

Call/Volunteers Serving Today to Protect Your Tomorrow

Smoke Showin'

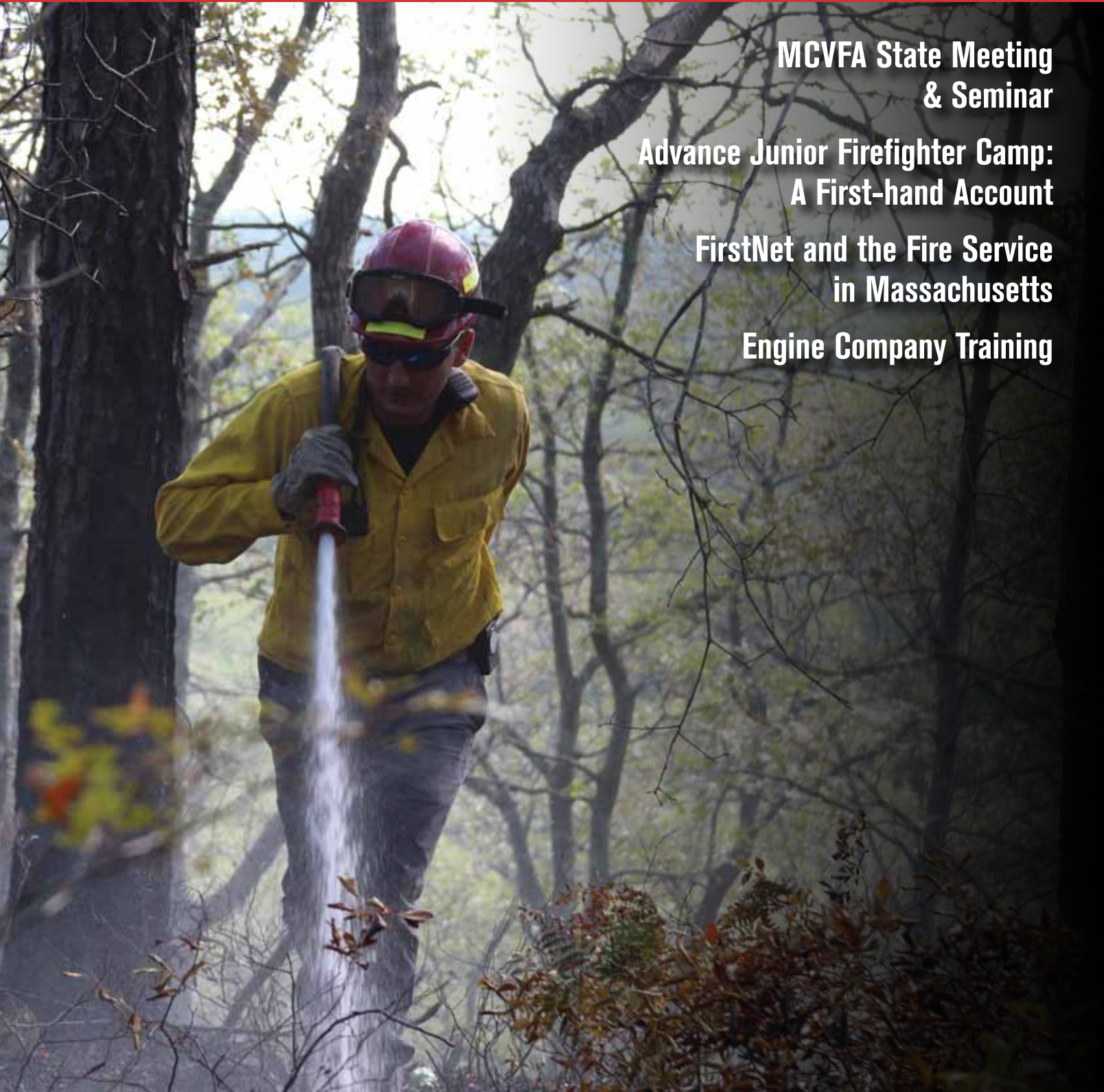
The Official Publication of the Massachusetts Call/Volunteer Firefighters Association

**MCVFA State Meeting
& Seminar**

**Advance Junior Firefighter Camp:
A First-hand Account**

**FirstNet and the Fire Service
in Massachusetts**

Engine Company Training





The 100 Club of Massachusetts

Every day firefighters and police officers in the Commonwealth risk their lives to protect our communities. Unfortunately, some of these brave men and women many lose their lives in the performance of these duties. When a family loses a loved one, The Hundred Club of Mass., Inc. (the "Club") is there to support the surviving spouses and minor children.

Since its incorporation in 1959, the Club's mission statement has been the same: "we care for those who care for us". The Club has assisted countless families in Massachusetts for almost 60 years. Through generous donations and proceeds received from our annual membership dues, the Club provides much needed financial assistance to these families of our fallen heroes. Perhaps more importantly, it develops a bond with these families that remains for the rest of their lives. This bond is nurtured by communications and periodic events plus the knowledge of the beneficiaries that the Club stands with them and will never forget their sacrifices or their lost loved ones. No other organization provides this type of caring support for these families.

The recent deaths of State Trooper Thomas L. Clardy and Auburn Police Officer Ronald Tarentino, and such tragedies as the Beacon Street fire in 2014, reaffirm the relevance of the Club.

Our many line-of-duty benefits include:

- One-time check for \$10,000 to a surviving spouse
- Financial assistance with counseling costs if necessary up to \$2,000 per person
- Payment of two-weeks of a summer camp/enrichment program each year for minor children of the deceased
- Financial assistance towards a college undergraduate degree - \$4,000/year for a state school and \$8,000/year for private school for the children of the deceased
- Various events throughout the year for the spouses and families
- Gifts sent to families several times a year

Most importantly, the Club takes pride in making a personal connection with all of our beneficiary families.

Please consider becoming a member of Club in order to support our mission. It is through such generosity that the Club will be able to continue to serve the families of our fallen heroes for many years to come. The annual tax deductible membership fee for the Club is \$250.00.

For more information, please visit our website
at **www.100clubmass.org** or by telephone at 617-536-4410.



2016

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Cover photo courtesy of Chief Joe Maruca.

MCVFA Merchandise



Pink T-shirt

Gildan, 99% cotton/1% poly
Front white maltese cross / Back white MCVFA
(YL -3X)

\$15 + postage

Portion of sale will go to the Massachusetts Breast Cancer Coalition



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Navy Blue T-shirt

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Back MCVFA in white
(M - XL) **\$13.00 + postage Not Shown**
(2X - 3X) **\$15.00 + postage Not Shown**

**To order or for more information, contact
merchandise@mcvfa.org.**

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Home delivery of *Smoke Showin'* is one of the many benefits of
MCVFA membership.



President's Message

This year, our Annual State Meeting will be a little more formal and I hope you have been following change on Facebook and the webpage.

The Association will be presenting a Firefighter Memorial program honoring those Massachusetts firefighters and EMTs who have answered their final alarm during the last year (Oct.1, 2015 - Sept. 30, 2016). If you have a member of your department who has passed away during this time, make sure that we have the information. As this is the 15th Anniversary of the September 11th attacks on the World Trade Center, we will also be honoring those who perished that day.

The Memorial will be followed by our business meeting and include the introduction of several dignitaries, Life Members and Past Presidents. There are several items of importance that will be taken up during the meeting including a possible dues increase and potentially several important by-law changes. These topics are critical to the continued success of the MCVFA. Your presence at the State Meeting is important as only the membership can make these changes.

In addition to the Memorial and meeting, two seminars will be presented after lunch. The Training Committee believes both programs have great significance for our members. Chief Chris Norris from Northampton and Westhampton Fire Departments will present on the Fire Academy and nationally and locally recognized speaker Joe Nedder on First Due Company Officers and Things They Need to Know.

Several vendors will also be on hand for your benefit and we hope that you'll take advantage of this excellent opportunity.

I ask that if you have not already signed up to attend that you reconsider doing so. This entire program is for the membership, regardless of whether or not you are a delegate or alternate. The meeting is also open to non-members, in hopes we can encourage them to join the Association.

