

**Call/Volunteers Serving Today to Protect Your Tomorrow**

# ***Smoke Showin'***

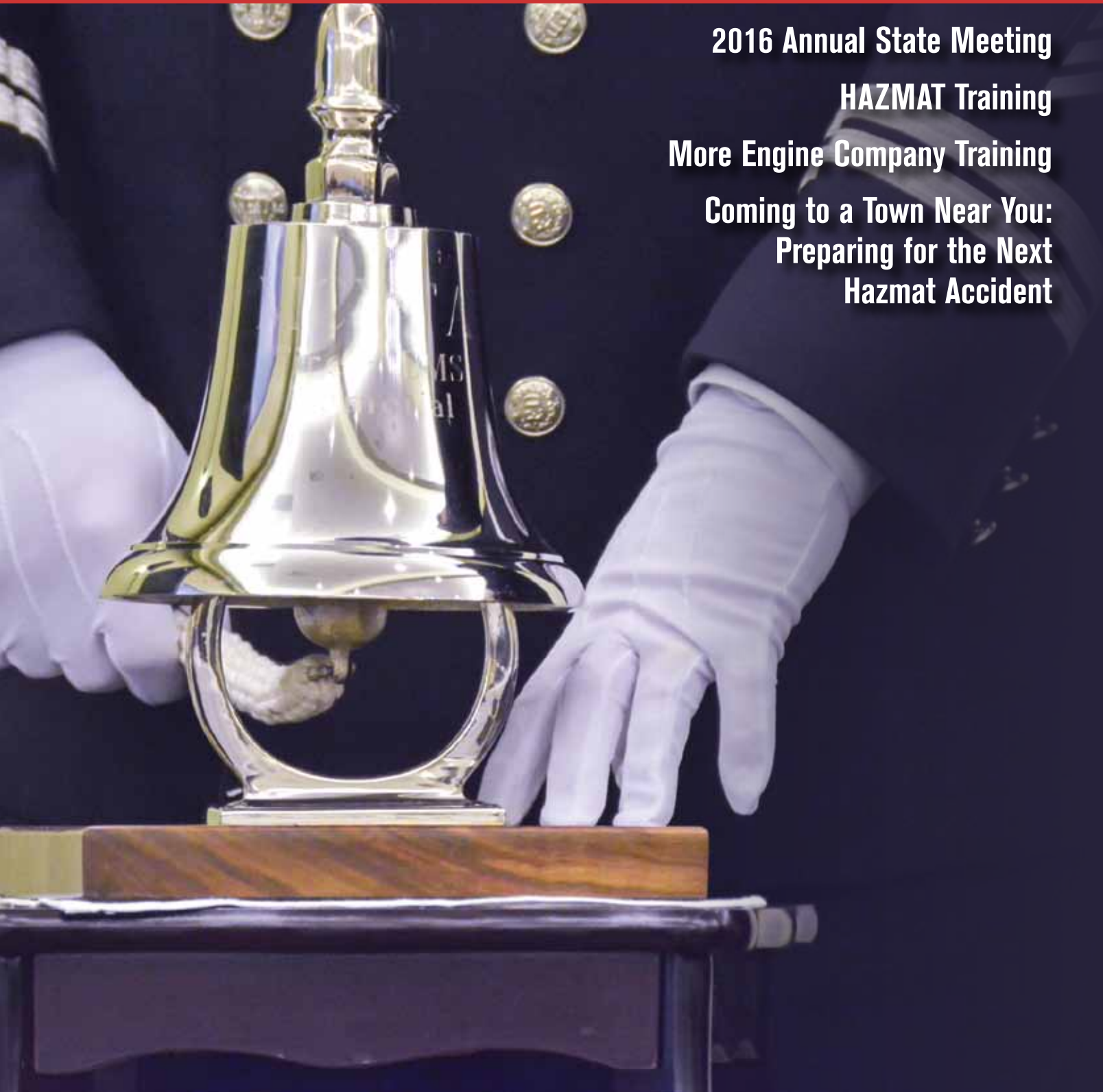
The Official Publication of the Massachusetts Call/Volunteer Firefighters Association

**2016 Annual State Meeting**

**HAZMAT Training**

**More Engine Company Training**

**Coming to a Town Near You:  
Preparing for the Next  
Hazmat Accident**



# FIRE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION OF MASS.

## Professional Development Conference

JOIN US on Feb 28 - Mar. 2, 2017



Worcester, MA



*featuring speaker:*

**GORDON GRAHAM**

Operational Risk Management

*and MORE:*



**JIM MATHIS**  
Reinvent Your  
Leadership



**LORENA PRIME**  
Tips for Time  
Management



**GEORGE HEALY  
& JENS STIEGEL**  
Different Views



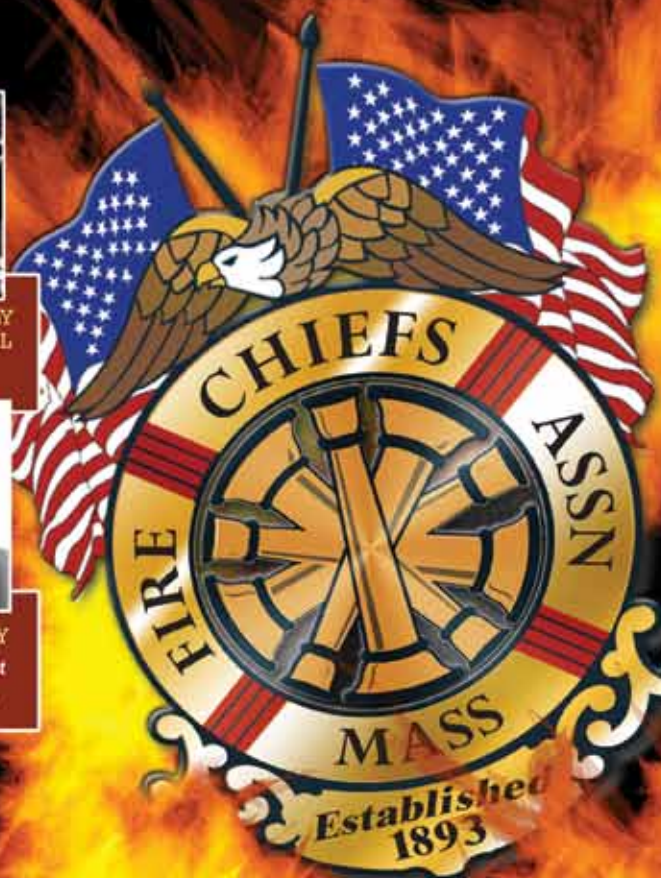
**FRANK VISCUSO**  
Flashpoint How to  
Reignite Your Passion



**ANTHONY  
AVILLO**  
Training for Success



**DR. LARRY KELLY**  
How to Select Best  
FF for your Dept.



for more information visit:

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





# 2016

## MCVFA Officers

### President

**Kevin Connolly**  
Northfield Fire Department  
(413) 498-4388  
[president@mcvfa.org](mailto:president@mcvfa.org)

### Secretary

**David Sullivan**  
Seekonk Firefighters Assn.  
(774) 229-6202  
[secretary@mcvfa.org](mailto:secretary@mcvfa.org)

### Treasurer

**Larry Holmberg**  
Chesterfield Fire Department  
(413) 296-4247  
[treasurer@mcvfa.org](mailto:treasurer@mcvfa.org)

### Executive Vice President

**Tom Burnett**  
Whitman Fire Department  
(617) 719-1289  
[evp@mcvfa.org](mailto:evp@mcvfa.org)

### Region 1 Vice President

**Ken Jordan**  
Wareham Fire Department  
[vpregion1@mcvfa.org](mailto:vpregion1@mcvfa.org)

### Region 2 Vice President

**Chris Bosch**  
Groveland Fire Department  
(978) 778-8866  
[vpregion2@mcvfa.org](mailto:vpregion2@mcvfa.org)

### Region 3 Vice President

**Bob Silver**  
Millbury Fire Department  
(774) 239-7244  
[vpregion3@mcvfa.org](mailto:vpregion3@mcvfa.org)

### Region 4 Vice President

**Jeff Simmons**  
Heath Fire Department  
[vpregion4@mcvfa.org](mailto:vpregion4@mcvfa.org)

### Region 5 Vice President

**Paul Vallone**  
Clarksburg Fire Department  
(413) 664-6281  
[vpregion5@mcvfa.org](mailto:vpregion5@mcvfa.org)

### Recruitment and Retention Program Coordinator

**Susan Dyer**  
[recruit@mcvfa.org](mailto:recruit@mcvfa.org)

# CONTENT

## 4

### Firefighter Down CPR

MCVFA Training Committee finished their first class in Region 5.

