

Call/Volunteers Serving Today to Protect Your Tomorrow

Smoke Showin'

The Official Publication of the Massachusetts Call/Volunteer Firefighters Association

Two-In, Two-Out

**Reckless Insulation Contractors Pay
\$1.6 Million to Injured Firefighter**

**Lavender Ribbon Report: Best Practices
for Preventing Firefighter Cancer**



Sprinklers Saves Lives

Injured Firefighters have Rights We are here to Help

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Do you have a personal injury claim?

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\$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:

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- Motor vehicle crashes
- Negligently caused fires
- Injuries during rescues
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- Toxic Exposure



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Fall 2018

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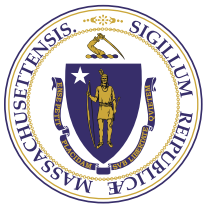
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The editorial staff of *Smoke Showin'* is always looking for topics and articles about the industry. If you have any suggestions or would like to write an article, please contact Larry Holmberg at editor@mcvfa.org.



Modification to the Massachusetts NO Smoking Law For Firefighters

by Chief Joe Maruca



It is unlawful for firefighters (and police officers) in Massachusetts hired on or after January 1, 1988 to smoke (on or off-duty). The law is Massachusetts General Law Chapter 41 Section 101A. This law applies to call, volunteer and career firefighters.

On August 9, 2018, this law was amended so that a firefighter who is in violation of the law is provided an opportunity to enter a smoking cessation program rather than being terminated.

The amendment is Chapter 210 of the Acts of 2018, which is available online to review.

Under the old version of this law, there was no leeway afforded to the fire department. The only option it had was to terminate firefighters for smoking. Now, the fire department must give its firefighters the opportunity to quit smoking by attending a smoking cessation program. If a firefighter continues to smoke after completing the smoking cessation program, then he or she may be terminated.

The new law doesn't define what a smoking cessation program is. I would guess that any generally available commercial program will qualify. The new law doesn't state who pays for the cost of the smoking cessation program. I would guess that the city/town/district will pay the bill because it is a job requirement. (And, it's certainly to the town's benefit to get the firefighter off cigarettes. (The liability associated with having firefighters who smoke is high.) There is likelihood that the state will someday issue some regulations on these points.

In the meantime, given the extremely high rates of cancer being discovered among firefighters, there should be no question about the need for firefighters to be non-smokers. 🚫

Smoke Showin'

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MCVFA membership.



President's Message

Welcome to Fall! As we move closer to a new year, I move closer to entering my final year as your President.

While the Association has faced some of the same issues or problems as similar organizations, I believe we have tried to address them. We are currently working to promote the organization and increase membership. I feel that these two items are moving us in the right direction and will make the MCVFA stronger.

The Legislative Committee is in the process of developing its strategies for the next Legislative Session. At the time of this writing, we are still awaiting the status of several bills still in the Statehouse (yes, the formal session ended, but the informal session continues until December 31). This includes:

- the Real Estate Tax Exemption bill which is a whisker or so away from passage
- amending the death benefits to surviving spouses of call and volunteer firefighters legislation which is also close to passage
- The amending of current law to include call and volunteer firefighters and EMTs under disability was filed late, but we will re-file this.

The final two pieces of legislation, which we have filed for many years are 1) a distinctive license plate for firefighters and 2) authorizing voluntary contributions to the Massachusetts Fire Fighters Academy Trust Fund. Both bills will be re-introduced at the next session.

If you have any suggestions, questions, or concerns, please contact the Legislative Committee at legislative@mcvfa.org

Finally, we'd like to welcome Michael Goldstein (Sherborn) as the new Region 3 Vice President and Seth Grill (Upton) as the new Region 3 Acting Regional Coordinator. The Executive Board looks forward to working with you as the Association moves into the future.

We'd be remiss if we did not give a heartfelt thanks to Larry Holmberg. Larry has served as our Treasurer and has decided not to seek re-election. He will remain for the time being as our Assistant Treasurer. 🍀

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Kevin Connolly". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Kevin Connolly
MCVFA President

Thank you all...and be safe!



Reckless Insulation Contractors Pay \$1.6 Million to Injured Firefighter

BY STEVEN BALLIN

The Smiths had enough of high heating bills. They call Cramden Inc. for a free energy audit. Cramden Inc. runs the free program for local utility companies. Cramden Inc.'s energy specialist recommends installing blown-in cellulose insulation in the attic floor to limit heat loss from the living space below. The Smiths sign a contract with Cramden Inc., which is then assigned to Norton Insulators, which will perform the physical installation. The Smiths' utility company picks up two-thirds of the cost and the Smiths pay the balance.*

Norton Insulators complete the job and Cramden Inc. schedules an inspection of the work for seven weeks later. Three weeks after the job was completed, the Smiths are home eating dinner. There is a knock at their door. Mr. Smith opens the door. Someone passing by informs him that flames are shooting out of his roof. The Smiths and their two minor children quickly leave the home. The local fire department responds and determines the attic fire self-vented through the roof. Firefighters make their way into the Smith's home and access the attic fire using a set of pull down metal stairs.

Thick smoke and the smell of melting plastic fill the attic. Firefighters attack the seat of the fire from inside the attic, each wearing over 100 pounds of uniform and equipment including a SCBA tank. The ten inches of blown-in cellulose insulation scatters everywhere as water from the high-pressure hose hits the seat of the fire. The wet cellulose insulation sticks to everything including the firefighters' uniforms and masks. The SCBA alarm from one of the firefighter's gear activates. They all exit the attic to refill their tanks. There is no space to stand up in the attic. There is nothing to hold on to as the firefighters descend through the attic opening on to the pull-down attic stairs below. Unlike a ladder, there is no extension of the side

rails of the pull-down attic stairs making exits challenging under normal conditions. Firefighter Brown is the last one out of the attic. The metal treads of the pull-down stairs are wet and slippery from water used to fight the fire and from wet insulation. Halfway through the attic floor opening, Firefighter Brown slips on a metal tread and falls backwards. Reflexively, he reaches up with his left hand, catching himself on to the attic floor. Firefighter Brown's bodyweight and heavy equipment pulls and stretches his shoulder. Firefighter Brown hangs on, though, narrowly avoiding a backwards fall on to his oxygen tank.

