



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, September 14, 2023 – Lakes Region Community College, Laconia, NH

The meeting was called to order to order by Chief Best at 0927

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

Professor Mercuri welcomed all to the College. He listed some of the agency's updates and the numbers for each program. He also spoke of the federal grant received covering tuition for paramedic students for two years, thanks to the efforts of Senator Shaheen. They are also converting some of their programs to online options. They are also hosting the 40th reunion of the 11 members of the class of 1983.

INTRODUCTION OF MEMBERS.

Special Guests:

Minutes of the August meeting have been posted. A MOTION (S. Buxton/Chamberlain) to accept carried unanimously.

Financial Reports: August reports will be deferred to the next meeting

Communications: n/a

Applications for membership: Chief Bryan Nowell of Bradford

Life Memberships:

President's Report: (Best) –

- My future as NHAFC President- I will be stepping down as the President of the NHAFC towards the end of this year because I have accepted the Biddeford Maine Chiefs job, which I will start on October 17th.
 - The BOD is aware and they will be working through a transition between now and then.

- Some committees/commissions that I participated in have already been transitioned and others are in progress.
 - EV Committee- NH FMO- EVs training, response & codes; Emanuel
 - NH LEO/PFF Career Development Committee- Commissioner-DOS/NHFA; Emanuel
 - Ambulance Billing- NH Insurance Department (NHID); Sitar & Hunter
 - NHFA Behavioral Health Seminar; S. Buxton
- NFPA Conf. for NHAFC President 11/13 thru 11/15; register by 9/29; Quincy Mass NFPA HQ- Emanuel to attend
- Thank you to everyone for your support during my time on the BOD and serving as President
- Strategic Plan Update Status- BOD will be wrapping up the final draft next month
- Communications Committee- Brent to post again for interest
- Training Committee- BOD will finalize at October BOD meeting
 - Emanuel, McShane, Cutting, Cathy, Tice, John?
- I will be attending the New Assoc. of Chiefs Conf. at Mohegan Sun 10/4 thru 10/6; Rooms \$195/night; \$85 golf; conf. \$100 Thurs.; \$50 Fri.
 - 10/4 Golf or check-in PM
 - 10/5 Conference 830am-3:00pm
 - 10/6 Conference 9-11am- go home PM

Meetings Attended/Upcoming:

September

- 9/7 9:30am NH LEO/PFF Career Development Committee at NHFA; Larry
- 9/12 1:00pm 5- Families meeting at NHFA; Larry- Postponed to October 20th
- 9/13 9:00am DOS/NHAFC Leadership Meeting at teams meeting- All BOD
- 9/19 1:30pm EV Emergency Response at NH FMO; Larry
- 9/23 10:00am NH Fallen FF Memorial at NHFA; Larry

October

- 10/4-6 New England Fire Chiefs Conf. at Mohegan Sun- Larry & as many as possible
- 10/11 NHAFC BOD Meeting at Primex- All BOD
- 10/12 NHAFC Monthly Meeting at 9am NHFA- All BOD
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Executive Director's Report (Lemire)

- The October 12 meeting will be at the NH Fire Academy for breakfast.
- The November 9 meeting will be virtual at 0900 hours.
- The December meeting will be on the 14th in Lebanon at the Fireside Restaurant.
NOTE: This will be our first try at a luncheon meeting, beginning at 11:30 hours.

- Chief Shawn Murray was chosen as the NE Chiefs' Director to stand for election in October. He is requesting the names of those Chiefs that have died during 2022-23 to be remembered at the Memorial Service at the NE Chiefs' Conference.
- The January 12, 2024 meeting will be virtual.
- We will be working on a possible Legislative Breakfast and Vendor Showcase for 2024.

1st Vice President Report (Emanuel) –

- He spoke of the EV class that was presented by the NHAFC and Seacoast Chiefs and how we should be addressing it. Marshal Toomey expressed concern that we cannot validate any data yet for our legislators. He suggested we use caution for now.
- He also suggested that all join the National Firefighter Registry with NIOSH as a way to document cancer.
- Also, our lobbyist submitted an update.

Monday, September 11, 2023

ADVISORY
COMMITTEE ON
10:30 AM STATE BUILDING
AND FIRE CODES -
LOB Room 306-308

Tuesday, September 12, 2023

HOUSE ENVIRONMENT AND
10:00 AM AGRICULTURE full committee work
session on [HB 122](#) - Relative to
Microenterprise Home Kitchen
Operations in LOB 301-303
COMMITTEE TO STUDY ELECTRIC
10:00 AM VEHICLE CHARGING FOR
RESIDENTIAL RENTERS - LOB Room
201-203

Thursday, September 14, 2023

HOUSE LABOR, INDUSTRIAL AND
10:00 AM REHABILITATIVE SERVICES subcommittee work
session on [HB 232](#) - Adopting Section 1910 OSHA
Standards For Public Sector Employees In New
Hampshire in LOB 301-303

Wednesday, September 20, 2023

HOUSE COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS subcommittee work
1:15 PM session on [HB 373](#) - Relative to Billing For Ambulance Services in LOB 302-
304

Thursday, September 21, 2023

HOUSE CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY
1:30 subcommittee work session on [HB 113](#) - Relative to
PM The Physical Fitness Performance Requirements For
Law Enforcement Officers in LOB 202-204

