

Call/Volunteers Serving Today to Protect Your Tomorrow

# *Smoke Showin'*

The Official Publication of the Massachusetts Call/Volunteer Firefighters Association

**Retirement or Resignation?**

**Junior Fire Academy:  
Key to the Future?**

**Drill and Train More  
MCVFA State Meeting  
& Seminar**

A firefighter in a grey long-sleeved shirt, white helmet with "PLYMOUTH COUNTY RESCUE" written on it, and yellow gloves is assisting a person in a trench. The person being rescued is wearing a red helmet, sunglasses, and a brown jacket. They are both secured with red safety harnesses and ropes. A large black and yellow hydraulic rescue tool is visible in the foreground. The background shows a trench with a metal ladder and other people's legs.

**Trench Rescue**



# Massachusetts Fallen Firefighters Memorial

**SAVE THE DATE**

## **Massachusetts Fallen Firefighters Memorial Annual Ceremony**

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 11<sup>th</sup>, 2016**

**3:00 PM - Ashburton Park**

**Massachusetts Statehouse**

*Our yearly event for Firefighters and their families.*

*This event will take place rain or shine.*

**[www.mafirememorial.org](http://www.mafirememorial.org)**





# 2016

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Home fires in Massachusetts are frequent, and deadly. Over the past decade, the state has experienced 57,000 home.

Summer 2016



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# ON THE COVER: **Halifax Fire Department responds to Man stuck in Trench**

**On** March 29, 2016 at approximately 09:45, Halifax Communications received a call for a man stuck in a trench. Halifax responded and upon seeing the man exposed from his chest up about four feet below grade, activated the Plymouth County Technical Rescue Team (PCTRT). The Team was paged out and approximately 35 technicians with equipment responded.

Logistics was difficult as the property was set several hundred feet off the road down a dirt driveway. Halifax FD under the command of Chief Jason Vivieros acted appropriately, keeping the victim calm and not attempting to enter the trench while keeping bystanders away. The victim, who was conducting a septic tank inspection, entered the trench and while standing, the sidewall sloughed in and buried him up to the chest. Upon the arrival of the PCTRT, some 10 minutes later, the Team quickly went to work, placing ground pads around the trench to disperse weight of the rescuers. A helmet and eye protection was handed to the victim. Shoring panels were placed and secured with Paratech air shores.

Technicians then entered the trench and began digging him out with small trench shovels and transporting the soil via 5-gallon buckets out of the trench, it took nearly 90 minutes before the victim was extricated to Halifax FD EMS and a waiting helicopter. The Team has a medical component and worked with Halifax Fire EMS to start an IV with some sodium bicarb to prevent acidotic blood levels; hypothermia was combated with a heated fresh air blower. OSHA was on scene to investigate the accident and units cleared some 2 hours later. 🚒

Cover photo credit: Rob Reardon, All Companies Working, [www.allcompaniesworking.com](http://www.allcompaniesworking.com)

## **2016-2017 MCVFA Dues**

As we enter the new fiscal year, I'd like to remind the membership in regards to paying their dues.

If your department has not yet paid, please make every effort to get them in as soon as possible. If you are not sure, please inquire through your Chief, your Delegate, or the MCVFA Membership Committee @ [membership@mcvfa.org](mailto: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.

## ***Smoke Showin'***

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Call/Volunteer Firefighters Association



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MCVFA membership.





**Kevin Connolly**  
President

## President's Message

**T**his year, the Executive Board is embarking on a slightly different course in the way we present our Annual State Meeting. Seeing that attendance at State Meetings had been decreasing over the last few years, in 2015 a by-law change was made at the Annual State Meeting to eliminate the April meeting.

It was suggested that we look at a different format to increase the interest in the State Meeting. What we have come up with is a program that contains some of the basic aspects of the Fire Service: camaraderie, communication, training and education. With this foundation, we are positive we can build a stronger organization we can be proud of.

Even as we enter summer, it is important to remember that the Annual State Meeting will be here soon. This year the meeting will be on Saturday, October 29, 2016 at the Hadley Farms Meeting House in Hadley, MA. Please mark it on your calendar.

Besides the general business meeting, a Firefighter Memorial program honoring those that have gone before us as well as remembering the 15th Anniversary of the September 11th attacks on the World Trade Center will be presented as well as two seminars that the Training Committee believes are of great significance for our members.

During the business meeting, there will be a discussion about a possible dues increase and the possibility of several important by-law changes. These topics are critical to the continued operation of the Association. Your presence at the State Meeting is imperative; the Executive Board alone cannot make these changes.

Lunch will be available on site and there will be several vendors on hand for your benefit. Please watch your email or go to the MCVFA website for updated information. It is recommended that you preregister. More information on the State Meeting can be found in this issue. We hope you'll take advantage of this opportunity and look forward to seeing you there.

Two committees that are on my radar are Training and another not yet formed, Fire Prevention. Training has hit the ground running.

The Training Committee, which includes Health and Wellness, has met a number of times to ascertain training programs you would like to see implemented. A survey was distributed in May with six possible programs with the top three being 1) Fit for Duty, Fit for Life (health and fitness information), 2) Firefighter Down CPR and 3) Traffic Incident Management. The committee is now planning to promote these programs in each region.

The committee has some new faces on it and is looking for a few more interested people. Currently, Regions 3, 4 and 5 are represented. Please contact Chairman Cory Adelt, Adams Alert Hose Co. at [coryfdsar@gmail.com](mailto:coryfdsar@gmail.com) if you would like more info.

I would like to form a Fire Prevention Committee in the near future. If you are interested in serving on the committee, please contact me.

Again, I have been making the rounds throughout the Commonwealth when I can. Please post your functions as an event on your Facebook page. This will allow us to link up and then I can try to stop by and say hello. 🚒

*Thank you all...and be safe!*

# retirement or RESIGNATION?

BY CHIEF **JOE MARUCA**

**L**ately I've heard from a couple of fire departments about longtime call/volunteer members retiring and their chiefs or town administrators refusing to use the word "retirement". Instead, firefighters are told they've resigned. They are told there is no such thing as a retirement for a call or volunteer firefighter.

So what's the big deal? The big deal is that "retirement" is a happy word that connotes someone has served well for years and is deserving of congratulations and accolades. "Resigned" is a negative term for quitters or people who are slinking off into the night before they are fired for bad behavior. Who ever heard of a resignation party or service plaque that reads "Congratulations to Firefighter John Doe on the occasion of his resignation after 25 years of service to the XYZ Fire Department"?!

