MEMORANDUM

To: Heads of Fire Departments

From: Peter J. Ostroskey, State Fire Marshal

Date: March 21, 2019

Re: Massachusetts Fire Training Council Certification Update

Fire service certification has seen tremendous activity as fire department personnel across the Commonwealth seek to validate their knowledge and skills against national standards. In the calendar year 2018, there were 2,070 certifications awarded after successful completion of assessments through Massachusetts Firefighting Academy (MFA) training programs and/or open examinations. These achievements have been registered with the National Pro Board Registry for users to verify certifications earned in Massachusetts and through other accredited agencies in the Pro Board system.

As with any standards, changes are made after careful consideration by subject matter experts who review what is expected of personnel performing at levels such as Firefighter I/II, Fire Officer, Fire Instructor, Technical Rescuer, etc. As the professional qualification standards change, so does the mechanism to assess the person’s capabilities in each level.

There have been also various initiatives to further align National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) standards with the practices of our accrediting body, the National Board on Fire Service Professional Qualifications. As a result, the Massachusetts Fire Training Council (MFTC) has adopted polices in keeping with these changes.

In addition to prerequisites, effective with certification examinations conducted after July 1, 2019, the following will be required.
Certification Level New Requirements

Fire Instructor I  
Pass a written exam followed by a multi-station practical exam OR
Pass the MFA training program “Fire Instructor I” and a separate written exam.

Fire Officer I  
Pass a written exam followed by a multi-station practical exam OR
Pass the MFA training program “Company Officer I” and a separate written exam.

Fire Instructor II  
Pass a written exam followed by a multi-station practical exam OR
Pass the MFA training program “Fire Instructor II” and a separate written exam.

Fire Officer II  
Pass a written exam followed by a multi-station practical exam OR
Pass the MFA training program “Company Officer II” and a separate written exam.

Investigator  
Pass the MFA training program “Advanced Fire Investigation” and a separate written exam.

The MFA training programs Fire Instructor I, Fire Instructor II, Company Officer I, Company Officer II, and Advanced Fire Investigation will contain relevant evaluations to directly address their respective NFPA standards.

For more information, see each certification level within the DFS Learning Management System.
TAKING ACTION AGAINST CANCER IN THE FIRE SERVICE
REGIONAL DELIVERY & FREE CANCER SCREENINGS

Prerequisite
None

Credits
FCC = 2
FPO = 1
OEMS = 3

Cancer is becoming an ever-increasing cause of firefighter deaths. Firefighters have much higher rates of cancer than the residents they serve because of exposure to carcinogens on the fireground and in the firehouse.

This course will provide information on immediate actions that all ranks from firefighter to chief can take to reduce the occupational cancer risk and how the nonprofit Firefighter Cancer Support Network can help firefighters cope with cancer. The course will address the importance of promoting a new culture of safety and fitness by developing the mindset that firefighters are tactical athletes, in order to help prevent cancer, heart disease, and injuries within their departments. This course is typically offered specifically for on-duty firefighters. At this time, the course is being offered regionally with three (3) OEMS credits, two (2) FCC credits, and one (1) FPO credit.

In conjunction with the regional delivery of Taking Action Against Cancer in the Fire Service, free skin cancer screenings and oral cancer screenings will be offered. SPOTme® free skin cancer screenings will be offered to all who attend the class with walk-ins accepted. If you register for the class, you do not need to register for a screening.

More upcoming dates for screenings:

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Registration
Register online at DFS Learning Management System.
SPOTme® skin cancer screenings conducted by Dr. Christine Kannler. Dr. Kannler received her medical degree and masters of public health degree from Boston University in 2000. After medical school she was board certified in Internal Medicine and Dermatology. Her internal medicine residency was completed at Boston Medical Center. She began her dermatology residency at Wright State in Dayton, Ohio and completed her dermatology residency at Albert Einstein College of Medicine in the Bronx, New York in June 2006. She was awarded the opportunity to act as co-chief resident of dermatology as a second year resident at Wright State University. After finishing her residency, she worked as a general dermatologist for a year before enrolling in a Mohs fellowship starting July 2007 with Dr. Donald Grande, a leading Mohs surgeon, in Stoneham, Massachusetts. Dr. Kannler concluded her Mohs Micrographic surgery fellowship in July 2008 after assisting on over a thousand Mohs Micrographic surgery cases.

