

All Hands Herald

Massachusetts Department of Fire Services September 2019

Changes to the **Comprehensive Fire Safety Code**

**Dedication of
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MIRT Training Exercises

Massachusetts Fire Facts



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The *All Hands Herald* is published three times a year by the Department of Fire Services. Our title incorporates the traditional fire service meaning of all hands working to extinguish a fire. In this publication, all hands is DFS staff providing information, training and assistance with fire service issues which affect all levels of the fire service.

Let us know how you like the *All Hands Herald* and what we can do to make it even more useful to you – our dedicated fire service members and customers.

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From the Fire Marshal

Dedication of the Fire Investigation Training Prop

On July 11, 2019, we dedicated the Fire Investigation Training Prop on the Stow campus to former Massachusetts Firefighting Academy Director William “Bill” M. Hollick and to Trooper Perley K. Johnson, a fire investigator who died in 1978 from exposure to fire products. It was a touching ceremony for both of the widows and their families. Capt. Paul Zipper, retired Deputy State Fire Marshal Tom Leonard, and current South Team fire investigator Trooper Ken Braley all spoke at the ceremony. Trooper Johnson was from Bourne and both troopers served as call firefighters there. Coincidentally, the ceremony was held on Bill Hollick’s birthday. The small 4-room training prop is used to train fire investigators. During the ceremony, we placed signs on the prop in remembrance of Johnson and Hollick and their devotion to public service. We also installed streets signs so future students will write reports about fires on Bill Hollick Way or Perley Johnson Way. You can read more about the ceremony and the training prop on page 3 of this issue.

Springfield Search and Rescue Building

The new combination Search and Rescue and Burn Building at the Department of Fire Services (DFS) Springfield campus is nearing completion. We received a federal Assistance to Firefighters Grant from the U.S. Fire Administration to build this training prop. It expands the ability of the MFA to provide consistent training in its flagship Recruit Firefighter Training programs at both campuses.

The Springfield campus opened in 2015. Currently, search and rescue is conducted in the building used for live fire training so both cannot happen at the same time. This makes program scheduling difficult. The burn building in Springfield is smaller than the structure in Stow. When a room is out of service, it has a large impact on training. This new prop has a room where live fire training can take place. We expect the new building to provide flexibility in the training schedule and to ensure consistency in recruit training regardless of location.

Bridgewater Campus

The Bridgewater campus is in use. The State Police Fire Investigation Unit’s South Team, and Jordan Greene-Williams, the Fire Safety Division’s code compliance officer who covers southeastern Massachusetts, are using the new office space. Some Massachusetts Firefighting Academy classes have been held there, and a planning team is

meeting bi-weekly to ensure that a Recruit class can happen in Bridgewater in January 2020. The team coordinates the schedule with training in Stow and with local fire departments to ensure access to training facilities not yet available at the Bridgewater campus. We appreciate the access to live fire training facilities provided by local fire departments.

The process of transferring ownership from the Department of Correction to DFS continues. Legislation was filed for the formal transfer, budget requests for the build-out were made, and the DFS facilities team continues to work on the property.

Technical Rescue Coordinating Council

Technical rescue is a growing service for fire departments. The public turns to the fire service for emergency assistance when a swimmer or boater is in trouble, someone falls in steep terrain, is trapped in a water tank, or has fallen through ice. When the 7-member Technical Rescue Council is fully constituted this fall, members will be ready to dive into the mission of developing uniform standards, rules and procedures for the operation of a statewide regional technical rescue services program in five initial technical rescue regions. The council will also be able to establish cost recovery mechanisms for technical rescue services, and create regulations if needed. Tech rescue teams across the state and local fire chiefs have worked hard for many years to create an infrastructure modeled on the statewide Hazardous Materials Response program that supplements and supports local efforts in specific emergencies. The Tech Rescue program will provide a shared expert resource at a moment’s notice in every part of the state.

I have asked Hazardous Materials Response Division Director David DiGregorio to manage the Special Operations Unit and to oversee DFS’ role in supporting the Technical Rescue Coordinating Council.

New Smoking PSAs

This spring we developed new television and radio public service announcements (PSAs) in English and Spanish on smoking and porch fire safety. The PSAs focus on preventing exterior fires caused by the improper disposal



Continued on page 7

Changes to Comprehensive Fire Safety Code

Coming in 2020

Make space on your bookshelf for the 2020 amendment package to the *Comprehensive Fire Safety Code*. Since the adoption of the current edition of 527 CMR 1.00, many changes and advances in technology have encouraged the Board of Fire Prevention Regulations to review and amend the code. The amendment package supplements the current code, bridging the gap between the current 2015 NFPA 1 base code and the recently published 2018 NFPA 1 edition. The amendment package revises some items for clarity and adopts new chapters from the 2018 edition of NFPA 1.

Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ) **[527 CMR 1.00: 3.2]**

The board decided to remove Massachusetts-specific language for authority having jurisdiction and revert to the base language in 2015 NFPA 1. This change simplifies how the code is used but requires code users and enforcers to determine who the AHJ is, depending on the situation. Additional annex material provides clear guidance and examples about when:

- the fire department has authority (maintenance of building systems, hazardous materials use and processing, blasting and hot work, etc.)
- the building department has authority (setting minimum clear egress widths, determining the need for sprinklers in new construction, mandating fire resistance rated walls for hazardous materials control areas, etc.)

With a better understanding of who the AHJ is in each scenario, and working with your local counterpart, the code can be applied properly.

Fire Department Vehicle Access Roads **[527 CMR 1.00: 18.2]**

The trend in urban areas is to use every available space for building. The current edition of the fire code requires fire department vehicle access to large residential and commercial structures, but exempts one- and two-family dwellings. When these one- or two-family homes are located behind an existing building, the delay of responding fire apparatus ability to deliver water to the building to protect the property and exposures can be detrimental. Provisions in the code note this situation and require access for fire department vehicles when one- or two-family dwellings are located behind another structure.

Cannabis Growing, Processing, and Extraction **[527 CMR 1.00: 38]**

The proliferation of cannabis growing and processing operations across the Commonwealth created the need for

statewide standards for these occupancies. While the building code applies to construction of Use Group F-1 (moderate-hazard factory/industrial) occupancies, facility operations were not specifically addressed in either the building or fire codes. The board voted to adopt the most recently published national standard, 2018 NFPA 1, Chapter 38, to establish a minimum criteria for fire and life safety in these buildings. Requirements include gas detection and notification for cannabis extraction processes, as well as equipment and ventilation requirements.

On-Demand Mobile Vehicle Fueling **[527 CMR 1.00: 42.10]**

Fuel delivery to your vehicle at home or at work is a new trend in customer service. Companies want to offer this service in Massachusetts, so the board voted to adopt provisions from 2018 NFPA 1 for mobile fueling. In addition to complying with the code, mobile fueling companies must obtain general approval from the State Fire Marshal's Office and then apply to each jurisdiction where they intend to operate. The purpose of the state application is to create consistency and to streamline the approval process for businesses.

Energy Storage Systems **[527 CMR 1.00: 52]**

The current edition of 527 CMR 1.00 includes a chapter on battery storage systems, but the board voted to adopt the recently published 2018 NFPA 1, Chapter 52. The new language expands the scope of the chapter to address new energy storage technology and is based on recent testing conducted by NFPA's Fire Protection Research Foundation. The increased scope addresses energy storage system equipment installation, configuration, and protection schemes.

Timeline

The Board of Fire Prevention Regulations voted to promulgate the proposed amendment package on July 18, 2019. Based on the anticipated promulgation process, the amendment package should be published and enforceable in early 2020.

Training

The Massachusetts Firefighting Academy will host training for fire prevention officers on the amendment package. The training will familiarize fire prevention officers with these code changes, their implications, and application in local communities. Training times and locations will be posted soon on the DFS Learning Management System (LMS).

Dedication of Fire Investigation Prop

Honoring the Service of Trooper Perley Johnson Jr. and William Hollick

On July 11, 2019, the Department of Fire Services officially dedicated the Fire Investigation Training Prop to two committed public servants: Massachusetts State Trooper Perley K. Johnson Jr. and William “Bill” M. Hollick. The ceremony was attended by the Johnson and Hollick families, State Police command staff, members of the Fire & Explosion Investigation Section, fire officials, and DFS staff.

