



NEW HAMPSHIRE ASSOCIATION OF FIRE CHIEFS, INC.

Working Together to Make a Difference

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Minutes of a Meeting of the NH Association of Fire Chiefs

Thursday, February 9, 2023 – Johnson's Steak and Seafood, Northwood, NH

The meeting was called to order at 1914 hours by Chief Best.

After a salute to the flag, a moment of silence was requested for departed members.

Chief Mark Tetreault welcomed the members to Northwood. He also spoke about the importance and planning of the upcoming Explorer Fire Academy. Plans are to sponsor it with 55 cadets but their problem is funding. They've had some success so far but more is needed. It will be held the last week of June, 2023.

James Heinz, Fire/EMS Liaison Officer for the NHIAC spoke to the members about Operation Flashpoint (bombmaking materials) which is being rolled out. He also wanted to share more information about the NHIAC and stated that they have prepared a program to share on the subject.

INTRODUCTION OF MEMBERS.

Special Guests:

Minutes of the January meeting have been posted. A MOTION (Chamberlain/McQuillen) to accept carried unanimously.

Financial Reports: January reports will be forthcoming and voted at next meeting.

Communications: n/a

Applications for membership: Chief Kenneth Flaherty of Milford; Asst Chief Thomas Beaumont of Antrim and Deputy Chief Christopher McCarthy of Keene have been approved for membership. Welcome!

Life Memberships: n/a

President's Report: (Best) –

- January 26th Chief Sitar and I testified on ambulance balance billing

- February 1 st a BOD meeting was held at Primex to update the Strategic Plan. We began the process of reviewing and updating the NHAFC strategic plan with the help of Primex's Rick Alpers
- Jay Lyons organizing the Nominating committee for the 2023-2024. There is one BOD vacancy which is a Combination Department Director due to the retirement of Mike McQuillen.
- Last Friday, he and Marshal Toomey met with Commissioner Quinn on cancer in firefighters. SB 71 will make it presumptive in firefighters and we will be supporting it. PFFNH testified in support of the bill. The Commissioner is supportive of the efforts.
- He met with the 5 families recently.

Executive Director's Report (Lemire) –

- The March 9 meeting will be a breakfast meeting at the NH Fire Academy.
- We will forego the Legislative Breakfast this year as the Democratic caucus is so large this year it must meet in the cafeteria.
- We will be having our Annual Meeting and celebration of the association's 90th birthday at the Common Man Inn and Spa in Plymouth. It is the intention to have members invite spouses/guests for this meeting and dinner.
- CFSI is at the end of May this year and the House may not even be in session. It was decided to encumber the money this year for next and plan on attending next year.
- On January 24, I represented the association at the Upper Valley Fire Chiefs' roundtable in Lebanon organized by Director Cutting. Commissioner Quinn, Marshal Toomey, Director Doyle and staffs met with them to discuss issues in an intimate environment. They were very pleased with our journey there.

1st Vice President Report (Emanuel) –

- He attended FDSOA - FRCE co-located conferences and IAFC Health, Safety, and Survival Section Meeting - cancer registry, cancer education, health and wellness January 17-21, 2023.
- Highlights of interest and opportunities include:
 - NH participation in Drexel University FOCUS survey regarding FD safety culture
 - NH participation in NIOSH - National Firefighter Cancer Registry
 - NH participation in the PHLAME (Promoting Healthy Lifestyles: Alternative Models' Effects) Firefighter
 - Updates on the IAFF/IAFC WFI and urgency of fire departments conducting annual physicals

The keynote speaker was Geoff Krill from Lincoln NH, an Adaptive sports ski instructor, who spoke about the Power of positivity and desire to improve. His message was focused on how do you become a better you?

Emanuel and DeAngelis will be delivering a program at NHFA on February 9, 2023 as part of the recruitment and retention program on the topics Bullying and generations.

NHAFC LEGISLATIVE UPDATE – February 9

An updated legislative chart was distributed via email to all members. If you have questions about a bill, reach out to us, and we can either answer or get information from our lobbyist. There is a lot going on at the State House this time of year. It will only get busier once Governor Sununu introduced his proposed budget next Tuesday.

- **HB 373 (ambulance billing)** – NHAFC opposed the bill with testimony at a recent hearing. A House Commerce subcommittee voted to retain the bill on Wednesday. The full committee will vote on their recommendation. If adopted, the bill will not move forward. The Committee will be able to work on the issue this summer and fall. This is a positive development.
- **SB 153 (first responder program)** – NHAFC supported the bill. It is intended to create a program to help with career development, recruitment, and retention of first responders. The Senate committee appeared supportive of an amendment to add a member of NHAFC to a Committee to provide insight on the details and development of the training program.
- **HB 647 (qualified immunity)** – NHAFC opposed the bill as it could create liability concerns for municipalities and their workforce. The House Judiciary Committee voted 16-3 to kill the bill. It will head to the House floor soon. It is not yet clear if there will be a floor fight on the bill.
- **SB 71 (Workers’ Compensation for Firefighters with Cancer/Committee to Study Annual Cancer Screening)** – NHAFC supported the bill. The bill passed the committee and was passed by the Senate earlier today. NHAFC will have a member on a commission to study annual cancer screenings for firefighters, should the bill become law.
- **HB 296 (Driveway permits)** – NHAFC opposed the bill as written. Marshal Toomey may want to provide an update on the bill. Generally, the bill proposed that the “...state fire code and associated rules shall not supersede the authority of local land use boards under planning and zoning provisions...” as it applied to driveway permits. NHAFC testified in opposition but we did speak with the sponsor about potential solutions.

