



NEW HAMPSHIRE ASSOCIATION OF FIRE CHIEFS, INC.

Working Together to Make a Difference

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Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the NH Association of Fire Chiefs

The meeting followed a seminar on Team Building presented by Brigadier General Willaim McCollough, Commandant of Cadets at Norwich Academy and a Vendor Showcase, at which 26 of our vendor partners participated. A special THANK YOU to our vendor partners!

Thursday, April 10 2025 – Common Man Inn, Plymouth, NH

The meeting was called to order at 1925 hours by Chief Emanuel.

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

Chief Kevin Pierce welcomed everyone to Plymouth and the meeting.

Introduction of members: Members introduced themselves and their spouses/guests

Special Guests: NH Commissioner of Safety Robert Quinn; Chief Steve Locke, 2nd Vice President of the IAFC from South Burlington, VT and Chief Keith Stark of Weymouth, MA, IAFC Director for New England. Chief Ken Jones (Meredith) is currently serving at NE Division President.

Chief Jones presented an informational video on the IAFC, its officers, mission and the benefits of belonging to the New England Division (see link below).

https://townofmeredith-my.sharepoint.com/:p:/g/personal/acullen_meredithnh_gov/Eau9EIiV7GxAo9tH5iaF6z8BWNtIs_E2ogwelvVfwpVWrA?e=qiuwIQ

Chiefs Lock and Stark offered greetings from the New England Chiefs and International Association of Fire Chiefs.

Minutes of the March meeting have been posted. A MOTION (Sitar/Fraitzl) to accept carried unanimously.

Financial Reports: March reports have been posted, A MOTION (Fraitzl/Sitar) to approve them, carried unanimously.

Communications: ED Lemire read a “Thank You” note from Chief Hunter of Bedford.

Applications for membership: Dep. Chief Erin Hannafin of Lakes Region Mutual Fire Aid; Dep. Chief Patrick Glennon of Auburn; Chief Gerald Beaudry of Charleston; Dep. Chief Robert Horne of Pelham were approved for Active membership and Kyle Gage of Global Public Safety in Bedford was approved for Advocate membership.

Life Membership - n/a

President’s Report: (Emanuel) –

- He attended Chief Hunter’s retirement celebration and presentation from the NHAFC for his service to the organization and on the board of directors
- EV, E-Mobility, Lithium-Ion Study Council - Public Safety Response Workgroup - Virtual Meeting. Eight attendees participated and discussed constructing a survey to determine the level of preparedness for LE, fire/EMS, and tow operators regarding PPE, training, and response. Next council meeting is scheduled for Monday April 14, 2025 at 1300 at the DOS

Report of the Executive Director: (Lemire)

- He thanked all the vendor partners and members for attending the events today. He thanked the Professional Development Committee and General McCollough for the seminar and the staff of the Common Man Inn and Spa for the collegial manner in planning. He also thanked Chief Pierce of Plymouth for hosting everyone.
- The May BOD meeting will be virtual on the 7th.
- For May, we will be heading to the Whelan Engineering Company in Charlestown, NH on the 8th for a tour at 1500 hours with dinner and meeting to follow, compliments of Whelan.
- The June 13 meeting will be virtual and held at 0900,
- The July 10 meeting will be a breakfast meeting at the NHFA.
- On August 7, we’ll join our North Country brethren at the Town and Country in Gorham (Shelburne) where we’ll have a seminar on Leadership presented by Commissioner John Steere of Nashua who is also an educator.
- The Golf Tournament will be held on Monday, August 11 at Lochmere Country Club in Tilton.
- Our application for a slot for Charity Gaming is in and we’re just waiting for a slot.
- An FYI, we’ve been able to maintain close contact with the Governor’s office through her liaison as well as our Congressional delegation through representatives assigned to us. These contacts have proven valuable in sharing our thoughts on various issues.

1st Vice President Report (Watkins) –

- He mentioned that he had no report on the PTSD Committee and referred everyone to Adam’s report below:

(Our Government Relations Specialist Adam Schmidt submitted the following legislative update)

Thursday, April 10, 2025

10:30 AM SENATE COMMERCE hearing on [HB 410](#) - (New Title) Limiting Local Authority to Adopt Restrictions On The Building and Development Of Residential Properties in SH 100

Friday, April 11, 2025

10:00 AM COMMISSION TO STUDY THE INCIDENCE OF POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER IN FIRST RESPONDERS - NH Fire Academy 98 Smokey Bear Blvd., Classroom 1 Concord, NH

Tuesday, April 15, 2025

11:30 AM HOUSE HOUSING public hearing on [SB 163](#) - Prohibiting Local Moratoria and Limitations On Building Permits in LOB 305

Committee Reports

HB 66-FN, relative to material subject to disclosure under the right to know law. MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT. MINORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.

