



NEW HAMPSHIRE ASSOCIATION OF FIRE CHIEFS, INC.

Working Together to Make a Difference

547 Charles Bancroft Hwy.

Litchfield, NH 03052

www.nhafc.org

Email: nhfirechiefs@gmail.com

Minutes of a Meeting of the NH Association of Fire Chiefs

Thursday, July 13, 2023 – Atlantic Grill, Rye, NH

The meeting was called to order at 1834 hours by Chief Best.

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

Chief Cotreau welcomed all to Rye. He introduced Lt. Kevin Wunderly of the Rye Fire Department as his guest.

INTRODUCTION OF MEMBERS.

Robert Duval, Regional VP for NFPA spoke of this year's Fire Prevention Week theme and upcoming programs available from NFPA.

Special Guests:

Minutes of the June meeting have been posted. A MOTION (S. Buxton/Hoyt) to accept carried unanimously.

Financial Reports: June reports have been posted. A MOTION (Thomas/S. Buxton) to approve, carried unanimously

Communications: n/a

Applications for membership: Dep. Chief Travis Sniffen of New London; Chief Douglas Nicol of Litchfield and Chief John Galloway of Sunapee have been approved as new members.

Life Memberships: Retired New Ipswich Fire Chief Meredith Lund was presented with her Life Membership card.

President's Report: (Best) –

- Primex Public Safety Chiefs' Forum for 2024- we are interested and ED Lemire will be the contact

- Appointment of NHAFC President (or designee) to committee on Recruitment and Retention. He will take the position and appoint a designee.
- North Country Public Safety Awards Banquet table sponsorship and ad in book was authorized by the board. Banquet will be held on November 10, 2023.
- Strategic Plan overview will be held in August.
- Insurance Commissioner Bettencourt is attempting to begin a process of getting EMS providers and insurance carriers into good faith negotiations to get in-network with one another. If it can be accomplished there would be no need for HB 373.

Executive Director's Report (Lemire)

- The August 2 (Wednesday) board meeting will be in Litchfield.
- The regular meeting on the 10th will be in Gorham at the Town and Country Inn and Resort.
- The September 14 meeting will be at the LRCC and includes breakfast.
- October meeting will be virtual at this point.
- Dep. Maurice Paquette's appointment to the Emergency Medical and Trauma Services Coordinating Board has been confirmed by the Executive Council.
- The Lakes Region Community College has announced that Senator Shaheen has secured a grant for the college to provide up to \$8,000 in tuition scholarships for two years to those qualifying students enrolled in the paramedic program. More info will follow.

1st Vice President Report (Emanuel) – no report but our lobbyist submitted an update.

Included with the update is a legislative chart which contains all of the bills which NHAFC monitored during the 2023 session. Not all of the bills that have passed the House and Senate have been acted upon by the Governor. Once they reach his desk, he will have 5 days to decide whether to sign, veto, or let a bill become law without his signature. The process of getting all the bills through the process will likely take the remainder of the summer. A veto session day will likely be scheduled for the fall at which time the House and Senate will vote whether to override the vetoes or not.

When you get a chance to review the chart, you will see that a number of bills were "Retained" in the House. House policy committees will meet in the late summer and fall to further examine these bills. By Friday, November 17, House Committees must issue traditional committee reports for the House to consider in early 2024. The Senate will likely use a less formal process, called "Re-referral". The Senate deadline for reporting re-referred bills is Thursday, December 14.

The House has set the filing period for 2024 legislation for September 11 through September 15. The Senate period for filing legislation will run from September 28 through October 12.

- **HB 2 (budget trailer bill)** – The NH state budget is comprised of 2 bills, HB 1 which includes traditional budget line items and HB 2 which includes all the changes to law necessary to implement the budget. In prior updates, we explained that it was unclear if the language from HB 436 would remain in the final version of HB 2. HB 436 was the bill to eliminate the “middle tier” in Group II. The language was put in HB 2 by the House but was removed in the Senate. The final version, which was signed into law in late June, did **NOT** include the language. Instead, it was replaced with a “Retirement Benefits Commission” which is expected to review this issue, and others.

The final version of the budget did include an increase Medicaid rates for ambulance services as well as funding to create a law enforcement, professional firefighters, and EMT career development, recruitment and retention program. The language is similar to SB 153 which NHAFC supported earlier this year.
- **SB 71 (Workers’ Compensation for Firefighters with Cancer)** – The House and Senate have both passed the bill. It is making its way to Governor Sununu. The final version of the bill did not include a proposed study commission but it did include language which allows for workers’ compensation for firefighter cancer disease of all types.
- **HB 296 (Driveway permits)** – The bill has passed the House and Senate. Governor Sununu will have it reach his desk before too long. The final version of the bill stated that the state fire code and associated rules shall not supersede local planning and zoning boards for driveways for detached one and two family dwelling units. Minimum driveway width cannot be less than 12 feet for driveways 150 feet or longer. Prior to any land use board approval, the boards shall give due consideration to written comments from the local fire chief.
- **HB 461 (Elimination by Political Subdivision Employers of a Retirement System Position)** The House version of the bill would have required political subdivisions to obtain an analysis from the retirement system and continue to pay unfunded accrued liability contributions when eliminating or transferring an employment position from full time to part time. The Senate version created a study committee (1 Senator and 4 House members) which would “...study the elimination by political subdivision employers under RSA 100-A of a retirement system eligible employment position.” The bill went to a committee of conference for both sides to develop agreement. No agreement was reached and the bill was killed.
- **HB 373 (Ambulance Billing)** – This bill sought to prohibit “balance billing” for ambulance services. NHAFC and a number of ambulance providers testified against the bill at the initial hearing earlier this year. The bill has been retained in the House Commerce Committee. NHAFC will likely need to participate in additional committee work sessions on the bill later this fall.
- **HB 182 (Volunteer Firefighter Employment Protections)** – This is the bill which intended to provide employment protections to volunteer firefighters

