

All Hands Herald

Massachusetts Department of Fire Services

May 2014

Technical Rescue *Specialized Training*

New Fire Code Has
BCCC Approval

Updating
Call/Volunteer
Training

Let Us Train You
MFA offerings



Contents

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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.

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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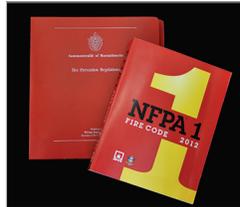
2 Updating Call/Volunteer Firefighter Training

Fire service officials and chiefs from across the state have developed new initiatives to address some of the challenges faced by those training as Call/Volunteer firefighters. Some online training is being used so that time for practical training can be increased.



6 Technical Rescue Teams

Technical rescue teams respond to incidents involving structural collapse, rope, trench, and confined space rescue using specialized equipment and training. A new initiative to support and connect teams across the state is underway.



9 New Fire Code Receives BCCC Approval

The Building Codes Coordinating Council (BCCC) has approved the revision to 527 CMR proposed by the Board of Fire Prevention Regulations (BFPR).

- 1 From the Fire Marshal
- 4 Let Us Train You
- 8 Mulch Regulation Information
- 9 In Memory of Marianne Lara
- 10 Public Education News
- 12 USFA NFIRS: Coding for Exposures
- 14 Fire Marshal Advisories
- 16 30th Anniversary of Fatal Rooming House Fire
- 17 DFS Licenses
- 17 New Training Program: Decision Making for Initial Company Operations
- 18 Massachusetts Firefighting Academy Graduations
- 19 Fire Investigation News
- 20 You Tube™ Burn Awareness Video Contest Awards
- 21 May is Electrical Safety Month

Cover Photo by Bruce Gauvin

Interior photos by Julie Weinstein and other DFS staff

From the Fire Marshal

This spring, our hearts are heavy with sorrow for the loss of Boston Firefighter Michael R. Kennedy and Lieutenant Edward J. Walsh. These brave men died in service to their community. The staff at the Department of Fire Services offer deepest sympathies to the families and to the men and women of the Boston Fire Department. Fortunately, firefighter deaths are few and far between in the Commonwealth, but these losses hit us hard when they happen.

We also offer wishes for a speedy recovery to the firefighters injured on Beacon Street on March 26. We are grateful for their valiant service and they remain in our thoughts. Firefighting is an inherently dangerous job. Constant training and improvement in both firefighting tactics and the equipment and technology used minimizes the dangers of the profession. Firefighters know that danger looms at every call, but it is heart-breaking when tragedy strikes.

Residential Sprinklers: Changing the Future of Fire

The building at 298 Beacon Street was never required to have fire sprinklers. When the building is rebuilt, fire sprinklers are likely to be included because Boston has adopted MGL C148 S26I, a local option law that requires sprinklers in new and substantially renovated buildings that include four or more units. Local option laws only apply in communities that have chosen to adopt them. This spring another local option law on sprinklers died in committee. The bill would have allowed communities to choose whether to require sprinklers in new one- and two-family homes, where most fire deaths occur.

Fire sprinklers contain fires, giving occupants more time to escape. Sprinklers also keep fires smaller and cooler for longer, making them less dangerous to battle. Until we know more about the Beacon Street fire, we cannot say if sprinklers would have saved lives or reduced injuries. However, we do know that fewer civilians and firefighters are killed and injured in sprinklered buildings.

Requiring sprinklers impacts civilian and firefighter safety over the long-term, as more buildings will have sprinklers. As communities grapple with what level of fire protection they want and can afford, they should be allowed to require fire sprinklers as an option. We require sprinklers in high-rise and large apartment buildings, so why not require them in one- and two-family homes where most fire deaths occur?

Boston Marathon

This year's wonderful Boston Marathon was the first since the horrific bombings at the finish line in 2013. It was a major milestone for our sense of community and an accomplishment in terms of preparation and execution for public safety officials. Several DFS units were heavily involved in developing and implementing the security procedures that ensured this year's race was a fun and safe celebration. The leadership and bomb technicians of the State Police in the Fire and Explosion Investigation Unit (F&EIU) provided expertise in organizing command and control, security procedures, and response protocols. The F&EIU work began when they responded to the Marathon bombing scene last year, bringing expertise, manpower coordination and equipment to the post-blast investigation.

DFS' Hazardous Materials Response Division and the Special Operations Unit also had roles in the security of this year's Boston Marathon. Special Operations had an ISU stationed in Brookline and both an ISU and a Rehab vehicle in Brookline. The Hazardous Materials Response Division, in collaboration with the National Guard's Civil Support Team, pre-positioned team members along the race route to be able to respond quickly, as well as staff with chemical monitoring capabilities along the course.

All of these DFS divisions played major roles in making sure last year's Fourth of July celebration on the Esplanade was safe and fun and that experience informed the state's security plan for this year's Marathon.

Comprehensive Fire Code

We are moving through the process of revising the state fire code (527 CMR). The Board of Fire Prevention Regulations (BFPR) has prepared a draft of NFPA 1 with Massachusetts amendments. The draft was approved by the Building Code Coordinating Council. It now moves to an Executive Office regulation review process before a hearing and final vote by the BFPR. Public comment is welcome during this period. In the fall, the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy will be coordinating training on the new code with the National Fire Protection Association.



Continued on page 3



Updating Call/Volunteer Training

By Chris Norris, Program Coordinator

Since 2003, the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy (MFA) has graduated 47 classes from the Call/Volunteer Firefighter Recruit Training Program. The program is 320 hours in duration and spans over six months. The core of the program is the training requirements in NFPA 1001, which enables all students the opportunity to become certified to the level of Firefighter I/II. In an effort to better meet the needs of fire departments across the state, additional training modules have been added to the program. Some of the additional modules include emergency vehicle operations awareness, motor pumper operator training, and rapid intervention team training.

Departments and participants in the Call/Volunteer Recruit Training Program face challenges from both the length of the program and the limited number of classes and opportunities available each year. Program participants typically work full- or part-time, are enrolled in educational programs, have young, busy families, and are faced with the rigorous schedule to complete the Call/Volunteer program. Travel and time constraints can also be problematic for participants who may have an hour-long commute to class.

A number of initiatives have been developed in an effort to address some of these challenges. In February of

2013, the State Fire Marshal and the director of the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy convened a focus group consisting of fire chiefs from across the state to evaluate the curriculum and practical evolutions taught in the program. Focus group participants included a diverse group of chiefs representing all volunteer, all call, and combination departments from Essex, Worcester, Bristol, Berkshire, Hampden, and Hampshire Counties, and members of the Massachusetts Fire Training Council and the Fire Service Commission.

Last February, the Call/Volunteer Recruit Training Program implemented an online eBlended format. Students get a schedule and reading list for the entire program along with open and close dates for each quiz. All quizzes are taken online. This allows students better control of their workload and time commitments. Moving the reading and quiz components of class online also allows more time for students to acquire practical training and skills and to perform evolutions, leading to more competent firefighting and increased operational capabilities for fire ground operations.

The focus group reached out to the fire service to get feedback on the curriculum for Call/Volunteer Recruit Training. The group has a draft schedule in place (tentative

Continued on page 5

Fire Prevention Officer Training

Fire Prevention Officer Basic (online) and Fire Prevention Officer I training is being delivered across the state by the MFA. Both training courses have been well-received. The new Fire Prevention Officer II training course has been developed and pilot-tested. Feedback from the pilot test showed that some revisions were required before going forward with the program. Rolling out the training is further complicated because it is based on the existing state fire code, not the one about to be promulgated. This means that the program will be in need of revision as soon as it is rolled out. The MFA is consulting with the Massachusetts Fire Training Council, the Fire Prevention Association of Massachusetts (FPAM) and Division of Fire Safety staff to review pilot test feedback and to chart a path forward.