## 6

### Health & Wellness

The last twenty years have seen a number of positive changes when it comes to awareness around firefighter physical and mental health.

## 7

### Active Shooter Response Guidance

The most referenced and studied active shooter incidents occurred at Columbine High School in Colorado.

## 8

### HAZMAT Training

Federal EPA regulations require that each firefighter (career, call and volunteer) be trained to the HAZMAT Operations Level.

## 10

### National Volunteer Fire Council Update

The NVFC is working hard for you.

## 11

### MCVFA Annual State Meeting

Review and photos.

## 14

### More Engine Company Training

Another easy engine company training exercise to implement.

## 19

### Coming to a Town Near You: Preparing for the Next Hazmat Accident

## 20

### Robert J. Hindley Memorial Scholarship

Deadline is May 1, 2017

# COLUMNS

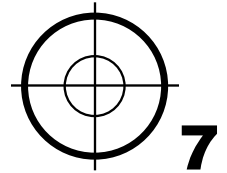
## 5

### President's Letter

## 23

### Regional News

Winter 2017



Cover photo courtesy of Bob Labrie, Goshen Fire Department

# Firefighter Down CPR



The Firefighter Down CPR class is a great class to learn the statistics of firefighters having cardiac issues, situational awareness, and the practical technique on how to do CPR when the victim is in full turnout gear with SCBA. The MCVFA Training Committee just finished our first class in Region 5 and the Committee is looking for departments in the other regions to host these classes as well. If you can host a class, please contact Cory Adelt, MCVFA Training Committee Chair at [coryfdsar@gmail.com](mailto:coryfdsar@gmail.com).



Photos by Cory Adelt (Adams FD)

## *Smoke Showin'*

The Official Publication of the Massachusetts  
Call/Volunteer Firefighters Association



### **MCVFA Offices**

PO Box 124, Whitman, MA 02382  
1-800-551-FIRE  
[mcvfa@mcvfa.org](mailto:mcvfa@mcvfa.org) | [www.mcvfa.org](http://www.mcvfa.org)

---

### **Published by**

SDyer Design

### **MCVFA President**

Kevin Connolly, Northfield

### **Editor**

Larry Holmberg, Chesterfield

### **Art Director**

Susan Dyer

### **Production Manager**

Susan Dyer

### **Training Committee**

Cory Adelt, Alert Hose Company

### **Legislative Director**

Joe Maruca, West Barnstable

---

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

Address all editorial content to:

### **Smoke Showin'**

MCVFA, PO Box 124, Whitman, MA 02382

For address changes or MCVFA membership  
questions please call

**1-800-551-FIRE**

For advertising requests contact Susan Dyer  
443-994-3350 or email [susan@sdyerdesign.com](mailto:susan@sdyerdesign.com)

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

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

*Smoke Showin'* is the official journal of the Massachusetts Call/  
Volunteer Firefighters Association, a non-profit organization, and  
carries news and announcements concerning the MCVFA.  
MCVFA members receive this magazine as part of their dues.  
The MCVFA is not responsible for contents or opinions other  
than Association activities. Entire contents are ©2016 the  
Massachusetts Call/Volunteer Firefighters Association, all rights  
reserved and, as such, may not be reproduced in part or in  
whole without written permission of the publishers. The MCVFA  
reserves the right to print portions or all of any correspondence  
received by the editors without liability on its part and no such  
correspondence will be returned without prior agreement.  
Home delivery of *Smoke Showin'* is one of the many benefits of  
MCVFA membership.



## President's Message

I like to begin by wishing the membership a Happy New Year! I hope you all had a great holiday season.

As of January 1, 2017, the Executive Board would like to welcome new regional VPs Ken Jordan, Region 1 and Chris Bosch, Region 2. We will continue to reach out to all regions and promote our organization. We'd also like to thank State Treasurer Larry Holmberg for stepping up for another term until we find his successor.

The State Meeting in October 2016 was a culmination of the hard work the Association is doing to improve its value for its members as well as its standing with other fire service organizations. The Firefighter Memorial, conducted by Mass. Corps of Chaplains Deputy Chief Chaplain Bruce Arbour was a solemn event as the names of 44 departed Firefighters and EMTs were read as well as a 15th Year Anniversary Remembrance of 9/11. Chaplain Arbour was assisted by Chaplain Jane Dunning and MCVFA Chaplain Ryan Cheney. The memorial display used at the Firefighter Memorial is available to our members to use in the event of a firefighter death, active or retired.

At the conclusion of the day, members were asked to evaluate the day's events. Most of the feedback was positive and some written recommendations on the structure of the meeting and content regarding training were received. The Conference Committee is in the process of assessing the data.

This year, the Association will continue to partner with various state fire service organizations relative to cancer and its effects on firefighters. We will also continue to partner with the Western Mass Fire Chiefs in regards to firefighter behavioral health and the Western Mass Firefighters Health & Wellness Coalition promoting overall firefighter health and wellness.

Legislatively, the Association is supporting a bill to provide volunteer firefighters and EMTs with a local option real estate tax exemption, modeled after the very successful legislation that Swansea F.D. promoted. We will again be supporting legislation for sprinkler protection in new one and two family dwellings, legislation relative to the creation of technical rescue regions and coordinating council as well as the establishment of a Firefighter Cancer Network within the Commonwealth. For the most part, these bills are carry-overs from the last session.

At the Annual Meeting, the membership voted to increase the annual dues by \$5.00 which will serve a dual purpose - to allow the Association to increase our AD&D insurance later this year and help with operating costs. This adjustment will begin on July 1.

As part of our ongoing tasks within the Commonwealth, it is our duty to do what we can to better serve and protect the lives and property of the residents in Massachusetts. Therefore, I have asked the Executive Board to create a Fire Prevention Education Committee. This committee is designed to assist our member departments in promoting Fire Prevention.

After six years we have finally realized a goal - the creation of a 501(c)(3) tax-deductible non-profit organization - the MCVFA Fund, Inc. We are hoping that this new organization will be able to fund the educational portion of the MCVFA mission through tax-deductible donations from individuals as well as small and large corporations. Why was this necessary? While the MCVFA is a non-profit, donations made to the Association are not tax deductible because one of our other missions is to work with agencies and the legislature to pass laws or rules favorable to the call and volunteer fire service; this is also known as lobbying and it is a small but very important distinction in the federal tax code.

Finally, we are in need of some younger members that are interested in moving the organization into the future with new ideas. There are committees that need your help... we hope that you are willing to step up and help the Association that has helped you.

In closing, I'd like to thank you for the opportunity to serve as your president and I look forward to working with the executive board in the coming year. Thanks for your support! 🚒

**Kevin Connolly**  
MCVFA President

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



# Health & WELLNESS

by **Dominica D'Avella**

MCVFA Health & Wellness Coordinator



**H**ard to believe that 2016 went by so fast. From a Health & Wellness perspective, the year started and ended with some productive collaboration with the Fire Chiefs Association of Massachusetts (FCAM). Back in February, President Kevin Connolly and I staffed the MCVFA booth at the FCAM Professional Development Conference. In November, I had the opportunity to discuss two new and important health-related resources at FCAM's General Membership meeting. Why does this collaboration matter? Many reasons, but we'll stick to a few key ones.

2016 marked the 20th anniversary of the IAFF/IAFC Wellness Fitness Initiative. The last twenty years have seen a number of positive changes when it comes to awareness around firefighter physical and mental health. Turning that awareness into action on a widespread basis remains a challenge though. To increase the speed of progress, we need Chiefs working top down and firefighters working bottom up to build a culture of health. Everyone can do something to make themselves and their department safer through improved health. Since there's never a shortage of competing priorities in the fire service, the real question is how do we do it?

That's where being able to access the right resource at the right time comes in. It's virtually impossible to accomplish something if you don't know what the goal is, the path to pursue it, or why you would even want to do so. When it comes to firefighter health, the why is very simple – so that everyone goes home; and not only do you go home today, but for many years to come. There are a number of related goals and jumping in points, depending on where you and your department are starting from – not just one single 'what' or 'how'.

Fortunately, there are plenty of good resources that can help narrow down a starting point that makes sense for you and your department. Most firefighters and Chiefs don't have much time to study these resources, which is why my role as Health & Wellness Coordinator exists. I put all of my education and experience to work combing through the best of what's out there in health and wellness, both inside and outside the fire

service, so that I can connect you with the things that may be of the most use. This includes a wide range of topics from fitness, nutrition, sleep, and stress, to behavioral health, cancer prevention, health policy, and more.