When a call or volunteer firefighter decides to leave after years of excellent service, he or she should be honored and congratulated on his/her retirement from the fire department. So why is it so hard for some chiefs and town administrators to speak the words "congratulations on your retirement" to these firefighters? Well, it's not their fault; they got weak legal advice.

Here's the conversation between the town administrator and the town legal counsel:

Admin: "We have a volunteer firefighter retiring after 30 years on the fire department. Is there anything we need to do?"

Lawyer: "Get an official letter for the file and oh, I wouldn't use the word "retired" if I were you."

Admin: "Why not use "retired"?"

Lawyer: "Well, I don't think it's a real problem, but I'd hate to have you accidentally grant or give the impression that the volunteer firefighter gets retirement benefits, so it's best to call it a resignation."

You cannot "accidentally" grant retirement benefits to a volunteer firefighter (or anyone for that matter) because state law strictly sets out who gets a retirement benefit. Nothing any fire chief or town administrator can do or say will grant a retirement pension to someone who is not legally entitled to it under state law. So whether you call it a resignation or a retirement has no legal bearing.

The problem is that lawyers tend to imagine risks and cases that have never occurred and are unlikely to ever occur and then worry about them. In the minds of lawyers, it is better to crush morale, engage in counterproductive human resource management and over-lawyer a simple situation, than to take any risk at all – even an imaginary risk. Ok, I'm being a bit harsh on lawyers and exaggerating (but I'm a lawyer also, so I can get away with it) to make a point.

In reality, this situation is more likely a failure to communicate between fire chief, lawyer, and town administrator, and a misunderstanding of each other's roles, as well as the human resources needs of a call/volunteer fire department.

As a fire chief, if you get such an opinion, don't simply accept it. Explain to your legal counsel and town administrator that you have a legitimate human resources management need to call this event a retirement. Explain the how using the word "resignation" has negative connotations and will hurt the department's long-term ability to attract and retain volunteers. Explain how the town and department will be missing a great public relations opportunity.

Change the nature of the question to your legal counsel from “can we call this a retirement” to “how do we call this a retirement”. How you ask a question of a lawyer will affect the answer you get.

Asking “can we call this a retirement” lends itself to a quick and easy “No” from an attorney. They hear the question and in their mind they see a “parade of horrors” (a law school concept --- an image of all the things that could go wrong marching by) and simply say no. Easy answer, no risk, and from a legal standpoint, all is well. They don’t see the fire chief’s parade of horrors – poor morale, angry family members, poor community PR and a disincentive for attracting new volunteers. You need to educate them.

Instead, asking “how can we call this a retirement” enlists the attorney in solving the problem. It requires them to use their logic and knowledge to craft a solution for you. Lawyers love to do this; they just need to be asked. (This applies to lots of fire service legal questions.)

So, let’s celebrate the retirement of call and volunteer firefighters, and make it a positive event for your fire department, your community, and the firefighter and his/her family. It’s good public service management. 🚒



*Volunteer Fire Lieutenant Paul Holt receives an engraved fire axe on the occasion of his retirement after 17-years of service to the West Barnstable FD.*

A large advertisement for FSP Books and Videos. The background is a collage of fire-related images, including a fire truck, a fire scene, and a firefighter. The text is bold and white, set against a dark, textured background. The main headline is "BE PREPARED!". Below it, in smaller text, is "TEXTBOOKS, TRAINING MATERIALS, EXAM PREP AND MORE!". The main title is "FSP BOOKS AND VIDEOS". Below that is the website "WWW.FIRE-POLICE-EMS.COM". The address is "188 CENTRAL STREET HUDSON, MA 01749". The phone number is "1-800-522-8528". At the bottom, it says "JUST MINUTES FROM THE MA FIRE ACADEMY!". There are four small inset images: top left shows a book cover "The Night Seal", top right shows a firefighter in full gear, bottom left shows a book cover "SUBURBAN FIRE TACTICS THE NIGHT SEAL", and bottom right shows a book cover "SUBURBAN FIRE TACTICS".



# JUNIOR FIRE ACADEMY: KEY TO THE FUTURE?



BY DEPUTY CHIEF BUTCH GARRITY, LANESBOROUGH FIRE DEPARTMENT

**ON** Saturday May 7, the Lanesborough Fire Department hosted its first-ever Junior Firefighter/Explorer Academy. This was done in conjunction with the Berkshire County Fire Chiefs' Association, many local fire departments, the National Volunteer Fire Council, the Western Mass Technical Rescue Team and the Massachusetts Call/Volunteer Fire Association. There were 16 junior firefighters that attended from a number of Western Massachusetts fire departments - Alford, Florida, Goshen, Hancock, Huntington, Lanesborough, Monterey, Northfield and Savoy fire departments.

The inspiration for the junior fire academy project was Nick Garrity, a junior firefighter on the Lanesborough Fire Department. He and his father, Deputy Fire Chief Butch Garrity, had seen the junior fire academy being hosted by the National Volunteer Fire Council in North Carolina. The pair believed they could host a junior fire academy locally for the costs associated to send one junior to North Carolina.

The Lanesborough Fire Department was approached and asked if they would host the academy and they agreed. The Berkshire County Fire Chiefs' Association, the Massachusetts Call/Volunteer Firefighters' Association and the National Volunteer Fire Council were then contacted to see if they would sponsor or support the academy. Each organization thought this was a tremendous idea and supported it whole-heartedly.

The academy consisted of eight stations, four held concurrently in the morning and four concurrently in the afternoon. This enabled an instructor to student ratio of approximately 1 to 1 depending upon the station. The juniors had 45 minutes per station 15 minutes of rehab and transport time to the next station.

The stations included low angle rope rescue thought by the Western Mass Regional Technical Rescue Team including team members from the Lenox Fire and North Adams Fire Departments. The Ladders and laddering station was supported by the Adams Fire Department, vehicle extrication with the Lanesborough Fire Department and Sayers Auto Wrecking, a station where students were given GPS coordinates and had to locate and extricate a patient. This station was a collaboration of the Massachusetts Department of Fire Services, which sent two off-road Gator UTVs, the Williamstown Forest Wardens, and the Williamsburg Fire Department.

