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# Smoke Showin'

The Official Publication of the Massachusetts Call/Volunteer Firefighters Association



## Carver FD Intern Program



# NVFC Launches First Responder Helpline to Assist Members in Need

**F**irefighting and emergency response are stressful jobs with high levels of risk and unpredictability. In addition, volunteer responders are often juggling their fire service responsibilities with full time jobs and family commitments. All of these factors can have an impact on the wellbeing of responders and their families.

While many companies offer employee assistance programs (EAPs) to deal with work-life issues, such services are usually not available for volunteer firefighters and EMS providers. Recognizing this service gap, the National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC) has partnered with Provident, a leading provider of benefits for emergency services organizations, to offer a solution tailored to the distinct needs of firefighters, EMS providers, rescue personnel, and their families.

The NVFC First Responder Helpline provides both immediate assistance in a crisis moment as well as confidential counseling, resources, and referrals for a range of issues including stress management, family conflict, financial or legal concerns, addiction, grief or loss, and more.

“Emergency responders face the same stressors and concerns as everyone, but add to this the fact that we routinely experience traumatic situations that most people never encounter in their lifetime,” said NVFC chair Steve Hirsch. “We are thrilled to be able to offer this new resource so that first responders and their families have a place to turn in times of need. The NVFC First Responder Helpline provides a wide range of assistance to help our members cope with traumatic incidents, everyday life stresses, work-related concerns, family issues, and more.”

This program is provided through Provident by BHS, a leader in providing emotional and behavioral health consultations, in

partnership with Responders 1st Call. BHS has been providing mental and behavioral health services to organizations since 1983. The contact center is staffed by master’s level clinicians with an average of five years of experience specially trained in assisting and supporting first responder groups.

What makes the program unique is that in addition to immediate assistance in a crisis moment, the NVFC First Responder Helpline also provides stress management and work-life services. This includes up to five telephone stress management coaching sessions with master’s degreed counselors, access to attorneys for a 30-minute phone or in-person legal consultation, referrals to consultants to assist with debt management and other financial concerns, and resources and referrals to help with child care, elder care, or adoption.

The NVFC First Responder Helpline is automatically included with NVFC membership. All NVFC members and their household family members are able to utilize the First Responder Helpline. Members can access the number on the members section of the NVFC web site. Non-members can join at [www.nvfc.org/join](http://www.nvfc.org/join) for just \$21 a year to access this and other NVFC member benefits. Those who need access to the Helpline but are unable to purchase a membership can request a complimentary membership.

Learn more about the NVFC First Responder Helpline at [www.nvfc.org/helpline](http://www.nvfc.org/helpline). 🌸

*\*\* Please note, the NVFC First Responder Helpline is a new benefit for NVFC members and replaces the Fire/EMS Helpline that had previously been offered. Departments that are still displaying the old Fire/EMS Helpline information and number should remove those materials as that line has been discontinued. \*\**





# 2023

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Winter 2023

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*Cover photo courtesy from Assistant Deputy Chief Jesse Boyle, Carver FD.*

# MCVFA announces New Opportunity for it's Members

An individual who has a very successful record of grant writing has volunteered to help any department write grants.....at no cost.

This individual has successfully obtained Equipment (self-contained breathing apparatus, Wildland Protective clothing, Washer/Extractor, Radio Communications Equipment, Structural Protective Clothing) Vehicles (Aerial Tower Quint, Pumper/Tanker) and FEMA Reimbursements to name a few over the past few years, taking advantage of State and Federal grants which support first responders. Your department may be able to benefit from these programs as well.

Please reach out to Membership Secretary Kathy Bird at kibird@verizon.net to get the contact information. This is an extraordinary offer, and truly a great way to start the New Year. 🌀

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## New Fire Academy Director

The Massachusetts Firefighting Academy has a new Director, Jeffrey Winn.

Mr. Winn recently retired from his position of Colonel where he recently held the position Director of Personnel for the Massachusetts Army National Guard (MANG) where he was responsible for personnel management, creating and implementing personnel policies and initiatives, personnel services and staffing for a 6,000-person organization and managing and executing a budget of approximately \$10 million dollars annually. He also previously held the position of Chief of the Training Division for the Army National Guard. Mr. Winn brings extensive management experience working with both contract and fulltime employees.

He is a graduate of the prestigious U.S. Army War College, and he holds a master's degree in Emergency Management, a master's degree in Strategic Studies and an M.B.A. His previous experience includes Chief of MANG Training Division, Commander of Civil Support Team (CST) and serving for several years as both a Call and Volunteer Firefighter.

Director Winn started his position as Director of the Fire Academy on January 3, 2023.

Congratulations and welcome, Director Winn. 🌀

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## President's Message

I would like to start off by wishing everyone a Happy and Healthy New Year for 2023.

As we start this New Year, I would like to congratulate all the new members of the board.

Mike Goldstein of Sherborn Fire as President, Chris Hajder of Swansea Fire as EVP, Daniel Murphy of Dover Fire as Treasurer, and John Walcek of Wareham Fire as Region 1 VP. It will be nice to have new faces and new ideas for the Organization. I feel very confident that this group will bring us in a good direction and make the organization much stronger. I wish them all the good luck in their new endeavors of moving MCVFA forward.

As for myself I will be stepping down from the Board but will continue working with them on Special projects. I would like to take the opportunity to thank everyone that I have worked with while on the board for the support that they have given me and for bringing us to this point. We have worked through many challenges may they be bad or good and we continue moving forward. I thank you all for your dedication and support through that time.

I would like to thank Pam Crombie for all the hard work and time she put in as our Treasurer. I enjoyed her enthusiasm and vision of how this organization would move forward.

I would like to also congratulate Ira Hoffman on his retirement and wish him the best of luck as he starts another chapter in his life. He has been a big supporter of the MCVFA and worked with us on the Mass Sprinkler Committee.

One of the special projects I will be working on will be the Cash Calendar. That will run during the month of May 2023 and we will be giving away \$50 a day. **Tickets are now available and can purchased from any board member.**

How the Cash Calendar works:

- Purchase a calendar for \$10
- Your name will be put into a barrel
- We will draw a name every day and you could win \$50

This has been a great fundraiser for the organization.

