



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

*Working Together to Make a Difference*

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## **Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the NH Association of Fire Chiefs and Celebration of the Association's 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday**

Thursday, April 13, 2023 – Common Man Inn, Plymouth, NH

Prior to the meeting, Executive Director Lemire asked the supporting vendors to stand and be recognized. He also asked all Past Presidents present to stand. He thanked Chief Tom Morrison and staff from Plymouth for the assistance provided. He also read a brief history of the organization's inception in recognition of its 90<sup>th</sup> birthday.

Members attending received a challenge coin minted for the NHAFC to celebrate 90 years. Spouses/ guests received a special candle for the occasion.

The meeting was called to order at 1943 hours by Chief Best.

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

Chief Thomas Morrison welcomed everyone to Plymouth and the meeting.

Introduction of members.

**Special Guests:** Asst. Safety Commissioner Steve Lavoie

**Minutes** of the March meeting have been posted. A MOTION (Murray/S. Buxton) to accept carried unanimously.

**Financial Reports:** March reports have not been posted, and will be deferred, along with the 2024 budget, to the May meeting.

**Communications:** n/a

**Applications for membership:** Asst. Chief Phillip Remington of Conway Village.

**Life Membership:** n/a

**President's Report: (Best) –**

BOD meeting this past Wednesday the 5<sup>th</sup>

- 5 Families met this past Thursday the 6<sup>th</sup>; NHFA, FMO, PFFNH, NH State Fireman's Association & NHAFC
- He testified yesterday on SB71 at the House Executive Departments & Administrative committee in support of this Cancer Legislation
- This Saturday the PFFNH has invited members of the NHAFC to attend a movie screening called Burned; an email went out to the NHAFC email list; this movie screening is support the PFFNH cancer legislation SB71 and future cancer bills. Eustice Hall 50 Bradley Street Concord at 11am.
- On March 28<sup>th</sup> NHAFC testified HB 296, Relative to Local Authority For Granting Driveway Permits.
- March 20<sup>th</sup> we attended the Ossipee Area Chiefs roundtable meeting with the DOS staff
- Next Thursday the 20<sup>th</sup> we will be attending the North Country Chiefs roundtable meeting with the DOS staff
- Emergency Medical & Trauma Coordinating Services Board Vacancy; 2 members sent letters of interest to Brent; the BOD will be taking up filling this vacancy in the near future and will communicate with the members who expressed interest.

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

- Next board meeting will be Wednesday, May 3 at Primex. We will finish the work on the Strategic Plan.
- I attended the Roundtable with President Best and DOS staff in Tuftonboro March 20.
- We will be having another Roundtable at the Burton Training facility April 20.
- The May 11 meeting will be a breakfast meeting at the Academy.
- The June meeting will be in Brookline, NH hosted by Chief Corey and feature a home-cooked roast beef dinner.
- In July, we will be at the Atlantic Grill in Rye on the 13<sup>th</sup>.
- In August, we will return to the Town & Country Inn in Gorham on the 10<sup>th</sup>.

**1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Report (Emanuel)** – (Adam Schmidt submitted a legislative update)

- **HB 2 (budget trailer bill)** – The NH state budget is comprised of 2 bills, HB 1 which includes traditional budget line items and HB 2 which includes all the

changes to law necessary to implement the budget. The House passed both bills last week with a number of amendments. Amendments included the language from HB 436. HB 436 was originally introduced to eliminate the “middle tier” in Group II. The language makes changes to current law to phase out the differences between those who were grandfathered prior to the 2011 changes and those who were not yet vested when the changes were made. In addition, there are appropriations made to ensure that employers do not experience additional costs. There is also language in a separate section to increase Medicaid rates for ambulance services. The Senate is beginning their review of the House passed version of the budget. They will complete their work by late May. The budget still has a long way to go in the process.

- **SB 71 (Workers’ Compensation for Firefighters with Cancer/Committee to Study Annual Cancer Screening)** – NHAFC supported the bill in the Senate where it passed without too much debate. The hearing in the House was held earlier today. Chief Best attended and provided testimony. The committee had a number of questions regarding the potential impacts of the proposed expansion of cancer coverage. In addition, several members did not seem convinced a Commission is necessary. A subcommittee meeting will likely be held in the next week or so. NHAFC will have a member on a commission to study annual cancer screenings for firefighters, should the bill become law.
- **HB 296 (Driveway permits)** – NHAFC opposed the bill as introduced. Marshal Toomey, NHAFC, and the bill sponsor continued to work on language to balance the concerns of access to a property. Ultimately, the Senate adopted an amendment which requires local land use board to give “...due consideration to any written recommendations of the municipal fire chief...” regarding issues involving width, vertical clearance, grade, suitability of road surface, bridges, dead ends, and ability to pass/turn around. The Senate is scheduled to vote on the bill and amendment tomorrow.
- **HB 564 (code updates)** – NHAFC supported the bill in the House and Senate. This bill ratifies amendments to the state building code and fire code approved by the state building code review board, ratifies amendments to the state fire code approved by the Fire Marshal and state board of fire contract, and adds a fire protection engineer to the state board of fire control. The Senate is scheduled to vote on the bill this Thursday. If it is passed, without any additional amendments, it will head to the Governor for his consideration.
- **SB 153 (first responder program)** – NHAFC supported the bill. It is intended to create a program to help with career development, recruitment, and retention of first responders. The Senate amended the bill to add a member of the Association to a committee proposed to oversee the program. After passage in the committee, the bill was tabled on the Senate floor. Often, the Senate will table a bill that has broad support to determine whether or not they would like to

