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Smoke Showin'

The Official Publication of the Massachusetts Call/Volunteer Firefighters Association



**Fire Explorers:
Another Way to Recruit**

**More Hands on
Fire Training Needed**

**Robert J. Hindley Memorial
Scholarship Winners**

Huntington FD

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Basic Animal Rescue Training (BART) was established by veterinarian Dr. Janet Olsen in December 2004, in response to the tragic loss of a pet in a house fire in New Brighton, Minnesota. The burning home belonged to a firefighter and his 13-year-old German Short-haired Pointer named Bart, who was trapped inside. The department extinguished the fire and located Bart, who was unresponsive. Because the firefighters did not have the knowledge base or equipment to help Bart, he died.



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For more information, please contact David Schwarz at DSchwarz@smartma.org

Basic Animal Rescue Training (BART) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. For more information, go to <http://basicanimalrescuetraining.org>.





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Fall 2021

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

*Huntington FD Lt. Foley performing overhaul operations at a structure fire in February 2021.
Submitted by Huntington Fire Chief Joshua Ellinger*

Remember to Support Our Sponsors

Sponsors are a very important part of the MCVFA. They may or may not be associated with the fire service but regardless of what they sell or what their service is, they want to support the Massachusetts call and volunteer fire and emergency medical services. Without their support it would be more difficult for the MCVFA to continue on its mission to support the Massachusetts call and volunteer fire service and the firefighters and EMS personnel who embody it.

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President's Message

I would like to start by thanking the Westport Fire Explorers Post # 774 for their invitation to their Explorers Camp held in July.

I was given the opportunity to attend the second day of the Fire Explorers Camp held at the Fall River Fire Training facilities. Here the Bristol County Technical Rescue team showed the Explorers the equipment they use and then lowered the Explorers from the top of the drill tower to show them the techniques used to lower someone from upper levels. In the afternoon they did four different evolutions of the fireground. This camp was held for a week at different locations and was well organized. Many people put in a lot of time and work to make this event a success and I give them all the credit in world.

I give a big shout out to Ann Marie Peckham and all her leaders and support staff at the Fire Explorers Post, not to mention Fall River Fire Department for instructors and use of facility, the Fall River Special Services-EMA and Westport EM Special Services for Rehab support, Somerset Fire for an engine and Instructors, and the Westport Fire Department and their members for all their support in this program.

While I was there, Ann Maire and I had the conversation about how important these programs are to the local community and the fire service. It helps the fire service by getting these kids involved in the fire service and then, when they turn of age, hopefully they become a member of their local department. We also discussed the challenges they have with getting gear for the Explorers and how we need to have a clearance house to be able to collect the items that make these programs as real as possible. So, if you know of any Departments that have items that would help any of the programs across the state you can contact me at president@mcvfa.org.

On other items, I would like to talk about is annul state meeting that will be held at Carver Fire headquarters in Carver, MA, on Saturday, October 23, 2021. Check our website for more details; information will be put up as it becomes available.

We our annual elections will be held at this meeting, so it is important for you to do your part and attend. There are many committees and boards that are always looking for new members so please get involved and do your part to help improve the organization and help it be much stronger.

I hope we all had the opportunity to pay our respects at the 911 Memorial service and the Massachusetts Fallen Firefighter's memorial service. It is important that we never forget the tragedy that happened twenty years ago and all the brave Firefighters that gave the ultimate sacrifice that day. Never forget all the loved ones that lost their lives on that terrible day. We never forget the Firefighters that have made the ultimate sacrifice through the year and recognize them each year behind the State house at the Firefighter memorial site.

As we more forward with the Coronavirus, we must all do our part and get vaccinated, wear a mask when around large crowds, wash our hands, and social distance when possible. If we do these simple things, then maybe we can get back to our normal lives.

Tom Burnett
MCVFA President

Be safe out there!



FIRE EXPLORERS

by Ann Marie Peckham

Fire service exploring is an important aspect for recruitment and retention for fire departments. Departments with programs have an increased ability to instill the passion of the service and offer guidance into this chosen career path. For the past six years, the Westport Fire Department has run an annual fire explorer camp for their explorer program and focuses on instilling this passion along with teaching critical firefighting skills to the next generation. For programs to be successful, it's essential to offer dynamic experiences to youth members and expose various aspects of the Fire Service, whether it be structural, wildland, technical rescue, communications, EMS, or emergency management.

This year's Explorer academy took place at Camp Cachalot in Plymouth, MA. It ran for four days, Monday, July 26th, thru Thursday, July 29th. Camp Cachalot is a scouting camp that offers facilities such as sleeping quarters, camping sites, and a dining hall that can also be used as an indoor classroom during inclement weather. Other lodges on site can be used as outdoor classrooms and were utilized for building search. The other areas of the reservation offer challenging scenarios for the explorers with its difficult terrain such as search and rescue, technical rescue and wilderness first aid.

One of the biggest draws for Camp Cachalot is the waterfront. Floating dock structures in the lake allowed for us to work with the youth on their rescue skills in a controlled area. Principles of scouting are implemented in this program and both youth and adult members need to go through a swim test to be able to enter the deep water. This four day camp includes intensive hands-on training on the basics of firefighting rescue skills along with a strong focus on team building and leadership.

Explorers also learn important life skills such as cooking and cleaning, along with other responsibilities during the camp. For many of the explorers, this was a first time camping experience for them.

Day one's focus was water rescue and boater safety. Explorers went through their swim test, were split into 3 different stations, and worked as companies on the principles of basic water rescue techniques. They worked together to rescue boaters in distress and learn techniques to flip an overturned canoe. Instructors from Westport Fire worked closely with the explorers as they performed the various skills. Later that evening, explorers sat through a lecture on leadership put on by one of the Lieutenants from Westport. Explorers were asked various engaging questions about what they thought leadership was and offered insightful responses.

Day two was spent off site and at the Fall River Fire Academy. This facility is great for the program and offers a chance for the youth to get a feel for what the academy will be like. Youth participants meet area fire officials and work closely and network with other area Firefighters and Agencies. The day started with PT, giving participants a taste of what they may experience in the academy. The Bristol County Technical Rescue Team was onsite to provide demonstrations and to train with the explorers on technical rope skills, showing them different rigging systems for hoisting and lowering victims. Explorers had the opportunity to see the various rescue tools and equipment the team carried in the equipment trailer. For many of these explorers, it was their first time rappelling never mind rappelling from the roof of the training tower. Instructors from the Tech team were awesome working with the kids, and instilling their confidence with heights.



