



NEW HAMPSHIRE ASSOCIATION OF FIRE CHIEFS, INC.

Working Together to Make a Difference

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Minutes of a Meeting of the NH Association of Fire Chiefs

Thursday, August 14, 2025

Called to order at 1901 hours by Chief Watkins.

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

Welcome from Host: Chief Phil Cloutier welcomed everyone to Gorham/Shelburne.

INTRODUCTION OF MEMBERS. Members introduced themselves and listed where they were from.

Special Guests: n/a

Minutes: A MOTION (Sitar/Bousquet) to approve the minutes of the July meeting carried unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: A MOTION (Sitar/Fortier) to approve the July reports carried unanimously.

Communications: n/a

Applications for membership: Dep. Chief/Fire Marshal Richard Wood of Keene and Deputy Chief Kevin Wunderly of Rye have been approved for membership.

Life Membership:

President's Report: (Watkins) –

- He and Marshal Toomey met with contractors, etc. to discuss a proposal for single access egress. The contractors were against it. Another meeting will be held in October.
- He and ED Lemire met with the Governor two weeks ago for a brief time, just to serve as an introduction and to thank her for her support.
- He is concerned that the "On My Time" program from the NHFA is not working the way it was intended. He will speak to Director Wholey about testing time frames, etc.
- He attended a meeting of the "5 families" and brought up the issue of the size of the vests. He was told it was an issue for the IAFF and IAFC. Discussion ensued and it was determined that we should send a letter to the IAFC and inform the PFFNH of our intentions.
- He mentioned that the date of our September meeting (11th) conflicts with 9/11 remembrance ceremonies. It was determined to change the meeting date to the 10th and notify everyone. The Board will meet at 0800 hours and the regular meeting at 0900.

Report of the Executive Director: (Lemire)

- NOTE: THE SEPTEMBER NHAFC MEETING WILL BE ON WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10 SO AS TO AVOID CONFLICT WITH SEPTEMBER 11 MEMORIAL EVENTS. It will be VIRTUAL and commence at 0900 hours.
- Our October meeting will be on the 9th at the NH Fire Academy including breakfast.
- The November 13 meeting will be at 0900 and virtual.
- The December 11 meeting will be at the Nashua Country Club beginning at 1700 hours.
- We advertised the BCRB position for a second time and got two candidates. Chief James Reinert of Alton was chosen to represent us.
- Our Charity Gaming slot netted the Association \$64,761.13. (I'm speechless). We will try to maintain our position next year also.
- He will be reserving our table at the North Country Public Safety Awards dinner on November 14. It is a budgeted item.
- He assisted at the Golf Tournament on Monday. Chief Carrier will have a report later.
- Ad book proceeds to date: Total: \$23,565.50 ; Vendor: \$16,495.50; Assn: \$7,069.50.

1st Vice President Report (LaRoche) –

He attended the meeting for grant funding under Homeland Security. It was an interesting experience.

Government Relations – (Schmidt) –

Adam noted (with a little smile) that the Legislature is adjourned. He has shared the details of the retirement bill and other bills of importance to the membership.

2nd Vice President Report (D. Chamberlain) – No report

Sgt. At Arms (Fraitzl) – No report

Committee Reports

Scholarship Committee – (ED Lemire) – 3 applications have been received and are in process.

Division Reports

Fire Marshal: (Marshal Toomey)

ADMINISTRATION:

Personnel:

ADMINISTRATION:

Personnel:

We are recruiting for a part-time Hazardous Materials Coordinator and a full-time Fire Protection Specialist. We will be posting a full-time Fire Investigator soon. We have submitted hiring waiver requests for a full-time Hazardous Materials Coordinator, a full-time Fire Protection Specialist, a full-time Building Inspector, a part-time Recreation Ride & Lift inspector, and a part-time State Building Permit Coordinator.

Legislation:

The Legislative Session has wrapped up. The following are highlights of a few of the priority bills we were watching:

HB 428-L Prohibiting municipal amendments to the state building code
Bill further limits authority of municipalities to amend the state building code. Bill has been signed by Governor Ayotte

SB 95 Relative to youth recreation camp cabins and the state building and fire codes
Bill prohibits automatic sprinkler systems for youth summer camp cabins/bunkhouses. Bill allows new structures to be treated per the applicable existing chapter in the Life Safety Code.
Bill has been signed by Governor Ayotte

SB 188-FN Allowing independent permitting and inspections, and allowing local governments to authorize licensed engineers and architects to perform building code inspections
Bill expands third party inspections for building code inspections. This excludes the state fire code.
Bill has been signed by Governor Ayotte

SB 282 Relative to stairway requirements in certain residential buildings
Bill allows 4 story buildings in the building code to align with the current fire code. Bill has been signed by Governor Ayotte

Board of Fire Control:

The next Board of Fire Control meeting will be held on September 16, 2025, at 1:00 pm.

BUREAU OF INVESTIGATIONS:

In July, we received 22 incident notifications resulting in 7 scene responses. The Bureau of Investigations currently has 9 open arson or suspected arson investigations.

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

- On July 3, 2025, investigators responded to Hooksett to assist with a motor vehicle fire. The owner intentionally set the fire after fireworks were set off inside the vehicle.
- On July 4, 2025, investigators were notified by Goffstown FD after a resident had experienced serious bodily injury as the result of a firework mishap.
- On July 7, 2025, investigators were notified by Manchester FD after a male individual suffered smoke inhalation following a structure fire. The individual was subsequently transported to Brigham and Women's Hospital in Massachusetts for further care.
- On July 7, 2025, investigators were notified by Littleton FD regarding an individual who intentionally set a fire in the apartment in which they reside after experiencing a mental health crisis. The individual was also treated for

smoke inhalation.

- On July 9, 2025, investigators responded to Fremont FD to assist with a motor vehicle fire. The fire was intentionally set by juveniles using fireworks. The suspects have been identified and are working with the local PD moving forward.
- On July 14, 2025, investigators responded to Atkinson to assist with an incident where a firework exploded in an individual's hands, causing serious bodily injury.
- On July 21, 2025, investigators were requested to assist with a past tense fire investigation in Lee. The fire occurred on 07/20/2025 and involved a camper at a campground. The cause of the fire remains under investigation; however, no criminal indicators have been identified.
- On July 21, 2025, investigators responded to Wolfeboro to assist with a past tense fire investigation involving a structure that occurred on July 17, 2025. Investigators are assisting, as there is evidence to suggest that this fire may have been the result of a criminal act. This is an ongoing investigation.
- On July 22, 2025, investigators assisted Wolfeboro FD in locating the owner of a property where a fire had occurred. The fire was believed to have been intentionally set. Wolfeboro Fire and Police Departments will be working on the case moving forward.
- On July 24, 2025, investigators were notified by Manchester FD regarding a structure where an occupant sustained injuries. Manchester Fire Marshals will be responsible for the origin and cause of the fire, and the FMO will assist with tracking the victim's status.
- On July 25, 2025, investigators responded to New Boston to assist with a structure fire investigation in which the occupant sustained injuries from the fire. The destruction from the fire made it difficult to determine the cause of the fire. Although we cannot conclusively rule out all causes, no evidence has been identified that suggests this fire is the result of a criminal act. The origin and cause of this fire will likely remain undetermined.
- On July 26, 2025, investigators received a report from Manchester FD regarding an individual who sustained burn injuries after falling into a campfire. The patient was transported to Boston for further care. FMO will continue to monitor the patient's status.

Fatal Fire/CO Incidents:

- On July 15, investigators responded to a fire at an apartment building in Concord, which resulted in the death of a 62-year-old female occupant. The cause of the fire is currently under investigation, however, there is no evidence to suggest that it resulted from a criminal act. FMO worked in conjunction with the Concord Fire and Police Departments for this investigation.

Ignitable Liquid Detection Canine Teams:

- There were two IGL canine deployments in July.

Arrests/Court:

- Investigator Dennis presented a case to a grand jury from an incident that occurred in Plaistow in November 2024, where an explosion occurred inside an apartment building stemming from a small-scale Butane Honey Oil (BHO) drug manufacturing operation.

Inv. Dennis was successful with the grand jury and received a "true bill indictment." Therefore, the case will now go to trial.

Youth Firesetter:

- Four YFS referrals were received in the month of July.