Two new resources that I want to make sure that every single MCVFA member is aware of are: 1) *NVFC Position on Firefighter Physicals* and 2) *A Healthcare Provider's Guide to Firefighter Physicals* (from IAFC & FSTAR). These are both short and to-the-point documents that can be used by any firefighter or department to better understand the importance of an annual physical, different paths to getting one, and how you can better inform your doctor so they can help keep you safe. No matter how much they want to, they need to know how.

The NVFC document lays out a good/better/best approach to physicals ranging from a preventive care visit with your personal physician to an NFPA-1582 compliant department assessment. The IAFC document provides basic information for you to take to your doctor to give them a better idea of the physiological demands of firefighting and what should be included in your annual exam. You can find these documents by going to the NVFC and IAFC websites, by doing a Google search for their titles, or I am happy to email them to you.

The few minutes that it takes to print and read these two documents could save your life or the life of one of your brothers or sisters. Fitness programs are important, but the medical assessment piece is a prerequisite. That's why NFPA 1582 comes before 1583. These NFPA standards or the IAFF/IAFC WFI may seem way beyond the reach of your department right now, but the *NVFC Position on Firefighter Physicals* and *IAFC Healthcare Provider's Guide to Firefighter Physicals* are very easy to access and use at the individual level. Please take the time to use them yourself, and consider sharing them with a friend.

Stay safe and email [dominica.davella@gmail.com](mailto:dominica.davella@gmail.com) if I can help. Wishing you a healthy and happy new year! 🍀

# Active Shooter Response Guidance



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


One of the most comprehensive studies on these events was conducted by the Department of Justice - Federal Bureau of Investigations "Study of Active Shooter Incidents." The FBI study revealed 160 incidents with 557 wounded and 486 fatalities between 2000 and 2013. It should be noted that an average of 6.4 incidents occurred in the first seven years studied, and an average of 16.4 occurred in the last seven years.

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

Today, the agreed-upon definition of an active shooter by U.S. government agencies is an individual actively engaged in killing or attempting to kill people in a confined and populated area. The keyword and impetus for the guidance is "active." This indicates that a shooting is in progress and inherently implies that both first responders and citizens have the potential to affect the outcome of the event by what they do. The sooner the injured can be removed the more likely it is they will survive. On the other hand, we don't want the number of victims to increase by putting first responders at risk either. There are first aid steps people inside the situation can take to increase the likelihood that the injured will survive.

Knowing that how public safety responds could have a positive outcome on these tragic incidents, the Massachusetts Executive Office of Public Safety and Security convened a workgroup to develop guidance for local communities as they develop their own active shooter protocols. By design, it is multi-disciplinary and multi-level. Members were selected by the recognized public safety associations and give the direction that our guidance to local communities will be based on national standards and best practices.

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

To assist the communities in implementing the tenets of the guidance document, the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy will be developing training in consultation and partnership with the Municipal Police Training Committee. It is expected that the guidance document will be released in the first part 2017 with training to coincide. 



**Donald P. Bliss**

Vice President, Field Operations  
617-984-7260 • [dbliss@nfpa.org](mailto:dbliss@nfpa.org)

**Robert F. Duval**

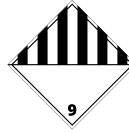
Senior Fire Investigator and New England  
Regional Director  
617-984-7476 • [rduval@nfpa.org](mailto:rduval@nfpa.org)

**Timothy P. Travers**

Regional Fire Sprinkler Specialist  
617-984-7013 • [ttravers@nfpa.org](mailto:ttravers@nfpa.org)

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

One Batterymarch Park, Quincy, MA 02169  
Tel: +1 617 770-3000 • [www.nfpa.org](http://www.nfpa.org)



# HAZMAT TRAINING

BY CHIEF JOE MARUCA



I've heard from some chiefs with concerns about how to provide better HAZMAT refresher training for their firefighters. The MCVFA Call/Volunteer Firefighter Survey (2015) found that 45% of Massachusetts call/volunteer firefighters did not participate in HAZMAT training in the prior year. This is an area that is ripe for improvement and there are plenty of free and easy to use resources. As a community, we in the call/volunteer fire service should be able to improve this in a short time.

Federal EPA regulations require that each firefighter (career, call and volunteer) be trained to the HAZMAT Operations Level. The regulations say that each firefighter should have 24 hours of HAZMAT Awareness and Operations Level training as part of their initial firefighter training, and that each firefighter should have 8 hours of HAZMAT refresher training each year. The ISO requires 6 hours of HAZMAT training for each firefighter in order for your department to get maximum HAZMAT training credit.

So, how does the small town fire department provide at least 8 hours of annual HAZMAT training to its firefighters? It's easier than it was a decade ago because there are many online training options available today that didn't exist until recently. When combined with traditional classroom and hands-on training options, online training makes providing annual HAZMAT training relatively easy. And, you don't need any special props, materials or instructors. Here are some ideas.

First, Massachusetts requires all municipal employees, including call and volunteer firefighters, to have annual "Right

to Know" training. Right to Know training covers the fire department's obligation to collect and make available Material Data Sheets (MDS), formerly called Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS), to all personnel. The basic annual training includes a review of the Massachusetts law and its requirements, what chemicals your department has, your MDS/MSDS sheets and how to read them, and where the MDS/MSDS sheets are located. This can all be done in about an hour, and it can be your first hour of annual HAZMAT refresher training. It's a great classroom drill for the dark of winter.

A generic and easy to use Right to Know training PowerPoint presentation is available online from the Massachusetts Executive Office of Labor and Workforce website under the heading "Chemical Right to Know. Here's the link: [www.mass.gov/lwd/labor-standards/massachusetts-workplace-safety-and-health-program/chemical-right-to-know-.html](http://www.mass.gov/lwd/labor-standards/massachusetts-workplace-safety-and-health-program/chemical-right-to-know-.html). This web page has a training outline, a quiz, a poster, a training log and the PowerPoint presentation for your use.

National Grid has two online programs that you can have your firefighters take. One program is a 2 hour Electrical Safety Training Certification Program and the other is a 4 hour Natural Gas Training Certification Program. These are excellent classes that provide clear and easy to follow tactics, strategies and safety information for firefighters. They will also teach your firefighters about the electric and natural gas distribution system and the properties of electricity and natural gas. You can access and take both of these programs at National Grid's e-Learning website for first responders: [firstresponder.ngrid.safety.com](http://firstresponder.ngrid.safety.com).



I suggest that you use these two programs in alternating years or every three years as part of a regular training cycle. You can assign them to firefighters as a virtual drill. Instead of having a traditional drill night, give firefighters a month or two months' notice, and have them complete one of these online training classes before the night of the virtual drill. Then, everyone who turns in a certificate of completion on or before the virtual drill night gets credit for the drill without having to physically attend a drill at the fire station. The natural gas drill is long enough to warrant two virtual drill nights.

The International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC) has three online HAZMAT training classes you can use to meet your annual training needs. One program is Hydrogen Response. This program focuses on providing basic information on this alternative fuel. The course has four modules that address the chemical and physical characteristics of Hydrogen, tactics and strategies for firefighters and hydrogen use. The program takes about 2 hours to complete. You can take this class, and the next two classes (below) at: <http://iafcacademy.org/>.

The next IAFC HAZMAT online program is Ethanol Emergency Response. This class has eight modules that address the characteristics of ethanol-blend fuels, firefighting foam basics, firefighter tactics and strategies and environmental issues. It takes about 2 hours to complete this class.

The third IAFC HAZMAT online program is about Propane Emergencies. This program covers the properties of propane, hazard and risk assessment, emergency response procedures and an eight step process to develop an incident action plan to mitigate a propane emergency. There are five modules and the program takes about 2 hours to complete.

NFPA has a self-paced online fire service training program Alternative Fuel Vehicles Training Program. It is designed to help you prepare for the big increase in hybrid/electric, fuel cell and gaseous fuel vehicles we are about to experience. This training crosses disciplines, not only is it HAZMAT training, but is applicable to motor vehicle crash and vehicle fire responses. You can take this class free at [EVSafetyTraining.org](http://EVSafetyTraining.org).

The Massachusetts Fire Academy (MFA) also has some online offerings that you can use. These 2 hour classes your firefighters can take on their own or as part of a department wide virtual drill. The programs are "Compressed Natural Gas Awareness" and "Photovoltaics for the Fire Service". There is also a ½ online program "Chemical Suicide Awareness for First Responders" that can serve double duty as hazmat and EMS training.

