



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

Thursday, July 11, 2024 – NH Fire Academy

The meeting was called to order by Chief Watkins at 0925 hours.

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

Welcome from Host: Director Cutting welcomed everyone to the meeting.

INTRODUCTION OF MEMBERS. Members were asked to introduce themselves and state where they were from.

Special Guests: Commissioner Quinn was introduced and welcomed everyone.

Minutes: A MOTION (Sitar/Paquette) to approve the minutes of the June meeting, carried unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: A MOTION (Fraitzl/Tremblay) to approve the financial reports from June, carried unanimously.

Communications: n/a

Applications for membership: Asst. Chief Greg Laro of the Derry Fire Department has been approved for membership.

Life Membership: n/a

President's Report: (Emanuel) – (Submitted in writing for minutes)

He reported that he represented that NHAFC at the NH Safety Leadership meeting (Five Families) on June 28th with the key players from PFFNH, NHFMO, NH HSEM, and NHFA. The group discussed various legislative issues and impacts on the NH Fire Service.

He will be attending and speaking at a National Fallen Firefighter Foundation program in Detroit, MI and unable to attend the NHAFC July meeting at the NHFA.

The NH Fire Explorer Academy was a success and were grateful for the NHAFC financial contribution to support the program.

Thank you, Chief Scott Hunter, for attending the governor's bill signing ceremony for the cancer legislation in Manchester last week.

He will be attending the IAFC Fire Rescue International program in Dallas in August.

Report of the Executive Director: (Lemire)

- Our August 7 BOD meeting will be Virtual.
- On August 8, we'll join our North Country brethren at the Town and Country in Gorham (Shelburne) where we'll have a seminar developed by the Professional Development Committee entitled "How to Promote Effective Community Risk Reduction" presented by Jason Smedick of the Merrimack Fire Department.
- August 12 will be the Golf Tournament at Lochmere in Tilton.
- Our application for 501 c3 has been submitted to the IRS and the fee paid! We have found out that it may take 191 days for action.
- Ad book proceeds to date: Total: \$24,450; Vendor: \$17,115; Assn: \$7,335
- Finally, several of you have asked about another November Professional Enhancement Weekend. It's a GO! I have a proposal from the "Snowy Owl Inn" at Waterville Valley for November 15-17. The Professional Development Committee has proposed a subject for the morning seminar on Saturday with the monthly NHAFC meeting being held at 1:00 that afternoon.

1st Vice President Report (Watkins) – no report

Government Relations – (Schmidt) – (submitted in writing)

The New Hampshire House and Senate have completed their work for the 2024 regular session. The chart includes all the bills we followed for the NH Association of Fire Chiefs. The bill numbers provide a link to the text of each bill. At this point, a number of bills have passed the Legislature, but have not yet been acted upon by the Governor. You will note that some bills were sent to "Interim Study". Interim Study means that the bills will not move forward in the 2024 session. House policy committees will meet in the late summer and fall to further examine these bills. By Friday, October 25, House Committees must issue non-binding recommendations whether similar legislation should be re-introduced in 2025. There will be a calendar issued in the fall with written reports detailing the recommendations. The Senate will likely use a far less formal process.

For legislation in 2025, the House has set the initial filing period for incumbents running for re-election in the 2024 election for September 3 through September 13. There will be another filing period after the election from November 6

through November 22. The Senate will set deadlines for filing legislation for 2025 at a later date. Governor Sununu has vetoed several bills thus far. A veto session day will likely be scheduled for the fall at which time the House and Senate will vote whether to override the vetoes or not.

There were several updates on key issues we wanted to provide:

HB 1081 (Direct Pay for Ambulance Services) - Governor Sununu recently signed the bill into law. It will go into effect in early September. The law will require private health insurance carriers to pay ambulance providers directly, regardless of whether or not they are in network.

SB 352 (Retired and Full Time Firefighter Cancer Screening Program) – Governor Sununu signed the bill into law last week. It creates a \$5 million fund from which re-imbursements to retired and full-time fight fighters could seek re-imbursement when specific documentation is provided. NHAFC, PPFNH, and Fire Standards and Training would be responsible for development of an initial plan to implement the screenings. The plan would be submitted to the Governor and Commissioner of the Department of Safety.

NH DOI Ambulance Cost RFP – As a follow up from SB 407 earlier this year, the NH Department of Insurance recently issued an RFP which stated goal is “...Completion of a New Hampshire ground ambulance cost study and development of an illustrative, cost-based default reimbursement rate schedule for ground ambulance services in the state.” Proposals from interested potential vendors are due by July 23 with a potential selection by July 26. The RFP states that selected vendor would be expected to start their efforts after SB 407 is signed by Governor Sununu. The results of the study would serve as the basis for legislation in 2025 that would “...prohibit ground ambulance balance billing and set a universal default rate schedule at least for all commercial, fully-insured payers and that would be sufficient to cover the costs of ground ambulance services if all payers (public and commercial included) used that same reimbursement rate schedule. The schedule is considered a default schedule because it is envisioned that providers and payers would still be free to contract for different rates with the default rates applying only when services are provided by an out of network provider. The illustrative, default rate schedule should be so designed that, with little modification, it could be used by the state in support of a

federal waiver to establish an All-Payer Model Agreement under §1115A of the Social Security Act to implement an all-payer model system for reimbursing ground ambulance services in the state. It should also be so designed that it could be compared to the current Medicare fee schedule.” Once a vendor is selected the RFP includes suggestions regarding a stakeholder working group and efforts to collect information. NHAFC may be approached about participating in the process.

A link to the entire RFO can be found here: [2024-0621-RFP_Ground_Ambulance_Cost_Study_Final.pdf \(nhhp.org\)](#)

2nd Vice President Report (Hunter) – No report

Sgt. At Arms (Chamberlain) – No report

Committee Reports

Scholarship Committee – (Marshal Toomey) – Four applications for scholarships have been received and forwarded to the committee for action.

