

All Hands **Herald**

Massachusetts Department of Fire Services

January 2013

23rd Annual

Firefighter of the Year *Awards*



**Command Simulation
Training**

**Renovation of
DFS West**

**Responding to
Hurricane Sandy**

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The *All Hands Herald* is published three times a year by the Department of Fire Services. Our title incorporates the traditional fire service meaning of all hands working to extinguish a fire. In this publication, all hands is DFS staff providing information, training and assistance with fire service issues which affect all levels of the fire service.

We hope that you enjoy our new look and feel and we encourage you to let us know how you like the *All Hands Herald* and what we can do to make it even more useful to you – our dedicated fire service members and customers.

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From the Fire Marshal

At the end of 2012, Massachusetts completed the purchase of the Springfield Fire Training Center. In 2013, we will begin the work to renovate it into the Department of Fire Services – West. The western Massachusetts fire service has worked long and hard to make this vision a reality. The facility will provide more accessible training to firefighters in the western part of the state. Training at the facility will continue during the renovations that are expected to be complete in 2015. I thank Governor Patrick, his administration and the Legislature for their commitment to improving the training capabilities we can offer our firefighters.

Firefighter of the Year Heroic Awards

In December, the 23rd annual Firefighter of the Year Heroic Awards Ceremony was held at Worcester's Mechanics Hall. In that beautiful historic hall, where Mark Twain and Albert Einstein gave speeches, Governor Patrick and Secretary of Public Safety and Security Mary Elizabeth Heffernan presented the firefighter of the year awards. Firefighters from around the Commonwealth were honored for extraordinary acts of bravery and courage, including two who gave their full measure. Medals of Honor were presented to the families of Worcester Firefighter Jon Davies and Peabody Firefighter James Rice, who both died in fires in December 2011. It is an honor for me to participate in this ceremony each year to thank our firefighters for all they do to protect the citizens of Massachusetts and to thank their

families for their sacrifice. The ceremony is a moving and meaningful tribute and has come a long way from the first year when just a handful of folks gathered at the base of the grand staircase at the State House.

EOPSS Transition

I want to thank outgoing Secretary Heffernan for her support of the fire service during her tenure and wish her well. On behalf of the Massachusetts fire service, I want to welcome the new Secretary of Public Safety and Security Andrea Cabral. We look forward to working closely with you.

Recognition Awards

Our agency received several awards in the past few months and I mention them because they showcase the hard work of the agency's staff and the respect they have earned from others. The National Association of State Fire Marshals' presented the Norman Y. Mineta Excellence in Transportation Safety Award for our work on under and non-odorized propane being transported not only into Massachusetts, but nationally. The Department of Fire Services received the Innovation Award from the Mass. Councils on Aging for our work to foster close working relationships between fire departments and senior centers. Older adults account for 40% of our fire deaths and are most at risk of dying in a fire. The agency was honored to be recognized by The Hundred Club, a non-profit organization headed by Norman Knight that assists the families of fallen firefighters and police officers, at its annual dinner.



Keep Warm Keep Safe

We first launched the Keep Warm, Keep Safe campaign in the winter of 2008-2009. That fall fuel prices were soaring and the economy was being hit hard, and so were the families of Massachusetts. Our fear was that as people turned to alternative heating sources, fire fatalities would also soar. Our past experience has been that space heater fires while infrequent, are often deadly. Instead of increasing, heating fires decreased 7% that first winter heating season. We are launching the campaign again this winter and hope that local fire departments will once again pick up the charge to help our citizens keep warm and keep safe. We have a toolkit for fire departments on our website at www.mass.gov/keep-warmkeepsafe, will be having mass transit ads in large cities, radio advertising, and sending you a copy of our bilingual pamphlet that we ask you to put in places such as senior centers or WIC offices or libraries. The topics covered by the campaign are heating safety, space heaters, wood stove safety, and carbon monoxide and smoke alarms. When the fire service speaks with one voice, we can have a powerful impact.

Governor Patrick Presents 23rd Annual Firefighter of the Year Awards



Governor Deval Patrick and Lieutenant Governor Timothy Murray joined Public Safety Secretary Mary Elizabeth Heffernan and State Fire Marshal Stephen D. Coan to honor firefighters from 15 Massachusetts communities for heroic acts of bravery during the 23rd annual “Firefighter of the Year” Awards ceremony on December 18, 2012. The ceremony was held at Mechanics Hall in Worcester.

“On behalf of the Commonwealth, we thank all the firefighters, their families and loved ones, for their service and courage to keep us safe,” said Governor Patrick. “We appreciate, honor and value your sacrifices and selflessness in the face of danger.”

“Last December, the Commonwealth lost two brave firefighters from Peabody and Worcester,” said Lieutenant Governor Murray. “Today, we pay tribute to those brave men and their families, and honor all of the heroic men and women of the fire service who go above and beyond the call of duty to protect our communities.”

“Firefighting is one of the most honorable professions. Day in and day out, firefighters answer the call without regard to their personal safety,” said Secretary Heffernan. “I want to recognize their bravery and sacrifice, and thank them for always going above and beyond to keep us safe.”

Governor Patrick and Secretary Heffernan presented 31 awards: the Norman Knight Award for Excellence in Community Service, which was awarded to a Maynard firefighter; nine Individual Awards for Meritorious Conduct to firefighters from Brookline, Easton, Leominster, Stow and Worcester; three Group Awards for Meritorious Conduct to teams of firefighters from Leominster, Peabody and Worcester; 14 Medals of Valor to firefighters from Bridgewater, Fitchburg, Hyannis, Lynn, Salem, Saugus, Peabody, Westfield and Worcester; and two Medals of Honor were presented to the families of Peabody Firefighter James Rice and

Worcester Firefighter Jon R. Davies, who died in December 2011 fires.

State Fire Marshal Stephen Coan presented the Fire Marshal’s Award to four Worcester Polytechnic Institute professors who were inspired by the December 1999 tragedy at the Worcester Cold Storage Warehouse to apply their talents to improving firefighter safety. The Fire Marshal’s Award recognizes the contributions of those outside the fire service to fire and life safety. Coan said, “Professors James Duckworth, John Orr, David Cyganiski and Kathy Notarianni were honored for their work on three projects that will improve firefighter safety for decades to come.”

The Precision Indoor Personnel Location and Tracking system has addressed difficult technological barriers to locating firefighters inside a building during a fire; the Flashover Prediction project will help predict the most dangerous situation for a firefighter when everything in a room reaches the same temperature and ignites; and the Immediate Danger to Life and Health (IDLH) Situational Awareness project will help to detect deadly gases such as cyanide, that can

Continued on page 3

Special Operations New Multi-Purpose HVAC Trailer

Ready for Use

The Department of Fire Services' Special Operations Division has again expanded to meet the critical needs of communities in the Commonwealth. Funded by a federal Homeland Security grant, Special Operations recently received and activated a new multi-purpose trailer that supports a variety of needs during many different types of emergencies. Completely self-supporting, the trailer has a generator capable of providing

power, lighting, temperature control, and air supply. The 7 X 12 foot unit has a 3,500 lb capacity. The main component of the trailer is a 5-ton, 60,000 BTU heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) system used to supply and control the desired climate to an area approximately the size of a two-bay fire station. The trailer also contains an oil-less compressor for powering on-scene tools and equipment.

