



Public Safety & Transportation Committee Report

City of Newton **In City Council**

Wednesday, March 6, 2019

Present: Councilors Auchincloss (Acting Chair), Cote, Downs, Noel, Grossman and Markiewicz

Absent: Councilors Ciccone (Chair) and Lipof

Also Present: Councilors Crossley (Chair), Kelley, Danberg, Laredo, Leary, Gentile, Norton, Albright and Greenberg

City Staff: Chief Bruce Proia and Assistant Chief Gino Lucchetti, Newton Fire Department; Jonathan Yeo, Chief Operating Officer; Lou Taverna, City Engineer; Jason Sobel, Director of Transportation; Barney Heath, Director of Planning and Development; and James McGonagle, Commissioner Department Public Works

#93-19 Discussion on fire building codes, stick construction and fire hydrants

COUNCILORS DOWNS, GREENBERG AND AUCHINCLOSS requesting a discussion with Fire Chief Proia on fire building codes for new buildings and stick construction as well as on how the department ensures hydrants are in good working order (Cook Street fire).

ACTION: **Public Safety & Transportation No Action Necessary 5-0, Councilor Cote not voting**

NOTE: Chief Proia and Assistant Chief Lucchetti, Newton Fire Department; Councilors Leary and Greenberg joined the Committee for discussion on this item.

Chief Proia provided Committee members with a video, PowerPoint presentation, hydrant testing information, fire safety tips and a list of Newton fires in 2018. All are attached to this report. The video can be found here: <https://youtu.be/fFqjn8fVnXg>. The PowerPoint presentation was put together and presented by the Fire Marshal's office in 2018.

Councilor Downs stated that this item was docketed due to concerns with stick construction building fires, fire building codes for new buildings as well as on how the department ensures hydrants are in good working order.

Chief Proia stated that wood frame construction buildings are no longer allowed. Previously, wood frame buildings could be built as high as 4 ½ stories. Now, the requirement is that the first two levels must be concrete, and the floors above may be wood.

The Newton Fire Department now require that fire hydrants be operational, standpipes, sprinkler systems and heat detectors be installed as the building is being constructed. A Fire Warden is named

walking the property daily conducting inspections and observing that there are no fire hazards. Rescue 1 visits the property regularly. Chief Proia stated that all these requirements add to the cost of the project.

It is the best practice requiring sprinklers be installed in buildings over 1,200 square feet. The NFPA 13 is a commercial sprinkler design standard focused on 100% sprinkler system including attics, closets and basements.

Newton Fire Prevention has always worked with Newton developers expressing their concerns to implement to the best of their ability the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 241 standards. These standards safeguard construction, alteration, and demolition operations reporting back concerns to the Newton Fire Department.

Committee members and Councilors Questions and Answers:

- What is Newton Fire Department's response time? Chief Proia answered four minutes. The strategy is to stop a fire by using defensive operations.
- Are fire hydrants pressure tested? Chief Proia answered yes, there is 80% pressure at every fire hydrant.
- How are fire hydrants pressure monitored? Chief Proia explained that the department uses a pitot tube, which measures the pressure of the fire hydrant. The Newton Fire Department inspects fire hydrants yearly. Fire companies are to inspect the gasket, caps, open and drain the hydrant. Portable pumps are used if the fire hydrant does not drain properly. It is important that sediment does not reach the strainer.
- What are some causes of frozen fire hydrants? Chief Proia explained that fire hydrants are "dry-barrel" designs. In these hydrants, the valve is located underground below the freeze line. This means there is no water in the part above ground, thus preventing the hydrant from freezing in cold temperatures. If water seeps past the valve and goes into the hydrant then it may freeze. This is a regular occurrence; this problem is not unique to Newton. Fire Fighters ensure that water is flowing prior to attaching the fire hose. If there is no water flowing, Fire Fighters proceed to the next fire hydrant.
- How does the department ensure hydrants are in good working order (Cook Street fire)? Chief Proia explained that the closest fire hydrant worked, two others did not. This did not cause a large delay in fighting the fire. The Utilities Division repaired the two fire hydrants that night. Recently, the Utilities Division received a grant to review the maintenance of each fire hydrant. If there is an issue with a fire hydrant, it is flagged, and the Utilities Division is notified to make appropriate repairs.

Today, fire hydrants are marked when they will be inspected making residents aware. Fire hydrants are no longer flushed which has pros and cons.

Chief Proia concluded that there is an average of twelve multiple fires per year in the City. This year, that number decreased. He then stated that he does not know of any repetitive causes for fires.

Acting Chair Auchincloss stated that City Council members are welcome to walk-through the 28 Austin Street project on March 27, 2019 at 8:00 a.m.

Committee members and Councilors thanked Chief Proia and Assistant Chief Lucchetti for their presentation.

Without further discussion, Councilor Markiewicz made a motion for no action necessary. Committee members agreed 5-0, Councilor Cote not voting.