ANOTHER WAY TO RECRUIT

As the day drew on, the heat increased and it was a challenge to keep everyone hydrated and cool. A special thanks to Fall River's Special Services Division and Westport's own Emergency Management division for setting up a rehab area and providing hydration throughout the day for everyone on site. Afternoon evolutions became more intense for the explorers as they performed search and rescue skills in the training tower room that was 108 degrees F. They also learned the basics of water supply and hose handling techniques from guest instructors from Somerset Fire. Fall River Fire's own training officer worked closely with the kids on ladder basics. As the day drew to a close and we returned to camp, Explorers got to get back in the water for some free swim time and cool off from the day.

Day three and four, Explorers remained on site at Camp Cachalot where they worked on various team building challenges. Whether it was trying to walk in unison on snowshoes, retrieve a precious stone from the "lava", construct a shelter or navigate to a location using compasses to locate a lost party, the explorers worked together to get the job done. Leadership skills began to emerge from the kids as they worked cohesively as a team.

On the last day of camp, Explorer's competed with their companies in a mini fire muster, giving them a taste of working under pressure and being able to perform basic skills such as connecting lengths of hose in a dry hose event. They finished out the competition with having to retrieve a victim from the dock and swim him back to shore. Each team had a different approach and was interesting to watch. Finally, camp isn't camp without greased watermelon football. Explorers got in the water one last time for a fierce competition and a ton of laughs as they wrestled to get the greasy watermelon from the other team.

In years past, Westport's fire camp academy has included other exploring posts from Mass. and RI. Our hope was to work with the Narragansett Council BSA on hosting a larger Fire Explorer Academy this year, encompassing multiple fire posts from the area. Much like how the Council runs the Police Exploring Academy. Unfortunately, we did not have a chance to get other Post involved this year as it's now our understanding the Council is in the process of selling Camp Cachalot and limited some of the facility's ability to accommodate larger groups. Our hope is whoever the new buyer will be, would be interested in allowing us to continue to utilize the camp as it offers a lot of great opportunities as a satellite training facility.

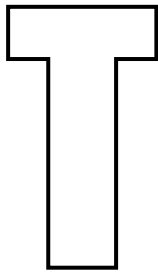
Exploring is an important aspect to the fire service. It is a creative tool in recruiting the next generation of firefighters. For Westport, the program has been successful so far in recruiting new members for the department. But more importantly, is what the program can do for our youth, as it is a place of solace, a place of belonging, where important life lessons and skills are learned. Whether they become the next generation of firefighters or not, they will hopefully gain the confidence and will to succeed as leaders in their own lives. Department's need programs like these, and dedicated leaders like you to facilitate these trainings. For more information on starting an Exploring program or Junior Fire Program, visit www.exploring.org and reach out to your local scouting council or the National Junior Firefighter Program at www.nvfc.org. But more importantly, reach out to programs that are running in your area and find out what they do. 🧯

Ann Marie Peckham is a career Firefighter/Paramedic for the Town of Westport, MA and the Post Advisor for Westport Fire Explorer Post 774. For more information on the Westport Fire Explorers, please visit our page @FireExplorersPost774.



DFS and MassDEP Issue Advisory on PFAS Firefighting

FOAM



he Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) and Department of Fire Services (DFS) this summer issued an advisory to the state's fire departments on the use of certain types of firefighting foams that contain Per- and Poly Fluorinated Alkyl Substances,

commonly known as PFAS. PFAS, which have been used in many manufacturing processes for a variety of consumer and industrial products, do not readily break down in the environment or the human body and can be harmful even at low concentrations.

Two of the most studied PFAS are no longer produced in the United States but may remain in fire departments' stockpiles of certain types of firefighting foam. MassDEP and DFS are recommending that departments discontinue use of these foams. While replacements have been developed for these substances, some have not yet been researched as thoroughly and departments are advised to use them only when absolutely necessary.

PFAS and Firefighting Foams

Class A firefighting foams are generally used on combustible materials such as those encountered in structure fires and wildland fires. By reducing the surface tension of water, they allow more surface-to-surface contact with burning materials, which in turn allows a fire to be extinguished more quickly. These foams do not contain PFAS and there are no restrictions on their use.

Class B firefighting foams, on the other hand, are intended for vapor suppression with fuels and flammable liquids such as gasoline and alcohol and were often used in the past on fuel spills at crash scenes on airfields and roadways. They include Aqueous Film-Forming Foam (AFFF), Alcohol-Resistant Film-Forming Foam (AR-AFFF), and fluoro-protein foam, which all contain PFAS and can pose a hazard to firefighters, their communities, public health, and the environment, particularly if they reach drinking water sources, groundwater, or surface waters.


Recommendations

MassDEP and DFS are advising fire departments to immediately discontinue use of all forms of AFFFs manufactured prior to 2003, discontinue the use of post-2003 AFFF for training purposes, and reserve the use of post-2003 AFFF in the field only for situations in which life safety is at risk and it is absolutely tactically necessary. If PFAS foam is used under these circumstances, fire departments are asked to make a courtesy notification to MassDEP Emergency Response at 888-304-1133. Notifications can be made 24 hours per day, seven days per week.

MassDEP and DFS are also advising fire departments to replace their current PFAS foams with Flourine Free Foam (3F), a Class B foam that does not contain PFAS and may be used without restriction.

Take-Back Program

With the assistance of DFS, MassDEP launched a project in 2018 that assists Massachusetts fire departments in disposing of their existing stockpiles of pre-2003 AFFF. To date, the project has taken back more than 206,000 pounds of PFAS-containing firefighting foam for environmentally-sound disposal at no cost to departments. MassDEP will continue to fund this takeback and is working with DFS and the Fire Chiefs Association of Massachusetts to seek funding that would expand it to include current PFAS foam.

To read the full MassDEP/DFS advisory, visit the advisory page at www.mass.gov/doc/pfas-foam-advisory/download. 



