

Call/Volunteers Serving Today to Protect Your Tomorrow

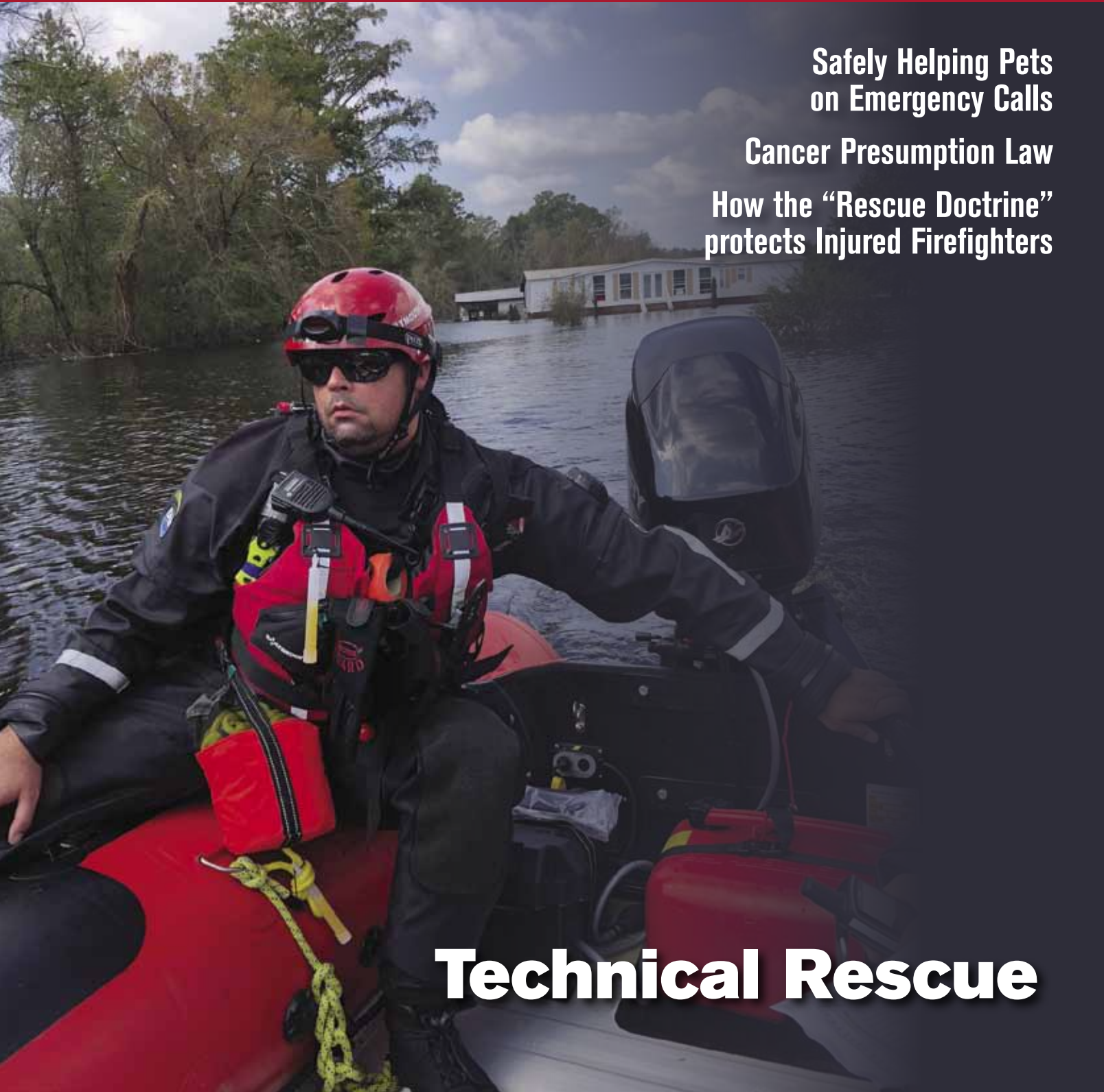
Smoke Showin'

The Official Publication of the Massachusetts Call/Volunteer Firefighters Association

**Safely Helping Pets
on Emergency Calls**

Cancer Presumption Law

**How the “Rescue Doctrine”
protects Injured Firefighters**



Technical Rescue

Injured Firefighters have Rights We are here to Help

EXPERIENCED SUCCESSFUL COMPASSIONATE

INJURED ON THE JOB?

Do you know your rights?

Do you have a personal injury claim?

Our legal team at Ballin & Associates knows firefighters' legal rights when injured. We have a 30 year track record of successful cases recovering substantial compensation for injured firefighters and police officers where other lawyers never thought possible. We know the pain of being injured is not just physical but financial as well – we can help. We have a strong reputation with the insurers and defense counsel in this state from decades of representing firefighters and police in over 200 municipalities statewide.

Past case results for injured firefighters:

\$1,600,000	shoulder injury while fighting an attic fire
\$475,000	back injury when ladder slipped on ice at an arson fire
\$340,000	knee injury, slip on ice while fighting a fire
\$150,000	broken leg in fall while fighting a fire
\$50,000	back injury pulling line while fighting a grease fire
\$40,000	prior knee injury aggravated in fall while fighting a fire

If you have been injured from any of the following, contact us and find out whether you can recover compensation:

- Arson
- Slips, trips and falls
- Snow/ice falls
- Defective steps & railings
- Motor vehicle crashes
- Negligently caused fires
- Injuries during rescues
- Dog bites
- Toxic Exposure



CALL or EMAIL ATTORNEY STEVEN BALLIN TODAY

FREE AND CONFIDENTIAL CONSULTATION
NO FEE UNLESS SUCCESSFUL

800-245-2052

SBALLIN@BALLINLAW.COM

BALLINLAW
1981

Visit www.ballinlaw.com to learn more.



2019

MCVFA Officers

President

Kevin Connolly
Northfield Fire Department
(413) 498-4388
president@mcvfa.org

Secretary

David Sullivan
Seekonk Firefighters Assn.
(774) 229-6202
secretary@mcvfa.org

Treasurer

Larry Holmberg
Chesterfield Fire Department
(413) 296-4247
treasurer@mcvfa.org

Executive Vice President

Tom Burnett
Whitman Fire Department
(617) 719-1289
evp@mcvfa.org

Region 1 Vice President

Ken Jordan
Wareham Fire Department
vpremier1@mcvfa.org

Region 2 Coordinator

Lisa Evans
Groveland Fire Department
reg2cor@mcvfa.org

Region 3 Vice President

Michael Goldstein
Sherborn Fire Department
vpremier3@mcvfa.org

Region 4 Vice President

Joshua Ellinger
Huntington Fire Department
(413) 207-1900
vpremier4@mcvfa.org

Region 5 Vice President

Frank Speth, III
New Ashford Fire Department
(413) 446-3627
vpremier5@mcvfa.org

Recruitment and Retention Program Coordinator

Susan Dyer
recruit@mcvfa.org

CONTENT

- 4** Safely Helping Pets on Emergency Calls
- 5** July 1 Deadline for Some to Complete Fire Officer and Fire Instructor Certification
- 7** 2018-2019 Legislative Scorecard
- 8** Update on Statewide Technical Rescue
- 10** How the "Rescue Doctrine" protects Injured Firefighters
- 12** Cancer Presumption Law
- 13** Robert J. Hindley Memorial Scholarship
- 14** Photo Essay: OSHA Low Hanging Fruit & Low Cost Compliance
- 18** 29th Annual "Firefighter of the Year" Awards

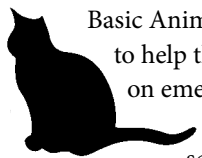


COLUMNS

- 6** President's Message
- 20** Regional News

The editorial staff of *Smoke Showin'* is always looking for topics and articles about the industry. If you have any suggestions or would like to write an article, please contact Larry Holmberg at editor@mcvfa.org.

Safely Helping Pets on Emergency Calls



Basic Animal Rescue Training (BART) is a course for all first responders to help them learn how to deal with pets that they might encounter on emergency calls, from house fires to natural disasters while maintaining their own safety and the safety of others on scene. This effectively reduces response time, decreases refusal to evacuate and re-entry rates and improves overall safety. First responders are also trained and equipped to triage and provide on-scene first aid and CPR to house pets.