who may not arrive to work on time due to a call response. The House Labor Committee retained the bill. During a recent work session on the bill, committee members appeared to coalesce around developing new language which would mirror existing law dealing with EMTs. It would allow for volunteer firefighters to stop at a scene if they were passing it en route to work. The committee will meet again later this summer/fall to review language and discuss it further.

2nd Vice President Report (Watkins) – No report

Sgt. At Arms (Hunter) – No report

Committee Reports

- **Scholarship Committee – (Marshal Toomey)** – Two applications have been received and are being reviewed.

Division Reports

Fire Marshal – (Marshal Toomey)

ADMINISTRATION:

Personnel:

We currently have 3 full-time vacancies and 2 part-time vacancies. The following openings are those that we are actively recruiting for at this time:

- Full-time State Building Inspector
- Full-time State Building/Mechanical Inspector
- Full-time Hazmat Coordinator
- Part-time State Building Inspector
- Part-time Building Code Review Board Administrative Secretary

We welcome the following new staff to our office:

- Rebecca Cowser joined our staff as a part-time Outreach & Education Specialist

Legislation:

Below are some of the bills we are watching:

- HB 296 relative to local authority for granting driveway permits
Status: Passed House & Senate, waiting on Governor's signature
- HB 564 relative to ratification of amendments to the state building code and state fire code
Status: Signed into law by Governor
- SB 54 permitting the use of certain refrigerants that are in compliance with the Clean Air Act
Status: Passed House & Senate, waiting on Governor's signature

SB 170 relative to small group child day care centers

Status: Passed House & Senate, waiting on Governor's signature

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. A public hearing will be held on September 20th to address amendments.

Foam Take-back Program:

The contract for the foam take-back program was approved by the Governor & Executive Council at the end of June. DES is working with the vendor to schedule dates for August and September pick-ups at the following locations:

| County | Collection Site |
|--------------|-----------------|
| Rockingham | Newton |
| Hillsborough | Nashua |
| Merrimack | Concord (NHFA) |
| Coos | Gorham |
| Grafton | Lebanon |
| Strafford | Dover |
| Belknap | Laconia |
| Cheshire | Keene |
| Carroll | Bartlett |
| Sullivan | Claremont |

Additional information will be released as the details are finalized.

BUREAU OF INVESTIGATIONS:

In the month of June, we received 15 incident notifications resulting in 2 scene responses. The Bureau of Investigations currently has 21 open arson or suspected arson investigations.

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

- On June 28, 2023, investigators responded to an untimely death in Salem suspected to be caused by carbon monoxide poisoning. This was a natural death and not a result of CO.
- On June 30, 2023, investigators responded to a fire in Raymond that appears to be incendiary. This investigation is ongoing.

Ignitable Liquid Detection Canine Teams:

- There was 1 IGL canine deployment in June.
- IGL canine teams performed 5 demonstrations.

Youth Firesetter:

- There were 0 youth fire setter assessments and 3 inquiries in June.

Court:

- On June 15, 2023, an investigator testified in front of a Strafford County Superior Court Grand Jury regarding an arson that had occurred on June 28, 2022 in Dover. The testimony provided resulted in the indictment of Mr. Sean Rutherford on a Class B Felony arson charge.

Training/Committees:

- Congratulations to Investigators Brynn Dunne and Emily Crosby on completing the fire academy recruit school.

BUREAU OF BUILDING SAFETY & CONSTRUCTION:

State Building Permit System:

We processed the following permits in the month of June:

- Building: 31
- Electrical: 30
- Plumbing: 7
- Mechanical Fuel Gas: 3
- Mechanical Non-Fuel Gas: 3
- Fire Protection: 4
- Fire Alarm: 2

Technical Assistance, Educational & Healthcare Reviews:

We initiated 12 educational and 5 healthcare plan reviews, completed 215 inspections and 209 technical consults in the month of June.

Variance Requests:

We processed 7 variance requests in the month of June.

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 June, our Hazardous Materials Coordinator attended the Carroll County Haz Mat Team reorganization meeting. He also attended the Midwestern Haz Mat Team training focused on the Unknown Substance Protocol and the Southeastern Haz Mat Team's training on air monitoring in confined space rescue.