Hazardous Materials Response

The Hazardous Materials Response Division is in the process of replacing its well-worn fleet of Technical Operations Modules (TOMs) and Operational Response Units (ORUs) using capital funds. The TOMs and ORUs have been in service since 1997. The long-term plan is for seven new TOMs and ten new ORUs over the next few years. The first new vehicle is a TOM slated for May delivery. These vehicles have been re-designed and improved using 20 years of team experience. Vehicle innovations include remote viewing of chemical and radiological detection meters, and providing advanced analytical information to incident commanders. Replacing these vehicles is part of a larger project to upgrade the technical capabilities of the Hazardous Materials Response Division.

Incidents During Transportation of Bulk Crude Oil

Testing after recent incidents in Lac Megantic (Quebec, 2013), North Dakota (2013) and New Brunswick (2014) has shown that crude oil transported from the Alberta Tar Sands and the Bakken Shale Region of the Dakotas may have a lower flashpoint than the crude oil firefighters are used to. The U.S. Department of Transportation issued an emergency order that crude oil must be tested and then transported and placarded according to the proper classification. Firefighters may need to adjust strategies and tactics to respond effectively and safely to fires and train derailments involving crude oil, because they could face different classifications of flammable liquids than indicated by placarding, despite the emergency orders. While railroad cars may be marked as crude oil, the contents might react like gasoline, if not properly classified.

Mulch Fires

Seasonal fire hazards are predictable and cyclical. In spring we transition from heating fire season, to brush fire season,

and then to mulch fire season. 2014 is the second year with new mulch regulations in effect. I hope to see a reduction in mulch fires that extend to buildings, primarily through education and through enforcement where necessary.

Narcan and First Responders

On March 27, Governor Patrick declared a public health emergency in Massachusetts in response to the growing opioid addiction epidemic. The Governor directed the Department of Public Health (DPH) to take several steps that will combat overdoses, stop the epidemic from getting worse, help those already addicted to recover, and map a long-term solution to ending widespread opiate abuse in the state. One step Patrick took was to permit all first responders to carry and administer Naloxone (Narcan). This drug is a safe and effective opioid antagonist that, when administered in a timely way, can reverse an overdose and save a life. Naloxone will also be made widely available through standing order prescriptions in pharmacies in order to provide greater access to family and friends of users. Both the Fire Chiefs' Association of Massachusetts and the Professional Fire Fighters of Massachusetts provided leadership on this initiative. This is an issue of great concern to the fire service, the leading providers of emergency medical services in the Commonwealth and often the first on the scene of an opioid overdose.

New Staff

Jennifer Hoyt is the new Fire Protection Engineer in the Division of Fire Safety. Jennifer has a Masters of Fire Protection Engineering from WPI. She has more than five years experience as an engineer designing fire sprinkler, fire alarm and life safety systems, and experience as a code consultant.

Alanna Malatos is the MFA's new Fire Officer and Professional Development Coordinator. Alanna has over 17 years of program management and supervisory experience, and extensive experience coordinating the delivery of online and blended training.

David Clemons is the new Operations Section Chief. David has more than 23 years experience in public safety and the fire service, including 7½ years as a Grafton firefighter. He was the director of Emergency Management and director of Emergency Communications for Worcester. David serves on the state Interoperability Executive Committee, the Central Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council (as chair of the Interoperability Subcommittee), and is chair of the Worcester Local Emergency Planning Committee.

Two long-time DFS employees recently retired: Ed DeStefano, a code compliance officer, and Lydia Bogar, the Licensing Clerk. Both worked in the Division of Fire Safety.

Let Us Train You

by Abby Baker, MFA Scheduling Assistant

MFA Training for Your Department



Are you interested in training for your fire department? Have you heard about the dynamic courses the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy offers? We are here to train you, inspire you, and turn your staff into highly-skilled firefighters. We have hundreds of dedicated instructors and cutting edge courses. In most cases we can offer training in your area, free of charge.

Training Needs and Interests

What types of training does your department need? Take a look at our Training Resource Guide to see what we offer. If you can't find a printed training guide, view it online at: <http://www.mass.gov/eopss/docs/dfs/mfa/training/resource-guide/training-resource-guide.pdf>. Our programs are updated and enhanced all the time, but the Guide gives you an idea of our offerings. MFA trainers can come to your region or your employees can attend programs at our state-of-the-art facility in Stow.

Requesting Courses

All requests for training start with the Course Request Form found on page 33 of the Training Resource Guide, or online on the MFA Application, Forms and Policies page. The form can be used for any course we offer, whether Impact, District Delivery, or Munihire. The form comes to our scheduler, who connects you with a coordinator in your area of interest. The coordinator goes over your needs and requirements and discusses possible training dates.

Often, several communities are interested in one training. We can coordinate, or help you coordinate, a program to benefit several departments.

Some of our most popular trainings have a waiting list. Informing us of your interest puts you on the list if one exists. Programs can be offered to surrounding communities in order to meet minimum class size requirements.

Continued on page 5

implementation date is early 2015) for a newly developed program that will last 238 hours over 15 weeks. This will be accomplished using more of the eBlended format and modifying some practical components of the current program. The revised schedule will allow time for six programs across the state each year compared to the current four. Through the Massachusetts Fire Training Council, the focus group is also developing an active waiting list to make the best use of available seats in each program.

The MFA also plans to schedule training modules removed from the Call/Volunteer Recruit program (emergency vehicle operations awareness, motor pumper operator training, and rapid intervention team training) in the same geographical location soon after each program is complete. This will provide fire departments the option of sending firefighters first to the Call/Volunteer Program and then immediately after to classes that cover additional subject areas. Alternatively, fire departments can send their firefighters to additional classes at a later time.

The goals of the Call/Volunteer Recruit Training Program are to provide training for all volunteer, call, and combination departments across the state in order to provide a high quality of service to citizens; and to provide a solid foundation for students to work safely and efficiently on the fire ground. The MFA will continue to keep the fire service informed as we near completion of efforts to enhance Call/Volunteer Recruit Training.



On-Line List of Scheduled Courses

Check our current course offerings often because a training of interest may already be scheduled in your area. For current course offerings visit www.mass.gov/dfs and click on *MFA Course Registration* under Online Services then click on *View a List of Scheduled Courses*. Follow registration instructions for the course you want because the instructions do vary from course to course.

Our newest trainings are not in the Training Resource Guide. But you can stay informed about new programs by

Our newest programs are not in the Training Resource Guide but you can stay informed about new classes by frequently checking our current offerings online.

frequently checking our current course offerings online. If a course fills, we often run another section of it to accommodate as many students as possible.

Mobile Training Units

Check out our initiative with Mobile Training Units (MTUs). In these programs, we bring an MTU to your site and run the program using the prop. Visit the MFA webpage and click on “Mobile Training Props” to see all the MTU offerings: SCBA Maze Trailer, Mobile Live Fire Training, Incident Command Simulator, Driver Simulator and coming soon the new electrical prop.

Let Us Train You

We offer the most up-to-date, cutting edge, relevant courses and we coordinate with other agencies to bring the best and brightest instructors and most relevant programs to you. Let us train you!

Technical Rescue Teams

FCAM Subcommittee works to Enhance, Improve, and Update

Chief Michael Mansfield, FCAM Technical Rescue Subcommittee

Technical rescue teams in Massachusetts respond to incidents involving structural collapse, rope, trench, and confined space rescue using specialized equipment and training. Recent work by Massachusetts teams include the response to a North Attleboro commercial building collapse when the roof gave way due to heavy snow. Office and construction workers renovating an office in the building were evacuated. Last November, the Essex County team rescued an Ipswich construction worker buried up to his chest in debris in a trench. It took three hours to secure the trench and safely remove the worker, who will recover from his injuries.

Technical rescue teams have operated in Massachusetts for some time, but a new initiative to support the teams with training and equipment, to formalize connections between teams, and to make teams part of the State Fire Mobilization Plan is underway.

