



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

Virtual

Thursday, September 10, 2025

Called to order at 0904 hours by Chief Watkins.

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

Welcome from Host: n/a

INTRODUCTION OF MEMBERS. ED Lemire called the roll of members. 53 had signed up and 41 participated.

Special Guests: n/a

Minutes: A MOTION (Murray/Fraitzl) to approve the minutes of the August meeting carried unanimously.

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

Communications: n/a

Applications for membership: Dep. Chief Colin Wentworth of Stark, NH has been approved for membership.

Life Membership: n/a

President's Report: (Watkins) –

1. He attended a bill signing (Jesse Sherril Law) in Epping.
2. Quarterly Leadership meeting
 - Cancer screening

- Retirement issue (Language – “Final compensation” appears to be an issue in the contract language. They will be working on that)
3. He will be attending the PTSD Commission meeting on the 12th and the Single means of egress meeting on the 23rd
 5. He will be attending the NFPA
 6. NEAFC
 7. FF Memorial is on September 27th. Chief S. Buxton will represent the NHAFC
 -

Report of the Executive Director: (Lemire)

- 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.
- He has reserved our table at the North Country Public Safety Awards dinner on November 14. It is a budgeted item.
- Ad book proceeds to date: Total: \$23,565.50 ; Vendor: \$16,495.50; Assn: \$7,069.50.

1st Vice President Report (LaRoche) –

Government Relations – (Schmidt) –

The Legislature is slowly starting to return to Concord after their summer break. Committees will consider bills that were retained (House) and re-referred (Senate) in the fall. House Committees have to report on their retained bills by November 21. The Senate does not have a formal deadline. The House and Senate will vote on the committee reports during their initial sessions in 2026. There were several other deadlines and updates NHAFC members of which NHAFC members should be aware:

- **Senate Filing Deadline** – Senators have until Friday, September 12 to file bills for the 2026 session. We should see titles before too long. The actual text of bills will not be made public until later this year or early next year.
- **House Filing Deadline** – House members can file bills between Monday September 15 and Friday, September 19. Again, we should see the titles before too long.
- **Veto Day** – The House and Senate still have not finalized when they will return to Concord to consider vetoes issues by Governor Ayotte. In total, the Governor issued 15 vetoes. There is speculation that they may wait until January to take up the vetoes. Nothing has been confirmed yet. Two of the bills which were vetoed were of interest to NHAFC:

GOVERNOR'S VETO MESSAGE REGARDING HOUSE BILL 475

Recruiting and retaining first responders is of paramount importance for public safety, and local departments across our state are facing enough difficulty with this already.

This bill will make it even harder to hire police and fire personnel. The New Hampshire Association of Fire Chiefs and Association of Police Chiefs have written me that 'this bill, should it be signed into law, will have far reaching effects for public safety... [and] increase the length of time for roads to be plowed, fire department coverage, police response, and staffing.' It is also an unnecessary overreach by the State into municipal affairs.

GOVERNOR'S VETO MESSAGE REGARDING SENATE BILL 213

I am vetoing this legislation as it conflicts with other bills I have recently signed into law regarding absentee ballots. Additionally, I intend to work with the bill sponsors on the issue of electioneering to ensure that public employees can engage in public discourse without misusing their official positions for political purposes.

- **New Location for House Hearings** – For the 2026 session, the House will not be having committee meetings in the Legislative Office Building (aka LOB, the building directly behind the State House). The building is going through a major renovation. House Committee meetings will be held at **1 Granite Place, Concord, NH 03301**. The following directions appeared in the most recent House Calendar “....Legislative Offices at Granite Place are in the South building. From I-93 N or S, take exit 15W. At the lights, take a right to head north on Route 3 / Bouton St. At the next set of lights, stay straight as the road turns into N. State St. At the next set of lights, take a left on to Penacook St. At the stop sign, take a right turn on to Rumford St. Granite Place is the next left turn.” The House will hold their sessions in the State House, but if Chiefs plan to attend any House hearings, it will be important to note the new location.

2nd Vice President Report (D. Chamberlain) –

- He attended the Professional Development Committee meeting and the takeaway was that they will be seeking funding for speakers, etc.
- They will be surveying members for input on Professional Development tracks in the future.

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:

We are recruiting for a part-time Hazardous Materials Coordinator, a full-time Fire Protection Specialist and a full-time Fire Investigator. 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:

We are currently collaborating with the Commissioner's office and our stakeholders on potential legislative proposals for the upcoming session.