Departments that have received the training include Andover, Ashby, Ashland, Blandford, Colrain, Hinsdale, Holliston, Lenox, Merrimac, Millbury, Oakham, Rehoboth, Springfield, Topsfield, and Uxbridge. This training is provided in a 3-hour class taught by veterinarians and veterinary technicians and is free to any first responders in Massachusetts. Please contact Dr. David Schwarz at dschwarz@smartma.org for more details and to arrange to bring the class to your town. 🚒

ATTENTION! FIRST RESPONDERS!



BART Basic Animal Rescue Training

BART is a Department of Homeland Security (DHS)-approved course that empowers emergency personnel with the training, knowledge, and equipment necessary to safely and effectively address the needs of animals encountered in emergency situations, in order to preserve human health, safety, and well-being. BART fulfills the requirements of the Pets Evacuation and Transportation Standards (PETS) Act enacted by Congress in 2006.

Training is available statewide at a location of your choice.

Maximum number of participants is 30 per training session.

This one-day workshop includes four modules - one or more includes live animals:

- Awareness, Resources, and Learning Concepts
- Evacuation: Handling and Restraint
- Patient Assessment and First Aid
- Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation

Who should attend

First responders (police, fire and rescue, EMTs/ambulance service personnel, animal control officers)



For more information, please contact David Schwarz at DSchwarz@smartma.org

Smoke Showin'

The Official Publication of the Massachusetts
Call/Volunteer Firefighters Association



MCVFA Offices

PO Box 1015, East Wareham, MA 02538
1-800-551-FIRE
mcvfa@mcvfa.org | www.mcvfa.org

Published by
SDyer Design

MCVFA President
Kevin Connolly, Northfield

Editor
Larry Holmberg, Chesterfield

Art Director
Susan Dyer

Production Manager
Susan Dyer

Legislative Director
Joe Maruca, West Barnstable

The editorial deadline is the 18th of the month preceding each issue

Address all editorial content to:
Smoke Showin'
MCVFA, PO Box 1015, East Wareham, MA 02538

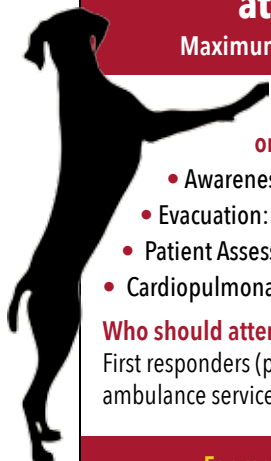
For address changes or MCVFA membership questions please call
1-800-551-FIRE

For advertising requests contact Susan Dyer
443-994-3350 or email susan@sdyerdesign.com

Smoke Showin' is published three times a year by the Massachusetts Call/Volunteer Firefighters Association, PO Box 1015, East Wareham, MA 02538. Periodicals postage is paid at East Wareham, MA, and at additional mailing offices.

Postmaster: Send all address changes to:
MCVFA, PO Box 1015, East Wareham, MA 02538.

Smoke Showin' is the official journal of the Massachusetts Call/Volunteer Firefighters Association, a non-profit organization, and carries news and announcements concerning the MCVFA. MCVFA members receive this magazine as part of their dues. The MCVFA is not responsible for contents or opinions other than Association activities. Entire contents are ©2019 the Massachusetts Call/Volunteer Firefighters Association, all rights reserved and, as such, may not be reproduced in part or in whole without written permission of the publishers. The MCVFA reserves the right to print portions or all of any correspondence received by the editors without liability on its part and no such correspondence will be returned without prior agreement. Home delivery of *Smoke Showin'* is one of the many benefits of MCVFA membership.





DEADLINE

for Some to Complete Fire Officer and Fire Instructor Certification

*by Jonathan Miller, Assistant Fire Chief, Monson Fire Department
MCVFA Representative to the Massachusetts Fire Training Council*

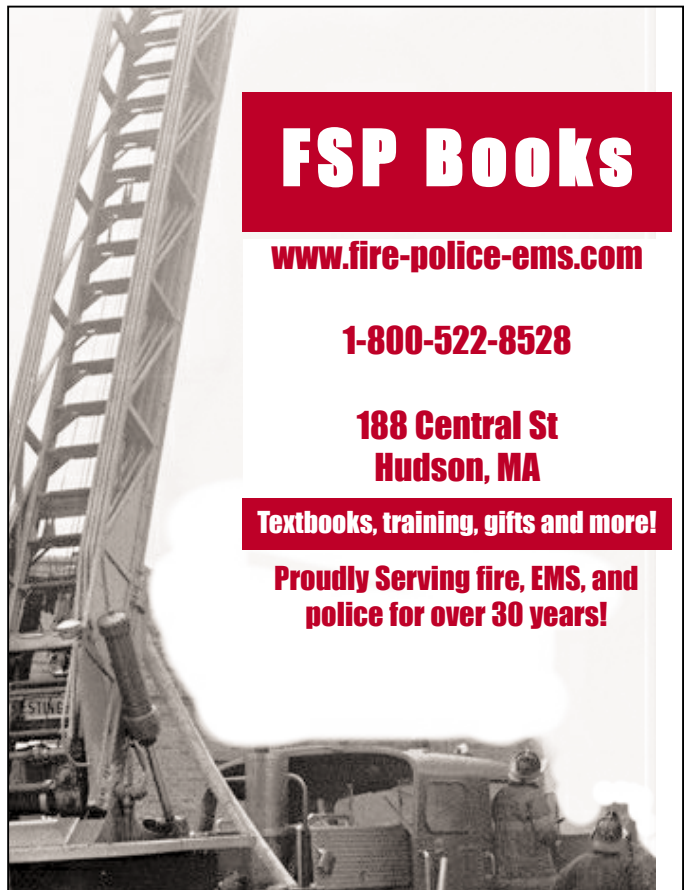
The Massachusetts Fire Training Council has approved new prerequisites for Fire Officer (FO) and Fire Instructor (FI) certification exams. These new prerequisites take effect July 1, 2019. The changes are based on recommendations made by the Pro Board and are intended to improve the quality of our certification system. There will be an impact on firefighters who have previously taken FO/FI courses but who have not yet sat for certification.

Prerequisite changes will only affect FO1, FO2, FI1 and FI2 certification. The changes are very similar in all four programs. Essentially firefighters will have to take these courses through the Massachusetts Fire Academy (MFA), and firefighters will have to take the certification exams within 1 year of completing the associated course. Challenging the exams will no longer be an option, and course content will change meaning that previous iterations of these MFA courses will not meet the new certification required prerequisites.

FO 1 and 2 certification will become a 2-stage exam, similar to FI certification. In addition to the written exam (150 multiple-choice questions), a practical component will be added. The practical portions of both FO and FI courses will be built into the MFA coursework. Currently in these programs, there are breakout sessions where firefighters practice skills such as: preparing a lesson plan, leading a training session, preparing a budget, presenting a proposal, evaluating a subordinate, issuing discipline, etc. These presentations will continue to be a part of the FO and FI courses, but now the evaluation of these presentations will count towards certification. Firefighters who take the new FO and FI curriculum will finish the 60-hour program with the practical portion of certification completed, as long as all other certification prerequisites are met. Firefighters will then have 1 year to complete the written exam to become Pro Board certified.

I think overall these changes are positive for the fire service and I support the rationale of striving to improve the certification system. My concern is for current fire officers who have taken

MFA courses in the past but have not yet sat for certification. There is a brief window to complete the certification process without having to retake the MFA FI and FO courses. A firefighter who has taken the FI1, FO1, FO2 and FI2 courses but who hasn't yet been certified will need to take these exams, sequentially, prior to July 1st. In my department alone, we have several firefighters falling into this category. We are looking to organizing a regional group of fire officers to map a pathway toward certification completion, perhaps creating study and mentoring groups for our officers. Our hope is to have this group operational early in 2019 and welcome any suggestions and participants. 🚒



FSP Books
www.fire-police-ems.com
1-800-522-8528
**188 Central St
Hudson, MA**
Textbooks, training, gifts and more!
**Proudly Serving fire, EMS, and
police for over 30 years!**



President's Message

Welcome to 2019! I am hoping that you and yours enjoyed your holidays.

As this is my final year as your President, I look forward to continuing to move the organization forward and represent you to the best of my ability. One very important objective that needs to be addressed is the call for someone to take over the reins as the president. I believe that there are members in our organization that are capable of stepping up to assist the Association. The task as president is not as difficult as one may think. My job was made easier due to those members that believe in the MCVFA's mission. I hope that someone will consider the possibility of assuming this important position. I look forward to chatting with any members who may be interested.