2nd Vice President Report (Watkins) – No report

Sgt. At Arms (Hunter) – No report

Committee Reports

Scholarship Committee – (Marshal Toomey) – No report

Division Reports

Fire Marshal – (Marshal Toomey)

ADMINISTRATION:

Personnel:

We currently have 5 full-time vacancies and 5 part-time vacancies. The following openings are those that we are actively recruiting for at this time:

- Full-time Fire Investigator (2 positions)
- Full-time State Building Inspector
- Full-time State Building/Mechanical Inspector
- Full-time Hazmat Coordinator
- Part time State Building Inspector
- Part-time Fire Protection Specialist
- Part-time NFIRS Coordinator
- Part-time Building Code Review Board Administrative Secretary
- Part-time Outreach & Education Specialist

Keith Boden has been promoted to Fireworks Inspector/Program Manager effective February 10, 2023.

Fredrick Miuzzo has been promoted to a full-time Administrative Support role effective February 10, 2023.

Staci Davis joins our staff as the State Building Permit Coordinator effective February 10, 2023.

Legislation:

The 2023 session is just getting started. Below are some of the bills that we are watching:

- HB 182 prohibiting discharge of volunteer firefighters or volunteer emergency medical technicians from other employment
- HB 265 relative to municipal property tax relief for installation of fire suppression systems
- HB 296 relative to local authority for granting driveway permits
- HB 477 prohibit municipal inspections of owner-occupied units of multi-unit housing
- HB 564 relative to ratification of amendments to the state building code and state fire code
- SB 71 relative to workers' compensation for firefighter cancer disease and establishing a commission to study the implementation of optional annual cancer screenings.
- SB 78 relative to subdivision regulations on the completion of improvements
- SB 170 relative to small group child day care centers

Board of Fire Control:

The Board of Fire Control and the SFMO staff have started the review of the 2021 editions of NFPA 1 and NFPA 101. The goal is to have a package ready for legislative action in 2024.

The Board of Fire Control approved the following amendment to the State Fire Code following a public hearing on January 18, 2023:

- Food trucks
 - Requirement for LP gas system certification for mobile food service vehicles has been removed (NFPA 1 50.7.2.3.4)
 - Modified NFPA 1 50.7.2.3.2 as follows: All mobile and temporary cooking operations equipped with a propane appliance and an electrical system shall be equipped with a propane detector listed and marked on the device as being suitable for use in the vehicles under the requirements of UL 1484, and installed according to the terms of its listing.
 - Modified NFPA 1 50.7.2.3.3 as follows: The LP gas leak detection system shall be tested monthly.

Foam Take-back Program:

We continue to work with DES to launch the foam take-back program. Due to contracting and permitting challenges the launch of this program is delayed into 2023. An important consideration in the program is the best and safest disposal methods to destroy the PFAS chemicals. The latest inventory is approximately 9,600 gallons.

BUREAU OF INVESTIGATIONS:

In the month of January, we received 16 incident notifications resulting in 7 scene responses. The Bureau of Investigations currently has 11 active arson or suspected arson investigations.

New/Active cases (synopsis of some of our cases are listed below):

- On January 6, investigators responded to a structure fire in Jefferson and determined that the fire started in a living room, likely from a person smoking while on oxygen. One patient was transported to Boston for burns and inhalation injuries while another was treated for smoke inhalation at a local hospital and released.
- On January 16, investigators responded to Wolfeboro for a fire that destroyed a grocery store. The cause was undetermined due to extensive damage and collapse.
- On January 31, investigators responded to Epsom for a structure fire at a vacant house. The cause is suspected to be incendiary because the house was unoccupied and did not have an active electrical connection. This criminal investigation is ongoing.

Fatal Fire/CO Incidents:

- The BOI investigated 3 fatal fire incidents in January.
 - A woman died from injuries sustained in a fire in Langdon on January 5. This fire appears to have been accidentally caused by a wood stove.
 - A woman died from injuries sustained in a fire in Woodstock on January 8. This fire was an accidental cooking-related fire.
 - A man died in a fire in Milford on January 21. The cause is undetermined but not suspected to be incendiary.
- On January 1, 2023, the FMO investigated a suspected carbon monoxide poisoning that resulted in the death of a man in Northwood. Autopsy found that it was not a carbon-monoxide death.

Ignitable Liquid Detection Canine Teams:

- There were two IGL canine deployments in January.
- An IGL canine team performed a demonstration in January for the New London Fire Department's junior firefighter program.

Court:

- An investigator testified at an evidence suppression hearing for a past tense arson case that occurred in Hill in November 2021.
- An investigator testified at a Merrimack Grand Jury, which indicted Derrick Poirier for a June 20, 2022, arson in Canterbury. The BOI had arrested him on June 22, 2022.

Training/Committees:

- Two BOI personnel completed "Leading with Compassion" training in January.
- FMO personnel attended live burn training in East Kingston on January 7.
- Many of our investigators completed mandatory training to maintain our police certifications.

BUREAU OF BUILDING SAFETY & CONSTRUCTION:

State Building Permit System:

We processed the following permits in the month of January:

- Building: 41
- Electrical: 34
- Plumbing: 16

- Mechanical Fuel Gas: 8
- Mechanical Non-Fuel Gas: 5
- Fire Protection: 3
- Fire Alarm: 1

Technical Assistance, Educational & Healthcare Reviews:

We initiated 5 educational and 9 healthcare plan reviews, completed 89 inspections and 92 technical consults in the month of January.