The multi-purpose HVAC trailer, and all other Special Operations equipment, is available for emergency response 24-hours a day by calling the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency's (MEMA) headquarters at 508-820-2000. For questions and information about scheduled events, please call Special Operations at 978-567-3171.



Firefighter of the Year continued from page 2

be absorbed through the skin and contaminates protective clothing. He said, "They imagined what could be and then invented it."

The Patriot Award was presented to Swansea Firefighter Joel R. Beaulieu who distinguished himself during his

deployment on active military duty in Afghanistan. After being injured by an IED himself, he rescued a civilian interpreter while they were still under attack and continued to command his troops. For his professional achievement in performance of his

duties Lieutenant Beaulieu was awarded the navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal. For Wounds Received in Action, Lieutenant. Beaulieu was awarded the Purple Heart.

Command Simulation *Training*

Enhanced through use of SIM Trailer and DFS Computer Lab



The SIM trailer is housed at DFS in Stow when it is not in use at sites around the state.

Mobile Fire Training Props

The Massachusetts Firefighting Academy has several mobile training props that we use in our training programs. These props can also be requested by fire departments to assist them in local training initiatives and for the direct delivery of programs.

Beginning in this issue of the *All Hands Herald*, we will be highlighting several training props. If you have any questions or need additional information, please feel free to contact the program coordinator directly or Massachusetts Firefighting Academy Director Ed Walker.

SIM Trailer and Computer Lab Enhance Training

Since the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy's (MFA) inception over 40 years ago, it has remained on the forefront for training of Massachusetts firefighters. As time and technology

has changed, so too have the teaching mechanisms. Years ago training fire officers to make decisions as company commanders or incident commanders involved a picture of a building, a handful of sand, layers of colored cellophane, and a bit of an imagination.

Today the academy sits on the cutting edge of technology. Within the Fire Officer/Command Training Group, firefighters, company officers and chief officers are able to train to make key decisions as leaders through command simulation training. The Fire Officer/Command Training Group provides SIM training in two computer simulation labs. The original lab, now in its fifth year of operation, is a 53-foot mobile trailer with 16 work stations. The academy's newest training tool is a 20 station computer lab on the main campus of DFS in Stow. Multiple company evolutions

can be executed in either the SIM trailer or in the computer lab at DFS.

Command Simulation Training (SIM)

By the time fire service members participate in the command simulation training, the hands on aspects of their jobs have been honed. Command simulation training teaches the "where" and "when" tactical assignments need to be made. After each evolution a post incident analysis is conducted to reinforce classroom lessons. Command simulation training provides students with the ability to make fireground decisions, direct fire companies into battle, develop confidence and command presence, and provide an environment to make mistakes without the element of injury or death.

Evolutions in the simulation labs are commanded just like actual emergencies would be. Fire companies are alerted to an incident and are dispatched just like they would be back in the firehouse. Assigned companies sign on the air as they are responding. The first due company signs off on-scene with their radio, provides a brief initial report and assumes command. The company officer begins the size-up process and provides a brief progress report to dispatch. The incident commander then provides orders to other dispatched companies.

Upon the arrival of a chief officer, the incident commander provides a report to the chief officer during the command transfer process. The chief officer then will assume command of the incident, and with the assistance



Command simulation training in progress at the new computer lab at DFS in Stow.

of the accountability officer manages the fireground operations. At the discretion of the incident commander additional companies can be dispatched as needed.

The incident commander gets reports from companies operating on scene. Each computer station, serving as the “eyes” of the officer, provides a detailed view of the room/location in which that particular company is working. Conditions can be made harsher or scaled back depending on the progress of the companies by an instructor operating the controlling computer.

The instructor on the controlling computer also has the ability to send messages to particular companies for them to give on a radio report. Messages include issues like out of water, victim found, deteriorating conditions, and a report of a firefighter down or missing requiring Rapid Intervention Team (RIT) activation. These messages act as “curveballs” to test the decision making process of the incident commander.

Simulation Training Provides New Opportunities

Command simulation training provides a valuable skill-set to today’s fire service leaders. Simulation training allows firefighters aspiring to be company officers the ability to learn leadership skills and make the tough decisions in a more forgiving environment. Simulation training creates the opportunity for existing officers to get out of their comfort zones and command complex multiple company

Command Simulation Training allows students to make fireground decisions, direct fire companies into battle, develop confidence and command presence, and provide an environment to make mistakes all without the risk of injury or death.

evolutions. Simulation training permits a superior officer to manage a mayday incident, direct RIT companies into the rescue and account for all personnel on scene. Simulation training creates the ability to practice what was studied, learn from the mistakes, and do so without risking the lives of fellow firefighters.

These command simulation training scenarios are included in several training programs of the Fire Officer/Command Training Group. Classes include *Strategy and Tactics for the Company Officer*, *Fire Officer I*, *Fire Officer II*, and joint programs with the Rapid Intervention Training Group titled *Operational RIT Leader and Commanding and Controlling the Mayday*.

Fire Departments interested in Command Simulation training may call (978) 567-3257 or contact William Miller, William.R.Miller@state.ma.us, or Timothy Choate, Timothy.Choate@state.ma.us.

Renovation of DFS West *is Underway*



On November 30, 2012, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts acquired the Springfield Fire Training Center. The state paid \$2 million dollars for the 6.6 acre facility and now the process of renovation and equipping it to become the **Department of Fire Services - West** begins. Design work is in progress and we hope to open the facility in 2015. Training will continue to take place at the center during the renovations; scheduling the facility is through the MFA scheduler Abby Baker at (978) 567-3205. This concept drawing shows the planned facility and its similarities to DFS headquarters in Stow. The western Massachusetts fire service has long pursued the goal of creating a state-of-the-art training facility and hub of DFS operations in western Massachusetts. This goal is now becoming a reality.

Illustration of DFS West, courtesy of Cole + Russell Architects, Inc.

In Memory of Deputy Jack Peltier

The fire service lost Jack Peltier, a longtime Massachusetts Firefighting Academy (MFA) instructor, in December, 2012. He had retired as assistant chief from the Marlborough (MA) Fire Department and was still active as the safety officer in the Berlin (MA) Fire Department. Jack served as an instructor at the MFA starting in 1974 and was still active. He left an imprint as a teacher on so many in the fire service – firefighters, police fire investigators and civilian personnel alike. While known as a large man, his heart and personality were also large and generous. His wife Susan worked at the MFA as well for decades as the resource librarian. The DFS staff offers her and her family our deepest condolences.

Responding to Hurricane Sandy

Special Operations Travels to New York

During Hurricane Sandy in November, the Special Operations Division at DFS deployed and staged an Incident Support Unit (ISU #3) on Cape Cod while also staffing the Operations Center in Stow. Additional Special Operations requests during this state of emergency came from three local communities asking that back-up generators be deployed for temporary use.

