



## **NATIONAL FIRE SPRINKLER ASSOCIATION DONATES MOBILE SPRINKLER DEMONSTRATION PROP TO MASSACHUSETTS FIRE SERVICES**

Massachusetts Department of Fire Services

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A startling demonstration took place at the Stow campus of the Department of Fire Services (DFS) today that showed the power and speed of an uncontrolled fire and the effectiveness of fire sprinklers in controlling fire quickly. Shane Ray, president of the National Fire Sprinkler Association (NFSA) and Peter Gibbons, business manager for Sprinkler Fitter Local 550, donated a new mobile sprinkler demonstration prop to DFS for use by local fire departments throughout the Commonwealth. The prop contains two identical mock rooms that are set on fire. One room has the benefit of fire sprinklers and one does not. With minor repairs, the mobile prop can be reused. The donation includes \$10,000 for refurnishing and refurbishing the prop for each demonstration.

“It's an honor to assist progressive and proactive leadership who has a desire to properly educate and inform the citizens, businesses, and visitors in Massachusetts,” said Shane Ray, president of the National Fire Sprinkler Association. “This innovative tool will educate citizens, firefighters, and public policy makers on the dangers of modern fire and how best to protect themselves.”

Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security Daniel Bennett and State Fire Marshal Peter J. Ostroskey accepted the donation.

Secretary Bennett said, “I want to thank the National Fire Sprinkler Association and Sprinkler Fitters Local 550 for donating this mobile prop. Fire departments across the

state will be able to use this tool to educate our residents on how important fire sprinklers are in containing fire in those critical first three minutes so people can escape.”

State Fire Marshal Ostroskey said, “DFS is pleased to be able to support the Massachusetts Fire Sprinkler Coalition and local fire departments with this mobile sprinkler demonstration prop.” The Department of Fire Services will bring the prop to local demonstrations and manage the refurbishment and refurnishing in-between.

Chief Timothy Grenno, president of the Fire Chiefs’ Association of Massachusetts said, “Sprinklers buy time and time buys life in a fire. With today’s construction techniques and modern furnishings, we may have as little as three minutes to escape the average house fire, down from 15 in the 1970s.”

Lieutenant Christopher Dowling, president of the Fire Prevention Association of Massachusetts said, “Fire grows fast and fire sprinklers can contain a fire until we can arrive and put it out. Fire sprinklers use a lot less water than the fire department will to put out a fire. In most cases only one sprinkler head will activate. Things dry out. They don’t unburn.”

Ostroskey said, “Residential fire sprinklers are like having a firefighter in every room, but they eat a lot less.”