[Link for Amendment to HB 66 - 2025-1005h](#)

Rep. Dan McGuire for the Majority of Finance. This bill makes several important changes to the right to know law. First, it replaces the undefined term “citizen” in current law with the word “person,” so that anyone can make a right to know request regardless of where they live. Second, to prevent abuse of the law, it places limitations on out of state persons who make such requests. If the requester is not a media representative and has no connection to New Hampshire, i.e., is not a domiciliary, a NH taxpayer, someone who owns property here or does business here, then the government body can require the person to physically come to its offices to make the request and to get the records. Those who do have a New Hampshire connection or are members of the media can make requests remotely and request that the records be provided electronically, which the governmental body must honor if it keeps the records in the format requested and the request is not unduly burdensome. Third, the bill also specifically provides that covered records include preliminary drafts of reports and other documents that are circulated to a quorum of the body. The amendment removes the requirement that citizen-initiated appeals of the ombudsman’s rulings shall have no filing fee. **Vote 16-9.**

Rep. Karen Ebel for the Minority of Finance. This bill, as amended, significantly broadens the definition of a right-to-know requestor to include any media person wherever located, requiring no Granite State nexus and greatly increasing the compliance burden on municipalities and the state. The expansion is at odds with both Article 8 of the New Hampshire Constitution, stating that the government must be responsive to the people who formed it, and with RSA 91-A referencing the right of “every citizen” to access governmental records. While never ruling on the RSA 91-A definition of citizen, in its opinions, the NH Supreme Court has reiterated that the purpose of the RTK law is “to provide the utmost information to the public about what its government is up to.” The statute is reasonably interpreted as giving rights only to New Hampshire residents. HB 66, as amended, also creates two classes of requestors. It allows any person to make a request to the state or political subdivisions by mail or electronic means. The bill then provides that a person with “ties to New Hampshire” or a member of the media wherever located may elect to receive the RTK response by mail, electronic means or in-person pick up. Requestors with no “ties to New Hampshire” may make a request by mail or electronically, but could be required to appear in person to retrieve the responsive documents. Fulfilling RTK requests can often take additional hours or even days to complete, sometimes simply to be used for marketing purposes by the requestor. The minority is concerned that the expansion of the definition and related costs will be an additional burden on NH taxpayers, further stressing municipal and state budgets.

HB 282, Increasing The Maximum Benefits For First Responders Critically Injured In The Line Of Duty. - Ought to Pass

Rep. Chris Muns for Finance. This bill increases the maximum amount that can be paid to first responders who are critically injured and deemed eligible under existing statute for a critical injury benefit of up to \$125,000 to a maximum total of \$1 million per biennium. The current maximum total payout per biennium is \$500,000. This bill increases the number of first responders who could receive a benefit if there is a catastrophic event that results in serious injuries to a large number of first responders. It does not increase the maximum amount that any one injured responder could receive. The financial impact is indeterminable since the extra benefits would only be paid out if there is a catastrophic event resulting in multiple first responders being injured. Fortunately, no such event has ever occurred. **Vote 25-0.**

HB 552-FN, relative to coverage of children under the state retiree insurance plan. OUGHT TO PASS.

Rep. Rosemarie Rung for Finance. Currently the state retiree insurance plan allows coverage for 19 to 25 year-old children if they are full-time students. This bill, which passed unanimously in the House Finance Committee and in the House Executive Departments and Administration Committee, seeks the simple change of removing the full-time student requirement to allow coverage of all children in this age group. This brings the retiree plan in alignment with the current state employee plan and other ACA plans. The entire cost of this change will be paid by the retiree and not the state. **Vote 25-0.**

2nd Vice President Report () – No report

Sgt. At Arms (Chamberlain) – No report

Committee Reports

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

Division Reports

Fire Marshal – (Marshal Toomey)

ADMINISTRATION:

Personnel:

Stacey Dubois has resigned from our office effective March 25, 2025. Stacey was a valuable member of our office since 2007, starting as an intern before moving into a full-time role. She made significant contributions to our success as a Fire Investigator, District Chief, and Deputy Fire Marshal. Her leadership will be missed.

Olivia Garrity has joined our staff as a part-time Outreach & Education Specialist effective April 4, 2025.

We are working through an internal process to fill the vacant Deputy State Fire Marshal-Bureau of Outreach & Education.

We are also recruiting for a full-time State Building Inspector and a part-time Hazardous Materials Coordinator.

We have requested a waiver to initiate the hiring process for an additional part-time Outreach & Education Specialist from the Governor's Office.

Legislation:

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

HB 91 Relative to the presence of a fire department at a fireworks display
Bill provides greater flexibility for fire department details at fireworks display sites. Senate Election Law & Municipal Affairs has voted ITL.

HB 134 Relative to the state building code
Bill updates the electrical code to the 2023 edition.
Senate ED&A has voted OTP-A.

HB 179-FN Relative to hazardous waste accident fees

Bill changes the \$1,000 one-time fee for non-payment.
Senate Energy & Natural Resources has voted OTP-A.

HB 244 Updating and recodifying the municipal enforcement of the building and fire code

Bill cleans up zoning, planning, building and fire code items into proper statutes.

This bill was retained in the House.

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

Bill further limits authority of municipalities to amend the state building code. This bill passed/adopted with amendments in the House and is in the Senate committee.

HB 432 Relative to recovery houses

Bill makes modifications to the definition of recovery house and restricts local planning and zoning authority on recovery homes. This bill was laid on the table.

SB 94 prohibiting municipal amendments to the state building code

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

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

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

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

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

SB 282 Relative to stairway requirements in certain residential buildings

Bill allows single stairs for means of egress for residential buildings up to 6 stories.

This bill passed in the Senate with an amendment.

Board of Fire Control:

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

BUREAU OF INVESTIGATIONS:

In March, we received 24 incident notifications resulting in 13 scene responses. The Bureau of Investigations currently has 8 open arson or suspected arson investigations.