The Mission

Days after the storm had passed, DFS received an Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) request from the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) for DFS to deploy an Incident Support Unit and team to assist the logistical efforts that were underway at Citi Field Stadium in New York. The mission was to assist two Incident Management Teams (IMATs) from Massachusetts; one team was from western Massachusetts and the other from the Barnstable County area. These two teams were redirected from a previous mission to the New York site to work with a team from

Ohio that was transitioning out and to help out a team from Arizona that was transferring in.

The Incident Support Unit (ISU #2) driven to New York was used as an onsite platform to track equipment coming and going from the site. The Citi Field Stadium site was filled with equipment such as generators from 15Kw to large tractor-trailers, pumps from 30 to 30,000 gallons per minute, lighting trailers, and a variety of other equipment. This site was also home to hundreds of power companies from as far away as California that had flown in to work the areas damaged by Hurricane Sandy. With the substantial amount of resources and equipment on site, security was tight and only authorized staff and equipment were allowed at the stadium.

The Incident Support Unit went down on Monday, November 12 and returned on Tuesday, November 20.

Operating 24-hours a day in support of the mission, the DFS Special Operations crew worked in 12-hour shifts and rotated out every three to four days. A total of 344 staff hours were spent providing the requested support.

A First for Special Operations

This assistance in New York marked the first time the Special Operations Division was called upon to travel out of state. The Incident Management Teams (IMATs) from the other states were not only appreciative of the help DFS provided but were also very impressed with the equipment and knowledge and commitment of the Special Operations team members.

The ability of Massachusetts to send these important resources to New York was possible through the commitment of the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security (EO-PSS) and the Massachusetts fire service in supporting the goal of having three Incident Support Units available in the Commonwealth.





Students Build Training Facility at Firefighting Academy

By Judy Bass, *Minuteman High School*

Carpentry students from Minuteman High School in Lexington have built numerous structures in towns within the Minuteman School District over the years as an integral part of their hands-on training in construction. The building they are currently working on is especially unique and valuable because it will help Massachusetts firefighters learn to survive in potentially deadly, smoke-filled situations and successfully rescue victims.

Building Mimics Hazards Confronting Firefighters

The Minuteman students are erecting a “hollow” training facility in the drill yard at the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy in Stow (which is part of the Minuteman School District) to simulate the “incredibly dark, dark environment” of a building filled with smoke, explained Academy Director Edmund M. Walker.

Being in a blazing structure is unimaginably perilous, he said. A firefighter’s breathing apparatus

contains just 20 minutes’ worth of air; seeing through the roiling black smoke is nearly impossible; and only by constantly having one hand on the wall as you carefully navigate your way through each room can you find the way out.

Thus the 1,200-square-foot wood frame “search-and-rescue prop,” as Walker described it, will incorporate features specifically designed to mimic typical hazards a firefighter might encounter on the job.

For example, he said, the flat portion of the roof has a hole for practice in executing rescues like those that occur when floors in burning buildings weaken and abruptly give way.

A section of the floor inside will have a ten inch drop-down to allow firefighters to practice what to do if they fall into an area on fire. The wide-open interior will have movable walls permitting the layout to be varied from time to time to create a more versatile teaching set-up.

In addition, the interior can be flooded with smoke generated by a machine.

Collaborative Effort

The project, which began in September 2012 and is slated to be completed in May or June of 2013, came to fruition, said Walker, when the Academy underwent a major renovation a while ago and modular classrooms were placed on site.

Some of the instructors thought that those trailers would make ideal search-and-rescue environments for teaching, but they were in rough shape, Walker noted, so an alternative strategy of constructing a new building for that purpose was devised. The original plans were drawn up by students at the Academy, then refined by the architectural firm of Dore & Whittier Architects, Inc., South Burlington, VT.

When it’s finished, this building will certainly get a great workout each year from hundreds of firefighters

from all over the state who train at the Academy, pointed out Walker. There are four sessions of a 12-week program for career recruits annually; each session accommodates 72 people. Volunteers and call firefighters train at the Academy on nights and weekends, and 10,000 firefighters from across Massachusetts come to Stow yearly for other training programs.

Minuteman Students Benefit

This endeavor greatly benefits the Minuteman students. It is a “great teaching tool for them,” said the school’s Director of Career and Technical Education, Michelle Roche. “They get a real sense of how important this project really is because firefighters will learn to save lives in this building.” Also, she said, “This is a great collaboration between Minuteman and Stow. We like to be in the communities we are a part of.”

“The students are loving the experience,” said Minuteman Carpentry Instructor Chris Traganos, who supervises them on site. “They are totally turned on to it. They are getting the bigger picture by doing this. They feel confident, and they are really rising [to the challenge].”

Traganos mentioned that he is an OSHA-certified trainer, and can instruct the students on how to install staging and scaffolding as part of this project.

Not only are the students getting a superb opportunity to use their construction know-how in a real-life situation requiring them to install floors, sills, 13 windows, rafters and three doors, but they have been treated to a tour of the Academy and will be allowed to attend approximately 12 lectures there on subjects relevant to construction and fire safety, said Director Walker.

Firefighting Academy Benefits

“Having the students do this project is phenomenal,” he declared. Using them is highly cost-effective for the Academy, Walker said, and the building they complete will eventually benefit every community in the Commonwealth by being used to train their firefighters.

The Academy’s students will be able to drag hoses and use tools in a comparatively safe environment [when the building is finished], Walker explained. “Without actually lighting something on fire, it is the closest approximation of reality. We could never have done this without Minuteman,” he emphasized.

This project clearly means a lot to the students as well. “I believe that going to the Department of Fire Services is a great opportunity to learn how to work in the real world. It’s very interesting to watch and learn while the firefighters are training. The search and rescue building is being built pretty quickly, except for the fact that some orders get to the job site late. But this teaches me what it takes to build a large structure like this with a wonderful team and instructor,” said Rashmi Guilmette, a member of the Class of 2013 from Lancaster.

“Going out to the search and rescue building means a lot to me. It’s a great chance to learn how to work in

Going out to the search and rescue building means a lot to me. It’s a great chance to work in the real world with a real crew and to learn from my mistakes. It’s a learning experience that will help me to be a better carpenter.

the real world with a real crew and learn from my mistakes. It’s a learning experience most people don’t get to go through and I’m glad I get to go through it because it will help me be a better carpenter. It’s also really cool to see the training people go through to become firefighters,” said another senior, Dylan Irvine of Boxborough.

The students working on this project are Rashmi Guilmette, Michael Hewitt, Dylan Irvine, Christopher Smith, William Cain, Cameron Foley, Douglas Kitchenka, Vincent Napoli, Frankie Plummer, and Rupert Simpson. Also, postgraduate students Dylan Hardacker, Patrick Feeley, Thomas Florentino, James Kelly, Tenzin Khedup, Tsung-Lin Lee, Mitchell McGrath, Robert Medeiros, Christopher Sennott, Ian Sherlock, and Mark Socha.

Visit www.minuteman.org for more information about programs at Minuteman High School or contact Judy Bass at j.bass@minuteman.org.



Minuteman students at work on the search and rescue prop at DFS in Stow.

