

JANUARY 2012

**All
Hands**

HERALD

DEPARTMENT OF FIRE SERVICES • STOW, MASSACHUSETTS

SPECIAL OPERATIONS

PUBLIC EDUCATION

FIRE DATA

FIRE INVESTIGATION

MFA GRADUATIONS

**CODE
COMPLIANCE**



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Cover Photo by Captain Bob Labrie, Goshen Fire Department

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The *All Hands Herald* is published three times a year by the Department of Fire Services. 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:

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The 22nd annual “Firefighter of the Year” Heroic Awards ceremony was held on November 30. Governor Patrick and Public Safety Secretary Heffernan honored over 150 firefighters for their bravery. I was proud to participate in this annual ceremony because it is so important for the public to hear the stories of what our firefighters do day in and day out to protect others, and for leading public officials to have the opportunity to say thank you on behalf of all the citizens. Sadly, three firefighters were honored posthumously for giving the ultimate sacrifice: Lt. Timothy J. Oliveira, Salisbury Fire Department; FF Kenneth Marshall Jr., Rehoboth Fire Department; and FF Thomas J. Lange, Pittsfield Fire Department.

NEW FPO TRAINING AND CREDENTIALING

The Department of Fire Services (DFS) is launching a new training program and voluntary credentialing process for fire prevention officers. Effective fire prevention is key to firefighter safety, protecting our communities and is what our customers expect. This new training program will provide our fire prevention officers with the training and resources they need to do their jobs well and to consistently and uniformly enforce the fire code across the Commonwealth. More detailed information about this can be found in this issue and on the DFS website.

BRRS DEFEATED SPRINKLER STRETCH CODE

The Board of Building Regulations and Standards

heard testimony on the proposed sprinkler stretch code at its December hearing. It is extremely disappointing that the board members voted to remove the sprinkler requirement for new one-and two-family homes in the national code they adopted, but also seem likely to refuse to allow communities to choose to adopt it locally. The national code sets what are considered the minimum requirements for safety, and this board has rejected these minimum standards and will allow for sub-standard housing to be built in Massachusetts. As State Fire Marshal, I pledge to the fire community that I will continue to ask the board to reconsider this action at every possible turn. The fire service and others interested in injury prevention should also continue to push and persuade the board to stand up for what we know works and is cost-effective. Fire sprinklers provide the people inside buildings with more time to escape fires (and time is your enemy in fire), make the conditions less dangerous for responding firefighters; and frequently reduce property damage to such an extent that occupants are not displaced. The time for home fire sprinklers is now.

DFS WEST

We are close to finalizing the acquisition of the Springfield Fire Training facility and then funds have been allocated to rehabilitate it. Once completed, this will become a full-service western MA office for the

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DFS REMEMBERS: 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF 9/11

This year marked the tenth anniversary of the horrible events that occurred on September 11, 2001.

Firefighters, employees and guests gathered at the Department of Fire Services and stood outside in front of the flagpole in remembrance of that day. The ceremony, which took place on September 9, 2011, honored the people who lost their lives in the attacks on the World Trade Center, the Pentagon and the aircraft in Shanksville, Pennsylvania. Nearly 3,000 lives were lost on that day, including 343 fire department members who gave their lives to save others. State Fire Marshal Stephen D. Coan spoke along with special guests, including Public Safety Secretary Mary Elizabeth Heffernan, President of the Fire Chiefs' Association of Massachusetts Chief Paul Zbikowski, Dr. Peter Moyer, retired medical director of Boston Fire, Police and EMS and Fire Department of New York (FDNY) Lt. Gregory Lynch. Sadly, Dr. Moyer lost his

stepson Manuel DelValle Jr., an FDNY firefighter, on that tragic day.

Marshal Coan said, "On September 11, 2001, we knew instantly that our lives had changed forever, but it took time to learn how and in what ways. We saw the buildings burn and fall and knew immediately that so many had lost loved ones and so many lives would be shattered." The gathering also honored the members of the armed services who have served in Iraq and Afghanistan. "For those who serve to protect us all, we are deeply grateful," Coan added.



Recruits stood in formation wearing their fire helmets, taking in the beautiful sight of the American flag displayed on the training tower. A piece of steel recovered from the World Trade Center site was dedicated and the memorial was unveiled. It will serve as a permanent memorial at DFS to all who lost their lives on September 11, 2001. ■

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VEST-A-DOG CALENDER

Vest-a-Dog is an independent, all-volunteer, non-profit organization that provides ballistic vests to law enforcement K-9s. Vest-a-Dog recently provided first aid kits and supplies to the Explosive and Accelerant Detection K-9s at the Department of Fire Services. They have truly been of great assistance. Since May 2000, they have provided almost 300 bulletproof vests for Massachusetts police dogs. Their new mission is to provide support for essential equipment, training distinct from customary and usual training, and purchase of dogs for police/law enforcement K-9 programs throughout Massachusetts. They have generated a 2012 fundraising calendar in an effort to branch out and provide more equipment and help purchase K-9s for fire departments.

Trooper Sicard and explosive detection K-9 Sierra are shown at work in July and Trooper Fagan and his accelerant detection K-9 Damian are featured in October.

For more information, visit www.mavestadog.org or www.facebook.com/mavestadog. ■

(Below) Trooper Sicard and explosive detection K-9 Sierra



FIRE MARSHAL CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Department of Fire Services that will be able to host recruit and other firefighter training programs as well as our code compliance office. The fire chiefs in western Massachusetts have been dreaming of and working towards this goal for a very long time, and it is finally close to becoming reality.

PUBLIC AWARENESS CAMPAIGNS

Cooking Campaign

In 2011, DFS launched a new public awareness campaign focused on the leading cause of residential fires, residential fire injuries and fire injuries to people over 65 – cooking. Celebrity chef Ming Tsai was gracious enough to donate his time, talent and expertise in creating a television public service announcement (PSA) that was aired on TV stations in November, launching the holiday cooking season. It has two main messages: *Stand By Your Pan* is the prevention message; and *Put A Lid On It* is the reaction message. I encourage fire departments to have their cable access stations download the PSA from MyAccessTV and air it locally as well. The goal of this campaign is to support local educational efforts by raising the profile of the message in the public's mind. There is a toolkit of supporting materials for local fire departments on the DFS website and available by contacting the public education unit.

Keep Warm Keep Safe

We will be continuing our *Keep Warm, Keep Safe* awareness campaign again this year. The toolkit for fire departments, has already been updated on the website www.mass.gov/keepwarmkeepsafe and as we move into the colder months of the year and the time when fuel assistance starts to run out, we will be running radio public service announcements and transit ads to support your local educational efforts.

NEW SEARCH AND RESCUE PROP AT STOW

The students from the Minuteman Vocational Technical High School will be building a new search and rescue training prop at DFS-Stow. We have allocated \$100,000 to build a ranch-style house that will be used by firefighters to practice search and rescue. This is a wonderful partnership with our local technical high school. ■

FIRE PREVENTION OFFICER CREDENTIALING PROGRAM

Three Levels
of Training



The Massachusetts Department of Fire Services, along with the Divisions of Training and Fire Safety, is pleased to introduce the Fire Prevention Officer Credentialing Program, a multi-level training program that will prepare fire prevention officers to receive credentials for each level of training from the State Fire Marshal. Due to the ever changing and expanding requirements for fire prevention officers, the comprehensive training in the following fundamentals are now required:

- Hazardous materials
- Fire protection systems
- Fire inspection principles
- Mass General Laws (MGL)
- Massachusetts Fire and Building Codes
- National standards (i.e., National Fire Protection Association Codes)

Effective fire prevention is key to keeping people, homes, businesses and the public in our community safe from fire. Resources and high quality training must be provided to local fire prevention officials in order to accomplish this goal. The Fire Prevention Officer Credentialing Program will be a critical component to uniformly providing the most effective possible fire prevention across the Commonwealth.