Since we no longer do any telemarketing, we are finding new ways to help support the programs we offer. We will also be doing a Golf Tournament this year, so stay tuned for more info as it becomes available.

**Tom Burnett**  
**MCVFA President**  
[president@mcvfa.org](mailto:president@mcvfa.org)

## Thank You and be Safe on the Roadways.



## Executive Vice President

**H**ello and Happy New Year to you and yours. May this 2023 year be all you want it to be. To the newly elected MCVFA President Michael Goldstein and the entire Eboard I congratulate you on your appointments once again and look forward to a new and exciting time for the members of the MCVFA. I'll take a minute to thank past President Tom Burnette for his time as this associations leader and to wish him well in all his future endeavors.

With a new year comes old and new challenges alike. Firefighter safety and survival, Recruitment and Retention, legislative affairs, the economy. The list is endless. But our focus must be equally as important.

Congratulations to Westport EMA member Roger Maynard for winning the Engine 51 framed picture raffle. Thanks to all those support us by buying chance tickets.

The annual MCVFA calendar fundraiser is in full swing now. Please see your region VP or send us an email for calendars. Narrowing in on a few of these topics has been my goal since getting involved in this association. Recruiting and retaining members not only to the MCVFA but to your department as well. How you might ask? The answer is not a simple one. However, I hope to see tangible information on our website before this issue goes to press. I have working with several members of different volunteer departments to draft some basic guidelines that your organization can follow. Much of the content coming from the NVFC R&R conferences and SOP's from misc departments throughout the Commonwealth. If you have any comments or suggestions regarding R&R, please feel free to contact me at your earliest convenience.

I have a goal for 2023 and that is to visit as many departments as my crazy schedule allows. Life sails by so quickly but I hope to make new friends and visit old ones in this coming year. I'm curious to see what your department is doing for safety and survival type training. I'd like to see some pictures of what your department is doing in future issues.

Please keep an eye out for the 3rd Annual MCVFA Golf Tournament Announcement and applications. Keeping the tournament moving around the state, we're Happy to announce we will be going to Swansea Country Club for the 2023 tournament. Get your foursome in early.

To bring this rant to a close, I'd like to quote President Franklin D. Roosevelt as he discussed the days after Pearl Harbor in 1941. No, we are not presently at war, however taking the seriousness of the state of volunteers across this commonwealth (and country) with respect to maintaining a way of life as volunteers, we may be fighting for our very existence in a much different way.

President Roosevelt said back on December 29, 1941, "We must be the great arsenal of democracy. For us this is an emergency as serious as war itself. We must apply ourselves to our task with the same resolution, the same sense of urgency, the same spirit of patriotism and sacrifice as we would show were we at war".

There is a sense of urgency and responsibility to fight for our existence as volunteers. Doing what we love to do for our community. Fight for us, fight for yourselves and fight for every volunteer that has come before us, sacrificing to make this the best country on the planet.

Thank you for doing what you do every day for your community and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. 🇺🇸

Respectfully,

**Chris Hajder**  
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# New MCVFA President

## MICHAEL GOLDSTEIN

**M**ichael A. Goldstein, Ph.D., a call firefighter/EMT with Sherborn Fire Department, has taken the reins of the Massachusetts Call/Volunteer Firefighters Association (MCVFA) as its new President. President Goldstein is a call firefighter/EMT with the Sherborn Fire Department, and graduated from the Massachusetts Fire Academy as part of Call/Vol Class 083/086 (the class disrupted during Covid) in 2020. He holds Fire Instructor I, Firefighter I/II, and HazMat certifications. He serves on the Board of the National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC) and has served a Regional Vice President of the MCVFA.

Outside of his call volunteer work, Dr. Goldstein is a Professor of Finance at Babson College where he holds the Donald P. Babson Chair of Applied Investments. He currently also holds a three-year appointment as a Visiting Professorship Fellow at the Climate Change Research Center at the University of New South Wales. He also is an Honorary Professor of Environment and Society at Brown University.

He is co-Editor-in-Chief of Financial Management and an Editor at Weather, Climate and Society, a journal of the American Meteorological Society, and Senior Editor at The Journal of Climate Finance. Previously, he was the Editor-in-Chief of The Financial Review. He is an Associate Editor at the Journal of Financial Markets and Finance Research Letters. Dr. Goldstein has received four U.S. National Science Foundation grants related to Arctic Economics. His work in the Arctic has taken him to near or above the Arctic Circle, including Yellowknife (Northwest Territories, Canada), Fairbanks, Barrow, and Point Barrow (Alaska), and Akureyri (Iceland). Some of his work can be seen at [www.arcticecon.com](http://www.arcticecon.com). He has multiple publications on climate science in science journals.

He served on the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (FINRA)'s Economic Advisory Committee, and was Chair from 2011 to 2021. Dr. Goldstein previously served as a member of the Nasdaq Economic Advisory Board from 2003 to 2005, and served as Chair in 2005. Dr. Goldstein was chosen to be the Visiting Economist at the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) for 1997-1998 and was the eighth academic to hold that post. His research covers market microstructure, corporate bonds, climate change, dividend payments around the world, privatization of formerly communist countries, and real estate,



and has consulted Fortune 100 companies and financial firms on financial strategy, international strategy, and complex litigation.

At Babson, Dr. Goldstein was the first Faculty Director of Babson's Master of Science in Finance program from 2016 to 2021. Previously, he was Chair of the Finance Department from 2012 to 2015, and Chair of the Faculty Senate from 2009-2010. He has been designated a Babson Faculty Scholar multiple times. At Babson, Dr. Goldstein has taught undergraduate, graduate, and Executive Education classes.

After receiving his B.S, MBA, MA and Ph.D. from the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania, Dr. Goldstein taught at both the University of Colorado at Boulder and at Boston College prior to joining the faculty at Babson. Dr. Goldstein has taught undergraduate, MBA, Ph.D., and Executive Education courses in corporate finance, valuation, markets and instruments, and financial institution management.

