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.
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)

If you have any questions about Users Certificates, Certificates of Competency, or related licensing issues, please contact our Licensing Desk at (978) 567-3700, or by email at dfs.licensing@state.ma.us.
FIREWORKS DISPLAY CHECKLIST

Date of Show: _____________________________

Before Show /check:

☐ Pre show site inspection.

☐ Natural barriers must be pre-approved by the State Fire Marshal’s Office (plan sufficient time ahead)

☐ At least 20 days prior to display application/permit must be submitted, including site diagram (hand drawn sketches are not acceptable) and shell inventory.

☐ Verify that all applicable State Fire Marshal permits such as transportation, electrical firing board, portable firing trailers, 12-inch shells have been issued.

☐ Within 5 days of receipt of application/permit, form must be approved or disapproved and forwarded to the State Fire Marshal’s Office. This may be done via mail, email or fax.

Day of Show /check:

☐ Establish secured area with a suitable barrier such as snow fencing or equivalent (caution tape is not sufficient), natural barriers, as approved by SFMO (secured area must be established and maintained from the arrival of the fireworks until the completion of the display).

☐ Verify State Fire Marshal permits (transportation, electric firing boards, and portable firing trailers).

☐ If using racks, determine that the rack placement conforms to the approved site.

☐ Check racks for correct spacing and stability. Check angling of mortars.

☐ If not using racks, determine that tubes are sufficiently buried. Check angling of mortars.

☐ Determine weather and wind condition prior to display.

Following the Show /check:

☐ A competent operator must insure a thorough search is made for any unignited shells immediately following the display and at the first available daylight.

☐ Upon completion of the search, a competent operator shall report all findings to the head of the Fire Department.
SUICIDE AWARENESS FOR FIRE COMMAND PERSONNEL

- Overview of Suicide
- Myths of Suicide
- Crisis Intervention and Suicide Prevention
- Preventative and Protective Factors
- Risk and Recognition
- Strategies for Responding to those considering suicide
- Referral skills and resources

June 26, 2018

Activity Number: 753
Location: Saugus Fire Department
27 Hamilton Street
Saugus, MA 01906

Time:
0830-1700

Prerequisite:
None

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

Priority Selection Date:
June 20, 2018

Suicide among fire personnel is a continuing and concerning problem. How to recognize the potential in department members and what to do if these indicators are present are unique challenges for command personnel. What support resources exist? What does this mean for my agency? Can a firefighter return to their career if they have made a suicide attempt? Where do I begin if one of my firefighters commits suicide?

This course is designed for command personnel- chiefs, deputy chiefs, captains and lieutenants. It is based in part on the ICISF’s "Suicide Awareness: An Introduction for Crisis Responders" and will explore these questions and more. It is designed to increase awareness of suicide in both the general population and the fire service, and to equip participants with information and basic skills when responding to a person considering suicide. The ability to recognize and effectively intervene with suicidal individuals is one of the most challenging aspects of management. This program will introduce techniques and options that have been found to be useful for command personnel.

Recommended for those without formal mental health training, this course will utilize discussions, demonstrations, scenarios, and case examples to facilitate learning.

Registration
Register online 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.

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S.A.F.E. & SENIOR SAFE GRANT WRITING AND YEAR END REPORT BOOT CAMP

Course Description

This course will help attendees develop the skills they need to complete the FY 19 S.A.F.E. and Senior SAFE grants, as well as documenting their program in order to fill out the year end report. This workshop will include a discussion on the various aspects of the grants, the tools necessary to complete the applications, an opportunity to begin writing the grants, and a discussion on the need for record keeping and evaluations in order to fill out the year end report.

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Prerequisite:
None

Notes:
This is a first come-first serve workshop.

Registration
Register online at DFS Learning Management System.
BASIC FIRE INVESTIGATION

This course is for firefighters and law enforcement officers needing the basic skills required for an initial fire and/or explosion scene investigation. Students will be oriented to effectively work within the established system, using a “Team Concept” built around a specific investigative protocol tailored to fire and explosion investigations. Students will examine the most up-to-date theories of fire investigation and the role of the fire investigator. The topics covered include: the methodology of fire investigation; motives of arsonists; incendiary fires; explosions; and the formulation and testing of a hypothesis with regard to the origin and cause of a fire. Students will learn about fire behavior and basic origin and cause investigation techniques, along with scene preservation, documentation and evidence collection. Legal aspects and arson motives are also covered in the program.