Often, fire prevention officers are introduced to their positions with little or no experience or training in fire prevention and code enforcement, resulting in inconsistent code enforcement from community to community. In contrast, fire departments that have invested in training for their fire prevention personnel have functioned very well. It is the intention of the Department of Fire Services to provide this comprehensive training activity for fire prevention officers, in order to prepare them for their roles and responsibilities. Fire prevention officers are the only inspectional authority in the commonwealth that currently are not required to have credentials. The Fire Prevention Officer Credentialing Program is a step towards providing training and resources to local fire

department fire prevention officials. Presently, this training and credentialing is a voluntary system.

At the completion of the program and by application of any firefighter and verification of the successful completion of the program and examination, the Certificate of Competency Recognition (CCR) will be issued by the State Fire Marshal. Applicants must be members of a Massachusetts fire department or Department of Fire Services staff. The CCR will be valid for three years from the date of the issue, and a recertification program will be available for renewal. Everyone, regardless of the current level of certification, will need to participate in classes and comprehensive testing, in order to receive their credentials.

There are three levels of fire prevention officer training covered in the Fire Prevention Officer Training Program: Basic, Level I, and Level II. The following requirements pertain to the corresponding level of training.

FIRE PREVENTION OFFICER – BASIC

This level requires the completion of an online training program that includes four segments. Segment #1 must be completed before advancing to any of the following segments. Once Segment #1 is completed, the individual can choose the next ones in any order. Once all segments are successfully completed, the individual will submit an application to receive the credentials. This online program will give a new fire prevention officer an immediate ability to understand some of his or her roles until entry into the Level 1 program. The four segments are outlined below:

1. Introduction to fire inspection principles, laws and codes, occupancy inspections, and assembly inspections;
2. Smoke and carbon monoxide detector inspections (1 & 2 family residences);
3. Liquid propane gas inspections (527 CMR 6.00);
4. Oil burner equipment inspections (527 CMR 4.00).

FIRE PREVENTION OFFICER – LEVEL I

This level requires the completion of two programs: Fire Prevention 101 and Fire Prevention 102. Both programs are based around NFPA 1031: Standard for Professional Qualifications for Fire Inspector and Plan Examiner, and will combine classroom lectures with student activities. Upon the successful completion of these two programs and the comprehensive written exam(s), the individual will submit an application to receive the credentials. Although these credentials are specific to Massachusetts, these training programs will help prepare individuals for national certification, if they so choose. The five areas of training within this level are outlined below:

1. Authority and jurisdiction, testimony, and interpretation of codes;
2. Building construction, fire behavior, reading and using plans, and conducting inspections;
3. Occupancy classifications, inspecting means of egress, occupant load, emergency planning and preparedness;
4. Water-based and special agent fire protection systems, fire detection and alarm systems, and fire extinguishers;
5. Storage, handling and use of hazardous materials, properties of hazardous materials, classification of hazardous materials, and fire prevention practices for hazardous substances and processes.

FIRE PREVENTION OFFICER – LEVEL II

This level also requires the completion of two programs: Fire Prevention 201 and Fire Prevention 202. Both programs are also based around NFPA 1031. Upon the successful completion of these two programs and the comprehensive written exam(s), the individual will submit an application to receive the credentials. Similar to Level I, these credentials are specific to Massachusetts, but the training programs will help

prepare individuals for national certification. The fire areas of training within this level are outlined below:

1. A review of concepts learned in Fire Prevention Officer – Level I;
2. An overview of fire protection concepts using the systems approach. Plan reading skills will be introduced. Process and materials requirements, fire growth and behavior, construction site access and emergency planning would be discussed in the context of the systems approach;
3. A review of life safety concepts discussed in Fire Prevention Officer – Level I with detailed discussions and activities related to dealing with more complex issues the Fire Prevention Officer – Level II is expected to address. Specific discussion on the elements of the egress system and determining the classification of multi-use buildings will be introduced;
4. Discussion and activities related to inspecting facilities that store, use or handle combustible, flammable or hazardous materials. The systems approach will be used as a framework to introduce the requirements of the applicable documents for ignition and fuel control, operating features and fire containment and suppression;
5. Discussion and activities related to the inspection and review of water-based suppression and fire detection and alarm systems in buildings will be introduced.

To register for the Fire Prevention Officer Credentialing Program, go to www.mass.gov/dfs. Once the program is completed, the individual will make an application to receive his/her certificate of competency recognition, by applying at www.mass.gov/dfs. Any questions regarding this training program should be directed towards the Department of Fire Services at (978) 567-3200. ■

22ND ANNUAL "FIREFIGHTER OF THE YEAR" AWARDS



Wareham FF David Wahlstrom receives Medal of Honor from Gov. Patrick.

Governor Deval L. Patrick joined Public Safety Secretary Mary Elizabeth Heffernan and State Fire Marshal Stephen D. Coan to honor firefighters from 32 Massachusetts communities for heroic acts of bravery during the 22nd annual "Firefighter of the Year" Awards ceremony. The ceremony was held at the Hanover Theatre in Worcester on November 30, 2011.

"On behalf of the Commonwealth, I want to thank our firefighters and their families for their sacrifices and support," said Governor Patrick. "These individuals deserve our recognition every day for their leadership, bravery, courage and selflessness in the face of danger."

"We value the hard work of all firefighters who serve our Commonwealth," said Lieutenant Governor Timothy Murray. "Today's award ceremony is an opportunity to honor the heroic men and women who go above and beyond the call of duty to protect our communities."

"It is important that the stories of the firefighters being honored here are told because their acts of bravery rise above the everyday heroics of the firefighting profession," said Secretary Heffernan.

Governor Patrick and Secretary Heffernan presented 46 awards: one Norman Knight Award for

Excellence in Community Service, which was awarded to a Bourne firefighter; 19 Individual Awards for Meritorious Conduct to firefighters from Braintree, Brockton, Wareham, Newton, Williamstown, Worcester and Watertown; six Group Awards for Meritorious Conduct to teams of firefighters from Brookline, Lynn, Middleton, Northbridge, Somerville and Stow; two Excellence in Leadership Awards to groups of firefighters from Norfolk and Saugus; 13 Medals of Valor to individual firefighters from Lowell, Somerville, West Bridgewater, Lynn and Middleton; and five Medals of Honor to individual firefighters from Rehoboth, Wareham, Salisbury and Pittsfield.

State Fire Marshal Stephen Coan presented 12 Fire Marshal's Awards: one was awarded to V. Carlisle Smith, who was a member of the Board of Fire Prevention Regulations for over 55 years; nine were presented to tornado response teams from Agawam, Brimfield, Monson, Southbridge, Springfield, Sturbridge, Westfield, West Springfield and Wilbraham; and two were awarded to tornado recovery community service teams from Norfolk and Chelmsford.

"This past year the commonwealth experienced several extreme natural disasters," said State Fire Marshal Stephen D. Coan. "Each and every time our firefighters heroically stepped to the plate to rescue and protect their neighbors often while their own homes and families were affected."

V. Carlisle Smith has been a member of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts' Board of Fire Prevention Regulations, which makes the state's fire code, for over 55 years. Smith's hard work has directly improved the safety of all residents of the Commonwealth from the threat of fire and explosion. ■

 **For more pictures from the event, check out the DFS Facebook page.**

FIRES AND PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

USFA Press Office: (301) 447-1853
EMMITSBURG, MD – The Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) United States Fire Administration (USFA) announces the release of two special reports highlighting the characteristics of residential building fires involving individuals with mental and physical disabilities. The reports, *Residential Building Fires Involving Individuals with Mental Disabilities* (PDF, 745 KB) www.usfa.fema.gov/downloads/pdf/statistics/v12i5.pdf and *Residential Building Fires Involving Individuals with Physical Disabilities* (PDF, 899 KB), www.usfa.fema.gov/downloads/pdf/statistics/v12i6.pdf were developed by USFA's National Fire Data Center. The analyses in these reports address residential building fires where a possible mental or physical disability, as reported to the National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS), were the human factors contributing to the ignition of the fire.