Mark LaVallee of Belchertown has stepped forward and indicated that he is interested in serving as the Association Treasurer. Due to a by-law rule, I have appointed him as Assistant Treasurer, a position he will serve in until elections at the State Meeting. Larry Holmberg will continue to serve as the Treasurer until that time.

The Association recently worked in conjunction with other Fire Service organizations including the Mass. Corps of Chaplains to develop a protocol for firefighter funerals. The purpose of the protocol is for consistency for all funerals. Since the MCVFA did not have a specific program, we felt this would helpful to pass on to any member department.

The MCVFA has also begun working with John Guilfoil Public Relations (JGPR) from Georgetown. The Executive Board feels that by working with JGPR, there are benefits to be realized by promoting the MCVFA and raising our image.

The Legislative Committee has developed its strategies for the next Legislative Session. The MCVFA will re-submit our previous list of legislative bills to include death benefits to surviving spouses, local option real estate tax exemption, a distinctive registration plate for firefighters, disability payments to call and volunteer firefighters and EMTs and voluntary contributions to the MFA Trust Fund.

If you have any suggestions, feel free to contact the Legislative Committee: legislative@mcvfa.org.

Finally, I'm pleased to announce that we have scheduled the next two State Meetings. The 2019 Annual State Meeting and Seminars will be held again at the Hadley Farms Meeting House (Saturday, October 19) in Hadley and the 2020 Annual State Meeting and Seminars will be held in Carver at Fire Headquarters (Saturday, October 17). Mark your calendars now! Also, if you have a suggestion for a seminar, please contact us! 🚒

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kevin Connolly'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large 'K' and 'C'.

Kevin Connolly
MCVFA President

Legislative Report

The MCVFA Legislative Committee will be re-submitting the five bills from the 2017-2018 Legislative session. The bills sponsored by the Association did not pass, though a few came close to moving along for passage. We have reached out to those members of both the House and Senate to re-file those bills for us.

We will continue to inform the membership about any progress our legislation makes during the year. The bills are the first five on the scorecard. 🚒

Kevin Connolly
Co-chair Legislative Committee

2018-2019 Legislative Scorecard

MCVFA Sponsored Bills			
Bill Description	Bill Number	Sponsor	Status
An Act relative to death benefits to surviving spouses of call and volunteer firefighters	H.1388 S.1409	Gentile Eldridge	House Committee on Bills in 3rd Reading Senate Ways & Means
An Act to provide volunteer firefighters with a local option real estate tax exemption	H.1566 H.1537 S.1537	Kulik Howitt Gobi	House Ways & Means
An Act providing for a distinctive registration plate for firefighters	H.1865	Mark	Study - H.4502
An Act relative to call and volunteer firefighters and EMTs (Disability)	H.4169	Dooley	Study - H.4588
An Act authorizing voluntary contributions to the Massachusetts Fire Fighters Academy Trust Fund	S.1550	Lesser	Study - S.2497
Other Bills of Interest			
For legislation to prohibit disciplinary actions by employers on employees serving as volunteer emergency responders	S.1014	Gobi	Study - S.2490
For legislation relative to carbon monoxide detectors in schools	H.1288 S.252	Mark Fattman	House Ways and Means - 4/4/18 Study - S2425
For legislation relative to the creation of the Commonwealth technical rescue regions and coordinating council	H.1258 S.1360 S.1380	Galvin Tarr Timilty	Signed by Governor, Acts of 2018, Chapter 217
An Act relative to enhanced fire protection in new one and two family dwellings	H.2481 S.1301	Balser Donnelly	House and Senate Ways & Means
An Act relative to line of duty death benefits (Scholarship)	S.1473	Timilty	Senate Ways & Means
For legislation relative to volunteer ambulance service	S.1207 > S.2446 Amd. To S.2202 > S.2211	Hinds	Passed to be engrossed to House - 11/9/17
An Act relative to the retirement benefits of state police dispatchers	H.2563 S.1482	Kokot Timilty	Senate Ways & Means
For legislation to provide fire chiefs with access to CORI information	S.980	Timilty	Study - S.2321
For legislation to modernize emergency medical services oversight	S.1192 H.3237	Donnelly Garlick	House Ways & Means
An Act relative to construction and rehabilitation of public safety facilities	H.2501	O'Day	House Ways & Means
Relative to Parkinson's disease disability and death of certain firefighters and other public safety officers in the contributory retirement plan for public employees	H.1455	Velis	House Ways & Means
An Act relative to line of duty death benefits (PTSD)	S.1403	Donnelly	Study - S.2491
An Act establishing an emergency equipment grant program for firefighters	H.1235	Ayers	House Ways & Means
An Act pertaining to firefighter disability (Kilduff Cancer Network)	H.1446	Ryan	House Ways & Means
An Act relative to the recovery of emergency response costs	H.1277	Kulik	House Ways & Means Opposed, No Action or Unsupported
Opposed, No Action or Unsupported			
An Act relative to appointment procedures for the State Fire Marshal	H.1237	Ayers	Study H.4767
An Act pertaining to public fire safety and professionalism	H.3263	Hunt	Study H.4767
An Act relative to standards and qualifications for the position of fire chief or chief engineer in cities, towns, fire districts, or authorities	H.2488	Donato	House Ways & Means
An Act relative to the Department of Fire Services Commission	H.1236	Ayers	House Ways & Means

Updated as of 1/3/19

Update on Statewide **TECHNICAL RESCUE**



by Duxbury Fire Chief Kevin Nord, Co-Chair FCAM Technical Rescue

Currently, the Technical Rescue Teams across the state are evolving; many are busy nailing down the five basic disciplines of rope, confined space, trench, structural collapse and swift/moving water rescue. The Fire Chiefs' Association of Massachusetts (FCAM) has a Technical Rescue Committee chaired by Andover Fire Chief Mike Mansfield of Andover Fire and me, Duxbury Fire Chief Nord. The committee is busy assisting in exercise development, coordination of project justifications, membership and operating guidelines. It is important to move the concept forward and many of the teams are making a difference with safe and exciting rescues. We will continue to shepherd all of the teams across the Commonwealth and continue to work with fire mobilization to incorporate the teams into the Statewide Fire & EMS Mobilization Plan.

The Legislature passed, and the Governor signed, Chapter 217 of the Acts of 2018 entitled, "An Act Relative to the Creation of the Commonwealth Technical Rescue Regions and Coordinating Council; it took effect on December 1, 2018. This law gives us some permanence and is truly a recognition that organized regional technical rescue teams, which are a needed force, are here to stay. Much work is ahead of us to secure funding, as homeland security funding sources are getting smaller.

The legislation does five things:

- 1** It recognizes five technical rescue regions; the recognition may be amended by the council.
- 2** It sets up a coordinating council appointed by the Governor, to provide coordination. The panel is made up of the Secretary of the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security, the State Fire Marshal, two members from FCAM, two members from the Professional Fire Fighters of Massachusetts and one representative member nominated from the five regions technical rescue teams. The council is charged with oversight and the development of uniform standards.
- 3** It allows the Department of Fire Services (DFS) to furnish reasonable staff to help administratively.
- 4** The council shall establish a cost recovery mechanism for technical rescue services with some criteria as noted in the law.
- 5** It establishes the Technical Rescue Services Fund.

[Editor's Note: I asked Chief Nord to comment about the composition of the coordinating council and the lack of representation from the MCVFA. The following is his response.]

Although the Mass. Call/Volunteer Firefighters Association is not directly represented on the Technical Rescue Coordinating Council, it is the feeling of those that wrote and subsequently negotiated the passing of this legislation that the Fire Chiefs' Association of Mass. and the Department of Fire Services would represent all firefighters — career, call and volunteer.

I want to thank Senator Walter F. Timilty for his support of this important legislation, Milton Fire Chief Jack Grant, Winthrop Fire Chief Paul Flanagan, and retired Westwood Fire Chief William Scoble for their perseverance in getting this passed. As we move forward and the council is selected, I will be happy to report on its progress.

Another group that deserves recognition is the Massachusetts Association of Technical Rescue Specialists (MATRS). This is a 501c3 non-profit association organized to promote technical rescue and are a group of dedicated technical rescue specialists' meeting for both social networking and education. They plan an annual 2-day seminar to sharpen skills and meet with colleagues. Please check out their website, www.matrs.org, and consider joining.

