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, October 8, 2026

The meeting was called to order at 0900 hours.

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 polled the members attending.

Special Guests: Congresswoman Maggie Goodlander joined us and offered greetings, thanked the members for their work and offered her support in securing any grant monies. Also, Steve Pecora from the Governor's Office extended greetings.

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

Treasurer's Report: The September reports have been posted. A MOTION (D. Chamberlain/Clough) to approve them carried unanimously.

Communications: n/a

Applications for membership: ED Lemire stated that we have three (2) new applications that have been approved, Chief Phil Neily of Enfield and Asst. Chief Matthew Famolare of Belmont.

Life Membership: n/a

President's Report: (LaRoche) –

- A lot of time was spent last month working with the Academy and DOS to finalize contract language on the infrastructure upgrade
- I attended the NH Fallen Firefighter's Memorial service on the 26th

- I had a good conversation with Deputy Lewandowski about the subcommittee that is looking at the EMS Board compositions, and his participation in the stakeholder group.
- I will not be able to attend the NHMA conference. Chief Emanual is aware of this, and he is all set to conduct the topic himself.
- I am also unable to attend the North Country Awards but am glad we have a full table and will be well represented.
- I will not be at the November membership meeting. I will get the bell to the 1st VP at the BOD Meeting.

Report of the Executive Director: (Lemire)

- The November board meeting will be on 4th at Primex.
- The November meeting/seminar will be held at the Fire Academy on the 12th.
- The December BOD meeting will be virtual on the 2nd
- The December regular meeting will be in Nashua
- Chiefs LaRoche, Carrier and I worked with DOS staff to finalize the language in the agreements for the Fire Academy donations. The first check was sent and deposited.
- Chief Fraitzl and I attended the Eleanor Roosevelt dinner October 3 in Concord, courtesy of Adam's firm who had purchased the tickets but could not attend.
- Jodi Grimblas has affirmed that the multi-year contract with them is going into its second year with the same amount to be paid.

1st Vice President Report/Professional Development Committee - (Chief D. Chamberlain) - No report

Government Relations – (Schmidt) –
(His report will be sent as a separate addendum to these minutes)

2nd Vice President Report (Fraitzl) –

- He and Chief Murray are working with Shield on updating the website.

Sgt. At Arms (Wheatley) – No report

<u>Committee Reports</u>

Scholarship Committee – (Marshal Toomey/Chief D. Chamberlain)

- This year's program was successful and the checks have gone out.

<u>Division Reports</u>

<u>Fire Marshal:</u> (Marshal Toomey)
<u>ADMINISTRATION:</u>

Personnel:

We currently have 13 vacancies. We are actively recruiting for the following positions:

- Full-Time Fire Protection Specialist
- Part-Time Tramway & Amusement Inspector
- Full-Time Fire Investigator
- Full-Time Electrical Inspector
- Full-Time Administrative Assistant
- Part-Time Administrative Assistant
- Part-Time NERIS Coordinator

An additional 6 vacancies remain on hold due to budget considerations and the hiring freeze currently in effect.

James Erwin joined us as a State Building Inspector on October 2, 2026.

Legislation:

We are preparing for the 2027 legislative session at this time.

Board of Fire Control:

The Board of Fire Control's next regular meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 8, 2026, 1:00 pm. The meeting will be held at 33 Hazen Drive.

Tramway and Amusement Ride Safety

The following activities were completed in the month of September:

Amusement Registrations: 77	Tramway Registrations: 2
Amusement Inspections: 123	Tramway Inspections: 3
Amusement Incidents: 1	Tramway Incidents: 0

BUREAU OF INVESTIGATIONS:

The Bureau of Investigations currently has 42 open cases, including 9 criminal cases, 10 youth fitter referrals and 8 incidents involving fatalities. Investigators responded to 6 scenes during September. To date in 2026, we have investigated 20 fire-related fatalities, 2 carbon monoxide fatalities, and 3 fatalities unrelated to fire or carbon monoxide.

