

Smoke Showin'

The Official Publication of the Massachusetts Call/Volunteer Firefighters Association

MCVFA Legislative Report

**New Learning
Management System**

MCVFA 2016 Cancer Survey

**Growing Pains:
Marijuana Grow Facilities**



Surviving A Fire

FREE Hazmat Training

Provided by the ALERT Grant

The International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC), in partnership with six other fire service organizations, received an Assistance for Local Emergency Response (ALERT) grant to provide free hazmat training for volunteer and remote emergency responders for activities involving the transportation of crude oil, ethanol, and other flammable liquids by rail.

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www.hazmatfc.org/ALERT

Questions? Contact John Woulfe at jwoulfe@iafc.org or Laura Peard at lpeard@iafc.org.

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Summer 2017

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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.

MCVFA

TREASURER'S POSITION

Last year, the Association's Treasurer, Larry Holmberg, decided to step down after many years of service. Unfortunately, no candidate stepped forward so Larry graciously accepted reelection with the stipulation that an active search would take place to find his replacement.

Therefore, the MCVFA is seeking a qualified Association member to become the Treasurer for the Association. The requirements are as follows:

It shall be the responsibility of the Treasurer to keep and maintain the books and accounts of the Association, and to make all filings and payments to the Federal, State and/or City or Town governments. It shall be the responsibility of the Treasurer to report on a regular basis to the Executive Board all sums available, all assets held, all debts discharged, and the amount of cash on hand or in banks that are related to this Association.

The Treasurer shall prepare and present to the Executive Board quarterly a balance sheet, revenue budget, expense budget and special fund accounting. The Treasurer shall pay all bills and invoices of the Association per policies established by the Executive Board.

The Treasurer shall safely keep all monies and other delivered property belonging to the Association. No disbursements in excess of Five Thousand (\$5,000) Dollars shall be made without the signature of the Treasurer and the President of the Association or his designee.

The Treasurer shall be bonded in an amount to be determined by the Executive Board, the cost of the bonding shall be paid by the Association. The Treasurer shall be a member of the Executive Board.

If you are interested, please contact the Association with a short résumé at mcvfa@mcvfa.org



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President's Message

I hope this finds you all well!

We learned in April and in May that both Region 3 VP Bob Silver and Region 4 VP Jeff Simmons were stepping down due to time constraints. We will surely miss their presence at the executive board meetings and their work around their regions. I want to thank them for their effort with the MCVFA and we wish them well. We are currently looking for their replacements.

In addition, Treasurer and Past President Larry Holmberg had announced in October he was not seeking re-election for that position. Since no one was nominated for that position, Larry graciously accepted nomination and was reelected as treasurer but with the stipulation that he would serve only until a suitable replacement. If you are interested and or know of a viable candidate, please contact us at mcvfa@mcvfa.org.

As of July 1, your MCVFA dues are due. Please get them in as soon as possible. If you have not received a packet, you can access the packet and forms on the webpage or you can contact Membership Chair Mike Bird at membership@mcvfa.org.

Since my last message, I have represented the Association with various fire service groups to include the WMFCA Firefighter Behavioral Health, Western Mass Firefighters Health & Wellness Initiative and various chiefs' associations' meetings.

In September, we will be moving to a new AD&D insurance provider - Provident Insurance. This move will provide our members with a \$10,000 AD&D benefit with an additional \$10,000 in the event of a line of duty death.

In addition, we will continue to utilize American Income Life. AIL wished to continue working with us and will offer an additional AD&D benefit of \$4000 at no cost to the Association. More info on Provident and AIL will be available at a later date.

Our webpage has gone through some changes and we hope by the time you read this, we have gotten rid of any kinks or missing info. It may continue as a "works in progress" for a short time, but it is available for your use. If you have any comments, please use the "Contact Us" tab.

The Annual State Meeting is also being worked on and the tentative date is October 21. More information will be available soon.

What I'd like to convey to you now is that the Association is at a cross roads. Membership numbers have remained relatively static over the last several years. While not a bad thing, associations need to be dynamic and that means an active, involved and increasing membership.

That being said, I would like to reach out to those that are not currently dues paying members or are considering whether or not to continue as members.

Every so often, being involved for so long in the day-to-day operations, one could forget the basic premise of why one should be a member of an organization. We know the reasons why, but miss getting the message out. It actually is in our mission statement – *"...do any and all acts and deeds designed to promote the ideals and goals of the Call/Volunteer Firefighter..."* and *"...to promote the welfare of Call and Volunteer Fire Companies and their members by rendering assistance of every type and nature..."*

So the question is – "Why become members?"

I could list all the benefits that the Association has to offer, but does that answer the question? Like most organizations, the strength is in its members; the more members, the stronger the organization and the louder the voice.

The MCVFA is **your** voice in the Commonwealth as well as through the NVFC at the federal level. We represent you at the Statehouse concerning legislation that serves your best interest, as well as a liaison between various state agencies.

In addition, we work with all state Fire Service organizations so that we can better serve the residents of the Commonwealth as well as looking out for your well being and safety.

I hope that you will strongly consider this when making your decision about the MCVFA. The MCVFA needs you so that we may continue our efforts on your behalf.

Please do not let your voice become a whisper! 🚒

Kevin Connolly
MCVFA President

Thank you all...and be safe!

MCVFA 2017-18 Legislative Scorecard

MCVFA SPONSORED BILLS

Bill Description	Bill Number	Sponsor	Status
An Act relative to death benefits to surviving spouses of call and volunteer firefighters	H.1388 S.1409	Gentile Eldridge	Joint Committee on Public Service
An Act to provide volunteer firefighters with a local option real estate tax exemption	H.1566 H.1537 S.1537	Kulik Howitt Gobi	Hearing on 4/3; 5/11 - Reported favorably out of committee; S.1537 accompanied by House versions; assigned to Senate Rules.
An Act providing for a distinctive registration plate for firefighters	H.1865	Mark	Joint Committee on Transportation
An Act authorizing voluntary contributions to the Massachusetts Fire Fighters Academy Trust Fund	S.1550	Lesser	Joint Committee on Revenue

OTHER BILLS OF INTEREST

For legislation to prohibit disciplinary actions by employers on employees serving as volunteer emergency responders	S.1014	Gobi	Joint Committee on Labor and Workforce Development
For legislation relative to carbon monoxide detectors in schools	H.1288 S.252	Mark Fattman	Joint Public Safety & Homeland Security Joint Education
For legislation relative to the creation of the Commonwealth technical rescue regions and coordinating council	H.1258	Galvin	Joint Committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security
An Act relative to enhanced fire protection in new one and two family dwellings	H.2481 S.1301	Balser Donnelly	Joint Committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security
An Act relative to line of duty death benefits (Scholarship)	S.1473	Timilty, Jas.	Joint Committee on Public Service
For legislation relative to volunteer ambulance service	S.1207	Hinds	Joint Committee on Public Health
An Act relative to the retirement benefits of state police dispatchers	H.2563	Kokot	Joint Committee on Public Service
For legislation to provide fire chiefs with access to CORI information	S.980	Timilty, Jas.	Joint Committee on the Judiciary
For legislation to modernize emergency medical services oversight	S.1192	Donnelly	Joint Committee on Public Health
For legislation relative to the possession of dangerous open flame devices	S.1282	Brady	Joint Committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security
An Act pertaining to firefighter disability (Kilduff Cancer Network)	H.1446	Ryan	Joint Committee on Public Service
An Act relative to the recovery of emergency response costs	H.1277	Kulik	Joint Committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security; Hearing - 5/16, 10am