People with disabilities are typically fiercely independent and do not wish to alter their lives from those of the general public. However, this can lead them to ignore their special fire safety needs. In some cases people with disabilities may need the help of a caregiver to practice proper fire safety precautions. People with disabilities should be more cautious because of physical limitations and a decreased ability to react in an emergency.

A person with a mental disability may not be able to recognize dangers and/or navigate an escape route. When evacuating a building, people with disabilities have more challenges than the usual disorientation and panic that most people would feel. A person with a physical disability may be bedridden or need a wheelchair or other medical apparatus, so it can be very difficult to navigate an escape route.

According to the reports, the majority of the residential building fires involving individuals with mental (62 percent) and physical (63 percent) disabilities occur in one- and two-family dwellings. Cooking, at 22 percent, is the leading cause of



<http://www.usfa.fema.gov/citizens/disability>

The U.S. Fire Administration encourages individuals with special needs to read and use the fire safety tips on their web page to help protect themselves and their homes from fire. The page links to information on additional related topics:

- Removing the Barriers: Fire Safety for People with Disabilities and their Caregivers
- Special Populations Fire-Safe Checklist
- Fire Safety for the Visually-Impaired
- Fire Safety for the Hearing-Impaired .

residential fires where a physical disability is reported as a human factor contributing to the ignition of the fire. This differs from the leading cause of residential fires where a mental disability is reported as a human factor contributing to ignition. In these types of fires, intentional is the leading fire cause, at 40 percent. Fire incidence involving individuals with disabilities occur most often in January and December. In addition, these fires show a tendency to peak in the late afternoon to early evening hours.

The reports are part of the Topical Fire Report Series and are based on data from the National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS) for 2007 to 2009. Topical reports explore facets of the U.S. fire problem as depicted through data collected in NFIRS. Each topical report briefly addresses the nature of the specific fire or fire-related topic, highlights important findings from the data, and may suggest other resources to consider for further information.

The reports can be downloaded at: www.usfa.fema.gov/statistics.

For information regarding other topical reports or any programs and training available at the United States Fire Administration, visit www.usfa.fema.gov. ■

17TH *annual* FIRE & LIFE SAFETY EDUCATION CONFERENCE

The Department of Fire Services hosted the 17th annual Public Fire and Life Safety Education Conference on September 21-22, 2011 at the Westford Regency Inn and Conference Center. This year's theme was Setting Sail for New Horizons, which incorporated the pursuit of new teaching tools and techniques and reminded people that there is always a new generation on the horizon who needs to learn fire and life safety. This public education conference featured over 30 workshops and general sessions, which were designed to build the life safety and fire prevention teaching skills of firefighter-educators, classroom teachers and other injury prevention professionals.

Gina Russo, one of the survivors of the Station nightclub fire, was the keynote speaker on September 21. She spoke of that horrible night and the time and effort it takes to live life as a burn survivor. People were inspired by her address and fire educators realized just how important their work really is. Dr. Angela Mickalide, the director of research and programs for

SAFE Kids Worldwide, was the keynote speaker on September 22. She spoke on injury prevention partnerships and gave insight on how collaborations between experts in all injury prevention fields can create safer communities.

The 2011 Fire and Life Safety Educator of the Year Award was presented on September 22 to Lt. Annmarie Pickett of the Worcester Fire Department. She received the award for her dedication to Worcester's public education and community risk reduction program. The other outstanding nominees were: Topsfield Captain Jenifer Collins-Brown, Rehoboth Firefighter Randy Larrivee, Whatley Firefighter Jason Dorval, West Brookfield Fire Chief Paul Lupacchino, Springfield Firefighter Holly Clements, and Rutland Firefighter-Paramedic Brad Bemis.

The 17th annual Public Fire and Life Safety Education Conference was a very successful conference, where people came together to learn, to network, and to collaborate in making their communities safer. ■



(Below) Capt. Metterville, Dep. John Sullivan, Lt. AnnMarie Pickett, and State Fire Marshal Coan; (Top Right) Palmer FF Laurie Rocco & Holyoke Insp. Maria Pelchar; (Bottom Right) Ret. FF Rene Demers explains using a Fire Safety House.



HOME HEATING SAFETY

KEEP WARM, KEEP SAFE

As the heating season approaches, the Department of Fire Services would like to remind the public and fire educators that we have a lot of helpful material on our website (www.mass.gov/keepwarmkeepsafe) about preventing heating fires as part of our Keep Warm, Keep Safe campaign. Be sure to look at the Keep Warm Keep Safe Toolkit for teaching tools and educational materials in multiple languages. In addition, the television public service announcements in English and Spanish are available for viewing and downloading on the DFS YouTube Channel: www.YouTube.com/DFSOSFM.

CHIMNEY & WOODSTOVE FIRE SAFETY

In 2010, there were 883 fire incidents involving chimneys, fireplaces, and woodstoves. These fires were responsible for:

- 1 civilian death;
- 3 civilian injuries;
- 4 firefighter injuries, and
- \$2 million in property losses.



These incidents make up 34% of all fires linked to heating systems.

SPACE HEATER FIRES

1 of every 7 space heater fires causes a fatality

Fifty-nine (59) space heater fires were reported to the Office of the State Fire Marshal between 2006-2010. While these fires are not frequent, they are deadly. One of every seven space heater fires causes a fatality. These fires caused:

- 8 civilian deaths;
- 9 civilian injuries,
- 18 fire service injuries; and
- \$3.5 million estimated dollar loss.

The average dollar loss for a space heater fire is \$46,567. Twenty-two percent (22%) of these fires were caused when combustible materials such as bedding, magazines, newspapers, clothing or furniture were too close to the heater, and another 5% were caused when rugs, carpets or mats were under or too close the heater. ■

FOUR MASS. FIRE DEPARTMENTS RECEIVE GRANTS

Four Mass. fire departments received \$10,000 grants from Liberty Mutual's *Be Fire Smart Safety Pledge*. From September 1 through October 31, more than 4,625 residents of Bridgewater, Weymouth, Wilmington, and Merrimac teamed up with Liberty Mutual Insurance to earn these much-needed grants for their four towns. By visiting www.BeFireSmart.com and taking a ten-question online quiz testing fire safety knowledge, these residents helped their towns become four of the ten cities and towns across the country to win a Liberty Mutual grant.

Weymouth Fire Chief Robert Leary says that his

department will use the grant to purchase Thermal Imaging Cameras. Merrimac Fire Chief Ralph Spencer says that his department will use the grant to purchase personal protective clothing for the department's firefighters and also to expand their public education, juvenile fire intervention and community outreach programs.

These four Massachusetts towns rallied together and committed to fire safety, showing support to the local fire service. These grants will allow for expanding fire education programs, improved fire department training and equipment, and safer communities. ■

DANGERS OF HOARDING

Hoarding is the excessive and compulsive collection and storage of materials in and around a house to the point where it interferes with an individual's quality of life. Hoarders collect extreme amounts of items such as newspapers, magazines, containers, and more. Day-to-day tasks become very difficult and sometimes impossible, due to blocked doors and corridors and unusable living spaces. Hoarders usually become very emotionally attached to their possessions and are not able to part with them. One key concern is that hoarding creates fire hazards and can produce very dangerous living situations.

The materials that hoarders tend to fill their homes with are usually very flammable, which increases the risk of a blaze and the potential for a fire. Combustible materials are stored near heating systems, electrical wires or other sources of ignition, which increase the potential for a fire and can cause extensive damage to a household. The large quantity of these materials promotes a fast-spreading fire, by fueling the flames. These fires can be very hard to control or suppress.

Another fire hazard is that hoarders often block or obstruct hallways, exits and fire escapes with their possessions, which poses the safety concern of not being able to quickly evacuate a burning building. The extra time and effort it could take to escape a hoarding fire could mean a matter of life and death. In addition, these obstructed areas also make it difficult for public safety personnel, particularly firefighters, to enter a home.

Hoarding can make it impossible for firefighters or first responders to reach a trapped victim and to extinguish a fire, all due to the excessive clutter. Extreme hoarding clearly not only endangers the hoarder, but it also poses safety concerns for family members, neighbors and emergency personnel.