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

- **September 2, 2026- Center Conway:** Investigators responded to a fire in a second story studio apartment. An ignitable-liquid-detection K9 examination was conducted with no findings. Investigators assisted the Conway Fire Chief with a consultation and concurred with his findings that the fire was undetermined but was not believed to be suspicious.
- **September 12, 2026- Rindge:** Investigators assisted the Rindge Fire Department with a consultation of a structure fire in a two-story residence that was initially believed to have been undetermined. Upon speaking with additional witnesses, the Rindge Fire Chief believed the fire could be suspicious. Follow-up was conducted, the cause of the fire remains undetermined but is not believed to have been criminal.
- **September 12, 2026- Epping:** Investigators responded to a structure fire at the SIG Sauer Academy and led the origin and cause investigation. An ignitable-liquid-detection K9 examination was conducted with no findings. The cause of the fire was undetermined but was not believed to have been criminal.
- **September 16, 2026- Sandown:** Investigators responded to Sandown and led the origin and cause investigation of a structure fire at a single-family residence; the origin is believed to have been in the area of the exterior back deck. The cause of the fire is undetermined but is not believed to have been criminal.
- **September 21, 2026- Nashua:** Investigators assisted the Nashua Fire Marshal's Office with the origin-and-cause investigation of a structure fire determined to have been intentionally set. An ignitable-liquid-detection K9 examination was conducted, resulting in an alert on evidence that was subsequently collected. The fire was classified as incendiary, and investigators continued working with the Nashua Fire Department and Nashua Police Department on the associated criminal investigation.

Fatal Fire/CO Incidents:

- **September 25, 2026- Amherst:** Investigators responded to a motor vehicle accident that resulted in a fire and two fatalities, one of which was believed to be a fire fatality. Investigators continued to work with Amherst PD on the death investigation.

Youth Firesetter:

During September, we received four requests for YFS-related services.

Training/Committees:

District Chief Lutz and District Chief Crosby obtained Physical Fitness Testing Certifications.

BUREAU OF BUILDING SAFETY & CONSTRUCTION:

We would like to remind fire departments of RSA 153:14(b), which requires each local fire chief to conduct an annual inspection of all school buildings within their jurisdiction while school is in session. A written report must be submitted to the State Fire Marshal's Office no later than December 15 each year.

We have worked with the New Hampshire Fire Academy to update the ImageTrend reporting form for those who utilize that system. Two additional reporting options are also available (link provided below):

• A fillable PDF version
• An online reporting form

https://www.firemarshal.dos.nh.gov/prevention-safety/building-safety-construction/school-safety

For those who have bookmarked the online reporting form, please note that there is a new form for the 2024 edition of the code.

State Building Permit System:

In September, a total of 61 permits were processed through the State Building Permit System:

- Building: 15
- Electrical: 23
- Plumbing: 3
- Fuel Gas: 6
- Mechanical: 4
- Fire Protection: 7
- Fire Alarm: 3
-

Technical Assistance, Educational & Healthcare Reviews:

During the month of September, the following activities were completed:

- Educational Plan Reviews: 5
- Healthcare Plan Reviews: 17
- Inspections Completed: 310
- Technical Consultations Provided: 128

Variance Requests:

We received 12 variance requests in September.

Fireworks Safety and Enforcement Program

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

- Proximate Licenses Issued: 10
- Display Certificate of Competency Issued: 1
- Consumer Fireworks Retail Store Licenses Issued: 0
- Explosive Magazine Inspections: 0
- Proximate Audience Inspections: 3
- Technical Assistance: 1

Modular Building Program

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

- Inspections: 14
- Audits of Manufacturers: 0
- Audits of Educational Facilities: 0
- Labels Issued to Manufacturers: 334
- Labels Issued to Third-Party Agencies: 0
- Units Shipped to New Hampshire: 94

BUREAU OF OUTREACH & EDUCATION:

The Bureau of Outreach and Education includes several sections and responsibilities, including hazardous materials coordination, incident data analysis, community risk reduction, public outreach and education.

Hazardous Materials:

The Hazmat Section did not respond to any incidents in September. We are currently working on a revision of the Suspicious/Unknown Substance Protocol for fire, police or hazmat personnel in cases where an unknown and possibly hazardous substance needs to be collected and analyzed at the Public Health Laboratory. We continue to work on a hazardous materials risk assessment for the State, by County, and have completed the assessment for Coos County. The goal is to identify the risks presented by hazardous materials using historical incident data and Tier II chemical reporting and evaluate hazmat response capabilities of area fire departments and regional hazmat teams.

In coordination with the NH Hazardous Materials Teams Collaborative, we are sharing a draft standard operating guidelines for dealing with lithium-ion battery fires (https://mm.nh.gov/files/uploads/fmo/remote-docs/lithionsog725.docx). The template for this SOG was provided to hazmat teams at the annual hazardous materials

conference in Baltimore this June. For more information about EV and battery fires, please refer to UL FSRI's "Full-Scale Electric Vehicle Fire Experiments and Recommendations for Fire Incident Response" here: Item - Full-Scale Electric Vehicle Fire Experiments and Recommendations for Fire Incident Response - UL Research Institutes - Figshare. You may also find information in the National Fire Administration's "Electric Vehicle Fire/Rescue Response Operations" guide, located here: Electric Vehicle Fire/Rescue Response Operations.

