



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

*Working Together to Make a Difference*

547 Charles Bancroft Hwy.

Litchfield, NH 03052

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## Minutes of a Meeting of the NH Association of Fire Chiefs

Thursday, June 8, 2023 – Brookline Event Center, Brookline, NH

The meeting was called to order at 1848 hours by Chief Best.

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

Chief Corey welcomed all to Brookline.

INTRODUCTION OF MEMBERS.

### **Special Guests:**

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

**Financial Reports:** April and May reports have not been posted. Approval will be deferred to July. A MOTION (Sitar/Fraitzl) to accept the reports carried unanimously.

**Communications:** n/a

**Applications for membership:** Chief Michael Devine of Sandown; Dep. Chief Louis Loutrel of Laconia; Asst. Chief Jason Gionet of Portsmouth and Dep. Chief Ben Hatcher of New Ipswich have been approved for membership.

**Life Memberships:** n/a

### **President's Report: (Best) –**

1. HB2 discussion ref pension reform HB 436. He described the meetings, etc. held in relation to its being pulled and a committee set up. Discussion ensued as to our representation on the committee. It appears to be a double edged sword for us. We will not seek membership on the committee.
2. HB182 Volunteer/Call FF termination legislation discussion. More thought is needed before we take a stand. Staying neutral for now.
3. NHAFC Strategic Plan Status – awaiting final report from Rick Alpers

4. Golf tournament update. Chief Carrier reported that the registration has been slow.
5. IAFC –NE October meeting attendance/participation – Mohegan Sun this year.
6. 5 Families meeting next week 6/15- topics of mutual interest
7. Meeting next week 6/13with NHFMO ref EVs
8. Meeting 6/6 with NHFA ref mental health seminar/training planning
9. He attended the NorthPac mutual aid meeting in Dalton and had some great discussions on mental health.
10. We need to push out via list serve for volunteers for the Social Media Committee

#### **Executive Director's Report (Lemire) –**

- Next board meeting will be Wednesday, July 12 and will be virtual.
- In July, the regular meeting will be at the Atlantic Grill in Rye on the 13<sup>th</sup>.
- The August regular meeting on the 10<sup>th</sup> will be in Gorham at the Town and Country Inn and Resort.
- The September 14 meeting will be at the LRCC and includes breakfast.
- Dep. Maurice Paquette's info has been forwarded to the Governor for appointment to the Emergency Medical and Trauma Services Coordinating Board.
- Chief Meredith Lund is having a reception on the 16<sup>th</sup> (Friday) from 3:00 to 6:00 pm at the New Ipswich fire station. I have ordered her Life Membership card.
- The Falls Event Center is closed for the year. We had planned on October for a Vendor Showcase. It was decided to wait for April of 2024 like before.
- NHMA is having their conference in November and looking for speakers. We will participate.

#### **1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Report (Emanuel) –**

- Legislative update: As of this afternoon, the House concurred with the Senate version of the budget and passed it.
- Notice of retirement program from NHFA on Friday June 16, 2023 for Scott Cathy for his promotion to New Hampton fire chief's position.
- NH Hazmat conference surplus grant of approximately \$16-17K to be allocated between the two programs. The goal is to include fire/EMS/and LE.
- NHAFC will be delivering three educational programs on Electric Vehicle fires at the NHFA on July 7-8, 2023.
- The Seacoast Chief Fire Officer Mutual Aid District has been working with Hank Thomas to co-sponsor EV training on August 29, 2023. The District has secured Dover High School for the large capacity venue and is planning to deliver two offerings. The speaker has been booked and the NH Towing Association has reserved 100 seats for the program.

- IAFC Safety Stand Down 2023

The 2023 Safety Stand Down takes place June 18-24 and focuses on lithium-ion battery response with the theme “Lithium-Ion Batteries: Are you Ready?” Five daily focus areas highlight different aspects of this critical safety topic. Additional planning materials and resources will be added to this web site leading up to Safety Stand Down. Taking place each year during the third full week of June, Safety Stand Down highlights critical safety, health, and survival issues for fire and emergency services personnel.