There was also a static display section consisting of the Berkshire County Sheriff's Office communications vehicle, the Massachusetts State Police communications vehicle, the Department of Fire Services Incident Support Unit, the Hampshire and Berkshire County Disaster Animal Response Teams' (DART) trailers. The Pittsfield Fire Department assisted by setting up a mini-firefighter combat challenge station. There was also a Rural Water Supply station with the assistance of the





Clarksburg Fire Company, the Richmond Fire Department, the New Ashford Fire Department, the Hancock Fire Department, the Lanesborough Fire Department and the Cheshire Fire Department. The Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation Bureau of Fire Control also sent six vehicles and set up various stations for Junior Firefighters to demonstrate and utilize forest fire equipment. Additionally, the North West Massachusetts Incident Management Team supported the event with several safety officers.

The day concluded with a graduation ceremony and presentation of certificates of completion. On hand for this were Adams Fire Chief and President of the Berkshire County

Fire Chiefs' Association, P.J. Goyette, Kevin Connolly, President of the Massachusetts Call/Volunteer Firefighters' Association and MCVFA Region 5 Vice President Paul Vallone.

The ultimate goal of the Fire Academy was to match seasoned fire service veterans with the newest fire service members. The event was highly successful and a good time was had by all. Thanks to all that supported our first attempt to bring this type of event to the area. Attendees were provided breakfast, lunch, an MCVFA t-shirt, an NVFC mini-cooler and information from the National Volunteer Fire Council.

Of all the participants, 16 were MCVFA members. They were Will Kipp, Hancock Fire; Nathan Richardson, Florida Fire; Nick Garrity and Nathan Myers, Lanesborough Fire; Keegan Wellauer, Justin Makuc and Jake Martin, Monterey Fire; Salvador Alcala, Savoy Fire; Adrian Neveu, Goshen Fire; Dominic Guarda, Christopher Guarda and Campbell Ingersall, Alford Fire; Tyler Hunter and Dan Chabot, Northfield Fire; Jamie Mikailonis and Connor Washington, Huntington Fire. Good luck to these eager future firefighters!

If you would like more info on this program, contact Deputy Chief Garrity at [ButchGarrity@gmail.com](mailto:ButchGarrity@gmail.com). 🚒

# FSP BOOKS AND VIDEOS

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A black and white photograph of a fire scene. A ladder truck with "188 Central St. Hudson, MA" on its side is extended, with firefighters working on a building. Other firefighters are visible on the ground.

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# National Update

by Captain Mike Bird (Retired) & Chief Joe Maruca

**T**he National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC) held its annual Spring Board of Directors meeting in Alexandria, VA from May 5 to May 7. The MCVFA is a one of the member organizations that make up the NVFC and we are the directors representing Massachusetts. Are you a member of the NVFC? If not, you should join.

The NVFC Spring Board of Directors Meeting is always held in conjunction with the Congressional Fire Service Institute's Annual Dinner. The CFSI dinner provides an opportunity for networking and politicking among fire service leaders, congressional leaders and congressional staffs. However, the CFSI dinner is only a small part of the NVFC's meeting.

In addition to meetings related to the governance of the NVFC, the Spring Board of Directors Meeting included meetings regarding NFPA codes, building codes, recruitment and retention of volunteer firefighters, hazmat, federal legislation, volunteer firefighter training, firefighter health & safety and volunteer advocacy.

Cancer and firefighter health continues to be a hot and growing topic within the fire service. We had the opportunity to participate in a live webinar roundtable that included medical experts and the Firefighter Cancer Awareness Network. With data sparse (mostly coming from a handful of local studies of urban fire departments), all firefighters need to take steps to protect themselves from the toxic mix of gases coming from today's fires.

There are many simple and inexpensive steps call/volunteer firefighters can take to protect themselves. If you carry PPE in your car/truck, make sure it is carried in a gear bag so you and your passengers aren't exposed to toxins. Wash your gear after every fire (structure, car, dumpster, etc.) where you've been in the smoke. If you don't have access to a gear washer (extractor) at least use a hose and brush. When in rehab or immediately following a fire clean your face, neck hands and other skin with a baby wipe to get the toxins off your skin. For more on firefighter cancer and how to protect yourself, go to the NVFC website.

We also had meeting with Hope Janke, Director of the Public Safety Officer Benefit (PSOB) program for the Department of Justice. This is the program that pays \$339,881 to firefighters and police officers who are killed in the line of duty. We learned about efforts to reduce the backlog of claims and about a new online claims process that is expected to move future claims faster. The NVFC is partnering with other fire and police organizations to amend the PSOB program to include fire and police investigators who are killed in the line of duty.

The Spring NVFC meeting is also the venue for the NVFC's Annual Awards Dinner. Awards given are Junior Firefighter of the Year, Junior Firefighter Program of the Year, Fire Prevention and Education Award and Lifetime Achievement Award. This year's winner of the Fire Prevention and Education Award, Volunteer Lieutenant Michael McLeieer, served with the Merrimac MA Fire Department from 2000 to 2010 and also worked at the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy. Today he serves with the Olivet MI fire department. He is the founder of E.S.C.A.P.E (Education Showing Children and Adults Procedures for Evacuation) a non-profit charity that teaches fire prevention, CPR and First Aid.

In Congress, the NVFC is pursuing a dozen pieces of federal legislation that will benefit the volunteer and combination fire service. With our fire service partners such as the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC) and the International Association of Firefighters (IAFF), the NVFC is lobbying for Congress to reauthorize the Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program (AFG) and the Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response Grant Program (SAFER), and have them funded at \$405 million each. Both programs are set to expire in January 2018. The President's budget has recommended \$345 million for each in the next fiscal year.

NVFC is also pushing to increase funding for the Volunteer Fire Assistance Grant Program (VFA). This program provides grants to small town volunteer fire departments for wildland fire equipment, training and planning. Currently the program is funded at \$13 million and the NVFC is trying to increase the funding to \$16 million.





Photo courtesy of Ernie Rojahn

*Pictured here is the NVFC board which is made up of directors from 49 state fire service associations. Can you spot the Massachusetts Directors — Captain Mike Bird (Retired) and Chief Joe Maruca?*

An NVFC initiative, the Volunteer Responder Incentive Protection Act (H.R. 2752), would provide a \$600 tax exemption for the first \$600 a volunteer firefighter receives as a stipend.

Creating a National Firefighter Cancer Registry (H.R. 4625/S.2799) is also among the legislative initiatives that the NVFC and its fire service partners are pursuing in Congress. The legislation would create a voluntary registry of cancer among call, volunteer and career firefighters. This is an important first step towards addressing the issue of firefighter cancer because the current data on this issue is too sparse.

