



## **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, May 14, 2026

The meeting was called to order at 0901 hours by Chief LaRoche..

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

**Welcome from Host:** n/a

**INTRODUCTION OF MEMBERS.** Attending members were polled by the Executive Director.

**Special Guests:** Steve Pecora from Governor Ayotte's office and Nick Brown from Senator Shaheen's office, who offered comments of support.

**Minutes:** A MOTION (Jones/Wholey) to approve the minutes of the April (Annual) meeting carried unanimously.

**Treasurer's Report:** A MOTION (Emanuel/D. Chamberlain) to approve the financial reports for April, carried unanimously.

**Communications:** n/a

**Applications for membership:** ED Lemire stated that we have three (3) new applications that have been approved, Asst. Chief Seth Miller of Hooksett; Chief Jay Wilson of Mont Vernon and Chief James Young of Londonderry.

**Life Membership:**

**President's Report: (LaRoche) –**

- On April 15th I testified to the Senate Committee in support of HB 1602. Chief Lyon, also testified.
- There was a NH Ground Ambulance Data Collection webinar last Wednesday. As discussed at the annual meeting, many services were not receiving information from RAND or NHID, to include our private EMS partners. This has been communicated to NHID. They have added emails to list for NHAFC, NHBEMS, and the Ambulance Association so that those groups can forward future communications.
- The Professional Development Committee will meet next week to finalize June and August's seminars.
- You have probably noticed that the spam/phishing emails have started again, now appearing to come from me. I have reached out to the IT company that Bristol uses, to

see if they have any insight on this and any suggestions as we look to go to a new website.

- He has decided to ask the 1<sup>st</sup> VP (D. Chamberlain) to serve as liaison to the Professional Development Committee to ensure continuity.

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

- The June 11 meeting will be a breakfast meeting at the NH Fire Academy.
- The June 3 BOD meeting will be virtual as it occurs during the Primex conference.
- The July 9 membership meeting will be virtual.
- In August, we will again be at the Town and Country Inn in Gorham/Shelburne ON THURSDAY, AUGUST 6. The Professional Development Committee has plans for a seminar for that meeting.
- The September meeting will be on the 10<sup>th</sup> for breakfast at Lakes Region Community College.
- The North Country Public Safety Awards banquet will be held on Friday, October 30, 2026.
- We experienced a trademark infringement issue with our certified officer program. I have not heard anything further so they must have been satisfied with our letter.
- The Scholarship Program has been advertised and posted.
- I have filed a claim on a Class Action Lawsuit against Discover. Discover has agreed to pay \$540 million to \$1,225 billion to settle claims of overpayment of fees. Any agency that processed Discover cards from January, 2007 to December, 2023 may be eligible to recover damages. I felt it was worth a try since we received the notice.

### **1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Report/Professional Development Committee - (Chief D. Chamberlain) – No report**

### **Government Relations – (Schmidt) –**

Both the House and Senate are scheduled to meet on Thursday, May 14. This is the last day for each body to vote on bills. Currently, the Senate Bills are in the House, and the House Bills are in the Senate. There are several key deadlines on the horizon:

- **Committees of Conference must be created by May 21.** The Committee of Conference process is used to address differences between the House and Senate versions of the same bill.
- **Committee of Conference Reports must be filed by May 28.** If Committees of Conference are able to reach an agreement, each body must then vote to approve the agreement. If the House and Senate cannot agree, and a report is not filed, the bill is killed.
- **The House and Senate must vote on Committee of Conference Reports by June 4.** This is scheduled to be last full day of the 2026 legislative session.

As the session is nearing completion, there are several bills on which we wanted to provide updates:

- **HB 1064 (liability of governmental units) –** The bill has been opposed by various organizations representing municipal and county government (NHMA, NH Association of Counties, etc.), as well as the unions representing various first responders. The bill would alter some of the existing laws which provide liability protection for government and government employees. It would also increase the damage caps. It has been supported by the trial bar and is in response to a severe injury sustained by a Representative's son while participating in a school organized event. The bill will be on the Senate floor on 5/14. There will be a floor amendment intended to attempt to

address some of the concerns expressed by the unions. The Senate Finance Committee vote to recommend passing the bill was 5-3, with both Democrats and Senate President Sharon Carson opposed. It is not yet clear what will happen on the Senate floor tomorrow.

- **HB 1109 (notice for suspended government employees)** – The bill has passed both the House and Senate in different forms. It is not yet clear if there will be a committee of conference or not. For NHAFC, the bill requires a public employer to provide written notice to a public employee of the cause of their suspension and its anticipated duration, if known, requires periodic updates to the public employee until a final decision is made, and exempts public employees covered by collective bargaining agreements that establish disciplinary procedures from the notice requirement.
- **HB 1705 (small department/EAP)** – The bill will also be on the Senate floor on 5/14. It received a 7-0 vote in favor of passage with an amendment. The bill is intended to help address a lack of access to existing mental health resources to support first responders. It establishes a fund to cover the costs of enrolling and supporting first responders from small communities into the state-provided employee assistance program (EAP) and outlines eligibility, enrollment, and reporting requirements for the Department of Health and Human Services. Eligible communities would be those with “.. Volunteer first responders and full-time first responders from towns with 5 or fewer full-time, paid first responders...”
- **HB 1555 (Code Applicability Appeals)** As introduced, the bill would freeze the applicability of the fire code for 20 years on a property after issuance of a certificate of occupancy, allow for the Fire Marshal to hear appeals of decisions by local fire chiefs, enable fire chiefs to grant variances to the state fire code, allow the Fire Marshal to allow exceptions to the state building code, and allow the state Building Code Review Board to hear appeals of decisions by a local fire Chief. As the session moved along, many of the onerous provisions were removed from the bill. The current version allows the state fire marshal to hear de novo appeals of local fire chief decisions within set timelines and grants them statewide authority to approve, deny, or allow project-specific alternatives and code modifications under the state building code. The bill has a 7/1/2027 effective date. This will allow for any budgetary needs the fire marshal may have to implement the bill to be considered as part of the next budget process. The bill will also be on the Senate floor on 5/14.
- **HB 1602 (Battery Stewardship)** –Prior to the initial passage by the House, NHAFC prepared a letter in support of the bill and Chief Jay Lyon attended the hearing to testify about the challenges associated with fire caused by lithium ion batteries. Chief Lyon and Chief Ben LaRoche testified at the Senate hearing to convey support for the bill in the Senate as well. The proposal also had support from the business community, battery manufacturers, waste haulers, and environmentalists. The Senate voted to send the bill to Interim Study in late April. The bill will not move forward in 2026.
- **SB 564 (prohibiting road length restrictions).** – This bill is scheduled to have a committee of conference in the next few weeks. Both the House and Senate versions include the following provision “...Municipalities shall not limit maximum road length so as to impede development, provided that the proposed roadway or extension thereof fully complies with the state fire code, including but not limited to standards for life safety, property access, asset preservation, emergency vehicle access, and roadway design.” The House added additional language which the Senate had not considered. The committee of conference will likely focus on those issues.