Variance Requests:

We processed 6 variance requests in the month of January.

BUREAU OF OUTREACH & EDUCATION:

Hazardous Materials:

Hazardous Materials response, coordination and consultation is available through the on-call FMO supervisor. Our Hazardous Materials Coordinator is available for PEAC Software training for fire departments. PEAC is used for documentation of Tier II facilities and chemical storage.

In the month of January, our Quarterly SERC meeting was held, where we reviewed and awarded HMEP Grants for Hazardous Materials Training and Planning.

Our Hazardous Materials Coordinator attended a Southeastern NH Haz Mat Team training on the familiarization of a bulk propane facility. He also continues to work with the Regional Haz Mat Teams and HSEM on planning a Wide Area Air Monitoring Exercise for the spring of 2023. He presented NH Tier II reporting requirements as part of the EPA webinar on EPCRA and responded to 1 incident to assist a regional Haz Mat Team.

Further discussions and work is ongoing to evaluate the hazmat problem and funding sources.

Regional Outreach/Chief's Roundtables:

We continue to partner with the Commissioner's Office, Director Cutting and the NHAFC to conduct regional outreach/Chief's Roundtables. An Upper Valley Area Roundtable was held on January 24th and an Ossipee Area Roundtable is tentatively scheduled for March 20th at 6:00 pm.

Incident Reporting:

If you don't already have an account to securely transfer to and receive files from the SFMO, please register for free today! More info included in this link: [SFTP2020bulletin.pdf \(nh.gov\)](#).

If you have not submitted your 2022 NFIRS data yet, please do so as soon as possible so we can close out the year in a timely fashion. As a reminder, here is information on how to submit your data, which is due by the 15th of each month: [Incident Reporting | NH Division of Fire Safety](#)

Have you looked at your .err files lately? These are important files that you likely receive on a monthly basis that contain invalid incidents, a.k.a. error messages. We can help you through the process so that you can resubmit any invalid incidents and receive full credit. Please contact us at nhfirs@dos.nh.gov. We continue to work with the team at the Fire Academy as departments implement the NHESR program, available free of charge, for incident reporting. If you are interested in giving a presentation on the program or would like to request one, please email NHESR@dos.nh.gov.

We are monitoring changes proposed by the USFA to the NFIRS system. We understand a substantial redo of the system as we know it is in the works. We anticipate more details will be available in late spring 2023.

We are aware that many fire departments across the state have recently experienced changes in personnel through promotions and/or retirements, and some are shifting their software providers. If you have questions or you are having difficulties, please reach out to the NHFIRS data team using the following email: NHFIRS@dos.nh.gov.

Public Education and Outreach:

Super Bowl Sunday - Sunday, February 12
Add Fire Safety to Your Super Bowl Sunday Lineup. (Cooking Safety)
<https://www.nfpa.org/~media/files/public-education/resources/safety-tip-sheets/cookingsafety.pdf>



Valentine's Day -Tuesday, February 14

Keep you and your loved one safe this Valentine's Day (Candles, Fireplace & Cooking – List of safety tips)

HAPPY
Valentine's Day

Keep any lit **CANDLES** at least 12 inches from anything that can burn. Blow out candles when leaving the room or going to bed.

Snuggling by the **FIREPLACE** can be romantic on a cold winter's day. Use a screen to prevent any flying sparks.

Stay in the kitchen when **COOKING**.
Never leave a stovetop unattended.

Keep you and your loved one safe this Valentine's Day.

Follow us on social media!

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Training Opportunities:

Fire Investigation for the First Responder

March 9, 2023

Raymond S. Burton Training Facility, Bethlehem, NH

6:00-8:30PM

This training familiarizes students (fire, police and EMS) with the roles and responsibilities of first responders and how they relate to the basic principles of arson detection and the proper procedures for scene security, evidence preservation and documentation.

Registration Link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/BurtonMarch9>

Small Town, USA – State v. John Gates

NHFMO Bureau of Investigations Case Study

March 23, 2023

NHFA Auditorium

1:00-4:00PM

Join the NHFMO on a journey into an arson case set in a small New Hampshire town, filled with unexpected twists and turns, and involving local, state, and federal agencies. This presentation shows the ins and outs of a complex arson investigation and how the crime of arson can be just the tip of the iceberg.

Registration Link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/StateVGates1-4pm>

Small Town, USA – State v. John Gates

NHFMO Bureau of Investigations Case Study

March 23, 2023

NHFA Auditorium

6:00-9:00PM

Join the NHFMO on a journey into an arson case set in a small New Hampshire town, filled with unexpected twists and turns, and involving local, state, and federal agencies. This presentation shows the ins and outs of a complex arson investigation and how the crime of arson can be just the tip of the iceberg.

Registration Link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/StateVGates6-9pm>

An additional offering in the north country is in the works, along with a variety of training opportunities to be held around the state this year.

If you are interested in hosting a program or would like to suggest a future training topic, please reach out to Deputy Stacey Dubois at stacey.l.dubois@dos.nh.gov.