Trooper Perley K. Johnson Jr. served the State Police for 10 years, and was assigned to fire investigations for two. Trooper Johnson was a committed fire investigator who brought comfort to families by explaining how the fires they experienced had started. State Police trooper and fire investigator are both inherently dangerous jobs. Trooper Johnson died doing his job in 1978 from exposure to fire products. He had been investigating an intentionally-set fire.

William “Bill” M. Hollick gave 33 years of dedicated service and leadership to the Massachusetts fire service. He worked at the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy for 22 years, the last eight as director. Bill was committed to training each firefighter to be the best they could be, to work effectively in a team, and to do an inherently dangerous job as safely as possible.

During the dedication ceremony, State Fire Marshal Peter J. Ostroskey said, “Today we are honoring past service, dedication and leadership with a valuable training tool that pushes our fire investigation skills into the future. Better trained fire investigators help families understand how the tragedy of their fire occurred, help other families take steps to prevent such tragedies, and when needed, determine if a crime was committed so perpetrators can be brought to justice. Knowing how a fire started allows



Left to right: Trooper Braley, Captain Zipper, Colonel Gilpin, Secretary Turco, State Fire Marshal Ostroskey, and MFA Director Evans in front of the new prop.

the fire service to change our fire and building codes and sometimes our laws, so we can build safer buildings and regulate certain dangerous activities. Knowledge is a powerful tool.”

Trooper Kenneth J. Braley also spoke. He grew up in the same neighborhood as Tpr. Johnson and followed a similar career path. Captain Paul Zipper, head of the Fire and Explosion Investigation Section, spoke about how he learned that a former member of his unit had died in the line of duty. Retired Deputy State Fire Marshal Tom Leonard, who worked closely with Bill Hollick for decades, spoke about Bill’s many professional achievements and innovations building the fire training system we have today.

JoAnne Forrester, mother of the Eagle Scout who did so much landscaping work at the site, presented Mrs. Hollick and Mrs. Johnson each with a bouquet of flowers. Both widows and their children appreciated the moving ceremony and the recognition of their husbands’ service.

The Fire Investigation Training Prop was built so that we can repeatedly set small fires in four separate rooms to create different scenarios for our fire investigation training programs. Students in investigation courses gather evidence after the fires are extinguished and try to determine the cause of the fires and where they started. Our students are local firefighters and police officers, State troopers, and fire code enforcement officials. We want these disciplines to train together so they can make strong local teams when investigating fires. Understanding the science of fire helps investigators evaluate the truthfulness of witnesses.

Two signs honoring Johnson and Hollick are now installed on the training prop. Street signs are installed on two sides of the building. One street is called Bill Hollick Way and the other is Perley Johnson Way. Students will be writing reports using these addresses for decades to come.



State Fire Marshal Ostroskey presents plaque to Mrs. Hollick.

MIRT Team Participates in Training



In May, the Maritime Incident Response Team (MIRT) of the DFS HazMat division participated in a 3-day training exercise in New Bedford Harbor. Many partners who will respond to a real HazMat incident on the water participated in the training including maritime units of the: New Bedford Fire and Police, Fairhaven Fire, U.S. Coast Guard, Massachusetts State Police, Hyannis Fire, and the Fairhaven Harbormaster. The training covered how to prevent radioactive material from entering the harbor. "Team members learned about the resources of each agency, how to intercept and board vessels during detection operations, and how to protect both people and the environment during those operations," said HazMat Deputy Director Tim Gallagher.

September is Campus Fire Safety Month

From the Cape to North Adams, thousands of college students flock to Massachusetts' campuses in September. Many of these students will live in off-campus apartments for the first time. September is a good time for educators to reach out to college students and those who work with them to promote fire safety. While the majority of students who live off-campus live in safe housing, some may be living in apartments that are unsafe and have fire and building code violations. The majority of campus-related fire deaths occur in off campus housing, and in the past 10 years, two college students - James Huffman, age 21 and Binland Lee, age 22 have died in Massachusetts off-campus housing fires.

In 2016, the Department of Fire Service, in conjunction with the National Fire Protection Association and Campus Firewatch, launched a new campaign called, *Smoke Alarms and Two Ways Out – Best Roommates Evah!*

Visit www.mass.gov/service-details/college-fire-safety for more information. This message was prominent in Boston and surrounding communities as college students drove into town Labor Day weekend. The campaign continues this year, and student volunteers from Worcester and Boston will work with firefighters to canvas homes and install smoke alarms where needed. While this is helpful, putting together a campus fire safety education campaign is another opportunity to keep college students safe. There are a variety of resources that can be used to promote campus safety programs.

Resources for Teaching Campus Fire Safety

- The Massachusetts Firefighting Academy will be offering the Campus Fire and Life Safety series of National Fire Academy Courses starting this fall. See page 13 for details.
- **Massachusetts Department of Fire Services.** Provides links to a variety of campus fire safety resources (www.mass.gov/service-details/college-fire-safety).
- **See It Before You Sign It.** The Consumer Product Safety Commission (www.cpsc.gov), NFPA (www.nfpa.org/campus), USFA (www.usfa.fema.gov/prevention/outreach/college.html), and Campus Firewatch (www.campus-firewatch.com/seeit/) collaborated on this national campaign called *See It Before You Sign It*, to encourage parents to see the off-campus apartment where their young adult will be living.

College Fire Safety
The Best Roommates Evah!

**A Working Smoke Alarm
+
Two Ways Out**

www.BestRoommatesEvah.org

Department of Fire Services

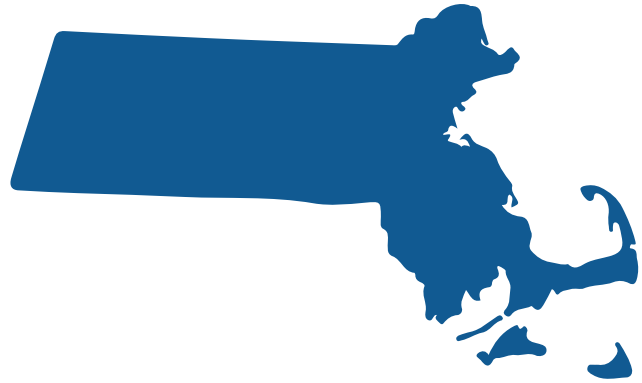
massDOT
Massachusetts Department of Transportation

Continued on page 12

Massachusetts Fires in 2018

25,504 Fires - Down 9% From 2017

45 Civilian Deaths
1 Fire Service Death
289 Civilian Injuries
425 Fire Service Injuries
\$228.9 Million in Property Damage
551 Reported Arsons



Structure Fires

16,169 Fires - Down 6%
40 Civilian Deaths
1 Fire Service Death
236 Civilian Injuries
401 Fire Service Injuries
\$202 Million in Property Damage
134 Arsons Reported



Motor Vehicle Fires

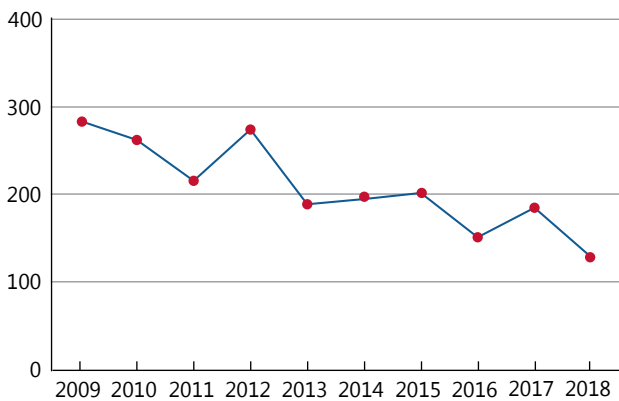
2,465 Fires - Up 3%
2 Civilian Deaths
14 Civilian Injuries
11 Fire Service Injuries
\$22.9 Million in Property Damage
78 Arsons Reported



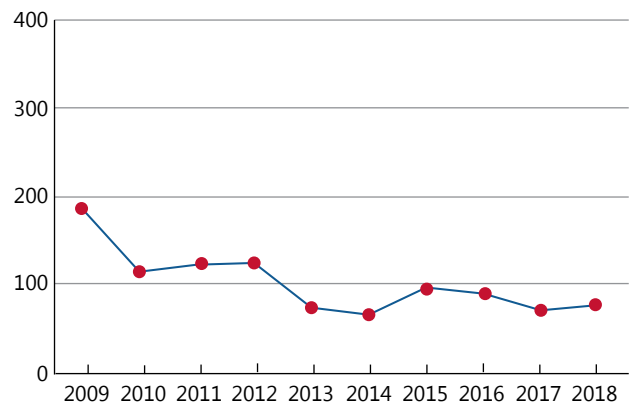
Other Fires

6,870 Fires - Down 19%
3 Civilian Deaths
39 Civilian Injuries
13 Fire Service Injuries
\$4 Million in Property Damage
339 Arsons Reported

Structure Arson by Year



Motor Vehicle Arson by Year



Structure arson decreased by 30% and motor vehicle arson increased 8% from 2017 to 2018. Since 1985, motor vehicle arson has fallen 98.5%. For statistical purposes, a fire is considered arson when the cause is listed as intentional & age is not a factor or the person involved was over 18. This definition excludes undetermined and juvenile-set fires.