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

Our Hazardous Materials Coordinator attended the Haz Mat Collaborative meeting and continues to work with the teams to schedule a grant funded air monitoring training class. He also attended the quarterly SERC meeting, held on June 15th, as well as the IAFC Hazardous Materials Response Team Conference in Baltimore, MD.

Swiftwater Rescue Working Group:

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

Regional Outreach/Chief's Roundtables:

We continue to partner with the Commissioner's Office, other Department of Safety Leadership and the NHAFC to conduct regional outreach/Chief's Roundtables.

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 \(nh.gov\)](https://www.nh.gov/sftp2020bulletin.pdf).

We are asking that fire departments please submit their 2022 NFIRS data as soon as possible so we can close out the year in a timely fashion. The deadline to submit 2022 data was July 1st, so your commitment to submitting ASAP is greatly appreciated!

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 having a presentation on the program or would like to request one, please email NHESR@dos.nh.gov.

In May, the U.S. Fire Administration (USFA) announced their effort to launch a new fire information and analytics platform, known as the National Emergency Response Information System (NERIS), for the American fire and emergency services. Please find more information here: [Media Advisory: USFA Announces New Fire Information Platform \(fema.gov\)](#) and consider attending the following webinar:

[Modernizing the U.S. Fire Data System: An Introduction to the National Emergency Response Information System \(NERIS\)](#)

[July 13, 2023](#)

[12:00PM to 1:00PM](#)

[Join the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, the Fire Safety Research Institute and USFA for a virtual discussion with Q&A to hear first-hand from leaders about the vision, purpose and impact of the new NERIS. During the session, we will provide you with information about the NERIS platform, the new data standard on which it will be based and the approach to development, along with key milestones and timing. You will have the opportunity to have your questions about NERIS answered live.](#)

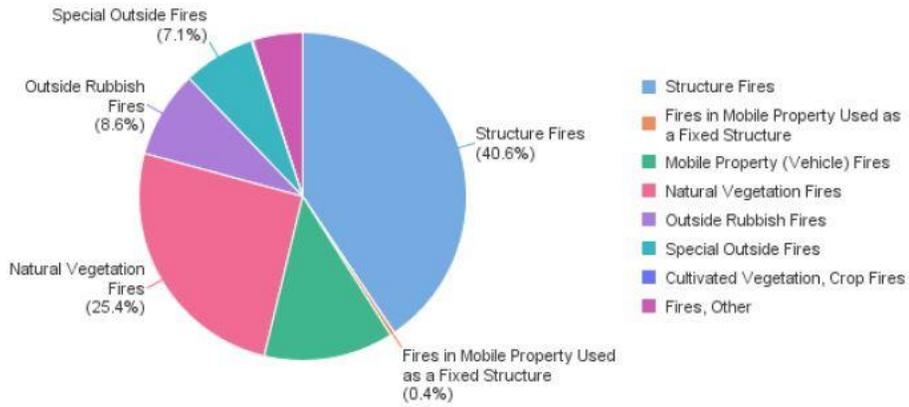
[Register Here: National Emergency Response Information System \(NERIS\) \(fema.gov\)](#)

Once NERIS is developed and operational, USFA will work to migrate fire and emergency services departments onto the new platform. The legacy NFIRS will remain operational throughout the transition process so all fire and emergency services departments should continue to use the current NFIRS data system and maintain status quo until migrated to the new platform. More information to come once available.

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.

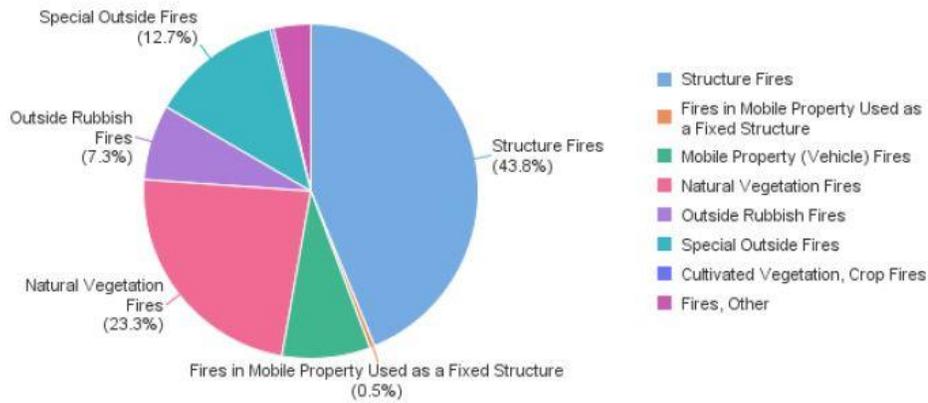
[2022 Fire Incident Type by Category:](#)