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Fire Service Commission UPDATE

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

Needless to say 2020 – 2021 have been challenging years for all of us. Like all things in the fire service the work of the Fire Service Commission continues on despite the pandemic. We have changed to on-line meetings during the pandemic to continue our business. Our June meeting was the first one held in person in over a year.

The Commission briefly had all of its seats filled this year - this has not been the case for the last 3 years. Lynn Chief Stephen Archer has filled the position vacated last year by Chief John Nash who retired, and Leverett Fire Chief John Ingram has filled the all call/volunteer position vacated by Chief Michael Morrissey in 2018. I look forward to working with these chiefs in the upcoming years. Chief Gregory Burns and I have been re-elected to serve as chair and vice chair respectively for a second one year term. I thank the other members of the Commission for their vote of confidence.

The fully-seated commission was short-lived. At our April meeting, Chief Alan Roy announced his retirement effective June, 2021. He has long service on the Commission and will be missed. I find Chief Roy to be very personable and easy to work with and I will miss him on a personal level. Combination fire departments are the most prevalent type of department in the Commonwealth, so this is an important perspective to have on the commission. Since June, Chief Ingram left the Leverett

Fire Department for Belchertown, which is a combination department. He has been reappointed to fill the Combination Chief seat previously held by Chief Roy. As of this writing, the call/volunteer chief's seat is open again. Hopefully filling this important position will happen quicker than it did the last time.

The current members of the Commission are:

- Chairman: Reading Fire Chief Gregory Burns - Representative of Fire Chiefs' Association of Massachusetts (FCAM) - Community from Metro District 13
- Vice Chair: Lakeville Fire Captain Michael J. McCullough - Representative of MC/VFA
- Ms. Jeanne Benincasa Thorpe – Undersecretary, Executive Office of Public Safety and Security (Ex-Officio)
- Ms. Roberta Fitzpatrick - Representative of the Insurance Industry
- President Richard MacKinnon, Jr. - Representative of Professional Fire Fighters of Massachusetts
- Lynn Fire Chief Stephen Archer - Representative of FCAM – Full paid Fire Department
- Belchertown Fire Chief John Ingram - Representative of FCAM Part Paid, Part Call Fire Department

- Open - Representative of FCAM Full Call or Volunteer Fire Department

Due to the pandemic, the Commission has temporarily granted some extensions to the time requirements for the Fire Chief Credentialing program. This was done to help address difficulties in obtaining credits due to course and training availability. The Commission voted at our June meeting to lift these temporary extensions on December 31, 2021. They are as follows:

Temporary one (1) year extension to those holding an active Fire Chief credential as of January 1, 2020 until December 31, 2021.

Temporary one (1) year extension to those seeking credit for Fire Chief re-credentialing as of January 1, 2020 until r until December 31, 2021.

During the past year, the Commission reviewed the credentialing program to maintain its relevance and to ensure it reflects the demands of top management positions in the fire service. It became clear that the all - hazards nature of today's fire service needed to be better represented in the credentialing program. In addition, there are quality professional development programs available outside the DFS training system that should be allowed credit for credentialing purposes. Many Chiefs and aspiring chiefs spend significant portions

of their time managing EMS programs and participating in the State's Haz-Mat and Tech Rescue programs. In order to encourage participation and recognize the significant professional training time that is devoted to these programs and address a few other issues, the Commission has voted to enact the following changes to the re-credentialing programs consistent with the FCAM recommendations. These include:

- Updating the vision/mission statement for the Re-credentialing Program;
- Providing reciprocal credit for CPSE "Fire Chief Officer";
- Provide credits for other certifications and exam sections by:
 - Revisiting the points allotted for EMT and Fire Prevention Officer Credentials and;
 - Consider adding other Certifications
- Provide credit for other categories in the Professional Membership Section to include:
 - State Hazmat Team
 - Statewide Technical Rescue Team
- Posting of appeal information on the Commission website.

These changes have all been integrated into the initial credential and recredentialing applications available at www.mass.gov/how-to/how-to-apply-for-a-fire-chief-credential. 🚒



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Call/Volunteer Firefighter Training Five-Year Improvements

PART TWO

In the last issue of Smoke Showin', the MCVFA shared data from its 2015 and 2020 Massachusetts Call/Volunteer Firefighter Training Surveys. The data generally shows an improvement and increase in training. The survey also shows some areas where we must do better. Continuing with a review of this data, here is what the MCVFA learned.

Call/Volunteer and Combination Departments know they need more training. In the 2020 survey, Departments said they "Greatly Needed" the following:

1. **Line Officer/Management Training** 52%
2. **Live Fire Structural Fire Training** 48%
3. **New Driver/Operator Training** 26%

These departments then identified as "Moderately Needed" the following:

1. **Veteran Driver/Operator Training** 52%
2. **New Driver/Operator Training** 47%
3. **Wildland/Brush Fire Training** 47%
4. **ICS 300/ICS 400 Training** 29%

It is worth noting that driver/operator training tended to dominate the departments' training needs. Of the seven highest needs, driver/operator turned up three times. This clearly challenges all of us involved in or interested in call/volunteer firefighter training to figure out a way to address this need.

When asked to tell us what training the department needed, but it can't currently provide, chiefs overwhelmingly identified live fire training. Some of the departments indicated that live fire facilities are too far away or too restricted to be of routine value to their training programs. They also said that once firefighters completed Firefighter I/II training they don't get

much of a chance to practice or refresh their skills with live fire. Sixteen percent (16%) of departments said they had no access to live fire training and 57% said their firefighters typically do live fire training once a year. More mobile training facilities and skills refresher weekends might help.

Hazmat Training continues to be a significant training weakness. While firefighters generally get the minimum required operational training at the start of their career, forty percent (40%) of departments acknowledged that their firefighters didn't participate in any hands-on hazmat training in the past year. Fifty-four percent (54%) were involved in one hands-on hazmat training exercise. This is essentially the same situation reported back in 2015.

Departments seem to be at a loss for how to conduct basic hands-on hazmat training. Templates for simple drills for responding to small/medium fuel spills and leading propane bottles might help. The perception seems to be that much of current hazmat training is built around classroom sessions and large transportation accidents. While there's a good need for this, departments need to be proficient diking a 100 gallon diesel spill or managing a leak from a 100 pound propane tank. Firefighters need to practice with their gas monitors and using the ERG.