Departments are asked to suspend all non-emergency activities during the week to focus their attention on safety and health education efforts. A week is provided to ensure that all duty shifts can participate. The 2023 Safety Stand Down takes place June 18-24 and focuses on lithium-ion battery response. Five daily focus areas highlight different aspects of this critical safety topic. Additional planning materials and resources will be added to this web site leading up to Safety Stand Down. (Read press release.) <https://www.safetystanddown.org/>

- NIOSH National Firefighter Registry (NFR) for Cancer is live

The National Firefighter Registry (NFR) for Cancer is the largest effort ever undertaken to understand and reduce risk of cancer among U.S. firefighters. NIOSH is recruiting firefighters to join the NFR so that we can better understand the link between firefighting and cancer. Firefighters are exposed to chemicals on the fireground that could increase their risk of developing cancer. There are many unanswered questions about how cancer risk may vary across our nation’s diverse fire service. <https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/firefighters/registry.html>

- Emanuel represented the IAFC at USFA/FEMA joint initiatives on Diversity Equity and Inclusion and Safety Culture/Behavioral Health in the fire service on May 17-18, 2023. Feedback instruments are being developed to take the temperature of our organizations and more information is forthcoming.
- **HB 2 (budget trailer bill)** – The NH state budget is comprised of 2 bills, HB 1 which includes traditional budget line items and HB 2 which includes all the changes to law necessary to implement the budget. The House passed both bills last week with a number of amendments. Amendments included the language from HB 436. HB 436 was originally introduced to eliminate the “middle tier” in Group II. The language makes changes to current law to phase out the differences between those who were grandfathered prior to the 2011 changes and those were not yet vested when the changes were made. In addition, there are appropriations made to ensure that employers do not experience additional costs. It is unclear if this provision will be approved by the Senate Finance Committee. There is language to implement an increase Medicaid rates for ambulance services.

Also, earlier this week, funding was added to create a law enforcement, professional firefighters, and EMT career development, recruitment and retention program. We will see if the language makes through the rest of the process. The language is similar to SB 153 which NHAFC supported earlier this year.

- **SB 71 (Workers' Compensation for Firefighters with Cancer/Committee to Study Annual Cancer Screening)** – NHAFC supported the bill in the Senate where it passed without too much debate. The hearing in the House Executive Departments and Administration was held last month. Chief Best attended and provided testimony. The committee had a number of questions regarding the potential impacts of the proposed expansion of cancer coverage. Ultimately, the committee voted to pass the bill with an amendment. The amendment removed the committee to study annual cancer screenings. The Senate will now consider the revisions from the House.
- **HB 296 (Driveway permits)** – NHAFC opposed the bill as introduced. Marshal Toomey, NHAFC, and the bill sponsor continued to work on language to balance the concerns of access to a property. Ultimately, the Senate adopted an amendment which requires local land use board to give "...due consideration to any written recommendations of the municipal fire chief..." regarding issues involving width, vertical clearance, grade, suitability of road surface, bridges, dead ends, and ability to pass/turn around. The Senate passed the amendment last month. We are now awaiting the House consideration of the changes.
- **HB 564 (code updates)** – NHAFC supported the bill in the House and Senate. This bill ratifies amendments to the state building code and fire code approved by the state building code review board, ratifies amendments to the state fire code approved by the Fire Marshal and state board of fire contract, and adds a fire protection engineer to the state board of fire control. The bill has passed both bodies and we are awaiting action by Governor Sununu.
- **HB 461 (Elimination by Political Subdivision Employers of a Retirement System Position)** This bill would require political subdivisions to obtain an analysis from the retirement system and continue to pay unfunded accrued liability contributions when eliminating or transferring an employment position from full time to part time. The bill passed the House rather easily. At the Senate hearing, the bill was opposed by both the NH Municipal Association and NH Association of Counties. Generally, both argued that elimination of a full time position (like Fire or Police Chief) could be made for a number of reasons. Further, the potential financial penalties assessed to the employers would be significant. They thought the purview of the decisions about full or part time position should remain with the employers. The Senate will vote on an amendment that passed the committee which creates a study committee (1 Senator and 4 House members) which would "...study the elimination by political subdivision employers under RSA 100-A of a retirement system eligible employment position." If the Senate approves the amendment, the House will have to consider the change.