Subject matter experts will provide comprehensive lectures covering accidental fire investigation, determining the origin and cause of fire and/or explosions, the behavior of fire, the roles and responsibilities of the investigator within the Fire Investigation Unit, incendiary fire investigation, interview techniques, indicators of incendiarism, vehicle fires, marine fires, wildland fires, evidence collection, and investigative documentation.

This course consists of forty-eight (48) hours of instructor-led classroom training with four (4) hours of self-guided online learning.

Although this is an entry level course, it is an intensive course that requires students to have 100% mandatory attendance. In addition, students shall participate in case studies, and present an oral brief to the class. The final course exam is an open book, fifty (50) question online test.

This course meets or exceeds the job performance requirements in the NFPA Standard 921 Guide for Fire and Explosion Investigations and the NFPA Standard 1033 for Fire Investigator.
ADVANCED FIRE INVESTIGATION

This course will cover state-of-the-art investigation practices for individuals new to fire investigation as well as provide new concepts for those experienced fire investigators. In a practical exercise, students will be assigned to one of four fire investigation teams. In turn, each team will investigate and evaluate a fire scene to determine the area of origin, the ignition source, the materials first ignited and the ignition sequence of the fire. Students will also be acquainted with the use of accelerant detection K-9s, learn to properly prepare diagrams, conduct interviews, record the fire scene with photographic documentation and establish field notes of the incident scene. Students will be able to identify, collect and preserve evidence using the proper physical and legal procedures. This course will provide information that will allow the student to make presentations in legal settings as well as aid in the preparation of reports that will be useful in their participation of a mock civil and criminal trial proceeding.

This course consists of twenty-four (24) hours of instructor-led classroom training, twenty-four (24) hours of practical time and four (4) hours of self-guided online learning.

This intensive course requires students to have 100% mandatory attendance. In addition, students shall participate in case studies, and present an oral brief to the class. The final course exam is an open book, fifty (50) question online test.

This course meets or exceeds the job performance requirements in the NFPA Standard 921 Guide for Fire and Explosion Investigations and the NFPA Standard 1033 for Fire Investigator.
NATIONAL FIRE ACADEMY PROGRAMS
AT MASSACHUSETTS FIREFIGHTING ACADEMY

Fire Investigation: First Responders F0379
This two-day course is designed specifically to provide a clear definition of the role of first responders in fire investigation and provide essential knowledge to enable them to recognize the potential of intentionally set fires, preservation and protection of evidence, and proper reporting of information to appropriate officials. By strengthening the partnership between first responders and investigators, the chances for successfully solving arson-related crimes will increase. The course includes topics such as fire behavior, critical observations of the first responder, fire causes, scene security and evidence preservation, legal considerations, and documentation of findings.

This course is designed for all fire and emergency services personnel who might conduct preliminary investigations into the origin and cause of fires. Interested students are encouraged to complete "Initial Fire Investigation for First Responders" (Q0379), available through NFA Online at https://www.usfa.fema.gov/training/nfa/courses/online.html, prior to participating in this classroom-based course.

Audience: Fire and emergency services personnel who respond to fires or might conduct preliminary investigations into the origin and cause of fires.

Pre-requisites:
1. Incident Command System (ICS)-100-level and ICS-200-level training. Preferred courses are Q0462 and Q0463, available through NFA Online at www.usfa.dhs.gov/nfa/nfaonline. Chief's signature attests that the applicant has completed this required training.
2. Interested students are encouraged to complete Q0379, available through NFA Online at https://www.usfa.fema.gov/training/nfa/courses/online.html, prior to participating in this classroom-based course.

Pre-course work and/or syllabus: https://nfa.usfa.fema.gov/ax/syll/syllabus_f0379.pdf

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Registration
Register at DFS Learning Management System

Registration
Executive Skill Series: Exercising Leadership Within Communities F0520
The purpose of this two-day course is to provide fire service authority figures with knowledge and skills, enabling them to exercise leadership when confronting adaptive challenges presented by increasingly diverse internal and external communities. The goal of the course is for participants to use the diversity of ideas, peoples and cultures as resources in exercising leadership to address adaptive challenges in their communities.

