



## **NEW HAMPSHIRE ASSOCIATION OF FIRE CHIEFS, INC.**

*Working Together to Make a Difference*

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## Minutes of a Regular Meeting of the NH Association of Fire Chiefs

Thursday, March 10, 2022 – Virtual via “Go To Meeting” platform

The meeting was called to order at 1604 hours by Chief Sitar.

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

Chief Sitar welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**Member Introduction:** Members’ attendance was polled by the Executive Director.

### **Special Guests:**

**Minutes** of the February 10 meeting are posted. MOTION (Best/Buxton) to accept the February minutes carried unanimously.

**Financial Reports:** The January and February financials have been posted. A MOTION (Thomas/Rhodes) to accept them carried unanimously.

**Communications:** n/a

**Applications for membership:** Chief Ronald Sheltry of Dalton, NH; Asst. Chief Kennett Colby and Dep. Chief Michael Galipeau both of Salem, NH; Dep. Fire Marshal Mitchell Cady; Lieut. Dee Denehy and Thomas Foote both Associate members from Gilsum, NH.

**Life Membership:** N/A

### **President’s Report: (Sitar) –**

- I have appointed the nominating committee to provide a slate of candidates for the election of officers and board of directors at next month’s meeting. Chiefs Jay Lyon, Mike McQuillan, and Rob Buxton.
- I attended a virtual Quarterly update meeting on 2/14/2022 with Commissioner Quinn, Director Harper, Director Cutting, Marshal Toomey, and the NHAFC Board of Directors.

- I attended a meeting of the Monadnock Area Chiefs on March 2, 2022, with Commissioner Quinn, Marshal Toomy, and Director Cutting. I reported on the mission of the NHAFCs. I also gave an update on some of the legislation we were following. The meeting was well attended.
- I will be attending CFSI in Washington this April with Vice President Beattie, Past President Jones, and ED Lamire.
- I have two applications for NHCFO. Awards to successful applications will be at April's meeting.

### **Executive Director's Report (Lemire) –**

- It is suggested that we alternate board meetings between live and virtual. Agreed.
- Our Annual Meeting will be held at the Margate Resort in Laconia on April 14. Details forthcoming shortly. We hope to be hosting a brief presentation by a non-profit DetecTogether on Early Cancer Detection in Firefighters.
- I am working with Primex and the Mt. Washington Hotel on our cooperative May 12, 2022 meeting. The Primex room rate this year is \$199, which will be extended to our group also.
- June will be in Brookline, hosted by Chief Corey.
- The July meeting will be co-hosted by Portsmouth and Rye at the Atlantic Grill on the 14<sup>th</sup>.
- The August 11<sup>th</sup> meeting will be held again at the Town and Country Inn in Gorham so as to join our North Country colleagues. Opportunity for golf and reduced room rates will be offered.
- I am also working with Nick at LRCC on a meeting, probably in September.
- We will try to sponsor a Candidates' Forum at the Institute of Politics at St. Anselm's October 13.
- REMEMBER THE GOLF TOURNAMENT MONDAY, AUGUST 8, 2022.

### **1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Report (Beattie) –**

- February 10, 2022: I participated on the interview panel for replacing Fallon Reed as the Chief of Mitigation and Recovery. Two were interviewed.
- February 28, 2022: I was a member of the interview panel for NHFA's Recruitment and Retention Coordinator position. We interviewed four, with one name being sent forward to the Director for consideration and/or additional interviews.
- Commissioner Flynn has activated Recruitment and Retention Work Group has its first meeting next Wednesday, March 16.
- He summarized the legislative bulletin and deferred to Adam. He spoke on HB 589 and HB 1033.

### **2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Report (Emanuel) –**

- He highlighted our Legislative report which is listed below.

## House

- Sadly, House Democratic Leader Renny Cushing passed away on March 7. He had been battling cancer for some time. Rep. David Cote (Nashua) will serve as the Democratic Leader in the interim.
- The House is scheduled to return to the State House for the first time in 2 years on March 10.

## Senate Session

- The Senate will likely meet next week. They did not have session this week.
- They may also return to their Chamber at a future session date. They have been meeting in the House chamber over the past 2 years.