Prior to completing his graduate work, Dr. Goldstein was an investment banker with Merrill Lynch in their Capital Markets division. 🚒

# Carver Fire Department's Intern Program as a Recruitment & Retention Solution

by Assistant Deputy Chief Jesse Boyle



*Intern Class of 2022*



*Intern Class of 2023*



*Intern Class of 2023*

Preparedness is a cornerstone of any fire department's obligation to be mission ready. Around this firehouse, it's been said that 99% of what we do is preparation. If someone added up the minutes it may not be totally accurate, but the message still rings true: Training, apparatus checks, public education, station and gear maintenance, fire prevention, health and safety programs, pre plan visits, equipment testing, in-service checks, and meetings. Collectively, it does seem that we spend more time getting ready for calls than we do responding, at least that's the way it is in our sleepy little town.

In order to sustain a reliable on-call firefighting force, recruitment and retention must be a paramount function of preparedness. None of the aforementioned topics of preparation matter without people to do the job. Staffing is a mission

critical objective, and a systematic plan of action to sustain the appropriate number of firefighters is required. This plan must be reviewed periodically, because what worked in 2003 may not be effective in 2023. Generational and societal changes demand adjustments, an advertisement in the local newspaper just doesn't cut it anymore. The impact of social and electronic media has likely driven the local newspaper out of business, or at least reduced its reach. Our target audience of firefighter candidates has changed, and we must adjust.

Millennials and Generation Z are 56% of this fire department's members. Using the hiring campaigns that worked for Baby Boomers simply doesn't work anymore. The fire service has long standing traditions that must be maintained. We've committed to never forgetting where we came from, but we have adapted. We can maintain our core beliefs while modifying how we



get there. Looking to the youth of our community is a viable solution.

An intern is defined as individual that gains knowledge as a trainee or worker in a trade or profession, with on the job experience being the compensation. The purpose for the intern is to be introduced to the workforce, and get a feel for what field they might want to work in. The benefit for the employer is to establish candidates for employment. In a typical internship, the individual reports to a workplace and shadows a staff member as they perform their duties. As their skills improve, they may be tasked with working independently on projects.

In 2013 our Fire Intern program began. Carver High School had an existing Internship program for senior year students, and together we formed a partnership. The traditional model of shadowing an employee during daily activities just isn't feasible at a quiet on-call fire department. Carver Fire is staffed with about 90 call firefighters. The Fire Chief and two Deputies are full time.

The first few years of our program consisted of a single student, visiting the station on a limited schedule. They would be assigned turn out gear and an ID badge. If a call were to come in, the student would respond with Chief Craig Weston or Deputy Eric Germaine. Otherwise, they would conduct inspections and perform station tasks with the chiefs. Although important duties, we decided that a teenage intern may not be drawn to the fire service by spending time filing records or helping with hose testing.

Carver added a second Deputy Chief in 2017 with the completion of a new fire headquarters and training facility. With these significant changes, an overhaul of the intern program was possible. The constraints of the original version had been removed.

The current program looks different than its origins. This year's class has 5 students, meeting weekly from September to May. Past classes have had as many as 7 students, but admission into the program is selective. Each intern must be recommended by the guidance department and interviewed by the Chiefs. Transcripts are reviewed, and tough questions are asked. Not everyone is accepted. The schedule is 33 classes with 85 hours of instruction, but additional classes and training opportunities are always added. The curriculum is Firefighter I, based on our Recruit Program, using IFSTA Essentials 7, and the Massachusetts Fire Training Council skill sheets. Each class is led by Assistant Deputy Chief Jesse Boyle, with support from a team of 14 Carver firefighters.

Firefighting has been and will always be a hands on occupation, where grit and physicality dictate our success. That means a



*Intern Class of 2022*

program should echo the firefighting experience if we are to show these potential hires what the job is like. As a result, the majority of each class is conducted on the apparatus floor or the drill yard. Each topic on the schedule still gets a classroom lecture, with a student participation mandate. Most classes begin with a quiz on the previous lesson, and questions about local streets. The interns are required to read each of the FF I chapters in Essentials 7 outside of class and prior to the lesson. Theory needs to be explained, but where the interns get hooked is when they put on the gear and start the evolutions. Each lesson gets progressively more difficult, pushing the students beyond their comfort zone and strengthening their ability to excel as a team.

Having a training facility is an advantage. Interns get live burn evolutions, conduct realistic search and rescue evolutions, establish SCBA confidence, throw ladders endlessly, and advance hundreds of feet of hose. Except for live fire, most of these activities can still be performed at any fire station. They don't need full firefighter training; they just need to be inspired.

The students learn skills from repetitions. They learn science in the classroom. They learn teamwork from accomplishing the mission assignments. But they fall in love with The Job from being shown the culture. The spirit and history of the fire service is like no other. Show them this and they will forever be changed.

60% of our interns have either become firefighters or changed their college choice because of the intern experience. It's worth the effort. 🚒



# New Massachusetts Law Makes Victim Photos Illegal

By Chief Joe Maruca

**M**assachusetts passed a new law that makes taking photos of victims at emergency incidents by first responders a criminal offense and makes posting photos of victims a criminal offense. There are some exceptions. The law, Chapter 146 of the Acts of 2022, was signed by the Governor on August 4, 2022, and takes effect on November 4, 2022. Here's what it says first responders can and can't do with regards to taking photographs at emergency incident scenes.

First, the law applies to all first responders. The definition of first responders in the law is extensive and includes all call/volunteer firefighters and EMS providers. The law does not apply to the public or the media. The law is written so it applies to you whether you are on-duty or off-duty. I think there is

an interesting constitutional issue to be resolved as to when the law applies to you while off-duty, but until a court says otherwise, I would assume that the law applies to you when you are both on and off duty. Don't be the test case.

The law says that first responders cannot take photos of crime victims, accident victims, or emergency victims (very broad), including the immediate family of the victims at any incident, UNLESS you are taking the photos in the line of duty or the victim or their immediate family consents to the photo (you'd better have it in writing). The definition of immediate family includes a spouse, child, step-child, adopted child, sibling, step sibling, adopted sibling, parent, step-parent, legal guardian, adoptive parent, grandparent or grandchild.

