



DEVAL L. PATRICK
GOVERNOR

ANDREA J. CABRAL

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Public Safety and Security
Department of Fire Services

P.O. Box 1025 ~ State Road

Stow, Massachusetts 01775

(978) 567~3100 Fax: (978) 567~3121

www.mass.gov/dfs



STEPHEN D. COAN
STATE FIRE MARSHAL

MEMORANDUM

TO: Heads of Fire Department

FROM: Stephen D. Coan
State Fire Marshal

DATE: August 1, 2014

SUBJECT: Reporting of School Fires

On May 12, 2006, Governor Romney signed into law, "An Act Relative to the Reporting of Fires in Schools." The law (Chapter 80 of the Acts of 2006) became effective on August 10, 2006. As we approach the new school year, I am re-issuing this information for your use.

This law **requires** that the principal of any public or private school of grades 1-12 shall **immediately report any incident involving the unauthorized ignition of any fire within the school building or on school grounds, to the local fire department.** In addition, the principal must file a written report to the local fire department within 24 hours, whether or not the fire department responded. The fire department shall then report the incident to the Marshal pursuant to M.G.L. Chapter 148 § 2 (MFIRS).

The law was created to mandate that schools report fires that may have previously gone unreported. The effect will be greater protection of our children and the ability to identify possible juvenile fire setters to provide appropriate early intervention.

If you have any questions please contact our Public Education Unit at (978) 567-3380 or Code Compliance and Enforcement Unit at (978) 567-3375 or in Western, MA (413) 587-3181.