place the item in HB 2. We will have to see if the language is added to the bill while the Senate works on HB 1 and HB 2.

- **HB 461 (Elimination by Political Subdivision Employers of a Retirement System Position)** This bill would require political subdivisions to obtain an analysis from the retirement system and continue to pay unfunded accrued liability contributions when eliminating or transferring an employment position from full time to part time. The bill passed the House rather easily. At the Senate hearing this week, the bill was opposed by both the NH Municipal Association and NH Association of Counties. Generally, both argued that elimination of a full time position (like Fire or Police Chief) could be made for a number of reasons. Further, the potential financial penalties assessed to the employers would be significant. They thought the purview of the decisions about full or part time position should remain with the employers. The Committee has not yet voted on the bill.

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

**Sgt. At Arms (Hunter) –** No report

### **Committee Reports**

**Scholarship Committee – (Dep. Toomey) –** Information to be released in May.

### **Division Reports**

**Fire Marshal – (Marshal Toomey)**

#### **ADMINISTRATION:**

##### **Personnel:**

We currently have 5 full-time vacancies and 3 part-time vacancies. The following openings are those that we are actively recruiting for at this time:

Full-time Fire Investigator (2 positions)

Full-time State Building Inspector

Full-time State Building/Mechanical Inspector

Full-time Hazmat Coordinator

Part-time State Building Inspector

Part-time Outreach & Education Specialist

Part-time Building Code Review Board Administrative Secretary

##### **Legislation:**

The 2023 session is just getting started. Below are some of the bills that we are watching:

HB 265 relative to municipal property tax relief for installation of fire suppression systems

Status: Inexpedient to Legislate (ITL)

HB 296 relative to local authority for granting driveway permits

Status: Passed House & Senate ED&A

Primary authority for driveway access goes to Planning Boards. Fire Chiefs will provide written input for consideration to the Planning Board prior to approval for items identified in NFPA 1 for fire department access.

HB 564 relative to ratification of amendments to the state building code and state fire code

Status: Passed House with Amendment, passed Senate ED&A

Ratifies amendment for valve in fuel line for generator installation and amendment for gas detector for food trucks. Also adds fire protection engineer to Board of Fire Control.

SB 54 permitting the use of certain refrigerants that are in compliance with the Clean Air Act

Status: Passed Senate with Amendment, In House Committee

Removes authority of state building code to allow new refrigerants not currently covered in the code.

SB 170 relative to small group child day care centers

Status: Passed Senate with Amendment

### **Board of Fire Control:**

The Board of Fire Control and the SFMO staff have started the review of the 2021 editions of NFPA 1 and NFPA 101. The goal is to have a package ready for legislative action in 2024.

### **Foam Take-back Program:**

We continue to work with DES to launch the foam take-back program. Due to contracting and permitting challenges the launch of this program is delayed into 2023. An important consideration in the program is the best and safest disposal methods to destroy the PFAS chemicals. The latest inventory is approximately 9,600 gallons. We need to identify a collection point in each county for foam collection, please send an email to [fmo@dos.nh.gov](mailto:fmo@dos.nh.gov) if you are interested.

### **BUREAU OF INVESTIGATIONS:**

In the month of March, we received 19 incident notifications resulting in 10 scene responses. The Bureau of Investigations currently has 12 open arson or suspected arson investigations.

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

- On March 1, investigators responded to Thornton for a house fire. The cause was undetermined.

- On March 20, investigators responded to Lebanon for a house fire. The cause was incendiary, and this is an active arson investigation.
- On March 24, an investigator assisted the Farmington FD with the investigation of a fire that resulted in two people who had sustained serious burn injuries. The fire resulted from improper use of an accelerant being splashed into a wood stove.
- On March 28, investigators responded to Enfield for a house fire. The cause is still under investigation and suspected to be arson.

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

- There were 4 fatal fire incidents in March that the BOI investigated.
  - A man died from injuries sustained in a motor vehicle fire in Bow on March 6.
  - A man died from injuries sustained in a fire in Surry on March 7. The fire was accidental in nature.
  - A woman died from injuries sustained in a fire in Barnstead on March 13. The cause of the fire is undetermined but does not appear to be criminal.
  - A man died from injuries sustained in a fire in Manchester on March 22. The cause of the fire is undetermined but does not appear to be criminal.
- The BOI also investigated 2 unattended deaths suspected to be related to carbon monoxide, but later determined not to be.