The 2020 survey data shows an improvement from 2015 when it comes to firefighters participating in engine company evolutions (NFPA 1410 type drills). These are short repetitive engine company (2, 3 or 4 firefighter) drills that focus on basic initial arrival skills such as laying a supply line, donning SCBA and stretching a pre-connected hose line. In 2015, 48% of departments reported they didn't do any training of this type. In 2020, the number of departments that never conduct these drills dropped to 30%.

Reaching out to some of chiefs on the topic of engine company evolutions indicates that they feel they don't have enough drill nights to do fire training of this type because they are too busy doing other "required" training. These required drills tended to be EMS training, particularly for departments with ambulances, as well as hazmat refreshers. Ethics training was universally disparaged as a waste of time for call/volunteer firefighters where the time could be better spent on fire training.

While it is clear that mandatory training takes up time, and in some cases is clearly a waste of time, Massachusetts has less mandated fire training than many other states, and many less than most states. Like it or not, we need to find ways to accomplish mandated training so it delivered in a way that maximizes its value, and so it doesn't interfere with other critical topics. The MCVFA encourages departments to increase their training to weekly in order to make time for more topics and more repetitive hands-on skill practice.

In the area of Firefighter I and Firefighter II training and certification there have been no effective change in the situation. Slightly less than half of the departments, both in 2015 and 2020, report that all of their firefighters have training to the Firefighter I level and only about one-third of departments have all of their firefighters trained to Firefighter II. The number of firefighters obtaining FF I and FF II certification seems to be dropping. Here's the data:

	FF 1 Trained		FF 1 Certified	
	2015	2020	2015	2020
None	4%	6%	18%	30%
1/3 of FFs	7%	8%	23%	21%
½ of FFs	18%	13%	20%	13%
¾ of FFs	23%	29%	22%	21%
All	48%	44%	18%	17%

	FF 2 Trained		FF 2 Certified	
	2015	2020	2015	2020
None	11%	11%	24%	32%
1/3 of FFs	11%	17%	17%	22%
½ of FFs	23%	15%	26%	13%
¾ of FFs	22%	29%	20%	10%
All	34%	29%	14%	15%

It is worth noting here that there is no legal requirement for firefighters in Massachusetts to be Firefighter I and/or Firefighter II trained and/or certified. And, that NFPA 1001, the firefighter training standard, doesn't call for certification. The NFPA standard calls for all firefighters to have training to the standard. The standard doesn't require any specific number of hours for Firefighter I or II training; it simply sets forth the topics to be covered. The MCVFA has a long-standing policy that all call/volunteer firefighters should be trained to the Firefighter I/II standard.

It's difficult to tell why the number of firefighters obtaining their Firefighter I/II training and/or certification hasn't increased. One possible answer is that department turnover means that a greater number of firefighters are "in training" and haven't had time to complete FF I/II yet. Another reason could be a lack of geographic access to programs. Given the increased attention that the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy has given to its Call/Volunteer FF I/II Program, the MCVFA expected to see an improvement in this area.

It is also possible that many departments don't know that their in-house training qualifies under NFPA 1001 as Firefighter I training. There is handful of call/volunteer departments in Massachusetts that run their own Firefighter I and II programs entirely in-house and that you don't need a fire academy to accomplish it.

Increasing the number of call/volunteer firefighters who are trained to the level of Firefighter I/II should be a high priority for all of us. Finding a way, and maybe a non-traditional way, is an imperative.

Lastly, at least for this installment, there has been an increase in training among mutual aid partners. In 2015, call/volunteer fire departments averaged two drills each year with their mutual aid partners. By 2020, the average has increased to three drills per year. In fact, 40% of departments reported holding four or more mutual aid drills per year.

There is anecdotal evidence that automatic aid responses have become more common among small departments. Logic says that departments that routinely respond together, automatically, on first alarm assignments should train together. With the first due assignment arriving from two or even three towns, all of the engine companies should be doing things the same way so they can function effectively as team.

Training is essential to success. It is hoped that this data can be used to help call/volunteer and small combination fire departments identify needs and overcome weaknesses. 🚒

MORE HANDS ON FIRE



DO THIS

BY CHIEF JOE MARUCA

Call/Volunteer Firefighters in Massachusetts need to do more hands-on basic skill drills.

In its 2020 Survey of Call/Volunteer Firefighter Training, the MCVFA found that the typical call/volunteer firefighter isn't doing enough hands-on basic fire attack skill practice.

In order to improve or maintain your proficiency with basic fire attack skills such as using SCBA, stretching hose, and flowing water, you must practice every month. You must practice in small teams, engine companies, as you would work on the fire ground. Twelve firefighters watching three firefighters

demonstrate something isn't good enough. Everyone needs to go on air and stretch the line. Tom Brady doesn't skip practice because he's the best QB in the world, he practices throwing the football dozens of times a day.

Go on YouTube and watch fire attack videos. Watch how often the attack line stretch turns into spaghetti. Go crazy watching how long it takes to get water on the fire. Don't be these departments.

Get out of the classroom and go out in your parking lot and practice. Staff your engine as it would typically arrive at a fire (two, three or four firefighters – be realistic). Drive around the block, pull in the fire station, get your SCBA on, stretch the

THE TRAINING NEEDED



NOT THIS!

hose, and flow water over the roof of the fire station. Do it in less than three minutes from when you stop the truck. Let your officer practice his/her radio report and 360 size up. If you do this every month, you will astound other departments with how fast and effective you are knocking down a fire.

This kind of training doesn't need a fire academy. You don't need fire instructors. What you need is the willpower and a plan. The MCVFA can't provide you with the willpower, that's up to you, but here's a start on the plan.

An added benefit of these drills is that they are fun and fast. Each drill can be set-up, executed and reset in about fifteen minutes. Then rotate who is riding in each seat and do it again.