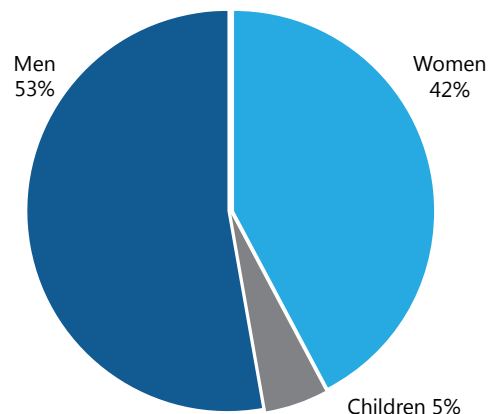


Department of Fire Services

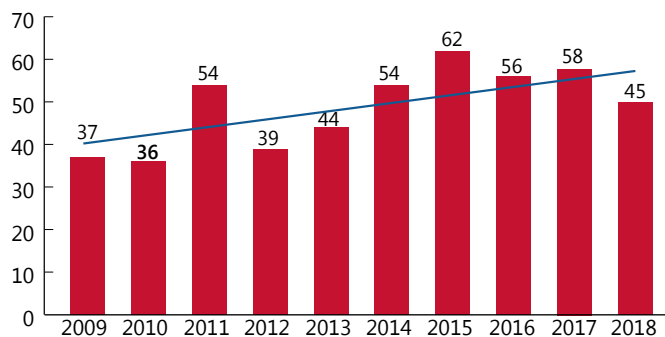
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Massachusetts Fires in 2018

Civilian Fire Deaths

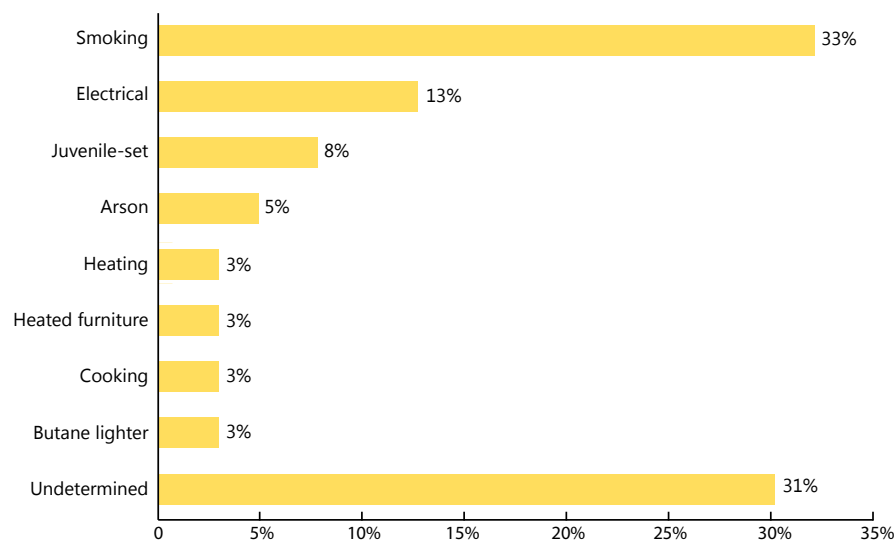


Fire Deaths by Year



- 40 fatal fires killed 45 civilians - 24 men, 19 women and 2 people under age 18.
- 1 firefighter died in a fire-related incident.
- Forty-four percent (44%) of fatal fire victims were older adults (over 65).
- Fire deaths decreased by 22% from the 58 in 2017.
- Eighty-seven percent (87%) of the civilian fire victims died in their homes.
- In 2018, smoking fires were the leading cause of residential fire deaths; smoking fires caused 13, or 33% of home fire deaths.

Causes of Residential Structure Fire Deaths



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



Department of Fire Services

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In Memory of Ron Meehan

Friend to the Fire Service

Ron Meehan was a good friend to the fire service and he will be sorely missed. Most people in the fire service know him as the liaison for the Massachusetts Property Insurance Underwriting Association's (MPIUA) Arson Watch Reward Program from the 1980s until his death in July 2019. The program sponsors an annual poster contest for 5th – 8th graders that promotes fire safety. We're all familiar with the calendars adorned with the winning posters and with the very prestigious MPIUA awards banquet for the students, their families, teachers, fire chiefs, and fire educators (The MPIUA is also known as the FAIR plan).

Ron was a great supporter of public fire education, the Massachusetts Public Fire & Life Safety Education Conference, the DFS High School YouTube™ Video Contest, the Western Massachusetts S.A.F.E. Association's 17-day fire safety booth at The Big E, and youth firesetting intervention programs. He always said, "It's all about the children." He found ways to support fire education efforts around the state even when it meant stretching his official mission. What educator hasn't appreciated a FAIR Plan oven mitt to share with seniors when teaching cooking safety?

The Arson Watch Reward Program has been a vital tool for fire investigators since 1982. It has leveraged information from communities to help determine the causes of fires, whether or not they were intentionally set. Ron organized committee deliberations and the presentation of awards. Sometimes presentations were private to protect those who came forward confidentially, sometimes they were events covered by the press. Ron worked closely with the members of the DFS Fire and Explosion Investigation Unit (F&EIU) on this program.



The FAIR Plan also supported the pilot project of the first accelerant detection dog (AK-9 Hulk) in the F&EIU in the late 1980s. They provided food, training, and covered veterinarian bills for the first few AK-9s. The program was so successful in supporting fire investigations that it has grown consistently over time and the state now funds it. DFS currently has nine AK-9s and 11 explosive detection dogs (EK-9s) assigned to the Bomb Squad.

Ron also frequently represented the FAIR Plan on DFS boards and commissions, speaking rarely. But when he did speak, everyone listened.

Ron was a Vietnam-Era veteran who served in the U.S. Coast Guard for over 30 years of active and reserve duty. He was also a Chatham police officer and a field supervisor for the Massachusetts Property Insurance Underwriting Association. He was a member of the International Association of Arson Investigators, the National Fire Protection Association, and the Fire Chief's Association of Massachusetts. He will be missed by the fire service and all those who knew him.

From the Fire Marshal, continued from page 1

of smoking materials. While smoking fires that start indoors by igniting bedding and upholstered furniture have decreased, smoking fires that start on porches or in leaves or mulch and ignite the exterior of a building have increased. These outdoor fires can burn undetected for a long time, compromising a building before enough smoke enters the building to trigger smoke alarms. The PSAs are humorous and we hope that fire educators will use them locally in presentations. You can see them on social media and on our Smoking Fire Safety webpage.



What is the Fall Fire Story?

Using Data to Promote Fire Safety

History and data can tell us a lot about fire prevention and intervention. Investigating data from past fall fires in Massachusetts gives us the information to educate communities about necessary fire prevention for the coming fall season.

Between September and November (2014-2018), 33,239 fires were reported to MFIRS.

- 21,339 (64%) were structure fires.
- 2,860, (9%) were motor vehicle fires.
- 9,040 (27%) were outdoor fires.

The fires caused 70 civilian deaths, 327 civilian injuries, 437 fire service injuries and \$267.9 million in estimated damages. Nearly one-quarter (23%) of the 146,799 reported total fires in this 5-year period happened in the fall. What conclusions can we make about fire in the fall?

Cooking Leading Cause of Residential Fires

There were 17,941 residential fires reported in the fall between 2014-2018. Figure 1 shows that cooking was the leading cause of residential fires, with heating fires second and electrical fires third. These are also the leading causes of residential fires throughout the year. History shows that more structure fires happen in fall. It is the beginning of heating season, and there's more cooking happening inside. Public safety educators should develop a plan to reduce the number one cause of fall fires: cooking.