## Committee Reports/Issues:

- **HB 1587 (Average Final Compensation)** – NHAFC sent a letter of support for the bill. The letter focused on the changes could help with recruitment and retention. The House Executive Departments and Administration committee voted 12-6 to recommend passage of the bill. The House voted 232-113 to pass the bill. The bill has been sent to the House Finance Committee to review the costs associated with the change (appr. \$56 million). A House Finance work session is expected next week.
- **Codes - HB 1681 (fire code update)** – House Executive Departments and Administration added language to the bill to enact updates to the fire code. A drafting error led to the omission to the fire code when the bill was introduced. The committee passed the bill with the amendment 18-0. The bill will go to the House floor soon. **SB 398.** would enact a new process for code adoption moving forward. The proposal was developed by a study committee last year. The Senate has passed the bill and it will be heard in the House soon.
- **SB 357 (PTSD Commission Extension/mental health training for firefighters)** – The bill would extend the existing PTSD Commission. NHAFC has a member on the commission. The bill would also create a requirement for firefighters to complete mental health training. NHAFC sent an email to Senators supporting the bill but suggested that maximum flexibility be allowed for implementation so that there would not be negative effects on call and volunteer departments. The Senate has passed the bill, but it has not yet been scheduled for a hearing in the House.
- **HB 1508 (employment protections for call/volunteer firefighters).** NHAFC signed in as supporting the bill at the public hearing last month. The sponsor indicated the bill is modeled on existing laws in neighboring states which helps protect call and volunteer firefighters from workplace retaliation if they need to respond to a call. The committee had several questions and recommendations for additional clarity. Ultimately, the committee voted 12-8 to kill the bill. The full House will vote on the recommendation at a future House session.
- **SB 249 (Short Term Rentals)** – The initial hearing on SB 249 was held in the Senate Commerce Committee last month. The Committee voted to pass the bill with an amendment which allowed for inspection based on RSA 153:10-a, II (Automatic

Fire Warning Devices and Carbon Monoxide Detection Devices in Dwellings. The Senate passed the bill with the amendment. The House hearing has not yet been scheduled.

- **HB 1033 (municipal funds for lobbying)** – The bill is intended to prohibit communities/counties/school districts from using funds from property taxes for lobbying activities. The bill was passed with an amendment by the House Legislative Administration Committee (vote 9-4). It will go to the House floor later this month.
- **HB 589 (worker’s comp coverage for critical exposure)** – The bill expands the definition of “critical exposure” to encompass any costs associated with preventative treatment from an emergency response. The current definition allowed for some treatment costs to be rejected by carriers, resulting in first responders paying out of pocket for treatment. The bill was passed by the House earlier this year. On Tuesday, the Senate Commerce Committee voted 5-0 to pass the bill. It will head to the Senate floor soon.

**Sgt. At Arms (Best)** – No report

### **Committee Reports**

**Scholarship Committee – (Dep. Toomey)** – He will be getting the Scholarship Committee information out on May 1.

**Recruitment and Retention Committee – (Chief Beattie)** – (in his report)

### **Division Reports**

**Fire Marshal – (Marshal Toomey)**

### **ADMINISTRATION:**

#### **Personnel:**

We currently have 6 full-time vacancies. The following openings are those that we are actively recruiting for at this time:

- Deputy Fire Marshal II (Bureau of Outreach & Education) – background in process
- 2 Fire Investigators-testing & interviews scheduled for late March
- Hazmat Coordinator
- Part-time Education & Outreach Specialist
- Part time State Building Inspector
- Part time Modular Building Program Administrator
- Part-time Building Code Review Board Administrative Secretary

#### **Legislation:**

HB 1068	Relative to Building Codes for Tiny Houses Inexpedient to Legislate
HB 1191	Relative to Electrical Work, Plumbing, and Fuel Gas Fitting in One or Two Family Housing
	Refer for Interim Study
HB 1555	Repealing the Permit Required for Fire at Campgrounds Refer for Interim Study
HB 1595	Relative to Establishing a Statewide Food Truck License Refer for Interim Study
HB 1681	Relative to the State Building Code On House Consent Calendar OTP-A (2018 fire code added)
SB 223	Relative to Requirements for Recovery Houses Passed/Adopted in Senate
SB 227	Relative to Death Benefits For First Responders Who Die From Suicide
	Laid on Table, last hearing 2/3
SB 249	Prohibiting Planning and Zoning Ordinances That Prohibit Short-term Rentals
	Passed/Adopted with amendment in Senate
SB 339	Relative to Meetings of Boards and Commissions in the Department Of Safety
	Passed/Adopted with amendment in Senate
SB 398	Relative to Building Code and Fire Code Enforcement Passed/Adopted with amendment in Senate
SB 443	Relative to Municipal Authority Regarding the State Building Code Passed/Adopted with amendment in Senate

## **BUREAU OF INVESTIGATIONS:**

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

- Investigators continue to follow up on leads into an arson that occurred in a single-family residential home located at 77 North St. in Jaffrey.
- Investigators responded to an apartment building at 17 Bay St. in Laconia for a fire that remains under investigation.
- Investigators responded to 1545 Main St. in Berlin for a fire which was later determined to be incendiary. A joint investigation with the Berlin Police Department ensued, leading to the arrest of Messiah McMaster on March 4, 2022, charging him with felony level arson.
- Investigators responded to a fire at 72 Lafayette St. in Rochester. The property was an animal barn located on the Rochester Fairgrounds. Rochester Police Department had spoken with transients living in the area a few weeks prior to the fire. The cause of the fire is under investigation.
- An investigator responded to 47 Oriole Ave. in Keene to assist the Keene Fire Department with a fire investigation in a mobile home. The fire was determined to be accidental in nature. Two people sustained minor injuries during this fire.