FCAM Leadership

In 2008, the Fire Chiefs' Association of Massachusetts (FCAM) convened a subcommittee co-chaired by Andover Fire Chief Mansfield and Duxbury Fire Chief Nord to develop a framework for a statewide network of regional technical rescue teams. Subcommittee work includes: looking at operational capabilities of current teams; determining which capabilities are needed statewide; establishing standards and guidelines for technical rescue; working with the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy (MFA) to develop training and certification for team members; developing a legislative package to support statewide technical rescue; and developing a sustainable funding mechanism.

Statewide Plan under Development

The goal of a statewide Technical Rescue plan is to provide expertise to every community in the state while sharing the burden of equipping, training and mobilizing teams across several area departments. No one department will bear the burden of staffing and equipping a team for an entire region because technical rescue is not needed by any department on a daily basis. While the FCAM Technical Rescue Subcommittee is developing the model for a statewide plan, they are borrowing heavily from the experience of statewide Hazardous Materials response teams.

In addition to the core specialties of rope, trench, confined space, and structural collapse rescue, the FCAM

subcommittee has identified swift or moving water rescue as an additional expertise that teams should develop. Different regions of the state may also require specific sets of skills due to the unique hazards of coastal, mountainous, or cave terrain.

The goal of forming regional technical rescue teams is to mobilize quickly and locally with a 30-minute maximum response time. Teams will remain under local control. Regional teams are formed along fire mobilization district or county boundaries but will be able to combine into larger regional teams that can respond to a large incident or even work as one large statewide urban search and rescue team if the situation demands it. Teams travel as a mutual aid component under Mutual Aid and Fire Mobilization Plans.

Transition

The FCAM Technical Rescue Subcommittee and the Department of Fire Services are working to maintain operational readiness of existing teams while the statewide plan is being formulated and implemented. The MFA has a robust series of technical rescue courses for new and existing team members and the subcommittee is working towards acquiring core equipment for all regional teams, without overlap or duplication.

Certification

Currently the Massachusetts Fire Training Council provides certification for Rope Rescue Technician. Planning is underway to develop certification for trench rescue, confined space rescue and structural collapse.

Sustainable Funding

Existing technical rescue teams are funded through municipal budgets. Some teams have been defunded during tight budgetary years. Recently, grants awarded by local Homeland Security Councils in Massachusetts have helped support regional teams. Connecting the teams in a statewide network will maximize the ability to secure grant funding from other sources. In addition, the FCAM Subcommittee will soon file legislation that, if passed, will develop a reliable funding source for training and equipping technical rescue teams. The legislation will also allow regional teams to recover costs for incidents of negligence resulting in technical rescues.



Teamwork

The process of creating statewide technical rescue teams involves extensive teamwork by many stakeholders including: Massachusetts fire chiefs, Department of Fire Services staff, Homeland Security Councils, Undersecretary of Public Safety Kurt Schwartz, the Massachusetts Army National Guard, the Professional Fire Fighters of Massachusetts, and the highly skilled members of Massachusetts technical rescue teams. All the stakeholders have been sharing experience, expertise and resources since 2008 and they have made huge strides toward the goal of a fully trained and equipped network of technical rescue teams that can respond in less than thirty minutes anywhere in the state.

Information on Technical Rescue Teams and the Statewide Plan

Visit the DFS website at www.mass.gov/dfs under Emergency Response to see a PowerPoint™ presentation on the capabilities of regional teams, areas of expertise, and how to activate a regional or a specialty team.



Spring is the Time to Spread. . .

Mulch Regulation Information

Spring is the traditional time for landscaping with mulch and this spring is the second year with a new mulch fire safety regulation in effect. The regulation was developed in response to several significant fires in the Commonwealth involving mulch-wood products. State Fire Marshal Stephen D. Coan and fire chiefs across the state want to alert landscaping companies, nurseries, building owners, and managers about the proper placement and storage of mulch in order to prevent fires. Fire prevention officers should consider providing them with our Mulch FireFactor, a one-page educational flyer that explains the regulation.

Revised Regulation Has New Mulch Safety Provision

The revised regulation, 527 CMR 17 took effect in September 2012 and prohibits the new application of mulch within 18 inches of combustible (wood and vinyl, but not brick or concrete) exteriors of buildings. The regulation applies to all buildings except for residential buildings with six units or less. These residential units are exempt from the regulation, but homeowners may want to adopt these safety practices.

Storage and Manufacturing of Mulch

The revised regulation includes safety requirements for those who store or manufacture mulch. The regulation limits the size of mulch piles and requires a distance of 30-feet between piles and 25-feet from the lot line. Fire

prevention officers should use education as the primary enforcement tool. The required distance between piles of mulch seems to be difficult for companies without a lot of land area to comply with. However, large mulch piles generate a lot of heat and can easily spontaneously combust, so it is important to be vigilant and employ good house-keeping. The distance between mulch piles is important because it prevents a fire in one pile from spreading to another or to a building.

Permits Required to Store More than 300 Cubic Yards of Mulch

Permits are required from the fire department wherever more than 300 cubic yards of mulch is produced or stored.

Tips for Landscapers, Property Managers and Building Owners

Here are some tips for property managers and building owners on how to prevent mulch fires:

- Keep wood mulch 18 inches away from combustible exteriors of buildings such as wood or vinyl siding. Do not put mulch up against any building.
- Use materials such as pea stone or crushed rock to create an 18 inch barrier around the foundation of a building.
- Provide proper receptacles for smoking materials around all buildings to prevent smokers from leaving burning materials on mulch.

New Fire Code Receives BCCC Approval

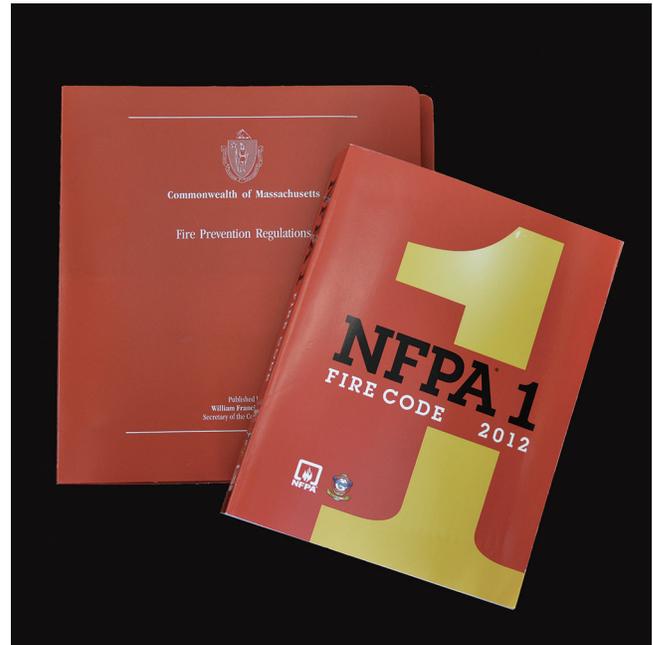
Peter J. Ostroskey, Deputy State Fire Marshal

On March 20, the Building Code Coordinating Council (BCCC) approved the revision to 527 CMR (adoption of NFPA 1 and Mass. Amendments) proposed by the Board of Fire Prevention Regulations (BFPR). Quick approval of this large undertaking by the BCCC is a testament to the quantity and quality of the work done by the board, Department of Fire Services (DFS) staff, and the fire prevention community.

Since we posted the draft revision to 527 CMR and invited public comment, we have received several submittals. Most have been editorial in nature and have been addressed. Also, the core working group of DFS staff continues to review the document to assure we have the best document available for the next phase of the promulgation. The revisions were voted on at the April BFPR meeting. We have submitted the revised 527 CMR to the Executive Order 485 process. During this time we will continue to review comments and take appropriate actions.