**Audience:** Fire and emergency service personnel in positions of authority (executive level officers) who have an opportunity to exercise leadership. Line firefighters or firefighter-paramedics are not within the target audience and will not be considered.

**Note:** Participants must be minimally assigned to a supervisory level position (for example, a company officer).

**Pre-course work and/or syllabus:** [https://nfa.usfa.fema.gov/ax/syll/syllabus_f0520.pdf](https://nfa.usfa.fema.gov/ax/syll/syllabus_f0520.pdf)

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Executive Skill Series: Exercising Leadership to Facilitate Adaptive Change F0521
The purpose of this two-day course is to provide skills that individuals in positions of authority can use to exercise leadership when confronted with adaptive challenges. The goal of this course is for participants to develop an understanding of skills associated with exercising leadership to resolve adaptive problems, those problems where the solution is either unknown or requires significant change, or both.

**Audience:** Fire and emergency service personnel in positions of authority (executive level officers) who have an opportunity to exercise leadership. Line firefighters or firefighter-paramedics are not within the target audience and will not be considered.

**Note:** Participants must be minimally assigned to a supervisory level position (for example, a company officer).

**Pre-course work and/or syllabus:** [https://nfa.usfa.fema.gov/ax/syll/syllabus_f0521.pdf](https://nfa.usfa.fema.gov/ax/syll/syllabus_f0521.pdf)

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**EMS Functions in ICS F0166**
This two-day course, students will practice use of the Incident Command System (ICS) in coordination with other public safety responders. As a follow-up to ICS-100 and ICS-200 training, this course will present scenarios requiring responders to structure their EMS resources within the guidance of National Incident Management System ICS, as appropriate to the needs of the different incident types. Through simulation and role-playing, students will demonstrate the implementation of EMS components in an ICS at medium- or large-sized incidents.

**Audience:** Emergency response personnel with responsibilities to implement the initial EMS functions of an ICS at medium- or large-sized incidents.

**Pre-requisites:**
ICS-100-level and ICS-200-level training. Preferred courses are Q0462 and Q0463, available through NFA Online at www.nfaonline.dhs.gov. Chief’s signature attests that the applicant has completed this required training. IS-201 forms used for the development of the Incident Action Plan (https://training.fema.gov/IS/).

**Pre-course work and/or syllabus:** [https://nfa.usfa.fema.gov/ax/syll/syllabus_f0166.pdf](https://nfa.usfa.fema.gov/ax/syll/syllabus_f0166.pdf)

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**Executive Skill Series: Exercising Leadership Through Difficult Conversations F0522**
The purpose of this two-day course is to provide knowledge and skills for having difficult conversations to exercise leadership in addressing adaptive challenges. The goal of this course is for the participant to identify and apply skills for having difficult conversations as they relate to exercising leadership when addressing adaptive challenges.

**Audience:** Fire and emergency service personnel in positions of authority (executive level officers) who have an opportunity to exercise leadership. Line firefighters or firefighter-paramedics are not within the target audience and will not be considered.

**Note:** Participants must be minimally assigned to a supervisory level position (for example, a company officer).

**Pre-course work and/or syllabus:** [https://nfa.usfa.fema.gov/ax/syll/syllabus_f0522.pdf](https://nfa.usfa.fema.gov/ax/syll/syllabus_f0522.pdf)

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**Registration**
Register at [DFS Learning Management System](https://www.dfs-mass.gov/learning-management-system)
Executive Skill Series: Exercising Leadership Ethically F0523

This new two-day course provides students with the ability to recognize ethical dilemmas in the context of their environments, apply a decision model to resolve these dilemmas, render ethical decisions, and defend under scrutiny the resulting decisions that were made in an effort to resolve these dilemmas. This course will become the fourth offering within the Executive Skill Series.

**Audience:** Fire and emergency service personnel in positions of authority (executive level officers) who have an opportunity to exercise leadership. Line firefighters or firefighter-paramedics are not within the target audience and will not be considered.

