

All Hands HERALD

April 2009

DEPARTMENT OF FIRE SERVICES • STOW, MASSACHUSETTS

HAZMAT

CPSC RECALLS

PUBLIC EDUCATION

FIRE INVESTIGATION UNIT

CODE COMPLIANCE & ENFORCEMENT

MASSACHUSETTS FIREFIGHTING ACADEMY



FEATURED ARTICLES

From the Fire Marshal	1
New Smoke Detector Regulations	1
Harkins/Balser bill: Chapter 148 § 26G	1
HazMat	3
New Hazardous Materials Squads Cut Response Time.....	3
Division of Banks Foreclosure Database Now Available	3
Federal Stimulus Package & the Fire Service	3
Fire Investigation Unit	4
New Reporting System Launched	4
Arson Awareness Week May 3-9, 2009	4
New Robots for Bomb Squad	5
Helicopters for Forest Fires	6
Years of Service	7
Public Education	8
Burn Awareness Week Teens Win Video Contest	8
3 rd Annual Northeast Juvenile Firesetting Conference	8
Ron Scott Receives 1 st Chief's Leadership in Fire Education Award	9
S.A.F.E. Statewide In-Service Training Sessions	9
Open Burning Season	15
Massachusetts Firefighting Academy	10
Fire Apparatus Driver Training and Certification.....	10
New Chief Officer Orientation Seminar	10
Statewide Rapid Intervention Team Initiative.....	11
Fugate Named FEMA Director	10
Code Compliance & Enforcement	12
First Seizure of Non FSC Cigarettes in MA \$13,000 in Fines Collected	12
Code Enforcement Deters Crime	20
Plans Review Desk	15
New Building Code in Effect	15
Massachusetts Board Issues Professional Engineer Policy.....	15
Professional Engineer License Suspended for Improper Use of Stamp on Sprinkler Plans	15
MFIRS Corner	16
Near Record Low Number of Civilian Fire Deaths in 2008.....	16
MFIRS Coding Tips	17
USFA and NVFC Release Updated Health and Wellness Guide for the Volunteer Fire and Emergency Services	18
CPSC	19
Licensing Exams	21
2009 License Examination Schedule	21
Status Report of Compliance and Enforcement Actions.....	21
Graduations	22
Firefighters Graduate Call/Volunteer Firefighter Training Program	22

About the *All Hands Herald*

The *All Hands Herald* is published quarterly by the Department of Fire Services in January, April, July and October. The newsletter is meant to incorporate the traditional fire service meaning- all hands working to extinguish the fire. In the case of our newsletter, all hands includes the DFS staff providing each of you with information, training and assistance in dealing with the fire service issues which confront 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. If you have suggestions, ideas, questions or want to make a contribution to the *All Hands Herald*, contact Jennifer Mieth 978-567-3381, Jennifer.Mieth@state.ma.us or Donna Nelson 978-567-3149 Donna.Nelson@state.ma.us

Judy O'Brien is the keen-eyed copy editor; and Jeff Harris is the graphic artist who pulls it all together. ♦

DEPARTMENT OF FIRE SERVICES

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FROM THE FIRE MARSHAL



Photo by: Barry Hyvarinen

All Hands HERALD

DEPARTMENT OF FIRE SERVICES • STOW, MASSACHUSETTS

As you may know, January 2009 marks the start of a new 2-year legislative session. In keeping with the mission of the Department of Fire Services, several bills have been proposed that will affect the fire service and further promote public safety. Below is a brief overview of these bills.

Chemical Process Safety

The Department of Fire Services (DFS) has re-filed the chemical process safety bill that would enhance laws and broaden regulatory oversight relative to "process safety" in the wake of chemical explosions in Leominster and Danvers. This bill would provide uniform, state-wide oversight of chemical process safety by means of a special "us-

ers certificate" issued by the state fire marshal. This certificate would authorize users to engage in chemical processes in accordance with the regulations of the Board of Fire Prevention Regulations (BFPR). The board is authorized to determine what constitutes "hazardous chemical processes" for purposes of regulatory oversight. This bill would also require an applicant to obtain a mandatory certificate of insurance for no less than \$1M, as a condition to certification and provides administrative sanctions for those who fail to comply with the regulations. These penalties include suspension or revocation of the users certificate.

Homeowner Exemption for HazMat

New legislation has been filed in order to encourage homeowners to notify local authorities of hazardous materials incidents by creating exemptions from cost recovery if the costs were incurred in the normal use of household items such as mercury thermometers, etc. Certain conditions would need to be met

for homeowners to be exempt for response costs. These include: hazardous materials must have been possessed legally, homeowners were not "grossly negligent" in their storage and use, and promptly notified the fire department in good faith. This bill would also authorize DFS to recover costs for not only the "actual" release of a hazardous material, but also for response costs relating to the "threat" of such a release. The overall goal of this legislation is to create a reasonable homeowners exemption while providing recovery of costs for threat response incidents.

Strengthening of Fire Prevention Laws

Two bills filed by DFS aim to improve and strengthen certain laws regarding fire prevention. The first bill provides the state fire marshal with the ability to promulgate regulations which gives him the right to suspend certain certificates of competency based upon "immediate threat" situations with due regard

CONTINUED ON **PAGE 2**

New Smoke Detector Regulations 2010

In January, the Board of Fire Prevention Regulations approved new smoke detector regulations (527 CMR 32). They take effect on January 1, 2010 and will affect homes being sold or transferred as of that date.

The regulation mandates what types of smoke detectors be installed. The most significant change is that beyond 20 feet of a kitchen or full bathroom (with a shower or tub), both photoelectric and ionization detection technology must be used by either installing a dual technology detector or two separate detectors. This will provide people with the earliest possible notification of

a fire, whether it is a smoldering or a flaming fire. We know that photoelectric smoke detectors are slightly more responsive to smoldering fires and ionization smoke detectors are slightly more responsive to flaming fires. Due to the unpredictable nature of fire, using both photoelectric and ionization smoke detectors leads to a greater level of safety.

The Department of Fire Services will be developing training sessions and materials for local fire departments, building officials, and realtors who will be involved in making sure homes meet these new require-

CONTINUED ON **PAGE 18**

HARKINS/BALSER BILL:

Chapter 148 § 26G

I am pleased to inform you that on January 13, 2009, Governor Deval Patrick signed into law Chapter 508 of the Acts of 2008, "An Act Further Regulating the Installation of Automatic Sprinklers."

This legislation, informally known as the Harkins/Balser Bill amends section 26G of Chapter 148 of the General Laws in some very important ways:

- This law, which requires the installation of automatic sprinklers in commercial buildings of more than

CONTINUED ON **PAGE 18**

From the Fire Marshal

Continued from Page 1

for subsequent due process hearings. This bill also creates an appellate route (which currently does not exist) to the Automatic Sprinkler Appeals Board (ASAB) for Chapter 148 s. 26 I cases. The second bill increases existing fines and penalties for various violations of Chapter 148. Many of the existing statutory fines have not been updated in at least 50 years. The increase in fines and penalties would provide greater deterrence in the circumventing of laws relative to fire prevention.

Create Fire Prevention Regulations Appeals Board

This important piece of legislation would create a uniformed and streamlined appeals process for interpreting the State Fire Code through the establishment of a *Fire Prevention Regulation Appeals Board*. This board would be comprised of members of the existing BFPR and would allow for 3-member panels to hear appeals of orders from the head of the fire department relative to enforcement of the State Fire Code.

Correction in Smoke Detector Laws

This legislation would amend the existing law, which requires the installation of "approved smoke detectors upon sale or transfer" of residences. (GL c. 148, s. 26F) for homes built prior to 1975. This bill would require the seller to install approved smoke detectors in "all" residential dwellings, regardless of date of construction. The BFPR would establish the requirements for existing residences. The Board of Building Regulations and Standards (BBRS) would still regulate requirements for newly constructed buildings.

Fire Safe Cigarette Law

Legislation has been filed to strengthen the Fire Safe Cigarette law by allowing the Secretary of Public Safety and Security to impose, on an administrative basis, civil penalties of \$1,000 for a first offense and \$5,000 for a second or subsequent violations of the fire safe

cigarette law. It would also authorize seizure of non-compliant cigarettes as contraband, without warrant, and disposal by court order or by agreement between parties.

Ban Sale of Novelty Lighters

Following the example of other states, DFS has filed legislation to ban the sale of novelty lighters in Massachusetts. The bill defines *novelty lighter* as "...a device...designed or used for lighting any smoking material which has entertaining audio/visual effects or toy-like appearance that may appeal to, or is intended for use by, children ten and under." So many of these novelty lighters look like toys and present an attractive and dangerous nuisance to a child.

Arson Law

Another important piece of legislation aims to protect victims of domestic violence from the use of fire as a weapon (arson) of intimidation. This bill would offer protection to "innocent co-insureds" or innocent spouses, when an insurance loss is the result of the intentional, criminal action (arson) by the other spouse. This bill was filed in response to several, highly publicized situations that have occurred over the last few years across the country and in Massachusetts, where innocent co-insureds have been victims of arsons and were later denied insurance payments based upon current state law. This bill would correct unfair and unreasonable insurance policy practices, preventing innocent insureds from being victimized a second time.

Improve Public Safety around Explosives

This newly filed legislation would allow the state fire marshal to have greater authority over the issuance and revocation of licenses pertaining to explosive materials. The marshal, based upon information received in applications and background reviews would be able to deny licenses in cases where individuals may present a danger to the public, or

are the subject of restraining orders, or otherwise are disqualified pursuant to Federal Law.

Bomb Components Bill

DFS has re-filed what is commonly referred to as the "bomb components" bill. This bill would clarify the definition of an "infernal machine" in both the infernal machine law and hoax bomb laws. The current law indicates that absent a clearer definition, some assembly of bomb components is a requirement for a conviction. This loophole was the cause of an adverse decision against the state in the case of *Comm. v. Carter*. This bill would also require that the State Fire Marshal be notified of the release of any individuals convicted for possession of infernal machines/hoax bomb devices from state prison (similar to the arsonist release notification law).

New Resources for the Fire Service

Using FY 2006 Homeland Security funds, DFS has recently deployed three new hazardous materials response vehicles that will be housed in Danvers, Yarmouth and New Bedford. These new squad vehicles are smaller, lighter and faster but have the same detection capabilities as the technical operations modules currently deployed in each of the six 'hazmat' regions. The goal is to reduce the response time to hazmat incidents from under 60 minutes to less than 30 minutes. In addition, a new statewide response vehicle with advanced detection and communication capabilities has recently been deployed, joining the state's Hazardous Materials Response Program.