Referred to Public Safety & Trans., Public Facilities, and Finance Committees

#103-19 Request to bond \$5.6 million for the West Newton Square Project

HER HONOR THE MAYOR requesting authorization to appropriate five million six hundred thousand dollars (\$5,600,000) from bonded indebtedness for the purpose of funding the construction of the West Newton Square, which includes street and pedestrian improvements, traffic flow upgrades, signal upgrades, parking upgrades, and the addition of bike lanes.

ACTION: Public Facilities Approved 6-0-1 (Gentile abstaining)

Public Safety & Transportation Approved 6-0

NOTE: The Committee met jointly with the Public Facilities Committee. Please refer to the Public Facilities Committee report dated March 6, 2019.

Councilor Cote made a motion to approve the request to fund the construction of the West Newton Square. Committee members agreed 6-0.

Referred to Public Facilities Committee

#49-18 Updates on the Accelerated Roads Program

PUBLIC FACILITIES COMMITTEE requesting periodic updates on the Accelerated Roads Program.

NOTE: This item is only referred to the Public Facilities Committee. The Committee met jointly with the Public Facilities Committee. Please refer to the Public Facilities Committee report dated March 6, 2019.

At approximately 9:15 p.m., the Committee adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Jacob D. Auchincloss
Acting Chair

2018 NFPA CONFERENCE AND EXPO

W₅₈: SAFEGUARDING CONSTRUCTION, ALTERATION, AND DEMOLITION OPERATIONS

PRESENTED BY:

CHRIS TOWSKI, CAMBRIDGE FIRE DEPT.

JAKE NUNNEMACHER, MA DEPT. OF FIRE SERVICES

JEN HOYT, MA DEPT. OF FIRE SERVICES

AGENDA

- **PRESENTER INTRODUCTION**
- **CONCEPTUAL APPROACH**
- **RECENT FIRES**
- **CONCERNS AND CHALLENGES**
- **NFPA 241 AND MOVING FORWARD**
- **Q&A AND ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION**

SAFEGUARDING DURING CONSTRUCTION

CHRIS TOWSKI, JAKE NUNNEMACHER, JEN HOYT





**EVERYONE
INVOLVED WITH A
CONSTRUCTION PROJECT
HAS A RESPONSIBILITY
FOR IT'S FIRE SAFETY**





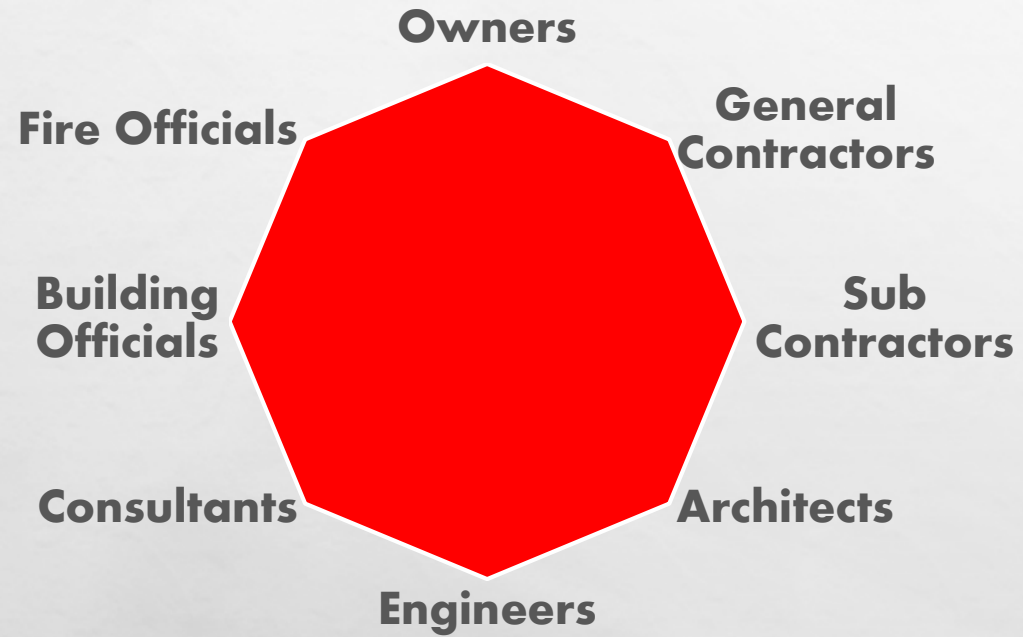
Eight **E**s

ENFORCE THE
EXPECTATIONS AND
ENGINEERING PRACTICES BY
ENGAGING
EVERYONE INVOLVED INTO
EMBRACING
EDUICATION
EARLY IN THE PROCESS