While MFIRS does not have a specific code to capture hoarding, the Fire Suppression Factor field does have a number of applicable codes.

Unfortunately, severe cases of hoarding can even compromise the stability of a structure to the point of potential collapse. Hoarders sometimes pack their attics with heavy boxes and items, which can lead to building code violations and cause structural damage. This can potentially lead to a deadly situation for the inhabitants.

In January 2009, the Buffalo Fire Department responded to a hoarding fire on Downing Street. A full first-alarm response was dispatched and upon arrival the crew observed heavy smoke and fire coming from

the house. However, there was little indication of what the crew would find inside the home. After being informed by neighbors that there was someone in the house, the crew began the search. After searching the first floor, it was impossible to access the second floor by the stairs due to hoarding.

They chose to go outside and attempt a search through the second floor front windows using ladders. The female victim was found at the top of a pile of debris. Unfortunately, this was a fatal fire for the woman. The search, rescue, and extinguishment of the fire were all very difficult and time-consuming due to the amount of materials inside of the home, proving that extreme hoarding can be fatal. After the fire, seven 40-yard dumpsters were needed to purge the house of all that material.

Sadly, this isn't the only case of a fatal hoarding fire. It is imperative that hoarders have access to the help they need and that firefighters and first responders are trained and prepared for situations such as these. There are several community-based hoarding task forces in Massachusetts, including the cities of Cambridge, Holyoke, Newton and Beverly. Hoarding resources can be found at www.masshousing.com, search box "Hoarding Resources." ■

hoarding resources

masshousing.com

GASOLINE SAFETY

Gasoline is so present in our lives and readily available that we don't always think about how very dangerous and flammable this substance is. Over the past five years, Massachusetts' hospitals have treated over 180 people for gasoline-related burns. Gasoline vapors can ignite at a very low temperature. These fumes are heavier than air, and so they can travel a distance to find a spark. Most people are unaware of this ability. Parents in particular need to be aware of the dangers of gasoline, so that they can use it safely and serve as an example to their children.

StopGasFires, a website for the National Gasoline Safety Project, offers tips, tools, and stories related to gasoline fires. This reference has proven to be a very useful resource for parents. This campaign notes that parents are their children's first line of defense, because they're the ones who buy gasoline, choose where and how to store it, and teach their children how to handle gasoline.

Real Men. Real Fires., another website for the National Gasoline Safety Project, is a humorous approach towards fire safety. Its "How-To" section includes firing up the grill, getting rid of trash, and owning a campfire, all the while emphasizing that real men don't use gasoline to start fires.

Gasoline is a tool, but a dangerous one and it demands respect. For this reason, anything that could provide heat to start a fire should be kept away from gasoline. Gas and fire should never be mixed; neither



should smoking and gasoline. Gasoline should always be kept away from children. At home, gasoline containers should be stored in a safe secure area, outside of living areas, and away from ignition sources. If fire starts while handling gasoline, people should never attempt to extinguish the fire. Instead, they should immediately leave and call 9-1-1 for help. More information can be found at www.stopgasfires.org and www.realmenrealfires.org. ■

MITCHELL CONFIRMED AS U.S. FIRE ADMINISTRATOR

On November 18th, the Senate approved the nomination of Chief Ernest Mitchell, Jr. to be the next administrator of the U.S. Fire Administration (USFA), the lead federal entity responsible for providing support to fire departments and fire services organizations in the United States.

Chief Mitchell, a retired fire chief with over 30 years of experience in the fire service, previously served as fire chief and assistant director of disaster emergency services for the city of Pasadena, CA Fire Department; as fire chief and deputy city manager of Monrovia, CA; and also as battalion chief for the city of Compton, California. ■

Over the last several months the Special Operations fleet has again grown to better serve the fire service in Massachusetts. In early October, Special Operations put into service a new rehab truck. Rehab 7, as it will be known, is a state of the art vehicle designed to assist in the rehabilitation of emergency personnel. The vehicle, which was built by Faber Specialty vehicles of Ohio, features climate control to aid in the rehabilitation of firefighters during extreme weather conditions, a gear dryer to warm and dry wet gear, water, sports drinks, snacks and of course the all important coffee maker. The addition of this rehab truck brings the state's total to three. With this third vehicle, DFS Special Operations now has rehab trucks stationed in the southern, western and central parts of the state, allowing for a quicker response when needed.

In an effort to increase the importance of fire scene rehabilitation, DFS along with the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC) offered a series of seminars earlier this fall. The program was a success with over 500 people attending. The instructor was Cameron Bucek, retired chief officer from Miami-Dade (FL) Fire Department, who is a clinical specialist for Masimo, a company that supports this training. He stressed the importance of not only having a strong rehab program, but also the need for firefighter nutrition and overall health to reduce the number of firefighter deaths and injuries. DFS is proud that this international instructor was impressed by the commitment that the state has taken to ensure the safety of its firefighters.

Also this fall, Special Operations has just signed an agreement to have a one-of-a-kind heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) trailer built. This HVAC trailer is self-sufficient and designed to go anywhere to provide lighting, air conditioning, heat and shop compressed air. The goal is to deploy the unit to shelters, emergency operation centers, or incident scenes to provide HVAC for a short time frame. This trailer is due to be delivered in spring of 2012 so stay tuned for more specifics on the unit and its deployment.

This year DFS Special Operations has been deployed multiple times for all types of events. Over the summer at the Falmouth road race DFS Special Operations all-terrain utility vehicles transported a runner in his 20's in full cardiac arrest to an awaiting ambulance. Due to the teamwork with local emergency responders, and DFS resources the runner made a full recovery. The state's rehab trucks have been to numerous fires to assist in firefighters rehabilitation all over the Commonwealth, and the Incident Support Units (ISUs) have been busy as well responding to both emergencies and planned events, including a controlled building implosion. Lighting and generator trailers continue to be requested after all of the recent weather events and DFS is happy to provide the resources in a community's time of need.

Staff and equipment are available for emergency response 24-hours a day by calling the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency's Headquarters at 508-820-2000. For questions or scheduled events please call the Special Operations Office at 978-567-3171. ■



LAUNCH OF THE COOKING FIRE SAFETY CAMPAIGN

The Department of Fire Services launched a statewide cooking fire safety public awareness campaign this fall. The leading cause for home fires and injuries is cooking. Last year, there were nearly 10,000 residential cooking fires. These 9, 806 fires caused one civilian death, 95 civilian injuries, 32 firefighter injuries and \$6.9 million in property damage.

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS WITH CELEBRITY CHEF MING TSAI

The Department of Fire Services has two main messages to prevent home fires: *Stand by Your Pan* to prevent cooking fires and *Put a Lid on It* to safely put cooking fires out. We are also very excited about our television and radio public service announcements (PSAs) on cooking safety, featuring local celebrity chef Ming Tsai. You can watch and listen to these PSAs at

www.YouTube.com/DFSOSFM

and you can create a link to them on your department's webpage. I would also urge you to ask your local cable access station to air it by downloading the Department of Fire Services Cooking Fire Safety PSA from the MyMassTV Network (MassAccess), a non-profit association of public, educational, non-profit and government access cable TV stations.

FIRE DEPARTMENT TOOLKIT

On the DFS website (www.mass.gov/dfs) our Cooking Fire Safety webpage will have a link to the toolkit for local fire departments. The toolkit will include:

- A customizable local press release announcing the campaign;
- A Cooking Fire Safety pamphlet;
- Newspaper ads for local papers and newsletters;

- Copies of the artwork of the two logos;
- Bookmarks ready for printing;
- A lesson plan.

NEW COOKING PROP FOR LOAN

In addition, the Department of Fire Services has acquired a new cooking hazard prop that will be available for fire departments to borrow for presentations. It is extremely visual and draws people at static displays to engage them in conversation about cooking safety. More importantly, it gives people a chance to practice the *Put a Lid on It* technique and people will rely on what they have practiced in an emergency. Contact the



DFS Public Education Unit at (978) 567-3380 to schedule the Cooking Prop or other teaching tools. The company that produced it, Modeltech International, has a video on the prop if you are interested in learning more about it.