DFS will promote its cooking campaign before Thanksgiving, the day of the year with the most fires. But the fire service doesn't have to wait until November to

promote safe cooking behaviors. Fire departments can use the resources of the DFS Cooking Fire Safety Public Awareness Campaign (www.mass.gov/service-details/cooking-fire-safety-public-awareness-campaign) to promote cooking fire safety messages at any time. The webpage includes a toolkit, logos and videos of our firefighter chefs promoting safe cooking behavior.

Keep Warm, Keep Safe

Fall is also a good time to promote heating system maintenance in order to prevent heating fires and carbon monoxide poisoning later in the season. DFS has the *Keep Warm, Keep Safe* public awareness campaign with public service announcements and a toolkit for fire educators (www.mass.gov/service-details/keep-warm-keep-safe-toolkit). These resources can help departments reach out to older residents through the Senior SAFE Program. Older homeowners might not realize that even if they do not need help paying their heating bills, fuel assistance programs can help them with regular maintenance (www.mass.gov/service-details/learn-about-low-income-home-energy-assistance-program-liheap).

Working Smoke Alarms

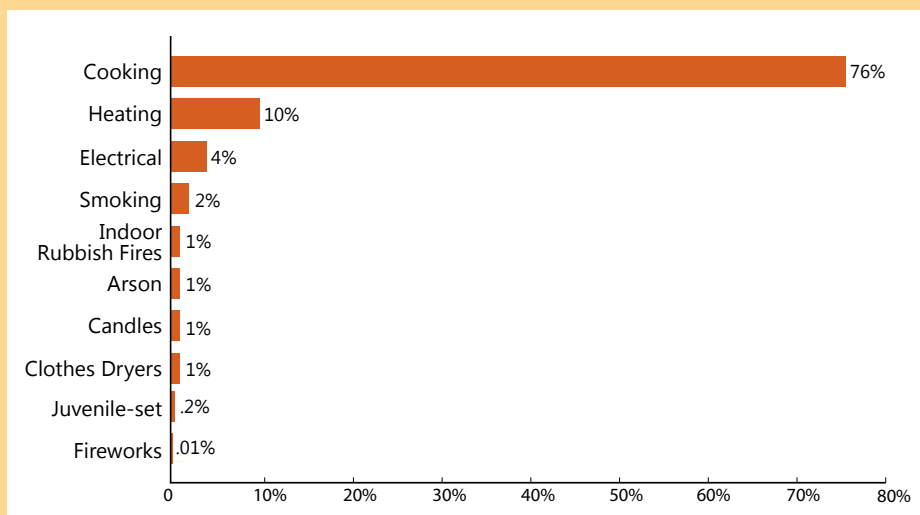
Between September and November, 2014-2018, 65% of residential fires had alarms that were present and operated. But making sure that everyone has working smoke alarms continues to be a concern. In 2% of residential fires, there were no alarms. In 1% of these fires, the alarms failed to operate. Figure 2 shows that it was not determined if alarms were present or working in 24% of the fires. Fall is a great time for a smoke alarm campaign that can change these numbers. The Red Cross has smoke alarm replacement programs that can help local fire departments.

Causes of Fall Fire Fatalities

Nearly half of smoking fire deaths from 2014 to 2018 happened between September and November. Do people come inside to smoke in the fall? DFS has a PSA for television and radio asking smokers

Figure 1

Causes of Residential Fires (September - November 2014 - 2018)



to, “put it out, all the way, every time.” Fire departments can use the PSAs to teach residents about the dangers of smoking fires and associated fire fatalities.

Fire Prevention Week

Fire Prevention Week (October 6-12, 2019) is an opportunity to promote fire safety messages. This year’s theme, *Not Every Hero Wears a Cape. Plan and Practice your Escape!* can help promote life-saving behaviors. Developing and practicing a home escape plan can open a conversation about residential fires, cooking safety, having working smoke alarms, and disposing of smoking materials appropriately.

Student Awareness of Fire Education (S.A.F.E.)

The Student Awareness of Fire Education (S.A.F.E.) program is another opportunity to educate children in your community, and also to get fire safety information into homes. Take the opportunity during S.A.F.E. programs to send home information about fire prevention with students. Keep the messages simple:

- Stand by your Pan
- Put a Lid on It
- Working Smoke Alarms Save Lives
- Have a Practiced Home Escape Plan
- Put it Out. All the Way. Every Time.

Education around these messages can reduce fires, injuries and fatalities.

Using data history to select the most important educational messages for each season can increase the effectiveness of every fire safety program.

Figure 2

Detector Status in Residential Fires (September - November 2014 - 2018)

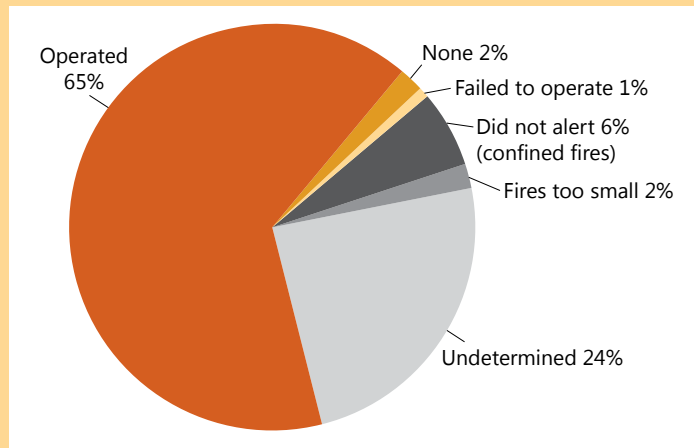
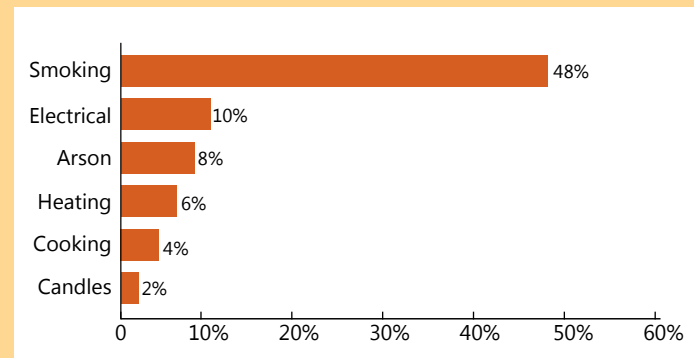


Figure 3

Causes of Residential Fire Deaths (September - November 2014 - 2018)



Use this logo and other materials for teaching fire prevention during Fire Prevention Week 2019. Visit www.NFPA.org for information and materials.



Two F&EIU Troopers Honored

With Massachusetts Women in Law Enforcement Awards

Two troopers assigned to the Fire & Explosion Investigation Unit (F&EIU) were honored with this year's Massachusetts Women in Law Enforcement awards for their work in the unit: Trooper Sheryl O'Donnell, a North Team fire investigator and Trooper Nancy Krue, evidence and training officer. Deputy State Fire Marshal Maribel Fournier and Captain Paul Zipper attended the ceremony.

Trooper O'Donnell has been with the F&EIU for over 13 years and is the sole female fire investigator. She has led or been part of several notable investigations:

- Recently: a 15-year old girl burned down her 3-story home in Lynn while her family slept.
- September 13, 2018: Merrimack Valley gas explosions in Andover.
- July 2018: Everett basement explosion that seriously injured two firefighters. The property owners were criminally charged for ignoring code violation citations.
- December 2017: a 13-year old boy set an outside fire that damaged the First Congregational Church in Saugus.
- In 2016: worked with the Lawrence Arson Squad to solve 16 arsons that led to the conviction of a serial arsonist.
- January 2016: Dow Chemical explosion in North Andover.
- July 2014: Lowell apartment fire that killed 7.
- April 2013: Responded to Watertown after the Marathon bombings.

In 1997, Trooper Krue joined the F&EIU. She helped secure and manage millions of dollars in grants to equip and train the unit's Bomb Squad, which today has 12 bomb technicians. She is the unit's evidence and training officer. She cataloged all the unit's evidence housed at several off-site locations, centralized their location and oversaw the design and build out of the current secure, temperature-controlled evidence storage space. She handles 120-150 pieces of evidence annually and ensures proper chain of custody. She has worked on many notable cases including:

- 2000: Everett package bombing by a stalker who received a life sentence.
- February 2000: Easthampton bombing case. Conviction.
- Wayland explosion case. Conviction.
- April 2013: Watertown scene of capture of the Boston Marathon bomber.