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

- On March 1, investigators responded to Winchester to investigate a structure fire. There were no reported injuries, and the cause of the fire is under investigation.
- On March 2, investigators responded to Acworth to investigate a structure fire with two people injured. The cause is currently under investigation, but lithium-ion batteries are suspected as a potential cause.
- On March 3, an investigator responded to a structure fire in New Boston to assist the New Boston Fire Department. There were no injuries, and the cause is still under investigation.
- On March 8, an investigator responded to a suspected carbon monoxide poisoning incident in Ossipee and determined the release was due to the occupants operating a generator in the garage. Both occupants survived.
- On March 11, an investigator responded to a structure fire in Farmington to assist the Farmington Fire Department. The cause of the fire was attributed to an electrical failure.
- On March 11, an investigator responded to a structure fire in Freedom to assist the Freedom Fire Department. The cause of the fire was attributed to an electrical issue.
- On March 17, investigators responded to a cabin explosion and fire in Freedom that resulted in minor injuries to an occupant. The cause is currently under investigation, but it appears to have been accidental.
- On March 24, an investigator responded to Wolfeboro to investigate a structure fire that resulted in no injuries. The cause is currently under investigation.
- On March 25, an investigator responded to a small fire and burn injury in Concord and identified the cause to have been autoignition of a solvent used in an industrial oven.

Fatal Fire/CO Incidents:

- On March 8, investigators responded to a structure fire in Campton that caused the death of an occupant. The cause of the fire is currently under investigation but not considered criminal.
- On March 9, investigators responded to a structure fire in Bartlett that caused injuries to five occupants, two of who were critical and one of which later died. The cause is currently under investigation but suspected to be due to an electrical issue.

- On March 13, investigators responded to a structure fire in Rumney that caused the death of one occupant. The cause is currently under investigation but not considered to be criminal.
- On March 28, investigators responded to a structure fire in Grafton that caused two injuries, one of which was serious, and ultimately died a few days later. The cause is currently under investigation but appears to have been ignition of combustibles in close proximity to a wood stove.

Ignitable Liquid Detection Canine Teams:

- There was one IGL canine deployment in March.

Youth Firesetter:

- There were no new youth fire setter intakes in March, but one assessment had been conducted.

Training/Committees:

- Members of the BOI attended the Child Fatality Review Committee and the Incapacitated and Vulnerable Adult Fatality Review Committee meetings in March.
- Members of the BOI presented “Fire Investigation for First Responders” to several fire departments in Kingston.

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

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

BUREAU OF BUILDING SAFETY & CONSTRUCTION:

State Building Permit System:

We processed the following permits in the month of March:

- Building: 14
- Electrical: 3
- Plumbing: 2
- Fuel Gas: 7
- Mechanical: 4
- Fire Protection: 3
- Fire Alarm: 1

Technical Assistance, Educational & Healthcare Reviews:

We initiated 5 educational and 13 healthcare plan reviews, completed 219 inspections and 212 technical consults in the month of March.

Variance Requests:

We processed 12 variance requests in the month of March.

Fireworks Safety and Enforcement Program

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

- Proximate Licenses Issued: 0
- Display Certificate of Competency Issued: 2
- Consumer Fireworks Retail Store Licenses Issued: 3
- Explosive Magazine Inspections: 7
- Proximate Audience Inspections: 1
- Technical Assistance: 0

Modular Building Program

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

- Inspections: 15
- Audits of Manufacturers: 0
- Audits of Educational Facilities: 0
- Labels Issued to Manufacturers: 300
- Units Shipped to New Hampshire: 2

Tramway and Amusement Ride Safety

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

- Amusement Registrations: 21
- Amusement Inspections: 21
- Amusement Incidents: 0
- Tramway Registrations: 0
- Tramway Inspections: 13
- Tramway Incidents: 3

BUREAU OF OUTREACH & EDUCATION:

Hazardous Materials:

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

In the month of March, our Hazardous Materials Coordinator attended monthly PEAC Training and the New England Hazardous Materials Conference. We provided training to the Meredith Fire Department on the 2024 Emergency Response Guidebook.

Our Hazardous Materials Coordinator attended the Hazardous Materials Collaborative meeting, Carroll County Haz Mat Team meeting, Midwestern NH Haz Mat Team, Strategic Planning meeting, and Seabrook Radiological Emergency Plan meeting. Our Hazardous Materials Coordinator participated in the RFP review for the PEAC Software.

We responded to propane gas explosion and consulted with Seacoast Haz mat Team on a sick building call.

Our Hazardous Materials Coordinator is available for PEAC Software training for fire departments. PEAC is used for documentation of Tier II facilities and chemical storage. Training is also available on the use of the Emergency Response Guidebook.

Electric Vehicles and Lithium-Ion Batteries

The council to study the impacts of electric vehicles, e-mobility devices, and the associated lithium-ion batteries hazards for first responder response, the environment, building and fire codes, life safety, and property protection continues its work. The interim report of the council was submitted to the Governor and General Court on November 1, 2024. The next meeting will be held on April 14th at 1:00 pm.

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

Incident Reporting:

In March, we released the latest edition of [NHFIRS Newsletter](#), which includes a timetable for NERIS rollout with links to NERIS resources, and tips about how quality data can help fire departments advocate for themselves.

We continue to monitor the development of the U.S. Fire Administration's (USFA) new fire information and analytics platform, known as the National Emergency Response Information System (NERIS), for the American fire and emergency services. New Hampshire is scheduled for onboarding in October 2025. Find more information and resources at [National Emergency Response Information System \(NERIS\) \(fema.gov\)](#).

