Fire service leaders raise awareness of battery safety



Submitted Photo

Massachusetts State Fire Marshal Jon Davine (at right, in uniform) reviewed lithium-ion battery fire data with Robert Duval, New England Regional Manager for the National Fire Prevention Association; Connecticut State Fire Marshal Lauri Volkert; Vermont State Fire Marshal Michael Desrochers; and New Hampshire State Fire Marshal Sean Toomey. With other fire officials, they promoted battery fire safety outside the Massachusetts building at West Springfield's Big E fair.

WEST SPRINGFIELD – Fire service leaders from across Western Massachusetts and New England gathered at the Big E fair recently to promote Fire Prevention Week and emphasize the safe charging of lithium-ion batteries.

These batteries power countless devices we use at home and work – and are also the cause of a growing number of fires.

Fire Prevention Week, the nation's longest running public health observance on record, runs from Oct. 4-10. This year's theme emphasizes the importance of safely charging these batteries by using the original equipment manufacturer's charging equipment, charging on a hard surface such as a table or counter, keeping large devices away from doorways and other emergency routes and properly disposing of old batteries.

Hosted by West Springfield Fire Chief Christopher J. Bartone and joined by the National Fire Prevention Association, the state fire marshals of Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Vermont shared practical fire safety information in a press conference outside the Massachusetts Building as fairgoers watched and listened.

Bartone kicked off the event with a reminder that working smoke alarms are a must in every household – especially as colder weather creeps in.

"As we turn on the heat and spend more time indoors, we start to see more late night and early morning fires that tragically lead to death and serious injury," he said. "Before we go any further, I want to emphasize the importance of working smoke alarms on every level of every home. Working alarms give you time to escape before a fire turns deadly, so be sure you can hear that beep wherever you sleep."

Massachusetts State Fire Marshal Jon Davine said that almost all of today's rechargeable devices use lithium-ion batteries, and that battery fires have become more common as they've grown in use.

"Across the country, battery fires jumped by almost 400% between 2020 and 2023. We saw the same thing in Massachusetts, with reported battery fires climbing from fewer than 20 to more than 130 in just a couple of years. And we're on track to have more battery fires reported this month than any other since we started collecting data. And the hazard isn't just in batteries starting fires. Lithium-ion batteries have a high energy density, meaning they pack a lot of power into a small device. That means any kind of damage, including heat from an unrelated fire, can cause them to explode in sparks and flames, spreading a fire faster and further," he said.

Connecticut State Fire Marshal Lauri Volkert, Vermont State Fire Marshal Michael Desrochers and New Hampshire State Fire Marshal Sean Toomey shared tips on reducing the risk of a battery fire:

Be sure to use a battery intended for the device and the original manufacturer's charging equipment.

Generic or aftermarket cords and chargers might be a little cheaper, but they may not deliver the right voltage or communicate with the battery effectively. This can lead to overcharging and catastrophic damage.

When you're charging your device, place it on a hard, stable surface such as a table or countertop – not a bed or a couch, and never under a pillow or pile of clothes. Softer surfaces like these can trap heat and increase the risk of fire.

Larger batteries will cause more damage if they ignite or explode. That's why it's safer to store larger equipment like battery-powered scooters and e-bikes outdoors and out of the sun, if possible.

If you must store them in the house, keep them away from doors, windows, and stairways. These are your emergency exits in case of fire, and they're the routes that firefighters will take if they need to gain entry.

Keep an eye on your devices when charging them. Don't leave them unattended, especially for a long period of time, and always unplug them when the battery is fully charged.

Overcharging causes heat and stress on the battery, and it's even safer to keep it below 100%.

There are often signs that a battery is failing. If the device feels hot to the touch, if it starts to swell, or if it smells strange or starts to leak, stop using it and move it away from flammable items. If the battery begins to smoke, get to safety and call 9-1-1 right away.

Today's battery fires can involve explosions of sparks and flames. They can release toxic smoke and gases. Recognizing the warning signs can help you protect yourself and your loved ones.

Bob Duval, New England Regional Manager of the National Fire Protection Association, said fire departments across New England have seen an increase in fires in trash and recycling trucks, as well as dumpsters and compactors. While the exact cause often goes undetermined, officials believe many of them involve lithium-ion batteries being damaged and igniting.

