MEMORANDUM

To: Heads of Fire Departments

From: Peter J. Ostroskey, State Fire Marshal

Date: April 1, 2018

Re: Fire Safety Public Service Announcements (PSAs)

In an effort to increase the tools available to local fire departments, the Department of Fire Services has created ten video fire safety public service announcements (PSAs). Fire departments are welcome to download the PSAs and use them in presentations, on their own websites, or to ask their own local cable access stations to air them. They have permission to customize them with your logo. The topics covered include:

- Smoke alarms
- CO alarms
- Home escape plans
- Cooking safety
- Match & lighter safety
- Home heating safety
- Space heater safety
- Electrical safety
- Dryer fire prevention
- Candle safety

You can find them on the DFS YouTube channel www.youtube.com/DFSOSFM and click on the Fire Safety PSA playlist, or you may find them on individual DFS webpages by topic. We are indebted to the staff of the Mansfield Cable Access Television which produced them for us. If you need assistance with these PSAs, please contact Jennifer Mieth, Public Information Officer at Jennifer.Mieth@state.ma.us or (978) 567-3189.
SENIOR FIRE OFFICER FORUM
FROM THE X-BOX TO A BOX ALARM - UNDERSTANDING AND LEADING TODAY’S NEW GENERATION OF FIREFIGHTERS

Presented By: Tiger Schmittendorf, Deputy Fire Coordinator, Erie County Department of Homeland Security & Emergency Services (ret)

This presentation utilizes ‘edutainment,’ deep questioning and engaging facilitated conversation supported by relevant text, videos and images that reinforce presentation objectives, specifically identifying the learning and communications habits of today’s Firefighters and prospective recruits.

From the X-Box to the Box Alarm addresses the challenges of today’s fire service leaders in attracting, retaining and connecting with today’s Firefighters who form the future of emergency services in their communities.

ABOUT THE SPEAKER

Tiger Schmittendorf is an author, emergency manager and frequent presenter on subjects of leadership, safety, incident command, training and firefighter recruitment and retention

He has been a Firefighter since 1980 and served as the Erie County Department of Homeland Security & Emergency Services for 20 years until retiring in January, 2018 as Deputy Fire Coordinator. He was responsible for the recruitment, training and operations of the county’s 97 fire departments and more than 6,000 firefighters. He created iVolunteer.org – a county-wide recruitment clearinghouse that netted thousands of new recruits for Erie County; and SoldierFirefighter.com which focuses on connecting veterans with the fire service.

April 11, 2018
Activity Number: SOX
Location: Massachusetts Firefighting Academy
One State Rd, Stow, MA
Time: 0900-1300

This forum is eligible for credit toward Fire Chief Credential.

Registration
Register at DFS Learning Management System
NATIONAL FIRE ACADEMY PROGRAM
EMERGENCY RESPONSE TO TERRORISM: STRATEGIC & TACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS FOR SUPERVISORS F0549

This two-day course is designed for the responder(s) who may be responsible for initial and expanded command of incidents involving terrorism. The course is intended to build upon the students' existing skills as Incident Commanders (ICs) and practitioners of the Incident Command System, with knowledge of the National Incident Management System, the National Response Framework, and terrorism.

This class will assist the officers in preparing an effective response to the consequences of terrorism. ICs must be prepared to operate as part of a multiagency, multidiscipline and multijurisdictional response. The course uses lecture supported by case studies and practice scenarios to address the command and control challenges that will likely confront the IC.

This will enable the students to apply their knowledge of pre-incident planning, managing emergency incidents, and operating as part of a Unified Command structure to ensure the safety of responders while bringing the incident to a successful conclusion.
SENIOR FIRE OFFICER FORUM
A FIRE OFFICER’S GUIDE TO TODAY’S BUILDINGS

Presented By: Christopher Naum, Chief of Training, Command Institute (NY|DC)

Presenting insights on building construction for today’s fire service, the primary objective of this program is to increase awareness and understanding in the fundamentals of building construction, architecture, engineering and design that directly impact firefighting and command operations at structure fires based on emerging construction systems.


