



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

*Working Together to Make a Difference*

547 Charles Bancroft Hwy.

Litchfield, NH 03052

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

Alan's of Boscawen – Boscawen, NH

Thursday, March 13, 2025

Following a greeting and words by Governor Kelly Ayotte thanking everyone for the job they do and committed that public safety will be one of her priorities.

The meeting was called to order at 1854 hours by Chief Emanuel.

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

**Welcome from Host:** n/a

### **INTRODUCTION OF MEMBERS.**

**Special Guests:** Commissioner Quinn and State Senator Sue Prentiss. Sen. Prentiss thanked everyone for the invitation and listed the issues she's working on for the benefit of the public safety agencies.

Commissioner thanked everyone for the invitation and his agency heads for working together and navigating the new budget. He stated that he's blessed with a strong team that helps to keep the ship stable. He gave a progress report on the Burton Academy upgrades

Minutes of Previous Meeting: A MOTION (S. Buxton/Fraitzl) to approve the minutes carried unanimously.

**Treasurer's Report:** A MOTION (Thomas/Murray) to approve the financial reports from February, carried unanimously.

**Communications:** n/a

**Applications for membership:** Chief Tim Robinson of Chichester; Asst. Chief Joseph Guarnera of Merrimack; Dep. Chief Dan Doucette of Plymouth; Battalion Chief

Ryan Bump of Derry have been approved for regular membership and Preston Hunter and Eckman Construction has been approved for Advocate membership.

**Life Membership: n/a**

**President's Report: (Emanuel) – n/a**

- He shared the experience in Washington at CFSI activities and their meetings with our Congressional delegation.
- Chiefs Emanuel and Jones attended the MA Fire Chiefs' breakfast.
- He is serving on the selection board for Director of FST/EMS.
- NH Explorer Academy reached out for a donation. At the BOD meeting, a motion was made and carried to donate \$1,000 to the program.
- He sent an invitation to stakeholders for the EV & Lithium Ion Battery workgroup meeting.
- He attended the DOT Traffic Safety Summit at NHDOT. They talked about preventing highway fatalities. He mentioned that they brought out the subject of protecting the first responders on the highway.
- He appointed a Nominating Committee: (Jay Lyon; Mark Cotreau and Phil Cloutier).
- We will be preparing a budget for the ensuing year. Chiefs Emanuel, Watkins, Carrier and Lemire will work on it.
- There was a request to sponsor the IAFC leadership at our Annual Meeting. At the BOD meeting, a motion was made and carried to invite the IAFC President, NE Director and IAFC 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President to the Annual Meeting.

**Report of the Executive Director: (Lemire)**

- The April BOD meeting will be on the 2<sup>nd</sup> at Primex.
- The Annual Meeting/Seminar/Vendor Showcase/Dinner will be held on April 10 in Plymouth at the Common Man Inn and Spa. Spouses/guests will be welcome to attend. So far we have 20 vendors committed and \$3,700 in sponsorships.
- Our May meeting will be on the 8<sup>th</sup> at the Whelen facilities in Charlestown, NH as their guest for dinner.
- The June meeting will be virtual on the 12<sup>th</sup> at 0900 hours
- The July meeting will be at the NH Fire Academy on the 10<sup>th</sup> for breakfast.
- The August meeting will be in Gorham on the 14<sup>th</sup> with our North Country brethren.
- Ad book proceeds to date: Total: \$5715.00 ; Vendor: \$4000.00; Assn: \$1714.00.

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

- The next PTSD Committee meeting will be on Friday, March 14.

**Government Relations – (Schmidt) – UPDATE**

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

- He thanked all the members that attended the committee on ambulance billing.
- He thanked everyone for the experience of belonging to the organization. He was grateful for the camaraderie and professionalism of the organization and happy to have belonged. (He is retiring at the end of the month).

**Sgt. At Arms (Chamberlain) –** No report

## **Committee Reports**

**Scholarship Committee – (Marshal Toomey) –** Notices will be going out soon.

## **Division Reports**

**Fire Marshal: (Marshal Toomey)**

### **ADMINISTRATION:**

#### **Personnel:**

Governor Ayotte has implemented a hiring freeze. Our waivers for a full-time State Building Inspector and a part-time Outreach & Education Specialist were approved and we are working through the hiring process. We have submitted a waiver for a part-time Hazardous Materials Coordinator

#### **Legislation:**

We continue to follow approximately sixty House and Senate Bills. The following are highlights of a few bills:

HB 91 Relative to the presence of a fire department at a fireworks display  
Bill provides greater flexibility for fire department details at fireworks display sites. This bill has passed in the House and moved to committee in the Senate.

HB 134 Relative to the state building code  
Bill updates the electrical code to the 2023 edition. This bill has passed the House and moved to committee in the Senate.

HB 179-FN Relative to hazardous waste accident fees  
Bill changes the \$1,000 one-time fee for non-payment. This bill has passed in committee in the House.

