

MITT ROMNEY  
GOVERNOR

KERRY HEALEY  
LT. GOVERNOR

ROBERT C. HAAS  
SECRETARY

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

*P.O. Box 1025 ~ State Road*

*Stow, Massachusetts 01775*

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



STEPHEN D. COAN  
STATE FIRE MARSHAL

THOMAS P. LEONARD  
DEPUTY STATE FIRE MARSHAL

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Heads of Fire Departments

**FROM:** Stephen D. Coan   
State Fire Marshal

**DATE:** June 1, 2006

**SUBJECT:** Reporting of School Fires

---

“An Act Relative to the Reporting of Fires in Schools” was signed into law by Governor Romney on May 12, 2006. The new law (Chapter 80 of the Acts of 2006) becomes effective on August 10, 2006.

This law requires that the principal of any public or private school of grades 1-12 shall immediately report any incident of unauthorized ignition of any fire within the school building, or on its grounds, to the local fire department. Within 24 hours, the principal shall submit a written report of the incident to the head of the fire department on a form furnished by the Department of Fire Services (this form is currently being prepared). The principal must file this report whether or not the fire department responded. The fire department shall report the incident to the Marshal pursuant to Chapter 148 § 2 (MFIRS).

The law was created to mandate that schools report fires that may have previously gone unreported. The effect will be greater protection of our children and the ability to identify possible juvenile fire setters to provide appropriate early intervention. DFS will be preparing correspondence to be sent to the Commissioner of Education along with the form asking them to make the local school systems aware of the new law. I would encourage you to work with your schools in this regard.

SDC/bhs

## Chapter 80 of the Acts of 2006

### AN ACT RELATIVE TO THE REPORTING OF FIRES IN SCHOOLS.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same as follows:*

**SECTION 1.** Section 37L of chapter 71 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2004 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting after the word "nineteen", in line 5, the following words: - , and the reporting requirements relating to fires in section 2A of chapter 148.

**SECTION 2.** Chapter 148 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after section 2 the following section:-

Section 2A. The principal of any public or private school that provides instruction to pupils in any of grades 1 to 12, inclusive, shall immediately report any incident involving the unauthorized ignition of any fire within the school building or on school grounds to the local fire department. The principal shall submit a written report of the incident to the head of the fire department within 24 hours on a form furnished by the department of fire services. The report shall be filed without regard to the extent of the fire or whether there was a response by the fire department. The head of the fire department shall report such incident to the marshal in accordance with section 2.

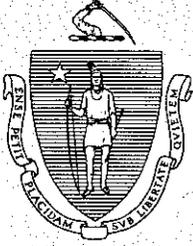
**Approved May 12, 2006.**

Return to:

List of Laws passed in 2006 Session

General Court home page, or

Commonwealth of Massachusetts home page.



MITT ROMNEY  
GOVERNOR

KERRY HEALEY  
LT. GOVERNOR

ROBERT C. HAAS  
SECRETARY

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

*P.O. Box 1025 ~ State Road*

*Flow, Massachusetts 01775*

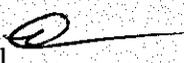
*(978) 567~3100 Fax: (978) 567~3121*



STEPHEN D. COAN  
STATE FIRE MARSHAL

THOMAS P. LEONARD  
DEPUTY STATE FIRE MARSHAL

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Heads of Fire Departments  
**FROM:** Stephen D. Coan   
State Fire Marshal  
**DATE:** August 1, 2006  
**SUBJECT:** Mandatory School Reporting Form



As you recall in June of this year, an advisory was issued in regard to a new mandatory school reporting law. This law is effective August 10, 2006. Part of the law required the Department of Fire Services to create a new form to be utilized in the transfer of this information. The new form is attached and has been created to allow each department to place it on their own letterhead. This form does not take the place of the required MFIRS form pursuant to Chapter 148 § 2. DFS will prepare information for the Commissioner of Education, but we recommend that each fire department work directly with each school principal on the implementation of this new law.

If you have any questions please contact the Code Compliance & Enforcement Office at 978-567-3375 or in Western MA 413-587-3181.

SDC/bhs  
Enc.



NORTH BRIDGE

# TOWN OF CONCORD FIRE DEPARTMENT

209 WALDEN STREET  
CONCORD, MASSACHUSETTS 01742  
TEL: (978) 318-3488 • FAX: (978) 369-6697  
www.concordnet.org/fire

## Mandatory Report of Any School Fires M.G.L. C 148. s. 2A

M.G.L. C 148, Section 2A. "The principal of any **public or private school** that provides instruction to pupils in any of grades 1 to 12, inclusive, shall **immediately** report any incident involving the unauthorized ignition of any fire within the school building or on school grounds to the local fire department. The principal shall submit a written report of the incident to the head of the fire department within 24 hours on a form furnished by the department of fire services. The report shall be filed without regard to the extent of the fire or whether there was a response by the fire department. The head of the fire department shall report such incident to the marshal in accordance with section 2."

This form is part of the mandatory reporting requirement under M.G.L. Chapter 71, Section 37L.

**Remember to call 9-1-1 for any fire not already extinguished upon discovery.**

### For Fire Department use

Report received by: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of School: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of School District: \_\_\_\_\_

City/Town: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Reporting Person: \_\_\_\_\_

(principal or designee)

Signature of Reporting Person: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone # of Reporting Person: \_\_\_\_\_

Date & Time of Fire (if known): \_\_\_\_\_

Date & Time Fire Discovered: \_\_\_\_\_

(if different than when it occurred)

Who Discovered the Fire?: \_\_\_\_\_

(Name and Function: teacher, administrator, custodian, or student)

Location of Fire:     Inside                       Outside

More Specific Location: \_\_\_\_\_

(e.g. floor and function such as "in a trash container in the 2nd floor boys lavatory")