State Fire Marshal Coan and Chef Ming Tsai Say, "Safety is the Best Ingredient in the Kitchen."

PARTNER WITH SENIOR CENTERS: OLDER ADULTS AT RISK FOR COOKING INJURIES

Cooking is the leading cause of fire and burn injuries for people over the age 65. The new cooking prop was recently used at the Mass. Council on Aging and Senior Center Directors Conference with great success. The senior center directors were excited about collaborating with their local fire departments to bring this message to their local senior centers.

When the Massachusetts fire service spoke with one voice on the *Keep Warm, Keep Safe* message starting in 2008, we were successful not only in preventing the increase in heating fires we feared that winter but also in actually decreasing heating fires. When we work together to deliver a consistent message, we can have a significant impact on the safety of our communities. I look forward to working with you on this campaign. ■

1ST LANDLORD CONVICTED UNDER NEW MGL 148 S 34B

One of the provisions in the MA Fire Safety Act passed in 2004 in the wake of the Station Nightclub fire, provided stronger accountability for building owners who knowingly allow violations of the fire or building code to persist which then result in a death or serious injury. The first case to be prosecuted under this new law, codified as MGL C. 148 S 34B, occurred as a result of a multiple-death fatal in Quincy. The Norfolk District Attorney's Office under the leadership of former District Attorney William Keating and now District Attorney William Morrissey have pioneered the first prosecution under this law.

A tragic fatal fire occurred in a Quincy apartment house on March 25, 2009 in an illegal basement apartment. The fire took the lives of the father, a 1-year old son and a 2-month old son and left the mother fighting for her life with serious burns. The cause of the fire was a faulty decorative lamp that had been banned in Europe for causing fires. There were no working smoke alarms in the apartment and there was only one exit, not the required two, among other code violations.

The three landlords were charged with manslaughter in the deaths of the two children and the father. On October 25, 2011, one of the three landlords, Jinny Xue Ma, plead guilty to three counts of manslaughter, four counts of wanton or reckless violation of state building code (causing serious bodily injury or death) Chap. 148 Sec. 34B, and one count of perjury for falsifying documents related to the property. The court imposed a sentence of 2 1/2 years in the house of correction with six months to serve, followed by three years of probation. Conditions of probation include performing 200 hours of community service.

The case against her codefendants, her husband Jason Huang and his brother Andy Huang, remain open and pending in Norfolk Superior Court. The fire was jointly investigated by the Quincy Fire and Police Departments, and State Police assigned to the Fire Investigation Unit's South Team. The code compliance unit in the Division of Fire Safety and the Quincy Fire and Building Departments and the Quincy Illegal Rooming House Task Force assisted in determining the code violations. ■

GLOUCESTER MAN CONVICTED

On August 4, 2011, after a week long trial, defendant Matthew D. Greige, 26, was convicted in Lawrence Superior Court for the possession of an infernal machine.

This case resulted from an incident that occurred in Gloucester on September 3, 2009 during an outdoor summer concert at Solomon Jacobs Park on 23 Harper Loop. Greige took a smoke bomb out of his backpack, placed it underneath a tree near the crowd of spectators during the concert, and then walked away. Witnesses observed this suspicious act and contacted the Gloucester Police, who responded immediately to the scene and evacuated the area. They located and placed Greige under arrest before he could remotely detonate the device. If ignited, the item would have resulted in a large fireball. The Massachusetts State Police Bomb

Squad, Fire Investigation Unit Investigators, state police, and a representative from the State Fire Marshal's office also responded to the scene. The Bomb Squad, using a remote-controlled robot, detonated the device. After initially denying all knowledge of the item, Greige admitted that he had made smoke bombs in his basement and had set them off three times before at night on Pavilion Beach. He even admitted that he had attempted to sell them in the past. Greige was arrested and charged with disturbing the peace and possessing an explosive/infernal machine.

On September 13, 2011, Greige was sentenced to 3 years committed for a probation violation, then 2 1/2 years with 6 months to serve and an additional 3 years probation after release along with alcohol and/or drug testing and mental health screening. ■

QUINCY FAXON PARK APARTMENTS FIRE

On July 9, 2011, there was a fire at the Faxon Park Apartments in Quincy, Massachusetts. A charcoal grill, which was being used on a second-floor wooden balcony, ignited the balcony and traveled into the attic of the 24-unit building. Although the building was sprinklered, it was completely destroyed. For that reason, most of the investigation focused on inspecting the plans and sister buildings in the complex.

There are two codes that impact buildings: the State Building Code and the Fire Code. The State Building Code sets requirements on how buildings are built, including fire protection systems. The Fire Code governs fire prevention and the maintenance of fire protection systems.

After the investigation was concluded, it was noted that the building was not built to the approved plan in several areas. The draft stopping was not built in accordance with the State Building Code, and the sprinkler systems were not installed according to the accepted standard. In addition, there were no solid fire-rated barriers under the vinyl soffits on the balconies. Quincy city officials swiftly took steps to correct the remaining buildings. State Fire Marshal Coan has strongly urged local fire and building officials to work to prevent similar fires in their own jurisdictions and to inspect similarly constructed buildings for these issues.

Three main recommendations were made after the investigation:

1. Clarification of whether the applicable building code is based on the date the permit is applied for or the date the permit is issued;
2. The finalization of the adoption by both the Board of Building Regulations and Standards and the Board of Fire Prevention Regulations of the National Fire Protection Association Standard 25 on water based fire protection;
3. The review by local buildings and fire departments or similar buildings in their jurisdictions for similar violations of the State Building Code.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 17

MIDDLETON BOSTIK EXPLOSION

On March 13, 2011, there was an explosion at the Bostik chemical processing facility in Middleton, Massachusetts. Flammable vapors within the structure were ignited by an undetermined source, causing a chemical reaction where Class I flammable liquid solvent was added to a 4,000-gallon reaction vessel containing polyester resin solution.

After the investigation of the explosion, conducted by fire protection engineering staff from the Division of Fire Safety, it was determined that there were three violations in the facility. Three non-criminal notices of violations were issued and several recommendations for the passage of laws and regulations to improve chemical process safety in Massachusetts were made.

The violations were:

1. Storing flammable liquids in excess of amounts the company was licensed to store on the premises;
2. Failure to obtain a permit for a dust-producing grinding operation;
3. Failure to obtain a permit for the storage of flammable liquids.

The recommendations were:

1. The passage of chemical process safety legislation originally filed in the wake of the 2006 Danvers explosion at a chemical processing facility, creating a comprehensive oversight and permitting program to safely regulate chemical process safety and improve the capabilities of the state Department of Fire Services to address the issue and to assist local fire departments in meeting their code compliance and enforcement responsibilities;
2. The amendment of the State Building Code, so that upgrades to new construction fire and life safety standards be required upon any renovation, modification, addition, or change of use involving high hazards use group occupancies;
3. The requirement of continuous flammable vapor monitoring in any H-2 use (installation of gas detection equipment)

CONTINUED ON PAGE 17

GRADUATIONS

RECRUIT CLASS 192

State Fire Marshal Stephen D. Coan and Massachusetts Firefighting Academy (MFA) Director Edmund M. Walker announced the graduation of the 192nd class of the MFA's sixty-day Recruit Firefighting Program on September 30, 2011. "This rigorous professional training provides our newest firefighters with the basic skills to perform their jobs effectively and safely," Coan said. The MFA, a division of the Department of Fire Services, offers this program tuition-free. The ceremony took place at DFS in Stow, Massachusetts.

The 70 graduates, all men, represent the 37 departments of Abington, Amesbury, Amherst, Attleboro, Burlington, Chelsea, Foxborough, Framingham, Greenfield, Hanover, Haverhill, Hopedale, Hull, Hyannis, Lawrence, Lexington, Lincoln, Longmeadow, Manchester, Mansfield, Mashpee, Milford, Milton, Norton, Plymouth, Seekonk, Somerville, Stoneham, Sudbury, Waltham, Wayland, Wellesley, Westfield, Westwood, Weymouth, Wrentham, and Yarmouth.