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 August, we received 14 incident notifications resulting in 8 scene responses. The Bureau of Investigations currently has 8 open arson or suspected arson investigations.

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

- On August 4, investigators responded to a structure fire in Surry, where one occupant sustained injuries. The cause of the fire is still under investigation; however, no criminal indicators have been identified to date.
- On August 7, investigators and a K9 team responded to Northumberland to assist with an investigation into the origin and cause of a structure fire. While the investigation is still ongoing, investigators have identified criminal indicators that suggested this fire was intentionally set.
- On August 13, investigators responded to Conway to offer support as there had been several fires. Investigators consulted with the Conway Fire Department (CFD) at one fire scene, which was at a hotel. CFD will be

leading the investigation. The fire is suspected to have been one of several fires that were started by sparks from a commuter train passing through.

- On August 16, investigators responded to Derry to assist the Derry Fire Department (DFD) and the Derry Police Department (DPD) with an incendiary fire. The investigators collaborated with DPD and DFD to obtain search warrants, which were granted and executed. A suspect has been identified, and DPD plans to pursue criminal charges. Meanwhile, DFD will complete the Origin and Cause Report. Investigators collected evidence from the scene, which has since been sent to the NH State Police Crime Laboratory to undergo analysis.
- On August 17, investigators responded to Bartlett to assist with a fire involving a motor vehicle. Initially, the Bartlett Police Department had concerns that the vehicle involved in the fire may have been intentionally set on fire. At this time, investigators do not believe that to be the case, however; the investigation is ongoing.
- On August 27, investigators responded to Gilford to assist with a fire investigation at a historical structure. Working alongside the Gilford Fire Department and the Gilford Police Department on the scene, the investigators collectively determined that the fire had been intentionally set. This investigation is currently active and ongoing. The Fire Marshal's Office will be responsible for determining the origin and cause of the fire, as well as any potential criminal charges that may arise from the evidence and information gathered during the investigation.
- On August 30, investigators responded to a building fire in Franklin at the request of the Franklin Fire Department. Investigators determined that the fire was incendiary. This investigation is currently active and ongoing. The Fire Marshal's Office will be responsible for determining the origin and cause of the fire, as well as any potential criminal charges that may arise from the evidence and information gathered during the investigation.

Fatal Fire/CO Incidents:

- On August 11, investigators responded to a structure fire at a residential home in Deerfield, NH. The sole occupant of the home was initially unaccounted for, so investigators collaborated with personnel at the scene. After some time, the occupant was located and confirmed to be deceased. The individual was a 63-year-old woman who lived alone in the home. The investigation into the origin and cause of the fire is ongoing. Although the cause of the fire remains undetermined, there is currently no evidence to suggest that it was the result of a deliberate or criminal act.

Arrests/Court:

- On July 29, investigators responded to an incident in Gorham to assist with a fire investigation. During the investigation, both on-site and in subsequent days, evidence was discovered that indicated the fire had been deliberately set. On August 8, investigators identified a person of interest and conducted interviews with this individual, as well as with witnesses. This led to the suspect's confession regarding the initiation of the fire. The suspect, Travis M. Davis, aged 32, of Gorham, was arrested and subsequently taken to a detention center, where he was held under preventive detention pending court proceedings. The investigation into this case is ongoing and remains active.

Training/Committees/Events:

- Investigators were present at the School Resource Officer (SRO) Conference engaging with officers regarding awareness and information regarding Youth Firesetters.

BUREAU OF BUILDING SAFETY & CONSTRUCTION:

School Fire & Life Safety Inspections for the 2025-2026 Academic Year

As students across New Hampshire prepare to return to their classrooms for the 2025–2026 school year, the New Hampshire State Fire Marshal's Office would like to take this opportunity to remind local fire chiefs and their staff of the requirements surrounding School Fire & Life Safety inspections.

Per state law, local fire chiefs are responsible for conducting annual fire and life safety inspections of all public and private schools within their jurisdiction. These inspections must be performed while school is in session—during regular academic operations—not during summer recess or other school breaks. Conducting inspections during active occupancy ensures a more accurate representation of daily operations and allows for timely identification and resolution of any safety concerns.

According to the NFPA 101 Life Safety Code (2021 Edition), an educational occupancy is defined as: “An occupancy used for educational purposes through the twelfth grade by six or more persons for four or more hours per day or more than twelve hours per week.”