The meeting is **Saturday, October 29, 2016** at the **Hadley Farms Meeting House** in Hadley.

The cost for the day is \$30 for members and \$40 for non-members. Lunch and breaks are included.

A lot of work has gone into this and the Board felt that this change was necessary. We look forward to seeing you there.

As my first year as your President comes to a close, I am pleased by the work that has been accomplished. The Board addressed a number of uncompleted tasks and embarked upon a few new projects we felt were important to the Association's future. The Board has received positive feedback from members as to the direction and the progress we are making.

As usual, I made my way around the state visiting the regions when time permitted. I attended many functions including regional meetings and a several good barbeques and dinners! When possible it would be my pleasure to visit you and attend your department's activities. Just Let me know by sending an email to president@mcvfa.org or contact me via Facebook.

Finally, in August I attended both the Firemen's Association of the State of New York's (FASNY) training seminars at their Convention and the Vermont State Firefighters' Association Annual Meeting. I was able to speak with various members about the state of the volunteer fire service in each state and I hope to speak more on that in the near future. Until then... 🚒

Kevin Connolly
MCVFA President

Thank you all...and be safe!



MCVFA State Meeting & SEMINARS

JOIN US for the MCVFA Annual State Meeting. Honor those who have gone before us at the MCVFA's Firefighter Memorial Service. Attend the educational seminars presented by local and nationally known fire service professionals.

Register Online Today!

at www.mcvfa.org

\$30 per member

includes lunch

\$40 per non-member

includes lunch

Questions

Questions on sponsorship opportunities, volunteering or registration, please contact Kevin Connolly, MCVFA President at president@mcvfa.org.



Saturday, October 29, 2016 | Hadley Farms Meeting House | Hadley, MA

Schedule of Events *(times are tentative)*

8:00 am - 1:00 pm Registration OPEN

8:00 am - 4:00 pm Vendors OPEN

9:00 am

- Firefighter Memorial Service Remembering our Deceased Members
- 15th Anniversary of 9/11 Attacks
- MCVFA Annual State Meeting and Elections

12:00 N Adjourn from State Meeting

12:00 - 12:45 pm Lunch

1:00 - 4:00 pm Training & Education

SEMINAR #1

Massachusetts Firefighting Academy: Training Opportunities for the Call/Volunteer Fire Service. by Chief Christopher Norris, Statewide Program Coordinator for the Call/Volunteer Recruit Training Program

Raffle for Vizio 40" TV

(register at door in the morning)

SEMINAR #2

1st Due Company Officers: The 10 Foundations Stones of Knowledge They Must Possess and Why
by Joe Nedder, Cross St. Associates

Massachusetts Firefighting Academy: Training Opportunities for the Call/Volunteer Fire Service

BY CHRISTOPHER W. NORRIS



The danger associated with fires, HAZMAT incidents, and other emergencies doesn't care if a firefighter is career, call, or volunteer. The hazards associated with emergency responses are the same regardless of the type of Department you are affiliated and so should the preparation, training, and competency of the personnel that respond. The training opportunities provided by the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy can assist any firefighter of every rank in any department to be safer, more effective, and better serve the citizens we are sworn to protect. This presentation will detail the Fire Academy's programs, offer strategies for Call/Volunteer training and education and be followed by a question and answer session.

Christopher W. Norris has been a member of the Westhampton Fire Department since April 1994. He has served in numerous capacities in the organization up until his appointment to Fire Chief in January 2007. Chief Norris completed his Master's Degree in Fire Science and Administration from Anna Maria College in 2003, a Master's Degree in Public Administration from Westfield State University in 2011, and is currently completing is Doctorate Degree in Public Policy and Administration with a concentration in Emergency Management. Chief Norris has completed the Executive Fire Officer Program through the United States Fire Administration and also the prestigious Senior Executive in State and Local Government Program through the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University. Most recently, Chief Norris was recognized by the Center for Public Safety Excellence (CPSE) as only one of thirty-one individuals in the entire Country to earn both International designations as a Chief Fire Officer (CFO) and Chief Emergency Medical Services Officer (CEMSO). In 2012, Chief Norris completed the requirements for the designation within the Institution of Fire Engineers (IFE) of MIFireE indicating the degree of qualification and membership grade within the organization. In May 2014, Chief Norris was selected as one of twenty fire service personnel across the Country to participate in the Fire Service Executive Development Institute (FSEDI) Program through the International Association of Fire Chiefs sponsored by Motorola. This is a year long program that examines current issues, challenges, innovations, and leadership models in the fire service.

Chief Norris also teaches for the Massachusetts Firefighter Academy as one of the Lead Instructors in the Structural, Flashover, and Instructor Methodology Programs and is the Statewide Program Coordinator for the Call/Volunteer Recruit Training Program. Chief Norris is a member of the International Association of County/City Managers Association (ICMA), Fire Chiefs Association of Massachusetts (FCAM), New England Association of Fire Chief's (NEAFC), International Association of Fire Chief's (IAFC), Western Massachusetts Fire Chief's Association (WMFCA), Hampshire County EMS, the Hampshire County Fire Chief's Association, and was elected in August 2015 to serve a three year term on the Board of Directors for the International Association of Fire Chiefs in the Executive Fire Officer Section representing the New England region. In December 2015, Chief Norris was appointed to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 1500 Committee as a Principle voting member. This Committee has the primary responsibility and approval for documents on occupational safety and health in the working environment of the fire service. This Committee also has the responsibility and final approval for documents related to medical requirements for fire fighters, and the professional qualifications for Fire Department Safety Officer.

1st Due Company Officers: The 10 Foundations Stones of Knowledge They Must Possess and Why

BY JOE NEDDE



This class is designed to target Volunteer and On Call firefighters who are, or aspire to be Company Officers and also those volunteers who might function as a Company Officer on a fireground. In many cases today, newly appointed or elected company officers really do not understand their fireground role or the responsibilities and liabilities that have been placed upon their shoulders. A volunteer officer's biggest impact to the Department will be on the fireground. This class will focus on targeting specific fireground and leadership skills that a capable fire officer must possess in order to be safe, capable and effective in leading a company in and out of a dangerous situation. Today most Fire Officers classes are designed for larger organizations that have greater or adequate manpower and training. The daily situations faced by volunteers is not getting any better, in fact you can argue that it is getting worse. A presentation such as this will help to bring needed subject awareness and training to this sector.

Joe Nedder was a Volunteer or On-Call firefighter on various departments for over 36 years holding various ranks including Lieutenant, Captain and Training Officer. He has been involved in training for over 27 years, was an Instructor for the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy for 16 years where he developed and implemented the States Call/Volunteer Firefighter Recruit Training Program, has instructed at FDIC every year since 2010 and has written articles for Fire Engineering Magazine. Nedder is still very active in training and is the Founder and Lead Instructor of Cross St. Associates, a fire service training company. He has trained with firefighters in Massachusetts, Vermont, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, Arkansas and Illinois. When you ask those who have taken one of his classes to describe his teaching style you will repeatedly hear the word passionate. Joe is the author of the Jones and Bartlett textbook Rapid Intervention Crews. He retired from the Uxbridge, MA Fire Department in 2013.



Photo courtesy of William Kipp (Hancock Fire Department)

Advance Junior Firefighter Camp: A First-hand Account

BY WILLIAM KIPP

Everyone in the fire service knows of the lack of manpower and recruitment in this day and age. No one is motivated to join as they used to be. To address this shortage some departments have open houses and recruitment campaigns. Other departments, like mine, Hancock Volunteer Fire Department, have programs for juniors.

I just so happen to be one of those juniors. As a junior, I had the opportunity to be exposed to the fire and EMS field at a young age and get “hooked” on it. I have been on my department for about two years now and it has been the best two years of my life. During these years, I have realized one thing, training matters. I have also realized that as a junior there are very few training opportunities available. All Massachusetts Fire Academy (MFA) trainings require you to be 18 or older. I can participate in training within my department, but advanced hands on training is out of my reach. In my opinion, this problem needs to be addressed for the future of the fire service.