Firefighter Brown is taken by ambulance to the Emergency Room. Over the next several years, he has four surgeries on his left shoulder in hopes of repairing torn internal structures and to stabilize his shoulder. Nevertheless, his left shoulder pain and instability continue. The internal structures are too damaged to keep the head of his left upper arm from slipping out of the shoulder joint. Firefighter Brown is only thirty-five years old when he is retired from the fire department due to this disability. Frustrated by his inability to finish his career in public service, which he sought after serving with the Marines, he has concerns for how he will support his wife and two young children. Brown's frustration grows when he learns this attic fire was no accident. Fire investigators determine the fire started because of a recessed light fixture in the attic, which was covered by a thick layer of cellulose insulation during the recent installation. Investigators find the classic "V" shaped burn pattern on the joist where Norton Insulators covered the recessed light fixture with cellulose insulation.

Brown contacted our firm, Ballin & Associates, LLC, after he learned about the work we do for injured public safety officers. We filed a lawsuit against Cramden Inc. and Norton Insulators.

Norton Insulator's attorneys twice tried to get the case thrown out of Court, arguing it owed no duty of care to an injured firefighter, only to the homeowner, who contracted with it. Norton Insulators also argued the injury to the firefighter, who was not burned in the fire, was not foreseeable. In addition, Norton Insulators argued it was the firefighter's job to get hurt. The Court rejected Norton Insulators' arguments and twice denied its motion to dismiss the case. Instead, the Court ruled that Massachusetts provides injured firefighters the same legal rights as anyone else who brings a claim for compensation against responsible third parties who cause their injuries. Moreover, the Court ruled it was foreseeable a firefighter fighting a fire in the confined space of an attic could be injured in the process of exiting the attic.

Since the 1970's it has been the industry safety rule to keep cellulose insulation at least three inches away from recessed light fixtures and other heat sources. Although some recessed lighting fixtures are IC rated, which means they may be in contact with insulation, many older homes like the Smith's still have non-IC rated recessed light fixtures. As a result, contractors continue to follow the three-inch clearance safety rule by creating a dam or box around recessed light fixtures to keep cellulose insulation at least three inches away during the installation process. When a non-IC rated recessed light fixture is covered by cellulose insulation, that insulation traps the heat coming from the illuminated fixture. If the fixture is left on, within hours the trapped heat becomes hot enough to ignite wooden joists and other nearby flammable materials. Had the Smiths not been alerted at dinner time, the whole family could have perished in their sleep – without the fire department's emergency response, the fire could have spread from the attic and down the walls while they slept.

Our firm uncovered disturbing information about these two contractors. In the three months before the Smith's attic job was completed by Norton Insulators, Cramden Inc. inspected forty nine attic insulation jobs by Norton Insulators. Norton Insulators failed 49% of the completed jobs. Norton Insulators was required to return and fix the problems found during the inspections. In addition, Cramden's inspectors found Norton Insulators created fire hazards in eight of the forty nine homes. Recessed light fixtures and heated bath fans were found covered with blown in cellulose insulation. We also discovered Norton Insulators never obtained a building permit for the Smith job or in any other Massachusetts community, where it previously installed cellulose insulation, which is required by the Massachusetts Building Code. The Smiths testified they were never warned about Norton Insulators' awful safety record when it contracted with Cramden Inc. Norton Insulators crew leader admitted during a deposition that he missed locating the covered recessed light fixture, which was in clear view on the ceiling below, when preparing the Smiths' attic and



covered it as a result. Rather than kicking Norton Insulators out of the program for repeatedly violating the three inch safety rule which created fire hazards in eight different homes, Cramden Inc. continued sending Norton Insulators out on new jobs. Even worse, we learned Cramden Inc. continued to schedule inspections between three and eleven weeks after each insulation job was completed by Norton Insulators. Norton Insulators did a lot of insulation jobs for Cramden Inc. when compared with other contractors Cramden Inc. assigned contracts too. It was not surprising to learn Cramden Inc. received valuable bonuses from the utilities based upon the number of completed insulation jobs during the year.

After numerous depositions, Cramden Inc. and Norton Insulators agreed to settle all claims made against them by Firefighter Brown for \$1.6 million. Although he will never be able to resume his career as a firefighter, Brown now has the ability to financially support his family. Some fires are just plain accidents. This one was not. It never had to happen. It is retired Firefighter Brown's hope that word gets out about the dangers of improper installation of cellulose insulation as well as firefighters' rights to seek compensation when injured by fires caused by reckless contractors.

**All names have been changed including the injured firefighter and the contractors. Any resemblance to names of real persons or entities, past or present, is merely coincidental and not intended. The injured firefighter agreed to have this article published in order that firefighters around the Commonwealth be better educated about their legal rights to compensation when injured.*

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.

Lavender Ribbon Report

BEST PRACTICES for Preventing Firefighter Cancer

The National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC) and the International Association of Fire Chiefs' (IAFC) Volunteer and Combination Officers Section (VCOS) have partnered to develop and release the Lavender Ribbon Report: Best Practices for Preventing Firefighter Cancer. This report provides 11 actions that can be taken to mitigate the risk of cancer for firefighters.

The MCVFA, and its partners, the NVFC and IAFC, call upon all firefighters to make cancer prevention a priority, and to embrace the recommendations of the Lavender Ribbon Report. Cancer among firefighters is increasing at an alarming rate. The time for action is now.

Here is a list of the eleven best practices called for by the Lavender Ribbon Report. You can read a complete copy of the report and obtain a copy at the NVFC website.

1

Full Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) must be worn throughout the entire incident, including a self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) during salvage and overhaul.

2

A second hood should be provided to all entry-certified personnel in the department.

3

Following exit from the immediately dangerous to life or health (IDLH) incident and while still on air, you should begin immediate gross decontamination of PPE using soapy water and a brush if weather conditions allow. PPE should then be placed into

a sealed plastic bag and placed in an exterior compartment of the apparatus, or, if responding in personally owned vehicles, placed in a large storage tote, thus keeping the off-gassing PPE away from passengers and self.