These inspections are a critical component of the New Hampshire Department of Education's school approval process. Public schools must demonstrate compliance with NH Administrative Rule Ed 306.07, while non-public schools

are required to meet the standards outlined in NH Administrative Rule Ed 403.01(c).

RSA 153:14 Fire Safety Measures. II (b) Each local fire chief shall annually inspect all school buildings within his or her jurisdiction while school is in session and submit a written report to the state fire marshal on the condition of all such school buildings. A copy of the report shall be furnished to the school district superintendent, or personnel assigned to perform superintendent services under RSA 194-C:5, II(a), and school board members. The report shall detail any state fire code compliance issues in each school building. The report shall be submitted no later than December 15 each year.

For our recordkeeping purposes, school inspection submissions are categorized by academic year beginning August 1. For example:

- A report received on July 15, 2025 will be archived under the 2024 school year.
- A report received on August 15, 2025 will be archived under the 2025 school year.

We appreciate your continued commitment to ensuring the safety of New Hampshire's educational facilities. Should you have any questions regarding inspection procedures or documentation, please contact our office for further guidance.

State Building Permit System:

We processed a total of 55 permits in August:

- Building: 18
- Electrical: 12
- Plumbing: 3
- Fuel Gas: 5
- Mechanical: 12
- Fire Protection: 3
- Fire Alarm: 2

Technical Assistance, Educational & Healthcare Reviews:

We initiated 7 educational and 8 healthcare plan reviews, completed 335 inspections and 265 technical consults in the month of August.

Variance Requests:

We processed 12 variance requests in the month of August.

Fireworks Safety and Enforcement Program

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

- Proximate Licenses Issued: 6
- Display Certificate of Competency Issued: 0
- Consumer Fireworks Retail Store Licenses Issued: 1
- Explosive Magazine Inspections: 0
- Proximate Audience Inspections: 3
- Technical Assistance: 5

Modular Building Program

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

- Inspections: 8
- Audits of Manufacturers: 2
- Audits of Educational Facilities: 0
- Labels Issued to Manufacturers: 86
- Units Shipped to New Hampshire: 12

Tramway and Amusement Ride Safety

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

- Amusement Registrations: 60
- Amusement Inspections: 141
- Amusement Incidents: 1
- Tramway Registrations: 2
- Tramway Inspections: 3
- Tramway Incidents: 0

BUREAU OF OUTREACH & EDUCATION:

Hazardous Materials:

In the month of August, the hazardous materials section attended the Hazmat Collaborative meeting. There were no incident responses or consultations. You can contact us at: hazmat@dos.nh.gov.

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.

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.

The SFMO is working with NHDES to provide information about safe disposal of lithium-ion batteries. As of July 1, 2025, they are banned from disposal as solid waste and must be sent to a recycler. Some NH municipalities and businesses offer collection boxes for recycling rechargeable batteries. Participating retailers include Lowes, Home Depot, Staples and Batteries Plus. Local transfer stations will also accept lithium-ion batteries for recycling. Refer to NH DES [Lithium-ion Batteries | NH Department of Environmental Services](#), call2recycle.org or [Earth911 - More Ideas, Less Waste](#) for more information.

Have an EV or lithium-ion battery incident to report? Please fill out this form: [Electric Vehicle \(EV\) and Battery Incident Reporting \(office.com\)](#)

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.

As we have mentioned before, NFIRS, as we know it, will be going away for good on December 31, 2025. Please make sure that you have a plan for the transition to NERIS, which starts next month. If you are an e-NFIRS user, you should switch to the Image Trend Elite software now. Please contact the data analysis section at nhfirs@dos.nh.gov

to get started. If you have a third-party vendor software package, please contact your vendor and work with them to switch your data collection method over from NFIRS to NERIS sometime between October and December.

Data reporting will not occur in both systems simultaneously. Once you switch over from NFIRS to NERIS, you will not be required to continue reporting in NFIRS. Our goal is to eliminate the chance of gaps in data for the state. Please set your department up for success by preparing for NERIS now.

Thank you to the departments who responded to our recent survey in preparation for NERIS! Reach out to us at nhfirs@dos.nh.gov 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 or a 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):

In August, we published the latest edition of [Risk Reduction Quarterly](#). The newsletter also includes resources your departments can share for national campaigns between August-October, especially for [Fire Prevention Week](#) (October 5-11, 2025), such as the [Lithium-ion Battery page](#) at NH Department of Environmental Services, which will help you find where to properly dispose of lithium-ion batteries in your community.