The law does allow you to take photos in the line of duty, but what does that really mean? I think that you first need to have a written department policy that says what your line of duty responsibilities are with respect to taking incident scene photos. For example, when I step out of my car at a fire, a crash, or some other complex incident, I take an arrival photo of the whole incident scene. I do this so I have a reference for what I saw on arrival in case my decisions are called into question, or I need to testify about the incident. I also do this for use in department training or post-incident reviews. These are legally acceptable reasons for taking pictures that include victims and their families. However, I will now have to write a policy that says my firefighters and I should or can do this and what we do with those photos.

It is not uncommon for EMS personnel to photograph a crash scene to share with the hospital or medflight crew, and it might contain a victim or their family. If you have written policy allowing this, I think you are OK.

Additionally, the law says that it is illegal to transmit, disseminate or otherwise make available to a third person any photo (including digital images) of a victim (or their immediate family) of a crime, accident or emergency without their consent, unless it is in the line of duty. Posting on Facebook is not going to be in the line of duty. Sharing it with friends or other firefighters is not going to be in the line of duty. Sharing it as part of a training class might be OK as long as it is relevant to the class. Sharing it with arson investigators or police investigators should be OK. It is important that your department have a written policy about how you store these photos, who can see them and why, and who you can share them with. If you don't, almost any use won't qualify as line of duty. Your duty must be defined.

There is an exception in the law for body cameras and dash cameras. Clearly the law allows these cameras to indiscriminately photograph victims and their families. The writing of the law also seems to exempt them from the law about sharing the photos, but I would strongly recommend you not share these photos any differently than you do other photos.

Intentionally violating this law is punished by a fine of \$2000 or up to 1 year in jail or both. While it does not say this in the law, negligently sharing these photos will certainly result in civil liability – a big payout to the family.

Why did this law happen? It happened because first responders failed to use common sense, got greedy or incredibly insensitive to the people we serve. While there have been lots of lesser known first responder photo controversies in recent years, the big case that is driving many states to adopt these kinds of

laws is the case of Kobe Bryant's 2020 helicopter crash. In the Kobe Bryant case, the LA County Sheriff's Department and LA County Fire Department took and shared gruesome photos of the crash and its victims. A jury awarded the Bryant family \$31 million in damages.

What should you do? Your department should create a written photo policy that at its bare minimum includes:

- When photos can and can't be taken.
- Who can take photos and with what devices.
- Storage of photos.
- No photos can be deleted (ever – except in accordance with state law) – even bad out of focus photos and such.
- How photos can and can't be used.

I would also recommend that you only take photos with department issued cameras and cell phones (except under exigent circumstances) so that your personal cellphone does not become evidence in a criminal case.

What about posting incident photos on your department Facebook (or other social media platforms)? While there are many legitimate reasons for posting incidents, you must exercise care. You can still post emergency scene photos so long as you don't include photos with any victims or their families. In practice, that means making sure you know the status of every person in the photo. (If you don't know for certain who someone is and that they are not a family member of a victim, don't post the photo.) It means generally avoiding photos with civilians in them.

I would even avoid using blurred out faces or images in such postings. The way this law is written, I think it is the posting or sharing of the image that is the crime, not whether you can identify the victim.

Posting photos of training exercises, community events, staff members, and other non-emergency incidents photos is not restricted by this law. 🚫

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# Dermatologist Honored for Firefighter Cancer Prevention

## Dr. Christine Kannler Receives Fire Marshal's Award at Firefighter of the Year Ceremony

**A** Massachusetts dermatologist was honored recently as a crusader for firefighter cancer awareness, prevention, and early detection, receiving a standing ovation from a crowd packed with firefighters and their loved ones.

State Fire Marshal Peter Ostroskey presented Dr. Christine Kannler with the Stephen D. Coan Fire Marshal's Award at the 33rd Annual Firefighter of the Year ceremony on Nov. 18, 2022. Dr. Kannler's brother, Peter Kannler, was a Chelsea firefighter and Massachusetts Firefighting Academy instructor who lost his battle with occupational cancer in 2016 at just 37 years old.

"Following Peter's tragic death, Dr. Kannler put her training to use by independently offering free skin cancer screenings to any firefighter who was interested," State Fire Marshal Ostroskey told hundreds of firefighters at Mechanics Hall in Worcester. "After initially working on her own, she contacted the Academy in 2018 to see if we could expand her reach. Since that time, the interest has exploded, and she's screened thousands of firefighters at scores of local firehouses, union meetings, and other venues across the Commonwealth – all on her own time."

Dr. Kannler also works tirelessly to raise awareness about occupational cancer in the fire service – not just among firefighters but also in the medical community. Many clinical professionals aren't aware that cancer is the leading cause of death among firefighters, or that firefighters are more likely to develop cancer at younger ages and identify it in its later

stages. Using her successful partnership with the Department of Fire Services and Massachusetts Firefighting Academy as an example, she has pushed state and national dermatological societies to develop similar programs nationwide. About 10 other states are trying similar collaborations with fire service agencies.

"Dr. Christine Kannler truly epitomizes the important role physicians have in being strong advocates for the health and wellbeing of our patients," said Dr. Michael Hamrock, a former firefighter and department physician for the Boston Fire Department who now provides primary care to many Massachusetts firefighters. "Her work has inspired and motivated colleagues across the country to perform similar screenings and hopefully soon will become the standard of care for the U.S. fire service. I cannot think of a greater legacy for her brother Peter than Christine's mission to help raise the awareness of occupational cancer risks in firefighters and promoting and performing lifesaving early detection screenings on them."

"Dr. Kannler is an amazing person who has taken a tragedy and turned it into something positive for the fire service," said Chief Russell Osgood, Vice President of Education, Research, and Outreach for the Firefighter Cancer Support Network. "Her efforts are truly saving lives, not only in Massachusetts but across the country."

"The fire service is becoming much more attuned to occupational cancer than we used to be," said State Fire



Marshal Ostroskey. "But most of us don't have a dermatologist who can provide meaningful information and a clinical exam. Dr. Kannler has made that resource available, on request, in the very places we work and live."