HB 244 Updating and recodifying the municipal enforcement of the building and fire code  
Bill cleans up zoning, planning, building and fire code items into proper statutes. This bill was retained.

HB 428-L Prohibiting municipal amendments to the state building code

Bill further limits authority of municipalities to amend the state building code. This bill remains in committee in the House.

HB 432 Relative to recovery houses

Bill makes modifications to the definition of recovery house and restricts local planning and zoning authority on recovery homes. This bill will likely be ITL'd.

SB 94 prohibiting municipal amendments to the state building code

Bill further limits authority of municipalities to amend the state building and fire codes. This bill has passed the Senate.

SB 95 Relative to youth recreation camp cabins and the state building and fire codes

Bill prohibits automatic sprinkler systems for youth summer camp cabins/bunkhouses. Bill allows new structures to be treated per the applicable existing chapter in the Life Safety Code. This bill has passed the Senate.

SB 188-FN Allowing independent permitting and inspections, and allowing local governments to authorize licensed engineers and architects to perform building code inspections

Bill expands third party inspections for building code inspections. This excludes the state fire code. This bill has passed the Senate.

SB 282 Relative to stairway requirements in certain residential buildings

Bill allows single stairs for means of egress for residential buildings up to 6 stories. This bill is in committee in the Senate.

**Board of Fire Control:**

The next Board of Fire Control meeting will be held on April 15, 2025, at 1:00 pm.

**BUREAU OF INVESTIGATIONS:**

In February, we received 22 incident notifications resulting in 6 scene responses. The Bureau of Investigations currently has 9 open arson or suspected arson investigations.

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

- On February 14, the State Fire Marshal and the Deputy Fire Marshal of the Bureau of Building Safety & Construction responded to Concord to assist with life safety decisions following a fire at an assisted living facility.
- On February 18, investigators responded to a structure fire in Bradford

to assist the Bradford Fire Department. The fire originated on the exterior of the building and is currently undetermined but is suspected to have been related to a mechanical issue.

- On February 19, an investigator responded to a motor vehicle fire in Campton to assist the Campton-Thornton Fire Rescue Department and Campton Police Department. The vehicle had been reported stolen in Massachusetts and the operator was arrested on scene. The SFMO determined the fire had been intentionally set within the passenger compartment. The suspect is currently being held in the Grafton County House of Corrections.
- On February 21, investigators responded to a fire at a school in Fitzwilliam and determined it had been caused by recent work on the roof and was accidental.
- On February 25, investigators responded to a structure fire in Hampton in which a woman had been rescued and hospitalized. The cause is currently under investigation but not suspected to be arson.

### **Fatal Fire/CO Incidents:**

- On February 4, the SFMO assisted the Manchester Fire and Police Departments investigate a fire in a recreational vehicle that resulted in two fatalities. The fire originated in the rear of the camper and is suspected to have been caused by an electrical issue.
- On February 10, the SFMO was notified of a past-tense death in Rochester that was initially suspected to be an overdose but was later determined to be from carbon monoxide poisoning from a motor vehicle. It was ruled as an accidental death and the SFMO did not respond to the scene.

### **Arrests:**

- The SFMO made one arrest in February for a fire that occurred in Plaistow in November 2024. The subject was charged with reckless conduct, falsifying physical evidence, possession of a controlled drug x2, and endangering the welfare of a child.

### **Youth Firesetter:**

- There were no new youth fire setter intakes in February; however, one assessment was conducted.

### **Trainings:**

- Investigator Megan McDevitt attended Crisis Intervention Training.
- Assistant Director Allard, Investigator Matt Wilmot and Investigator Sol Rosman became certified in Critical Incident Stress Management.

The NH State Fire Marshal's Office requests that all fires resulting in serious bodily injury be reported immediately at the time of the event. This allows us to determine if a response and investigation are necessary.

During normal business hours, please contact an on-call supervisor at 603-223-4289. For after-hours calls and on weekends, you can reach NH State Police Communications at 603-223-4381.

## **BUREAU OF BUILDING SAFETY & CONSTRUCTION:**

### **State Building Permit System:**

We processed the following permits in the month of February:

- Building: 9
- Electrical: 9
- Plumbing: 4
- Fuel Gas: 1
- Mechanical: 3
- Fire Protection: 2
- Fire Alarm: 2

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

We initiated 1 educational and 8 healthcare plan reviews, completed 234 inspections and 173 technical consults in the month of February.

### **Variance Requests:**

We processed 5 variance requests in the month of February.

### **Fireworks Safety and Enforcement Program**

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

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

### **Modular Building Program**

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

- Inspections: 17

- Audits of Manufacturers: 0
- Audits of Educational Facilities: 0
- Labels Issued to Manufacturers: 134
  - Units Shipped to New Hampshire: 14

### **Tramway and Amusement Ride Safety**

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

- Amusement Registrations: 1
- Amusement Inspections: 1
- Amusement Incidents: 0
- Tramway Registrations: 1
- Tramway Inspections: 20
- Tramway Incidents: 7

### **BUREAU OF OUTREACH & EDUCATION:**

#### **Hazardous Materials:**

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

In the month of February, our Hazardous Materials Coordinator attended monthly PEAC training. He provided training to the Seacoast Haz Mat Team on PEAC Software, as well as, provided training to the Southeastern NH Haz Mat Team on the Redwave Gas Identifier.