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>

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!
Eligible for education hours!

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>

Outreach Events:

Throughout August, the New Hampshire State Fire Marshal's Office participated in 25 public outreach events and provided fire safety resources for three other events. On National Night Out (NNO), August 5th, it was all hands-on-deck to join 10 communities (and over 2,000 community members) across the state. Thank you for the invitation: Claremont, Somersworth, Lincoln, Goffstown, Rochester, Waterville Valley, Peterborough, Moultonborough, Loudon, and Concord with Sparky going to Greenland.

It was a busy month in Manchester. We enjoyed sharing fire safety education at CelebratED, an event hosted by Manchester Proud and celebrating first responders at a special community event at Harley Davidson. We also partnered with New Hampshire Homeland Security and Emergency Management and New Hampshire 911 to share public safety messaging and resources for staff at the Manchester City Library.



This August we celebrated with two fire departments for Rindge's 100th and Bridgewater's 50th anniversaries. Sparky appeared at Pittsfield's Annual Hot Air Balloon Rally with the NH Liquor Enforcement's Invest-I- 'gator,' and Marine Patrol's Zippit. We attended the School Resource Officer Conference in Concord providing educators with information on resources and services we offer relative to youth fire setters. The NH SFMO participated in town wide safety days, touch-a-truck events, and first responder nights. Our K-9 teams visited Freedom's Old Home Day, Moultonborough and Concord during NNO, a Bow Summer Camp, Concord Karate, and taught a criminal investigation course.

Together, we communicated with a monthly total of 3,165 community members about the importance of working smoke and CO alarms, fire escape plans, and fire safety strategies. Thank you all for making August a success!

Interested in having the NH SFMO 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.

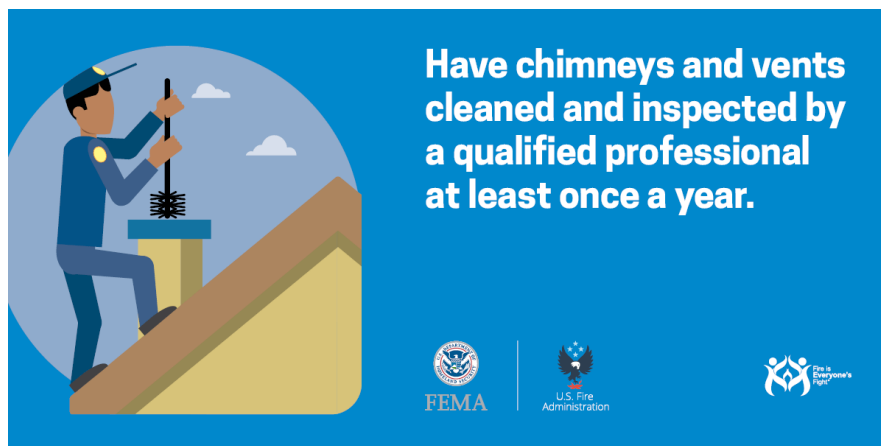
Public Education:

Our public education theme for September is “Heating Fire Safety.” Although trending downward since the early 1980s, heating fires remained the second leading cause of home fires in 2021 in the nation. An estimated 32,200 home heating fires were reported to fire departments within the United States. These fires caused an estimated 190 deaths, 625 injuries and \$442 million in property loss.

Did you know:

[Home portable heater fires](#) were only 3% of all home heating fires annually for 2017-2019, but they accounted for 41% of fatal heating fires in homes.

Help prevent home heating fires: Remind residents about safe heating with space heaters, wood stoves and fireplaces with [free outreach resources](#). USFA has home heating safety [resources](#) to share in your community. Prepare yourself and educate your community with [these resources from NFPA](#).



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: [@NHSFMO](#).

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 October 20th.

Training Opportunities:

The FMO can present training courses to law enforcement officers, fire service professionals and building inspectors. These training courses are typically two to three-hour in length. 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.