Call, volunteer, career, and retired firefighters in Massachusetts are all eligible for free skin cancer screenings. While Dr. Kannler pioneered the partnership with DFS and the MFA, Occupational Cancer Program Coordinator Abby Baker has recruited more volunteer dermatologists to meet the demand. Chest CT scans and PSA blood tests are also available for

eligible firefighters at no cost, with more programs in the works. Visit [www.mass.gov/DFS](http://www.mass.gov/DFS) and search the site for Occupational Cancer to learn more.

"Time and again, we hear the same five words from firefighters who beat melanoma because she helped them spot it in time," said State Fire Marshal Ostroskey. "Those words are 'Dr. Kannler saved my life.' The Firefighter of the Year Awards recognize acts of life-saving heroism by our brother and sister firefighters. Dr. Kannler might not be a firefighter, but she's a hero and a lifesaver all the same." 🌸

## MCVFA 2023 Calendar Fundraiser

The MCVFA will be doing a Cash Calendar fundraiser again this year. Tickets will be available to purchase starting **January 1, 2023**, and are **\$10 each**. The raffle will be held in May.

These funds will help support our membership benefits and other programs that we offer.

We thank you for your continued support in the MCVFA.

For more information, please follow us on our website at [www.mcvfa.org](http://www.mcvfa.org), Facebook page, or call Tom Burnett at 617-719-1289 or [mmmsb@comcast.net](mailto:mmmsb@comcast.net).

*Need all sold tickets returned by April 28, 2023.*





# NERO'S LAW

## Welcome to Veterinary Medicine

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By Chief Joe Maruca

**M**assachusetts's ambulance services now have a duty to treat and transport injured police dogs. EMTs and paramedics are required to do three hours of very specific veterinary training every two years. This is all a result of Nero's Law. Nero's law was signed into law on February 15, 2022 as Chapter 23 of the Acts of 2022. Here's what the law says and requires.

The definition of a person in GL Chapter 111C is amended to include a "police dog". So for the purpose of the Commonwealth's emergency medical system, a police dog is a person.

EMTs and paramedics "shall provide emergency treatment to injured police dogs". The injury must occur in the line-of-duty. Massachusetts licensed ambulance services "shall" transport injured police dogs, however,





the law carves out an exception that the treatment and transport of a person takes precedence over the treatment and transport of a police dog. (We'll ignore the fact that the legal definition of a person now includes a police dog and go with what we think was meant by this part of the law.)

The law then goes on to specify the training required by EMTs and paramedics every two years. That training "shall" include training EMS staff in all of the following:

- To provide basic level first aid to police dogs;
- To provide CPR to police dogs;
- To provide "live saving interventions" to police dogs;
- To provide naloxone (Narcan) to police dogs;
- Safe handling procedures of police dogs;
- How use a box muzzle;
- Identification of appropriate veterinary facilities;
- "Decontamination" of stretchers and equipment; and
- "Sterilization" of the interior of the ambulance.

The training regulation requires that half of the training, one and a half hours, be done in-person, hands-on, with a dog. (Rumor has it that OEMS is considering the use of medical manikin as an alternative.) The rest of the training can be conducted in a classroom or in a live on-line class. All EMTs and paramedics who work or volunteer for the ambulance service are required to have the training. Initial training must be completed on or before February 10, 2023.

This more training than EMTs are required to have for treating pediatric patients.

The Commonwealth has provided no money or other resources to provide for this training.

The law prohibits the provision of advanced life support (ALS) to police dogs.

There is a provision in the law and EMS regulations for an ambulance service to seek a waiver for participation in Nero's law if "compliance poses a safety risk to the public". The waiver standard in the EMS regulations requires the following additional elements:

- A showing of a good faith effort to comply;
- A showing that compliance results in an undue hardship;
- A showing that the ambulance service has adopted an alternate procedure for treating and transporting injured police dogs that is functionally equivalent to Nero's Law; and

- A showing that the ambulance service as instituted alternative procedures that do not limit the provision of service for injured police dogs.

Next, the law limits the liability of EMS personnel for police dog medical malpractice or for the cost of any veterinary care. The law doesn't appear to provide the same limitation of liability for the ambulance service.

Lastly, the law exempts EMTs and paramedics from the definition of practicing veterinary medicine so they can be required to get a veterinary license or be liable for practicing veterinary medicine without a license.

The reason for Nero's Law arises from a tragedy that occurred on April 12, 2018. Yarmouth Police Sergeant Sean Gannon was killed in the line of duty while serving a warrant on fugitive in Marstons Mills, MA. Injured was Gannon's canine partner, Nero. Nero was also shot and suffered life-threatening injuries. Fire Department EMS personnel were unable to take Nero by ambulance to the veterinary hospital because state law prohibits animals from being treated or transported by licensed EMS personnel and agencies. Nero had to be rushed to the veterinary hospital in the back of police cruiser and did survive the shooting.

Yarmouth Deputy Police Chief (Retired) and State Representative Stephen Xiarhos (R-West Barnstable) filed legislation that would allow ambulance services to transport a police dog injured in the line duty. This legislation ultimately became the law we now know as Nero's Law. As is commonly the case with legislation, Nero's Law as it was rewritten, amended, and ultimately signed in to law, goes further than simply allowing ambulances to transport injured police dogs, it creates a duty to do it.

Compliance is going to be tricky. There is no infrastructure to provide for the hands-on with dogs training. I received one email ad from a company offering to provide Nero's Law training and received a price quote of \$800 to provide for two training sessions at our fire station.

Additionally, Nero's Law probably reaches further than what most of us visualize. It requires the treatment and transport of any police dog injured in the line of duty. The line of duty can be any injury or illness that occurs while the dog is on patrol, training, doing public education, or otherwise with his officer who is on-duty. There are lots of reasons a dog on-duty will need medical attention other than being shot or similar traumatic injuries at the hands of criminals. 🚫



# You Can See Your Personnel File!

By Chief Joe Maruca

**M**assachusetts employees and former employees have a right to see and copy their own personnel file at least twice a year. The law is M.G.L. Chapter 149 Section 52C.

Your employer, in the case of call/volunteer firefighters, the town or chief cannot withhold your file from you, prevent you from making a copy of anything in the file, and can't keep a secret file or part of your file secret from you. That's the law. This includes any subfiles, such as your training file or your medical file, or your payroll file. While much of your personnel file is private and not accessible to the public (and others without a valid legal reason) it is open to you.