For those departments that operate an ambulance, the NVFC is supporting legislation to preserve the current “bonus payments” through Medicaid for providing ambulance transport services. The legislation is called the Medicaid Ambulance Access, Fraud, Prevention and Reform Act (H.R. 745/S.377). A Government Accountability Office study in 2007 found that Medicare reimbursement rates fall short of the actual cost of providing ambulance service, and that this shortfall is most pronounced in areas with low population density. This puts tremendous financial pressure on volunteer EMS providers who typically operate in more rural areas.

If you haven't done so, you should join the NVFC. If you are already an MCVFA member you are eligible for an NVFC All-State Membership at the discounted rate of only \$15 per year (normally \$29 per year). As an NVFC member you get a \$10,000 death & disability insurance policy, discounts to online colleges including Trident University, Columbia Southern University and University of Maryland University College, eligibility to join the Firemen's Association of NY Federal Credit Union (FASNY Federal Credit) for home and auto loans, discounts and access to online training programs.

The NVFC board is made up of directors from 49 state fire service associations and meets as a group twice a year to conduct Council business, hold committee meetings, and guide the direction of the organization. The NVFC board will next meet on September 21<sup>st</sup> in Charleston, South Carolina.

To learn more about the NVFC go to [www.nvfc.org](http://www.nvfc.org). 

## BE YOUR BEST. JOIN TODAY.

You're striving to be the best first responder you can be. We're here for you every step of the way. **The National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC)** is the only organization created solely to support volunteer firefighters, EMTs, and rescue personnel through a wide range of programs and benefits.



**Join at [www.nvfc.org/BeYourBest](http://www.nvfc.org/BeYourBest).  
Or call 888-ASK-NVFC (275-6832).**



## DRILL AND TRAIN MORE

by Chief Joe Maruca

The typical Call/Volunteer fire department or small combination fire department in Massachusetts trains twice per month and the typical call/volunteer firefighter trains between 26 and 50 hours per year. We need to drill and train more.

The 2015 MCVFA Call/Volunteer Firefighter Training Survey revealed a great deal of data about the state of call/volunteer firefighter training in Massachusetts. In summary, the typical call/volunteer firefighter:

- > Trains with live fire once each year.
- > Trains with his/her mutual aid partners twice each year.
- > Trains between 26 and 50 hours per year (2 to 4 hours +/- per month).
- > Attended one Massachusetts Fire Academy class or seminar last year.
- > Has training to the Firefighter I (NFPA 1001) level, however, only about one-half of call/volunteer firefighters are certified as Firefighter I.

I suggest that we all make it our goal to increase our drilling and training by one additional drill or training session per month, and increase the annual hours of training for a typical call/volunteer firefighter to 50 to 75 hours per year over the next three years. Here's why and how.

Our missions are becoming increasingly varied and complex. Forty years ago our mission was mostly about extinguishing fires. Today, our mission has expanded to include EMS, auto extrication, hazardous materials response, disaster mitigation, fire prevention/inspection and technical rescue. The tasks and the tools we use have gotten more complex. If we only drill twice per month and we allocate one drill to each of these six topics, we've exhausted 25% of our drill nights. And, many of these topics require more than a single training session of two or three hours per year.

For instance, it is recommended that we train at least six hours per year on hazardous materials responses per ISO and eight hours per year to satisfy OSHA. At two hours per drill that means we need four hazmat drills each year. The Survey data says that almost half of all call/volunteer firefighters didn't participate in a single hazmat drill last year.

ISO also suggests that every driver/operator put in 12 hours of driver training per year. What's more, if you are providing EMS training to EMTs you need to average about 12 hours per year in continuing education training for your EMTs, or six more 2 hour drills. Try totaling up all of the training we should be doing and compare them against your current drill schedule, then ask yourself something like: How many times per year should we practice with SCBA to be confident using it under



pressure? How many times per year should you practice auto extrication to remain proficient?

We aren't keeping up and the idea of keeping up can be daunting. We know that it's not possible to be really good with a tool if you only use once a year.

And we also know that the public expects us to be experts. Today's public expectations are higher than ever. Thirty-nine years ago I remember one of my captains telling me not to worry about screwing up at a fire because the public doesn't know good firefighting from bad firefighting. I still occasionally hear similar sentiments. But the world has changed. We are constantly on camera and if we are fumbling with our airpack or can't get a portable pump to start, there is an excellent chance it will be on YouTube by the time we get back to the fire station regardless of the outcome and our best intentions. The citizens we serve expect and deserve our best effort, not what was passable forty years ago.

The primary issue, of course, is time. The Survey clearly showed that a key barrier to more training is time. There is no doubt that all of us struggle with our time commitments — work, family and fire department. How can we add training without “breaking the camel's back”?

The Survey also revealed that one-quarter of the call/volunteer fire departments in the state do not have a smoke machine and rescue manikin for training. We need the right tools, if we expect additional training to be effective.

Here are my best thoughts as to solutions to these challenges:

- > Ask for a smoke machine and training manikin as part of the next Assistance to Firefighters (AFG) Grant (coming soon). It would be relatively inexpensive and easy to get this grant for a small fire department. If you'd like help writing such a grant the MCVFA will help you. Call MCVFA President Kevin Connolly and he'll get you an experienced grant writer to help.
- > Try a virtual drill night. Schedule a drill, but have nobody show up. Instead, everyone on the department takes the same online training class at the same time, and they turn in their completion certificate by the date for the virtual drill. Give everyone a month or more to do the training. The Massachusetts Firefighting Academy has an excellent online class “Intro to Transitional Fire Attack” you can have everyone take. The National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC) has a Virtual Classroom with online classes on firefighter health, department management and Incident Safety Officer. You can get online wildland fire training from FEMA or you can take a pipeline emergency response class at [pipelineemergencies.com](http://pipelineemergencies.com).
- > Call in the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy. The Massachusetts Firefighting Academy (MFA) has recently increased and updated its Impact Class Programs. Make it part of your annual training routine to have the MFA come and present one of these programs at your fire station.

## The Survey Says:

45% of call/volunteer firefighters did not participate in any hazmat training last year.

The number of drills per month by call/volunteer departments:

- > Once a month 22%
- > Twice a month 37%
- > Three times a month 17%
- > Four times a month 18%
- > Five + times a month 5%

16% of call/volunteer fire departments have computer simulation software for training.

25% of call/volunteer departments do not have a single certified fire instructor among their ranks.  
14% have one instructor.

To review the full 2015 MCVFA Call/Volunteer Firefighter Training Survey, go to [www.MCVFA.org](http://www.MCVFA.org).

Impact Classes are typically three hour, instructor lead classes, on a single topic. You can view the classes at the MFA website.

