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STEPHEN D. COAN  
STATE FIRE MARSHAL

**MEMORANDUM**

**To:** Heads of Fire Department

**From:** Stephen D. Coan  
State Fire Marshal

**Date:** March 1, 2015

**RE:** **Fire Suppression System Initiators Containing Explosive Materials**

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Recently, a municipal fire department and the State Police Bomb Squad assigned to my office were called out to a facility that contained a Halon fire suppression system.

A fire suppression system company had been contacted to remove components of the Halon fire suppression system. The company removed the agent cylinders however, they left the explosive containing initiators, and contacted the fire department for disposal.

I want to remind you that work on systems containing these initiators must be conducted by companies and individuals possessing the proper technical qualifications, certificates of registration and competency, along with the appropriate federal and state licenses related to the possession and use of explosive materials.

It is the responsibility of these companies and individuals to properly handle and dispose of the explosive containing initiators.

Further assistance is always available from the Division of Fire Safety on this and similar issues. If you have further questions, please contact the Code Compliance and Enforcement Unit at (978) 567-3375 or in western Massachusetts at (413) 587-3181.