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<https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/firefighters/registry.html>

Emanuel will be representing the IAFC at USFA/FEMA joint initiatives on Diversity Equity and Inclusion and Safety Culture/Behavioral Health in the fire service on May 17-18, 2023.

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

**Sgt. At Arms (Hunter)** – No report

### **Committee Reports**

- **Scholarship Committee – (Marshal Toomey)** – NHAFC Scholarship info is on the website with a deadline of July 1<sup>st</sup>

### **Division Reports**

**Fire Marshal** – (Marshal Toomey) (Report submitted in writing – Chief Best summarized)

## **ADMINISTRATION:**

### **Personnel:**

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

Full-time Fire Investigator (2 positions, conditional offers extended for both positions)

Full-time State Building Inspector

Full-time State Building/Mechanical Inspector

Full-time Hazmat Coordinator

Part time State Building Inspector

Part-time Outreach & Education Specialist

Part-time Building Code Review Board Administrative Secretary

We welcome the following new staff to our office:

- John Mahoney joined our staff as a part-time Fire Protection Specialist
- Lorrinda Estabrook joined our staff as a part-time NFIRS Coordinator
- Bert Ledoux joined our staff as a part-time Fire Protection Specialist

### **Legislation:**

Below are some of the bills we are watching:

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

Status: ITL

HB 296 relative to local authority for granting driveway permits

Status: Passed House & Senate, waiting on Governor's signature

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

Status: Passed House & Senate, waiting on Governor's signature

HB 477 To Prohibit Municipal Inspections Of Owner-occupied Units Of Multi-unit Housing.

Municipalities

Status: ITL

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

Status: Passed Senate with Amendment, In House Committee

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

SB 170 relative to small group child day care centers

Status: Passed Senate with Amendment

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

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

**Foam Take-back Program:**

We continue to work with DES to launch the foam take-back program. Due to contracting and permitting challenges the launch of this program project for late spring/early summer 2023. An important consideration in the program is the best and safest disposal methods to destroy the PFAS chemicals. The latest inventory is approximately 9,600 gallons. We are working with DES to identify collection points in each county.

**BUREAU OF INVESTIGATIONS:**

In the month of April, we received 27 incident notifications resulting in 14 scene responses. The Bureau of Investigations currently has 16 open arson or suspected arson investigations.

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

- On April 1, investigators responded to New London for two condominium fires suspected to be arson. This investigation is ongoing.
- On April 4, investigators responded to Plymouth for a suspicious fire later determined to be accidental.
- On April 10, investigators responded to assist Manchester Fire Department with a house fire resulting in serious injury. The cause of the fire is undetermined but believed to be accidental.
- On April 11, investigators responded to Epsom for a second fire at a vacant house that was previously set on fire in January. Both fires are considered to be arson.
- On April 15, investigators responded to Raymond for a house fire. The cause was undetermined but likely accidental.
- On April 20, an investigator responded to Barrington to assist with a fire investigation for a house under construction. The cause was likely accidental.
- On April 23, investigators responded to Weare for a house fire. The cause was accidental.
- On April 23, an investigator assisted Merrimack Fire Department with interviews related to an accidental house fire.
- On April 24, an investigator responded to Winchester for two motor-vehicle fires. The cause was undetermined but likely accidental.

- On April 26, investigators responded to Sunapee for a vehicle and structure fire. The cause is undetermined but suspected to be arson due to criminal circumstances involving the theft of the truck.
- On April 26, investigators also responded to Campton for a structure fire. One subject admitted to setting the fire and was arrested by Campton Police.
- On May 1, an investigator responded to Litchfield to investigate a structure fire that occurred on April 30. The cause was likely accidental.

**Fatal Fire/CO Incidents:**

- There were 2 fatal fire incidents in April and one non-fire fatality that the BOI investigated.
  - A man died in Chester on April 10 in proximity to an outside brush fire. His death was determined to be natural and not related to the fire.
  - A man died from injuries sustained in a house fire in Meredith on April 17. The FMO responded to the scene to investigate. The cause of the fire was undetermined but not suspected to be arson.
  - A man died from injuries sustained in a motor vehicle fire in Rollinsford on April 27. The FMO investigated the fire and determined it was the result of a crash and accidental.

