To: Heads of Fire Department

From: Peter J. Ostroskey, State Fire Marshal

Date: September 1, 2018

Subject: Smoke Alarm Public Awareness Campaign

The Department of Fire Services will continue its smoke alarm public awareness campaign this fall to support local fire departments efforts to educate the public on the importance of working smoke alarms. The campaign “Smoke Alarms: A Sound You Can Live With” is designed to embrace a variety of key smoke alarm messages.

Replace Aging Smoke Alarms
The campaign is starting with radio and television public service announcements (PSA) that focus on replacing aging smoke alarms. The general public does not appear to be well informed that smoke alarms must be replaced after ten years. We have requested electronic bulletin boards and roadside flash messages from the Mass. Department of Transportation during Fire Prevention Week (October 7-13, 2018). We plan to also place transit ads on buses around the state.

Toolkit for Fire Departments
A toolkit for local for fire departments has been developed to support your local community education efforts. Feel free to use the logo in your materials, use the PSA, customize the opinion-editorial and local press release, and ask for space on local roadside message boards. To find the toolkit, go to www.mass.gov/dfs and search on DFS Public Awareness Campaigns or Smoke Alarm Public Awareness Campaign.

As we move into the winter months, fire officials know we will see more fires and sadly more where there are no working smoke alarms. I hope that our united education efforts will reduce deaths and injuries from these fires.
SEPTEMBER 12, 2018

ACTIVITY NUMBER: SFC

LOCATION: Massachusetts Firefighting Academy
One State Rd, Stow, MA

TIME: 0900-1300

This forum is eligible for credit toward Fire Chief Credential.

SENIOR FIRE OFFICER FORUM

DEPARTMENT OF FIRE SERVICES (DFS) RESOURCES FOR THE FIRE OFFICER

Presented by the Special Operations Unit, Public Information Officer, Division of Fire Safety and the Fire & Explosion Investigation Unit

The DFS Special Operations Unit provides professional, efficient, high quality support services to local communities and has a variety of resources staged around the state available at no charge. You will receive information regarding these resources and equipment and how we can assist your department.

The DFS Public Information Officer will outline what services are available to local fire departments 24/7 for dealing with the media, and how to work together on joint investigations and responses.

The Fire Safety Division provides assistance to fire departments throughout the Commonwealth in the areas of Code Compliance and Enforcement, Fire Protection Engineering, and Public Education. A review of these available resources and a Q&A session with select Fire Safety Division staff will be made available to you.

The DFS Fire & Explosion Investigation Unit (F&EIU) will provide information on the resources the State Police members of the Bomb Squad and Fire Investigation Unit offer local communities. It will include: current statistics, case studies, training offered and the team concept into fire investigation.

Registration

Register online at DFS Learning Management System.
In the fire service we frequently discuss and encourage our members to continually train on and practice the basic, fundamental skills of our craft. We espouse the critical nature of mastering the most used skills for our success, the safety of victims and the safety of our members. Whether it’s moving a hose line, pumping a truck or forcing doors, the basics on a tactical level cannot be overlooked or minimized.

For officers in the fire service, the basics of leadership and officer development should be just as important to us.

The company officers are the individuals that determine the success and failures of our members, not only on the fire ground, but also in the firehouse. The development of our officers must be equal to our tactical proficiency to handle the demands placed on them daily.

From preparing and mentoring their members for promotion to establishing boundaries and expectations, this class will address several components of officer development and leadership that company officers can take and utilize right away in their daily routines. We will discuss some basic concepts for the company officer to use as tools to be as effective as possible in performing the many tasks he is assigned.

Topics will include:

- Preparation for the position
- Setting expectations and boundaries
- 5 steps for successful delegation
- Discipline and handling difficult members
- Common mistakes fire officers make
- 4 Principles for the fire officer to follow and expect from his members
- 18 Commandments for the company officer
- Leadership development and challenges
- Company Drills: Don’t make it so hard
- Command responsibilities for the fire ground officer
- Communicating across generational lines
- First due tactical considerations
- Who do you work for? The buddy to boss and your boss to you
Whether you’re a newly promoted company officer or a seasoned chief, these fundamentals are the core work that we must continue to hone and sharpen to be and stay successful and to meet the demands of our position. But, most importantly, these will ensure that we are meeting the needs of those that we serve with. After all, that’s what leadership is about.

ABOUT THE SPEAKER
JASON HOEVELMANN is a 25-plus-year veteran of the fire service and has been instructing for more than 20 years. He is a career battalion chief with the Florissant Valley (MO) Fire Protection District in North St. Louis County. He is a co-owner of Engine House Training, LLC, providing hands-on training for firefighting operations and safety and survival.
PUBLIC FIRE AND LIFE SAFETY EDUCATOR

This course is designed to provide a community with the basis for a solid public education program and to properly train the fire department’s lead S.A.F.E. educator. The topics covered include: child development; how people learn, focusing on different learning styles and the seven intelligences; lesson planning; curricula review; public speaking; program evaluation; and connecting lessons to the curriculum frameworks. The course concludes with students presenting a segment of instruction on a given topic for a specified age group.

This course consists of forty (40) hours of instructor-led classroom training.

This course meets or exceeds the job performance requirements in the NFPA Standard 1035 Standard for Professional Qualifications for Fire and Life Safety Educator, Public Information Officer, and Juvenile Firesetter Intervention Specialist for the Public Fire and Life Safety Educator I.