4

After completion of gross decontamination procedures as discussed above and while still on scene, the exposed areas of the body (neck, face, arms and hands) should be wiped off immediately using wipes, which must be carried on all apparatus. Use the wipes to remove as much soot as possible from exposed areas immediately.

To obtain a copy visit www.nvfc.org.

5

Change your clothes and wash them after exposure to products of combustion or other contaminants. Do this as soon as possible or isolate in a trash bag until washing is available.

6

Shower as soon as possible after being exposed to products of combustion or other contaminants. "Shower within the hour."

7

PPE, especially turnout pants, must be prohibited in areas outside the apparatus floor (i.e. kitchen, sleeping areas, etc.) and should never be in living quarters.

8

Wipes, or soap and water, should also be used to decontaminate and clean apparatus seats, SCBA and interior crew areas regularly, especially after incidents where personnel were exposed to products of combustion.

9

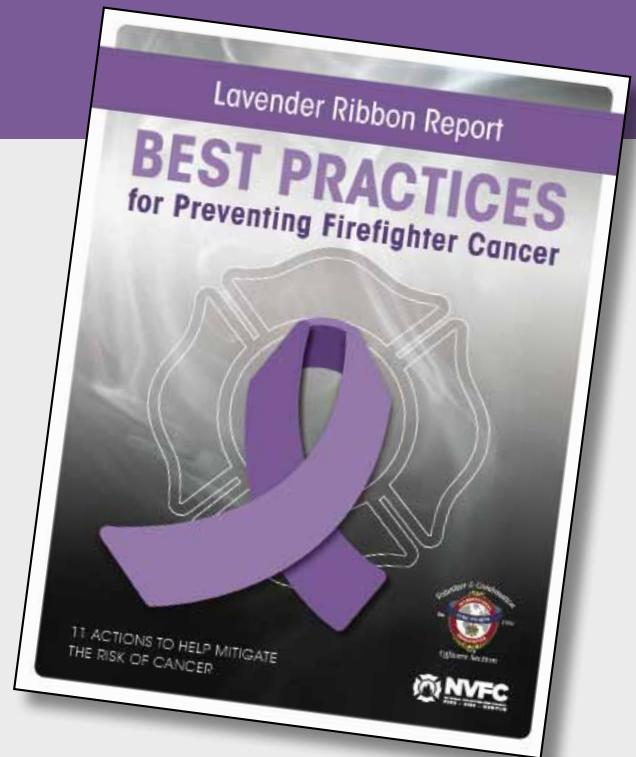
Get an annual physical, as early detection is the key to survival. *"An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure". Benjamin Franklin*

10

Tobacco products of any variety, including dip and e-cigarettes, should never be used at any time, on or off duty.

11

Fully document all fire or chemical exposures on incident reports and personal exposure reports.



UNITED
to Face the Future



www.fcarn.org



11th Annual Massachusetts Fallen Firefighters Memorial Ceremony

HELD SEPTEMBER 11TH AT THE STATE HOUSE



Photos by Joseph Fortunato



Several hundred firefighters and families joined state and local leaders to recognize Massachusetts firefighters at the 11th annual ceremony for the Massachusetts Fallen Firefighters Memorial. Unveiled in 2007, the memorial is located in Ashburton Park of the State House and was built to serve as a lasting tribute to past and present firefighters.

Stage participants included past president of the Massachusetts Call/Volunteer Firefighters Association and director on the memorial board, Captain Michael McCullough, and current

president Kevin Connolly. Governor Charlie Baker and Boston Mayor Marty Walsh gave remarks. 21 names were added to the Ring of Honor, including a special tribute to Montgomery Fire Chief Stephen Frye, who died in the line of duty on December 5, 2017. The Frye family was joined by approximately 30 guests including family, friends and several members of the fire department. 🚒

For more information on the memorial please visit www.mafirememorial.org.





NVFC UPDATE

BY JOE MARUCA



I attended the National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC) Fall Meeting in Bismarck, North Dakota in September. Each year the business of the NVFC gets more complex and greater in volume. This year has been no different.

The NVFC has representatives serving on dozens of national and regional committees, advisory boards, and fire service special interest boards including the NFPA, OSHA, Homeland Security and the AFG/SAFER Grant Program. The NVFC has a full-time lobbyist working the halls of Congress and the Executive Branch on your behalf. Each of us who serves on the NVFC Board of Directors typically serves on two or three national committees representing the call/volunteer fire service. Fifteen years ago, the NVFC had to push and beg to for a seat at the table, now everyone is coming to us looking for our participation. This means your concerns and needs are getting heard at a national level.

Among the most important aspects of this meeting was the official rollout of the Lavender Ribbon Report, Best Practices for Preventing Firefighter Cancer. This report is a joint project of the NVFC and the International Association of Fire Chiefs, Volunteer & Combination Officers Section. The report lays out eleven actions to help you mitigate the risk of cancer. You can download and read a copy of this report at the NVFC's website.

At this fall's meeting, the NVFC Board of Directors addressed issues that included firefighter cancer, fire service bullying, small department responses to railroad derailments, responses to long-term protests in rural areas, and new NFPA standards.

In the legislative realm, the NVFC, in collaboration with all of the other fire service organizations, successfully lobbied for the passage of a national firefighter cancer registry. (Firefighter Cancer Registry Act of 2018, Public Law 115-194). This legislation requires the Centers for Disease Control and



Chief Joe Maruca attending the NVFC Fall Meeting.

Prevention (CDC) to develop and maintain a voluntary registry of firefighters to collect medical history and occupational information that can be used to determine the incidence of cancer among firefighters. To collect information for the registry, the CDC must enable the registry to connect to state-based cancer registries. The CDC must develop a strategy to encourage participation in the registry, and develop guidance for states and firefighting agencies regarding the registry. The CDC must make registry data available to the public and in accordance with privacy laws.