18th Annual

Public Fire & Life Safety Education Conference

The Department of Fire Services hosted the 18th annual Public Fire and Life Safety Education Conference on September 27-28, 2012. Classroom teachers, nurses, firefighters, school resource officers and injury prevention experts gathered at the Westford Regency Inn and Conference Center for two days of training and skill development in 30 workshops and four general sessions presented by 52 speakers. There were basic offerings for newcomers to the field, new workshops to challenge experienced educators, and workshops to improve the ability to collaborate with other community partners and to expand program management skills.

Keynote Speaker

Keynote speaker Princella Lee Bridges is a fire survivor who advocates for residential sprinklers as part of the National Fire Protection Association's National Fire Sprinkler Initiative Faces of Fire. She was burned as a result of a house fire in March 1992 in Greenville, South Carolina. Princella is a compelling speaker who shared her personal story and why she is an advocate for residential fire sprinklers.

Princella is proud of the work she

is doing now, but believes that, for her, all of this could have been avoided had her home been equipped with fire sprinklers.

Fire & Life Safety Educator of the Year

The 2012 Fire and Life Safety Educator of the Year Award was presented on September 28 to Topsfield Fire Captain Jenifer Collins-Brown. She received the award for her dedication to a wide range of fire and injury prevention programs in her community, her leadership and mentoring of firefighters in her own department and all across Essex County. The other outstanding nominees were: Boston Deputy Fire Chief Joseph Fleming; Brockton Fire Lt. Robert Hendrigan; Springfield Fire Capt. Michael Richard; and Westport Fire Lt. Brian Beaulieu.

About the Winner

Captain Jenifer Collins-Brown takes fire and life safety to a level beyond normal expectations. Whether in a classroom, at an Explorer Post, or the Council on Aging, she integrates fire and life safety education into each interaction she has and her enthusiasm is contagious. Captain Collins-Brown runs a prevention program in the

schools that has shown success with two recent "Young Heroes." Two 12-year old babysitters took appropriate action when they smelled smoke.

Jenifer's commitment to safety education includes bicycle safety programs and fire and safety instruction to the elderly. With the elderly, she goes out of her way to do routine safety lectures and home visits, which include smoke and carbon monoxide detector testing and suggestions for fall prevention. On a day-to-day basis, Captain Collins-Brown mentors all thirty members of the Topsfield Fire Department and has persuaded all of them to assist in her educational programs. Through her leadership, area fire departments staff a booth at the Topsfield Fair each year providing fire safety education to thousands of fair-goers. She is proactive, preventive and compassionate.

Life Achievement in Public Education Award

Fall River Inspector Michael Arruda received a Lifetime Achievement in Public Education Award on his last day of work. Inspector Arruda has spent a career creating a comprehensive fire and life safety education program in his community in addition to his full-time responsibilities as fire inspector for the city of Fall River. His commitment to fire education began long before there was any state funding for fire education through the S.A.F.E. Program. Receiving very little financial or personnel support from the fire department, he creatively



Fire & Life Safety Educator of the Year winner Captain Jenifer Collins-Brown, posing with the other nominees: Fall River Inspector Michael Arruda; Westport Fire Lt. Brian Beaulieu; Brockton Fire Lt. Robert Hendrigan; and Springfield Fire Capt. Michael Richard.

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Flammable Gas Training Program Update

*By Michael Gurnick
Assistant Coordinator*

The Flammable Gas Training Program continues to promote an established training standard for both the fire service and gas industry. Between August and December 2012, 746 trainees completed courses for handling liquid natural gas (LNG), liquid propane gas (LPG) and ethanol hazards. Fire service recruits from Boston, Brookline and Brockton attended sessions along with our regularly scheduled Mass. Firefighting Academy (MFA) Recruit and Call-Volunteer Programs. A stand alone LNG Hazard and Mitigation Program was presented to Boston Fire command staff for the first time and is designed as a course which can be delivered to other departments throughout the state.

Industry based training continues to be supported by the Northeast Gas Association (NGA) as well as the Propane Gas Association of New England. In addition to the MFA on-site training for these groups, the Flammable Gas Program ran two 'truck response' sessions focused on the combined industry and fire service response to transportation incidents. One session held in Ludlow tested the NGA "Emergency Response Plan" and another here at the MFA concentrated on potential odorant release which would necessitate a fire department HAZMAT response. Chevron-Phillips Corporation was an integral part of this event.

The Flammable Gas Training Program is unique in its efforts combining industry and fire service training focused on mitigating potential hazards posed by our widespread use of natural gas and propane. As recent events in Springfield demonstrated, fire departments trained in handling gas emergencies along with industry assistance as 'technical advisors' is a best practice model for dealing with extremely dangerous events and makes for a safer tactical approach overall.



Education Conference continued from page 10

leveraged community resources to fund fire education.

Michael created a network in Fall River and after 26 years, he knows every single school principal by name. He has harnessed the media to get his messages out through radio and television public service announcements and he writes a widely-read newspaper column. The long-term impact of

his efforts is demonstrated by a reduction in the numbers of fires in his city. He is a one-man public education program. When Michael retired, he left a lasting legacy of prevention through education.

About the Award

This award honors an individual or a team for their involvement and

commitment to make our world safer from fire and other preventable injuries. It seeks to recognize those who have exhibited excellence in educating their community members about fire and life safety, and have demonstrated outstanding leadership, creativity and perseverance. Nominees may be of any profession.

2013 License Examination Schedule

- You must pre-register for all license exams. Completed applications must be received by 5:00 p.m. on the deadline date listed below. If your application is received after the applicable deadline, you will not be allowed to sit for the exam.
- **All exams start promptly at 10:00 a.m.**
- All license exams are offered at both DFS locations: One State Road in Stow (park in the remote lot at the top of the hill) and One Prince Street (Northampton State Hospital) in Northampton (observe designated visitor parking only). Directions available at www.mass.gov/dfs
- Effective January 1, 2011, all license exams will be graded by computer.

Examinations	Examination Dates All exams start promptly at 10:00 a.m.	Deadlines for Applications
Fire Suppression	January 23, 2013 (Wednesday) April 24, 2013 (Wednesday)	January 4, 2013 (Friday) April 5, 2013 (Friday)
Commercial Hood	July 24, 2013 (Wednesday)	July 5, 2013 (Friday)
Cleaning	October 23, 2013 (Wednesday)	October 4, 2013 (Friday)
Cannon/Mortar	February 27, 2013 (Wednesday)	February 8, 2013 (Friday)
Fireworks	May 22, 2013 (Wednesday)	May 3, 2013 (Friday)
Special Effects	August 21, 2013 (Wednesday)	August 2, 2013 (Friday)
Blasting and Blasting R&D	November 20, 2013 (Wednesday)	November 1, 2013 (Friday)

For licensing questions, contact Lydia Bogar at 978-567-3700 or at Lydia.Bogar@state.ma.us.

Reminder From the Licensing Desk

The holder of any approval, license certificate, license or permit issued by the Marshal under 527 CMR, shall provide the Marshal with an accurate street and mailing address at the time of application and shall report any changes of such address to the Marshal within fourteen (14) days of the date of such change. 527 CMR 1.03(6)(b).