Finally, using FY 2006 Homeland Security grant funds, the State Police Bomb Squad assigned to DFS, has deployed five new robots that will help to increase the safety of bomb technicians and first responders. These robots can increase the speed and efficiency with which technicians can begin to assess a scene upon their arrival. ♦

New Hazardous Materials Squads Cut Response Time

Three new hazardous materials squad trucks were assigned to local fire departments in two ceremonies on March 4 and 5. Representatives of the Executive



Sec. Burke at Danvers Fire

Photo by: Derryl Dion

Office of Public Safety and Security, the Department of Fire Services, the regional Homeland Security Councils, and members of area fire departments attended. The three vehicles will be housed at the Danvers, Yarmouth, and New Bedford Fire Departments.

In addition, a new statewide tactical response vehicle, stationed in Natick that will be part of the state's Hazardous Materials Response Program was also unveiled at the events.

"This new vehicle will speed the delivery of detection and analysis abilities to local communities by reducing response time to hazardous materials incidents from under one hour to fewer than thirty minutes," said Secretary of Public Safety and Security Kevin Burke. "Early detection is vital to local incident commanders, healthcare providers, and other of-



New HazMat Squad

Photo by: Derryl Dion

officials responsible for confirming and defining risks or to dispelling concerns of the public," he added.

The hazardous material squad was funded through FY '06 Homeland Security funds through the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security and through the Northeast Homeland Security Council. Two additional squads are being deployed in Yarmouth and New Bedford with funds from the Southeast Homeland Security Council.

"By strengthening our terrorism reaction capability, we strengthen our non-terrorism response capability. No investment, resulting in true improved preparedness is wasted," said Secretary Burke.

"These new squad vehicles are smaller, lighter and faster, but have the same detection capabilities as the technical operations modules units currently deployed in each of the six 'hazmat' regions," said Fire Marshal Coan. "The new statewide truck supports the regional hazmat teams with its advanced detection capabilities and video to assess hazardous or 'hot' environments before we put people in harm's way," he added. ♦

Federal Stimulus Package & the Fire Service

On February 17, 2009, President Barack Obama signed the \$787 billion economic stimulus bill into law. What does this mean for local fire service? The bill did contain specific and general provisions for local fire departments.

1. \$210 million for fire station construction. This program will be administered through the Department of Homeland Security's Assistance to Firefighter's Grant (AFG) program. No grant may exceed \$15 million. The application period will most likely begin during the summer of 2009. Details are still being worked out. Information on this program will be available in the near future at www.firegrantsupport.com.
2. Automatic waiver for the Staffing for Adequate Fire & Emergency Response (SAFER) grants local match requirement. For SAFER grants awarded in FY 2009 & 2010, the 10-20-50-70% local match would be waived. All other program requirements remain. The waiver of the local match does not affect previously awarded SAFER grants.
3. The stimulus package also provides money to each state to fund public safety, education and other government services. These funds are to be disbursed by each state's governor. ♦

DIVISION OF BANKS

Foreclosure Database Now Available

The Division of Banks has opened its on-line database of Massachusetts foreclosure notices to public safety and health officials.

To register for access to this new database go to www.mass.gov/dob and click on the link 'Foreclosure Sale Statistics for Health and Safety Organizations'. Once there click on the register link and complete the Public Safety and Health User Registration. You should receive

confirmation within a day and should be able to access the database after your registration was approved.

Since local fire officials will now have access to the database, the Department of Fire Services will no longer provide this information. If you have any questions about the list, or a property on the list please contact the Division of Banks at (617) 956-1557. ♦

FIRE INVESTIGATION UNIT

Arrests in Springfield Church Fire

On January 16, 2009, Benjamin Haskell, 22, Michael Jacques, 24, and Thomas Gleason, 21, all of Springfield, Mass were arrested on civil rights violations in connection with the election night fire at the Macedonia Church of God in Springfield.

The government alleged in court documents that in the early morning hours of Nov. 5, 2008, Haskell, Jacques and Gleason engaged in a conspiracy to burn and succeeded at burning the Macedonia Church of God in Christ's building, a newly constructed building where religious services were to be held for a predominantly African American congregation. The building was 75 percent completed at the time of the fire, which destroyed the entire structure, leaving only the metal superstructure and a small portion of the front corner intact. Investigators determined the fire to be incendiary in nature and caused by an unknown quantity of gasoline applied to the exterior and interior of the building.

Haskell, Jacques and Gleason have been arrested and charged in a complaint with conspiring to injure, oppress, threaten and intimidate the parishioners of the Macedonia Church of God in Christ in the free exercise or enjoyment of their rights as secured in the Constitution and laws of the United States.

The fire was jointly investigated by State Police assigned to the Office of the State Fire Marshal and the Hampden District Attorney's Office, the Springfield Fire and Police Departments, the Federal Bureau of Investigations and the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. The extensive investigation developed three suspects and resulted in three confessions to the crime. The U.S. Attorney will be prosecuting the case in federal court. If convicted, Haskell, Jacques and Gleason could face a sentence of up to ten years in prison, followed by three years of supervised release.

Coan said, "I applaud this tremendous joint effort which has brought together the best and the brightest from among many local, state and federal public safety agencies. All those involved worked seamlessly and tirelessly over the past couple of months in order to solve this horrific act to the Macedonia Church of God in Christ. Whenever there is a fire in a house of worship, it has a tremendous impact on the fabric of a community. The timing of this serious incident, immediately following the election of Barack Obama, made the expeditious resolution to this case even more urgent." ♦

ARSON AWARENESS WEEK May 3-9, 2009

Arson Awareness Week is May 3-9, 2009 and this year's theme is *Arson for Profit - Cashing in with Fire*. The materials will be available on the www.usfa.dhs.gov web site in late March http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/subjects/arson/arson_awareness.shtml ♦

New Reporting System Launched

State Fire Marshal Coan recently announced the launch of a new reporting system designed to provide more timely transmittal of reports of fires and explosions investigated by the Fire & Explosion Investigation Unit (FIU) of the Office of the State Fire Marshal.

Effective March 1, 2009, FIU will commence electronic reporting to communities of status reports, which will include accidental causes and undetermined causes.

Intentionally set fire reports will be available to your department upon request and will be redacted by DFS Legal prior to their release. These redactions are to avoid jeopardizing ongoing criminal cases and future court action.

The status reports are intended to

provide a summary of the investigation of each incident occurring in your community, which was investigated by FIU.

You may observe that certain cases are indicated as being "open"; this is due to the case remaining open due to the cause being undetermined and/or due to certain Massachusetts State Police reporting requirements remaining for completion by the investigating trooper. Comprehensive reports will still be available upon request to the Fire Investigation Unit.

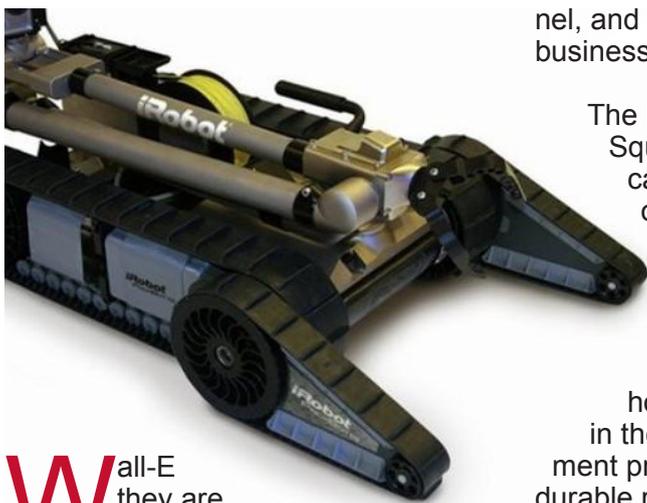
Reports will be forwarded on a weekly basis as they become ready. Generally these reports will be ready approximately 30 days from the date of incident. Reports will be sent to the e-mail address of the chief of department currently on file with the State Fire Marshal. The reports

will be generated from the following e-mail address: FIU.Reports@state.ma.us

Please add this address to your contact list to prevent the e-mail from being flagged as spam mail. If you require additional information, please contact Joanne Nason at (978) 567-3313 or Joanne.Nason@state.ma.us.

Both the Department of Fire Services staff and the State Police members assigned to the Office of the State Fire Marshal should be thanked for their efforts in designing this new system. This reporting system should be the answer to many inquiries that have been made over the years by chiefs who sought closure to incidents investigated by our office. ♦

New Robots for Bomb Squad



Wall-E they are not, but the State Police Bomb Squad is delighted with the five new robots they have acquired and deployed in the second half of 2008. They have three new Foster-Miller Talon and two new I Robot Packbot robots bringing the total to seven robots. Purchased with 2006 Homeland Security funds from two Massachusetts companies, I Robot and Foster Miller, these robots will help to increase bomb technician and other first responders' safety. These robots can increase the speed and efficiency with which technicians can begin to assess a scene when they arrive.

These robots are all "man-portable", robot class which means a person could pick them up and carry them. The bomb squad currently has ten hazardous device technicians and the goal is to have one "man-portable" robot loaded on each technician's truck so that every one will have this remote capability at their disposal at each call for service, without waiting for a second technician to arrive. The safety protocols still require bomb techs to work in teams of two when actually donning protective bomb suits.

These robots can reduce the number of times that technicians actually have to suit up to inspect and assess a suspicious package or device. There are many tasks that the robot can do, while the technician is at a safe distance. This not only increases the safety for personnel, but can also speed up operations, free up local public safety person-

nel, and reopen streets to traffic and businesses to commerce sooner.

The MA State Police Bomb Squad averages about two calls a day and uses a robot once a day on average. Since I Robot and Foster-Miller are local companies, the State Police Bomb Squad has been able to provide feedback about how the robots actually work in the field during the development process. This has led to more durable robots for bomb technicians throughout the country and for the military in the Iraq and Afghanistan theatres.

In addition to the "man-portable" robots, the funds purchased two larger platforms not on the trucks, and funded training on how to skillfully use the new equipment.

While the bomb squad members prefer to arrive on scene when they can prevent injuries, they are often called after an explosion occurs. They can assist local and state police in collecting evidence that can lead to successful prosecutions. For instance, on October 23, 2008, Joel Lemos of Lawrence was convicted of placing a car bomb (among other charges) in Somerville on Thanksgiving 2005 that started a fire

engulfing a car and spread to the occupied 6-family home. The case involved an ex-boyfriend trying to injure a woman's current boyfriend who lost an eye.

There is a Bomb Squad Memorial (<http://www.bombtechmemorial-foundation.org/>) to fallen techs at the Hazardous Devices School in Huntsville, Alabama. A bomb technician in Oregon was recently fatally injured and will be the fourteenth name inscribed. We all remember Boston bomb tech Jeremiah Hurley who was killed and his partner Officer Francis Foley who was severely injured on October 28, 1991. Alfred Trenkler and Thomas Shay were convicted in that case. Every tool to make this job a little safer, is worth the investment. ♦



Photos by: State Police Bomb Squad

Elderly Couple Died in Woodstove Fire

State Fire Marshal Stephen D. Coan and Plymouth Fire Chief G. Edward Bradley said their investigation into the February 12, 2009 fatal fire at 35 Cherry Street has determined that the fire started while the residents were cleaning or lighting the woodstove. An elderly couple that lived in the home perished in the fire, tragically bringing to three the number of Plymouth residents who died from fire in a single week. A fire earlier in the week took the life of a 77-year old woman on South Meadow Road.