Due to this problem, I started to search around and found only one advanced academy for juniors. West Virginia University Fire Service Extension (AKA West Virginia Fire Academy), puts on a weeklong junior fire academy every year. After discovering this, it took me just a few minutes to have the application printed and filled out.

On June 4 2016, I packed my bunker gear and SCBA and traveled the 10 hours to the Academy. There I joined 110 other juniors from all over the country; from as far away as Puerto Rico and Colorado. During check in, I received my uniform and photo ID and I learned that I was assigned to Battalion 2 Ladder 7. There were five battalions and 21 companies altogether. After check in, I dropped my luggage off at my cabin and changed into my uniform. From there I went back to the academy and started orientation.

At orientation, the instructors went over camp rules and what to do if something went wrong. They explained how we should respect our instructors and to address them with “yes sir” and “no sir” and they earned it. As we were introduced to our 30+ instructors, I realized that almost everyone was a chief with 20+ years of experience under their belt.

After orientation, we went through a bunker drill and gear familiarization. During this time the staff went around and checked everyone’s gear for NFPA compliance and for any damage, as later we would be doing live burns. Then the training began. My first event was a SCBA confidence course. We went through a confined space trailer in full PPE with SCBA. It was tight and hard to move through the area, but it helped us learn to maneuver with our packs. After this, we settled into our cabins and got some sleep for the next day’s events.

Day 2 was a big day. There were four stations to go through that day. Each battalion went to a different station and we rotated throughout the day. My first station was aerial operations. The camp brought in five trucks from around the area for us to learn how to operate the aerials, how to work off the aerials, and how to climb and hook into a ladder. My department back home has a 100ft truck and I learned a lot at this station that I can bring back with me.

The second station dealt with interior search in both residential and commercial settings. The instructors went over how to constantly communicate with your partner and with command to let them know about conditions. We went over how to do left-handed and right-handed searches and how to search with a rope between you and partner. After we went over techniques, we went into a smoked up “house” and searched for a victim. When we found the victim, we transported the patient out of the building. We did this in both the residential and commercial structures. Overall, it was a great experience to know what it is like to search for a victim in a fire.

Station 3 was forcible entry. They taught us how to force inward and outward doors and different lock systems. We then got to put a set of irons to a door and force it. The last station of the day was ground ladders, how to throw them and use them. This was a simple station and it was good to practice the skill some more. After all this, our 12-hour day was over.

Things started to heat up on day 3, burn day. The day started early at 6:30 a.m. Again, my battalion and I had four stations to rotate through. Our first station was split between car fires and fire extinguishers. I was assigned to car fires first. The fire we were to face was a passenger compartment fire. It was a propane-controlled simulator that could sense when the proper amount of water was put on the fire. They taught us techniques such as sweeping the ground with the stream as you approach to push fluids away and to throw two pieces of cribbing up to ensure the car wouldn't roll away. My home department does not get many car fires it was great to get right up and feel the heat and gain experience with this type of situation. Next, I transferred to the fire extinguisher side of the station, which was self-explanatory, but fun to get experience with different types of extinguishers.

Station two, was one of my favorites, aircraft fire and rescue. At WVU, they have an entire plane simulator that they can control the flame and smoke output. We went over different techniques of attack and how to enter the plane to rescue victims. When it came time to fight the fire, we faced a wheel well and engine fire, which took about 15 minutes to get under control. After we knocked it down, we had to make entry above the wing to extricate a victim. This station taught us that communication is key. To effectively carry out this station, we had to work as a solid team and communication is what made it work.

The next station was master streams and foam. The emphasis for this class was on how to set up master streams and operate them and to learn about different foam systems and how they work.



Photos courtesy of William Kipp (Hancock Fire Department)

The last station of the day was structural firefighting. The burn trailer was set up for a residential kitchen fire. Before we made entry, our instructors went over hand line control and techniques. As we made entry, the heat was intense and the fire started to roll over as we advanced. The fire was out in a few minutes and we backed out of the building with adrenaline pumping and smiles on our faces. Overall, I would have to say that day three was the best.

After the previous day, day four was nice and relaxing. We all were certified in CPR and first aid. Our instructors for this were well seasoned EMTs and Paramedics; one had been on a rig for 35 years. I had been certified as a first responder before this, but it was good to get the review in.

The relaxed EMS day was soon over on day five, specialty rescues. It was chilly morning and my battalion's first station was water rescue. When we got there, the instructors gave us

Continued on page 10

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the option of not going in, but none of us feared the cold. We ran different scenarios and it was nice to get my feet wet in an advanced specialty. Next was rope rescue, which I had some experience with through the Lanesborough Fire Department's Jr. Academy. We did a low and a high angle rescue with a 10-person haul team. This was a favorite of mine and I will try and pursue more rope work in the future. Following rope rescue, we did confined space rescue. During this drill I was selected to make it a little interesting. Once I got to the victim at the end of a 2 ft diameter pipe, I "passed out" having been overcome "toxins". I have to give my team credit; within 10 seconds of going down they had me hauled out of the pipe with "treatment" underway. After the fun at confined space, we moved on to extrication. I had done extrications before, but this time they were using a different tooling system and I also did a third door removal.

Seems like a long day right? Well we weren't over yet. We broke for dinner at 6 but by 7 we suited up, filled every air bottle we could find and set off to the burn pit. The pit is a 50'x50' burn pad that sends flames a good 70 feet into the air. There were four hoseline crews with four members on each line. The

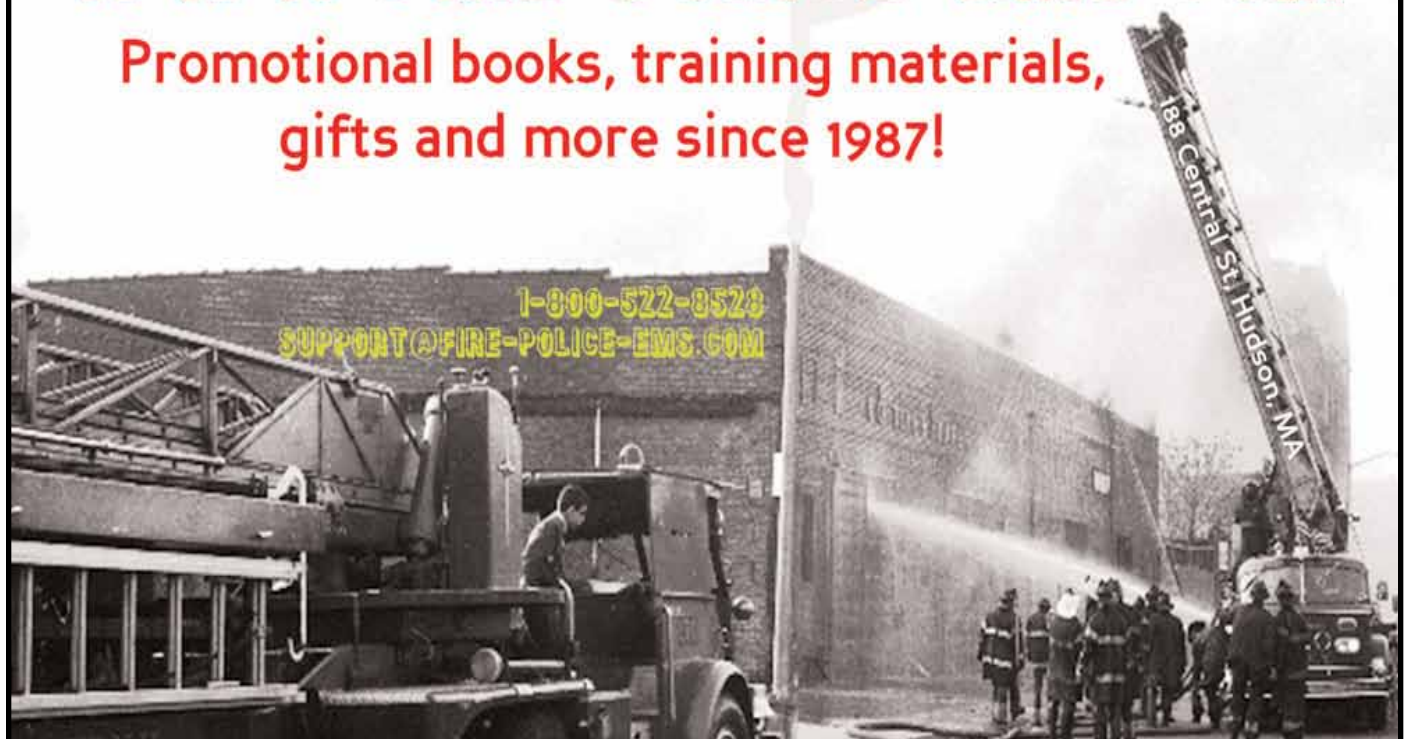
instructors made a deal with us, as long as we wanted to burn, we could. Well I went through three bottles that night and we burned 1600 gallons of propane. I did not get to bed until midnight. The pit burn was the highlight of the whole academy.