"The safest way to dispose of today's rechargeable batteries is through a battery recycling program," Duval said. "Don't place them in household trash or recycling. Instead, bring them to your community's household hazardous waste collection or a recycling center that accepts them. You can find one near you at BatteryNetwork.org."

To learn more about battery safety, visit the Department of Fire Services' Lithium-Ion Battery Safety page, www.mass.gov/info-details/lithium-ion-battery-safety.

Legal Notices

Sale Of Motor Vehicles Under G.l. C.255 Sec. 39A

Notice is hereby given by Hampshire Towing, 650 New Ludlow Rd., South Hadley, MA 01075, pursuant to the provisions of G.L. C. 255, Section 39A, that a sealed bid auction OPEN TO CLASS 2 & 3 LICENSED DEALERS ONLY with bids due Monday, Oct. 19, 2026 at 8 a.m. Inquiries can be made to Rich at 413-534-5373.

Pablo Rivera
611 S. Summer St.
Holyoke, MA 01040
2018 TaoTao Racer 50
VIN: L9NPCBPJ0J1010167

Tammy Annichiarico
225 North St.
North Adams, MA 01247
2004 Ford Taurus
VIN: 1FAFP55S44G152704

Priscilla Duarte
415 Tokeneke Rd.
Holyoke, MA 01040
2009 Nissan Murano
VIN: JN8AZ18W19W141389

Dwayne Smith
570 Appleton St., Apt. 3R
Holyoke, MA 01040
2007 Kawasaki Ninja 650R
JKAEXEA167A029765

Nesh Cappa Cardona
145 Nonotuck Ave., Fl 1
Chicopee, MA 01013
2008 Lincoln MKX
VIN: 2LMDU88C08BJ03741

Elizabeth Gonzalez Rivera
211 Oak St.
Holyoke, MA 01040
1998 Chevrolet Motorhome
1GBLP37J8W3312961

Angel Diaz
60 Partridge Dr.
Springfield, MA 01119
2002 Hyundai SANTA FE
VIN: KM8SC73D42U167279

Tanairis Sanchez
1540 Bay St.
Springfield, MA 01109
2008 Toyota Corolla
VIN: 2T1BR30E88C862069

Anna Beliczynska
180 Main Rd.
Stamford, VT 05352
2010 Honda Accord
VIN: 1HGCP2F3XAA085853

Duta Enterprises Inc
132 Fenn St.
Pittsfield, MA 01201
2008 Ford E-Series
VIN: 1FTNE24W68DA24454

Owner Unknown
Ice bear YN50QT-8
VIN: LL0TCAPH8JY190029

Adriana Davila
12 Elting Cir.
Holyoke, MA 01040
2007 Toyota Yaris
VIN: JTDJT923775108748

Stephen Gulick
366 County Highway 131A
Johnstown, NY 12095
2005 Prowler 300BH Camper
VIN: 1EC1B302755339960

Cory Hupfer
24 Canal St. #B
S. Hadley, MA 01075
1996 Jeep Cherokee
VIN: 1J4FJ68S4TL210601

Fuat Kilic
332 Elm St.
Enfield, CT 06082
2020 Honda Civic
VIN: 2HGFC2F61LH534098

Danielle Castro
10 Talias Trl.
Middletown CT 06457
2017 Audi A4
VIN: WAUANAF45HN002909

Benjamin Daily
67 Hollywood St
Springfield, MA 01108
2005 Cadillac STS
VIN: 1G6DW677950197637

Linda Krapf
147 Magazine St.
Springfield, MA 01109
2014 Subaru Legacy
VIN: 4S3BMBA63E3023449

Matthew Antunes
25 Shawmut Ave.
Holyoke, MA 01040
2010 Hyundai SONATA
VIN: 5NPET4AC9AH586523

Odalys Molina Negron
828 Chicopee St., Apt 8
Chicopee, MA 01013
2010 Kia Forte
VIN: KNAFU4A29A5271002

Michael Delcolle Jr
35 Hamden Hills Dr., #410
Hamden, CT 06518
2001 Seadoo Challeneger 2000
VIN: CECG0850B101

Ziare Miller
34 Carver St
Springfield MA 01108
2006 BMW X3
VIN: WBXPA93446WG90295