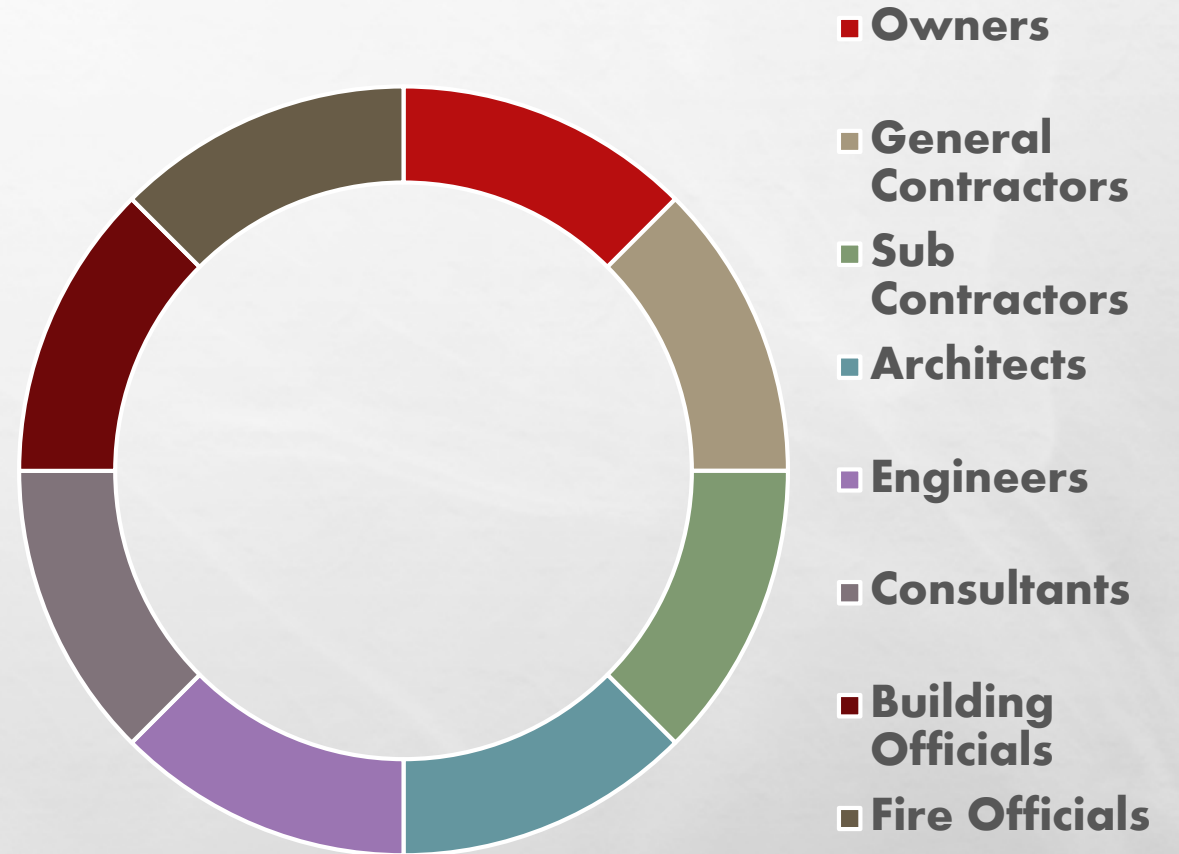




Non-Collaborative Approach



Collaborative Approach



2014 NFPA LARGE LOSS FIRES IN US

- **21 OUT OF 25 WERE STRUCTURE FIRES**
- **6 APARTMENT COMPLEXES UNDER CONSTRUCTION**
- **1 DEPARTMENT STORE UNDER RENOVATION**
- **LOSSES TOTALED \$187 MILLION**

RECENT NEWS

- **MAPLEWOOD, NJ** 2/4/2017 (2ND IN 2 YEARS)
- **CAMBRIDGE, MA** 2/27/2017
- **RALEIGH, NC** 3/16/2017
- **OVERLAND PARK, KS** 3/21/2017
- **DUBAI** 4/2/2017
- **COLLEGE PARK, MD** 4/24/2017
- **BOSTON, MA** 6/28/2017
- **LONDON, ENGLAND** 7/2/2017
- **WALTHAM, MA** 7/23/2017
- **NORTH BRISBANE, AUSTRALIA** 8/3/2017
- **ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA** 8/8/2017 (KILLED 7)
- **WEYMOUTH, MA** 9/14/2017
- **NEW BOSTON, NH** 9/19/2017 (KILLED 1)
- **BROCKTON, MA** 10/4/2017
- **NEW YORK CITY, NY** 10/22/2017
- **AURORA, CO** 11/29/2017 (FIRE STATION)
- **CAMBRIDGE, MA** 1/3/2018
- **HUDSON, NJ** 1/17/2018
- **PORTLAND, OR** 1/25/2018
- **SAN DIEGO, CA** 1/28/2018
- **CAMBRIDGE, MA** 1/28/2018
- **MESA HEIGHTS YUMA, AZ** 1/29/2018
- **DURHAM, NC** 2/2/2018
- **SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA** 2/13/2018
- **TORONTO, CANADA** 3/2/2018
- **MASSISSAUGA, CANADA** 3/2/2018
- **DENVER, CO** 3/7/2018 (KILLED 2)
- **BRACEBRIDGE, CANADA** 3/17/2018