**Fatal Fire:**

- On February 7, 2022, a fatal mobile home fire occurred at 20 Cheever St. in Stratford. An 84 year-old male was located deceased inside the home. The cause of the fire is currently under investigation.

**Ignitable Liquid Detection Canine Teams:**

Our two IGL Canine Teams were deployed three times in the month of February.

**Public Outreach:**

Investigators delivered a job presentation and a K9 demonstration at the Kearsarge Middle School.

On February 11, 2022, a Youth Firesetter Taskforce presentation was given to representatives from NAMI via Zoom.

An informational session about the BOI was presented to the Bow Fire Department.

**Arrests:**

Mark Rosenberg was indicted on an arson that occurred in Lincoln on December 9, 2021.

**Training/Committees:**

Some of our investigators attended the following trainings: FBI- NIBRS, NW3C - OSINT Module 1: Advanced Search Engine Techniques and Module 2: Deep Web Searching, and Crisis Intervention Team Training.

One of our fire investigators is currently enrolled in a Firefighter I certification class.

**BUREAU OF BUILDING SAFETY & CONSTRUCTION:**

**State Building Permit System:**

We processed 19 building permit applications in the month of February.

**Technical Assistance, Educational & Healthcare Reviews:**

We initiated 3 educational and 3 healthcare plan reviews, completed 82 inspections and 96 technical consults in the month of February.

**Variance Requests:**

We processed 5 variance requests in the month of February.

**BUREAU OF OUTREACH & EDUCATION:**

**We have renamed the Bureau of Planning and Support Services to the Bureau of Outreach & Education.**

**Hazardous Materials:**

Hazardous Materials response, coordination and consultation is available through the on-call FMO supervisor.

We continue to work on Tier II reporting and associated follow-ups when deficiencies are identified.

**Swiftwater Rescue Working Group:**

Several grant awards were issued to the established teams over the past few weeks. Further discussions and work is ongoing to evaluate the swiftwater problem and funding sources. A working group meeting is scheduled for March 9, 2022.

**Regional Outreach/Chief's Roundtables:**

We continue to partner with Director Cutting and staff and the NHAFC to conduct regional outreach/Chief's Roundtables. Please reach out to schedule.

**Incident Reporting:**

As we work to close-out the 2021 calendar year call data we request that Fire Departments submit their NFIRS data by as soon as possible. If you have questions you can notify the NHFIRS data team using the following email: [NHFIRS@dos.nh.gov](mailto: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.

**Training:**

We will be delivering an Assembly & Tent Inspection class at the Sunapee FD on March 16<sup>th</sup> at 18:00 hrs and an investigation case study in Franconia on March 24<sup>th</sup> at 18:30 hrs.

Additional programs are in the works. Please reach out if you are interested in hosting a program.

**NH Fire Standards, Training and EMS - (Dir. Cutting)**

**ADMINISTRATION**

**Personnel**

- The Fire Officer part-time program coordinator position has been advertised for applicants.
- The Specialty Services Section is continuing to be developed. Interviews have been conducted for the full-time Specialty Services Coordinator and are scheduled for the part-time IFT Program Coordinator. The part-time MIH Program Coordinator position remains open and has been posted externally.

- The position of Education Technologist has been advertised for applicants with interviews starting in the next week.
- We are planning the interview process for our new Curriculum Administrator.
- Interviews for the Recruitment & Retention Coordinator position were held last week.
- Rob Martel and John Keller have been hired as the Drill-yard and Technical Rescue part-time program coordinators.

### Grants

- We have a kick-off meeting with our State partners to advance the Raymond S. Burton Fire and EMS Training Facility project on March 15<sup>th</sup>.

### Fire Standards and Training Commission / Curriculum

- The next Fire Standards and Training Commission meeting will be April 7<sup>th</sup> at 0930 in Classrooms 5/6 in the dormitory building at the main campus. The Commission also approved meeting dates for June 2<sup>nd</sup>, September 1<sup>st</sup> and November 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- The Hazardous Materials Technician program and Fire Officer I/II program updates were approved by the full Commission at their February meeting.
  - The public comment period is open February 3<sup>rd</sup> – April 4<sup>th</sup>. Information on these changes can be found on our website.
  - The required public hearings were held Wednesday March 9<sup>th</sup> at 3pm and 5pm.
- The NFPA 1001, FF I/II Curriculum Review Report was submitted to the Commission in February for initial review and was referred back to the Curriculum committee, which meets March 10<sup>th</sup>. The final presentation is expected at the April Commission meeting.
- The Commission solicited for individuals who are interested in participating in a Visiting Committee to evaluate the development of a Fire Officer III & IV program in New Hampshire.

### Special Projects



- Our staff is working to administratively support the Fire and EMS Recruitment and Retention Workgroup that Commissioner Quinn established which will hold their first meeting on March 16<sup>th</sup> at 2:00pm here at the Fire Academy.
- We are nearing completion of realigning and restructuring the geographical areas of the state that our (field) Fire Captain's cover and will communicate those over the next few weeks.
- We are working with the Department of Safety Division of Administration (Human Resources) on implementation of a new Work Time Management system. Analysis continues on the application of this system to our Staff Instructors as well.