- > As for finding the time for extra drills, my sense is that the best way to get the members of your department to commit more time to training is to make the case for it as transparent as possible. Talk to your department about the reasons more training is important and get their input on ways to carve out the time (and ways to involve – or placate – their families).

The MCVFA believes that in order for call/volunteer firefighting to be sustainable over the next decade or two that call/volunteer training must improve. I agree. We all must take the initiative and take steps to increase our own training and our department's training. 🚫

# » Impact and Railroad Response Programs from MFA

The Massachusetts Firefighting Academy (MFA) is introducing innovative and updated fire training program in 2016 that may be of interest to call and volunteer firefighters.

Impact programs provide short online or in-person training for firefighters on a wide range of important topics. In 2016, Impact programs will address urgent and/or contemporary topics. Many impact programs are available both online and in the classroom.



## Chemical Suicide Awareness

MFA developed the Chemical Suicide Awareness program after a recent incident where secondary contamination sickened responding law enforcement and EMS personnel. It has been updated based on responses to subsequent chemical suicides. It educates first responders about chemical suicide and its extreme dangers. Key elements in the training are the recognition and identification of a potential chemical suicide, scene procedures, and the personal protective equipment necessary to ensure firefighter safety at these incidents.

**(Online only.)**



## Photovoltaics for the Fire Service

Alternative electrical generation systems that convert solar energy to electricity are becoming prevalent in residences, industry and along highways. They are known as photovoltaic systems, or PV, and consist of solar panels and other electrical components that convert solar energy to electricity. Firefighters may encounter a PV system during emergency operations. Many residential systems are roof mounted and may present hazards during firefighting. This course will teach you to safely conduct firefighting and other emergency operations in and around PV systems.

**(Online or field delivery.)**



## Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) Awareness

While there has been a significant increase in the natural gas supply, the infrastructure to move it does not exist in many areas. The development of large, road transportable compressed natural gas (CNG) supply modules enables natural gas to be used in areas where no underground delivery system exists. These virtual pipelines present significant challenges to firefighters. In addition, CNG is just one of many alternative fuels powering a large variety of vehicles. *Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) Awareness* is a new Impact program that provides current information about the use and transport of CNG. **(Online or field delivery.)**



## Introduction to Transitional Fire Attack and Flow Paths

This course introduces new scientific findings about modern fire behavior and tactical considerations from studies conducted by Underwriter's Laboratory (UL) and the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST). The findings relate to modern fuels and address the physics of combustion and the flow paths of air, fire gases, and heat. In addition, the studies validated the effectiveness and practicality of a transitional fire attack.

**(Online or field delivery.)**



## Fire Service Air Management

Did you know that the 2013 edition of NFPA 1404: *Standard for Fire Service Respiratory Protection Training* requires firefighters to exit an immediately dangerous to life or health (IDLH) atmosphere before the low air alarm sounds? Did you know that the 2013 edition of NFPA 1981: *Standard on Open-Circuit Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus for Emergency Services* requires the low air alarm on newly manufactured SCBAs to sound when 33%, instead of 25%, of the cylinder's available air remains? This program details real world scenarios and hardware limitations and outlines simple air management rules and an implementation strategy. **(Online or field delivery.)**



## Traffic Incident Management for the First Arriving Fire Company

First responders continue to be injured and killed at the scene of roadway incidents. *Traffic Incident Management* for the First Arriving Fire Company is a new Impact course that uses real world case studies, scenarios, and the national traffic incident management system to provide focused safety procedures for the fire company operating at a roadway emergency scene.

**(Online or field delivery.)**





## Confined Space and Trench Rescue Awareness

Would-be rescuers often become victims during confined space and trench incidents because of a lack of training. The *Confined Space and Trench Rescue Awareness* Impact program provides current information to help firefighters recognize and avoid the most common hazards associated with these technical rescues. (*Online or field delivery.*)

For questions or to schedule field delivery of an Impact program, contact John Spillane at [John.Spillane@state.ma.us](mailto:John.Spillane@state.ma.us). To take an online Impact course, visit [www.mass.gov/dfs](http://www.mass.gov/dfs) and click on MFA Course Registration.



## High Hazard Railroad Response Course

With the help of a federal Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness (HMEP) grant, the MFA is developing a multi-module, comprehensive, *High Hazard Railroad Response* (H2R2) course. Modules will include basic rail safety for emergency responders; high hazard railroad response strategy and tactics; assessment, air monitoring, and advanced techniques for hazmat teams/technicians; and an incident commander seminar as part of the spring *Senior Fire Officer Forum* series. The program will bring incident commanders to MFA to share insight about major rail emergencies. Many of the new H2R2 courses will have classroom and practical components. In combination with ethanol and foam courses, this program can significantly increase response capabilities for municipalities and hazmat teams who are on or near rail corridors. **For more information, contact Hazmat Program Coordinator Michael Barry at [Michael.J.Barry3@state.ma.us](mailto:Michael.J.Barry3@state.ma.us).**

2016 brings many opportunities for continuing education and professional development at the MFA. We look forward to your participation and welcome your feedback. 🚒



# Opportunity Knocks in September

**By Mike McCullough**

*MCVFA Past President*

*Member, Massachusetts Fallen Firefighters Memorial Board of Directors*

This year the annual ceremony at the Firefighters Memorial at the State House in Boston will take place on the usual date – September 11. What makes this year special is September 11 falls on a Sunday and the ceremony will be at 3pm in the afternoon. A weekend ceremony has only been held twice since the memorial was dedicated in 2007.

If you haven't been to see the memorial, it is a beautiful tribute to the members of the fire service with an impressive statue and lovely landscaping. In the walkways there are engraved bricks representing fire service people and organizations from the Berkshires to Cape Cod. It is worth the trip to visit, especially for the annual memorial ceremony.

Attending early evening weekday ceremonies in Boston present a special challenge for many MCVFA members due to distance and other commitments. It is always nice to see the small departments far from Boston represented at the annual ceremony. It takes special effort to get there for 6 PM on a Wednesday night if you are coming from outside Metro Boston.

This year's Sunday ceremony is an opportunity to come in to Boston from anywhere in the state without fighting rush hour traffic and the hustle and bustle of a workday evening in Boston. It's an opportunity to come with friends, family, and young ones to see the memorial, fall in behind the pipes and drums and participate in the annual memorial procession up Beacon Hill and the ceremony on the grounds of the memorial. Typically, the procession and ceremony occur in less than two hours, this will leave plenty of time for you and yours to see other sites that are within walking distance of the State House if you make a day of it.