#### **Ignitable Liquid Detection Canine Teams:**

- There were 4 IGL canine deployments in March.
- An IGL canine team performed demonstrations for NH DCYF, Hopkinton H.S. Justice Studies Class, Woodsville H.S. Career Day, the NHFA Training Facility in Bethlehem and the NH Special Olympics in Waterville Valley.

#### **Court:**

- The BOI presented an arson case to a Carroll County Grand Jury in March, resulting in an indictment. This arson occurred in December 2021 in Conway.

#### **Training/Committees:**

- Two investigators completed Crisis Intervention Team training (CIT).
- An investigator completed ICS-300 training in the month of March.

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

**State Building Permit System:**

We processed the following permits in the month of March:

- Building: 18
- Electrical: 15
- Plumbing: 7
- Mechanical Fuel Gas: 3
- Mechanical Non-Fuel Gas: 11
- Fire Protection: 2
- Fire Alarm: 4

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

We initiated 11 educational and 11 healthcare plan reviews, completed 104 inspections and 147 technical consults in the month of March.

**Variance Requests:**

We processed 1 variance requests in the month of March.

**BUREAU OF OUTREACH & EDUCATION:**

**Hazardous Materials:**

Hazardous Materials response, coordination and consultation is available through the on-call FMO supervisor. Our Hazardous Materials Coordinator is available for PEAC Software training for fire departments. PEAC is used for documentation of Tier II facilities and chemical storage.

In the month of March, our Hazardous Materials Coordinator attended the Hazardous Materials Collaborative meeting. He also attended trainings on Electric Vehicle Fires and Lithium Battery Fires. He continued working with the Regional Haz Mat Teams and HSEM on planning a Wide Area Air Monitoring Exercise for the spring of 2023.

Received 71 Tier II reports for New Hampshire facilities.

Responded to 32 questions from facilities regarding Tier II reporting.

Further discussions and work are ongoing to evaluate the hazmat problem and funding sources.

**Swiftwater Rescue Working Group:**

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

**Regional Outreach/Chief's Roundtables:**

We continue to partner with the Commissioner's Office, Director Cutting and the NHAFC to conduct regional outreach/Chief's Roundtables.

**Incident Reporting:**

If you don't already have an account to securely transfer to and receive files from the SFMO, please register for free today! More info included in this link: [SFTP2020bulletin.pdf \(nh.gov\)](#).

We ask that fire departments please submit their 2022 NFIRS data as soon as possible so we can close out the year in a timely fashion. The National Fire Administration data system deadline is typically July 1<sup>st</sup>.

Have you looked at your .err files lately? These are important files that you likely receive on a monthly basis that contain invalid incidents, a.k.a. error messages. We can help you through the process so that you can resubmit any invalid incidents and receive full credit. Please contact us at [nhfirs@dos.nh.gov](mailto:nhfirs@dos.nh.gov).

We continue to work with the team at the Fire Academy as departments implement the NHESR program, available free of charge, for incident reporting. If you are interested in giving a presentation on the program or would like to request one, please email [NHESR@dos.nh.gov](mailto:NHESR@dos.nh.gov).

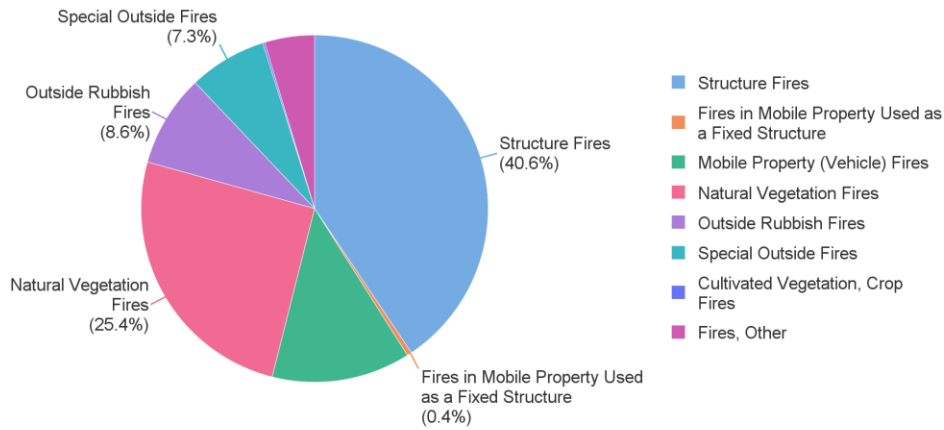
We are monitoring changes proposed by the USFA to the NFIRS system. We understand a substantial redo of the system as we know it is in the works. We anticipate more details will be available in late spring 2023.

If you have questions or you are having difficulties, please reach out to the NHFIRS data team using the following email: [NHFIRS@dos.nh.gov](mailto:NHFIRS@dos.nh.gov).