The fire was jointly investigated by the Plymouth Fire Department, Plymouth Police Department, and State Police assigned to the Office of the State Fire Marshal and State Police assigned to the Plymouth District Attorney's Office.

State Fire Marshal Coan said, "Fire officials across the state have been concerned we would see an increase in heating fires and especially heating with alternative devices this winter. We launched the Keep Warm, Keep Safe campaign last fall

to inform the public on how to stay safe while keeping warm this winter." Heating is the second leading cause of all home fires in Massachusetts, after cooking. Heating caused ten percent of home fire deaths in 2007.

For more information about heating fire safety or for heating assistance, go online to www.mass.gov/keepwarm-keepsafe.



Fire Chief Bradley said, "This has

been a difficult week for the town of Plymouth losing three people, all over age 65, to fire. On behalf of the town and the Plymouth firefighters, I extend our condolences to the two families."

State Fire Marshal Coan said, "Tragically, the home did not have any smoke alarms or carbon monoxide alarms. Working smoke alarms can double your chances of surviving a fire. Smoke and carbon monoxide alarms are, generally, required in all homes."

Chief Bradley said, "If you have an elderly parent, grandparent, aunt, uncle or neighbor, please take a

moment to see if they have working smoke and carbon monoxide alarms and offer to change the battery for them or to install them if needed."

Coan added, "Smoke alarms give you the one thing you don't have in a fire – time. But it is important to be able to use that time by having a home escape plan with two ways out of every room, making sure all exits are clear, and a meeting place out front for the family." ♦

NORTHBORO/SHREWSBURY

Arsonist Convicted

On Thursday January 8, 2009 an adult male defendant was found guilty in Worcester Superior Court of arson of a building and arson of a motor vehicle. The charges stemmed from two arson investigations. The first on March 19, 2008 in the town of Shrewsbury and the second was a large strip mall fire in the town of Northborough on March 25, 2008. The defendant was sentenced to 4 to 5 years state prison. Two more defendants are awaiting trial. ♦

ARRESTS IN

Dever School Fire

On Friday January 2, 2009 at 2054 hrs Tpr. Thomas Berteletti, Tpr. Michael Fagan, AK-9 Damien, troopers from MSP Middleboro and Crime Scene Services responded to a reported working fire in an abandoned state owned building on the property of the Paul Dever School in the city of Taunton. No injuries reported. The structure was destroyed. Six suspects were quickly developed. Tpr. Berteletti and Tpr. Fagan obtained three confessions implicating all six suspects. As a result of this investigation four adult male defendants will be charged with burning a building and trespassing, one adult male will be charged with trespassing, and one male juvenile will be charged with trespassing. ♦

Helicopters for Forest Fires

A memorandum of agreement has been signed between the Department of Conservation and Recreation, the Massachusetts Army National Guard, the Massachusetts State Police and the Department of Fire Services regarding the use of helicopters and fixed wing aircraft to aid in the extinguishment of forest fires.

A multi-agency Forest Fire Control Wildfire Air Operations presentation has been developed that will provide fire departments and incident commanders within the Commonwealth with uniform procedures to activate the use of National Guard and/or Massachusetts State Police helicop-

ters to aid in the extinguishment of wildfires. Call up procedures utilizing agreements between the Department of Conservation and Recreation, Department of Fire Services, Massachusetts State Police, and Massachusetts Army National Guard will be discussed. The notification process, needs assessment, operations, requirements for landing zones, water sources, and disengagement will be covered in detail.

The agencies will be providing a series of training sessions for fire departments. Contact the Mass. Firefighting Academy for more registration information. ♦

Natural Gas Leak Cause of Gloucester Explosion

State Fire Marshal Stephen D. Coan, Gloucester Fire Chief Barry McKay, and Gloucester Police Operations Commander Joseph F. Aiello have concluded their cause and origin investigation into the January 25, 2009 explosion at 76 Eastern Avenue, Gloucester. Investigators have concluded that the cause of the explosion was a natural gas leak from a break in the six-inch gas main in front of the residence. The leaking gas entered the home and was then ignited by any number of possible sources inside. The destruction was so severe that it is impossible to pinpoint the ignition source exactly.

The homeowner, Gloucester Police Officer Wayne Sargent, was seriously injured in the explosion that completely destroyed the home and damaged several adjacent homes on Eastern Avenue. Chief McKay said, "It is amazing that Officer Sargent

survived this horrific explosion and all of his public safety colleagues wish him a speedy recovery."

The explosion was investigated by the Gloucester Fire Department, Gloucester Police Department and State Police assigned to the Office of the State Fire Marshal. The Department of Public Utilities is conducting its own parallel investigation and is working closely with the investigative team.

"Many people have been concerned that this incident and the recent Scituate home explosion were caused by similar circumstances. The circumstances surrounding these two explosions are completely different and unrelated. The Department of Fire Services has completed its investigation into the Scituate explosion and has forwarded those conclusions to the Plymouth District

Attorney," said State Fire Marshal Coan.

"Remember, any time you smell gas inside your home, get outside and call the fire department," Coan added. ♦

2007 HAVERHILL

Arsonist Convicted

On Thursday January 8, 2008 an adult male defendant was found guilty in Salem Superior Court of Possession of a Molotov cocktail. The defendant was sentenced to one year in state prison suspended for two years. Charges stem from an arson investigation in Haverhill in November 2007. ♦

Years of Service

On Feb 4, 2009 the Department of Fire Services held a ceremony honoring our employees for their service as of June 30, 2008. Employees who have worked with DFS or its predecessor agencies for 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, and 30 years were presented with length of service pins and a citation. Employees who reached the 15-year milestone received a DFS glass and those reaching 20, 25 or 30-year milestones received a DFS paperweight with their name engraved on it. Employees with more than 20 years of service are also recognized on a perpetual plaque in the front lobby.

After a short speech by State Fire Marshal Coan about the milestones employees have helped DFS achieve in the past 30 years, festivities included hot apple crisp and ice cream.

30 years

Stephen D. Coan
Paul F. Vincequere, Sr.
Paul M. Zompetti

25 years

Gerard A. Dio
Robert A. Haskell
Gordon S. King
Edmund G. Maiorana
T. Andrew Reardon
David A. Salvi

20 years

Frederick G. Clark
Julie A. Connelly
James J. Doherty
James L. Hagerty
William H. Pappas, Jr.
James J. Puleo
Kevin C. Robinson
Richard M. Swartz

15 years

Norman J. Aubert, Jr.
Mark J. Cady
Bertram O. Davis, Jr.
Mark V. McCabe
Thomas B. McGowan
Joseph R. Nedder, Jr.
George Nice, Jr.
Emmet P. Nichols, Jr.
Anthony H. Pillarella

10 years

Mark A. Alberti
Mark J. Armstrong
David Beaudin
David J. Binari
Scott A. Cordio
Leo T. Gaudette
Walter L. Guertin
John W. Hathaway
Rebecca Dono Healy
Marianne Lara
Robert E. Mahoney
Joseph L. Marquis
Evelyn M. Moraghan
Joann Oliver
Elizabeth Perry
Tpr. Gerald D. Perwak
Tpr. William P. Qualls
Vicente Rojas
Peter Senopoulos
Thomas H. Shea
Colin T. Weeks
Sally A. Wyrobek

5 years

Ronald P. Ayotte
Albert B. Beardsley
Mathew J. Boland
Rebecca L. Boutin
William J. Boutin
Andrew G. Carrigan
JoAnne Caruso
Robert E. Clark
Stephen M. Coleman
Kevin M. Cronin
Anthony V. Cunha
Thomas J. Deptula
Seth M. Ellis
Richard J. Gleason, Jr.
Gregory J. Habgood
Bryan R. Johannes
Michael P. Kelleher
Ian D. Kurtinitis
Jeffrey M. Legendre
Patrick R. McCabe
Robert A. McCaffrey
Richard F. Stevens
Timothy P. Travers
Micheline D. Turgeon
Karl F. Zinnack, Jr. ♦

Thank You!

BURN AWARENESS WEEK

Teens Win Video Contest

Winners of High School Burn Awareness Video Contest Announced

State Fire Marshal Stephen D. Coan and Thomas D'Esmond, administrator, Shriners Hospitals for Children Boston launched Burn Awareness Week (February 1-7, 2009) at a presentation on Monday February 2 hosted by Shriners Hospitals for Children in Boston, a pediatric burn hospital. The winners of a statewide contest for high school media students, the *YouTube™ Burn Awareness Video Contest*, sponsored by the state Department of Fire Services, the Mass. Association of Safety and Fire Educators (MA SAFE), and the Mass. Property Insurance Underwriting Association, were announced at the event. To see the winning videos, got to www.YouTube.com and search on DFSOSFM.

"This high school video contest builds upon the successful relationships that school and fire departments have built over the past 14 years of the Student Awareness of Fire Education or S.A.F.E. Program

here in Massachusetts," said Fire Marshal Coan. The S.A.F.E. Program provides grants to fire departments to make trained fire and life safety educators available to work with classroom teachers to deliver age-appropriate lessons.

Winning Videos

This is the first year of the contest and 18 teams from five high schools — Agawam, Cheshire, Hudson, North Attleboro, and Sharon — submitted entries. While all 18 videos were creative and interesting, the first place winners were from Agawam High School for their video *Viewer Discretion Advised*; the second place winners were from Hoosac Valley High School for their video *Hands Off Fireworks*; and the third place winners were another team from Agawam High School for their video *Sharks*.

Shriners Hospitals Sponsors of National Burn Awareness Week

"The theme of this year's Burn

Awareness Week is *preventing gasoline burns*. It is an opportunity to remind ourselves of the proper use of gasoline as well as the necessary safety measures we can take to keep our families as safe as possible," said Tom D'Esmond. "Because gasoline is so commonly used to fuel our cars, lawn mowers and other outdoor machinery, people often forget that gasoline can be dangerous and precautions need to be taken to prevent injury," he added. Shriners Hospitals and Shriners International are the national sponsors of Burn Awareness Week.

Teens and Young Adults at Risk for Gasoline Burns

"Many of the videos teenagers and young adults see and post on popular video websites such as YouTube™, demonstrate risky or otherwise unsafe behavior but never tell the rest of the story — the painful, enduring injuries that occur," said Coan. According to the Massachusetts Burn Injury Reporting System (M-BIRS), which by law collects injury reports on all burns affecting 5% or more of the entire body surface area, 8% of the burn injuries reported were caused by gasoline. One-third of these victims were between the ages of 15 and 24. "In 2007, individuals in the 15-24 year-old age group were at greater risk of suffering burns from gasoline-related incidents," said Coan.