Recently you may have seen in the news the Southeastern Mass. Technical Rescue Team (SEMTRT) put together a mission ready package for a swift/moving water team and deployed to North Carolina. SEMTRT is a consortium of the five county teams that make up southeastern Massachusetts — Barnstable, Bristol, Dukes, Norfolk and Plymouth — in an effort to streamline membership and response they have agreed to operate as one unit. Last year during the Texas flooding and hurricanes, the team took the time to create the package, under the leadership of Hanson Fire Deputy Rob O'Brien. This is a painstaking process of listing all our assets and associated costs, including personnel costs. These forms were then compiled for a cost of deployment and listed with the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) as a Mission Ready Package (MRP). They were typed using the USAR definition for a Type II team. State emergency managers from across the United States manage a mutual aid system much like what we do locally. This is an interstate mutual aid agreement called EMAC (Emergency Management Assistance Compact). When a state has something dreadful happen and needs resources, they post it on the EMAC system. The State's Emergency Management Director, in this case Kurt Schwartz, identifies the need and sees if we can assist. In September, during Hurricane Florence, the FCAM Tech Rescue Committee surveyed the state on what was available statewide for swift/



moving water teams. Once we determined ample coverage of teams and estimated that the storm tracking would not involve Massachusetts, we entered the offer into the system. At that time, North Carolina and Virginia were both looking for multiple swift water teams and within 24 hours, North Carolina Emergency Management Agency (NCEMA) accepted the mission ready package of two Type II swift/moving water teams and SEMTRT deployed the following day for a 10-day mission.

When the team returned, it filed an amendment to the MRP for reimbursement from NCEMA. It details actual costs based on items used and damaged equipment. While deployed, the team had several missions around the state and worked closely with Charlotte Fire's, State Urban Search and Rescue Team. The SEMTRT searched many flooded North Carolina towns and assisted in evacuating occupants and pets from their homes and businesses. This was a notable achievement as it was the first time Massachusetts firefighters deployed out of state, as a regional technical rescue team. We learned a great deal from this first deployment and an after action report will be forthcoming.

Ironically, the Massachusetts National Guard had been planning its Vigilant Guard exercise for over a year for the first week of November. Many local, state, and federal agencies participated. The MA TF-1 with Southeastern Mass Technical Rescue Team (SEMTRT) participated in several swift water evolutions and wide area search missions for two days in western Massachusetts as part of this exercise. The scenario was flooding by a collapse of Harriman Dam. Teams networked, shared resources and worked collectively. An After Action Report and Improvement Plan (AAP/IP) will be filed and used to identify strengths and weaknesses. During the same time, the Western Mass. and Metro Boston Teams traveled to Joint Base Cape Cod for an exercise dealing with a collapse due to a vehicle-borne explosion (also known as a truck bomb). These exercises are priceless as they allow all agencies to work together in preparation for a real world event.

I look forward to seeing all five regions have equal capability and a funding source to maintain the equipment and training. Continuing to hold joint exercises will assure a competent and well-prepared technical rescue capability throughout the state.

Many thanks to the chiefs of the FCAM Technical Rescue Committee, the team leaders, the technical rescue specialists and the Homeland Security Councils for their continued support. 🌸

How the “Rescue Doctrine” protects Injured Firefighters



BY STEVEN BALLIN

As discussed in a prior article, firefighters have the legal right to make claims for compensation against the persons or companies who cause them to be injured in the line of duty. Typically, these claims are covered by the liability insurance policy of whoever causes the injury. Insurance companies collect premiums to cover claims like this, and there is nothing wrong with making an insurance company pay a claim that they have already collected a premium for.

When we are contacted by a firefighter who has suffered an injury on duty, we look for all third parties who might be legally responsible for the injury as a potential source of compensation. One of the legal principles that is particularly important to our work for firefighters is what is known as the “rescue doctrine”. This legal principle is premised on the notion

that “danger invites rescue”. The rescue doctrine provides that it is foreseeable that someone will respond to remove a dangerous situation, and that someone could get injured in the process. The doctrine provides that persons or companies, which put people or property at risk, may be held liable to first responders who are injured while making a “rescue.” In this manner, an injured firefighter can be compensated even though they were injured while knowingly going into a dangerous situation. To be considered as a rescuer, the first responder must be in the act of saving people or property that have been put at risk. In other words, if a firefighter is injured while responding to a fire or other emergency situation, the firefighter may be able to recover compensation for his or her injuries from the responsible party who caused the fire or emergency situation in the first place.

Following are examples of successful claims we have made utilizing the rescue doctrine.

- In two separate cases, two different restaurants had negligently failed to clean the buildup of grease in the duct leading from the hood over the cooking area. As a result, grease fires started and quickly spread through the buildings. In one case, the firefighter was injured hauling a fire hose up the hill into the burning building. In the other, the injured firefighter fell down wet and slippery stairs after advancing a line up the stairs to fight the fire. We obtained compensation for both firefighters from the insurance companies for the restaurants.
- In an earlier case, a police officer was first on the scene to tend to an injured swimmer who was struck by the propeller of a motorboat. The officer jumped into the motorboat that had pulled up to the shore. He administered first aid to the swimmer applying a tourniquet as well as other lifesaving measures. When EMTs arrived and entered the boat, the boat rocked back and forth. As the boat rocked, the officer slipped on the blood and lake water on the floor of the boat, striking his elbow, which then required surgery. I made a successful claim against the boat owner's insurance policy for the boat operator's failure to keep a proper lookout when he struck the swimmer in the middle of the lake.
- In a recent case, a firefighter was injured while extinguishing an attic fire. The fire was caused by defective insulation work a contractor had done in the attic of the house. We were able to obtain a substantial settlement for the injured firefighter. We did not go after the homeowner whose house had burned – they did nothing wrong. Instead, we were able to recover from the insurance company for the contractor who had installed the insulation improperly and caused the fire.

The “rescue doctrine” allows first responders to recover in a wide variety of situations that involve rescuing persons or property from dangerous situations. If you have been injured on duty in the course of responding to a dangerous situation (which is what firefighters do for a living), keep in mind that compensation may be available from the company or person responsible for creating the dangerous situation through careless or negligent actions.

I hope that stories like these will cause a shift in the awareness and understanding of Massachusetts firefighters about their rights to make justifiable claims for badly needed compensation in connection with their injuries on duty. All other types of employees have long enjoyed these same rights to seek compensation for injuries at work, and firefighters should be treated no differently. The benefits paid to an injured firefighter by cities or towns covers only lost wages and medical expenses, and do not provide compensation for the injured firefighter's pain and suffering, diminished future earning capacity or

compensation for lost overtime and detail shifts. These benefits also do not compensate an injured firefighter for substantial loss of income from other jobs or businesses that a firefighter may have.

The only way to obtain full compensation is to pursue a claim against a responsible third party, as long as that claim is justified. It is important that injured firefighters to consult with an attorney experienced in these cases and with the laws governing these cases to evaluate the prospects of making a successful claim to compensate the injured firefighter for all their harms and losses. 🚒


Ballin & Associates, LLC specializes in representing injured firefighters and police officers and their families. For over 30 years, Ballin & Associates' attorneys have practiced in the field of personal injury law and successfully represented injured public safety officers in over 200 communities through Massachusetts. Cases are handled on a contingent fee basis meaning no legal fee is due unless and until money is successfully collected on the case. Consultations are free and confidential.

For more information, please call 508-543-3700 or email SBallin@BallinLaw.com.

New England Division International
Association of Fire Chiefs

2019 Annual Meeting & Educational Seminar

April 2-3, 2019
Hilton Providence | Providence, RI



REGISTER TODAY
at www.nediafc.com/events.asp

CANCER PRESUMPTION LAW

by Chief Joe Maruca

There is new Cancer Presumption Law in Massachusetts. While this law is primarily for career firefighters there is some potential benefit for call/volunteer firefighters, and it is something that combination departments will use.

The new law is Chapter 148 of the Acts of 2018 and it amends Section 111F of Chapter 41. Section 111F is the law that requires our cities/towns/districts to provide line-of-duty disability pay to firefighters who are injured in the line-of-duty. Previously, if a firefighter was diagnosed with cancer, he/she would have to show evidence that their cancer was the result of a specific exposure or event. This is a practical impossibility given the state of science, medicine and record keeping. Therefore, no firefighter would ever qualify for 111F benefits without the presumption.

The new law says that if a firefighter gets a diagnoses of cancer affecting the skin or the central nervous, lymphatic, digestive, hematological, urinary, skeletal, oral or prostate systems, lung or respiratory tract, resulting in total disability, that the firefighter is presumed to have gotten that cancer as a result of his/her job as firefighter and that he/she will get 111F benefits. (Subject to the medical exam requirements of GL Chapter 32 Section 94B and they have served at least five years of service as a firefighter.) No other cancers or medical conditions apply.