We received 406 Tier 2 reports from NH facilities and responded to 26 Tier 2 reporting questions.

We also attended the Hazardous Materials Collaborative meeting and the Ossipee Valley Mutual Aid Association meeting.

Our Hazardous Materials Coordinator is available for PEAC Software training for fire departments. PEAC is used for documentation of Tier II facilities and chemical storage.

Training is also available on the use of the Emergency Response Guidebook.

#### **Electric Vehicles and Lithium-Ion Batteries**

The council to study the impacts of electric vehicles, e-mobility devices, and the associated lithium-ion batteries hazards for first responder response, the

environment, building and fire codes, life safety, and property protection continues its work. The interim report of the council was submitted to the Governor and General Court on November 1, 2024. The next meeting will be held on April 14<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 pm.

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

### ***Incident Reporting:***

Your commitment to ensuring we have great data to accurately show the fire problem in NH is greatly appreciated!

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. Find more information and resources at [National Emergency Response Information System \(NERIS\) \(fema.gov\)](#).

Thank you to the departments who responded to our recent survey in preparation of NERIS! We have responses from nearly half of all departments!

If you have not completed it, please do so quickly.

**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.

Please reach out to our NHFIRS team for any incident reporting questions at [nhfirs@dos.nh.gov](mailto:nhfirs@dos.nh.gov) and have your NFIRS/NERIS Point of Contact person sign-up for the NHFIRS Newsletter by sending an email to [FMO@dos.nh.gov](mailto:FMO@dos.nh.gov).

### ***Outreach Events:***

In February, we released the latest edition of [Quarterly Risk Reduction](#) newsletter and included a digital guide, [2025 Fire & Life Safety Messaging](#), which will help departments plan for public messaging. If someone is interested in joining the mailing list for our Outreach and Education newsletters, they can sign-up directly by sending a message to [FMO@dos.nh.gov](mailto:FMO@dos.nh.gov).



*If you haven't already, we also ask fire service members to take our two-minute [Outreach and Education survey](#) to help us continue to better support fire departments across New Hampshire.*

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. Send your request to us at [fmopubliceducation@dos.nh.gov](mailto:fmopubliceducation@dos.nh.gov).

Want to know what resources we have available to supplement your event? Check out what is available to loan here: [Equipment Loan](#)

### **Public Education:**

The USFA's Fire and Life Safety Communicators Initiative is a collaboration among the fire and emergency medical services to speak with "one voice" on fire and life safety. The theme for this March is "Smoke Alarms."

Installing smoke alarms in every bedroom, outside each separate sleeping area, and on every level of a home — including the basement — is a fire safety precaution that all homeowners and landlords in your community need to take to protect residents from fire.



The infographic features a circular illustration on the left showing a hand with the index finger pointing at a smoke alarm's test button. To the right, the text reads: "Test your smoke alarms once a month. A smoke alarm can save your life in a fire. Use the test button to make sure your smoke alarms are working." At the bottom, there are three logos: FEMA, U.S. Fire Administration, and the slogan "Fire is Everyone's Fight" with a graphic of two hands holding a flame.

#### Resources:

NH Fire Marshal's Office - [Smoke Alarm Bulletin](#)

USFA – [Don't Wait, Check the Date](#)

USFA – [Hear the Beep Where you Sleep](#)

#### Videos:

USFA – [Sleep Safely](#)  
USFA – [Learn the Sounds of Safety](#)

Find the monthly themes for 2025 here:  
[Fire and Life Safety Communicators Initiative \(fema.gov\)](#)

### **Training Opportunities:**

Upcoming Trainings:

Solar Panels and Firefighter Operations  
Nelson Town Hall (7 Nelson Common Rd., Nelson)  
March 19, 2025 @ 1800-2000

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](mailto:fmopubliceducation@dos.nh.gov)

## **Fire Standards/Training/EMS – (Director Cutting)** **ADMINISTRATION**

### **Personnel**

- Senior Staff Instructor Jeffrey Whitcomb's name will be added to the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial at the ceremony in Emmitsburg, MD on May 3-4, 2025.
- On January 22<sup>nd</sup> 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 have one vacancy for Program Specialist III (Education Technologist) of the Educational Technology section.
- We have one vacancy for a full-time Fire Training Instructor position.
- We have one vacancy for a full-time Program Assistant I.
- We have one vacancy for our full-time EMS Compliance Coordinator.
- We have one vacancy for our part-time EMS Compliance Specialist.
- We have one vacancy for our part-time EMS Vehicle Inspector 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.