Angel Martinez
46 Cuff Ave.
Springfield, MA 01104
1996 Dodge Ram Van
VIN: 2B6HB21Y0TK122930

Jerry Moskowitz
14 School St.
Holyoke, MA 01040
2004 Chrysler Sebring
VIN: 1C3EL45X04N295107

Anabel Gonzalez
1461 Kurtz Ave.
Los Angeles, CA 90063
2020 Honda Pilot
VIN: 5FNYF5H57LB009766

Brittany Blair
12 Monroe St., Apt D
Westfield, MA 01085
2013 Hyundai SONATA
VIN: 5NPEB4AC8DH575925

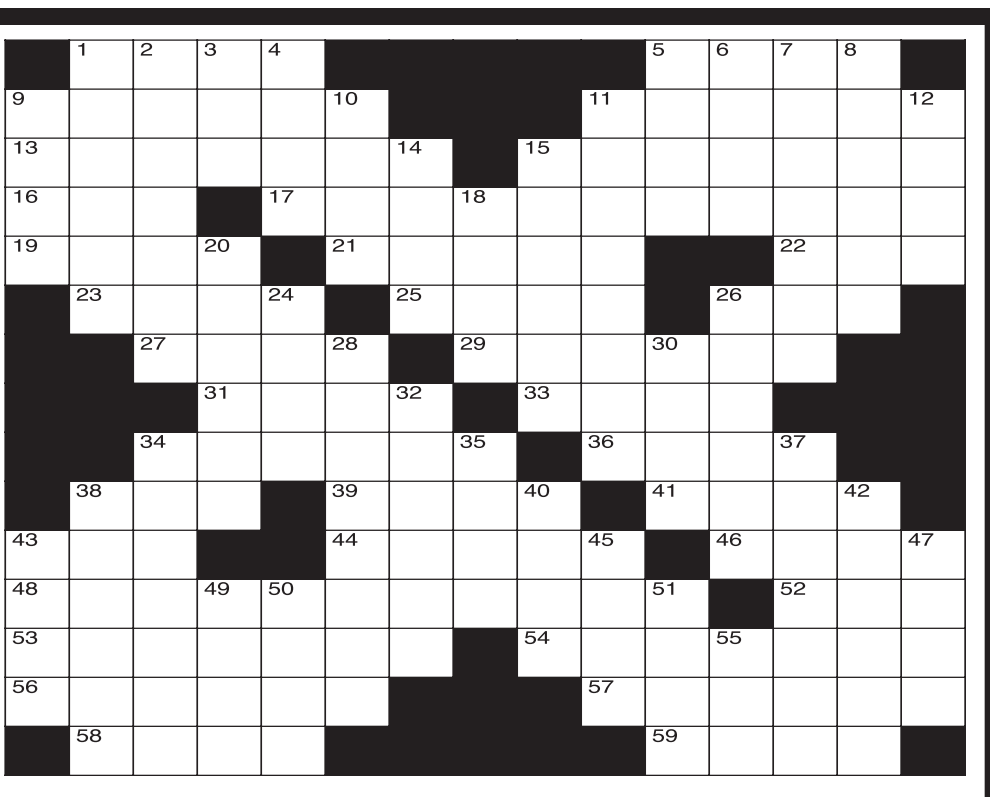
Jennifer Garvulenski
11 Spring St., Apt. 4
Holyoke MA 01040
2000 Chevrolet Silverado 2500
VIN: 1GCGK29U3YE382193

Jason Canfield
272 Walnut St., Apt 3
Holyoke. MA 01040
2005 Nissan Sentra
VIN: 3N1CB51D95L586314

Junior Francillon
16 Hall St.
N. Adams, MA 01247
2011 Nissan Rogue
VIN: JN8AS5MV5BW252719

Trent Formaggioni
886 Main St., Apt. 9
Agawam MA 01001
2007 Ford Escape
VIN: 1FMCU94167KB27225