ABOUT THE SPEAKER
Christopher Naum is a 44-year fire service veteran and a highly regarded national and international instructor, author, lecturer and fire officer. He is a distinguished authority on building construction issues affecting the fire and emergency services and has traveled throughout the United States and internationally delivering training programs on building construction, command management and operational safety.

A former Adjunct Instructor with the National Fire Academy and current National Fallen Firefighter (NFFF) Firefighter Safety Advocate, he is a past member of the Board of Directors, IAFC Safety, Health & Survival Section and a past Vice-President with the International Society of Fire Service Instructors.

A former architect and fire protection engineer, he was the 1987 ISFSI George D. Post National Fire Instructor of the Year. He is the Chief of Training for the Command Institute (NY|DC), is a Consultant to NIOSH (USA) Firefighter Fatality Investigation & Prevention Program, and a well-respected Tactical Theorist, researching and developing emerging and cutting edge strategic and tactical operational methodologies, concepts and practices based on fire research to improved fireground operations and firefighter safety. He is active in numerous national & international fire service agenda programs and committees.

May 8, 2018
Activity Number: SOY
Location: Massachusetts Firefighting Academy
One State Road
Stow, MA
Time: 0900-1300

This forum is eligible for credit toward Fire Chief Credential.
DFS ORIENTATION FOR COMMAND STAFF

These presentations are to provide Fire Chiefs, both new and new to Massachusetts, along with their command staff an opportunity to learn of the assistance available from the various divisions of the Department of Fire Services. As a participant in this orientation, you will have an opportunity to ask questions of and receive critical contact information from divisions that support the Massachusetts fire service.

To reach the widest audience possible we are hosting two sessions. A full day session at our Stow campus and a two evening split session at our Springfield campus. Those attending Springfield session need to attend both evenings.

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*SPRINGFIELD SESSIONS NEED TO ATTEND BOTH DATES

Notes:
This is a “Priority Selection” course which is not first come-first serve.

Registration
Register online at DFS Learning Management System. Use your smart device to scan the code to login:
May 21 & 22, 2018

**Course Number:**
659

**Location:**
First Congregational Church
10 Church Street
Boylston, MA 01505

**Time:**
0830-1700

**Notes:**
This is a “Priority Selection” course which is not first come-first serve.

**Priority Selection Date:**
May 07, 2018

# SUICIDE PREVENTION, INTERVENTION, AND POSTVENTION

## Course Highlights
- Common myths about suicide
- Risk factors for suicidal behavior
- Frequent motivations for suicide
- Problem solving methods
- Effective intervention strategies
- Elements of effective postvention
- Elements of survivor grief
- Community referral resources
- Feeling and reactions of suicide survivors

Why do people kill themselves? How do I ask someone if they are feeling suicidal? What do I do if the ARE suicidal? How do I deal with the strong emotions suicide generates? This course will provide answers for these and other questions many of crisis interventionists have about suicide. It will provide participants with basic information about suicide as well as help participants develop practical skills for prevention, intervention, and postvention. Small group role-plays will allow participants to apply the suggested techniques as they are learned.

This course is open to anyone who wishes to learn more about intervening across the suicide spectrum. Professionals from the fields of Emergency Services including Fire, Police, EMS, Search & Rescue, Business and Industry Crisis Intervention, Disaster Response, Education, Employee Assistance, Healthcare, Homeland Security, Mental Health, Military, Spiritual Care, and Traumatic Stress may all benefit.

Completion of “Suicide Prevention, Intervention, & Postvention” and receipt of a certificate indicating full attendance (14 contact hours) qualifies as a class in the International Critical Incident Stress Foundation’s *Certificate of Specialized Training Program*

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**Registration**
Register at [DFS Learning Management System](#)
The courses listed below are available at the time this calendar is created and are available through our new DFS Learning Management System. Once in the system, follow the job aid “How to View the Training Calendar” to register for a course.

**~April 2018~**

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How to view the Training Calendar in the Department of Fire Services Learning Management System
Log into the LMS – there is a link on the DFS website

If you want to view the external catalog (no account needed) or you need to create a new account, please click HERE.

Some features within the LMS system will open in a new window, PLEASE ENABLE YOUR POP-UPS WITHIN YOUR BROWSER.

Login

*Username

*Password

Forgot your password?