OPPOSED, NO ACTION OR UNSUPPORTED

An Act relative to appointment procedures for the State Fire Marshal	H.1237	Ayers	Joint Committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security
An Act pertaining to public fire safety and professionalism	H.3263	Hunt	Joint Committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security
An Act relative to standards and qualifications for the position of fire chief or chief engineer in cities, towns, fire districts, or authorities	H.2488	Donato	Joint Committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security
An Act relative to the Department of Fire Services Commission	H.1236	Ayers	Joint Committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security

Updated as of 5/12/17

New Learning Management System

May 2017, All Hands Herald

By Paul Betti, Special Hazards Branch Training Coordinator,
Massachusetts Firefighting Academy

DFS is bringing a critical new technology to our customers. Our new Learning Management System (LMS) software is a Technomedia product. The cloud-based system will allow all users to login at any time from a computer, tablet or smart phone.

The LMS will improve the user experience in nearly every aspect of training from searching for courses to obtaining training records. Key capabilities include:

- Students will be able to search the course catalog by category, course delivery method or with a keyword.
- The course catalog will be available to all, including those without a system account.
- Students will be able to register online for any active course.
- Students will be able to take online courses and receive credit immediately upon completion of a course.
- Users will be able to view upcoming courses.
- Students will be able to evaluate courses online.
- Students will receive electronic certificates for completed courses.
- Users will be able to view and print their training records (1999 to present).
- Students will be able to pay for a course or certification exam online.

The LMS implementation team has been working for nearly 18 months to make the new system a reality. Their work has included the clean-up of 18 years worth of data. The team has determined what data should migrate to the new system, how to migrate that data, validated the data, performed user testing, and trained MFA staff on the system. The team had to migrate records of more than 47,000 students, 800 courses and 31,000 training sessions from the old Academy Course Management system to the new LMS, all while working their full-time jobs.


Everyone that registered for a course since 1999 will automatically have an account in the new system. Each user

COMING SOON



LMS testing in the DFS computer lab.

will have to activate their account. New users need a valid email address to create and maintain their system profile. When the new system is ready for use, the LMS implementation team will notify all fire departments and all users that have a valid email address in the current system.

We are grateful to have so many helpful partners in bringing this critical update to the training course management system. We expect the LMS to be ready for use in the summer of 2017. 

UNITED to Face the Future



www.fcama.org

Call/Volunteer Firefighter Cancer Survey 2016

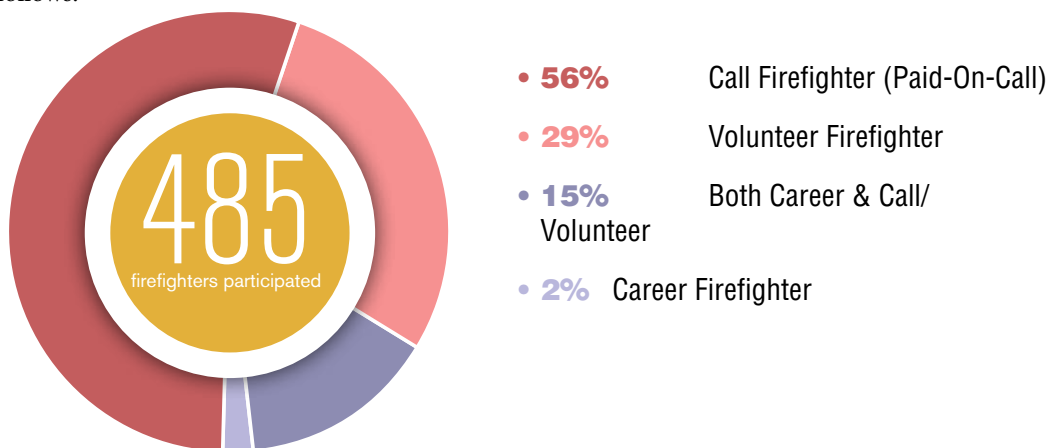
From November 7, 2016 to December 31, 2016, the Massachusetts Call/Volunteer Firefighters Association (MCVFA) conducted a survey of its membership as part of an effort to determine how prevalent cancer is among call/volunteer firefighters in Massachusetts. This effort is prompted by the recent revelations about firefighters generally having a higher incidence of certain cancers.

Currently, there is little or no data about the incidence of cancer among call/volunteer firefighters across the country. The cancer studies that have been done, and are indicating higher cancer levels among firefighters, are limited to career firefighters and a relatively small number of fire departments. Even so, these studies indicate a potentially troubling trend in the fire service with regard to cancer.

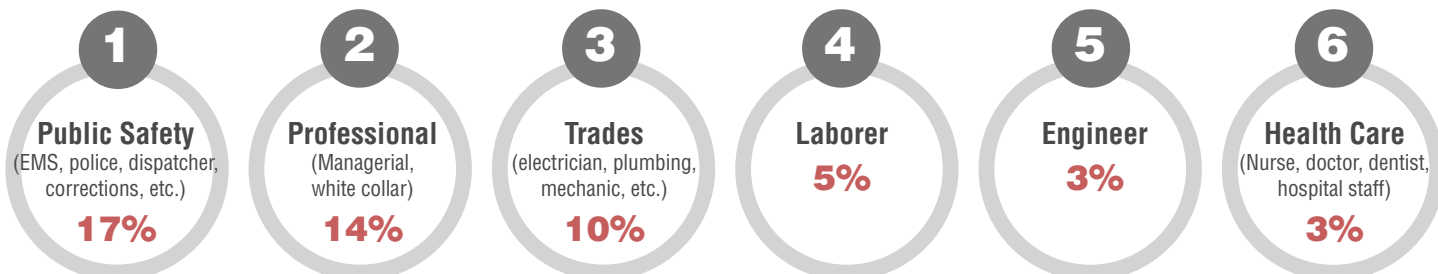
This MCVFA study is not a scientific study and it would be inappropriate and premature to draw conclusions from it. Instead, the MCVFA plans to conduct this survey over a period of years in order to see if there is a trend among call/volunteer firefighters in Massachusetts.

Here is a summary of the data from the first year results of the MCVFA Call/Volunteer Firefighter Cancer Survey:


A total of 485 firefighters voluntarily participated in the survey. The survey was conducted by email (Survey Monkey). There are estimated to be 8000 call/volunteer firefighters in Massachusetts, so this survey represents about 6% of the call/volunteer firefighters in the state. The distribution of participants is as follows:



The primary occupation of each participant was recorded. There are too many to list in this summary, however, the five top primary occupational groupings are as follows:



(Engineers and Health Care works tied for the 5th spot)



It is interesting to note that the largest primary occupational grouping of call/volunteer firefighters in Massachusetts is public safety. Almost one-fifth of call/volunteer firefighters have full-time job in EMS, police, dispatching or some other public safety related position. It indicates a close relationship between a call/volunteer firefighter's career and his/her avocation as a call/volunteer firefighter. For purposes of studying cancer in call/volunteer firefighters, this indicates a potential issue of trying to sort out whether someone's cancer may have come from their position as call/volunteer firefighter and their other public safety job. This career-avocation overlap may also indicate a higher risk as the cancer risk from the two positions merges together. These firefighters may warrant special study.