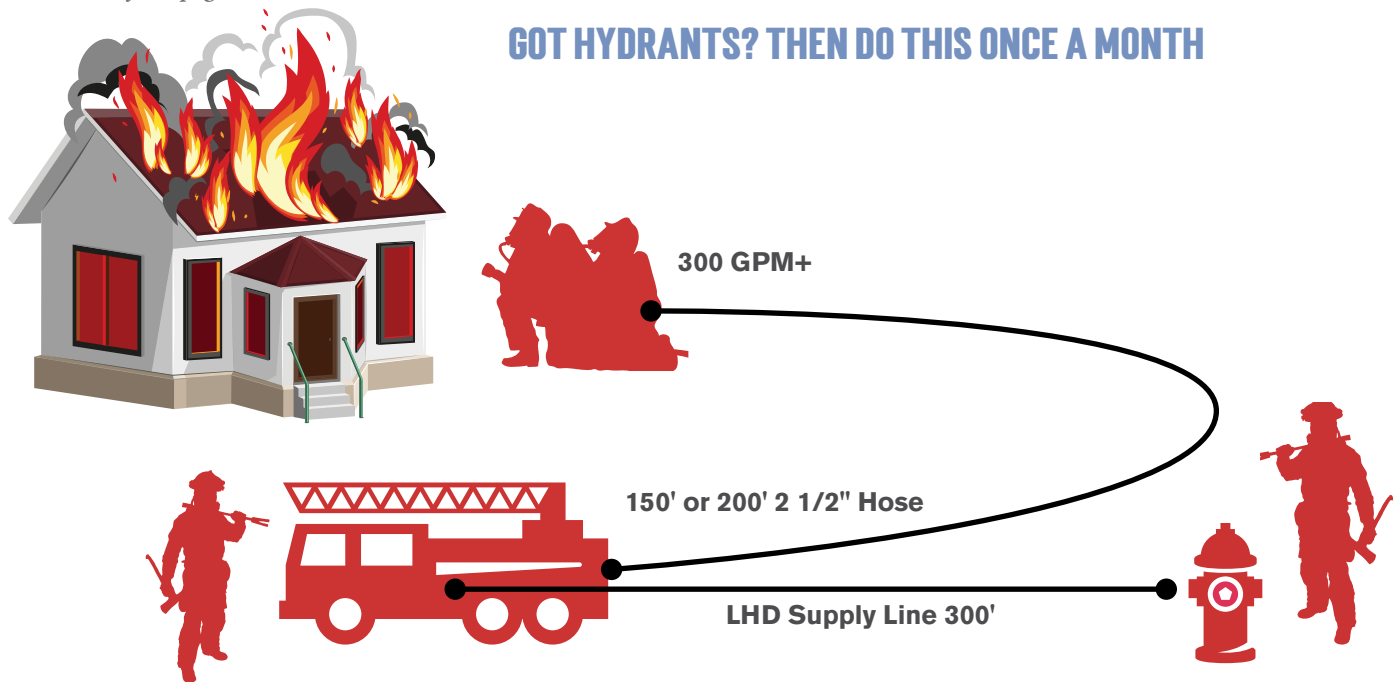
If you have two or three engines, each one can be doing the drill with a different crew at the same time.

Practice until you can do these evolutions every time in three minutes without fumbling.

And, yes, there is important time and place for classroom training. But, the 2015 and 2020 MCVFA Training Surveys indicated we need more hands-on training. If you need to add an extra drill each month dedicated to hands-on fire attack drills, do so. If you find you're listening to someone talk about fire training or watching fire training, you need to get out outside and do it.

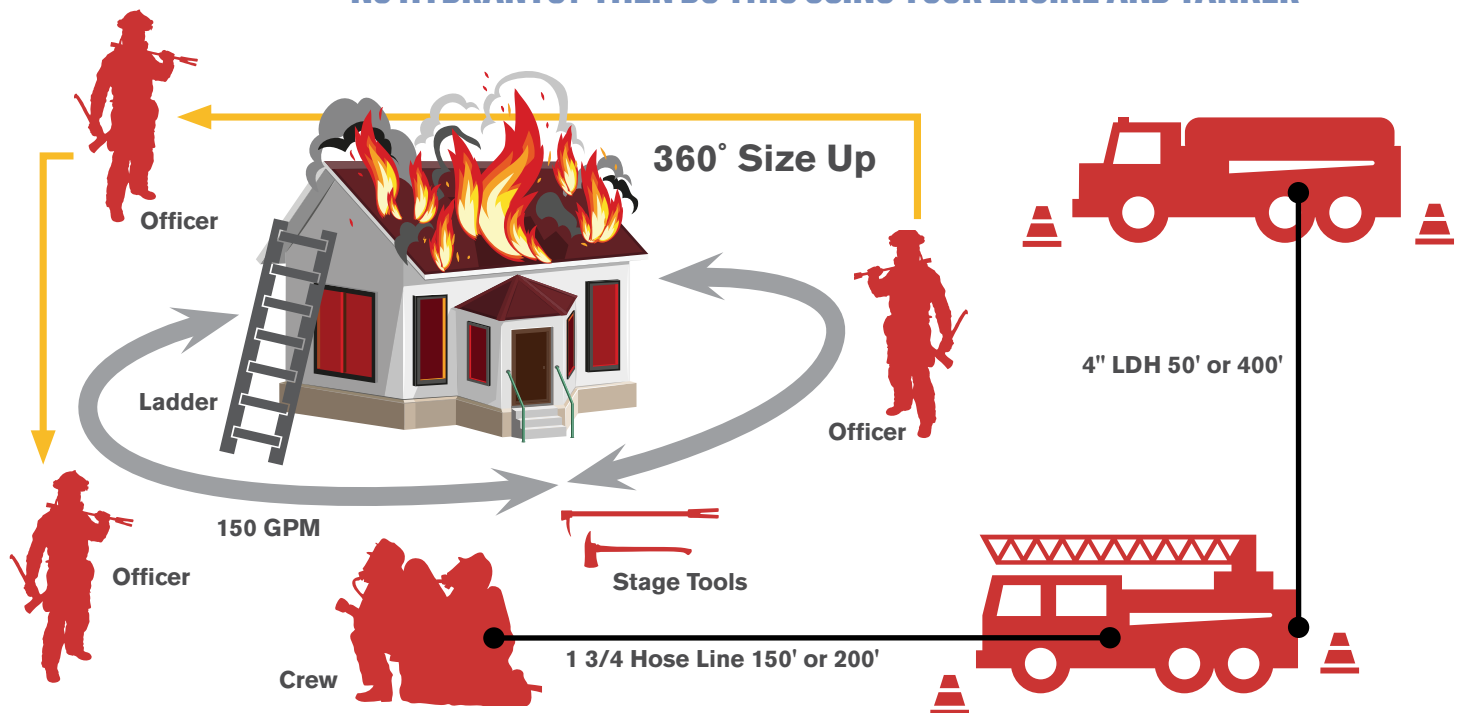
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OBJECTIVE: To place an initial exterior 2 ½" attack line of a minimum 150' in-service and flowing a minimum of 300 gpm using a single engine (or engine-tanker) with staffing of the average number of personnel that ordinarily respond. A forward lay 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 ¼" tip flows 300 gpm at 45psi.)