10/02, 10/09, 10/16/2026



CLUES ACROSS
1. Difficult
5. Coarsely ground corn
9. A group of similar things ordered one after another
11. Loved Romeo
13. Something to solve
15. Pelvic areas
16. Informal debt instrument
17. Ineffective
19. A device attached to a workbench
21. Related on the mother's side
22. "Fresh Prince of __ Air"
23. Astronomer Sagan
25. C. Utah city
26. Turkey
27. Informal terms for money
29. Awakens
31. Those who favored Prohibition
33. Blabbed
34. Looked through
36. Rhode Island rebellion
38. A type of "cast"
39. One's duty
41. Where golfers begin
43. Make a mistake
44. Semitic Sun god
46. Ancient Greek City
48. Removed someone's head
52. A place to stay
53. Unwise
54. Most unnatural
56. "Dennis" is a notable one
57. Ointments
58. Examination
59. Leaked fluid

CLUES DOWN
1. Brave
2. A state of excitement
3. Jest at
4. Sandwich store
5. Chapter of the Koran
6. Dismounted from a horse
7. Small vehicle
8. Irked
9. A disreputable man
10. Monetary unit of Samoa
11. A list of woes
12. Weight unit
14. Alone, single
15. Broadway legend Bernadette
18. Monetary unit of Serbia
20. Worn by exposure to the weather
24. A body of traditions
26. Students seek one
28. Hydrophilic amino acid
30. Nasal mucus
32. Branch of U.S. Congress
34. Swinish
35. Russian assembly
37. Grant an exemption to
38. Set up in advance
40. Satisfy
42. Felt
43. Mild yellow Dutch cheese made in balls
45. Witnesses
47. Strong insects
49. Gasteyer and de Armas are two
50. One of an ancient people inhabiting Scotland
51. Cheerless
55. Unhealthy

Job Connection
HELPING YOU FIND HELP

If you have job postings to fill, get them the exposure they need.

Join us in highlighting what positions you have available in our Job Connection!

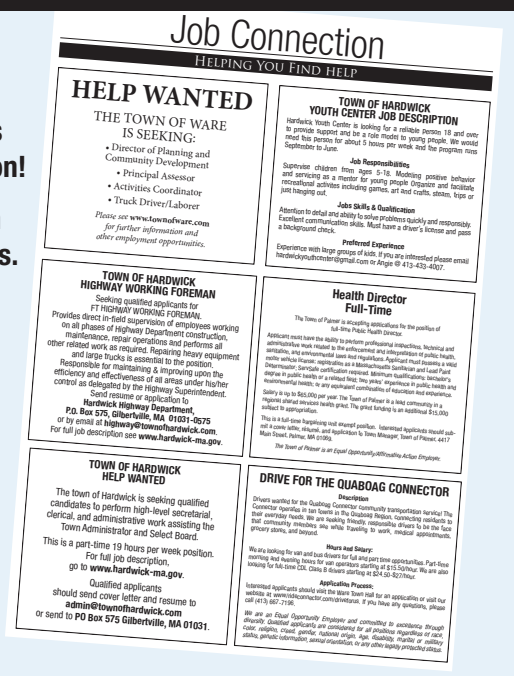
Each week this available jobs section will run in your community newspapers.

5.25" x 4"
$150 for three papers
$40 for each additional paper

5.25" x 8"
$300 for three papers
$80 for each additional paper

10.75" x 8"
$600 for three papers
$160 for each additional paper

10.75" x 15.75"
$1,200 for three papers
$320 for each additional paper


Job Connection
HELPING YOU FIND HELP
HELP WANTED
THE TOWN OF WARE IS SEEKING:
• Director of Planning and Community Development
• Principal Assessor
• Activities Coordinator
• Truck Driver/Laborer
Please see www.townofware.com for further information and other employment opportunities.
TOWN OF HARDWICK HIGHWAY WORKING FOREMAN
TOWN OF HARDWICK HELP WANTED
TOWN OF HARDWICK YOUTH CENTER JOB DESCRIPTION
Health Director Full-Time
DRIVE FOR THE QUABOAG CONNECTOR

Choice of any three papers
Buy two weeks, get the third week FREE

Turley Publications, Inc.
12 Weekly Newspapers Serving The Local Communities
Agawam Advertiser News • Barre Gazette • Chicopee Register • Country Journal
The Journal Register • Quaboag Current • The Register • Sentinel
The Holyoke Sun • Town Reminder • Ware River News • The Wilbraham-Hampden Times
www.turley.com

Contact Paige at PLawor@turley.com or 413.283.8393