- **HB 1577 (utility/emergency response coordination)** – The bill has passed both the House and Senate. The versions are not the same. We will find out over the next week if there will be a committee of conference or not. The bill is intended to allow utilities to share individual customer data with a municipality's authorized public safety officials for emergency coordination purposes. During testimony in the House, the NH 911 CARES program was referenced as an existing program which helped address the issues the bill intended to address. If passed, Chiefs and local emergency response agencies may be contacted by individuals or utilities regarding implementation.
- **SB 423 (PTSD Commission Extension)** – The bill would re-establish the Commission to study the incidence of PTSD in first responders. The Commission was “sunset” after a number of years. The NHAFC will continue to have a member on the commission. The bill has passed the House and Senate in differing versions. We will find out soon if there will be a committee of conference or not.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Report (Fraitzl)** – No report

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

**Committee Reports**

**Scholarship Committee – (Marshal Toomey)**

**Division Reports**

**Fire Marshal: (Marshal Toomey/Brian Allard)**

**ADMINISTRATION:**

**Personnel:**

We currently have 14 vacancies. We are currently recruiting to fill the following positions: Fire Protection Specialist, two Administrative Assistants, and a State Building Inspector. An additional 10 vacancies remain on hold due to the hiring freeze in effect.

**Legislation:**

Legislative summary for active bills that we are following:

HB 1159 relative to updating the state building code

Position: Support

Status: Passed

HB 1555 relative to the administration and enforcement of the state fire code

Position: Oppose as introduced, Monitor as amended

Status: OTP-A out of House, Senate – OTP-A, Refer to Finance

SB 426 repealing the permissible fireworks advisory committee

Position: Support

Status: Passed

SB 494 relative to the state fire code, fire incident reporting and investigations, and the duties

of the state fire marshal

Position: Support

Status: Passed

SB 564 prohibiting certain municipal development restrictions

Position: Monitor

Status: Committee of Conference

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

The Board of Fire Control's next regular meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 12, 2026, 1:00 pm at the IPOC. There will be a Public Hearing to address an amendment to the 2024 edition of the Life Safety Code for existing educational and daycare uses.

### **BUREAU OF INVESTIGATIONS:**

The Bureau of Investigations has 31 open cases at this time. This includes 8 criminal cases and 8 incidents involving fatalities. Investigators responded to 10 scenes in the month of April. There have been 10 fire fatalities and 2 carbon monoxide fatalities so far in 2026.

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

- On **April 1, 2026**, investigators were notified by the Concord Police Department of multiple suspected arson incidents. NHSFMO investigators assisted in developing investigative information and supporting efforts to identify a potential suspect. The Concord Police Department is leading the criminal investigation, and the NHSFMO will continue to assist as needed throughout the investigation.
- On **April 1, 2026**, investigators and a canine team responded to Ashland to assist with a suspected arson investigation. The NHSFMO obtained a search warrant, executed the search, and collected evidence for the origin and cause investigation with the assistance of one of our ignitable liquid detection K9s. NHSFMO investigators determined the fire was intentionally set, identified a suspect, and have sought an arrest warrant. The NHSFMO is leading the investigation with assistance from the Ashland Fire Department, Ashland Police Department, and the U.S. Marshals Service.
- On **April 2, 2026**, investigators and a canine team responded to Raymond to assist with a suspected arson investigation. The NHSFMO obtained multiple search warrants, executed the searches, and collected evidence for the origin and cause investigation with the assistance of one of our ignitable liquid detection K9s. Investigators determined that the fire had been intentionally set, and a suspect was identified. The suspect committed additional criminal offenses, and while apprehension was underway with outside agencies, the suspect died as a result of a self-inflicted injury. NHSFMO investigators will continue follow-up documentation related to the origin and cause investigation.
- On **April 3, 2026**, an investigator responded to Nottingham to assist with the origin and cause investigation of a fire. During the scene examination, the investigator located lithium-ion batteries for a vape device that had been charging in an external charger. The investigator identified the lithium-ion battery as the most likely competent ignition source and classified the fire as accidental. The NHSFMO worked alongside the Nottingham Fire Department and Nottingham Police Department.

- On **April 7, 2026**, investigators responded to Canterbury to assist with the origin and cause investigation of a fire. Based on the totality of the circumstances, physical evidence, and witness statements, investigators determined the most likely competent ignition source originated from a vehicle parked in the garage beneath the home. The fire was classified as accidental. The NHSFMO worked alongside the Canterbury Fire Department.
- On **April 7, 2026**, an investigator responded to Greenfield to assist the Greenfield Police Department with a suspected motor vehicle arson. The investigator determined the fire was intentionally set, and a suspect was identified. The NHSFMO is continuing to work with the Greenfield Police Department, as several active investigations involving the suspect and the circumstances surrounding the arson are ongoing.
- On **April 10, 2026**, investigators responded to Springfield to assist with the origin and cause investigation of a fire suspected to be arson. This investigation remains active and ongoing. Investigators worked alongside the Springfield Fire Department.
- On **April 11, 2026**, investigators were notified of a fire incident in Thornton in which a 35-year-old male sustained significant, potentially life-threatening burn injuries and was subsequently transported by medical helicopter to Massachusetts General Hospital. Investigators have continued to monitor the victim's status and collect reports and documentation related to the incident.
- On **April 28, 2026**, investigators responded to Loudon to assist the Loudon Fire Department with an origin and cause investigation of a fire. At this time, the fire does not appear to be criminal in nature.