### **Special Projects**

- The early detection cancer screening pilot program RFP submission period closed on February 19<sup>th</sup>. Initial scoring on the technical portions of the proposals was held on March 7<sup>th</sup>.
  - Notification of the selected vendor is expected to be in late-March. When the vendors are selected contracts will be developed and then submitted to the Governor and Executive Council for consideration.
  - We anticipate this program to begin mid-summer 2025.
  - We are developing a website dedicated to this program where eligible individuals can find information about the program.
- The Raymond S. Burton Fire and EMS Training Facility infrastructure project continues to move forward with completion of the project expected on or before November 2025.
  - Phase II which includes the heated garage and classroom building upgrades is ongoing.
    - The foundation and footings are in place for the heated garage building.
    - The classroom renovations have also begun.
    - No new classes or prop usages are being scheduled for this campus until construction is completed. Classes will be moved to other facilities in the area.
- We continue to work on our website transition and improvements with NH DoIT. Much of this work is being done offline in preparation of a full transition to the new state web platform.
- The *Law Enforcement Officers, Professional Firefighters and Emergency Medical Technicians Career Development, Recruitment and Retention Program* established in New Hampshire RSA 188-F:70 remains active and available.
  - Details can be found on our website under the Recruitment and Retention link from the homepage.

### National Fire Academy

- On Friday March 7<sup>th</sup> we received the following notice from the NFA Superintendent:
  - “FEMA is currently in the process of evaluating agency programs and spending to ensure alignment with Administration priorities. While this review is underway, we will be cancelling all in person training offered by the National Fire Academy (on and off campus). For those courses that can continue virtually, we will do so, and you will receive more information soon. For those that are unable to proceed in a virtual format we will reevaluate rescheduling of courses once the review is complete.”

- We are monitoring this closure and will notify students if future scheduled programs will remain cancelled.

### Legislative/Administrative Rules

- The sixty (60) day public comment period on the proposed State of New Hampshire Patient Care Protocols Version 9.1, Mid-Cycle Rollout remains open. Comments can be submitted to [justin.s.romanello@dos.nh.gov](mailto:justin.s.romanello@dos.nh.gov) until March 18, 2025.
  - Additionally, the Division held two public hearings on Wednesday, March 5, 2025 at 3:00pm and 5:00pm at Fire Standards and Training & Emergency Medical Services, Classroom 4, 98 Smokey Bear Blvd Concord, NH 03305
  - [Proposed State of New Hampshire Patient Care Protocols Version 9.1 - Mid-Cycle Roll-Out – Protocol 1.4 Modifications and Emergency Protocols](#)
- The 2025 legislative session has begun. We are monitoring many legislative Bills.
- The proposed Trauma Rules are working through the internal DOS process.
- An EMS discipline and other various administrative rule changes proposal has been submitted to JLCAR. This proposed change is supported by the EMS Coordinating Board and would 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

- Crisis Intervention Team Training – Littleton Regional Healthcare – March 3<sup>rd</sup>
- Group Crisis Intervention/Assisting Individuals in Crisis – Richard Flynn campus – May 2<sup>nd</sup>
- 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.

### Fire Standards and Training Commission

- The Fire Standards and Training Commission met on March 6<sup>th</sup> at 0930 in Classroom 2 at the Richard Flynn Fire Academy in Concord.
  - The FSTC voted to approve the updated Airport Firefighter curriculum.
  - The FSTC voted to allow for out of state lateral transfers into New Hampshire for incumbents that meet the existing standards for lateral transfers in-state.
  - The Administrative Rules sub-committee will be developing the process for candidate physical ability testing reciprocity as authorized in the new Fire Administrative rules.
- The next Fire Standards and Training Commission meeting met on May 1<sup>st</sup> at 0930 in Classrooms 5/6 in the dormitory building at the Richard Flynn Fire Academy in Concord.

## **CURRICULUM**

- *Accreditation*: The five-year process of re-accreditation through the ProBoard has begun. The process involves completing a comprehensive self-assessment of the Division's policies and certification exam practices. This entire process culminates in a site visit from the Pro Board representatives to review all documentation.
- *Fire Inspector*: The next meeting of Fire Inspector and First Responder Inspector Visiting Committee will be on March 5<sup>th</sup>. The committee is currently reviewing materials from IFSTA.
  - The modules to be discussed will be Health and Wellness, Communications and Fire Behavior. Revisions to the previous modules will also be reviewed.
- *Firefighter I & II*: The members of the Firefighter I & II Visiting Committee met on February 19<sup>th</sup>. The next meeting is scheduled for March 19<sup>th</sup> at 0900 in Classroom 1 at the Richard Flynn campus.
- *Airport Firefighter*: This curriculum was approved at the FSTC meeting in March. A new textbook and exam questions bank will be available from IFSTA in the coming weeks. Exam validation will also begin soon.