Fire Incident Type Category Summary



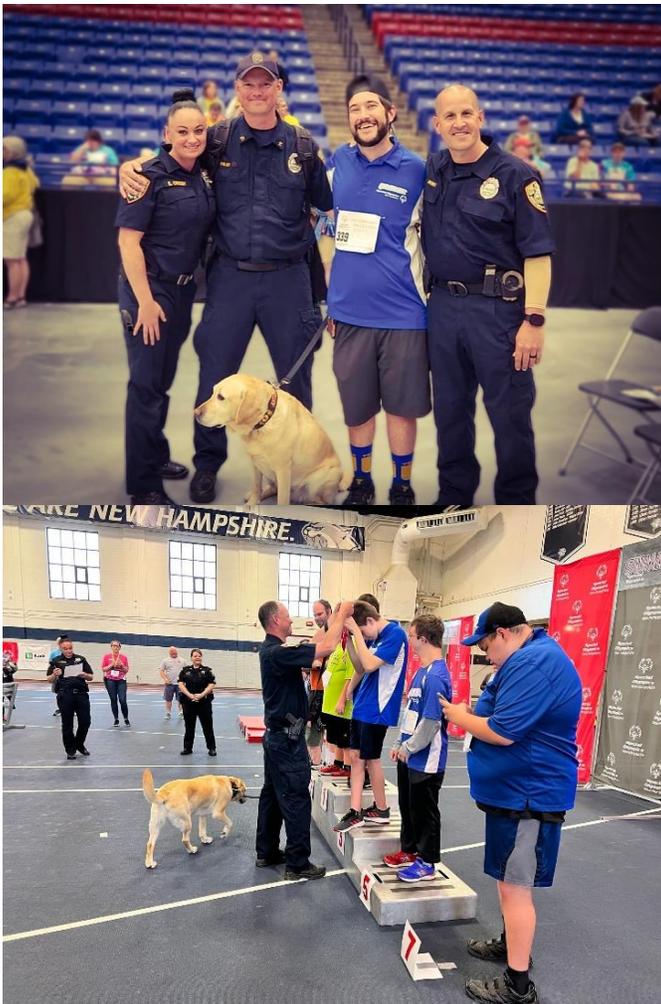
2023 to Date Fire Incident Type by Category:

Fire Incident Type Category Summary



Outreach Events:

On June 1, 2023 members of the SFMO had the pleasure of attending the Special Olympics of NH Summer Games at the University of New Hampshire. Members staffed a fire safety table and handed out medals to participants. This is one of our favorite events to attend and we love seeing the excitement and pride on the athletes' faces!



Also on June 1, 2023, members of the SFMO attended the New Hampton Public Safety Day. We handed out fire safety education, tested fire safety knowledge with our trivia wheel, and provided canine demonstrations.



Members of the SFMO also attended the Hebron Fire Department's 75th Anniversary Celebration on June 10th. Members also presented a basic fire investigations and NHFMO overview at the Laconia High School Regional Technical Center, NH Emergency Services Explorer Academy and the NH Police Cadet Training Academy. Members also provided a static display of our cruisers, equipment and K9s for the NH Police Cadet Training Academy.

On June 20, 2023, Director Sean Toomey and Nashua Fire Chief Steve Buxton presented Jose M. Pichardo of Nashua, NH, with the Carnegie Medal Award. The Carnegie Medal is a prestigious award, considered one of the highest civilian honors in the U.S. and Canada. The recipients of this are civilians who knowingly and voluntarily risk death or serious physical injury to an extraordinary degree to save the life of another person. On October 1, 2021, Jose was driving home from work when he saw flames coming from the back of a home. He jumped into action and rescued the 97-year-old occupant of the home. Both suffered smoke inhalation and were treated and released in the following days. We would like to congratulate Jose on being recognized for this esteemed and well-deserved award! He is the fiftieth recipient to receive this award in New Hampshire.



Public Education:

Not to rush the summer away, but the theme for the 2023 Fire Prevention Week has just been announced! The theme this year, which will be held from October 8th to 14th, is "Cooking safety starts with YOU. Pay attention to fire prevention™." The goal will be to educate everyone about the simple but important actions they can take to

keep themselves and those around them safe when cooking. Find materials and resources to support your department's efforts here: www.firepreventionweek.org and stay tuned for a webinar later this summer with tips and ideas for engaging with your communities!



Are you familiar with the USFA's Fire and Life Safety Communicators Initiative? This initiative is a collaboration among the fire and emergency medical services to speak with "one voice" on fire and life safety. They believe in working together to present consistent messages. The theme for 2023 is "Step Up for Fire Safety" and takes a #BeKnowDo approach. The monthly theme for June is "Fireworks: Leave them to the professionals." For more information on this initiative, or to find outreach materials on the monthly topics, please visit: [Fire and Life Safety Communicators Initiative \(fema.gov\)](https://www.fema.gov/fire-and-life-safety-communicators-initiative)

Did you know we recently updated our fireworks safety brochure? Find a link to the PDF here: [celebrate-safely-fireworks-flyer-nhfmo.pdf](#)

Is your department interested or active in Community Risk Reduction? Vision 20/20, a project of the Institution of Fire Engineers, USA Branch, dedicated to the principles and practices of Community Risk Reduction (CRR), is pleased to announce that it is selecting one fire department from across the nation to participate in an onsite CRR project. This project will work with fire department leaders to identify the fire and life safety risks in the community and develop a strategic plan to reduce those risks. The fire department selected for this project will receive a comprehensive set of services, including: data analysis, community engagement, risk reduction plan and organizational training and coaching.