Fire Standards/Training/EMS – (Director Cutting)

ADMINISTRATION

Personnel

- We have reposted our open full-time Fire Service Instructor Supervisor (Captain) positions and expanded our advertising nationally. We had three candidates and interviews were held this month.
- We continue to interview candidates for our open Curriculum Administrator position.
- One full-time EMS Training Coordinator in Bethlehem position is open and we are seeking applicants.
- Our part-time Program Coordinator positions for the Fire Officer, Hazardous Materials and Swift Water programs are open and we are seeking applicants.
- Leo Roy has been hired as Program Coordinator for Instructor Mentoring.
- Captain Dan Tice has submitted his resignation effective in March. Captain Tice has worked for the Division for 5 years and served the entire NH fire and EMS service well during this time. We wish him well in his future endeavors.

Grants

- We continue to work with the architectural firm on the design process for the Raymond S. Burton Fire and EMS Training Facility project.
 - We are working with all parties to overcome the challenge of significant price increases in construction costs over the last year.
- We are working through the approval process to accept the 2021 AFG grant will provide funding to purchase firefighter personal protective equipment, SCBA's, training mannequins and multi-gas meters and the 2021 Homeland Security grants will provide funding to purchase computers, cameras and other related equipment for our educational technology section.
- We are working to complete the 2022 AFG application.
- All grant funded Technical Rescue and EMS in the Warm Zone training programs that are eligible for overtime and backfill will require us to change our registration process, more specifically closing registration earlier than we have historically so we can process all necessary paperwork. Grants agreements now need to be in place with local agencies prior to the training program and will require approval from Governor and the Executive Council to be reimbursed.
- We are working with the Department of Health and Human Services Covid Disparities Funding program to expand Image Trend to add Continuum, additional IFT, MIH and simulation training and staff support.

Fire Standards and Training Commission / Curriculum

- The next Fire Standards and Training Commission meeting will be March 2nd at 0930 in Classrooms 5/6 in the dormitory building at the main campus. The full schedule for 2023 also includes meetings on May 4th, September 7th and November 2nd.
 - The Visiting Committee's for the development of a Fire Officer III & IV program and the Technical Rescue Program – Rope Operations and Technician continue their work. The Technical Rescue Visiting Committee will meet again February 13th. Due to several vacancies the progress for completion of the Fire Officer III & IV has been delayed longer than originally projected.
 - The Administrative Rules Sub-Committee has re-convened and will be evaluating the Fire rules relative to the Recruitment and Retention report and their recommendations as their first priority. The first meeting was held February 8th with additional meetings planned for March 8th and April 12th.

Special Projects

- We will be conducting a program analysis of the delivery of Firefighter I and II with a workgroup of individuals from each component of delivery with the goal of making any necessary improvements.
- We are now registered with NH Works which will provide grant funding to train non-affiliated individuals seeking training at the Fire Academy for Firefighter I, Firefighter II and CPAT. We have our first student enrolled through this program. More information will be released soon.
- We continue to work with New Hampshire Employment Security on developing the specifics of this program and will announce those details as soon as they are available on the \$2,535,030 in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funds that were approved for the New Hampshire Emergency Medical Technician Training Program.

Facilities

- We continue to work with an engineering firm to monitor groundwater and surface water related to per- and polyfluoroalkyl (PFAS) substances at the Concord campus. They visited the site last fall and conducted groundwater sampling from 13 existing groundwater monitoring wells and 5 surface water sample locations. The groundwater sampling results indicated PFAS were present at concentrations above Ambient Groundwater Quality Standards. Analytical results from the surface water samples indicated that PFAS concentrations are present in low levels, however almost all were at concentrations below laboratory reporting limits. There are no regulatory standards established by NHDES for surface water PFAS concentrations but generally concentrations reported in all surface water samples this round were consistent with previous samples taken. The PFAS concentrations are not migrating beyond the southern property boundary of the ARFF site. They are ready to prepare the NH DES permit and the recommendation will be to continue to monitor the wells on an annual basis.
- We are working on “B” building upgrades.

- We continue to work with NH Public Works on getting the design and engineering complete to repair the roadway washout on the south side of the drill yard at the Concord campus. An engineering firm has been hired to design the reconstruction. We have received our wetlands permit and will be seeking estimates for repair costs.
- We are working on the replacement of two AC condenser units in the dormitory building.
- We have been completing regular maintenance updates in the fire station including painting and the construction of a separate break room.

2022 Course Metrics

- In 2022 we had 24,917 course registrations, 973 approved courses, issued 1,443 certificates and delivered 117,950 hours of training. These numbers represent an 8% increase over 2021.
- Firefighter I and II deliveries increased by 63% in FY 23' over FY 22'.

Legislative/Administrative Rules

- The new legislative session has begun and we are tracking a number of bills this year. A few include:
 - HB 183 Relative to Employment of Retired Firefighters at the Fire Academy
 - SB 153 relative to establishing a First Responder Career Development, Recruitment and Retention program
- The EMS Letter of Concern rules continue through the process and a public hearing will be held at 2:00pm on February 9th at 33 Hazen Dr.
- We continue our work in partnership with the Police Academy to develop a more comprehensive program for PTSD training utilizing experts from this field in development of the curriculum.

Outreach

- We are seeking requests for training programs that would be scheduled between January 1, 2024 and June 30, 2024. Our goal is to announce all scheduled training programs for this timeframe by May 1, 2023. We will be collecting requests for this time period through March 15, 2023. You can submit your request at <https://nhfa-ems.com/training-request/>.
- We are continuing our Leadership Roundtables with the Commissioner, Fire Marshal's Office, HSEM and Emergency Services and Communications with regional Fire Chief's and EMD's.
 - We held the Upper Valley area roundtable at Lebanon Fire on January 24th at 1800.
 - Ossipee area is planned for March at a location TBD at 1800.