Two other important legislative initiatives of the NVFC is the the Volunteer First Responder Housing Act and the Volunteer First Responder Loan Forgiveness Act. If the Volunteer First Responder Housing Act becomes law, it would give volunteers 50% off the list price of homes for sale in a revitalization area, and it would allow volunteers to take advantage of the US Department of Agriculture's Single Family Home Guaranteed Loan Program, even if the volunteer's income exceeded the program's income cap. If enacted, the Volunteer First Responder Loan Forgiveness Act would allow qualified volunteer first

responders to qualify for public service loan forgiveness so their student loans would be forgiven after ten years.

Other legislation that the NVFC is sponsoring includes the Volunteer Responder Incentive Protection Act (VRIPA). This bill amends the Internal Revenue Code to create a tax exclusion for benefits/stipends paid to volunteer firefighters and emergency medical providers by states and local governments. The bill would increase the dollar limitation on the exclusion, and make the tax exclusion permanent. (A Similar exclusion expired in 2010.)

The NVFC is also part of the effort to fund the AFG/SAFER grant programs and participates in an advisory board that helps set the criteria for the grant programs. The NVFC also provides many of the volunteers who review and score grant applications.

The NVFC is also sponsoring legislation known as the SIREN Act that would authorize a rural emergency medical services training and equipment assistance program.

Still on the EMS front, the NVFC is a sponsor of National EMS Memorial Act, a bill authorizing the National Emergency Medical Services Memorial Foundation to create a national EMS Memorial on federal land in the District of Columbia to pay tribute to the commitment and service represented by emergency medical services.

Finally, the NVFC is raising its annual dues from \$15 to \$18 in 2019. This increase is to fund an additional staff member for our office in Washington, DC. If you aren't yet an NVFC member, or haven't yet renewed your membership, do so before the end of 2018 before the increase takes effect. I can't stress enough the importance of you joining the NVFC and helping to support its efforts on your behalf. 🚒

JOIN Today

FOR AS
LITTLE AS
\$15
A YEAR.

Who We Are.

The **National Volunteer Fire Council** is the leading non-profit membership association representing the interests of volunteer firefighters, EMTs, and rescue personnel. We focus on the critical needs of the fire, emergency medical, and rescue services to help you be your best.

Membership Benefits.

- > **\$10,000 Accidental Death & Dismemberment Policy** (doubles to \$20,000 with LODD)
- > **Educational discounts to online universities and fire service training**
- > **Eligibility to apply for gear giveaways and educational scholarships**
- > **Free online training through the NVFC Virtual Classroom**
- > **Eligibility for membership in FASNY Federal Credit Union**
- > **Discounts on critical illness policies including cancer**
- > **And more!**



JOIN the NVFC today

at www.nvfc.org/beyourbest or Call 888-ASK-NVFC (275-6832).



Two-In,

When “OSHA” becomes the law of the land for Massachusetts Fire Departments on February 1, 2019, each department will need to formally add Two-In, Two-Out to its Standard Operating Procedures/Guidelines, and start training so that this procedure becomes second nature. For those departments that have already adopted Two-in, Two-Out, now is a good time to review it and make sure your procedure meets the requirements of the law, and that everyone understands when, why and how to implement it.

Two-In, Two-Out is a national OSHA regulation. Simply put, it requires that whenever firefighters enter an Immediately Dangerous to Life or Health (IDLH) environment (i.e. smoke, hazardous gas, or low oxygen), they must be working in teams of at least two and that there be a team of at least two firefighters outside the IDLH environment ready to rescue those inside the IDLH environment. Everyone inside the IDLH environment must be in full personal protective equipment (PPE) using self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA), and the outside or rescue team must be in full PPE and wearing SCBA so they are ready to intervene if needed.

Firefighters working as a team inside the IDLH environment must always work together (“buddy system”), and always maintain voice, visual, or physical contact with each other at all times. Mere radio contact is unacceptable.

The outside Two-Out Team must be dedicated to maintaining accountability (monitoring the location and situation) for the inside firefighters, and if needed, go in and rescue them. However, the Two-Out Team has some flexibility in how it performs this task and what else it can do. One member of the Two-Out Team should be located at the point of entry, in full PPE, with SCBA, with radio, hand tools, RIT pack, and a rescue rope bag. That first member of the Two-Out Team should always be ready to go and is responsible for maintaining accountability of the inside firefighters. In many cases, this person will also be the IC (consider passing command). The

second member of the Two-Out Team may perform other roles at the incident, most typically pump operator. The second member’s role must be one that allows him/her to drop whatever they are doing to rescue the inside firefighters, without endangering other firefighters.

If the pump operator or incident commander is a member of the Two-Out Team, then he/she must be in full PPE and wearing SCBA at all times.

Two-In, Two-Out can be performed with as few as four firefighters at the incident, but cannot be performed with three or fewer. If you have one, two or three firefighters at fire then you cannot initiate interior firefighting operations and must limit your fire attack to exterior operations outside of the IDLH atmosphere.

Departments may, by policy or practice, require more than four firefighters to initiate interior firefighting operations. They may require both of the Two-Out Team firefighters be dedicated to the rescue role, and require a fifth firefighter for pump operations and/or a sixth firefighter for incident command. A best practice would be that 2+2=6: Two-In, Two-Out, One Pump Operator and One Incident Commander, but this is not a requirement. It should be your best practice goal.

OSHA regulations have an exception for Two-In, Two-Out. In the event that emergency rescues of civilians or firefighters are needed to save lives, then firefighters may enter an IDLH atmosphere without a Two-Out Team. Don’t use this exception as a license to violate the rule because “someone might need rescuing”. This rescue should be directed at a known or reasonably known victim who can in fact be saved. This rule should not be broken to try and save vaguely identified victims (“I think there’s someone”, “There might be someone”, “there’s a car in the driveway”, etc.). This rule should not be broken if it is apparent that the victim is in a space with extremely low or no probability of survival.