The password is case-sensitive.
Welcome to the new DF8 Learning Management System (LMS)

The first time you login, you must update your Personal File otherwise you will not be enrolled in courses and you may be charged in error!

Some users are experiencing issues going to our E-payment page especially in Chrome, please make sure you allow pop-ups (see below)

Click on Catalog Search
Search for a course or click the magnifying glass
Click on Training Calendar
Scroll to view training dates

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Click on Scheduled Sessions
To register for a session click on Add to Cart

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To proceed to the order form, click Register.

Accident Waiver and Release from Liability (AWRL)

By selecting the I AGREE check box below, I hereby acknowledge that certain training activities conducted by the Department of Fire Services, including but not limited to participation and/or observation of live burn exercises and all other activities relating to firefighting, fire protection, explosions, hazardous materials, environmental exposure, process safety and emergency response, present certain risks which are unavoidable.

I expressly acknowledge and understand that participation and/or observation of these activities at the Massachusetts Firefighting Training Academy are inherently dangerous. Although safety precautions are taken by the Department of Fire Services, the Massachusetts Firefighting Training Academy and its staff to protect myself, a certain degree of risk remains.

However, notwithstanding these risks and being fully informed, I, hereby assume these risks. Therefore, I agree to waive any claim of liability, now and forever, relating to or arising out of the above referenced activities which could be filed against the Department of Fire Services, Massachusetts Firefighting Academy, Commonwealth of Massachusetts or any of its departments, boards, commissions, trainers, agents, servants, employees or their consultants thereof, whether in their official or individual capacity. I hereby agree to indemnify and hold harmless all entities or persons mentioned in this paragraph from any and all liability or claims, whether in law or in equity, made by other individuals or entities as a result of my activities during this training.

I certify that I am physically fit and have not been advised otherwise by a qualified medical person.

I hereby certify that I have read this document and understand its content.

[ ] I agree

Click I agree and Register

[Keep shopping] [Register] [Back] [Close]
Transfer to My Learning Activities

Your registration request has been completed. You can now access your learning activity by clicking on the Learning activity list button.

Click to view the course in your Learning Activities
Once you are enrolled you will receive an email notification. Use this page to change or cancel your registration.
Preventing Electrical Fires at Home

Maintenance
Electrical wiring, like all other systems, needs maintenance and inspection. Have your electrical system examined by a licensed electrician every 10 years. All electrical work should be done by a licensed electrician who obtains a permit when required. The permit process protects homeowners by requiring that an inspector check that the work is done correctly.

Arc Fault Circuit Interrupter (AFCI)
An arc fault circuit interrupter is a new device designed to actually reduce the likelihood of fires. It responds to arcing and sparking within a circuit before the circuit breaker or fuse trips. The AFCI breaker trips to help prevent the fire from occurring in the first place.

The AFCI is installed at the electrical panel and doesn’t look much different than a regular circuit breaker. 

Don’t confuse the AFCI with GFCI. Both devices serve different functions.

AFCIs are mostly found in newly built homes, but can easily be installed in older homes equipped with circuit breakers.

Ground Fault Circuit Interrupter (GFCI)
Installing Ground Fault Circuit Interrupter (GFCI) receptacles can reduce deaths from electrical shock in and around the home by two-thirds. GFCIs should be installed by a qualified electrician in places near water such as kitchen counters, bathrooms and other areas subject to moisture, including the outdoors.

Preventing Electrocutions and Shocks
Safety Tips:
• Read and follow instructions and safety tips provided with electrical appliances and equipment.
• Install plastic safety covers in unused electrical outlets to protect children from shock hazard.
• When unplugging a cord or appliance from an outlet, pull the plug not the cord. Pulling by the cord can cause damage to the wiring at the connection.
• Do not defeat polarized plugs (one prong larger than the other) or the third or ground prong.
• Keep electrical appliances and cords away from water. Keep yourself alive by keeping water and electricity separate.
Electricity is a powerful energy source that must be treated with care and respect.

When we think about electricity, we think about electric current. Electric current is the power running along wires in our home and generates heat as it travels. The electrical current is like water running through a hose. The size of the cord can carry only so much electricity before it starts to overheat. The insulation on home wiring, fuses and other parts of the electrical system are all designed to carry a certain amount of electricity safely. The more electricity you draw along a cord, the more quickly it heats up. For instance, an appliance like a space heater can draw a lot of current and needs to be plugged in with a properly designed cord.