**Ignitable Liquid Detection Canine Teams:**

- There were 3 IGL canine deployments in April.
- IGL canine teams performed demonstrations in Jaffrey, Plymouth, Northumberland, Warner and Concord.
- Both IGL canine teams were in the process of completing their annual recertification.

**Youth Firesetter:**

- There were no youth fire setter assessments in April; however, two potential YFS cases were reported that we will investigate.

**Arrests:**

- FMO assisted the Campton Fire and Police by performing a fire investigation after their arrest of Jonas Gurrera for arson on April 26.

**Court:**

- An investigator testified in a deposition for a 2021 arson case from Webster.
- The Merrimack County Attorney's Office reached a plea deal for an incident where an investigator was scheduled to testify, involving a youth being burned at a campfire.



**Training/Committees:**

- Two investigators attended the International Association of Arson Investigators' (IAAI) International Training Conference in North Carolina.
- Two investigators are currently in the fire academy recruit school.

**BUREAU OF BUILDING SAFETY & CONSTRUCTION:**

**State Building Permit System:**

We processed the following permits in the month of April:

- Building: 26
- Electrical: 15
- Plumbing: 4
- Mechanical Fuel Gas: 3
- Mechanical Non-Fuel Gas: 7
- Fire Protection: 6
- Fire Alarm: 21

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

We initiated 24 educational and 11 healthcare plan reviews, completed 95 inspections and 166 technical consults in the month of April.

**Variance Requests:**

We processed 10 variance requests in the month of April.

**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 April, our Hazardous Materials Coordinator continued to attend the regional Haz Mat team trainings to offer support and provide updates regarding statewide Haz Mat response. He also continued to work with the regional Haz Mat teams and HSEM on planning a Wide Area Monitoring Exercise for this spring.

We continue to work on Tier II reporting and associated follow-ups when deficiencies are identified.

Our Hazardous Materials Coordinator attended the National Association of State Title Three Program Officials Conference. This conference focuses on the Emergency Preparedness and Community Right to Know Act (EPCRA), including Tier II reporting by facilities and operations of State Emergency Response Commissions and Local Emergency Planning Committees.

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

**Swiftwater Rescue Working Group:**

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

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

We continue to partner with the Commissioner's Office, other Department of Safety Leadership and the NHAFC to conduct regional outreach/Chief's Roundtables. We held a North Country Roundtable at the Burton Fire & EMS Training Facility on April 20<sup>th</sup>. We have scheduled a Souhegan Area Roundtable for September 13<sup>th</sup> 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! More info included in this link: [SFTP2020bulletin.pdf \(nh.gov\)](#).

We are asking that fire departments please submit their 2022 NFIRS data as soon as possible so we can close out the year in a timely fashion. The deadline is fast approaching!

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

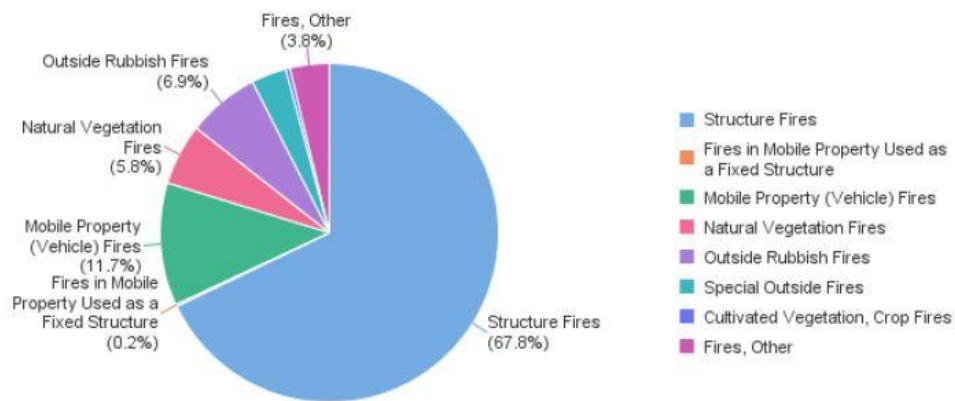
We continue to work with the team at the Fire Academy as departments implement the NHESR program, available free of charge, for incident reporting. If you are interested in having a presentation on the program or would like to request one, please email [NHESR@dos.nh.gov](mailto:NHESR@dos.nh.gov).