Two-Out

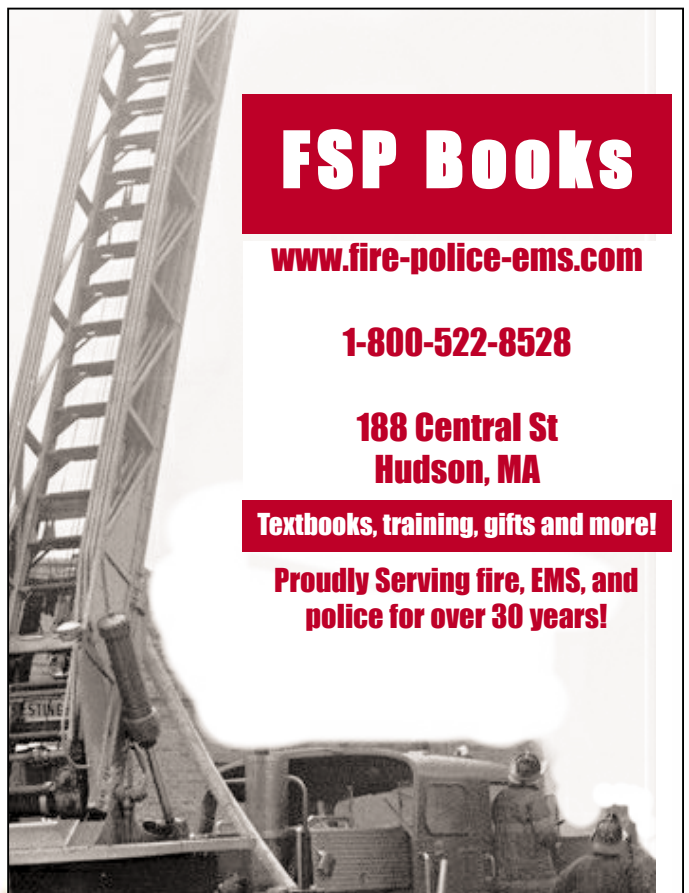
Two-In, Two-Out does not replace a Rapid Intervention Crew (RIC) or Rapid Intervention Team (RIT). A Two-Out Team is treated as an initial RIC/RIT team only for use in the initial fire attack stages when staffing is typically lower than later into the incident. A bigger RIC/RIT should be put in place as soon as possible and relieve the Two-Out Team. A RIC/RIT should be a full engine/truck/rescue company of four firefighters who are dedicated to accountably and rescue of firefighters. RIC/RIT is defined by NFPA 1500, Standard on Fire Department Occupational Safety, Health, and Wellness Program (Chapter 8) and by NFPA 1407, Standard for Training Fire Service Rapid Intervention Crews (this document is a great source of training exercises and drills). Typically, you should be assigning the second due engine company to RIC/RIT if your first due engine has any firefighters operating in an IDLH atmosphere.

Incipient fires create another exception to the general rule. If two firefighters arrive at a wastebasket fire or burning food in an oven, fires that can easily be extinguished with a portable fire extinguisher, they can do so without implementing Two-In, Two-Out. They are not required to stand outside waiting for two more firefighters to arrive and let the fire spread. However, this incipient fire exception is not well defined. It isn't explicit; it is implied by the lack of an IDLH atmosphere at that moment. When the fire is incipient, it hasn't had a chance to create an IDLH atmosphere yet, and so the rule doesn't apply. If an incipient fire isn't extinguished immediately, and it grows, you will soon have an IDLH atmosphere and have to back out to use exterior extinguishment methods until addition staff arrives.

In order to avoid compliance and legal issues, make sure that your Two-In, Two-Out policy is in writing as part of your department's Standard Operational Guidelines/Procedures.

As part of this issue of *Smoke Showin'*, the MCVFA has included a Two-In, Two-Out Engine Company Training Evolution that you can adopt and practice. It is designed

around two engines, each with two firefighters, arriving at a fire. The MCVFA chose this deployment, because it is among the more difficult situations to meet the Two-In, Two-Out rule. It requires greater tactical patience of the first arriving team while awaiting the second engine. You can modify this training evolution to fit your normal turnout and procedures. If you have firefighters arrive in personal vehicles you can drop the second engine and have two (or more) firefighters arrive in cars both before and after the first engine. If you typically get a four firefighter engine on the road, you can run the drill that way. 🔧