Burn Awareness Video Contest

"The contest was designed to have teens explore the issues around burn prevention for themselves and convey those messages in a way other teens are likely to pay attention to," said Capt. Rick Tustin, president of MA SAFE. "Our goal was to partner with high school media teachers and use burn prevention as a vehicle to help them reach the goals of the

3RD ANNUAL NORTHEAST

Juvenile Firesetting Conference

It is time to register for the Third Annual Northeast Juvenile Firesetting Conference. It is sponsored by the Brandon School, the Department of Fire Services, the MA Property Insurance Underwriting Association, and the MA Association of Safety & Fire Educators (MA SAFE). There will be a pre-conference institute on May 14 and the full conference will be on Friday, May 15, 2009. The theme is *The Kids Behind the Crisis: From Confusion to Clarity*. It will be held at the Crowne Plaza in Worcester, MA.

To register or see the full schedule of workshops, go online to www.brandonschool.org. ♦

Please plan to join us
May 14-15, 2009
The Crowne Plaza, Worcester, MA

Please Join Us At The Country's Premier Conference On Juvenile Firesetting!

Presenters From Across the U.S. & Canada.

Workshops Will Address:
Research, Evaluation, Assessment, Interviewing & Interrogation.

Up to 8 CEUs Available.

\$129 Conference Registration.
FREE Pre-Conference Institute with early registration, \$30 additional after 4/1.

For more information on the The Crowne Plaza go to www.cpworcester.com

For more information or to register online go to www.brandonschool.org

Register by April 1 & the May 14th Pre-Conference Institute is FREE!

Sponsored by Brandon School, Department of Fire Services, MA Property Insurance Underwriting Association, MA Association of Safety & Fire Educators

educators
social services
fire service
mental health
juvenile justice

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9

1st Chief's Leadership in Fire Education Award

The Massachusetts Public Fire & Life Safety Education Task Force and the Massachusetts Association of Safety & Fire Educators presented the first *Massachusetts Fire Chief's Leadership in Fire Education Award* to Mattapoissett Fire Chief Ron Scott. The presentation was made at the Fire Chiefs' Association of Massachusetts' annual professional development seminar in Leominster by MA SAFE President Capt. Rick Tustin and retired Fire Chief Charlie Johnson representing the task force.

The purpose of the award is to honor fire chiefs for their community fire education efforts. It is designed to recognize fire chiefs for their involvement and commitment to making our world safer from fire or other preventable injuries. Although fire

and life safety education leadership is part of every fire chief's job, the group sought to recognize for fire chiefs who do something above and beyond to make a difference, who demonstrate qualities such as public education leadership, teamwork, creativity, vision and perseverance.

Mattapoissett Fire Chief Ron Scott, who recently retired, has spent a career promoting public education and participating in juvenile firesetting intervention in his town, within his region and throughout the Commonwealth. He was one of the first fire educators to make a connection with his school's media teacher as a key way to reach middle school students. Mattapoissett has programs in the elementary schools, for seniors, for birthday parties, and a unique sticker program to locate

residents who may need assistance in a fire. As chair of the Fire Services Commission, which oversees the Office of the State Fire Marshal, he was particularly supportive of the DFS public education initiatives. He has been very active in juvenile firesetting intervention representing the Fire Chiefs' Association of Mass. on the recently formed Stakeholder's Group co-chaired by the Attorney's General Office and the Department of Fire Services. ♦

Burn Awareness Week

Continued from Page 8

English and Language Arts Curriculum Framework Media Strand."

Prizes and Viewing the Winning Videos

MA SAFE and the Mass. Property Insurance Underwriting Association sponsored prizes for the top three winning videos. The Grand Prize was a digital video camera for the school and members of the winning team shared \$200 in gifts cards from Best Buy™. The Second Place team shared \$100 in gift cards from Best Buy™. The Third Place team shared \$50 in gift cards from Best Buy™. The Department of Fire Services will post the winning videos on its YouTube™ account. Search for videos posted by DSFOSFM to view them.

The judges included Communication Professor Mark Leccese from Emerson College, Barry Ouellette, senior producer with DigiNovations, Capt. Rick Tustin, president of MA SAFE, Ron Meehan from the Mass. Property Insurance Underwriting Associa-



Photo: Shriners Hospital for Children

tion, and Melissa Gorman, R.N., Allison Vincent and Kathy Golden from the Shriners Hospital for Children, and the Department of Fire Services.

"The Mass. Property Insurance Underwriting Association is pleased to be part of this innovative approach to teaching fire and burn safety to teenagers," said Ron Meehan, representing the property and casualty insurance companies of Massachusetts. "Our company has sponsored an annual poster contest in the middle school since 1982 and this is a great way to reach older youth," he added. ♦

S.A.F.E. STATEWIDE IN-SERVICE Training Sessions



The S.A.F.E. Program will be holding a series of in-service trainings around the state in April and May called, *Making PowerPoint® Part of Your Pub-Ed Presentations, An Introductory Course in Basic PowerPoint® for Public Fire & Life Safety Educators.*

This PowerPoint® session will explore and stimulate each of your multiple intelligences. Students will listen to an instructor prior to having an opportunity for hands-on practical experience (kinesthetic sense and cognitive learning) in creating a brief fire and life safety presentation. Then each student will have an opportunity to present (verbal skills) their 5-minute lesson to the class and participants and instructors will provide a brief critique giving constructive feedback and tips about the technical use of PowerPoint® in the student's lesson plan. Students must bring a lesson plan they use in the classroom. There will be two sessions each day in each location because the SIMS trailer only holds 15 students. The in-services will be held at Holyoke Fire on April 16, at Westford Fire on April 30, and Plymouth Fire on May 14. Register using the standard MFA registration form. ♦

MASSACHUSETTS FIREFIGHTING ACADEMY

Fire Apparatus Driver Training and Certification

January 28, 2009

The Department of Fire Services has received a number of recent inquiries into programs related to fire apparatus driver training and certification.

Training

Currently the fire academy provides driver awareness as well as competency based driver training programs. These programs are offered regularly across the Commonwealth or they can be delivered to local departments as municipal hires.

Driver Awareness for the Emergency Vehicle Operator (6 hours, classroom delivery only)

This program is designed to heighten an emergency vehicle operator's level of professionalism when it comes to driving emergency vehicles. This program focuses on the attitude that a person should possess as a driver. The program will look into the standards governing emergency vehicle operators and their fire departments. It will discuss the importance of "getting ready to drive", understanding the rules of the road, and the Massachusetts Gener-

al Laws chapters 89 and 90 governing emergency apparatus. It will also review techniques used to maintain basic control of the vehicle, emergencies and emergency awareness, and finally, the apparatus braking system. This is a fast-paced program that has something of interest for anyone who drives emergency vehicles. (Classroom delivery only.)

Emergency Vehicle Operator – Competency (8 hours, practical skills)

This 8-hour program is designed to test the driving competency of emergency vehicle operators. It consists of eight individual stations laid out with traffic cones within a 300 x 300 foot area. The emergency vehicle operator follows a pre-set path from one station to the next. A time limit is set based on the wheelbase of the vehicle. Points are accumulated with each traffic cone that is struck by the vehicle. The objective is to complete the course within the allotted time frame with the least amount of points. A pre-requisite for this program is that the student show proof of attending the six hour *Driver Awareness for the Emergency Vehicle Operator* program as referenced above.

Emergency Vehicle Operator – Advanced (12 hours)

The above two programs can be combined and taken as one 12-hour compressed program.

Certification

In addition to emergency vehicle operator training, the Massachusetts Fire Training Council offers two driver related certifications: Driver/Operator – Pumper and Driver/Operator – Aerial. Both of these levels are based on the appropriate sections of NFPA 1002 Standard for Fire Apparatus Driver Operator as well as sections of NFPA 1500 Standard for Fire Department Occupational Safety and Health Program.

Additional information on the training programs and dates and the certification, including the specific sections of the standards addressed and exam dates, can be found on our website at www.mass.gov/dfs. If you still need further information, call MFA Director Edmund Walker at 978-567-3114 or e-mail Edmund.Walker@state.ma.us. ♦

New Chief Officer Orientation Seminar

On April 8-9, 2009, the Mass. Firefighting Academy will be hosting a one and a half day seminar for executive and administrative fire officers, who are new to their positions. It will provide new fire officers with an opportunity to learn of the assistance available from a number of key public and private sector agencies and entities with which they will interact. In addition, there will be experienced fire chiefs present to assist the new chief fire officers in making the most of the day while expanding their contact network.

The program has been designed to provide the new chief fire officer with the most critical information sources and contacts that will result in a positive impact on the administration of their organization. It will be held at the Devens Conference Center, Devens, MA. The registration fee is \$25.00 per person and includes lunch on day 1 and coffee on both days. Please use a standard MFA application. Register online @ www.mass.gov/dfs or fax an application to (978) 567-3229. ♦

FUGATE NAMED FEMA Director

On Wednesday, March 4, President Barack Obama announced that he will nominate Craig Fugate to serve as the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Mr. Fugate currently serves as the Director of the Florida Division of Emergency Management.

A former firefighter and paramedic, Mr. Fugate has held his current position since 2001. Fugate succeeds fellow Floridian Chief R. David Paulson, who was appointed by former President Bush to head the agency following Hurricane Katrina. ♦

Statewide Rapid Intervention Team Initiative

By Chuck Lambert, Firefighter Skills Training Group (FFSTG) Coordinator and Jack Beckwith, FFSTG Asst. Coordinator

The Firefighter Skills Training Group has been actively involved in the Statewide Rapid Intervention Program for approximately one year. Massachusetts is the first state in the country to develop and deliver a standardized rapid intervention program for all



Photo by : Chuck Lambert

firefighters in the state. This concept allows firefighters from every department to work as a team if the need arises. It is developed on the fundamentals of established basic operations to accomplish the task of rescuing a downed firefighter. This program is designed to be taught to designated members of individual fire departments who will then be able to properly train members of their own departments.

The statewide Rapid Intervention Team (RIT) initiative is a four-day training program designed to teach the required basic skills to a training officer or department designee. It is a physically demanding program that includes such skills as directed search, window lifts, ladder carries, drags and entanglement. It also offers guidelines on what resources will be needed if a RIT is activated. All participants will be required to demonstrate their ability to perform the evolutions in order to assure effective delivery of the training to their departments.

The statewide Rapid Intervention Team (RIT) Initiative has success-

fully handed off the program to 95 training officers and has another 47 enrolled in current classes. We have issued 66 joint certificates and have approximately 90 under review. A joint certificate is when a training officer, that has successfully completed our program, has trained members of their department in all of the modules of the program and the member of that department has demonstrated the skills to the training officer. The designated person then completes a sign off which includes the skills that have been completed and the date of their training. This form is then forwarded to the Mass. Firefighting Academy (MFA) and reviewed by the assistant coordinator for accuracy. After MFA staff is satisfied that the member has successfully met the requirements, the MFA will issue a joint certificate.