RECENT NEWS

- **DAYTON, OH** 3/22/2018
- **GRAND HAVEN, MI** 3/24/2018
- **AUBURN HILLS, MI** 3/25/2018
- **BOSTON, MA** 4/4/2018
- **GLOUCESTER, MA** 4/7/2018
- **SUPERIOR, WI** 4/8/2018
- **OSAN AIR BASE, SOUTH KOREA** 4/9/2018
- **KAZARMAN, KYRGYZSTAN**
- **4/11/2018**
- **MANTECA, CA** 4/15/2018
- **SASKATOON, CANADA** 4/18/2018
- **CONCORD, CA** 4/24/2018
- **CAIRO, EGYPT** 4/29/2018
- **EDINA, MN** 4/30/2018
- **PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MD** 5/2/2018
- **PHOENIXVILLE, PA** 5/2/2018
- **TACOMA, WA** 5/8/2018
- **HOUSTON, TX** 5/9/2018
- **DENVER, CO** 5/10/2018
- **NORTH PHILADELPHIA, PA** 5/11/2018
- **TROUTDALE, OR** 5/14/2018
- **MILWAUKEE, WI** 5/15/2018

CONCERNS

- **FATALITIES AND INJURIES**
- **LARGE LOSS**
- **MITIGATION RESOURCES**



Hotel Vendome June 17, 1972



Clockwise, from bottom: F.F. Charles E. Dolan, Lad. Co. 13; Fire Lieut. Thomas J. Carroll, Eng. Co. 32; F.F. Thomas W. Beckwith, Eng. Co. 32; F.F. John E. Hanbury, Jr., Lad. Co. 13; and F.F. John E. Janison, Eng. Co. 22. P. Saniak, Lad. Co. 13; F.F. Joseph E. Boucher, Jr., Eng. Co. 22; F.F. Paul J. Murphy, Eng. Co. 32; Fire Lieut. John E. Hanbury, Jr., Lad. Co. 13; and F.F. John E. Janison, Eng. Co. 22.



Deutsche Bank 17th Floor



Firefighter
Joseph Graffagnino

5-5-5-5
August 18, 2007



Firefighter
Robert Beddia



Nine Alarms 298 Beacon Street March 26, 2014

Lt. Edward Walsh

FF Michael Kennedy





Challenges

- **Access and egress concerns**
- **Full or partial occupancy**
- **Multiple impairments and false alarms. fire protection unknowns**
- **Phased construction**

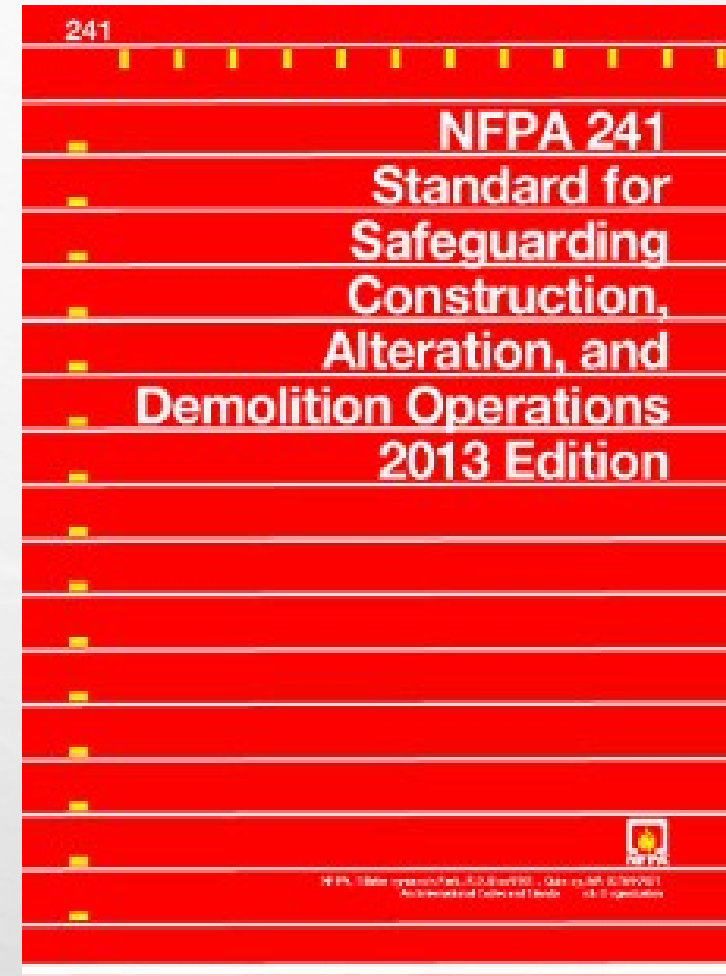
How safe would you feel?

WHAT CAN BE DONE?

