



Western Region Homeland Security Advisory Council Newsletter October 2023



Nero's Law Practical Training

Registration is open for Nero's Law Practical Training sessions. Several sessions will be held on Monday, October 23 at UMass Amherst, and on Saturday, November 4 at Baystate Education Center in Holyoke.

Per Nero's Law, ambulance services in Massachusetts are required to assess, treat and transport police K9s injured in the line of duty. All certified EMTs (at all

levels) must complete a training course of a minimum of 3 hours (1.5 hours didactic, 1.5 hours practical).

The training is free. Registration is required.

[To learn more and register click here](#)

Fire Safety for Newcomers

The Massachusetts Department of Fire Safety (DFS) recently published a series of **Fire Safety for Newcomers** flyers in multiple languages. The flyers provide basic fire safety precautions and information on what to do in a fire emergency. Click on the links below to download. DFS encourages wide distribution; feel free to print, post and distribute.

DFS has other Fire Education handouts in multiple languages. [Click here](#) for the DFS library.

Fire Safety for Newcomers PDF links

- [Chinese](#)
- [English](#)
- [Farsi](#)
- [Haitian Creole](#)
- [Khmer](#)
- [Pashto](#)
- [Portuguese](#)
- [Russian](#)
- [Somali](#)

- [Spanish](#)
- [Vietnamese](#)

Fire Safety for Newcomers

- Learn to telephone for help. For any emergency, dial 911 and give your name and location of your emergency.
- The fire department responds to all emergencies and are here to help.
- If there is a fire in your home, the fire department may need your information about how the fire started to prevent others from happening elsewhere.
- Smoke and carbon monoxide alarms alert you to danger. Make sure you have smoke and carbon monoxide alarms in your home to protect your family. Test them monthly and if they are battery operated change the batteries twice a year.
- If an alarm sounds leave the building immediately.
- Have an EXIT plan for your home and know where to meet your family outside if there is a fire. Practice 2 ways of getting out in case of a fire you may only have 2 minutes to get out of your home.
- If there is smoke or fire, get low to the floor and go, don't walk out of a burning building. The good air and visibility is close to the ground.
- GET OUT AND STAY OUT. Never reenter a burning building to look for people, pets or possessions. Let the firefighters know if someone is still inside the building.
- Have 2 ways out of your home. Do not nail doors and windows shut. They could be your emergency exits.
- Put a lid on cooking fires, then turn off the heat. Never put water on a grease fire nor move it from the stove.
- Always stay in the kitchen when cooking. Never leave cooking unattended.
- Be careful what you wear when cooking. Wear tight fitting clothing when cooking. Loose clothing easily catches fire.
- Turn pot handles inward; don't let them hang over the edge of the cook top.
- Keep stove clear of clutter, paper, towels and grease.



HMCC PPE Cache Storage Improvement Project

WRHSAC provided funds to improve the [Health and Medical Coordinating Coalition's](#) (HMCC) storage containers. The containers are located on the Greenfield Community College campus. Many thanks to GCC for hosting the containers.



Phase I of the work began in late August. The containers now sit on a stone pad foundation which enables better drainage and should help extend the useful life of the containers.

Phase 2 began in mid September and includes the addition of new electrical circuits as well as new HVAC systems for each of the two containers. This Phase is expected to be completed in early October.

WRHSAC also helped to fund some of the PPE which will be stored in the boxes once the HVAC installation is complete.

For more information about this projects and the work of WRHSAC, please contact Raine Brown, Homeland Security Program Manager. raine@frcog.org. 413.774.3167 x138

Please share this newsletter with your colleagues, departments and discipline associations



Franklin Regional Council of Governments | 12 Olive Street, Suite 2, Greenfield, MA 01301-3351

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