Photo by : Chuck Lambert

The MFA is now offering a fully updated 2-day Rapid Intervention program that is designed for a direct delivery to line firefighters. The program was introduced in January and 38 firefighters have been successfully trained and 103 are enrolled in upcoming classes. We have scheduled

our first offering at the MFA facility to be held on May 11 and 14.

Once a member of a department has received his/her certificate from the MFA in either program, they will then be able to apply to any one of the 4-hour Firefighter Advanced Survival Skills classes that will be offered around the state. This 4-hour block of instruction will include the self-rescue personal rope bailout of a window, the head first ladder bailout of a window, and the rescue of a fellow firefighter through a hole in the floor. The objective of this program is to provide the firefighter with the knowledge and confidence to conduct a self-rescue or function as part of a team under extreme life or death situations. Qualified fire academy instructors will teach both techniques under strict safety guidelines. Participant selection will be contingent on proof of completion of the RIT program on a first come, first served basis and will be limited to 24 students.

With our follow-up support we have visited four communities with the new updates and have three more to be scheduled in the near future. This program has been instituted to keep all communities informed of any changes in the program.

If you have any questions regarding any of these programs or you are in need of updated information please contact Jack Beckwith at 978-567-3206. ♦

CODE COMPLIANCE & ENFORCEMENT

FIRST SEIZURE OF NON FSC CIGARETTES IN MA

\$13,000 in Fines Collected

The Fire Standard Compliant Cigarette law took effect in Massachusetts on January 1, 2008 as a public safety program overseen by the Department of Fire Services (DFS). Companies wanting to sell cigarettes in the Commonwealth are required to apply for certification for every brand/style they intend to sell. The term "style" is used to differentiate the various types of cigarettes sold under the same brand name – for instance Marlboro – 100s, lights, menthol. The cigarettes must be properly marked according to the law to indicate that they are fire standard compliant.

The Department of Revenue (DOR) requires cigarettes to have MA tax stamps affixed before they can be sold in retail establishments. Inspections of distributors authorized to affix (DOR) tax stamps started in the middle of August 2008 as part of the new Fire Standard Compliant Cigarette (FSC) enforcement program. During a routine inspection, the FSC program's code enforcement officer found 790 cartons and 286 packs of Checkers cigarettes not authorized to be sold in Massachusetts in a distributor's warehouse. In September at a second distributor, another 381 noncompliant cartons of Hi-Val and Smoker Friendly cigarettes were found. The cigarettes were all from the same company, King Maker Marketing (KMM), and all had improper markings. The cigarettes were seized.

At a third distributor, the compliance officer found KMM cigarettes (Gold Crest) for which no FSC certification had been obtained. Although these cigarettes were not authorized for sale in the Commonwealth, they could not be seized as they had not been MA tax stamped and could be offered for sale in states without an FSC law. The distributor voluntarily recalled and ceased further shipment of these until the appropriate certifications were obtained.

In September DFS notified KMM of the violations and requested their attendance at a hearing held in October 2008. KMM was found in violation of MGL c. 64C, § 2A-2F. The cigarette packs and cartons had improper markings and were not authorized for sale in MA. The fines for the violations could arguably have exceeded \$26,000. As this was the first violation, the state showed leniency and the fine assessed was \$13,000. At the additional cost of \$39,000, the company properly certified the various Gold Crest styles.

KMM promptly shipped the confiscated, unstamped cigarettes (about 1,200 cartons) to states without an FSC law. Additionally, they were

required to make arrangements with DOR to ensure the distributors were made whole for the cost of tax stamps on product that had to be destroyed.

Separate hearings were held with all three distributors. Again, as this was the first such seizure, the state showed leniency and each distributor received a letter formally notifying them of the violations and documenting their agreement to adhere to FSC law and stamping requirements. Progressive discipline was used as the basis for action to avoid future problems and also to seek their cooperation to enforce the law.

Inspections are continuing. ♦

The following advisories were recently sent to local fire departments from the Office of the State Fire Marshal. The full text of the advisories may be found online at www.mass.gov/dfs then in the right hand column click on OSFM Advisories. If you have any questions, please contact the Code Compliance & Enforcement Unit at 978-567-3375 or in western Massachusetts at 413-587-3181. Building officials can contact the Department of Public Safety at 617-727-3200. As of May 1, 2009 all OSFM Advisories will only be posted online and fire departments will receive an email notice.

3rd Party UST Inspections

January 1, 2009 Advisory

This memorandum is to reiterate the recent changes to the Massachusetts Underground Storage Tank Regulations as they relate to underground storage tank inspections. The Federal Energy Act of 2005 mandates that state underground storage tank (UST) regulations be consistent with Federal UST regulations.

Massachusetts, as well as a majority of other states, has decided to adopt a third party inspection program. Under this scenario, the owners and operators of most UST, including

municipally owned, will have to hire a third party inspector to conduct an inspection of their USTs and file an inspection report with both your office and this office. The initial inspection must be completed no later than August 8, 2010.

The Massachusetts Operational Services Division is in the process of developing statewide contracts for third party inspections. These contracts will be available to public entities. A list of approved third party inspectors is also available on our agency website www.mass.gov/dfs. ♦

Use of Houses of Worship as Shelters

February 1, 2009 - Advisory

This is to advise heads of fire departments and building departments of issues regarding the housing of homeless people in churches throughout the Commonwealth.

Several legal questions have been raised by network advocates regarding the imposition of safety codes as effects the requirements of sheltering within churches. The courts have previously opined that public safety requirements do not violate separation of church and state. (See, Faith Assembly of God of South Dennis and Hyannis, Inc. v. State Building Code Commission, 11 Mass. App. Ct. 333, 416 N.E. 2d 228.) Church operations must comply with public safety requirements and satisfy requirements of the state building code, if the requirements are aimed at public safety and not at interfering with the religious practice. Several fire chiefs and building commissioners have asked for guidance and as such, this advisory is issued.

A church being utilized for overnight accommodations is considered a change of use under requirements of the State Building Code. Therefore, if fire department personnel become aware that a church or other building is being used as a shelter, a report shall be made to the local building official in accordance with M.G.L. c. 148 §28A, and 527 CMR 1.06(5). The only time enforcement authority will rest with the head of the fire department is if the community has adopted M.G.L. c. 148 §26H. The head of the fire department may enforce the provisions of this section regarding sprinklers.

Upon receipt of the report, the building official should inspect the premises to determine whether the building is zoned for residential use and whether a violation(s) of the zoning laws have occurred. If the premises are deemed to meet zoning, then a secondary determination of compliance with the State Building Code is necessary. Except for declared emergencies defined by Section 110 of the State Building Code, the code does not establish

provisions for temporary residential uses of this nature. If a church is being used for residential purposes, a change of use building permit must be applied for under 3402.1.1 of the code. Additionally, the code requires an investigation and evaluation to be performed relative to existing building conditions as well as conditions relating to the proposed work or change in use. The evaluation should identify any code violations in sufficient detail to ascertain the effects of the proposed work, or change in use relative to egress, fire protection, energy conservation systems, light and ventilation systems of the space under consideration and, where necessary, the entire structure.

Upon completion of the inspection and issuance of the resultant Chapter 34 evaluation report, the building official will indicate if the facility is in compliance with the State Building Code, or will provide a list of areas of non-compliance with the State Building Code. Remedial action shall take place prior to the issuance of a Certificate of Occupancy. If an appeal is filed with the State Building Code Appeals Board, a stay is granted permitting the continued use of the building until the appeal is heard, and a decision rendered, unless that board determines there is an immediate threat to public safety. ♦

SOLICITATION LETTER

Regarding Oil Tank Inspections

Some departments may have received a business solicitation letter from a company named Boston Environmental touting its "Tank Sure" program. The letter states that a new statute MA 453 (incorrect reference to Chapter 453 of the Acts of 2008), creates new administrative tasks for Massachusetts fire departments.

The only requirement for the head of a fire department under the new law, is to receive certification from the homeowner and forward a copy to DFS. The solicitation letter states it is the obligation of the fire departments to determine the type of documentation necessary to verify certification. This statement is wrong. By operation of law, the certificate must be made on a form approved by DFS. This form is currently being developed and the form will be disseminated to departments prior to the July 1, 2010, the effective date. Until DFS creates such documentation, there is and cannot be any other approved documentation for certification of compliance. ♦

SENATE 2404 "AN ACT RELATIVE TO

Homeowner Heating Safety"

January 23, 2009 - Advisory

On January 5, 2009, the Governor signed into law, Chapter 453 of the Acts of 2008, "An Act Relative to Homeowner Heating Safety." The law becomes effective on July 1, 2010.

This new law requires homeowner insurance companies to write coverage for homeowner oil tank spills. However, as a pre-condition to obtaining such coverage, homeowners must have their home heating oil systems inspected and certified by a licensed oil burner technician. The certification is evidence that the system has installed either sleeving

of the tank line or a tank safety valve as required under the current oil burner regulations at 527 CMR 4.00.

The certification must be on an approved form (currently under development), which will be issued shortly. The law as written, requires that a copy of the certification be sent to the local fire department who, in turn, will send a copy to the Department of Fire Services. We are currently working to amend the legislation before it goes into effect, to eliminate the need for the fire department to send these certifications to DFS. ♦

Hospital Fire Drill & Evacuation Planning

January 1, 2009 - Advisory

What follows for informational purposes is a letter from the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH) highlighting some of the background and strategies developed to address the ongoing problems of hospital emergency department (ED) crowding, patient boarding while awaiting bed placement, and ambulance diversion.

The Department of Fire Services, Office of the State Fire Marshal, is providing the following guidance to assist in the evaluation of hospital fire protection and evacuation plans while acknowledging the realities of crowded hospitals and surges in patient volume. We encourage fire departments to work with their local hospitals to address these important issues.

Both the Massachusetts General Laws and the State Fire Code 527 CMR 10.08(1) have requirements that affect fire departments and hospitals throughout the state. The general laws recognize the inherent life safety issues with hospitals and mandate quarterly inspections. The Board of Fire Prevention Regulations (BFPR) has developed a requirement for hospital fire drill and evacuation planning requirements below:

527 CMR 10.08: Hospitals

1. All hospitals shall conform to the following fire drill regulations:
 - (a) Each hospital shall formulate a plan for the protection and evacuation of all persons in event of fire; such plan shall be presented to and approved by the head of the fire department. All employees shall be kept informed of their duties under such plan.
 - (b) The head of the fire department shall visit each hospital at least four times each year for the purpose of ascertaining whether the supervisors, attendants and other personnel are familiar with the approved plan of evacuation.

It is our recommendation that the emergency hospital plans be re-

viewed and updated in conjunction with the new guidelines being issued by the Department of Public Health that have an effective date of January 1, 2009.