NO HYDRANTS? THEN DO THIS USING YOUR ENGINE AND TANKER



OBJECTIVE: To place an initial 1 ¾" attack line flowing 150 gpm in operation (transitional fire attack or offensive fire attack) in a safe and effective manner using a tender/tanker for water supply. Engine/Quint Company to do a 360 size-up, stretch and charge line, stage tools, raise a ladder and attack the fire. Have the tanker arrive 2-3 minutes later and connect to the engine.

2021



Robert J. Hindley Memorial Scholarship

2021 Scholarship Winners

The Executive Board of the MCVFA is pleased to announce and congratulate this year's recipients of the Hindley Scholarship.

Region 1

Jordan Victor De Medeiros

Wareham Fire Department
Massachusetts Maritime Academy

Region 1

Angela Rose

Rehoboth Fire Department
Bristol Community College

Region 5

Aaron Cassavant

Pittsfield Fire Department
Berkshire Community College

Region 1

Emily Bird

Wareham Fire Department
Sacred Heart University

Region 2

Jesse Judson

Merrimac Fire Department
Northern Essex Community College

Application Period Opens / January 1, 2022

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. We encourage you to apply.

The Hindley Scholarship application period begins on January 1 and ends on June 1 of each year.

How to Apply

Application forms can be download at
www.mcvfa.org/scholarships

Send your application form along with supporting documents to: mmmsb@comcast.net or

MCVFA

Robert J. Hindley Scholarship
PO Box 1015, East Wareham, MA 02538

Download the application at www.mcvfa.org/scholarships

REGION 1

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

Vice President Christopher J. Hajder, Swansea

Greetings from Region 1

I was sure that this edition would find us all living our collective lives with Covid-19 far in the rearview mirror but how wrong could I have been. The face mask debate continues; to be or not to be vaccinated and what do we do with kids in school? Where can I go, where can't I go in public....blah blah. But I don't want to focus on negative but rather positive news from Region 1.

On Monday August 16, 2021, I had the distinct honor of representing the MCVFA at the Town of Rehoboth, MA, Board of Selectmen's meeting where our latest recipient of the Robert J. Hindley Scholarship was recognized. Along with Region 1 Coordinator Mike Palimeri, flanked by Rehoboth Firefighter Tom Rose (Angela's father) and Rehoboth Representative to MCVFA Firefighter Fred Crisbin, I was honored to present a scholarship check to Angela Marie Rose of Rehoboth during the meeting's scheduled agenda. Angela has a heart for volunteering and community engagement and will undoubtedly be an asset to her community. Angela will be attending Bristol Community College this fall and will focus her studies on psychology and criminal psychology and she hopes to transfer to Bridgewater State to finish a Bachelor's Degree. Best of luck in her endeavors.

The MCVFA State Meeting and Elections are scheduled for this fall. October will be the organization's 31st year of existence and because of the pandemic; we weren't able to celebrate this accomplishment last year. Carver FD has graciously extended their invite to host this year's celebration meeting with an eye on Covid restrictions at the forefront. We will keep the membership informed as date and details are finalized in the coming weeks. If you or your department would like to participate in this celebration, please contact me, President Burnett or Coordinator Mike Palimeri at your earliest convenience.

I hope that each department delegate and/or alternate has had the opportunity to view and even utilize the newly created membership application/information forms. It has been a never-ending task to simplify the

forms for each department. I hope the new forms make life easier for everyone to send us the information we need that is vital to membership. Remember, don't be that person that "thought they were an active member" and need services only to find out your status was inactive!

With respect to the many recent promotions, I'd like to congratulate all the newly appointed chiefs and subsequent promotions. It has been increasingly difficult to track all the retirements, untimely deaths and department moves throughout the region and state. With that said congratulations to all the members of MCVFA that have taken their undoubtedly much deserved retirements. May you enjoy every day you don't have to answer the call anymore. As for the passing of MCVFA members both present and retired, on behalf of Region 1, our deepest sympathies to those families.

I'd like to leave you with this quote from the late Superman actor Christopher Reeve, who once said, "a hero is an ordinary individual who finds the strength to persevere and endure in spite of overwhelming obstacles". My brothers and sisters, you are the hero's to your community and you are the reason we strive to keep doing good, day in and day out. (How many of you will remember "it's a bird, it's a plane....it's Superman!")

Thanks for making a difference in the Commonwealth and stay safe my brothers and sisters! 🚒

REGION 2

Covering the counties of Essex, Middlesex

Coordinator Lisa Evans, Groveland

New West Newbury Rescue

West Newbury has a new 2021 Ford F-550, 4X4, KME Rescue Truck, it was put in service August 2021, just in time for the Newburyport Yankee Homecoming Parade. The rescue has front and back seating areas a total of 5 passengers. The cargo compartments are equipped with slide out organizers allowing easy access to equipment from either side of the truck. Plenty of room for medical supplies, water rescue equipment, tools and MSA SCBA Packs. Rescue 20 is replacing the 1994 Ford F700/3D Rescue 1.



Oral Cancer (OC) is not just a smoker's disease. They have found an increase in incidence in young healthy people. Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) can infect the mouth and throat and cause cancers of the oropharynx (back of the throat, including the base of the tongue and tonsils). This is called oropharyngeal cancer. HPV is thought to cause 70% of oropharyngeal cancers in the United States.

Some of the signs and symptoms of Oral Cancer include difficulty swallowing, a hoarse voice, a lump feeling in the throat, a one-sided (unilateral) lump in the mouth, tongue or within the glands around the head and neck area. If you notice any of the above symptoms, or a white or red patch, and the area does not heal within two weeks see your dental office for an exam.