Incident Reporting:

We would like to remind all fire departments that if you experience a fatal fire, carbon monoxide or building collapse incident in your community, you should immediately contact our office for investigative assistance at (603) 223-4289.

The State of New Hampshire is currently 2nd highest in the nation for the percentage of fire departments reporting to the National Emergency Response Information System (NERIS). We know that we can do better! We are working with the final 8 fire departments that are not reporting to get them onboarded into the system.

One easy way to **make sure that your agency is getting credit** for all the hard work done in your community, is to *compare the number of incidents you've reported-- to the number of incidents that NERIS is saying your agency reported*. If you need help doing this—contact us for assistance on this and other important Data Quality checks by emailing us at: firedata@dos.nh.gov.

NERIS has released Version 1.5 effective October 1, 2026. This is the first significant updated since the system launched in January. Check out What the Fire Service Asked For: A Look at Version 1.5 | NERIS for more information.

Please keep the suggestions, questions or concerns coming for we can share with FSRI for the next update. Reach out to our Data Analysis Unit for any incident reporting questions at firedata@dos.nh.gov

Community Risk Reduction (CRR):

Annual CO Safety & Risk Reduction Summit

This year, the 11th Annual CO Safety Summit returns to a two day event of networking and learning. We'll hear from experts on carbon monoxide, risk reduction, and fire prevention. The Northeast CO Alliance website is still in development but will have more details soon: www.necarbonmonoxidealliance.com.

The 2026 expanded program features:

- Real-world case studies and prevention strategies
- Fire prevention sessions include community risk reduction (CRR), construction fire safety, and Li-ion batteries

- Carbon monoxide sessions include code updates, medical, safety in industry and at home, and more!

  Thursday, November 5th - Fire Prevention and Risk Reduction
  Fire Prevention | Community Risk Reduction | Lithium-ion batteries
  Friday, November 6th - 11th Annual Carbon Monoxide Safety Summit
  Codes | Consumer Product Safety | Industry

  Register today: https://forms.cloud.microsoft/g/JjUTtufLoq

2026-27 Sound Off Grant Program for Elementary Schools
Beginning in 2026, selected fire departments will receive *Sound Off with the Home Fire Safety Patrol* educational materials to teach fire safety to elementary students. Smoke alarms will also be provided for installation in student homes, helping reinforce classroom lessons with real world safety improvements. Contact FMOPublicEducation@dos.nh.gov for more information.

2024-2026 CPSC Carbon Monoxide Alarm Grant
In the last two years, we have installed hundreds of carbon monoxide alarms in schools and distributed CO alarms to Red Cross for installation in NH homes. This was made possible through grant funding provided by the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission's Carbon Monoxide Poisoning Prevention Grant Program.

We are offering the remaining CO alarms for NH fire departments to distribution in your communities. If you are interested, please contact Deputy Fire Marshal Booth at anthony.m.booth@dos.nh.gov.

Outreach Events:

This September the New Hampshire State Fire Marshal's Office supported a total of 15 events with over 1,000 engagements, which included 2 K-9 demos and 2 equipment only requests. At the Big E, the New Hampshire State Fire Marshal's Office tabled and presented in a collaborative effort with other State Fire Marshal Offices to bring awareness about fire safety in New England.

The NH Falls Risk Reduction Taskforce put together a fantastic Falls Prevention Summit to bridge the gaps and break down silos by helping professionals learn and network with goal of reducing older adult falls in their community. A special thank you to the Elliot Health System for providing lunch, and to the speakers and partners hosting tables who made this summit possible!

Congratulations to Fire Investigator Dennis and K-9 Dougie for completing their first outreach event together at Henniker Elementary School! We look forward to many more events!

Are you interested in having the 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:

October's fire safety theme is, "Charge into Fire Safety™. Safe Charging is a Superpower!" This year's fire prevention week theme is a continuation on the conversation about how to reduce lithium-ion battery fires and how to keep homes and communities safer. Remind your community that using the following charging superpowers will keep them safer:

- Use the cord and charger that came with your device or one that is manufacturer approved.
- Charge on a hard flat surface.
- Unplug your device when it is fully charged.
- Charge large items like e-bikes or scooters outside when possible. Never block an exit when charging!
- Stop using your device if it feels hot, starts to swell, or makes popping or hissing sounds.
- When on a plane, keep devices in sight when charging them.