Prerequisite: There are no prerequisites to take this course. Note class locations and time.

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<th>Activity Number:</th>
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<td>601</td>
<td>0800-1630</td>
<td>Ware Fire Department</td>
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<td>Date:</td>
<td>October 16,18, 23, 25, November 1, 2018</td>
<td>200 West Street, Ware MA</td>
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<td>Priority Selection:</td>
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<td>601</td>
<td>0800-1630</td>
<td>Middlesex Sheriff’s Office Training Academy</td>
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<td>Date:</td>
<td>Jan. 29, 31, Feb. 5, 7, 14,</td>
<td>40 Brick Kiln Road, Chelmsford, MA</td>
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<td>Priority Selection:</td>
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<td>Date:</td>
<td>March 19, 21, 26, 28, April 4, 2019</td>
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Notes: This is a “Priority Selection” course which is not first come-first serve.

Credits
FPO = TBD
FCC = 8

Registration
Register online at DFS Learning Management System.
NATIONAL FIRE ACADEMY PROGRAMS
AT MASSACHUSETTS FIREFIGHTING ACADEMY

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

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<th>Massachusetts Firefighting Academy One State Road, Stow, MA</th>
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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

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Massachusetts Fires in 2017

27,895 Fires - Down 13% From 2016
56 Civilian Deaths
2 Fire Service Deaths
269 Civilian Injuries
434 Fire Service Injuries
$390.4 Million in Property Damage
671 Reported Arsons

Structure Fires
17,098 Fires - Down less than 1%
49 Civilian Deaths
2 Fire Service Deaths
210 Civilian Injuries
382 Fire Service Injuries
$364.7 Million in Property Damage
187 Arsons Reported

Motor Vehicle Fires
2,367 Fires - Down 1%
7 Civilian Deaths
19 Civilian Injuries
19 Fire Service Injuries
$21.2 Million in Property Damage
68 Arsons Reported

Other Fires
8,430 Fires - Down 34%
0 Civilian Deaths
40 Civilian Injuries
33 Fire Service Injuries
$4.6 Million in Property Damage
416 Arsons Reported

Structure arson increased by 19% and motor vehicle arson decreased 25% from 2016 to 2017. Since 1985, motor vehicle arson has fallen 98.7%. 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.
Massachusetts Fire Deaths in 2017

- 43 fatal fires killed 56 civilians - 32 men, 19 women and five people under age 18.
- 2 firefighters died in fire-related incidents.
- Forty-one percent (41%) of fatal fire victims were older adults (over 65).
- Fire deaths remained the same with 56 deaths reported in both 2016 and 2017.
- Eighty-six percent (86%) of the civilian fire victims died in their homes.
- In 2017, smoking fires were the leading cause of residential fire deaths; smoking fires caused 15, or 31% of home fire deaths.

Causes of Residential Structure Fire Deaths

- **Smoking**: 31%
- **Electrical**: 21%
- **Heating**: 13%
- **Arson**: 6%
- **Cooking**: 4%
- **Lawn tractor**: 2%
- **Undetermined**: 23%

Test your smoke alarm and plan your escape!
Fire doesn’t wait!
TRICK OR TREATING

• Smaller children should always be with an adult. It’s best to take little ones out early. If older children are going out without you, go over the ground rules first!
• Know what neighborhoods they will be in.
• Don’t allow them in areas with which you are not completely comfortable.
• Have the children stay in a group.
• Let them know what time to be home.
• Give them a cell phone to use if necessary.
• Use sidewalks.
• Cross only at the corners, never dart out between parked cars.
• Cover one side of the street at a time, no criss-crossing.
• Never go inside someone’s home unless it is a friend’s.
• Never accept a ride in a car.
• Only approach houses where the outside lights are on as a signal of welcome.
• Bring their bags home to be checked by an adult before eating a single treat.
**Costumes**

- Children should carry a flashlight and their costumes should be bright-colored or have reflective tape to highlight them.
- Be sure all parts of the costume are labeled flame retardant.
- Costumes should not have trailing material or tails long enough to cause falls.
- Pointed objects such as swords and devils forks should be made of soft material.
- If your child wears a mask instead of make-up on their face, double check that the eye holes are large enough to see through clearly.
- Children should wear sturdy shoes and temperature appropriate clothing underneath their costumes.

**Decorations**

- Use a small flashlight or battery-operated candle in pumpkins instead of an open-flame candle.
- Keep dried leaves and cornstalks away from all flames and heat sources.
- Only use flame-proof crepe paper.

**Fireworks**

- Firecrackers, cherry bombs, and party poppers cause many injuries and fires on Halloween.
- These are dangerous and should not be used by children, teens or adults. Besides the physical danger and the fire hazards involved, fireworks are illegal in Massachusetts.

**Check Your Alarms**

- Each year around Halloween, we turn the clocks back one hour. This is also a good time to check your smoke alarms.
- This year, buy batteries along with your Halloween candy and on **Sunday, November 4** change your clocks and check your smoke alarms.

**Checking Treats + Welcoming Trick or Treaters**

- Make sure your own home is well-lit and that there is a clear path to your door. Bicycles and lawn furniture can trip youngsters in the dark.
- Throw out anything that appears tampered with, home-made foods or home-packaged foods unless you are certain of the source.
- Inspect fruit closely and take away treats that may not be age appropriate. Young children may choke on things like hard candy or peanuts.