Extension Cords

The plugs on cords are the places where heat builds up and the more cords you connect together, the more trouble spots you have. The connection between an extension cord and an appliance cord does not have the same safety features (like fuses or circuit breakers) as those that are built into a wall socket. That is why extension cords are for temporary use only.

Electrical Fires: A Leading Cause of Fire Deaths

From 2012-2016, Massachusetts fire departments reported 2,702 home fires caused by electrical problems. These fires caused 33 civilian deaths, 110 civilian injuries, 287 fire service injuries and an estimated dollar loss of $146 million. The average loss per fire was $54,018. Electrical fires were the leading cause of fire deaths in 2011 and 2014, the second leading cause of death in 2016, and were tied as the number two cause of death in 2012, 2013, and 2015.

Potential Warning Signs and Hazards

Call the fire department immediately if you have any of these warning signs:
- Arcs, sparks or short circuits;
- Sizzling or buzzing sound;
- Odors, vague smell of something burning

Firefighters can use thermal imaging technology to see excessive heat inside the walls.

Call a professional electrician soon if you have any of these warning signs:
- Frequently blown fuses or tripped circuit breakers;
- Dim or flickering lights, bulbs that wear out too fast;
- Overheated plugs, cords or switches;
- Shock or mild tingle – more than normal static electricity;
- Loose plugs; or
- Unusually warm or faulty outlets or switches.

Look around for these hazards in your home and correct them:
- Overloaded outlets – more than one appliance cord plugged into one wall outlet.
- Cords pinched behind furniture like couches or bureaus.
- Overloaded power strips. They should only be used with a few low current devices such as electronics.
- Lamps or fixtures with light bulbs higher than the recommended wattage. Most lamps recommend 60 watts. Be careful where you use higher wattage bulbs.
- Electrical cords underneath rugs, carpet or furniture. Move them to reduce the risk of fire from overheating due to worn insulation.
- Cords with frayed wires or cracked insulation. Replace them with new ones having a certification label from an independent testing laboratory.
- An extension cord that is not properly rated for the appliance it powers. Typical “lamp cord” extension cords cannot carry the electrical current needed for appliances such as space heaters or air conditioners.
- Cords or wires that are nailed into place. This can cause electrical shorts and arcing.
- Indoor appliances and cords being used outdoors.
Mantenimiento
El cableado eléctrico, como cualquier otro sistema, necesita mantenimiento e inspección. Haga revisar su sistema eléctrico por un electricista cada 10 años. Todo trabajo eléctrico debe ser realizado por un electricista matriculado, quien deberá obtener un permiso cuando sea requerido. El proceso de permiso protege a los propietarios, ya que un inspector debe verificar que el trabajo haya sido correctamente realizado.

Interruptor de Circuito por Falla de Arco (AFCI)
Un interruptor de circuito por falla de arco es un nuevo dispositivo diseñado para reducir realmente la probabilidad de incendios. Responde al arco y encendido dentro de un circuito antes que salte el disyuntor o el fusible. El interruptor AFCI se activa para evitar que se produzca un incendio.

El interruptor AFCI se instala en el panel eléctrico y se parece bastante a un disyuntor común.

No confunda AFCI con GFCI. Son dispositivos que tienen distintas funciones. Los interruptores AFCI se encuentran principalmente en casas nuevas, pero pueden instalarse fácilmente en hogares más antiguos equipados con disyuntores.

Interruptor Para Circuito Con Pérdida a Tierra (GFCI)
Instalar un receptáculo GFCI puede reducir en dos terceras partes el riesgo de muerte por choque eléctrico en el hogar.

Estos dispositivos deben ser instalados por un electricista calificado en lugares cerca del agua, como mesadas de cocina, baños y otras áreas con humedad, incluso en el exterior.