Division of Fire Service Receives NASFM Transportation Safety Award

The National Association of State Fire Marshals (NASFM) presented the Department of Fire Services with the Norman Y. Mineta Excellence in Transportation Safety Award at its annual conference this year. This award is presented to an individual or organization that has made a significant and lasting contribution to the safety of people, products and materials in transit. This award recognized a team of individuals led by Massachusetts State Fire Marshal Stephen D. Coan. They conducted an investigation into an LP-gas explosion in Norfolk, Massachusetts and the discovery of other potential disastrous explosions due to non-odorized and under-odorized propane being shipped across the north-east. The award was presented by NH State Fire Marshal William Degnan, president of NASFM, and singled out the work of Timothee Rodrique, David Ladd, Steve Rourke and their staffs. Degnan said, "They all played leadership roles in mitigating this problem involving the transportation of LPG." He applauded Coan for his continued work at the national level to improve the safety of propane being transported across the country. "The problem first identified in Massachusetts is a national one, and your efforts have already reduced the exposure to our citizens from non-odorized propane gas and increased the safety of our first responders."

Coding Tips for Heating Fires

Winter is here. People have turned on the heat so we can expect heating related incidents. Residents may turn to alternative heating sources like fireplaces, wood stoves, and space heaters in the colder months. Here are some MFIRS coding tips designed to help us generate the best possible information on heating fires.

Fuel Burner/Boiler Malfunction

Incident Type: 116 – Fuel Burner/Boiler Malfunction, Fire Confined
Basic Module only if fire is confined, there are no injuries,
and dollar loss is <\$5,000

Chimney or Flue Fire

Incident Type: 114 – Chimney or Flue Fire, Contained to Chimney
or Flue
Basic Module only if fire is confined, there are no injuries,
and dollar loss is <\$5,000

Unconfined Heating Structure Fires

Basic Module, Fire Module and Structure Fire Module
Incident Type: 111-112 or 120-123 – structure fire, mobile home
Heat Source: 10-13 – heat from operating equipment,
or 43 – hot ember/ash
Type of Material First Ignited: 11-12 – gas, 25 – oil/kerosene,
34 – creosote, 56 – coal
Equipment Involved in Ignition: 120-152 – heating equipment
Equipment Power Source Required
Equipment Portability Required: 1 – portable, or 2 – stationary

Examples

Portable electrical heater ignites bedding in apartment building

Incident Type : 111 – building fire
Property Use : 429 – multifamily housing
Heat Source : 12 – radiated heat from equipment
Item First Ignited : 32 – bedding
Type of Material First Ignited : 71 – fabric
Equipment Involved in Ignition : 141 – space heater
Equipment Power Source : 12 – electric
Equipment Portability : 1 – portable

Sparks from a wood burning stove ignite carpeting in room on fire

Incident Type : 111 – building fire
Heat Source : 43 – hot ember/ash
Item First Ignited : 14 – rug
Type of Material First Ignited : 70 – fabric
Equipment Involved in Ignition : 123 – stove
Equipment Power Source : 41 – wood
Equipment Portability : 2 – stationary

Heating fires are the second leading cause of residential fires in Massachusetts.

In 2011 heating equipment caused:

- 2,126 (14%) of the 15,043 building fires
- 3 civilian fire deaths
- 12 civilian injuries
- 30 fire service injuries
- Estimated losses of \$8.7 million
- Average loss per fire was \$4,052



Kerosene heater ignites interior wall in mobile home (being used as a fixed structure)

Incident Type : 121 – mobile home
Heat Source : 12 – radiated heat from equipment
Item First Ignited : 15 – interior wall covering
Type of Material First Ignited : 65 – particle board
Equipment Involved in Ignition : 141 – space heater
Equipment Power Source : 33 – kerosene
Equipment Portability : 1 – portable

Chimney fire in single-family home

Incident Type : 111 – building fire
Heat Source: 11 – flame from operating
equipment (fireplace)
Item First Ignited: 95 – chimney film or residue
Type of Material First Ignited: 34 – creosote
Equipment Involved: 126 – brick chimney
Equipment Power Source: 41 – wood
Equipment Portability: 2 – stationary

December Graduations

at Massachusetts Firefighting Academy

December 12, 2012

Advanced Fire Investigation Course

On December 12, 2012, 39 members of the MFA's six-day Advanced Fire Investigation course graduated. This rigorous professional training provides fire, and state and local police officers with the advanced skills to accurately determine the origin and cause of fires in their jurisdictions and together, build solid, prosecutable cases. The MFA, a division of the Department of Fire Services, offers this program tuition-free.

Team Concept of Fire Investigation

State Fire Marshal Coan said, "The team concept of fire investigation has been used successfully in Massachusetts for over a decade and it starts with joint training." He added, "When police and fire are trained in the same techniques and procedures together, the consistency leads to solid cause and origin determinations, and when arson is the cause, solid criminal cases."

MFA Director Edmund M.

Walker said, "This course provides students with fire scene experience from investigation through courtroom testimony. They are exposed to the investigatory process as outlined in the National Fire Protection Association Standard 921: Guide for Fire and Explosion Investigations."

39 Graduates

The 39 program graduates included five local police officers, four Massachusetts State Police officers and 30 firefighters, representing the following agencies: Acton Fire, Athol Fire and Police, Attleboro Fire, Bedford Fire, Belchertown Police, Billerica Fire, Boston Fire, Braintree Fire, Brockton Fire, Chelsea Fire, Dartmouth Dist.3 Fire, Easton Fire, Fall River Fire, Halifax Fire, Hardwick Fire and Police, Hingham Fire, Holden Fire and Police, Holyoke Fire, Lexington Fire and Police, Lowell Fire, Lynn Fire, Massachusetts State Police, Medford Fire, New Bedford Fire, North Reading Fire, Norwood Fire, Southbridge Fire, Waltham Fire, Westford Fire, and Weymouth Fire.

The six-day advanced fire investigation course covers the concepts of fire behavior, scene examination, fire scene documentation, evidence collection, witness interviewing, and management of major fire investigations in more depth than the basic fire investigation class. It also addresses the legal issues of managing fire scenes, evidence collection, and concludes with practical exercises of participating in the courtroom process. Students give mock depositions and participate in both a mock grand jury and a mock trial. The program covers unintentional fires, intentionally set fires, automobile fires, fatal fires and wildland fires.

December 13, 2012

Chief Fire Officer

On December 13, 32 administrative and executive fire officers from 32 communities graduated from the 20th offering of the MFA's Chief Fire Officer Management Training Program. The thirteen-week program was developed in accordance with National Fire Protection Association



Recruit Class #197



Call/Volunteer Class #42

Standards for chief fire officers, and is delivered jointly by the University of Massachusetts Collins Institute Center for Public Management and the MFA. It is a comprehensive course providing training in the non-fire suppression aspects of managing fire department organizations.

State Fire Marshal Stephen D. Coan said, “These fire service leaders are committed to continually developing their management and leadership skills in order to provide the highest level of service to the communities they protect.”