- **FINDING AND USING THE CODE PATH**
- **NFPA 241 CONTAINS SEVERAL PROVISIONS FOR PROTECTING VULNERABLE BUILDINGS DURING CONSTRUCTION**

NFPA 241

- **BEGAN 1930**
- **2018 IS IN DRAFT REVISION**



NFPA 241

- **FIRE SAFETY PROGRAM 7.1**
- **OWNER'S RESPONSIBILITY (OWNER'S DOCUMENT) 7.2**
- **PRE-FIRE PLANS 7.2.3**
- **FIRE PREVENTION PROGRAM MANAGER (FPPM) RESPONSIBILITY 7.2.4**
 - **NO CLEAR GUIDANCE OR QUALIFICATIONS**

NFPA 241

- **FIRE ALARM REPORTING**
 - **INITIATING DEVICES**
- **ACCESS FOR FIREFIGHTING**
 - **FIRE DEPARTMENT VEHICLE ACCESS**
 - **STAIRWAYS**
 - **HYDRANTS**
 - **STANDPIPES**



NFPA 241

- **FIRE PROTECTION DURING CONSTRUCTION**
 - **WATER SUPPLY**
 - **SPRINKLER PROTECTION**
 - **AS SOON AS PRACTICABLE**
 - **STANDPIPES**
 - **FIRE ALARM SYSTEMS**



CASE STUDY



NFPA 241

- **OCCUPANCY DURING CONSTRUCTION**
 - **LOWER FLOORS MUST BE COMPLETED AND HAVE FUNCTIONING SYSTEMS**
 - **UPPER FLOORS ON SEPARATE VALVES**
 - **SEPARATION FROM ONGOING CONSTRUCTION**
 - **MEANS OF EGRESS**

NFPA 241

- **LIVING DOCUMENT**
- **FLEXIBLE, MODULAR, EXPANDABLE**
- **NOT ALL SITUATIONS ARE COVERED OR APPLICABLE**

WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

- **EDUCATION AND ENFORCEMENT**
- **REQUIRE FPPM AND SITE PLANS**
- **WORK TOWARDS CERTIFICATION AND TRAINING PROGRAMS**

Adhering to the fire protection principles reflected in local building and fire laws and codes and in NFPA's codes and standards are essential if we are to reduce the occurrence of large-loss fires and explosions in the United States. Proper construction, proper use of equipment, and proper procedures in chemical processes, storage, and housekeeping will make fires less likely to occur and help limit fire spread should a fire occur. Proper design, maintenance, and operation of fire protection systems and features can keep a fire that does occur from becoming a large-loss fire.

ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

- **QUESTIONS?**

2018 NFPA CONFERENCE & EXPO

- CEUS:** TO RECEIVE CEUS FOR THIS SESSION, SCAN YOUR BADGE AT THE BACK OF THE ROOM BEFORE LEAVING
- EVALUATION:** COMPLETE A SESSION EVALUATION ON THE MOBILE APP. (SEARCH APP STORE FOR 'NFPA 2018 C&E')
- HANDOUTS:** HANDOUTS WILL BE AVAILABLE VIA THE MOBILE APP AND AT [NFPA.ORG/CONFERENCE](https://nfpa.org/conference)
- RECORDINGS:** AUDIO RECORDINGS OF ALL SESSIONS WILL BE AVAILABLE FREE OF CHARGE VIA NFPA XCHANGE



**NEWTON FIRE DEPARTMENT
106 WABAN STREET
NEWTON CENTRE, MASSACHUSETTS 02458**

Interoffice Correspondence

To: Chief B. Proia
From: Deputy Chief I Jimenez
Date: Tuesday, March 4, 2019
Subject: **Hydrant Testing**

Enclosed please find the inter-office memo on hydrant testing. There is also an inter-office guideline on how to perform the testing. The last document included is the Station One Hydrant Inspection Report. The report states that the hydrants were tested on June 18, 2018. The report also indicates that there are three hydrants on Cook Street. The testing was performed by Captain D'Agostino and his crew. Finally the report states that all the hydrants were in good condition and that none displayed any issues.



**NEWTON FIRE DEPARTMENT
106 WABAN STREET
NEWTON CENTRE, MASSACHUSETTS 02458**

Interoffice Correspondence

To: All Personnel
From: Deputy Chief Jimenez
Date: May, 17, 2018
Subject: Hydrant Testing

Hydrant testing will start on Monday, June 4, 2018 and should be completed by Friday October 5, 2018. Hydrant testing will be performed Monday—Thursday, from 09:30 hrs.to 11:30 hrs. And 13:30 to 16:30 hrs. Companies are to start from large mains and terminate with the smaller branch lines. No testing to be performed September 19, 2018. Companies are to only go out testing on assigned days. If you need any type of equipment to perform this testing, please contact me at 617-7962274.

CITY OF NEWTON FIRE DEPARTMENT
INTER-OFFICE CORRESPONDENCE

TO: All Personnel
FROM: Deputy Chief Israel Jimenez
SUBJECT: Hydrant Testing 2018
DATE: May 17, 2018

The Hydrant testing program shall begin on Monday, June 4, 2018 and shall continue until completed. Companies are to inspect hydrants on assigned hydrant days. All hydrant inspection sheets shall be forwarded to D/C Jimenez weekly, with a copy of each report kept in the respective station. Work clothes, work jackets (when necessary) and uniform hats will be worn. We will follow the same format for testing the hydrants as in the past as outlined below.