Training:

- Both ignitable liquid detection K9s and their handlers have successfully fulfilled the requirements for their annual recertification.
- A member of the BOI has successfully obtained a license to operate drones. The certification will enable investigators to utilize the drone purchased through a grant as an additional investigative tool.
- BOI Investigators completed response to active shooter training with the NH State Police.

BUREAU OF BUILDING SAFETY & CONSTRUCTION:

We're excited to share that electrical and mechanical safety inspectors have officially returned to the Office of the State Fire Marshal. This important update brings improved coordination and a more efficient process for municipalities seeking technical assistance, while ensuring consistency in inspections statewide. Additionally, this reintegration will enhance educational outreach, providing stakeholders with valuable guidance and resources to help maintain safe environments across New Hampshire. We look forward to the positive impact this renewed structure will have in serving our communities.

State Building Permit System:

We processed a total of 52 permits in July:

- Building: 18
- Electrical: 16
- Plumbing: 5
- Fuel Gas: 3
- Mechanical: 0
- Fire Protection: 5
- Fire Alarm: 5

Technical Assistance, Educational & Healthcare Reviews:

We initiated 15 educational and 11 healthcare plan reviews, completed 404 inspections and 260 technical consults in the month of July.

Variance Requests:

We processed 16 variance requests in the month of July.

Fireworks Safety and Enforcement Program

The Fireworks Safety and Enforcement Program conducted the following in the month of July:

- Proximate Licenses Issued: 0
- Display Certificate of Competency Issued: 0
- Consumer Fireworks Retail Store Licenses Issued: 0
- Explosive Magazine Inspections: 22
- Proximate Audience Inspections: 0
- Technical Assistance: 12

Over the 4th of July we conducted inspections of 27 of the 43 display shows scheduled throughout the state. In addition, our team completed spot inspections at 25 consumer fireworks retail stores, helping ensure adherence to state regulations and public safety standards. Thank you for your continued efforts to keep fireworks celebrations safe and enjoyable for all.

As Fair season draws near, we'd like to take a moment to provide a quick reminder. Fire performers, fire breathers, and similar acts must obtain both a proximate audience license and a permit issued by our office, in conjunction with the local AHJ prior to performing. Each year, we encounter instances where performers arrive and depart before we have the opportunity to educate them on these regulations. Help us spread the word so we can ensure a safe and compliant experience for everyone involved.

For details on the application process or to confirm licensing status, please contact our office directly.

Saf-C 6903.01 Permit Required.

No person shall use pyrotechnic effects or flame effects in the performing arts in conjunction with theatrical, musical, or any similar productions before a proximate audience, performers, or support personnel without having obtained a permit from the state fire marshal.

Saf-C 6906.01 License Required.

(a) The display of pyrotechnic effects, special effects, or flame effects before a proximate audience, performers, or support personnel shall not be permitted unless the display is directly supervised by a person who has obtained a license from the state fire marshal.

[Modular Building Program](#)

The Modular Building Program conducted the following in the month of July:

- Inspections: 19
- Audits of Manufacturers: 0
- Audits of Educational Facilities: 0
- Labels Issued to Manufacturers: 250
- Units Shipped to New Hampshire: 22

[Tramway and Amusement Ride Safety](#)

The Tramway and Amusement Ride Safety section conducted the following in the month of July:

- Amusement Registrations: 36

- Amusement Inspections: 108
- Amusement Incidents: 1
- Tramway Registrations: 1
- Tramway Inspections: 1
- Tramway Incidents: 0

BUREAU OF OUTREACH & EDUCATION:

Hazardous Materials:

Hazmat has a new email! You can contact us at: hazmat@dos.nh.gov.

In the month of July, the hazardous materials section provided consultation regarding a homeowner's misunderstanding about background radiation readings. There were no incident responses.

Electric Vehicles and Lithium-Ion Batteries

The council to study the impacts of electric vehicles, e-mobility devices, and the associated lithium-ion batteries hazards for first responder response, the environment, building and fire codes, life safety, and property protection continues its work. The interim report of the council was submitted to the Governor and General Court on November 1, 2024. A meeting was held on April 14th at 1:00 pm.

Have an EV or lithium-ion battery incident to report? Please fill out this form: [Electric Vehicle \(EV\) and Battery Incident Reporting \(office.com\)](https://forms.office.com/g/WBLdY7E8zc?origin=lprLink)

Incident Reporting:

We continue to monitor the development of the U.S. Fire Administration's (USFA) new fire information and analytics platform, known as the National Emergency Response Information System (NERIS), for the American fire and emergency services. New Hampshire is scheduled for onboarding in October 2025.

Thank you to the departments who responded to our recent survey in preparation of NERIS! Reach out to the NHFIRS Section if you aren't sure whether your agency has responded. If you have not completed it, please do so quickly. Making sure that your contact information is up-to-date, will be crucial when FSRI starts reaching out to agencies in October for onboarding.

Link to our NERIS Survey: <https://forms.office.com/g/WBLdY7E8zc?origin=lprLink>

Key NERIS Resources:

- [User References](#)
- [NERIS Onboarding Checklist and Guide](#)
- Visit [our website](#) for more NERIS support and updates.
- NHFIRS Incident Reporting Newsletter (quarterly)

With NFIRS sunsetting, fire departments must be sure that they are able to maintain a

system of record locally. For specifics on what is needed, please read NH RSA 33-A. We would like to remind all fire departments that if you experience a fatal fire with civilian injuries in your community, you will need to complete the Civilian Casualty module for your incident report in addition to calling our office for investigative assistance.

Please reach out to our NHFIRS team for any incident reporting questions at nhfirs@dos.nh.gov and have your NFIRS/NERIS contact person sign-up for the NHFIRS Newsletter by sending an email to FMO@dos.nh.gov.

Community Risk Reduction (CRR):

Our CRR Team wants to hear from you! Join virtual discussions each month with partners from the region. We will discuss topics from communities across New Hampshire, share resources, and occasionally bring in guest speakers on key topics in community risk reduction and public education. This group is for anyone working in fire prevention, injury prevention, EMS education, community risk reduction, or public health with a safety focus. Whether you're in a city or rural community, your voice and experience matter.

Fire & Life Safety Educator Network

Date: Monday, September 8

Time: 1-2pm EST

Location: Virtual (Teams – link provided upon RSVP)

Purpose of the meeting:

- Introduce the idea of a monthly virtual network
- Gather input on what members want to get out of this group
- Discuss structure, topics, and how to create useful and engaging meetings
- Identify early priorities and potential guest speakers

If you're interested, please RSVP here: [NH Fire & Life Safety Network](#).



**STEPS TO
SAFETY™**
PREVENT FIRE & FALLS AT HOME

Train the Trainer Event
Wednesday, September 24th
9:00am-3:00pm
Concord, NH



Falls are not a natural part of aging, yet NHFIRS shows falls/lift assists are consistently a top service call from fire departments across New Hampshire. The [NFPA Steps to Safety™ Prevent Fire and Falls at Home](#) program pairs fire and EMS professionals with community partners to educate older adults about home fire and fall safety through group presentations, home visits, and the creation of a local resource network.

No cost to attend!

Free program materials and lunch provided!
Earn Continuing Education Credits!

Location:

Stephen E. Merrill Building (DMV Auditorium) 23 Hazen Drive
Concord, NH 03305
Doors open at 8:30am.

Register today to reserve your spot: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/STSNH2025>

Look for our next edition of Risk Reduction Quarterly, coming later this month! Sign-up for our newsletter by sending us a note at fmo@dos.nh.gov or find newsletters on our website: <https://www.firemarshal.dos.nh.gov/news-events/newsletters>

Outreach Events:

This July the NHSFMO attended seven public outreach events, engaging 1,000+ community members. Over the Fourth of July weekend, we attended the Old-Fashioned Celebration in Hanover and a craft fair at Gunstock, where we promoted the importance of cooking safety and working smoke alarms. At Campton's Open House, we shared safety strategies related to the recent ban on disposal of lithium-ion batteries. (See the Department of Environmental Services' [Li-ion page](#) for information & resources!) We celebrated International Friends Day at Concord's Friends-a-Palooza, where we spoke about fire safety. Pelham Fire's presentation on fire safety and falls prevention was an engaging reminder of how much fire departments do for their communities.