**NH Fire Incidents Reported YTD 2023:**



### Fire Incident Type Category Summary



### **Outreach Events:**

On March 18, 2023, members of the NHFMO and Sparky attended the Battle of the Badges Hockey Game at the SNHU Arena in Manchester. This year's game raised over \$230,000 for Dartmouth Health Children's and the Children's Hospital at Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center (CHaD). We had the pleasure of interacting and sharing fire safety tips with hundreds of guests!



Members of the NHFMO also attended four career fairs at schools across the state in the month of March.

Several members of the office participated in the Law Enforcement Winni Dip, supporting NH Special Olympics.

Several members of the BOI, along with one of our K9s, took part in the NH Special Olympics Winter Games at Waterville Valley. These members handed out medals, skied with the athletes and served dinner to them and their families.

### **Training Opportunities:**

The NHFMO provided five trainings in the month of March. Please see the below upcoming training opportunities for the month of April:

#### **Fire Investigation for the First Responder**

*This seminar familiarizes students (fire, police and EMS) with the roles and responsibilities of first responders and how they relate to the basic principles of arson detection and the proper procedures for scene security, evidence preservation and documentation.*

**April 13, 2023**

**Warner Fire Department**

**6:00-8:30PM**

**Registration Link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Warner413>**

#### **Small Town, USA – State v. John Gates**

*Join the NHFMO on a journey into an arson case set in a small New Hampshire town, filled with unexpected twists and turns, and involving local, state, and federal agencies. This presentation shows the ins and outs of a complex arson investigation and how the crime of arson can be just the tip of the iceberg.*

**April 20, 2023**

**Lafayette School, 149 Main Street, Franconia**

**6:00-9:00PM**

**Registration Link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/GatesApril20>**

Additional programs are in the works. Please reach out to Deputy Stacey Dubois at [stacey.l.dubois@dos.nh.gov](mailto:stacey.l.dubois@dos.nh.gov) if you are interested in hosting a program or would like to suggest a future training topic.

### **Public Education:**

So far this year, six people have died in connection to home fires and one person has died as a result of a vehicle fire. The home fires occurred in various parts of the state, with most victims in the 65+ age category. In all except one case, the NHFMO was unable to verify that the homes had any working smoke alarms. Nationally, half of home fires take place when people are sleeping. So far in New Hampshire this year, all except one took place between 11PM and 7AM.

The risk of dying in a home fire is cut in half in homes with working smoke alarms, according to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA). The NHFMO is

committed to continue to educate on the importance of smoke alarms. We hope you will join us in our efforts!



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

#### **ADMINISTRATION**

##### **Personnel**

- Peter “Max” Dodge has been hired as our Curriculum Administrator and started on March 24<sup>th</sup>.
- Phillip Brunelle has been hired as a Fire Training Captain in the Bureau of Fire Training and began this month.
- We held interviews for our remaining open full-time Fire Service Instructor Supervisor (Captain) positions.
- Our part-time Program Coordinator positions for Instructor, Swift Water, EMS Initial Programs and EMS in the Warm Zone are open and we are seeking applicants.
- Our open Program Specialist IV (Education Technology Manager) has been posted internally and closes on April 19<sup>th</sup>.

##### **Grants**

- We continue to work with the architectural firm on the design process for the Raymond S. Burton Fire and EMS Training Facility project.

- As we continue to overcome the challenge of significant price increases in construction costs over the last year we have begun the process to move forward with phase one of the project. Land clearing is expected to begin this fall/winter with site work starting in the spring of 2024.
- We are working with the Department of Health and Human Services Covid Disparities Funding program to expand Image Trend to add Continuum, additional IFT, MIH and simulation training and staff support.
- We have applied for a grant for \$471,000 through the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act funding available at the Department of Business and Economic Affairs to fund a comprehensive campaign designed to recruit firefighters and EMS providers in our state.
- The NH EMT Training Program is active with grant funding for training new and existing EMS providers. Contact our Division or NH Employment Security for details and question.

#### Fire Standards and Training Commission / Curriculum

- The next Fire Standards and Training Commission meeting will be May 4<sup>th</sup> at 0930 in Classrooms 5/6 in the dormitory building at the main campus. The full schedule for 2023 also includes meetings on September 7<sup>th</sup> and November 2<sup>nd</sup>.
  - The Visiting Committee's for the development of a Fire Officer III & IV program and the Technical Rescue Program – Rope Operations and Technician continue their work.
  - The Commission voted to establish a Visiting Committee for the Fire Investigator Program which will be seated by the Commission and begin their work this spring.
  - The Administrative Rules Sub-Committee has re-convened and will be evaluating the Fire rules relative to the Recruitment and Retention report and its recommendations as their first priority. Meetings were held on March 8<sup>th</sup>, April 12<sup>th</sup> and another is planned for April 24<sup>th</sup>.