**Note:** Participants must be minimally assigned to a supervisory level position (for example, a Company Officer).

**Pre-course work and/or syllabus:** https://nfa.usfa.fema.gov/ax/syll/syllabus_f0523.pdf

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Incident Command for Highrise Operations F0321

This two-day course is designed to assist emergency response officers who have responsibility for managing highrise incidents. This includes organizing resources, developing strategies, and managing tactical operations to protect life and to minimize damage during an incident. Students attending should have: working knowledge of basic Incident Command System organization; working knowledge of strategy and tactics for structural firefighting; knowledge of building construction; and understanding of the type of building systems existing in highrise buildings.

**Audience:** Anyone who would serve as a company officer/Chief officer in communities that have highrise buildings.

**Pre-course work and/or syllabus:** https://nfa.usfa.fema.gov/ax/syll/syllabus_f0321.pdf

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<td>One State Road, Stow, MA</td>
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Preparation for Initial Company Operations F0458

This two-day course is designed to develop a better understanding of the roles and responsibilities of company officers (COs) in preparing their company for incident operations. In addition, this course is designed to clarify the transition from firefighter to CO and the new roles relating to leadership and safety.

**Audience:** This course is designed for COs, acting COs, or senior firefighters responsible for the management of a single fire company at an emergency incident. This includes those officers who are responsible for company readiness, personnel safety, and leadership as it relates to company operation.

**Pre-course work and/or syllabus:** [https://nfa.usfa.fema.gov/ax/syll/syllabus_f0458.pdf](https://nfa.usfa.fema.gov/ax/syll/syllabus_f0458.pdf)

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<td>May 7 &amp; 8, 2019</td>
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Training Operations in Small Departments F0290

This two-day course is designed to provide students with some basic tools and skills to coordinate training in a small fire/EMS organization. A training function in a smaller department typically may include conducting training drills and coordinating training with a nearby larger city or state training function. Course content includes:

- Leadership issues in fire service training, such as why and how the local training officer must be a catalyst for change and personal motivators within the department.
- Identifying the legal issues affecting the training function, including an understanding of a standard of care and the impact of Occupational Safety and Health Administration and National Fire Protection Association standards.
- Safety considerations in training.
- Marketing training internally.
- Identifying ways to justify training needs.
- Resolving training conflicts using appropriate conflict resolution techniques.
- Selecting and evaluating training curricula and materials from outside sources.
- Effective delivery and evaluation of training.

**Audience:**
- Fire and rescue personnel who coordinate training in small departments.
- Volunteer firefighters and officers who instruct in small fire and rescue departments.
- Fire personnel serving on training committees.
- Training officers in volunteer fire departments.

**Pre-course work and/or syllabus:** [https://nfa.usfa.fema.gov/ax/syll/syllabus_f0290.pdf](https://nfa.usfa.fema.gov/ax/syll/syllabus_f0290.pdf)

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REGIONAL NATIONAL FIRE ACADEMY PROGRAMS (6-DAY COURSES) IN NEW ENGLAND

NEW HAMPSHIRE
Command and Control of Fire Department Operations at Target Hazards N0825
This six-day course is designed to introduce command officers to the complexities involved in commanding incidents in high-risk areas. Students are confronted with a number of fire and rescue incidents that include high life hazard, multiple exposure, and unusual occupancy risk considerations. The students are taught advanced applications in the Incident Command System (ICS), command and control, decision-making, strategic and tactical considerations, pre-incident preparation, documentation, and post-incident analysis. Several simulations and case studies are used to depict and review incidents in various types of target hazards. Some examples of these are penal institutions, bulk oil-storage facilities, nursing homes, colleges, chemical/agricultural manufacturing plants, and grain elevators. The course is comprehensive and uses lecture, case study, simulation and student participation as instructional methods. This class is not a tactics class but explains the development of Incident Management Teams.

Selection criteria
Individuals or company officers who would have the responsibility to command incidents involving target hazards. Also, officers who may have this responsibility eventually and are upwardly mobile in their organization may be considered. Since this is a unique six-day course, every effort will be made to accommodate the selection of both volunteer and career personnel.

Prerequisites
ICS 100-level and ICS 200-level training. Preferred courses are Q0462 and Q0463, available through NFA Online at www.usfa.fema.gov/training/nfa/courses/online.html. Chief’s signature attests that the applicant has completed this required training.