Our K-9 teams gave demonstrations at the SPCA Camp Dog Demo. At Stratham's Summerfest, Fire Investigator Sol Rosmon and K9 Reeves met Miss New Hampshire, Xanti Russell, who learned how our K-9 teams work during their public demonstrations. We joined several Rockingham County fire departments at Stratham's annual Summerfest, where we shared messages on the importance of working smoke alarms and having an escape plan in the unlikely event of an emergency. This exciting event ended with a softball game of "Police versus Firefighters". Congratulations to the firefighters on winning the match!

Marshal Toomey joined New Hampshire Insurance Department in a conversation, "Fires and Insurance: What Every Homeowner and Renter Should Know." Attendees learned about our office, an overview of home fires in our state, and key fire prevention strategies for homeowners and renters. NH Insurance Department shared information on creating a home inventory, keeping coverage up to date, and what to expect after a loss. Please watch and share this [informative webinar](#) and as well as their flyer, "[Insurance Help Following a Fire.](#)"

Interested in having the NHSFMO join an event in your community? Please reach out to us as early as possible so we can make every effort to attend your event. We also have [resources and equipment](#) for fire departments to borrow. Send your request to us at FMOpublicEducation@dos.nh.gov.

Public Education:

Our public education theme for August is “Campus Fire Safety.” For most students, the last fire safety training they received was in grade school, but with new independence comes new responsibilities. It is important that both off-campus and on-campus students know their fire risks and prevention actions that could save their lives.

There are several specific causes for fires in on- and off-campus college housing, including cooking, candles, smoking and overloaded power strips. Approximately 25% of all campus fire fatalities follow a party.

USFA has [resources](#) to share with students in your community, as well as with local colleges and universities. On college campuses, lithium-ion batteries in devices such as e-bikes and scooters are considered an emerging risk. Prepare yourself and educate your community with [these resources from NFPA](#).

Have you started planning for [Fire Prevention Week](#)? This year’s Fire Prevention Week™ (FPW™) campaign, October 5-11, “**Charge into Fire Safety™: Lithium-Ion Batteries in Your Home**,” works to educate everyone about using these batteries safely. The campaign stresses how important it is to [BUY, CHARGE, and RECYCLE](#) safely when it comes to lithium-ion batteries.

Join our 3rd Annual Fire Prevention Week Chalk Art Contest!

WHO: New Hampshire Fire Departments

WHAT: Create chalk art with messaging around the 2025 FPW theme, *Charge into Fire Safety*.

WHEN: Post your image to Facebook during Fire Prevention Week (October 5-11) and tag us: [@NHFSMO](#).

This is an opportunity to share safety messages in your community. Voters enjoy fun, original chalk art at your fire station! On Monday, October 13, we will share all the images in a single post, which will be open to public voting from 10/13 - 10/19. The winning fire department will be announced on 10/20.

Training Opportunities:

If you are interested in hosting a future session, or would like to suggest a future training topic, please reach out to us at FMOpublicEducation@dos.nh.gov.

Fire Standards/Training/EMS – (Director Wholey)

Personnel

Committed to training, educating and certifying emergency and community responders to protect the citizens and visitors of New Hampshire

- On January 22nd, Governor Kelly Ayotte signed an Executive Order instituting a hiring freeze across state government. We will work within the process to identify any positions that are eligible for a waiver under the order.
- We are interviewing for our part-time EMS Investigator, with a conditional offer.
- We have two vacancies for our full-time Fire Training Captain – waiver approved.
- We have one vacancy for our full-time EMS Compliance Coordinator – waiver approved.
- We have vacancies for 10 Staff Instructors – waiver approved.
- We have vacancies for 4 Support O51 personnel – waiver approved.
- We have two vacancies for our part-time Program Coordinators – waiver approved.
 - Promotional Testing
 - Fleet Mechanic for Heavy Equipment
- We have one vacancy for a full-time Program Specialist III (Education Technologist).
- We have one vacancy for our full-time Fire Training Instructor position.
- We have one vacancy for our full-time Program Assistant I.
- We have one vacancy for our part-time EMS Ambulance Inspection Coordinator.
- We have vacancies for EMS Exam Coordinators.
- We have vacancies for EMS Vehicle Inspectors.

Grants

- We submitted our application for the 2024 AFG grant and are waiting to hear additional information.
- We submitted our application for the 2025 National Fire Academy training grant.

Special Projects

- The early detection cancer screening pilot program RFP submission period closed on February 19th. Initial scoring on the technical portions of the proposals was held on March 7th. The Division is currently working through the contract process which will then be submitted to the Governor and Executive Council for consideration.
 - We anticipate this program will launch in Fall 2025.
 - We are developing a website dedicated to this program where eligible individuals can find information about the program.
- The Raymond S. Burton Fire and EMS Training Facility infrastructure project continues to move forward with completion of the project expected on or before November 2025.

- Phase II which includes the heated garage and classroom building upgrades is ongoing.
 - The rafters are up in the garage and painting has begun.
 - The metal roof of the pavilion is in place.
 - Classroom construction is complete.
 - Classes and prop usages are being limited for this campus until construction is completed. All other classes will be moved to other facilities in the area.
- Camp Fully Involved was on our Concord campus from July 27th to August 2nd. Graduation ceremonies were held on August 1st.
- We continue to work on our website transition and improvements with NH DoIT. Much of this work is being done offline in preparation of a full transition to the new state web platform.
- The *Law Enforcement Officers, Professional Firefighters and Emergency Medical Technicians Career Development, Recruitment and Retention Program* established in New Hampshire RSA 188-F:70 remains active and available.
 - Details can be found at: <https://www.ccsnh.edu/law-enforcement-officers-professional-firefighters-and-emergency-medical-technicians-career-development-recruitment-and-retention-program/>

National Fire Academy

- Courses from the NFA have resumed. As of now, the following NFA courses are available:
 - *Decision Making for Initial Company Operations* – Richard Flynn campus – Concord, August 9th & 10th
 - *Supervising Emergency Medical Services* – Richard Flynn campus – Concord, September 6th & 7th
 - *Incident Safety Officer* – Richard Flynn campus – Concord, September 20th & 21st
 - *Decision Making for Initial Company Operations* – Richard Flynn campus – Concord, October 1st & 2nd
 - *Supervising Emergency Medical Services* – Richard Flynn campus – Concord, October 1st & 2nd
 - *Incident Safety Officer* – Richard Flynn campus – New Hampton Fire Department – New Hampton, October 18th & 19th

Legislative/Administrative Rules

- The 2025 legislative session continues. We are monitoring many legislative Bills.
 - Among the monitored bills which passed are HB316, SB133, SB 202, and SB 24, which relate to EMS providers.
 - HB2 removed the responsibilities of licensing Wheel Chair for Hire Companies and associated vehicles from the Division and transferred it to Department of Health and Human Services.
 - SB245 passed with an amendment on July 31st, prohibiting surprise ambulance billing and regulating ground ambulance reimbursement.
- The proposed Trauma Rules are working through the internal DOS process.
- An EMS discipline and other various administrative rule changes proposal has been adopted on July 22, 2025. These changes were supported by the EMS Coordinating Board and allow for deceased providers names to be removed the public listing, along with other various changes to the ruleset.
- Administrative Rules to make the full transition to ETA's and sunset the former process have been developed and are working through the internal DOS process for submission to JLCAR.

Outreach

- Staff members continue to attend various stakeholder and mutual aid group meetings and make department visits.

Mental Health & Resiliency

- Group Crisis Intervention & Assisting Individuals in Crisis – Richard Flynn campus – Concord, October 1st
- 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.

Curriculum

Firefighter

- The visiting committee meeting scheduled for July 16th was postponed.
- The next meeting will be on August 20th to review the Search & Rescue and Ladders modules.
- The visiting committee has reviewed 14 modules, with 9 modules remaining for Firefighter I and 9 modules for Firefighter II. The expected completion date for this visiting committee is early 2026.

Fire Inspector

- The visiting committee met on July 9th to review the final adjustments to the First Responder Inspector and Fire Inspector curricula. The committee voted to move the curricula to the FSTC Curriculum Committee for review.
- The next steps will be for the Curriculum Committee to move the curricula to the full Commission in September and for the Commission to start the public comment period.
- Initial test bank item validation has been completed for the Fire Inspector test bank. Item review panels will be scheduled in the upcoming months.

