witnesses who stated one

person was still inside. Firefighters made entry and found a man in his 50s deceased on the second floor. The Lowell Fire Department, Lowell Police Department, State Police fire investigators, and the Middlesex County DA's office determined that the fire began in a bedroom near the back left corner of the second floor, and that the most likely cause was unsafe disposal of smoking materials. Investigators were supported by the Department of Fire Services' Code Compliance & Enforcement Unit, which found no working smoke alarms at the scene.

Carver

The Carver Fire Department responded to a fire on Tremont Street at about 11:00 on the night of March 20. The single-family home was well-involved on arrival and one occupant was transported for medical care. Firefighters located a man in his 60s with fatal injuries inside. The Carver Fire Department, Carver Police, State Police fire investigators, and the Plymouth County DA's office identified multiple potential factors, all of which were accidental, inside. DFS code compliance officers found no working smoke alarms at the scene.

Massachusetts Firefighting Academy Graduations



Chief Fire Officer Class

Chief Fire Officer Program

On January 24, 2024, 34 fire service leaders from across Massachusetts graduated from the 28th class of the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy's Chief Fire Officer Management Training program. The fourteen-week 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 Amesbury, Ayer, Barnstable, Bedford, Bolton, Canton, Cotuit, Dennis, East Longmeadow, Erving, Everett, Framingham, Freetown, Hopkinton, Lawrence, Lowell, Ludlow, Manchester, Medway, Natick, New Bedford, Northampton, Northbridge, Onset, Royalston, Sharon, Ware, Wellfleet, West Springfield, Westfield, and Winchester.



Class #317

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 multiple-floor or multiple-room structural fires to mailbox 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 #S35



Class #BW28

Class #317

On January 22, 2024, members of Career Recruit Firefighter Class #317 graduated at the Stow Campus. The 31 graduates represent the 20 departments of Bedford, Danvers, Dracut, Holden, Marlborough, Melrose, Milford, Nahant, Natick, Newton, North Andover, North Reading, Phillipston, Reading, Revere, Salem, Saugus, Seekonk, Tewksbury, and Weston.

Class #S35

On January 26, 2024, members of Career Recruit Firefighter Class #S35 graduated at the Springfield Campus. The 26 graduates represent the 15 departments of Agawam, Belchertown, Charlton, Chicopee, Gardner, North Adams, Palmer, Pittsfield, South Hadley Fire District 1, Southwick, Turners Falls, Ware, Westfield, Westminster, and Wilbraham.

Class #BW28

On February 2, 2024, members of Career Recruit Firefighter Class #BW28 graduated at the Bridgewater Campus. The 24 graduates represent the 14 departments of Brewster, Dennis, Duxbury, Easton, Hingham, Mashpee, North Attleboro, Reading, Saugus, Truro, Walpole, Wellfleet, Westborough, and Yarmouth.

Class #318

On February 26, 2024, members of Career Recruit Firefighter Class #318 graduated at the Stow Campus. The 35 graduates represent the 20 departments of Andover, Bellingham, Chelsea, Clinton, Dracut, Everett, Fitchburg, Foxborough, Framingham, Hopedale, Manchester, Milford, North Attleboro, Orange, Orleans, Sudbury, Uxbridge, Walpole, Wayland, and Wrentham.

Class #319

On March 29, 2024, members of Career Recruit Firefighter Class #319 graduated at the Stow Campus. The 34 graduates represent the 20 departments of Acton, Concord, Dracut, Dudley, Everett, Falmouth, Franklin, Haverhill, Lexington, Middleborough, Needham, North Attleboro, Norwood, Reading, Salem, Saugus, Walpole, Westborough, Westford, and Winthrop.

Class #S36

On April 5, 2024, members of Career Recruit Firefighter Class #S36 graduated at the Springfield Campus. The 16 graduates represent the 9 departments of Agawam, Easthampton, Greenfield, Longmeadow, Southbridge, Springfield, Turners Falls, Ware, and Westfield.



Continued on page 20

The rigorous training new firefighters complete gives them the skills and knowledge to protect their communities safely and effectively."

