

Smoke Showin'

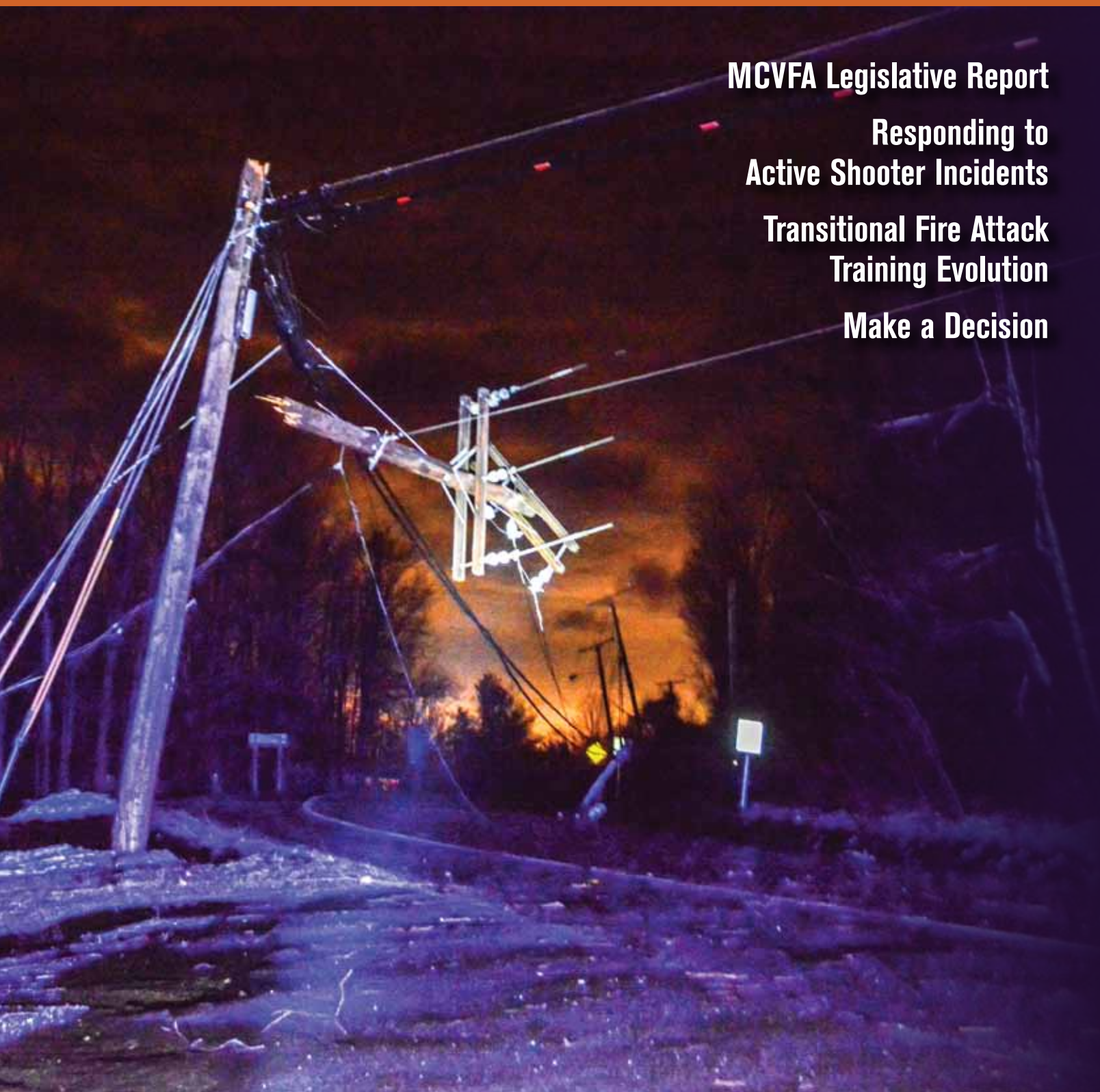
The Official Publication of the Massachusetts Call/Volunteer Firefighters Association

MCVFA Legislative Report

**Responding to
Active Shooter Incidents**

**Transitional Fire Attack
Training Evolution**

Make a Decision





CONFERENCE & EXPO

THE PREMIER EVENT IN
FIRE AND LIFE SAFETY

4 — 7
JUNE
2017

BOSTON

Boston Convention
and Exhibition Center

➤ **CONFERENCE**
June 4–7
Sun–Wed

➤ **EXPO**
June 4–6
Sun–Tue




NFPA's Conference & Expo is a can't-miss showcase that combines an unrivaled educational conference with a comprehensive expo of the latest products and services. There is no better opportunity to learn, discover, network, and stay current with advances in fire & life safety.



Register today at
nfpa.org/expo

Presented by:  
exhibitions, inc.

Official Publication: 



2017 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
vpregion1@mcvfa.org

Region 2 Vice President

Chris Bosch
Groveland Fire Department
(978) 778-8866
vpregion2@mcvfa.org

Region 3 Vice President

Bob Silver
Millbury Fire Department
(774) 239-7244
vpregion3@mcvfa.org

Region 4 Vice President

Jeff Simmons
Heath Fire Department
vpregion4@mcvfa.org

Region 5 Vice President

Paul Vallone
Clarksburg Fire Department
(413) 664-6281
vpregion5@mcvfa.org

Recruitment and Retention Program Coordinator

Susan Dyer
recruit@mcvfa.org

CONTENT

- 06** MCVFA Legislative Report
- 08** Interested in Being an MCVFA Officer?
- 09** Fire Service Commission Elects Palmer Fire Chief Alan Roy Chairman for 2017
- 10** Responding to Active Shooter Incidents
- 12** Health & Wellness
- 14** Transitional Fire Attack Training Evolution
- 16** More Engine Company Training
- 19** Make a Decision

Spring 2017



COLUMNS

- 05** President's Letter
- 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.

Cover photo courtesy of Bob Labrie, Goshen Fire Department; Route 9, Goshen after the February 25, 2017 tornado.

2017 Membership 2018 Dues



Membership dues packets will be sent out around April 15, 2017 via email. The packets will be emailed to the delegates, please notify the membership committee if you do not receive a packet.

Questions can be directed to the Membership Committee at membership@mcvfa.org.

The association depends on timely receipt of dues to be able to pay its bills and to facilitate the programs that the organization sponsors.