Mental Health & Resiliency

- Crisis Intervention Team Training begins February 27th in Keene.
- Mental Health First-Aid for Fire & EMS will begin in Glen March 8th.

Recruitment and Retention

- Upcoming Recruitment and Retention events:

- February 9th Anti-Bullying & Bridging the Generational Gap in Concord
- February 24th How to Recruit U.S. Veterans for Fire and EMS in Concord
- February 25th CPAT For Women in Concord
- March 11th NVFC Recruitment and Retention 8 hour workshop in Concord

BUREAU OF FIRE TRAINING

Courses/Programs

- Firefighter I
 - There will be two Recruit Schools offered in 2023. The Spring program begins with orientation on March 13th and the Fall program on August 14th.
 - The LRCC I/II combined class has begun.
 - The Bethlehem class began on January 18th
 - The East Kingston class began on January 28th
 - The Brookline I/II combined class will begin February 21st.
- Firefighter II
 - Lakes Region Fire Mutual Aid Association class begins March 7th in New Hampton.
- Technical Rescue
 - Swift Water Level II will begin in Lincoln beginning April 28th.
 - Two Confined Space Rescue classes were held at the Concord campus in January.
 - Ice Rescue Technician was held in Center Harbor January. The Campton class begins on March 11th.
 - Swift Water/Flood Rescue Boat Operator will begin in Bedford on April 10th.
 - Swift Water Level I will begin in Littleton on May 12th and Bedford on June 9th.
- Driver Operator
 - Driver/Operator – All Vehicles will begin in Henniker April 10th and Center Ossipee on April 18th.
 - All Driver Operator All Vehicle programs will include the necessary content for eligibility for CDL licensing.
 - We have confirmed that this will also allow individuals that live in Vermont, Massachusetts or Maine the ability to test for their CDL as well.
- Airport Firefighter
 - This course will begin at the Concord campus on April 24th.
- Facilities and Prop Usage
- Online Training Courses
 - NFPA offers an online training program for Alternative Fuel Vehicles Training Program for emergency responders and can be accessed at <https://catalog.nfpa.org/Alternative-Fuel-Vehicles-Training-Program-for-Emergency-Responders-Online-Training-P15552.aspx?icid=W414>
 - “Fire Mobilization” is a free 1 hour program that supports the NH Federation of Mutual Aid “Fire (& EMS) Mobilization Plan”

- “Fire Service Communications” is a free 1 hour program.
- All of the curricula for programs may be found at <https://nhfa-ems.com/curricula/> . Departments have asked for this information so it can be used in the delivery of local training drills and evolutions.
- For all current course listings you can go to <https://nhfa-ems.com/scheduled-courses/>

Apparatus/Equipment

- The new ARFF truck is in production at E-One in Ocala, Fl. and delivery is expected in the fall of 2023 which is later than anticipated.
- The new Engine bid has been awarded to Rosenbauer. At this time it appears the chassis will be available in early 2023 with an anticipated timeframe for completion later that fall.
- We are developing a train-the-trainer program for our new Ladder 1 and expect to place it in service in February.

BUREAU OF CERTIFICATION AND SUPPORT

Courses/Programs

- Instructor I/II/III Programs
 - Instructor I begins in Concord March 14th.
 - Instructor I in Concord and at Monadnock Hospital begin May 2nd.
 - Instructor II/III began January 23rd.
 - Instructor Professional Development – February 9th - Universal Design for Learning (I/C CE: 2 Hours) Location: Concord
 - Instructor Professional Development – March 9th - Debriefing for Skills Development (I/C CE: 2 Hours) Location: Concord
 - Instructor Professional Development – April 6th Learning Accommodations in the Classroom (I/C CE: 2 Hours) Concord
- Fire Officer I/II Programs
 - Fire Officer I began in Epping January 21st.
 - Fire Officer I will begin in Concord March 23rd.
 - Fire Officer II will begin June 8th.
- Fire Inspector Programs
 - The Warrants and Citations course was held December 14th & 15th.
 - Fire Inspector I began in Concord January 10th and another at the Bethlehem campus on April 1st.
 - Fire Inspector II will begin at the Concord campus on April 6th.
- Fire Investigator
 - The 2023 offering begins August 24th at the Concord campus.
- National Fire Academy
 - Strategy and Tactics for Initial Company Operations will begin Concord February 11th.