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

- On **April 13, 2026**, investigators were notified by the Lebanon Fire Department of a fatality involving carbon monoxide exposure. An investigator responded to the scene, conducted an investigation, and identified the decedent as a 23-year-old male. The incident was ultimately determined to be an intentional fatal exposure to carbon monoxide. The NHSFMO worked alongside the Lebanon Fire Department, the Lebanon Police Department, and the New Hampshire State Medical Examiners' Office.
- On **April 21, 2026**, investigators responded to Portsmouth to assist the Portsmouth Fire and Police Departments with a fatal motor vehicle accident where a vehicle hit a utility pole and then traveled into some trees before catching fire. The sole occupant of the vehicle died at the scene, and at autopsy, the cause of death was determined to be smoke inhalation, and the manner of death was pending further investigation. The NHSFMO worked alongside the Portsmouth Fire Department, the Portsmouth Police Department, and the New Hampshire State Medical Examiners' Office.
- On **April 30, 2026**, investigators responded to Claremont at the request of the Claremont Fire Department for a building fire where a 59-year-old female occupant of the home was deceased. The investigation remains ongoing, and the official cause of death was determined to be smoke inhalation, and the manner of death was accidental. At this time, there is no evidence indicating that the fire was the result of a criminal act. The NHSFMO worked alongside the Claremont Fire Department, the Claremont Police Department, and the New Hampshire State Medical Examiners' Office.

#### **Arrests/Court:**

- An investigator testified in a deposition for a 2024 incident that took place in Plaistow where a clandestine drug laboratory had exploded.

- On April 26, 2026, the Meredith Police Department arrested Cody Cross on several local warrants and a felony arson warrant. The felony arson warrant resulted from the fire that occurred on April 1, 2026, in Ashland. Mr. Cross is currently being held at the Belknap County Jail, and his probable cause hearing was held May 7, 2026.

**Youth Firesetter:**

- In April, the NHSFMO received three referrals for YFS-related services.

**Outreach:**

- Investigators provided a presentation at the Central NH Forest Wardens meeting on interviewing techniques.

**BUREAU OF BUILDING SAFETY & CONSTRUCTION:**

**State Building Permit System:**

In April, a total of 56 permits were processed through the State Building Permit System:

- Building: 25
- Electrical: 18
- Plumbing: 3
- Fuel Gas: 3
- Mechanical: 1
- Fire Protection: 3
- Fire Alarm: 3

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

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

- Educational Plan Reviews: 7
- Healthcare Plan Reviews: 10
- Inspections Completed: 281
- Technical Consultations Provided: 173

**Variance Requests:**

We received no variance requests in April.

**Fireworks Safety and Enforcement Program**

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

- Proximate Licenses Issued: 0
- Display Certificate of Competency Issued: 1
- Consumer Fireworks Retail Store Licenses Issued: 3
- Explosive Magazine Inspections: 33
- Proximate Audience Inspections: 1
- Technical Assistance: 3

**Modular Building Program**

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

- Inspections: 11
- Audits of Manufacturers: 0
- Audits of Educational Facilities: 0
- Labels Issued to Manufacturers: 201
- Units Shipped to New Hampshire: 52

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

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

- Amusement Registrations: 117
- Amusement Inspections: 117
- Amusement Incidents: 0
- Tramway Registrations: 2
- Tramway Inspections: 2
- Tramway Incidents: 0

### **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 NHSFMO Hazmat Section did not respond to any incidents and did not have any consultations in April. We attended the annual NH Hazardous Materials Conference held at the Edward Cross Training Complex Pembroke on April 15 and presented information about hazmat incident reporting and the National Emergency Response Information System (NERIS). We also attended a hazmat collaborative meeting.

The hazardous materials section has initiated a hazardous materials risk assessment for Coos County, with the intent to complete one for each 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.

#### **Incident Reporting:**

**We would like to remind all fire departments that if you experience an incendiary fire, fatal fire or a fire with significant bodily injuries in your community, you should contact our office for investigative assistance at (603) 223-4289.**

New Hampshire is an RMS (records management system) NERIS state in which all fire departments will be utilizing a third-party RMS application to access and submit data to NERIS. Former e-NFIRS users should have either purchased an RMS application or take advantage of the free RMS solution offered by the NH Fire Academy called NHESR. If you wish to use this application, please contact the NHESR team at [nhesr@dos.nh.gov](mailto:nhesr@dos.nh.gov).

#### **Key NERIS Resources:**

- NERIS [User References](#)

- Visit [our website](#) for more NERIS support and updates.
- Incident Reporting Newsletter (quarterly). To be added to this distribution list, please e-mail the DAU at [firedata@dos.nh.gov](mailto:firedata@dos.nh.gov)

Please reach out to the NHSFMO Data Analysis Unit for any incident reporting questions at [firedata@dos.nh.gov](mailto:firedata@dos.nh.gov)

### **Register for this informative and FREE NERIS training in June:**

#### **NERIS – Making Data Work for You**

Thursday, June 4, 2026 @ 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

NH Fire Academy, Concord, NH

Description: The training from UL/FSRI offers participants a focused overview of the NERIS platform, including onboarding progress, key features, and upcoming changes. Attendees will explore lessons learned from recent implementation, gain insight with “Ten Things YOU Need to Know About NERIS”, and wrap up with an open Q&A segment. This two-hour course will be instructed by Chief Tom Jenkins.

Register now: <https://forms.office.com/g/AkELk7VKUb>

#### **Community Risk Reduction (CRR):**

Our latest edition of [Risk Reduction Quarterly](#) is out this month! It reviews Mobile-Integrated Health (MIH) programs as an example of effective, impactful CRR. Readers will get a sneak peek at the results of our Statewide Fire and CO Risk Assessment, a report which will be out soon. There are upcoming trainings, public messaging resources, and more.

#### **Upcoming Training Opportunities:**

##### **Whole, Integrated Community Risk Reduction**

Friday, June 12, 2026 @ 8am-12pm

NH Fire Academy (98 Smokey Bear Blvd., Concord)

Description: This free, 4-hour introduction to integrated, whole community risk reduction (IWCRR) includes lessons, case studies, open discussions, and group activities. It is more valuable when public safety & community leaders from the same community attend together. Attendees will gain a better understanding of risk reduction, data analysis, and materials for quality local-level planning.

Register at <https://forms.office.com/g/cKfoK7Z5Ah>.

#### **Outreach Events:**

In April, the New Hampshire State Fire Marshal’s Office attended 19 events, 7 of which were K9 demonstrations, and provided Sparky for 1. We attended 8 different career fair events, provided 1 Steps to Safety presentation, participated in 3 public health days, and presented at multiple community councils, lectures, and summits.

Deputy Fire Marshal Fanjoy and K9 partner, Anthem, collaborated with Amherst Middle School, and Amherst Fire Department. Together, we taught the community about fire safety, and they learned about fire investigations of the NH State Fire Marshal’s Office through a demonstration of what an Ignitable Liquid Detection K9 does and why she is such an important aspect during investigations.