The law says that you should make the request for your file in writing (but many organizations will simply hand it to you any time you ask – the law doesn't prevent this). The law doesn't require any particular form to make the request for your file. Here's a sample request:

*Dear XYZ:*

*I am writing to request my personnel records from my employment with the ABC Fire Department (or town or company). Please send a copy of my personnel record to my attention at (my address) within five days of this letter as specified in MGL Chapter 149 Section 52C. Thank you for your attention to this matter.*

**OR**

*I am writing to request to view my personnel records from my employment with the ABC Fire Department. Please let me know a date/time that I can view and copy my records at the fire station or town hall within five days of this letter as specified in MGL Chapter 149 Section 52 C. Thank you for your assistance.*

All employers are required to keep your employment records without deletions for at least three years after you leave, and municipal governments must keep employee personnel files for

up to 30 years after you leave (there is a complex schedule of what to keep and for how long). You cannot be charged for the copy of your file.

Your file must, by law, contain at least the following items:

- The name, address, date of birth, job title and description
- Rate of pay (i.e. salary or hourly rate) and any other compensation paid to the employee
- Starting date of employment
- The job application of the employee, including resumes or other similar documents submitted in response to the employer's advertisement for an open position
- All performance evaluations
- Evidence of substandard performance in the workplace, including written warnings
- Lists of probationary periods, waivers signed by the employee, copies of dated termination notices, and any other documents relating to disciplinary action of the employee

And, if your employer places any negative information in your personnel file, they must tell you within 10 days of doing so, and you may request to review your file and this request does not count as one of the two reviews per year. Each time your employer adds a negative item to your file, you get an extra viewing.

If you and your employer disagree with any information in your file, and you cannot come to an agreement to modify or remove it, you have the legal right to place a written statement explaining your position into the file.

Finally, it is unclear whether this law applies to volunteers, and by volunteers, I mean those who are paid zero for their services. If you get any kind of stipend or payment, I believe you are enough of an employee to be covered by this law. But the law was written with the private businesses in mind, so it doesn't contemplate volunteer employees because private businesses can't really have volunteers. 🛑



# Need A Scholarship?

## LET US HELP!

**Application Period Opens / January 1, 2023**

**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 obtained from page 18-19 or download at [www.mcvfa.org/scholarships](http://www.mcvfa.org/scholarships)

Send your application form along with supporting documents to: [mmmsb@comcast.net](mailto:mmmsb@comcast.net) or

**Massachusetts Call/Volunteer Firefighters' Association (MCVFA)  
Robert J. Hindley Scholarship  
PO Box 1015, East Wareham, MA 02538**

**APPLICATION PERIOD OPENS: JANUARY 1, 2022**

**NEW CLOSING DATE  
CLOSING DATE: JUNE 1, 2022**



**Download the application at [www.mcvfa.org/scholarships](http://www.mcvfa.org/scholarships)**



# 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.

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Signature

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Date

Send your application form along with supporting documents to: [mmmsb@comcast.net](mailto:mmmsb@comcast.net) or mail to  
Massachusetts Call/Volunteer Firefighters' Association (MCVFA),  
Robert J. Hindley Scholarship, PO Box 1015, East Wareham, MA 02538



**CLOSING DATE: JUNE 1, 2023**

[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.:

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Send your application form along with supporting documents to: [mmmsb@comcast.net](mailto:mmmsb@comcast.net) or mail to  
**Massachusetts Call/Volunteer Firefighters' Association (MCVFA),  
Robert J. Hindley Scholarship, PO Box 1015, East Wareham, MA 02538**



**CLOSING DATE: JUNE 1, 2023**

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

## REGION 1

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

**Vice President John Walcek, Wareham**

Just prior to being elected Vice President of Region 1, I had the opportunity to attend the National Volunteer Fire Councils Recruitment and Retention experience in Arizona. The event was not just a chance to get away, but it was a chance to learn, and network with fellow fire personnel from around the country. What I realized right away was that many of us are in the same situations. We are all searching for creative ways of recruiting new members, and holding on to the ones we have. A mighty tall order given the complexities facing call and volunteer firefighters today. It is no longer jumping on the truck, with ill-fitting gear and following the lead of a senior member. We are all aware of the grueling and time-consuming training for an entry level firefighter.

To that end we are planning a Region 1, Recruitment and Retention meeting on Tuesday, January 24, 7:00 p.m., at the Onset Fire Department. All Region 1 departments and members are welcome to attend the meeting, discussing real world strategies and tactics to address the concerns of virtually every fire department today.

A big thanks to Chief Jeff Osswald in opening the doors of his agency to the MCVFA. The Onset FD is one of two fire departments within the confines of the town of Wareham. OFD is a combination department that relies heavily on call staffing, including a unique internship program with the Massachusetts Maritime Academy in neighboring Bourne.

The other department in the town is the Wareham Fire Department, where I serve, also a combination department. The Chief officers and all career members are extremely supportive of the call force. In fact, every career firefighter started as a call firefighter in the department. Basically, one engine company is staffed 24/7, backed up by off-duty career and call personnel. At any given incident, I am proud to say, the two groups work seamlessly together. Having started with the department in 1984, I have seen so many changes, as you can imagine. What hasn't changed is the genuine dedication and service of the department members. The call firefighters, both men and women, come from all walks of life, including a middle school teacher, electricians, plumbers, students, and multiple other professions. When the tone sounds these folks come

together, with their talents, and provide an amazing level of service to the residents of the community.

I look forward to visiting and meeting with the members of Region 1, to see how we can as an organization serve you, not only as a department but as an individual. In my short time being an officer in the MCVFA, I am very impressed with the commitment of my fellow officers within the organization. They are caring people, who give freely of themselves for the betterment of the call and volunteer firefighters of our Commonwealth. We will be scheduling additional Recruitment and Retention meetings, as this is such a critical topic.

In closing I would like to thank Chris Hadjer (Swansea Fire) and Kathy Bird for encouraging me to take a more active role in the MCVFA. I am honored and proud to serve with them.