We are meeting with the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) to finalize the training plan that will be put into action following the board's public hearing on the code. We will keep you updated as that develops.

Many thanks to all involved in our continued progress on the 527 CMR. I want to commend Tim Rodrique, Rich Fredette, Peter Senopoulos and Steve Rourke for their continuous efforts to support this project. We have also had a great deal of support from Executive Office of Public Safety



and Security (EOPSS) Undersecretary Ann Powers, co-chair of the BCCC. She has gone out of her way to compliment the comprehensive, inclusive, and transparent process the board is using in this code adoption.

While we still have a lot to do, the BCCC approval represents yet another milestone bringing us closer to our goal of a completely and comprehensively revised 527 CMR.

In Memory of Marianne Lara

Department of Fire Services staff suffered an unexpected loss when Marianne Lara passed away on March 2, 2014. Marianne had been a purchasing agent in the Fiscal Affairs unit since March 1998, and in state service for 29 years. She previously worked for the Massachusetts Criminal Justice Training Council and for state Senator John Houston. Sadly, Marianne had been eagerly looking forward to her retirement in the near future. She had a strong opinion on everything and a big laugh that matched her kind heart. She proudly told stories about the accomplishments and milestones of all her nieces, nephews, grand-nieces and grand-nephews. She will be missed by all those who worked with her.



Public Education News

S.A.F.E. and Senior SAFE

Fiscal Year 2014 is the 19th year of the Student Awareness of Fire Education (S.A.F.E.) program, and 225 fire departments received grants to teach fire safety to students. 2014 is the first year of the Senior SAFE program and 205 fire departments received grants to educate older adults about fire safety and prevention.



Senior SAFE Launch Event

On March 28, 2014, Elder Affairs Secretary Ann Hartstein, State Representatives Kate Hogan and James O'Day, and Fire Chiefs'

Association of Massachusetts (FCAM) President George Rogers joined State Fire Marshal Coan at the Hudson Senior Center for the official launch of the Senior SAFE program. Representative Hogan, chair of the Legislature's Elder Caucus, spearheaded the push in the Legislature for the program and Representative O'Day, chairman of the Committee on Elder Affairs, was an early champion of the legislation.

Senior SAFE is a grant program to local fire departments that supports fire prevention and safety education for older adults, those most at risk of dying in fires in Massachusetts. Senior SAFE builds on the success of the school-based Student Awareness of Fire Education (S.A.F.E.) program that has reduced average annual child fire deaths by 72% in its 19 years of operation. The fire service expects to have a similar impact on fire safety for older adults.



Launching the Senior SAFE program (left to right): Senator Eldridge, State Fire Marshal Coan, Representative Hogan, Secretary Hartstein, Representative O'Day, Chief Rogers.

Fire and burn risks for older adults include cooking, smoking, home oxygen use, electrical, and heating dangers. Senior SAFE aims to improve safety in the homes of older adults. Senior SAFE initiatives may include the installation of smoke and carbon monoxide alarms, testing and replacing batteries in these devices, the installation and checking of house numbers, high-end heat limiting devices on stoves, in-hood stove fire extinguishers, night-lights, and other fall prevention interventions where needed. Education specific to the safety of older adults at home is a crucial component of the program.

Senior SAFE is designed to create a partnership between older adults and fire departments through established providers of senior support services such as Councils on Aging, Senior Centers, Visiting Nurse Associations, and other similar agencies.

Senior SAFE in Worcester

Lieutenant Annmarie Pickett of the Worcester Fire Department has been active with Senior SAFE. She received the following thank you note from an 81-year old woman she visited to install smoke and carbon monoxide alarms. Lieutenant Pickett also provided fire safety education tips to this person during the visit.



Home Oxygen Pamphlet Now in Portuguese

The *Breathe Easy: Using Home Oxygen Safely* pamphlet, already available in English and Spanish, has been produced in Portuguese (*Utilizando O Oxigenio Para Uso Domestico Com Seguranca*). It is available online at www.mass.gov/dfs under *Home Oxygen*, or by calling the Division of Fire Safety's Public Education Unit at (978) 567-3380. There have already been several fires either caused by, or spread by, the use of home oxygen in 2014. Additional educational tools for local fire and health educators are available on www.mass.gov/dfs, click on *Public Education and Resources for Fire Educators*.

Multi-Lingual and Multi-Cultural Fire Safety

The Public Education Unit also has a new web page called *Multi-Lingual and Multi-Cultural Fire Safety* where we post fire safety materials in languages other than English. On the site you will find the *Fire Safety for Newcomers* booklet in seven languages; the home oxygen pamphlets in three languages; Keep Warm, Keep Safe materials in Spanish, Portuguese, Russian, Chinese, Haitian Creole and Vietnamese; and *Winter Holiday Safety* in English and Spanish. In addition, the page includes links to excellent materials from the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, the NFPA, and the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC). Cooking fire safety information will soon be posted in English, Spanish and Portuguese.

Curriculum Planning Guidebook Online

The *Massachusetts Public Fire and Safety Education Curriculum Planning Guidebook* is now available online. Go to www.mass.gov/dfs and click on *Public Education*, then on *Resources for Fire Educators*. The Guidebook is used in the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy's Public Fire and Life Safety Educator course and was created in 1994 to support the S.A.F.E. program. The Guidebook follows the national ISDIE model of program planning: Identify the problem; Select the message; Design the program; Implement it; and Evaluate it.

The fundamental part of the Guidebook is the behavior pages, organized by age group. Each page contains information on what children should know about a behavior at different stages of their development. What a preschooler needs to know about smoke alarms is different from what a sixth grader needs to know, but they both need to know about smoke alarms.

The behavior pages use Bloom's Taxonomy in the objectives to describe how students can show they have learned the material. The pages also include helpful hints,



Massachusetts Health Education Curriculum Frameworks, and which behaviors can be combined to create lessons. The other chapters of the Guidebook contain brief guidance for educators and resource lists.

Save the Date for the Public Education Conference

The 20th Annual Fire and Life Safety Education Conference will be held on September 29-30, 2014 at the Westford Regency Inn and Conference Center in Westford, Massachusetts. The conference is called *Destination Safe: Fire and Life Safety Education for All Ages*. For registration information, email Cynthia.Ouellette@state.ma.us. Include the word "conference" in your subject line. You can also register by visiting www.mass.gov/dfs under *What's New*. Join us at the conference for education, networking and sharing best practices in fire and life safety education. See the *Save the Date* notice for the conference on the back cover of this publication.

teaching strategies, developmental information, information on different learning styles, links to the

Coding for Exposures

Reprinted with permission from the U.S. Fire Administration (USFA).

Exposures: When to include them on your Incident Report

Reporting exposure fires is a trouble spot for many fire departments, likely due to the fact that during fire suppression activities, an exposure is any property that is threatened by the initial property fire, whereas in NFIRS (National Fire Incident Reporting System) a reportable exposure is any fire that is caused by another fire. Because of these distinct definitions, a commonly encountered error in reporting is including on an exposure report an incident where a neighboring property is scorched or the siding is melted but the property has sustained no fire damage.

When completing an NFIRS report an exposure is only reported if the initial fire causes another property to catch fire. Reporting melted siding, scorched exterior walls, and water or smoke damage to neighboring properties should not be completed with an exposure report but should instead be documented on the initial fire report in the narrative of the initial fire report (e.g., the dollar loss for the non-exposure properties.)

Definitions

An exposure is a **fire** resulting from another fire outside that building, structure, or vehicle, or a fire that extends to an outside property from a building, structure, or vehicle. In the case of buildings with internal fire separations, treat the fire spread from one separation to another as an exposure. In cases where there are multiple ownerships within a building, such as condominiums and those properties are not separated by fire-rated compartments, then each condominium, apartment, or unit is not a separate exposure, for instances where you have a fleet of vehicles, such as at a state highway department motor pool, you can count all of these items as a single exposure.