Using your own resources, a simple annual HAZMAT drill is to practice using the Emergency Response Guide (ERG) that we all carry. On a classroom drill night, pass out copies of the book (you can get them free from MEMA), or access them online on firefighter's SMART Phones, and spend 20 minutes reviewing how to use the book. Then put up pictures of Hazardous Materials Placards and go around the room and have each firefighter look up the placard/chemical and tell the class what

it is, what's hazardous about it and how to handle it. This is skill that should be practiced annually.

Another drill you can do is to review how to dike or dam a fuel spill and keep it from entering a creek, pond or storm drain. Spend 20 minutes reviewing the concepts of diking and damming hazardous spills such as gasoline, diesel, hydraulic fluids and home heating oil. Then review the tools and equipment you carry on your apparatus that would help you dike a spill. Go out in your parking lot and simulate a spill by cracking a valve open on one of your engines or tankers and letting water "leak" out onto the parking lot. Have firefighters respond to the leak and keep it from getting into a storm drain or simulated storm drain. This is great summer time drill. It's good 2 hours' worth of HAZMAT refresher training.

You can practice your mass decontamination skills on a warm summer evening for another 2 hours of HAZMAT refresher training. Cover a group volunteers (probies and juniors are great for this) with shaving cream to simulate a crowd covered with a hazardous chemical. Have your firefighters set up a Mass Decon Corridor using two engines (or an engine and tanker), some ladders and tarps, and then have them decontaminate the crowd. If you GOOGLE "Mass Decon" or "Mass Decon Corridor" you'll find a dozen or more videos on how to set this up with your apparatus and without any special equipment. Add in an EMS component to triage the patients. It's fun. It's good hands-on practice.

If you have a Carbon Monoxide Meter or Multi-Gas Meter, you should consider an annual training session to review the use and maintenance of your meters. Include a strong segment on responding to Carbon Monoxide incidents and how to recognize and treat CO poisoning and you've got both a HAZMAT refresher class and an EMS class that's good for first responders, EMTs and Paramedics.

The Massachusetts Firefighting Academy (MFA) has an excellent 4-hour field course, "High Voltage Emergency Awareness" that your firefighters can sign up for on the MFA website, or even better, contact the MFA and ask to sponsor the program at your fire station. The class covers all of the typical hazards we face in field with electricity such as motor vehicle crashes, downed power lines and transformer fires. The class consists of a 2 hour lecture and a 2 hour practical using the MFA's mobile prop.

A suggestion, cycle through the two National Grid online training programs and the IAFC online propane training programs on a three-year cycle: Natural Gas – Electricity – Propane – Repeat. Add in some of the other online classes on a rotating basis depending upon the risks to your community. Then add in your annual Right to Know training, an ERG class, a gas meter class, and some kind of hands-on field exercise, and you'll keep your firefighters well prepared to respond to the basic hazmat incidents that can be expected in any small town in Massachusetts. 🚒

# National Volunteer Fire Council UPDATE

by Captain Mike Bird (Ret.) & Chief Joe Maruca



The National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC) is working hard for you. We attended the NVFC Fall Meeting in Charleston, SC in September.

The meeting ran for three days with the issues of recruitment of volunteer firefighters, cancer in the fire service, firefighter suicide, and legislation being among the dominant issues.

The NVFC's Make Me a Firefighter Campaign is underway. There is an online portal for fire and EMS departments to post their volunteer opportunities. Any fire department can create a profile and post their volunteer needs on the portal. You can find it at <http://portal.nvfc.org/>. At this same site you can find and print customized call/volunteer firefighter recruitment flyers and posters, recruitment training materials, and information on how to create a recruitment event. You can use your department's Facebook page to advertise your department's volunteer opportunities on the portal.

The next recruitment step for the NVFC will be to create social media advertising you can customize and use for your department to recruit more call/volunteer firefighters. This should be coming soon.

Cancer continues to grow as an issue in the fire service. Many state associations are creating their own informal firefighter cancer registries until the federal government gets in gear and creates a national firefighter cancer registry. It is predicted we are many years away from a national firefighter cancer registry. Creating some kind of firefighter cancer registry is critical because there is very little hard data about the extent of occupational cancer among call/volunteer firefighters.

In the meantime, there are simple steps you and your department should be taking to protect yourself and your fellow firefighters from firefighting related cancer. Wear your SCBA during overhaul. If you carry your PPE in your car/truck, make sure you put it in a gear bag to prevent the contamination of your car/truck. Clean your PPE after fires and at least once a year. Do not wear a dirty hood; swap between a contaminated hood and a clean hood after fires.


The NVFC has created a support program for firefighters and EMTs who need help with stress, addiction, suicide, PTSD and other emotional issues. If you think you need help call 1-888-731-FIRE (3473). You can learn more about this program at [www.nvfc.org/help](http://www.nvfc.org/help).

An issue that got a lot of attention at the meeting was Firefighter Medical Exams. OSHA is looking to put forward some kind of regulation requiring a medical exam for firefighters. This action is not imminent, probably at least 5 years away. And it isn't clear what kind of exam or kinds of exams they might require. Their process is in the early stages and NVFC is involved in the discussions.

With regard to federal legislation, the NVFC is lobbying, along with other fire service organizations, to increase funding for the Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) program from \$345 million to \$405 million. The NVFC has filed federal legislation to provide a \$600 tax deduction for the first \$600 of any volunteer firefighter stipend, and would make any local real estate tax exemptions federally tax-free for the next three years. NVFC is seeking to increase the funding for the Volunteer Fire Assistance Grant (VFA) from \$13 million to \$16 million. The VFA program is used by many small Massachusetts fire departments to purchase wildland firefighting equipment.

The NVFC also represents the call/volunteer firefighter community on at least 17 NFPA Technical Committees that set fire service standards on such things as fire apparatus, ambulances, hazmat response, safety, PPE, professional qualifications for firefighters and officers, incident management, community risk reduction and incident traffic management. The meeting included reports and updates on these standards.

In other business, the NVFC adopted a new strategic plan and updated its bylaws.

If you aren't a member of the NVFC you should join today. MCVFA members are eligible for half price membership (\$15) in the NVFC. NVFC members get a \$10,000 accident death & disability insurance policy and a \$20,000 line-of-duty death insurance policy. They get discounts to online universities. They can get car loans and mortgages from the FASNY Federal Credit Union and you get representation on all of the key issues of the day affecting call/volunteer firefighters. For more information about joining the NVFC visit [www.nvfc.org/beyourbest](http://www.nvfc.org/beyourbest). 

*Captain Bird and Chief Maruca are Members of the Board of Directors of the NVFC, representing the Massachusetts Call Volunteer Firefighters Association*

# 2016 ANNUAL STATE MEETING



*President Kevin Connolly presenting State Fire Marshal Peter Ostroskey with a plaque of appreciation. (from left to right)*

**OCTOBER 29, 2016**  
**HADLEY FARMS MEETING / HADLEY, MA**

The 2016 MCVFA Annual State Meeting was held on October 29 at the Hadley Farms Meeting House in Hadley, MA.

Moderator Jim Winn, Call Deputy Chief, Greenfield F.D. (*ret.*) called the membership to attention as the colors were presented by Firefighter Kevin Hempstead (Clarksburg Vol. Fire Dept.), Deputy Chief Dave Evans (West Newbury F.D.) and Past President and Capt. Mike McCullough (Lakeville F.D.). Following behind the Color Guard were members of the MCVFA Executive Board, state and local officials and fire service organization representatives.

After the colors were posted and the playing of the National Anthem, the membership was welcomed by Mass. Corps of Chaplains Deputy Chief Chaplain Bruce Arbour who then delivered the Opening Prayer and a Remembrance of the Anniversary of 9/11 followed by Shelburne Falls FD Chaplain Jane Dunning giving the Scripture verse. MCVFA President Kevin Connolly then presented the Reading of the Last Alarm with Region 4 Secretary Matthew Lemieux reading of the Final Roll Call as Past President Mike McCullough rang the Memorial Bell for each name, followed by the signal – 5-5-5 – for the Final Alarm.

Deputy Chief Chaplain Arbour then offered a Memorial Prayer which was followed by the Memorial Song: “Amazing Grace”.

To close the ceremony, MCVFA Chaplain Ryan Cheney gave the benediction. which was followed by the recessional.

Shortly thereafter, the 2016 State Meeting was called to order by President Kevin Connolly, introducing the dignitaries present, who all gave a short welcoming speech and were presented with a Certificate of Appreciation. Life members and past presidents were also recognized and thanked for their service to the Association. The membership followed by conducting Association business with reports given by the various committee chairs.