#### Legislative/Administrative Rules

- We are monitoring a number of bills in the legislature. A few that we want to highlight are:
  - SB 357, relative to Mental Health Training for First Responders. - passed the Senate.
  - SB 339, relative to Meetings of Boards and Commissions in the Department of Safety. – passed the Senate.
  - SB 337, relative to Emergency Medical and Trauma Services Data sharing for the purposes of analysis. – passed the Senate.
- The “Letter of Concern” option for EMS licensure actions that was passed in 2021 legislation continues to be worked on through the administrative rules process.

#### Outreach

- We are continuing our Leadership Roundtables with the Fire Marshal's Office and regional Fire Chief's with additional dates being planned.
  - We met with the Monadnock area Chief's on March 2<sup>nd</sup>.

#### Mental Health & Resiliency

- We are still waiting for notification on whether our American Rescue Plan Act grant request through the Health Resources and Services Administration officials has been approved or not to address suicide, burnout and behavioral health conditions - including substance abuse among public safety officials.

- We continue our meetings with mental health professionals to develop a spring 2022 seminar with Fire Chief's, Police Chief's, labor leaders and clinicians to provide professional development, continuing education and a networking opportunity.
  - A tentative date for this seminar is June 8<sup>th</sup> at the Fire Academy. More details will be shared in the next few weeks.
- We are working on a project with the International Association of Firefighters to host a two-day Mental Health Clinician Training seminar here at the Fire Academy this fall that will include one day of classroom and one day of practical fire ops on the drill yard. This will be the first delivery of this program in the country.

## **BUREAU OF FIRE TRAINING**

### Courses/Programs

- Firefighter I classes
  - Plaistow, Henniker and Bethlehem classes are ongoing.
- Firefighter II classes
  - The Tilton and LRCC classes are ongoing.
- We recently conducted training in Sunapee on Electric Car Fires.
- An Ice Rescue Technician class was held on February 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> in Center Harbor with 24 students participating.
- The Forcible Entry prop was in Hopkinton for two evening training sessions on February 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>; thirty members from Capital Area Departments participated.
- New Forcible Entry doors have been delivered and the Train-the-Trainer was delivered to the BOFT Captains and a core group of our Forcible Entry Instructors on March 4<sup>th</sup> at the Academy.
- The 2022 Recruit School is in the final stages of our planning process with a tentative orientation on June 7<sup>th</sup> and start date beginning in August.
- On February 7<sup>th</sup>, to be eligible to take the required skills or knowledge tests, commercial driver's license applicants must have completed applicable entry-

level driver training from a registered training provider. This is a federal requirement.

- Legislation is being promulgated to exempt state and local agencies that provide this training from certain requirements in the RSA's.
- Our staff has completed an analysis of the requirements of our current Driver Operator All Vehicle program and are working to develop the content for the additional required components.

### Facilities

- We are awaiting work to begin on the roadway washout on the south side of the drill yard at the Concord campus.

### Apparatus/Equipment

- Our Engine 2 and operator participated with a live burn in Tilton on February 19<sup>th</sup>.
- Committees for construction of the new ARFF truck and Engine continue to make progress.
- Completion of the new aerial is still expected in May.

## **BUREAU OF CERTIFICATION AND SUPPORT**

### Courses/Programs

- Instructor I/II/III Programs
  - Instructor I was completed at the end of February.
  - There will be a Saturday offering of Instructor I at the Burton Training Facility beginning March 12<sup>th</sup> and continuing through April 23<sup>rd</sup>.
  - There will be an evening offering of Instructor I at the Hanover Fire Department beginning May 3<sup>rd</sup>.
  - There will be two daytime offerings of Instructor I at the Concord campus beginning on August 23<sup>rd</sup> and October 4<sup>th</sup>.
  - The first Instructor II/III course in 2022 began February 20<sup>th</sup>. This is the first delivery of the newly approved program. Additional offerings are being planned for this program.
- Fire Officer I/II Programs

- The Fire Officer I class has completed and the next offering will begin June 9<sup>th</sup>.
- The next Fire Officer II course begins March 24<sup>th</sup>.
- Fire Inspector Programs
  - The Warrants and Citations course will be held December 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup>.
  - Fire Inspector I is ongoing.
  - The next Fire Inspector II class begins April 5<sup>th</sup>.
- Fire Investigator
  - The next offering will begin August 25, 2022.
- For all current course listings you can go to <https://nhfa-ems.com/events/>

### Instructors

- We continue to work the Instructor Recruitment Plan. Recruiting more new instructors remains a top priority for our Division.
  - There are currently 43 individuals in the mentoring process to become instructors.
- We have started telephone interviews with our inactive instructors to identify their future plans or any barriers to future instructional assignments.

### CPAT

- The 2022 CPAT dates are planned for April 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup>, May 23<sup>rd</sup>, June 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> and September is TBD.
  - As of October 2021 there were 414 candidates on the eligibility list.