Class #BW29

On April 12, 2024, members of Career Recruit Firefighter Class #BW29 graduated at the Bridgewater Campus. The 21 graduates represent the 16 departments of Bellingham, Brewster, Bridgewater, Canton, Fairhaven, Lakeville, Norwell, Norwood, Provincetown, Rockland, Sandwich, Scituate, Wellfleet, Westport, Wrentham, and Yarmouth.

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 State Fire Marshal Jon Davine. "The rigorous training they've completed provides them with the fundamental skills and knowledge necessary to protect their communities safely and effectively."

Class #109

On March 6, 2024, members of Call/Volunteer Firefighting Class #109 graduated at the Lynnfield Middle School in Lynnfield. The 32 graduates represent the 12 fire departments of Boxford, Essex, Georgetown,



Groveland, Hamilton, Lynnfield, Middleton, Nahant, Rockport, Rowley, Topsfield, and Wenham.

Class #110

On March 7, 2024, members of Call/Volunteer Firefighting Class #110 graduated at the Stow Campus of the Department of Fire Services. The 25 graduates represent the 18 fire departments of Ashby, Athol, Boxborough, Carlisle, Douglas, Grafton, Groton, Holden, Lincoln, Millville, Northbridge, Orange, Pepperell, Petersham, Sherborn, Shrewsbury, Townsend, and Weston.

From the Fire Marshal, *continued from page 1*

The first goal is to fill a statistical void: While about 85 youth-set fires are reported through MFIRS each year, subject matter experts estimate that many—and possibly most—youth firesetting incidents go undetected or unreported. In the longer term, we hope to work with existing YFPI service providers to establish best practices and support the implementation of new programs across the Commonwealth. I look forward to sharing more on this project as it proceeds.

Lithium-Ion Battery Fires

Last fall, we launched a new form for investigators to use when lithium-ion batteries are involved in a fire. By early April, Massachusetts fire departments had submitted 50 such cases. This is a remarkable development: from 2019 to 2023, MFIRS documented less than half that number during the entire year. Whether this is due to an increase in Li-ion-powered devices, greater attention to thorough reporting, or a combination of factors, it's clear that we're getting better data faster on these fires. Micromobility

Continued on next page

2024 License Examination Schedule

New Email for FSD Licensing Division

The Fire Safety Division Licensing Office has a new email address: DFS.FSDLicensing@mass.gov. The old address (DFS.Licensing@state.ma.us) is no longer in use.

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.FSDLicensing@mass.gov.

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 <https://madfs.mylicense.com/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 am	
Fire Suppression and Commercial Hood Cleaning	June 12, 2024 August 14, 2024 October 16, 2024	May 17, 2024 July 19, 2024 September 20, 2024
Cannon/Mortar, Fireworks and Special Effects, Blasting and Blasting R&D	July 17, 2024 September 18, 2024 November 13, 2024	June 21, 2024 August 23, 2024 October 18, 2024
BPV Exams		
	Exams start at 9:00 am	
Oil Burner, Fireman & Engineer (all classes)	May 29, 2024 June 26, 2024 July 31, 2024 August 28, 2024 September 25, 2024 October 30, 2024 November 27, 2024 December 27, 2024	April 26, 2024 May 31, 2024 June 28, 2024 July 26, 2024 August 30, 2024 September 27, 2024 October 25, 2024 November 29, 2024