Pre-course work and/or syllabus: https://nfa.usfa.fema.gov/ax/syll/syllabus_n0825.pdf

Date: October 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 2018
Registration: https://www.usfa.fema.gov/training/

MASSACHUSETTS
Emergency Medical Services: Quality Management N0158
This six-day course will provide the critical components, background and principles associated with the implementation, or enhancement, of a department’s quality management program. The course teaches students how to create, implement and maintain a quality management program, including historical examples, current models, and best practices of quality assurance and improvement, process improvement, data collection and analysis.

Throughout the course, students work on culminating activities relating to the development of a quality management program. Students present the activity with classmates and instructors at the end of the course, allowing all students to take examples of quality management programs to their departments.
Selection criteria
Individuals who have department-level quality management (quality assurance, quality improvement), oversight or supervisory responsibilities.

Prerequisites
Incident Command System (ICS) 100-level and ICS 200-level training. Preferred courses are Q0462 and Q0463, available through NFA Online at [www.usfa.fema.gov/training/nfa/courses/online.html](http://www.usfa.fema.gov/training/nfa/courses/online.html). Chief’s signature attests that the applicant has completed this required training.

Pre-course work and/or syllabus: [https://nfa.usfa.fema.gov/ax/syll/syllabus_n0158.pdf](https://nfa.usfa.fema.gov/ax/syll/syllabus_n0158.pdf)

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Hotel and Motel Safety

Select accommodations that have sprinklers and smoke alarms in guest rooms.

Consider fire safety when checking into a hotel or motel.

**Count** the number of doors down the hall to the nearest fire exit.

Never use elevators in a fire.

If you are deaf or hard of hearing, ask for a Hearing Impaired Kit from the front desk that has a strobe smoke alarm.

Keep your room key, eyeglasses and a flashlight on the night table. **If a fire occurs, take them with you to the door.**

• If the door feels cool, open it a crack. Be ready to close the door if hot air, flames, or smoke rush into the room.

• If this does not occur, but the hall is smoke-filled, crawl down the hall counting doors to the nearest exit.

• If you cannot reach the exit, turn around and count doors back to your room. Unlock the door and re-enter.

If it is unsafe to leave your room

• **Fill the tub** with cold water.

• **Stuff wet towels around the door** to keep smoke out.

• If possible, open a window and hang a sheet outside to signal for help.

• **Cover your face** with a wet cloth and stay low if smoke gets in the room.

• **Do not jump.** Call 911 to tell them where you are.

Fireworks

Enjoy the many professional, supervised fireworks displays.

The possession and use of all fireworks by private citizens is **illegal in Massachusetts**. This includes sparklers, party poppers, snappers, firecrackers and cherry bombs, and more.

It is illegal to purchase fireworks in another state and transport them into Massachusetts.

Do not purchase fireworks by mail. Government cannot prohibit the advertising and sale of fireworks by mail, but police do confiscate illegal shipments of fireworks. Many consumers attempting to circumvent the law have lost both their money and their fireworks.

**Burn First Aid**

• **Stop, Drop, and Roll** to extinguish a clothing fire.

• **Cool a burn.** For minor burns, run cool water over the burn immediately.

• **Seek emergency medical help immediately** for more serious burns. Call 9-1-1.

• **Use sunscreen** to avoid sunburn.
The Massachusetts State Fire Marshal offers these tips for a safe and happy summer.

**Gasoline and Lawn Mowers**

Gasoline vapors are highly flammable. They stay on your clothing and can ignite if you light a match or cigarette.

Store gasoline only in approved containers, outside, or in a building not attached to the house. Never keep gasoline inside the home.

Keep gasoline away from all heat sources such as smoking materials, pilot lights, campfires, and grills.

Never fuel a lawn mower while it is hot. Let it cool off first.

Keep hands and feet away from a mower while it is running.

**Barbecue Safely**

Use all barbecue grills 10 feet away from the side of any building, outdoors.

Never leave a burning grill unattended. Children should never play near grills or propane cylinders.

Never use gasoline on any grill!

Grills can only be used on first floor decks, balconies or patios if there is an outdoor stairway to the ground, or it is at ground level.

Grills are prohibited on any porch, balcony, or deck that has a roof or overhang.

**Gas Grills**

LP-gas is heavier than air and sinks. A leaky grill could pose a hazard to people below. Possible ignition sources include smoking materials, air conditioners, compressors, pilot lights and cars.

Keep all LP-gas outside, 10 feet away from building openings such as doors, windows, dryer vents and 20 feet away from air intake vents and all ignition sources.