As part of this update here are several questions that should be considered for review by the local fire department and the hospitals:

1. What happens in an emergency now? Are patients sheltered in place?
2. If so, how are they sheltered in place in the emergency room?
3. Is there another part of the hospital that has a requirement for relocation to the emergency room? If so, can the emergency room still handle additional patients?
4. Does the plan include relocation from the emergency room? If so,

can the relocation area handle additional patients?

5. In the event of relocation or sheltering in place does the plan take into consideration a proper egress route?

When the hospital needs to find additional space due to a surge in patients from the emergency department who need admission, patient safety concerns may dictate that such patients be relocated to alternate space, such as inpatient floors. Is there a plan in place to ensure adequate egress from an inpatient floor or other alternate space? In these circumstances fire chiefs should work closely with their local hospitals to understand all aspects of the hospital's emergency plans. ♦

527 CMR 31 Interpretations

December 1, 2008 - Advisory

In response to the following questions submitted to the Board of Fire Prevention Regulations, the board approved the following interpretation at their November, 2008, meeting regarding 527 CMR 31 – Carbon Monoxide Alarms.

Question 1: Specifically under section 31.05(1)(b) Centralized Fossil fuel burning consisting of kitchen appliances equipment with intermittent ignition devices. The question is if you have a gas stove or other kitchen appliance with a standing pilot how does that fit into this section? Further, it is our understanding of the code that a piece of kitchen equipment that does not have an intermittent ignition device, no CO protection is required per the technical options section of the code and thus the space does not require any protection.

Answer 1: The subcommittee reviewed this request. First, a CO device is required to be installed for kitchen stoves that operate on fossil fuel in accordance with the state law. Further, a kitchen stove without

an intermittent device is considered centralized fossil fuel equipment as defined. The subcommittee recommends that the regulation be modified to clearly identify this interpretation.

Question 2: Under 527 CMR 31.02 definition of Combination Appliance, is it the intent that this would apply to both standalone residential alarms listed to UL217 and UL 2034, as well as system detectors listed to UL 268 and UL 2075?

Answer 2: The definition of combination appliance is applicable only to those devices listed to meet UL 217/UL2034.

Question 3: Is it allowable to install line voltage (hard-wired) smoke detectors and carbon monoxide alarms interconnected to each other as recommended by the manufacturer?

Answer 3: The Board recommends newly installed hard-wired smoke detectors and carbon monoxide alarms be installed in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations. ♦

New Building Code in Effect

By the time you receive this edition of the *All Hands Herald*, compliance with the 7th edition of the *Massachusetts State Building Code* (780 CMR) is mandatory for all new building permits. As of March 1, 2009, the developer/architect can no longer select to use the 6th edition in obtaining a permit for multiple-family and commercial structures. Be sure to look for upcoming training on the 7th edition being offered by the Department of Public Safety (DPS) and the Department of Fire Services (DFS). There are very significant changes to Chapter 9 - Fire Protection and Life Safety Systems. The highlights of these changes are as follows:

Triggers that require the installation of fire sprinkler systems based on both the 2003 International Building Code and those found in the 6th edition of 780 CMR.

- Large residential buildings, those that exceed 12,000 aggregate square feet (regardless of installed fire separations), must be fully sprinklered using NFPA 13.
- A completely rewritten fire detection and alarm section including detailed requirements for fire alarm plan submittals.
- Requirement for voice evacuation systems for all schools of more than 50 occupants (E Use).
- Triggers that require the installation of standpipe systems based on available fire department access rather than occupancy type.

Multiple-family structures must have hard-wired carbon monoxide alarms or wireless carbon monoxide systems that also comply with Section 31 of the *Massachusetts Comprehensive Fire Safety Code* (527 CMR). ♦

PROFESSIONAL ENGINEER LICENSE SUSPENDED FOR

Improper Use of Stamp on Sprinkler Plans

The Professional Engineer license of Kurt Stenberg (PE #41131) is suspended for one year by the Massachusetts Board of Registration of Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors, effective January 27, 2009. Mr. Stenberg is known to have submitted fire protection plans in several Massachusetts communities.

The disciplinary action of the board was initiated by complaints filed by the Office of the State Fire Marshal and by the Bedford Fire Department to the Massachusetts Division of Professional Licensure. The complaints alleged that Mr. Stenberg fraudulently sealed a certification of compliance for fire sprinkler systems he never inspected; sealed documents that were not prepared by him or under his direct supervision ("rubber stamping"); and, sealed fire sprinkler system plans that did not

comply with nationally recognized engineering practice (NFPA standards).

The complaints involved fire sprinkler system designs and installations for a series of one- and two-family modular homes installed in Bedford, Massachusetts. The fire sprinkler systems were not installed in accordance with NFPA 13D, nor were the systems installed per approved plans. A review of the submitted fire sprinkler plans sealed by Mr. Stenberg revealed numerous violations of NFPA 13D. In one home, several of the fire sprinklers were found at "final acceptance" testing to have never been connected to a water supply. Mr. Stenberg had submitted a sealed certification that the fire sprinkler systems in these homes complied with NFPA 13D. ♦

MASSACHUSETTS BOARD

Issues Professional Engineer Policy

The Massachusetts Board of Professional Engineers and Professional Land Surveyors issued a significant interpretation regarding the sealing of multiple-page calculations and plans by a Professional Engineer (PE). See the board's 8/28/2008 policy at the Division of Professional Licensure's internet site: www.mass.gov/dpl

The new policy is: "Licensed engineers and land surveyors shall stamp and sign their seal on each individual page of a set of engineering or surveying plans when filing those plans with a public authority, unless otherwise authorized by statute."

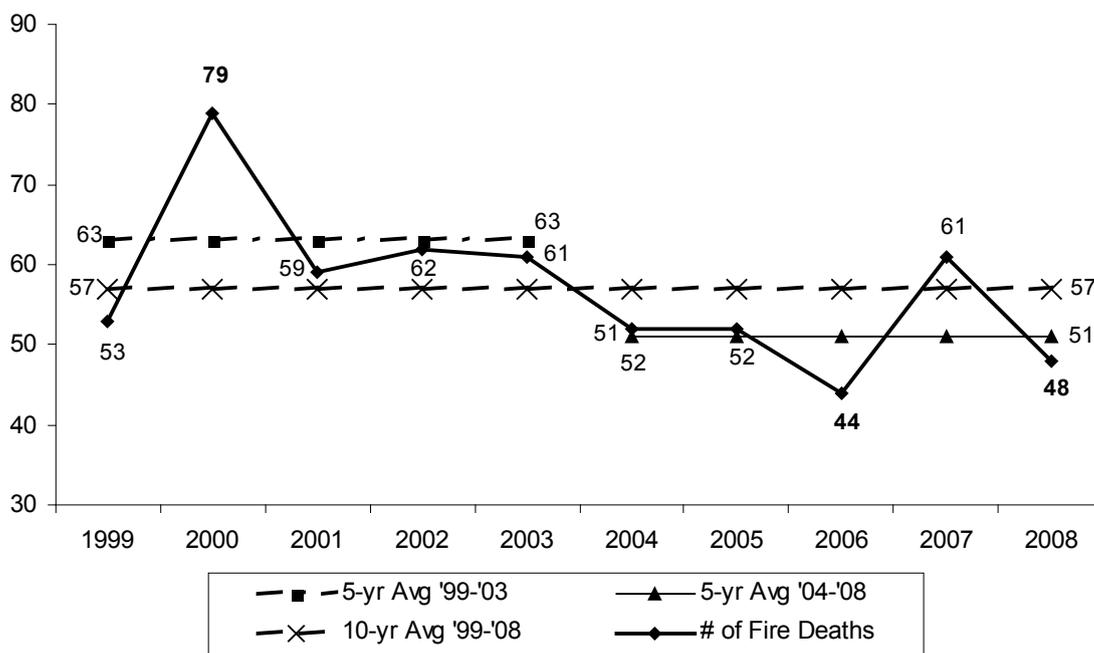
The Board's advisory ruling explains that this is to prevent the possible substitution of material in the plan submittal that may not have been generated by the PE or under their direct supervision. ♦

Open Burning Season

April is always the worst month in Massachusetts for wildland and brush fires. A frequent cause of these fires is open burning that gets out of control. Especially in parts of the state particularly hard hit by the December 2008 ice storm, there will be a lot of debris to chip or burn this spring. April is usually the worst month for brush fires. When the snow recedes, before new growth emerges, last year's dead grass, leaves and wood are dangerous tinder. Winds also tend to be stronger and more unpredictable during April. Unfortunately many people wait until the warmer weather to conduct open burning. The Department of Fire Services has a *FireFactor* on open burning to help fire departments educate residents about the rules and safety practices. It can be found online at www.mass.gov/dfs then click in the right hand column on *Fire Safety Topics Index*, the *Open Burning*. ♦

Despite starting off 2008 with alarming numbers of fatal fires, Massachusetts ended the year with a near record low number of fire deaths. In 2008, preliminary figures of the Massachusetts Fire Incident Reporting System (MFIRS) show there were 48 civilian fire deaths and one firefighter death. "That's the second lowest number of fire deaths on record since WWII," according to State Fire Marshal Stephen Coan. It's a 21% drop from the 61 deaths in 2007." The record low was 44 deaths in 2006.

Civilian Fire Deaths by Year



48 Fire Deaths - 5 Children

There were 48 fire deaths in Massachusetts last year. 26 were men, 17 were women and five were children.

Forty-three people died in 37 structure fires and all but one were in residential homes. Five (5) people died in five motor vehicle fires. In 2008, there were 7.6 fire deaths per 1 million residents in Massachusetts, down from 9.6 fire deaths per 1 million in 2006.

Springfield had 0 & Worcester had 1 Fire Death

The three largest cities in the Commonwealth, Boston, Worcester and Springfield combined had only five fire-related deaths. Remarkably, Springfield had no fire deaths in 2008. Worcester had one death directly related to power issues in the aftermath of the December 11 ice storm. Boston, the largest city in the Commonwealth had four fire deaths in 2008.

1 Fire-Related Firefighter Deaths

There was one fire-related firefighter death in 2008.

Smoking Materials Once Again Remains the #1 Cause of Fire Deaths

Coan said, "Preliminary analysis shows that the improper use and disposal of smoking materials is once again the leading cause of fatal fires and fire deaths in Massachusetts. There were 12 deaths from smoking; 11 occurred in residential occupancies. Electrical fires and fires started by heating equipment were the second and third leading causes of fire deaths respectively."

Smoke Detectors & Escape Plans Save Lives

Coan said, "Working smoke alarms save lives. "Early detection of even the smallest fire gives occupants time to safely exit the building and notify the local fire department while waiting for the professionals who have the proper tools and training to effectively manage the situation. He added, "Smoke detectors are just the first step in the process. It's important to hold fire drills at home so once a detector sounds; everyone will know how to get safely outside to the meeting place."

"Although one death or injury is one too many, Massachusetts is making tremendous progress reducing the numbers of residents killed in fires," says Marshal Coan.