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

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

[NH Fire Incidents Reported YTD 2023:](#)

**Fire Incident Type Category Summary**

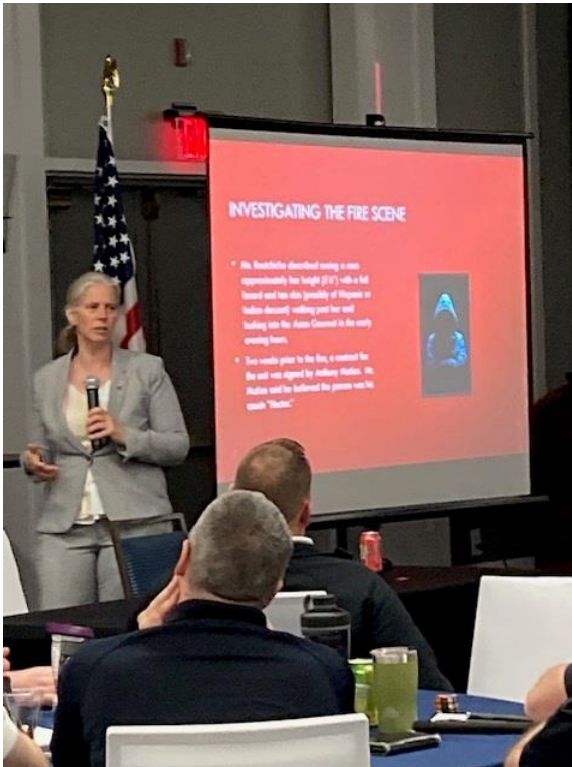


**Outreach Events:**

On April 8, 2023 members of the NHFMO and Sparky attended the Annual State House Easter Egg Hunt in Concord. Sparky enjoyed meeting everyone who attended and handing out easter eggs to lots of children in attendance!



On April 13, 2023 District Chief Shana Clark presented a Bureau of Investigations case study at the Connecticut Fire Marshal's Association Conference in Waterbury, CT.



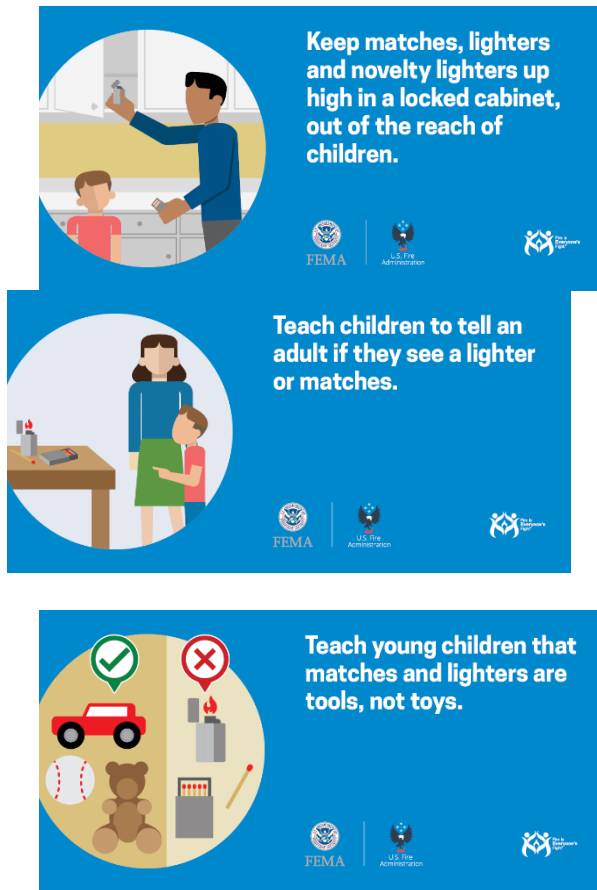
On April 21, 2023 Deputy Adam Fanjoy & K9 Anthem did a brief overview of the office and the Bureau of Investigations and a canine demonstration for the NH Association of Insurance Agents.