What's important to understand is that the new law does not amend or make any mention of GL Chapter 41 Section 100. GL Chapter 41 Section 100 is the law that requires cities/towns/districts to pay all of the medical expenses of a firefighter who receives a line-of-duty injury. Section 100 being left un-amended, the presumption does not apply to GL Chapter 41 Section 100.

If a firefighter is diagnosed with one of the listed cancers, the city/town/district is not required to pay the medical bills, unless the firefighter can show through a preponderance of evidence that his/her cancer is a result of a specific event or exposure. This is almost impossible to do given the state of medical science and record keeping. This keeps the medical costs on the private or public insurance company (Blue Cross, Harvard Pilgrim, Tufts, Medicare, etc.). It means that those of us that have a cancer will continue to use our primary care physician and the doctors of our choice (within our insurance network – Blue Cross, Harvard, Tufts, Medicare, Etc.).

I would not be surprised if one of the private insurance companies tries to deny medical bill coverage claiming that a firefighter's cancer is a "workers comp" issue and they aren't

responsible for "workers comp" illnesses or injuries. I think the chance of them winning in court on such a claim is poor.

Section 111F is not amended in any other way and all of the usual rules regarding applying for it and granting it remain the same.

The city/town/district does have the option under GL Chapter 32 Section 94B, and now Chapter 41 Section 111F, to rebut the presumption that a firefighter's cancer is job related. The burden of proof is on the city/town/district. The city/town/district would have to show, with a preponderance of the evidence, that the cancer had some other cause (other than firefighting, hazmat, etc.). This won't be easy to prove, but some activities such as cigarette smoking could overcome the presumption.

I believe that this new cancer presumption applies to call, part-time, or per-diem firefighters because Chapter 41 Section 111F applies to call, part-time, or per-diem firefighters.

Courts have ruled that 111F does apply to call firefighters and that call firefighters (and by extension, part-time and per-diem firefighters, because they and call firefighters are essentially the same under the labor laws) but the benefits are low. If a call firefighter is disabled in the line-of-duty, then he/she is entitled to continue to get paid the same as he/she has been paid in the past.

In order to calculate the 111F benefits paid to a call or part-time firefighter, you look at their historic pay. Look at how much they got paid last year and divide it by twelve months. This determines their monthly 111F benefit. For example, a call firefighter got paid \$5000 in the prior year he/she will get a 111F benefit of \$416.66 per month. It's not much. It's real weakness in the injury benefits for call firefighters.

The disabled call firefighter will get his/her monthly 111F benefit until they either get better and can serve as a firefighter again, or until the city/town/district qualifies them for permanent disability benefits pursuant to GL Chapter 32 Section 85H or Section 85H1/2.

At the end of the day, the real message is that we need to take steps to prevent cancer so we don't have to worry about providing benefits to firefighters who get cancer. Keep your gear clean, wear SCBA even while overhauling, don't smoke (its illegal for firefighters), take a shower after smoke exposures, and stay physically fit. 🚫

Need A Scholarship?

LET US HELP!



Don't miss out on this excellent opportunity!

The Massachusetts Call/Volunteer Firefighters' Association (MCVFA) will be awarding five (5) \$750 Robert J. Hindley Memorial Scholarship. The scholarship is available to an MCVFA member or immediate family member.

Requirements

Official Transcript or Letter:

- A school official transcript or letter from the most recent institution attended. If unavailable, please provide a written explanation and a copy of the highest level diploma or certification received.

A Statement of Interest of 400 words or less including:

- Why you want the Robert J. Hindley Memorial Scholarship
- Your personal, educational, and career goals
- A list of extracurricular, community, and/or volunteer activities. Include dates of participation and a brief description of each activity. You may provide an explanation for lack of involvement under special circumstances. Special circumstances include financial hardship, family responsibilities, etc.
- Any other information you want the Scholarship Committee to consider.

Two (2) Letters of Recommendation:

- One letter should be from a teacher, employer, or a member of the community familiar with you and your goals and the other from a member of the fire service. If it is not possible to provide a letter from a member of the fire service, please attach an explanation.

How to Apply

Application forms can be obtain from:

www.mcvfa.org/scholarships

Send your application form along with supporting documents to: recruit@mcvfa.org or

Massachusetts Call/Volunteer Firefighters' Association (MCVFA)
Robert J. Hindley Scholarship
PO Box 1015, East Wareham, MA 02538

APPLICATION PERION OPENS: JANUARY 1, 2019
CLOSING DATE: MAY 1, 2019



Download application forms at www.mcvfa.org/scholarships

PHOTO ESSAY

OSHA

Low Hanging Fruit & Low Cost Compliance

As the deadline for OSHA employee safety regulations to apply to Massachusetts's municipal government and our fire departments, the MCVFA would like to point out some simple and low cost ways of complying with the new regulations. While there will be some parts of the new regulations that will require complex and costly changes for some departments, there are many things you can do to avoid the liability that comes with non-compliance that doesn't require a great deal of effort and money.

The following are a few things you should do to get ready for OSHA when it takes effect on February 1, 2019.

Fire Extinguishers

Make sure you have fire extinguishers and fire extinguisher signs near each exit of your fire station. Yes, you are a fire station and you have fire apparatus and fire extinguishers on

those apparatus, but think about your fire station as a public place. When your apparatus is out, you still need some fire extinguishers in the building. They are there for administrative staff (if you have them), the public, and others who find themselves in the building.

We require fire extinguishers in all public buildings and fire stations have never been exempt. In this, OSHA is simply nudging us to do what should have been doing all along.

Besides annual inspections from a service technician, you will need to perform and record a monthly inspection of each extinguisher.

Wet Floor Signs

All of our fire stations have wet floors. We need wet floor warning signs. Some of us may have them out 24 hours a day, seven days a week, because of the way our trucks leak.



10lb, ABC Dry Chemical Fire Extinguisher: **\$79.95**
10-Pack of Fire Extinguisher Signs: **\$10.99**
Annual Fire Extinguisher Inspection: **\$**

Besides annual inspections from a service technician, you will need to perform and record a monthly inspection of each extinguisher.

Pack of Yellow Caution Wet Floor Signs, Two-Sided, Bilingual: **\$29.95**

Six-Pack of Yellow, 36-Inch, Wet Floor Safety Cones: **\$83.37**

Individual Yellow Caution Wet Floor Sign, Two-Sided, Bilingual: **\$12.95**

The sandwich board type (left) is great for straddling a puddle.

The cone type (below) is good for generally wet areas.

Either one will do the trick. Place them at the wet site or position them at the entrance to the wet areas. The typical fire station will need three to six.

Evacuation Plan

OSHA requires that we have a fire prevention plan and an evacuation plan for our buildings. This applies to fire stations. Some plans will be very simple. If you have two-bay garage with to house two trucks and there are no other spaces in the building, there's one way out in an emergency. If your fire station has public meeting rooms, administrative spaces, bunk rooms, multiple floors, or is connected to town hall, the police station or the DPW, then your fire and evacuation plan is more complex.

Here's a great example of a simple evacuation plan. Note the locations of the fire extinguishers.



The great thing about your fire prevention and evacuation plan is that there is nothing to buy. Yes, your time is valuable, but for most fire stations the plan will be fairly simple and won't consume a great deal of time.

And, to make it even better, designate a meeting place in your parking lot for accountability purposes.

Label Your Circuit Breakers

This is another investment in time with no dollar cost. Make sure that your circuit breakers or fuses are properly labeled. This is a pre-requisite to having a Lock-Out, Tag-Out Procedure when working on anything electrical in your fire station.



Take the time to actually confirm what each circuit breaker actually controls. Avoid carrying forward any labeling mistakes of the past.

Lock-Out, Tag-Out Kit

In a small fire station you won't need an expansive or expensive Lock-Out, Tag-Out Kit. OSHA requires we have a written Lock-Out, Tag-Out policy and procedure. This simply means that whenever someone is working on an electrical circuit or equipment, that the circuit breaker is locked in the off position and tagged.

Depending on how complex your station and needs are, you can spend tens, hundreds, or thousands of dollars on a Lock-Out, Tag-Out Kit and program. For most stations, a simple kit will be enough.