Airport Firefighter

- Initial test bank item validation has begun for the Airport Firefighter test bank.

Driver-Operator

- The application for Driver-Operator Visiting Committee closed on August 8th.

Future Program Development

- *EMS in the Warm Zone.* Captain Cartier and Maria Varanka are overseeing an update to the Awareness, Operations, and RTF Concepts levels of EMS in the Warm Zone program. This update seeks to align the program with the newest versions of NFPA 3000 and the Committee on Tactical Emergency Casualty Care (C-TECC) guidelines for First Responders with a Duty to Act.
- *Interfacility Transfer.* Captain Robblee and Rachel Larry will be overseeing an EMS Visiting Committee to revise the IFT and PIFT training programs. An application for this curriculum development committee is open until August 15th. If you are interested in

participating in the curriculum development process, please submit an application:
<https://nhfa-ems.com/visiting-committee-membership-request-form/>

- *Fire Officer (I & II)*. The new NFPA standards for Fire Officer Professional Qualifications (NFPA 1020) were released at the beginning of the year. This month, Captain Burns and Program Coordinator Meyer will begin work in preparation for a visiting committee later this year.
- *Fire and Emergency Services Instructor (I, II, & III)*. The new NFPA standards for Instructor professional qualifications (NFPA 1020) were released at the beginning of the year. This month, Chief Bibeau and Program Coordinator Field will begin work in preparation for a visiting committee early next year.

Accreditation

- The Division's reaccreditation application has been reviewed by The Pro Board's Committee on Accreditation.
- A site visit from Pro Board representatives is being scheduled for late September 2025. The site visit team will review the Division's documentation, make recommendations for improvement, and determine the Division's accreditation for five more years.

Bureau of Firefighter Training

Courses/Programs

- Firefighter I & II
 - Rumney (FF I) – August 19th
 - Moultonborough (FF II) – August 26th
 - Stratham (FF I & II) – September 3rd
- Technical Rescue
- Driver Operator
 - Milford – September 16th
 - Newbury – September 23rd
 - Conway – October 7th
 - All inquiries for these programs should be directed to driveroperator@dos.nh.gov
- Hazardous Materials
 - Hazardous Materials Awareness is available at <https://www.nhfaemslearning.org/login/index.php>
- Module Deliveries
 - Hazardous Materials Operations with PPE and Product Control – Raymond S. Burton Training Facility, Bethlehem – August 18th
- Airport Rescue Firefighting
 - ARFF – Live Fire Recertifications restart in September
 - Richard Flynn Campus, Concord – September 29th
- “On My Time” Program
 - We continue to offer support and guidance to many departments participating in this program.
- Electric Vehicle Training Resources
 - US Department of Energy, Alternate Fuels Data Center, EV Safety Training Resources for First and Second Responders: <https://afdc.energy.gov/vehicles/electric-responders>
 - NFPA training for Alternative Fuel Vehicles: <https://www.nfpa.org/professionals/training-for-me/buy-alternative-fuel-vehicles-training>

- NFPA FIRST Training Application: <https://info.vectorsolutions.com/vs-fr-nfpa-new-energy-systems-fire-simulator-training>
- Distributed Energy Resources (DER) Field Familiarization Guide: <https://derstfg.org/>

Testing

- Monthly Testing was completed in July for the NFPA 1001, 1002 and 1003 testing processes, which includes administering the written and practical exams.
 - Monthly testing is the 2nd Tuesday of every month. Burton campus monthly testing is only in March, June, September and December on the Wednesday after the Flynn campus exam date. Submissions must be entered by the last day of the month prior to the month you wish to test.
- The Bureau has been training with the Bureau of Certification and Support regarding the new written exam testing that is now done with iPads.

Apparatus/Equipment

- Engine Two is out of service with a “Check Engine” light issue. We are working to schedule this vehicle for repair.
- Utility Five has been removed from service and the search for a replacement is underway.
- Utility Three and Four are both in need of oil changes. Quotes have been received and Purchase Requests submitted.
- All other apparatus and Fleet Vehicles are in service.

Facilities, Prop Usage and Projects

- On July 2nd, interested and qualified members of the Bureau participated in training on Ladder One.
- Aerospace Career Education members received a tour and demonstration of the ARFF Site and Crash Five on July 10th.
- The Manchester Fire Department used the “A” Building on July 11th for hose handling skills.
- Our Forcible Entry Door traveled to Bedford Fire for use July 14th – July 18th, and then to Wolfeboro July 28th – July 31st.
- Work continues on the Fire Investigator boxes to prepare them for the September class. We expect this project to be completed by August 15th.
- Division members were trained in the operation of our cascade systems to increase our Air Trailer Operator cadre.

- Fire Extinguisher training with Department of Motor Vehicles staff has been tentatively set for October 13th.
- Parts have been ordered for the repair of two hydrants that have been out of service. Bureau of Certification and Support

Courses/Programs

- Instructor I/II/III Programs
 - *Instructor I* – Richard Flynn Campus – Concord, September 2nd
 - *Instructor I* – Warner Fire – Warner, November 5th
 - *Instructor II* – Virtual, October 6th
- Instructor Professional Development
 - *Forcible Entry & Ropes and Knots Seminar* – Richard Flynn Campus, August 22nd, August 23rd, and August 25th
 - *Troubleshooting Student Performance with Universal Design for Learning* – Virtual, September 23rd, and Richard Flynn Campus, September 25th
 - *Lesson Plan Problems of Practice Workshop* – Virtual, November 18th, and Richard Flynn Campus, November 20th
- Fire Officer I/II Programs
 - *Fire Officer I* – Richard Flynn Campus – Concord, September 8th
 - *Fire Officer I* – Milford Fire Department – Milford, October 4th
 - *Fire Officer II* – Virtual, November 18th
- Fire Inspector Programs
 - *Fire Inspector I* – New Hampton Fire Department – New Hampton, September 25th
- Fire Investigator – Richard Flynn Campus – August 21st
- National Fire Academy
 - *Decision Making for Initial Company Operations* – Richard Flynn campus – Concord, August 9th & 10th
 - *Supervising Emergency Medical Services* – Richard Flynn campus – Concord, September 6th & 7th
 - *Incident Safety Officer* – Richard Flynn campus – Concord, September 20th & 21st

Education Technology

- Progress continues on Firefighter I modules: Fire Behavior, Communication, PPE/SCBA, and Orientation. Video shoots are planned for September burns.
- The previous Online Learning environment is sunsetting and final content backups are underway.
- EMS in the Warm Zone program is being evaluated for updates to the course.
- FFI Curriculum updates:
 - Fire Behavior module is the top priority, with expanded multimedia content.
 - PPE/SCBA video production will begin soon
- The new Stroke program is pending some minor revisions.
- Video interviews for the Cancer Screening is complete, with editing to begin soon.
- Classroom 1 and 2 renovations, including a new screen in Classroom 2, are complete.
- The new State Drupal website is nearly live, featuring improved schedules and curriculum access.

Instructors

- New State Fire Instructor applications are available on RespondNH.
- The Fire Training Captains have been actively training and endorsing Instructors and Program Assistants in numerous classes and prop operations.
- 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

- There are six CPAT dates in 2025. We restructured the schedule of these exams to better span the entire year to make this test more aligned with department hiring needs. Our final three tests of the year are as follows:
 - August 12th – Laconia – Merrill Fay Ice Arena
 - October 27th – Nashua – NH National Guard Recruiting Office
 - November 24th – Nashua – NH National Guard Recruiting Office
- Staff are beginning to develop electronic scoring of CPAT exams using RespondNH.
- Department member assistance is needed for CPAT on testing days. Please confirm available personnel to assist with PC Nick Poulin at Nicholas.a.poulin@dos.nh.gov prior to the test date to assist in planning.

Bureau of Emergency Medical Services

Boards and Commissions

- The Trauma Medical Review Committee will meet on August 20th at 0930.
- The Privacy Committee will meet on August 27th at 1300.
- The Medical Control Board will meet on September 18th at 0930.
- The Emergency Medical and Trauma Services Coordinating Board will meet on September 18th at 1300.