I hope to see many new faces from many different places at this year's ceremony. Come represent your department and experience the Massachusetts Fallen Firefighters Memorial. You will not be disappointed. 🌟



# MCVFA State Meeting & SEMINARS

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



**Registration**  
will open July 15, 2016.  
Check the MCVFA website  
[www.mcvfa.org](http://www.mcvfa.org) for  
updates and details.

**\$30 per member**  
includes lunch

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

## **Schedule of Events** *(times are tentative)*

<b>8:00 am - 1:00 pm</b>	Registration OPEN
<b>8:00 am - 4:00 pm</b>	Vendors OPEN
<b>9:00 am</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Firefighter Memorial Service Remembering our Deceased Members</li><li>• 15th Anniversary of 9/11 Attacks</li><li>• MCVFA Annual State Meeting and Elections</li></ul>
<b>12:00 N</b>	Adjourn from State Meeting
<b>12:00 - 12:45 pm</b>	Lunch
<b>1:00 - 4:00 pm</b>	Training & Education

### **SEMINAR #1**

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

*by George Kramlinger, Director, MFA*

### **SEMINAR #2**

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

*by Joe Nedder, Cross St. Associates*

## **Questions**

Questions on sponsorship opportunities, volunteering or registration, please contact Kevin Connolly, MCVFA President at [mrl\\_isle@comcast.net](mailto:mrl_isle@comcast.net).





# Residential Fire Sprinklers **SAVE LIVES**

Home fires in Massachusetts are frequent, and deadly. Over the past decade, the state has experienced



**57,000**  
home fires that  
have resulted in:

MORE THAN



**200**  
deaths

MORE THAN



**3,600**  
firefighter and  
civil injuries

MORE THAN



**829 million**  
in property loss

Fire sprinklers can reduce the risk of dying  
from fire by an astounding

**80%**

The **Massachusetts Fire Sprinkler Coalition** is dedicated to promoting this technology. The coalition educates stakeholder groups and collaborates with key state fire service organizations to address barriers to sprinkler requirements.

## GET INVOLVED

- > Spread the word that new homes are likely to include “lightweight” materials that lead to hotter and faster fires.
- > Counter the myths about home fire sprinklers, such as when one goes off, they all go off.
- > Join the Massachusetts Fire Sprinkler Coalition. For more information, visit [FireSprinklerInitiative.org/Massachusetts](http://FireSprinklerInitiative.org/Massachusetts).



**CONTACT COALITION CHAIR**  
Chief Mary Regan at 413-572-6330 or  
[firechief@cityofwestfield.org](mailto:firechief@cityofwestfield.org)

# 1 REGION

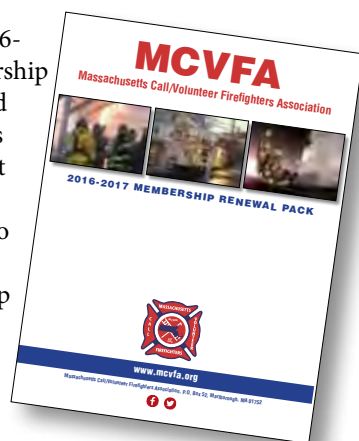
Covering the counties of Barnstable, Bristol, Dukes, Middlesex, Nantucket, Norfolk, Plymouth

**Vice President Bryan Moniz, Westport**

First, I would like to thank the members of the Avon Fire Department for hosting our last Regional Meeting in April. It was good to see some new faces and I look forward to working with the members from Avon in the future. Usually the Annual Chiefs Night is held in April, we decided to cancel it for this year and instead have a Regional Christmas Social in Plymouth on December 9, 2016. Please make the date your calendar. There will be more information about the event in the next issue of *Smoke Showin'*.

I have been spending the last few months assisting at the Call Recruit Training class in Fall River. As in the past, the instructors have spent many hours instructing these recruits in the area of Firefighter I/II. The class contains members from many departments in our region and I am proud to say that upon graduation these men and women will be highly trained and ready to serve their departments and community alike.

As a reminder, the 2016-2017 MCVFA Membership drive is nearly over and that completed packets are due back by August 2016. I would like to thank those of you who have sent back your completed membership packets and remind those who haven't that the deadline is fast approaching.



As we approach summer, I would like to take this time to wish everyone a happy and healthy summer with your family and friends. Remember, there will be no Region 1 meetings in July and August. Our next meeting will be in September at a location to be determined.

In closing if you have questions or concerns about the fire service or anything in general that you think the MCVFA can be of assistance, please do not hesitate to reach out to me. 🚒

**VP Bryan Moniz can be reached at [vpreion1@mcvfa.org](mailto:vpreion1@mcvfa.org) or 508-509-3531.**

# 2 REGION

Covering the counties of Essex, Middlesex

**Vice President David Thompson, Essex**

**by Lisa Evans, Regional Coordinator**

The Massachusetts Firefighting Academy will be conducting a Call/Volunteer Recruit Training Program, at the Groveland Fire Department, 183 Main Street, beginning on November 6, 2016 and ending on March 6, 2017. **All Paperwork Must Be Submitted By The Close Of Business on Friday, September 30, 2016.** See your Chief or go to [www.mass.gov/dfs](http://www.mass.gov/dfs) for more information.

At any point in time, you or a colleague may need someone to turn to. The Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) team is available for fire, police, and EMS. Your chief may call upon the CISM team after a traumatic call or an individual may call them for a one-on-one meeting.

The CISM team is a peer driven model, composed of fellow emergency responders with a chaplain and clinician/psychologist, who have emergency responder awareness and stress management training. Defusing of a critical incident occurs immediately after the crisis. The team assists in reviewing the events, your personal reactions to the event, and informs you of signs of stress you may experience. Debriefing occurs 24-72 hours after an event when reactions to an event are underway. CISM team members will also meet one on one with those in need of assistance. The main goal of the CISM team is a proactive approach to assist those involved in a critical incident to share their experiences, vent emotions, learn about stress reactions/symptoms and offer further support.

The methodology of the CISM team was selected by the Department of Fire Service to assist responders in coping with traumatic events. The CISM team is always looking for team members and training is offered by the Department of Fire Services. Just like we have the poison control, hazmat and/or the local medical control numbers in our phones, please add 508-820-2000. This number rings at the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) and they will connect you with the CISM team for your area. Look after your Brothers and Sisters, and Stay Safe.