1. Check the hydrants appearance and tighten the 2 ½" caps. Check to see if proper hydrant markers are in place.
2. Remove the 4 ½" cap.
3. Open the hydrant slowly a few turns to flush and remove foreign material from the inside of the hydrant barrel (make sure it gets open fully). Check the ease of operation – if opening is difficult try opening and closing the hydrant. This may increase the ease of operation. If the hydrant continues to operate with difficulty, discontinue the inspection and note on the inspection form. Do **NOT** put out of service (**Do not use a persuader/leverage bar**).
4. With the hydrant fully open, check for leakage at the base, around all caps and around the operating stem. If leaking, make a note on your inspection form. Do **NOT** place out of service.
5. Partially close the hydrant about half way for about 10 seconds to allow flushing of the drain ports at the hydrant base.
6. Close hydrant completely.
7. Loosen 4 ½" cap enough to allow air in the hydrant barrel to escape.
8. Open the hydrant only a few turns, allowing air and water to vent from the 4 ½" cap.
9. Tighten 4 ½" cap.
10. Close hydrant and check to see if hydrant drains. If hydrant does not drain, pump hydrant barrel.
11. Replace 4 ½" cap. Tighten and then back off slightly so they will not be excessively tight. Leave tight enough to prevent their removal by hand.
12. If the hydrant will not open or will not shut down: the 4" cap cannot be removed or have a major water leak from the ground, tag it with OUT OF SERVICE ring and report the

location, problem and the type of hydrant. (EX: Kennedy, Mueller to Fire Alarm)

****Utilities personnel will be available periodically on site to assist in hydrant inspection.**
Should you have any questions, please call the Utilities Yard at 617-796-1640.

Cc Chief Bruce Proia
A/C G. Luchetti
D/C W. Carvelli
D/C J. Thorne
D/C M. McNamara
D/C M. Smith

NEWTON FIRE DEPARTMENT STATION #1 HYDRANT INSPECTION REPORT

DATE: 18 JUNE 18 OFFICER: CAPT. C. D'AGOSTINO

LOCATION		CONDITION		COMMENTS
		OK	ISSUE	
2-302	515 Washington St.	✓		
2-301	Washington St. & Jackson St	✓		
2-300	Opp. #201 Jackson Rd.	✓		
2-299	40 Wiltshire Rd.	✓		
2-298	Opp. #149 Jackson Rd.	✓		
2-297	Pearl St. & Jackson Rd.	✓		
2-296	Capitol St. & Jackson Rd.	✓		
2-294	25 Capitol St.	✓		
2-292	251 Pearl St.	✓		
2-291	4 Green St.	✓		
2-277A	@ 105 J. F. Kennedy Cir.	✓		
2-276	Cook St. & Green St.	✓		
2-275	54 Cook St.	✓		
2-	14 Cook St.	✓		
2-261	Faxon St. & Watertown St.	✓		
2-280	144 Chapel St. (Removed?)	✓		
2-279	177 Chapel St.	✓		
2-278	Chapel St. & Green St.	✓		
2-284	West St. & Middle St.	✓		
2-283	81 West St.	✓		
2-282	33 West St.	✓		
2-286	Watertown St. & West St.	✓		

*Newton*Massachusetts

THE OFFICIAL CITY WEBSITE

Fire Safety Tips

Fire Safety Tips

Grilling

NFPA BBQ Safety Tips



SAFETY TIPS

- » Propane and charcoal BBQ grills should only be used outdoors.
- » The grill should be placed well away from the home, deck railings and out from under eaves and overhanging branches.
- » Keep children and pets at least three feet away from the grill area.
- » Keep your grill clean by removing grease or fat buildup from the grills and in trays below the grill.
- » Never leave your grill unattended.
- » Always make sure your gas grill lid is open before lighting it.

CHARCOAL GRILLS

- » There are several ways to get the charcoal ready to use. Charcoal chimney starters allow you to start the charcoal using newspaper as a fuel.
- » If you use a starter fluid, use only charcoal starter fluid. Never add charcoal fluid or any other flammable liquids to the fire.
- » Keep charcoal fluid out of the reach of children and away from heat sources.
- » There are also electric charcoal starters, which do not use fire. Be sure to use an extension cord for outdoor use.
- » When you are finished grilling, let the coals completely cool before disposing in a metal container.



Your Source for SAFETY Information

NFPA Public Education Division • 1 Batterymarch Park, Quincy, MA 02169

PROPANE Grills

Check the gas tank hose for leaks before using it for the first time each year. Apply a light soap and water solution to the hose. A propane leak will release bubbles. If your grill has a gas leak, by smell or the soapy bubble test, and there is no flame, turn off the gas tank and grill. If the leak stops, get the grill serviced by a professional before using it again. If the leak does not stop, call the fire department. **If you smell gas while cooking, immediately get away from the grill and call the fire department. Do not move the grill.**

If the flame goes out, turn the grill and gas off and wait at least **15 minutes** before re-lighting it.