## **BUREAU OF FIRE TRAINING**

### Courses/Programs

- Firefighter I
  - Litchfield – January 21<sup>st</sup>
  - Keene – March 10<sup>th</sup> (FF I & II)
  - Spring LRCC Class – January 21<sup>st</sup> (FF I & II)

- Spring Recruit School – March 3<sup>rd</sup>
- Firefighter II
  - Epping – February 19<sup>th</sup>
- Technical Rescue
  - Swiftwater Level I – North Woodstock, May 5<sup>th</sup> and Franklin June 2<sup>nd</sup>
- Driver Operator
  - All inquiries for these programs should be directed to Captain Paul Ingersoll at [paul.h.ingersoll@dos.nh.gov](mailto:paul.h.ingersoll@dos.nh.gov)
- Hazardous Materials
  - Hazardous Materials Awareness is available at <https://www.nhfaemslearning.org/login/index.php>
- Module Deliveries
  - Hazardous Materials Operations with PPE and Product Control – Richard Flynn campus – March 18<sup>th</sup>
- IAFF Fireground Survival
- Airport Rescue Firefighting
  - ARFF – Live Fire Recertifications – numerous dates beginning in April.
  - Richard Flynn campus - September 25<sup>th</sup>
- “On My Time” Program
  - We continue to offer support and guidance to many departments participating in this program.
- Special Programs
- 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>

### Testing

- Monthly Testing was completed in February 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 before the month you wish to test.

### Apparatus/Equipment

- We have acquired new equipment including a battery powered chain saw and three new 35’ extension ladders.
- Engine Three remains out of service awaiting repair to pump valves.

- Utility Six remains out of service until further notice as a result of an MVA.
- All other Fleet Vehicles are in service.

### Facilities, Prop Usage and Projects

- There were no department prop usages in February.

## **BUREAU OF CERTIFICATION AND SUPPORT**

### Courses/Programs

- Instructor I/II/III Programs
  - Instructor I – Manchester – January 16<sup>th</sup>
  - Instructor I – North Woodstock – March 29<sup>th</sup>
  - Instructor I – Richard Flynn campus – Concord – May 7<sup>th</sup>
  - Instructor II – Virtual October 21<sup>st</sup>
  - Instructor II - Virtual February 24<sup>th</sup>
  - Instructor III – Virtual April 9<sup>th</sup>
- Instructor Professional Development
  - Developing Learning Objectives – Virtual March 25<sup>th</sup> and Richard Flynn campus March 27<sup>th</sup>
  - Selecting Engaging Instructional Strategies – Richard Flynn campus April 22<sup>nd</sup> and April 24<sup>th</sup>
  - Assessing Student Performance Using a Skill Acquisition Model – Virtual, May 27<sup>th</sup> and Richard Flynn campus May 29<sup>th</sup>
- Fire Officer I/II Programs
  - Fire Officer I – Richard Flynn campus – Concord, February 4<sup>th</sup>
  - Fire Officer I – Richard Flynn campus – Concord, May 13<sup>th</sup>
  - Fire Officer II – Virtual October 15<sup>th</sup>
  - Fire Officer II – Virtual April 2<sup>nd</sup>
- Fire Inspector Programs
  - Fire Inspector I – Portsmouth, January 15<sup>th</sup>
  - Fire Inspector II – Richard Flynn campus – Concord, April 3<sup>rd</sup>
- Fire Investigator – Richard Flynn campus – August 21<sup>st</sup>
- Warrants and Citations
- National Fire Academy
  - Decision Making for Initial Company Operations – Richard Flynn campus – Concord, March 10<sup>th</sup> CANCELLED by the NFA
  - Incident Safety Officer – Richard Flynn campus – Concord, April 7<sup>th</sup>
- Your Workplace has Changed: Fire Dynamics for Structural Firefighting – Richard Flynn campus – April 23<sup>rd</sup>

### Education Technology

- Staff are working with the Firefighter I visiting committee and will continue to attend their meetings.
- Work continues on the Resource Center with an updated and more comprehensive schedule and catalog descriptions that students and potential students should find more informative and better to use. A more robust curriculum section is being developed as well.
- The new OB Emergencies courses have been completed. They've had extensive review by EMS Bureau staff and were delivered to students in a North Country offering in Errol. These students have provided us feedback on the modules.
- Safe Pediatric Transport was completed and will be launched soon.
- The new HazMat Awareness is online and available for students.
- The updated FFI Communication module was completed and is in all courses. The module has new video from NH911 and that portion of the course was expanded.
- The new Stroke program is in the full production phase.
- Preliminary work for the initial video for the Cancer Screening Initiative has begun.
- New computers have been installed in Classrooms 1, 2 and 4 with Classrooms 5 and 6 receiving them this month.
- The Drylab classroom has a new display screen.