Fire Deaths Well Below 5- and 10-Year Averages

The forty-eight deaths are well below the 10-year average of 57 fire deaths (1999 – 2008) and below the 5-year average of 51 fire deaths (2004 – 2008). Massachusetts has experienced record low numbers of fire deaths in four of the last five years: 2004, 2005, 2006 and 2008.

Massachusetts Fire Incident Reporting System

Fire death statistics are based on available records dating back to World War II and data from the Massachusetts Fire Incident Reporting System (1982-2008). Fire departments are required to report all fires and explosions with a dollar loss or human casualty to the Mass. Fire Incident Reporting System (MFIRS). ♦

MFIRS Coding Tips

Springtime Means Brush Fires

Wildland Fires

Please remember that even if your department is using third party software, it must offer the option of using the Fire Module instead of the Wildland Module. The Wildland Module is an **optional** module that may be used for any of the following *Incident Types*: 140-143, 160, 170-173, 561, 631 and 632. If the software program does not allow this option please contact the vendor and remind them. If you have any problems, have them contact me at the number below.

In MA we strongly recommend that you use the Fire Module for these types of fires.

Permit Fires and Unauthorized Burning

- If you respond to a permit fire that you have to extinguish, code as an *Incident Type* = 631: Authorized controlled fire or 632: Prescribed fire. If the fire expands beyond the focus of the permit, then use an *Incident Type* = 140-143.
- Do not use *Cause of Ignition* = 1: Intentional. This is reserved for arsons.
- Use either *Cause of Ignition* = 2: Unintentional or 4: Act of Nature depending on the reason the fire got out of control.
- For illegal burning, use *Incident Type* = 561: Unauthorized burning.

Mulch Fires

- Mulch fires should be coded as *Incident Type* = 140: Natural vegetation fire, other.
- Do not code any fires as *Incident Type* = 100: Fire, other, unless it does not fit into any other possible incident type between 111 and 173.

Outside Rubbish Fires

- Outside rubbish fires should be coded as an *Incident Type* = 150-155. Do not use *Incident Type* = 118: Confined trash or rubbish fire **inside of a structure**.

How to Code Natural Gas Explosions

Within these last few months we've had a couple of incidents that involved natural gas explosions. To ensure conformity and to be able to accurately calculate the total number of these types of incidents that occur in the Commonwealth, a natural gas explosion should be coded as follows:

- *Incident Type*: Between 111 and 173. Code according to the circumstances. For example if the explosion occurred in a structure then the code should be 111 – 129; if it occurred in a motor vehicle the code should be between 130 – 139; and an outside explosion 160 – 169.
- *Type of Material 1st Ignited*: 11 – Natural Gas. (If you have another type of ignitable gas use the correct code 10 or 12 – 19.)
- *Item 1st Ignited*: 63 – 65. (If you have a Motor Vehicle fire and the MV was powered by CNG you would use code 62.)
- *Cause of Ignition*: This would depend on the reason for the presence of natural gas. Use 1 – Intentional if it was an arson; 2 – Unintentional if the release of the gas was inadvertent; 3 – Failure of equipment or heat source if the pipe, shutoff valve, meter, or appliance failed; 4 – Act of Nature if the gas was released because of the weather or other natural phenomenon such as an earthquake; or U – Undetermined if the cause of the release cannot be determined.

Foreclosed Buildings

With the current economic climate there are many foreclosed structures in every community. If a fire does occur in a property that has been foreclosed upon, please document it in the MFIRS report using the appropriate codes. There is no one code for a foreclosed property.

Building Status: The Building Status field defines the operational status of the building involved in the fire. Two of the codes for this field are: Vacant & Secured and Vacant & Unsecured. A vacant building is one that is not

occupied at any time, not just at the time of the fire. It is usually an abandoned building or a building that does not have any occupants or businesses residing in it, such as a foreclosed property. Many foreclosed properties will be vacant.

Other Investigative Information (Arson Module): You have the ability to track multiple factors related to distressed buildings such as code violations, structure for sale, structure vacant, financial problem, criminal/civil actions pending.

Fire, Other – Needs a Fire Module

Since 1/1/08 the *Incident Type* (Basic Module) **100 – Fire, other**, has required that a Fire Module be completed. A 'Critical' error will result if a Fire Module is not present. Departments will be notified of all 2008 fires that were coded this way and do not have an accompanying Fire Module. A Fire Module will have to be completed and the incident resubmitted to MFIRS. Fire departments should almost never use this code and should be able to justify it when they do. It had better be a real strange case.

- Just a reminder that if a fire occurs in or on a structure then the fire must be coded as a structure fire, *Incident Type* (Basic Module) = 111 – 129. It does not matter if the structure itself became involved in the fire.

Novelty Lighters

Since 1/1/08 there is a new *Equipment Involved in Ignition* (Fire Module) code **877 – Novelty lighter**. If the fire (esp. juvenile-set) was started by a novelty lighter please enter this code. To date there has only been one incident reported to MFIRS with this code.

Assistance

Please contact Derryl Dion, Research Analyst at (978) 567-3382 or Derryl.Dion@state.ma.us with any questions regarding MFIRS or to conduct fire data or histories research. ♦

Guide for the Volunteer Fire and Emergency Services

Emmitsburg, MD - The U.S. Fire Administration (USFA), working with the **National Volunteer Fire Council** (NVFC), has issued a revised **Health and Wellness Guide for the Volunteer Fire and Emergency Services** (PDF, 2.1 Mb, [Adobe Acrobat PDF Help](#)). The *Health and Wellness Guide* now provides updated information on health and wellness issues, trends, and programs focused on the needs of the volunteer fire service. The document addresses fitness including aerobic exercise, flexibility, strength training, diet; smoking cessation; and other areas that will have a positive impact on volunteer firefighters. It can be found online at http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/downloads/pdf/publications/fa_321.pdf.

"This partnership to improve the health and wellness of the volunteer fire service will support reducing the primary cause of on-duty deaths in the volunteer fire service – heart attack and stress," said Acting Assistant Administrator Dr. Denis Onieal. "Effective health and wellness pro-

grams will also be expected to contribute to operational effectiveness of volunteer fire departments as well as serve as a valuable retention and recruitment instrument."

The prevalence of cardiovascular illness and deaths and work-inhibiting strains and sprains among firefighters illustrates the need for a comprehensive health and wellness program in every department. Yet department leaders often struggle to implement a program due to a variety of reasons, including resistance or lack of motivation from members, the costs associated with implementing a program, and the lack of well-defined requirements.

"With heart attack, overexertion, and strain causing more firefighter deaths and injuries than any other cause, it is critically important for departments and personnel to focus on health and wellness," said NVFC Chairman Philip C. Stittleburg. "The NVFC is pleased to partner with the USFA to create a guide to help departments develop life-saving health

and wellness initiatives and overcome the obstacles to a successful program."

The *Health and Wellness Guide* demonstrates ways to overcome these obstacles, and provides direction for developing and implementing a department program. It also highlights several existing health and wellness programs and how they have maintained their success over time. Originally released in 1992 and updated several times, the 2009 version includes new information and resources to help departments ensure the health and well-being of their members.

The *Health and Wellness Guide for the Volunteer Fire and Emergency Services* also provides the most current information on how volunteer fire departments can enhance compliance with appropriate National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Firefighter Health and Safety Standards such as NFPA Standard 1583 - *Health Related Fitness Programs for Fire Fighters*. ♦

Harkins/Balser

Continued from Page 1

7,500 square feet, is now mandatory instead of a local option. The law is effective for all new construction or major modifications permitted after January 1, 2010.

- The law requires the installation of automatic sprinklers in buildings and additions whenever the square footage exceeds 7,500 square feet in the aggregate. Previously, the law required sprinklers in the additions only if such addition exceeded 7,500 square feet.
- The new law eliminates the previous exception for one-story office buildings in excess of 7,500 square feet.
- The law allows for appeals to the Automatic Sprinkler Appeals Board and allows the Board to provide alternatives for historical buildings.

As many of you know, this legislation had its genesis in the aftermath of the 2000 Boylston Street, Newton

fire, which led to the deaths of five civilians. This legislation has been re-filed every session since then. Thanks to the determined efforts by the sponsors of the bill, other members of the legislature, and many interested groups, including the Fire Chiefs' Association of Massachusetts and the Professional Fire Fighters of Massachusetts, this bill is now law. I wish to thank all involved, for their persistence and perseverance in seeing this important legislation passed into law. I believe this law will save both civilian and firefighter lives in years to come. ♦

Smoke Det. Regulations

Continued from Page 1

ments when sold or transferred. In addition, DFS will be developing educational materials for the general public and for fire departments to use locally to educate people about these new changes.

It is important that people maintain confidence in their current smoke alarms and understand these steps

just improve their protection. Fire educators should stress that a working smoke alarm doubles the chances of surviving a fire. ♦



Photo by:
Barry Hyvarinen

The following are excerpts from press releases issued by the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) regarding products recalled for fire or burn hazards. Consumers should immediately stop using any of these products and contact the U.S. Consumer Products Safety Commission or the manufacturer for instructions on how to proceed. The web address is: www.cpsc.gov

AROMATHERAPY KITS

1/29/09 09-112

Spa Factory Aromatherapy Fountain & Bath Benefits Kits JAKKS Pacific Inc.

Pressure from the buildup of CO in the jars of the Bath Bombs/Balls or Bath Fizzies can cause the caps on the jars to blow off. The mixtures also can contain citric acid.

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpsc/pub/prere/ prhtml09/09112.html>



CAMP STOVES

2/10/09 09-123

“Field & Stream” Dual Burner Camp Stoves

Rankam Group Ltd.

Gas could flow at a rate that would produce higher than expected flames. Rainwater in the burners can also prevent proper ignition & allow gas to build-up & ignite unexpectedly.

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpsc/pub/prere/ prhtml09/09123.html>

CANDLE-POWERED CAROUSELS

12/23/08 09-074

Gardener’s Supply Co.

The candle holder placement on the base is too close to the structure, allowing the flame to come in contact & ignite parts of the carousel.

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpsc/pub/prere/ prhtml09/09074.html>

DIGITAL TIMERS

2/5/09 09-119

Intermatic DT17 Heavy Duty Digital Timers

Intermatic Inc.

The timers can have a faulty ground connection.

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpsc/pub/prere/ prhtml09/09119.html>

DISHWASHERS

1/15/09 09-100

Bosch & Siemens Model Dishwashers

BSH Home Appliances Corp.

An electrical component in certain model dishwashers can overheat.

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpsc/pub/prere/ prhtml09/09100.html>

FURNACES

1/22/09 09-104

Rheem, Ruud & United Refrigerations Oil-Fired Furnaces Rheem Manufacturing Co.

If the furnace is not properly wired, the oil burner can continue to operate when the blower shuts off.

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpsc/pub/prere/ prhtml09/09104.html>

GLOVES

1/28/09 09-110

“Primovolta” or “Primavolta” Warming Gloves

Outdoor Research Inc.

The glove’s electric heating pad can short circuit & overheat.