#### Special Projects

##### Facilities

- We are working towards finalizing a contract to complete the “B” building upgrades that are needed.
- We continue to work with NH Public Works on getting the design and engineering complete to repair the roadway washout on the south side of the drill yard at the Concord campus. An engineering firm has been hired to design the reconstruction. Estimates for repair were approximately \$260,000.
- We are working on the replacement of two AC condenser units in the dormitory building.

### Legislative/Administrative Rules

- The new legislative session has begun, and we are tracking a number of bills this year. A few include:
  - HB 183 Relative to Employment of Retired Firefighters at the Fire Academy
  - HB 373 Relative to Billing for Ambulance Services
  - SB 153 Relative to establishing a First Responder Career Development, Recruitment and Retention program
  - SB 204 Requiring Trauma Kits to be Available in State-Owned Buildings
  - SB 268 Allowing for Pre-Hospital Treatment and Transportation for Operational Canines
- 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.

### Outreach

- We are working through the requests submitted by departments for the Spring of 2024 training programs and are finalizing that schedule.
- We are continuing our Leadership Roundtables with the Commissioner, Fire Marshal's Office, HSEM and Emergency Services and Communications with regional Fire Chiefs and EMD's.
  - North Country area is planned for April 20<sup>th</sup>.
- We participated in the quarterly meeting with the NH Fire Chief's, Professional FF's of NH, State Fireman's Association and the Fire Marshal's Office.

### Mental Health & Resiliency

- Difficult Conversations: Preventing Responder Suicide and Promoting Resilience
  - May 15<sup>th</sup>.
    - This will be a three-part presentation. The first two speakers will discuss suicide from the perspective of a family whose spouse was a career firefighter and completed suicide in 2020 as well as a clinical social worker who has specifically worked in the mental health field developing suicide prevention and postintervention programs. The final speaker will conduct a workshop where participants should expect to leave with a better understanding of how stress and trauma affect first responder performance and be equipped with techniques to build resilience and initiate difficult conversations. Objectives to be met: 1. Identify the warning signs for mental health issues and suicide risk 2. Understand the barriers to help seeking 3. Learn evidence-based strategies for suicide prevention 4. Initiate an #IWillListen / #IWillTalk conversation 5. Identify at least five resources for

officers in your agency 6. Explore resilience and healthy habits 7. Employ a R.A.N.G.E. of five resilience skills.

- Responder Strong Train-the-Trainer – May 16<sup>th</sup>.
  - Responder Strong program is a Train the Trainer program for Police, Fire, EMS and dispatchers, to better understand behavioral health and to gain tools and resources to support our peers.

### Recruitment and Retention

- Upcoming Recruitment and Retention events:
  - Extinguishing Sexual Harassment in the Fire Service was held in Portsmouth on April 10<sup>th</sup>.
  - “Exploring Exploring” presented by the Daniel Webster Council Boy Scouts in Concord May 4<sup>th</sup>.
  - Understanding CPAT - Laconia at the Merrill Fay Arena on May 16<sup>th</sup>.
  - Women in the Fire Service: Getting Your Career Started – Laconia at the Merrill Fay Arena on June 10<sup>th</sup>.
  - A Veteran’s Recruitment Event is being planned for September 16<sup>th</sup> to be held here at the Concord campus.

## **BUREAU OF FIRE TRAINING**

### Courses/Programs

- Firefighter I
  - The Spring Recruit School began is ongoing and the Fall program will begin on August 14<sup>th</sup>.
  - The LRCC I/II and Brookline I/II combined classes are ongoing.
  - The Bethlehem and Kingston classes are ongoing.
- Firefighter II
  - Lakes Region Fire Mutual Aid Association class is ongoing in New Hampton.
- Technical Rescue
  - Swift Water Level II begins in Lincoln beginning April 28<sup>th</sup>.
  - Swift Water Level I begins in Littleton on May 12<sup>th</sup> and Bedford on June 9<sup>th</sup>.
  - Trench Rescue – Walpole on April 22<sup>nd</sup>.
- Driver Operator
  - Driver/Operator – All Vehicles - Henniker April 10<sup>th</sup>, Center Ossipee April 18<sup>th</sup> and Chester May 25<sup>th</sup>.
- ARFF
  - Airport Firefighter - Concord campus on April 24<sup>th</sup>.
  - Nantucket, Cape Cod, Pease Air Force Base and the Vermont Air National Guard are all scheduled to participate in recertification programs between April 18-20<sup>th</sup>.

- Facilities and Prop Usage
  - Maine Specialty Dogs are on campus for the month of April.
  - Pelham FD participated in Flashover Training at the Concord campus.
  - Chichester will be utilizing the ARFF site for hose testing.
- Online Training Courses
  - “Fire Mobilization” is a free 1-hour program that supports the NH Federation of Mutual Aid “Fire (& EMS) Mobilization Plan”
  - “Fire Service Communications” is a free 1-hour program.
- A delivery analysis of the Firefighter I and II programs has been completed and identified areas of improvement are being made.
- All of the curricula for programs may be found at <https://nhfa-ems.com/curricula/>. Departments have asked for this information so it can be used in the delivery of local training drills and evolutions.
- For all current course listings, you can go to <https://nhfa-ems.com/scheduled-courses/>

#### Apparatus/Equipment

- The new ARFF truck is in production at E-One in Ocala, Fl. and delivery is expected in the June of 2023 which is later than anticipated.
- The new Engine bid has been awarded to Rosenbauer. At this time, it appears the chassis will be available in early 2023 with an anticipated timeframe for completion later that fall.