The average years of experience as a firefighter participating in the survey are 18.72 years. The most years of service reported by any respondent are 55.

The average number of fires (not EMS calls) that the participants responded to in 2015 was 39. However, in reviewing the results of this data (Question 4 of the survey) it is clear that there was misunderstanding between the survey and the respondents. Many respondents answered they responded to 100 or even 1,000 fire calls in 2015, numbers that can't be a correct estimate of the number of actual fires that the respondent firefighters attended. It appears they listed the number of "fire calls" their department responded to.

This question (Question 4) was looking to estimate the number of actual fires that each firefighter responded to in 2015. Fires being events where there was actual fire and smoke that would have exposed firefighters to toxic materials.

In order to adjust for this misunderstanding, if we don't count any response to Question 4 that says a firefighter responded to more than 50 fires in 2015, a total of 41 responses are removed from the calculation, and the average number of fire calls drops to 12 fires.

Only 38% of the participants reported that their fire department provides an NFPA 1582 Medical Exam or a Massachusetts Department of Human Resources Medical Exam to new call/volunteer Firefighters. 41% of the participants reported that their department does provide these exams to new hires.

Of the participants in the survey, 33% reported having a firefighter medical exam when they joined the fire department, and 64% did not have a firefighter medical exam when they joined.

Overwhelmingly, the survey participants reported that their fire department does not provide periodic firefighter medical

exams for call/volunteer firefighters. Eight-two percent (82%) reported this. Only 4% of participants reported that their department provides annual firefighter medical exams and 7% reported their department gave exams every two years. Another 1% reported exams every three years.

Among the 485 participants, **14 (4.36%) indicated they are a cancer survivor and 4 (1.25%) reported they currently have cancer. Four more reported having skin cancer removed.** One participant reported having a benign mass removed.

Additionally, 51 of the participants said they personally knew a call/volunteer firefighter who died of cancer. Another 73 participants know a call/volunteer firefighter currently battling cancer, and 52 know a call/volunteer firefighter who has survived cancer.

Of the participants who have or had cancer, two reported that their cancer was discovered as a result of a firefighter medical exam.

Twenty-one (21) call/volunteer firefighters reported having or having had cancer. The cancers reported by these firefighters are as follows:

Skin Cancer/Melanoma	12	57%
Breast Cancer	2	9.5%
Colon & Jaw Cancer	2	9.5%
Testicular Cancer	1	4.75%
Lung Cancer	1	4.75%
Prostate Cancer	1	4.75%
Colon Cancer	1	4.75%
Neuroendocrine Carcinoid Tumor	1	4.75%
Total Cancer Cases	21	

The complete data from this survey can be found on the MCVFA website.

Until the MCVFA builds at least five years of similar data that can be compared, it's too early to draw any conclusions based upon this data. The MCVFA will send out a similar survey at the end of 2017. In the meantime, keep your PPE clean, wear SCBA (even for overhaul), hose off & wipe down after fires, keep the gear in your car or truck bagged and urge your department to implement periodic firefighter medical exams. 🔧

2017



MASSACHUSETTS FIRE CHIEF'S Professional Development Conference

by **Chief Russell Anderson**, Southwick Fire Department



Opening ceremony



The Fire Chiefs of Massachusetts Professional Development Conference for 2017 is in the books as they say. Nearly 500 senior level fire officers attended this year's three-day program held at the DCU Center in Worcester, MA. The program hosts three days of educational programs and a two-day vendor trade show. FCAM's first conferences were designed to give fire chiefs continuing education in the challenges they face every day. The fire chief's role carries many challenges. Whether career, combination, or volunteer chiefs all face day to day challenges that include labor, large financial purchases, equipment, apparatus, facilities and oh yea the ability to safely protect the public and the men and women of the fire service in an ever changing environment.

One of this year's programs featured Gordon Graham on risk management. Gordon, a retired California Highway Patrol Officer, provides knowledge to both public and private sector organizations throughout the world in the areas of organizational and operational risk management, reducing liability exposure and ethical decision-making. His old school approach to presentations, himself and a single page of Mylar and an overhead projector, always proves to be entertaining and informative.

This year also featured Deputy Chief NYFD George Healy and Jen's Stiegel Assistant Chief of Frankfurt Germany Fire and Rescue. The Chiefs provided insight on the way the United States fire service does business compared to our fellow firefighters in Germany. It was clear the European approach is on a different path. With two years of education and a commitment to firefighter health and wellness, we have a lot to learn from interacting with our German colleagues.

So how do you know who to hire. Are they the right fit for your department? The fire service spends a lot of money on each employee, from the initial physicals, to training and turn out gear. Dr. Larry Kelley presented insight on pre-employment and post-offer psychological evaluations. Dr. Kelley presented tools available that provide evidence based information that may ensure you have the right candidate for the job.

It's not always about fire - we never have enough time. As a benefit for chief officers and administrative assistants, Lorena Prime focused on practical tips for time management. The coordination of Outlook and day planning educated chiefs in how to be more productive.

In typical fashion, the conference hosted two lunchtime guest speakers; first up was Shane Ray, president of the National Fire Sprinkler Association. Shane's love for politics started as fire chief of the Pleasant View Volunteer Fire Department in Tennessee, where he served 13 years. He then served under Governor Nikki Haley in South Carolina as superintendent and state fire marshal. Throughout his career, he has been committed to public service with a "Do It Different" mentality and that all stakeholders are important.

Jim Mathis, a bestselling author, also took the stage during day two. He helps business leaders reinvent their organizations in challenging economies and is the author of the best-selling book *Reinvention Made Easy: Change Your Strategy, Change Your Results*.

Aimed at all officers, Chief Anthony Avillos' class was for all officers that are in charge of training their personnel, and Chief Officers who must plan, organize, and supervise the training. Out-of-the-box and creative motivation was urged. If you were looking for training ideas, this was the place to be.

"Flashpoint", Step Up and Lead was presented by author Frank Viscuso drew comparisons between the four most common stages of team development and the four stages of fire - Chief Viscuso explained why some teams are consumed with drama and conflict while others thrive under pressure. Attendees were introduced to the 8 essential steps they will need to take in order to reach their peak performance as individuals and team leaders.

Department of Fire Services provided classes on Active Shooter Response Guidance, Fireground Management with the simulation trailer, and Succession Planning. Back for the



Vendor showcase

second year emergency vehicle mechanics had an opportunity to learn specifics from Waterous Pumps Nick Johnson. The goal of the committee is to provide senior officers and members of the Massachusetts fire service a variety of educational programs from tactical to legal issues with leadership in the challenges they face every day.