Operations

- With final adoption of the Educational Training Agency (ETA) ruleset as of April 30, 2024, the Administrative Packet for application can be found on the Division website and Resource Center.
 - Initial ETA relicensing site visits have begun. There are currently 16 licensed ETAs with 8 more in the process of being licensed.
 - NREMT first year pass rates have increased significantly since the introduction of ETAs, going up 5% for EMR, 8% for EMT, and 7% for AEMT. Paramedic has not increased, but that was expected due to the effect of CoAEMSP accreditation process.
- There are currently 313 licensed EMS Units and 6,240 EMS Providers.
- 23 ground ambulance inspections were conducted in July.
- Background checks are currently averaging 2.7 days for new applicants for licensure.
- The EMS Simulation Training Program held 1 program in July.
- EMS Psychomotor Exams
 - 3 BLS exams and 2 ALS exams were held in July.
- With the passage of HB2, wheelchair van inspections are no longer the purview of the Division. This responsibility has been moved to the Department of Health and Human Services.

Courses/Programs

- Emergency Medical Responder (EMR): Fall 2025 course is now open for enrollment, September 6th.
- EMS Continuing Education and Simulation Education

- *IFT and PIFT: Not Taxi Work* – Concord, August 6th, and Virtual, August 21st
- *Prehospital Obstetric and Neonatal Care (Simulation)* – Woodsville, August 7th
- *Adult and Pediatric Intoxicant/Irritant Exposures (Simulation)* – Concord, September 10th
- *Pre-Hospital Trauma Life Support (PHTLS)* – Keene – September 13th
- *EMS Response to Clandestine Drug Labs* – Virtual, September 18th
- *Service Dogs on Scene: EMS Protocols, Safety, and Support* – Center Conway, September 13th
- *Toppled Tots: A Pediatric Trauma Primer* – Concord, October 1st, and Virtual, October 16th
- *Adult and Pediatric Accidental Intoxicant Exposure (Simulation)* – Littleton, October 11th
- *Palliative Care and Hospice for the EMS Provider* – Virtual, October 28th
- EMS in the Warm Zone Awareness, Operations and Rescue Task Force Concepts
 - The Awareness and Operations courses are available free to students through our online training platform: <https://www.nhfaemslearning.org/login/index.php>
 - The RTF Concepts class is a half-day in-person training that is also available. Grant funding opportunities are available.
 - If anyone is looking for this program, please contact Shawn Croteau at Shawn.A.Croteau@dos.nh.gov

Clinical Systems

- We continue our outreach and support agencies for inter-facility transfers and mobile integrated health programs.
- EMS Protocols Version 9.1 Mid-Cycle Modifications have been extended to September 8th.
- EMS Protocols Version 9.2 Mid Cycle Rollout has been adopted by the Commissioner.
 - Modification to protocol 8.1 Baby Safe Haven of the NH Patient Care Protocols to comply with the revised requirements of RSA 132-A and He-C 6429 was adopted by the Commissioner.
- EMS Protocols Version 9.3 Mid-Cycle Rollout has modifications to protocol 1.4 from 60 days to 90 days and non-substantive changes to multiple protocols. The public hearing will be on August 22nd at 1500 and 1700, and the public comment period will end on September 15th.
- EMS Protocols Version 10.0 development has been postponed, pending the 9.3 adoption.

- All EMS Bulletins can be found on our website at:
<https://www.nh.gov/safety/divisions/fstems/ems/bulletins/index.html>

Data Management

- NHESR
 - 114 fire departments are utilizing the system for incident reporting. 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/>.
 - Anyone interested in the system can contact nhesr@dos.nh.gov by email, submit a ticket at <https://nhfa-ems.com/support/>, or call 603-223-4200 and ask for a member of the data team to reach us.
- RespondNH
 - The Division continues to expand the capabilities of the RespondNH system. As we 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 and may be done at any time. For State level reporting information, fill out your roster information to include their status (career, call, or volunteer) and the duties they provide, such as EMS care and/or fire suppression.
- EMS Instructor Initial/Reinstatement and Instructor Renewal applications are available online for licensing.
- The monthly EMS and Fire Reporting Users groups have restarted.
- We are working with EMS agencies using 3rd party ePCR software to improve their reporting completeness and overall data quality.

Compliance

- There are currently 11 active investigations and ongoing cases.
- All compliance related inquiries should be directed to Bureau Chief Romanello.
- The Division has transitioned to a new public look-up page in RespondNH. This will allow anyone to search an individual and find out if they have any license sanctions against them.

Preparedness and Special Projects

- Staff conducted 10 outreach events for AED consultations and preparedness last month.

- Staff continue to support MIH and IFT programs and outreach. There are 15 current MIH programs in the state.
 - All MIH programs are integrated with the ImageTrend – CP Module.
 - Laconia Fire has proposed a program known as the Community Paramedicine Program (CPP) by the Partnership for Public Health, Inc. (PPH) to enhance healthcare delivery and accessibility in Laconia, NH, and surrounding towns. The program is designed to reduce unnecessary hospital admissions and emergency department visits.

The ARPA funds for the WorkInvest Program have officially ended as of June 30, with all funds having been allocated and expended by the

Professional Development Committee _ (Chief Cathy) – He stated that Director Wholey intends to convene the committee shortly to plan the seminars.

Fire Standards and Training Commission – (Chief Clark) – No report

Homeland Security and Emergency Management – (Director Buxton) –

Updates on Division Priorities:

- Public Assistance
 - We continue to work with FEMA on existing Disaster Relief efforts.
 - i. Thank you to everyone that has assisted staff with the COVID-19 closeout process.
 - ii. FEMA is working to have the closeout process completed by September 30th.
- Mitigation
 - We continue to work to support the following programs:
 - i. Hazard Mitigation Planning.
 - 1. Plan review and approval remain on pause with the Federal Government. New guidance surrounding mitigation planning has been issued.
 - ii. BRIC Program
 - 1. We continue to monitor the BRIC program. It appears that recalled funding may become available.
- EMPG
 - If you have a potential EMPG project, please reach out to your Stakeholder Liaison for assistance.
 - Secured funding extension on FFY22 and FFY23 funding
- Federal Grant Programs

- The DOS has submitted applications for both the FFY25 Homeland and EMPG programs.
 - i. Thank you to everyone who submitted homeland projects
 - 1. Haz-Mat
 - 2. Tech Rescue
 - 3. LE Tactical training
 - ii. Terms and Conditions
 - We are working to obtain a period of performance extension from FEMA to provide some continued funding until the notice of funding becomes available.
- Active Shooter Incident Management
 - Working groups continue to meet regarding Incident Management initiatives for Law Enforcement.
 - We are working to develop a one-day seminar for fall, surrounding the Active Shooter initiative. More information to follow as this is developed.
 - We are working to bring C3 Pathways back to NH this fall for 4 train the trainer programs to support our active shooter incident management training. This will be available to both Fire and Law Enforcement partners.
 - i. Contract submitted to Executive Council for approval
 - REP
 - The FY 25 assessment process has started for NextEra Energy.
 - ACEPS
 - Governor Ayotte is planning to kick off the ACEPS group September 29th.
 - Division Updates
 - SEOC
 - Bridge Working Group
 - Pease Airshow/Seafood
 - NASCAR

Division of Emergency Services and Communications – (Director Doyle)

- Laconia Facility Update: Construction fully underway – foundation pouring complete steel framing of the main facility to begin;
- Genasys Emergency notification platform ([NH Alerts](#)) is up and running, If you are interested in becoming a POC for your community to use the ENS for local

messaging, please let me know. The statewide ENS system is offered to local communities at no cost;