Division Reports

Fire Marshal (Marshal Toomey) (Report forthcoming)

ADMINISTRATION:

Personnel:

We currently have 1 full-time vacancy that we are actively recruiting for at this time:

Full-time Hazardous Materials Coordinator

Legislation:

The following bills are the key bills that we are currently monitoring:

HB 1059 Relative to the state building code

Status: Amended, passed & waiting on Governor’s signature

HB 1065 Relative to fire sprinkler requirements in residential buildings

Status: Amended, passed & waiting on Governor’s signature

HB 1215 Relative to development approvals and appeals

Status: Committee of Conference- failed

HB 1352 Relative to firefighting personal protective equipment

Status: Amended, passed & waiting on Governor’s signature

HB 1386 Relative to prohibiting the disposal of lithium-ion batteries in solid waste

landfill facilities, composting facilities, or incinerators

Status: Committee of Conference- adopted
HB 1387 Relative to revisions to the state building code
Status: Amended, passed & waiting on Governor's signature
SB 352 Establishing an early detection cancer screening pilot program for active and retired firefighters
Status: Signed by the Governor
SB 373 Relative to the state building code
Status: Signed by the Governor
SB 430 Relative to establishing a counsel to study the impacts of electric vehicles, lithium-ion batteries, and e-mobility devices on first responder response, the environment, building and fire codes, and life and safety property protection
Status: Signed by the Governor
SB 437 Relative to local authority to amend the state building code
Status: Signed by the Governor, effective July 1st
SB 599 Relative to the state fire code
Status: Signed by the Governor

Board of Fire Control:

The next Board of Fire Control meeting is scheduled for September 18, 2024. The Board will be reviewing fire protection requirements for summer camp program bunkhouses.

Foam Take-back Program:

The collection of foam will take place in August 2024. Surveys have been sent out to obtain accurate inventory and identify collection points throughout the state. It is critical to take part in this program to properly dispose of PFAS containing foam. This will be a single opportunity under this program. This program is being led by NH Department of Environmental Services. We can assist with any questions.

BUREAU OF INVESTIGATIONS:

In the month of June, we received 16 incident notifications resulting in 10 scene responses. The Bureau of Investigations currently has 13 open arson or suspected arson investigations.

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

- On June 4, investigators responded to Bradford for a fire in a house that was under construction. The investigation is ongoing with the

Bradford Fire Department.

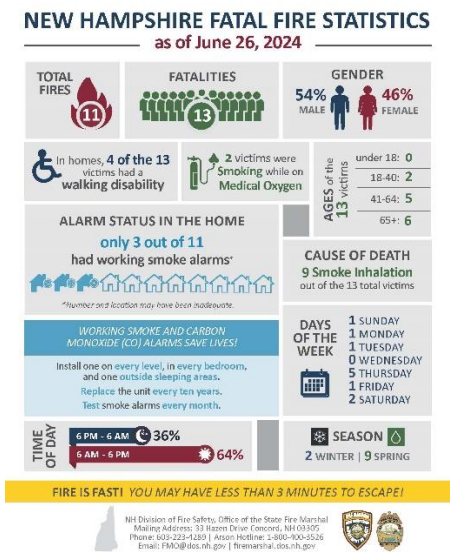
- On June 8, investigators responded to Springfield to assist with an investigation of a fire in an industrial building. It appears the fire is accidental.
- On June 12, an investigator responded to Claremont to assist the Claremont Fire Department with a fire investigation of items that were on the lawn in front of a house. It was determined that the use of fireworks had accidentally set the fire.
- On June 21, investigators responded to Franconia to assist the Franconia Fire Department with an origin and cause investigation. The cause of the fire is suspected to be electrical.
- On June 29, an investigator responded to Claremont to assist the Claremont Fire and Police Departments with the investigation of a mobile home fire. The cause of the fire is undetermined at this time, although an electrical issue is suspected.

Fatal Fire/CO Incidents:

- On June 4, investigators and a K9 team responded to Weare for a house fire. One deceased male victim was found at the scene. The cause of his death was ruled to be unrelated to the fire.
- On June 6, investigators and a K9 team responded to Charlestown for a mobile home fire. Two deceased victims were located inside the mobile home. The fire is still under investigation and does not appear to be criminal in nature. The cause of death of both victims was smoke inhalation and the manner of their deaths was accidental.
- On June 16, investigators responded to Dover for a fire involving a tabletop fire pit fueled with isopropyl alcohol, where three individuals sustained burn injuries. Several days later, the SFMO was notified that two of the individuals had succumbed to their injuries.
- On June 17, investigators responded to Goffstown for a house fire. One deceased male victim was found inside the house. The fire is still under investigation and does not appear to be criminal in nature. The cause of the victim's death was smoke inhalation, and the manner of death was accidental.
- On June 19, investigators responded to Epping for a garage fire. One deceased male victim was found inside the garage. The cause of his death was ruled to be unrelated to the fire. The cause of the fire is still under investigation.
- On June 26, the Concord Police and Fire Departments responded to an incident in their city where a deceased male was found inside a vehicle. Also found inside the vehicle were bottles of formic acid and sulfuric acid. Mixing these two chemicals generates carbon monoxide. The victim's cause of death was ruled carbon monoxide poisoning and the manner of

his death was ruled a suicide.

Fatal fires are tracking ahead of the past two years. We recently issued a [press release](#) to raise awareness of the trend, along with an infographic that displays mid-year 2024 statistics as of June 26, 2024.



Comparison of Unintentional Fire Incidents and Fatalities: 2022-2024

Year	Total Fires	Total Fatalities
2024 To Date	11	13
2023	11	12
2022	8	9
Total	30	34

To enhance fire safety and reduce fatalities, the New Hampshire State Fire Marshal’s Office recommends the following:

- Install smoke alarms inside each bedroom, outside each sleeping area and on every level of the home, including the basement.
- Components of the alarms will deteriorate over time and can only be expected to work effectively within 10 years of their date of manufacture. Replace smoke alarms that are older than 10 years.
- Interconnected alarms are best. Wireless is an acceptable option.
- Hard-wired smoke alarms should have battery back-up in case there is a power outage.
- Battery powered smoke alarms should be changed twice a year. A 10-year sealed battery is preferred.
- Test smoke alarms monthly to ensure they are functioning properly.