Before lighting a grill:

- Make sure all connections are secure and tight, and open the lid.
- Caution! If the flame goes out, turn off the gas and wait 10 minutes for excess gas to dissipate before relighting.
- Make sure the grease trap is clean.

**Charcoal Grills**

Use only charcoal lighter fluid to start charcoal grills.

Once coals are lit, never add more lighter fluid to the fire. Flames may travel up the stream of fluid resulting in serious burns.

Dispose of ashes in a metal container.

**When Your Car Overheats**

Always:

- Turn off your car and wait at least one-half hour before attempting to open the radiator.
- Use a heavy rag or cloth to open the radiator.
- Stand back as far as possible. Keep your face out of the way in case the radiator should rupture!

Opening hot car radiators can cause serious burns. These burns can be prevented with patience and appropriate precautions.

When your car overheats, or even when it’s just been running for a while, pressure builds up inside the radiator.

If you open a hot car radiator, hot steam and liquid can splash on your face and hands causing painful, disfiguring burns.
Grilling Safety

Many people enjoy barbecuing in the summer months. But when grills are not used safely, things can go horribly wrong. Between 2013 and 2017 Massachusetts fire departments responded to 480 fires involving grills, hibachis, and barbecues. These fires caused 19 civilian injuries, three firefighter injuries, and $3.3 million in property damage. For safe grilling, always follow your owner’s manual and practice the safety tips provided here.

Safety First

- Always grill outdoors.
- Grills cannot be used on a porch, balcony or deck with a roof, overhang or wall (other than the exterior of the building).
- Grills can only be used on open first floor porches, decks or patios if there is an outdoor stairway to the ground, or the porch is at ground level.
- Grills must be 10-feet from the side of a building unless the manufacturer's instructions say it can be closer. Make sure grills are not underneath overhanging branches.
- Grills cannot be used on fire escapes.
- Place grills away from the house and deck railings.
- Keep all matches, lighters and lighter fluid away from children.
- Keep children and pets three feet away from grills. Children should never play near grills or propane cylinders.

Gas Grill Safety

Gas grills are safe and convenient when they are assembled and used properly. Gas grills are fueled by liquid propane which is pressurized and requires special handling and storage. Read and follow manufacturer’s instructions.

Safe Cooking

- Make sure that the lid of a gas grill is open when you light it. Propane can build up inside and when ignited, the lid may blow off.
- If you smell gas while cooking, turn off and get away from the grill. Call 911 from a safe location. Do not move the grill.
- Always turn off the burners and close the propane cylinder when done cooking.
- Never leave a burning grill unattended.
**Handling Propane**

- Keep all propane outdoors, at least 10 feet away from building openings such as doors, windows and dryer vents, and 20 feet away from air intake vents and ignition sources.
- Do not smoke while handling a propane cylinder.
- Propane storage: store cylinders upright in an outdoor, shaded area; do not leave cylinders in a vehicle; cylinders should not be used, stored, or transported where they can be exposed to high temperatures.

*Source: National Propane Gas Association/Propane Education & Research Council (2003)*

**Gas Grill Care and Maintenance**

Follow the instructions in your owner’s manual for the care and maintenance of your gas grill.

- Check that all connections are tight before turning on the gas.
- Leaks can be detected by dabbing the connections with a solution of soapy water and turning on the gas momentarily. If bubbles occur, there is a leak that must be fixed before the grill is used. Do not use matches or lighters to check for leaks.
- Check the tubes to the burners for blockages resulting from insect nests or from grease. Use a pipe cleaner or wire to clear blockages.
- Clean the grease trap every time you grill.
- Take tanks and grills that need repair to a propane dealer or a qualified appliance repair person.
- Replace propane cylinders that are old, rusty, or showing any other signs of disrepair.