Friday, September 22, 2023

HOUSE CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY
1:30 subcommittee work session on [HB 113](#) - Relative to
PM The Physical Fitness Performance Requirements For
Law Enforcement Officers in LOB 202-204

Wednesday, September 27, 2023

9:30 AM HOUSE JUDICIARY subcommittee work session on [HB 652](#) - Relative to
AM Nonpublic Sessions Under The Right to Know Law in LOB 206-208

Tuesday, October 3, 2023

HOUSE FINANCE DIVISION III work session on [HB 614](#) - (New
10:00 Title) Making An Appropriation to The Department Of Health and
AM Human Services to Fund The Merrimack, New Hampshire Kidney
Cancer Incidence Phase 3 Feasibility Study in LOB 210-211

Wednesday, October 4, 2023

COMMITTEE TO STUDY THE CURRENT EDUCATION, TRAINING AND
9:00 AM REQUIREMENTS FOR PERSONNEL EMPLOYED AS EMERGENCY
DISPATCHERS AND 911 TELECOMMUNICATORS FOR POLICE, FIRE,
AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL ORGANIZATIONS. - LOB Room 202-20

2nd Vice President Report (Watkins) –

The PTSD Committee met last week and hosted representatives from the NH Retirement System that offered info on filing. He also spoke of an incident at the prison where the only relative was a young girl. They spoke about the trauma of the interviews for her and suggested alternatives.

Sgt. At Arms (Hunter) – No report

Committee Reports

Scholarship Committee – (Marshal Toomey) –

- He stated that the checks were sent to the recipients.

Division Reports

Fire Marshal – (Marshal Toomey)

ADMINISTRATION:

Personnel:

We currently have 4 full-time vacancies and 2 part-time vacancies. The following openings are those that we are actively recruiting for at this time:

- Full-time Fire Protection Specialist
- Full-time Fire Protection Specialist
- Full-time Amendments Coordinator
- Full-time Hazmat Coordinator- conditional offer in process
- Part-time State Building Inspector- conditional offer extended, background in process
- Part-time Building Code Review Board Administrative Secretary

We welcome the following new staff to our office:

- Scott Newnan joined our staff in a full-time position as State Building Inspector on August 25th
- Michael McLaughlin joins our staff in a full-time position as State Building/Mechanical Inspector on September 22nd

Legislation:

The process of submitting legislative service requests (LSR's) begins in the House & Senate begins this month.

We will work to evaluate the LSR's and share information as it becomes available.

- SB 53 (new title) relative to the definition of the state building code
 - Ratifies building code amendment for A2L refrigerants
 - Status: Signed by the Governor
- SB 170 relative to small group child day care centers
 - Status: Signed by the Governor

Board of Fire Control:

The Board of Fire Control and the SFMO staff have reviewed the 2021 editions of NFPA 1 and NFPA 101. The goal is to have a package ready for legislative action in 2024. A public hearing will be held on September 20th to address amendments.

- Proposed amendments:
 - Maintain current sprinkler protection requirements for new restaurants and bars
 - Maintain current sprinkler protection requirements for new daycare facilities

- Amend NFPA 1 to allow portable generators to be spaced at 5' (current requirement) instead of 20' as proposed
- Readopt with some clean-up the current Saf-FMO 300 rules

Foam Take-back Program:

The contract for the foam take-back program was approved by the Governor & Executive Council at the end of June. DES has advised the project has been delayed to later this fall due to trucking issues with the subcontractor.

County	Collection Site
Rockingham	Newton
Hillsborough	Nashua
Merrimack	Concord (NHFA)
Coos	Gorham
Grafton	Lebanon
Strafford	Dover
Belknap	Laconia
Cheshire	Keene
Carroll	Bartlett
Sullivan	Claremont

Additional information will be released as the details are finalized.

Residential Sprinklers in 3 & 4 family dwellings:

We continue to get inquiries on the need for residential sprinklers in 3 & 4 family dwellings due to the impacts of cost associated with the affordable housing crisis.

We brought together a stakeholder group meeting that included fire service representation from the Board of Fire Control, NH Association of Fire Chiefs and NH Fire Prevention Society. At this time, we anticipate a bill being sponsored again this session. A few other states have developed code amendments for existing buildings undergoing renovation that are less restrictive than the provisions for new apartments. The group will assess the options in the interest in balancing the code requirements, life safety and costs. A follow-up meeting will be held on September 18th.

BUREAU OF INVESTIGATIONS:

In the month of August, we received 9 incident notifications resulting in 3 scene responses. The Bureau of Investigations currently has 23 open arson or suspected arson investigations.

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

- On August 2, an investigator responded to Pelham to assist the Pelham FD with documenting a carbon monoxide exposure incident that left four people

- with CO symptoms at a workplace. All four people have made a recovery.
- On August 5, investigators responded to Claremont to assist with an origin and cause investigation at a large commercial building. There were criminal indicators, and the investigation is ongoing.
 - On August 31, investigators responded to Alstead to investigate a structure fire that started in an attached barn. The cause is under investigation.

Ignitable Liquid Detection Canine Teams:

- IGL canine teams performed 8 demonstrations in Concord, Pembroke, Somersworth, Bristol, Salem and Hooksett.

Youth Firesetter:

- There was one youth fire setter assessment and one inquiry in August.

Court:

- FMO personnel were prepared to testify in two court hearings in August, one of which was dismissed and the other in which the suspect failed to appear. A warrant was issued for that person's arrest for failing to appear in court.