- Community Events / school visits reminder – connect with our Public Outreach / Education Team for more info: Patrick Cavanaugh (603-271-6911), patrick.m.cavanaugh@desc.nh.gov ;
- Radio Communications and SWIC met with USCG last month on 7/14, re: response to emergencies around the Piscataqua River Bridge – more to follow with the focus on communications and Interoperability, to include Maine P/S partners;
- SIEC Quarterly meeting held in Derry on 8/8 – presentation made by Hardy Allen of Critical Response Group re: standardized school/facility mapping- DOS Leadership also met with him on 7/31;
- Radio Communications Section is replacing the Microwave Radio network within a compressed timeline to deploy, install and configure all the equipment over the next few months;
- First Responder subcommittee for Rapid Response and 988 work continues – Cruiser card pilot project and “Run Card” creation discussions continue. Monthly 988 Coalition meetings continue as well;
- Planning for NASCAR 2025 continues, meeting last week on the 7th with stakeholders and HSEM;
- Planning for communications support for the “Thunder Over New Hampshire” Air Show and “Hampton Beach Seafood Festival” begins (both events occurring over the September 5th-7th weekend);
- Met with CCSNH re: messaging of the Tuition reimbursement program which was extended to Dispatchers and Telecommunicators. Beginning with the Fall 2025 semester, public safety telecommunicators and dispatchers will be eligible to participate in the CCSNH Career Development, Recruitment, and Retention Program. This program supports first responders by providing reimbursement for tuition and required fees. For more information, see <https://www.ccsnh.edu/law-enforcement-officers-professional-firefighters-and->

[emergency-medical-technicians-career-development-recruitment-and-retention-program](#) Please pass this information along to your Dispatchers;

- Discussions with Northern Borders Dispatch regarding their Communications enhancement project continue – met with the stakeholders in Pittsburg on 7/30 and presented to Governor Ayotte and the Executive Council on progress re: Communications and Border Security;
- Homeland Grant Review Committee met last week to discuss and approve applications for various projects from local agencies. 17 Applications approved of the 33 received;
- Social Media / Public Education Updates:

In July, the Division of Emergency Services and Communications used its social media platforms (Facebook, X, and Instagram) to highlight employee achievements and promote the capabilities of New Hampshire 911. We continued our Unique Road Name series and shared helpful safety tips and reminders related to calling 911.

We also showcased our community outreach efforts and shined a spotlight on the critical work of our Radio Communications Maintenance section. Throughout the month, we continued to engage with our public safety partners and saw strong community interaction as a result. Social media remains an important tool for public education, outreach, and sharing the resources available to residents and visitors in an emergency.

- Media events:



- Halias Symposium is scheduled for this Thursday, 8/14 – [Click here for the sign up link for more information:](#)

- Interoperability Roundtable discussions kick-off in Rockingham County this Friday the 15th. Agenda included in the invite. These will be held by County, so stay tuned and watch for the invitation for the event coming to your County;
- Any questions, comments, concerns, please reach out...

Forests and Lands – (Chief Sherman) –

- Upcoming Trainings – Please reach out to our Wildfire Training and Prevention Coordinator – Doug Miner for more information. Douglas.C.Miner@dncr.nh.gov
 - We continue to offer the basic wildland firefighter training at our Bear Brook facility in Allenstown. This is a blended course with online training and a 1 day field training. The next schedule S-130 course is September 13th.
 - We are offering the S-215, Wildland Urban Interface training at Bear Brook on 10/15 – 10/17.
 - On 11/17 – 11/18 we will be offering the S-131, Squad Boss training.
- Our Forest Fire Service – Administrative Rules are in the process of being approved. We have been going through the process to update these, which is required every 10 years. The new Rules will reflect the agency name change from 2017 and will now be listed as NCR rather than RES.
 - Attached at the end of this report are the proposed changes, they can also be found on our website at: <https://www.nhdf.dncr.nh.gov/laws-administrative-rules>. If you have questions, please reach out to me to discuss them.
 - The Public Hearing will be held Friday, August 22, 2025 at 9am at the DNCR Headquarters, Main Conference Room located at 172 Pembroke Road, Concord, NH.
 - Written comments are due by Friday, August 29, 2025 at 3:00pm. Any written comments should be directed to:

Andrea Olsson
Administrative Operations Supervisor
Department of Natural and Cultural Resources
172 Pembroke Rd.
Concord NH, 03301
andrea.i.olsson@dncr.nh.gov
- The Forest Protection Bureau has used grants from the USFS to purchase a new Prevention Trailer which is in service and is getting out to prevention events. We have also purchased new Smokey Bear costumes.

Respectfully Submitted,
Chief Steven Sherman
Steven.l.sherman@dncr.nh.gov

603-271-2763

7-22-2025 Initial Proposal

CHAPTER Ncr 560 FOREST FIRE SERVICE RULES

Statutory Authority: RSA 227-G:4, IX and X, ***RSA 125-C:4, I(a), and RSA 125-I:2, III***

PART Ncr 561 FIRE PERMITS

Ncr 561.01 Definitions.

(a) "Ambient air" means "ambient air" as defined in RSA 125-I:2, III.

(b) "Attended" means that an individual responsible for the fire and capable of extinguishing the fire is on the same property as the fire, is able to immediately extinguish the fire, and has the fire in plain view.

~~(b) "Burn barrel" means a barrel or similar device not larger than 7 cubic feet in size and made of a heavy gauge metal that is solid with no holes larger than 1/2 inch diameter and covered with a tight cover made of a metal screen or hardware cloth for the burning of permissible materials.~~

~~(c) "Category I fire" means a small, controlled fire, such as a camp or cooking fire, no greater than 2 feet in diameter contained within a ring of fire resistive material or in a portable fireplace~~ **no greater than 32 inches in diameter**, for which a permit can be issued on a seasonal basis, and that is not closer than 25 feet from a structure.

~~(d) "Category II fire" means a controlled fire, such as a camp or cooking fire, no greater than 4 feet in diameter contained within a ring of fire resistive material or in a portable fireplace~~ **no greater than 48 inches in diameter**, for which a permit can be issued on a seasonal basis, and that is not closer than 50 feet from a structure.

~~(e) "Category III fire" means any other fire not a category I or category II fire or a fire greater than 4 feet in diameter or a fire not contained within a ring of resistive material, for which a permit can be issued up to 7 consecutive days, and that is not closer than 50 feet from a structure.~~

~~(f) "Category IV fire" means a fire, other than a category I fire, that can be kindled between the hours of 9:00 am and 5:00 pm whether raining or not, for which a permit can be issued on a seasonal basis, and that is not closer than 50 feet from a structure.~~

~~(g) "Completely extinguished" means to extinguish so that it emits no smoke, heat, or flames. The term does not include a buried fire.~~

(h) “Director” means “director” as defined in RSA 227-G:2, IV, namely “the director of the division of forests and lands, department of natural and cultural resources also known as the state forester.”

(i) “Division” means “division” as defined in RSA 227-G:2, V, namely “the division of forests and lands, department of natural and cultural resources.”

(j) “Enclosed container” means any such purpose-built device, container, or vessel so constructed as to be completely enclosed by solid fire-resistive material, attached to a stack or chimney, and capable of regulating fire draft and constructed as a solid fuel appliance.

(k) “Fire permit” means DNCR form ~~561A5601A~~ issued for a category I, II, or III fire or a DNCR form ~~561B5601B~~ issued for a category IV fire, and **when authorized by the director**, which can be in electronic format including the use of electronic signature pursuant to RSA 294-E.

(l) “Ground covered with snow” means the area within a 100-foot radius from the fire edge is covered with snow or other frozen precipitation sufficient to prevent the combustion of woodland fuels until the fire is completely extinguished.

~~(m) “Hardware cloth” means a screen like material made of metal with openings no larger than 1/4 inch which is available for purchase at most hardware stores.~~

~~(n)~~ **(m)** “Kindle” means from the point of ignition to the time of complete extinguishment.

~~(o)~~ **(n)** “Open burning” means the burning of any material wherein products of combustion are emitted directly into the ambient air without passing through a stack or chimney from an enclosed container. The use of portable fireplaces is considered open burning.

~~(p)~~ **(o)** “Permissible material” means clean, untreated wood, leaves, or brush *no greater* than 5 inches in diameter, and meets applicable air resources regulations.

~~(q)~~ **(p)** “Permittee” means a landowner or a person having written permission from the landowner.

~~(r)~~ **(q)** “Portable fireplaces” means devices such as chimeneas, steel fire pits, and any other device designed to burn permissible combustibles other than gas or charcoal.

~~(s)~~ **(r)** “Raining” means sustained precipitation that is actively occurring of sufficient intensity and duration so as to prevent fire from spreading in woodland fuels.

~~(s)~~~~(t)~~ “Seasonal permit” means a permit issued on an annual basis for a category I, II, and IV fire which expires no later than the end of the calendar year in which permit was issued.