- Exercising Leadership to Facilitate Adaptive Change begins February 23rd in Concord.
- 2023 Three State Weekend in Emmitsburg, MD will be March 10-12, 2023.
- Youth Firesetter Intervention Specialist will begin at the Concord campus on March 14th.
- Leadership in Supervision: Creating Environments for Professional Growth will be held in Bethlehem on April 11th.
- Command and Control of Incident Operations (6 day) begins at the Concord campus on May 8th.
- Incident Safety Officer will begin in Portsmouth on May 23rd.
- Incident Command
 - ICS 300 and 400 are in person courses that are offered at no cost to students and funded through grants. These are delivered in conjunction with Homeland Security and Emergency Management.
 - If you register for one of the few trainings at the Emergency Management Institute (EMI) in Maryland or other training institutes that require a “current” version of ICS 300 you would need to take it again for them to accept the prerequisite if your original course was prior to 2018. This is true for all prerequisites for EMI, including if you took ICS 100 in 2002; they would require you to take the current version, as the trainings are updated and change over time.
 - FEMA does **recommend** that you update your classes every 3 to 5 years, but when it comes to the local presentation it is up the authority having jurisdiction, which in state-run classes is the State of New Hampshire. There is an ICS 400 class being held in Concord, NH, in May of 2023 and the authority having jurisdiction, the State of New Hampshire, is accepting any ICS 300 version as the prerequisite for that class.
 - Please note that if EMI or any training institution states it must be “current” or a specific version, and it is their class, they are the authority and they make that decision.
 - If you have any further questions please contact either Richard Cloutier at 603-717-1644 at the NH Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management or Scott Cathy at 603-223-4200 x34223 at NHFA.
 - ICS 300 began in Concord January 31st.
 - ICS 400 will begin at the Concord campus on May 2nd.
- We have developed a new 6 hour non-certification program titled “Your Workplace has Changed: Fire Dynamics for Structural Firefighting”.
 - Next offering February 16th at Hampton Fire.
 - This program has been very successful and highly requested.
- For all current course listings you can go to <https://nhfa-ems.com/scheduled-courses/>

Instructors

- We continue to work on the Instructor Recruitment Plan and analyzing the onboarding and probationary instructor process.
 - The Division is always looking for highly motivated team members to become instructors. At the end of 2022 we had 186 instructors. If you are interesting in becoming an instructor please contact Assistant Director Jeffrey Phillips at Jeffrey.r.phillips@dos.nh.gov or 603-223-4213.

CPAT

- We are in the process of finalizing the costs and dates for the 2023 CPAT offerings.

Testing

- The RFP for new testing software for the Division is currently open and will close next month. When complete this will enable us to begin computer based testing and eliminate the paper method.

BUREAU OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

Boards and Commissions

- The NH Medical Control Board and the NH Emergency Medical and Trauma Services Coordinating Board meetings will take place at 0900 and 1300, respectively, on March 16th in classrooms 5 & 6 in the dormitory building.
- The NH Trauma Medical Review Committee (TMRC) will meet at 0930 on February 15th in classroom 2 in the administration building.

Operations

- Administrative rules for Educational Training Agencies have been drafted and we continue to work with the Department of Safety legal unit to complete these.

Courses/Programs

- A Mobile Integrated Healthcare Provider course began at the Concord campus on January 19, 2023 and at the Bethlehem campus on January 24, 2023.
 - The MIH-P continuing education program consists of classes developed to equip experienced EMS providers with the skills they need to succeed in a mobile integrated healthcare program.
 - These courses are full with waitlisted registrants.
- The winter 2023 Emergency Medical Responder (EMR) course began January 11th.
- EMS in the Warm Zone Awareness and Operations courses are available free to students on our online training platform. The RTF Concepts class is a half-day in-person training that is also available. Grant funding opportunities are available for those that have not done so already.
- Our EMS Education Coordinator continues the monthly continuing education courses at the Concord campus and regionally around the State.

- For all current course listings you can go to <https://nhfa-ems.com/scheduled-courses/>

Clinical Systems

- The Public Health Incident declared by Acting Commissioner Weaver of NH Department of Health and Human Services has been extended to March 31, 2023. The extension of the Public Health Incident allows for the continuation of all Emergency Protocols and any modifications to ambulance staffing requirements. These include:
 - Emergency Protocol - COVID-19
 - Emergency Protocol - COVID-19 Testing
 - Emergency Protocol - COVID-19 Immunization
 - Emergency Protocol - Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
 - Emergency Protocol - COVID-19 Temporary Mobile Integrated Healthcare (MIH)
 - Staffing modifications under Saf-C 5902.06 (m), as it relates to a public health or safety incident declared in writing to the governor by the commissioner of the department of safety or the commissioner of the department of health and human services.
 - We are continually reviewing these Emergency Protocols for their effectiveness on the delivery of patient care as well as their necessity in day to day operations within this evolving environment.
- The development of Trauma Rules are still underway and making progress.
- We continue our outreach and support to agencies for inter-facility transfers and mobile integrated health programs.

Data Management

- Reporting
 - We've added a new folder to ELITE report writer called **Grant Data Templates**. Several of the templates are preset to run totals for the years 2020-2022 as required for the current AFG grant request. So far we've built the following report templates for services to copy and customize:
 - Total Calls by Incident Type Category for years 2020-2022
 - Total Calls by Incident Type Code for years 2020-2022
 - Mutual Aid Given/Received for years 2020-2022
 - Mutual Aid Given/Received – Structure Fires only (NFIRS 111-123) for years 2020-2022
 - EMS Runs by Patient Disposition – 2020-2022
 - These reports can work for most grant as they all ask for similar information. We've included instructions in the description area explaining how to change the time period on the filter tab.