Lastly it is my honor to serve you. You are the ones that give so much of yourselves in service to others, without asking for anything in return. In today's world that is something very special. 🧯

**Stay safe, John Walcek, Vice President, Region 1**

## REGION 2

Covering the counties of Essex, Middlesex

**Coordinator Lisa Evans, Groveland**

A ceremony was held at the Groveland Town Hall in honor of Firefighters, Police Officers and Dispatchers who assisted in two different fire department calls.

Due to the team efforts of the Groveland fire and police departments in response to a home fire, a grandmother and granddaughter, were saved from the flames of their burning back deck.

The same team efforts assisted in an additional call, where assistance was given to help to deliver a healthy baby girl.

Senator Tarr and Representative Mirra were present to give thanks to the men and women involved who helped with these events. Firefighters who were honored included: Capt Dan Briscoe, Lt Jennifer Hicks, Lt David Evans, FF Jeff Dalton, FF Rob Hoffman and FF Kris Vallone. A job well done! 🧯



# REGION 3

Covering the counties of Worcester, Middlesex, Norfolk

Vice President Michael Goldstein, Sherborn

There is a lot of news (and changes) going on in Region 3 – please read below!

FYI: Region 3 is the largest (and best!) region of the five MCVFA regions! Region 3 encompasses the middle of the state, including over 70+ towns in Region 3 (Worcester and Middlesex counties, from about Sherborn and Dover over to I-84 and from the NH border to the RI border) with at least some call/volunteer firefighters.

## MCVFA Annual State Meeting will be held in Region 3!

The MCVFA Annual State Meeting was held in Region 3! On Saturday, November 5, 2023, the MCVFA Annual State Meeting was held at the Sherborn Fire and Rescue Department (22 N. Main St, Sherborn, MA 01770) on Saturday, November 5, 2022. Region 3 was proud to host MCVFA members from around the state!

## Region 3 Members take MCVFA Leadership Positions

At the MCVFA Annual State Meeting, Michael Goldstein, the current Region 3 Vice President, was elected President of MCVFA effective January 1, 2023.

In addition, on December 16, 2022, Daniel Murphy of Dover Fire was appointed Assistant Treasurer of MCVFA. In 2023, Dan will become Treasurer of MCVFA.

## MCVFA Region 3 Coordinator Seth Grill of Upton Fire stepping down after many years of MCVFA service

We have been very fortunate to have had Seth Grill of Upton Fire to be the Region 3 Coordinator for many years now. Unfortunately, Seth has to step down due to increasing demands at work. We would all like to thank Seth for many, many years of dedicated service to MCVFA!

## REGION 3 Leadership positions OPEN – Region 3 VP and Region 3 Coordinator!

As a result of the Region 3 VP being elected MCVFA President, Michael Goldstein will have to step down as Region 3 VP and the position will be vacant as of January 1, 2023. In addition, the current Region 3 Coordinator (Seth Grill of Upton Fire) is stepping down. We therefore need a new MCVFA Region 3 VP AND a new MCVFA Region 3 Coordinator! These are board positions, but aren't a huge amount of work (you can

call me and ask me) so besides a few meetings you can fit these positions easily into your schedule. (Plus, you get to write this cool section of *Smoke Showin'*.) More importantly, you will have a vote on all major issues that come before MCVFA.

I'm happy to tell anyone more about this and we really need a few people to step up and fill these positions. (I cannot hold two board positions as I am becoming President.) Please contact Michael Goldstein at [vpregion3@mcvfa.org](mailto:vpregion3@mcvfa.org) and I will tell you more about it!

First, an important reminder that 2022-23 dues are DUE. As a reminder, you and your crew are not covered by the Life Insurance until this year's dues are paid.

There is a great deal of good news about Region 3 departments on our Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/MCVFAReg3Worcester](https://www.facebook.com/MCVFAReg3Worcester)). Please also forward anything you would like to have posted.

Here are some quick highlights from around Region 3:

**Dover FD** gave mutual aid to Medfield in late August along with Sherborn Fire and crews from Millis and Walpole. On September 18, Dover Fire had their annual Open House, which was a great success (I went and it was great)! In November, Dover Fire Ladder 1 went to the Medway Christmas Parade and got voted "Best in Show" for decorations! On December 11, Dover Fire responded to an MVA on Bridge Street which connects Dover and Sherborn over the Charles River; Sherborn Fire was also on scene for mutual aid. See more at [www.facebook.com/DoverMAFire](https://www.facebook.com/DoverMAFire)

**Grafton FD** has been very busy. Even just recently, Grafton Fire responded to an MVA at westbound mile marker 100 on the Mass Pike on November 26 ... and again on December 4 back to the Mass Pike westbound at mile marker 101 for an MVA (with at least one vehicle down the embankment) ... and again on December 11 to the Mass Pike, Eastbound at Mile Marker 100.9, for the motor vehicle accident with unknown injuries! (Be careful around mile market 100!) On December 17, Grafton responded to provide mutual aid to Westborough, and on the same day responded to a female stuck in an elevator. They also responded to numerous fire alarms, MVAs, and commercial alarms. See all this and more at [www.facebook.com/FriendsofGraftonFiredepartment](https://www.facebook.com/FriendsofGraftonFiredepartment)

**Holden FD** took part in three Task Force and Strike Team mobilizations to the City of Marlborough and the Town of Ashby in one week at the end of August. In fact, on August 29, "HFD responded to 17 calls ... At one point, 5 simultaneous ambulance calls within 15 minutes of each other were handled by the departments 3 ambulances and help from our mutual aid partners

*continues on page 22*

... continued from page 21

along with a department recall.” On October 15, Holden FD had their open house. In December, Holden FD was awarded \$19,000 from the Department of Fire Services for the FY23 Firefighter Equipment Safety Grant!