In Sutton, the NHSFMO joined together with Sutton Fire Department to teach elementary students about planning their escape using our new fire safety activity “Plan Your Escape, Know Two Ways Out,” obstacle course which features identifying the sounds of various alarms, feeling the door before you leave, knowing two ways out and having a meeting place to call 911.

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

### **Public Education:**

May’s theme is “Home Fire Sprinklers.” Did you know that fire sprinklers and smoke alarms reduce the risk of dying in a fire by 82%? They are reliable and only spray when the temperature in the room rises quickly and only the sprinkler above the fire will spray. Sprinklers can limit the damage caused by smoke and fire and are less damaging than water damage caused by firefighting hose lines.

For further resources on fire sprinklers visit: <https://www.usfa.fema.gov/prevention/home-fires/prepare-for-fire/home-fire-sprinklers>



### **In-Service Training Opportunities:**

The NHSFMO offers multiple training opportunities for our stakeholders. These training courses are typically two to three hours in length and do not have any registration fees. There are several upcoming courses.

#### **NFPA 54 National Fuel Gas Code**

Monday, May 18 from 0900 – 1200  
Laconia Fire Station (848 N. Main Street, Laconia)  
Seating is limited to 40 people.  
To register, follow this link <https://forms.office.com/g/MK94vx6Vb7>.

#### **NERIS – Making Data Work for You**

Thursday, June 4 from 1000 – 1200  
NH Fire Academy, Concord, NH  
Register at: <https://forms.office.com/g/AkELk7VKUb>

#### **Whole, Integrated Community Risk Reduction**

Friday, June 12 from 0800 – 1200

NH Fire Academy (98 Smokey Bear Blvd., Concord)  
Register at <https://forms.office.com/g/cKfoK7Z5Ah>.

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).

Topics include:

- Application of the NH State Fire Code: A Scenario Based Training
- NFPA 1 and 101 2021 Edition Updates
- Inspections of Multi-Family Dwellings
- Tent Inspections
- Commercial Cooking and Food Trucks
- Solar Installations for One- and Two-family Homes
- Display Fireworks Inspection Essentials
- Heating and Fuel Gas Appliance Inspections
- 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

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

### **Administration**

#### **Personnel**

- We continue to work within the hiring process under Governor Ayotte's Executive Order to receive waivers for position vacancies.
- We have concluded interviews for the full-time Fire Training Captain.
- We are scheduling interviews for our open positions of 19 part-time staff instructors and 10 part-time maternal health instructors.
- Three full-time positions – Administrative Assistant to the Director, Program Assistant, and RespondNH Coordinator – have been submitted for waiver approval.

#### **Grants**

- The Division has submitted three EMS initiatives to New Hampshire DHHS for federal funding through the Rural Health Transformation Fund:
  1. Expanded Workforce Concepts Initiative
  2. Expanded Mobile Integrated Healthcare (MIH) Concepts Initiative

### 3. Expanded Bariatric Capability Upgrade Initiative

#### **Special Projects**

- The Firefighters First Cancer Screening Initiative has begun. Information regarding the program may be found on the website: <https://www.firefightersfirst.nh.gov/>
  - Fall 2026 appointments will open on August 4. Testing will run from September 14 to October 30.
  - Cancer screening tests will be held at the Concord Fire Academy Dorm building through May 26<sup>th</sup>. We ask anyone entering the building during the testing period to be respectful of the exam-related signage.
- 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. Emergency Service Dispatchers are also eligible.
  - Program details: <https://www.fstems.dos.nh.gov/resources/recruitment-retention>

#### **Mental Health & Resiliency**

- *NAMI Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) Training* – Ossipee – May 11 - 15
- *NAMI Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) Training* – Milford – June 22 - 26

#### **Legislative/Administrative Rules**

- The 2026 Legislative Session is underway with over 1,073 Legislative Service Requests filed for the upcoming session. The Division is working with DOS Leadership to review and strategize for possible fire and EMS service impacts.
- The proposed Trauma Rules are working through the internal DOS process.
- 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**

- Director Wholey and Captain Burns attended the Souhegan Valley Mutual Fire Aid Association meeting on April 15<sup>th</sup> in Goffstown.

#### **Curriculum**

##### **Firefighter**

- A public comment period on the proposed Firefighter I curriculum will begin on May 6<sup>th</sup> and continue through July 7<sup>th</sup>. During this time, the public is invited to review the curriculum and provide feedback. The public feedback form can be found on the Division website at: <https://www.fstems.dos.nh.gov/about-us/boards-commissions/public-feedback>
- The public hearing will be on May 20<sup>th</sup>, 3:00 pm - 5:00 pm in the Concord Academy Auditorium.

- The development of Firefighter II has completed. The next step is for the Curriculum Committee to review over the summer.

### **Driver-Operator**

- A public comment period on the proposed Driver Operator curricula will begin on May 6<sup>th</sup> and continue through July 7<sup>th</sup>. During this time, the public is invited to review the curriculum and provide feedback. The public feedback form can be found on the Division website at: <https://www.fstems.dos.nh.gov/about-us/boards-commissions/public-feedback>
- The public hearing will be on May 21<sup>st</sup>, 3:00 pm - 5:00 pm in the Concord Academy Auditorium.

### **Fire Officer**

- Applications for the Fire Officer visiting committee have closed. The FSTC has seated the visiting committee members. The first meeting of the visiting committee will be on June 17<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 am at the New Hampshire Fire Academy.

### **Interfacility Transfer (Bureau of EMS)**

- Captain Robblee and Rachel Larry are overseeing an EMS Visiting Committee to revise the IFT and PIFT training programs.
- A survey was sent out to paramedic interfacility transport providers to gather feedback on the recurrent themes found during thematic analysis. 89 people responded to the survey and the development committee reviewed the responses.
- The next and final step in this process will be to present a draft of the prerequisite protocol administrative packet to the development committee for review.

### **Future Program Development**

- *Fire and Emergency Services Instructor (I, II, & III)*. The new NFPA standards for Instructor professional qualifications (NFPA 1020) were released at the beginning of the year. Development of these programs will begin in Summer 2026.