The last day was graduation. Early in the day, we had to clean up the academy and pack up all the resources that were used during our time there. Sadly, I was not able to attend graduation as I to make the 10 hour drive back home. Overall, this Academy was one of the best training experiences I have ever had. I have already used some of the knowledge I learned back at my department. I would encourage any junior to go to this Academy, it will be one of the best weeks of your life. In the future, I hope that more training opportunities open up for juniors. We are the future of the fire service and why not train us now? As my Chief once said, "You're not going to learn anymore when you're older, then you would now." 🚒

(Editor's Note: For more information about the West Virginia University's Junior Firefighter Camp, go to http://fireservice.ext.wvu.edu/jr_fire_fighter_camp. The cost of the 2016 camp was \$295 and included meals, lodging, and six required camp t-shirts. Scholarships may be available.)

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gifts and more since 1987!





FirstNet™

and the Fire Service in Massachusetts



By the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security,
Public Safety Broadband Office (PSBO)



Congress created the First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet) in 2012 to provide mission critical data communications to first responders and to address the last remaining unmet recommendation of the 9/11 Commission Report. This legislation was the result of years of joint lobbying by fire, police, EMS, and many others.

As a result of this law, FirstNet is responsible for deploying, operating, and maintaining the first high-speed, nationwide wireless broadband network dedicated to public safety. This network (the National Public Safety Broadband Network or NPSBN) will use state-of-the-art, commercially-proven, 4G LTE standards and will operate on 20MHz of prime dedicated wireless spectrum. Once deployed, the FirstNet network promises to provide priority to public safety users, resiliency during emergencies and disasters, and reliable coverage wherever first responders operate.

Who are the potential users of this network?

First responders and public safety will be the primary users of the NPSBN. In Massachusetts, this could include upwards of 100,000 primary users representing nearly 1,200 fire services, law enforcement, emergency medical, emergency management, 911, transportation, and other public safety agencies. Within the fire services, FirstNet users would include traditional fire departments, as well as fire safety volunteers, hazardous materials response, and military and industrial fire response units.

Does my department have to use the network?

No. The decision to use the network will be made separately by each public safety organization. If a department decides not to use the network, it can keep using the wireless service it has today.

How much is the NPSBN going to cost to build?

Billions, but no one knows exactly how much. When Congress created FirstNet, it authorized up to \$7 billion dollars to fund the network. Most industry analysts believe that is nowhere near enough money to roll out a nationwide, wireless data network.

To supplement that initial investment, the network will be funded in part by user fees and agreements allowing non-public safety users to use the network when it is not needed by public safety. Public safety users will have priority over these secondary users at all times.

What will we have to pay to use it?

We expect monthly service fees to be in line with what public safety organizations currently pay. Since there is no mandate to use the network, FirstNet services will need to be cost-competitive with private data carriers to win the business of fire, police, EMS, and others.

Who is going to pay for it?

FirstNet is going to act like a new national carrier that only provides service to public safety users. Public safety organizations wanting to switch to FirstNet will get new wireless devices, like smartphones and wireless cards, from FirstNet and will sign up for a data plan (similar to today). You (or your city or town) will pay FirstNet instead of your current carrier each month.

Is the NPSBN going to cover my town?

Yes, but to what extent, we do not know yet. In the January 13 request for proposal (RFP), FirstNet includes a map of coverage objectives where FirstNet expects a successful bidder to provide wireless data coverage nationwide. This map includes nearly the entirety of Massachusetts, including all of western and central Massachusetts and nearly all of the Cape and islands.

Is wireless data coverage going to be any better than what we currently have?

It is planned to be, but we will have to wait and see. Based on FirstNet's coverage objectives map, many of the known coverage gaps in Massachusetts that currently exist with traditional wireless data carriers should be addressed. That said, we will only know once we see the details of the winning bidder's plan for Massachusetts and then later test the deployment of the network to see if it lives up to those plans.

Continued on page 12

You can search for FirstNet's baseline coverage objectives plans for your city or town on our website at mass.gov/psbo.

How is this going to affect my Land Mobile Radio?

It is not (at least not anytime soon). The NPSBN is a data network, not a voice network. Work is underway to improve the global LTE standards to support mission critical voice, but that is still in development and is years from being a reliable option. That said, there are apps that currently support voice communications over LTE data networks. These apps will allow first responders to supplement, but not replace, their voice communications in the field.

How does FirstNet know what fire services needs here in Massachusetts?

Last summer, the PSBO conducted a series of data collection activities to inform FirstNet of Massachusetts' wireless data needs and expectations. This included supplementing FirstNet's understanding of coverage objectives in Massachusetts with 73 data sets, as well as collecting survey data from public safety agencies across the Commonwealth.

We would like to thank the 184 Massachusetts fire services agencies that responded to this survey. Below are some highlights of the results. Looking at response from the three primary first responder disciplines (fire services, law enforcement, and EMS):

- Fire services agencies had the highest participation rate of all three disciplines (184 fire services agencies, 174 law enforcement agencies, 17 private EMS agencies, and 21 transportation and other agencies).
- Fire services agencies responded from all five Massachusetts homeland security regions (61 from Southeast, 47 from Northeast, 43 from West, 27 from Central, and 6 from Metro Boston).
- These 184 fire services agencies reported total personnel of 11,692 and combined fleets of 2,443 vehicles. Fire services reported the smallest average personnel size (64) and average fleet size (13).
- EMS (20%) and fire services (10%) reported the largest portions of their personnel as volunteer.
- Law enforcement had the most total data devices (9,221), followed by transportation (8,315) and fire services (3,165).
- Fire services reported an average of 0.12 data devices per staff and 0.6 data devices per vehicle. These ratios are similar

FirstNet's Baseline Coverage Map of Massachusetts



in nature to law enforcement (0.14 and 0.58, respectively). Transportation (1.69) and private EMS (1.26) had the most data devices per vehicle on average.

- 20 of the 184 responding fire services agencies (11%) currently have no wireless data devices of any kind. That was the highest of all disciplines.
- 63% of fire services agencies generally allow the use of personal wireless data devices at work, but few (9%) provide any compensation for these devices.
- Fire services was most likely to report daily use of wireless data for communications (86%), general connectivity (75%), and computer aided dispatch (42%). Fire services respondents were unlikely to report currently using mobile data for telemetry (9%), automobile vehicle location (8%), video (3%), and over the top voice communications (1%).
- Fire services reported cost (65%), coverage (62%), network reliability (57%), and in-house expertise (53%) as current barriers to broader use of wireless data.
- Most fire services agencies (61%) indicated they "would pay a little more to have fixed rates regardless of wireless data usage" and most currently have unlimited (60%) or pooled (14%) data plans.
- Fire services provided input on a broad range of critical coverage needs, including over 260 specific comments about coverage needs in individual fire service jurisdictions throughout the Commonwealth.

When will the NPSBN be available here in MA?