In-Service Training Opportunities:

We offer multiple training opportunities for our stakeholders. These training courses are typically two to three hours in length and do not have any registration fees. 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 2024 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
- NFPA 54 National Fuel Gas Code
- 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
- Electrical Inspecting for Residential and Commercial Projects
- Top 40 2023 National Electrical Code Changes and 19 NH Changes
- Grounding and Bonding for Inspectors
- Electrical Apprentice Training Program Presentation

State Fire Code Update Classes

We will be presenting "NFPA 1 and 101 204 Edition Updates" with information about doing school inspections at 6 P.M. on October 14 in New London, October 21 in Plymouth, and October 26 in Tuftonboro. All classes will be at the respective fire stations. We have some seats available for members of other departments who would like to attend. Please reach out to Deputy Fire Marshal Anthony Booth to RSVP: Anthony.m.booth@dos.nh.gov.

NHFSTEMS Courses:

The NH Division of Fire Standards and Training and Emergency Medical Services will offer the following two-day courses, all located at the Richard M. Flynn Training Facility (98 Smokey Bear Blvd., Concord, NH). For questions pertaining to these courses, please contact Captain Burns at anthony.t.burns@dos.nh.gov.

Fire as a Weapon (F0756)
January 14, 2027 @ 8:30 AM – 5:00 PM
January 15, 2027 @ 8:30 AM – 5:00 PM
Registration open October 21 – January 6.
https://nhfa-ems.com/scheduled-course/fire-as-a-weapon-f0756/

The New Hampshire Fire & EMS Conference
Saturday, February 6, 2027 @ 8:30 AM – 5:00 PM

Sunday, February 7, 2027 @ 8:30 AM – 5:00 PM
Registration open October 21 – January 27.

- Building Organizational Support for Community Risk Reduction Programs (F0636)
- Leadership in Supervision: Creating Environments for Professional Growth (F0646)
- New Fire Chief: Challenging Issues (F0760)
- Exercising Leadership Within Communities (F0520)

Fire Standards, Training and EMS – (Director Wholey) – Administration

Administration

Personnel

- We continue to work within the hiring process under Governor Ayotte's Executive Order to receive waivers for position vacancies.
- Five full-time positions are open for applications:
  - Public Safety Informatics Specialist, closing October 14th
  - EMS Training Coordinator, closing October 14th
  - Academic and Administrative Unit Assistant, closing October 15th
  - Curriculum Development Specialist, closing October 15th
  - Records Management Coordinator, closing October 29th

Special Projects

- A 2026 Fouts Medium Duty Rescue truck was delivered to the Concord campus on September 29, funded in part by a $575,000 grant from the Volkswagen Mitigation Fund. The total cost was approximately $588,000.
- $3.5 million has been secured through the Burkehaven Family Foundation to add a Symtech live-fire training structure – to include 7 burn rooms, 4 vertical ventilation location, a series of firefighter survival props, and several tech rescue assets – to the Concord campus drillyard. An additional $500,000 donation was secured from the Freese Family to create a recovery and rehabilitation area. The project is anticipated to be completed in October 2027.
- $2.2 million has been secured through the FAA for upgrades to the ARFF drillyard. The project is anticipated to start in 2027.

- Firefighters First Cancer Screening Initiative continues testing for Fall 2026 appointments through October 16. Appointments may still be made through the portal located on the Firefighters First website: https://www.firefightersfirst.nh.gov/appointment-scheduling
  - Dates are in planning for Phase III of appointments, which will occur in Spring 2027.
- All funds supporting the *Law Enforcement Officers, Professional Firefighters, and Emergency Medical Technicians Career Development, Recruitment and Retention Program* established in New Hampshire RSA 188-F:70 have been expended at this time.

Mental Health & Resiliency Courses/Programs Open for Enrollment

- *NAMI Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) Training* – Concord – November 9 - 13: https://nhfa-ems.com/scheduled-course/crisis-intervention-team-cit-training-16/

Curriculum

Public Comment

- The Fire Standards and Training Commission (FTSC) has voted to move the proposed Firefighter II, Fire Officer I, and Fire Officer II curricula to public comment. The public comment period runs from September 4th to November 2nd. During this time, the public is invited to review the curriculum and provide feedback. The curriculum documents and public feedback form can be found on the Division website: https://www.fstems.dos.nh.gov/about-us/boards-commissions/public-feedback
  - An additional in-person public hearing will be held at the Fire Academy in Concord, NH, for the Firefighter II curriculum on October 7th at 1800.
  - Two in-person public hearings will be held at the Fire Academy in Concord, NH, for the Fire Officer I & II curricula on October 9th at 1300 and at 1800.