The Membership Committee



SUBSCRIPTION: \$15 a year

You will receive four (4) issues per year, winter, spring, summer and fall. Your subscription will start with the next issue. Include this form along with your check or money order for \$15 and payable to MCVFA.

Mail this form, along with a check or money order to:

**MCVFA
PO Box 124
Whitman, MA 02382**



Name (please print) _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip Code _____

Email Address _____

SS_SP2017

Smoke Showin'

The Official Publication of the Massachusetts
Call/Volunteer Firefighters Association



MCVFA Offices

PO Box 124, Whitman, MA 02382
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

Training Committee
Cory Adelt, Alert Hose Company

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 124, Whitman, MA 02382

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 quarterly by the Massachusetts Call/Volunteer Firefighters Association, PO Box 124, Whitman, MA 02536. Periodicals postage is paid at Whitman, MA, and at additional mailing offices.

Postmaster: Send all address changes to:
MCVFA, PO Box 124, Whitman, MA 02382.

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 ©2017 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.



President's Message

A new legislative season is upon us again. We are promoting the same agenda as the last session to include the Local Option for the Real Estate Tax Exemption. This bill came close to passing during the last session and it will become the prominent piece for the 2017-2018 Session. When this legislation comes in front of whatever committee it was assigned, we'll ask for your help in supporting it at the Statehouse by attending that hearing. We will get the information out to you in a timely fashion for this as well as for the other important legislation.

We are also happy to announce that our new webpage is up and running. There are some kinks being worked out, but the Association hopes that you will utilize this valuable tool. There are many new items on the site and we have tried to make it a bit more user-friendly. We have added links to join both the MCVFA and the NVFC. There is also a link on the page to allow you to write an article in *Smoke Showin'*. Let us know your thoughts on the set-up and use of the webpage. In addition, don't forget the MCVFA Facebook page as well as each region's Facebook page.

I'd like to remind all of our members that the Membership Committee will be sending out the 2017-2018 Dues Packet via e-mail shortly. We are sending it to the latest email address we have on file, so if you do not receive it, please notify the committee at membership@mcvfa.org and they will get your membership packet to you.

The 2016 State Meeting voted to increase annual dues to \$20.00 per person. This increase only affects active members, Associate Members, and chief officers; dues for retired members and junior/explorer firefighters are unchanged. This additional revenue allows the Executive Board to offer better accidental

death & dismemberment insurance, which will begin September 1, and to offset the increasing costs of the day-to-day operation of the Association.

I would also like to remind the members that according to our By-Laws, if members are not paid up within 60 days following the due date (July 1), they will be suspended. That means a loss of ALL benefits until the dues are paid.

When membership dues are not paid in a timely fashion, the Association's ability to carry out its mission can be severely affected. This includes the cutting back on programs and benefits. Over the years, MCVFA leadership has done an outstanding job of looking for and adding programs and benefits to assist our members, their families, the Massachusetts call and volunteer fire service, and the public. However, the Association's mission can only be done with the full support of all our members.

I am also reaching out to departments who may have been members in the past but, for whatever reason, have let their membership lapse and to departments that have never been members. We will come to your department and provide any information you need to find out who we are and what we offer.

My hope is to make this organization stronger in every way possible and to provide its members programs and benefits that will support and help them be better firefighters and EMTs in the communities they serve. 🚒

Thank you all...and be safe!

In the last issue, *Smoke Showin'* failed to credit and thank Bob Labrie of the Goshen Fire Department for his pictures of the 2016 MCVFA Annual State Meeting. We regret the oversight and deeply appreciate Bob's contribution. Thank you Bob.

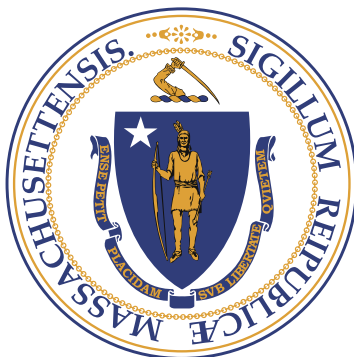
MCVFA Legis

The 2017-2018

Legislative Session is upon us. The following are the 4 pieces of legislation the MCVFA is pursuing this session. As of this writing, the bills had not been assigned numbers. You may find them on the MCVFA Legislative Facebook page.

Two bills that got very close to passing last session were the Real Estate Tax Exemption and the Death Benefits for LODD Survivors. We are pretty confident that with your help, these two important pieces of legislation will become law during this session.

There are other bills that we will be following and will keep the membership up to speed on those.



1

An Act providing for a distinctive registration plate for firefighters

This legislation allows the Registry of Motor Vehicles to furnish to firefighters in the Commonwealth, or to the surviving spouse of a firefighter killed in the line of duty, a distinctive registration plate that shall display on their face a design indicating their status as firefighters. Currently there is no distinctive registration plate for firefighters within the Commonwealth.

While there is a registration plate for the Firefighter Memorial and also a so-called First Responder plate (Massachusetts State Police Benevolent Fund plate), those plates are available to the public and are NOT firefighter specific. A plate specifically designed for firefighters could help fund the Massachusetts Fire Academy, just as the Firefighter Memorial plate funds the Firefighter Memorial at the Statehouse and the First Responder plate would fund the State Police Association of Massachusetts Benevolent Fund.

This plate is not intended to replace either plate, but to be an addition to the firefighting community. It would be available only to firefighters, both career and call/volunteer, or, in the case of a Line of Duty Death (LODD), the surviving spouse. There would be an additional fee for the plate above the standard registration fee for passenger motor vehicles. The additional fee would be transferred to the Massachusetts Firefighters Academy Trust Fund pursuant to state law.

(Due to the addition of the training facility for firefighters in Springfield, this legislation could help offset the cost of funding for this important site in Western Massachusetts.)

lative Report

2

An Act relative to death benefits to surviving spouses of call and volunteer firefighters

This legislation closes an important gap in the protections provided to the families of call/volunteer firefighters who may be killed in the line-of-duty in Massachusetts.

This legislation provides that a call/volunteer firefighter's surviving spouse and minor children will be eligible for group health insurance through their city or town in a similar manner as the dependents of career firefighters killed in the line-of-duty and retirees.

This legislation was included in the Senate version of the budget and passed as the Acts of 2014, Chapter 165, Section 73. Currently there are errors and omissions that need to be corrected.