Documenting Exposures

When documenting a fire that involves exposures a separate incident report, utilizing the appropriate modules, is

completed for each exposure. In Section A - Key Information, the incident number of the initial fire is entered as the incident number and then the exposure number is entered, with each exposure being assigned a separate exposure number. On the initial fire the exposure number is going to be 000, with each exposure numbered sequentially beginning with 001, then 002 and so on.

In Figure 1, a fire department has begun to enter the key information for the incident. If this was the initial incident then in the 3 digit field for exposure they would enter 000; if however this was an exposure report then they would enter 001 in the exposure field. When you use the same incident number to identify all of the exposures involved in a fire, they become related together in the system with the exposure number identifying each property involved in the fire.

The Incident Date should be the date of the initial incident; however in Section E of the Basic Module the Alarm Date/Time, Arrival Date/Time and Last Unit Cleared Date/Time should reflect the date and time of each exposure.

When a fire involves more than one building, each building fire should be considered a separate fire, with the ignition for all but the original building fire classified as an exposure. On the Exposure report, Section D2 - Heat Source should be classified with one of the 80 series of heat source codes:

Heat Spread From Another Fire.

Excludes Operating Equipment.

- 81 Heat from direct flame, convection currents spreading from another fire.
- 82 Radiated heat from another fire. Excludes heat from exhaust systems of fuel-fired, fuel-powered equipment (12).
- 83 Flying brand, ember, spark. Excludes embers, sparks from a chimney igniting the roof of the same structure (43).
- 84 Conducted heat from another fire.
- 80 Heat spread from another fire, other.

Figure 1

The screenshot shows the 'Section A' form with the following data entered:

- FDID: 017434
- State: VA
- Incident Date: 12/12/2011
- Station: A3
- Incident Number: 72672
- Exposure: (empty)

Legend:

- Delete
- Change
- No Activity

An exposure is a fire resulting from another fire outside that building, structure, or vehicle, or a fire that extends to an outside property from a building, structure, or vehicle.

On the Fire Module of the Exposure report in Section E1 – Cause of Ignition, you should check the box for an Exposure Fire, and Section E2 - Factors Contributing to Ignition should be classified with the code 71 – Exposure Fire. You can then skip forward to Section G – Fire Suppression Factors and complete the rest of the Fire and other appropriate modules for the report.

Sample Scenarios

A fire department is dispatched to a reported building fire. Upon arrival they discover that a detached garage is on fire and that two vehicles parked in the driveway are also on fire. The fire department determines that the fire started in the garage and that the two vehicles, both of which are owned by the home owner, caught fire due to their proximity to the garage. The fire department would create an initial fire report, incident number 1306001 with an exposure of 000 and then they would create an exposure report for each vehicle using the same incident number (1306001). The exposure numbers for the vehicle fires would be 001 and 002.

A fire department is dispatched to a reported building fire. Upon arrival firefighters discover a single story, single family home on fire, with a neighboring family's home already beginning to exhibit signs of heat damage as the vinyl siding is beginning to melt. The fire department is able to protect the neighboring home and all the damage that it suffers is the melted siding on the side that faced the fire building. The fire department would create an incident report for the initial fire, incident



When completing an NFIRS report, an exposure is only reported if the initial fire causes another property to catch fire.

number 1306001 with an exposure of 000 and since the neighboring house did not catch fire, firefighters would include the damage, to the neighboring house in the narrative of the initial report.

Conclusion

An exposure is a fire resulting from another fire outside that building, structure, or vehicle, or a fire that extends to an outside property from a building, structure, or vehicle. Although the Incident Number permits all properties involved in a fire incident to be related together, the Exposure Number identifies each separate property type involved in the fire. This makes it possible to capture the specific details of the fire in each exposure and to relate all the exposures to the basic incident.

In a fire involving exposures, an additional incident report should be completed for each exposure.

Each module completed for an exposure should contain the same Incident Number assigned to the original property involved. A separate sequential exposure number is assigned to each exposure. The original incident is always coded “000” and exposures are numbered sequentially and incremented by 1 beginning with “001.”

The Incident Date for each exposure remains the same as that of the basic incident; however, the Alarm Time in Block E1 should reflect the time of each new exposure.

Treat similar items in a group as a single exposure (such as a fleet of cars).

Fire Marshal Advisories

State Fire Marshal Stephen D. Coan has sent recent advisories to local fire chiefs in order to spread awareness of code changes and interpretations and issues affecting code enforcement. Advisories are posted on the DFS website (www.mass.gov/dfs) under *OSFM Advisories* and as part of the monthly *DFS Briefs*. For questions or assistance, contact the Code Compliance and Enforcement Unit at (978) 567-3375, or in western Massachusetts at (413) 587-3181.

April 1, 2014

Mechanical Refrigeration and Compliance with 527 CMR 33.00

A recent ammonia leak at a local ice skating rink led to the discovery that the facility was not in compliance with 527 CMR 33.00. This regulation covers mechanical systems for cooling and chilling, which use ammonia or LP-gas as the refrigerant. These mechanical systems must comply with the provisions of 527 CMR 33.00. I bring this matter to your attention because these systems are sometimes overlooked.

Large mechanical refrigeration systems are regulated under 527 CMR 33.00 when they use ammonia or LP-gas and may be further regulated under 40 CFR Part 68: EPA (United States Environmental Protection Agency Chemical Accident Prevention Provisions regulation (Federal EPA regulations)) if the quantities of regulated substances (ammonia/LP-gas) exceed the 10,000 lb. threshold level.

This important safety regulation covers the use of ammonia/LP-gas which can result in a leak or other serious mishap that can threaten public safety.

February 1, 2014

Regulation Updates: Oil Burning Equipment and Marine Fueling

The following regulations have been updated and can also be found at our website: <http://www.mass.gov/eopss/agencies/dfs/dfs2/osfm/fire-prev/527-cmr-index.html>. Below is a summary of the regulations, however you should download and review the entire regulation.

Summary of Updates to 527 CMR 4.00 – Oil Burning Equipment

- Clarifies the provisions and effective date of MGL c. 148, s. 38J. (Oil Line Upgrades).
- Rewrites a number of code sections to improve clarity and reduce ambiguity.
- Requires that oil burning equipment be installed and maintained in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions (4.03(1)(a)).
- Adds direct vent systems to the list of venting systems

that must be installed in accordance with the State Building Code (4.03(1)(a)).

- Updates language for oil burner controls to be compatible with the new equipment currently manufactured 4.04(3)(c).
- Changes the vent termination height above grade from 12" to 24" (4.04(9)(d)8).
- Prohibits vent termination under porches and decks (4.04(9)(d) 13).
- Adds a new section that requires venting systems to be as short as possible, to be pitched upwards, and to not pass through a floor or ceiling (4.04(9)(d)14).

Summary of Updates to 527 CMR 15.00 – Marine Fueling

527 CMR 15:00 covers the use, storage and handling of flammable and combustible liquids on waters of the Commonwealth, including requirements for marine fueling facilities.

- This regulation reformats the previous regulation in a more concise, user-friendly style.
- Requires use of kick back type dispensing nozzles and additional safety shutoffs for mobile fueling (15.04(10) and (11)).

February 1, 2014

Delegation of Authority Cards

Over the past few months, I have received requests from several chiefs for Delegation of Authority Cards for use by fire department members. Enclosed please find an updated Delegation of Authority card which you may issue to members of your department. (The original advisory was mailed to fire chiefs with a copy of the new card. New cards are available from DFS upon request.) The new cards reflect the new statutory citation to the Board of Fire Prevention





Regulations. Once issued, the cards are good until they are either revoked or upon the holder's separation from the fire department. You can print these cards on heavy stock and have them laminated after they are signed for durability.