And, you have the option of carrying your Lock-Out, Tag-Out Kit on one of your engines as a part of your response equipment. This way if you encounter HVAC equipment, gas lines, or other electrical circuits that need to be secured, you have the capability of doing so.



continues on page 16



Basic lock and tag (like above): **\$8.95**

Basic Multipurpose Lock-Out, Tag-Out Kit: **\$101.95**

Safety Data Sheets (SDS) AKA Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS)

You should already be doing this. State law has required municipal agencies to provide Right To Know training annually to all employees for decades. You've been required to post and keep all Safety Data Sheets for every chemical you use.



Right to Know Compliance Center: **\$29.95**

have one, get your station a Right To Know Compliance Center similar to the photo and hang it on the wall. You can look up all of the products you use online and print the Safety Data Sheets. Each year do an hour of Right To Know Training and it also counts towards the EPA requirement that you do eight hours of hazardous materials operational training annually.

At a minimum, you should have SDS for fuel, firefighting foam, window cleaner, copy machine toner, detergents, and such. You need to save these sheets for decades.

So what's changed? In the past, there really wasn't anyone around to enforce the rules. Now there is.

If you don't already



8-Pack, 28" Orange Cones with Reflective Collars: **\$179.95**

6-Pack, 28" Orange Cones with Reflective Collars: **\$118.95**

3-Pack, High Visibility Safety Vest with Breakaway Hook & Loop Closure: **\$29.99**

Street Cones & More

If you aren't already doing so, start carrying street cones and make sure everyone wears breakaway traffic safety vest or an traffic safety EMS jacket when working in the street.

As with many of the OSHA rules, this is another one you should have been following already, but if you haven't, there is now an enforcer.

Working in traffic, whether at motor vehicle crash, extinguishing a roadside brush fire, or investigating wires down, is among the most dangerous activities we firefighters do on a regular basis. The coming of OSHA gives us a prompt to reassess our roadway safety equipment and procedures.

The MCVFA also recommends that you get the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy to come to your fire station and put on its Impact Class titled: Roadway Safety for Emergency Service

Personal. It's an excellent class that everyone should take. It also meets the requirement that departments provide traffic safety training to their firefighters.

Per NFPA 1500, you should carry at least five street cones on each apparatus. Carry more if you do a lot of roadway work.

Non- Slip Door Mats



Place a non-slip door mat inside each door so that when people walk in from outside they can wipe their feet and don't track water, snow & ice onto the floors creating a slip hazard. Make sure the door mat is the type that doesn't slip.

2' x 3' Non-Slip Entrance Mat: **\$13.38**

3' x 5' Non-Slip Entrance Mat: **\$31.48**

4' x 6' Non-Slip Entrance Mat: **\$68.71**

EXIT Signs



Make sure you have exit signs for all of your exit doors. It sounds simple and it is simple. Walk around your fire station and make sure that each door to the outside is marked with an exit sign.

Basic Stick-On Exit Sign: **\$8.00**

Ladder Inspections – Not Firefighting Ladders

Do you have stepladder that you use to change light bulbs around the fire station, to clean with, or to reach office supplies on a high shelf. OSHA regulations require that you inspect that ladder before each use. It's a simple inspection that anyone can do, you just need a written policy that you do, some way of documenting the inspection, and make sure people actually do it.

Ladders, and old broken down ladders in particular, represent a significant safety threat to anyone who uses them. You can



bet that ladder safety will be a big issue for OSHA.

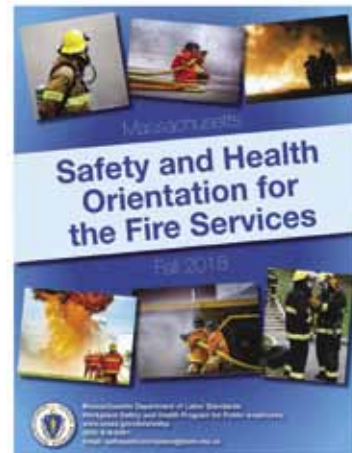
You can comply with this regulation without a lot of cost, but it still requires some effort. Post your policy next to where you keep the ladder, have an inspection sheet with check boxes so everyone knows what to check, and then have a log for each inspection to be recorded (inspections

Vinyl Ladder Inspection Log Sticker: **\$5.00**

are good for 24 hours, so you don't need to inspect more than once per day).

Note: Firefighting ladders should be inspected annually per NFPA 1932.

This isn't a complete guide to OSHA compliance, but the MCVFA hopes it helps you jumpstart your compliance program by providing some fast, easy, and inexpensive solutions. Each one of these items will require a written policy and procedure to go with it. The Massachusetts Department of Labor Standards has an excellent book for fire departments that is loaded with checklists,



inspection forms, and tools to help you comply. You can download this book at the Massachusetts Department of Labor Standards Website and the book is called "Safety and Health Orientation for the Fire Services, Massachusetts, Fall 2018. The web link is: www.mass.gov/files/documents/2018/09/10/Safety%20and%20Health%20Orientation%20Book%20-%20Fire%20Services.pdf

While we might find the prospect of OSHA compliance daunting and frustrating and costs money, it is about firefighter safety. It should command our attention and command our respect for its ultimate goal. 🚒

29th Annual "Firefighter of the Year" Awards



On November 20, 2018, Governor Charlie Baker, Lieutenant Governor Karyn Polito, Public Safety Secretary Daniel Bennett and Undersecretary Patrick McMurray joined State Fire Marshal Peter J. Ostroskey to honor Firefighters from 13 Massachusetts fire departments for heroic acts of bravery at the 29th annual "Firefighter of the Year" Awards ceremony, held at Worcester's Mechanics Hall. The event was emceed by WCVB's Maria Stephanos.

"We are incredibly proud to honor these courageous firefighters for their bravery and service to their local communities in times of danger," said Governor Baker. "Massachusetts cities and towns are better places to live, work and raise a family because so many first responders selflessly answer to call to serve each and every day."

"It is our privilege to honor the brave men and women who have all done something remarkable to earn this recognition," said Lieutenant Governor Polito. "We also want to thank the families of Massachusetts firefighters for the daily sacrifices they make as their loved one serves to protect the community."

"Firefighters are the ones we call when someone is stranded, has fallen through the ice, mixes up pool chemicals, has a heart attack, or a fire in their home," said Secretary Bennett. "We do everything we can to support them through state-of-the-art training, gear and resources to make a dangerous job a little less so."

The Excellence in Leadership Award was presented to the Fraternal Order of Fire Fighter Military Veterans, Inc., a non-profit organization that advocates for the mental health of firefighters who are also veterans. "So many of today's firefighters also served in the military. Both experiences can create a need to safely manage the stress and cumulative effect of seeing so much tragedy," said Undersecretary of Homeland Security Patrick McMurray.

The Stephen D. Coan Fire Marshal Award was presented to the Northwestern Youth Fire Intervention Response, Education and Safety Partnership (NoFIREs). "The members of NoFIREs

work tirelessly to reduce the incident of youth-set fires in western Massachusetts using effective intervention strategies," said State Fire Marshal Ostroskey. "They bring together fire investigators, law enforcement, juvenile justice professionals, fire educators and mental health clinicians to the table to share best practices to help these at risk children and their families."

The Governor and the Secretary recognized 91 individuals with 23 awards in total:

- The Norman Knight Award for Excellence in Community Service to volunteer and call firefighters who have developed a unique and fun Explorer's Program that teaches young adults about the fire service.
- An Excellence in Leadership Award to a firefighter and veteran who founded a program for firefighters to address post-traumatic stress disorder.
- An Individual Award for Meritorious Conduct to a paramedic/firefighter from Wilbraham for a water rescue.
- Seven Group Awards for Meritorious Conduct to teams of firefighters from Abington, Centerville-Osterville-Marston Mills, Chicopee, Revere, and Worcester and to the Western MA Technical Rescue Team.
- 12 Medals of Valor to individual firefighters from Ayer, Centerville-Osterville-Marston Mills, Fall River, and Worcester.
- The Medal of Honor award was presented posthumously to Montgomery Fire Chief Stephen P. Frye.

This year's awardees are:

Medal of Honor

- **Montgomery** - Chief Stephen P. Frye, (posthumously)

Medals of Valor

- **Centerville-Osterville-Marston Mills Fire District** - Captain Thomas J. Burchell, Lieutenant Enrique Arrascue, and Lieutenant Jason Davern
- **Ayer** - Captain Jeremy Januskiewicz, Lieutenant John Bresnahan, Firefighter Brenton Bourne, and Firefighter Tyler Schwabe



Chief Frye's family accepting the award.