FMO investigators are available to assist agencies day or night with investigations involving fire, carbon monoxide releases and building collapse. Depending on the type of investigation, it may be as simple as contacting the on-call supervisor and providing a consult over the phone. In other instances, it may be necessary to send out a team of investigators to assist with the origin and cause investigation. Please do not hesitate to reach out to our office for assistance. The on-call supervisor can be reached at the FMO Office during normal business hours at 603-223-4289 or NH State Police Communications after hours and on weekends at 603-223-4381.

Fire Investigations (NH RSA 154:7-a) states, "The fire officer in charge or designee shall investigate the cause and origin of fires, including the taking of evidence relative to the cause and origin of fires...."

Report of Causes and Origins of All Fires (NH RSA 153:11) states, "When the cause, origin and circumstances of any fire occurring in any city, town, village, district or precinct in this state indicates that such fire was the result of design, or of suspicious origin, the fire chief shall immediately notify the state fire marshal."

Investigations (NH RSA 153:18) states, "Any fire, building collapse, or release of carbon monoxide other than from a motor vehicle occurring where death results shall be reported immediately to the office of the state fire marshal by the fire chief, and the office of the state fire marshal shall investigate the fire, building collapse, or release of carbon monoxide within 48 hours after receiving said report."

BUREAU OF BUILDING SAFETY & CONSTRUCTION:

State Building Permit System:

We processed the following permits in the month of August:

- Building: 28
- Electrical: 24
- Plumbing: 2
- Mechanical Fuel Gas: 2
- Mechanical Non-Fuel Gas: 1
- Fire Protection: 1
- Fire Alarm: 6

Technical Assistance, Educational & Healthcare Reviews:

We initiated 10 educational and 6 healthcare plan reviews, completed 263 inspections and 166 technical consults in the month of August.

Since July 1st, the State Fire Marshal's Office is responsible for the review of all licensed healthcare facility plan reviews for new construction and renovations pursuant to RSA 151:6. The office will complete plan reviews and final inspections for state building and fire code compliance and make recommendations for approval to the Department of Health and Human Services for clinical licensure.

Variance Requests:

We processed 7 variance requests in the month of August.

BUREAU OF OUTREACH & EDUCATION:

Hazardous Materials:

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

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

In the month of August, our Hazardous Materials Coordinator provided PEAC software training to the Southeast Haz Mat Team, attended the Haz Mat Collaborative Meeting and attended the quarterly meeting of the CAMEO software working group. He has also been working with HSEM regarding the 2024 HMEP Grant applications.

Electric Vehicles and Lithium-Ion Batteries

On June 13th an initial meeting to discuss the challenges of electric vehicle fires was held at the IPOC. An initial group to include the State Fire Marshal's Office, Fire Academy, HSEM, State Police, DMV, DES, DOT, Tow Association, Auto Dealers Association, NH Chiefs of Police and the NH Association of Fire Chiefs has been identified to collaborate on this topic. The intent is to share resources and identify training and code impacts relative to EV's and lithium-ion batteries. A follow-up meeting is scheduled on September 19th.

Regional Outreach/Chief's Roundtables:

We continue to partner with the Commissioner's Office, other Department of Safety Leadership and the NHAFC to conduct regional outreach/Chief's Roundtables. The next scheduled meeting is September 13th at the Souhegan Mutual Aid meeting in Mont Vernon.

Incident Reporting:

If you don't already have an account to securely transfer to and receive files from the SFMO, please register for free today!

The deadline to submit 2022 NFIRS data was July 1st. If you still have 2022 data to submit, we ask that you do so as soon as possible so we can close out the year in a timely fashion. Your commitment to submitting ASAP is greatly appreciated!

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

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

In May, the U.S. Fire Administration (USFA) announced their effort to launch a new fire information and analytics platform, known as the National Emergency Response Information System (NERIS), for the American fire and emergency services. Please find more information here: [Media Advisory: USFA Announces New Fire Information Platform \(fema.gov\)](#). Once NERIS is developed and operational, USFA will work to migrate fire and emergency services departments onto the new platform. The legacy NFIRS will remain operational throughout the transition process so all fire and emergency services departments should continue to use the current NFIRS data system and maintain status quo until migrated to the new platform. For more information, please check out this on demand webinar:

[Now Available: On Demand Access to Modernizing the U.S. Fire Data System - An Introduction to the National Emergency Response Information System | UL's FSRI – Fire Safety Research Institute](#)

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

This month we released our August edition of the NHFIRS Quarterly Newsletter.

We are also working diligently on a NHFIRS Incident Coding Guide to be a resource for NH fire departments, including things like coding best practices, important dates and contact information.

Outreach Events:

On August 1st, members of the SFMO had the pleasure of attending National Night Out events in five different communities. Members staffed fire safety tables and handed out fire safety education materials, tested fire safety knowledge with our trivia wheel and provided canine demonstrations. Thank you to Concord, Somersworth, Goffstown, Lincoln-Woodstock and Campton-Thornton for inviting us to join them!





On August 7th, Director Sean Toomey and NH Fire Academy & Emergency Medical Services Justin Cutting attended a ceremony at the North Conway Fire Department to present Dale Hamilton with a Distinguished Service Award as he retired after a remarkable 60-year career! We would like to thank Mr. Hamilton for his selfless devotion and unwavering commitment to protecting his community and neighbors.