February 1, 2014
Means of Egress

Recent snowstorms have prompted inquiries to our office regarding impeded egress. Facilities tend to shovel out only doors that are used each day. However, in the event of a fire or other emergency, normal egress door(s) may be blocked and alternative means of egress are needed. Included here are several sections of the fire code that are applicable for enforcement orders in your community.

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.
- (d) Exterior egress. All exterior stairways and fire escapes shall be kept free of snow and ice. Any fire escape or exterior stairway found to be in a state of deterioration or determined to be unsafe by the head of the fire department shall be repaired immediately. Depending on the structural condition, a load test of any fire escape shall be conducted before it is returned to service.

527 CMR 10.17(4) Means of Egress.

- (a) General. The operator or the person in charge of operation or use of any place of assembly or education shall check egress facilities before such building is occupied for any use, to determine compliance with the provisions of 527 CMR 10.17. If such inspection reveals that any element of the required means of egress is obstructed, inaccessible, locked, fastened or otherwise unsuited for immediate use, admittance to the building shall not be permitted until necessary corrective action has been completed.

Also, in light of the aggressive fire safety regulations passed in the wake of the Rhode Island nightclub fire, places of assembly have very strong enforcement penalties. I have attached a copy of MGL 148 section 34A for your use, too.

MGL Chapter 148, section 34A.

- (a) Any owner, occupant, lessee or other person having control or supervision of any assembly use group building, as defined by the state building code, and who causes or permits a dangerous condition to exist on the premises at anytime shall be punished by a fine of not more than \$5,000 or by imprisonment in the house of correction for not more than 2½ years, or both. For the purposes of this section, "dangerous condition" shall mean:-
 - (1) any blocked or impeded ingress or egress;
 - (2) the failure to maintain or the shutting off of any fire protection or fire warning system required by law;
 - (3) the storage of any flammable or explosive without a properly issued permit in quantities in excess of allowable limits of any permit to store;
 - (4) the use of any firework or pyrotechnic device, as defined by the board of fire prevention regulations, without a properly issued permit; or
 - (5) exceeding the occupancy limit established by the local building inspector pursuant to chapter 143. Nothing in this section shall preclude the issuance of a citation for a code violation, as provided for by chapter 148A.
- (b) Whoever is convicted of a second or subsequent violation of paragraph (a) shall be punished by a fine of not more than \$25,000 or by imprisonment in the state prison for not more than 5 years or in a house of correction for not more than 2½ years, or both such fine and imprisonment.

For questions about the State Fire Code (527 CMR) or sections of law referenced (MGL Chapter 148, section 34A), please contact the Code Compliance and Enforcement Unit at (978) 567-3375 or in Western Massachusetts at (413) 587-3181.

April 2, 2014
Floor Protection Requirements

This Residential Building Code (780 CMR 51) change goes into effect for any permit issued after July 1, 2014. The change took several years to promulgate and is designed to ensure firefighter safety. Please discuss the change with local building officials to ensure compliance.

continued on page 16

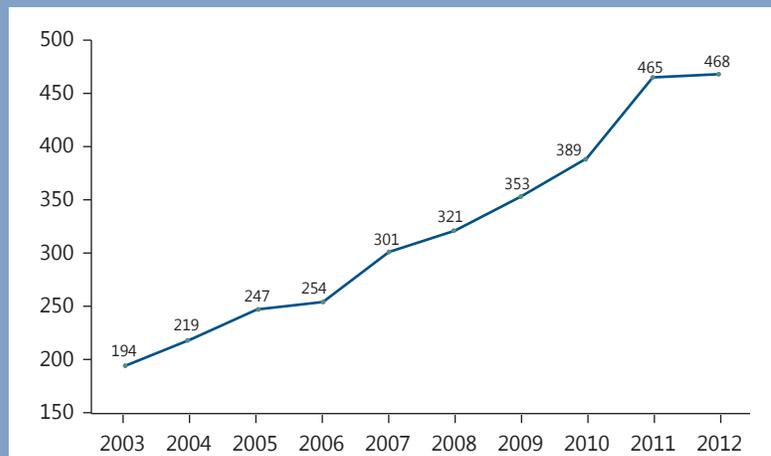
30th Anniversary of Fatal Rooming House Fire

Fire Safety Improved in the Aftermath

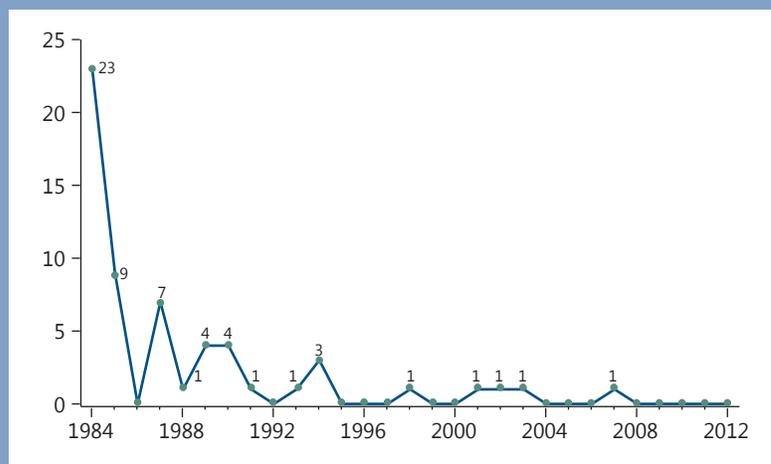
July 4, 2014 is the 30th anniversary of the Elliot Chambers Rooming House fire in Beverly where 15 people died and nine were injured. The building had no sprinklers and the intentionally-set fire spread quickly. This tragic fire propelled the passage of the local option law MGL C148, S26H that had long languished in the Legislature. The law mandates an adequate system of automatic sprinklers in every lodging or boarding house in the community. MGL C148, S26C now requires smoke detectors in rooming houses. In the 1970s and early 1980s rooming houses were known as “death traps” because so many fire deaths occurred in the buildings. Despite the fact that rooming house fires have been increasing in the last decade, the number of fire deaths has remained very low. The local option law passed in the aftermath of the tragic Elliot Chambers Fire is a fire safety success.

The tragic fire propelled the passage of a local option law requiring sprinklers in lodging and boarding houses.

Rooming House Fires



Rooming House Fire Deaths



Fire Marshal Advisories continued from page 15

R501.3 Add new subsection.

R501.3 Fire Protection of Floors. Floor assemblies not using dimension lumber or structural composite lumber equal to or greater than 2-inch nominal dimension, shall be provided with a ½ inch gypsum wallboard membrane, 5/8 inch wood structural panel membrane, or equivalent on the underside of the floor framing member unless required elsewhere in this code to be fire resistance rated.

Exceptions:

1. Other approved floor assemblies demonstrating equivalent fire performance.
2. Floor assemblies located directly over a space protected by an automatic sprinkler system in accordance with Section P2904, NFPA13D, or other approved equivalent sprinkler system.
3. Floor assemblies located directly over a crawl space not intended for storage or fuel-fired appliances.
4. One room or alcove per story not exceeding 80 square feet, when supported between structural walls.

DFS Licenses

The Department of Fire Services' Division of Fire Safety issues licenses, permits and certificates of competency ("licenses") to people and companies engaged in fireworks, blasting, explosives, special effects, cannon and mortar firing, commercial cooking exhaust system cleaning and inspection, special hazard systems, portable fire extinguishers, marine fueling facilities and above ground tanks.

To see the licensing status of an individual or company, visit the DFS License Look Up at http://elicense.chs.state.ma.us/DFS_Verification/Search.aspx or www.mass.gov/dfs and click on *Licensing* and *DFS License Look-Up*.

For information about licensing issues, contact the Licensing Desk by phone at 978-567-3700 or by email at dfs.licensing@dfs.state.ma.us.