FACTS

- ! July is the peak month for grill fires.
- ! Roughly half of the injuries involving grills are thermal burns.



www.nfpa.org/education

Fireworks

Consumer Fireworks Safety Public Service Announcement



Fire Prevention & Home Safety

Major Causes of Fire in the Home

- Smoking
 - Careless smoking is the leading cause of residential fire deaths. Smoke detectors and smolder-resistant bedding and upholstered furniture are significant fire deterrents.
- Arson
 - Arson is the second largest cause of residential fires and residential fire deaths. In commercial properties, arson is the major cause of deaths, injuries and dollar loss.
- Heating
 - Heating is the third leading cause of residential fire deaths. Heater fires are the leading cause of fire deaths in the southeastern U.S.; wood stoves are particularly a problem in the northern U.S.
 - **NFPA Home Heating Safety Video**
- Cooking
 - Cooking is the leading cause of apartment fires and the second most frequent cause of single-family residential fires. These fires often result from unattended cooking and human error, rather than from mechanical failures of stoves or ovens.
- Candle Safety
 - Burn candles within a one-foot circle, free of anything that can burn.
 - Before you go out, blow it out; never leave candles burning unattended.
 - Always extinguish candles after use.
 - Use a non-combustible saucer or candleholder.

- Keep candles out of reach of children and pets.

Chimneys, Woodstoves, & Space Heater Safety

Space Heaters

Use of unvented liquid fired space heaters is prohibited by Massachusetts General Law Chapter 148 Section 5a.

Any type of heating device must be used according to the manufacturer's instructions and adhere to any local ordinances or codes. Even when used properly, these items still pose a threat to safety.

- Always read and follow the directions in the instruction booklet.
- Install a photo electric smoke detector.
- Use the heater only during waking hours. Don't use it overnight or at any time while sleeping.
- Place the heater away from combustible materials such as curtains, bedding, clothing, papers and other flammable materials.
- Keep the heater out of traveled areas so that pets or humans do not bump it while walking by.
- Clean and maintain the heater per manufacturer's requirements.
- Purchase a unit that has an automatic cut-off switch which will turn the heater off automatically if it is tipped over. Verify if electric heaters have one.

Read the manufacturer's recommendations before using.

- Keep away from water (sinks, showers, bathtubs) to prevent electric shock.
- Do not use an extension cord.
- Do not overload the circuit by plugging in multiple appliances into the same outlet.
- Never leave a space heater unattended or leave children or pets alone in a room with a space heater

Electrical Safety

- [Electrical Safety Video](#)

Gasoline/Flammable Liquid/Oily Rags Safety

- Spontaneous Combustion of Oily Rags
- Do-it-yourself projects often involve using products with high VOC's (volatile organic compounds) which makes them flammable. Examples of these products are oil-based paints and stains, varnishes and polyurethane, paint thinners, etc. Oily rags have a long history of being a source of fire, because people are not aware that they have the ability to spontaneously combust and catch on fire. For a fire to exist, it needs heat, oxygen and fuel. Oily rags that get folded or balled up and tossed on the floor have the danger of going through a process that starts with oxidation. As the oil is drying on the rag, it produces heat, and air gets trapped in the

folds or balled up portions. Heat and oxygen are combined in addition to the rag, which is usually made of combustible cloth that can become a source of fuel. Heat, oxygen and fuel are all that is needed to create a fire, which is why oily rags that are not disposed of properly can create a fire that people are not prepared for.

How to Dispose of Oily Rags

- Oil or gas-soaked rags should be safely disposed of after use using two steps:
- Hang them outside to dry in a safe area or spread them out flat, making sure they are weighted down outdoors. They should not be in a pile.
- Once they are dry, they should be disposed of properly. ■ For somebody who uses oily rags on a daily or weekly basis, the oily rags should be placed in a listed oily waste container and emptied by a private contractor.
- For a less frequent user, the now dry oily rags should be stored in a small, airtight, non-combustible (such as metal) container with a tight-fitting lid. An old paint can is a good example. The rags should be completely covered with a solution of water and an oil breakdown detergent. Do not add any other combustible material (stuff that can catch fire). The user should then dispose of the rags during a city-sponsored hazardous waste collection day.

Home Oxygen Safety

- [Home Oxygen Safety Video](#)

Carbon Monoxide

Dryer Fires

- Clean the filter screen after each load to prevent lint buildup, which can cause fires.
- Stay home when the dryer is in use.
- Clean the vents to outside twice a year to clean out any accumulated dust and lint.
- Vacuum the motor area. The dust and lint in the vent area can ignite if it gets hot. You may need to remove a panel in order to get to the motor area.
- Commercial dryers should be cleaned out regularly because of their frequent use and shared venting system.
- Don't dry mop heads in the dryer! The dryer's heat can ignite the chemical residue on mop heads.
- Keep the surrounding area clean. The dryer's heat may ignite anything left too close to the dryer.

Home Emergency Escape Plan

- For a home or apartment, you should have at the very least, one smoke detector on each floor.