Fire officers from the following departments graduated in the morning’s ceremony: Bedford, Berlin, Billerica, Braintree, Brookline, Dartmouth District 1, Dedham, Dudley, Haverhill, Holyoke, Hopkinton, Lunenburg, Manchester, Marlborough, Mashpee Fire & Rescue, Maynard, Methuen, Monson, Needham, Pembroke, Pepperell, Quincy, Revere, Scituate, Springfield, Sudbury, Tewksbury, Waltham, Ware, West Springfield, Westfield, and Westwood.

The curriculum covers a spectrum of topics considered essential for effective public sector management, including: human resource management, group dynamics, leadership and

The Chief Fire Officer Training Program helps fire officers improve their ability to lead and manage, understand employees’ needs, promote personal productivity, increase the capacity to manage resources, and increase inter-agency cooperation.

legal issues, governmental and organization structures, customer-focused strategic planning, information management, legal issues, budgets and public finance, community awareness and public and labor relations.

The Chief Fire Officer Management Training Program expects to help fire officers improve their ability to lead and manage personnel and the department, to provide skills to understand employees’ needs and problems, to promote personal productivity, to increase the capacity to manage both human and technical resources, and to increase inter-agency cooperation.

Participants are required to write a formal research paper, identifying a

current problem or challenge faced by their organization and proposing a viable solution. The officers must then present their proposal to a mock panel of municipal officials for their consideration.

This program prepares students to take the certification exams for Fire Officer III and Fire Officer IV. Coan said, “Certification to this level is a prestigious milestone and can assist the chief fire officer in securing a national designation from the Center for Public Safety Excellence and the Massachusetts Fire Service Commission’s Fire Chief Accreditation.”

The MFA, a division of the Department of Fire Services, offers this program tuition-free every other year.

December 21, 2012

Recruit Class #197

On December 21, 2012, Recruit class #197 graduated from the academy’s sixty-day Recruit Firefighting Program.

69 Graduates from 41 Fire Departments

Graduates included two women and 67 men representing 41 departments: Agawam, Arlington, Barnstable, Beverly, Bourne, Cambridge, Canton,

Continued on page 16



Call/Volunteer Class #41

Graduations continued from page 15

Charlton, Clinton, Concord, Danvers, Dedham, Easton, Fitchburg, Hanover, Hanson, Haverhill, Hingham, Holden, Holyoke, Hudson, Lawrence, Leominster, Lexington, Lowell, Malden, Marshfield, Medford, Methuen, Milton, Newburyport, Norwell, Norwood, Revere, Shrewsbury, Southbridge, Tewksbury, Ware, Westborough, Westfield, and Woburn.

Guest Speaker

Worcester FF David Ryan

The guest speaker was Worcester FF David Ryan. He responded to the December 8, 2011 fire that took the life of Worcester FF Jon Davies Sr., and trapped and injured FF Brian Carroll. FF Ryan is also an instructor at the MFA.

December 20, 2012

Call/Volunteer Firefighter Training Classes #41 and #42

State Fire Marshal Stephen D. Coan and MFA Director Edmund M. Walker presented certificates of completion to members of the Call/Volunteer Firefighter Training Class

#41 and Class #42 in a graduation ceremony at DFS in Stow on December 20, 2012.

67 Graduates from 31 Fire Departments

Two classes graduated at the same time. Class #41 trained at the Hamilton Fire Department and Class #42 trained at the Department of Fire Services in Stow. Class #41 had 24 students including 22 men and two women from the Byfield, Georgetown, Hamilton, Haverhill, Lynnfield, Middleton, Rockport, Salisbury, and Topsfield Fire Departments. Class #42 had 43 students including five women and 38 men representing the Ashby, Boxborough, Carlisle, Dudley, Groton, Harvard, Holden, Hopedale, Hopkinton, Littleton, Mendon, Millbury, Oxford, Princeton, Rutland, Shirley, Shrewsbury, Stow, Tyngsborough, Wareham, West Boylston, and Westminster Fire Departments.

The intensive program includes

classroom instruction, physical fitness training, firefighter skills training and live firefighting practice. Graduates have completed 320 hours of training on nights and weekends.

Basic Firefighter Skills

Students receive classroom training in all basic firefighter skills. They practice first under non-fire conditions and then during controlled fire conditions. To graduate, students must demonstrate proficiency in life safety, search and rescue, ladder operations, water supply, pump operation, and fire attack. Fire attack operations range from mailbox fires to multiple-floor or multiple-room structural fires. Upon successful completion of the Recruit Program all students have met national standards of National Fire Protection Association 1001 and are certified to the level of Firefighter I and II, and Hazardous Materials First Responder Operational Level by the Massachusetts Fire Training Council.

In order to graduate, Call/Volunteer Training Program students must demonstrate proficiency in life safety, search and rescue, ladder operations, water supply, pump operation, and fire attack.

The 100 Club Honors

the Department of
Fire Services

The Hundred Club of Mass., Inc. honored the Department of Fire Services (DFS) at its annual dinner on October 4, 2012. The program, entitled *The Faces of DFS*, highlighted the many faces of the fire service the public sees, and the resources DFS has to support local fire departments. Music and a fast-paced photo-essay showcased seven divisions and special units in DFS. Attendees heard how each unit safeguards the public and supports the Massachusetts fire service.

“Headquartered in Stow, our 64 full-time staff and over 300 contract employees provide the strength and the depth we need to deliver services all across the Commonwealth,”

said Deputy State Fire Marshal Peter J. Ostroskey, “Whether it is training firefighters, responding to incidents, enforcing the fire code, or investigating fires, these dedicated members of our team set a standard for excellence in public service.”

The 100 Club of Massachusetts is one of the most respected organizations of its kind in the United States. Founded by Norman Knight, Howard Fitzpatrick, Richard Robie and George Swartz, the club is recognized nationally for its work aiding the families of firefighters and police who die in the line of duty. For more information, visit www.100clubmass.org.



Peter Ostroskey, Mark Pare, Timothee Rodrique, Jennifer Mieth, Captain Jeanne Stewart, David Ladd, Ed Walker, and Stephen Coan at the 100 Club Program.

Accelerant and Explosive Detection Dogs and Handlers Graduate



Trooper Joe Gura and accelerant detection canine (A-K9) Nell and Sergeant Paul Horgan with explosive detection canine (E-K9) Flynn, graduated on Nov. 30, 2012, as part of the Connecticut State Police, 157th Canine Training Class. A-K9 Nell has been re-assigned to Trooper Gura after Sergeant Tim Bombard's promotion to Lieutenant and will primarily be assigned to the West Fire Investigation Team. E-K9 Flynn will be assigned to the Bomb Squad and will be replacing E-K9 Morris who will be retiring soon. All of the canines and handlers assigned to the Fire and Explosion Investigation Section graduate from this training and maintain certification.

Left to right: Trooper Joe Gura, A-K9 Nell, Sergeant Paul Horgan, E-K9 Flynn.

YouTube Burn Awareness Video Contest

for High School Students

The Department of Fire Services, the Massachusetts Association of Safety and Fire Educators, and the Liberty Mutual Insurance Company are sponsoring the fifth annual YouTube™ Burn Awareness Video Contest for students in grades 9-12. We would like your help getting the word out to students and communications teachers. Entries are only accepted from school sponsored communication courses or sponsored extra-curricular groups. We would like to see more schools participate in the video contest this year.