- We have also built reports for services to extract run data for the CMS data reporting requirements that CMS requires of transporting EMS services. Each year over a 3 year period CMS assigns different services to report a large amount of data with the intent of determining the actual cost of delivering EMS care. Most of the data comes from financial records, but some of it comes from run records. They all start with “CMS” with the rest of the label including the specific question number from the data collection guide.
- NFIRS/Respond NH
 - Work continues on the New Hampshire Emergency Services Reporting System (NHESR), which is an extension of the TEMSIS system. If you would like to start using the system, please fill out the form available at <https://nhfa-ems.com/nhesronboard/>.
 - There are numerous departments that have completed the onboarding process for this software and many are using it.
 - A Fire User Group meeting, was held Wednesday, February 8th at 1300. These meetings serve as a forum to collaborate, share challenges, and find solutions in the NHESR system. Certain months will also feature a presentation from a user in the state on interesting aspects of their operation and how they've used these solutions to meet their needs.
 - Coordination continues with the Fire Marshal’s Office for further education and guidance for reporting.
 - Anyone interested in the system can contact Joseph Cartier at 603-223-3403 or joseph.w.cartier@dos.nh.gov.
- RespondNH
 - The Division continues to expand the capabilities of the RespondNH system. As we are able to utilize this system and analyze more data it is important to have department roster information updated and current. Each department has the full capability to manage their own roster by adding new staff and removing those that may have left. Departments are able to do this at any time. For State level reporting information please fill out your roster information to include their status (career, call, or volunteer) as well as the duties they provide such as EMS care and/or fire suppression.
- TEMSIS
 - 266,320 EMS incidents were entered into the system for 2022.
 - We are working in preparation for NEMESIS 3.5.
 - We are working to full develop the Privacy Committee as established in RSA 153-A:35 II.

Compliance

- There are currently over 20 active investigations and ongoing cases. In 2022 we had a total of 76 total investigations. 48 were preliminary and 28 full investigations were conducted.

Preparedness and Special Projects

- Our Division has a Preparedness and Special Projects Coordinator who is available to assist communities with planning efforts for multiple and mass casualty incidents.
 - We continue our outreach on AED's and CPR programs across the state.

Fire Standards and Training Commission – Chiefs Clark/DeAngelis – No report

NH Emergency Medical and Trauma Services Coord. Board – (Dep. Chief Bean) – No Report

National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC) – (Chief Corey) – He reported that the NVFC fund raiser for us in NH has netted \$8,600.00 for the organization. We received the check this week. He also spoke of the value of membership in the NVFC.

Homeland Security and Emergency Management – (Dir. Buxton)

Updates on Division Priorities:

- We are in the process of finalizing organizational changes and goals for 2023
 - This will include;
 - i. Increased efforts for Training, Exercise and Development
 - ii. Implementation of a Community Services Branch
 - 1. Inclusive of a stakeholder liaison group
 - iii. Continued review of procedures to make sure we are providing you efficient delivery of the Public Assistance process
 - iv. We have met with the Regional Planning Commissions to improve the Mitigation planning process
- To date 16 school security assessments completed
- To date 2 tabletop exercises and an initial planning meeting for schools (2023)
- School Safety Preparedness Task Force meeting rescheduled to February 21; dates secured for rest of year
- Behavior Threat Assessment Training is now being offered
- National letter of Certification for Seabrook Nuclear Power Plant finalized

Media Interactions and Events:

- We worked with stakeholders to improve cold weather messaging surrounding cold weather event in January.
- Social Media Contacts
 - Facebook 22,455
 - Twitter 8,531

Instagram 1,319

- Morning weather post on Feb. 1 had a reach of 76,904, 54 reactions and 293 shares (fourth-highest reach post of all time)
- Post to avoid outdoor activities Feb. 3 & 4 had a reach of 73,396, 157 reactions and 479 shares (fifth-highest reach post of all time)

Legislative Interactions:

- Attended SB 109 hearing – school safety and coordination with law enforcement
- Attended HB 534 hearing – relative to water assistance for natural disasters
- Monitoring HB 127- relative to the Declaration of a State of Emergency
- Monitoring SB 110- relative to Administration of the Emergency Shelter Program by City and Towns

Federal Government Interactions:

- Submission of final application for HHPD award for FFY 2022
- Conducting Joint Preliminary Damage Assessments (PDA) with FEMA in response to December 22-25 storm.
- Anticipating submission of disaster declaration prior to February 20th.
- Weekly trainings with FEMA on Hazard Mitigation items and Public Assistance process
- Signed the State of NH Annual Letter of Certification for the Seabrook Station Nuclear Power Plant for calendar year 2022 which was sent to FEMA
- Anticipation of the COVID-19 emergency sunset on May 11, 2023
- We are reviewing the impact adopting FEMA's Public Assistance Simplified procedures process.

Executive Council Interactions:

- During the February 8th Governor and Council meeting the council approved the drawdown of approximately \$120 million dollars to pay public assistance projects.
 - Anticipate payments being processed soon.

Other items of importance:

- Internally we have started to prepare for the upcoming Nascar and airshow events
- Starting to plan for a renovation to the State EOC
- The next School Safety Preparedness meeting will be February 21st (25 Triangle Park Drive)

EMS Trauma Medical Review Board – (Chief Beaudoin) – No report

Commission to study the Incidence of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder in First Responders – (Chief Watkins) - No report

Forests and Lands – (Chief Sherman) – No report

Board of Fire Control – (Chiefs Clark/Hunter) –

- Chief Hunter reported that they met January 18 and that the Marshal covered the pertinent information.