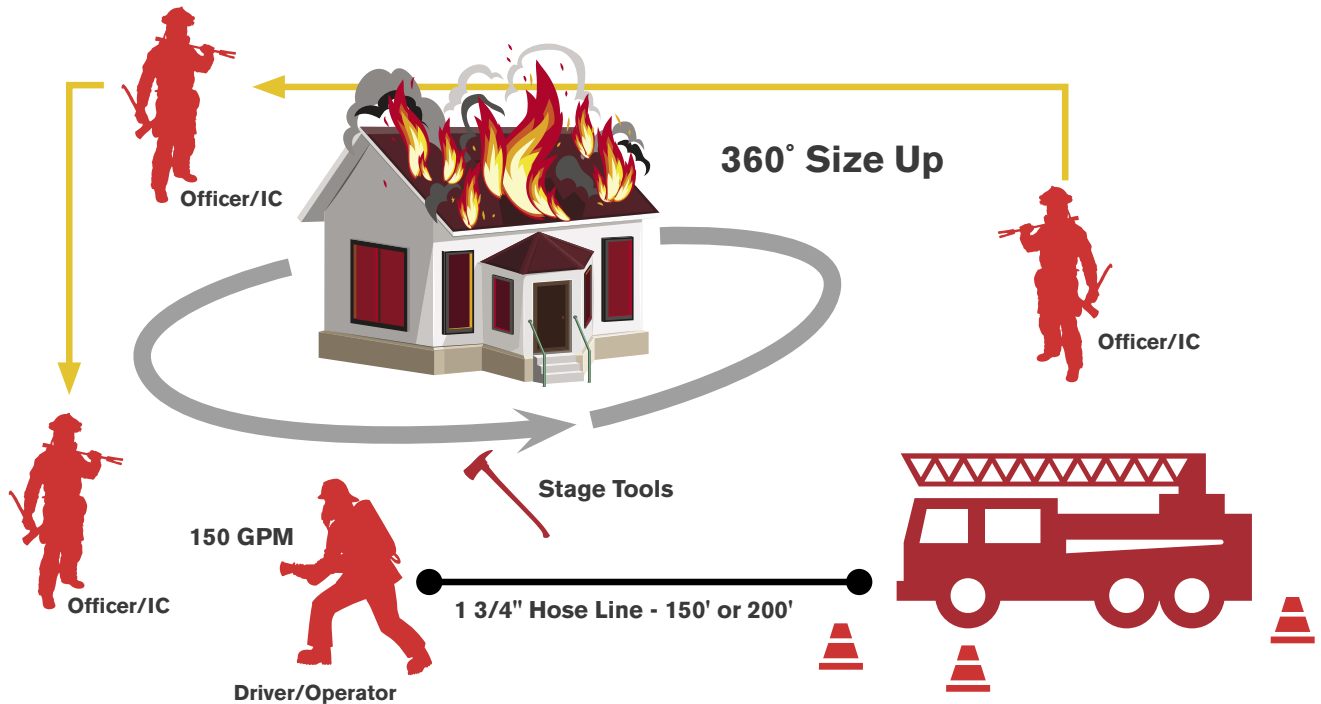


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MCVFA Model Engine Company Evolution #5

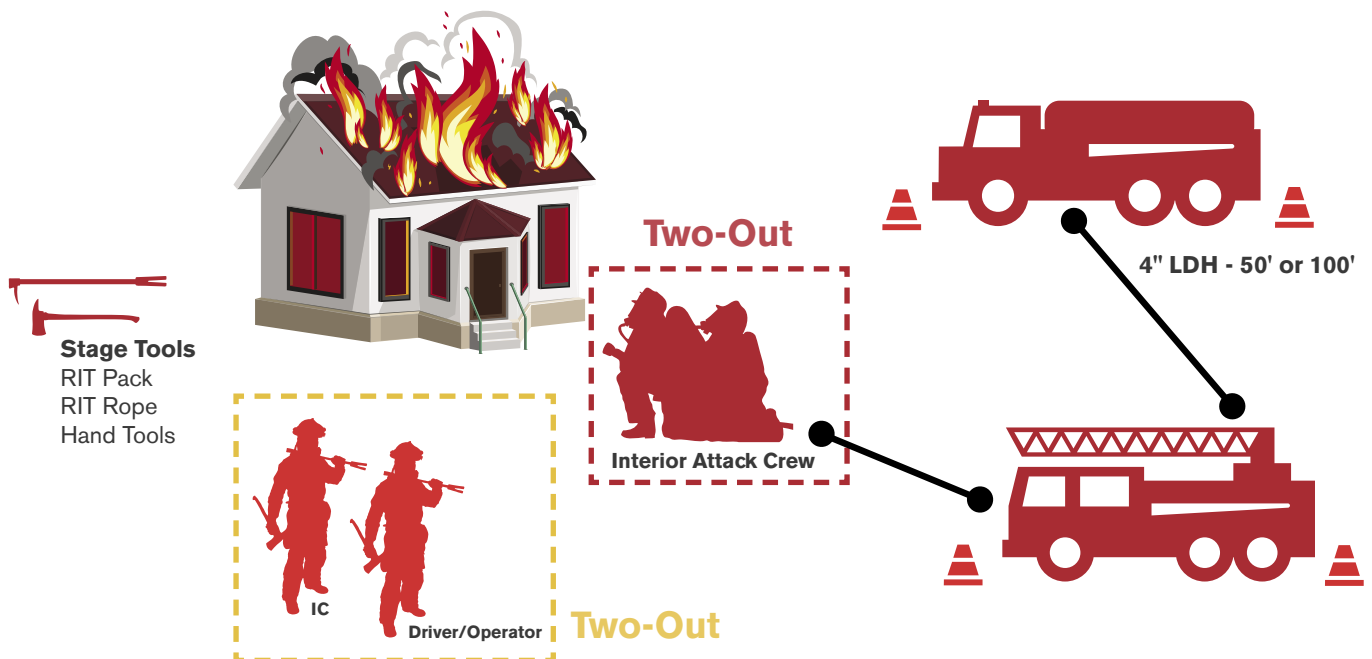
TWO-IN, TWO-OUT COMPLIANCE, 4 Firefighters, 2 Engines - An NFPA 1410 Evolution

First 2 Firefighters - Transitional Attack - Size-up & Exterior Attack



4 Firefighters - 2 Trucks on Scene - Transitional Attack - Interior Attack - 2 IN, 2 OUT Compliance

IC Should be located at the point of entry to monitor the Interior Attack Crew.



MCVFA Model Engine Company

Evolution #5

SCORE SHEET

PROCEDURES

1. Engine with two firefighters proceeds to simulated fire building and sets up in a location that allows for additional apparatus to access the incident. Set brakes, sets out traffic cones, turns on flood lights and circulates water. Keep in mind collapse zones. Officer transmits an initial radio report and takes command.
2. While driver sets up engine, the officer (with thermal imaging camera) conducts a 360 degree size-up and transmits an updated radio report, including incident action plan and instructions to incoming units (assume or pass command).
3. Firefighters stretch hand line to where fire is showing or best location for exterior attack. Firefighters knock-down any fire in accordance with the best practices of a transitional fire attack.
4. After 5 minutes, second engine arrives and sets-up where directed. (The second engine will tie-in to supply water to the first engine if no hydrants, set-up to pump a hydrant, or simply park, as you determine appropriate.)
5. Second engine's two firefighters, in full PPE/SCBA, advance the attack line into the building for interior fire attack.
6. The first engine officer sets up at the point of entry with a radio, hand tools and rescue rope bag to monitor and maintain accountability for the entry team.
7. The first engine driver, in full PPE/SCBA will operate the pump, manage water supply, and set out the RIT Pack (if available) on the front bumper of the engine or at the point of entry.