My thanks to Chief Chaplain Jim Tilbe, MA Corps of Fire Chaplains, for his assistance in preparing this article. For further reference see: [massfirechaplains.com](http://massfirechaplains.com) and [www.icisf.org](http://www.icisf.org). 🚒



## 3 REGION

Covering the counties of Worcester, Middlesex, Norfolk

**Vice President Bob Silver, Millbury**

Transitional fire attack seems to be a new method of fire attack that seems to be making ground. However, if you talk to some the retired and veteran firefighters this is not a new method. One of the responses I have gotten from the new generation is that transitional fire attack is a defensive attack and that they would rather do an aggressive interior attack. My response was that by doing a quick knock down from the exterior, it would improve the condition for an interior attack or rescue attempt. I recently took an on-line course through the Fire Academy and found it to be a great method of Fire Attack.

.....

### From Fire Engineering Magazine

Underwriters Laboratories (UL) and the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) completed research relative to transitional attack. UL conducted experiments in two houses built specifically for testing. In another experiment, UL, NIST, and the Fire Department of New York (FDNY) conducted tests in abandoned two-story townhouses. The tests looked at modern fire conditions and the effectiveness of firefighting tactics in room-and-contents fires. One recommendation from these tests was that water should be applied to the fire as quickly as possible whether from the interior or the exterior. In the UL tests done at the constructed houses, a 1¾-inch combination nozzle was used from an exterior opening (window or door). A straight stream was directed up to and deflected off the ceiling into the fire. The results of these tests and experiments have had a major impact on transitional attack because the tests provided scientific data on a number of relevant points.

- Water applied from the exterior did not push the fire into other areas.
- This stream should not block the flow path of fire from the exterior opening.
- Applying water into the fire area is a fast and an effective way to knock down the fire and improve interior conditions for firefighters and occupant survival. In this way, an interior attack based on size-up and safety would follow after the exterior line has been shut down, which would lead to a faster and more effective way to extinguish the fire.

Before dismissing this method please look into all the NEW data that is out there. Firefighter safety has been extremely important and has made a big push over the last decade, so look at the test results in regards to firefighter safety when using the transitional fire attack. 🔥

## 4 REGION

Covering the counties of Franklin, Hampden, Hampshire

Former **Vice President Jason Connell, Williamsburg**

As you may or may not know the MCVFA has available a fire extinguisher training prop made by Bullex. The system was purchased a few years ago as an additional benefit for member departments to use for training or for fire prevention type functions. Recently the prop made its way to Region 4 where Ashfield and Williamsburg fire took advantage of it. Ashfield Fire utilized the prop to teach their own members along with teachers from the local elementary school on the proper technique and use of fire extinguishers. The training for the teacher demonstrated the P.A.S.S. technique (Pull, Aim, Squeeze, Sweep).

Williamsburg Fire presented the prop at the local science night for the elementary school where it afforded children and adults alike hands on fire extinguishing training. Parents were also presented with material further explaining the "P.A.S.S." technique and the different types of extinguishers and their uses. It was estimated that approximately 50 adults and another 30 to 40 children did the hands on training. Many of the adults said they had fire extinguishers at home but admitted they had no idea on how to use them but felt more comfortable after going through the presentation.

The training prop takes about 15 to 20 minutes to setup and be ready to use. Departments will need to supply their own propane tank, a source of clean water for filling the extinguishers and a power source for the air compressor. The training prop include a propane burn pan, battery jump pack to power the prop, an air compressor and all appropriate hoses and connections. Currently everything is stored inside a small trainer which can be brought to your station and easy moved from location to location. A train the trainer class is needed for anyone planning on the using the system.

If you're interested using the fire extinguisher trainer at your next training or at a fire prevention program please contact the MCVFA at [mcvfa@mcvfa.org](mailto:mcvfa@mcvfa.org) or by calling us at 1-800-551-FIRE (3473). 🔥

*continues on page 20*

## 5 REGION

Covering the counties of Berkshire

Vice President Paul Vallone, Clarksburg

### Recruit Class 2016

Pictures by Mike Doyle (Dalton Fire Department  
Berkshire County Recruit Class Lead instructors:  
Lt. Dave Thomas, Dalton FD; Lt. Devon Whalen,  
Lanesborough FD; FF Cory Wilcox, Lee FD

The Departments that were represented in this year's Recruit Class were Dalton, Lanesborough, Windsor, Hinsdale, New Ashford, and Richmond. Special thanks go to Pittsfield, Dalton, and Lanesborough Fire Departments and Firefighter Donny "Durt" Whalen, Firefighter Sean Peltier, and Lt. Ken Sagendorph



### Cheshire Fire Department's Rapid Intervention Team Skills

Photos by Cheshire Fire Chief Tom Francesconi

At a recent drill, members practiced their RIT (Rapid Intervention Team) skills including ladder bailouts and carrying a victim down a ladder. Great job to all members that participated!



### Retiring Leaders reflect on Tenure with New Ashford Volunteer Fire Department

By Edward Damon; photos by Scott Stafford

Reprint courtesy of *The Berkshire Eagle*

In a small town of just 224 people, the volunteer fire department is more than a safety agency; it's a close-knit family, according to two longtime firefighters.

Chief Philip "Pete" Rancourt and Assistant Chief Edmond Grosso have both retired from their leadership positions from the New Ashford Volunteer Fire





*From left are New Ashford Fire Department retired Assistant Chief Ed Grosso and retired Chief Philip Rancourt*

Department — they will remain active members — and they recently spoke of their dedication to the department and the town.

“When someone you’ve helped says ‘thank you,’ that’s the ultimate reward,” Grosso said.

Rancourt has 26 years as chief under his belt, having served that role from 1980 to 1993 and again from 2002 and 2015. Grosso has served as assistant chief since 1980.

Wayne Buckley is serving as the new fire chief and Joe Nawazelski, as assistant fire chief.

Selectman Ken McInerney said he and the Select board thank Rancourt and Grosso for their “invaluable years of service.”

He noted in a small town, residents wear multiple hats to continue town operations. Both men were always committed to being frugal in order to keep residents’ tax rate low, he said.

New Ashford Fire Department retired Deputy Chief Ed Grosso, left, and retired Chief Philip Rancourt. New Ashford Fire Department retired Deputy Chief Ed Grosso, left, and retired Chief Philip Rancourt. (Scott Stafford — The Berkshire Eagle)

“Hopefully in their legacy, other town residents will step in and serve the department, too,” McInerney said. Both men have been integral in maintaining the equipment, firefighter Mike Holden pointed out, and “going above and beyond” their duties. He also commended Rancourt’s leadership skills.