### Testing

- With the award of the AFG grant we continue to work with the DOS IT group to develop the RFP to replace the current certification testing software.

## **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 17<sup>th</sup> in classrooms 5 & 6 in the dormitory building.

- The NH Trauma Medical Review Committee (TMRC) will meet at 0930 on April 20<sup>th</sup> in classroom 2 in the administration building.

### Operations

- EMS provider license renewals are available in Respond NH for the current recertification cycle. There is an average of 25 renewals per day being processed with approximately 1300 provider's still due for renewal in the next six weeks.
- The EMR class has been completed and students will be taking the State BLS practical examination on March 12<sup>th</sup>.
- The Spring EMR class will begin in May and registration will open within the next week. This course will be held in Concord, Bethlehem and at Monadnock Community Hospital.
- 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/events/>

### Clinical Systems

- Patient Care Protocol updates and corrections (8.1 Mid Cycle Roll-out) were approved by the Medical Control Board on November 18<sup>th</sup>, the public comment period on these changes ended on February 16<sup>th</sup> and they will be voted on by the Coordinating Board on March 17<sup>th</sup>.
- The Trauma Coordinator is working with the TMRC on ACS III Migration Plan, Trauma Rules and Data Sharing.

### Data Management

- EMS Reporting
  - The system is operational and staff are currently working on education for providers and units.
- 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 currently 56 departments using the software.

- 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](mailto:joseph.w.cartier@dos.nh.gov).
- The inaugural New Hampshire Emergency Services Reporting (*NHESR, formerly TEMSIS*) – Fire Incident Reporting User Group took place March 8<sup>th</sup> at 0830. This group will meet monthly to discuss questions and suggestions related to the state's direct entry platform, NHESR (NFIRS questions were not in the scope of this meeting, but FMO representatives were available) This meeting provided a valuable opportunity to connect with other users of the system and share novel solutions to problems such as compliance, payroll, and reporting.
- Initially our meetings will be entirely remote to ensure full participation from NH services, though a hybrid format is being developed for future use.

#### Compliance

- There are currently thirteen active cases being worked on.

#### Preparedness and Special Projects

- The Division is currently revising the existing COOP plan and will be conducting a table top exercise with senior staff in March. Over the course of the next few months this plan will evolve and each Bureau will participate in training.
- AED Program – Exploring joint PSA with e911 to showcase AED program and PulsePoint App.

#### Miscellaneous

- The bureau has been working with the Board of Nursing as a Subject Matter Expert for consideration and development of an In-State Paramedic to RN Program to be run through the community college systems as well as an Out of State online Paramedic program.

#### **NH Fire Standards and Training Commission – (Chiefs Clark/Buxton)**

- Their next meeting is April 7 and he stated that Director Cutting had covered the information in his report.

**NH Emergency Medical and Trauma Services Coord. Board – (Chief Bean)**  
n/r

**National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC) – (Chief Corey) – n/r**

**ACEPS Committee – (Chief Christopoulos) – n/r**

**Homeland Security and Emergency Management – (Fallon Reed)**

Russia/Ukraine – HSEM is monitoring the situation closely - cyber is biggest threat to US, we will share info as we get it.

- Our last COVID EMD monthly meeting will be on 3/17/22 – we will then transition in April to HSEM/Local Briefs in those same time slots (3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the Month at Noon) - with topics/updates on variety of areas from our office. We will also poll locals as to what topics you would like to hear about or discuss – things like grants, plans, projects, etc.
- FEMA is extending the 100% reimbursement for COVID eligibility to 6/30/22, afterwards will move to 90/10 share. More details to come
  - o DHHS is working on extending municipal contracts - going to G&C end of month. They will reach out with new contracts once they are approved.
- We have the REP evaluated exercise on 4/6. Working with the 17 EPZ and 3 Host communities to prepare.
- HSEM is in the midst of a reorg
  - o Fallon Reed has transitioned to special projects and will be on maternity leave beginning 4/11 - call the directors if need anything that she usually took care of.
  - o The Mitigation and Recovery section is headed up by Vanesa Urango. Thank you to those that sat on the panel to assist with the selection
  - o The operations section is now Preparedness and Response section - which encompasses planning and training/exercise. We will review all the changes at our April monthly meeting on the 21<sup>st</sup>.
  - o Due to growth in the organization – we have outgrown our office space. The Mitigation and Recovery Section will be moving to office space on Triangle Park Drive – where NHMA is located – mid May.
- Director Harper will be out of the country for two weeks beginning 3/17/22. Grant and Fallon will cover while she's out.

**EMS Trauma Medical Review Board – (Chief Beaudoin) – n/r**

**Division of Forests and Lands – (Chief Sherman)**

- Legislation – HB 1555, AN ACT repealing the permit required for fires at campgrounds. I offered testimony to the House Resources, Recreation and Development Committee in January as well as a follow up letter in February outlining the Division's opposition to this bill. During the Executive Session held on February

23, 2022, the House Resources, Recreation and Development Committee voted to move the bill to Interim Study. I will continue to monitor the status of this bill and will update the Association if there are further developments.