RECRUIT CLASS 193

State Fire Marshal Stephen D. Coan and MFA Director Edmund M. Walker announced the graduation of the 193rd class of the Massachusetts Firefighting

Academy's Recruit Firefighting Program on December 23, 2011. The ceremony took place at DFS in Stow, Massachusetts.

The 71 graduates, 68 men and 3 women, represent the 35 departments of Abington, Agawam, Attleboro, Auburn, Belmont, Bourne, Chelmsford, Falmouth, Gardner, Greenfield, Harwich, Holbrook, Longmeadow, Lowell, Ludlow, Lynn, Malden, Marblehead, Nahant, Newburyport, Norfolk, Northampton, Norwood, Peabody, Quincy, Rockland, Saugus, Sturbridge, Turners Falls, Walpole, Waltham, West Barnstable, Westfield, Weston, and Winchester.

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

CALL/VOLUNTEER

FIREFIGHTER TRAINING PROGRAM

The Call/Volunteer Firefighter Training program is unique in that it delivers a standard recruit training curriculum, meeting national standards, on nights and weekends to accommodate the schedule of firefighters in suburban and rural areas. Bringing the training closer to the firefighters often means more firefighters can participate. This program was held at area fire department training facilities. The intensive program includes classroom instruction, physical fitness training, firefighter skills training and live firefighting

practice. Graduates complete 240 hours of training on nights and weekends.

37 GRADUATES FROM 22 FIRE DEPARTMENTS

The 37 graduates, 34 men and three women, represent the 22 fire departments of: Ayer, Bolton, Carlisle, Douglas, Dunstable, Harvard, Holden, Holliston, Hopedale, Lunenburg, Millbury, Phillipston, Rutland, Sherborn, Shirley, Shrewsbury, Templeton, Townsend, Tyngsboro, Wayland, West Boylston, and Weston. ■

Please see back cover for graduation photos



Photos by Captain Bob Labrie, Goshen Fire Department

JUST-IN-TIME TRAINING

On December 4, 2011, the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy sponsored a 2-day vehicle extrication class in Goshen, attended by firefighters from Ashland, Cheshire, Chesterfield, Dartmouth, East Longmeadow, Gill, Goshen, Great Barrington, Greenfield, Leicester, Northborough, Springfield, Williamstown and Worcester. Students learn to use hand tools and hydraulic tools to free individuals from cars and how to safely approach newer hybrid and electrical vehicles. Simultaneously in nearby Chesterfield, a mother and her three children were involved in a car accident due to black ice. Firefighters from Chesterfield, Williamsburg, and Worthington responded to the accident. The car had rolled over several times and landed on its roof, making the extrication very difficult. By using the Jaws of Life, it took firefighters 30 minutes to remove the woman. Instead of practicing on the cars at the training in Goshen, these firefighters were exposed to a real-life situation. This is referred to as "just-in-time" training. ■

APARTMENTS FIRE CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15

Sadly, this was not the first large apartment building fire. After several large loss fires in similar buildings, State Fire Marshal Coan persuaded the Board of Building Regulations in the 7th edition of the State Building Code to require a full NFPA 13 sprinkler system in new buildings of this size, requiring sprinklers in the attics and on the balconies.

The adoption of a national standard for the installation, maintenance and testing of water-based fire protection systems (NFPA 25) by both the Board of Fire Protection Regulations and the Board of Building Regulations and Standards are in process. This fire emphasizes the need to finalize that adoption and set uniform standards for building owners on how to properly maintain these systems. ■

BOSTIK EXPLOSION CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15

4. The clarification of existing definitions for Open Use processes to include any process where containers or process vessels are opened for any duration.

The federal Occupational Health and Safety Administration (OSHA) is conducting a separate investigation. ■

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

If you have any further questions contact the Code Compliance and Enforcement Desk at (978) 567-3375 or in western MA at (413) 587-3181.

BLOWN-IN INSULATION FIRES

In an effort to gain consistency on the data entry regarding fires and blown-in insulations, the following provides information for coding a building fire involving blown-in insulation in MFIRS/NFIRS. The information entered into MFIRS is constantly being used and good data is necessary when pursuing code changes and determining if there are fire issues associated with various products or conditions. Use the following codes on the Fire Module:

Area of Origin (wherever the fire originated in the building):

- 71 – Substructure area or space, crawl space
- 2. 73 – Ceiling & floor assembly, crawl space between stories
- 3. 74 – Attic: vacant, crawl space above top story. Includes cupola, concealed roof/ceiling space, steeple.
- 4. 74 – Wall assembly, concealed wall space.

Item 1st Ignited:

- 18 – Thermal, acoustical insulation within wall,

partition or floor/ceiling space. Includes fibers, batts, boards, loose fills.

Type of Material 1st Ignited:

- 67 – Paper. Includes cellulose, waxed paper, sensitized paper, & ground-up processed paper & newsprint used as thermal insulation.

Heat Source - Use whatever the correct code for the heat source is. If it came from operating equipment, whether or not the equipment itself fails, use one of the following codes:

- 11 – Spark, ember, flame from operating equipment.
- 12 – Radiated, conducted heat from operating equipment.
- 13 - Arcing

Equipment Involved in Ignition – If a piece of equipment was involved as the Heat Source, what was it? Possible examples:

- 113 – Fan
- 214 – Electrical wiring from meter box to circuit breaker board, fuse box or panel board.
- 215 – Panel board (fuse); switchboard, circuit breaker board with or without ground-fault interrupter.
- 216 – Electrical branch circuit. Includes armored (metallic) cable, nonmetallic sheathing, or wire in conduit.
- 214 – Outlet, receptacle. Includes wall-type receptacles, electric dryer & stove receptacles.
- 218 – Wall-type switch. Includes light switches/
- 219 – Ground-fault interrupter (GFI), portable, plug-in.
- 233 – Incandescent lighting fixture.
- 234 – Fluorescent lighting fixture or lamp.
- 235 – Halogen lighting fixture or lamp.
- 238 – Light bulb. ■

FIRE OFFICIALS OPPOSE BILL TO LEGALIZE FIREWORKS IN MASS.

Currently Massachusetts is one of only four states in the country that prohibits the use of fireworks. New York, Delaware, and New Jersey are the other three states that have similar laws. Massachusetts adopted the National Fire Protection Association’s Model Fireworks Law in the 1920s.

MGL Chapter 148, Section 39 states that it is illegal for private citizens to use, possess, or sell fireworks in Massachusetts. It also states that it is illegal to purchase fireworks legally in another state and then transport them into Massachusetts.

State Representative Richard M. Bastien, from Gardner, has filed a bill (H.3372) to legalize fireworks in Massachusetts. H.3372 is “An Act Relative to the Sale and Use of Fireworks,” and this legislation proposes to permit, as local option law, the sale and use of fireworks to individuals over 18 years old that acquire a permit from their local fire departments. This bill also proposes to allow the use of sparklers less than 3-feet in length and novelty poppers to be possessed and used by individuals under 18 years old.

Mr. Bastien sees this bill as a great opportunity to make the state safer, simultaneously bringing in state revenue and creating jobs. He estimates that fireworks sales could be a \$40 million industry for Massachusetts. He believes that it would allow border towns to compete for sales in states where fireworks are legal, such as New Hampshire, Rhode Island and Connecticut, while allowing other communities to maintain the state’s ban on all fireworks and sparklers. He said the measure might also help increase revenue from liquor, lottery and other sales. According to the proposal, the state would collect a 5% safety fee on the fireworks sales that would pay for fire safety educational programs and also collect sales taxes. This bill would allow towns and cities to issue fireworks permits to adults and sales licenses to resident wholesale fireworks dealers or retailers. Adults with a permit would be limited to using it on their own properties, at a time stipulated by a safety official from their towns or cities.