Building Code Review Board – (Marshal Lennon/Chief Conley) – Chief Conley submitted the following report:

- Fire/Building Code Review Committee will be meeting in the next couple of weeks to look at the conflicts between NFPA 101, IRC, and major issues in the IBC.
- Discussions were had on Legislative topics:
 - HB51 - municipal employees (lobbying for cities or town looking to pass warrants,
 - HB63 – relative to religious institutions and the regulation of them.
 - HB104 – Multi-stall restrooms and co-ed group restrooms.
 - HB111 – Establishes a committee to study electrical vehicle charging for residential renters.
 - HB173 – Relative to toilet facilities provided by restaurants and DHHS requirements for them in small restaurants or places that serve alcohol.
 - HB558 – Reference to electric micro-grids and that it is not in the purview of NHBCRB.
 - Several discussions on the IBC and amendments moving to public hearings.
- International Fuel Gas Code and that it covers the technical side of NFPA 54. It would take and RSA 155-A:1 change. This would clean up loose ends of NFPA 54 and perhaps avoid discrepancies that come up between NFPA 54 and the mechanical code.
- Discussion on park model trailers in Rochester and how these are not regulated by HUD whereas mobile homes are. These are the exact same thing as a mobile home, just a small version.

Manufactured Housing Installation Standards Board: (Chief) – No report

Division of Emergency Services and Communications – (Director Doyle) –

- Laconia Facility Update: Selection of the A&E firm has been made, crafting the contract for design services now...ROUGH timeline pushes completion of the project into Summer of 2025;

- Staffing vacancies – down 16 in the PSAP...maintaining call answering standards, and minimum coverage with existing staffing;
- Legislation Watch:
 - Study Committee for Dispatcher & Telecommunicator Training Standards (HB 376)
 - Access to an individual's 911 call / Exemption from 91A (SB 183)
 - Causes of action for individual rights (HB 647)
 - Telephone carrier of last resort obligations (HB 257)
 - Behavioral Health Services access and Mental Health programs [Funding & Sustainability] (SB 85)
 - Requiring Trauma Kits in State Owned Buildings (SB 204)
- E9-1-1 Commission Meeting scheduled for March 17th at the Fire Academy Dormitories;
- Monitored the deep freeze on Friday/Saturday, 2/3-2/4 – Many Fire-related calls for frozen and burst pipes);
- The Division continues to utilize social media (Facebook/Twitter/Instagram) to share valuable information with the public, including proactive reminders about winter safety and spread awareness on public safety topics, such as text-to-911, winter hiking tips, power outage reminders, and Jessica's Law. Additionally, we have kicked off a series of posts spotlighting American Heart Month (February).



- 988 Coalition meetings continue – working on trainings to be held in Littleton and in other sections of the state (TBD);
- Working with CBP, Pittsburg PD, Colebrook Dispatch, NHSP and F&G to research communications improvements at the Northern Border to bolster their current radio coverage and inter-agency / interoperability options;
- NH C.A.R.E.S. Registry (Citizens Assistance Registry for Emergency Services) is about ready for a soft-launch – this replaces our older Sup ALI system and converts it to a web-based portal for citizens to enroll online;
- Statewide Interoperability Executive Committee (SIEC) Meeting Tomorrow, 2/10, at the Fire Academy Dorm Classrooms beginning at 9:00;
- DOS Commissioner and Director's participated in the Upper Valley Area Chief's Roundtable discussion at Lebanon Fire on 1/24;

- I met with the FEMA Region 1 Emergency Communications Coordinator re: PSAP validation project they're working on for all New England Partners – determining operational parameters, call flow, transfers, role, scope and responsibility;
- We met with RI 911 to discuss our operational efficiencies and how we utilize the NENA Master PSAP Registry;

E-911 Commission – (Chief Thomas) –

IAFC Director – (Chief) – No report

New England Fire Chiefs – a Division of the IAFC – (Director Buxton) –

- Chief Jones reported that they have been meeting to work on the conference. It will be at Mohegan Sun for the next two years (against his wishes).
- They continue to see changes in membership for NH. Retired chiefs are still on the rolls and new chiefs are asked to join. Contact him or Chief Buxton with questions.

Old Business

New Business –

Nick Mecuri reported that they will be sponsoring a Jobs Fair in April. More info to follow.

Good and Welfare – Golf Tournament this year will be August 7.
Also Chief Sitar is still accepting applications for NHCFO for this term.

Raffle – The raffle was held. \$276 was collected and \$135 was awarded. Proceeds were counted by Chiefs Hunter and Carrier.

The meeting was adjourned at 2003 hrs.

Chief Brent T. Lemire, Ret.
Executive Director, NHAFC

February 9, 2023

****Subsequent to the regular meeting, the Board of Directors met to discuss acceptance of HazMat Emergency Planning grant money,**

Motion: Hunter/Emanuel: (Motion carried unanimously)

The New Hampshire Association of fire Chiefs in a majority vote, accepted the terms of the Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness (HMEP) Grant as presented in the amount of \$16,750.00 for the New Hampshire 2023 Hazmat Battery Classes.

Furthermore The New Hampshire Association of Fire Chiefs acknowledges that the total cost of the Project will be \$20,100.00 in which the Association will be responsible for a 20% match (\$3350.00).

The New Hampshire Association Authorizes Chief Henry E Thomas Jr. to sign all documents related to the Grant.

Motion: Emanuel/S. Buxton: (Motion carried unanimously)

The New Hampshire Association of fire Chiefs in a majority vote, accepted the terms of the Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness (HMEP) Grant as presented in the amount of \$25,000.00 for the New Hampshire 2023 Hazmat Conference. Furthermore The New Hampshire Association of Fire Chiefs acknowledges that the total cost of the Project will be \$30,000.00 in which the Association will be responsible for a 20% match (\$5,000.00).

The New Hampshire Association Authorizes Chief Henry E Thomas Jr. to sign all documents related to the Grant.