### **BUREAU OF CERTIFICATION AND SUPPORT**

#### Courses/Programs

- Instructor I/II/III Programs
  - Instructor I began in Concord March 14<sup>th</sup>.
  - Instructor I - Concord and at Monadnock Hospital begin May 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- Instructor Professional Development
  - Competency Based Education – June 8<sup>th</sup>.
- Fire Officer I/II Programs
  - Fire Officer I began in Concord March 23<sup>rd</sup>.
  - Fire Officer II begins June 8<sup>th</sup>.
- Fire Inspector Programs
  - Fire Inspector I began at the Bethlehem campus on April 1<sup>st</sup>.
  - Fire Inspector II began at the Concord campus on April 6<sup>th</sup>.
- Fire Investigator
  - The 2023 offering begins August 24<sup>th</sup> at the Concord campus.
- National Fire Academy
  - Youth Firesetter Intervention Specialist begins at the Concord campus on May 16<sup>th</sup>.

- Command and Control of Incident Operations (6 day) begins at the Concord campus on May 8<sup>th</sup>.
- Incident Safety Officer begins in Portsmouth on May 23<sup>rd</sup>.
- Incident Command
  - ICS 400 - Concord on May 2<sup>nd</sup>.
  - ICS 300 – Nashua on June 6<sup>th</sup>.
- “Your Workplace has Changed: Fire Dynamics for Structural Firefighting”.
  - The next offering will be held in Laconia on May 25<sup>th</sup>.
  - This program has been very successful and highly requested.
- For all current course listings, you can go to <https://nhfa-ems.com/scheduled-courses/>

### Instructors

- We continue to work on the Instructor Recruitment Plan and analyzing the onboarding and probationary instructor process.
  - 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.
- State fire instructor renewals are due by June 30. If any instructor has questions or concerns contact us.

### CPAT

- The 2023 CPAT orientation and testing will be held at the Laconia Ice Arena April 26<sup>th</sup>, May 16<sup>th</sup> and June 12<sup>th</sup>. CPAT testing will be held at the NH Fire Academy in September.

### Testing

- Our work continues on acquisition of new testing software for the Division with vendor presentations held the week of March 20<sup>th</sup>. Scoring for the proposals has been completed. When final this will enable us to begin computer-based testing and eliminate the paper method.

## **BUREAU OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES**

### Boards and Commissions

- The NH Medical Control Board and the NH Emergency Medical and Trauma Services Coordinating Board meetings will take place at 0900 and 1300, respectively, on May 18<sup>th</sup> in classrooms 5 & 6 in the dormitory building.
- The NH Trauma Medical Review Committee (TMRC) will meet at 0930 on April 20<sup>th</sup> in classroom 2 in the administration building.
- We are working towards the first meeting of the Privacy Committee as established in RSA 153-A:35 II.

### Operations

- Administrative rules for Educational Training Agencies have been drafted and we continue to work with the Department of Safety legal unit to complete these.



- The Criminal History Records Information wait times have been averaging approximately 3 weeks.
- There are approximately 700 EMS Providers that are still in need of renewal.

### Courses/Programs

- Mobile Integrated Healthcare Provider
  - MIH for Agency Leadership begins May 2<sup>nd</sup>.
    - This seminar we will explore the positive impact a Mobile Integrated Healthcare (MIH) program can have on these and other system challenges, discuss the differences between the traditional 911 program and a MIH program and explore cases from NH's active MIH programs. This seminar is a must for any agency chief looking to explore the "Why", "What" and "How" of a Mobile Integrated Healthcare Program in NH.
  - Mobile Integrated Healthcare Provider begins May 2<sup>nd</sup>.
    - The MIH-P continuing education program consists of classes developed to equip experienced EMS providers with the skills they need to succeed in a mobile integrated healthcare program.
- Emergency Medical Responder (EMR)
  - The winter 2023 course is ongoing.
  - The spring class in Brookline, Concord and Littleton begins May 10<sup>th</sup>.
  - The fall class begins September 20<sup>th</sup> at Monadnock Hospital, Concord and in Bethlehem.
  - The winter 2024 class begins January 10<sup>th</sup> in Concord, Mont Vernon and Littleton.
- EMS Continuing Education
  - EMS Grands Rounds: Trauma Case Review - Concord on April 12<sup>th</sup>.
  - Autism Awareness for the First Responder – Concord on April 15<sup>th</sup>.
  - Physiology, Pathology and Bloodless Medicine - virtual on April 20<sup>th</sup>.
  - Pediatrics: Respiratory Distress – Littleton on April 22<sup>nd</sup>.
  - The Medical Marijuana Debate – Cutting Through the Smoke – Concord on May 3<sup>rd</sup> and virtual on May 18<sup>th</sup>.
  - NCCP – Trauma – Concord on May 6<sup>th</sup>.
  - Introduction to Prehospital Ultrasound for Paramedics – Concord on May 20<sup>th</sup>.
  - Obstetrics Abnormal Delivery – Concord on May 20<sup>th</sup> and in Bethlehem June 10<sup>th</sup>.
  - The Cost of Code 3: An Evidence-Based Look at Lights and Siren Usage – Concord June 7<sup>th</sup> and virtual June 15<sup>th</sup>.
  - NCCP-Trauma and Operations – Concord June 24<sup>th</sup>.
  - For all current course listings, you can go to <https://nhfa-ems.com/scheduled-courses/>