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### ***Bureau of Firefighter Training***

#### **Courses/Programs**

- Firefighter I & II
  - *Bethlehem (FF I & II)* – January 21 - June 28
  - *Lakes Region Community College (FF I & II)* – March 23 - May 8
  - *Spring Recruit School (FF I & II)* – March 30 - June 26
  - *Firefighter I* – Concord – August 3 - November 7
  - *Fall Recruit School (FF I & II)* – August 10 - October 9
  - *Firefighter II* – Hampton – September 15 - October 31
- Technical Rescue
  - *Confined Space Technician* – Concord – June 15 - 17

- Driver Operator
  - All inquiries for these programs should be directed to [driveroperator@dos.nh.gov](mailto:driveroperator@dos.nh.gov)
- Hazardous Materials
  - *Hazardous Materials Operations with PPE & Product Control* – Bethlehem – September 15 - 20
  - *Hazardous Materials Operations with PPE & Product Control* – Concord – September 29 - October 4
  - Hazardous Materials Awareness:  
<https://www.nhfaemslearning.org/login/index.php>
- Airport Rescue Firefighting
  - Spring Live Fire Recertifications are running:  
<https://www.fstems.dos.nh.gov/training-education/aircraft-rescue-firefighter-training>
  - *Airport Firefighter* – Concord – October 12 - 17
- “On My Time” Program
  - We continue to offer guidance to departments participating in this program.

### **Apparatus/Equipment**

- Engine Three remains out of service as it did not pass inspection and is being repaired.
- All other apparatus and Fleet Vehicles are in service.

### **Facilities, Prop Usage and Projects**

- The Concord Fire Department used the “A” Building for live fire training on March 30<sup>th</sup>.
- The SCBA maze at the Burton Facility was completed on March 28<sup>th</sup>.
- We are working with our Maintenance Staff to repair lighting in and around the “B” Building and the Northwest side of the Drillyard.
- We delivered four instructor workshops on auto extrication: three at the Concord Campus on April 15, 17, & 19, and one at the Burton Facility on April 18.

### ***Bureau of Certification and Support***

#### **Courses/Programs**

- Instructor I/II/III Programs
  - *Instructor I* – Bethlehem – April 6 - May 16
  - *Instructor I* – Concord – September 11 - October 16
  - *Instructor I* – Brentwood – October 30 - December 11
  - *Instructor II* – Virtual – September 29 - December 7
  - *Instructor III* – Virtual – May 4 - July 13
- Fire Officer I/II Programs
  - *Fire Officer I* – Hampstead – April 2 - May 21

- *Fire Officer I* – New Hampton – September 9 - November 4
- *Fire Officer I* – Concord – October 26 - January 4
- *Fire Officer II* – Virtual – May 6 - June 24
- *Fire Officer II* – Virtual – October 15 - November 19
- Fire Inspector Programs
  - *First Responder Inspector* – Concord – June 4 - July 2
  - *Fire Inspector* – Concord – October 15 - November 19
- Fire Investigator Programs
  - *Fire Investigator*– Concord – August 20 - November 5
- National Fire Academy & Specialty Programs
  - *Wildland-Urban Interface Risk Assessment & Mitigation for the Fire Service* – Concord – June 8 & 9
  - *Managing Disciplinary Challenges in the Fire Service with Curt Varone, JD, MS, EFO* – Concord – June 3 & 4: <https://nhfa-ems.com/scheduled-course/managing-disciplinary-challenges-in-the-fire-service/>
  - The National Fire Academy has reopened. Canceled off-campus programs will begin being rescheduled, with completion targeted by September 30, 2026. Resident programs are scheduled to resume on May 24, 2026.
  - 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](mailto:Anthony.T.Burns@dos.nh.gov). The course call for FY 2027 closes May 23rd and we would welcome your suggestions.

## **Instructors**

- New State Fire Instructor applications are available on RespondNH.
- Applications for renewal are open, and current State Fire Instructors were sent a notice of the required renewal. Renewals are due June 30, 2026.
  - Active/Current New Hampshire State Fire Instructors: 259
  - New State Fire Instructor Applications In-progress: 57
  - 2026 Renewals YTD: 60

## **Testing & CPAT**

- April monthly testing hit an all-time high of 126 exams, surpassing the July 2025 high of 99. Year-to-date, there have been 274 cognitive exams and 118 practical exams scheduled.
  - 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>
- Effective July 1, 2026, the Division will begin charging certification testing fees for individuals who completed non-Division coordinated or funded training programs and are seeking monthly testing, under Administrative Rule Saf-C 6204.01(d).
  - Examination Fee Structure:

- All written exams: \$30
- Firefighter I Practical: \$330
- Firefighter II Practical: \$140
- All other practical exams: \$155

- CPAT tests through August are open for registration:
  - June 23 – Merrill Fay Ice Arena – Laconia
  - August 6 – Merrill Fay Ice Arena – Laconia
  - October & November – Nashua (Location and date TBD)
- 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.

### **Program Support**

- Work has begun in conjunction with the data team to support a RespondNH General Admission application, with a goal of implementing the new form by July 1.
- We are waiting on the “Notice of Approval Letter” from Veterans Affairs from the submission of the application package regarding our status as a GI Bill-approved learning institution.
- 37 in-person applications were received on the enrollment opening day, with a total of 77 applications received the first day. Many programs are still open for fall enrollment.

### ***Bureau of Emergency Medical Services***

#### **Boards and Commissions**

- The Medical Control Board will meet on May 21<sup>st</sup> at 0930.
- The Emergency Medical and Trauma Services Coordinating Board will meet on May 21<sup>st</sup> at 1300.
- The Trauma Medical Review Committee will meet on June 17<sup>th</sup> at 0930.
- The Privacy Committee will meet on June 24<sup>th</sup> at 1300.

#### **Operations**

- Educational Training Agencies (ETA) support and relicensing are ongoing with no observed issues. Since inception, we have seen an average of a 5% increase in NREMT pass rates across all levels of initial training.
  - 22 licensed ETAs 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>

#### **Courses/Programs**

- EMS Simulation Education
  - *EMS Simulation – Traumatic Emergencies (Medical Simulation)* – New London, May 20<sup>th</sup>
  - *Prehospital Obstetric and Neonatal Care (Medical Simulation)* – Windham, May 8<sup>th</sup>
  - *Bad Pipes – Less Common Types of Shock (Medical Simulation)* – Concord, May 13<sup>th</sup>; Keene, May 28<sup>th</sup>; and Bethlehem, June 13<sup>th</sup>
  - *National Emergency Response Information System (NERIS) - Making Data Work for You* – Concord – June 4<sup>th</sup>
  - *Prehospital Obstetric and Neonatal Care (Medical Simulation)* – Windham, June 5<sup>th</sup>
- EMS in the Warm Zone
  - Awareness and Operations courses are available free to students through our online training platform:  
<https://www.nhfaemslearning.org/login/index.php>
  - The RTF Concepts class is a half-day, in-person training with grant funding opportunities available. Questions regarding the program should be directed to Shawn Croteau at [Shawn.A.Croteau@dos.nh.gov](mailto:Shawn.A.Croteau@dos.nh.gov). Clinical Systems
- Work continues Version 10.0 Protocol Development.
- Both the FT EMS Training Coordinator and the PT Initial Programs Coordinator positions remain vacant. The Division will continue to run programs as staffing allows.
- All EMS bulletins may be found on the website:  
<https://www.fstems.dos.nh.gov/ems-systems/ems-bulletins>