3

An Act authorizing voluntary contributions to the Massachusetts Firefighters' Academy trust fund

This legislation allows those filing separate or joint tax returns to voluntarily contribute all or part of any refund or to voluntarily add an amount onto any amount due, to the Massachusetts Firefighters' Academy Trust Fund.

This legislation follows other forms of voluntary contributions currently provided for under Chapter 62. A contribution made under this section may be with respect to any taxable year at the time of filing a return of the tax established by this chapter for such taxable year. The commissioner shall also prescribe the manner in which such contribution shall be made on the face of the return required by section 5 of chapter 62C. The commissioner shall assure that taxpayers filing any such forms are made clearly aware of their ability to make the contributions provided for by this section.

(Due to the addition of the training facility for firefighters in Springfield, this legislation may help offset the cost of funding for this important site in Western Massachusetts.)

4

An Act to provide volunteer firefighters with a local option real estate tax exemption

This legislation would allow cities, towns or fire districts to provide a real estate tax credit for a volunteer firefighter or a volunteer emergency medical technician (EMT).

The Commonwealth is protected by approximately eight thousand call/volunteer firefighters and EMTs. Each year, it becomes increasingly harder to keep these volunteers. In the past decade it is estimated that the number of volunteer firefighters and EMTs has dropped by 15%. Small communities need incentives to attract and retain volunteers and this legislation would help maintain a viable firefighting force within each town, city and district. The National Volunteer Fire Council estimates that volunteer firefighters save communities in the United States more than \$139.8 billion a year.

In Massachusetts, there are about 100 communities that rely entirely upon call/volunteer firefighters and another 160 that use a combination of call/volunteer and career firefighters.

This legislation is modeled after successful home rule legislation for the Town of Swansea that was enacted into law in 2012 (Acts of 2012, Chapter 105). The Massachusetts Call/Volunteer Firefighters Association (MCFVA) feels this legislation should be made available, as a local option, to all cities, towns and districts within the Commonwealth without having to file separate home rule petitions. 🔴

Interested in Being an MCVFA Officer?



NOMINATIONS ARE NOW OPEN

The Association Bylaws created the Elections Committee to oversee the entire elections process. Every April, the Elections Committee must notify the membership of positions whose term of office will conclude on December 31.

Positions to be decided at the Annual State Meeting in October are:

President of the Association

Kevin Connolly of Northfield is the incumbent.

Eligibility:

1. A candidate must be a duly elected sitting Vice President, a Past President or a sitting President eligible for reelection under Article 3 Section 2(a)
2. In the event that no eligible candidate is able or willing to run for the office of the President, any member in good standing with a continuous membership in the Association for at least five (5) consecutive years may stand for election for the office of President provided that such member is a category B-1, B-3, B-4, B-5, B-6 or B-7 member.

Secretary of the Association

David Sullivan of Seekonk is the incumbent.

Eligibility:

1. Any Active Member of this Association who has been an active member in good standing for three (3) consecutive years is eligible to hold this office.
2. A candidate must be a B-1, B-3, B-4, B-5, B-6, or B-7 member.

Positions to be decided at Regional meetings held by September 20 are:

Region 1 Coordinator

Rachel Rawlings of Onset is the incumbent. 2-year term

Region 3 Coordinator

Ryan Cheney of Sherborn is the incumbent, 2-year term

Region 4 Vice President

Jeff Simmons of Heath is the incumbent, 2-year term

Region 4 Coordinator

Vacant, 1-year term

Region 5 Coordinator

Frank Speth, III of New Ashford is the incumbent, 2-year term

Eligibility:

1. Any Active Member of this Association who has been an active member in good standing for three (3) consecutive years is eligible to hold this office.
2. A candidate must be a B-1, B-3, B-4, B-5, B-6, or B-7 member.

This announcement opens the nomination process. Anyone interested in being a candidate for any of these positions, including incumbents, should express their intentions to the MCVFA Office by July 1.

The Elections Committee will then review all potential candidates to determine their eligibility and submit a slate of qualified candidates to the Delegates and Alternates by August 15. ⚙️

If you have any questions about the election process or the duties of the various positions, please contact the Elections Committee at elections@mcvfa.org or you may call Larry Holmberg at 413-296-4247.

Fire Service Commission Elects **Palmer Fire Chief Alan Roy** Chairman for 2017



by Captain Mike McCullough, Lakeville FD
Fire Service Commission Representative of MCVFA

There have been several changes to the makeup of the Fire Service Commission since I last wrote on the State Fire Marshal selection process. This past summer, longtime Chairman of the Fire Service Commission and Everett Fire Chief David Butler retired and stepped down from the Fire Service Commission. Former PFFM President Ed Kelly was elected General Secretary-Treasurer of the International Association of Firefighters and stepped down from the commission as well. Reading Fire Chief Gregory Burns was named by Governor Baker to be Representative of the Fire Chiefs' Association of Massachusetts (FCAM) community from Metro District 13 on the Commission and began attending meetings of the commission this past fall. As of press time, the PFFM seat on the commission has not been filled, but I expect the governor will make an appointment shortly.

At our meeting in January, Acting Chairman and Palmer Chief Alan Roy was unanimously elected to serve as Chairman, and Winchester Chief John Nash will serve as Vice Chair this year.

The current members of the Commission are:

CHAIRMAN: Palmer Fire Chief Alan J. Roy
Representative of FCAM Part Paid, Part Call Fire Department

VICE CHAIR: Winchester Fire Chief John F. Nash
Representative of FCAM Fully Paid Fire Department

John K. Golembeski
Representative of the Insurance Industry

Russell Fire Chief Michael A. Morrissey
Representative of FCAM Full Call Fire Department

Lakeville Fire Captain Michael J. McCullough
Representative of MCVFA

Reading Fire Chief Gregory Burns
Representative of Fire Chiefs' Association of Massachusetts (FCAM) Community from Metro District 13

Representative of Professional Fire Fighters of Massachusetts currently vacant

Daniel Bennett

*Secretary, Executive Office of Public Safety and Security
(Ex-Officio) Designee: Undersecretary Patrick McMurray* 



Donald P. Bliss

Vice President, Field Operations
617-984-7260 • dbliss@nfpa.org

Robert F. Duval

Senior Fire Investigator and New England
Regional Director
617-984-7476 • rduval@nfpa.org

Timothy P. Travers

Regional Fire Sprinkler Specialist
617-984-7013 • ttravers@nfpa.org

NFPA Mission: Reduce the worldwide burden of fire and other hazards on the quality of life by providing and advocating consensus codes and standards, research, training, and education.