The FirstNet network is up and running in five pilot sites nationwide. These testbeds were drawn from a list of eight public safety communications projects that were awarded federal grants to develop LTE networks prior to the creation of FirstNet in 2012. No additional pilot sites are planned.

Deployment of the full network is still in the procurement stage. FirstNet released its request for proposals (RFP) on January 13 to select an industry partner to deploy the network nationwide. Bids were received back on May 31. A contract award is planned for later this year.

The timing for when the network will be available in Massachusetts is uncertain, but initial deployment of the network in Massachusetts could begin as soon as 2017. FirstNet plans a phased deployment of the network over five years with full deployment by 2022. The details for that deployment, including coverage areas, costs, supported devices, and other information, will be provided to the PSBO in a Massachusetts State Plan. This plan is expected to be delivered to the PSBO early next year.

What comes next?

FirstNet just completed a significant milestone with the submittal of bids to build the nationwide network. The next big milestone is the selection of vendor and the issuance of a contract for services (currently planned to be completed by November). The next significant milestone for Massachusetts will be the receipt of our State Plan early next year. At that point, the Governor will decide whether to move forward with the FirstNet plan or “opt out” and deploy the network ourselves.

Who leads FirstNet activities here in Massachusetts?

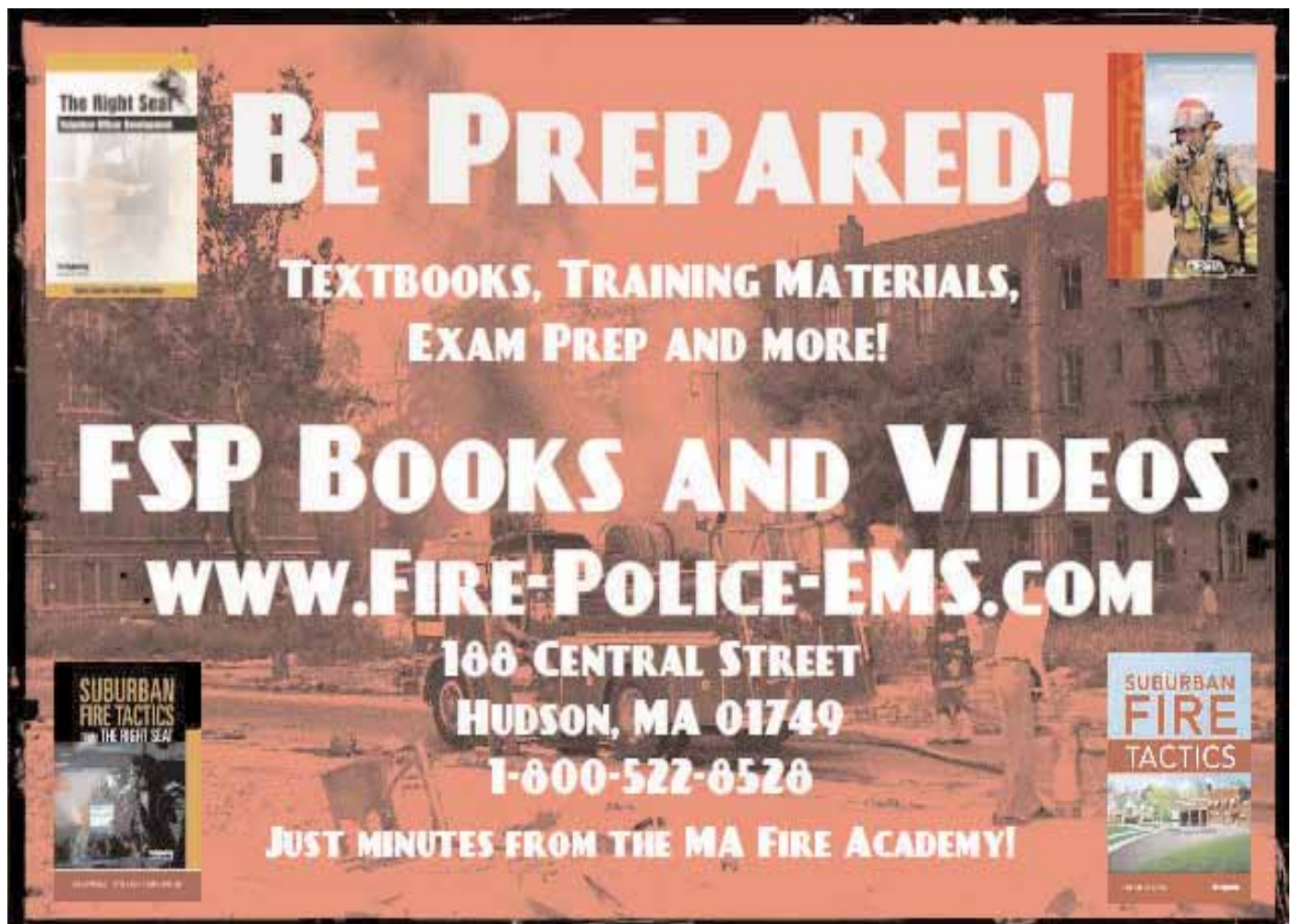
Curtis Wood, EOPSS Undersecretary for Forensic Science and Technology, is the Commonwealth’s Single Point of Contact with FirstNet. All communications, planning, and day-to-day FirstNet activities run through the Public Safety Broadband Office, which is headed by Undersecretary Wood. This office coordinates FirstNet planning with the Office of the Governor and seeks advice from the Massachusetts FirstNet Advisory Board and other public communications bodies.

Who should I contact if I have questions?

Contact the Public Safety Broadband Office with any questions you might have. We can be reached by email at psbo@state.ma.us.

To keep up to date with FirstNet developments, check out our web site at mass.gov/psbo. 

This article was prepared by the Massachusetts Executive Office of Public Safety and Security using funds under award 25-10-S13025 from the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), U.S. Department of Commerce (DOC). The statements, findings, conclusions, and recommendations are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the NTIA, DOC, or FirstNet.



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JUST MINUTES FROM THE MA FIRE ACADEMY!

Engine Company Training

By Chief Joe Maruca

Add engine company training evolutions to your department's drill program.

Engine company training evolutions are a series of hands-on fire attack drills based upon NFPA 1410, Standard on Training for Emergency Scene Operations. They are quick and easy to do. You don't need any special equipment, books or instructors to conduct them. They will increase the efficiency and effectiveness of your engine companies. Over time you will see a marked improvement in individual firefighter skills as you do them. However, to be successful the frequency of training needs to be increased.

In its survey of call/volunteer firefighter training (see The State of Call/Volunteer Firefighter Training in Massachusetts and Recommendations for Improvement, December 11, 2015, available on the MCVFA website), the MCVFA discovered that 50% of all call/volunteer fire departments never conduct engine company training evolutions as part of their routine training program. Only 25% of departments conducted these drills at least quarterly.

The same survey also revealed that almost one-quarter (22%) of the call/volunteer fire departments in Massachusetts train only once per month. One-third (37%) of call/volunteer fire departments train twice per month. Slightly less than one-fifth of call/volunteer firefighters (18%) train weekly. The typical call/volunteer firefighter in Massachusetts is only getting only about 50 hours of training per year. (ISO expects firefighters to have 192 hours per year of company training for maximum training credit!)

Based upon the above data it is clear that there is a need for the call/volunteer fire service in Massachusetts to increase the amount of training that each firefighter participates in each year. Trends indicate that over past 25 years, the typical Massachusetts call/volunteer fire department hasn't increased its annual training, but its mission has expanded deeper into EMS, hazmat, technical rescue and public education. The number of emergency calls as doubled and tripled. The complexity of firefighting as exploded exponentially. Training hasn't kept pace.

The survey data suggests that many departments have seen their hands-on fire training erode away in order to cover required topics in EMS, hazmat, ethics and other peripheral areas. The survey indicates that some departments aren't sure what to add to their drill programs or how to provide relevant fire training drills. This is where engine company training evolutions can help you.



If your department is training once or twice per month, I recommend that you to add at least four more drills to your annual schedule and use them to conduct a simple engine company training evolution. To better understand how this works, I am presenting an outline for just such an engine company training evolution that can be adapted for use by any call/volunteer fire department.