- **Fall River** - Firefighter Jason Campbell
- **Worcester** - District Chief Adam Roche, Lieutenant Christopher Kelly, Lieutenant Timothy Ridick, and Firefighter Blake Perron

Norman Knight Award for Excellence in Community Service

- **The MMR Hose Company, Explorer Post 343** – Firefighter Joshua Fardy (Marion), Lieutenant Justin Dubois and Lieutenant Ross Macedo (Mattapoissett), Captain Jeff Eldridge and Firefighter Tracy Eldridge (Rochester)

Excellence in Leadership Award

- **Fraternal Order of Fire Fighter Military Veterans, Inc.** - Firefighter Michael Jefferson (Somerville)

Individual Award for Meritorious Conduct

- **Wilbraham** - Firefighter/Paramedic Adam Hart

Group Awards for Meritorious Conduct

- **Abington** - Captain Kevin Finch, Firefighter Matthew Croall, Firefighter Derek Haimaidi, and Firefighter Robert Neumeister
- **Centerville-Osterville-Marston Mills Fire District** - Captain Richard Sargent, Lieutenant Christopher Adams, Firefighter Richard Anderson, Firefighter Michael Carney, Firefighter Edward Dalbec, Firefighter David Ferola, Firefighter Zachary Hunter, Firefighter Shawn Lehane, Firefighter Tom Long, Firefighter Matthew Malone, Firefighter Scott Mullin, Lieutenant Eric Sabatinelli, Firefighter Michael Simmons, Firefighter Adam Travers, Fire Prevention Officer Michael Grossman
- **Centerville-Osterville-Marston Mills Fire District** - Lieutenant Eric Bengston, Lieutenant Thomas Goodearl, Firefighter David Gelinas, Firefighter Zachary Hunter, Firefighter John McGonigle, Firefighter Michael Perry, Firefighter Charles Riley, Firefighter Christopher Rogers, Firefighter Ryan Scott, and Firefighter Jason Travis

- **Chicopee** - Firefighter Michael A. Croteau and Firefighter Matthew J. Turgeon
- **Revere** - Deputy Chief Anthony Giampietro, Lieutenant William Brown, Firefighter William Petrilli, and Firefighter Patrick Roosa
- **Western Massachusetts Technical Rescue Team** -
 - Agawam: Firefighter Robert LaFrance and Firefighter Robert Pensivy
 - Agawam/Dalton: Firefighter Thomas Balardini
 - Amherst: Captain Steve Chandler, and Firefighter David Holmes
 - Chicopee: Deputy Chief David Beauregard
 - Dalton/Pittsfield: Firefighter Lucas Perry
 - Easthampton: Firefighter Sandi Krauss
 - Great Barrington: Firefighter Justin Bona, and Firefighter Rob Gaughran
 - Greenfield: Lieutenant Andrew Eisch
 - Lee: Chief Ryan Brown
 - Lenox: Captain Daniel Piretti, and Firefighter Robert Casucci
 - North Adams: Firefighter Michael Sherman
 - Northampton: Firefighter Daryl Springman
 - Pittsfield: Captain Mitch Kellar, Firefighter Josh Healy, and Firefighter Scott McGinnis
 - South Hadley D1: Captain James Pula, and Captain Jason Saunders
 - Turners Falls: Chief John Zellman, Captain Todd Brunelle, Captain Peter Jerusik, Captain Brian McCarthy, and Firefighter Walker Korby
 - Worcester - Lieutenant Patrick Moran, Firefighter John Callahan, and Firefighter Matthew Kane

Stephen D. Coan Fire Marshal Award

- **NoFIREs, Inc.: Northwestern Youth Fire Intervention Response, Education and Safety Partnership**
 - Loren Davine, Executive Director, NoFIREs
 - Chief John Ingram, Leverett Fire Department
 - Ellen Brower Gately, Greenfield Juvenile Court Clinic
 - Chief Robert Authier, South Hadley Fire District #1
 - Martha Murphy Kane, Northwestern District Attorney's Office
 - Chief David Hewes, Chesterfield Fire Department
 - Deputy Chief Wayne Hennemann, Easthampton Fire Department
 - Detective Michael Briggs, Northampton Police Department

For more details about the honorees and a link to the photos on the DFS Facebook page, please go to www.mass.gov/service-details/firefighter-of-the-year-awards.

REGION 2

Covering the counties of Essex, Middlesex
Coordinator **Lisa Evans, Groveland**

Looking for some Grant Money?

Check out the Arson Watch 2019 Poster Contest, a public awareness campaign to promote fire and life safety with an opportunity to earn a grant for your department.

Each year the Arson Watch Reward Program, sponsored by the Property and Casualty Insurance Companies of MA and RI, has a Massachusetts (and Rhode Island) poster contest to help make students and their families aware that preventing fires requires everyone to be alert every day to all dangers that cause fires. The annual theme of the poster contest is FIRE PREVENTION – EVERYONE / EVERYDAY.


Each year my department requests two cases of the free calendars to give to our local grammar and middle school age students. The calendars and the contest both serve as excellent safety topic starters. The kids love them. I have one hanging at my dental office too. It is a great way to have students see what makes a good public service poster, so they can make their own poster. Massachusetts students in grades 6, 7 and 8 are all eligible to participate in the annual poster contest. Three statewide winners will be announced from the county winners, and awards will be presented, at a luncheon ceremony to be held at the Crowne Plaza, Natick, MA, on Wednesday, June 5, 2019. Winning posters may be used for the covers of the State Fire Marshal's Annual Report and a Fire Safety Calendar.

Eligible fire departments from each of the top three winning towns in the statewide contest may receive grants in the amount of \$2,500, \$1,500 and \$1,000 to be used for any equipment, materials, education, research and prevention efforts relative to fire prevention/ education initiative. Grant eligibility requirements include, but are not limited to, the fire department should have helped to promote the contest and the town has a 1st, 2nd, or 3rd place winning poster in the statewide contest. See official rules at the website below.

Fire safety education is important at any age level, but especially for children. Many children who play with

fire do not realize the dangers and injuries their play can cause. Of all set fires, 40% involve children and 65% are caused by youths between the ages of 5 and 9 years old who are simply curious about fire. Many of these fires involve matches or lighters and occur where there is the most danger to lives and property...at home.

See the following website for additional information regarding the 2019 Arson Watch Reward Program Poster Contest. All entries should be received by Friday, March 1, 2019.

www.arsonwatchrewardprogram.org/poster-contest/ma-contest-rules 

REGION 3

Covering the counties of Worcester, Middlesex, Norfolk

Vice President **Michael Goldstein, Sherborn**

Region 3 FD Departments cover Worcester for Funeral

Many MCVFA Region 3 fire departments helped cover Worcester for the funeral of fallen Worcester Firefighter Christopher Roy on December 15, 2018. According to Worcester Magazine, coverage was provided by MCVFA Region 3 fire departments from Auburn, Boylston, Charlton, Douglas, Dudley, Grafton, Holden, Leicester, Millbury, Northbridge, Paxton, Shrewsbury, Southbridge, Spencer, Sterling, Sutton, Upton, Webster, and West Boylston, as well as departments from



Fitchburg and Natick. (www.worcestermag.com/news/20181214/outside-fire-departments-to-cover-worcester-stations-during-firefighters-funeral).

According to Upton Fire, Upton Fire Department's Engine 1 ran as Worcester Engine 16 out of the Worcester Fire HQ, alongside Northbridge Fire Department's Engine 3 (backfilling for Worcester E-3) and Dudley Fire Department's Ladder 1 (backfilling Worcester L-2). Upton Fire reports that "During the shift Upton Firefighters responded to 7 calls, including an elevator rescue, a car accident and multiple medical emergencies" accompanied by retired Worcester FF Pete Snow, who stayed with Engine 1 the entire time "ensuring they could find their way around the city." (www.facebook.com/uptonfire/).

Thanks to all the Region 3 departments and the other departments in the Commonwealth for helping with coverage!

Department News

This fall, a variety of departments had open houses, pancake breakfasts, and other events. Here are a few: The Upton Fire and EMS Department had an open house in late September, and over 200 people attended. The Upton Fire and EMS Association had over 400 people at their Halloween parade, and on December 2, 2018, the Upton Fire and EMS Association had Breakfast with Santa with over 150 people. Fun was had by all! See www.facebook.com/uptonfire/ for pictures and updates.

The Sherborn Fire Department had an open house on a cold November 10, 2018 that was widely attended. They simulated a burn house to teach people to shut their bedroom doors, and demonstrated the Jaws of Life on a donated car. The Sherborn Fire and Rescue Association also had a Pancake Breakfast and Meet Santa on Saturday, December 15, 2018; over 50 families attended. Construction is continuing but finishing up on the headquarters bays so now the ambulance, old Engine 6, and Engine 4 can stay indoors. Pictures may be found at <http://dover.wickedlocal.com/news/20181113/sherborn-fire-department-hosts-open-house>.