Newly Approved Curricula

- During their September 3rd meeting at the Burton Training Facility in Bethlehem, NH, the commission voted to officially adopt the following curricula:
  - Firefighter I (NFPA 1010, 2024 Edition)
  - Driver/Operator: All Vehicles (NFPA 1010, 2024 Edition)
  - Driver/Operator: Pumper (NFPA 1010, 2024 Edition)
  - Driver/Operator: Aerial (NFPA 1010, 2024 Edition)

- Implementation of these programs by the Division will continue as planned with a roll-out date of Spring 2027.Bureau of Firefighter Training

Bureau of Firefighter Training

Courses/Programs Open for Enrollment

- Driver Operator
  - *Driver/Operator: Pumping Apparatus* – Bethlehem – October 26 - November 12: https://nhfa-ems.com/scheduled-course/driver-operator-pumping-apparatus-1002-2017/
  - All inquiries for these programs should be directed to driveroperator@dos.nh.gov
- Hazardous Materials
  - *Hazardous Materials Awareness*: https://www.fstems.dos.nh.gov/training-education/course-catalog/fire-service-courses/hazardous-materials/awareness
- Airport Rescue Firefighting
  - If your department still needs a Fall 2026 FAA Live Fire Recertification, dates are available through November: https://www.fstems.dos.nh.gov/training-education/aircraft-rescue-firefighter-training

Facilities, Prop Usage and Projects

- The Marlborough Fire Department used the Forcible Entry Door for training on September 17th.
- The Sugar Hill Fire Department used the Burton Facility for training on September 29th as part of their OMT program.
- The Twin Mountain Fire Department used the Burton "A" Building on September 21st for handline advancement and VEIS training.
- The Lebanon and Hanover, NH, Fire Departments along with their Mutual Aid partners from the Hartford, VT, Fire Department participated in Live Fire training from September 22nd through 25th in the "A" Building and Flashover Container on the Concord Campus.
- Recertification training at the ARFF was attended by personnel from the Connecticut Air National Guard on September 6th, TF Green Airport on September 16th, and Cape Cod Gateway and Martha's Vineyard Airport on September 23rd.

- Instructors are currently undergoing Train-the-Trainer sessions on the new Firefighter I curricula that will begin delivery in Spring 2027. Bureau of Certification and Support

Bureau of Certification and Support

Courses/Programs Open for Enrollment

- Fire Officer
  - *Fire Officer I* – Concord – October 26 - January 4: https://nhfa-ems.com/scheduled-course/fire-officer-i-7/
  - *Fire Officer II* – Virtual – December 9, 2026 - February 10, 2027: https://nhfa-ems.com/scheduled-course/fire-officer-ii-virtual/
- National Fire Academy & Specialty Programs
  - *LeadNH: A Two-Day Fire & EMS Leadership Experience* – Concord – February 6 & 7, 2027
    - A weekend conference of NFA leadership courses is coming to New Hampshire! There will be four course tracks offered:
      - Building Organizational Support for Community Risk Reduction Programs
      - Leadership in Supervision: Creating Environments for Professional Growth
      - New Fire Chief: Challenging Issues
      - Exercising Leadership Within Communities
  - If you would like to see a specific NFA program or host an NFA program at your department, please contact Captain Burns at Anthony.T.Burns@dos.nh.gov.
  - We are welcoming back Curt Verone for his seminar, *Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) for Fire Departments*! The seminar will be held at the Richard M. Flynn Training Facility in Concord from June 15 - 17, 2027: https://ezregister.com/events/43564/

Instructors

- State Fire Instructor Statistics:
  - Active/Current New Hampshire State Fire Instructors: 257
  - New State Fire Instructor Applications: 61

Program Support

- Spring semester class registrations opens October 21st! The class schedule can be found here: https://nhfa-ems.com/scheduled-courses/
- The Training Program enrollment policy FAQ, which includes our rules on priority seating, can be found here: https://www.fstems.dos.nh.gov/training-education/course-catalog/training-program-enrollment-policy-faq

Testing & CPAT

- Year-to-date, the Division has delivered 859 monthly testing exams, including 585 written and 274 practical exams.
  - Submissions for monthly testing must be entered by the last day of the month prior to the month you wish to test: https://www.fstems.dos.nh.gov/certification-testing/monthly-testing
  - Students will now receive their written examination results immediately upon completion through Questionmark, including coaching reports for candidates who do not pass. This change provides students with faster feedback while reducing manual administrative steps for staff.
- There is one CPAT test left this year on November 18 at the National Guard Recruiting Office in Nashua: https://nhfa-ems.com/scheduled-course/candidate-physical-ability-test-12/
  - 2027 dates are being planned
- 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.