- **Spring Warden Training.** Announcements have gone out for the 2022 Spring Warden/Deputy Warden Trainings. There is a copy attached to this report as well. We will be doing virtual trainings this year because of reduced staffing levels which are explained below. We plan to bring this training back as in-person for 2023. Please remember to RSVP in advance to receive the meeting link.
- **Forest Ranger staffing** has been very challenging since 2020. We have had 4 very experienced rangers retire and an additional one leave the agency since May 2020. That reduced our number from 10 to 6 rangers and we have only received funding to get us back to 9. Three were hired last fall and are attending the Police Academy through the end of April. We have promoted Forest Ranger Adrian Reyes to Captain and he will be covering Region 1 out of Lancaster. This spring we will be working to fill the vacancy left by this promotion. We appreciate all of your support as we build our staffing back up.
- **Online Fire Permits** – All towns are encouraged to use the online system for all categories of fire permits. This system has been upgraded over the past six months and is an excellent resource for fire departments and people wishing to obtain a fire permit. To provide consistent access statewide, it is important that all towns transition to the state online fire permit system.
- We have conducted our annual refresher trainings for our out of state firefighters. We will hold the required work capacity testing later this spring in May.
- Spring fire season is rapidly approaching. Currently, the very northeastern portion of the state is experiencing moderate drought and the northern half of the state is in abnormally dry conditions. Seasonal outlooks point to a normal spring fire season with higher than normal temperatures and normal precipitation for April. In addition to Forest Ranger staffing, we will have 2 full-time and 4 part-time patrols this spring and we are working to build up staffing for the fire towers for every weekend April-October. Currently, the tower staffing for weekends is listed below....if you know someone who is interested in learning more about staffing one of the vacant towers, please have them reach out to us.

<b>Tower</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Staffing for Weekend Coverage</b>
Belknap	Gilford	Staffing still needed
Blue Job	Farmington	Staffed
Cardigan	Orange	Staffed
Federal	Milford	Staffed
Green	Effingham	Staffing still needed



Kearsarge	Warner	Staffing still needed
Magalloway	Pittsburg	Staffing still needed
Milan	Milan	Staffing still needed
Miller	Peterborough	Staffed
Oak Hill	Loudon	Staffing still needed
Pawtuckaway	Nottingham	Staffed
Pitcher	Stoddard	Staffing still needed
Prospect	Lancaster	Staffed
Warner	Derry	Staffed

**Board of Fire Control – (Chief Clark)**

- They meet next Wednesday, March 16.

**Building Code Review Board – (Marshal Lennon) – n/r**

**Manufactured Housing Installation Standards Board: (Chief) n/r**

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

- Laconia PSAP Update – ongoing discussions / Project Manager is being chosen to manage the project at Public Works, will be meeting with them at a kick-off meeting yet TBD
- Sad news to share about the passing of Mike Geary - a former DESC employee of 15 years
- Honored the 54th anniversary of the first-ever national 9-1-1 call by remembering the first-ever NH DESC 9-1-1 Telecommunicators from 1995
- DOS's Strategic Communications Administrator / PIO, Tyler Dumont, visited the Concord PSAP
- DESC Josh Mann flew with the NH Army National Guard helicopter to assist them with communications testing
- Celebrated 'Twosday' on 2/22/22 by highlighting NH's two public safety answering points
- 02/18/2022: Attended Fiscal Committee meeting for DESC Fiscal Request
- 02/11/2022: Attended Quarterly Statewide Executive Interoperability Committee meeting

- 02/14/2022: Attended NH Fire Chiefs and Department of Safety bi-monthly meeting
- 02/23/2022: Met with Insurance Dept. Commissioners to discuss Nurse Triage Program
- Reviewed DESC COOP plan with Assistant Commissioner Edwards
- Reviewed DESC IT plan for FY24-25 with Assistant Commissioner Bailey, DoIT and DOS Senior Leadership
- Working on Memorandum of Understanding with DNCR for Tower sites and equipment maintenance
- Met with Commissioner Quinn, DHHS Commissioner Shibinette, and PSTC Director John Scippa to discuss legislation regarding mental health and law enforcement
- Attended a number of legislative session for bills affecting/impacting DESC
- 02/08/2022: Discussion with DHHS and Beacon Health Options regarding Rapid Access Point and First Responder Messaging – Trainings to begin this month into April – **Present at NHAFC Meeting in April??**
- We will be ending our script “Is anyone there experiencing flu like symptoms or had exposure to COVID 19?” as the incidence of occurrences is markedly down, mask mandates have been removed and EMS is no longer requiring documentation of PPE. However, should we be informed of a COVID positive patient, we will be passing that info along.

#### **E-911 Commission – (Chief Thomas) –**

- They meet Friday and one item of discussion will be ViewNH which is quite detailed, including ski and hiking trails. It will be an asset to our search and rescue operations.
- He will report on the meeting at our next meeting.