- EMS in the Warm Zone Awareness, Operations and Rescue Task Force Concepts
  - EMS in the Warm Zone RTF Concepts is tentatively planned for May 20<sup>th</sup> in Henniker.
  - These courses are available free to students on our online training platform. The RTF Concepts class is a half-day in-person training that is also available. Grant funding opportunities are available for those that have not done so already.

### Clinical Systems

- Work continues on EMS Protocols Ver. 9.0.
- The Public Health Incident declared by Acting Commissioner Weaver of NH Department of Health and Human Services has been extended to May 11, 2023. The extension of the Public Health Incident allows for the continuation of all Emergency Protocols and any modifications to ambulance staffing requirements. These include:
  - Emergency Protocol - COVID-19 v.8 UPDATED
  - Emergency Protocol - COVID-19 Testing
  - Emergency Protocol - COVID-19 Immunization
  - Emergency Protocol - COVID-19 Temporary Mobile Integrated Healthcare (MIH)
  - Emergency Protocol - Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) - DISCONTINUED
  - Staffing modifications under Saf-C 5902.06 (m), as it relates to a public health or safety incident declared in writing to the governor by the commissioner of the department of safety or the commissioner of the department of health and human services.
  - We are continually reviewing these Emergency Protocols for their effectiveness on the delivery of patient care as well as well as their necessity in day-to-day operations within this evolving environment.
- The development of Trauma Rules is still underway and making progress.
- We continue our outreach and support to agencies for inter-facility transfers and mobile integrated health programs.

### Data Management

- Reporting
  - We've added a new folder to ELITE report writer called **Grant Data Templates**. Several of the templates are preset to run totals for the years 2020-2022 as required for the current AFG grant request. So far, we've built the following report templates for services to copy and customize:
    - Total Calls by Incident Type Category for years 2020-2022
    - Total Calls by Incident Type Code for years 2020-2022
    - Mutual Aid Given/Received for years 2020-2022

- Mutual Aid Given/Received – Structure Fires only (NFIRS 111-123) for years 2020-2022
  - EMS Runs by Patient Disposition – 2020-2022
- These reports can work for most grant as they all ask for similar information. We've included instructions in the description area explaining how to change the time period on the filter tab.
- We have also built reports for services to extract run data for the CMS data reporting requirements that CMS requires of transporting EMS services. Each year over a 3-year period CMS assigns different services to report a large amount of data with the intent of determining the actual cost of delivering EMS care. Most of the data comes from financial records, but some of it comes from run records. They all start with "CMS" with the rest of the label including the specific question number from the data collection guide.
- NFIRS/Respond NH
  - Work continues on the New Hampshire Emergency Services Reporting System (NHESR), which is an extension of the TEMSIS system. If you would like to start using the system, please fill out the form available at <https://nhfa-ems.com/nhesronboard/>.
  - A Fire User Group meeting was held on April 12<sup>th</sup>. These meetings serve as a forum to collaborate, share challenges and find solutions in the NHESR system. These meetings occur remotely on the second Wednesday at 1300 hours each month. Contact Joseph Cartier for the link.
  - Coordination continues with the Fire Marshal's Office for further education and guidance for reporting.
  - Anyone interested in the system can contact Joseph Cartier at 603-223-3403 or [joseph.w.cartier@dos.nh.gov](mailto:joseph.w.cartier@dos.nh.gov).
- RespondNH
  - The Division continues to expand the capabilities of the RespondNH system. As we are able to utilize this system and analyze more data it is important to have department roster information updated and current. Each department has the full capability to manage their own roster by adding new staff and removing those that may have left. Departments are able to do this at any time. For State level reporting information please fill out your roster information to include their status (career, call, or volunteer) as well as the duties they provide such as EMS care and/or fire suppression.
- TEMSIS
  - 21,529 EMS incidents were entered into the system for March.
  - We are working in preparation for NEMSIS 3.5.

### Compliance

- There are currently over 35 active investigations and ongoing cases.