Topics include:

- Application of the NH State Fire Code: A Scenario Based Training
- NFPA 1 and 101 2021 Edition Updates
- Inspections of Multi-Family Dwellings
- Tent Inspections
- Commercial Cooking and Food Trucks
- Solar Installations for One- and Two-family Homes
- Display Fireworks Inspection Essentials
- Heating and Fuel Gas Appliance Inspections
- The Basics of LP Installations for One- and Two-family Homes
- Fire Investigation for First Responders
- Collection of Witness Data in Fire Investigation
- Fire Investigation Case Studies
- Air Monitoring
- PEAC Software
- An Overview of the 2024 Emergency Response Guidebook

Fire Standards/Training/EMS – (Director Wholey)

Personnel

- 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 completed initial interviews for our two full-time Fire Training Captain positions.
- 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 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.
- Bureau Personnel are in the process of gathering quotes for potential equipment purchases through the FEMA Grants.

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.
 - Work continues on the classroom and garage buildings to finish interior work.
 - IPS performed air sampling on the Burton Training Facility Air Trailer.

- 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.

Aerial view of Raymond S. Burton Training Facility under construction in Bethlehem as of August 2025. Photography credit: Don Himself

- We completed our website transition and improvements on August 20th. The new website may be viewed at: <https://www.fstems.dos.nh.gov>
- 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

- *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

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

- *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 transferred the responsibilities of licensing Wheel Chair for Hire Companies and associated vehicles from the Division to the 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
- *2026 Mental Health & Wellness Seminar: Leadership and Resiliency for the Future* – Richard Flynn campus – Concord, January 13th & 14th, 2026
- 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 met on August 20th to finish reviewing the Forcible Entry and begin reviewing the Ladders, Search & Rescue, and Ventilation modules of FFI.
- The Division is working with DOIT to explore ways to share documents and collaborate with visiting committees. A software platform for sharing and commenting on curriculum documents is being tested with the Firefighter VC.

Fire Inspector

- The FSTC Curriculum Review Subcommittee has reviewed the proposed curriculum and voted to send it to the full commission for preliminary approval and initiation of the 60-day public comment period.
- Initial test bank item validation is underway for the Fire Inspector test bank.

Driver-Operator

- The FSTC Curriculum Review Subcommittee has reviewed all applicants for the Driver Operator Visiting Committee. The following people were appointed as voting members of the visiting committee:
 - Courtney Heath, New London Fire Department
 - Steven Barton, Manchester Fire Department
 - Kyle Levesque, Hudson Fire Department
 - Nickolas Antonucci, Public Member
 - Jonathan Gray, Portsmouth Fire Department
 - Cory Clark, Public Member
 - Patrick O'Brien, Alton Fire Department
- The following people were recommended as alternates:
 - Patrick Glennon, Derry Fire Department
 - Derek Chouinard, Goffstown Fire Department
- Thank you to everyone who submitted an application for this program development process. As a reminder, visiting committee meetings are public and anyone who is interested in the development of training programs is invited to attend. 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. The application to join the curriculum committee closed on August 15th.
- *Fire Officer (I & II).* The new NFPA standards for Fire Officer Professional Qualifications (NFPA 1020) were released at the beginning of the year. Captain Burns and Program Coordinator Meyer will begin work in preparation for a visiting committee early next 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. Chief Bibeau and Program Coordinator Field will begin work in preparation for a visiting committee early next year.

Accreditation

- The five-year process of re-accreditation through The Pro Board has begun. This process involves completing a comprehensive self-assessment of the Division's policies and certification exam practices, and a resubmission of all assessment instruments used by the Division for accredited certification exams.
- The site visit from Pro Board representatives is scheduled for September 25-26. The site visit team will review the Division's policies, testing procedures, examination materials; interview instructors, students, and commission members; and make recommendations for improvement. This visit will determine the Division's accreditation status for the next five years.

Bureau of Firefighter Training

Courses/Programs

- Firefighter I & II
 - Lakes Region Community College (FF I & II) – August 1 - October 24
 - Rumney (FF I) – August 19 - November 22
 - Moultonborough (FF II) – August 26 - October 25
 - Stratham (FF I & II) – September 3 - December 20
- Technical Rescue
 - Trench Rescue Technician – Richard M. Flynn Training Facility, Concord – October 6 - October 27
- 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
 - *Technician* – Richard M. Flynn Training Facility, Concord – October 20 - October 31
 - *Operations* – moved from Burton Training Facility, Bethlehem, to Concord campus; class completed with testing in September
 - Hazardous Materials Awareness is available at <https://www.nhfaemslearning.org/login/index.php>
- Module Deliveries
- Airport Rescue Firefighting
 - ARFF – Live Fire Recertifications restart in September
 - Richard M. Flynn Training Facility, Concord – September 29 - October 15
- “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 August 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.
 - Firefighter I physical exams have been moved to the Saturday following the written exams to accommodate demand and logistics. 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 has been out of service for repair for most of the month of August. We have received a quote for service and are waiting for an appointment.
- Utility Three received an oil change.
- Utility Four had an oil change and an exhaust sensor replaced.
- The two Chevy Equinox, Jeep Patriot, and Ford Transit have received their State Inspections and undergone Safety checks by DOS Automotive.
- All other apparatus and Fleet Vehicles are in service.