Trooper Krue also serves as the training officer and tracks the training records of all 32 members of the unit. She maintains daily training records for the seven accelerant detection canines. This ensures that troopers can maintain their certifications and credentials as expert witnesses.



Trooper Krue, Captain Zipper, Deputy State Fire Marshal Fournier and Trooper O'Donnell at the ceremony.

Cooking Fire Safety is Still #1

This fall, the Department of Fire Services will promote our cooking campaign to encourage the public to engage in safe cooking behaviors to reduce cooking fires. What do we know about cooking fires?

- Cooking is the #1 cause of residential fires.
- Cooking fires cause millions of dollars in damages.
- Cooking fires are the #1 cause of civilian fire injuries.
- Thanksgiving Day has the most cooking fires of any day in the year.
- Cooking fires are preventable.

Our cooking safety campaign has many tools for local fire departments including: the firehouse chef series of public

service announcements for radio and TV (English and Spanish for broadcast on local cable stations); informational cards to send to homes; and a tool kit for fire educators with more public education materials for cooking fire prevention. The goal of this campaign is to reduce the number of cooking fires on Thanksgiving, and to reduce cooking fires throughout the year. Visit www.mass.gov/service-details/cooking-fire-and-burn-safety for more information.



Homeland Security Training

New Series of Classes

The Massachusetts Firefighting Academy (MFA) now offers a Homeland Security Series of courses. You can register and search for programs in the new training track in the Learning Management System (LMS). MFA staff teamed up with the Fire & Explosion Investigation Unit (F&EIU) of the Department of Fire Services to create the series in response to student inquiries about Homeland Security classes.

LMS has 13,000 active users and a robust 260 courses and the Homeland Security Series includes 26 of them. Five of the courses are online and include training on chemical suicide awareness and terrorist activity such as: recognizing suspicious activity, responding to critical incidents, the difference between a suspicious and unattended package, and using the *Bomb Threat Response Guide*.

The traditional classes in the series fall into four critical categories:

- **First responder safety.** Staying safe on the scene of major incidents.
- **Hazardous Materials (HazMat).** Recognizing and responding to specific hazards, how to mitigate them, and how to secure a scene using a coordinated Incident Command System.
- **Incident Command System (ICS) training.** How to coordinate multiple agencies working on an incident together.
- **Investigation.** Conducting successful scene investigations, evidence collection, and interviewing and successfully prosecuting those responsible for terrorist acts.

We also offer specialty courses that address emerging Homeland Security threats such as terrorism, clandestine drug lab enforcement, fentanyl, homemade explosives (HME) and school bomb threats.

The importance of this series cannot be understated. Students who take these courses will be empowered to handle new and emerging Homeland Security threats.

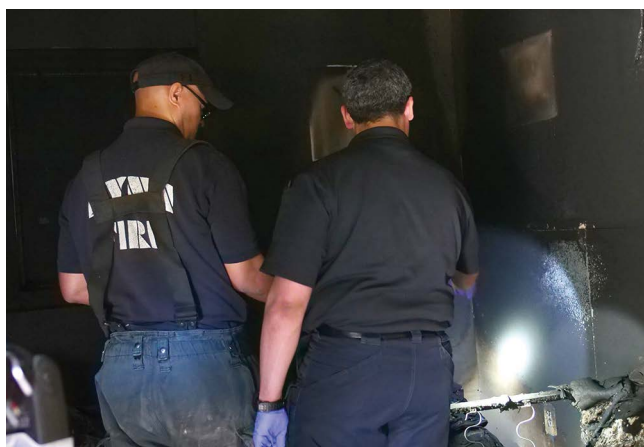


Courses

- | | |
|--------|---|
| 501 | Advanced Fire Investigation |
| 444 | Arson Awareness |
| 500 | Basic Fire Investigation |
| 198 | Chemical Suicide Awareness |
| 460_v3 | Chemical Suicide Awareness for First Responders (online) |
| 645_v1 | Clandestine Drug Lab Awareness Training |
| 239 | Counter-Terrorism Operational Program |
| 890_v2 | DFS Staff Training – Respiratory Protection Training (online) |
| FEN | Fentanyl Awareness and Response |
| C50_v1 | Fire Investigator Certification |
| 217 | Hazardous Material Technician |
| C57_v2 | Hazardous Material Technician Certification |
| C53_v2 | Hazardous Materials: Operational Level Responder Certification |
| 207_v1 | Haz-Mat Operational Level Responder (24 hour) |
| 207 | HAZMAT/WMD/CT/ – Operations Level Responder – FO/CO/FF |
| 197 | Homemade Explosives and Post Blast Training for the First Responder |
| ICP | Incident Command Simulation Practical |
| NA6 | NFA – Hazardous Materials Incident Management (6 days) (N0243) |
| 517 | Post Blast Investigations |
| 591 | Preparing for an Active Threat and Mass Casualty |
| 711 | Real World Approach to the Incident Command System |
| MSE | Scene Safety for Emergency Responders and Investigators |
| FIU | School Bomb Threat Awareness |
| FIV | Terrorism Awareness |
| 45A | Suspicious Versus Unattended Packages (online) |
| 45B | Bomb Threat Response Guide (online) |

Online Courses Coming Soon

See Something Say Something
Law Enforcement Response to Critical Incidents



New Vehicle Extrication Program

Remember the old “Car Busters” series? “Car Busters” was a vehicle extrication program in the Advanced Fire Skills program at the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy (MFA). The program taught emergency responders how to remove victim(s) from damaged vehicles. Many of the skills we used in the early 2000’s were developed in this program. But today, vehicles are dramatically different from those of 20 years ago. The mini-vans of the 1980’s gave way to sport utility vehicles (SUVs). The utilitarian pick-up truck of the 80’s is now a family vehicle moving groceries and kids to soccer. In the last 30 years we also saw the introduction of sophisticated safety systems, multiple airbags and interior parts designed to breakaway on impact. Automakers began using a lighter steel in vehicle frames and bodies. While the steel was lighter, it was also much harder than earlier materials and the early models of hydraulic vehicle extrication tools failed. Automakers also began to develop and sell hybrid, electric, and alternative fuel vehicles that were more efficient.

While these changes were taking place, we trained using skills developed in the late 1990’s. Technological change was moving fast, but our programs were changing more slowly. Almost two years ago, the MFA began exploring how to create an up-to-date vehicle extrication program for the Massachusetts fire service. MFA adapted the vehicle extrication program developed by Action Training Systems (ATC) for first responders. It uses the latest tools and information to teach firefighters both basic and advanced extrication skills for current vehicles.

On the first day of the training, students get an overview of the challenges and dangers in working with the many varieties of hybrids, electric cars, SUVs, and trucks that are on the road today. The new program also covers: how to work with the steel used in new vehicle construction; conventional approaches for removing victims from



vehicles including dash rolls and cutting points for doors and roofs; and scene management and the critical nature of proper incident command system for safe operations.

Day 2 of the program provides hands-on practice with real cars, SUVs and minivans. Our vehicle extrication trailer is loaded with the latest tools including battery-powered cutting and spreading tools, hydraulic tools, hacksaws, axes, hammers and more. Students will learn and practice with all these tools on day 2 of the program.

The new extrication program is designed for both new firefighters and veterans. Three EMT continuing education credits are available. The new program will be in Haverhill on September 26 and 27, and in Hingham on October 3 and 4. Seating is limited to twenty-five students.

If your community wants to host the program, visit www.mass.gov/forms/mfa-course-request-form on the MFA website and complete the program request form. For day 2 practical sessions, host communities arrange for four or five vehicles to practice on using MFA equipment. To learn more about the program, contact Acting Coordinator Al Beardsley at Albert.Beardsley@mass.gov.

September is Campus Fire Safety Month, *continued from page 4*

- **Campus Firewatch.** A newsletter and website that focuses on campus fire safety. The website (www.campus-firewatch.com) offers resources for fire educators, parents, educators and students. The resources include a **Map of MA College-Related Fatal Fires**. These incidents were identified by Campus Firewatch since 2000. The map can be embedded on your website
- **The Michael H. Minger Foundation.** This foundation’s mission is to raise the awareness and standards of campus fire safety for all students including those with disabilities. Downloadable resources include videos for presentations and campaigns (www.mingerfoundation.org).
- **USFA Campus Fire Safety Materials.** U.S. Fire Administration resources for public outreach activities to keep college students safe from on- and off-campus housing fires (www.usfa.fema.gov/prevention/outreach/college.html).
- **NFPA.** Information from the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) about on- and off-campus fire safety (www.nfpa.org/campus).
- **The Alarming Truth.** The Clery Center for Security on Campus produced a video called *The Alarming Truth* which is about a hypothetical, but reality-based story of a fatal off-campus fire. The video was produced by students for other students (<http://alarmingtruth.org/>).