Deadline to apply is July 21, 2023. Learn More and Apply:

A guidance document is available on the website and attached to this email as well for your convenience.

<https://strategicfire.org/news/vision-20-20-to-select-one-fire-department-to-participate-in-onsite-community-risk-reduction-project/>

Training Opportunities:

The SFMO provided/collaborated on the following trainings in June: Display Fireworks Inspection Essentials at the NHFA and Catching a Serial Arsonist at the Northwood Fire Department.

Please see the below upcoming training opportunity on behalf of the NH Fire Academy. They are looking for additional attendees to host the below course:

F0142 Residential Sprinkler Plans Review

Nashua Fire & Rescue, 177 Lake St., Nashua, NH

October 11-12, 2023

The scope of this fundamental-level course looks at the following as the primary guidance for the approval of residential sprinkler systems: National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 13, Standard for the Installation of Sprinkler Systems, NFPA 13D, Standard for the Installation of Sprinkler Systems in One- and Two-Family Dwellings and Manufactured Homes, NFPA 13R, Standard for the Installation of Sprinkler Systems in Low-Rise Residential Occupancies, International Residential Code Standard P2904, Manufacturer's Data Sheets. The ability to read and interpret the design is an essential element of preventive fire safety.

For more information or to register, please visit: [F0142 Residential Sprinkler Plans Review – New Hampshire Fire Academy & EMS \(nhfa-ems.com\)](#)

Additional SFMO programs are in the works for the fall. Please reach out to Deputy Stacey Dubois at stacey.l.dubois@dos.nh.gov if you are interested in hosting a program or would like to suggest a future training topic.

Fire Standards/Training/EMS – (Director Cutting)

ADMINISTRATION

Personnel

- Danny Gerlack has been hired for our open full-time Fire Service Instructor Supervisor (Captain) position in the Bureau of Fire Training and started on June 30th. Captain Gerlack comes to the Division with twenty-six years in the fire service and over twenty-years of leadership and supervisory experience in the private sector.
- Nick Bibeau has accepted the position of Fire Service Instructor Supervisor in the Bureau of Certification and Support and will begin on October 6th. Mr. Bibeau currently works for the Division in the Bureau of EMS, has previously worked for NH Homeland Security, and has ten years of fire service experience in his community.

- The remaining open Fire Service Instructor Supervisor position in the Bureau of Certification and Support has been advertised for candidates.
- We have two vacancies for Program Specialist III (Education Technologist) of the Educational Technology section of the Division and we have advertised the positions for candidates. An offer has been made to one candidate.
- We have one part-time Compliance Specialist position open and will be conducting interviews soon.
- Our part-time Program Coordinator positions for Fire Officer, Promotional Coordinator, Instructor, Hazardous Materials, Swift Water and EMS Initial Programs are open and we are seeking applicants.

Grants

- We have been awarded \$476,186 for the 2022 AFG that was submitted. This will fund 50 additional sets of structural PPE, EMS simulation training equipment, a tow vehicle, trailers, saws, ladders, hose, a PPE washer/extractor and gear racks.
- The architectural firm retained for the Raymond S. Burton Fire and EMS Training Facility project is proceeding with obtaining necessary permits and completion of the construction documents in preparation of advertising the project for bids.
 - Land clearing is expected to begin this fall/winter with site work starting in the spring of 2024.
- We continue to work 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.
- We have not yet received a response on our application for a grant for \$471,000 through the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act funding available at the Department of Business and Economic Affairs to fund a comprehensive campaign designed to recruit firefighters and EMS providers in our state.
- The NH EMT Training Program remains active with grant funding for training new and existing EMS providers. Contact our Division or NH Employment Security for details and question.

Fire Standards and Training Commission / Curriculum

- The next Fire Standards and Training Commission meeting will be September 7th at 0930 in Classrooms 5/6 in the dormitory building at the main campus. The full schedule for 2023 also includes a meeting November 2nd.
 - The Fire Standards and Training Commission has approved the written comment period to open through July 19, 2023 for public comment on the proposed changes to the following curriculums: Rope Rescue Awareness, Operations and Technician. Public comment can be submitted at: <https://nhfa-ems.com/fst-commission-curriculum-public-feedback-form/>. Information on the proposed curriculum can be found

at <https://www.nh.gov/safety/divisions/fstems/boards/index.html> Public hearings were held on May 31, 210 at 3:00pm and 5:00pm at the NH Fire Academy in Classroom 1.