Facilities, Prop Usage and Projects

- The Hancock Fire Department did live fire training in the “B” Building on August 9th.
- The Bridgewater Fire Department used the Forcible Entry Door prop August 11 - 16.
- The Northwood Fire Department used the Forcible Entry Door prop on August 18th.
- Bureau personnel performed SCBA Fit Testing at the Goffstown Fire Department on August 12th and 13th. Fit Testing was also administered to the LRCC FFI/FFII and Rumney FFI students at the beginning of their programs.
- Work on the Fire Investigator boxes was completed by mid-August for the September class. Four additional standalone props were also constructed for the Investigator program.
- Four Fire Behavior Doll Houses were completed. These are slated to be burned in September for additional training video to add to our Resource Center training library.
- Utility Props, consisting of a Gas Meter and Electrical Meter w/shut off, have been installed on the “B” Building.
- 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
 - *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
 - *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

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 two tests of the year are as follows:
 - October 27th – Nashua – NH National Guard Recruiting Office
 - November 24th – Nashua – NH National Guard Recruiting Office
- CPAT stats:
 - August: 49 tests administered, 37 tests passed (75.5%)
 - YTD: 345 tests administered, 234 tests passed (67.8%)
- 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

Bureau of Emergency Medical Services

Boards and Commissions

- 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.
- The Trauma Medical Review Committee will meet on October 15th at 0930.
- The Privacy Committee will meet on October 22nd at 1300.

Operations

- New annual training for information security regarding criminal record checks has been rolled out to applicable staff with CRU portal access.
- Ongoing communication with NREMT regarding challenges with the website update
 - Licensing has not been interrupted. However, verifications of education and psychomotor completion have been delayed due to errors on the NREMT website. NREMT fixes are ongoing but no clear time to resolution.
- 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.
 - There are currently 15 licensed ETAs with 6 more in the process of being licensed.
 - Routine site visits for ETAs will start in September.
- There are currently 312 licensed EMS Units and 6,304 EMS Providers.
- 22 ground ambulance inspections were conducted in August.
- Background checks are currently averaging 2.7 days for new applicants for licensure.
- The EMS Simulation Training Program held 8 programs in August.
- EMS Psychomotor Exams
 - 0 BLS and 0 ALS exams were held in August.
 - 2 ALS exams are scheduled for September.

- With the passage of HB2, wheelchair van inspections are not 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 in Wentworth is now closed and will run September 6 - November 1. The Winter 2026 course is open for registration.
- EMS Continuing Education and Simulation Education
 - *EMS Response to Clandestine Drug Labs* – Concord, September 3rd, and Virtual, September 18th
 - *Adult and Pediatric Intoxicant/Irritant Exposures (Simulation)* – Concord, September 10th
 - *Pre-Hospital Trauma Life Support (PHTLS)* – Keene – September 13th
 - *Prehospital Obstetric and Neonatal Care (Simulation)* – Berlin, September 13th
 - *Service Dogs on Scene: EMS Protocols, Safety, and Support* – Center Conway, September 13th
 - *Prehospital Obstetric and Neonatal Care (Simulation)* – Colebrook, September 14th
 - *Toppled Tots: A Pediatric Trauma Primer* – Concord, October 1st, and Virtual, October 16th
 - *Evidence Based Medicine & NH EMS Protocols* – Virtual, October 6th
 - *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

- 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.
- 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 comment period will end on September 15th.
- EMS Protocols Version 10.0 development has been postponed, pending the 9.3 adoption.

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 7 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 4 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 by the Partnership for Public Health, Inc. 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 deadline.

**** The Mental Health seminar will be held January 13 and 14, 2026.**

Professional Development Committee _ (Chief LaRoche/Director Wholey)

- Director Wholey reported on the meeting they had to plan events.
- He stated that for the October meeting, Chief Tony Stowers will be presenting on succession planning.