~~(t)~~~~(u)~~ “Stack” means a manufactured or field constructed chimney for non-residential use made of solid masonry units, bricks, stones, reinforced Portland cement, one or more metal walls or made of metal with a refractory lining, or any suitable chimney lining that is capable of withstanding the flue gas conditions of its use, connected to the appliance in an air-tight manner and of such height as to properly regulate draft and control the emission of sparks.

(u) “Structure” means a building enclosed by walls and a roof that is used as a place for people to live, work, house animals or store things; including any attached combustible piece of work artificially built up or composed of parts joined together in some definite manner.

(v) “Untreated wood” means any timber, board, or sawn dimensional lumber that has not been treated, coated, or preserved. The term does not include any manufactured building material, such as plywood, oriented strand board (OSB) or waferboard.

Ncr 561.02 Fire Permit Required. A fire permit shall be required for all open burning when the ground is not covered by snow. Should a question arise regarding the necessity of a fire permit for any burning device or container, the director shall make the final determination based upon analysis of the construction of the device and the ability or lack thereof of the device to transmit sparks or live fire brands which could endanger the woodlands.

Ncr 561.03 Fire Permit Issuing.

(a) Except as provided in this section, no person other than a forest fire warden shall issue fire permits.

(b) The director ***may***~~shall~~ authorize others to issue fire permits after recommendation by the forest fire warden.

(c) Category IV fire permits shall be issued jointly by a forest ranger and forest fire warden, or in lieu of the forest fire warden the authorized issuing agent.

Ncr 561.04 Category I, II, and III Fire Permit.

(a) A permittee shall be issued a category I, II or III fire permit if the forest fire warden or authorized issuing agent determines that:

- (1) The permittee is the landowner or has the landowner's written permission;
 - (2) The permittee meets the required age limit;
 - (3) ~~Except for public and private camp and picnic sites, t~~The permittee meets the criteria for specified distances from structures as follows;
 - a. ***Except for public and private camp or picnic sites, a*** A category I fire is 25 feet from structures; or
 - b. A category II or III fire is 50 feet from structures;
 - (4) The material to be burned is clean, untreated wood or brush less ***no greater*** than 5 inches in diameter, and meets applicable air resources regulations ***as defined in Env-A 1000***;
 - (5) Weather conditions are favorable as to prevent the spread or escape of the fire;
 - (6) The permittee has adequate suppression equipment to control the fire;
 - (7) The permittee meets the required timeframe as follows:
 - a. A category I for any time of day whether raining or not; or
 - b. A category II or III for between the hours of 5:00 p.m. and 9:00 a.m. unless it is actually raining; and
 - (8) The permittee has not had more than 2 open burning violations, or any grievous violations, within the past 7 years based upon the date of first offense.
- (b) A category I, II, or III fire permit shall include the following information:
- (1) The name of permittee;
 - (2) *Date of Birth of permittee:***
 - ~~(3)~~(2) The landowner's name and address, if different than permittee;
 - ~~(4)~~(3) The location where fire is to be kindled;
 - ~~(5)~~(4) The date(s) the fire is authorized to occur and the specific time;
 - ~~(6)~~(5) The category of fire the permit is for;
 - ~~(7)~~(6) The name of the forest fire warden or authorized issuing agent;

~~(8)(7)~~ The town the forest fire warden or authorized issuing agent is from; and

~~(9)(8)~~ The date the fire permit was issued to permittee.

(c) Prior to being issued a fire permit, the permittee shall be required to provide their name, **date of birth**, address, telephone number, and signature on the fire permit.

(d) If a forest fire warden or authorized issuing agent does not approve a request for a category I, II, or III fire permit pursuant to (a) above, the forest fire warden or authorized issuing agent, shall notify the permittee.

Ncr 561.05 Category IV Fire Permit.

(a) A permittee shall be issued a category IV fire permit if the forest ranger and forest fire warden, or in lieu of the forest fire warden the authorized issuing agent determines that:

(1) The permittee is the landowner or has the landowner's written permission;

(2) The permittee meets the required age limit;

(3) The permittee meets the criteria for being 50 feet from structures;

(4) The material to be burned is clean, untreated wood or brush ~~less~~ **no greater** than 5 inches in diameter, and meets applicable air resources regulations;

(5) Weather conditions are favorable as to prevent the spread or escape of the fire;

(6) The permittee has adequate suppression equipment to control the fire;

(7) The permittee has not had more than 2 open burning violations, or any grievous violations, within the past 7 years based upon the date of first offense; and

(8) The material being burned cannot reasonably be burned under the conditions required by any other category fire permit.

(b) A category IV fire permit shall include the following information:

(1) The name, address, and telephone number of the company;

(2) The name and telephone number of the company's agent;

- (3) The specific location where fire is to be burned, such as latitude and longitude, UTM, or grid map location;
 - (4) The date(s) the fire is authorized to occur and the specific time;
 - (5) The burning location and material to be burned;
 - (6) The name and telephone number of the forest fire warden to notify each day before burning, if permit is issued for more than one day;
 - (7) A list of the firefighting equipment required at burning location;
 - (8) The name and town of the forest ranger and forest fire warden, or in lieu of the forest fire warden the authorized issuing agent; and
 - (9) The date the fire permit was issued to permittee.
- (c) Prior to being issued a permit, the company's agent shall be required to provide the company's name, the town the burning location is in, and their signature on the fire permit.
- (d) If a forest ranger and forest fire warden, or in lieu of the forest fire warden the authorized issuing agent, does not approve a request for a category IV fire permit pursuant to (a) above, the forest ranger and forest fire warden, or in lieu of the forest fire warden the authorized issuing agent, shall notify the permittee.

Ncr 561.06 Outdoor Grills and Stoves. Charcoal fires in a container off the ground, gas **or wood pellet devices such as** grills and **smokers** ~~devices~~, and all controlled camp stoves shall not require a fire permit.

Ncr 561.07 Age Limit. No permit shall be issued to any person under 18 years of age.

Ncr 561.08 Permit Restrictions. Any of the following fire permit restrictions shall be considered a violation and shall cause a fire permit to be summarily suspended:

- (a) If a fire is kindled, or material is burned, between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. unless it is actually raining, except for category I and IV fire permits;
- (b) If a fire is kindled which is in non-conformance with permit information provided for by Ncr 561.04(b) for a category I, II, or III fire or Ncr 561.05(b) for a category IV fire;

(c) If a fire is kindled, or material is burned during unfavorable weather conditions or when a proclamation closing the woodlands is in force. Unfavorable weather conditions shall include, but not be limited to, wind, lack of precipitation, or any other factor which could increase fire hazard;

(d) If a fire is kindled, or material is burned, when specified assistance or suppression equipment is not present to control the fire;

(e) If permittee fails to keep the fire under control, or if the director, the director's authorized agents, or forest fire warden feel that the material being burned is causing an unusual hazard endangering life or property or both;

(f) If material being burned violates any state law, rule, local ordinance, or New Hampshire department of environmental services rules regarding open burning;

(g) If an open fire is left unattended at any time prior to it being completely extinguished; and

(h) Except for public and private camp or picnic sites, if fires are kindled and material burned closer than 50 feet from any structure and if provisions are not made to prevent a fire from spreading to within 50 feet of a structure unless the fire is a category I fire in which case it shall not be closer than 25 feet from any structure.

Ncr 561.09 Permit Issuance Suspension. The director ~~shall~~ **may**, when the director determines such suspension is necessary to reduce the imminent hazard, suspend the issuance of fire permits statewide or a portion thereof during periods of significant or prolonged forest fire activity ~~and~~ **or** when the daily fire danger as determined by the division reaches a class 4 (**Very High**) or 5 (**Extreme**).

PART Ncr 562 PUBLIC AND PRIVATE CAMP OR PICNIC GROUNDS

Ncr 562.01 Authorization for Use of Category I Seasonal Permit.

(a) Agents or operators or both of publicly or privately owned camp or picnic grounds shall obtain a category I seasonal permit for use of outside fires.

(b) In addition to the requirements listed in Ncr 561.03, fires referenced in (a) above shall:

(1) Be on an area cleaned to mineral soil at least 8 feet across;

(2) Have at least 6 inches of sand or gravel under the fire for any fire built on the ground;

(3) Have no limbs or other burnable material to a height of 10 feet above the fire area; and

(4) Have a ring of fire resistive material constructed so it cannot be moved from the mineral soil area.