A coalition of firefighters, police officers, doctors,

and emergency medical technicians has formed against the proposed bill. They warn that if the bill is passed, it will lead to more fireworks-related fires, injuries, deaths and property damage, and it will strain fire department resources. Financial costs due to permitting and oversight and the increased demand for ambulance response and fire extinguishment will add pressure on fire departments, even in towns and cities that will choose not to permit fireworks sales and use, but would be obliged to answer and help in nearby towns and cities under mutual aid agreements. Massachusetts would need more doctors, nurses, emergency medical technicians and firefighters

It is misguided to think of this proposal as a revenue generator. The costs and burden to public safety, the increased visits to emergency rooms, and the life-changing injuries will offset any potential revenue associated with the sale of fireworks in the Commonwealth.

Although the use of fireworks is prohibited in Massachusetts, that has not kept individuals from obtaining fireworks elsewhere. Unfortunately, this has led to fires, explosions, injuries, deaths, and property damage. In the past decade (2001-2010), there have been 774 major fires and explosions, 10 civilian injuries, 6 fire service injuries, 1 death, and \$2.4 million in property damages due to fireworks. There have also been 43 burns on over 5% of the body surface area, 65% of which were children under 18, and 23% of which were between the ages of 10 and 14.

Nationally, the rate of fireworks fires per million population is 19 times higher than the Massachusetts rate. Washington state, where fireworks are legal, experienced 16 times more fires per million population than Massachusetts did in 2008. Washington had 83 fireworks fires/million population, whereas Massachusetts experienced only five. Massachusetts has stood firm on its efforts related to public safety for years. Consumer fireworks are a tremendous threat to the safety of families throughout Massachusetts. This bill should not be passed. ■

EMS FIRST RESPONDER AWARD

On October 27, 2011, at the 11th annual Region IV EMS Awards Ceremony and Banquet, Captain Mark Roche of the Newton Fire Department received the 2011 EMS First Responder Award for his dedication to and passion for the fire service and commitment to safety and training. Captain Roche is the President of the Massachusetts Institute of Fire Department Instructors. Upon receiving this prestigious award, Captain Roche said, “I accept this award on behalf of all the firefighters, EMTs and paramedics who work the streets of our communities 24/7.” ■



(Right) Capt. Mark Roche accepts his award.

MFIRS CODING TIPS FOR HEATING FIRES

Winter is here. People have turned on the heat so expect heating related incidents to increase. It is expected that given the present financial climate, more people are likely to turn to alternative heating sources like fireplaces, woodstoves, and space heaters. With this increased use comes an increase in fire risk. Please impress upon your staff to be as detailed as they can in these instances.

FUEL BURNER/BOILER MALFUNCTION

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

CHIMNEY OR FLUE FIRE

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

UNCONFINED HEATING STRUCTURE FIRES

Basic Module, Fire Module and Structure Fire Module

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



EXAMPLES:

Portable electrical heater ignites bedding in an apartment building:

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

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

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

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

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

Chimney fire in 1-Family:

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

ALCOHOL INGESTION IS A RISK FACTOR FOR FIRE DEATHS

A new study, *Fire Fatality and Alcohol Intake: Analysis of Key Risk Factors*, shows that alcohol ingestion is a risk factor for fire deaths. While this may seem like common knowledge, this is an important study proving what the fire service believes is true, is in fact the case. The study was made by Dorothy Bruck, Ph.D., Michelle Ball, Ph.D., and Ian R. Thomas, Ph.D. from the School of Social Science and Psychology. Analyses were based on Australian coroners' fire fatality records for the state of Victoria from 1998 to 2006. The study considered demographic, behavioral, and environmental factors for the 95 adult fire victims who were tested for alcohol, including 64 male and 31 female victims.

Most alcohol-related fire victims in this study had a positive blood alcohol concentration (BAC) test. The study also shows that alcohol intake is more common in smoking- and cooking-related fires and in victims who are native and not foreign. In addition, most fatal fires involving alcohol also involved smoking materials; approximately two-thirds of fire victims who had consumed alcohol died in smoking-related fires. Most victims were between the ages of 18 and 60 and specifically men; those ages were five times more likely to have an alcohol consumption-related fire death than

men older than 60. In comparison with other age groups, adult men in their younger or middle years were reported as at higher risk of alcohol-intake fire deaths. In comparison with women, men accounted for between twice and three times as many victims who had ingested alcohol.

This study has confirmed that male fire fatalities have a greater likelihood of positive BACs. This study has also shown how important smoke alarms are. Seventy-five percent of the people who died in fires were alone in their dwellings, so smoke alarms are critical to detect danger. Unfortunately, alcohol impairs the ability to wake up to a smoke alarm. There are two things that can be done to reduce alcohol-related fire deaths. Alarms should be interconnected throughout the dwelling, so that one smoke detector will make all other smoke alarms sound. Another is to change the current smoke alarm signal from its high frequency tone to a more effective lower frequency signal. If these conditions are implemented, alcohol-affected people can be alerted more quickly and effectively and 27 percent of adult fire fatalities may have a greater chance of survival. ■

USFA Educational Materials on Alcohol and Fire

The U.S. Fire Administration has educational information on their website www.usfa.fema.gov/citizens/focus/alcohol.shtm under *Focus on Fire Safety: Alcohol and Fire*. It includes a poster www.usfa.fema.gov/downloads/pdf/focus/mar_2009_alcohol.pdf that can be used locally and information for all ages but especially targeting college students who are at high risk.



527 CMR AMENDMENTS

There are two amendments to 527 CMR, the State Fire Code. The first amendment, which was filed on an emergency basis and was effective as of 7-29-11, strikes out the Board of Fire Prevention Regulations (BFPR) underground storage tank “operator training requirements” from 527 CMR 9.00. The second amendment, which was effective as of 8-5-11, is related to unvented gas products. This amendment allows the appliance to be used in all buildings or structures used for human occupancy.

The purpose of 527 CMR 30.00 is to provide requirements for the installation, maintenance, and operation of unvented propane or natural gas-fired space heaters installed in buildings or structures used for human occupancy on or after April 1, 2004.

A permit is required after a final inspection and approval of the installation from the head of the fire department and the local or state gas inspector having jurisdiction for the installation of all unvented propane or natural gas-fired space heaters. The inspection of the installation should be for compliance with 527 CMR and 248 CMR: Board of State Examiners of Plumbers and Gas Fitters. A copy of the manufacturer’s installation/operating literature is required to be submitted with each permit application.

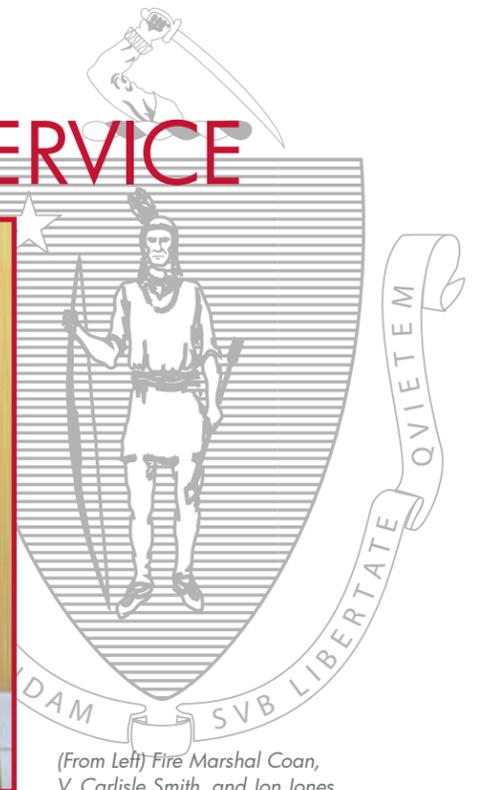
- Unvented gas-fired space heaters may only be used for supplemental heat and/or decorative purposes, and not as a primary heat source.
- Unvented propane or natural gas-fired space heaters shall conform to ANSI Z21.11.2 – 2000 edition, Volume II, be equipped with an oxygen depletion safety (ODS) shutoff system and be listed and approved in accordance with 248 CMR.
- Installations shall be of a permanent type, with a permanently piped fuel supply in accordance with 248 CMR.
- LPG appliances shall be subject to the storage requirements in accordance with 527 CMR 6.00: Liquefied Petroleum Gas Containers and Systems.
- Portable unvented propane or natural gas-fired space heaters are prohibited.
- Unvented propane or natural gas-fired space

heaters shall be prohibited in bedrooms and bathrooms.