Youth Firesetter:

- There were 3 youth firesetter assessments in the month of June.
- The SFMO had 4 additional youth firesetter inquiries.
- Three agencies were provided youth firesetter training.

Training/Committees:

- Two BOI members attended a Fire Death/Arson Investigation Seminar in Bucksport, ME.
- Two BOI members attended the Youth Firesetting Prevention and Intervention program at the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg, MD. While they were there, they also attended the Three State Weekend which is attended by fire department members from New Hampshire, Vermont, and Alabama. Our members took leadership classes.
- Deputy Fire Marshal Fanjoy attended a week-long Internal Affairs Investigation class held at NH Police Standards and Training.

BUREAU OF BUILDING SAFETY & CONSTRUCTION:

SB 599 relative to the State Fire Code was signed into law by Governor Sununu. The 2021 edition of NFPA 1 and NFPA 101 will be effective August 13, 2024. Training class information can be found later in this report.

State Building Permit System:

We processed the following permits in the month of June:

- Building: 22
- Electrical: 24
- Plumbing: 0
- Mechanical Fuel Gas: 6
- Mechanical Non-Fuel Gas: 5
- Fire Protection: 0
- Fire Alarm: 3

Technical Assistance, Educational & Healthcare Reviews:

We initiated 27 educational and 23 healthcare plan reviews, completed 307 inspections and 145 technical consults in the month of June.

Variance Requests:

We processed 5 variance requests in the month of June.

Fireworks Safety and Enforcement Program

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

- Proximate Licenses Issued: 0
- Display Certificate of Competency Issued: 2
- Consumer Fireworks Retail Store Licenses Issued: 6
- Explosive Magazine Inspections: 3
- Proximate Audience Inspections: 5
- Technical Assistance: 2

Modular Building Program

The Modular Building Program has conducted the following in the month of June:

- Inspections: 1
- Audits of Manufacturers: 0
- Audits of Educational Facilities: 0
- Labels Issued to Manufacturers: 94
- Units Shipped to New Hampshire: 56

Tramway and Amusement Ride Safety

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

- Amusement Registrations: 72
- Amusement Inspections: 103
- Amusement Incidents: 1
- Tramway Registrations: 1
- Tramway Inspections: 2
- Tramway Incidents: 0

BUREAU OF OUTREACH & EDUCATION:

Hazardous Materials:

Hazardous Materials response, coordination and consultation is available through the on-call SFMO 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 June, our Hazardous Materials Coordinator attended the IAFC Hazardous Materials Response Teams Conference, a training to mitigate propane emergencies by the Propane Gas Association of New England, and a training on our new FTIR Portable Gas Identifier. He also attended the quarterly meeting of the Advisory Council on Security and Emergency Preparedness, the Haz Mat Collaborative monthly meeting, the monthly PEAC training and the Ossipee Valley Mutual Aid Association meeting.

Our Hazardous Materials Coordinator conducted phone consultations with regional teams for two hazardous materials incidents in the month of June.

Electric Vehicles and Lithium-Ion Batteries

This first meeting of the study counsel established by SB 430 will be held at the IPOC on July 17, 2024. The intent of this counsel is to study the impacts of electric vehicles, e-mobility devices, and the associated lithium-ion batteries hazards for first responder response, the environment, building and fire codes, life safety, and property protection.

Incident Reporting:

Your commitment to ensuring we have great data to accurately show the fire problem in NH is greatly appreciated! Please remember to report any EV or lithium-ion battery fires to us.

Please reach out to our NHFIRS team for any incident reporting questions at nhfirs@dos.nh.gov

We continue to monitor the development of the U.S. Fire Administration's (USFA) new fire information and analytics platform, known as the National Emergency Response Information System (NERIS).

Find more information and resources here: [National Emergency Response Information System \(NERIS\) \(fema.gov\)](https://www.fema.gov/national-emergency-response-information-system-neris)

Have you seen the June issue of our [NH Fire Incident Reporting Newsletter](#)? Check out the featured sections about coding fireworks and grilling-related incidents!



Outreach Events:

Members of the SFMO were very busy in the month of June! We interacted with just over 1,000 people at the following events: Ashland Public Safety Day, New Hampton Public Safety Day, Mascoma High School, NH Falls Task Force Conference, Fire Safety Day at Sutton Elementary School, Northern NH Emergency Services Showcase, the NH Cadet Academy, the Fire Explorer Academy, the Police Cadet Academy, the Bedford Rotary Club and the Bristol Community Night Out.

There were nine total K9 demonstrations this month, and two Steps to Safety presentations, one for the NH Falls Task Force Conference and one in Londonderry.





Please consider us as you plan your next community event! Send your request to us at fmopubliceducation@dos.nh.gov.

Public Education:

Are you familiar with the USFA's Fire and Life Safety Communicators Initiative? This initiative is a collaboration among the fire and emergency medical services to speak with "one voice" on fire and life safety. They believe in working together to present consistent messages. The theme for the month of July is "Fireworks Prevention." Fireworks: Leave it to the professionals. Fireworks are dangerous to people and pets. Using them puts your property at risk. The best way to stay safe

from fireworks is to not use them. Instead, attend a public fireworks display put on by professionals.



For more information on this initiative, or to find outreach materials on the monthly topics, please visit:

[Fire and Life Safety Communicators Initiative \(fema.gov\)](https://www.fema.gov/fire-and-life-safety-communicators-initiative)

Training Opportunities:

NFPA 1 & 101: 2021 Edition Updates

This seminar will provide attendees with an overview of the changes, updates, removals and additions to NFPA 1 and NFPA 101 from the 2018 to 2021 editions of the codes. The 2021 editions of NFPA 1 and 101 will be effective August 13, 2024.