One Batterymarch Park, Quincy, MA 02169
Tel: +1 617 770-3000 • www.nfpa.org




Responding to Active Shooter Incidents

by Dave Clemons
Department of Fire Services Operations Section Chief



On April 20, 1999, one of the most referenced and studied active shooter incidents occurred at Columbine High School in Colorado. Twelve students and one teacher died. SWAT teams took 47 minutes to enter the school building. In the years following Columbine, the United States has experienced a steady increase in active shooter incidents. Unfortunately, active shooter events in schools, businesses and places of worship are far more prevalent than most are aware, and the severity and frequency of the incidents continues to escalate every year.

One of the most comprehensive studies of these events was conducted by the Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigations. The FBI research entitled, “Study of Active Shooter Incidents,” documented 160 incidents between 2000 and 2013 where 557 people were wounded and 486 died. In the first seven years studied, an average of 6.4 incidents occurred. In the last seven years, an average of 16.4 incidents occurred each year.



National standards are built on a common premise: that having relationships with partner agencies and mutual-aid before incidents occur is critical to a successful response. It is imperative that local law enforcement agencies have common tactics, common communications capabilities and a common lexicon for seamless, effective operations.

While public-safety officials were adapting to handling the incidents and learning how to increase survivability, the theories and procedures developed were as varied as the locations of these incidents.

Today, the agreed-upon definition of an active shooter by U.S. government agencies is an individual actively engaged in killing or attempting to kill people in a confined and populated area. The keyword and impetus for incident guidance is the term “active.” Active indicates that a shooting is in progress and implies that both first responders and citizens have the

potential to affect the outcome of the event by what they do. The sooner that injured victims are moved to safety, the more likely it is that they will survive, but putting first responders at risk can dramatically increase the number of victims. However, those inside the situation can begin first aid that can increase the likelihood that the injured will survive.

Because the public safety response can improve outcomes during these tragic events, the Massachusetts Executive Office of Public Safety and Security convened a work group to develop guidance for local communities as they develop their own active shooter protocols. The work group is multi-disciplinary and multi-level by design. Members were selected by the recognized public safety associations and directed to provide guidance to communities based on national standards and best practices.

While work on the guidance document continues, the national standards are built on a common premise: that having relationships with partner agencies and mutual-aid before incidents occur is critical to a successful response. It is imperative that local law enforcement agencies have common tactics, common communications capabilities and a common lexicon for seamless, effective operations. Local fire and law enforcement agencies should establish standard operating procedures to deal with these unusual, highly volatile, and extraordinarily dangerous scenarios.

To assist communities in implementing the advice in the guidance document, the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy will develop training in consultation and partnership with the Municipal Police Training Committee. The guidance document is scheduled for release in the first part of 2017 and training will be available in the same time frame. 🚒

*Reprinted from the All Hands Herald,
January 2017*



Gowrie Group and VFIS provide specialized insurance and claims solutions designed to meet the unique and complex needs of public safety and municipalities throughout New England.

Contact us anytime:

Jeff Rudzavice • Jonathan Finn • Roy McNamee • Margaret Standish

888.834.7763 • vfis@gowrie.com • www.gowrie.com/vfis

VFIS of Southern New England, a member of Gowrie Group

An advertisement for the National EMS Institute. The top half shows a paramedic in a blue uniform and cap assisting a student wearing a red and green training helmet. The bottom half has a dark blue background with the text 'NATIONAL EMS INSTITUTE' and 'EMT BOOT CAMP' in white, and 'BECOME AN EMT IN 18 DAYS!' in large orange letters.

NATIONAL EMS INSTITUTE
EMT BOOT CAMP

**BECOME AN EMT
IN 18 DAYS!**



Health & Wellness

by Dominica D'Avella, MCVFA Health & Wellness Coordinator

How do you know if you are dealing with credible information? This question is relevant in most aspects of life, but it is something people frequently struggle with when it comes to health and fitness. In the last issue of *Smoke Showin'*, we discussed the importance of medical assessment as a prerequisite to department fitness programs. Regular medical assessments are an essential piece of keeping firefighters healthy, as is intelligent physical training. So what constitutes intelligent physical training? And do you, as a firefighter, need something different than the rest of the population? Having credible answers to these questions can directly affect your safety and survival.

Physical training designed to address specific needs and goals generally leads to far better results than a one-size-fits-all

approach. Without a doubt, firefighters face unique physical demands and their fitness programs need to reflect that. But we also must remember that specific physical preparedness is built on a foundation of general physical preparedness. At a human level, we all need some combination of aerobic conditioning, muscular strength, muscular endurance, and flexibility. The closer to the right mix that we have, the more success we'll have in meeting the demands of life; the less optimal the mix, the higher the risk of feeling poorly, injuries and degeneration.

How do we figure out the right mix? It depends on your starting point. How frequently do you exercise right now? How hard do you exert yourself? How long does an exercise session typically last? How balanced is your training across the health-related components of fitness mentioned above? Is your body

composition in a healthy range? Honest, objective answers to these questions help map out the next steps. Someone who is not exercising at all clearly has a different problem to solve than someone who exercises regularly and wants to perform at a higher level. Since physical preparedness is a life safety issue in the fire service, developing a solid plan for your physical training is critical.

The questions above represent a starting point, but firefighters need to ultimately be further along the continuum of physical readiness than most people. To achieve more, assessment and measurement relative to clear standards and goals is essential. If you don't know where you're starting from and where you're headed, then you won't know if you're getting closer. The assessment piece should also take into account the demands that you face in your department. There are 1.1 million firefighters in the U.S. and not all of them have the same job demands. What constitutes physical readiness in your department? Do you have an SOG/SOP? Do you utilize NFPA 1583? Why or why not?

Fitness assessment both sets a baseline and measures progress towards your goals. If there isn't anything in place at the department level, then you need to decide what you will personally use to gauge progress. There's no shortage of suggestions on the internet, but it can be difficult to separate what is worthwhile from what isn't. Utilizing information from major fitness organizations, such as the American Council on Exercise (ACE), American College of Sports Medicine (ACSM), National Academy of Sports Medicine (NASM), and National Strength and Conditioning Association (NSCA), can help you find credible information. We'll discuss more about firefighter fitness in the next several issues.