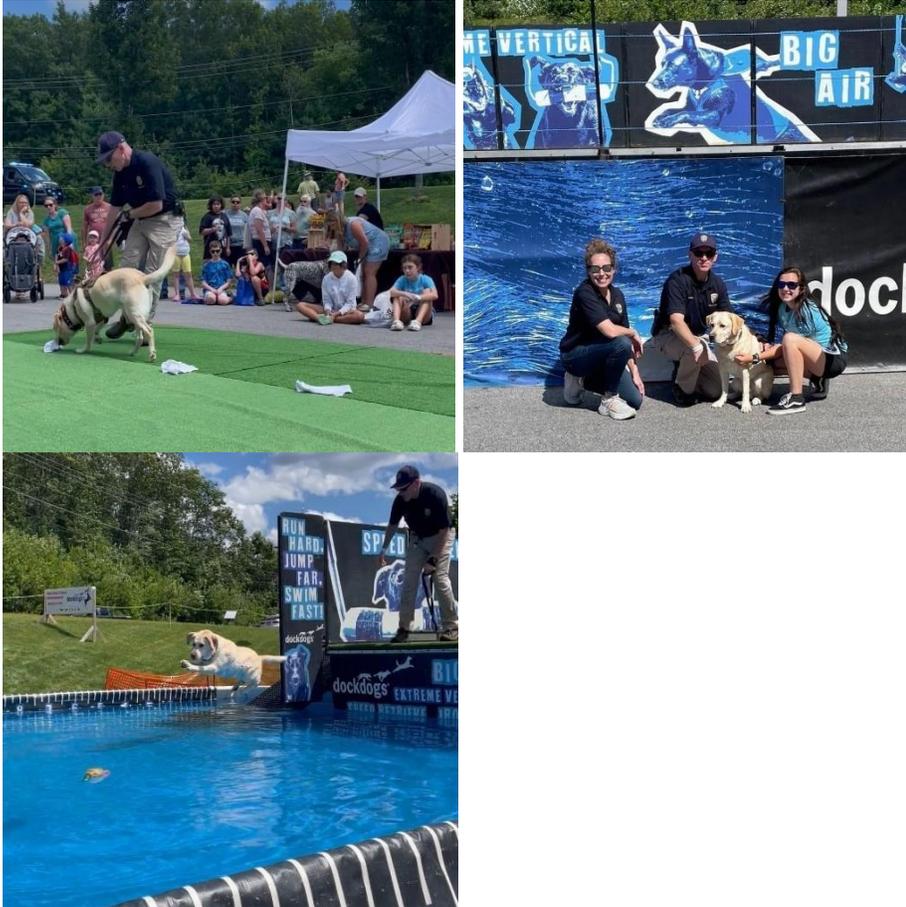
On August 9th, members of the SFMO and Sparky attended the Fisher Cats Camp Day at Delta Dental Stadium in Manchester. Sparky was able to take in a game, and received high fives from



kids of all ages as he walked around the concourse!



On August 11th, members of the SFMO and the K9 Team of Investigator Sol Rosman and K9 Reeves attended Osborne's Dock Dogs Classic Event in Hooksett. Members staffed a fire safety table and handed out fire safety education materials, swag and provided canine demonstrations. After a busy day, K9 Reeves was able to jump off the dock and take a dip in the pool!



During the week of August 7th, members of the Bureau of Investigations presented and assisted in exercises with the Naval Sea Cadets on the following topics: Basic Fire Investigation, Evidence Collection and Crime Scene Processing, and Courtroom Testimony. On August 22nd, Deputy Fanjoy and K9 Anthem provided a K9 demonstration and a brief overview of our office and fire investigation to the Minot-Sleeper Library Summer Reading Program in Bristol.

Public Education:

Fire Prevention Week is fast approaching! The theme this year, which will be held from October 8th to 14th, is "Cooking safety starts with YOU. Pay attention to fire prevention™." The goal will be to educate everyone about the simple but important actions they can take to keep themselves and those around them safe when cooking. Find materials and resources to support your department's efforts here: www.firepreventionweek.org. Would you be interested in having us join your department's FPW festivities? Send us an email at fmopubliceducation@dos.nh.gov.



Did you know that September is Campus Fire Safety Month? Whether you are a fire safety professional or safety educator, a parent or student, it's a great time to review best practices and put them into action. Find some resources here:

[NFPA - Campus housing](#)

[Center for Campus Fire Safety > Training & Activities > Campus Fire Safety for Students > Share](#)

[Home - Campus Firewatch Campus Firewatch \(campus-firewatch.com\)](#)

[17-01_OffCampusFireSafety_02.pdf \(cpsc.gov\)](#)

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 2023 is "Step Up for Fire Safety" and takes a #BeKnowDo approach. The monthly theme for September is "Smoke Alarms." For more information on this initiative, or to find outreach materials on the monthly topics, please visit: [Fire and Life Safety Communicators Initiative \(fema.gov\)](#)



Training Opportunities:

Have you visited the FM Global Fire Service Learning Network online? FM Global has a longstanding, deep commitment to assisting the fire service through training, education, and grant funding in fire prevention, fighting fire in sprinklered buildings, fire response to commercial/industrial properties, ignitable liquids and gases, pre-incident planning, and fire protection systems. As part of this commitment, FM Global provides the FM Global Fire Service Learning Network to deliver critical training for the fire service in FM Global's focus areas, including fire protection in commercial and industrial properties. The network offers online training programs, including FM Global's popular "Fighting Fire in Sprinklered Buildings" course, and fire service resources. Available resources include FM Global Data Sheets, pocket guides, and pre-incident planning materials guide. All training and resources are free. Create an account and log in to access the fire service training and resources here: [Fighting Fire In Sprinklered Buildings | Fire Service Learning Network \(fmglobalfireserviceresources.com\)](https://www.fmglobalfireserviceresources.com)

Additional SFMO programs are in the works for this fall. Please reach out to Deputy Stacey Dubois at stacey.l.dubois@dos.nh.gov if you are interested in hosting a program or would like to suggest a future training topic.

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

Personnel

- The remaining open Fire Service Instructor Supervisor position in the Bureau of Certification and Support has been advertised for candidates.
- We have one vacancy for Program Specialist III (Education Technologist) of the Educational Technology section of the Division and we have advertised the positions for candidates. Interviews for these positions continue.
- We have advertised for our three new full-time Fire Training Instructors.
- We have one part-time Compliance Specialist position open and we have begun interviews.
- We have one vacancy for a Program Specialist position in the EMS Bureau (RespondNH, NHESR).
- We have a part-time EMS Vehicle Inspector Coordinator position open and are advertising for candidates.
- Our part-time Program Coordinator positions for Fire Officer, Instructor and EMS Initial Programs are open and we are seeking applicants.

Grants

- We continue to acquire equipment funded by the \$476,186, 2022 AFG that we were awarded.

- The architectural firm retained for the Raymond S. Burton Fire and EMS Training Facility project is proceeding with obtaining necessary permits and completion of the construction documents in preparation of advertising the project for bids this fall.
 - Land clearing is expected to begin this fall/winter with site work starting in the spring of 2024.
- We continue to work with the Department of Health and Human Services Covid Disparities Funding program to expand Image Trend to add Continuum, additional IFT, MIH and simulation training and staff support.
- 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.

Special Projects

- We are in the process of standardizing training program delivery documents including course syllabus and schedules.
- We plan to announce the release of our new Moodle platform this month which includes many improvements.
 - The new link for the platform is www.nhfaemslearning.org.
- We are working on a project to support the modular delivery of Firefighter I and Firefighter II as allowed in the Fire Administrative rules. Students will be able to directly self-enroll into any of the online Firefighter I and II modules and achieve completion. A State instructor will then be able to conduct the practical skills training and submit the course completion paperwork for students to achieve completion of a module. After a student completes all modules they would be eligible for certification testing.
- We have begun the planning process for our website transition and improvements with NH DoIT.
- The New Hampshire Fire and EMS Committee of Merit and the annual awards ceremony will be held on Sunday, September 17th at the Capital Center for the Arts at 1330.
- The annual FF Memorial will be held on Saturday, September 23rd at 1000.
- The *Law Enforcement Officers, Professional Firefighters and Emergency Medical Technicians Career Development, Recruitment and Retention Program* committee established in New Hampshire RSA 188-F:70 met on September 7th. The next meeting will be held October 12th at the Fire Academy, 1100 in the Dorm building, Classroom 7.

Facilities

- We are working on the replacement of two AC condenser units in the older portion of the dormitory building. The bid process, issuing of contracts and Governor and Council approval are anticipated this fall.

Legislative/Administrative Rules

- The Fire Standards and Training Commission amended Fire rules relative to the Recruitment and Retention report and its recommendations are working through the internal legal process in preparation for submission to the Joint Legislative Committee on Administrative Rules (JLCAR) which will include public input.
- The Educational Training Agency ruleset (Saf-C 5900 EMS) continues to be facilitated through the JLCAR process.
- The House LSR filing period is from September 11th-15th and the Senate filing period opens on September 28th.

Outreach

- We are continuing our Leadership Roundtables with the Commissioner, Fire Marshal's Office, HSEM and Emergency Services and Communications with regional Fire Chiefs and EMD's.
 - Souhegan Mutual Aid group is planned for September 13th.

Mental Health & Resiliency

- Crisis Intervention Team Training – Londonderry October 23rd
- The mental health planning group has been active in preparing for another Mental Health Seminar to held in January 2024.
 - The 2024 Mental Health & Wellness Seminar will take place at the NH Fire Academy in Concord, NH on January 17-18, 2024.
- 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. We met with the Director of Behavioral Health at DHHS and are working on a MOU for grant funding.