PART Ncr 563 DISPOSAL SITES

Ncr 563.01 Authorization for Burning.

(a) All burning authorized under this part shall be conducted in conformity with the provisions of New Hampshire department of environmental services rules Env-A 1000.

(b) A category IV permit shall be required for all burning authorized under this part.

Ncr 563.02 Fire Line Definition.

(a) A fire line consisting of a strip at least 8 feet wide, cleared to mineral soil, shall be constructed and maintained around the brush dump site to prevent fire from spreading into adjacent areas. The fire line shall be located not less than 50 feet nor more than 100 feet from the burn area.

(b) If physical conditions exist which would make such fire line construction unfeasible, the construction of the fire line shall not be required. Such physical conditions shall include, but not be limited to, hedges, swamps, marshes, roads, and ledge.

(c) All growth, including trees, brush, and slash, shall be removed from the area inside the fire line. Slash shall also be removed for a distance of 50 feet outside the fire line.

(d) The area inside the fire line shall be ***maintained so as to prevent the buildup of vegetation or flammable material which may communicate fire*** ~~burned over periodically whenever there is sufficient amount of grass, weeds, brush, debris, and other flammable material to communicate fire.~~ Other areas, as stated in paragraph (b) of this section, above where fire line construction is unfeasible, shall also be ***maintained*** ~~burned over a distance of 100 feet~~ ***foot radius*** from the ***edge of the*** burn area ***to prevent the buildup of*** if it, too, bears a sufficient amount of such growth ***vegetation and other flammable material capable of communicating to*** ~~communicate fire.~~

Ncr 563.03 Precautions.

(a) On all brush burning disposal areas, an attendant shall be on duty at all times ***until the fire is completely extinguished*** ~~while active burning is in progress.~~

(b) When a ban on open fires has been declared, brush disposal areas shall only be burned at times when fire protection is provided to keep the fire under control and keep from spreading, as determined by the forest fire warden or a forest ranger.

Ncr 563.04 Rule Violation. The local forest fire warden or the forest ranger or both shall bring to the attention of the selectmen, mayors of cities, or town and city managers any violation of these rules so that expeditious corrective action shall be affected.

PART Ncr 564 EMERGENCY RULES DURING HIGH FOREST FIRE DANGER PERIODS

Ncr 564.01 Wood Closure Proclamations. When the governor and council have, upon the recommendation of the director of fish and game and the director, proclaimed a woodlands closure during high forest fire danger periods, the director's authorized agents shall communicate as promptly as possible and through reasonable means that the following additional action shall be necessary:

(a) All crews and individuals working in the woods shall be equipped with sufficient firefighting tools in addition to the required patrol;

(b) One person in each woods crew shall be designated as a patrol to see that all employees comply with the no smoking, no open fires prohibition;

(c) Chain saw operators shall have a hand held portable fire extinguisher of the appropriate class readily available at all times; and

(d) Spark arrestors shall be required on all equipment used by crews and individuals working in the woods and shall be inspected by the director or the director's authorized agents to ensure that they are in proper working condition.

PART Ncr 565 TRAINING OF FOREST FIRE WARDENS, DEPUTY WARDENS, AND OTHERS AUTHORIZED BY THE DIRECTOR TO ISSUE FIRE PERMITS

Ncr 565.01 Training Required. A course of training shall be required at least once during the 3-year term of appointment for every forest fire warden, deputy warden, and others authorized by the director to issue fire permits. The training shall contain content approved by the division for the purposes of maintaining and enhancing the competency of the agent and shall be completed either in person or by electronic format approved by the division.

Ncr 565.02 Training Topics. The training required pursuant to Ncr 5605.01 shall contain, at a minimum, a review of current administrative rules, state statutes, and division policies pertaining to the issuance of fire permits.

Ncr 565.03 Training Required for Initial Appointment of Forest Fire Wardens. Unless already completed, a course of training consistent with the National Wildfire Coordinating Group S-130, Firefighting Training, shall be required within the initial 3-year term of the appointment for every forest fire warden. The training shall contain content approved by the division for the purposes of training basic wildland firefighting skills to the agent and shall be completed either in person, virtual, or through a blended format approved by the division.

NH Information Analysis Center – (James Heinz-liaison) –

(U) **Bio & Chemical attacks:** The NHIAC is aware of a recent uptick in attacks using biological and/or chemical weapons worldwide, including mercury. We encourage you to refresh your contacts with your Haz-Mat team as well as the NH CST Team.

(U) **Water & Wastewater Sectors:** The NHIAC recommends that you work to protect your AOR's water and wastewater systems. There was recently an arson at a Kansas City wastewater treatment facility. The Overwatch Foundation is a valuable cybersecurity resource for this. www.overwatch.org

(U) **Large Public Gatherings:** The NHIAC reminds you that large gatherings remain a vulnerable target for attacks, including vehicle ramming.

(U) **Violence Towards Firefighters:** The NHIAC recently passed through an alert from the Maryland Fusion Center regarding arson being used to target and attack responding firefighters. If you did not receive it, please contact your fusion center liaison Jim Heinz at James.B.Heinz@dos.nh.gov

(U) **Government Employee Recruitment:** The NHIAC is aware of Foreign Intelligence Entities increasingly targeting current or former government employees for recruitment. These could be attempts for information gathering. See this recent article: [US warns China intelligence targeting fired federal workers](#)

(U) **UAS/Drone Activity:** The NHIAC is interested in drone activity conflicting with Fire/EMS operations. Please report any incidents of UAS (drones) flying or hovering around your emergency operations or fire stations to Law Enforcement, particularly in a reconnaissance type of behavior. Alternatively, you can contact your Fire Service Intelligence Liaison Jim Heinz at James.B.Heinz@dos.nh.gov. Please see the following link for more information. [Drone Response Playbook For Public Safety \(faa.gov\)](#)

(U) **Stolen FD Extrication Tools Used in Crimes:** The NHIAC continues to receive information regarding the use of stolen fire department extrication tools being used to commit crimes needing power tools. Several recent examples include bank ATMs being breached by battery powered hydraulic jaws. [Thieves use 'jaws of life' to pry open ATMs \(msn.com\)](#)

(U) **Operation Flashpoint:** A memo has been sent out in a few editions of the NHIAC monthly Fire/EMS Bulletin regarding Operation Flashpoint. The awareness campaign was developed in partnership by FBI and DHS. See this link to review the program overview and objectives – [Operation Flashpoint Program | CISA](#). Members of the NHIAC continue to be out in NH communities working with businesses on bomb making materials awareness. As we all know, some of the materials used in the Boston Marathon bombing were purchased locally. An educational and informational program has been developed and is being presented which includes visual aids and informational sessions by members of the NHIAC.

(U) **Cyber Security:** If you have not yet moved over to a “.gov” domain, it is important to do so. The NHIAC can be used to assist in getting resources. Please contact Intelligence Liaison Officer Jim Heinz at James.B.Heinz@dos.nh.gov or you can contact the Overwatch Foundation directly at www.overwatch.org

(U) 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 Jim Heinz at James.B.Heinz@dos.nh.gov for an Information Sharing Agreement (ISA).

Respectfully Submitted, James Heinz, Intelligence Liaison Officer,

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

Board of Fire Control – (Chief Clark) –

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

National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC) – (Chiefs E. Thomas/Cathy) – No report

EMS Trauma Medical Review Committee (Dep. Chief Clough) – No report

Building Code Review Board – (Asst. Chief Pouliot/Chief Miller) – No report

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

E 911 Commission – (Chief Thomas) – No report

NH Drug Overdose Commission – (Chief Thomas) – No report

New England Fire Chiefs – a Division of the IAFC – (Chief Jones) – No report

New Business -

Old Business – Chief Cloutier asked about the specifics of the ambulance reimbursement bill passed and signed. Chief Sitar explained the facets of the legislation.

Good and Welfare –

The raffle was held. \$320 was collected and \$160 was given as prizes. Proceeds counted by Chiefs Steve Buxton and Henry Thomas.

The meeting was adjourned at 1935 hrs.

Respectfully submitted,
Chief Brent T. Lemire, ret.
Executive Director, NHAFC

August 14, 2025