The engine company training evolution in this issue of *Smoke Showin'* is a two engine drill. You need six (or more) firefighters. You need a water source of any kind. The drill will take you about 10 minutes to conduct, 5 minutes to review and 15 minutes to pick up. Then you can mix up the crews and do it again. Do it four times in an evening and you've had an excellent 2-hour training session.

While the engine company training evolution may not be exactly what will happen at an actual fire it does simulate many of the common engine company tasks involved with getting and keeping water on the fire fast. The drill has firefighters stretch hose, use SCBA, pump 300 gpm, connect to a water supply and practice command skills. It's a great hands-on approach to training. It groups tasks together in context. Firefighters who practice this evolution will get good at initial fire attack.

Here's how the drill works and some ways you can modify it to fit your fire department.

Pick a building for the simulated fire and a target for your hose streams. Use your fire station and direct the water over the roof or past a corner of the building into the woods. You can conduct this drill in the parking lot at the fire station, on a quiet street or just about any other location available for fire training in your town.

Staff two engines as they would be normally staffed responding to a building fire. If you normally have two firefighters and other firefighters arrive at the scene in their cars, set up the drill to simulate this: have each engine staffed with two firefighters, and then have two or more firefighters join them at the scene as they would if they arrived in their own car. If you normally have three or four firefighters on an engine, then staff them that way. For the drill to work you need six firefighters. (You can use more if that's your normal.) So set it up for at least six firefighters to participate. The fire chief can be one of the firefighters.

Have your engines leave the fire station and drive around the block. When the first engine arrives back at the fire station, have it pull-in and set up as if the fire station is on fire. Hold and delay the second engine a block away for at least 30 seconds (per the NFPA standard). I'm recommending at least 1 minute, and you can delay it longer to simulate your reality.

The first engine does a size-up, stretches an attack line and starts flowing water from its tank. Then have the second engine pull in and reverse lay 300' of supply hose to a water source.

(If your parking lot is too small to fit 300' of hose use 200' or 100' of hose.) Your water source can be a nearby fire hydrant, a cistern or dry hydrant, a stream or pond. You can preposition a port-a-tank filled with water to simulate a stream or pond.

The second engine then either goes draft or connects to the hydrant and supplies the first engine with at least 300 gpm. The officer and firefighter assigned to the second engine will then stretch and flow the backup hose.

Once both the attack hose line and the backup hose line are flowing a combined 300 gpm the exercise is over. You should try to get it all done in 8 minutes or less.

If you have two firefighter engines, as each engine arrives, have a third firefighter get out of his or her car, get on their PPE and join the engine.

Do this drill at least four times per year. Repetition is critical to learning the skills and putting all of the motions together. And, this kind of training appeals to firefighters who learn best by doing.

So don't wait, add four new drills to your annual training schedule and try this for a year. You'll be happy with the results. You'll be a better fire department in that your firefighters will have more confidence in their skills and those critical first few minutes of your next fire will run smoother. 🚒



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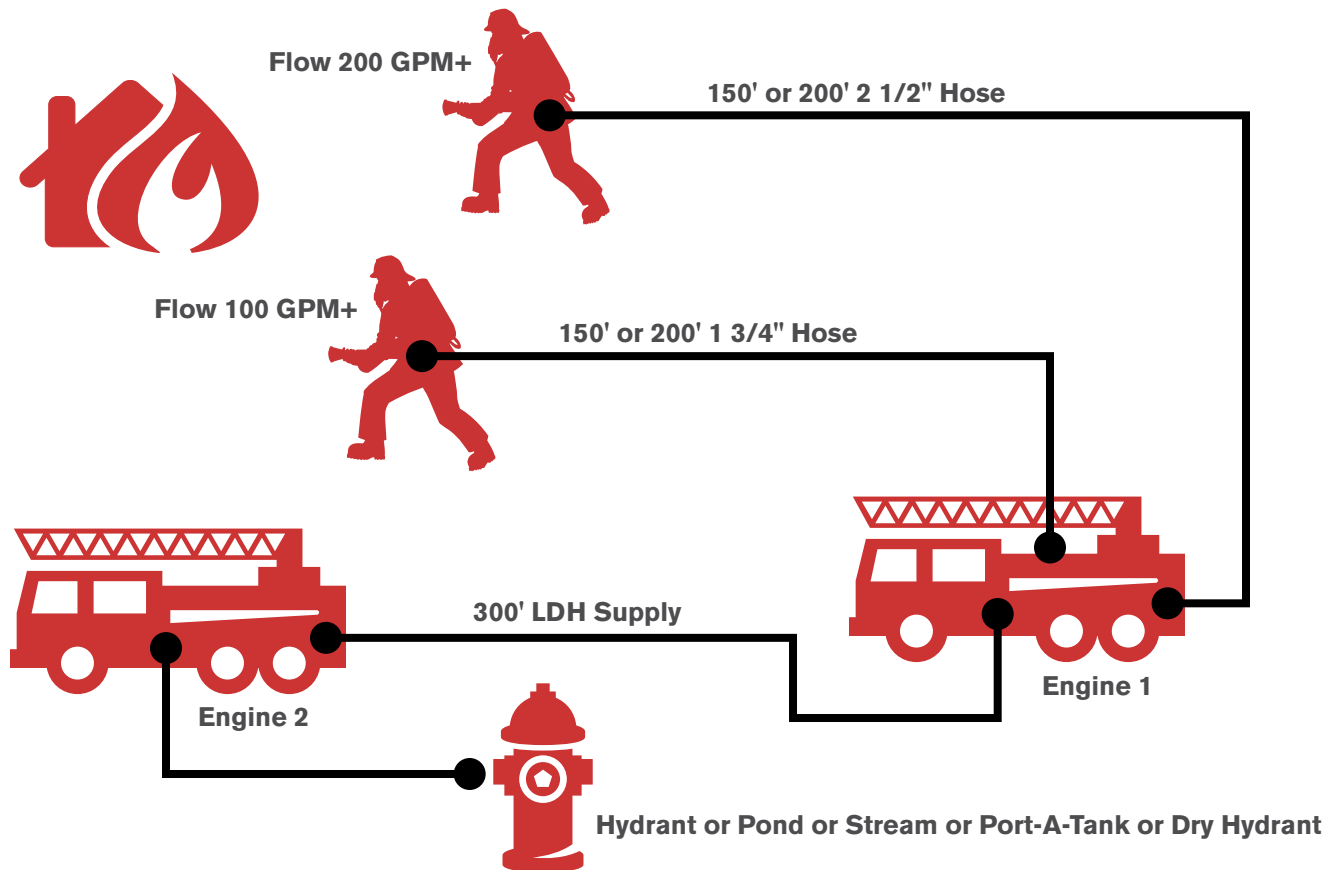
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MCVFA Model Engine Company Training Evolution #1

2 Engines with Water Supply – 2 Hand Lines

An NFPA 1410 Evolution



Objective: To place an initial attack line (1 3/4") of minimum 150' and a backup line (2 1/2") of minimum 150' in-service and flowing at least 300 GPM using units and staffing typical of personnel that ordinarily respond. A reverse lay by a second engine to water supply of 300' of LDH shall be established.

Evolution Description

A reverse lay using two engines and one supply line with 1 attack line and 1 back-up hose line. Reverse lay of 300' of LDH from fire scene to hydrant or alternate water source. Crew shall deploy 2 hose lines capable of flowing a minimum of 300 GPM within 5 minutes from the start of the evolution (or 8 minutes if drafting). Engine shall be permitted to charge initial attack line with tank water; hydrant or static water source shall be established before back-up line is in place.

Evaluation Criteria

All lines shall be completely deployed from hose beds.

All nozzles shall be flowing minimum GPM at appropriate pressures.

Time begins when first engine stops at simulated fire scene and sets brakes. Time ends when water is flowing at required flow/pressure from both lines and supply line has been established. There shall be no stoppage in water flow.