2018 conference planning is under way. Mark your calendars we will be back at the DCU Center next year with the conference being held February 27, 28, and March 1. We look forward to bringing exciting programs to next year's event. 🚒

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Surviving a Fire

SECONDS COUNT



VYou wake up smelling smoke. Not long ago you may have had as much as 15 minutes to get to safety. Today it might be as little as three minutes. Inside today's homes is a "perfect storm" that has decreased the chance of surviving a fire:

- Newer homes tend to feature the "open floor plan" design. Larger open spaces makes more air (and oxygen) available for a fire. More oxygen makes for bigger fires.
- The open floor plan design also allows for faster fire spread. The wall that might have been there isn't, allowing the fire to spread easily.
- Many household contents - seat cushions, upholstery, carpets, drapes, and others - are made with synthetic materials. Once ignited they burn faster, hotter, and produce toxic smoke. When the temperature of the fire reaches the ignition point of the smoke, a flashover, or "smoke explosion" occurs.
- When flashover occurs everything, from floor to ceiling, is consumed in fire with temperatures approaching 1,000 degrees. No living thing can survive a flashover.
- People live longer. The number of elderly choosing to live at home is increasing. The very young and the elderly comprise the largest segment of home fire fatalities.
- Building construction designs, other than the one-story ranch, means that occupants must go up, or down stairs to quickly leave the burning structure. This adds another degree of difficulty for some.
- Those who sleep on the ground floor may have a number of ways of getting out of a burning home. When going down the stairs is not possible, the only way for those who sleep on upper floors may be climbing out a window, which may not be an option for the very young, elderly, or the disabled.

The result is a drastic reduction in how much time you have to get out of a burning building. Forget about the 15 minutes you might have had 20 years ago. Today it may be as little as three minutes.



Keys to Surviving a Fire: Smoke Alarms, Family Escape Plan, Home Fire Sprinklers



Smoke Alarms

Three out of every five home fire deaths occur in homes with no or non-working smoke alarms. When smoke alarms should have worked but failed to operate, it is usually because batteries were missing, disconnected, or dead.

You are inviting disaster into your home if you have:

- An insufficient number of smoke alarms
- Non-working smoke alarms
- Smoke alarms more than 10 years old



Family Escape Plan

- Have a single meeting place
- Pick a location near the street, to direct firefighters to the fire
- Pick a location that is usable year round
- Don't choose an area in a cell-phone "dead" zone
- Make sure your house number is easily visible from the street
- When speaking to the 911 emergency dispatcher speak slowly and answer their questions without asking why they're asking them. Volunteer any information regarding occupants and their conditions.
- Plan for who can help with the evacuation, who needs help
- Plan for risk/reward of saving pets and using a fire extinguisher

Factors that may delay a quick exit:

- Anyone with difficulty using stairs.
- Very young or very old in house.
- Anyone who sleeps on a floor other than the ground floor.
- Anyone who has used drugs or alcohol to excess and may be unable to exit.
- Anyone with impaired hearing, Alzheimer's Disease or dementia.
- Anyone who takes medication to aid sleep.

3 Home Fire Sprinklers

Research confirms that home fire sprinklers can reduce your risk of dying in a home fire by 80 percent and reduces the risk of property damage by 70 percent. Smoke alarms alone cut the risk of dying in half.

Facts:

- Fact - Designed by Leonardo da Vinci
- Fact - First automatic sprinkler system installed in New England in the 1870's
- Fact - Basic design has not changed since 1891 – a glass cylinder that bursts when the temperature reaches approximately 155 degrees.

Myths:

- Myth - Smoke alarms provide enough protection.
- Myth - Sprinklers are activated by smoke, cooking vapors, steam, or smoke alarms.
- Myth - When one sprinkler activates they all activate.
- Myth - Newer homes are safer homes.
- Myth - Sprinklers are unattractive and will ruin the aesthetics of the home.
- Myth - Sprinklers are not practical in colder climates, as the pipes will freeze and cause water damage.
- Myth - The water damage caused by sprinklers will be more extensive than fire damage.
- Myth - Sprinklers are expensive, and will discourage people from buying a home, or building one.

Conclusions

- Most fire fatalities occur at home, and at night.
- Sprinklers are time-tested, inexpensive when installed the home is being built, and low-tech.
- Sprinklers are designed to buy you time to save yourself, and your family.
- When you awake smelling smoke, the only thing to do is get out!

There are many excellent sources of information dealing with the topics contained in this document:

- National Fire Protection Association (nfpa.org)

- Home Fire Sprinkler Coalition (homefiresprinkler.org)
- Fire Sprinkler Initiative (firesprinklerinitiative.org)
- International Residential Code Fire Sprinkler Coalition (ircfiresprinkler.org)

How to Promote Home Fire Sprinklers

- In your discussions with family, friends, and the general public, inform them of the home fire sprinkler facts.
- Every fire department press release should mention home fire sprinklers:
- “damage was minimized” if the home had home fire sprinklers
- or “damage would have been minimized” if the home did not have home fire sprinklers.
- Consider joining the Massachusetts Fire Sprinkler Coalition. Contact Tim Travers at: TTravers@nfpa.org.

To learn more about the three keys to survival (smoke alarms, family escape plans and home fire sprinklers), please visit: Fire-Police-EMS.com, then click “Home Sprinklers”.

About the author: Ira Hoffman is a 55+ year veteran of the fire service and owner of FSP Books and Videos. He can be reached at: ira@Fire-Police-EMS.com. 🚒



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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.

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GROWING PAINS:

Marijuana Grow Facilities

May 2017, All Hands Herald

By **Jennifer Hoyt**, Fire Protection Engineering Supervisor, Department of Fire Services

In May of 2013, Massachusetts made medical marijuana legal. Since then DFS has seen companies and entrepreneurs clamoring to obtain building permits for marijuana grow facilities. In 2016, voters made the sale and use of recreational marijuana legal. Retail marijuana dispensaries are scheduled to begin opening in July of 2018. The marijuana industry is expected to grow significantly over the next few years.

Marijuana grow facilities are highly scientific manufacturing-use buildings. The grow portion of the building is separated from the offices and retail areas by airlocks and gown rooms. This separation is an attempt to limit the spread of contaminants and pollen from the outdoors to the controlled marijuana growing areas. Temperature and humidity are closely monitored in growing. Individual grow rooms are compartmentalized to limit the potential spread of mold or disease between plants. Growers are constantly experimenting with lighting arrangements and plant DNA to produce new strains of marijuana and to increase effectiveness of the extracted cannabinoids (the oils extracted from the plants). These facilities are quite different from traditional agricultural greenhouses. Marijuana facilities are filled with scientific equipment and every step of the growing and extraction process is controlled and monitored.