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpsc/pub/prere/ prhtml09/09110.html>

GREASE REMOVERS

12/17/08 09-066

“Bagi Shumanit” Super Cold Grease Removers

Fantastic Distributors

Direct contact with this substance can cause burns to the skin & eyes. The product lacks required special packaging & warning label.

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpsc/pub/prere/ prhtml09/09066.html>

HAIR DRYERS

3/11/2009 09-147

Style Elements Hair Dryers

Big Lots Stores Inc.

The hair dryers are not equipped with an immersion protection device to prevent electrocution if the hair dryer falls into water.

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpsc/pub/prere/ prhtml09/09147.html>

HALOGEN LAMPS

2/10/09 09-124

Halogen Clamp Lamps

Cataline Lighting Inc.

The UV glass lens on the lamp can crack, exposing the halogen bulb.

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpsc/pub/prere/ prhtml09/09124.html>



HOLIDAY LIGHTS

3/4/2009 09-140

Holiday Ultra-Brite Lights

Universal Distribution Center LLC

The lights have undersized wires that can easily pull out of the plugs & light sockets becoming exposed

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpsc/pub/prere/ prhtml09/09140.html>

HOW-TO-BOOKS

12/30/08 09-078

Wiring a House, 3rd edition & Wiring Complete, Expert Advice from Start to Finish Instructional Books

Taunton Press

The books contain several errors in the technical diagrams that could lead consumers to incorrectly install or repair electrical wiring.

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpsc/pub/prere/ prhtml09/09078.html>

IMMERSION HEATERS

3/4/2009 09-141

Ritchie Immersion Heaters

Ritchie Industries

The outer cover of the immersion heater can crack and expose the heating element to water

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpsc/pub/prere/ prhtml09/09141.html>

CONTINUED ON PAGE 20

CPSC Recalls

Continued from Page 19

JUMBO SNOW GLOBES

12/23/08 09-073

Jumbo Snowman Snow Globes

Hallmark Cards, Inc.

When exposed to sunlight, the snow globes can act as a magnifying glass and ignite nearby combustible materials.

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpsc/pub/prereel/prhtml09/09073.html>



OUTDOOR STOVES

2/11/09 09-126

Personal Cooking Systems & Group Cooking Systems Jetboil Inc.

A tight valve attached to the stove's fuel source can allow gas to leak.

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpsc/pub/prereel/prhtml09/09126.html>



PAJAMAS

1/22/09 09-103

Tony Hawk Boy's Pajama Set

Mad Dog Concepts

The sleepwear fails to meet the federal children's sleepwear flammability standard.

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpsc/pub/prereel/prhtml09/09103.html>

POTS

11/26/08 09-057

Century Cookware Stainless Steel Stockpots

Ocean State Jobbers, Inc.

The metal handles can detach during use posing a burn hazard.

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpsc/pub/prereel/prhtml09/09057.html>

REFRIGERATORS

3/10/2009 09-145

Maytag, Jenn-Air, Amana, Magic Chef, Performa by Maytag & Crosley Refrigerators

Maytag Corp.

An electrical failure in the relay, the component that turns on the compressor, can cause overheating & pose a serious fire hazard

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpsc/pub/prereel/prhtml09/09145.html> ♦

Code Enforcement Deters Crime

Reprinted from Suffolk University website <http://www.suffolk.edu/34417.html>

February 13, 2009 - The law enforcement field is taking note of the research efforts of Brenda J. Bond, assistant professor of Public Management, who is co-author of a journal article documenting significant crime drops in focused areas of Lowell where law enforcement problem-solving, public works and code enforcement had been brought to bear.

The long-debated "broken windows" theory of social behavior argues that crime is linked to physical and social disorder in a community.

In Lowell, this disorder took the form of trash-strewn streets, broken street lights, abandoned buildings, public drinking and loitering. In the course of the randomized research study, officials cleaned up half of the neighborhoods plagued by these sorts of problems. Researchers then monitored the results and found that there were 20 percent fewer calls to police from the spruced-up areas compared to areas receiving traditional police response.

"This study is critical in that it not only supports the theoretical as-

pects of Wilson & Kelling's 'Broken Windows' theory, but it generates valuable knowledge that police practitioners can adopt as part of their policing strategies," said Bond. "Moreover, the study shows that engagement of non-public-safety services is critical to crime reduction. By building on the work of my colleague, Dr. Braga, the results of this experiment will inform police strategy for years to come."

Bond served as co-author of the research article, in the journal *Criminology* (8/09), with Anthony Braga of Harvard's Kennedy School of Government. The *Boston Globe* wrote about the study and its outcome in its Feb. 8 edition, with a follow-up editorial on Feb. 13, 2009.



Before and after photos above show one of the Lowell neighborhoods that police officers focused on as part of their problem-solving efforts. Trash was cleaned up, and the neighborhood saw a reduction of crime with no significant increase in crime in the surrounding neighborhoods. ♦

LICENSING EXAMS

The Office of the State Fire Marshal issues licenses to people and companies engaged in fireworks, blasting, explosives, cannon and mortar firing, special effects, special hazard systems and portable fire extinguishers. Information on applications, exam dates, to obtain new licenses, or to renew existing licenses may be obtained by calling 978-567-3700. Examinations for licenses are held quarterly. Filing deadlines, exam locations, dates and times can be found online at: http://www.mass.gov/dfs/osfm/license_exams.htm.

All license exams are offered at both Department of Fire Services locations: State Road in Stow, MA and One Prince Street (Northampton State Hospital) in Northampton, MA. Due to construction at DFS Stow, parking is severely limited and may include off-site parking. Please ride-share with co-workers whenever possible.

Applicants must be pre-registered for all license exams, no walk-ins permitted. Completed applications must be received by 5:00 p.m. on the deadline date listed below. If an

application is received after the applicable deadline, the applicant will not be allowed to sit for the exam.

Directions to our offices are listed on the web at:

http://www.mass.gov/dfs/about_dfs/dfsmap.htm

A list of study materials for each examination are listed on the web at:

http://www.mass.gov/dfs/osfm/license_exams.htm

All exams begin promptly at 9:00 a.m. ♦

2009 License Examination Schedule

Examinations	Examination Dates	Application Deadlines
Fire Extinguishers	April 29, 2009 (Wednesday)	April 17, 2009 (Friday)
	July 22, 2009 (Wednesday)	July 10, 2009 (Friday)
	October 28, 2009 (Wednesday)	October 16, 2009 (Friday)
Cannon/Mortar	May 20, 2009 (Wednesday)	May 8, 2009 (Friday)
Fireworks	August 19, 2009 (Wednesday)	August 7, 2009 (Friday)
Special Effects	November 18, 2009 (Wednesday)	November 6, 2009 (Friday)
Blasting		
Blasting R&D		

STATUS REPORT OF

Compliance and Enforcement Actions

The following is a status report of recent compliance and enforcement actions taken by the Office of the State Fire Marshal against individuals or companies for violations of MGL Chap. 148 and 527 CMR. The status of the action is provided and notation is made

regarding the effective date of the action. While other actions may be pending, only those individuals or companies who have had administrative hearings with decisions rendered will be documented in this space.

Should there be any question regarding the status of any license or certificate, please call the Office of the State Fire Marshal at any time for verification at 978-567-3700. ♦

Compliance and Enforcement Actions by the Department of Fire Services

Name	Action Taken	Terms	Ends
Blasting Certificate of Competency			
A.F. Amorello & Sons	Explosives Users Certificate	1 year to serve	1/5/2010
Wayne E. Martin	2-year suspension	1-yr to serve	7/24/2009
Fire Equipment Certificate of Competency			
James Tecce	Permanent Revocation	Prohibited from ever again holding a business reg. of any kind from DFS	

FIREFIGHTERS GRADUATE CALL/VOLUNTEER Firefighter Training Program

Class 25



Call/Vol.
Recruit Class
#025

Photo by:
Student

State Fire Marshal Stephen D. Coan presented certificates of completion to members of the *Call/Volunteer Firefighter Training* class #25 in a graduation ceremony on February 10, 2009. The recruit graduation took place at Lunenburg High School, Lunenburg, MA.

45 Local Firefighters Call/Volunteer Firefighter Training

The 45 graduates, 42 men and three women, represent the 17 fire departments of: Ashby, Bolton, Boxborough, Boylston, Groton, Holden, Lancaster, Lunenburg, Mendon, Pepperell, Princeton, Rutland, Shirley, Shrewsbury, Sterling, Townsend, and Winchendon.

Class 26

State Fire Marshal Stephen D. Coan presented certificates of completion to members of the Call/Volunteer

Firefighter Training class #26 on March 5, 2009. The recruit graduation took place at Masconomet Regional High School, Topsfield.

41 Local Firefighters Call/Volunteer Firefighter Training

The 41 graduates, 39 men and two women, represent the 13 fire departments of: Byfield (Newbury), Georgetown, Hamilton, Ipswich, Lynnfield, Merrimac, Middleton, North Reading, Rockport, Rowley, Topsfield, Wenham, and Weston. ♦

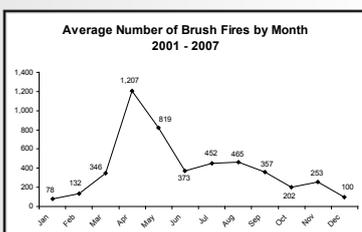


Call/Vol. Recruit Class #026
Photo by: Student

2007 Brush Fires

In 2007 there were 6,651 natural vegetation fires (trees, grass, and brush fires) that caused one civilian death, six civilian injuries, 51 firefighter injuries, and an estimated dollar loss of \$306,802; this is a 42% increase from the 4,686 incidents reported in 2006. In 2007 brush fires peaked in May with 1,422 reported fires, and uncharacteristically September was the second leading month with 1,044 fires.

This graph clearly shows that spring-time means brush fires for the Massachusetts fire service. April is the peak of the Massachusetts brush fire season. The Commonwealth experiences 47% more brush fires in April than it does in its next highest month, May. ♦



Recruit Class 183

Recruit Graduation

State Fire Marshal Stephen D. Coan and Massachusetts Firefighting Academy Director Edmund M. Walker, presented certificates of completion to members of the 183rd Recruit Firefighter Training Class in a graduation ceremony on Friday, March 27, 2009 at the Nashoba Regional High School in Bolton, MA.

The 69 graduates, all men, represent the 39 departments of Auburn, Avon, Barnstable, Bedford, Belmont, Billerica, Blackstone, Bourne, Burlington, Charlton, Chelsea, Danvers, Easton, Fairhaven, Fitchburg, Lexington, Ludlow, Malden, Marblehead, Marlborough, Mashpee, Middleton, Milton, Northampton, Norton, Norwell, Randolph, Saugus, Sharon, Somerville, Stoneham, Stoughton, Turners Falls, Waltham, Wellesley, Westfield, Weston, Westport, and Woburn. ♦



Recruit Class 183

Photo by: Bruce Gauvin