Recruitment and Retention

- Upcoming Recruitment and Retention events:
 - When Retirement Rules Change, Change Your Financial Game: A Reason to Start & Stay in the Fire Service – Concord Campus September 13th
 - Kevlar to Leather-Bridging the Gap to Continued Service – Concord Campus September 16th
 - Boost Your SAFER Grant Writing for Recruitment & Retention – Concord Campus September 25th
 - IAFC Recruitment and Retention Certification Course – Concord October 28th

- Building Community Support to Improve Hiring – Hampton November 1st
- Fire & EMS Mentorship Program – Virtual November 14th
- The July edition of the Recruitment and Retention Newsletter is available at <https://www.nh.gov/safety/divisions/fstems/documents/RTNewsletterJuly2023.pdf>

Fire Standards and Training Commission / Curriculum

- The next Fire Standards and Training Commission meeting will be November 2nd at 0930 in Classrooms 5/6 in the dormitory building at the main campus.
- The FSTC has approved the curriculum updates for Rope Rescue Awareness, Operations and Technician Programs.
- The FSTC has approved final changes to the Fire and Emergency Service Instructor III curriculum following one year of deliveries of the program.
- The Fire Standards and Training Commission has approved the written comment period to open from September 8, 2023 to November 11, 2023 for public comment on the proposed changes to the NFPA 1033 Fire Investigator curriculum following their preliminary approval of the curriculum updates.
 - Public comment can be submitted at: <https://nhfa-ems.com/fst-commission-curriculum-public-feedback-form/>.
 - Public hearings are scheduled for Wednesday October 18th at 1500 and 1700 at the Bedford Fire Department, 55 Constitution Dr., Bedford, NH.

BUREAU OF FIRE TRAINING

Courses/Programs

- Firefighter I
 - The LRCC program began August 16th.
 - The Fall Recruit class began on August 14th
 - Loudon - August 28th
 - Lyme - August 15th
- Firefighter II
 - Burton Campus (moved from Colebrook) – August 26th
 - Concord – September 9th
 - Hampton Falls – September 13th
- Technical Rescue
 - Trench Rescue – Concord Campus October 14th
 - Trench Rescue – Concord Campus October 30th
 - Confined Space Rescue Technician – Concord Campus- November 29th
 - Confined Space Rescue Technician – Concord Campus December 9th
- Driver Operator
 - Driver/Operator – All Vehicles
 - Sunapee – September 12th

- Bartlett (Glen) – October 4th
 - Driver Operator – Aerial Apparatus
 - Loudon October 17th
- Hazardous Materials
 - We are partnering with the International Association of Firefighters to host a Pro Board Hazardous Materials Technician program at the Concord campus in the Spring of 2024.
- IAFF Fireground Survival
 - Concord October 16th
 - Concord November 13th
- Airport Rescue Firefighting
 - Airport Firefighter – Concord Campus May 6th
- Facilities and Prop Usage
- All of the curricula for programs may be found at <https://nhfa-ems.com/curricula/>. Departments have asked for this information so it can be used in the delivery of local training drills and evolutions.
- For all current course listings, you can go to <https://nhfa-ems.com/scheduled-courses/>

Apparatus/Equipment

- The new ARFF truck is in production at E-One in Ocala, Fl. and is expected in 2024
- The new Engine is in production with an anticipated timeframe for completion in the spring of 2024.

BUREAU OF CERTIFICATION AND SUPPORT

Courses/Programs

- Instructor I/II/III Programs
 - Instructor I – Burton Campus October 4th
 - Instructor I – Concord Campus January 11, 2024
 - Instructor I – Keene April 6, 2024
 - Instructor II – Virtual August 1st
 - Instructor II - Virtual February 20th
 - Instructor III – Virtual October 30th
- Instructor Professional Development
 - Additional education is expected to be available beginning early this fall.
- Fire Officer I/II Programs
 - Fire Officer I – Keene August 24th
 - Fire Officer I - Concord December 7th
 - Fire Officer II – Virtual October 12th
- Fire Inspector Programs
 - Fire Inspector I – Concord Campus September 7th

- Fire Inspector I - January 11, 2024
- Fire Inspector II – Manchester March 28th
- Fire Investigator
 - The 2023 offering began August 24th at the Concord campus.
- Warrants and Citations – Concord November 15th
- National Fire Academy
 - FO142 Residential Sprinkler Plans Review – Nashua October 11th
 - WO770 Fire Investigations: First Responders – Concord Campus December 9th
 - FO322 Incident Command for Structural Collapse Incidents – Concord Campus January 24, 2024
 - FO458 Preparation for Initial Company Operations – Concord Campus February 10, 2024
- Incident Command
- “Your Workplace has Changed: Fire Dynamics for Structural Firefighting”.
 - Nashua - September 6th.
 - Franconia – October 28th
 - This program has been very successful and highly requested.
- For all current course listings, you can go to <https://nhfa-ems.com/scheduled-courses/>

Instructors

- We are conducting a review and analysis of our per diem Instructor pay and incentive structure and are developing a program of professional development for Instructors.
- 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

- 2023 CPAT testing will be held at the NH Fire Academy on September 18th and another test is tentatively scheduled for November 3rd. Additional dates are being planned.

Testing

- Our work continues on acquisition of new testing software for the Division. The vendor that was chosen has withdrawn their proposal. We are working on the next steps necessary. When final, this will enable us to begin computer-based testing and eliminate the paper method.

BUREAU OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

Boards and Commissions

- The NH Medical Control Board meeting will meet at 0900 on September 21st in classrooms 5 & 6 in the dormitory building.
- The NH Emergency Medical and Trauma Services Coordinating Board meeting will meet at 1300 on September 21st in classrooms 5 & 6 in the dormitory building.
- The NH Trauma Medical Review Committee (TMRC) will meet at 0930 on October 18th in classroom 2.
- The Privacy Committee will meet at 1300 October 25th in the dry lab.

Operations

- EMS license applicants are experiencing a three week wait for background checks.