Thank you to the 125+ departments who responded to our recent survey in preparation of NERIS! If you have not completed it, please do so quickly.

Link to our NERIS Survey:

<https://forms.office.com/g/WBLdY7E8zc?origin=lprLink>

Key NERIS Resources:

- [User References](#)
- [NERIS Onboarding Checklist and Guide](#)
- Visit [our website](#) for more NERIS support and updates.

Please reach out to our NHFIRS team for any incident reporting questions at nhfirs@dos.nh.gov and have your NFIRS/NERIS contact person sign-up for the NHFIRS Newsletter by sending an email to FMO@dos.nh.gov.

Outreach Events:

In March, we shared public education about smoke and carbon monoxide alarms at the well-attended Manchester Home Show. There were six K-9 demos and one Steps to Safety presentation this month.

We partnered with American Red Cross and Effingham, Center Ossipee and Freedom Fire Departments for an alarm installation day. 59 smoke alarms and 20 carbon monoxide alarms were installed in 22 homes! The CO alarms came directly from our [CPSC's CO Poisoning Prevention Grant](#). The American Red Cross has already installed 162 CO alarms in homes through this grant!

We want to highlight Deputy Fire Marshal Fanjoy, District Chief Crosby, and Fire Investigators Dennis and Lutz who joined other statewide agencies in handing out medals to athletes at the Special Olympics NH 2025 Winter Games in Waterville Valley.

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



Interested in having the SFMO join an event in your community? Please reach out to us as early as possible so we can make every effort to attend your event. Send your request to us at fmopubliceducation@dos.nh.gov.

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

Public Education:

Our public education theme for this April is “Medical Oxygen.” As more people are bringing medical oxygen into the home, they need to understand the new fire risks they also bring into the home. **Never smoke around medical oxygen.** Medical oxygen can explode if a flame or spark is nearby. Even if the oxygen is turned off, it can still catch on fire.

There is no safe way to smoke near oxygen. Using home oxygen increases the risk of fires and burns. When oxygen is used in the home, the amount of oxygen in the air, furniture, clothing, and hair goes up, making it easier for a fire to start and spread. In 2024, smoking on medical oxygen resulted in 5 preventable deaths in New Hampshire.



There is no safe way to smoke on medical oxygen.



Resources:

[Smoking Fire Safety](#)

Training Opportunities:

If you are interested in hosting a future session, or would like to suggest a future training topic, please reach out to us at fmpubliceducation@dos.nh.gov

Fire Standards/Training/EMS – (Asst. Director Phillips)

ADMINISTRATION

Personnel

- Senior Staff Instructor Jeffrey Whitcomb's name will be added to the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial at the ceremony in Emmitsburg, MD on May 3-4, 2025.
- On January 22nd Governor Kelly Ayotte signed an Executive Order instituting a hiring freeze across state government. We will work within the process to identify any positions that are eligible for a waiver under the order.
- Assistant Director Jeffrey Phillips is the Acting Director, if you have any questions, please contact him at 603-419-9457

- Captain Danny Gerlack will be leaving us this month. We thank Captain Gerlack for his time, efforts, and contributions and wish him the best in his future endeavors.
- We have one vacancy for Program Specialist III (Education Technologist) of the Educational Technology section.
- We have one vacancy for a full-time Fire Training Instructor position.
- We have one vacancy for a full-time Program Assistant I.
- We have one vacancy for our full-time EMS Compliance Coordinator.
- We have one vacancy for our part-time EMS Compliance Specialist.
- We have one vacancy for our part-time EMS Vehicle Inspector Coordinator.
- We have vacancies for EMS Exam Coordinators.
- We have vacancies for EMS Vehicle Inspectors.

Grants

- We submitted our application for the 2024 AFG grant.

Special Projects

- The early detection cancer screening pilot program RFP submission period closed on February 19th. Initial scoring on the technical portions of the proposals was held on March 7th.
 - Notification of the selected vendor is expected to be in late-March. When the vendors are selected contracts will be developed and then submitted to the Governor and Executive Council for consideration.
 - We anticipate this program to begin mid-summer 2025.
 - We are developing a website dedicated to this program where eligible individuals can find information about the program.
- The Raymond S. Burton Fire and EMS Training Facility infrastructure project continues to move forward with completion of the project expected on or before November 2025.
 - Phase II which includes the heated garage and classroom building upgrades is ongoing.
 - The foundation and footings are in place for the heated garage building.
 - The classroom renovations have also begun.
 - No new classes or prop usages are being scheduled for this campus until construction is completed. Classes will be moved to other facilities in the area.

- We continue to work on our website transition and improvements with NH DoIT. Much of this work is being done offline in preparation of a full transition to the new state web platform.
- The *Law Enforcement Officers, Professional Firefighters and Emergency Medical Technicians Career Development, Recruitment and Retention Program* established in New Hampshire RSA 188-F:70 remains active and available.
 - Details can be found on our website under the Recruitment and Retention link from the homepage.
- The Division's facilities staff has complete and building renovation for Classroom 5, 6, and 7. This included a renovation of the classrooms front wall and the installation of 3 new large displays.