## **Data Management**

- Under guidance from the U.S. Fire Administration, as of January 1, 2026, all fire response information shall be recorded using the National Emergency Response Information System (NERIS). The Data Management team continues to work closely with the Fire Marshals office on fire incident reporting system.
- For departments using NHESR, the Division's NHESR team continues to work with fire departments to assist with the transition. Questions may be directed to the [NHESR@dos.nh.gov](mailto:NHESR@dos.nh.gov) team.

## **Compliance**

- There are currently 9 active investigations and ongoing cases.

## **Preparedness and Special Projects**

- Staff continue to support AED, MIH, and IFT programs and outreach around the state. There are 14 current MIH programs in the state.

**Professional Development Committee: (Dir. Wholey)** - They are meeting next Wednesday.

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

Chief Clark reported that the Fire Standards & Training Commission met the week before and approved significant changes to the Administrative rules. The most notable being that a State Certified Instructor (Not an Academy Staff Instructor) will be re-approved to teach CREF classes of the Commission every two years and they must teach 40 hours (not necessarily a CREF course) and take 6 hours of continuing education in education methodology.

They also preliminary approved the revised Firefighter I curriculum. The Forestry component being controversial. There will be 80 days of public comment which will be considered by the Commission before final approval.

He also submitted a comprehensive report of the FF I changes that will be sent separately.

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

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

- Laconia facility update: Construction continues, 82% complete. Radio Tower / Shelter construction s/b complete by the end of this month;
- Genasys Emergency notification platform ([NH Alerts](#)) is up and running, If you are interested in becoming a POC for your community to use the ENS for local messaging, please let us know. The statewide ENS system is offered to local communities *at no cost*. For more information, reach out to Matt White, [matthew.w.white@desc.nh.gov](mailto:matthew.w.white@desc.nh.gov) at DESC;
- Piscataqua River / High Level Bridge reponse group meeting last week – more discussion with DOT related to access to video stream;
- Our Trainees have completed training and are on their own...new class being filled now and should start training by the end of the month (7 Trainees);

- Community Events / school visits reminder – connect with our Public Outreach / Education Team for more info: Patrick Cavanaugh (603-271-6911), [DESCPIO@dos.nh.gov](mailto:DESCPIO@dos.nh.gov);
- C.A.R.E.S. update is in full swing and the website has been completed. Reach out to our CARES Team for more information ([cares.desc.nh.gov](http://cares.desc.nh.gov)) or to include them in any outreach efforts in your community ( [NH911CARES@desc.nh.gov](mailto:NH911CARES@desc.nh.gov));
- Reminder of requirement to register AED's – if you would like any information on what is required and how you can spread the word in your communities, visit <https://www.desc.dos.nh.gov/resources/automated-external-defibrillator-aed-registration>
- Social Media / Public Education Updates:
 

In April, the Division used its social media channels (Facebook, Instagram, and X) to highlight National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week (NPSTW), recognize the work of New Hampshire's telecommunicators, and continue reinforcing important public safety messaging. Throughout the month, the Division shared daily NPSTW recognition content, coverage from the 2026 Telecommunicator of the Year ceremony honoring Martha "Marti" Dennerly, employee recognition posts, and behind-the-scenes content from both PSAPs. Additional messaging focused on accidental 911 calls, Text-to-911, knowing your location in an emergency, and reminders about answering telecommunicators' questions to the best of your ability. Engagement remained strong across social media platforms.
- Media events:



- Interoperability Roundtable discussion for Cheshire/SDullivan Countiers at SWMFA, and in Carroll County in March & Apri, Grafton/Coos County Rioundtable scheduled for May 21<sup>st</sup> in Liocoln at Linmcoln PD; More info can be requested from Asst. Director Tim Scott at [timothy.c.scott@desc.nh.gov](mailto:timothy.c.scott@desc.nh.gov)
- Statewide Interoperability Executive meeting held on 3/24 at the Fire Academy and on May 1<sup>st</sup> in Derry;
- The annual TERT (*New Hampshire Telecommunications Emergency Response Task Force*) Rally is scheduled for 3/27 at the Sullivan County Complex at 5 Nursing Home Dr., Claremont – for more information on NH-TERT, visit <https://www.nheda.org/nh-tert> ;
- Met with Northern Borders Dispatch Team at the IPOC re: Update provided regarding their funding plan and expansion of communcations in their Dispatch area;

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

- Survivor’s Banquet / Elliot Hospital recognition for our Telecommunicators and Health Care professionals this Sunday at the Double Tree Hotel;
- “Rescuer’s Reuniting with the Rescued” event at the Best Western, Keene, on June 10...recognizing care providers with those that were saved, involving our Telecommunicators;
- Internal meeting re: International phones dialing 911, in anticipation of FIFA World Cup. Also working with the Communications and Interoperability Planning group for Communications between and among all agencies participating (NH, MA, RI, ME and many Federal agencies involved);
- FirstNet pre-planning event scheduled for 5/20 at the IPOC...identify potential issues with several events held over the summer (NASCAR / Highland Games / Seafood Fest, etc.);
- Any question, comments, concerns please reach out: (c) 603-931-2298 / [mark.e.doyle@desc.nh.gov](mailto:mark.e.doyle@desc.nh.gov)

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

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

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

- He is monitoring situations with synagogues and other issues.
- They will be visiting all of the fireworks stores in relation to the FIFA event

**Commission to study the Incidence of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder in**

**First Responders – (Chief Watkins) – No report**

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

Chief Clark reported that the Board of Fire Control met yesterday and the only vote was to amend the Fire Code to allow battery powered CO Detectors in existing schools until they upgrade their Alarm System. General discussion about the increase in Fire and CO deaths. Established a committee to look at how to get more detectors into existing homes as only 4 out of 14 fire death homes had detectors.