- The Fire Standards and Training Commission is seeking individuals who are interested in participating in a Visiting Committee to evaluate the Hazardous Materials Awareness, Operations, Decontamination & Technician programs in New Hampshire. These programs are up for review due to an update with the NFPA 470 standard. For anyone interested in the Visiting Committee, please fill out the membership request form at the link below. Requests will be taken until July 19, 2023.
 - <https://nhfa-ems.com/visiting-committee-membership-request-form/>

Special Projects

- We conducted an Online Program Evaluation of our programs and have completed the redesign of course content with an improved student experience through updated navigation, orientation, a timeline feature, periodic exams, instructor and course evaluations, an announcements feature and feedback option for students.
- We are working to link the online platform and RespondNH which tracks courses on student transcripts. Students will be able to directly self-enroll into any of the online Firefighter I and II modules and achieve completion. A State instructor will then be able to CREF the skills portion, conduct the training, submit the course completion paperwork, along with student applications, to achieve completion of a module. After a student completes all modules they would be eligible for certification testing.
- Work is being done to renew our Division metrics and reporting.
- Work has begun on an improved capital planning and equipment replacement process.
- We continue to work with the NFPA on a train-the-trainer program for the EV Training Program to be hosted in New Hampshire.
- We have begun the planning process for our website transition and improvements with NH DoIT.
- We are working to support the New Hampshire Fire and EMS Committee of Merit and the annual awards ceremony will be held on Sunday, September 17th at the Capital Center for the Arts at 1330.

Facilities

- The “B” building upgrades that are needed have begun and should be completed this month.

- We are working on the replacement of two AC condenser units in the older portion of the dormitory building. The bid process, issuing of contracts and Governor and Council approval are anticipated this fall.

Legislative/Administrative Rules

- HB 2 included the establishment of the *Law Enforcement Officers, Professional Firefighters and Emergency Medical Technicians Career Development, Recruitment and Retention Program* in New Hampshire RSA 188-F:70 with an appropriation of 1 million dollars to support the program. The program includes the creation of a committee to establish criteria and procedures related to awarding funds for tuition reimbursement which includes the Commissioner of Safety, or designee, as Chairperson, and the Director of Fire Standards and Training and EMS, along with others representing other groups and disciplines. The first meeting will be scheduled soon.
- HB 2 included changes to the administration of Naloxone. Effective July 1, 2023, the First Responder Naloxone Provider License will no longer be required for any individual administering naloxone and all current licenses will expire on this date. Training continues to be available through several resources, including our Division's online portal, to receive training on how and when to use the medication.
- The Fire Standards and Training Commission amended Fire rules relative to the Recruitment and Retention report and its recommendations are working through the internal legal process in preparation for submission to the Joint Legislative Committee on Administrative Rules which will include public input.

Outreach

- We are continuing our Leadership Roundtables with the Commissioner, Fire Marshal's Office, HSEM and Emergency Services and Communications with regional Fire Chiefs and EMD's.
 - Souhegan Mutual Aid group is planned for September 13th.
- EMS Bureau Chief Romanello and the Director will be attending the August Twin State Mutual Aid meeting to discuss EMS issues.
- We met with the State Fireman's Association leadership on June 15th to begin planning for the annual FF Memorial which will be held on Saturday, September 23rd at 1000.
- We participated in the quarterly meeting with the NH Fire Marshal's Office, The Professional Firefighters of NH, NH Chief's Association, the State Fireman's Association and our Division on June 15th.
- Our outreach through social media has improved significantly and we now have more than 10,000 followers which ranks us 2nd in all of New England and New York fire training academies.

Mental Health & Resiliency

- Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) – Tilton July 10th
- Compassionate Care: Responding to a Mental Health Crisis – Washington July 19th
- The mental health planning group has been active in preparing for another Mental Health Seminar to held in January 2024. We will be sending out a call for presentations.
- 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 and delivery. We held a meeting with the Director of Behavioral Health at DHHS this month to begin work on a MOU for grant funding.

Recruitment and Retention

- Upcoming Recruitment and Retention events:
 - Recruit & Re-energize Your Department presented by Haverhill Fire Chief Blanchette – Haverhill July 13th
 - Retention Tool for Volunteer & Call Departments: Length of Service Awards Program (LOSAP) – Swanzey August 3rd
 - Exploring “Exploring” – Burton Facility August 22nd
 - When Retirement Rules Change, Change Your Financial Game: A Reason to Start & Stay in the Fire Service – Concord Campus September 13th
 - Kevlar to Leather-Bridging the Gap to Continued Service – Concord Campus September 16th
 - Boost Your SAFER Grant Writing for Recruitment & Retention – Concord Campus September 25th
 - IAFC Recruitment and Retention Certification Course – Concord October 28th
 - Fire & EMS Mentorship Program – Virtual November 14th
- The July edition of the Recruitment and Retention Newsletter is available at <https://www.nh.gov/safety/divisions/fstems/documents/RTNewsletterJuly2023.pdf>

BUREAU OF FIRE TRAINING

Courses/Programs

- Firefighter I
 - The Spring Recruit class was completed in June
 - The Fall Recruit class will begin on August 14th
 - The Brookline I/II was completed and students tested in July
 - Loudon - August 28th
 - Lyme - August 15th

- Firefighter II
 - Colebrook – August 26th
 - Concord – September 9th
 - Hampton Falls – September 13th
- Technical Rescue
 - Trench Rescue – Concord Campus October 14th and October 30th
 - Confined Space Rescue Technician – Concord Campus- November 29th & December 9th
- Driver Operator
 - Driver/Operator – All Vehicles
 - Concord Campus - July 20th
 - Meredith - August 1st
 - Bartlett (Glen) – October 4th
 - Driver Operator – Aerial Apparatus
 - Loudon October 17th
- ARFF
- Facilities and Prop Usage
 - We hosted over 50 explorers from the 2023 NH Emergency Services Explorer Training Academy along with their leadership team.
- Online Training Courses
 - “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.
- Firefighter I and II program improvements continue to be made.
- 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 is expected in 2024
- The new Engine is in production with an anticipated timeframe for completion later this fall.

