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PETER J. OSTROSKY
STATE FIRE MARSHAL

To: Heads of Fire Departments

From: Peter J. Ostroskey
State Fire Marshal

Date: June 1, 2018

RE: **Summer 2018 Fireworks Season**

With the summer fireworks season fast approaching, fire departments are busy making sure final plans for supervised displays are in place to ensure these events are safe and conducted in accordance with the State Fire Code. The Division of Fire Safety stands ready to provide the highest possible level of technical, compliance, and enforcement support during the summer fireworks season. Staff will be inspecting a number of displays throughout the state.

DFS Code Compliance Assistance

Division of Fire Safety Code Compliance and Enforcement Officers are available, 24 hours a day, to respond to your communities should the need arise. During normal business hours, please call the Division of Fire Safety at (978) 567-3375. Should it be necessary to contact a Code Compliance and Enforcement Officer during a pre-display setup inspection by your department, or to report an accident, you should call the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency at (508) 820-2000 and ask that a DFS Code Compliance and Enforcement Officer be paged.

Natural Barrier Approvals

The Division of Fire Safety grants natural barrier approvals when needed. If you have previously received an approval and nothing has changed in the plans submitted to you by the fireworks shooter, you do not need another approval. If you need a site inspection for approval, please contact (978) 567-3375, at least thirty (30) days before the proposed date of the display.

Fireworks Inspection Checklist

A representative of your department should take a close look at the display during the setup process during daylight hours in the late afternoon. This procedure provides the best opportunity to inspect and correct any compliance issues, and ensures a safe and successful fireworks display.

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In an effort to provide additional inspection guidance, please find attached to this memo a suggested checklist for the three stages of a fireworks program.

Changes in Permitting Process

We also want to advise you that there have been changes to the permitting process, most notably that there are two separate application/permit forms that distinguish fireworks displays and special effects before a proximate audience.

The requirements of the separate application/permits are as follows:

Fireworks display applications require the following and will be considered incomplete if all the requirements are not met:

- ❑ Diagram/site plan showing points where fireworks are to be discharged, location/distance to the audience, buildings, highways, overhead obstructions, etc. (handwritten maps are not acceptable; Maps must be Google, Bing, GIS)
- ❑ The number and description of the fireworks/pyrotechnics including the diameter of the shells.
- ❑ A copy of the natural barrier letter from the State Fire Marshal's Office (if applicable)
- ❑ FAA, Coast Guard, or other agency approvals/notifications (if applicable)

Special Effects applications require the following and will be considered incomplete if all the requirements are not met:

- ❑ Letter from owner, operator or manager of the indoor entertainment venue or theater acknowledging the proposed use of pyrotechnics within their facility.
- ❑ A plan in accordance with NFPA 1126, Section 6.3.2 (2010 Edition)

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