Your dentist or dental hygienist should be completing an OCS exam each time you go for a continuing care appointment and exam. Ask them about it.

Get to know what signs and symptoms to look for and complete your own monthly cancer exam. 🚒

Skin and Oral Cancer Screening

The Massachusetts Firefighting Academy offered free firefighter skin and oral cancer screenings at the Groveland Fire Department. The MA DFS can help you organize your departments screenings and cancer awareness class.



Lt. PJ Roy and of FF Lisa Evans. PJ shares his father's fight with OC at the DFS Cancer Awareness Classes and inspires FF Lisa Evans, who is also a Dental Hygienist, to complete OCS's for firefighters. They both work to raise cancer awareness.

REGION 3

Covering the counties of Worcester, Middlesex, Norfolk
Vice President Michael Goldstein, Sherborn

Region 3 lost Three Firefighters

Medfield Fire Captain Michael J. Harman, Jr. (an active duty firefighter), the retired Chief from Dover, and John Lewis Martin, retired from Upton Fire.

Fire Captain Michael J. Harman, Jr., Medfield Fire Department: Fire Captain Michael J. Harman, Jr. of Medfield Fire Department passed away unexpectedly while at sea on July 10, 2021. Born in Norwood, MA in 1978, he is survived by his wife Susan. He went to Medfield High School and Franklin Pierce College. He worked for AMR in Boston as an EMT, and joined Medfield Fire, which is a combo department.

As his obituary notes: "He was hired as a call firefighter in [Medfield] in 2003. Two years later he was hired as a full-time firefighter/EMT. Mike graduated from the Massachusetts Fire Academy Class #1865 on February

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26, 2010. He was promoted to Lieutenant four years later and he has been the Local 4478 Union President since 2016. Mike was working towards his degree in Fire Science and was recently promoted to the rank of Captain.”

There was a highly attended (100+ people) fire department walk-through during visiting hours on Tuesday, July 20, 2021; representatives of many departments in Region 3 and beyond were in attendance. The next day, fire departments from many MCVFA Region 3 and surrounding towns lined Route 27 in Medfield for Capt. Harman’s final ride (*see photos and <https://patch.com/massachusetts/medfield/final-ride-honoring-mfd-captain-mike-harman>*). Station coverage for the wake and funeral was provide by neighboring MCVFA Region 3 towns (including Dover, Medway, Millis, Norfolk, Sherborn, Walpole, and Westwood.)

Donations may be made to either the The Michael Harman Scholarship Fund (make checks payable to “Town of Medfield - Michael Harman Scholarship” and send to Medfield Town Hall, 459 Main Street, Medfield, MA 02052) or The Medfield Fire Cadet Program (make checks payable to “The Medfield Fire Cadet Program” and send to Medfield Fire Station, Attn: Fire Chief, 114 North Street, Medfield, MA, 02052.)

<https://patch.com/massachusetts/medfield/obituary-medfield-fire-dept-captain-michael-harman-jr>

Fire Chief (Ret.) Craig Hughes, Dover Fire Department

Recently retired Dover Fire Chief Craig Hughes passed away on July 15, 2021 after a long battle with cancer. Chief Hughes was an “Independence Day” baby, born on July 4, 1957. A lifelong Dover resident, he joined Dover Fire, a call department (and a longtime active member



department of MCVFA with almost 50 members) in 1975. He became Chief in 2016, but due to his illness had to retire in October 2020.

Many MCVFA Region 3 and other towns came to pay their respects to Chief Hughes on Friday, July 23 during the Fire walkthrough and during his funeral on Saturday, July 24. Station coverage for Dover was provided by neighboring MCVFA Region 3 towns.

Donations may be made on Craig Hughes’ behalf to Dover Firefighters’ Relief Association, PO Box 193, Dover, MA, 02030.

www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/bostonglobe/name/craig-hughes-obituary?pid=199485526

John Lewis Martin

John Martin, formerly of Upton Fire and Rescue Department (an active and longtime MCVFA department) passed away at age 93 at home on April 28, 2021.

He was born in Franklin, MA, in 1928 to parents that were themselves originally Upton residents. He was a graduate of Grafton High School in 1946, and enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1948, serving in Japan and Korea as part of the First Cavalry Division. As his obituary notes: “On 5 December 1950 John was seriously wounded in combat when his unit was overrun by North Korean and Chinese forces. While his significant combat injuries and lengthy hospitalizations would define a life trajectory of medical needs and care for this Purple Heart recipient; John never let these injuries and medical needs define him or his life.”

He was also active in the fire service. As his obituary notes: “In his early adulthood John worked locally manning a forest fire tower for the state of MA. John’s most significant and fulfilling work was his volunteer service, in particular to his home community Upton. John’s contributions to the Upton Fire Department are well recognized. Of particular importance to the town was John’s 30 years of service managing the Town’s Ambulance Fund. As Treasurer of the Ambulance Fund John helped raise the funds required to purchase and equip 3 ambulances. ... John also served as the Secretary and Treasurer of the MA Forest Fire Council from 1979 to 1986 and he was a Life Member of the Blackstone Valley Forest Service.”

Donations in his memory may be sent to the Upton Fire & EMS Association Ambulance Fund, PO Box 1012, Upton,

MA, 01568 or to the George Lincoln Wood VFW Post 5594, PO Box 472, Upton, MA, 01568 or www.uptonvfw.org or www.uptonfunerals.com/obituary/John-Martin

Other Region 3 News

First, an important reminder that 2021-22 dues are now due, and that you are not covered by the Life Insurance until this year's dues are paid.

Many Fire Associations have reported that they have not had meetings since March 2020 due to the pandemic. As a result, there has not been a Region 3 meeting for some time. Assuming COVID and the Delta variant allow, we hope to have a Region 3 meeting in the fall but we are looking for a host department. Please contact Michael Goldstein at vpregion3@mcvfa.org if your department or association is willing to host a meeting!