The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) is currently developing the 2018 edition of NFPA 1: Fire Code. In January, the draft of a new chapter, Chapter 38: Marijuana Growing, Processing, or Extraction Facilities was approved for inclusion. This new chapter references currently accepted provisions regarding the installation of electrical equipment and building construction elements, but also includes provisions specific to marijuana grow facilities:

- The proposed code change limits extraction processes to buildings not containing assembly, educational day care, hospital, nursing home, residential, or detention occupancies.
- Non-hazardous extraction processes (utilizing carbon dioxide, CO²) must be located within a non-combustible room dedicated to the extraction process, not used for any other purpose. Also, CO² detection must be provided within the extraction room.
- Liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) extraction processes (propane/butane) must be exhausted in accordance with NFPA 91: Standard for Exhaust Systems for Air Conveying of Vapors, Gases, Mists, and Particulate Solids. Processes

must be conducted within a chemical fume hood or within an enclosure, and electrical equipment within the extraction room must be interconnected with the exhaust system to allow operation of electrical equipment only when the exhaust system is active. Gas detection is proposed for LPG extraction rooms. Storage of the LPG containers is not allowed within the extraction room.

- Flammable and combustible liquid extraction and post oil processing (utilizing ethanol/alcohol) must be performed under a chemical hood or a room provided with a compliant exhaust system. Reference is made to the flammable and combustible liquids provisions within Chapter 66 of NFPA 1 (which references NFPA 30: Flammable and Combustible Liquids Code).

The current proposed update to 527 CMR 1.00, Massachusetts Comprehensive Fire Safety Code, includes the 2015 edition of NFPA 1 but will not incorporate the proposed language of Chapter 38 for the 2018 edition. In the interim, fire officials should work with building officials and marijuana grow facility design teams to create safe structures. Many of the provisions proposed in the 2018 edition of NFPA 1 regarding LPG handling and flammable and combustible liquids can be found within the current edition of 527 CMR 1.00 in Chapters 69 and 66, respectively. These 2018 NFPA 1 requirements are not enforceable; however, DFS recommends voluntary compliance or suggests the planning board in a jurisdiction adopt these requirements through special permitting/zoning. In addition to the 2018 NFPA 1 provisions, special permitting/zoning requirements within a jurisdiction have been altered to include a requirement for CO² monitoring throughout any building where CO² is pumped into the atmosphere (to aid plant development). The easiest path to a compliant, safe building is through continued cooperation and coordination with the local building official and the design team from the beginning of the project. The full text of proposed changes to the 2018 edition of NFPA 1 can be viewed at www.nfpa.org/1.

If a marijuana grow facility is proposed in your jurisdiction, please contact the fire protection engineer in your region for assistance. Chris Melite may be reached at 978-567-3376 or Christopher.Melite@state.ma.us for communities located north of the MA Turnpike. Jake Nunnemacher may be reached at 978-567-3377 or Jacob.Nunnemacher@state.ma.us for communities located on or south of the MA Turnpike. Stay safe. 🚒

TRAINING

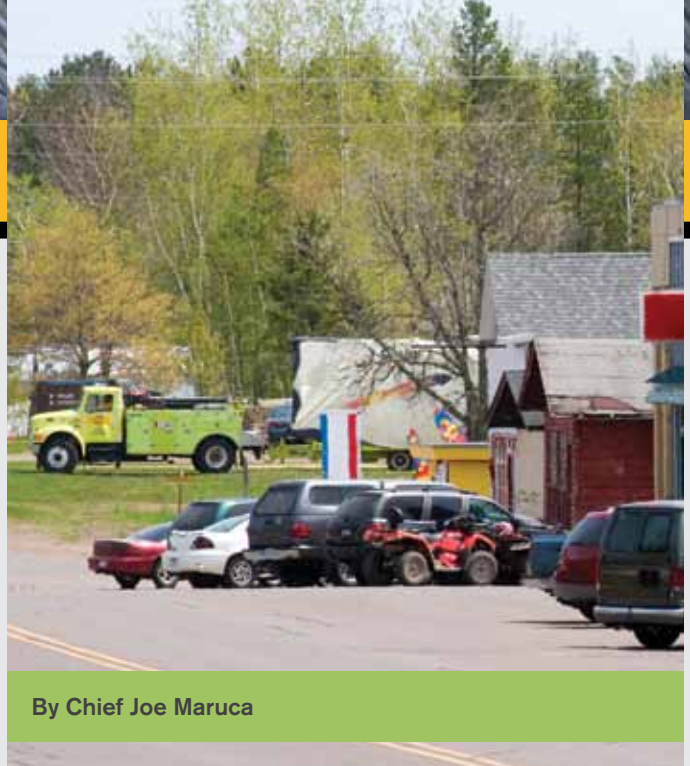
Small Town FD TRAINING

On the following pages is the fourth installment of the MCVFA Model Engine Company Evolutions that you can adopt and adapt for your department's training program. This is a simple single engine evolution that combines wearing and using SCBA, placing ladders, starting your saw and setting up the engine for roof operations. The evolution shown is designed for four firefighters, but it can be done with three if that's more realistic for your department. If you use a three firefighter engine company then the operator doubles as the firefighter who foots the ladder.

The MCVFA recommends that small town fire departments adopt Engine Company (and Truck/Ladder Company if you have one) training evolutions that allow your firefighters to practice their basic skills and tasks in a connected manner. Using this approach, skills are practiced in context and in coordination with other skills. Engine Company Evolutions, based upon NFPA 1410, are the best way to do this. You can create your own Engine Company or Ladder Company Evolutions by referring to NFPA 1410 online at www.nfpa.org/codes-and-standards/all-codes-and-standards/list-of-codes-and-standards?mode=code&code=1410 and click on "Free access to the 2015 edition of NFPA 1410."

Practicing skills and tasks as team, in the context of Engine Company Evolutions helps our departments to build stronger and more effective teams. A typical career fire department has the advantage that its firefighters tend to be assigned to the same teams and to the same trucks for long periods of time. This allows career firefighters to build strong teams where everyone knows their role within the team, and where members know what to do without anyone saying a word. In a call/volunteer department, we never know who our engine company is, and we make up new teams for every response, and we respond across a whole fleet of trucks. This makes our job, especially team oriented work, more difficult than in the typical career department. Using Engine Company Evolutions as part of your training program is an effective way to overcome this challenge.

In other news regarding small town fire department training issues, the National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC) has formed a task force to help create some online training programs for firefighters who find they are suddenly riding in the officer's



By Chief Joe Maruca

seat first due to a fire. Many small town fire chiefs report a gap in firefighter training between formal basic firefighter training and formal Fire Officer I training. This may be because it is more likely that the first due engine in a small town won't have a fire officer on board. This training will be designed to help firefighters prepare for and conduct an effective size-up and action plan while help is on the way.

As the small town fire department mission expands, as regulatory training expands, and as call volume expands, more diverse training is required for call/volunteer firefighters. A lot of voices from small town departments are saying these new training requirements and topics are cutting into the time for basic firefighting training. As departments shift training to cover more topics or required topics, they spend less time practicing for a building fire or a brush fire. This is where firefighters and department leaders need to step up and increase training. We can't stay ahead of our needs, or even stay current, if we are still training once or twice per month. I urge you and your department to add an extra training session every month and do engine company evolutions. If you can't jump straight to adding an extra drill per month, add one every other month or quarterly.