In the meantime, if your department belongs to MCVFA and you are interested in hosting a workshop on Firefighter Health for your Region, please contact Dominica D'Avella, MCVFA Health & Wellness Coordinator, at dominica.davella@gmail.com. Hope to see some of you at NVFC's Training Summit in Myrtle Beach in June! Visit www.nvfc.org to check out the details for this great event. 🚒



**National Volunteer Fire Council
Training
Summit**

June 9-10, 2017 / Myrtle Beach, SC


Robert J. Hindley Memorial SCHOLARSHIP



APPLY TODAY

Application forms can be obtained from
www.mcvfa.org/scholarships

DEADLINE: MAY 1, 2017



New Website!
Easily order from
your computer,
phone or tablet

FSP Books and Videos
www.fire-police-ems.com
Textbooks, training materials, gifts and more!

**Expanded
Retail Area!**
188 Central St
Hudson, MA
minutes from the
Massachusetts Firefighting
Academy



TRAINING

Transitional Fire Attack Training Evolution

By Chief Joe Maruca

We read and talk a lot about the new science behind Transitional Fire Attack and how to use it. More difficult is how to train for it. First, if you haven't already done so, I highly recommend that you and every member of your department take the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy's online class titled "Online Intro to Transitional Fire Attack and Flow Paths". You can take this class anytime online and it only takes 2 hours to complete.

But what's next? How do you practice for Transitional Fire Attack? I suggest you create an engine company training evolution based upon the principles of NFPA 1410, Standard on Training for Emergency Scene Operations. In the following pages is an easy to practice engine company evolution that you can do at your fire station. This is the third in the MCVFA's series of Engine Company Training Evolutions based upon NFPA 1410.

This evolution goes beyond simply practicing the exterior knockdown concepts of Transitional Fire Attack, it prepares you and your fellow firefighters for the day when you need to attack a fire with only two firefighters.

It is a harsh reality of the small town fire service that we need to plan for and practice two-firefighter fire attack. In my department, it is highly possible that our first engine will arrive at fire with only two firefighters. Maybe a chief arrives a minute or two later. It will then take 6-8 minutes before the second engine arrives with 2 or 3 firefighters on board. It typically takes us 10 to 14 minutes from the answering of the 911 call to assemble 6 firefighters (including the chief) at the fire. This is very different world from what urban and big suburban town fire departments have arriving at the same type of fire in that same time. Therefore, we need a different plan than our cousins in the big city use.

The new science behind Transitional Fire Attack has given our 2 or 3 person Engine Company a new weapon to use while additional help is still 6 to 8 minutes away.

The following engine company evolution, MCVFA Model Company Evolution #3, is one way you can prepare for the short-staffed fire attack. It gives your firefighters a guide for what they can effectively accomplish until more help arrives. It emphasizes the importance of getting water on the fire as quickly as possible. It helps teach firefighters that the primary role of the first due engine is to put the fire out and you can only do this by putting water on it. Go on YouTube and watch fire attacks, and you can find examples of long delays by the first arriving engine getting water on the fire. In our small town environment, we need to apply water fast in order to knock down the fire, or at least check the spread of the fire until more resources arrive.

This evolution also emphasizes the importance of doing a 360-degree size-up. A good size-up is the foundation for determining and calling for the needed resources, for determining your action plan, for determining if civilians need rescuing, and for protecting firefighters from injury.

Take this suggested evolution and modify to fit your department's apparatus, staffing and procedures, and give it try. You can divide your department up into teams of two (or even three) and have each team run the evolution on a training night. It only takes 15 minutes to run the evolution, repack and refill the truck (we have to use a tanker to refill) and review performance. Then run it again. You can get it done eight times in a two hour drill. Repeat this drill three or four times a year so everyone becomes proficient. This is the kind of training where repetition is important to performance in the field.

Adding engine company evolutions to your monthly training schedule is a must. The MCVFA found that in 2015 twenty-two percent (22%) of call/volunteer departments were training only once per month and thirty-seven percent (37%) were training twice per month. Data indicates that over past 20 years, the typical Massachusetts call/volunteer fire department hasn't increased its annual training, but its mission has expanded deeper into EMS, hazmat, technical rescue and public education. The number of emergency calls as doubled and tripled. The complexity and risks of firefighting has exploded exponentially. Training hasn't kept pace.

Adding Engine Company training to your department's current training program is a good investment of time and resources. It is inexpensive and it doesn't require any special instructors or materials. You'll be a better fire department in that your firefighters will have more confidence in their skills and those critical first few minutes of your next fire will run smoother, and you'll be serving your community better. Don't wait, try it this month. 🔥