Please pass along any news, new apparatus, pictures, or details of special events or actual fires you would like to share to vpregion3@mcvfa.org so we can feature YOUR department or association in the next *Smoke Showin'*. 🔥

REGION 4

Covering the counties of Franklin, Hampden, Hampshire
Vice President Kevin Connolly, Northfield

'Del was always there': Ashfield surprises Retired Fire Chief Del Haskins with a Party

By Ella Adams, The Recorder
Used by Permission

Community members gathered at Edge Hill Golf Course on Saturday to offer kind words and appreciation for former Fire Chief Del Haskins, who recently retired after 47 years of service, including 12 as Ashfield chief.

Current Ashfield Fire Chief Kyle Walker said that those involved had been planning this surprise event for almost three months, and were counting on almost 140 guests to arrive. It was confirmed when Haskins arrived that the party had remained a surprise. The planning to make that happen, Walker added, was not easy.



Retired Ashfield Fire Chief Del Haskins and his wife, Karen, at a celebration held at Edge Hill Golf Course on Saturday in honor of his retirement from the department after 47 years. Photo courtesy from the Recorder/Ella Adams



From left, Ashfield Fire Chief Kyle Walker, retired Ashfield Fire Chief Del Haskins and Ashfield Assistant Fire Chief Matt Haskins (Del's son).

"It was so difficult getting townspeople to come because we couldn't put posters out" or send mass emails, he explained. Instead, they resorted to word-of-mouth, phone calls, small group emails and Facebook (which Haskins doesn't use).

With those methods, Walker was able to include — along with Ashfield family members and friends — guests like retired and current firefighters and fire chiefs from both Franklin and Hampshire counties, as well as local business owners.

Planners had help from local businesses, too. Hilltown Tents provided the chairs, tents and tables, and Ox and Rabbit Restaurant catered.

For \$5, guests could buy six raffle tickets with the potential to win donated items, from a Weber grill to local restaurant gift cards. Fifty percent of the money raised will go to the Ashfield Fire Department, while the other 50 percent will support Haskins' retirement.

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When Haskins arrived, he was met with a standing ovation. The event became lively and celebratory, filled with food, drinks and appreciation for Haskins' decades of service. A series of speakers touched on Haskins' time with the department, as well as their gratitude his work and commitment to Ashfield.

Assistant Fire Chief Matt Haskins, Del Haskins' son, contacted retired Senior Capt. Mark Hurley, who wrote a letter to Del that Matt read to the crowd.

"You kept (the town) glued together in hard times," Mark Haskins read on Hurley's behalf. "Many things the chief did were out of the sight of the public."

The letter continued, naming countless times when Del Haskins was the first to sign on before anyone else in the department (and neighboring departments), how he served as a mentor for younger firefighters and how he continually gave the job his all.

After Hurley's letter came a presentation of a certificate from the Massachusetts Call Volunteer Firefighters Association (MCVFA). Past President and current Regional Vice President Kevin Connolly presented Haskins with the certificate.

"He has 47 years with the department, and he's been a member of our organization for as long as I can remember," Connolly said of Haskins.

In addition, Haskins was given a \$500 gift card to KOA campgrounds and \$100 for his model train hobby. Numerous fire chiefs from Franklin and Hampshire counties also stood up to comment about the mark he left on not only his town and his department, but other departments across the region.

"When I think of Ashfield Fire, I think of Del. When I think of West County, I think of Del. Del was always there," Greenfield Fire Chief Robert Strahan said. "Del taught me to put my community first, and to put my firefighters above that."

Bernardston Fire Chief Peter Shedd added that Haskins taught everyone without reservation.

"Del was doing it all — not that he would ever mention that at meetings," Shedd continued, noting Haskins' role model quality. "Thanks, Del. And congrats on a job well done."

From Conway to Northfield, and many places in between, it was made clear that Haskins' leadership was a large part of what makes the Ashfield community feel so supported by the department. To Haskins, Chief Walker expressed his gratitude: "If it wasn't for what you've done and how you trained everybody, I wouldn't have such a great group under me."

According to retired Chief Haskins, however, the celebration and work was still not about him — it's about connecting and keeping the community safe, and supporting everyone at Ashfield Fire.

And he's not finished, either. Haskins still plans to help do the "fun" part of the job. He just won't go near the paperwork.

"It makes me feel proud that people respect what the Fire Department does. This is a great town," Haskins said. "It means a lot to me. I respect this town, and there are a lot of good people here."

Warwick Fire Department

On July 13, we held a surprise retirement event for newly retired Deputy Chief Joseph Paul for his 23 years of service. Micheal Mankowsky, the president of the Warwick Fireman's Association and new Deputy Chief, presented a plaque for Joe's years of service to the department. Joe Paul was presented with official citations from the Warwick Select Board, MCVFA, and from our state representative, Susannah Whipps, for Joe Paul's years of service. Thank you everyone who came out to say thank you.

On behalf of the Warwick Fire Department, we thank you, Joe Paul, for your dedication, service, and friendship over the years. Happy retirement! 🧯



REGION 5

Covering the county of Berkshire

Vice President Frank Speth, III, New Ashford

The New Ashford Fire Department held a drill on June 29, 2021 at the Town Hall with a simulated structure fire located in the basement. The members participated in doing an interior search of the building for any victims. The members also learned about using hand tools, stretching and advancement of handlines, and proper search patterns inside of a room for any victims.

Arriving on scene, Command requested mutual aid support from Hancock Fire Department for an Engine Company. Upon arrival, Hancock Fire Department members joined New Ashford in the training evolutions.

The Hinsdale Fire Department also graciously allowed the New Ashford and Hancock Fire Department the usage of the air light truck to fill the SCBA bottles for both departments.

The New Ashford Fire Department offers a special thank you to both the Hancock and Hinsdale Fire Departments for participating in the drill along with working with our Department. 🚒



Has your Information changed?

If your address or email has changed please let us know. To update your information, contact the Membership Secretary at kibird@verizon.net or 1-800-551-FIRE (3473).

Like the MCVFA on Facebook

Check out the Massachusetts Call/Volunteer Firefighters Association (MCVFA) on Facebook and LIKE our page.

The MCVFA Facebook page is a great source of training opportunities, up-to-date fire/ems methods, and political and regulatory changes that affect your department.

The MCVFA Facebook is also a great place to see what other fire departments, like yours, are up to. You can see their emergency calls, drills, and events. You'll get excellent ideas from see what others are doing.



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