The Dover Fire Department had an open house on Sunday, October 21, 2018. There was food and fire trucks! Children got to spray water, check out the ladder truck, and climb in the ambulance. The Dover Firefighters Relief Fund raised money through a raffle. Pictures may be found at <http://sherborn.wickedlocal.com/photogallery/WL/20181022/PHOTOALLERY/102209999/PH/1?start=2>

This is, of course, just a quick sample. If any departments have any news, new apparatus, pictures, or details of special events or actual fires you would like to share, please pass them along – send them to vregion3@mcvfa.org.

Region 3 News

This fall, Michael Goldstein (Sherborn) was appointed by the President and the Executive Board to serve as the new Region 3 Vice President, and Seth Grill (Upton) was appointed as the new Region 3 Acting Regional Coordinator. Both Seth and Michael met with MCVFA President Kevin Connolly at the Upton Fire Department during the last week of September.

Next Region 3 Meeting

There will be a meeting of Region 3 at the Upton Fire Station in late January or early February – exact date is forthcoming. Thanks to Upton Fire Department for promising to host! ❄️

REGION 4

Covering the counties of Franklin, Hampden, Hampshire
Vice President Joshua Ellinger, Huntington

Winter season is finally upon us here in Massachusetts and we're all brushing up on our cold weather operations so we are all prepared to battle in the snow, sleet, and freezing weather. We have a few things to report here in the region.

The Hampshire County Fire Defense is ramping up for Basic 6 training. This year the class is offering a First Responder portion spanning over three days

continues on page 22

...continued from page 15

in February. Basic 6 training begins in March that will go into April and spans over 6 days, all Sundays. Enrollment opens in January.

There is also a lecture being hosted by the Hampshire County Fire Defense on January 23rd at Hatfield Fire called "Surviving the Insult" which will be focusing on aggressive interior attack and the environment we work in. The speaker is Lt. Billy Greenwood of Keene, NH FD.

MEMA will be holding an ICS-300 class in Chesterfield, MA starting February 19. This will be a night/weekend course to accommodate those of us in the Call/Volunteer service. This class spans over two nights and two Saturdays.

There will be a First Responder Education Workshop geared towards improving mental health access to veterans and their families. This training is on February 19 at Cooley Dickinson Hospital in Northampton, MA. 🚒

REGION 5

Covering the county of Berkshire
Frank Speth, III, New Ashford

Greetings to the members of MCVFA Region 5. We held a Region 5 Meeting with the Elections for Vice President on September 27, 2018 at the Dalton Fire Department.

Paul Vallone had decided not to run for re-election for Vice President and the nomination process was open during the Spring for the V.P. position. At the meeting, Larry Holmberg, chair of the Elections Committee directed the election process. Frank Speth was nominated during the Spring season but following the MCVFA Bylaws, the floor was open for any further nominations but none were received.

I was elected Region 5 Vice President and want to take a moment introduce myself. Before being elected the V.P., I was the Regional Coordinator for our Region. Presently I am a member and Deputy Chief for the New Ashford Fire Department and have been an EMT-B for the last 10 years. I wish to thank Paul Vallone for his dedication

of 18 years of service to Region 5 and the MCVFA. Paul is the longest serving VP for the MCVFA and I wish to thank him for all his hard work for our Region. Because of the election, the Regional Coordinators position was open and am pleased to announce that a member has stepped up to the plate to take over the Regional Coordinators position. Kevin Hempstead of the Clarksburgh Fire Company was elected as the Regional Coordinator for Region 5 at the MCVFA State Meeting held on October 14, 2018. Congratulations to Kevin for stepping up for this important position, welcome aboard. If any the members have any questions regarding membership, they can contact Kevin.

We have resources available for our Members in Region 5. There is a library of DVDs on fire service training that is available to any Berkshire County department that wishes to use them on their training night.

There is also a new email for Region 5 for any MCVFA business the new email is: mcvfa.region5@gmail.com. For delegates and alternates, please update your email contact with this new address.

As always, both Kevin Hempstead and I are available for any questions or concerns that any member has. We also are available to meet with any non-member departments that might be interested in learning more about the MCVFA.

Finally, I want to say thank you to the members for electing me the VP for Region 5 and for their continued support of the MCVFA. 🚒

by Frank M. Speth, III, VP Region 5

Has your Information changed?

If your address or email has changed please let us know. To update your information, contact the Membership Secretary at kibird@verizon.net or 1-800-FIRELINE.

Get Social



Join your fellow firefighters on Facebook!

www.facebook.com/MCVFAff or
www.facebook.com/MCVFAlegis

And make even more connections by following us on Twitter. www.twitter.com/MCVFA

FIRE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION OF MASS.

Professional Development Conference



Worcester, MA

featuring keynote speakers:

Dr. Denis Onieal

*Title Contemporary & Future
Issues Facing Today's Fire Chief*

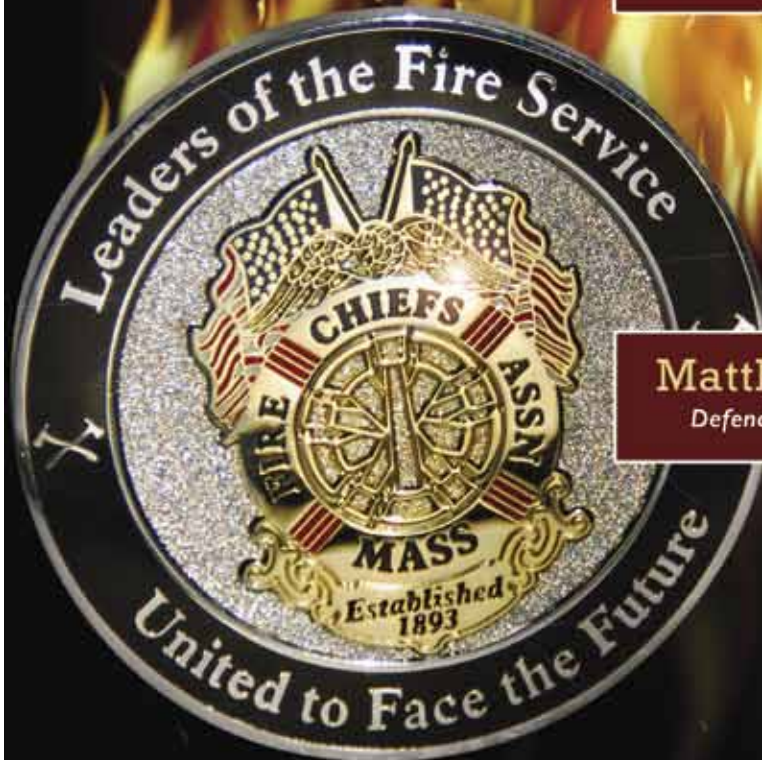


Matthew Tobia

Defending Reputation



**Deputy Chief
Jay Jonas** *Surviving 9/11*



**JOIN US on
Feb 26 - 28, 2019**

for more information visit:

www.FCAMseminars.org Seminars • Networking • Trade Show



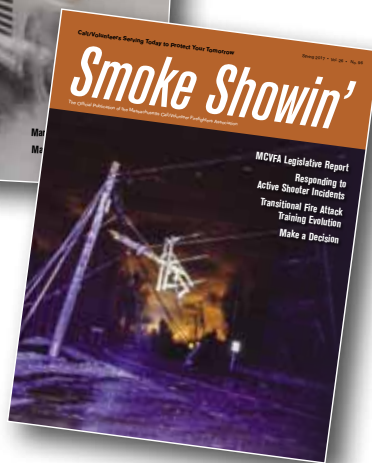
MCVFA
PO Box 1015
East Wareham, MA 02538
www.mcvfa.org

Advertise with Smoke Showin'

to Reach Firefighters & EMS Leadership throughout Massachusetts



If you would like to reach thousands of decision-makers throughout Massachusetts, you need to advertise in *Smoke Showin'*.



With a readership of approximately 10,000*, advertising your product or service in *Smoke Showin'* is the best way to reach firefighters and emergency service leadership throughout Massachusetts.



**approximate pass-on rate: 2.5 readers per copy*

For more details, contact Susan Dyer at 443-994-3350 or email susan@sdyerdesign.com.
www.mcvfa.org