Both Rancourt and Grosso joined the department in 1975, they said — a time when the department had a decline in membership. Two fires had just occurred that hit home for both of them: A fire at the popular Springs Restaurant, which Grosso’s family operated, caused much damage and led to it being rebuilt, while a fire



destroyed the barn of a family member of Rancourt’s wife.

Rancourt recalled trying to save young calves from the flames.

“It’s one of the biggest fires this town had ever seen,” he said.

Firefighters looked out for one another, Rancourt said. Spouses formed a child-care network for when calls came in.

Both men spoke of how equipment, required training and even communication by cellphone has changed the profession.

“We didn’t even have turnout gear then,” Grosso said, recalling early days with the department. “We had rubber suits that were secondhand. The materials we have these days and the technology is much more advanced.”

The old station on Mallery Road was cold in the winter, Rancourt said, and small.

“When we had meetings, people were standing in between the trucks,” he said.

Firefighter gear awaits another emergency call at the New Ashford Fire Department.

“In order to get the two trucks in, one touched the wall,” Grosso remembered.

The new station, built in 1980 directly next to the old one, gave the department a meeting space.

Today, the majority of the 13-member department’s calls are medical related. The town has few residences, but two hotels — the New Ashford Inn & Motor Inn and Econo Lodge.

*continues on page 22*

But both men recalled serious accidents along Route 7's high-speed straightaways and an S-curve. The busy, undivided highway connects Williamstown and Pittsfield.

The department can be the first agency on the scene, they said, before mutual aid from Williamstown or Lanesborough, or state police from the Cheshire Barracks.

Both are looking forward to spending more time with family. Rancourt spoke of his love of the outdoors and stocking up on firewood.

"I feel like I'm always two years ahead," he said, jokingly.

## Village Ambulance Explorer Group 911

Photos by John Harris (V.A.S)

### What is an Explorer Post?

Exploring is part of the Boy Scouts of America's Learning for Life Program. An Explorer Post helps young people, aged 14 (and have completed the 8th grade) through 20, to mature and prepare to become responsible, caring adults. Explorers are ready to investigate the meaning of interdependence in their personal relationships and communities. They are ready to begin exploring who they are and what they want to become. Exploring is based on a unique and dynamic relationship between youth and the organizations in their community.

A well-rounded Post Program not only provides career information and experiences, but also includes five other experience areas. These include mental and physical fitness, social, citizenship, service and outdoor activities. What is our mission?

The mission of our Village Ambulance Service (VAS) Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Explorer Post is to provide the youth of northern Berkshire County, Massachusetts, an insight into the field of Emergency Medical Services. It is also our purpose to help these same young adults mature and prepare them to become responsible, caring, and productive adults who will become the future of Village Ambulance Service or become an integral part of another local agency offering emergency medical services.

### What are our goals?

The goals and purposes of the VAS EMS Explorer Post are two-fold. One is to assist high school aged youth in defining their present and future roles as individuals within their society. The post will also provide an opportunity for them to gain exposure to certain aspects



of emergency pre-hospital medical care and other related fields prior to entering their choice of secondary education.

These goals will be achieved through an extensive and varied program. This includes an Ambulance Observation Program available to interested VAS EMS Explorers upon meeting the requirements for admission. How do we accomplish this?

We will achieve these goals through voluntary association, ethical decision-making, and group activities. We encourage continued participation by recognizing the achievements of our youth, utilizing a democratic process for problem solving, curiosity, exploring, and adventure.

### Requirements

The current guidelines for participation in the VAS EMS Explorer Post are as follows:

- 1** Membership shall be open to young adults between the ages of 14 (and have completed the 8th grade) through 20 enrolled in school or interested in pursuing a medical career.
- 2** A scholastic average of "C" or better (in all academic subjects) throughout participation in the program.
- 3** Displays maturity and obvious of interest in the program.
- 4** Successful completion of a Post sponsored training program and field evaluation period.
- 5** Determination by the Advisors of the Explorer's mental and physical ability to participate in the program.
- 6** Attendance of periodic continuing educational programs and Post meetings.

The Ambulance Unit Observation Program would be available to those interested Explorers who meet the following guidelines:



- 1 Active membership in good standing with the Post
- 2 Successful completion of all of the following:
  - 8-hour CPR course including adult one and two-man CPR, infant CPR, and airway obstruction management for both.
  - First Responder course as authorized through the Massachusetts Office of Emergency Medical Services.
  - In-service of equipment on VAS ambulances not covered in other training (i.e., immobilization devices, oxygen therapy devices).
- 3 Initial observation under the direct supervision of one of the Advisors in a Village ambulance with the Explorer displaying maturity, knowledge, and a working ability of basic first aid, CPR skills, and an interest in continuing in the program.

**(Advisor) John Harris Village Ambulance EMT**  
**William Kipp, President**  
**Nathan Richardson, Vice President**  
**Brianna Harris, Secretary**  
**Alexander Ciskowski, Treasurer**

## Fight for Air Climb

Photo Courtesy of the Lenox Fire Department

Several members of the Lenox Fire Department again participated in the 34 story stair climb in Hartford, CT to benefit the American Lung Association. 🚒



Members left to right: FF Jason Miller (Lenox FD), Captain/EMT-I Jason Saunders (Lenox FD), a mystery firefighter, FF/EMT Matt Williams (Lenox FD), FF/Medic R.J. Pensivy (Agawam FD), and FF Steve Coon (Lenox FD). Once again great job guys!

## Thank You to our Sponsors



## 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](http://www.facebook.com/MCVFAff)  
[www.facebook.com/MCVFAlegis](http://www.facebook.com/MCVFAlegis)

And make even more connections by following us on Twitter. [www.twitter.com/MCVFA](http://www.twitter.com/MCVFA)

## New Advertising Opportunity

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

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

## Marketplace Directory

Highlighting Members Services or Companies to Fellow Firefighters


To place an ad or questions, please contact  
 Susan Dyer at 443-994-3350 or  
[susan@sdyerdesign.com](mailto:susan@sdyerdesign.com).



**MCVFA**

PO Box 124  
Whitman, MA 02382

[www.mcvfa.org](http://www.mcvfa.org)



# Advertise with Smoke Showin' to Reach Firefighters & EMS Leadership throughout Massachusetts



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

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

Visit the MCVFA website at [www.mcvfa.org](http://www.mcvfa.org) or call 443-994-3350 or email [susan@sdyerdesign.com](mailto:susan@sdyerdesign.com) for details.

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