Wednesday, August 7, 2024

1:00PM-4:00PM OR 6:00PM to 9:00PM

NH Fire Academy Auditorium, Concord

Registration Link: <https://forms.office.com/g/BSXjQRb7mK>

NFPA 1 & 101: 2021 Edition Updates

This seminar will provide attendees with an overview of the changes, updates, removals and additions to NFPA 1 and NFPA 101 from the 2018 to 2021 editions of the codes. The 2021 editions of NFPA 1 and 101 will be effective August 13, 2024.

Tuesday, August 13, 2024

1:00PM-4:00PM OR 6:00PM to 9:00PM

Raymond S. Burton Training Facility, Bethlehem

Registration Link: <https://forms.office.com/g/BSXjQRb7mK>

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

Personnel

- We have made a conditional offer to a candidate for the Fire Service Instructor Supervisor position (Captain) in the Bureau of Certification and Support.
- We have one vacancy for Program Specialist III (Education Technologist) of the Educational Technology section.
- We have two vacancies for full-time Fire Training Instructor positions.
- We have had final interviews with three candidates for the Emergency Services Records Management Coordinator position.
- We have one vacancy for a Specialty Services Specialist (Mobile Integrated Healthcare).
- We have one vacancy for our part-time Program Coordinator position for Fire Officer.
- We have one vacancy for our part-time Program Coordinator for EMS Simulation.
- We have one vacancy for our part-time EMS Vehicle Inspector Coordinator.

Grants

- The Raymond S. Burton Fire and EMS Training Facility infrastructure project continues to move forward. The contract with the selected vendor is complete with construction on phase I expected this Summer.
 - Construction documents are being developed for eventual requests for proposals for Phase II.
- Our 2023 AFG grant submission is pending.
- The NH EMT Training Program remains active with grant funding for training new and existing EMS providers. Contact our Division or NH Employment Security for details and question.
 - Funding is expected to be available through the end of 2024.

Special Projects

- We have partnered with the Maine and Vermont Fire Training Academies on a federal grant to develop an EV training curriculum, fund EV training and a train the trainer program throughout all three states. The full application for the grant was submitted on April 30th for a three-year project, \$420,000 for each state specifically for delivery of EV training.
- We continue to work on our website transition and improvements with NH DoIT.

- We are partnering with the International Society of Fire Instructors to bring their *Water Mapping* program to the Fire Academy. Part of this project will be constructing the prop, offering a train-the-trainer program and then a student offering of the class this July.

Facilities

- We continue to make needed improvements and repairs to the “A” building.
- Ongoing maintenance and repairs continue to be done in the “J” building on window frames and interior doorways.

Legislative/Administrative Rules

- The Fire Standards and Training Commission amended Fire rules relative to the Recruitment and Retention report and its recommendations have been submitted to the Joint Legislative Committee on Administrative Rules (JLCAR).
 - The Commission will be holding a public hearing on September 5, 2024 at 9:30am on the changes to the Fire administrative rules. Public comment will be taken during the public hearing as well as written comments which can be submitted to Rules@dos.nh.gov anytime between now and Thursday, September 5, 2024 at 10:30 a.m. or end of public hearing, whichever is later.
 - Rules can be found at: [Proposed Fire Rules](#)
 - Public Hearing Location: Richard M. Flynn Fire Academy Dormitory, 90 Smokey Bear Blvd. Concord, NH
- The proposed Trauma Rules are working through the internal legal process.

Outreach

- We are continuing our Leadership Roundtables with the Commissioner, Fire Marshal’s Office, HSEM and Emergency Services and Communications with regional Fire Chief’s and EMD’s.
 - We attended the Souhegan Mutual Aid meeting in June.
- Staff members continue to attend various stakeholder and mutual aid group meetings and make department visits.
- We continue to work with the State Fireman’s Association leadership to plan for the annual FF Memorial in September.

Mental Health & Resiliency

- POWER – Training Program for First Responders – Police Academy campus July 8th

- “Unlocking the power of sleep for first responder health and wellness” – Richard Flynn campus - Concord July 9th
 - Presented by: Batt. Chief Dena Ali- Raleigh, NC and Capt. Brandon Dreiman- Indianapolis, IN
- We continue our work in partnership with the Police Academy to develop a more comprehensive program for PTSD training utilizing experts from this field in development of the curriculum and delivery.
 - The RFP for a mental health professional has closed and an evaluation of proposals is underway.

Fire Standards and Training Commission

- The next Fire Standards and Training Commission meeting will be September 5th at 0930 in Classrooms 5/6 in the dormitory building at the Richard Flynn Fire Academy in Concord.
- Fire Department Notification of Employment (Fire 601.01)
 - All full-time hires, to include lateral transfers, are required to have a Form A submitted within 15 days of employment. The form can be located at: <https://www.nh.gov/safety/divisions/fstems/documents/forma2017updated.pdf>
- Requests, Determination and Duration of Waivers (Fire 704)
 - These rules outline the procedure for request a waiver of training standards for full-time career fire service personnel, how the determination is made to grant or deny a waiver, and the duration of a waiver if granted, which is only valid while the employee granted a waiver is employed in that position.

CURRICULUM

- *Firefighter*: The finishing touches are being done to the 2024 NH Fire Service Practice Analysis. This state-wide survey will collect information on the types of calls NH Fire Departments are responding to and the types of skills firefighters are employing on scene. This information will directly support the development of Firefighter, Driver Operator, Technical Rescue, and other certifications.
- *Fire Inspector*: The Visiting Committee had their first meeting on July 10th.
- *Fire Investigator*: Test item validation is underway.
- *Fire Officer*: The revision of lesson plans continues and will be complete ahead of the September course.
- *Hazardous Materials*: The new curriculum for Awareness and Operations will be reviewed by the Curriculum committee on July 8th.
- *Instructor*: Test item review is underway for Instructor I. This is routine test bank maintenance and ensures that our certification exams are highly valid and reliable.