Fire Standards and Training Commission – (Chief Clark) –

- The Commission welcomed Director Wholey to his first Commission’s meeting and Chief Chad Miller of Littleton who represents the Association’s career departments.
- Retired Director Justin Cutting and Retired Chief Eric Wilkin were recognized for their years of service to the Commission and the fire service.
- It was reported that an extra small weighted vest was approved by the IAFF for CPAT and vests were ordered.
- The Commission accepted the Curriculum Committee’s recommendation to preliminarily approve the First Responder Inspection curriculum and schedule the 60 day public comment period.

- The Commission accepted the Curriculum Committee's recommendation to preliminarily approve the Fire Inspector curriculum and schedule the 60 day public comment period.
- The Curriculum Committee's reported the members of the Visiting Committee for the Driver Operations Courses.
- A revised policy of Remediation and Retesting was approved by the Commission.
- Committee assignments will be established in November.

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

Division of Emergency Services and Communications – (Director Doyle)

- Laconia facility update: Construction fully underway – foundation slabs are in, Steel framing is up, non-critical building has been framed in;
- 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 segment on WKXL re: 911 call processing; staffing; and Laconia PSAP Building project;
- Piscataqua River High-Level Bridge discussion continues around video access and ICS Comms planning. Stakeholder group planning to convene to discuss an interop plan for emergencies on the water and on the Bridge – to include Maine P/S partners;
- E911 Commission meets this Friday the 12th at 1100 at the Fire Academy;
- Radio Communications currently deploying NHICNET Radio equipment at 48 sites and will continue into the fall, winter and spring of 2026;
- Planning for NASCAR 2025 continues, met on the 28th of August for a TTX with stakeholders and HSEM;

- Communications support from DESC Radio Communications for the “Thunder Over New Hampshire” Air Show and “Hampton Beach Seafood Festival” was successful, no major issues;
- Met with Northern Borders Dispatch on 8/20 – follow up on progress with their Communication’s projects;
- Met with Vermont 911 Director and their consultant to discuss the NH PSAP model and VT’s 911 system, data gathering on what works, and how we are connected with our Dispatch centers and Rapid Response;
- REMINDER 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;
- Social Media / Public Education Updates:

In August, the Division used its social media channels (Facebook, Instagram, and X) to highlight important 911 tools and capabilities that can help save lives in an emergency, such as Text-to-911 and what3words. We showcased our community outreach efforts through National Night Out, senior center visits, and the promotion of school visits as the new school year begins. Updates on the construction of our new Laconia facility were shared, along with reminders about why 911 is the best number to call in an emergency and the importance of answering all of a telecommunicator’s questions. Our Unique Road Name series continued to generate engagement while providing insight into how our cartographers and call takers use this information. Social media remains a vital tool to connect with residents and visitors of New Hampshire while promoting the critical work of New Hampshire 911.
- Media events:



- Interoperability Roundtable discussions kicked-off in Rockingham County last month. Next discussion is in Strafford County on October 15th at 1:30 P.M. at the Strafford County Sheriff's Office. RSVP or questions can be sent to Asst. Director Tim Scott at timothy.c.scott@desc.nh.gov
- Any questions, comments, concerns, please reach out...

Forests and Lands – (Chief Sherman) – No report

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

- Mr. Heinz reported that the State of NH received positive grades at a recent rating on the state's readiness to handle bombings.

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

Board of Fire Control – (Chiefs Clark/Miller) – No report

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

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

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 Reinert) – 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 Murray) –

- Chief Murray spoke of the low registration for the conference in October and shared the details. He urged members to register soon. He also shared that he will be running for the NE Assn. Secretary Treasurer and will appreciate everyone's vote at the October conference.

New Business -

- Chief H. Thomas had to cancel this year's HazMat conference due to time constraints and paperwork.
- Paul Zbikowski from the NFSA thanked the group for allowing his membership and introduced himself and his group.
- Nick Mecuri updated the group that LRCC now has a full staff. Also the NH Fire and Rescue Conference has 94 registrants.
- Deb Pendergast reported that the Mental Health conference will be January 13 and 14, 2026. The keynote speaker has been committed and registration will open soon.

Old Business –

Good and Welfare –

The meeting was adjourned at 0935 hrs.

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

September 10, 2025