BUREAU OF CERTIFICATION AND SUPPORT

Courses/Programs

- Instructor I/II/III Programs
 - Instructor I – Concord Campus July 10th
 - Instructor I – Burton Campus October 4th
 - Instructor I – Concord Campus January 11, 2024

- Instructor I – Keene April 6, 2024
- Instructor II – Virtual August 1st
- Instructor Professional Development
 - Additional education is expected to be available beginning in August.
- Fire Officer I/II Programs
 - Fire Officer I – Keene August 24th and Concord December 7th
 - Fire Officer II – Virtual October 12th
- Fire Inspector Programs
 - Fire Inspector I – Concord Campus September 7th and January 11, 2024
- Fire Investigator
 - The 2023 offering begins August 24th at the Concord campus.
- National Fire Academy
 - FO142 Residential Sprinkler Plans Review – Nashua October 11th
 - WO770 Fire Investigations: First Responders – Concord Campus December 9th
 - FO322 Incident Command for Structural Collapse Incidents – Concord Campus January 24, 2024
 - FO458 Preparation for Initial Company Operations – Concord Campus February 10, 2024
- Incident Command
- “Your Workplace has Changed: Fire Dynamics for Structural Firefighting”.
 - The next offering will be held in Nashua on September 6th.
 - 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 are conducting a review and analysis of our per diem Instructor pay and incentive structure and are developing a program of professional development for Instructors.
- In June we held four separate meetings with our Senior Staff Instructors to discuss curriculum improvements, course delivery and instructor support, recruitment, retention.
- The Division is always looking for highly motivated team members to become instructors. If you are interested in becoming an instructor, please contact Assistant Director Jeffrey Phillips at Jeffrey.r.phillips@dos.nh.gov or 603-223-4213

CPAT

- The next 2023 CPAT testing will be held at the NH Fire Academy on September 18th

Testing

- Our work continues on acquisition of new testing software for the Division. The vendor that was chosen has withdrawn their proposal. We are working on the next steps necessary. When final, 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 meeting will meet at 0900 on July 20th in classrooms 5 & 6 in the dormitory building.
- The NH Emergency Medical and Trauma Services Coordinating Board meeting will meet at 1300 on July 20th in classrooms 5 & 6 in the dormitory building.
- The NH Trauma Medical Review Committee (TMRC) will meet at 0930 on August 16th in classroom 2.
- The Privacy Committee will meet at 1300 August 23rd in the dry lab.

Operations

- The proposed Administrative rules for Educational Training Agencies have been completed and are being submitted to JLCAR.

Courses/Programs

- Mobile Integrated Healthcare Provider
 - MIH for Agency Leadership – future programs are being planned for.
 - This seminar explored the positive impact a Mobile Integrated Healthcare (MIH) program can have on these and other system challenges, discuss the differences between the traditional 911 program and a MIH program and explore cases from NH's active MIH programs. This seminar was for any agency chief looking to explore the “Why”, “What” and “How” of a Mobile Integrated Healthcare Program in NH.
 - Mobile Integrated Healthcare Provider – future programs are being planned for.
 - 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.
- Emergency Medical Responder (EMR)
 - The spring class in Brookline, Concord and Littleton is complete and students have tested.
 - The fall class begins September 20th at Monadnock Hospital, Concord and in Bethlehem.
 - The winter 2024 class begins January 10th in Concord, Mont Vernon and Littleton.

- EMS Continuing Education
 - NCCP-Medical – Concord Campus July 8th
 - Trauma Arrest – Virtual July 20th
 - Detailed Documentation – Concord Campus August 2nd and Virtual August 17th
 - The Other End of the Line: An Inside Look at NH 911 – Virtual August 30th
 - Arrhythmia Fundamentals – Concord Campus September 6th and Virtual September 21st
 - Cardiology Adult Cardiac Arrest – Concord Campus September 8th & Burton Campus October 20th
 - Taking Care of Mom and Dad – Concord Campus October 4th, Virtual October 19th
 - Cardiology Pediatric Cardiac Arrest – Concord Campus November 9th & Burton Campus December 29th
 - Hoarding Disorder – Concord Campus December 6th & Virtual December 21st
 - For all current course listings, you can go to <https://nhfa-ems.com/scheduled-courses/>
- EMS in the Warm Zone Awareness, Operations and Rescue Task Force Concepts
 - EMS in the Warm Zone RTF Concepts –
 - Brentwood August 12th
 - New Hampton September 23rd
 - These 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.
 - If anyone is looking for this program please contact Shawn at Shawn.A.Croteau@DOS.NH.GOV or Maria Varanka at maria.c.varanka@dos.nh.gov

Clinical Systems

- Senate Bill 268, Allowing for Pre-Hospital Treatment and Transportation for Operational Canines, passed but has not yet been signed by the Governor. Initial EMS protocol development has begun in anticipation of it becoming law.
- Work continues on EMS Protocols Ver. 9.0.
- The development of Trauma Rules is still underway and continues to make progress.
- We continue our outreach and support to agencies for inter-facility transfers and mobile integrated health programs.