BUREAU OF FIRE TRAINING

Courses/Programs

- Firefighter I
 - Sunapee – August 13th (FF I & II)
 - Madison – August 12th
 - LRCC Fall class – August 26th (FF I & II)
 - Fall Recruit School – September 16th
- Firefighter II
 - Richard Flynn campus – Concord, September 8th
- Technical Rescue
 - Trench Rescue – Richard Flynn campus – Concord, July 8th
 - Confined Space Rescue Technician – Richard Flynn campus - Concord, July 15th
- Driver Operator
- Hazardous Materials
- IAFF Fireground Survival
 - A train-the-trainer is being offered this summer.
- Airport Rescue Firefighting
- Facilities and Prop Usage
 - We hosted the 2024 NH Emergency Services Explorer Training Academy and their leadership team in June.
 - We are working with leaders from “Camp Fully Involved” in preparation for their week on campus at the end of the month.
 - Chichester Fire used our ARFF Site for their annual hose testing on June 3rd.
 - The Hampton Fire Department used our “B” Building and LP props are part of the On My Time practical evolutions on June 17th.
 - Our extinguisher prop was brought to the Lancaster Fairgrounds as part of the North Pack, Northern Fire/EMS/Police showcase on June 22nd. Jefferson Fire Department was the host for the prop.
- “On My Time” Program
 - To date over 2,000 students have completed individual online modules.
 - Students continue to complete practical portions of the program.
 - The first OMT student has tested for certification.
- Special Programs
- Ongoing maintenance and repairs continue on drill yard hydrants and work continues on the wall breach prop in the “J” building.

- Operator training for Ladder One has been scheduled for July 12th and twelve of our Staff have been chosen to participate. More training on this apparatus to follow.
- Work is near completion on constructing the Water Mapping prop and will be complete for the class this month.

Testing

- Monthly Testing was completed this month for the NFPA 1001, 1002 and 1003 testing processes.

Apparatus/Equipment

- The new ARFF truck is in production at E-One in Ocala, Fl. and is expected in summer of 2024.

BUREAU OF CERTIFICATION AND SUPPORT

Courses/Programs

- Instructor I/II/III Programs
 - Instructor I – Rye September 11th
 - Instructor I – Richard Flynn campus - Concord, October 15th
 - Instructor II – Virtual October 21st
 - Instructor II - Virtual February 20th
 - Instructor III – Virtual March 4th
- Instructor Professional Development
 - Meaningful Measurements: Test Item Writing – Richard Flynn campus – Concord, July 11th and Virtual July 16th
 - Measure the Measurement: Test Item Evaluation – Richard Flynn campus – Concord, September 19th and Virtual September 24th
 - Designing Simulation Based Education – Richard Flynn campus – Concord, November 14th and Virtual November 19th
- Fire Officer I/II Programs
 - Fire Officer I – Richard Flynn campus – Concord, September 3rd
 - Fire Officer I – Richard Flynn campus - Concord, December 4th
 - Fire Officer II – Virtual October 15th
- Fire Inspector Programs
 - Fire Inspector I – Richard Flynn campus – Concord, September 12th
 - Fire Inspector II – Manchester March 28th
- Fire Investigator - Richard Flynn campus – Concord, August 22nd
- Warrants and Citations – Richard Flynn campus – Concord, November 13th

- National Fire Academy
 - Exercising Leadership to Facilitate Adaptive Change – Richard Flynn campus – Concord, October 21st
 - Youth Firesetter Intervention Specialist – Richard Flynn campus – Concord, November 14th
 - Decision Making for Initial Company Operations – Richard Flynn campus – Concord, March 10, 2025
 - Incident Safety Officer – Richard Flynn campus – Concord, April 7, 2025
- Your Workplace has Changed: Fire Dynamics for Structural Firefighting

Recruitment and Retention

- Upcoming Recruitment and Retention events:
 - Recruitment and Retention for Volunteer Fire Departments – Lincoln, July 18th
 - Wage and Hours Bootcamp – Dover, July 23rd
 - Finances for First Responders – Richard Flynn campus – Concord August 14th
- *The Law Enforcement Officers, Professional Firefighters and Emergency Medical Technicians Career Development, Recruitment and Retention Program* established in New Hampshire RSA 188-F:70 remains active and available.
 - Details can be found on our website under the Recruitment and Retention link from the homepage.
- The April edition of the Recruitment and Retention Newsletter is available at <https://www.nh.gov/safety/divisions/fstems/RecruitmentandRetention.html>

Education Technology

- The OB Emergencies was complete and now under review.
- FF I Safety, FF I Survival, FF I Communications, FF I Ventilation and Ladders online course improvements are in progress.
- The instructor continuing education offerings are being evaluated for revised versions to replace outdated ones.
- We are working with vendors on an evaluation of our existing classroom technology in preparation for upgrades.

Instructors

- We are nearing completion of a comprehensive on-boarding and preceptor program for all new instructors to better integrate them into the Division ensuring their success and improving the overall student experience.

- The Division is always looking for highly motivated team members to become instructors. If you are interested in becoming an instructor, please contact Assistant Director Jeffrey Phillips at Jeffrey.r.phillips@dos.nh.gov or 603-223-4213

CPAT

- There are (6) CPAT dates in 2024. We have restructured the schedule of these exams to better span the entire year to make this test more aligned with department hiring needs.
 - Remaining 2024 exams are:
 - August 12th at Richard Flynn campus, Concord (retest August 13th)
 - October 21st at Richard Flynn campus, Concord (retest October 22nd)
 - November 18th at Richard Flynn campus, Concord (retest November 19th)
- 2024 CPAT
 - Department member assistance is needed for CPAT on testing days. Please confirm available personnel to assist with Bureau PC Nick Poulin at Nicholas.a.poulin@dos.nh.gov prior to the test date to assist in planning.

BUREAU OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

Boards and Commissions

- The NH Medical Control Board meeting will meet at 0930 on July 18th.
- The NH Emergency Medical and Trauma Services Coordinating Board meeting will meet on July 18th at 1300.
- The NH Trauma Medical Review Committee (TMRC) will meet at 0930 on August 21st.
- The Privacy Committee will meet August 28th at 1300.