National Fire Academy

- On Friday March 7th we received the following notice from the NFA Superintendent:
 - "FEMA is currently in the process of evaluating agency programs and spending to ensure alignment with Administration priorities. While this review is underway, we will be cancelling all in person training offered by the National Fire Academy (on and off campus). For those courses that can continue virtually, we will do so, and you will receive more information soon. For those that are unable to proceed in a virtual format we will reevaluate rescheduling of courses once the review is complete."
- We are monitoring this closure and will notify students if future scheduled programs will remain cancelled.
- The Division is still able to offer the schedule Incident Safety Officer and Supervising Emergency Medical Services courses.
- State Weekend for 2025 has been cancelled as FEMA is currently evaluating agency programs and spending to ensure alignment with Administration priorities; during this review, all in-person training offered by the National Fire Academy—both on and off campus—will be cancelled, with virtual alternatives provided where possible and updates to follow regarding potential rescheduling.

Legislative/Administrative Rules

- The Division of Fire Standards and Training & Emergency Medical Services is happy to announce the release of New Hampshire Patient Care Protocols Version 9.1. This mid-cycle release includes the addition of a new general patient care protocol, 1.4 Modifications and Emergency Protocols.
- The 2025 legislative session has begun. We are monitoring many legislative Bills.
- The proposed Trauma Rules are working through the internal DOS process.

- An EMS discipline and other various administrative rule changes proposal has been submitted to JLCAR. This proposed change is supported by the EMS Coordinating Board and would allow for deceased providers names to be removed the public listing, along with other various changes to the ruleset.
- Administrative Rules to make the full transition to ETA's and sunset the former process have been developed and are working through the internal DOS process for submission to JLCAR.

Outreach

- Staff members continue to attend various stakeholder and mutual aid group meetings and make department visits.

Mental Health & Resiliency

- Crisis Intervention Team Training – Littleton Regional Healthcare – March 3rd
- Group Crisis Intervention/Assisting Individuals in Crisis – Richard Flynn campus – May 2nd
- We continue our work in partnership with the Police Academy to develop a more comprehensive program for PTSD training utilizing experts from this field in development of the curriculum and delivery.

Fire Standards and Training Commission

- The next Fire Standards and Training Commission meeting met on May 1st at 0930 in Classrooms 5/6 in the dormitory building at the Richard Flynn Fire Academy in Concord.

CURRICULUM

- *Accreditation:* The five-year process of re-accreditation through the ProBoard has begun. The process involves completing a comprehensive self-assessment of the Division's policies and certification exam practices. This entire process culminates in a site visit from the Pro Board representatives to review all documentation.
- *Fire Inspector:* The visiting committee will meet on April 9th to review the Fire Inspector (formerly Fire Inspector II) program modules and content outline. The textbook for First Responder Inspector remains delayed by the publisher.
- *Firefighter I & II:* The visiting committee will meet on April 16th to review the Building Construction and Utilities, Firefighter Safety and Rehabilitation, and Tools and Equipment modules.

- *Airport Firefighter*: This curriculum was approved at the FSTC meeting in March. A new textbook and exam questions bank will be available from IFSTA in the coming weeks. Exam validation will also begin soon.

BUREAU OF FIRE TRAINING

Courses/Programs

- Firefighter I
 - Litchfield – January 21st
 - Keene – March 10th (FF I & II)
 - Spring LRCC Class – January 21st (FF I & II)
 - Spring Recruit School – March 3rd
- Firefighter II
 - Epping – February 19th
- Technical Rescue
 - Swiftwater Level I – North Woodstock, May 5th and Franklin June 2nd
- Driver Operator
 - All inquiries for these programs should be directed to Captain Paul Ingersoll at paul.h.ingersoll@dos.nh.gov
- Hazardous Materials
 - Hazardous Materials Awareness is available at <https://www.nhfaemslearning.org/login/index.php>
- Module Deliveries
 - Hazardous Materials Operations with PPE and Product Control – Richard Flynn campus – March 18th
- IAFF Fireground Survival
- Airport Rescue Firefighting
 - ARFF – Live Fire Recertifications – numerous dates beginning in April.
 - Richard Flynn campus - September 25th
- “On My Time” Program
 - We continue to offer support and guidance to many departments participating in this program.
- Special Programs
- Electric Vehicle Training Resources
 - US Department of Energy, Alternate Fuels Data Center, EV Safety Training Resources for First and Second Responders
 - <https://afdc.energy.gov/vehicles/electric-responders>
 - NFPA & NAFTD Distributed Energy Resources (DER) Field Familiarization Guide
 - <https://derstfg.org/>

Testing

- Monthly Testing was completed in February for the NFPA 1001, 1002 and 1003 testing processes which includes administering the written and practical exams.
 - Monthly testing is the 2nd Tuesday of every month. Burton campus monthly testing is only in March, June, September and December on the Wednesday after the Flynn campus exam date. Submissions must be entered by the last day of the month before the month you wish to test.

Apparatus/Equipment

- We have acquired new equipment including a battery powered chain saw and three new 35' extension ladders.
- Engine Three has been put back in service.
- Utility Five has been removed from service.
- Utility Six has been put back in service.
- All other Fleet Vehicles are in service.

Facilities, Prop Usage and Projects

- Drillyard hydrant was repaired
- The "B" Building received its semi-annual maintenance and is in service
- The Dover Fire Department used the IAFF Fireground Survival props from March 10th to March 31st.
- The Manchester Fire Department visited the Concord Campus over several days in March, using the "A" and "J" Buildings and our Ventilation Prop.
- The Durham Fire Department used our "A" Building for live fire training on March 31st.
- Dover, Manchester, and Goffstown used our DOAV props to deliver their Driver Programs.