She is an active member in the American Academy of Dermatology (AAD) and the American Society for Dermatologic Surgery (ASDS). She is a member of the American College of Mohs Micrographic Surgery and Cutaneous Oncology. Dr. Kannler has served on various AAD Task Forces and the AAD Leadership Forum since her graduation from residency.

She is a recipient of the American Society for Dermatologic Surgery Resident Fellowship and the Women’s Dermatological Society Mentorship Program.

Currently she practices Mohs Micrographic surgery at Northeast Dermatology Associates in North Andover and Beverly, MA and in Manchester, NH.

When she is not working she loves spending time with her family and running around with her daughter and son.

Oral screenings conducted by Lisa Evans. Lisa Evans obtained her Firefighter I/II certification from the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy (MFA) in 2011. Lisa is a member of the Massachusetts Call/Volunteer Firefighter Association, the National Volunteer Fire Council, and the West Newbury and Groveland Fire Departments. As part of her ongoing firefighting continuing education, Lisa has attended the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg, MD and the Fire Department Instructors Conference, in Indianapolis, Indiana. Most recently, Lisa has earned her National EMT Certification.

Finally, after attending a MFA Cancer Awareness Class, Lisa was informed that the instructor’s dad had passed away from cancer, including oral cancer, something that she screens for in her dental patients every single day because she is also a dental hygienist. Lisa wants to make sure her brother and sister firefighters are asking for oral cancer screenings at each dental appointment and know the signs and symptoms of oral cancer.

Lisa holds an associate degree from Middlesex Community College in Dental Hygiene and has earned a bachelor’s degree from Merrimack College in business administration, with a concentration in accounting. Lisa has enjoyed volunteering for the Massachusetts State Police Amber Alert Program, by making child dental impressions containing a DNA record. Lisa currently works for Merrimack River Dentistry, in Haverhill, MA.

Registration
Register online at DFS Learning Management System.
SENIOR FIRE OFFICER FORUM SERIES SPRING 2019 - SAVE THE DATE

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 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 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 of fire investigation.

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HIGH RISE OPERATIONS

*Presented By Gerald Tracy, Ret. Battalion Commander, Fire Department of New York (FDNY)*

Many cities large and small throughout the world are experiencing a tremendous growth in high rise structures because real estate space has become a premium commodity and availability is declining. Managing firefighting operations in high rise buildings presents a complex challenge with knowledge of many disciplines.

The characteristics of construction, features of fire protection, heating, air conditioning, and ventilation (HVAC) systems, and standpipe systems will be described for these types of structures.

The presentation will provide the information required for pre-planning and how the cooperation and duties of building owners and managing agents fit into the plan of operations. The strategies and tactics to extinguish fires, control smoke movement, and conduct search and rescue will be outlined, as well as the command system that supports operations.

Chief Tracy will share the results of the latest research on smoke control conducted by the National Institute of Standards and Technology in partnership with the Fire Department of New York (FDNY).

This presentation should answer many questions you have regarding the practiced procedures or planned implementation of high rise operations for your department.

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Registration
Register online at [DFS Learning Management System](#).
MAYDAY MANAGEMENT FOR INCIDENT COMMAND – STRATEGIC CONSIDERATIONS UNFOLDED

Presented By William Greenwood, Assistant Fire Chief with the Manchester-Boston Regional Airport and a Career Lieutenant with the City of Keene, NH. Fire Department.

This class was designed after experiencing Mayday incidents first hand and seeing how incident commanders struggled. Learn how to build a command team before the Mayday by front loading run cards to provide needed manpower to rescue one of our own.

Build better team dynamics by using Crew Resource Management (CRM), which is endorsed by the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC). The class will discuss the airline industry’s model for pilot and co-pilot during both normal and emergency operations during flight. We will overlay their CRM model onto our fire ground and discuss preparing fire officers for advanced fire ground safety. Topics will include identifying and isolating potential Mayday situations using progressive rapid intervention crew (RIC) and safety officers.