Operations

- With final adoption of the Educational Training Agency ruleset as of April 30, 2024, the Administrative Packet for application can be found at on the Division website and Resource Center.
 - One agency has completed the process and many others are in process.
- As of June 3rd there are 5,708 licensed EMS providers in the state, with 5,202 of them being affiliated.
- There is a more streamlined workflow process for psychomotor exams and the Division will be taking over ALS exams until the complete ETA transition. Current

IC's will be able to apply for, and be approved for, portfolio-based testing until the transition is complete.

- The EMS Simulation Training Program is active with ongoing open enrollment courses in 2024.

Courses/Programs

- Emergency Medical Responder (EMR)
 - The Summer class began June 1st in Concord, Lempster and Tuftonboro.
 - The Fall class begins September 21st in Keene, Bartlett and Concord.
- EMS Continuing Education and Simulation Education
 - *Extreme Weather Emergencies & Natural Disasters* – Richard Flynn campus – Virtual July 18th
 - *Medical Neurological Emergencies* – Richard Flynn campus - Concord July 17th and Ray Burton campus - Bethlehem August 14th
 - *Frequently Forgotten but Definitely Damaging: Over-the-Counter Overdose* – Richard Flynn campus - Concord Sept. 4th and Virtual Sept. 19th
 - *Cardiology Pediatric Cardiac Arrest* – Richard Flynn campus - Concord September 18th and Ray Burton campus - Bethlehem October 16th
 - *Pre-Hospital Trauma Life Support (PHTLS)* – Ray Burton campus - Bethlehem September 21st
 - *SIRS, Sepsis, Shock and Death: Recognition and Intervention for Systemic Infection* – Richard Flynn campus - Concord October 2nd and Virtual October 17th
 - *EMS Grand Rounds: Altered Mental Status* – Richard Flynn campus - Concord October 3rd
 - *NFA F0146 Supervising Emergency Medical Services* – Richard Flynn campus - Concord October 7th
 - *Pre-Hospital and Interfacility Transport Stroke Care* – Richard Flynn campus - Concord November 6th and Virtual November 21st
 - *Cognitive Bias in EMS* – Richard Flynn campus - Concord December 4th and Virtual December 19th
 - *Obstetrics Childbirth* – Richard Flynn campus - Concord November 13th and Ray Burton campus - Bethlehem December 11th
- EMS in the Warm Zone Awareness, Operations and Rescue Task Force Concepts
 - The Awareness and Operations courses are available free to students on our online training platform.
 - The RTF Concepts class is a half-day in-person training that is also available. Grant funding opportunities are available for those that have not done so already.

- If anyone is looking for this program, please contact Shawn Croteau at Shawn.A.Croteau@DOS.NH.GOV

Clinical Systems

- The EMS Protocols Ver. 9.0 were released on March 28th, effective statewide on June 1st.
- The Trauma Medical Review Committee has voted to approve the latest version of the Trauma Plan.
- We continue our outreach and support to agencies for inter-facility transfers and mobile integrated health programs.

Data Management

- NFIRS/Respond NH
 - If you would like to start using the New Hampshire Emergency Services Reporting System (NHESR), please fill out the form available at <https://nhfa-ems.com/nhesronboard/>.
 - Fire User Group meetings occur remotely on the second Wednesday at 1300 hours each month.
 - Our Fire Reporting Coordinator position is currently vacant due to a promotion and user groups will be temporarily cancelled until the position is filled.
 - EMS User Group meetings occur remotely on the fourth Wednesday at 0930 hours each month.
 - Coordination continues with the Fire Marshal's Office for further education and guidance for reporting.
 - Anyone interested in the system can contact nhesr@dos.nh.gov by email, submit a ticket at <https://nhfa-ems.com/support/>, or call 603-223-4200 and ask for a member of the data team to reach us.
- RespondNH
 - The Division continues to expand the capabilities of the RespondNH system. As we 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.
- New Hampshire Emergency Services Reporting (NHESR)

- 21,763 EMS incidents were entered into the system for June bringing the total for 2024 to 128,109.

Compliance

- There are currently over 43 active investigations and ongoing cases.

Preparedness and Special Projects

- Outreach continues on both AED and CPR programs.

Professional Development Committee _ (Director Cutting)

Director Cutting reiterated the report on seminars from the Executive Director.

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

The results of the last meeting of the Commission, which was May 2, 2024 was previously reported. The next meeting of the Commission is not scheduled until September 5th when the revised curriculum for Hazardous Materials Awareness and Operations will likely be accepted for public comment.

The Visiting Committee for Haz-Mat Awareness and Operations has completed their review and presented their findings and recommendations to the Curriculum Committee this week. Haz-Mat Awareness had no significant changes from the prior version, however for credit by the Fire Academy for Firefighter 1, the exam must be proctored in person by the Academy. The number of questions on the exam has been increased to 50.

The Haz-Mat Operations level is a complete revision with significantly more skills needed to be demonstrated. There was discussion concerning if PPE/SCBA should be a prerequisite or just a recommendation. Further discussion is needed at the August Curriculum Committee meeting to make a recommendation to the Commission to establish the required public hearings.

The Curriculum Committee briefly reviewed the Academy's recommendation to revise the Visiting Committee policies and the Curriculum approval process. No significant changes were discussed and more discussion with a recommendation will be held at the August meeting to be presented to the full Commission at their September meeting.

The Fire Inspector Curriculum Visiting Committee will meet this month and review significant changes in NFPA 1031 which now is incorporated in NFPA 1030 which deals with Fire Inspectors and the change in classification of Fire Inspectors to First Responder Inspector, Fire Inspector and Plan Examiner certifications. It is anticipated that the Visiting Committee will complete their analysis and report in late Fall to the Curriculum Committee.

Next meeting of the Commission is September 6th.

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

The Emergency Medical and Trauma Services Coordinating Board met May 16, 2024.

A review / update from the Bureau of EMS / Chief Romanello.