BUREAU OF CERTIFICATION AND SUPPORT

Courses/Programs

- Instructor I/II/III Programs
 - Instructor I – Richard Flynn campus – Concord – May 7th
 - Instructor II - Virtual February 24th
 - Instructor III – Virtual April 9th
- Instructor Professional Development
 - Selecting Engaging Instructional Strategies – Richard Flynn campus April 22nd and April 24th

- Assessing Student Performance Using a Skill Acquisition Model – Virtual, May 27th and Richard Flynn campus May 29th
- Fire Officer I/II Programs
 - Fire Officer I – Richard Flynn campus – Concord, May 13th
 - Fire Officer II – Virtual October 15th
 - Fire Officer II – Virtual April 2nd
- Fire Inspector Programs
 - Fire Inspector II – Richard Flynn campus – Concord, April 3rd
- Fire Investigator – Richard Flynn campus – August 21st
- Warrants and Citations
- National Fire Academy
 - Incident Safety Officer – Richard Flynn campus – Concord, April 7th
 - FO146 Supervising Emergency Medical Services, Littleton Regional Healthcare, April 26-27, 2025
- Your Workplace has Changed: Fire Dynamics for Structural Firefighting – Richard Flynn campus – April 23rd

Education Technology

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

Instructors

- The State Fire Instructor renewal portal is now open. Email reminders will be sent

out beginning in April.

- The Fire Training Captains have been actively training and endorsing Instructors and Program Assistants in numerous classes and prop operations.
- The Division is always looking for highly motivated team members to become instructors. If you are interested in becoming an instructor, please contact Assistant Director Jeffrey Phillips at Jeffrey.r.phillips@dos.nh.gov or 603-223-4213

CPAT

- There are (6) CPAT dates in 2025. We restructured the schedule of these exams to better span the entire year to make this test more aligned with department hiring needs.
 - April 22nd – Laconia – Merrill Fay Ice Arena
 - June 17th - Laconia – Merrill Fay Ice Arena
 - August 12th - Laconia – Merrill Fay Ice Arena
 - Additional dates TBA
- Department member assistance is needed for CPAT on testing days. Please confirm available personnel to assist with PC Nick Poulin at Nicholas.a.poulin@dos.nh.gov 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 May 15th.
- The NH Emergency Medical and Trauma Services Coordinating Board meeting will meet on May 15th at 1300.
- The NH Trauma Medical Review Committee (TMRC) will meet at 0930 on April 16th.
- The Privacy Committee will meet April 30th at 1300.

Operations

- With final adoption of the Educational Training Agency ruleset as of April 30, 2024, the Administrative Packet for application can be found at on the Division website and Resource Center.
- Initial EMS Instructor license applications are now available in Respond NH.
- The EMS Simulation Training Program is active with ongoing open enrollment courses.
- There are currently 310 licensed EMS Units and 6,391 EMS Providers.
- 15 ambulance inspections were conducted last month.

- Background checks are currently averaging 1.8 days for new applicants for licensure.
- EMS Psychomotor Exams
 - 1 BLS exams were held in March and 2 ALS exams were held in March.

Courses/Programs

- Emergency Medical Responder (EMR)
 - The Winter 2025 Emergency Medical Responder (EMR) course is ongoing.
- EMS Continuing Education and Simulation Education
 - *Adult & Ped GI Emergencies* - Littleton Regional Healthcare – April 12th
 - *Public Health: How it works and why EMS should care* – Richard Flynn campus – Concord April 2nd and Virtual April 17th
 - *The Other End of the Line: An Inside Look at NH 911* – Virtual April 23rd
 - *NFA FO146 Supervising Emergency Medical Services* – Littleton Regional Healthcare April 26th
 - *Tactical Emergency Casualty Care (TECC)* – [Richard Flynn campus – Concord May 2nd and 3rd](#)
 - *Capnography: What does it Mean?* – [Richard Flynn campus – Concord May 7th and Virtual May 15th](#)
 - *Adult and Pediatric Electrical Emergencies* – [Richard Flynn campus – Concord May 14th](#)
 - *Electrical Medical Emergencies* - Littleton Regional Healthcare – [June 14th](#)
 - Intoxicant/Irritant Exposures - Littleton Regional Healthcare – October 11th
 - Adult & Ped Respiratory Emergencies – [Richard Flynn campus – November 12th](#)
 - Adult & Ped Respiratory Emergencies- Littleton Regional Healthcare – December 13th
- EMS in the Warm Zone Awareness, Operations and Rescue Task Force Concepts
 - The Awareness and Operations courses are available free to students on our online training platform.
 - The RTF Concepts class is a half-day in-person training that is also available. Grant funding opportunities are available.
 - We are developing the 2025 schedule for six open enrollment RTF courses.
 - If anyone is looking for this program, please contact Shawn Croteau at Shawn.A.Croteau@DOS.NH.GOV

Clinical Systems

- We continue our outreach and support to agencies for inter-facility transfers and mobile integrated health programs.