Bureau of Emergency Medical Services

Boards and Commissions

- The Trauma Medical Review Committee will meet on October 21st at 0930.
- The Privacy Committee will meet on October 28th at 1330.
- The Medical Control Board will meet on November 19th at 0930.
- The Coordinating Board will meet on November 19th at 1300.

Clinical Systems

- Work continues on Version 10.0 Protocol Development.
- EMS Bulletin #100 (Federal Medication Requirements) was released on September 25. All EMS bulletins are on the website: https://www.fstems.dos.nh.gov/ems-systems/ems-bulletins

Compliance

- There are currently 37 active investigations and ongoing cases, including three currently in hearings and two 541a investigations due to criminal acts.
- There is a 60-day statute of limitations on EMS complaints, meaning an individual has 60 days from the discovery of a compliance issue to submit a complaint (refer to Saf-C 5922.02).

Data Management

- Of the 308 licensed EMS services in New Hampshire, 300 enter EMS patient care reports directly into NHESR. The remaining eight services use independently purchased EMS reporting software that has passed State compatibility testing.
- As of September 2026, 145 fire departments use NHESR to submit NERIS fire reports, with one additional department onboarded and scheduled to go live January 1. Agencies interested in learning more about transitioning to NHESR for NERIS fire reporting can contact the Emergency Services Data Team at NHESR@dos.nh.gov.
- The Add Chief form previously used to notify the Division of a new Fire Chief has been retired. Agencies should now update their Chief directly in RespondNH using: Service Form (2) – Update Service Personnel Positions, Employment Status and Roles under Applications > Service Applications. The Division uses the designated Chief in

RespondNH to maintain the Chiefs email list used by the Division and State Fire Marshal's Office for important communications.

Operations

- As of October 1, 2026, the EMS background check fee increased from $47.00 to $50.00 due to a nationwide increase in fees from the Federal Bureau of Investigation.
- There are currently 24 licensed Educational Training Agencies (ETA) with 5 more in-process. The Administrative Packet for the application and licensing information can be found on the Division website: https://www.fstems.dos.nh.gov/licensing/eta-licensing

Preparedness and Special Projects

The AED Program page has been updated, and all new vendors and pricing have been added: https://www.fstems.dos.nh.gov/ems-systems/automated-external-defibrillators

Professional Development Committee – (Director Wholey/Chief D. Chamberlain)

- Chief Tice attended the Andy Fredericks Training Days in Alexandria, VA September 14th through 16th on behalf of our committee and the Association. His overall impression of this event was positive and felt the speakers were very good.

Fire Standards and Training Commission – (Chiefs Clark/Miller) – No report

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

Bureau of Emergency Communications – (Director Doyle) – No report

E 911 Commission – (Chief Thomas) –

- Bill Wood received Certificate from Gov. Kelley Ayotte for years of service at Fire Academy and E911 commission
- Flat Budget for 2028
- 290,000 calls year to date
- 7 new telecommunicators training on floor now
- Currently 13 open positions
- Next telecommunicator class will be in 2027
- 114 communities are using the ESRI mapping
- Neam II will be rolling out in January or February, this is the system for reporting a new address in your community

- There is a new propane vendor that operates the backup generators
- Mount Kearsarge has a new HVAC system
- Still working on the power from Canada to operate the tower in Pittsburg. Have to go through the Department of Energy and the Department of War
- Laconia Facility is close to finish. Going through punch list. Opening to be announced.

Forests and Lands – (**Chief Matson)** – No report

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

1. The NHIAC is interested in any responses to downed or crashed drones
2. A chem suicide bulletin is coming out in the monthly "Inform to Protect" Fire Service Bulletin from the NHIAC. (If you are interested in receiving it contact Jim Heinz at james.b.heinz@ dos.nh.gov)

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

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

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

National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC) – (Chief Cathy/Cole) – No report

EMS Trauma Medical Review Committee (Dep. Chief Clough) –

Meeting opened at 0930 by Vice Chair Neil Moore

1) Welcome/Membership

a) New Hampshire Paramedic Association appointee Michael Steckevicz of Boston Med Flight was introduced to Committee.

b) Membership updates were reviewed, including recent departures, appointments and pending nominations. New Administrative Assistant to the Director Christine Wrightington was introduced to the Committee.

2) Approval of the minutes

A motion was made (Marcotte/Patterson) to approve the April 15, 2026 minutes as presented. All in favor, none opposed.