Prevención de Electrocuciones y Choques Eléctricos
Consejos de seguridad:
• Lea y siga las instrucciones y las recomendaciones de seguridad de fábrica para artefactos y equipos eléctricos.
• Instale cubiertas plásticas de seguridad en tomacorrientes que no están en uso, para proteger a los niños del peligro de choque eléctrico.
• Al desenchufar un cable o un electrodoméstico, jale del enchufe, no del cable, para evitar dañar el cableado en la conexión.
• No anule los enchufes polarizados (una clavija más larga que la otra) ni la tercera clavija de conexión a tierra.
• Mantenga los artefactos eléctricos y sus cables alejados del agua. Evite riesgos a la vida manteniendo el agua y la electricidad por separado.
La electricidad es una potente fuente de energía que merece cuidado y respeto.

Cuando hablamos de electricidad, pensamos en la corriente eléctrica. La corriente eléctrica es la energía que viaja por los cables instalados en nuestro hogar y genera calor a su paso. La corriente eléctrica es como el agua que fluye por una manguera. Por su tamaño, un cable puede transportar determinada cantidad de electricidad antes de empezar a sobrecalentarse. La aislación en la instalación eléctrica del hogar, los fusibles y otras partes del sistema eléctrico están diseñados para llevar una cierta cantidad de electricidad en forma segura. Cuanta más electricidad se carga en un cable, más rápido se calienta. Por ejemplo, un artefacto como un calefactor puede necesitar mucha corriente y debe enchufarse con un cable correctamente diseñado.

Alargues

Los enchufes de los alargues son los lugares donde se acumula calor, y cuantos más cables se conectan juntos, más puntos problemáticos se tiene. La conexión entre un alargue y el cable de un artefacto no tiene las mismas características de seguridad (como fusibles y disyuntores) que los que están empotrados en un tomacorriente de pared. Por ese motivo, los alargues son solo para uso temporal.

Incendios Eléctricos:

Una Causa Líder de Muertes por Incendio

Entre 2012 y 2016, el departamento de bomberos de Massachusetts registró 2.702 incendios en el hogar causados por problemas eléctricos. Estos incendios ocasionaron la muerte a 33 civiles, lesiones a 110 civiles y 287 bomberos, y una pérdida estimada de $146 millones. La pérdida promedio por incendio fue de $54.018. Los incendios eléctricos fueron la causa número uno de muertes por incendio en 2011 y 2014 y empataron en el segundo puesto en 2012, 2013 y 2015.

Signos de Alerta y Peligro Potencial

Llame al departamento de bomberos de inmediato si tiene alguno de los siguientes signos:
- Arcos, chispas o cortocircuitos;
- Sonidos chisporroteantes o zumbidos;
- Olor (aunque sea un olor vago) a quemado. Los bomberos pueden usar tecnología de imágenes térmicas para ver el calor excesivo dentro de las paredes.

Llame a un electricista profesional de inmediato ante estas situaciones:
- Fusibles que se queman o disyuntores que se disparan con frecuencia;
- Lámparas tenues o que titilan, bombillas que se queman demasiado rápido;
- Enchufes, cables o interruptores recalentados;
- Choque u hormigueo: superior a electricidad estática normal;
- Clavijas sueltas;
- Tomacorrientes o interruptores sobrecalentados o defectuosos.

Busque estos signos de peligro en su hogar y coríjales:
- Tomacorrientes sobrecargados: más de un artefacto enchufado al toma de pared.
- Pinzamiento de cables detrás de muebles como sillones o escritorios.
- Alargues con múltiples tomas sobrecargadas. Solo deben usarse con pocos dispositivos de baja corriente, como electrónicos.
- Lámparas o artefactos con bombillas de más voltaje que el recomendado. La mayoría de las lámparas recomiendan bombillas de 60 watts. Tenga cuidado dónde utilice bombillas más potentes.
- Cables eléctricos debajo de alfombras, felpudos o muebles. Muévalos para reducir el riesgo de incendio por sobrecalentamiento debido a mala aislación.
- Cables gastados, pelados o con aislación rota. Reemplácelos por cables nuevos que tengan una etiqueta de certificación de un laboratorio de ensayos independiente.
- Un alargue que no tiene la misma potencia nominal que el artefacto que alimenta. Los típicos alargues de “cable de lámpara” no pueden transportar la corriente eléctrica necesaria para artefactos como calefactores o acondicionadores de aire.
- Cables fijados con clavos: pueden causar cortos y arcos eléctricos.
- Electrodomésticos y cables de interior usados en el exterior.