#### **Opioid Fatality Study Committee – (Chief Thomas) – n/r**

#### **IAFC Director – (Chief Christopoulos) –**

The U.S. House and Senate Appropriations Committees released the final Fiscal Year (FY) 2022 Omnibus Appropriations bill this morning. The House is expected to vote on it 3/9/2022. At present, both the AFG and SAFER programs were reduced by \$10

million each, but an additional \$35 million was added to both the UASI and SHSGP programs.

Below is a summary provided by our Government Relations staff regarding how the FY22 final fire service funding levels look for the fire programs in the Bill:

In Millions (\$)

<b>Program</b>	<b>FY 2020 (Enacted)</b>	<b>FY 2021 (Enacted)</b>	<b>FY 2022 (President's Budget)</b>	<b>FY 2022 (H.R. 4431)</b>	<b>FY 2022 (Senate)</b>	<b>FY 2022 (Final)</b>
<b>AFG</b>	455 <sup>[1]</sup>	460 <sup>[2]</sup>	370	370	370	<b>360</b>
<b>SAFER</b>	355	560 <sup>[3]</sup>	370	370	370	<b>360</b>
<b>USFA</b>	46.844	49.269	53.212	53.212	53.212	<b>53.212</b>
<b>UASI</b>	665	705	689.684	705	705	<b>740</b>
<b>SHSGP</b>	560	610	594.686	610	610	<b>645</b>
<b>US&amp;R</b>	37.832	37.832	37.832	37.832	37.832	<b>37.832</b>

[1] Includes \$100 million in AFG funding from the CARES Act (P.L. 116-136).

[1] Includes \$100 million in AFG funding from the American Rescue Plan Act (P.L. 117-2).

[1] Includes \$200 million in SAFER funding from the American Rescue Plan Act (P.L. 117-2).

For the SAFER grant program, the FY 2022 omnibus appropriations bill would allow the FEMA Administrator to waive the following requirements to the SAFER grants:

- The local cost-share.
- The three-year performance periods.
- The requirement that SAFER funds not supplant local funds.
- The requirement that the recipient fire department maintain its budget at 80% of the average funding over the past three years.
- The FEMA Administrator also would be authorized to allow fire departments to retain and re-hire firefighters as part of the SAFER program.

For the SAFER grant program, the bill will allow the FEMA Administrator to waive the local match requirement and the maintenance of expenditures requirements (preventing a fire department's budget from being reduced to not less than 80% of the average amount of such expenditures in the preceding two fiscal years) for the AFG program.

Lastly, the USFA is directed to fund the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial and report on its efforts to collect firefighter suicide data.

**New England Fire Chiefs – a Division of the IAFC – (Chief Jones) –**

The Ned-IAFC held a Meeting in Springfield, MA back on 2/10/22

International Director -

Reported that the IAFC will be having a strategic planning session in April at headquarters. The IAFC is also considering hiring a communication position to work with membership and the officers.

IAFC Treasurer -

Reported that the filing deadline had past for the treasurer position he is running unopposed for the 3-year term. He would like to thank the Board for their support of him.

He also reported the IAFC finances are now in the black. This year we are looking at a 1.1/1.2 million dollars to the good The organization took big steps to reduce spending and take on federal grants to help change the financial direction. Roughly 25% of the jobs were cut to turn this in the right direction.

Cooperate Sponsors from First Net Built by AT&T Luis Gonzalez and Austin Monett spoke to the board about the benefits of First Net and the development throughout the New England States as well the country. The board received informational handouts through email regarding the subject. In addition, they spoke about the benefits and devices AT&T offers to fire departments and their members.

Membership list have four tabs the board was asked to inform the secretary when there is a change of membership in a department within their State. Such as, deceased members, chief retires, new chiefs appointed, chiefs change communities, and to include email addresses.

The Board had a Zoom presentation from the two candidates running for IAFC 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President. Chief O'Brian and Waldo. After hearing from both candidates, the board had a short discussion regarding the two presentations. Chief Robert Bradley made a motion to have the NEAFC Board endorse Chief Michael O'Brian for the IAFC 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, the motion was seconded by Chief Charles Flynn. One no vote, motion passed and the Board of Directors should let the membership know the position of the Board before elections.

Reviewed the Format of the Expo with the Board and the tight schedule on Thursday. They will delete one hour 18:30-19:30, which would have been the presidential celebration and move it to and during the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration, which was changed to 19:00-22:00.

The Board set the pricing for the programs as follows;

Motion by Chiefs Bradley 2<sup>nd</sup> by McAllister to charge 175.00 for the H.O.T. classes with breakfast, lunch, and breaks. Motion passed

Day passes group agreed to keep at 10.00

100<sup>th</sup> Celebration will be free to attendees with limited open bar and finger foods.

Conference package was set at 175.00 for one person, which includes professional development programs, lunch, and breaks and exhibit show.