3) Bureau Reports

a) No written Division/BEMS report was provided. Captain Robblee invited questions from the Committee. None were raised.

4) Subcommittee and Topic Reports

Item 1: Trauma Registry Sub-committee-Walter Trachim

- Trauma Registry Data Dictionary is currently under revision again.
- Americal College of Surgeons (ACS) has released updated Level IV Trauma Center guidelines, which are being reviewed for their impact on the current NH Trauma designation checklist.

Item 2. Coordinating Board Report- Joel Coelho

- Coordinating Board meeting was cancelled in July due to a lack of quorum. No additional report was provided.

Item 3. Medical Control Board Report- Tom Trimarco

- Medical Control Board meeting was cancelled in July due to a lack of quorum.
- Update regarding previous discussions surrounding blood product Pilot Programs was provided, including considerations related to blood supply and broader implementation within the State EMS System.
- The Protocol Subcommittee is beginning review of the trauma protocols and encourages members to submit comments or items for consideration during the review process. If anyone would like to provide feedback or comments, please reach to myself or NHBEMS Clinical Systems at clinicalsystems@dos.nh.gov

Item 4. Injury Prevention Report- Jim Esdon

- An update on injury prevention activities, including efforts to establish a statewide injury prevention working group to improve communication and data sharing was provided.
- Additionally, current initiatives and areas of focus include e-bike and e-vehicle safety, firearms safety education, child passenger safety, falls prevention, bicycle helmet distribution and life vest loaner programs. Upcoming events include Fall Awareness Summit, Fall Prevention and Teen Driving Safety in October. It was noted that the balance classes for the elderly are going well.
- A question was raised regarding the availability of trauma survivor support groups.

Item 5. Hospital Designation Subcommittee- Craig Clough

- The newly released ACS Level IV Trauma Center guidelines are under review to ensure alignment with the current New Hampshire trauma designation checklist.

6.) OLD BUSINESS

- Regional Medical Operations Coordination Centers Update – Dr. Lisa Patterson. No movement on this.

7.) NEW BUSINESS

- A motion was made (Coelho/Marcotte) to reappoint Brett Sweeney to the Medical Control Board. All in favor, none opposed.

- Lisa Patterson provided an update on the ACS When Seconds Matter initiative, which focuses on outreach to federal policymakers to increase awareness and understanding of trauma centers and the trauma system.

8.) GOOD OF THE ORDER

- The Committee discussed the status of the draft trauma rules and expressed concern regarding the length of time the rules have remained under review (3+ years). Division staff advised that no additional status update was available. A motion was made (Marcotte/Steckevicz) to request clarification from the Commissioner regarding the status of the draft trauma rules. The Chair and Vice-Chair will draft and submit the request, with a copy provided to Committee members. All in favor, none opposed.

9.) ADJOURNMENT

- Motion made (Patterson/Kromer) to adjourn the meeting at 1040 hours. All in favor, none opposed.
- Next Meeting is October 21, 2026.

Building Code Review Board – (Asst. Chief Pouliot/Chief Reinert) –

The meeting, held in-person, called to order at 10:00 am. A quorum was established.

Board Membership Status: No new activity.

2026 Web base training, RSA Chapter 15-A: Rick Wood will be completing the statewide training and 15-A financial statement.
Acceptance of Minutes: A motion was made by Lily Beyer to accept August 11, 2026 minutes, seconded by Med Kopczynski. All in favor, none opposed, no abstentions. Motion carried without further discussion.

APPEALS, Status Report:

City of Portsmouth. The appeal is against the City's building inspector. An extension was requested and granted, therefore, the pre-hearing conference will be held in October. The board will hear the appeal in November.
Hooksett – The appeal is against the town's building inspector regarding the energy code.
Awaiting formal submission.
Lebanon - submitted formal appeal.
PUBLIC HEARING:
(General note: There was no input from members of the public or from other agencies on
any of the proposed amendments.)
BD-24-08-26, SPF lumber, per SB503/HB1204: A motion was made by Ken Walsh to approve
BD-24-08-26, seconded by Art Rose. All in favor, none opposed. Motion carried without further discussion.