ASSIGNMENTS

1. First Engine Officer: Size-Up, Incident Command, Transitional Fire Attack/Exterior Line and Two-Out Team Leader.
2. First Engine Driver: Sets-Up Engine for Fire Attack, Two-Out Team
3. Second Engine Officer: Interior Fire Attack Team Leader
4. Second Engine Driver: Interior Fire Attack Team

PERFORMANCE CRITERIA

Five minutes, one exterior fire stream in operation, officer/driver in full PPE, SCBA and pass device activated.

Ten minutes, one effective interior fire stream in operation, officer/firefighters in full PPE, SCBA, and pass device activated and ready to enter the building.

Time begins when first engine stops at the building and time stops when interior attack line is flowing at the point of entry and interior firefighters breathing SCBA air, **AND 2 In – 2 Out is complied with.**

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

SCORE SHEET

Safety

Points are deducted for each safety infraction.	Pts	# infractions
1. No running	5	
2. Entire crew seated & belted while unit in motion	10	
3. PPE & SCBA worn properly & Integrated PASS activated	10	
4. Crew checks for traffic when mounting and dismounting apparatus	5	
5. Vehicles operated safely (under control, parking brake set, etc.)	10	
6. Wheels chocked	5	
7. Other (note)	5	
8. General safety	5	
Total (point value X # of infractions)		

Procedures

Points are deducted for each infraction	Pts	# infractions
1st Engine spots at fire building allowing truck company access and view 3 sides	5	
1st Engine Officer sizes up existing conditions and transmits initial radio report	10	
1st Engine Officer conducts 360 size-up and updates radio report/IAP	10	
1st Engine Driver/Officer stretches attack line for exterior knockdown	10	
Hose line pulled and stretched correctly – no spaghetti	10	
1st Engine Driver/Officer carries entry tools to building (Halligan & Flat axe)	5	
Pump engaged and line charged – kinks removed	10	
Correct pump pressure and pressure governor set	10	
Fire is knocked down from the exterior – transitional attack	10	
Attack line relocated to entry point	5	
Hose line tested at entry	5	
Hose line flowing 150 gpm +	10	
Firefighter & Officer await 2 In – 2 Out compliance before entering building	20	
2nd Engine Operator & Officer Don SCBA	10	
RIT Pack, RIT Rope & Tools deployed to entry point	5	
One Outside Team member monitors Inside Team from Point of Entry	10	
One Driver/Operator (in PPE/SCBA) operates pump(s)	10	
Flood lights activated if at night	5	
Total (point value X # of infractions)		
Total Safety Points		
Total Procedure points		
Total Deductions (Safety + Procedure)		
Total Score for the exercise = (100 – Safety – Procedure)		



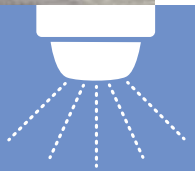
Massachusetts Workplace Safety and Health Protection for Public Employees

Massachusetts General Law Chapter 149, §§ 6 and 6-1/2 provide job safety and health protection for state, municipal and county workers through the promotion of safe and healthful work conditions. In addition, 454 CMR 25 directly extends OSHA regulations to executive branch state agencies.

- Employers:** Employers are required to provide procedures, equipment and training to prevent work-related injuries and illnesses.
- Employees:** Employees are required to comply with the policies and procedures established in their workplace to reduce work-related injuries and illnesses.
- Inspection:** The Department of Labor Standards ("DLS") may conduct an on-site inspection to evaluate workplace conditions and make recommendations for the prevention of work-related injuries and illnesses. See "Inspection Summary" at www.mass.gov/dols/wshp.
- Enforcement:** DLS may issue a Written Warning which contains an Order to Correct when an inspection reveals a condition which could cause a work-related injury or illness. DLS may issue a Civil Citation with Civil Penalty in circumstances when the employer repeatedly allows an unsafe condition to occur, the condition has already caused a serious work-related injury, or if the employer has ignored a previous Written Warning.
- Voluntary Assistance:** Public sector workplaces may request technical assistance by contacting DLS at 508-616-0461 or safepublicworkplace@state.ma.us. There are no written warnings or penalties issued for voluntary assistance.
- Complaints:** Public employees or their representatives may file a complaint about safety and health conditions at their workplace by contacting DLS at 508-616-0461 or safepublicworkplace@state.ma.us.
- Safety and Health Management:** Sample safety programs and technical bulletins are available at www.mass.gov/dols/wshp.



SPRINKLERS SAVE LIVES



DFS Receives Side By Side Demonstration Trailer

“To protect lives and property from fire through the widespread acceptance of the fire sprinkler concept.”

This is the mission of the National Fire Sprinkler Association (NFSA). One of the ways the NFSA promotes the effectiveness of sprinklers is with a side-by-side sprinkler trailer demonstration prop. The NFSA has donated a new mobile sprinkler prop and \$10,000 to DFS for use by Massachusetts fire departments. The prop contains two identical sitting rooms that are set on fire. One room has a fire sprinkler and one does not. The cash donation will pay for refurbishing it after each demonstration.

On June 27, Shane Ray, president of the NFSA, and Peter Gibbons, business manager for Sprinkler Fitter Local 550, presented the prop and a check to DFS in a formal ceremony at the Stow campus. “It’s an honor to assist progressive and proactive leadership who have a desire to properly educate and inform citizens, businesses, and visitors in Massachusetts,” said Ray, “This innovative tool will educate citizens, firefighters, and public policy makers on the dangers of modern fire and how best to protect themselves.” Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security Daniel Bennett and State Fire Marshal Peter J. Ostroskey accepted the donation.

The ceremony included an astonishing demonstration of the new prop that showed the power and speed of an uncontrolled fire and the effectiveness of fire sprinklers in controlling fire quickly.

In the 1970’s, it was estimated that a person had 17 minutes to escape from a typical home fire. Through the years and because of the change in construction techniques, plastics in home appliances and foam rubber furnishings, it is estimated the time to escape has been reduced to between 1 and 3 minutes. Shane Ray narrated the demonstration with the help of a timer. He noted when flames appeared, when the smoke alarm went off, and other highlights during the burns. Staff and guests saw the extraordinary effectiveness of fire sprinklers. In the unsprinklered room (on the right), the fire reached flashover in two minutes. Once a fire reaches flashover, no one survives. In the sprinklered room (on the left), the sprinkler doused the flames in 19 seconds and damage was minimal. The furniture and almost all of the contents of the room were saved. During his narration, Ray also advocated for working smoke alarms and practiced home escape plans. Seeing how fast fire moves, how quickly heat and toxic smoke builds, and how sprinklers contain a fire quickly made a strong impression on observers.