- EMS Protocols Version 9.1 Mid Cycle Rollout was adopted and went into effect on April 1, 2025.
- Issued a revised Protocol 8.1 Baby Safe Haven due to updated laws and rules
- EMS Protocols Version 10.0 development has begun.
- All EMS Bulletins can be found on our website at:
<https://www.nh.gov/safety/divisions/fstems/ems/bulletins/index.html>

Data Management

- NHESR
 - If you would like to start using the New Hampshire Emergency Services Reporting System (NHESR), please fill out the form available at <https://nhfa-ems.com/nhesronboard/>.
 - 114 fire departments are utilizing the system for incident reporting.
 - Anyone interested in the system can contact nhesr@dos.nh.gov by email, submit a ticket at <https://nhfa-ems.com/support/>, or call 603-223-4200 and ask for a member of the data team to reach us.
- RespondNH
 - The Division continues to expand the capabilities of the RespondNH system. As we are able to utilize this system and analyze more data it is important to have department roster information updated and current. Each department has the full capability to manage their own roster by adding new staff and removing those that may have left. Departments can do this at any time. For State level reporting information please fill out your roster information to include their status (career, call, or volunteer) as well as the duties they provide such as EMS care and/or fire suppression.
- EMS Instructor Initial/Reinstatement applications are available online for licensing.
- EMS Instructor Renewal applications are available online.
- Total EMS incidents entered into the system for February were 23,845.

Compliance

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

Preparedness and Special Projects

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

Professional Development Committee – (Chiefs Cathy/Tice) – No report

Fire Standards and Training Commission – Chiefs Clark/DeAngelis –

- Chief DeAngelis submitted a report in writing from the Rules Committee: “The rules committee has had a lot of work and has been meeting monthly instead of the usual quarterly. We just finished with the last piece of the one hundred to nine hundred rules and took a long hard look at the five hundred rules and are proposing some changes to report back to the commission at their May meeting.”
- Chief Clark has no report

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

National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC) – (Chiefs Thomas/Cathy) - No report

EMS Trauma Medical Review Board – (Chief Clough) – No report

Homeland Security and Emergency Management – (Director Buxton)

Updates on Division Priorities:

- Federal Funding
 - We continue to monitor activity surrounding the passing of Federal Budget Legislation.
- Public Assistance
 - We continue to work with FEMA on existing Disaster Relief efforts.
 - Thank you to everyone that has assisted staff with the COVID-19 closeout process. We are attempting to close the COVID-19 disaster by the end of June. Ultimately, this would remove any additional COVID-19 work prior to going into the next fiscal year.
 - If you have open public assistance projects, please check in on the status of those projects as we continue to see funding being under scrutiny.
- Mitigation
 - We continue to work to support the following programs:
 - Hazard Mitigation Planning
 - Plan review and approval remain on pause with the Federal Government. New guidance surrounding mitigation planning has been issued. We anticipate hearing from

Region 1 on implementation of this guidance and when plan approvals will start again.

- We are aware the BRIC (Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities) program has been recalled by FEMA.
 - FFY2024 program has been deleted.
 - FFY2020-2023 is currently under review. We have a host of questions surrounding this program deletion and impacts on our local communities.

- EMPG
 - If you have a potential EMPG project, please reach out to your Stakeholder Liaison for assistance.
 - Quarterly Progress Reports are becoming very important. As we continue to advocate for funding across our grant platforms, please make sure you are timely with your QPR submissions.

- Federal Grant Programs
 - Currently, we do not have a timeline on next year's Federal grant platform.
 - All grant programs are currently under review to verify consistency with the new administration's guidance.
 - The CR did provide funding for the bulk of the grant programs. Congressional Spending for FFY 24 has not been funded at this point.
 - We continue to monitor and work through new review processes.

- Active Shooter Incident Management
 - Working groups continue to meet regarding Incident Management initiatives for Law Enforcement.
 - We have an opportunity to bring C3 Pathways in for an incident management class in May. This will be a joint training for both Law Enforcement and Fire Service. Tentative dates will be May 19-21, in Pembroke at the ECTC facility.

- REP
 - The FY 25 assessment process has started for NextEra Energy.
 - We are preparing for our April exercise in Manchester.
 - We are in the process of evaluating the potential of redeveloping our reception center program, ultimately moving to a single reception center located at UNH. This will provide us with several program efficiencies.

- We are also evaluating our current radio program within the REP program.

Forests and Lands – (Chief Sherman) – No report

Board of Fire Control – (Chiefs Clark/) – No report

Building Code Review Board – (Asst. Chief Pouliot/Chief Conley) –

The Board reviewed a submission for a Building Code Amendment. The amendment dealt with Permit requirements for temporary structures over 120 Square feet and the exemption of temporary event tents less than 400 square feet (Code Section 3103.1.2). The purpose of the amendment request is to maintain consistency between the IBC, IRC and State Fire Code.

There are no more outstanding amendment requests for the 2021 Codes. The board decided that moving forwards any requests for amendments to the 2021 Code will go into future legislation. They will be reviewed next fall and at that time we should be dealing with the 2024 Code Editions.

Municipal Amendment reviews:

Canaan is the first town that completed the entire process accurately. They are the first municipality out of one hundred and forty-one (141) that is done properly and will get posted on the FMO website.

There was an update on bills that are going through the legislative process. Most of the discussion was on:

SB188, allowing independent permitting and inspections, and allowing local governments to authorize licensed engineers and architects to perform building code inspections. *This allows owners or developer to subcontract out the entire building code inspection operation to a third party and cut the local inspector out.

SB282, relative to stairway requirements in certain residential buildings. *This bill allows buildings up to four (4) stories and 10,000 sf to have a single means of egress. The fifth and sixth stories would reduce the size allowing a single means of egress.