Following lunch, Chief Chris Norris, Coordinator for the Call/Volunteer Recruit Training Program at the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy gave an excellent presentation - Massachusetts Firefighting Academy: Training Opportunities for the Call/Volunteer Fire Service. This was followed by another outstanding program delivered by Joe Nedder of Cross St. Associates, the topic being - 1st Due Company Officers: The 10 Foundations Stones of Knowledge They Must Possess and Why.

There were several vendors on the premises and we thank them for their support and presence. All in all, the entire day went well and was enjoyed by all who attended.

A committee is being formed for next year’s meeting. If you are interested in serving in some form on this committee, please let us know at [mcvfa@mcvfa.org](mailto:mcvfa@mcvfa.org). 🍁

*Continued on page 12*





# ANNUAL STATE



Top row, left to right photos, Memorial Service table, Mike McCullough saluting during the Memorial Service. Center photo, President Kevin Connolly presenting Representative John Scibak with a plaque of appreciation.



Memorial Service during the posting of Colors.

Circle photos, top to bottom, Deputy Chief Chaplin Bruce Arbour, MA Corps of Chaplains, Senate President Stan Rosenberg, and Chaplain Jane Dunning, Shelburne Falls FD.

## Thank You to Our Vendors



# MEETING



President Kevin Connolly



Left to right photos, President Kevin Connolly with Easthampton Fire Chief Dave Mottor, speaker Joe Nedder, State Treasurer & Past President Larry Holmberg and Region 2 Coordinator Lisa Evans.



Life members of the association were honored during the meeting. From left to right Dana Harriman, Mike McCullough, Ed Denton, William Wadsworth, Mike Bird, and Len Gay.



Speaker Westhampton Fire Chief Chris Norris.

## Thank You to Our Sponsors





## More Engine Company Training

By Chief Joe Maruca

In the last issue of *Smoke Showin'*, I talked about the need to increase call/volunteer firefighter training by adding another drill to your monthly schedule, and I suggested you incorporate engine company training evolutions based upon NFPA 1410, Standard for Training for Emergency Scene Operations. I suggested a basic training evolution using two engines and six firefighters. In this issue of *Smoke Showin'*, I'd like to present you with another easy to implement engine company training exercise.

In the following pages is a training evolution called "Blitz Line Attack". This evolution is so you can practice and become proficient at attacking a large volume of fire in a building with a 2 ½" hose from an exterior position. The idea is to get big water on the fire as fast as safety allows. This evolution can be done with two, three or four firefighters; whatever your typical staffing of the first due engine is.

As with other engine company evolutions based upon NFPA 1410, you (the fire chief or training officer or the company officer conducting the drill) have the power to modify the

recommended evolutions in the standard to match the apparatus, staffing and equipment in your fire department. If you typically have only two firefighters on your first engine, then practice this with two firefighters.

The engine company training evolution in this issue of *Smoke Showin'* is a single engine drill. You need at least two firefighters, but the version you'll see is written for three firefighters. It can be done with or without a fire hydrant depending upon if your town has hydrants. The drill will take you about 10 minutes to conduct, 5 minutes to review and 15 minutes to pick up. Then you can mix up the crews and do it again. Do it four times in an evening and you've had an excellent 2-hour training session.

While this engine company training evolution may not be exactly what will happen at an actual fire, it does simulate many of the common engine company tasks involved with getting water on the fire fast. The drill has firefighters stretch hose, use SCBA, pump 300 gpm, connect to a water supply (if you have one) and practice command skills. It's a great hands-



on approach to training. It groups tasks together in context. Firefighters who practice this evolution will get good at initial fire attack.

Here's how the drill works.

Pick a building for the simulated fire and a target for your hose stream. Use your fire station and direct the water over the roof or past a corner of the building into the woods. You can conduct this drill in the parking lot at the fire station, on a quiet street or just about any other location available for fire training in your town.

Staff one engine as it would typically be staffed responding to a building fire. If you normally have two firefighters and other firefighters arrive at the scene in their cars, set up the drill to simulate this: have the engine staffed with two firefighters, and then have an additional firefighter join them at the scene as if they arrived in their own car (it could even be the chief). If you normally have three or four firefighters on an engine, then staff that way.

Have your engine leave the fire station (or other drill site) and drive around the block. When the engine arrives back at the fire

station, have it pull-in and set up as if the fire station is on fire. If there are fire hydrants, drop a supply line as you normally would and have one firefighter set-up the hydrant and charge the supply line. The supply line should be 300' long, but if your parking lot is too small, modify the drill to use 200' or 100' of hose. Hold and delay the arrival of extra help for at least 30 seconds (per the NFPA standard).

The engine crew does a size-up, stretches a 2 ½" attack line and starts flowing water from its tank. A 2 ½" flowing 300 gpm will knock down a tremendous amount of fire in quick time. You should try to get it all done in 4 minutes with a hydrant and 3 minutes without a hydrant.

Do this drill at least twice each year. Repetition is critical to learning the skills and putting all of the motions together. And, this kind of training appeals to firefighters who learn best by doing.

So don't wait, add two new drills to your annual training schedule and try this for a year. You'll be happy with the results. You'll be a better fire department in that your firefighters will have more confidence in their skills and those critical first few minutes of your next fire will run smoother. 🚒

## **FSP Books and Videos**

# **www.Fire-Police-EMS.com**

Training materials, collectibles, gifts and  
more since 1987!

Visit us at 188 Central Street  
Hudson, MA 01749

support@fire-police-ems.com

1-800-522-8528

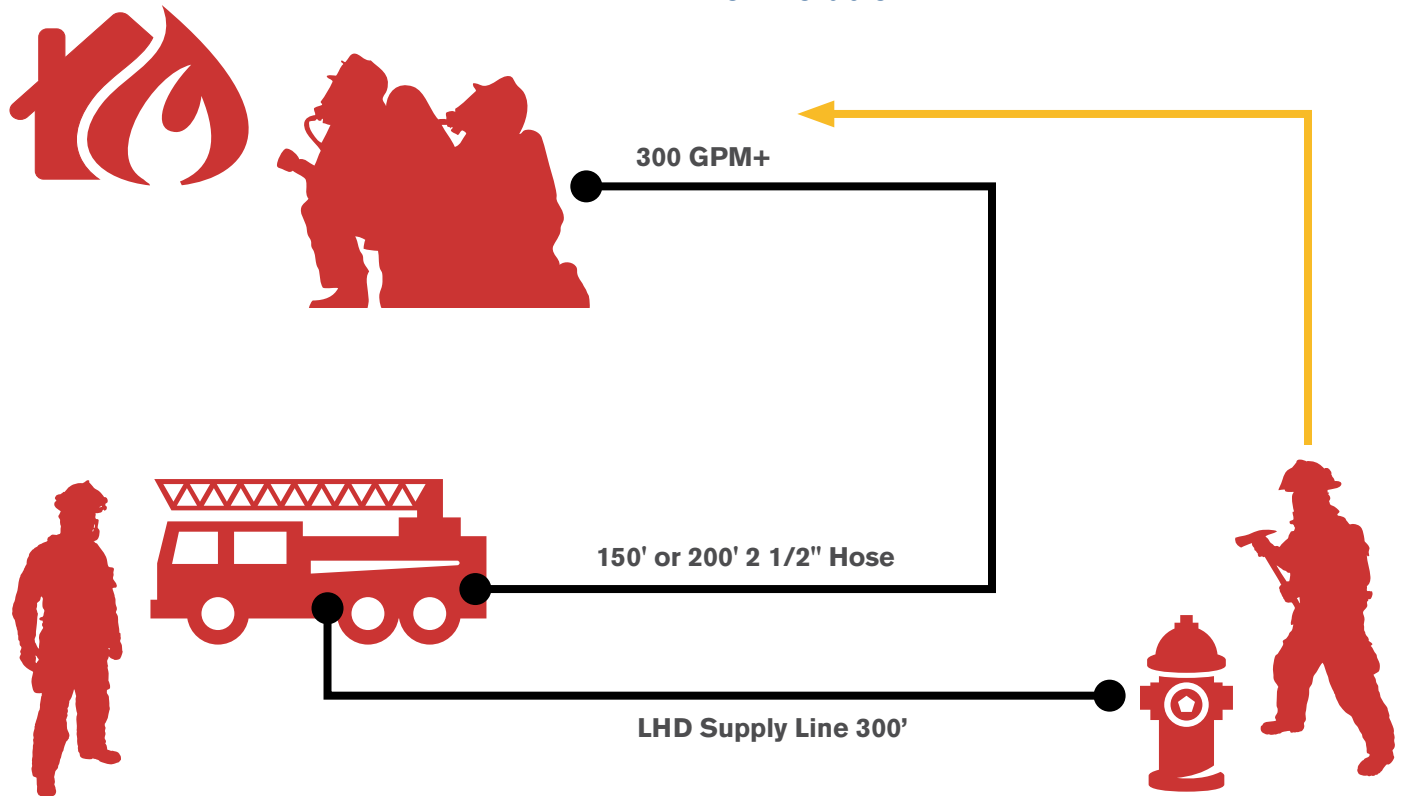


# MCVFA Model Engine Company

## Training Evolution #2

### Single Engine Fire Attack – Blitz Line Attack

#### An NFPA 1410 Evolution



**Objective:** To place an initial exterior 2 1/2" attack line of a minimum 150' in-service and flowing a minimum of 300 gpm using a single engine (or engine-tanker) with staffing of the average number of personnel that ordinarily respond. A forward lay of LDH supply hose from a hydrant (if available) shall be established of a minimum 300'. (1 1/8" tip flows 300 gpm at 65psi. 1 1/4" tip flows 300 gpm at 45psi.)