Addresses ELA Curriculum Framework

Many teachers may be interested in this contest because of the curriculum standards it addresses. It addresses learning standard components 27.6 (Gr. 9-10) and 27.8 (Gr. 11-12) of the Massachusetts English Language Arts Curriculum Framework (June 2001), Media Strand - General Standard 27: Media Production. School districts offering communications classes, which include the design and creation of media productions, are encouraged to promote this contest

through an independent or group assignment as part of its curriculum delivery.

March 29, 2013 Deadline

Project submissions are due by March 29, 2013. Contest rules and the rubric that will be used to judge entries is available on our website and from our office. For more information please contact us at (978) 567-3381 or at Jennifer.Mieth@state.ma.us.

Information is also available on our website at www.mass.gov/dfs. Type "YouTube" in the search box.

Suspensions Ordered for Unexploded Fireworks

State Fire Marshal Stephen D. Coan announced administrative actions regarding Pyrotecnico, a fireworks company, after unexploded fireworks shells were discovered following professional shows this past summer on November 1, 2012.

"Fireworks are extremely dangerous, even for professionals," Coan said. The regulations require a first light search to ensure that the public does not encounter any unexploded fireworks shells the next day. In these cases, that was not done adequately."

The Fireworks Users Certificate of Pyrotecnico was suspended for one-year based on the conduct of its employees. The suspension is effective July 10, 2012 and will run through the next 4th of July holiday season. Pyrotecnico put on professional fireworks displays in Stoughton, Waltham, Ware, Wilmington and Worcester this summer where unexploded shells were discovered afterwards.

In the interest of public safety, State Fire Marshal Stephen D. Coan suspended the shooters and the company's licenses in July pending an investigation and hearings to determine whether any violation of law or regulation had taken place.

"It is unacceptable that a child might wander from a playground and pick up one of these shells or that a town worker might run one over with a lawn mower," said Coan, "That's why we have these regulations to protect the public."

Decisions on Shooters Certificates of Competency

The Fireworks Certificates of Competency of David C. Bilodeau, Anthony J. Gentile and Peter A. Tremblay have been suspended as a result of administrative hearings held this summer. David C. Bilodeau, Anthony J. Gentile and Peter A. Tremblay were the licensed shooters for these shows.

- David C. Bilodeau received a 3-year suspension for failure to notice and/or to conduct a thorough search. The suspension is effective July 10, 2012. Mr. Bilodeau must also pass a re-test of his abilities before being reinstated.
- Anthony J. Gentile agreed to an administrative disposition of a 6-month suspension for failure to notice and/or to conduct a thorough search. The suspension is effective July 13, 2012.
- Peter A. Tremblay received a 2-year suspension for failure to notice and/or to conduct a thorough search. The suspension is effective July 13, 2012. Mr. Tremblay must also pass a re-test of his abilities as before being reinstated.

Anyone seeking a copy of these decisions should contact the Department of Fire Services Legal Office at (978) 567-3181.

There's No Place Like a Town Home...



The appropriate regulations for the construction of townhouses are often misunderstood. Builders and homeowners typically consider a townhome unit as a stand-alone home, even though it is physically attached to other units. Because attached townhouse units share the same structure, however, the fire service typically looks at the overall townhouse structure as one building. Adding to the confusion, there have been three entirely different editions of the Massachusetts State Building Code (780 CMR) in a span of only four years – the 6th, 7th and 8th editions.

In the current edition (8th edition), all of the construction regulations for townhouse structures, including fire and life safety systems, are contained in 780 CMR: 51.00, the Massachusetts Residential Code (2009 International Residential Code with Massachusetts 780 CMR amendments). The only limitation on this approach is the number of stories. Townhouse structures greater than three stories in height cannot utilize the Residential Code. The 8th edition approach of

utilizing only the Residential Code is different from past editions in that a portion of, or all of, the regulations for townhouse structures were traditionally in the base [commercial] portion of the code.

As was the case for all townhouse structures in the 7th edition, and some in the 6th edition, townhouses are required by Section R313.1 in 780 CMR: 51.00 to be protected with a fire sprinkler system. Townhouse structures are still considered the same as multi-family structures for the purposes of determining the appropriate fire sprinkler design and installation standard (NFPA 13D, NFPA 13R or NFPA 13). The Massachusetts amendments in 780 CMR limit the use of NFPA 13R to townhouses of no more than 12,000 square feet of aggregate floor area, where fire walls and fire separations are not considered to make separate buildings in the determination of the aggregate floor area. For townhouse structures with three or less units attached, and also has an aggregate floor area under this 12,000 square feet limitation, a

NFPA 13D system can be utilized with certain conditions.

The fire department must review plans for townhouse structures for approval in accordance with Section 107.1.2 in the Massachusetts Residential Code. It is important the fire department is involved with the plan review and site inspections of newly constructed townhouses, to avoid any conflicts that could arise with the subsequent enforcement of Sections 26B, 26F½, and/or 26I in Chapter 148 of the Massachusetts General Laws, and subsequent owner requests for 26F certificates in the process of obtaining a mortgage.

Contact information for fire protection specialists in the Division of Fire Safety (formerly the Office of the State Fire Marshal) follows. For jurisdictions south of, or containing, the the Massachusetts Turnpike, contact Jake Nunnemacher at 978-567-3377 or jacob.nunnemacher@state.ma.us. For jurisdictions north of the Turnpike, contact Dana Haagensen at 978-567-3376 or dana.haagensen@state.ma.us

Fire Marshal Advisories

State Fire Marshal Stephen D. Coan has sent recent advisories to local fire chiefs in order to spread awareness of dangers and to prevent dangerous situations from happening. All advisories are posted on the DFS website under *OSFM Advisories* and as part of the monthly *DFS Briefs*.

If you have any questions, or require assistance, please contact the Code Compliance and Enforcement Unit at (978) 567-3375, or in western Massachusetts at (413) 587-3181.

November 8, 2012

Updated Information: New and Renewed Liquor License Inspections

Recently, my office has been asked to clarify the issue of when a 780 CMR 1.06 inspection, conducted by the local building inspector and signed by the Head of the Fire Department, is necessary prior to the issuance or renewal of a liquor license.

The Fire Safety Act of 2004 amended Massachusetts General Law Chapter 10, s. 74 to require all applicants for an alcohol beverage license (issued under the authority of the ABCC) to submit an annual valid certificate of inspection as a pre-condition to the issuance or renewal of this license. The license referred to in that section is a Chapter 138, s. 12 pourers license for alcohol intended to be consumed on the premises.

Because the ABCC does not have jurisdiction over temporary one (1) day licenses issued under Chapter 138, s. 14, the inspectional requirement is not a pre-condition imposed on the issuing city and town liquor licensing authorities. However, the Department of Fire Services highly recommends you work with your local licensing authority to have them require such an inspection prior to the issuance of these one (1) day

licenses, where alcohol will be consumed on the premises.