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

Division of Emergency Services and Communications – (Director Doyle)

(Report submitted in writing for the minutes)

- Laconia Facility Update: Ground Breaking on April 7th in Laconia;

- Genasys Emergency notification platform ([NH Alerts](#)) is up and running, If you are interested in becoming a POC for your community to use the ENS for local messaging, please let me know. The statewide ENS system is offered to local communities *at no cost*;
- Community Events / school visits reminder – connect with our Public Outreach / Education Team for more info: Patrick Cavanaugh, 603-271-6911, patrick.m.cavanaugh@desc.nh.gov ;
- I attended the Crisis Systems Policy Academy symposium with members of DHHS, Headrest; 988, and UNH to develop goals for crisis systems response in NH;
- Presenting an overview of E911's transfers to Rapid Response at the NHEDA conference in Bartlett on 4/9;
- 988 First Responder subcommittee work continues - "Cruiser Card" development is underway and will be rolled out to Windham, Exeter and MACC Base for 2-3 week trial run and feedback collection in the coming weeks;
- NHEDA (New Hampshire Emergency Dispatcher's Association) conference and Awards ceremony this Wednesday evening: DESC's Peer Support Team is being recognized as the NHEDA "Team of the Year"; The DESC Training Section is being recognized as the NHEDA "Trainers of the Year"; and one of our Supervisors, Abby Rider, is being recognized as the NHEDA "Supervisor of the Year". The Division is also recognizing Chrystal Howery as the 2024 "Telecommunicator of the Year" during National Public Safety Telecommunicator's Week;
- Working with Northern Borders Dispatch re: Radio system upgrade project (Licensing, coverage, Interoperability with Vermont and Canada) – providing SME relative to their project;
- Legislation update:
 - HB579, clarifying language for transfers to 988 / Rapid Response. Being Intro'd to the Senate on 4/9;
 - HB 501, Relative to allowing Towns to decline 5G towers – ITL'd;

- SB 59, Establishing a Recruitment Incentive program within the Community College System for Public Safety Telecommunicators and Dispatchers – Tabled;
- Surcharge increase (from .75 to \$1.00) approved by the PUC, eff. 5/1/2025;

- Social Media Updates:



- Media events:

In March, the Division of Emergency Services and Communications used its social media platforms (Facebook, X, and Instagram) to highlight employee milestones, including work anniversaries across the Division. We also promoted community outreach opportunities, specifically 911 school visits that help educate students on what to expect when calling 911. Throughout the month, we provided information on important tools like what3words and shared call volume statistics to give our audience a feel for the work being done by our telecommunicators every day. We continued to see strong engagement with our “Unique Road Name” series, which remains a consistent driver of interaction across platforms.

Social media continues to serve as an important tool for public education, engagement, and awareness of the resources offered by New Hampshire 911.

Groundbreaking for the New Laconia PSAP facility was held on 4/7 at the new location on Meredith Center Rd.

- Any questions, comments, concerns, please reach out...

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

NH IAC – (James Heinz) – He reported that April is “anniversary” month for terrorism; there have been several incidents of signal jamming.

He also introduced Alyssa from the Overwatch Foundation. She shared her concerns of our vulnerability for terrorist activities disrupting communications; water delivery, computer hacking, etc. There are grant programs that help municipalities to deal with this.

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

- Chief Jones reported that Chief Stark will be retiring in 90 days, leaving a vacancy for NE Director. He also wants to bring the conference back to a central location in New England.

Old Business – Chief Sitar reported on the efforts to pass the 325 percent ambulance billing bill as passed by the Senate. The House wants 200 percent. They will be in conference soon.

Chief Thomas spoke of the upcoming Hazardous Materials Conference. He also **MOVED** that *“the NHAFC accept the terms of the Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness (HMEP) grant as presented in the amount of \$18,000.00 for the purpose of holding a hazardous materials conference. The NHAFC also acknowledges that the total cost of the project will be \$22,500.00, and that the NHAFC will be responsible for a 20 % match or \$4,500.00. Furthermore, it authorizes Henry Thomas, Jr. to sign all documents related to the grant. Motion carried unanimously.*

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

The Nominating Committee presents the following nominations for the New Hampshire Association of Fire Chiefs annual elections (2025):

The following will require a vote of the membership

- President – Chief James Watkins - (Berlin)
- 1st vice President – Chief Ben LaRoche (Bristol)
- 2nd Vice President – Chief Dave Chamberlin – (Jaffrey)
- Sgt. at Arms – Chief Francis Fraitzl – (Bedford)
- Executive Director - Chief Brent Lemire (retired) - (Litchfield)

- Treasurer – Chief Steve Carrier - (Gilford)
- Fulltime Chief Director – Chief James Chamberlain (Claremont) - **expiring 4/2027**
- Combination Chief Director – Chief Mark Cotreau (Rye) - **expiring 4/2027**
- Combination Chief Director – Chief Michael Sitar_ (Tilton/Northfield) **expiring 4/2026**

BELOW ARE NOT UP FOR RE-ELECTION UNTIL 2026

- Fulltime Chief Director - Chief Steve Buxton (Nashua) **expiring 4/2026**
- Voting Member Director – Chief James Wheatley (Lebanon) - **expiring 4/2026**
- Immediate Past President – Chief David Emanuel - (Durham)

Respectfully submitted;

*Chair, Chief Jason Lyon – New London
Chief Phil Cloutier - Gorham*

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

The 2025 Budget is still being formulated and will be presented to the board and membership at the May meetings.

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

Good and Welfare –

The raffle drawing was conducted. (\$560 was collected and \$280 was distributed in prizes. \$100 was donated back. Counted by Chiefs Fraitzl and Chamberlain).

The meeting was adjourned at 2025 hrs.

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

April 10, 2025