### Evolution Description

Engine forward lays 300' into the fire from a hydrant (if available). Crew deploys a 2 1/2" attack line for an exterior blitz attack flowing at least 300 gpm. Engine will charge line and flow water from its water tank while a water supply from the hydrant is being established. If there is no hydrant, the engine will limit its attack to the water it carries.

### Evaluation Criteria

Attack line shall be completely deployed from hose bed.

Nozzle shall be flowing at least 300 gpm at the appropriate nozzle pressure.

Time begins when the engine stops and sets its parking brake at the simulated fire and time ends when the hydrant is charged and supplying the engine, and 300 gpm has been flowed on the simulated fire for four minutes without interruption. (If there is no hydrant, time ends when the engine runs out of water.)

**Recommended Time: 4 Minutes with Hydrant & 3 Minutes without Hydrant**

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

# MCVFA Model Engine Company

## Training Evolution #2

### Model Engine Company Evolution – Single Engine Blitz Line Attack

## PROCEDURES

1. Engine with a crew of three lays a 300' supply line from a hydrant (if available) in order to establish a water supply.
2. Engine stops at the hydrant and firefighter gets out and wraps hydrant with supply line, gathers hydrant tools and signals driver to continue.
3. Engine sets-up at the building (or simulated building) according to existing fire conditions. Keep in mind positioning of additional apparatus such as aerial ladders and tankers. Three sides of the target address should be viewed, if possible.
4. Officer sizes-up existing conditions and transmits a brief initial report in accordance with the Incident Command System.
5. Officer in SCBA stretches a 150' or 200' 2 ½" attack line to a position in front of the simulated fire, as determined by the Officer.)
6. Firefighter dresses hydrant and charges hydrant line upon signal from Driver/Operator, then moves up to don SCBA and assist with the attack line.
7. Driver/Operator connects supply line to insure continuous water supply.
8. Crew flows 300 gpm on the simulated fire until the engine runs out of tank water or for at least 30 seconds if using a hydrant.
9. All actions will be performed in a safe manner.

## ASSIGNMENTS

1. Captain/Lieutenant – SCBA, Portable Radio, and Hand Light. Sizes-up fire, transmits initial radio report and stretches attack line.
2. Firefighter – SCBA, Portable Radio and Hand Light. Makes hydrant (if available) and then assists with stretching and operating attack line.
3. Driver/Operator – Properly stabilizes and operates the pumper. Lights scene if at night. Sets out traffic cones.



# 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. Entire crew seated & belted while unit in motion	10	
2. All required protective clothing worn properly	10	
3. Crew checks for traffic when mounting and dismounting apparatus	5	
4. Hydrant FF positions safely at hydrant	5	
5. PPE used/worn properly	10	
6. SCBA/PASS worn properly	10	
7. Vehicle operated safely (under control, park break set, etc.)	10	
8. Wheels chocked	5	
9. Engine Operator fails to set out traffic cones	5	
10. Running	5	
11. Other (note)	5	
12. General safety	5	
Total (point value X # of infractions)		

## Procedures

Points are deducted for each infraction (failure to perform / perform properly).	Pts	# infractions
Engine stops 10'-15' past hydrant to lay supply line	10	
Firefighter uses proper procedure to "catch plug" & grabs all proper tools/appliances	10	
Engine spots at fire building allowing truck co. access and view 3 sides	5	
Officer sizes up existing conditions and transmits a report	10	
Crew stretches a 2 1/2" hose line to position directed	10	
Pump engaged – Pressure Governor Set – Foam Engaged (if available)	5	
Correct pump pressure and flow (300 gpm)	10	
Flood lights activated if at night	5	
Supply line charged and connected and no kinks	10	
Hose line pulled correctly – no spaghetti	10	
Total (point value X # of infractions)		
Total Safety Points Deducted		
Total Procedure Points Deducted		
Total Deductions (Safety + Procedure)		
Total Score for the exercise = (100 – Safety – Procedure)		

### Recommended Time: 4 Minutes with Hydrant & 3 Minutes without Hydrant

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

Was a minimum of 300 GPM delivered?

Pass ☐

Fail ☐

Were nozzle pressures & flows correct?

Yes/Pass ☐

Fail ☐

Was hose layout from the hydrant adequate to supply engine?

Yes/Pass ☐

Fail ☐

NA ☐

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

Yes/Pass ☐

Fail ☐

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Crew Members: \_\_\_\_\_

# COMING TO A TOWN NEAR YOU: Preparing for the Next Hazmat Accident

September was National Preparedness Month, which means a lot of different things depending on who you talk to. For many communities and emergency responders, a critical part of being prepared is being ready to respond to an incident involving hazardous materials. As we have seen with several high profile incidents over this past year, being prepared for these types of disasters is extremely important to protecting the people that live in your community.

For me, every day is about helping people be prepared. Over the past year I have had the pleasure of representing the National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC) on the National TRANSCAER Task Group (NTTG). TRANSCAER® (Transportation Community Awareness and Emergency Response) is a voluntary national outreach effort that focuses on assisting communities to prepare for and respond to a possible hazardous material transportation incident.


TRANSCAER members, including companies that manufacture, distribute, store, and transport hazardous materials, provide free training to emergency responders all across the country. The NVFC, which represents the nation's volunteer fire, EMS, and rescue services, routinely hears from our members that they need better access to training. So the partnership between TRANSCAER and the NVFC is pretty straightforward: they put on training events and we promote the events to the volunteer fire and emergency services.

Anyone in the fire service who is not familiar with TRANSCAER should be. TRANSCAER resources, available at no charge to emergency services personnel, include classroom and hands-on training, emergency planning assistance, support for community drills and exercises, technical information, reference and training materials, and national conferences and workshops for sharing best practices and networking.

In 2016, TRANSCAER celebrated its 30th anniversary. To recognize this milestone, TRANSCAER held 70 training events in May on a variety of topics, such as tank car awareness, advanced tank car specialist, rail safety and hazmat emergency response, ethanol response train the trainer, railway crude by rail response, chlorine emergency response, fire considerations and foam tactics for rail emergency response, and methanol safe handling.

I was fortunate to be able to attend one of the events in Newark, NJ, held as part of the DOW Chemical North East TRANSCAER Training Tour. First responders were trained using the new API/Association of American Railroad's Crude by Rail Safety program, railcar and locomotive anatomy, chlorine emergencies, Indian Springs A, B, C Capping Kits, Midland Capping Kit, hand-on leak mitigation, and tank truck emergencies. TRANSCAER's goal is to provide improved community awareness and emergency preparedness along highly hazardous chemical transportation routes by providing communities with significantly enhanced outreach, education, and training in coordination with national, regional, and state TRANSCAER programs.

The amount of hazardous materials being produced and transported throughout the country has increased dramatically in recent decades. Since 2008, NFPA 1001: Standard for Fire Fighter Professional Qualifications has included hazmat awareness and operations training. Increasingly, hazardous materials emergency response is becoming a core service provided by fire departments. This presents a number of challenges, particularly in rural areas where resources are scarce and advanced or specialized training can be difficult to access. By utilizing TRANSCAER resources, fire departments can train and prepare their members to deal with critical hazardous materials threats facing their community at no cost to the agency.

Do yourself and your community a favor and go to [TRANSCAER.com](http://TRANSCAER.com) to register for a TRANSCER training event near you. 