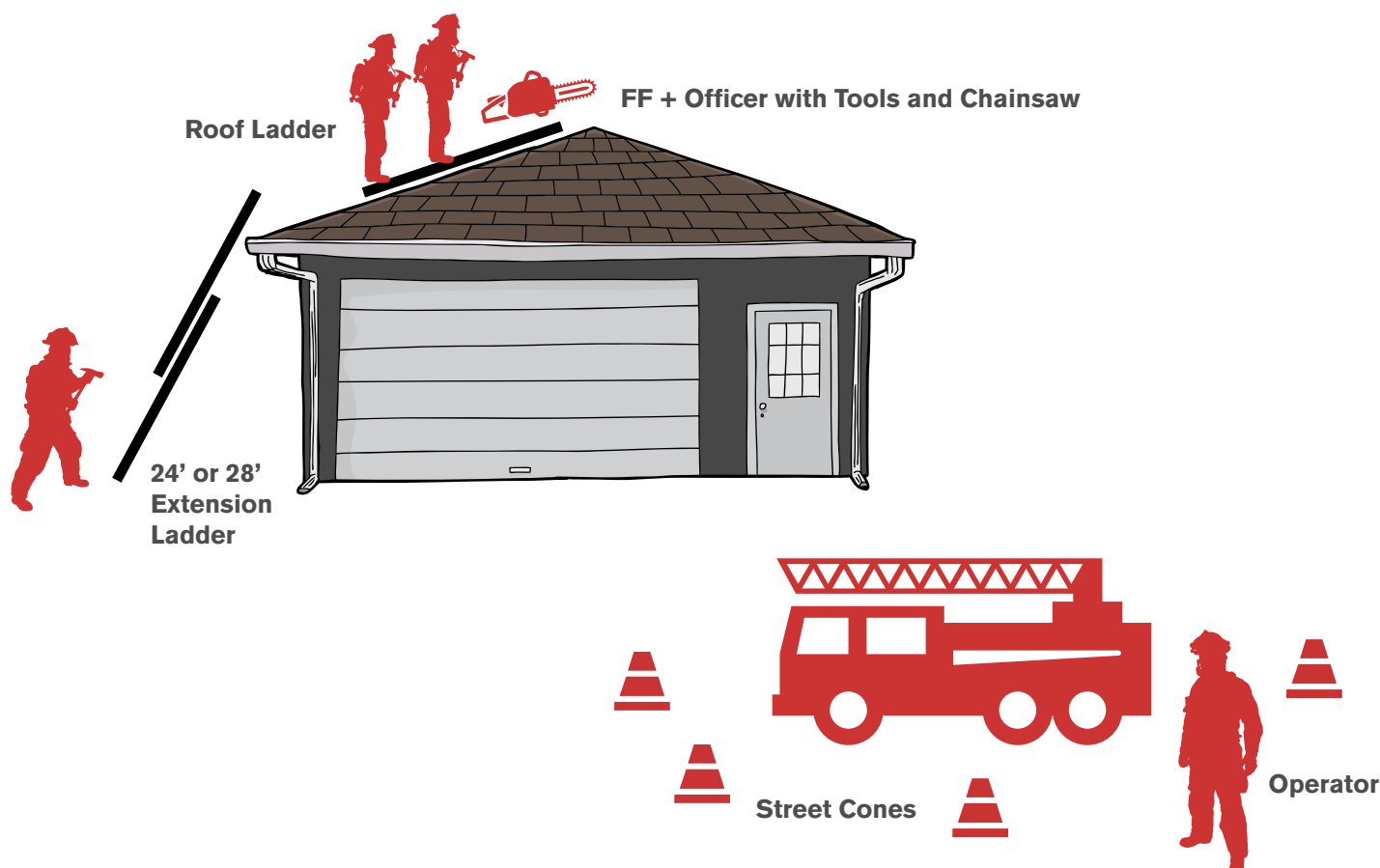
I realize that adding more training time can be difficult for people's schedules and it can be costly for department budgets, but it's a key step towards meeting the needs of your community and adapting to rapidly changing times. I ask that you look at your training program and focus on how to add more training. Instead of focusing on the barriers to more training, perceived or real, focus on how you adapt and overcome those barriers.

While training isn't the only key to the future success of call/volunteer fire departments, training is high on the list of topics that will make or break us. 🚒

MCVFA Model Engine Company Evolution #4

Engine Company Roof Operations – Typical Asphalt Shingle Roof

An NFPA 1410 Evolution



Objective: To place two firefighters with hand tools and a power saw on the roof of a one or two story structure ready to open the roof for ventilation using engine company ladders.

Evolution Description

An engine is positioned at the simulated fire building. The engine company places its extension ladder to the roof and places its roof ladder on the roof. The company starts and tests its power saw on the ground. The company proceeds to the roof with hand tools and power tools and starts the saw on the roof. Consider wind direction when choosing the side of the roof to use.

Evaluation Criteria

Ladders shall be properly deployed.

Saw is tested on the ground.

Proper tools are brought to the roof.

Firefighters were PPE properly and perform all actions safely.

Time begins when the engine stops at simulated fire scene and sets brakes. Time ends when a crew of two firefighters with hand tools is on the roof and the power saw is running.

Recommended Time: 4.5 Minutes

Reference NFPA 1410, 2015 Edition; Training for Initial Emergency Scene Operations

MCVFA Model Engine Company

Evolution #4

Engine Company Roof Operations – Typical Asphalt Shingle Roof

Procedures

1. Engine, with typical staffing, proceeds to simulated fire building and sets up in a location that allows for additional apparatus to access the incident. Sets brakes, sets out traffic cones, turns on flood lights, and circulates water. Keep in mind collapse zones.
2. While driver sets up engine and flood lighting (if night), company raises its extension ladder (24' or 28') to the roof line for access to the roof as directed by the company officer.
3. Engine Company then places roof ladder on the peak of the roof as directed by the company officer.
4. Firefighter starts and tests power saw on the ground, before going to the roof.
5. Firefighter and officer bring hand tools (pike pole, axe, etc. per department policy or training) and power saw to the peak of the roof over the ladders.
6. Extension ladder must be footed by a firefighter.
7. Roof team, firefighter and officer, start power saw on roof.
8. NOTE: This evolution assumes a second due or later apparatus so that there is no initial radio report or 360 size-up as part of the evolution. And, this a good opportunity for the company officer and crew to review the types of roofs found in your community.

Assignments

1. **Driver/Operator** – Properly stabilizes and operates the apparatus. Sets out traffic cones and provides for scene lighting. Assists with raising and footing ladders as necessary.
2. **Officer** – Determines placement of apparatus and ladders. Assists with placement and raising of ladders. Carries hand tools to the roof.
3. **Firefighter** – Assists with raising and placement of ladders. Starts and tests power saw. Carries saw to roof.
4. **Additional Firefighters** (if available) – Assists with raising and placement of ladders and footing of ladder.