We will use a template for the incident commander’s response to an actual Mayday and examine the fire ground operations and Mayday frequencies, accountability and personal accountability reports (PARs). The stress of a Mayday can overwhelm the best fire officer. Learn how to increase your emotional intelligence and not fall victim to the chaos. The class will also cover:

- How to maintain a strong command presence using a solid incident command system (ICS). Our “Mayday Checklist” as a valuable tool will help;
- How to better monitor the fire ground for firefighters in trouble through the use of modern radio technology without burdening dispatch;
- Using Emergency Distress Signal (EDS) from a firefighter’s portable radio versus using plain language to call the Mayday;
- Dispatchers’ roles and considerations for firefighter assistance.

High resolution and emotionally charged video and fire ground audio will be part of the training and underscore its importance.

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SFOF PROMOTING A CULTURE OF HEALTH, SAFETY, AND FITNESS FOR THE FIRE SERVICE IN MASSACHUSETTS

Presented By Dr. Michael Hamrock, St. Elizabeth’s Medical Center

This presentation will optimally prepare Chief Fire Officers to gain a better understanding of the unique health risks associated with firefighting including cardiovascular disease, cancer, traumatic injuries, and behavioral health conditions. This knowledge will serve to motivate and inspire fire service leaders to become strong advocates for promoting a culture of safety and wellness in their departments.

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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*

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ABOUT THE SPEAKER

Chief Tracy retired as a Battalion Commander with the FDNY, with more than 30 years of service. He developed numerous training programs for the FDNY for the ranks of firefighter, first line and chief officers. He has authored numerous articles for Fire Engineering magazine and FDNY’s training publication WNYF. Chief Tracy was the catalyst to the research conducted by NIST, UL and NYU Polytechnic Institute on fire behavior and most specifically, Wind Driven Fires in High Rise. He was awarded the “Tom Brennan Lifetime Achievement Award” from Fire Engineering FDIC 2016.
May 10, 13, 14 2019

Activity Number:
517-E2

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

Time:
0800-1700

Prerequisite: Successful completion of the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy Advanced Fire Investigation course.

As part of the application process, applicants are required to complete eleven (11) preselected CFItrainer units to be considered for selection.

Specific units are listed on the course registration addendum.

This is a priority selection course.

POST BLAST INVESTIGATIONS

This course introduces the experienced fire investigators to improvised explosive devices (IED) and post-blast scenarios. Students will receive initial instruction on post blasts and IED’s and then be required to work in teams to document a post-blast scene through photography, scene diagramming and witness interviewing. Students are required to process, collect and submit evidence to the crime lab, as well as brief cases, review articles and present them to the class. The class concludes with presenting the findings of the team scenario and courtroom testimony.

This course consists of sixteen (16) hours of instructor-led classroom training, eight (8) hours of practical time and ten (10) hours of self-guided online learning.

Photo by: Mass. State Police, Fire & Explosion Investigation Unit
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-9’s, 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.
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. To access a list of scheduled sessions, please click HERE.

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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. To access a list of scheduled sessions, please click HERE.

~May 2019~

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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 2013-2017, Massachusetts fire departments reported 2,704 home fires caused by electrical problems. These fires caused 36 civilian deaths, 101 civilian injuries, 303 fire service injuries and an estimated dollar loss of $196 million. The average loss per fire was $72,386. Electrical fires were the #1 or #2 cause of fire deaths from 2013 to 2017.

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 2013 y 2017, el departamento de bomberos de Massachusetts registró 2.704 incendios en el hogar causados por problemas eléctricos. Estos incendios ocasionaron la muerte a 36 civiles, lesiones a 101 civiles y 303 bomberos, y una pérdida estimada de $196 millones. La pérdida promedio por incendio fue de $72.386. Los incendios eléctricos fueron la causa número uno o número dos de incendios fatales apartir de 2013 - 2017.

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 quemen o disyuntores que se disparen con frecuencia;
- Lámparas tenues o que titilan, bombillas que se quemen 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 corrijalos:
- 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.