*William E. Offerman joined the fire service in 1981. He is employed by Elwood Fire Protection District and has served as fire chief since 1996. William is a director with the Illinois Firefighters Association, serves as Illinois Director for the National Volunteer Fire Council, and works with the National TRANSCAER Task Group. In addition, he has served as mayor for the Village of Elwood since 2009. William holds a Master of Science in Public Safety Administration. He has served with the Will County Board of Health and worked as an adjunct professor for Loyola University.*

# Need A Scholarship?

## LET US HELP!



**Don't miss out on this excellent opportunity!**

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

### Requirements

#### Official Transcript or Letter:

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

#### A Statement of Interest of 400 words or less including:

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

#### Two (2) Letters of Recommendation:

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

### How to Apply

Application forms can be obtain from:

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

Send your application form along with supporting documents to: **[recruit@mcvfa.org](mailto:recruit@mcvfa.org)** or

**Massachusetts Call/Volunteer Firefighters' Association (MCVFA)  
Robert J. Hindley Scholarship  
PO Box 124, Whitman, MA 02382**

**CLOSING DATE: MAY 1, 2017**



**For eligibility information and requirements, visit [www.mcvfa.org/scholarships](http://www.mcvfa.org/scholarships)**



# Robert J. Hindley Memorial Scholarship APPLICATION

PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Sponsor's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Sponsor's Department: \_\_\_\_\_

MCVFA Dues Paid Years: \_\_\_\_\_

Region Applying (circle one):      1      2      3      4      5

## ACADEMIC INFORMATION

Type of program in which you plan to enroll for the 20\_\_\_\_ - 20\_\_\_\_ academic year (check one):

☐ Graduate      ☐ Bachelor      ☐ Associate      ☐ Technical/Trade      ☐ Certification

Planned Field of Study: \_\_\_\_\_

Enrolled or Planning to Enroll (check one):    ☐ Full Time      ☐ Part Time

Name of School/University Attending: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Trade School/Certificate Program: \_\_\_\_\_

Field of Study: \_\_\_\_\_

List any civic groups, organizations or extracurricular activities, volunteer work, etc.:

---

---

---

---

Send your application form along with supporting documents to: **recruit@mcvfa.org** or mail to  
**Massachusetts Call/Volunteer Firefighters' Association (MCVFA), Robert J. Hindley Scholarship, PO Box 124, Whitman, MA 02382**

**CLOSING DATE: MAY 1, 2017**

# Robert J. Hindley Memorial Scholarship REQUIREMENTS

## REQUIRED APPLICATION DOCUMENTS

*(These may be attached to your application or mailed separately.)*

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

## A Statement of Interest of 400 words or less including:

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

## Two (2) Letters of Recommendation:

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

## CURRENT RECIPIENTS OF MCVFA SCHOLARSHIPS

If you are reapplying, you may submit current grades or a mid-term report. You must submit an update to your original Statement of Interest and one new letter of recommendation.

I certify that all of the information contained in this application and attachments is accurate. I understand that the MCVFA may verify all information I have provided as a part of my application for this scholarship.

---

Signature

---

Date

Send your application form along with supporting documents to: [recruit@mcvfa.org](mailto:recruit@mcvfa.org) or mail to  
**Massachusetts Call/Volunteer Firefighters' Association (MCVFA),  
Robert J. Hindley Scholarship, PO Box 124, Whitman, MA 02382**



**CLOSING DATE: MAY 1, 2017**

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

# REGION 1

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

**Vice President Bryan Moniz, Westport**

On September 22, 2016, a regional meeting was held in Onset and hosted by the Onset Fire Department. The main order of business was the election of a new regional vice president; previously I announced that I would not be running for reelection.

Elections Committee Representative Tom Burnett conducted the proceedings which featured two candidates: Ken Jorden of Wareham and Tom Rose from Rehoboth. After the votes were counted, Ken Jordan was elected the Region 1 Vice President beginning January 1, 2017. I want to congratulate Ken and I have already told him I look forward to working with him as he takes over the Region.

Ken has been an active member of the Wareham Call Firefighters for twenty plus years and brings a lot of knowledge to the Region. I know you will be happy with him as your Vice President and he will continue to move the region forward. Ken, along with Regional Coordinator Rachael Rawlings, have many great ideas and plans for the Region.

In closing, it was great seeing so many of you at the Region 1 Christmas Party on December 9, 2016. I know I enjoyed the night and I hope that you did too. I look forward to seeing you again throughout the year at our meetings and other regional events. 🚒

**VP Bryan Moniz can be reached at [vpregion1@mcvfa.org](mailto:vpregion1@mcvfa.org) or 508-509-3531.**

# REGION 2

Covering the counties of Essex, Middlesex

**Vice President David Thompson, Essex**

## Seasonal Drills

West Newbury Fire Department's cold weather drills include chimney fire and ice water rescue training. Our drills generally start with a video of the training, and a hands-on review of our equipment, with a Q &

A segment following. Apparatus placement, possible hazards, and the potential for the need of mutual aide are also covered. The medical portion of our drill would include awareness of wind chill factors, dehydration, and treatment of hypothermia. It is that time of year to wear an extra layer of clothing when you hear the tone and leave your home to head out to a call.

*continues on page 24*





West Newbury's ice water rescue drills have included day drills, night drills, and Winter Carnival demonstrations. We have volunteered to be the victim in the ice water, being the ice water rescuer on the sled, and have served out the roles and responsibilities of the land crew rescuers. The importance of the proper Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) requirements of Personal Floatation Devices (PFD) and water rescue suits for primary rescue responders and the importance of no bunker gear near the edge of any body of water, including frozen masses of water, are reiterated at the hands on drill.

As a reminder, a proper rehabilitation location is essential for removing all Emergency Personal from the elements. Rehab is a vital factor for any type of prolonged emergency or service event. Throughout Massachusetts, the Department of Fire Services (DFS), Special Operations has rehab units strategically placed to better serve the Commonwealth. The rehab units are available across the board to all public safety departments' police, fire, and EMA. Now is the time to pre-plan for an event. Be sure your department's dispatch center has the contact information for requesting the rehab unit in your area. Additional information and the proper procedure for requesting a rehab unit may be obtained through DFS or MEMA. Currently, West Newbury houses Rehab 4. 🚒

*The Massachusetts Firefighting Academy Class #063 Call/Volunteer Recruit Training Program, being held at the Groveland Fire Department, is scheduled to graduate in March. Best of Luck to all candidates.*

## REGION 5

Covering the counties of Berkshire

Vice President Paul Vallone, Clarksburg

### Grant pays to replace Hose for Seven Fire Departments in Northern Berkshire County

North County collaboration makes bulk buying of new hose possible for 7 departments

By Adam Shanks

(Reprinted with permission from The Berkshire Eagle)

When firefighters are battling a blaze, they need dependable hose that can withstand intense pressure and bring water to the flames.

This month, seven North County fire departments were collectively awarded a \$174,373 federal grant to replace their aging hoses through the Department of Homeland Security's Assistant to Firefighters Grant Program.

With assistance in grant writing from Emergency Response Consulting and support from U.S. Rep Richard Neal, D-Springfield, the departments won the program's regional grant and will match it with about \$17,000 of their own funding. The hose that is purchased with the grant funding will be divided between the departments as necessary, according to North Adams Fire Director Stephen Meranti.

In a process that begins months before the grant is awarded, local chiefs work together to assess the departments' needs and work on the application from there.

"There is a lot of preparation that needs to be done," said Amalio Jusino, president of the locally based Emergency Response Consulting.

Instead of applying for each department's laundry list of needs, they work together to find a single item that could be useful to everyone.

"We found that everyone needed hose," Meranti said. Although all departments test their hose annually, as the hose gets older "there's always the risk of failure," according to Meranti.

The cost of the hose can range from \$125 to \$700 for a 50-foot length of hose. Without grants, small departments like those in North County wouldn't be able to provide the services that they do, Jusino said. "It's big money for a lot of the smaller departments around here to replace hose," Meranti said.

This was the second consecutive year the North County fire departments won the regional grant, with last year's proceeds being used toward communications equipment.

The departments — Williamstown, Clarksburg, Florida, Cheshire, Adams, North Adams and Stamford, Vt. — are mutual aid partners, and all but North Adams are volunteer. The bulk purchasing of hose also ensures that they can tie into each other's lines when responding to a fire call together.

Meranti and Jusino credited Neal for always being a staunch supporter of the Assistance to Firefighters Grant program and to local fire departments.

"I have been an outspoken advocate for the firefighters in Western Massachusetts for many years, and will

continue to support the important work they do each day in their communities,” Neal said in a recent statement announcing the grant. “When there is a fire or an emergency, they are the ones who run toward the danger.”

The North Adams Fire Department also won a local grant for \$22,000 to purchase 11 sets of turnout gear — the protective clothing the firefighters wear when responding to a call. Each set of turnout gear — which does not include their breathing apparatuses — can cost in excess of \$2,000, Meranti said.