National Fire Academy Programs at the MFA

The MFA is pleased to host the following National Fire Academy programs in Stow. For more information and to register for a program, visit www.mass.gov/dfs, click on the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy, then log on to the DFS Learning Management System (LMS).

Shaping The Future F0602 (NFN)

This two-day course teaches first- and second-level supervisors and company officers (COs) contemporary approaches to organizational problem-solving. October 1–2, 2019.

Health and Safety Program Manager F0722 (NA5)

This two-day course teaches fire, EMS and other emergency responders how to manage the duties and responsibilities of a Health and Safety Program Manager (HSPM) for their organization. October 22–23, 2019.

Campus Fire and Life Safety I: Risk Assessment F0193 (NFJ)

This two-day course teaches students to create a comprehensive campus fire and life safety program including: conducting a risk assessment, developing and evaluating an emergency plan, and building partnerships to sustain emergency programs and plans. November 5–6, 2019.

Campus Fire and Life Safety II: Public Education F0194 (NFK)

This new two-day program teaches students how to create and implement a comprehensive campus fire and life safety education program. December 3–4, 2019.

New Fire Chief I: Challenging Issues F0760 (NF5)

This two-day course teaches first-time fire chiefs and chief officers the managerial, administrative and leadership skills necessary for leadership positions. March 3–4, 2020.

Hazardous Materials Incident Management (6 Days) N0243 (NA6)

This six-day course focuses on the duties and responsibilities of emergency response personnel who assume the Incident Commander (IC) role in Hazmat emergencies after the initial response. Students learn to implement a National Incident Management System (NIMS)-based Incident Command System (ICS). March 22–27, 2020.

New Fire Chief II: Administrative Issues F0761 (NF7)

This two-day course provides new chiefs with the managerial, administrative and leadership skills to effectively meet their obligations. April 7–8, 2020.

New Fire Chief III: Contemporary Issues F0762 (NFB)

This two-day course helps new chiefs to develop managerial and leadership skills, address contemporary issues and develop the awareness necessary to effectively meet their obligations. May 5–6, 2020.

Campus Fire and Life Safety III: Codes and Systems F0195 (NFL)

This two-day course teaches students how to identify and mitigate common campus fire and life safety risks, and to understand the basic components and operation of fire protection and life safety systems. June 1–2, 2020.

Best Practices in Community Risk Reduction F0635 (NFG)

This course teaches students nationally recognized principles for implementing and evaluating successful community risk-reduction programs in local communities. September 1–2, 2020.

Training Changes

Online Blasting Detail Training Discontinued

The Fire Safety Division has discontinued the Online Blasting Detail training course. It has been replaced with a Blasting Detail Orientation Program from the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy (MFA). To register, go to the DFS Learning Management System and search for course number 611-Blasting Detail Orientation Program. If your department needs to request an additional session, please use the MFA Course Request Form at: www.mass.gov/forms/mfa-course-request-form or from the DFS webpage (www.mass.gov/dfs) click on Massachusetts Firefighting Academy and scroll down to MFA Course Request Form.

Hazmat Requalification Undergoing Changes

The Hazmat Requalification course (#204) is currently inactive but we are excited to announce that it is being replaced by an online version. The online version is in development. It will be 12-16 hours of online content followed by a 1-day practical component. The new format will help us support requirements from the federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) and is a positive change for HazMat technicians waiting to join district teams. In the past, HazMat requalification was a 5-day onsite program.

Fire Investigation News

Smoking Fires

Smoking Cause of Newton Fatal Fire

On April 27, 2019, the FIU North Team responded to a fatal fire at 115 Oxford Road in Newton. The fire was caused by the improper disposal of smoking materials. The fire took the life of a 62-year old man. Firefighters rescued his 93-old mother who died several days later at the hospital.

The 3-alarm fire in the single family home started on the exterior, near the door to the basement at about 4 a.m. The man frequently smoked under the first floor deck near the entrance to his basement living area. A package of Natural American Spirit Menthol Mellow Taste Blend cigarettes was found near the area of origin. There was no evidence of any working smoke or carbon monoxide alarms in the home.

The Newton Fire Department, Newton Police Department and State Police assigned to both the Office of the State Fire Marshal and the Office of the Middlesex District Attorney jointly investigated the fire. The State Police Crime Scene Services and the Code Compliance Unit in the Department of Fire Services assisted.

Smoking Cause of Westfield Fire

Improper disposal of smoking materials caused a May 6, 2019 fire at 136 Susan Drive in Westfield. Two people were home at the time of the fire. A child was taken to a hospital suffering from smoke inhalation.

The fire started in the kitchen, near the sliding door to the rear deck at 5:30 p.m. The smoking materials burned through the floor and ignited rotten wood underneath and items on the basement floor. Investigators found remnants of a burned and melted ashtray. The resident was known to smoke Newport cigarettes. Smoke alarms worked and alerted occupants to danger.

Westfield fire investigators and detectives, and State Police assigned to the Office of the State Fire Marshal jointly investigated the fire.

Electrical Fires

Fatal Electrical Fire in Chelsea

The cause of the May 3, 2019 fire at 48 Watts Street, a 2-family home in Chelsea, was electrical. The fire took the life of a man believed to be a relative of the occupants. The fire spread to the rear of 107–109 Highland Street in this dense neighborhood.

The fire originated in a void space above the suspended ceiling of an enclosed porch. Investigators determined that an electrical event took place in the area of origin where there were numerous electrical circuits. Just before the fire

was discovered, residents reported that the lights in the first floor kitchen, the room next to the porch, went off. The victim was found in the enclosed porch.

Chelsea fire investigators and detectives, and State Police assigned to both the Office of the State Fire Marshal and to the Office of Suffolk District Attorney Rachel Rollins jointly investigated this fire. The Chelsea Inspectional Services Department, State Police Crime Scene Services and the Department of Fire Services' Code Compliance Unit provided assistance.

The home had a mixture of working, missing and disconnected smoke alarms, carbon monoxide alarms and heat detectors. All of the alarms found in the home, whether they were disconnected, lying on a shelf, or actually functional, had expired and were more than ten years old. The first firefighters on the scene report not hearing any alarms.

Electrical Failure Sparked Bourne Fire

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

This apartment building was of balloon frame construction and the fire began in the confined space between the ceiling and a second floor unit. The fire quickly spread through the balloon frame and extended into the attic, resulting in a major roof collapse. Nine fire departments from the Upper Cape assisted.

The fire was jointly investigated by members of the Bourne Fire Department, and State Police assigned to the Office of the State Fire Marshal.

West Stockbridge Fire Accidental

The cause of the May 3, 2019 fire at 18 Swamp Road in West Stockbridge was accidental. Smoking and electrical are the two most likely causes. The owner reported the fire in the single-family home at 10:30 p.m.

The fire originated in the back bedroom where there was a power strip in use and several ashtrays. Due to the extent of the damage, investigators cannot rule out smoking or electrical as possible causes. Investigators found no evidence of an intentionally-set fire. The fire is considered officially undetermined but accidental. The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Standard 921 for fire investigation requires investigators to label a fire undetermined when there is more than one likely cause.

Multiple extension cords, often chained together, were

in use throughout the home. There was evidence of portable propane tanks used for cooking in the home. Ammunition stored in the home exploded during the fire, posing a danger to firefighters.

The West Stockbridge Fire Department and State Police assigned to the Office of the State Fire Marshal jointly investigated this fire.

Scituate Boat Fire Accidental

The June 4, 2019 boat fire in Scituate Harbor was accidental. The 24-foot Seaswirl Striper boat had just refueled at the Scituate Marina at 48 Jericho Road when the fire started. Investigators believe that the blowers, which help vapors dissipate, had not been allowed to run for a sufficient time before the engine was started, and gasoline vapors ignited.

The fire spread to the marine fueling facility where staff cut off the flow of gasoline and used several fire extinguishers to unsuccessfully fight the fire. Harbor master staff towed the burning boat away from the fuel dock reducing damage to the marina and adjacent boats.

Five people on the boat and seven first responders were injured. The family jumped into the water and were rescued by another boater and brought to shore. A man and a boy were taken to Boston hospitals for treatment for burn injuries. The boat is a total loss.