#93-19

- Every home and apartment should have an escape plan.
- This is a plan that is drawn up, reviewed and actually practiced by each member of a given household.
- Every room should have two routes to safety; first would be a door, second would either be a door in an opposing direction or a window.
- If you live in a high rise building, never use the elevator; always use the stairs.
- There should be an agreed upon area for all members to meet to be sure that all people are out safely.
- If a member is missing, advise a Public Safety Officer immediately. DO NOT ATTEMPT TO RE-ENTER A BURNING HOUSE!
- As you leave the building, try to shut doors and windows behind you to hinder the advance of flames.
- If you must exit through smoke, stay low to the floor. You should crawl on your hands and knees.
- **Family Escape Plan Video**

Thanksgiving fire safety tips from NFPA

Christmas (Holiday) Tree Fire Safety Tips from NFPA

Halloween Safety Video



From: [Bruce A. Proia](#)
To: [Danielle Delaney](#)
Subject: FW: #93-19 Discussion on fire building codes, stick construction and fire hydrants
Date: Wednesday, March 06, 2019 8:39:47 AM

Danielle

Here is the report of the fires Councilor Leary asked about, as well as all of our multiple alarm fires last year. I will be presenting this tonight. It should be noted that two of the fires, (Pine Ridge Rd and Stratford Rd) occurred during major storms. Pine Ridge road was caused because the service was pulled from the house by the storm. Stratford Road had a power outage during the blizzard. Also, here is the link to our fire safety tips on the city website.
http://www.newtonma.gov/gov/fire/fire_safety/default.asp

Thanks

Chief Bruce A Proia
Emergency Management Director
Newton Fire Department
1164 Centre Street
Newton, MA 02459
P (617)796-2210
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From: Eric Fricke
Sent: Wednesday, March 06, 2019 8:30 AM
To: Bruce A. Proia
Cc: Israel Jimenez
Subject: RE: #93-19 Discussion on fire building codes, stick construction and fire hydrants

Chief,

Here is a summary of the cause and origin investigations from all of the multiple alarm fires in 2018 as well as the fires Councilor Leary has listed from years past.

2018

1/16/18 Crowne Plaza – Accidental. Failure of a heating unit in a guest room, probably an internal electrical malfunction.

*** 2/11/18 38 West St. – Accidental. Overloaded power strip in a bedroom.

3/2/18 129 Pine Ridge Rd. – Accidental. Basement fire in the main electrical panel.

3/13/18 24 Stratford Rd. – Accidental. Unattended candle on the 2nd floor.

5/19/18 144 Derby St. – Accidental. Homeowner started the fire in a couch while using a lighter as a “flashlight”

6/20/18 405 Langley Rd. – Accidental. Failure of a clothes dryer in an apartment.

*** This fire was on Council Leary's list.

2/11/2008 73 Chapel St. – Accidental. Fire started by a contractor using a propane torch to melt ice dams.

2/12/2009 106 Los Angeles St. – Accidental. Undetermined cause believed to be an overloaded power strip.

3/2/2012 9-11 Morgan Place - Accidental. Basement fire probably as result of an uninsulated staple driven into an electrical wire.

2/13/2015 182 Tremont St. – Accidental. Fire determined to be a result of electrical wiring damaged while the resident was installing a new dishwasher.

Chief, it is my opinion that, while a good number of this department's structure fires are determined to be electrical in nature, there is no discernable pattern or consistency between the causes of these electrical fires. Some of them are a result of actions that took place years before the fire (Morgan Place), some are due to the stress of the modern demand for electricity in buildings that don't have the electrical system to support that demand (West St., Los Angeles St.), and some are one time electrical incidents (Stratford Rd., Tremont St.). The Bureau of Fire Prevention could certainly work to create and distribute to the residents of Newton a public education campaign on the common causes of fires and electrical fires in particular, but I'm not sure if there is one village or one cause of fire that deserves more attention than another.

CPT ERIC FRICKE | NEWTON FIRE DEPARTMENT
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Bureau of Fire Prevention & Code Enforcement
Newton Fire Department
1164 Centre Street
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From: Bruce A. Proia <bproia@newtonma.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, March 05, 2019 7:35 AM
To: Eric Fricke <efricke@newtonma.gov>
Subject: FW: #93-19 Discussion on fire building codes, stick construction and fire hydrants

Chief Bruce A Proia
Emergency Management Director
Newton Fire Department
1164 Centre Street
Newton, MA 02459

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From: Alison M. Leary

Sent: Sunday, March 03, 2019 9:15 PM

To: Bruce A. Proia

Cc: Allan Ciccone Jr.; Maria Scibelli Greenberg; Jonathan Yeo

Subject: #93-19 Discussion on fire building codes, stick construction and fire hydrants

Dear Chief Proia,

I am very happy that you will be available to discuss fire safety concerns on Wednesday with the PS & T Committee. I am concerned about what appears to be a steady number of fires that have occurred in Nonantum and Newton Corner over the last several years. This includes fires on Chapel Street, Los Angeles Street, Tremont Street, West Street, Morgan Place and others. Is there something more could be doing to prevent fires? For example, if they are electrical fires can we do more education to our residents?

I would appreciate your thoughts on this.

Regards,

Alison M. Leary

Newton City Council

Ward 1

617-821-5619