As a result of the generosity of the NFSA, DFS began making the prop available to communities in August. Make your request through the Learning Management System (LMS), or by calling Cindy Ouellette at 978-567-3381. The unit will be available April 15 to November 15. After each use, refurbishing the prop takes about three weeks. 🔧

REGION 1

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

Vice President Ken Jordan, Wareham

Region 1 held its annual election this month, hosted by Carver Fire Department and I am pleased to be serving for another term. Many thanks to Chief Craig Weston for a great tour of Carver Fire Station #1. This new fire station is a world-class facility and shows the pride of all members of the Carver Fire Department and the support of the community at large.

Mike Bird gave a short talk on cancer awareness and the valuable information contained within the Lavender reports that are being emailed to all members. Tom Burnett urged all departments to request TIMS (Traffic Incident Management System) training; this program gives First Responders tools and knowledge to manage safety when responding to incidents on the highways.

The Membership reports still indicates there are still a few departments that need to get their rosters and dues submitted.

Congratulations to MCVFA Region 1 scholarship recipient Skylar Bird. Skylar is a graduate of Cape Cod Regional Vocational School and now attending Johnson and Whales studying Culinary Arts.



Region 1 VP Ken Jordan with Hindley Scholarship recipient Skylar Bird.

The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for mid-January.

If any departments get new apparatus or have interesting pictures from training, special events or actual fires you would like share, pass them along to me with a short narrative and we will include it in the next issue. Feel free to contact me at ken.jordan59@gmail.com. 🚒

REGION 2

Covering the counties of Essex, Middlesex

Vice President Chris Bosch, Groveland

West Newbury Fire Department Jr Firefighter program working on drafting and hose handling operations. The Jr's are learning to draft from a local pond using the pump on the West Newbury engine. Members learn to avoid a water hammer, to use a straight stream, fog stream and have also learned the Chicago loop and Blitz Fire.

The West Newbury Jr Firefighters are all members of the MCVFA. Last year many of the members participated at the Topsfield Fair Jr Firefighter Muster along with Stoneham, Boxford, and Topsfield. For any department interested in attending future Jr Musters please contact Roland Courtemanche at medic5one@yahoo.com. 🚒



continues on page 22

REGION 4

Covering the counties of Franklin, Hampden, Hampshire

Vice President Joshua Ellinger, Huntington

I hope you all were able to squeeze in a vacation or two during this busy summer season. It was a summer full of BBQ fundraisers, boot drives, breakfasts, musters, open houses, fairs, parades, and car washes. That's just the community outreach part of our jobs, which is a small fraction of what we do when the weather is cooperating.

I'm pleased to report that our Region had two Hindley Scholarship recipients, Abigail Sage Zeoli of Sunderland and Alexandria Henderson of Williamsburg. Congratulations to you both.

Acting Deerfield Fire Chief Daren Melnik was officially sworn in as Fire Chief, congratulations Chief. Southwick Fire officially swore in Deputy Chief Rich Stefanowicz, congratulations Deputy Chief. Our friends in Westhampton, Orange, and Williamsburg all received grants for equipment purchases and upgrades. Goshen Fire has been adding more exercise equipment to their station to promote the health and wellness of their members. Leverett Fire took delivery of a new rescue truck to better service their community.

By the time you read this a benefit dinner for Colrain Firefighter Barry Sullivan would have been held. Barry has served Colrain fire for over 25 years and has been diagnosed with liver cancer, which has caused him to take a step back from the fire service to tend to his illness. Please keep Barry, his family, and his department in your thoughts during these trying times.

I follow all of the regions departments on social media and one consistency that I see throughout is training with our mutual aid partners. It's no secret our small town departments have trouble filling an engine company sometimes and we rely heavily on our mutual aid agreements in the surrounding areas. I just wanted to take a moment to say thank you to the departments in Region 4 for working together to make our counties a safer place. Now I want to ask for your help to reach out to the same mutual aid partners for the MCVFA. Our membership is our strength and we make efforts every year to grow but we can't do that with just a handful of people. Get involved, come to meetings, be a voice for the organization, pull in your mutual aid partners and remind them that this organization is here for them. The bigger we are the bigger our voice in the state.

Please feel free to reach out to me for any assistance and to promote activities in your departments. I can be reached at jellinger1981@gmail.com. 🚒

REGION 5

Covering the counties of Berkshire

Vice President Paul Vallone, Clarksburg

Life Flight Class at New Ashford Fire Department

Photos by Frank Speth III

The New Ashford Fire Department hosted a Life Flight Class with the following departments that attended were Adams, New Marlboro, Hancock, Dalton, Huntington, and Williamstown. 🚒



Retiring Region 5 VP Paul Vallone

Retiring Region 5 VP Paul Vallone was recently honored by the Berkshire County Fire Chiefs at their meeting at the Cheshire Fire Department. Paul has served as Regional Vice President for 18 years and is the longest tenured vice president in MCVFA history. The Chiefs presented a plaque to him for his dedicated service to the region and to the fire service.

On a personal note, I want to thank the Chiefs and to all the Berkshire County firefighters for their support and assistance over the years. It was a great honor to be your representative. 🚒

Paul Vallone



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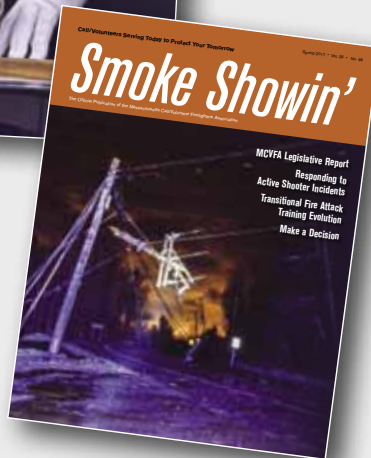


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