- Space heaters shall be properly sized for the room or space of installation, but shall not exceed a maximum of 40,000 BTU input per room or space.
- In occupancies with an unvented propane or natural gas-fired space heater, at least one listed carbon monoxide detector shall be installed and maintained in any room or space where said heater has been installed in accordance with the manufacturers instructions.
- Any building wherein said heater is to be installed shall, as a precondition to such installation, have working smoke detectors installed and maintained in accordance with the requirements of 780 CMR: State Board of Building Regulations and Standards in effect at the time of construction or if no said requirement was in effect at the time of construction, installed as provided for in M.G.L. c. 148, § 26E.
- In buildings served by an unvented propane or natural gas-fired space heater, a primary source of heat, which is operable, shall be permanently installed and maintained in said building.
- Sellers of unvented propane or natural gas-fired space heaters shall provide to each purchaser a copy of 527 CMR 30.00 upon sale of the unit.
- The maintenance and operation of unvented propane or natural gas-fired space heaters shall be in accordance with the manufacturer’s instructions. The manufacturer’s instructions shall be left with the appliance and made available for any public official.
- Any malfunction of an unvented space heater shall forthwith be reported by the owner to the head of the local fire department.
- The owner/operator of the underground storage tank(s) subject a delivery prohibition order shall notify the official issuing said order upon correcting the condition(s) specified in 527 CMR 9.07(O)(1)(a) through (d). The issuing official shall, within 24 hours (Saturdays,

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BFPR MEMBER RETIRES AFTER 55 YEARS OF SERVICE



(From Left) Fire Marshal Coan, V. Carlisle Smith, and Jon Jones.

V. Carlisle Smith has been a member of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts’ Board of Fire Prevention Regulations (BFPR) for over 55 years. The BFPR is a fourteen-member state regulatory board responsible for promulgating the Massachusetts Fire Prevention Regulations. Smith was in the army during WWII and later acquired a degree in Chemical Engineering. He responded to the tragic Cocoman Grove fire in 1942 and spent many hours helping to remove victims. This led to his interest in fire

prevention regulations. After attaining his degree, Smith began his career working on ways to improve the making of de-mineralized water. He has spent time travelling the world due to his success in this area. In the long time in which he has served on the BFPR, Smith has made efforts to enhance the Fire Safety Code of Massachusetts, and his hard work has directly improved the safety of all residents of the Commonwealth from the threat of fire and explosion. ■

CMR AMENDMENTS CONTINUED FROM PAGE 22

- (Sundays, and Holidays excepted) of notification of said corrections shall verify that the corrections have been made. If the conditions have been corrected, the official shall cause the delivery prohibition tag to be removed, and the product supplier notified.
- Prior to August 8, 2010, and at a minimum once every three years thereafter the owner/operator of every underground storage tank shall at his/her own expense cause said tank(s) and related piping to be inspected by a third-party

- inspector, as defined in 527 CMR.
- Effective August 8, 2007, every newly installed underground storage tank and related piping shall be inspected by a third party inspector, as defined in 527 CMR 9.02, at the time installation is completed.
- Written operator response guidelines shall include spill-reporting procedure, contact phone numbers, malfunctioning equipment notification procedures, and initial mitigation protocol for emergencies. ■

NEW LICENSING PROGRAM

The Department of Fire Services has launched a new licensing system, known as My License Office (MLO), to streamline the application and renewal process. This program, purchased from System Automation, will also create a new online look-up capability on real-time data on any license, permit or registration issued by our office. As part of this new system, you will see some new changes with any license or permit issued. The individual licenses issued from our office will now be hard plastic cards with the state seal and an imbedded picture. Any restrictions will be located on the back of the cards.

There will be multiple search ways to look up licenses, including by “number”, “name” and/or “business name.” Our goal is to no longer issue multiple firework user certificates going forward. You will be able to validate these certificates online. The two items that are really different and new are DFS General Licenses and Pyrotechnics. The DFS General License

profession captures that ability to look up black and smokeless powders and cannon/mortar licenses. Pyrotechnics profession captures fireworks, portable firing trailers, pyrotechnic user certificates, remote firing, special effects, and transport fireworks.

We look forward to making the transition process and access ability easier and user-friendlier to the fire service. If you have any questions, you can contact the appropriate person below:

Overall Program/Issues:

- *Timothee Rodrique* | 978-567-3301
Timothee.Rodrique@state.ma.us

Questions concerning all licenses:

- *Lydia Bogar* | 978-567-3700
Lydia.Bogar@state.ma.us

Questions concerning Code Compliance Issues:

- *Administrative Desk*: 978-567-3375
- *Western MA*: 413-587-3181



Photo by Lydia Bogar, DFS

The Division of Fire Safety issues licenses to people and companies engaged in fireworks, blasting, explosives, cannon and mortar firing, special effects, special hazard systems, portable fire extinguishers and commercial kitchen exhaust systems. 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, times, and study materials can be found online at: www.mass.gov/dfs, under “Key Resources” in the left column; click on “Licensing.”

All license exams are offered at both DFS locations: State Road in Stow, MA and One Prince Street (Northampton State Hospital) in Northampton, MA.

Directions can also be found online at: www.mass.gov/dfs, under “Key Resources;” click on “DFS Directions.”

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. ■

STATUS REPORT *Compliance & Enforcement Actions*

The following report details recent compliance and enforcement actions taken by the Office of the State Fire Marshal against companies and individuals for violations of MGL c. 148 and 527 CMR. The effective date of this legal action and its details are included. While other actions may be pending, only those individuals and companies who have had administrative hearings with decisions rendered will be listed here. Should there be any questions regarding the status of any license or certificate of competency, please call the Licensing Desk at 978-567-3700. **These status reports will no longer be provided. Please verify any license at www.mass.gov/dfs.**

NAME	TYPE OF LICENSE	DISPOSITION
Brown, Stephen J.	Hoodcleaning Certificate of Competency	Suspended for six months (30 days to serve until 1/19/2012); probation ends 6/17/2012.
Bowcock, Brian	Fireworks Certificate of Competency	Suspended for six months (3 months to serve until 10/25/2011); probation ends 1/23/2012.
Burns, Douglas	Blasting Certificate of Competency	Suspended for 30 days (7 days to serve until 12/21/2011); probation ends 1/13/2012.
Chung, Jae	Hoodcleaning Certificate of Competency	Suspended for three years (18 months to serve until 7/27/2012); probation ends 1/27/2014.
Dillion, John J., Jr.	Blasting Certificate of Competency	Suspended for six months (90 days to serve until 2/29/2012); probation ends 5/29/2012.
Lurssen, Byron A.	Hoodcleaning Certificate of Competency	Suspended for three years (9 months to serve); probation ends 9/13/2014.
Suffredini, David C.	Fireworks Certificate of Competency	Permanent revocation.
Tecce, James E.	Fire Equipment Certificate of Competency	Permanent revocation; prohibited from holding any personal or business permit or license issued by DFS.

2012 EXAM SCHEDULE

EXAM	EXAM DATE	APPLICATION DEADLINE
Fire Suppression	January 25, 2012	January 13, 2012
Commercial Hood Cleaning	April 25, 2012	April 13, 2012
Exams begin at 10:00 am	July 18, 2012	July 6, 2012
	October 17, 2012	October 5, 2012
Cannon/Mortar	February 22, 2012	February 10, 2012
Fireworks & Special Effects	May 23, 2012	May 11, 2012
Blasting, Blasting R&D	August 15, 2012	July 3, 2012
Exams begin at 10:00 am	November 14, 2012	November 2, 2012



Recruit Class 192. Photo by Bruce Gauvin.



Recruit Class 193. Photo by Bruce Gauvin.

Class 38. Photo by Scott MacArthur.