Motion by Chiefs McAllister 2<sup>nd</sup> by DeMello to hire Paul Shea as the photographer for 350.00. Motion Passed

Motion by Chiefs Flynn 2<sup>nd</sup> by Christopoulos to purchase a 200.00 gift card for Chief Jones wife for taking photos during the 2018 & 2019 Expos. Motion Passed

Motion by Chiefs Bradley 2<sup>nd</sup> by McAllister to hire the band Groove for 5000.00 to perform at the 100<sup>th</sup> Celebration.

After a long discussion about the 100<sup>th</sup> Celebration and getting attendees to the event the board changed direction and decided to make the event free to attendees. Have a limited time open bar, remove the meal and go with additional and longer period of time finger foods, and reduce the entertainment from a band to a DJ.

Motion by Chiefs Stark 2<sup>nd</sup> by Starkel to have the 100<sup>th</sup> Celebration with finger foods, limited time open bar, and hire a DJ. Room set-up with high top tables, and the to have the 100<sup>th</sup> Celebration committee work on a presentation to include history, presidential celebration and exchange gifts with incoming and outgoing presidents. One no vote motion passed.

June 23, 2022 09:00-12:00

### **John Salka - Fireground Responsibility**

In this program chief Salka takes a critical look at the line-of-duty death of a firefighter and the many contributing factors that played a role in the event. Using the report issued by NIOSH after their investigation, each of the factors, events and decisions related to this fire are examined to discover if anything could have been done differently with more positive results. Issues such as SCBA usage, accountability tactics, risk vs reward decision making, survival skills and communications are all discussed and debated to uncover the real cause of the LODD and the possible actions and decisions that can be made in the future to prevent another similar tragedy. This program contains lessons and skills that apply to all ranks and levels including firefighters, company officers and chiefs.

Presenting Five (5) Alarm Leadership  
Thursday 6/23/2022 13:00-15:30.

**FIVE ALARM LEADERSHIP PROGRAM™**



As in life, the business world faces change on a daily basis. How a business reacts to change often has a direct impact on whether that business succeeds or fails. Failure is often the product of poor planning. The fireground is where battles are fought, and if we fail it is often with disastrous results. In the business world, if a business fails, it can be disastrous for the leaders; the team; and, most of all, the customers.

This program takes the strategy and tactics used by today's fire service leaders and applies them to the business community. What is revealed is how the Incident Management System (IMS), a nationally recognized methodology used at every fire or major disaster, when applied to a business operation, can ensure successful and productive results no matter what obstacles or challenges you may face.

**We don't want you to just see the light at the end of the tunnel, we want you to BE at the end of the tunnel!**

Keynote Speaker - **John Salka**  
Friday 6/24/2022 8:30 -10:00.

### **Soaring With Eagles: Bold, Honest and Realistic Leadership**

If we have learned one thing from recent events, it's the fact that integrity is more important than ever. A leader cannot produce or succeed if he or she is without integrity and a strong belief in core values. Your integrity defines your character. Your character is defined as how you are and how you act when no one is watching! Your core values provide the foundation for your mission and your vision. So many of today's business leaders along with those that will succeed them someday lack foundation. Several will talk about core values, but many have not been shown how to live by those values. In the leadership world, it's hard to soar to great heights with wings that are weak and tarnished.

John Salka served with the FDNY for over 33 years and last served as the Battalion Commander of B-18 in the Bronx. His FDNY career included assignments in some of the department's most active units including Rescue-3, Squad-1 and Engine-48. He also worked at the FDNY Fire Academy in several capacities including instructing at the Probationary Firefighters School, the Captains management Program and the Battalion Chiefs Command Course. He was a frequent contributor to the FDNY

Training Magazine, WNYF and participated in seminars for the NY Firefighters Burn Center Foundation.

Outside the FDNY Chief Salka worked for the NIOSH Firefighter Safety and Survival program and conducts training and educational presentations for fire service, military and corporate audiences.

A reminder this is the 100<sup>th</sup> Year Anniversary for the NE Chiefs. The first one Hundred to register will receive a Challenge Coin and be invited to the Ball Park on Friday Night for the IPS Evening.

Rooms and Registration will be available April 15th

Hotel Rooms -

Hilton Garden peak nights 150 rooms 139.00 ++ (pay for parking city garage)

Holiday Inn Express peak nights 40 139.00++ (free parking)

AC Marriott peak nights peak nights 20 169.00 ++ (pay for parking city garage)

Homewood Suites by Hilton peak nights 30 179.00 ++ (free parking and hot breakfast)

Peak nights 240 rooms throughout the city.

Hilton Garden is host Hotel but parking will be additional.

**Old Business –**

**New Business –**

**Good and Welfare –** Chief Sitar reiterated the notice of the Golf Tournament August 8.

The membership wished Chief Mark Howard well on his retirement from the Keene Fire Department on March 31.

The next meeting of the NHAFC will be held on Thursday, March 10, 2022 starting at 1600 hours virtually.

A MOTION to adjourn the meeting carried at 1704 hours.

Respectfully submitted,  
Chief Brent T. Lemire, Ret.  
Executive Director/Secretary, NHAFC

March 10, 2022