From the Fire Marshal, continued from previous page

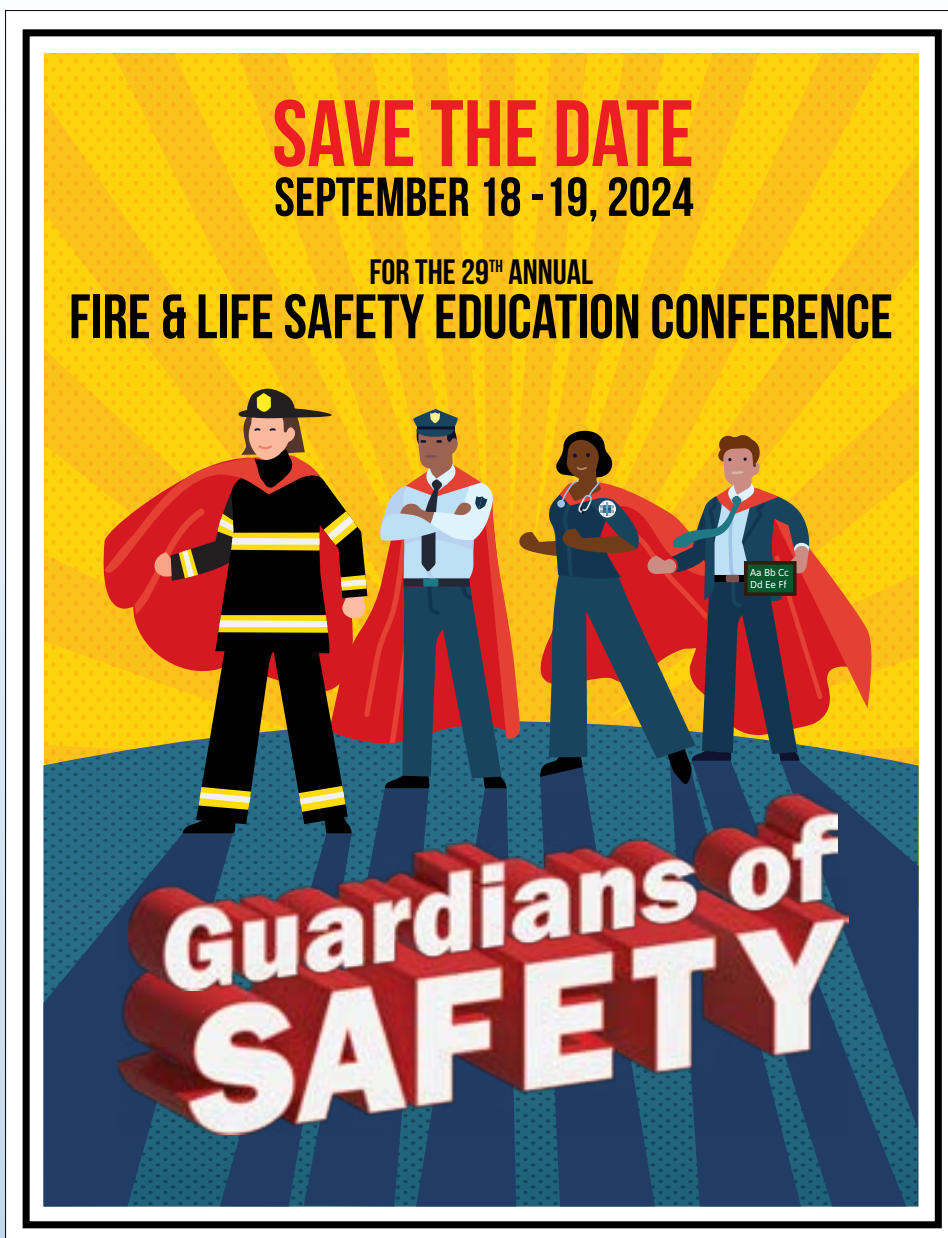
devices were most likely to be involved in a fire, followed by cell phones and similar devices, laptop computers, and power tools. One surprising takeaway is that, when charging status could be determined, 56% of these devices were not charging at the time of the fire. I want to thank

every department that has contributed to this knowledge base and encourage everyone to submit the FP-031 checklist for lithium-ion battery fires in your communities. You can find it online at www.mass.gov/dfs (search for *Lithium-Ion Battery Safety*).



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

www.mass.gov/dfs



Mark your calendars now for the 29th annual **Public Fire and Life Safety Education Conference** on September 18 and 19 at the Wellsworth Hotel in Southbridge, Massachusetts. Don't miss this chance to learn new skills, refresh old skills and connect with colleagues.

Registration information will be available soon at www.mass.gov/dfs. Search for *Fire and Life Safety Education Conference*. For more information, email Sheryl.Hedlund@mass.gov.