January 1, 2013

School Safety Reminder

I am issuing this reminder, in the aftermath of the tragedy in Newtown, CT. As we react to this tragedy, we see many schools wanting to meet and discuss new increased safety measures. One concerning common thread that is being seen amongst the news reports is to further secure the school. This common thread, so far, has been reported and discussed in the media is the need to install deadbolts on school doors. This may sound like an idea, but will really create another safety issue. There are approved ways to secure a facility. I want to take this time to remind everyone that the installation of deadbolts is against the State Building Code 780 CMR and State Fire Code 527 CMR.

State Building Code 780 CMR 1008.1.9.4 Bolt Locks

Manually operated flush bolts or surface bolts are not permitted. (with very limited exceptions – speak with your local building inspector for more info.)

State Fire Code 527 CMR 10.03: General Provisions

(1) Any obstacle which may interfere with the means of egress or escape from any building or other premises, or with the access to any part of said building or premises by the fire department in case of fire, shall be removed from aisles, floors, halls, stairways and fire escapes. Doors and windows designated as exits shall be kept clear at all times.

(2) Such aisles, floors, halls, stairways, fire escapes, doors and windows shall be kept in good repair and ready for use, and shall be kept properly

lighted as required by 780 CMR: State Board of Building Regulations and Standards.

527 CMR 10.03(13) Hazards to Means of Egress

(a) Obstructions. No person shall at any time place an encumbrance of any kind before or upon any fire escape, balcony or ladder intended as a means of escape from fire. The means of egress from each part of the building, including stairways, egress doors, and any panic hardware installed thereon, aisles, corridors, passageways and similar elements of the means of egress, shall at all times be maintained in a safe condition and shall be available for immediate use and free of all obstructions.

Instead in reflecting upon the incident in Connecticut focus should be on regrouping to review the required plans identified below.

Section 363 of Chapter 159 of the Acts of 2000, requires all school districts to formulate specific school emergency plans. This act places the responsibility to develop these plans upon the superintendent of each school district and requires that the superintendent work with local fire and police departments in its development. [Note: In the fall of 2012, schools were required, for the first time, to develop EMS plans in addition to 363 all-hazard evacuation plans. These plans must be submitted to the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, which has guidance for schools developing the plans at www.doe.mass.edu.]

“Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, the superintendent of each school district shall, prior to the beginning of the school year, meet with the fire chief and police chief of the city, town or district to formulate a school specific

Continued on page 21

License Actions

This report details recent compliance and enforcement actions taken by the Office of the State Fire Marshal against companies and individuals for violations of MGL c. 148 and 527 CMR. The effective date of these actions and details are included. While other actions may be pending, only those individuals and companies who have had administrative hearings with decisions rendered are listed here. Call the Licensing Desk at 978-567-3700 for any questions regarding the status of any license or certificate of competency.

Name	Type of License	Disposition
Bilodeau, David C	Fireworks Certificate of Competency	Suspended for three years until October 1, 2015; must retest after that date to be licensed.
Harren, Patrica A	Fireworks Certificate of Competency	Suspended for ninety days; 30 days to serve until January 13, 2013.
Gentile, Anthony J.	Fireworks Certificate of Competency	Suspended for six months until January 13, 2015.
S. Vitale Pyrotechic Industries d/b/a Pyrotecnico Fireworks	Pyrotechnic Users Certificate	One year suspension until July 10, 2013.
Suffredini, David C	Fireworks Certificate of Competency	Permanent revocation.
Tecce, James E.	Fire Equipment Certificate of Competency	Permanent revocation; prohibited from holding any personal or business permit or license issued by the Dept. of Fire Services.
Tremblay, Peter A.	Fireworks Certificate of Competency	Suspended for two years until July 13, 2014; must retest after that date to be licensed.

Fire Marshal Advisories continued from page 20

“Multi-hazard evacuation plan” for each school under the superintendent’s supervision. Said multi-hazard evacuation plan shall encompass, but not be limited to, evacuation for fires, hurricanes and other hazardous storms or disaster in which bodily injury might occur, shootings and other terrorist activities, and bomb threats. Said plan shall be formulated for each school building after a review of each building. Said plan shall include, but not be limited to: (1) establishment of a crisis response team; (2) designation as to who is in charge of said team and designated substitutes; (3) a communications plan; (4) crisis procedures for safe entrance to and exit from the school by students, parents and employees; and (5) policies for enforcing school discipline and maintaining a safe and orderly environment

during the crisis. Each district, with the assistance of the local police and fire departments, shall annually review and update as appropriate said plan. At the beginning of each school year, students at each school shall be instructed as to the plan that is developed.”

This tragedy should bring about the need to review and adhere to the required policies and plans to ensure student safety and to practice lock-down drills.

January 1, 2013
Complaints on Hood Cleaning Work pursuant to 527 CMR 11.8.8

Since the passage of the hood cleaning regulation, 527 CMR 11.00, our office has worked tirelessly to educate, advise, and test members of the restaurant commercial cooking cleaning industry on the regulation and its

requirements. However, our office continues to receive numerous complaints concerning the sufficiency of the work being performed, the licensure of hood cleaners, and certain unique compliance issues.

Accordingly, pursuant to 527 CMR 11.8.8, we have developed a complaint form for your use, a copy of which is attached. We request that you fill out the complaint form, and forward the same to the Licensing Desk by fax (978) 567-3199 or email at Lydia.Bogar@state.ma.us. Upon receipt, a compliance officer will be assigned to work directly with you. This form is intended for use by our office to review the conduct of hood cleaners for possible license suspension purposes. The fire department should still take any or all compliance actions relative to violations, as necessary.



Department of Fire Services
Commonwealth of Massachusetts
978-567-3100
www.mass.gov/dfs

Spring 2013

Senior Fire Officer Forum

Register Now!

Improving Incident Safety Officer Effectiveness

Speaker: **David W. Dodson, former Battalion Chief, Eagle River, CO**

Course number: 200-039-672-SP-A

Date & Time: Monday, January 14 @ 1000 – 1500 hrs

Location: Department of Fire Services, 1 State Road, Stow

Leadership, Mentoring & Succession Planning

Speaker: **Deputy Assistant Chief (ret) John Norman, FDNY Academy Adj. Instructor**

Course number: 200-039-676-SP-A

Date & Time: Saturday, March 2 @ 1000 – 1500 hrs

Location: University of Massachusetts/Amherst, 661 North Pleasant Street, Amherst

Step Up and Lead

Speaker: **Deputy Chief Frank Viscuso, Kearny, NJ Fire Department**

Course number: 200-039-675-SP-A

Date & Time: Tuesday, May 28 @ 1000 – 1500 hrs

Location: Department of Fire Services, 1 State Road, Stow

Legal Issues of Today

Speaker: **Steven Rourke, General Counsel, MA Department of Fire Services**

Course number: 200-039-674-SP-A

Date & Time: Tuesday, June 11 @ 1000 – 1500 hrs

Location: Department of Fire Services, 1 State Road, Stow

*Out of state fire service personnel will be charged a registration fee of \$25.00
Please make checks payable to: Massachusetts Firefighting Academy Trust Fund*

Download course applications at www.mass.gov/dfs (one for each session)

Mail to:

Registrar

Massachusetts Firefighting Academy

1 State Road, P.O. Box 1025

Stow, MA 01775

Or fax to:

(978) 567-3229