### Preparedness and Special Projects

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

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

- They will be meeting in May and concentrating on recruitment and retention.

### **NH Emergency Medical and Trauma Services Coord. Board – (Dep. Chief Bean) – n/r**

### **National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC) – (Chief Corey) –**

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

### **EMS Trauma Medical Review Board – (Chief Beaudoin) – n/r**

### **Forests and Lands – (Chief Sherman) – n/r**

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

### **Building Code Review Board – (Marshal Lennon/Chief Conley) – (submitted in writing)**

Here are highlights from the February 10<sup>th</sup> meeting of the NHSBCRB:

- Public Hearing on:
  - Proposed amendments to the International Building Code: BD-21-01-23, BD-21-02-23, BD-21-03-23, BD-21-04-23, BD-21-05-23, BD-21-06-23, BD-21-07-23, BD-08-01-23, BD-21-09-23, BD-21-10-23
  - Proposed amendments to the International Existing Building Code: EX-21-01-23, EX-21-02-23, EX-21-03-23, EX-21-04-23, EX-21-05-23
- Board discussion and vote:
  - a. IBC report
  - b. IBC amendments
  - c. IEBC report
  - d. IEBC amendments
- Legislative Updates:
  - LSR 0271 – Ratifying codes. Now HB564 changes the date in 155-A that says all the amendments BCRB have reviewed and approved to November 4, 2022, to ratify the amendments through November. Bill and RSA says all of the amendments through “this date” are part of the State Building Code.

- LSR 0806 – This is going to turn into a bill, but it is not changing anything in the building code at this time. FMO has been working with a group from the day care industry, both architect and user. It has to do with tiny house daycares to tiny office daycares. Size threshold do not align with 101.
- HB111 – Establishes a committee to study electrical vehicle charging for residential renters.
- HB173 – Relative to toilet facilities provided by restaurants. Eliminates DHHS requirements for separate bathroom fixtures in small restaurants or any place that serves alcohol. Statute written in 1935 in a section titled tenement houses under RSA 155, not 155-A.
- HB558 – Was LSR 203. Talks about electric micro-grids.

Next meeting is Friday, March 10<sup>th</sup>.

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

**Division of Emergency Services and Communications – (Director Doyle) –**  
No report

**E-911 Commission – (Chief Thomas) –** No report.

**IAFC Director – (Chief Christopoulos) –** No report

**New England Fire Chiefs – a Division of the IAFC – (Chief Jones) –**

- He asked all who have received SAFER grants to write to congressmen to restore funding for the grants. A MOTION (Murray/Jones) to draft a letter of support for the program to our congressional delegation, carried unanimously.
- He spoke of then NE Fire Chiefs' expo in October at Mohegan Sun.

**NH IAC – (James Heinz) –**

- Mr. Heinz reminded the members of his tasks and urged them to contact him with pertinent information

**Old Business -**

**New Business –** Chief Best asked for a report of the Nominating Committee, which reads as follows:

**The Nominating Committee presents the following nominations for the New Hampshire Association of Fire Chiefs annual elections (2023):**

- President – Chief Larry Best (Salem)
- 1<sup>st</sup> vice President – Chief Dave Emanuel (Durham)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President – Chief James Watkins (Berlin)
- Sgt. at Arms – Chief Scott Hunter – (Bedford)

- Executive Director/Secretary - Chief Brent Lemire (retired) (Litchfield)
- Treasurer – Chief Steve Carrier, (Gilford)
- Fulltime Chief Director – Chief Mike McShane (Dover) **expiring 4/2023**
- Combination Chief Director – Chief Dave Chamberlain – (Jaffrey) **expiring 4/2023**
- Combination Chief Director – Ops Chief Francis Fraitzl – (New Boston)

\*Vacant by Chief Mike McQuillen\* **expiring 4/2024**

**BELOW ARE NOT UP FOR RE-ELECTION UNTIL 2024**

- Fulltime Chief Director - Chief Steve Buxton (Nashua) **expiring 4/2024**
- Combination Chief Director – Chief Francis Fraitzl – (New Boston)
- Voting Member Director – Chief Hank Thomas (Newbury) **expiring 4/2024**
- Immediate Past President – Chief Michael Sitar (Tilton-Northfield)

Respectfully submitted;

Chair, Chief Jason Lyon – New London  
 Chief Martin McMillan - Hanover  
 FM Sean Toomey – State of NH

Chief Henry Thomas MOVED (seconded by Chief Murray) to authorize the Executive Director to cast one ballot for the slate of officers. The motion carried unanimously.

The 2024 Budget is still under board review and will be presented at the May meeting.

Chief Best presented Chief Beattie with a token of appreciation from the organization for his time as President.

**Good and Welfare –**

Following the raffle, the meeting was adjourned at 2005 hours.

Respectfully submitted,  
 Chief Brent T. Lemire, Ret.  
 Executive Director, NHAFC  
 April 13, 2023