### Instructors

- The State Fire Instructor renewal portal is now open. Email reminders will be sent out beginning in April.
- 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](mailto:Jeffrey.r.phillips@dos.nh.gov) or 603-223-4213

### CPAT

- There are (6) 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.
  - April 22<sup>nd</sup> – Laconia – Merrill Fay Ice Arena
  - June 17<sup>th</sup> - Laconia – Merrill Fay Ice Arena
  - August 12<sup>th</sup> - Laconia – Merrill Fay Ice Arena



- Additional dates TBA
- 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](mailto:Nicholas.a.poulin@dos.nh.gov) prior to the test date to assist in planning.

## **BUREAU OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES**

### Boards and Commissions

- The NH Medical Control Board meeting will meet at 0930 on March 20<sup>th</sup>.
- The NH Emergency Medical and Trauma Services Coordinating Board meeting will meet on March 20<sup>th</sup> at 1300.
- The NH Trauma Medical Review Committee (TMRC) will meet at 0930 on April 16<sup>th</sup>.
- The Privacy Committee will meet April 23<sup>rd</sup> at 1300.

### Operations

- With final adoption of the Educational Training Agency ruleset as of April 30, 2024, the Administrative Packet for application can be found at on the Division website and Resource Center.
- Initial EMS Instructor license applications are now available in Respond NH.
- The EMS Simulation Training Program is active with ongoing open enrollment courses.
- There are currently 309 licensed EMS Units and 6,331 EMS Providers.
- 39 ambulance inspections were conducted last month.
- Background checks are currently averaging 2.5 days for new applicants for licensure.
- EMS Psychomotor Exams
  - 2 BLS exams were held in January and 4 ALS exams were held in January.

### Courses/Programs

- Emergency Medical Responder (EMR)
  - The Winter 2025 Emergency Medical Responder (EMR) course is ongoing.
- EMS Continuing Education and Simulation Education
  - *Germs and Source Control for EMS Providers* – Richard Flynn campus – Littleton Regional Healthcare May 5<sup>th</sup>
  - *Pre-Hospital Trauma Life Support (PHTLS)* – Richard Flynn campus - Concord March 21<sup>st</sup>
  - *Managing Hypothermia and the Near Drowning Patient* – Richard Flynn campus – Concord March 5<sup>th</sup> and Virtual March 20<sup>th</sup>

- *Adult and Pediatric Gastrointestinal Emergencies* – Richard Flynn campus – Concord March 12<sup>th</sup> and Littleton Hospital April 12<sup>th</sup>
- *Public Health: How it works and why EMS should care* – Richard Flynn campus – Concord April 2<sup>nd</sup> and Virtual April 17<sup>th</sup>
- *The Other End of the Line: An Inside Look at NH 911* – Virtual April 23<sup>rd</sup>
- *NFA FO146 Supervising Emergency Medical Services* – Littleton Regional Healthcare April 26<sup>th</sup>
- *Tactical Emergency Casualty Care* – [Richard Flynn campus – Concord May 2<sup>nd</sup>](#)
- *Capnography: What does it Mean?* – [Richard Flynn campus – Concord May 7<sup>th</sup> and Virtual May 15<sup>th</sup>](#)
- *Adult and Pediatric Electrical Emergencies* – [Richard Flynn campus – Concord May 14<sup>th</sup>](#)
- EMS in the Warm Zone Awareness, Operations and Rescue Task Force Concepts
  - The Awareness and Operations courses are available free to students on our online training platform.
  - The RTF Concepts class is a half-day in-person training that is also available. Grant funding opportunities are available.
  - We are developing the 2025 schedule for six open enrollment RTF courses.
  - If anyone is looking for this program, please contact Shawn Croteau at [Shawn.A.Croteau@DOS.NH.GOV](mailto:Shawn.A.Croteau@DOS.NH.GOV)

### Clinical Systems

- We continue our outreach and support to agencies for inter-facility transfers and mobile integrated health programs.
- EMS Protocols Version 9.1 Mid Cycle Rollout is currently in the public comment period until March 18<sup>th</sup>. The public hearing will be held March 5<sup>th</sup>.
- EMS Protocols Version 10.0 development has begun.
- All EMS Bulletins can be found on our website at: <https://www.nh.gov/safety/divisions/fstems/ems/bulletins/index.html>

### Data Management

- NHESR
  - 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/>.
  - 114 fire departments are utilizing the system for incident reporting.

- Anyone interested in the system can contact [nhesr@dos.nh.gov](mailto: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 are able to utilize this system and analyze more data it is important to have department roster information updated and current. Each department has the full capability to manage their own roster by adding new staff and removing those that may have left. Departments can do this at any time. For State level reporting information please fill out your roster information to include their status (career, call, or volunteer) as well as the duties they provide such as EMS care and/or fire suppression.
- EMS Instructor Initial/Reinstatement applications are available online for licensing.
- EMS Instructor Renewal applications are available online.
- Total EMS incidents entered into the system for February were 23,845.

### Compliance

- There are currently 28 active investigations and ongoing cases.
- All compliance related inquiries should be directed to Bureau Chief Romanello.
- The Division has transitioned from the “old” list on our website to a new public look-up page in RespondNH. This will allow anyone to search an individual and find out if they have any license sanctions against them.