License Exam Schedule

- Applicants must be pre-registered to sit for exams. Completed applications must be received by 5:00 p.m. on the deadline date listed below.
- All exams start promptly at 10:00 a.m., unless otherwise noted.
- License exams are offered at the Department of Fire Services, Stow Campus, One State Road, Stow, MA and at the Northampton office, One Prince Street, Northampton, MA. In Stow, please park in the remote lot at the top of the hill. Directions: www.mass.gov/dfs.

Examinations	Examination Dates All exams start at 10:00 a.m. unless noted	Deadlines for Applications
Fire Suppression, 10:00 a.m., Commercial Hood Cleaning, 1:00 p.m.	July 30, 2014 (Wednesday) October 29, 2014 (Wednesday)	July 11, 2014 (Friday) October 10, 2014 (Friday)
Cannon/Mortar, Fireworks, Special Effects, Blasting	May 21, 2014 (Wednesday) August 27, 2014 (Wednesday) November 19, 2014 (Wednesday)	May 2, 2014 (Friday) August 8, 2014 (Friday) November 7, 2014 (Friday)

New Training Program

Decision Making for Initial Company Operations

The Massachusetts Firefighting Academy (MFA) is offering the National Fire Academy course Decision Making for Initial Company Operations on September 12-13, 2014 at the DFS Stow Campus. The deadline for registering is July 12, 2014. Use the NFA course registration form and send to the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy.

This class helps develop the decision making skills needed by Company Officers (COs) to accomplish assigned tactics at structure fires. All activities and scenarios used in this course are based on structure fires. COs may be the first to arrive at an incident, and so their initial decisions have an impact on the entire incident. It is vital that COs make good management decisions that have favorable impacts on outcomes. In addition to a possible role as the initial Incident Commander (IC), a CO may be assigned a subordinate position within the ICS organization. COs need to have a clear understanding of the system, the position they are assigned, and their role in the organization if they are to function effectively and help make the system work.

Selection Criteria

Primary candidates for this course include new or emerging COs in a volunteer or combination fire department or emergency service organization. Secondary candidates are new career chiefs, department leaders or emerging leaders of fire departments or emergency service organizations. The course is open to all interested emergency services personnel including volunteer, career, and allied professionals, however it is intended primarily for those who have served, or will soon begin to serve, in leadership positions and who want to learn more effective ways of managing and leading their agency.



Class #206



Class #207



Class #208



Class #209



Class #210

Graduations

from the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy

Career Recruit Firefighter Training

Class #206

On January 17, 2014, Class #206 of the Career Recruit Firefighter Training program graduated. The 24 graduates, all men, represent the nine fire departments of Cambridge, Everett, Framingham, Littleton, Manchester, Natick, Northampton, Waltham, and Woburn.

Class #207

On February 7, 2014, Class #207 of the Career Recruit Firefighter Training program graduated. The 23 graduates, two women and 21 men, represent the 15 fire departments of East Bridgewater, Everett, Falmouth, Gloucester, Ipswich, Marshfield, Melrose, Nantucket, Natick, North Andover, Northampton, Saugus, Shrewsbury, Taunton, and Wayland.

Class #208

On February 28, 2014, Class #208 of the Career Recruit Firefighter Training program graduated. The 24 graduates, two women and 22 men, represent the 10 fire departments of Athol, Billerica, Chelmsford, Framingham, Hopkinton, Lincoln, Medford, Revere, Weston and Weymouth.

Class #209

On March 21, 2014, Class #209 of the Career Recruit Firefighter Training program graduated. The 23 graduates, all men, represent the 12 fire departments of Danvers, Everett, Fitchburg, Haverhill, Leominster, Littleton, Lynn, Mashpee, Shrewsbury, Taunton, Walpole, and Watertown.

Class #210

On April 11, 2014, Class #210 of the Career Recruit Firefighter Training program graduated. The 24 graduates, two women and 22 men, represent the 10 fire departments of Athol, Billerica, Chelmsford, Framingham, Hopkinton, Lincoln, Medford, Revere, Weston and Weymouth.

Advanced Fire Investigation

On March 21, 2014, 32 fire investigators graduated from the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy's six-day Advanced Fire Investigation course. 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. The course highlights how these professionals can work together to build solid, prosecutable cases.

Continued on page 21

Fire Investigation News

Fire Officials Outraged at Plea Deal for Arsonists

On January 30, 2013, Mark Sargent and his step-son Jean-Marie Louis were arrested and charged with setting fires in West Bridgewater, Scituate and Marshfield. On February 25, 2014, a Plymouth Superior Court judge offered Sargent a plea deal of 2-3 years in state prison followed by 3 years probation and Louis 2½ years in a house of correction, with one year to serve and credit for the year he had served while awaiting trial. The balance of Louis' sentence was suspended for two years. The Sargents were arrested as part of the investigation into a series of arson fires in Barnstable, Bristol, Norfolk and Plymouth that started in the fall of 2012 and stopped after the suspects were arrested.

On February 25, State Fire Marshal Stephen D. Coan said, "I am outraged at the plea deal offered today to this father and step-son team of serial arsonists. Plymouth District Attorney Timothy Cruz asked for 8-12 years in state prison for the older man and 4-6 years for the younger. I concur with the district attorney that a fair sentence for these three fires includes significant jail time, not the 1-3 years they have been offered by the judge."

Arson tears at a community, burdening public safety resources, affecting tax revenues, jobs, and creating blight.

Coan added, "Arson is not a victimless crime and a series of arsons creates an understandable fear that robs people of feeling secure in their own homes where they should feel safest. Arson fires take a toll on firefighters and cause the most firefighter injuries of any type of fire. Arson fires tear at the fabric of a community, burdening public safety resources, affecting tax revenues, jobs, and creating blight."

State Police assigned to the Office of the State Fire Marshal joined with agents from the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) and many local fire and police agencies in the four county investigation. While the fires the men plead guilty to occurred in Plymouth County, the investigation also includes fires in Norfolk, Bristol and Barnstable Counties that required collaboration between all four district attorney's offices. Other fires in these counties remain under investigation and additional charges may be forthcoming.

Historical Barns Torched by Troubled Son

Montague Center Fire Department, Montague Police Department and State Police assigned to the Office of the State Fire Marshal investigated a March 26 fire at 16 Hatchery Road in Montague. Two historically significant barns

were destroyed and a modular home on the property was damaged. Montague Police arrested the son of the property owners, Cody Lee Adams, age 22, for setting the fire. On April 10, a second suspect, Matthew Tetreault was also charged in the fires.

Arrest Made in Westfield Arson

State Fire Marshal Stephen D. Coan, Westfield Fire Chief Mary Regan and Westfield Police Chief John Camerota announced that the March 24 fire at 306 Elm Street in Westfield (a 3-story, 10-unit apartment building) was intentionally-set. Investigators determined that the fire started inside a bedroom closet in Apartment #7. Westfield Police arrested James Gagnon, age 50, the occupant of the unit, for setting the fire. Gagnon, a Level 3 sex offender, was arraigned in Westfield District Court. The fire was jointly investigated by the Westfield Fire Department, Westfield Police Department, and State Police assigned to the Office of the State Fire Marshal.

Oxford Fire Destroys Historical Treasure

State Fire Marshal Stephen D. Coan and Oxford Fire Chief Sheri Bemis announced that a fire on March 24 at 253 Main Street, Oxford began in the basement laundry room. The fire appears accidental in nature and the cause was either an electrical or mechanical malfunction of wiring or of an appliance in the room. Due to extensive fire damage, the exact cause cannot be determined.

The fire displaced seven people in four apartments. One resident was awakened by the sound of the smoke alarm and alerted all other tenants who escaped safely. Two firefighters sustained minor injuries. The building was assessed at \$290,000, but the loss of the historically significant building from 1756 is incalculable.

The fire was jointly investigation by the Oxford Fire Department, Oxford Police Department and State Police assigned to the Office of the State Fire Marshal.