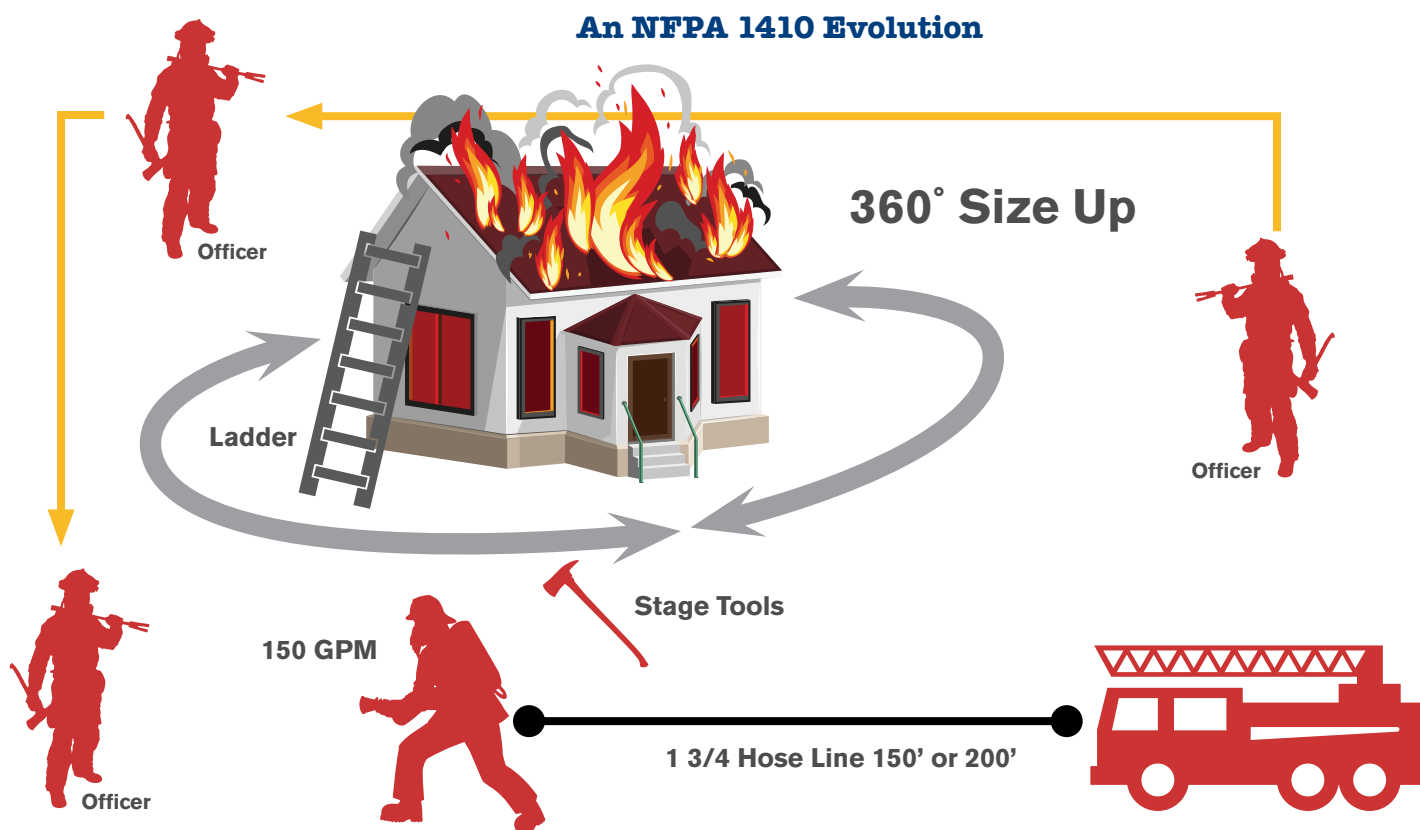
UNITED to Face the Future



www.fcam.org

MCVFA Model Engine Company Training Evolution #3

Two Firefighter Attack/Transitional Attack/Unoccupied Home



Objective: To establish a safe & effective transitional fire attack at such times as when the first arriving apparatus is understaffed with two or three firefighters. The engine company will do a 360 size-up, stretch and charge an 1 3/4" attack line to an exterior position to knock down the fire with a 150 gpm+ flow, and stage tools and ladders, while awaiting additional resources to transition to an interior attack.

Evolution Description

Engine or Quint sets-up at Side Alpha of the simulated fire building. Officer gives an initial radio report.

Officer does a 360 degree size-up of the building and fire. Driver sets up truck for fire attack.

Officer & Driver stretch 200' 1 3/4" attack line to point of exterior fire attack & flow 150 gpm+ for 30 seconds. Officer & Driver stage tools at point of entry and raise ladder as appropriate.

Officer & Driver hold fire until additional resources arrive.

Evaluation Criteria

360 degree size-up completed.

Attack line shall be completely deployed from hose bed.

Nozzle shall be flowing at least 150 gpm at the appropriate nozzle pressure, solid or straight stream.

Time begins when the engine stops and sets its parking brake at the simulated fire and time ends when the hose line has flowed for 30 seconds. Tools & ladder staged/set properly.

Recommended Time: 4.5 Minutes

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

MCVFA Model Engine Company

Training Evolution #3

Model Engine Company Evolution – 2 FF Attack/Transitional Attack

Procedures

1. Engine or Quint, with a crew of two, proceeds directly to the building without laying a supply line.
2. Engine or Quint sets-up at Side Alpha of the building. Keep in mind positioning of additional apparatus. Also, three sides of the target address should be viewed, if possible.
3. Officer sizes-up existing conditions and transmits a brief initial report. With thermal imaging camera in-hand, the Officers does a 360 walk-around of the building, to determine location and extent of fire, life hazards, and whether to operate in rescue mode (interior attack or interior search & rescue) or in transitional mode (exterior knock-down of fire until additional resources arrive).
4. Driver sets-up truck for fire attack (chock wheels, engage pump, circulate water, turn on flood lights, pressure mode, and engage foam if available).
5. While Driver sets-up truck, Officer determines location of fire within structure and point of exterior fire attack (can be from the ground or over a ladder).
6. Officer and Driver both don SCBA.
7. Officer and Driver stretch hose line to point of exterior fire attack. Driver charges hose line. Officer plays a solid/straight stream of at least 150 gpm into the fire from the exterior, in accordance with best practices of transitional fire attack training. Driver adjusts pump accordingly and joins Officer to assist with hose line.
8. After fire knockdown (simulated by flowing water for 30 seconds), Officer & Driver work together to stage tools (irons & pike pole) at point of entry. Officer & Driver places ground ladder to second floor window or roof (for rescue, ventilation or escape as appropriate to circumstances). Point of entry can be over a ladder. Officer & Driver place roof ladder to a window or roof line in case needed.
9. Officer and Driver in SCBA and full protective clothing force entry (door or window) and attempt to knockdown or hold fire from point of entry (without going into the structure) until they run out of water or additional resources arrive. (Simulate exterior knockdown by flowing water a target.)

Assignments

1. Driver/Operator – Properly stabilizes and operates the apparatus. Dons SCBA. Assists with stretching hose, participates in initial exterior fire attack as nozzle backup and irons firefighter.
2. Company Officer – Determines placement of apparatus gives initial radio report and requests appropriate resources. Does a complete 360 degree size-up of structure with thermal imaging camera. Stages tools. Dons SCBA. Stretches hose, and participates in initial exterior fire attack as nozzle firefighter.