BD-24-09-26, SPF lumber, per SB503/HB1204: A motion was made by Ken Walsh to approve
BD-24-09-26, seconded by Lily Beyer. All in favor, none opposed. Motion carried without
further discussion.
RE-24-10-26, SPF lumber, per SB503/HB1204: A motion was made by Ken Walsh to approve
RE-24-10-26, seconded by Lily Beyer. All in favor, none opposed. Motion carried without
further discussion.
BD-24-07-26, Adult changing stations: A motion was made by Kate Richardson to approve
BD-24-07-26, seconded by Ken Walsh. Kate Richardson motioned to amend the second page of item number three from 'highway rest stops and highway service centers' to read
'interstate rest stops and interstate service centers'. Art Guadano seconded the motion to

amend. One member opposed. Motion carried without further discussion.
RE-24-01-26 Repeal Table R301.2 amendment only, snow load reference: A motion was
made by Lily Beyer to approve RE-24-01-26, seconded by Kate Richardson. All in favor, none
opposed. Motion carried without further discussion.
RE-24-11-26, Tiny homes per HB1681: A motion was made by Kate Richardson to approve
RE-24-11-26, seconded by Dean Sotirakopoulos. Three members opposed. Motion carried
after discussion.
C1-24-01-26 ADD3, Tiny homes per HB1681: A motion was made by Dean Sotirakopoulos to
approve C1-24-01-26 ADD3, seconded by Kate Richardson. Four members opposed. Motion
carried without further discussion.
C1-24-01-26 ADD4, Tiny homes per HB1681: A motion was made by Lily Beyer to approve
C1-24-01-26 ADD4, seconded by Kate Richardson. Eight members approved, six opposed.
Motion carried without further discussion.
BD-24-10-26, definition of aggregate area: A motion was made by Art Guadano to approve
BD-24-10-26, seconded by Kate Richardson. A motion was made by Kate Richardson to
delete the definition of aggregate area from the International Existing Building Code, IEBC,
to amend BD-24-10-26. Seconded by Art Guadano. One member opposed. Motion

carried
without further discussion.

C1-24-01-26 ADD2, clarify gross floor area: A motion was made by Art Guadano to approve
C1-24-01-26 ADD2, seconded by Will Dinsmore. All in favor, none opposed. Motion carried
without further discussion.
Public hearing closed.

ADDITIONAL CODE DEVELOPMENT:
Introduce Errata: HB1159. Chair Sherman spoke with Attorney Mary Maloney from the Department of Justice, who indicated that a public hearing would be advisable if there were
material changes to the codes. Errata were therefore introduced with a public hearing scheduled for October. The Chair will continue to work closely with the Fire Marshal and
Bill Nash on notification when errata are published.
Other code development issues: No new activity to report.

LEGISLATIVE STATUS (as of 9/11/26):
Chair Sherman mentioned the General Court website is up to date on all 155-A statutory
changes, and statutes that have been repealed have been deleted. There is now a 155-A
cross-reference spreadsheet that helps locate information based on source and location,
available from the Chair on request. The Chair also mentioned that a couple of issues had
been found due to statutes being moved, but changed by other bills, so please let the Chair
know if additional issues are found.
HB1271, relative to third-party code review and inspection services for building permits. Interim study.

HB1004, exempting certain dwelling units from automatic sprinkler system requirements.
Interim study.
OLD BUSINESS:
Website status: No new activity to report.
Administrative rule review: BCR100, BCR200: No new activity to report.

MUNICIPAL AMENDMENT REVIEW:
Clarification on confirmation requirements: Chair Sherman clarified that ordinances adopted prior to July 1, 2025 remain in effect, but if the municipality has amendments to

the state code from past years, the amendments must be confirmed. If an ordinance was
updated post July 1, 2025, then confirmation is required. Once the board confirms and receives adoption documentation, the ordinances get posted on the BCRB.
New Business: No new activity to report.
Other Business to Come Before the Board: Chair Sherman asked the board members to help return the furniture to pre-meeting set up.
NEXT MEETING: October 9, 2026
Meeting adjourned at 11:26 am

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

NH Drug Overdose Commission – (Chief Thomas) –

- Commission approved the Annual Report which goes to the Governor's Office and is available to the public
- There will be a new website which can be found on the DHHS Web. This will have the Annual Report and other Commission Information
- We went into non-public to review another case. These reviews are how we create recommendations for the Annual Report

New England Fire Chiefs – a Division of the IAFC – (Chiefs J. Chamberlain) –

Old Business –

New Business –

Good and Welfare –

- Chief Clough reported that he is working on a board to work on a statewide draft for medication costs.
- He is also retiring November 19 but is amenable to continue to represent us on the EMS Trauma Medical Review Committee.
- Chief Emanuel shared that the Seacoast Chiefs are sponsoring a seminar entitled, *Step Up and Lead—Leadership Development Workshop* on October 21 from 900 to 1500.

Raffle – No raffle was held.

The meeting was adjourned at 0936 hrs.

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

October 8, 2026