Members of the NHFMO also attended four career and internship fairs at Groveton High School, Conant High School, the University of New Hampshire and Plymouth State University in the month of April.



**Public Education:**

Arson Awareness Week is May 7-13, 2023. The theme this year is Understanding and Mitigating Youth Firesetting Issues. Youth firesetting is a problem throughout the United States and around the world. Fire misuse behaviors in children may be attributed to issues such as curiosity or experimentation, underlying struggles with impulse control, emotional regulation, social/interpersonal skills, childhood trauma or other behavioral health conditions. Children observe adults using matches and lighters but may not be taught about important fire safety practices. They may also observe unsafe uses of fire in media, videos and gaming.



Please see the following links for additional information:

National Fire Academy Youth Firesetting Prevention Courses

<https://apps.usfa.fema.gov/nfacourses/catalog/search?&forget=1&courseKeywords=firesetting>

Prevent Youth Firesetting World Flyer

[https://www.usfa.fema.gov/downloads/pdf/publications/prevent\\_youth\\_firesetting\\_flyer.pdf](https://www.usfa.fema.gov/downloads/pdf/publications/prevent_youth_firesetting_flyer.pdf)

Youth Firesetting.....What Can You Do? Brochure

[https://www.usfa.fema.gov/downloads/pdf/publications/fa\\_332b.pdf](https://www.usfa.fema.gov/downloads/pdf/publications/fa_332b.pdf)

***Training Opportunities:***

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

**Fire Investigation for the First Responder**

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

**May 18, 2023**

**Jaffrey Fire Department**

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

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

**2020 National Electric Code with NH Changes**

*In this class we will review the newly adopted 2020 National Electrical Code (NEC) NFPA 70, including the 19 New Hampshire changes. This training will also include the basic electrical inspection concerns seen in existing and new buildings.*

**May 25, 2023**

**Raymond S. Burton Training Facility, Bethlehem**

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

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

**Fire Investigation for the First Responder (Limited to 50 attendees)**

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

**May 30, 2023**

**New Castle Recreation Center, 301 Wentworth Rd., New Castle**

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

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

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

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

**ADMINISTRATION**

**Personnel**

- Captain Scott Cathy has submitted his resignation from the Division to accept the Fire Chief's position in New Hampton. Scott has achieved many accomplishments during his tenure with the Division. We are grateful for his service and wish him the best in his new role.
- The Fire Service Instructor Supervisor position held by Captain Cathy will be advertised soon.

- We have made a conditional offer for one of our open full-time Fire Service Instructor Supervisor (Captain) positions and are working through the hiring process.
- We have two vacancies for Program Specialist III (Education Technologist) of the Educational Technology section of the Division and we are advertising the positions now for candidates.
- We have one part-time Compliance Specialist position open and will be conducting interviews soon.
- Our part-time Program Coordinator positions for Fire Officer, Promotional Coordinator, Instructor, Hazardous Materials, Swift Water and EMS Initial Programs are open and we are seeking applicants.
- Shawn Croteau has been hired as the EMS in the Warm Zone program coordinator.

### Grants

- 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.
  - 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.
- We have not yet received a response on our application for a grant for \$471,000 through the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act funding available at the Department of Business and Economic Affairs to fund a comprehensive campaign designed to recruit firefighters and EMS providers in our state.
- The NH EMT Training Program remains active with grant funding for training new and existing EMS providers. Contact our Division or NH Employment Security for details and question.
- We have received a response yet on the current \$500,000 AFG application that was submitted.

### Fire Standards and Training Commission / Curriculum

- The next Fire Standards and Training Commission meeting will be September 7<sup>th</sup> at 0930 in Classrooms 5/6 in the dormitory building at the main campus. The full schedule for 2023 also includes a meeting November 2<sup>nd</sup>.
  - The Fire Standards and Training Commission has approved the written comment period to open through July 19, 2023 for public comment on the proposed changes to the following curriculums: Rope Rescue Awareness, Operations and Technician. Public comment can be submitted at: <https://nhfa-ems.com/fst-commission-curriculum-public-feedback->



[form/](#). Information on the proposed curriculum can be found at <https://www.nh.gov/safety/divisions/fstems/boards/index.html> Public hearings were held on May 31, 210 at 3:00pm and 5:00pm at the NH Fire Academy in Classroom 1.