### Preparedness and Special Projects

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

### **Professional Development Committee \_ (Chief Cathy) –**

- He reported that the speaker for the April seminar will be Brigadier Gen. William McCollough, Commandant of Norwich Academy.

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

The Commission last met last Thursday with a full agenda. The highlights of that meeting were as follows:

1. Chief Allan Clark and Chief Donald DeAngelis were nominated by Governor Ayotte to be reappointed to the Board at yesterday’s Executive Council meeting. It is anticipated that they will be appointed at the next Executive Council Meeting on March 26<sup>th</sup>.

2. The Airport Firefighter curricula was approved as the public comment period had no comments.
3. The Visiting Committee reviewing the Firefighter I and II curriculum have been meeting monthly. Their minutes are available online and Fire Chiefs are well represented with 4 of the 7 available seats being Chiefs. If you have concerns or comments concerning the work of the Visiting Committee or Firefighter 1 or Firefighter 2, contact one of the Chiefs on the committee:
  - a) Chief Chad Miller – Littleton
  - b) Chief Jeff Currier – Bartlett
  - c) Chief Dana Cullen – Center Ossipee
  - d) Chief Tom Blanchette - Loudon
4. It was reported that work on Phase 2 at the Burton Fire & EMS Academy continued through the winter. Due to the extent of construction, training will not continue until the work is complete, but training is available off site.
5. Chief Yannuzzi of Newport attended and expressed concern that the required PPE that a candidate must utilize is not small enough for female candidates. It is recognized that this is an issue, but is more complicated than simply purchasing smaller sizes as it required to be approved by the IAFF. Obtaining their approval is in process.
6. Retired Chief Eric Wilking who represents the Federation of Fire Mutual Aid Associations whose term expires June 16, 2025, and will not be seeking reappointment.
7. A brief update on the search to replace Director Justin Cutting was provided. The Commission must endorse the candidate to the Commissioner.
8. The NH Fire & EMS Committee of Merit award ceremony will be held April 13<sup>th</sup> starting at 1300 hours and held at the Capitol Center for the Arts in Concord.
9. Next Meeting is May 1, 2025.

Chief DeAngelis reported that he is on the rules committee and they will be working on the update.

**NH Emergency Medical and Trauma Services Coord. Board – (Dep. Chief Paquette) –**

**National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC) – (Chiefs E. Thomas/Cathy) –** Chief Thomas reported that the NVFC is sponsoring a seminar in Maine focused on the small town fire chief. Details to follow.

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

## **Homeland Security and Emergency Management – (Director Buxton) –**

- Public Assistance
  - We continue to monitor activity surrounding the passing of Federal Budget Legislation.
    - i. There currently is a CR that has passed the House and is headed to the Senate.
      - 1. Reminder, if not passed, the Federal Government will be shut down on Friday, March 14<sup>th</sup>.
  - We continue to work with FEMA on existing Disaster Relief efforts.
    - i. Thank you to everyone that has assisted staff with the COVID-19 closeout process. We are attempting to close the COVID-19 disaster by the end of June. Ultimately, this would remove any additional COVID-19 work prior to going into the next fiscal year.
- Mitigation
  - We continue to work to support the following programs:
    - i. Hazard Mitigation Planning.
      - 1. Plan review and approval remain on pause with the Federal Government.
- EMPG
  - If you have a potential EMPG project, please reach out to your Stakeholder Liaison for assistance.
- Federal Grant Programs
  - Currently, we do not have a timeline on next year's Federal grant platform. There are two reasons for this.
    - i. All grant programs are currently under review to verify consistency with the new administration's guidance.
    - ii. There is no funding for next year's programs until a CR or a budget is passed.
    - iii. We continue to monitor and work through new review processes.
- Active Shooter Incident Management
  - Working groups continue to meet regarding Incident Management initiatives for Law Enforcement.
  - We are preparing for the formal recommendation and adoption of NFPA 3000 ASHER/ALERRT programs.
- REP
  - The FY 25 assessment for NextEra Energy has been established.

- Assessment notice has been distributed to the EPZ communities. A FEMA graded exercise will be held in Manchester this month.

**Commission to study the Incidence of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder in First Responders – (Chief Watkins)** – Report given above.

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

**Board of Fire Control – (Chiefs Clark/Hunter)** –

- The Board last met on February 5<sup>th</sup> with all Board members in attendance. Chief Scott Hunter attended his last meeting as he is retiring from the Fire Service. The Board is seeking a career municipal fire chief to take Chief Hunter's place.
- There are numerous legislative bills being watched which could impact fire safety. A significant initiative has been taken place to make homes more affordable. Although the focus this year appears to be mostly around zoning there continues to be a movement to relax codes.
- The issue of youth summer camp sleeping cabins will need to be addressed, and it is anticipated that the requirement for them to be sprinklered will likely be relaxed provided certain mitigation measures are provided.
- Next meeting is April 15, 2025.

