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MARY ELIZABETH HEFFERNAN
SECRETARY

*The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Public Safety and Security
Department of Fire Services*

P.O. Box 1025 ~State Road

Stow, Massachusetts 01775

(978) 567-3100 Fax: (978) 567-3121

www.mass.gov/dfs



STEPHEN D. COAN
STATE FIRE MARSHAL

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Contact: Lieutenant Jason Malinowski, Boxborough Fire Dept, 978-263-7546

Boxborough Fire Department Receives State Grant for Student Awareness of Fire Education Program

State Fire Marshal Stephen D. Coan and Boxborough Fire Chief Geoffrey Neagle announced that Boxborough Fire Department/District has been awarded \$3,915 for the FY '11 Student Awareness of Fire Education or S.A.F.E. Program by the state Department of Fire Services. Chief Neagle said, "Our firefighters enjoy working closely with our school teachers to help youngsters learn what they can do to prevent fires, to survive those that do occur, and how to respond correctly to fires and other emergencies."

The Governor and the Legislature fund the S.A.F.E. Program through the Executive Office of the Public Safety and Security and the program is administered by the state Department of Fire Services. Specially trained fire educators to work with classroom teachers to deliver age-appropriate lessons on fire and life safety. The key fire and life safety behaviors meet both the requirements of the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education's Health Curriculum Frameworks and the state Department of Fire Services *Curriculum Planning Guidebook*.

Coan said, "This is the 16th year of the S.A.F.E. Program in Massachusetts and we are truly reaching our goal of raising a fire safe generation of children." The average number of children who die in fires each year in Massachusetts has dropped by 66%, or two-thirds, since the program started compared to a similar time frame before it started. Coan added, "Since consistent comprehensive fire education is the one thing we are doing for children that we are not doing for every other age group, I think it's fair to say we are proving fire education works."

For more information about the Student Awareness of Fire Education Program please call Lieutenant Jason Malinowski, Public Education Coordinator, at 978-263-7546 or go to www.mass.gov/dfs or www.boxboroughfire.com.

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