Recommended Time: 5 Minutes with Hydrant & 8 Minutes Drafting

Reference NFPA 1410, 2000 Edition; Training for Initial Emergency Scene Operations

MCVFA Model Engine Company

Training Evolution #1

Model Company Evolution – 2 Engines with Water Supply

PROCEDURES

1. 1st Engine sets-up at Side Alpha of the building (or simulated building). Keep in mind positioning of additional apparatus such as aerial ladders and tenders/tankers. Also, three sides of the target address should be viewed, if possible.
2. Officer #1 sizes-up existing conditions and transmits a brief initial report.
3. Officer #1 conducts a 360 degree size-up with the Thermal Imaging Camera and gives an updated radio report.
4. Driver/Operator sets-up, stabilizes truck and engages pump. Sets out traffic cones.
5. FF #1 stretches 1 ¾" hose line (150' or 200' pre-connect).
6. Officer #1 & FF #1 flow hose line at "fire" until end of evolution. Flow 100 GPM or more.
7. 2nd Engine arrives after a 1 minute delay and reverse lays 300' of supply line to a water source (hydrant, port-a-tank, pond/stream, dry hydrant or cistern).
8. 2nd Engine Crew establishes water supply and pumps water to 1st Engine.
9. Officer #2 and FF #2 stretch 2 ½" hose line (150' or 200') from 1st Engine.
10. Officer #2 and FF #2 flow 2 ½" hose line at "fire". Flow 200 GPM or more.
11. Evolution ends when both hose lines are flowing a combined 300 GPM or more at proper pressures and with all FF in full PPE and breathing air from SCBA.

ASSIGNMENTS

1. Captain/Lieutenant 1st Engine – SCBA, Portable Radio, Hand Light and Thermal Imaging Camera – Radio Report, 360 Size Up, Staffs 1 ¾" attack hose line.
2. FF #1 – SCBA, Portable Radio, Hand Light, - Advances the 1¾" attack line.
3. Driver/Operator 1st Engine – Properly stabilizes and operates the apparatus
4. Captain/Lieutenant 2nd Engine – SCBA, Portable Radio and Hand Light – Supervises establishment of water supply, Staffs 2 ½" backup hose line.
5. Driver/Operator 2nd Engine – Properly stabilizes and operates the apparatus.
6. FF #2 – SCBA Portable Radio, Hand Light – Assists with establishing water supply, stretches and staffs 2 ½" back-up hose line.

SCORE SHEET

Infractions are counted for each person and each occurrence of the infraction. A total score of less than 0 is possible.

Safety

Points are deducted for each safety infraction.	Pts	# infractions
1. Crew seated & belted while engine in motion	10	
2. All required protective clothing worn properly	10	
3. SCBA/PASS activated and worn properly	10	
4. Crew checks for traffic when mounting and dismounting apparatus	5	
5. Vehicle operated safely (under control, park break set, etc.)	10	
6. Wheels chocked	5	
7. Engine Operator sets out traffic cones	5	
8. Running	5	
9. Other (note)	5	
10. General safety	5	
Total (point value X # of infractions)		

Procedures

Points are deducted for each infraction <i>(failure to perform / perform properly).</i>	Pts	# infractions
1ST ENGINE		
Engine spots at fire building allowing truck co. access and view 3 sides	5	
Officer sizes up existing conditions and transmits a report	5	
Officer completes 360 with TIC and transmits a report	10	
Firefighter & Officer stretch and flow 1¾" attack line – no "spaghetti"	10	
Personnel carry proper tools and equipment	5	
Pump engaged / Pressure Governor set / Proper Pressure & Flow	10	
Flood lights/scene lights activated if at night	5	
2ND ENGINE		
Engine/Crew reverse lays 300' of supply line from 1st Engine to Water Supply	10	
Water supply is established and water pumped to 1st Engine	10	
Firefighter & Officer stretch and flow 2 ½" backup hose from 1st Engine	5	
Personnel carry proper tools and equipment	5	
Pump engaged / Pressure Governor set / Proper Pressure & Flow	10	
Flood lights/scene lights activated if at night	5	
Total (point value X # of infractions)		
Total Safety Points Deducted		
Total Procedure Points Deducted		
Total Score for the exercise = (100 – Safety – Procedure)		

Recommended Time: 5 Minutes with Hydrant & 8 Minutes Drafting

A total score of less than 70 results in failure of the exercise

Was a minimum of 300 GPM delivered?

Pass ☐ Fail ☐

Were nozzle pressures & flows correct?

Yes/Pass ☐ Fail ☐

Were hose layouts from the water source adequate to supply engines?

Yes/Pass ☐ Fail ☐

Were hose streams operated without major interruption*? **more than 10 seconds*

Yes/Pass ☐ Fail ☐

Date _____ Crew Members: _____

In Under Two Minutes, Fire creates Irreversible Damage in Mock Home

By Fred Durso

In a mere 78 seconds, fire had its way with a mock living room. The aftermath resembled a scene from a disaster flick: an upholstered chair singed beyond recognition and emitting white smoke, a brown couch colored black from fire, drywall now resembling Swiss cheese from all of the holes. The firefighters' rapid response wasn't fast enough to salvage the room's contents. It's evident that nothing living would have survived the fire, either.

A few steps from the ruin, fire sprinklers activated inside a similar structure in 13 seconds. Though wet, the furniture was still intact.

Displaying the solution to the deadly realities of today's home fires was the East Longmeadow Fire Department in Massachusetts. This fire sprinkler demonstration attracted a large crowd and the local media, which highlighted sprinkler water use and Sprinkler Activation 101. 🚒



The aftermath of the mock room without fire sprinklers



A sizzling sofa after the fire

Coalition Shows Support for Life-Saving Sprinkler Bill

Members of the Massachusetts Fire Sprinkler Coalition joined State Representative Ruth Balser (third from left) at the Massachusetts State House in 2016 to show their support for a bill that would give local towns the option to sprinkle its new homes. Joining Balser was (from left) Dave LaFond with the National Fire Sprinkler Association; Mary Regan, coalition chair; and Tim Travers with the National Fire Protection Association. 🚒



REGION 1

Covering the counties of Barnstable, Bristol, Dukes, Middlesex, Nantucket, Norfolk, Plymouth

Vice President Bryan Moniz, Westport

During the fall, the fire service traditionally sees an increase in call volume. There are several reasons for this, the main one being the weather and temperature. Take a few extra minutes to prepare for the call. Some things to consider having at the ready are an extra sweatshirt, extra socks and a winter hat. You also might want to consider keeping a set of hand and feet warmers if your department allows them for non-firefighting incidents. Make sure that your personal vehicle is completely clear of snow and ice before you respond to the call. And, just like during summer, it is important to keep yourself hydrated. We work in a hot and tiring environment, summer and winter, and fluids help your recovery from that environment.

Finally, after some long and hard thinking, I have decided not to run for reelection as Vice President of Region 1. Furthermore, I will not be seeking any positions on the Executive Board of MCVFA. Having served as your Regional Coordinator and Vice President, I feel that I have given a lot of myself to this organization and with your help, we have grown this region. The support I have received from the membership in the region and my mentors within the MCVFA have been tremendous and I thank you for this. Unfortunately circumstances change and I feel I cannot commit the time and energy that I feel this position needs. I want to thank you all for giving me this opportunity; I have learned a lot during my tenure as your vice president.

In closing, I know that you will find a suitable replacement for me and you have a great asset in your Regional Coordinator Rachael Rawlings. Once again, thank you and it has been a pleasure serving as your Vice President and I again thank you for giving me this opportunity. 🚒

**VP Bryan Moniz can be reached at
vpreion1@mcvfa.org or 508-509-3531.**

REGION 2

Covering the counties of Essex, Middlesex

Vice President David Thompson, Essex

Groveland Fire Department hires Five Female Firefighters

by John Guilfoil

(Permission to reprint courtesy of John Guilfoil)

Chief Robert Lay is pleased to announce that five women have joined the Groveland Fire Department's team of call firefighters, making up nearly 20 percent of the 32 member staff.