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

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

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

- Laconia Facility Update: Project moving forward Pre-Construction meetings have kicked off and have been fruitful – tree clearing over the next few weeks, ground breaking April 1<sup>st</sup>-ish. Stay tuned for more information once that date is nailed-down;
- Genasys Emergency notification platform 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](mailto:patrick.m.cavanaugh@desc.nh.gov) ;
- SIEC met on Feb 21<sup>st</sup> at the Fire Academy;
- Presented an overview of E911 and Emergency Alerting to Merrimack County Police Chief's Association;
- Comfort Dog “Winni” is now a full time member of the Division – graduation event was held in Laconia last week;
- Governor’s Task Force on School Safety met last week, work continues on Task Force 2.0 recommendations;
- COOP / Disaster recover planning continues – includes remote call-taking capabilities and continued connectivity to Communications/Dispatch centers;
- E911 Commission met on March 7<sup>th</sup> at The IPOC;
- Legislation update:
  - HB579, clarifying language for transfers to 988 / Rapid Response
  - Surcharge increase approved by the E911 Commission is in front of the PUC for review;
  - HB 501, Denying 5G towers by local municipalities was ITI’d;
- Social Media Updates:



- Media events:

In February, the Division of Emergency Services and Communications used its social media platforms (Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram) to promote our community outreach events, including a baby delivery meet & greet. We also highlighted our comfort dog program, the importance of AEDs, and reinforced that 911 is the best number to call in an emergency. Additionally, we shared safety tips in collaboration with our DOS partners and continued to celebrate the achievements and work anniversaries of our team members across the Division. Social media remains a vital tool for spreading awareness of emergency resources such as text-to-911 and our CARES program. We also continue to engage with our public safety partners to increase interactions with our page.

- KPI's (YTD through February 2025):
  - \*98.26% of all calls answered w/i 15 seconds (exceeding NENA standard of 90% w/i 15 seconds) (\*Earthquake calls = 1200 within 23 minutes of the first report pulled this percentage down)
  - Avg. Police/fire Transfer time = 49.5 seconds (exceeding NFPA Std. of 60 Sec.)
  - Avg. EMD Transfer time = 121 seconds – stable relative to last year
  - Call volume @ 4.16% above last February's (2024) call volume
  - 495 Transfers to 988 / RRAP since July 2022
- Any questions, comments, concerns, please reach out...

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

On March 4 he attended the Graduation of the E911 Comfort Dog Winnie and her handler Abigail Rider. They graduated from Hero Pups . To date Hero Pups have 241 rescue dogs that have completed the program.

The Surcharge Increase backup information was reviewed by the Department of Energy. The PUC approval is next then the rate increase will be sent to all phone carriers to reflect in their billing.

CPR calls have increased in 2024. There are 3-4 calls per day across the State. Don't forget to register your AED locations with E911. The State is looking at a 13% save rate.

The new Laconia Facility is planning for Ground Breaking in April. Harvey Construction is in the land clearing phase.

E911 is monitoring Legislation: HB 597 Transferring 988 Calls, HB 501 Municipality Authority for towers with 5g antennas, and SB59 Establishing recruitment incentive program for public safety Communicators and Dispatchers.

Call volume in a rolling year ending on February 15, 2025 is down to an average daily call volume of 1,121 calls from the previous of 1,290 calls.

### **NH Drug Overdose Commission – (Chief Thomas) –**



The Commission meeting was called to order by Representative David Nagel.

First item on the agenda was to elect a new Chairperson. Senator Sue Prentice was elected Chairperson.

Next the December 2024 Annual Statistical Report DRAFT was reviewed with a few minor changes. The Commission will potentially approve the Report at the April 7, 2025 Meeting. After approval the report will be made Public.

The Commission went into a non public session for a Fatality Review. Recommendations from the review will be approved at the April 7, 2025 meetings then made public.

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

- He gave a brief report on hazards that have been identified around the country.

#### **New England Fire Chiefs – a Division of the IAFC – (Chiefs Jones/Murray) –**

- The mental health symposium is March 18 at Florian Hall in Boston.
- He stressed how important it is to contact our legislators about the closing of the NFA and other issues of importance.
- He has been travelling to the other New England states. He stressed that firefighters sign up for the Cancer Registry or we may lose it.
- Their Expo is October 28 to 31 at Mohegan Sun. He would like to see it back to a more central location.

#### **New Business –**

#### **Old Business –**

- Chief Emanuel stated that we as an organization will be actively contacting our reps to reopen the Academy.

#### **Good and Welfare –**

- The 2025 Golf Tournament will be held at Lochmere CC in Tilton on August 11.
- Chief Laro from Derry spoke on the upcoming play at Pinkerton called “The Aftermath.”

The raffle was held. \$520 was collected, \$200 was given in prizes. There were gift certificates from the 2024 Golf Tournament given out also. Money counted by Chiefs Fraitzl and Murray.

The meeting was adjourned at 1953 hours.

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

March 13, 2025