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

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

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

**) Welcome/Membership**

– Still vacancies on TMRC for a neurosurgeon and Medical Examiner's Office as well NH Association of EMT's.

**2) Approval of the minutes**

A motion was made (Sweeney/Marcotte) to approve the February 18, 2026 minutes as presented. All in favor, none opposed.

**3) Bureau Reports**

a) Hiring waivers have been submitted to the Governor's office, with 10 maternal health positions accepting applications currently. The division data team has a position open, as well as the preparedness and planning position.

b) DHHS is still working on the Rural Health Transformation funds and how those are being allocated.

c) Trauma and Educational rules are still being reviewed by the Division legal team.

d) Work continues on the 10.0 protocols and the mid cycle rollout.

e) Continuing education is being reviewed by the Division in relation to funding etc.

f) 303 licensed units, 6587 licensed providers, 472 licensed ambulances, and 11 licensed helicopters in NH currently.

g) 14 active compliance investigations currently.

**4) Subcommittee and Topic Reports**

***Item 1: Trauma Registry Sub-committee-Walter Trachim***

- Meeting scheduled for 2026
- Motion to accept the 2026 Trauma Data Dictionary as presented. All approved.

***Item 2. Coordinating Board Report- Craig Clough***

- Discussed medical billing updates, NHID Webinar and reviewed protocol updates for 10.0 version

***Item 3. Medical Control Board Report- Tom Trimarco***

- No meeting held in March.
- Subcommittee is working on Cardiac section of protocols and would love any input on these. Reach out to Capt. Robblee at the State if you are interested in assisting with Protocol Committee.

***Item 4. Injury Prevention Report- Jim Esdon***

- Cheshire area is looking for Stop the Bleed training.
- Carbon Monoxide Conference will be held in November. Details to follow.
- The Army National Guard is hosting distracted teen driving classes/demonstrations. Will announce once the schedule is complete.

**Item 5. Hospital Designation Subcommittee- Craig Clough**

- Meetings will be held AFTER TMRC starting in June to resurrect this group for work on ACS level 4 certifications.

**6.) OLD BUSINESS**

- None

**7.) NEW BUSINESS**

- Jim Heinz gave a presentation on Human Trafficking in NH and the need for this training on this subject for 1<sup>st</sup> responders. If you are interested in this presentation, please reach out/let me know.

**8.) GOOD OF THE ORDER**

- Concord Hospital Trauma Conference will be held on October 15, 2026 at the Grappone Center in Concord.
- Kyle Levesque had a discussion with Rep. Maggie Goodlander about the Rescue Blood Act. The **RESCUE Blood Act** (Reimbursing Emergency Services for Critical Use of Emergency Blood Act) is federal legislation aimed at expanding pre-hospital whole blood programs nationwide. It ensures emergency medical services (EMS) and fire departments are properly reimbursed for administering life-saving blood products in the field. Will advise of any future discussions/updates on this.

**9.) ADJOURNMENT**

- Motion made (Levesque/Patterson) to adjourn the meeting at 1133 hours. All in favor, none opposed.
- Next Meeting is June 17, 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: Chair Sherman shared an email from DOJ clarifying the number of terms a member may serve. Based on appointments by the Commissioner, once three consecutive terms are completed as a member, no future terms as a member are permitted, however service as an alternate is permitted for an unlimited number of terms. A member may switch between less than three consecutive terms as a member, time off the board or terms as an alternate an unlimited number of times. Mike Hagan's 3<sup>rd</sup> term ends in June. Med Kopczynski's second term ends in October. Adam Pouliot's first term ends in June. Rob Roy's first term ends in October. The Chair reminded re-appointments are not automatic and members need to be renominated by their sponsoring organization, if interested, then reappointed by the Commissioner.

**2026 Web base training, RSA Chapter 15-A:** All board members filed the RSA 15-A forms and completed the web-based training.

**Acceptance of Minutes:**

Motion to approve March 13, 2026, meeting minutes made by Med Kopczynski seconded by Lee Carroll. Corrections were noted by Jim Maxfield on page 3, item #7b. “evacuation” should read “excavation”. All in favor, none opposed, abstained: Jim Maxfield, Ken Walsh, Karen Kitchen and Jim Reinert. Motion carried without further discussion, and the minutes were accepted as corrected.

**Appeals:** Chair Sherman mentioned an appeal against the Town of Windham, 2026-1 regarding a replacement deck. Prehearing conference is scheduled for April 24th. A motion was made by Ken Walsh to vote Vice-Chair Kowalik to act as Chair of this appeal if the Chair is absent, seconded by Lee Carroll. All in favor, none opposed. Motion carried without further discussion. Appeal 2026-2, City of Laconia, regarding an abutter appeal request was received late on April 9th. Chair Sherman will review the appeal and determine with DOJ if it is a valid appeal and proceed from there.

**Additional Code Development:** Chair Sherman mentioned that Jerry Tepe has located multiple errors in board reviewed amendments that were sent to legislature. These are Scribner’s errors, but there were many. Documents will be updated, but the Chair asked that the committees have rigorous proofread by someone other than the author of a document.

**Public hearing on EN-18-18-26 R1, Public hearing on 2018 IECC R503.1.1 item 7:**

Regarding foundation insulation. There were no public comments. The debate was, should it be in the residential, existing or energy code? A motion was made by Ken Walsh to include the ADU and Chapter One amendment, seconded by Mike Hagan. Both Mr. Walsh and Mr. Hagan withdrew their motion. A motion was made by Mike Hagan to discuss this as part of the ADU amendment, seconded by Kate Richardson. EN-18-18-26 R1 was therefore not approved.

**Exhibit C1-24-01-26 was introduced. This amendment corrects cross references being changed by HB244 and adds statutory language to section 113.1.1. After approval by this board at the May meeting, Representative Carol Maguire will have the ratification**

**date in HB1159 changed to May 8, 2026.** A motion was made by Med Kopczynski to forward amendment C1-24-01-26 to a public hearing, seconded by Lee Carroll. All in favor, none opposed. Motion carried without further discussion.

**RE-24-09-26 Accessory Dwelling Units:** Chair Sherman introduced a proposed rewrite of IRC Appendix BC the Proposed Amendment for the board’s review and discussion. After discussion a motion was made by Mike Hagan and seconded by Kate Richardson to add: BC106: Energy Efficiency for Slab on Grade and Foundations: Where alterations, repairs, additions, or changes of occupancy occur in existing buildings [remaining language per EN18-18-26]. All in favor, none opposed. Motion carried without further discussion. A motion was made by Med Kopczynski to move RE-24-09-26 Proposed Amendment as amended to a public hearing, seconded by Ken Walsh.