SCORE SHEET

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

SAFETY

Points are deducted for each safety infraction.	Pts	# infractions
1. Vehicle Driven at a safe speed.	10	
2. Entire crew seated & belted while unit in motion	10	
3. All required PPE worn properly	10	
4. SCBA worn properly with PASS activated and properly utilized.	10	
5. Crew checks for traffic when mounting and dismounting apparatus	5	
6. Vehicle operated safely (under control, parking brake set, etc.)	10	
7. Wheels chocked	5	
8. Running	10	
9. Other (note)	5	
10. General safety	5	
Total (point value X # of infractions)		

PROCEDURES

Points are deducted for each infraction <i>(failure to perform / perform properly)</i> .	Pts	# infractions
Firefighter fails to leave Personal Accountably Tag (PAT) at seating position	10	
Engine spots at fire building allowing additional truck access and view 3 sides	5	
Officer sizes up conditions, transmits report and passes command	10	
Officer does 360 degree size-up and updated radio report	10	
Pump engaged, pressure governor set, (foam activated), water circulated	10	
Flood lights & Scene lights activated if at night	5	
Driver & Officer stretch hose to point of exterior fire attack & flow 150 gpm+ solid/straight stream for 30 seconds	10	
Hose line charged to flow 150 gpm+	5	
Hose line stretched correctly – no spaghetti	5	
Tools properly staged at point of entry	5	
Ladders raised and set to second floor window	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)	

Recommended Time: 4:30 Minutes

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

Was a minimum of 150 GPM delivered?

Pass ☐ Fail ☐

Yes/Pass ☐ Fail ☐

Were nozzle pressures & flows correct?

Yes/Pass ☐ Fail ☐

Were best practices of Transitional Fire Attack followed?

Yes/Pass ☐ Fail ☐

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

Yes/Pass ☐ Fail ☐

Date _____ Crew Members: _____

Make a Decision

by Fire Chief Christopher W. Norris



“Command from Engine 1, we are one minute out, what are our orders”? As Incident Commanders or Chief Officers, this is a common decision that all of you make on a regular basis. The life safety of your personnel and the people affected by the emergency all depend on the immediate decision you make. The compressed time frames during fireground operations are unforgiving and require definitive actions to mitigate the emergency.

Many Chief Officers have studied, prepared, and experienced many of these types of fireground situations. Recognition-Primed decision making allows fireground commanders to effectively base their decisions and actions quickly on previous experiences. Countless lives have been saved and successful outcomes have been achieved based on these quick and decisive actions that were taken.

However, how do these same thought processes transfer over to the administrative responsibilities and decisions required by many of these same Chief Officers? The time constraints for the administrative responsibilities and decisions of these positions are more forgiving. Dealing with personnel and disciplinary issues, organizational policies and procedures, budgets, long range planning, procurement of equipment, and vehicle repairs and maintenance are just a few examples of administrative responsibilities that typically do not require an immediate answer or response at that moment.

Chief Officers cannot be rushing into making quick decisions, as they do on the fireground that could negatively impact the organization and personnel. Time needs to be taken and allowed to consider short term and long term impacts of the decision. Feedback and input from multiple stakeholders in the

organization can provide different information to improve the outcome.

Too often, we hear about decisions that were made without considering or listening to other options. Winston Churchill stated “Courage is what it takes to stand up and speak; courage is also what it takes to sit down and listen”. Many times our emotions drive decisions that could lead to an impulsive response. Making administrative decisions like you’re on the fireground, could contribute to greater complications and more problems in the future.

Chief Officers will be continually challenged to step back from everything that has been instilled in them for decision making on the fireground and how they make administrative decisions. Many administrative solutions can be methodically examined and discussed before implementation. Don’t rush to judgement and have that decision negatively impact the organization and personnel long term. After careful and deliberate consideration of all the factors, make a decision that hopefully will lead to the greatest good for the community, organization, and personnel.

As a Chief Officer, our job is to make decisions. But more importantly, it’s our job to stop and listen. Take your time administratively to process and gather all of the information and make an informed decision that will hopefully not lead to another question. 🛑

Fire Chief Christopher W. Norris has been a member of the Westhampton Fire Department since April 1994. He has served in numerous capacities in the organization up until his appointment to Fire Chief in January 2007.

REGION 1

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

Vice President Ken Jordan, Wareham

I would like to extend my appreciation for the opportunity to serve as Region 1 Vice President. I have been a call member of the Wareham Fire Department since 1987, currently serving as Station 3 Captain. I look forward to meeting as many members in the MCVFA as I can. We had a nice holiday party in December; I hope we can make this an annual event. We are working with our friends at Plympton Fire to help with Chiefs night which is Saturday, April 29 at the Upland Sportsman Club in Plympton. Tickets are \$15 per person and includes a roast beef dinner. Please RSVP to John Sjostedt at 774-204-5118 or johnemt76@yahoo.com.

Reminders all:

- Remember ice safety precautions for personnel safety starting at your response to the station thru clearing the scene. Foul weather takes no prisoners.
- Prevent cancer, clean your hood after every fire. 🚒

REGION 2

Covering the counties of Essex, Middlesex

Vice President Chris Bosch, Groveland

Congratulations to MFA I/II Class 063 who graduated on March 6 at a ceremony held at the Pentucket Middle School! Massachusetts Fire Academy Class 063 trained in various structure fire scenarios at Stow, MA with additional training and testing at the Groveland Fire Department. The threats faced by firefighters in the modern day are far more complex and unforgiving than in the past. This training allows firefighters to safely do their jobs and protect the public. Excellent Work!

Shane Sevigny of the Merrimac Fire Department is anticipating a May graduation from the New England EMS Institute in Manchester, NH. The EMS Paramedic Program consists of 16 months of intensive in class and clinical training. Congratulations Shane!

MDA Firefighters Cooking for a Cure was held on Saturday, March 25, 2017, at the Danversport Yacht Club. The North Shore Fire House Chefs prepared all the food and the proceeds went to a great cause. We are always looking to fill additional cooking station for Fire Departments that want to cook. Go to www.mdacookingforcure.com for more information. It's always a great time and it is all you can eat.

The Massachusetts Call Volunteer Firefighters' Association membership drive has begun in Region 2. Let your department know it's time to renew. There are many financial advantages and training opportunities with MCVFA membership and the MCVFA can have a positive impact for you, your department and your family. If you have questions about membership or these benefits, contact the membership committee at membership@mcvfa.org. 🚒

REGION 4


Covering the counties of Franklin, Hampden, Hampshire

Vice President Jeffery Simmons, Heath

In my role of Vice President, I would like to know what you the members of the MCVFA want your organization to be doing for you. Is there training you would like to see offered, be it online or hands-on, have an idea for discounts at local businesses, something else? Long-term in our region, I would like to have county coordinators, maybe two in Hampden County because of its unique character, so that the MCVFA is closer to our members.