The rules for the Education Training Agency have been released. I believe this transitions the instructor coordinator model to a business or Agency based model.

There is information posted on the Academy website.

An update from regarding the Coordinating Board's legislative interests including House Bills 1330 – Disciplinary review committee (essentially dead), 1057 Relative to provisional licenses for EMS providers (I believe this passed, going to senate). Senate Bills: 407 – relative to a ground transport cost reporting program, and SB 409 relative to state Medicaid funding of treat and release patients.

In the past, Chief Wilking (retired from Exeter) had questioned whether the NHAFC would be willing share the information and bills the Association is interested in, via our lobbying presence, with the Coordinating board to maintain a cohesive and complementary list.

The new protocols, version 9.0 was released and placed in effect June 1.

The board voted to pen a letter to the Commissioner of Safety related to removal of names of providers from the compliance website after the provider has passed away.

The Board discussed barriers to EMS student ride times due to child labor laws, especially under 18, CRTS, HS programs, etc.

The Board discussed the CARES project for cardiac arrest registry, ARC would cover the cost for the first two years, but then it seems cost prohibitive subsequently at \$17k/year.

The board discussed the building of curriculum for the annual provider mental health continuing education.

Trauma rules Saf C8300 were approved by the board.

The next meeting is July 18, 2024.

National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC) – (Chief) –

The Board of Directors, at their meeting on July 10, 2024 have selected Chief Erik Thomas of Atkinson as the new representative to the NVFC and Chief Scott Cathy of New Hampton as Alternate.

EMS Trauma Medical Review Committee (Dep. Chief Clough) – (Submitted in writing for the minutes)

1) EMS Bureau Reports -

a) Upcoming meetings on July 18th for MCB & CB, privacy committee meeting for June 26th has been cancelled.

b) Protocols 9.0 were released with a June 1, 2024 date of implementation. 81% of providers have taken the new rollout, it is the responsibility of the units to ensure their providers have taken it.

c) Specialty services is interviewing to replace Matt Robblee.

d) As of June 3, 2024 there are 5708 licensed providers in the state. 500 are nonaffiliated.

e) Educational Training rules were released on May 10th, 31 instructor coordinators provide initial Ems education. The national registry has discontinued the psycho-motor exam for ALS providers, and in our rules every course must include a psycho motor element, the Division will own the ALS exam for the next 11 months in conjunction with the BLS exams. Portfolio based assessments are encouraged.

f) Several part time positions open in operations, interviews ongoing.

g) The EMR program is going strong, funding will be ending the first of the year.

h) 45 active investigations in compliance currently.

i) 500 trauma kits have been distributed to State facilities.

j) New software for the development of protocols is being reviewed and will be announced closer to the next roll out. This will make it easier to modify etc.

k) The work invest program had 2.5 million dollars to spend, only \$450,000 has been spent on this program. A discussion was held about why this program did not do as well as expected.

2) Subcommittee & Topic Reports –

Item 1: Trauma Registry Sub-committee-Walter Trachim

- The data group did not meet in May or June, the next meeting will be scheduled after the NTDB 2025 dictionary is released.
- 25, 366 data reports were collected. Developing some reporting for the trauma registry.
- AIS (abbreviated injury scale) 2015 reporting will become mandatory from the ACS for entities that report data.
- Some issues with patient registry in some hospitals, this is being looked at.

Item 2. Coordinating Board Report- Craig Clough

- CARES presentation and discussions on how the data is utilized and funding.
- The CB voted and passed the Saf-C 8300 trauma rules as presented.
- There was also a vote to recommend to the Commissioner to remove the names of deceased providers from the compliance and licensing website who had violations.
- Discussed barriers for EMS students and ride times due to child labor laws etc.

Item 3. Medical Control Board Report- Tom Trimarco

- CARES presentation, same discussions were held as CB.

Item 4. Injury Prevention Report- Jim Esdon

- Life jacket loaner program statewide: 10 lifejackets and signage available for a loaner station.

- Identifying police departments and gun shops who would be willing to hold firearms for individuals experiencing mental health crisis. This has been implemented with some success in other states.
- Stop the Bleed kits are now in 15 schools.

Item 5. Hospital Designation Subcommittee- Eric Martin

- Discussed level 4 requirements. Ortho and general surgery requirements and anesthesia providers at some institutions.

3) Old Business –

- Freestanding ED's discussion- Three freestanding ED's in the State currently, spoke about what requirements these ED's should have in regard to designations.

6) New Business - None

7) Good of the Order – Adjourned

Homeland Security and Emergency Management – (Director Buxton) –

Updates on Division Priorities:

- The Division Homeland Security and Emergency Management has issued our FY25-27 Strategic Plan
- Seabrook Exercise Cycle
 - Final AAR has been issued by FEMA and posted on the NRC/HSEM website
- Public Assistance
 - We continue to work with FEMA on existing Disaster Relief efforts.
 - We have submitted a federal declaration request for the April Nor'easter. This request is pending.
 - Over the last month we have obligated approximately \$1,154,006.
 - i. Staff continues to pursue and work COVID 19 projects with region 1 to bring our final COVID 19 projects to obligation.
- EMPG
 - The State of New Hampshire has received a reduced amount funding this year. Overall, the reduction is approximately a 9% reduction from last year. We are currently, reviewing the impacts of this reduction on programs and EMPG funding.
 - FY25, currently the House version of the DHS appropriation has restored the 9 % reduction from FY24.
- Homeland Security Grants
 - This program also received a 9% reduction in funding this year. Impacts to this program are currently under review.
 - GMU is starting the award notification process for the FY24 local awards.

- i. HSEM is currently developing an RFP that will be issued for Active Threat exercising across the state. This is a core goal for the Department of Safety this year.

Other Items of Importance:

- o Thank you to all who supported the NASCAR event.
- o Internally we have started to plan for the following upcoming events:
 - Fall Election Cycle
- o Monthly EMD call will be held on July 18, 2024, at 12:00.