**Contact Adam Shanks at 413-496-6376.**

## Hinsdale Fire Department's Live Burn

*Photos Courtesy of the Hinsdale Fire Department*

Seven area fire departments participated in the live burn, which was hosted by the Hinsdale Fire Department in October. The participating departments were Hinsdale, Dalton, Peru, Middlefield, Lanesboro, Becket, Otis, and Blandford.



## Adams Firefighters Donate to Louison House

**By Jack Guerino, iBerkshires Staff**

*(Reprinted with permission from iberkshires.com)*



*Photo by Cory Adelt (Adams FD)*

*Louison House Executive Director Kathy Keeser accepts a check from the Adams Alerts last Tuesday.*

Louison House Executive Director Kathy Keeser accepts a check from the Adams Alerts last Tuesday. The Adams Fire Department held a spaghetti dinner at Bounti-Fare to raise money for the nonprofit family shelter that suffered water and fire damage at its Adams building several months ago.

“The Louison House is a great organization that helps so many homeless people find shelter,” firefighter Cory Adelt said. “We believe in their mission and hope the money we raised will get them back open in Adams.” Currently, the Louison House (Family Life Support Center) is operating out of its new North Adams location until repairs can be made.

Louison House Executive Director Kathy Keeser said the donation was a surprise and she thanked the Fire Department and the community for their continued support.

“It was wonderful kind of a surprise really ... they did it on their own initiative to help us out. It's pretty amazing,” Keeser said. “They have been so supportive along the way and were our neighbors while we were in Adams. It's just great the amount of community support we have received since the fire.”

Keeser said the funds will most likely go toward needs at their North Adams location.

Adelt said the Adams Alerts often tries to help those in need and provide a service to the community beyond fighting fires.

*continues on page 26*



"We believe in our community, and we always respond and help our neighbors during their time of need," he said. "The Alerts proudly support many organizations in our community. Our department and community are very tight-knit ... and we will go above and beyond to help our community."

The Fire Department raised and donated \$900 to the Louison House.

## Structural Collapse Rescue Training

*Photo taken by Jason Sanders (Lenox Fire Department)*

For eight straight days this October Captain Jason Saunders attended along with, three of the Massachusetts technical rescue teams participated in a Structural Collapse Technician course taught by Spec Rescue International, Inc. at Westover Air Reserve Base in Chicopee. This high level technician course meets and exceeds the NFPA 1670 and 1006 standards, and is based on the exact course outline of the FEMA US&R course taught to the national task forces. This is THE course for the serious rescue technician. At the conclusion of this course the student are capable of hazard recognition, equipment use, and techniques necessary to operate safely and effectively at structural collapse incidents involving the collapse or failure of concrete tilt-up, reinforced concrete, and steel construction. They learned the process for search operations intended to locate victims trapped inside and beneath collapse debris as well as procedures for accessing and extricating victims trapped beneath collapse debris. The course was a combination of hands on activities, fieldwork, lectures, case studies and group work. The course requires 8 days; 80 hours total.

There were four firefighters from Berkshire County at the class coming from Lenox, North Adams, Pittsfield, and Rob Gaughran from Great Barrington (only



Berkshire call/vol guy). Other Call/Volunteer firefighters were from Barre and Amherst.

## Call/Volunteer Firefighter Recruit Class #60

*Photo courtesy of Massachusetts Fire Academy*

On November 2, 2016, Class #60 of the Call/Volunteer Recruit Firefighter Training program graduated having completed 240 hours of training on nights and weekends. The graduates represent 18 fire departments from Amherst, Cheshire, Chesterfield, Dalton, East Longmeadow, Great Barrington, Hampden, Lee, Leveret, Monson, Monterey, New Marlborough, Palmer, Richmond, South Hadley-District 1, South Hadley-District 2, Southampton, and Tolland. 🚒



## 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.

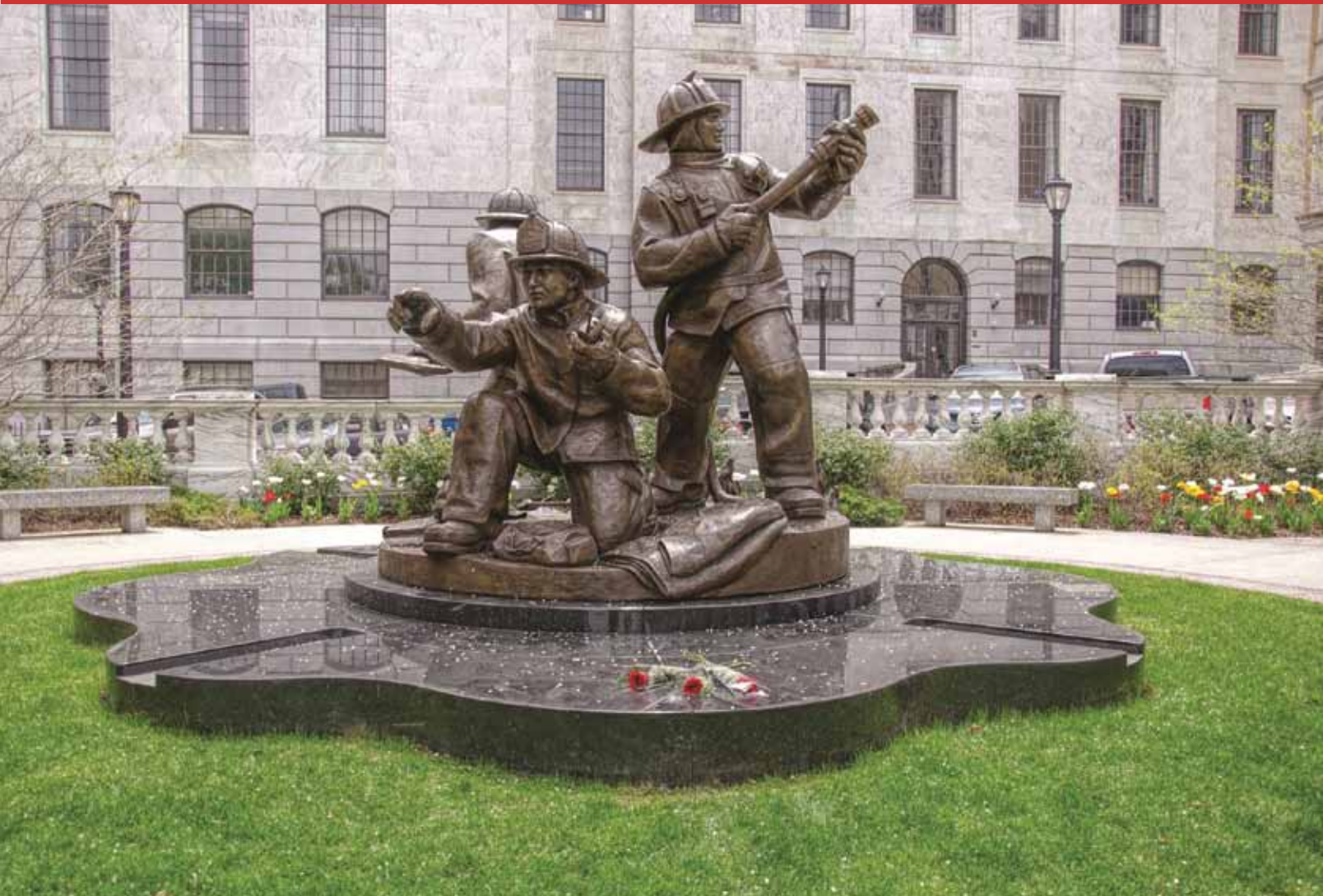
[www.facebook.com/MCVFAff](http://www.facebook.com/MCVFAff)

[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)



# Do You Have Your Firefighters Memorial License Plate?



**SUPPORT THE MASSACHUSETTS FALLEN FIREFIGHTERS MEMORIAL**  
*by purchasing a firefighters license plate*



You can order online through our website, [www.mafirememorial.org](http://www.mafirememorial.org). You can also apply in person by visiting a MA Registry of Motor Vehicle location.

The cost of the plate is \$40, of which \$28 will go directly to the Memorial. The remaining \$12 is a one-time only cost to cover manufacturing expenses. Every two-years when you renew your plate, the entire \$40 will go to the Memorial.

**Order yours today and show your support of firefighters!**



**MCVFA**  
PO Box 124  
Whitman, MA 02382  
[www.mcvfa.org](http://www.mcvfa.org)

# A Reminder!

## Your 2016-2017 Dues Year are due Now

If your department has not yet paid, please make every effort to get them in as soon as possible. Questions can be directed to the Membership Committee at [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.

*The Membership Committee*

## 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*