The boat operator had no formal boating safety education, which could have significantly reduced the possibility of the fire. The Environmental Police encourage all boaters to take one of the free boating safety courses offered by the Commonwealth (www.mass.gov/take-a-boating-safety-course).

The fire was jointly investigated by the Massachusetts Environmental Police (because it occurred in the harbor), the Scituate Fire and Police Departments and State Police assigned to the Office of the State Fire Marshal.

Welding Sparked Cohasset Automotive Shop Fire

The April 4, 2019 fire at 147 South Main Street in Cohasset was sparked by welding in an automotive repair shop. The owner attempted to extinguish the fire, but oil and gas in the shop helped the fire spread quickly. The building is a total loss and damages are estimated at \$300,000. There was one apartment above the shop. Everyone escaped safely and there were no injuries. The fire originated in one of the repair bays during welding operations.

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WHO
DID THIS, CALL
1-800-682-9229.**

ArsonWatch
reward program

We'll pay you up to \$5,000 for any information which helps detect or prevent an arson fire. All calls are held in strict confidence. Amount of reward to be determined by the extent of information given.

ALL CALLS TOTALLY CONFIDENTIAL

Members of the Cohasset Fire and Police Departments and State Police assigned to the Office of the State Fire Marshal jointly investigated the fire. The Mass. Department of Environmental Protection also responded to remediate contaminated run-off water from the building.

Arson Fires in Two Houses of Worship

Investigators from the Arlington and Needham Fire and Police Departments, State Police from the Office of the State Fire Marshal, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), and the Massachu-

setts State Police Fusion Center are working together to investigate two arson fires at Chabad Centers in Arlington and Needham. A Chabad Center is both the home of a Rabbi, and a place for Jewish study and worship. The Arlington fire occurred on May 12, 2019, and a second fire was set at the same location on May 16. Also on May 16, a fire was set at a Chabad Center in Needham. The FBI is leading the ongoing investigation and the investigative team is bringing all necessary resources to these fires. The fires may or may not be connected.

Preventing Arson at Houses of Worship

Preventing arson at houses of worship covers three main areas: external security, internal security, and community awareness. Here are some steps communities can take to prevent arson at houses of worship:

External Security

- Install video surveillance cameras. Monitor often to make sure they work.
- Illuminate the exterior and entrances. Use shielded fixtures with warm light bulbs of Correlated Color Temperature (CCT) of 3,000K or less. Avoid bright white or blue lights for better visibility.
- Use motion-activated lighting near doors and windows.
- Keep shrubbery and trees trimmed so the building can be observed by passing patrols.
- Do not allow signs to block the view of the building.
- Many buildings have basement entries that are hidden from view. Secure them with locking, ground level doors when the building is not in use.

Continued on page 19

Massachusetts Firefighting Academy *Graduations*

Class #273



Class #274



Class #275



Class #S11



Fire Investigation Programs

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

Advanced Fire Investigation Course

Twenty-three public safety officers completed the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy's six-day Advanced Fire Investigation course on May 30, 2019. This rigorous professional training provides fire, and state and local police officers with the advanced skills to accurately determine the origin and cause of fires in their jurisdictions and together, build solid, prosecutable cases.

The 23 graduates included 17 firefighters, one local police officer, four Massachusetts State Police officers, and one State Fire Code official representing the following 19 agencies: Ashland Fire Department, DFS Fire Safety, Dunstable Fire Department, Falmouth Fire Department, Gloucester Fire Department, Haverhill Fire Department, Lynn Fire Department, Massachusetts State Police, New Bedford Fire Department, Northampton Fire Department, Peabody Fire Department, Salem Fire Department, Somerville Fire Department, Springfield Fire Department, Waltham Fire Department, Wareham Fire Department, Westborough Fire Department, Westfield Police Department, and the Weymouth Fire Department.

Career Recruit Firefighting Training

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

Class #273

Members of Career Recruit Firefighter Class #273 graduated on Friday, May 24, 2019 at the Department of Fire Services. The 32 graduates, one woman and 31 men, represent the 18

fire departments of Acton, Billerica, Bourne, Devens, East Bridgewater, Harwich, Hopkinton, Hyannis, Littleton, Lowell, Mashpee, North Andover, Peabody, Revere, Stoneham, Weston, Westwood and Woburn.

Class #274

Members of Career Recruit Firefighter Class #274 graduated on Friday, June 28, 2019 at the Department of Fire Services. The 33 graduates, two women and 31 men, represent the 14 fire departments of Avon, Bourne, Fitchburg, Framingham, Harwich, Lowell, Marshfield, Needham, Norton, Peabody, Seekonk, Somerville, Watertown and West Bridgewater.

Class #275

Members of Career Recruit Firefighter Class #275 graduated August 9, 2019 at the Department of Fire Services. The 37 graduates, two women and 35 men, represent the 23 fire departments of Beverly, Canton, Easton, Fairhaven, Foxborough, Gloucester, Holden, Hopkinton, Mansfield, Medfield, Methuen, Milford, Nahant, Norwood, Reading, Saugus, Scituate, Seekonk, Swampscott, Watertown, Westborough, Westwood and Winchester.

Class #S11

Members of Career Recruit Firefighter Class #S11 graduated Friday, June 21, 2019 at the Department of Fire Services, Springfield Campus. The graduates, all men, represent the thirteen fire departments of Athol, Chicopee, East Longmeadow, Holden, Longmeadow, Ludlow, Northbridge, Oxford, Sandwich, Southbridge, Springfield, West Springfield, and Wrentham.

Call/Volunteer Recruit Firefighting Training

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

Class #76

On June 27, 2019 members of the Call/Volunteer Recruit Firefighter Training Class #76 graduated. The 32 graduates, five women and 27 men, represent the 15 fire departments of Acushnet, Avon, Berkley, Dartmouth District #1, Dartmouth District #3, Dighton, Fairhaven, Freetown, Lakeville, Marion,

Class #76



Class #77



Plympton, Raynham, Rehoboth, Swansea and Westport. The ceremony took place at the Kuss Middle School, Fall River, Massachusetts.

Class #77

On June 26, 2019 members of the Call/Volunteer Recruit Firefighter Training Class #76 graduated. The 36 graduates, five women and 31 men, represent the 16 fire departments of Ashburnham, Avon, Dudley, Hardwick, Littleton, Mendon, Millville, North Brookfield, Oxford, Sherborn, Shrewsbury, Spencer, Templeton, Townsend, Upton and Weston. The ceremony took place at the Department of Fire Services, Stow Campus.

Fire Departments Do Much More than Fight Fires

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

2019 License Examination Schedule

Fire Safety Division

The Department of Fire Services' Fire Safety Division issues licenses, permits and certificates of competency (licenses) to people and companies engaged in fireworks, blasting, explosives, special effects, cannon and mortar firing, commercial cooking exhaust system cleaning and inspection, special hazard systems, portable fire extinguishers, marine fueling facilities and above ground tanks. Register for exams and see detailed information at www.mass.gov/dfs. Search for *DFS Licensing*. For questions, contact the Licensing Desk at 978-567-3700 or at dfs.licensing@state.ma.us.

Boiler and Pressure Vessel Program

The Boiler and Pressure Vessel Program offers monthly license exams for oil burner technician and all classes of fireman and engineer licenses. Register for exams and see detailed information at www.mass.gov/dfs. Search for *BPV exams*. For questions contact the Boiler & Pressure Vessel Program at (978) 567-3780 or at BPV.Exams@MassMail.State.MA.US.

Licensing Status

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

Examination Schedule	Examination Dates	Deadlines for Applications (Fridays)
FSD Exams	Exams start at 10:00 a.m.	
Fire Suppression	November 13, 2019	October 25, 2019
Commercial Hood Cleaning		
Cannon/Mortar, Fireworks, Special Effects, Blasting, Blasting R&D	October 16, 2019	September 27, 2019
BPV Exams	Exams start at 9:00 a.m.	
Oil burner, fireman & engineer (all classes)	October 30, 2019	September 27, 2019
Oil burner, fireman & engineer (all classes)	November 21, 2019 (Thursday)	October 25, 2019
Oil burner, fireman & engineer (all classes)	December 18, 2019	November 22, 2019

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

Signs Blocking Gas Station Suppression Systems Removed

The Code Compliance & Enforcement Unit recently worked with Exxon Mobil gas station owners in Massachusetts to address the obstruction of fire suppression systems at fuel pumps. At many gas stations, newly installed "Synergy" advertisement signs obstructed the suppression system nozzles. Licensed fire suppression companies conducted inspections at all locations and the obstructions were quickly removed. All systems have been brought into full compliance here in the Commonwealth.