**Charcoal Grills**

Propane is the most common grilling fuel, but many people use charcoal grills. Here are some charcoal grill safety tips:

- Use only charcoal starter fluid. Gasoline and kerosene should not be used to start a fire in a grill. Never add lighter fluid to burning briquettes or hot coals. Doing so may cause a flash fire and result in serious burn injuries.
- Charcoal briquettes give off carbon monoxide, a colorless, odorless gas that can be deadly. Always use charcoal grills in a well-ventilated area. Never use charcoal grills indoors.
- For proper disposal of grill ashes, allow the coals to burn out completely and then cool for 48 hours before disposal.
- If you must dispose of ashes before they are completely cooled, thoroughly soak them in water before putting them in a metal container.
Be Smart...
Leave Fireworks to the Professionals

Enjoy Supervised Professional Fireworks Displays
Local fire departments supervise professional fireworks displays all over Massachusetts. Unfortunately, children and adults continue to set off illegal fireworks that start fires and cause serious injuries to themselves and others.

Fireworks Can Be Deadly
A 45-year old Gloucester woman died in a December 22, 2003 house fire when someone threw fireworks and ignited a Christmas tree in the living room. Three other people were injured. On May 20, 1997, a 26-year old man from Watertown was killed while he was lighting fireworks in a hallway. A 27-year old Framingham man was killed on July 4, 1993, when backyard fireworks exploded in his face. On July 4, 1992, fireworks fatally injured a 30-year old man on a Fairhaven beach.

All Fireworks Are Illegal in Massachusetts
The possession and use of all fireworks by private citizens is illegal in Massachusetts. This includes Class C fireworks which are sometimes falsely called “safe and sane fireworks.” Class C fireworks include sparklers, party poppers, snappers, firecrackers, spinners, cherry bombs and more. Sparklers burn at 1800°F.

It is illegal to transport fireworks into Massachusetts, even if they were purchased legally elsewhere. Illegal fireworks can be confiscated on the spot.

Do Not Purchase Fireworks through Mail-Order or Online Catalogs
Do not purchase fireworks by mail. Government cannot prohibit the advertising and sale of fireworks by mail, but police do confiscate illegal shipments of fireworks. Many consumers attempting to circumvent the law have lost both their money and their fireworks.

Set a Good Example for Children
Children imitate adults. If you use fireworks, children will copy you, not realizing how very dangerous fireworks are. Fifty-one percent, (51%), of fireworks-related burn injuries reported by hospitals to the Office of the State Fire Marshal in the last 10 years (2007-2016) were to children under age 18. Almost thirty-percent, (29%), were children under age 10.
Fires Caused by Fireworks
In the past decade (2008-2017) there have been 784 major fire and explosion incidents involving illegal fireworks reported to the Massachusetts Fire Incident Reporting System (MFIRS). The incidents caused 10 civilian injuries, four fire service injuries, and an estimated dollar loss of $1.9 million, which is high considering most fireworks fires are outdoor brush fires.

- On July 4, 2017, the Hull Fire Department was called to a fire in a 5-unit apartment building. Drapes in a second floor window were ignited by fireworks.
- On July 5, 2017, the East Longmeadow Fire Department was dispatched to a fire in a single-family home. The fire was started by fireworks in the garage.
- On July 10, 2017, the Boston Fire Department responded to a fire in a two-family home. Fireworks had ignited a sofa outside of the home. The fire spread to the outside of the neighboring three-family home.
- On July 15, 2017, the Nahant Fire Department was called to a fire in a single-family home. Upon arrival, firefighters found the homeowner trying to extinguish a fire that was started by his son using fireworks.

Burns and Injuries Caused by Fireworks
In the past decade (2008-2017), 45 people were treated at Massachusetts emergency rooms for severe burns injuries from fireworks (burns covering 5% of more of the body) according to the Massachusetts Burn Injury Reporting System (M-BIRS). Fifty-six percent of the victims were children and youths under age 25. These victims are scarred for life.

- On July 1, 2017, a Mattapan teenager was driving down Woodbole Avenue when a firework exploded in his hand.
- On July 4, 2017, a 32-year old Quincy man suffered extensive damage to one of his hands, possibly losing some of his fingers when a firework exploded in his hand.
- On July 3, 2016, an 8-year old Lawrence boy was hit in the chest by a wayward firework from an illegal show at a neighbor’s house.
- On July 4, 2016, a 4-year old Lawrence boy received burns to his forehead and chin from fireworks that hit him in the face.
- On July 9, 2016, a 10-year old Boston boy lost four fingers while playing with illegal fireworks inside an apartment.
- On July 15, 2016, a 15-year old Plymouth boy who was lighting commercial grade fireworks received burns to his eye and hands, as well as a puncture wound to his abdomen.