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

**Hopedale FD** provided mutual aid to Millis on October 9. Hopedale Fire had their open house on October 15

[www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100068064234505](http://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100068064234505)

**Millbury FD** presented Captain Joe Kosiba a plaque for 48 years of service in September. On October 12, Millbury Fire had their open house. On October 21, they had a working fire. During Thanksgiving, they had a large number of calls. Millbury provided mutual aid to Worcester Fire on December 6 for a working fire on Route 20 near the Mass Pike exchange in Worcester. In December, apparently Santa commandeered Millbury FD's engines and took a joy ride around town multiple times. See [www.facebook.com/MillburyFire](http://www.facebook.com/MillburyFire)

**Sherborn FD** provided mutual aid to City of Marlborough in mid-August as part of a MA Fire District 14-C Forestry Strike Team, along with forestry trucks from Ashland, Framingham, Holliston, Hopedale, Hopkinton & Milford, and then on August 21 provided mutual aid to Medfield along with Millis and Dover. On September 11, Sherborn FD responded as mutual aid to large MVA in Ashland and transported a patient to the hospital. Sherborn FD provided mutual aid to Sudbury on October 12. On October 18, Sherborn FD responded to a difficult electric car fire, with mutual aid from Dover Fire and Holliston Fire. Sherborn FD had their open house October 30, and hosted the MCVFA Annual State Meeting on November 5. On December 11, Sherborn FD provided station coverage for Millis FD and worked with Dover FD (see above) on an MVA at the town line. In early January, Sherborn FD will be migrating their dispatch to the Holbrook Regional Emergency Communications Center.

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

**Sutton FD** had a busy mid to late August. In “past week and a half we have responded to a 2nd alarm fire in Grafton, a 5th+ alarm fire in Dudley, a forestry strike team activation to Marlborough, a brush fire on Rt 146, multiple commercial local alarms, a possible car into one of the lakes, and a tree falling onto a house causing significant damage.” In September they responded to a high angle rescue for a person who had fallen and stuck on the side of a cliff, with help provided by the District 7 Technical Rescue Team. In November, Sutton FD provided mutual aid for a fire in Grafton. Santa also commandeered some of Sutton FD's engines in December. [www.facebook.com/SuttonFire](http://www.facebook.com/SuttonFire)

**Upton FD** also responded to the brush fire in Marlborough (see above) as part of Fire District 7 Forestry Task Force 7C with other Forestry Fire

Suppression units from Mendon, Northbridge, Grafton, Blackstone, Millville, Uxbridge and Sutton. On September 24, Upton Fire had an open house, and the very next day/night they had a fully involved car/garage fire and received mutual aid from Grafton, Hopedale and Hopkinton, and Westborough, and Northbridge. On September 30, Upton Fire got a new ambulance. Unfortunately, in October Upton Fire lost full-time firefighter and paramedic Robert A. Johnson to occupational cancer. [www.facebook.com/uptonfire](http://www.facebook.com/uptonfire)

**West Boylston FD** in August celebrated Chief Thomas Welsh's 45 year career as he retired from service. At the end of August West Boylston FD got a new brush truck. On September 29, West Boylston FD worked on a MVA rollover with entrapment. During October, West Boylston FD trained with Paxton FD and Rutland FD. On November 29, West Boylston FD went to I-190 for an MVA where a vehicle hit a pedestrian.

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

**West Brookfield FD** bought a truck from Brimfield in August. Also in August, West Brookfield FD also responded to Marlborough for the large brush fire (see above). On September 16, West Brookfield responded to a car vs. building call, with mutual aid from Warren Fire. West Brookfield FD had their open house October 16. In November, West Brookfield got a new boat courtesy of West Brookfield Fireman's Relief Association. In December, West Brookfield Fire received \$12,396.75 grant funding through the FY23 Firefighter Safety Equipment Grant. Also, on December 11, Santa apparently also took a joy ride around town using a West Brookfield engine.

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

Please pass along any news, new apparatus, pictures, or details of special events or actual fires you would like to share to [vregion3@mcvfa.org](mailto:vregion3@mcvfa.org) so we can feature YOUR department or association in the next “Smoke Showin’”. 🚒

## REGION 5

Covering the county of Berkshire

**Vice President Frank Speth, III, New Ashford**

The Dalton Fire Department recently took delivery all new Dräger PSS 5000 SCBA with 45-minute cylinders. On a recent Friday night, during what was supposed to have been a severe winter storm, members of the department went through in-service training with representatives from both Dräger, and New England Fire Equipment & Apparatus, the local Dräger dealer.



Dalton Fire had conducted their own evaluation of demo units from several brands. Dräger Regional Sales Manager Christopher Mancuso complimented the department on just how much they had put the demo units through. He told them of how proud he was to return their particular demos to the factory. The demo SCBA, which were brand new when delivered to the department, were completely blackened and beaten up. Chris shared how he had shown the units to various factory representatives, proudly announcing that "THIS is how you try out a demo!"

The Dalton Gang, as they like to be known, learned the functionality of their new equipment that stormy Friday night. The Dräger quick-connect system and the ease of cleaning the packs were two of many popular features they learned about on their new packs, which were purchased through a federal grant.

NEFEA and Dräger thank Chief James Peltier and the Dalton Gang for the opportunity to keep them safe, as they protect the people of Dalton and surrounding communities.



The Cheshire Junior firefighters had learned the proper way to set up or dress a hydrant for water operations on November 27, 2022. This is one of the most important operations on the fireground. Great job to the Cheshire Juniors. 🚒



## Changes at OEMS

Scott Cluett left his position as the Director of the Office of Emergency Medical Services (OEMS) on January 7, 2023. As of writing this, it appears that Susan Lewis, OEMS Deputy Director, is the interim director. Ms. Lewis can be reached at [susan.k.lewis@mass.gov](mailto:susan.k.lewis@mass.gov). 🚒

## 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.





**MCVFA**  
PO Box 1015  
East Wareham, MA 02538  
[www.mcvfa.org](http://www.mcvfa.org)

# Advertise with Smoke Showin'

to Reach Firefighters & EMS Leadership throughout Massachusetts



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

With a readership of approximately 2,000\*, advertising your product or service in *Smoke Showin'* is the best way to reach firefighters and emergency service leadership throughout Massachusetts.

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

For more details, contact Tom Burnett at 617-719-1289 or email [mmmsb@comcast.net](mailto:mmmsb@comcast.net).  
[www.mcvfa.org](http://www.mcvfa.org)