Courses/Programs

- Emergency Medical Responder (EMR)
 - The fall class begins September 20th in Walpole, Concord and in Lancaster.
 - The winter 2024 class begins January 10th in Concord, Mont Vernon and Littleton.
- EMS Continuing Education
 - Arrhythmia Fundamentals – Concord Campus September 6th and Virtual September 21st
 - Prehospital Trauma Life Support (PHTLS) – September 29th
 - Cardiology Adult Cardiac Arrest – Concord Campus September 8th & Burton Campus October 20th
 - EMS Grand Rounds – Concord campus October 12th
 - Taking Care of Mom and Dad – Concord Campus October 4th, Virtual October 19th
 - Just Breathe: An Overview of Pediatric Respiratory Illnesses – Concord campus November 1st and Virtual November 16th
 - Cardiology Pediatric Cardiac Arrest – Concord Campus November 9th & Burton Campus December 29th
 - Hoarding Disorder – Concord Campus December 6th & Virtual December 21st
 - NAEMT Tactical Emergency Casualty Care (TECC) – Concord campus December 9th
 - Obstetrics and Childbirth – Concord January 24th
 - For all current course listings, you can go to <https://nhfa-ems.com/scheduled-courses/>
- EMS in the Warm Zone Awareness, Operations and Rescue Task Force Concepts
 - EMS in the Warm Zone RTF Concepts –
 - New Hampton September 23rd

- These courses are available free to students on our online training platform. The RTF Concepts class is a half-day in-person training that is also available. Grant funding opportunities are available for those that have not done so already.
- If anyone is looking for this program please contact Shawn Croteau at Shawn.A.Croteau@DOS.NH.GOV

Clinical Systems

- Work continues on EMS Protocols Ver. 9.0 with a projected release in the first quarter of 2024.
- Work is being done to reformat the EMR protocols in Ver. 9.0 with an evaluation of alignment with the National Curriculum standards.
- Work continues on the Operational Canine protocol.
- The proposed Trauma Rules are under legal review.
- We are working with the Trauma Medical Review Committee on the ACS Migration Plan for Trauma Hospital designations.
- 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. Contact Joseph Cartier for the link.
 - 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 Joseph Cartier at 603-223-3403 or joseph.w.cartier@dos.nh.gov.
- RespondNH
 - The Division continues to expand the capabilities of the RespondNH system. As we are able to utilize this system and analyze more data it is important to have department roster information updated and current. Each department has the full capability to manage their own roster by adding new staff and removing those that may have left. Departments are able to do this at any time. For State level reporting information please fill out your roster information to include their status (career, call, or

volunteer) as well as the duties they provide such as EMS care and/or fire suppression.

➤ **TEMSIS**

- The EMS data team held an open, in-person working group meeting on Thursday 9/7/23 from 1330 to 1630 hours to get feedback and suggestions for updates to the EMS form. The purpose of this working group meeting was to solicit constructive feedback and recommendations from EMS providers who utilize the EMS forms in practice, on ways the run form can improve going forward.
- 22,106 EMS incidents were entered into the system for August and 179,235 incidents to date.
- Preparation for NEMSIS 3.5 is ongoing.

Compliance

- There are currently over 38 active investigations and ongoing cases.

Preparedness and Special Projects

- Outreach continues on both AED and CPR programs.
- We are evaluating an opportunity for a joint public service announcement with the Division of Emergency Services and Communications to highlight the AED program and Pulsepoint App.

Fire Standards and Training Commission – Chief DeAngelis –

- The commission voted to add 8 hours to the fire investigator program after recommendation from the curriculum committee. The 8 hours will be for hands-on practical time.
- FF3 and 4 are still on hold.
- In order to keep your Fire Academy Instructor certification, you will need to take the academy's continuing education programs or teach/ assistant teach 3 classes a year. This has been a past practice. It appears the commission never voted on it. We just took the vote to "memorialize it".
- A visiting committee has been established for Hazardous Materials operations.
- Just for everyone's general knowledge, rope awareness is 8 hours. Operations, which focuses on systems is 40 hours and the technician program is focused entirely on the rescuer.
- Another note, our academy is in the delivering, testing, and acquiring certification business. We are fortunate as not all academies in the country operate this way.

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

National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC) – (Chief Corey) – (Submitted in writing)

- The NVFC has been awarded a \$1.4 million Fire & Safety from the FY22 grant cycle!
- You get a lot of information, books, fire extinguishers and drinking water, from your membership. Join the NFVC today.

Homeland Security and Emergency Management – (Dir. Buxton) –

Updates on Division Priorities:

- Happy to that our current staffing continues to improve. We currently have approximately 6 full-time openings.
- We continue to work towards our 2023 Goals.
 - This will include:
 - i. Increased efforts for Training, Exercise and Development
 1. We are working to develop a strategic vision to meet the needs of the State of New Hampshire around active threat.
 - ii. Implementation of a Community Services Branch
 1. Full program implementation is expected to take place for October 1, 2023
 - iii. Continued review of procedures to make sure we are providing you efficient delivery of the Public Assistance process.
- Public Assistance
 - We are pending a Disaster Declaration to President Biden for the March, May and July 2023 storms.
 - JFO has been established at 25 Triangle Park Drive to start processing the December 2022 winter storm disaster declaration.
- EMPG
 - We continue to update and process project applications.
 - We are in the process of closing out the 2020 EMPG grant. \

Federal Government:

- Immediate Needs Funding Restriction
 - The reduction in funding is due to balance concerns in the National Disaster Relief fund.
 - Governor Sununu as sent a letter to the NH Federal Delegation urging increased funding of the Disaster Relief Fund
 - This limitation will affect all Mitigation Planning, and pending funding programs and Non-Category A/B Declaration request.
- We continue to monitor and plan for potential impacts of increased border crossing.

