



The Extinguisher



**DEPARTMENT
UPDATES
1/6/22 -1/13/23**

Cancer in the fire service has become a big problem for all of us. Over time, studies have revealed that firefighters have a much higher percentage than the average person. From the carcinogens that we are subject to in the performance of our jobs, to the PFAS chemicals that now are in every household item, we are at risk. The Massachusetts Firefighting Academy has been putting forth a cancer reduction program that every member of the fire service should take an interest in.

Currently, they offer 4 “courses” in this program. The first is *Taking Action Against Cancer in the Fire Service*. This class, which we have hosted here in the past, “will provide information on immediate actions that all ranks from firefighter to chief can take to reduce the occupational cancer risk” (MA DFS). This is a great introductory program for all members. The other offerings are actual cancer screenings by the medical community. These are offered to firefighters free of charge through a grant program. These consist of skin cancer screenings, prostate-specific-antigen blood testing and finally chest CT scans.

I personally have done the skin cancer screening and the chest CT through these programs and I feel that they are a great thing for all firefighters to take part in. Starting with the skin cancer screening, you can get a baseline of where you are at and they will instruct you on how to identify suspect areas. The other programs also offer baseline levels that become a permanent part of your medical record. For the chest CT program, you need to meet age and years of service requirements.

Overall, cancer prevention is something we should all be thinking about and obtaining a baseline level of health through these types of programs and annual physicals is extremely important for our

profession. If you need any information on these programs, go to the DFS LMS website or feel free to contact me.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Ira Hoffman on his retirement from the department. Ira has been a member of the call department since 2010 serving as department photographer and special projects coordinator. He has been a great resource for us on fire prevention projects such as residential sprinklers, smoke alarms, escape plans and many seminars presented to the public. Ira was involved in the creation of the department's After the Fire program which puts the necessary information in a binder given to homeowners to help them follow steps to begin their recovery after a significant fire loss. The department wishes Ira good luck and a happy and healthy retirement!

Vehicles

- 1. New Car 3 – The project is currently moving forward. The vehicle is in and should be going to paint and have the upfit begin shortly. Deputy Chief Smith went to New Jersey to pickup the cabinet insert for the Tahoe from the vendor this week. It came out very nice.**
- 2. Ambulance 4 – No new updates.**
- 3. New EM Pickup – The grant pickup awarded through Homeland Security has been ordered.**
- 4. Ambulance 1 – Check engine codes have been displayed. New EGR valve needed, will be scheduled and replaced by DPW. No need to submit any further maintenance requests for the check engine light.**
- 5. Ambulance 3 – Radio issue repaired. Full radio capabilities have been restored.**

Training

- 1. We will be hosting the MFA MTU trailer on January 21-22. The class is scheduled for 8-4 both days and sign ups need to be done through the Academy LMS system. This is a good live fire prop and excellent training to sharpen your skills. Any questions in how to sign up, please contact an officer.**

Stations

- 1. Adams Road: The DPW has moved to their new facility. The fuel pumps are not active as of yet, so fuel will still be at the existing pumps on Adams Road. Other parts of the building have not come on line yet, we will keep you updated as things change.**

A problem with the Diesel pump handle was identified this week, will not shut off causing spills when the tank is full. Please keep an eye on this when fueling. It has been reported to DPW.

- 2. With winter upon us, please make sure to close the apparatus bay doors behind you when leaving on calls at both stations and especially the Station 2 ambulance annex building.**
- 3. Roof leak Adams Road – I have expressed our frustration with the current roof leaks to the Town Manager, we are working on putting together some sort of project to get eyes on the issue.**
- 4. With the DPW moving out of the building, we will be assuming control of the 2 former mechanics bays upstairs. The intent will be to re-deploy some apparatus and possibly trailers into the new spaces. We will be working with DPW and HMLD to secure some utilities and winterize the old DPW offices/kitchen area as we do not plan to occupy those areas. We will keep you updated when we have a timeline on moving into those spaces. Also the fuel tanks at Adams Road will be removed at some point this spring. When that happens, we will be relocating all apparatus upstairs so that the construction doesn't impede response. Again we will notify when we have a timeline.**