**Fuel Gas Code Status (report due for July Meeting):** Committee review is progressing.

**Impact of HB1004 Status:** Sent to interim study by the house committee.

**SB540 -Portable Solar Generation Devices:** Mike Soucy, Mike Hagan and the Chair have been reviewing and assisting with draft changes. The NEC committee is reviewing the potential impact on the code and may involve waiting for NEC tentative interim amendment language.

**Amendment Impact of 2024 Energy Code:** Chair Sherman mentioned there was no recent activity, therefore further analysis of necessary amendments is not needed at this time.

**HB1444 Statutory All-Gender Restroom Possible Conflicts:** As all requirements are not permissive, code conflicts have been resolved regarding separate gender bathrooms in schools and municipal buildings.

**Open Forum:** No discussion.

**Legislative Status (as of 4/3/26):**

**HB244,** updating recodifying the municipal enforcement of the building and fire code (our 67x) series goes into effect July 1, 2026, if signed by the Governor.

**HB1004,** relative to exempting certain dwelling units from automatic sprinkler systems. Interim study.

**HB1159,** relative to updating the state building code. Includes errata language as discussed. Goes into effect July 1, 2026. Ratification date will be changed per discussion above.

**HB1271,** relative to third-party code review and inspections services for building permits. In interim study

**SB94,** prohibiting municipal amendments to the state building code. The bill is being used to modify 2025-HB428. Governor signed and goes into effect July 1, 2026.

**SB540,** relative to portable solar generation devices.

**Old Business:**

**Website status:** Chair Sherman mentioned significant progress by FMO regarding the website in separating fire and building code information.

**Administrative rule review:** BCR100, BCR200: The proposed rules have some later DOJ changes, and the rules have now been submitted to DOS legal. Once finalized by DOS, the board will review and vote, then the rules will continue with the legislative review process. No recent activity noted.

**Municipal Amendment Review:** Currently there are municipalities that have completed the process; Wilton previously confirmed amendments are now voted upon and posted. Chair Sherman reviewed with the board the municipal amendment confirmation process.

**New Business:** The Chair spoke to Elon Musk's thoughts, referred to as "The Algorithm"; 1. Question every requirement. 2. Delete every step in a process. 3. Delete every possible step you can delete. 4. Simplify and optimize. 5. Automate. Members should consider how some of this might apply to the code development process.

**Other Business to Come Before the Board:** Mike Hagan attended the NH Building Officials Association's meeting, and a point was made regarding public buildings and statute requirements for universal changing stations interpretations and code changes. Concerns listed are serving 1,500 or more people per day. Mr. Hagan presented copies

of RSA 155:79. Chair Sherman suggested revisiting with the IBC committee in 2027. Mr. Hagan also presented copies of Use of Approved Agencies for Building Inspections and Construction Document Review (2025). A checklist resource created by NHMA and the NH Building Officials Association which related to the requirements of SB188, reflected in the board's Chapter One Amendment Section 104-A.

**Next Meeting:** May 8, 2026

**Meeting adjourned** at 12:02 pm

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

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

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

- He reminded all of FRI in August. Members interested in the NE hotel block, please contact him.
- He also reminded everyone of the NEAFC conference at Mohegan Sun the last week of August.
- Chief James Chamberlain has been nominated for NE Director to succeed Chief Murray. Election will be at the annual meeting in August.

**Old Business –**

- Asst. Chief Pouliot's has been reappointed to the BCRB by Comm. Quinn.
- New representatives to the NVFC and the ACEPS. Both positions vacancies have been advertised. Apparently, we DO need a Chief on the SERC also and that will be advertised also.
- On April 22, 2026, a virtual poll was taken, a MOTION (D. Chamberlain/Buxton) to accept the \$20,000 for the HazMat grant and to allow Chief Thomas to be the signatory on all official documents, carried unanimously.
- We have submitted a letter of support to the state Commissioner of Education in support of their proposal to map all of the educational facilities statewide. Director Buxton is coordinating the efforts.

**New Business –**

- Dustin Stream stated that there are still slots available for the Paramedic program and the rumors of its demise are not true.
- Also they are looking for an ambulance to support the programs.
- They are looking for miscellaneous fire tools for demonstration purposes.

**Good and Welfare – Chief Emanuel**

- Coffee with Safety Health & Survival Section (SHS):

Please help us promote this month's IAFC Coffee with Safety Health & Survival Section (SHS) virtual kitchen table conversation. Sessions feature national experts speaking about fire service issues that impact each of us and are free and

open to all of us. Direct registration link: Are You Ready for the Job or Just Working Out? – Fill out form

Event page on the website:

<https://www.iafc.org/events/event/2026/05/21/default-calendar/coffee-with-shs-are-you-ready-for-the-job-or-just-working-out>

- Firefighter Safety Stand Down 2026  
Firefighter FITNESS: Fit to Serve, Fit for Life  
<https://safetystanddown.org/>  
Safety Stand Down 2026 takes place June 14-20 with a focus on Firefighter FITNESS: Fit to Serve, Fit for Life. Fitness is a critical component in keeping responders healthy, safe, and ready to serve their community. The theme highlights the importance of fitness to keep you serving at your best today and prepare you for a healthy and fit future.  
The week will be broken into seven daily focus topics that take responders through the foundations of functional fitness, how they can continue to be met throughout the years, and sustainable strategies for long-term success.  
Specifically, the daily FITNESS topics are:
  - Sunday – Foundations of Firefighter Fitness
  - Monday – Intentional
  - Tuesday – Technique
  - Wednesday – Nutrition
  - Thursday – Evaluation
  - Friday – Sleep
  - Saturday – Strategies for Success
- Safety Stand Down takes place the third full week of June each year to highlight critical safety, health, and survival issues for fire, EMS, rescue, dispatch, and other emergency services personnel. Departments are asked to suspend all non-emergency activities during the week to focus their attention on safety and health education efforts. A week is provided to ensure that all duty shifts can participate.
- Safety Stand Down 2026 planning resources for your department  
- <https://safetystanddown.org/planning/safety-stand-down-2026-planning/>
- Safety Stand Down 2026 support resources  
- <https://safetystanddown.org/resource/safety-stand-down-2026-resources/>

The meeting was adjourned at 0952 hrs.

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

May 14, 2026