Youth Loses Hand in Abington Fireworks Explosion

At 10:00 p.m. on March 20, the Abington Fire Department responded to an explosion at 7 Woodlands Way, a multi-family apartment complex. A 17-year old youth (not from Abington) and a 31-year old resident were injured when consumer grade fireworks ignited. The youth's hand was amputated in the explosion, and the older man was less seriously injured. The apartment itself suffered minimal damage. The incident was investigated by Abington Fire and Police and State Police from both the Fire Investigation and Bomb Squad Units assigned to the Office of the State Fire Marshal.

YouTube Burn Awareness Video Contest Awards



Melrose High School contestants including the first prize winner of the video contest.

On March 20, 2014 high school teams and their media teachers received awards, for creative burn safety videos as part of the 6th annual statewide YouTube™ Burn Awareness Video Contest.

State Fire Marshal Stephen D. Coan and contest co-sponsors Michael Sakraida and Benjamin Ward from Liberty Mutual Insurance Company and Captain Rick Tustin, president of the Massachusetts Association of Safety and Fire Educators (MaSAFE) presented the awards. The ceremony was held at Shriners Hospital for Children in Boston. Shriners is the national sponsor of National Burn Awareness Week which was February 2-8, 2014.

State Fire Marshal Stephen D. Coan said, “The contest is a great way for young people to learn about the consequences of fires and burns without getting hurt. The contest also allows students to teach others through their accurate and informative videos. There are too many internet videos that don’t show the true impact of burn injuries.”

Teens Talking to Teens

“As both a parent and a fire prevention officer, I have been appalled at some of the videos on YouTube™. Yet as an educator I know that the best way for youth to learn about the real consequences of the misuse of fire is for them to research it and to use their own language to communicate to other teenagers,” said

Capt. Rick Tustin, president of MaSAFE who presented gift certificates from Best Buy™ to the winning teams. The first place team won \$200 in gifts cards; the second place team won \$100 in gift cards, and the third place team won \$50 in gift cards.



Winning Videos

Forty teams from 10 high schools in Chelmsford, Everett, Dudley, Hull, Melrose, Millis, Norwood, Sharon, Winchester and Wrentham submitted entries. While all of the videos were creative and interesting, the first place winning team was from Melrose High School for their parody of Dickens’ A Christmas Carol called *Un-Educated You*. The second place winners were from Shepherd Hill Regional High School in Dudley with their video *Do’s and Don’ts*. The third place winner was from Winchester High School for her video *Keep Your Paws Off My Oven Mitts*. The winning videos are posted on www.youtube.com/DFSOSFM. Three teams from Melrose High School also received honorable mention for their entries.

Video Contest Meets Curriculum Frameworks

The contest was open to grade 9-12 students enrolled in Massachusetts schools. Entries had to be from school-sponsored communications courses or extra-curricular groups. Communications teachers or faculty sponsors were required to review and approve all storyboards before filming started. Videos were required to be one to three minutes long, explore burn prevention topics, be well researched, not demonstrate risky or unsafe behavior, and to be both educational and informative. The contest addresses learning standard components of the Massachusetts Common Core Standards in English Language Arts and Literacy.

Judges

Contest judges included: April Briggs of the National Fire Protection Association; Michael Sakraida and Benjamin Ward from Liberty Mutual; Brockton Fire Lt. Robert Hendrigan, the 2013 Fire and Life Educator of the Year; Capt. Rick Tustin, president of MaSAFE; Christine Farrell-O’Reilly, director of the Massachusetts Department of Public Health’s Residential Fire Injury Prevention Program; Milton Fire Chief John Grant representing the Fire Chiefs’ Association of Massachusetts; John Sugden, senior director of public relations at Shriners Hospital for Children, Boston; David DeMarco, assistant coordinator of the Student Awareness of Fire Education (S.A.F.E.) Program, Jennifer Mieth, Department of Fire Services public information officer, and Barry Ouellette, senior producer at DigiNovations, a full service video production company based in Concord, Massachusetts.

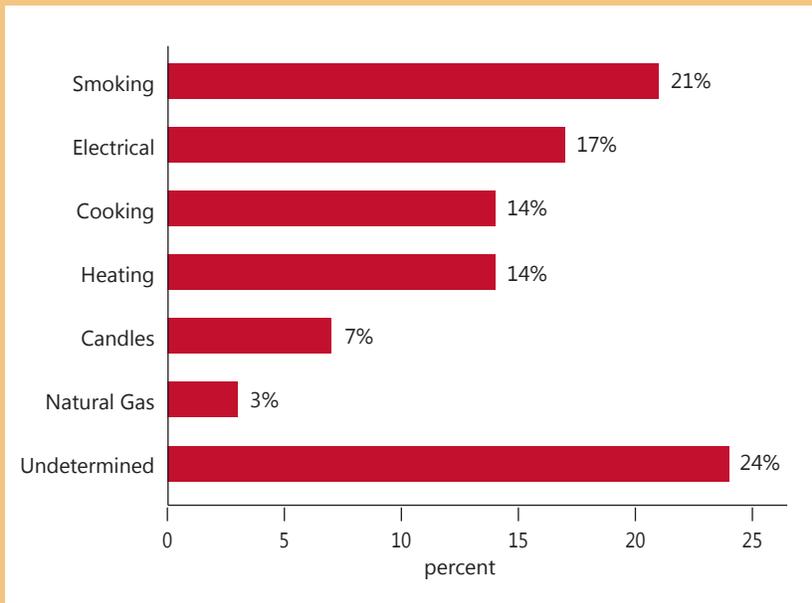
May is Electrical Safety Month

666 Electrical Fires Caused 4 Civilian Deaths

Fire departments reported 666 structure fires caused by electrical problems in Massachusetts in 2012. These fires caused four civilian deaths, 21 civilian injuries, 53 fire service injuries and an estimated dollar loss of \$53.2 million, accounting for 21% of the total dollar loss to fire in 2012. The average loss per fire was \$79,852.



Residential Fire Deaths, 2013 (preliminary)



Electrical fires caused four deaths in 2012 and five deaths in 2013, and were the second leading cause of fire deaths in each year.

Electrical Fire Safety

Electrical fire safety is a critical area for public education because electrical fires are a leading cause of fire deaths. Older adults are often victims of electrical fires, so preventing them can be part of our Senior SAFE programs. Links to our tri-fold pamphlet *Preventing Electrical Fires*, and to other resources from the U.S. Fire Administration and the National Fire Protection Association can be found on the DFS Electrical Fire Safety web page.

MFA Graduations continued from page 18

The graduates include six local police officers, one Massachusetts State Police officer and 25 firefighters, representing the following agencies: Belmont Fire and Police Departments, Chelmsford Fire Department, Fall River Fire Department, Hatfield Fire Department, Holyoke Fire Department, Hubbardston Fire and Police Departments, Ipswich Fire Department, Lancaster Fire Department, Lowell Fire Department, Malden Fire Department, Marlborough Fire Department, Massachusetts State Police, Maynard Fire Department, Medford Fire Department, Melrose Fire Department, New Bedford Fire Department, Oxford Fire and Police Departments, Rutland Fire Department, Scituate Fire and Police Departments, Somerville Fire Department, Stoneham Fire Department, Wakefield Fire Department, Wenham Fire and Police Departments, Weymouth Fire and Police Departments, Worcester Fire Department.



Advanced Fire Investigation students at work.



Department of Fire Services
Commonwealth of Massachusetts
978-567-3100



www.mass.gov/dfs

20th Annual Fire & Life Safety Education Conference

Destination SAFE

Fire and Life Safety for All Ages

September 29 - 30, 2014

For registration information

- Email cynthia.ouellette@state.ma.us
Include "conference" in the subject line
- Visit www.mass.gov/dfs under "What's New"

Save
the
Date

Presented by the Department of Fire Services and the
Massachusetts Public Fire and Life Safety Education Task Force

Westford Regency Inn and Conference Center, Westford, Massachusetts

BE SAFE