New to the team are firefighters Alyssa Bosch, Lisa Evans, Jennifer Hicks, Courtney Panaro and Megan Shea.

Firefighters Bosch, Hicks, Panaro and Shea are scheduled to attend the fire academy in the fall.

According to the National Fire Protection Agency, in 2012, only 3.4 percent of career firefighters in the U.S. were women.

"The decision to hire these five women is consistent with our mission, our strategic plan and our organizational transformation," Chief Lay said. "Whether departments are career or call, doesn't change the importance of creating a diverse work environment. We're excited to add these women to our roster of talented firefighters."



Left to right: Firefighters Jennifer Hicks, Megan Shea, Lisa Evans, Courtney Panaro and Alyssa Bosch.

Firefighter Bosch moved from Beverly to Groveland just under a year-and-a-half ago with her four children and husband Christopher Bosch, who is also a Groveland firefighter. After seeing her husband attend the fire academy last winter, she realized her passion for giving back to the community and decided pursue a career as a firefighter as well.

Firefighter Evans joined the Groveland Fire Department in July. She has been with the West Newbury Fire Department for six years and is now working for both departments. Firefighter Evans received her National I/II Firefighter Certification from the Massachusetts Fire Academy in 2011, is CPR certified and is the Massachusetts Call/Volunteer Firefighters Association Region 2 Coordinator. She earned a bachelor's degree in accounting from Merrimack College and currently works as a dental hygienist. Firefighter Evans' husband, David, is a Deputy Chief on the West Newbury Fire Department and also a member of the Groveland Fire Department.

Firefighter Hicks spent 17 years, from 1996 to 2013, as a certified special education teacher, working to assist students with autism. She has a master's degree in education from Simmons College and a bachelor's degree in psychology from St. Michael's College. Over the last year she earned her EMT certification.

Firefighter Panaro is currently enrolled at North Shore Community College to obtain a degree in Fire Protection and Safety Technology. Her goal, which she set for herself when she was a little girl, is to become a full-time firefighter.

Firefighter Shea graduated from Pentucket High School in 2015. She was first introduced to the fire service through a public safety course during her senior year and then joined the junior firefighter program in West Newbury. She is currently enrolled at North Community College with plans to transfer to Salem State University, where she will pursue a degree in nursing.

Below are two stories that are in a way dichotomies but are connected, a beginning and an end, happiness and sadness.

Chief Robert B. Lay was pleased to announce that Captain Kurt Ruchala of the Groveland Fire Department was granted accreditation for the level of Fire Chief by the Massachusetts Fire Service Commission. Chief Lay said, "We are extremely proud of Captain Ruchala for achieving accreditation at the level of fire chief. He has been a tremendous asset to our department and we are honored to be able to call him one of our own."



*Kurt Ruchala and Chief Lay
(photo by Jenna Briscoe)*

Application for accreditation is open to all fire service members in the Commonwealth serving as chief of a department, or any person holding the rank of captain or above. Participation in the program is voluntary and all eligible personnel are encouraged to partake. Accredited participants are required to renew their credentials every three years. See the MFA website for a full listing of courses.

Captain Ruchala is an MCVFA member and represents the Association on the State Fire Training Council.

Retired Fire Chief Brian W. Peavey

It is with deep regret that Chief Ralph Spencer of the Merrimac Fire Department announced the passing of Retired Fire Chief Brian W. Peavey, age 74, a longtime Merrimac resident who passed away on August 10, 2016.

He dedicated his life to serving his community. He was a member of the Merrimac Fire Department for 38 years, retiring as Chief in 2000. He was also a Special Police Officer with the Merrimac Police Department for 45 years. He had previously been a member of the North Windham, ME Fire Department and was a Lieutenant on the Newton, NH Fire Department.

He was a member of the New England Association of Fire Chiefs, the 100 Club of Massachusetts, and the Massachusetts Police Association. 

Regional Coordinator Lisa Evans.

continues on page 22

REGION 4

Covering the counties of Franklin, Hampden, Hampshire
Former **Vice President Jason Connell, Williamsburg**

I am in my first few months as Vice President after taking the reigns over from Jason Connell, who I would like to thank for his service. Currently I am a member of the Heath and Rowe departments. Region 4 continues to be a strong supporter of the MCVFA. I look forward to meeting as many member departments and their personnel as possible and look forward to hearing ideas that will help build a stronger Association for all.

Regional secretary Matt Lemieux helped guide me through our most recent meeting in Three Rivers. It was great to meet new faces and I look forward to meeting more. Kevin Connolly, our president, was on hand and updated us on legislative issues. As a reminder, the annual state meeting will be held on Saturday, October 29 in Hadley. Further information and registration can be found on the MCVFA homepage. I hope to see you all there. 🚒

VP Jeff Simmons can be reach at vpregion4@mcvfa.org.

REGION 5

Covering the counties of Berkshire
Vice President Paul Vallone, Clarksburg

Western Massachusetts Junior and Explorer Firefighters' Facebook Page

Earlier this year I helped with the Junior Firefighters Academy sponsored by the Lanesboro Fire Department. With social media being so popular with many Fire and EMS departments I thought it would be a great idea to start a Facebook page for the Junior and Explorer Firefighters in Western Mass. This would give them a place to correspond with other Junior and Explorer Fire



departments in the state. They can post pictures of their drill nights to show other departments their activities or their special events like fundraiser's etc. The link to the page is www.facebook.com/Western-Mass-Junior-and-Explorer-Firefighters-581683982010857 or just search for Western Mass Junior and Explorer Firefighters.

Village Ambulance Explorer's Post 911

Village Ambulance Explorers Post 911 working with Shawn Godfrey on Medical training / Northfield Junior Firefighters at this year's Junior Firefighters Academy. Photo's courtesy of Village Ambulance Service Explorers Post 911 and Northfield Junior Firefighters.



2016 Robert J. Hindley Memorial Scholarship Recipient

Photos by Kevin Hewitt (CVFC)

Amanda Vallone, daughter of Regional VP Paul Vallone and his wife Brenda Vallone, was a recipient of the Robert J. Hindley Memorial Scholarship. Amanda will be attending Green Mountain College in Poultney, Vermont this fall to study psychology.





Left to Right: Region 5 VP Paul Vallone, Amanda Vallone, & Clarksburg Delegate Kevin Hempstead

Alert Hose Company garners more Awards

by Cory Adelt

Photo by Cory Adelt (Adams Alert Hose Co)

The Alert Hose Co #1 of Adams, MA attended the Bennington Battle Days parade August 14, 2016 where members pulled their infamous parade cart that was built in 1885. The department is well known for wearing their Prince Albert style buff and white uniforms. This rare uniform style has been preserved by the company as a memorial to its predecessors and is worn proudly with distinction by the Alerts today.

The Alerts proudly took home three new trophies Vermont State Firefighters Association Best Appearing Antique Hand



Drawn Equipment - Out of State, Vermont State Firefighters Association Best Appearing Marching Unit With Or Without Antique Apparatus - Out of State 2016 and lastly Bennington Battle Day 2016 Oldest Hand Drawn Antique Equipment Fire Related. 🚒

VP Paul Vallone can be reach at vpregion5@mcvfa.org.

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New Advertising Opportunity

A new section has been created for advertising in *Smoke Showin'*. The new section marketplace directory will feature business card size ads which will appear in the back of the magazine. This will be a great opportunity to promote a company or service to your fellow firefighters.

Pricing is for placing an ad in one issue \$65, place an ad for 2 issues \$120, and place an ad for 3 issues \$170 or the best deal is place an ad for 4 issues at \$200. Price is the same for black & white or a color ad.

Marketplace Directory

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To place an ad or questions, please contact Susan Dyer at 443-994-3350 or susan@sdyerdesign.com.



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A Reminder!

Your 2016-2017 Dues Year are due Now

If your department has not yet paid, please make every effort to get them in as soon as possible. Questions can be directed to the Membership Committee at membership@mcvfa.org. The association depends on timely receipt of dues to be able to pay its bills and to facilitate the programs that the organization sponsors.

The Membership Committee

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