Data Management

- NFIRS/Respond NH
 - If you would like to start using the New Hampshire Emergency Services Reporting System (NHESR), please fill out the form available at <https://nhfa-ems.com/nhesronboard/>.
 - Fire User Group meetings occur remotely on the second Wednesday at 1300 hours each month. Contact Joseph Cartier for the link.
 - EMS User Group meetings occur remotely on the fourth Wednesday at 0930 hours each month.
 - 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
 - 21,817 EMS incidents were entered into the system for June and 133,717 incidents to date.
 - Preparation for NEMSIS 3.5 is ongoing.

Compliance

- There are currently over 33 active investigations and ongoing cases.

Preparedness and Special Projects

- Work continues on our Division COOP project within the Department of Safety.
- Our Division has a Preparedness and Special Projects Coordinator who is available to assist communities with planning efforts for multiple and mass casualty incidents.
- Outreach continues on both AED and CPR programs.

Fire Standards and Training Commission – Chiefs Clark/DeAngelis –

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

National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC) – (Chief Corey) – No report

Homeland Security and Emergency Management – (Dir. Buxton) – No report

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

Commission to study the Incidence of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder in First Responders – (Chief Watkins) - (Reported earlier in minutes)

Forests and Lands – (Chief Sherman) – No report

Board of Fire Control – (Chief Hunter) – They met June 14 and Marshal Toomey covered all of the information from the meeting.

Building Code Review Board – (Marshal Lennon/Chief Conley) – No report

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 and the scope of services has been determined. Contract development for their services is underway;
- Legislation Watch:
 - The Study Committee for Dispatcher & Telecommunicator Training Standards (HB 376) has been formed...This includes Sen. Prentiss and Reps. Proulx, Trottier and Manion.
- E911 Commission Meeting was held at the Fire Academy on June 16th;
- Social Media:
 - In June, the Division of Emergency Services and Communications utilized its social media platforms (Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram) to share summer safety tips, recognize employee achievements, promote AED awareness/registry requirements, and announce the soft launch of our New Hampshire 911 CARES program. Additionally, we spotlighted several of our past and present telecommunicators who were recognized and highlighted at a recent Cheshire Medical Center event, reminded the

public about our Text-to-911 capability, and showcased some of our recent public outreach and education efforts.



- The Division’s quarterly newsletter is out and available (attached to this email);
- PSAP Renovation in Concord is underway, completion scheduled for August;
- Troop “C” radio enhancements are complete – Troop “F” to begin later this summer;
- We met with the members of Norther Borders Dispatch and Vermont Public Safety re: Communication expansion project in the North Country;
- NASCAR Planning for July has wrapped up – working with HSEM and various P/S entities to ensure a seamless event from a Communications support perspective - Final meeting with all ESF’s is scheduled for 7/11;

- Mutualink trainings continue around the state facilitated by the SWIC, John Stevens – next step is in development... an “Exercise in a box” , we can use to bring around the state to further assist in developing day to day use of M/L;
- Met with Lakes Region Mutual Fire Aid and Chief Mike Sitar re: Laconia PSAP move planning;
- Met with the Leadership Team of Manchester Fire in Concord to discuss transfers and protocols as well as provided a tour of the PSAP;
- North Country Interoperability Consortium meeting at GCSO scheduled for July 13th;

NH E-911 Commission – (Chief Thomas)

- He echoed Director Doyle’s report and added some pertinent factual information on call types.

NH Drug Overdose Commission – (Chief Thomas) No report

NH Information Analysis Center – (James Heinz-liaison)

- The NHIAC is an integrated, all-crimes/all hazards information sharing network that analyzes and disseminates information to engaged stakeholders from a variety of sources. If you are interested in receiving items from the NHIAC, contact ILO James Heinz at James.B.heinz@dos.nh.gov and he will send you an Information Sharing Agreement
- He spoke of the upcoming training opportunity on cyber security.

IAFC Director – (Chief Christopoulos) – (Report submitted in writing)

He submitted the current IAFC “Hot Sheet” with info for legislators. We will share it as an email blast to members.

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

- Members will have to caucus to recommend a replacement for Director Buxton who has termed out.
- The NE Chiefs conference will be October 4-6 at Mohegan Sun casino in CT.

Old Business -

New Business –

Good and Welfare –

Raffle – The raffle was held. \$215 was collected and \$100 was awarded. Proceeds were counted by Chief Hunter and ED Lemire.

The meeting was adjourned at 1923 hrs.

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

July 13, 2023