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. Street cones placed	5	
9. No running	10	
10. Other (note)	5	
11. 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	
Correct/safe apparatus placement	5	
Pump engaged, pressure governor set, (foam activated), water circulated	10	
Flood lights & scene lights activated if at night	5	
24' or 28' extension ladder raised to roof line for roof access as directed	10	
Roof ladder placed at peak of roof as directed	5	
Power saw started and tested on ground	5	
Firefighter & officer climb to roof peak with saw and hand tools	5	
Extension ladder is footed at all times while FFs on roof or climbing	5	
Saw started at peak of roof	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

Where ladders raised set properly/safely as directed

Was the correct saw started on the ground

Where appropriate tools taken to the roof

Pass ☐ Fail ☐

Pass ☐ Fail ☐

Yes/Pass ☐ Fail ☐

Yes/Pass ☐ Fail ☐

Yes/Pass ☐ Fail ☐

Date _____ Crew Members: _____

Know Before You Go:

RESPONSE AREA RISK ANALYSIS

By Kenn Fontenot



Tones drop at 0230 for a structure fire alarm at the local bulk fuel distribution facility. You are responding with one pumper, one tender/tanker, and a rescue vehicle. Upon arrival you have fire involvement for a transfer pump extending to a large storage fuel tank. NOW WHAT?

Having previously done a thorough response area risk analysis of the facility, you know that this is beyond your capabilities to handle with your department's equipment. You immediately go into the defense posture, evacuate the pre-determined area as set forth in the risk/response plan, protect the exposures that are not in the no-go zone, and let the event play itself out.

You may ask, "Why bother responding at all if all we are going to do is watch?"

Our nature of being aggressive as firefighters is one of traits we are most proud of. However, a critical culture change we need to make is to stop risking firefighter death or injury for an incident we cannot handle.

Conducting a realistic response area risk analysis is one of the best tools we have to avoid a disaster such as the event in West, TX. Departments that conduct good response area risk analysis and develop operational plans based on the results will have the advantage of not needing to come up with a plan when arriving at the scene.

First, departments must evaluate the department's personnel. Questions such as training, certification, experience, decision-making capabilities, and other criteria have to be honestly examined. Do you have enough personnel? Are they trained and certified? What is their experience level? (*Important note – certification does not equal experience!*)

Next is the fire department equipment. Can your department establish and maintain sufficient water supply for the event. For example, if you have limited pumping capacity or limited water supply for the emergency, an offensive attack is out of the question. Once water supply is established, can the fire department maintain the fire flow needed to control the event?

Mutual Aid companies may be able to help fill any gaps discovered in either personnel or equipment. Consider what

these companies can provide and how long it will take them to arrive once dispatched. For high-hazard or high-risk occupancies, consider Automatic Aid versus Mutual Aid.

While having a discussion with Chief Alan Brunacini before a lecture, he suggested this in regards to being aggressive: **"Beware of the command officer with a firefighter mentality. We must learn to be more pessimistic rather than being overly optimistic as operation managers."** Command officers must be realistic about the department as well their own ability to handle this emergency.

A complete and thorough risk assessment of the hazard is the final part to complete the process. High hazard facilities are those which may have the potential for a large loss of life or a catastrophic fire or explosion. The assessment should include but not be limited to: life safety concerns (occupants and firefighters), building construction, occupancy type, materials stored or manufactured, water supply, needed fire flow, protection systems, and utilities.

Once the data has been gathered and stored for easy access, training based on the findings should be done. Using the pre-incident information, drills should be conducted on how to control any type of emergency at these high hazard locations.

Completing a risk analysis for your first due area and drilling with the information gathered will enable a more coordinated and effective response to any emergency at these locations. Additionally the risk of loss of life of occupants and responders will be greatly reduced. It is far better to **Know Before You Go** than to **Learn Once You Get There.** 🔥

Kenn Fontenot is Chair of the NVFC Health, Safety, and Training Committee. He is also a Charter Member and First Fire Chief of the LeBlanc Volunteer Fire Department as well as Captain/Safety Officer for the Milton Volunteer Fire Department. Kenn is a Principal Member on the NFPA 1001 standards committee and Alternate Member of NFPA 1021, is the Chief of Training for St. Landry Fire District #3, served for 14 years as the Regional Fire Training Coordinator at the Louisiana State University Fire and Emergency Training Institute, and is a past-President of the Louisiana State Firemen's Association. He holds an Associate Degree in Fire Science.



National Volunteer Fire Council update

By Mike Bird & Joe Maruca



The National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC) held a board of directors meeting April 6-8, 2017 in Alexandria, Virginia. The meeting brought together representatives from the NVFC's 49 state association members. We are the directors representing Massachusetts at the NVFC.

The NVFC brings its board together twice a year. At this meeting, board members attended committee meetings on topics including hazmat response, health and safety, recruitment and retention and federal legislation. The NVFC Foundation and the EMS/Rescue Section also met. Director Mike Bird serves on the International Relations and the Membership/Awards Committee. Director Joe Maruca serves on the Bylaw and the Standard & Code Committee. Both serve on the Recruitment & Retention Committee.

The highlight of this particular meeting was having lunch with Secretary John F. Kelly of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS). Secretary Kelly spoke to the directors and we had a productive question and answer session with him. Secretary Kelly was well versed on volunteer fire service issues and AFG grant issues. We believe we have champion for volunteer fire services needs in Secretary Kelly. He commended the service and commitment of the nation's volunteer responders, emphasized the critical role of the fire service in homeland security, and vowed to argue for important fire service programs including the Assistance to Firefighters Grant and Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response grant programs, which need reauthorization to continue.

The board addressed matters of interest to the NVFC and the volunteer fire and emergency services on the national level. Actions taken included:

- The NVFC adopted a Diabetes Position Statement that advocates for firefighter physicals, education, and support.
- The NVFC approved an expanded physicals statement that outlines options departments can consider when developing a firefighter medical assessment program. The board had previously adopted a position that supports annual medical assessments for all firefighters.

- The Health, Safety, and Training Committee created an officer training task force to develop training specific to junior/mid-level officers.
- The board voted to support NHTSA rule-making action regarding vehicle-to-vehicle technology.
- The Legislative Committee added AFG/SAFER Reauthorization and the LOSAP CAP Act to the NVFC's legislative priorities.

Additional speakers included Allison Moore, NVFC Program Manager, who provided an update on the NVFC's Make Me A Firefighter recruitment campaign, and Nancy Green of Vetted Solutions, who presented a session on board leadership.

A roundtable discussion was held on fire department sustainability. Moderated by Dr. Candice McDonald, Firefighter/Public Information Officer of the Sebring (OH) Fire Department, the panel included Matt Aalto, Retention and Recruitment Coordinator for Gaston (OR) Fire District, Brian Foley of the Princeton (NJ) Junction Fire Department, Joe Maruca, Fire Chief of the West Barnstable (MA) Fire Department, and Tiger Schmittenendorf, Chief Recruiter of Erie County (NY) Emergency Services.