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

Forests and Lands – (Chief Sherman) – No report

Board of Fire Control – (Chiefs Clark/Hunter) –
The Board of Fire Control last met on June 26th with a heavy agenda.

1. The Marshal gave a general overview of activity within the office.
2. State Fire Code update was approved utilizing NFPA 1 and NFPA 101 version 2021 with amendments and signed into law by the Governor and takes effect on August 13, 2024.
3. State Building Code update has yet to be signed by Governor
4. Reviewed a legislative update from the Marshal of which a full update is detailed in the Marshal's Office monthly newsletter.
5. Reviewed the Marshal's Office 5-year Strategic Plan which emphasizes the need to review Haz-Mat incident response.
6. Discussed Ion Batteries and the Council that will be established to review the issue which will be chaired by the Marshal.
7. Discussed the issue of summer camps and small cabins requiring sprinkler systems and established a committee to review
8. Discussed the rise in fatal fires and the common denominator appears to be lack of working smoke/CO detectors. Promotional efforts to be made to again promote smoke/co detectors in the Fall.
9. The Board received a presentation on the Fire Code adoption process.
10. A presentation was made of the educational opportunities presented by the Marshal's Office. It was reported that they are well attended.
11. A presentation was made to the Board detailing how a fire investigation was conducted.

I was appointed by the Governor & Council for my 4th term yesterday.

Our next meeting is September 18th.

Building Code Review Board – (Marshal Lennon/Chief Conley) – No report

- Marshal Lennon has submitted his resignation due to his retirement. The vacancy will be posted.

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

Division of Emergency Services and Communications – (Director Doyle)

- Laconia Facility Update: Design concept is being finalized with the detailed design underway – cost estimation is the next step;
- Genasys Emergency notification platform is up and running, and CodeRed is no longer offered as the ENS by the state. If you are interested in becoming a POC for your community to use the ENS for local messaging, please let me know. The statewide ENS system is offered to local communities at no cost;
- Community Events reminder – connect with our Public Outreach / Education Team for more info: Patrick Cavanaugh, 603-271-6911, patrick.m.cavanaugh@desc.nh.gov ;
- PSAP Comfort Dog is in training with her Handler, “Winni” is expected to be full time at the completion of her training this fall;
- Halias Symposium date – 8/15/2025 (Panel discussion with DHHS, 988, Team members “Geographic Challenges”);
- HSEM School Safety Task Force meeting on 7/10 at 0900 at the IPOC;
- Behavioral Health Crisis Systems study committee meets Friday the 12th at 1000;
- Social Media update:

In June, the Division of Emergency Services and Communications utilized its social media platforms (Facebook, X, and Instagram) to promote safe boating tips, showcase the work of our Radio Communications Maintenance team at the New Hampshire Motor Speedway, keep the public informed during the Massachusetts statewide 911 outage, and celebrate the success and milestones of our employees, including Supervisor Abigail Rider graduating from her Certified Public Manager course. In addition, we highlighted the efforts of our PSAP team who organized the first NH 911-sponsored blood drive – it was a tremendous success. We continue to see a steady growth in followers due to relevant content and frequent engagement with our public safety partners.



- Strategic Plan for the Division is complete – copies will be distributed with the Chiefs shortly;
- E911 Commission meeting held on June 14th;
- Attended the NASNA (National Association of State 911 Administrators) and the NENA (National Emergency Number Association) conferences in Orlando last week;
- Planning on a Communications Cybersecurity workshop with the Telecomms on September 17th with CISA – more to follow;
- Working with RRAP / 988 on a localized swatting problem;
- July 4th call volume was lower than last year...@ 20%;
- KPI's (YTD through June 2024):
 - 99.69% of all calls answered w/i 15 seconds (exceeding NENA standard of 90% w/i 15 seconds)

- Avg. Police/fire Transfer time = 50.83 seconds (exceeding NFPA Std. of 60 Sec.)
- Avg. EMD Transfer time = 125.5 seconds – stable relative to last year.
- Running @ 21% below last year's call volume
- 412 Transfers to 988 / RRAP (since July 2022 - reflects @ 52% drop compared to last year's YTD);
- Any questions, comments, concerns, please reach out...

E 911 Commission – (Chief Thomas) –

- The Commission will be reviewing an increase on the 911 fees on phones. Once approved by Commission it will go to Commissioner Guinn then PUC.
- Recent outages on AT+T phone service was determined to be Human Error.
- Call volume year to date 169,000 which is a decrease of 42,000. Memorial Day Weekend had 5,000 calls which was much lower than past years. The trend is that warmer days the call volume increases.
- 988 calls are coming in. Due to a computer problem a count of calls can not be given. This problem will be corrected.
- The service Dog is in training at the Laconia PCAP. The dog is a female Golden named Winnie.
- If any communities are having any problems with Genasys please contact the E911 PSAP and they will assist.
- The mile markers on Rt 101 are complete.
- The Laconia Facility Architect contract has been approved. Design is underway, 75% complete.

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

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

- He shared information on a few incidents that occurred recently including a chemical emergency and vehicle ramming situation.

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

NED-IAFC Conf/Expo

The annual Conference/Expo is scheduled for October 16th – 18th, 2024 at Mohegan Sun in Uncasville, CT. Currently scheduling Professional Development, expo spaces, program layout and most importantly working on a new registration format.

Chief Steve Locke from So. Burlington was elected 2nd VP of the IAFC.

Old Business -

New Business –

Good and Welfare – Arrangements for the wake/funeral for Larry Dingee were shared.

John Burke from Burke Restoration was introduced as a new Advocate Member and he spoke briefly.

Chief Blanchette thanked all the members of Safety for the assistance provided for the NASCAR event.

Chief Carrier spoke of the Golf Tournament and urged more members to attend.

The raffle was held. \$185 was collected. \$90 was given in prizes, \$75 was donated back, and \$170 was transferred to the Treasurer. Counted by Chiefs Blanchette and Chamberlain.

The meeting was adjourned at 1019 hrs.

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

July 11, 2024