Aboveground Storage Tanks (ASTs)

Changes to Inspections

In 2014, MGL c. 148 s. 37 was changed. Mandatory annual AST inspections were replaced with an inspection frequency established by the Marshal in 502 CMR 5.00, *Permit and Inspection Requirements of ASTs of More Than 10,000-gallons Capacity*. Beginning in 2016, AST inspections will be every five years, contingent on the tank being serviced in accordance with its inspection and maintenance standard (Approved Standard).

To ensure compliance with the Approved Standard, information and forms were sent to AST owners in June 2019. The goal is to establish an inspection and maintenance standard for each tank. The form must be completed by a qualified tank inspector to ensure that the declared Approved Standard is appropriate for the particular AST. Using the new information on forms, Department of Fire Services compliance officers will audit AST sites during the five year period to confirm that tank(s) meet the inspection and maintenance schedule in the Approved Standard before a permit is renewed.

The Fire Safety Division aims to audit 20% of ASTs each year during the 5-year renewal cycle with the goal



that all tanks will be audited by the end of the cycle.

Electronic versions of the Approved Standard Declaration Form, MGL c. 148 s. 37, 502 CMR 5.00, and other AST related information can be found on the AST webpage at www.mass.gov/service-details/aboveground-storage-tanks-asts.

For questions, contact the Fire Safety Division's Code Compliance Help Desk at 978-567-3375.

Fire Investigation News, *continued from page 15*

- Secure ladders, external stairways, and fire escapes allowing access to the roof.
- Painting the building white or constructing it with light-colored brick makes it easier to see people at night.
- Consider fencing building areas that are not readily visible to patrols or neighbors.

Internal Security

- Install smoke alarms and a fire sprinkler system.
- Keep doors and windows locked.
- Clean up – Remove anything that could fuel a fire for an arsonist.

Community Awareness

- Establish an arson watch program. For information, download the U.S. Fire Administration's Community Arson Prevention pamphlet (www.usfa.fema.gov/downloads/pdf/arson/aaw10_media_kit.pdf).
- Use the U.S. Fire Administration's brochure to spread the word about arson prevention (www.usfa.fema.gov/downloads/pdf/arson/2017_aaw_brochure.pdf).
- Keep congregation leaders informed of problems.
- Be aware of individuals who may be disgruntled or likely to cause damage to property through arson or vandalism.
- Be aware that vandalism may precede arson.
- Open avenues of communication with fire and law

enforcement officials about the arson problem that places of worship are facing.

- Appoint a person from the congregation to be a liaison with law and fire officials.
- Promote neighborhood watches and educate neighbors about the lighting around the building (motion detectors).
- Educate neighbors to recognize unusual activities.
- Encourage neighbors to make note of strangers spending time in the neighborhood, either on foot or in vehicles. Write down the license plate numbers of suspicious vehicles and inform the proper authorities.
- Do not advertise the times when the place of worship is not in use.

There have been 21 arson fires in houses of worship over the past decade (2009-2018) in Massachusetts. Targets have included Jewish synagogues, Hindu temples, Muslim mosques and Christian churches.

For more information and steps communities can take to prevent arson, go to the state Arson Awareness Week webpage at www.mass.gov/service-details/arson-awareness-week or the U.S. Fire Administration's Preventing Arson in Houses of Worship webpage (www.usfa.fema.gov/prevention/outreach/arson_prevention_houses_of_worship/).

Resources for the Fire Service on Mass.Gov

Fire and Electrical Code Information and Enforcement Resources

In this issue of the AHH, we offer tips on finding Massachusetts Fire Code and Electrical Code information and code enforcement resources. We hope these tips will help you find what you need on the website more quickly.

The fastest way to get to the code pages is to type the name of the page you want into the *Search this organization* bar on the DFS home page.

Search bar for Mass.Gov

Navigation for Mass.Gov

Home page navigation for DFS

Search bar for DFS

Use the *Search this organization* bar on the DFS home page. Type *Massachusetts Fire Code and Electrical Code* to find the page quickly.

From this page, you can link to code enforcement resources:

- Massachusetts State Fire Code
- Massachusetts State Electrical Code
- 527 CMR 1.00
- 527 CMR 12.00
- M.G.L. C. 148
- Fire Safety Division Advisories
- Code and Fire Prevention Support
- DFS Licensing and Permits
- Board of Fire Prevention Regulation (BFPR)

Link to *Code and Fire Prevention Support* for DFS code compliance and fire protection engineering support.

Code compliance contacts.

Link to MGL Chapter 148 and 527 CMR 1.00.

Code and Fire Prevention Support

The Fire Safety Division of DFS provides code compliance and fire protection engineering support to local fire departments.

Compliance officers and engineers can be asked to look into any matter covered by [MGL Chapter 148](#) or [527 CMR 1.00](#).

Code compliance officers:

CONTACT

DFS Code Compliance

Address

DFS Code Compliance

1 State Road, Stow, MA 01775

[directions](#)

Link to Fire Safety Division forms and applications.

Related links to:

- Fire Safety Division Forms and Applications
- FSD Technical Advisories
- Information for DFS-Regulated Industries
- Board of Fire Prevention Regulation (BFPR)

Link to DFS licensing information.

Link to Boiler and Pressure Vessel (BPV) program.

Link to FSD advisories

Links to fire prevention resources (by topic) for DFS regulated industries and for fire officials.

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

Fire prevention resources for specific occupancies.

Online blasting detail training information.

[Fire Safety Division forms and applications](#) for:

- Fire prevention
- Boiler & Pressure Vessel Program

Fire Code Compliance

Technical support staff provide:

- Fire protection engineering support
- Fire code interpretations
- Opinions on the application of fire safety laws and regulations

RELATED

[Fire Safety Division Forms and Applications](#) →

[FSD Technical Advisories](#) →

[Information for DFS-Regulated Industries](#) →

[Board of Fire Prevention Regulations \(BFPR\)](#) →

[Department of Fire Services](#) →

Additional Resources

[Massachusetts State Fire & Electrical Code](#)

[DFS License Exams](#)

[Smoke & CO Alarm Information for Selling 1- & 2-Family Homes](#)

[Boiler and Pressure Vessel \(BPV\) Safety Program](#)

Fire Prevention Resources

The State Fire Marshal issues technical [advisories](#) for fire professionals and the public.

DFS provides information for DFS-regulated industries that is also useful for fire officials on:

- [Aboveground Storage Tanks](#)
- [Blasting, Fireworks and Explosives](#)
- [Boiler & Pressure Vessels](#)
- [Commercial Cooking and Exhaust Systems \(Hood Cleaning\)](#)
- [Crowd Managers](#)
- [Crop Mazes](#)
- [Fire Extinguishers](#)
- [Haunted Houses](#)
- [Hotworks \(Welding & Cutting\)](#)
- [Marine Fueling](#)
- [Motion Picture & TV Production - Fire Safety Requirements](#)
- [Oil Burners](#)

DFS provides information on fire prevention topics for specific occupancies:

- [Nightclubs](#)
- [Places of Assembly](#)
- [Restaurants](#)
- [Schools](#)
- [Self-service Gas Stations](#)

Additional Resources

[FSD Advisories to Local Fire Departments](#)

[Online Blasting Detail Training](#)



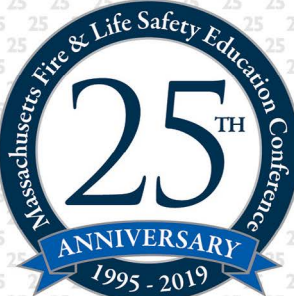
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- Thousands of older adults are safer in their homes.
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Keynote and General Session Speaker Topics

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- The Future of Fire Safety Education: What the Fire Service Can Do to Prepare Communities for Current Fire Dangers
- The Dangers of Juuling and Vaping

Workshop Topics

- Teaching fire safety to adults, seniors and children
- Programs for new fire and life safety educators
- Workshops to challenge experienced educators
- Teaching new ways to develop partnerships, collaborate, and expand programs

Registration Information

Email Cynthia.Ouellette@mass.gov. Include "conference" in the subject line of your email. Or visit www.mass.gov/dfs and search for *DFS Public Education Conference 2019*.

Location

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