A banquet was held on the evening of April 7 to honor the recipients of the NVFC's annual achievement awards. This year's winners were as follows:

- **Lifetime Achievement Award** (sponsored by Rosenbauer): Chief Freddy Johnson Sr. of the Stoney Point Volunteer Fire Department in Fayetteville, NC
- **Fire Prevention and Education Award** (sponsored by Nest): William Wren of the New Hartford (NY) Fire Department
- **Junior Firefighter of the Year** (sponsored by California Casualty): Parker Ketler of the Sebring (OH) Fire Department

View a full wrap-up of the spring 2017 meeting at www.nvfc.org. The next meeting will take place September 27-29 in Kearney, Nebraska. 🚒

REGION 1

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

Vice President Ken Jordan, Wareham

Region 1 co-hosted a Chiefs Night with the Plympton Fire at the Uplands Sportsmen's Club. This was well attended with very interesting slide show presentations of past and current fires from the Plympton, Bridgewater, and Whitman fire departments. The Plympton Firemen's Association prepared a fantastic roast beef feed as usual. It was good to see such a great gathering of Chiefs and senior members, I know everyone had a good time.

May and June are annual membership renewal months. The dues this year are \$20 for members, \$10 for retirees and \$5 for junior/explorer members. The dues increased to \$20 for full members by a vote of the membership at the October State Meeting. The increase in dues cover an added benefit to the membership: an increase to the Association's Accidental Death and Dismemberment policy to \$10,000 that doubles to \$20,000 if an LODD is involved. This new insurance becomes available on September 1, 2017.

Please process your renewal rosters and get them submitted to dues@mcvfa.org and mail your checks to: MCVFA Membership Committee, PO Box 124 Whitman, MA 02382. Dues will renew your membership from July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018. Any questions contact the MCVFA Membership Secretary at kibird@verizon.net. 🚒

REGION 2

Covering the counties of Essex, Middlesex

Vice President Chris Bosch, Groveland

The Massachusetts Firefighting Academy will be conducting a Call/Volunteer Recruit Firefighter Training program from November 5, 2017 to March 1, 2018 in Essex County (exact location to be determined). A mandatory orientation will be held at the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy's Stow campus on Monday, October 16, 2017 at 1830 hours.

This class is open to all call and volunteer firefighters in the Commonwealth. Every participant has to be 18 years of age or older as well as have a high school diploma or GED.

All paperwork must be submitted by the close of business on Friday, September 1, 2017. The entire package of paperwork can be downloaded from the Call/Volunteer page on the DFS/MFA website: www.mass.gov/eopss/agencies/dfs/mfa-trng/info-links/callvolunteer-firefighter-training-program.html. See your chief for additional information.

Massachusetts Fire Academy Class 063 trained in various different structure fire scenarios at Stow, MA; locally the class was held at the Groveland Fire Department. The threats faced by firefighters in the modern day are far more complex and unforgiving than in the past. It is this type of training that allows for firefighters to safely do their jobs and protect the public. Personally, I am always thankful for each and every graduating class. Congratulations Class 063! Stay Safe. 🚒

REGION 5

Covering the counties of Berkshire

Vice President Paul Vallone, Clarksburg

Berkshire Fire Chiefs Donate to Senior Center in Honor of Former Captain

By Andy McKeever, iBerkshires Staff

(Reprint Courtesy of The iBerkshires.com)

Even after retiring from the Fire Department, Capt. Richard Briggs would attend monthly meetings of the Berkshire County Fire Chiefs Association.

Briggs had been a member of the Fire Department from 1952 until 1984 and continued to stay in touch.

"I know he gave his heart and soul to the Fire Department for 32 years that he worked there and stayed with the fire service, mentoring us, talking to us," Fire Chief Robert Czerwinski said.

"Every month he brought up a good topic for discussion in regards to fire prevention, rules, regulations, codes and things like that."

continues on page 22



Pittsfield Fire Chief Robert Czerwinski, Helen Briggs, the wife of the late Dick Briggs, and Dalton Chief Gerald Cahalan.



The Fire Chiefs Association presented a \$500 check to Council on Aging Director Vincent Marinaro in honor of the former captain.

A month ago, the chiefs got the news that Briggs had died at the age of 92. The Fire Chiefs Association decided it wanted to do something in Briggs' honor and on Friday, Czerwinski and Dalton Fire Chief Gerald Cahalan presented the Friends of the Ralph J. Froio Senior Center with a \$500 check.

"He was a fantastic man. We all miss him. We all love him and this is just something we wanted to do in his honor," Czerwinski said.

"We were really upset when we got the news Dick had passed away."

Briggs was active at the senior center and had served as the chairman of the Council on Aging and he was the vice president of the Friends of the center.

"A lot of the stuff we have at the senior center and our staff, we are all better for the fact that Dick Briggs was here every day," Council on Aging Director Vincent Marinaro said.

The senior center already has a sign in Briggs' honor, reserving his seat. Marinaro recalled many conversations he used to have with Briggs at the center.

The check was presented in front of Briggs friends, family, and members of the Friends of the Froio Senior Center.

Western Mass. FOOLS First Due Skills Day

Article and photos by Ed Harvey

"They" said it couldn't be done. The thoughts and ideas had been rolling around for a while but the true planning was done in a member's kitchen on a scrap paper just a few weeks before the April 9th event was to take place.

The plan was to host a program of rotating firefighting skill stations covering: size up, 360, hose line deployment, hose advancement, water supply, ladders, forcible entry, fire attack, search & rescue. The biggest challenge was where to have it? A few suggestions were thrown around but we aimed high and sought out the burn tower at the Pittsfield Training Center. Strings were pulled and permissions were granted! Next was getting quality instructors, Facebook burned up, text messages, emails and maybe even a phone call or two were sent out and a noteworthy cast of over 20 veterans ranging in rank from chief to senior firefighters from the Berkshires and beyond were gathered and given a station to operate, which included live fire training.





NFPA 1403 was used to guide our training sessions and safety was our number one priority; having support and safety crews in place was key. Experienced firefighters and officers played a key role in ensuring the fires were tended, pumps were run, and the students were educated in the finer arts of firefighting. Lunch was provided (we had to order extra sandwiches and still had to run out for more!). A great talk was given by Pittsfield Chief Bob Czerwinski after lunch and he encouraged the firefighters to make use of the facility in Pittsfield, work on the goals of physical fitness and to prevent cancer.


For the afternoon sessions, we increased the intensity and realism of the searches under live fire conditions



and fire attack evolutions. It was an amazing turnout of over 35 students from Berkshire County, Hampden County, Columbia County, NY and a crew from Eastern Mass/New Hampshire. The event had an amazingly huge support network and the list of thank you's would take an entire article to list out. If you helped out, THANK YOU!

The Western Mass. FOOLS is a chapter of the FOOLS (Fraternal Order of Leatherheads) International. The FOOLS International website lists the mission statement as follows:

"The F.O.O.L.S. exemplify the true meaning of the Brotherhood by providing training opportunities to Brother and Sister Firefighters worldwide. We organize benefits to assist not only a firefighter and their families in need, but our communities as well. The F.O.O.L.S. exist to strengthen the Brotherhood of our chosen profession and fuel the flame of passion we have for our calling".

For more information about the Western Mass. FOOLS search for our page and group on Facebook or check out our website www.westernmassfools.org. 

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

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MEMORIAL
PARK - Rt 6**

Parade Staging YMCA- 271 Sharps Lot Rd. (10:00am)