On a more touchy and hopefully thought provoking subject, we have all seen stories recently about the need for volunteers here in Massachusetts and nationally. Is it time for us to consider a more formal regional approach to firefighting given the heavy reliance on mutual aid? Even if we do not want to regionalize, could steps be taken to have all trucks setup in a similar way so members from one department can easily find equipment in another's truck or have a regional training schedule where we all are training on the same topic. As a very small step, I would be curious to know how often you train jointly with your primary mutual aid departments?

I want to hear your ideas so we can make the MCVFA even more valuable to all of us. I'm planning the next

regional meeting for April 9, possibly as a breakfast meeting. I am also looking for departments that would like to host a regional meeting so if you are interested please give me a call, 413-835-1108 or drop me an email at jeffrey.simmons@reagan.com. 

REGION 5

Covering the counties of Berkshire

Vice President Paul Vallone, Clarksburg

Cheshire Fire Department's Ice Rescue Training

Photos by Fire Chief Tom Fransconi

Recently, the Cheshire Fire Department practiced their ice rescue skills. We simulated a victim fallen through the ice and members donned cold water suits and practiced removing a conscious and unconscious victim from the water. Also pictured is a piece of ice removed from the lake. Currently, the ice right off the boat ramp is about 4 inches thick which is not thick enough for a vehicle to be on it.



Wildfire Gear en route for South Berkshire Firefighters

By Eoin Higgins, ehiggins@berkshireeagle.com

(Reprint Courtesy of The Berkshire Eagle)

Dave Celino knows that the Berkshires region needs help to stay fire-free, and he hopes that a series of grants can help.

Celino is the Chief Fire Warden for the state's Department of Conservation and Recreation. The department recently awarded a number of matching grants to fire departments in rural towns and municipalities in Massachusetts, and five Berkshire towns, Becket, Great Barrington, Monterey, Otis, and Tolland were on the list.

The matching grants are distributed as part of the Cooperative Fire Protection Volunteer Fire Assistance Program. The funding is offered to fire departments in the state that serve municipalities of up to 10,000 residents and have at least 80 percent of their membership as volunteers. The program offers up to \$2,000 in matching grants for wildfire equipment and gear, said Celino.

Funding has been slowly but steadily declining for the program over the past five years, Celino said. So that makes every grant competitive.

"We prioritize funding professional equipment like Nomex wildland gear," Celino said.

Nomex is a breathable, thermal insulated cousin of Kevlar that is used for wildland firefighting. The material is also used for firefighters' hoods.

The Great Barrington department was awarded \$2,000 to purchase Nomex equipment and helmets for wildland firefighting by the grant program. The durability and flexibility of the wildland gear is necessary for the challenges of outdoor firefighting, said Great Barrington Fire Chief Charles Burger.

"This equipment is better for wildfires than structural gear," Burger said.

Celino said the program also focuses on tools and water delivery systems for towns that may not have hydrants, like Monterey.

Monterey Fire Chief Shawn Tryon said his department would purchase equipment and tools. Monterey got wildfire gear last year, he said.

continues on page 22

"This year we're getting portable pumps, chainsaw, valve, rakes, axes, and shovels," Tryon said.

It was the same story in Otis. Fire Chief Sandy Pinkham told The Eagle that the department is using the matching funds for a chainsaw, a backpack blower, and other forestry firefighting tools.

And Becket Fire Chief Mark Hanford said that town is using its funding to outfit a brush fire truck the town has provided to the department. Hanford said Becket's department also covers the town of Washington and 16,000 acres of the October Mountain State Forest. That geography makes outfitting the brush truck essential. "This year buying we're buying new nozzle connections and fittings for brush truck," he said.

Celino hopes the Berkshire departments can help the region stay as fire-free as possible.

"Even though it's the winter, we're still in high drought in Massachusetts," he told The Eagle. "The Berkshires were lucky that a hillside didn't catch fire this summer."



Conway Fire Juniors Confined Space Training

Conway Fire Department (Conway, MA)

Photos by Adams Baker



Clarksburg Fire Company's First Responders Class

Photos by Rob Goodell (CFVC)

The Clarksburg Fire Company had its yearly First Responders class which we invited teachers from the Clarksburg Elementary School to attend the class. The class was taught by Lieutenant Krystal Chesbro.





Thank You to our Sponsors



Attention all Junior & Explorer Groups

Have you had a great training class or a successful fundraising event? Why not share your pictures and stories on the Western Mass Junior Firefighters and Explorers Facebook page. It's a great way to show others what you are doing. And don't forget to check out the National Volunteer Fire Council's National Junior Firefighter's website at www.juniors.nvfc.org; it has many resources and helpful information geared specifically to junior firefighter organizations. 🔧



Get Social



Join your fellow firefighters on Facebook!

The official MCVFA and MCVFA Legislative Facebook pages are your place to get news and information concerning the Massachusetts Call/Volunteer Firefighters' Association.

www.facebook.com/MCVFAff

www.facebook.com/MCVFAlegis

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

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.

Visit the MCVFA website at www.mcvfa.org, call 443-994-3350 or email susan@sdyerdesign.com for details.

*approximate pass-on rate: 2.5 readers per copy



MCVFA

PO Box 124
Whitman, MA 02382

www.mcvfa.org

New England Fire/Rescue/EMS 2017



SAVE THE DATE

**New England Association of Fire Chiefs
FIRE/RESCUE/EMS EXPO**

June 21-24, 2017

Foxwoods Resort & Casino

www.newenglandfirechiefs.org



OVER 108 EXHIBITS - SHOW IS SOLD OUT!

FULL DAY OF EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY THURSDAY JUNE 22nd

THREE DIFFERENT PROGRAMS:

- KEY NOTE SPEAKER FRIDAY
- BOSTON FIRE COMMISSIONER JOSEPH FINN
- LESSONS LEARNED BACK BAY FIRE

FULL REGISTRATION ONLINE SOON!

FOR EXHIBIT FLOOR PASS, FRIDAY 09:00-17:30 SATURDAY 09:00-15:00

DAY PASSES ONLINE NOW \$10 PER DAY OR \$15 TWO DAY

REGISTRATION ONLINE AT NEWENGLANDFIRECHIEFS.ORG