- Division is preparing to work with State Police on the implementation of the Northern Borders Alliance program.
- This is a \$1.4 million State Funded investment in Border Security
- We are reviewing the impact adopting FEMA's Public Assistance Simplified procedures process.

Other Items of Importance:

- Internally we have started to plan for the following upcoming events:
 - Border Migration
 - Solar Eclipse
- Planning continues for a renovation to the State EOC
- COVID 19 AAR is underway.

EMS Trauma Medical Review Board – (Chief) – no report

Commission to study the Incidence of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder in First Responders – (Chief Watkins) - (Reported earlier in minutes)

Forests and Lands – (Chief Sherman) – No report

Board of Fire Control – (Chiefs Hunter/Clark) – Chief Hunter deferred to Marshal Toomey's report.

Building Code Review Board – (Marshal Lennon/Chief Conley) – Chief Conley submitted his report in writing.

Here are some highlights from the September 8th Meeting:

- Amendment Discussions, votes were taken, and I will have the results once posted by the executive assistant for the committee:
- BD-21-16-23 Ceretifications for RSA 155-A:5.
- RE-21-31-23 Certification for RSA 155-A:5.
- EN-18-09-23 Amend Table of 6A Merrimack County to 5A Merrimack County.
- EN-18-10-23 Amend to have five (5) air changes in place of three (3) on air testing on buildings/dwellings.
- PL-21-14-23 Amend Building Sewer / drainage system, add wording to define footage (5') from the building to closest fitting outside going to public sewer or private.
- RE-21-18-23 Amend Roof Access on the installation of solar systems for firefighting efforts.
- RE-21-28-23 Amend Openings from a private garage into a dwelling and removing the wordage of self-latching.
- RE-21-29-23 Amend to remove the door label on fire rated doors.
- RE-21-30-23 Amend Hot water supply run to not exceed 100 feet to the fixtures.

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- Discussion on the reviewing of a Building Code for the Town of Canaan, NH.
- Discussion on the 2018 Energy Code being in place and not move to the 2021 code. Comments expressed that sticking with the 2018 is going backwards, the 2021 could have been adopted with amendments made to it.
- Discussion on the amendment of the State Fire Code regarding means of escape, window sizing and handrails was tabled.

Let me know if you need any clarification.

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

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

- Laconia Facility Update: Selection of the A&E firm has been made and the scope of services has been determined. Contract development for their services is underway;
- Legislation Watch:
 - The Study Committee for Dispatcher & Telecommunicator Training Standards met at the Laconia PSAP for an overview and tour;
 - Potential Bills to clarify 106-H:14 & 106-H:16 as well as clean up “Bureau” vs. “Division” in the RSA’s
- Interoperability “Markers” review with CISA completed – final report this fall, prelim report completed by CISA;
- 988 transfers from 911 = 276, since “go live” in July 2022;
- The Northern Border Consortium (small group) met with Sen. Shaheen and staff in Pittsburg to discuss issues;
- We are attending the CISA “911 Resilient” symposium in Washington next week, focus on hardening, resiliency and redundancy;

- Working on establishing a dedicated circuit for cross-border transfers with maine and New Hampshire (CCI);
- Social Media:

In August, the Division of Emergency Services and Communications utilized its social media platforms (Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram) to share beach and summer safety tips, recognize employee achievements, shared insights from national conferences our employees attended, promote AED awareness, showcased collection projects from our Data Operations team and documented the entirety of our Concord PSAP renovation project. Additionally, we continued to recruit for the Division's vacancies and showcased some of our recent public outreach and education efforts.



- PSAP renovation in Concord is complete;
- E911 Commission Meeting is scheduled for tomorrow the 15th at the Fire Academy;
- Mutualink contract discussion renewal continues, should be able to get one approved before the end of the year;

- 988/911 Community of Practice meetings continue monthly...developing best practices for 911 PSAPS and 988 call centers across the country

NH E-911 Commission – (Chief Thomas) (No report)

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

NH Information Analysis Center – (James Heinz-liaison) – No report

IAFC Director – (Chief Christopoulos) –

- Federal legislators came back in session yesterday and still many unknowns about Federal Government Shutdown as of October 1st.
- The IAFC updated Hot Sheet is available upon request at nhfirechiefs@gmail.com.
- "As a reminder – I officially come off the IAFC Board of Directors on October 5th at the New England Conference. I thank you all for your support and for allowing me to represent the New England Fire Service!

Best to you all!"

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

- The NE Chiefs conference will be October 4-6 at Mohegan Sun casino in CT. It used to be and the Big E, then Foxwoods, then Worcester. Mohegan is the biggest venue we've had and it should be quite adequate. We need everyone's support for this venue.
- Chris Christopoulos' term is up and the election to fill his position will occur at the conference in October.

Old Business -

New Business –

Good and Welfare –

Raffle – The raffle was held. \$125.00 was collected and \$125.00 was awarded. Proceeds were counted by Chief Hunter and ED Lemire.

The meeting was adjourned at 1032 hrs.

Respectfully submitted,

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

September 14, 2023