- The Fire Standards and Training Commission is seeking individuals who are interested in participating in a Visiting Committee to evaluate the Hazardous Materials Awareness, Operations, Decontamination & Technician programs in New Hampshire. These programs are up for review due to an update with the NFPA 470 standard. For anyone interested in the Visiting Committee, please fill out the membership request form at the link below. Requests will be taken until July 19, 2023.
  - <https://nhfa-ems.com/visiting-committee-membership-request-form/>

### Special Projects

- We conducted an Online Program Evaluation of our programs. We are working towards a redesign of course content with an improved student experience through updated navigation, orientation, resources and student surveys.
- We are redesigning the post course student survey to ensure we are collecting necessary information from students.
- The tuition for courses for FY 24 conducted by the Division have been posted to our website and can be found at <https://www.nh.gov/safety/divisions/fstems/documents/CourseCostFY24.pdf>
- We continue the analysis of current standard operating procedures and are working to implement numerous new policies.
- Work is being done to renew our Division metrics and Reporting.
- Work has begun on an improved capital planning process.
- We continue to work with the NFPA on a train-the-trainer program for the EV Training Program to be hosted in New Hampshire.

### Facilities

- A vendor has been selected to complete the “B” building upgrades that are needed and was approved by the Governor and Executive Council in May.
- 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 new legislative session is ongoing and we are tracking a number of bills. A few include:

- HB 2 - Budget, Naloxone licensing and Fire and EMS fund – Passed the Senate June 8<sup>th</sup>.
- HB 183 - Relative to Employment of Retired Firefighters at the Fire Academy (retained by the Committee)
- HB 373 - Relative to Billing for Ambulance Services (retained by the Committee)
- SB 71 - Relative to workers' compensation for firefighter cancer disease and establishing a commission to study the implementation of optional annual cancer screenings (House amended to exclude study commission)
- SB 153 - Relative to establishing a First Responder Career Development, Recruitment and Retention program (tabled)
- SB 204 - Requiring Trauma Kits to be Available in State-Owned Buildings
- SB 268 - Allowing for Pre-Hospital Treatment and Transportation for Operational Canines
- We continue our work in partnership with the Police Academy to develop a more comprehensive program for PTSD training utilizing experts from this field in development of the curriculum. We have a meeting with the Director of Behavioral Health at DHHS in early June to discuss potential grant funding options.

### 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 13<sup>th</sup>.
- EMS Bureau Chief Romanello and the Director will be attending the August Twin State Mutual Aid meeting to discuss EMS issues.
- We will be participating in the quarterly meeting with the NH Fire Chief's, Professional FF's of NH, State Fireman's Association and the Fire Marshal's Office on June 15<sup>th</sup>.
- We will be meeting with the State Fireman's Association leadership on June 15<sup>th</sup> to begin planning for the annual FF Memorial in September.

### Mental Health & Resiliency

- Trauma, Resiliency and Wellness presented by Dr. Nicole Sawyer – June 28<sup>th</sup> – Keene Middle School
- The mental health planning group has been active in preparing for another Mental Health Seminar to held in January 2024.

### Recruitment and Retention

- Upcoming Recruitment and Retention events:

- Prep for Women: Women in the Fire Service, Getting Your Career Started – Laconia at the Merrill Fay Arena on June 10<sup>th</sup>.
- Recruit & Re-energize Your Department presented by Haverhill Fire Chief Blanchette – Haverhill July 13<sup>th</sup>
- A Veteran’s Recruitment Event is being held September 16<sup>th</sup> at the Concord campus.
- IAFC Recruitment and Retention Certification Course – Concord October 28<sup>th</sup>

## **BUREAU OF FIRE TRAINING**

### Courses/Programs

- Firefighter I
  - The Spring Recruit School will be complete this month.
  - The Fall Recruit program will begin on August 14<sup>th</sup>.
  - The Brookline I/II combined classes are ongoing.
  - The Bethlehem and Kingston classes are complete and held graduations.
  - Loudon - August 28<sup>th</sup>.
- Firefighter II
  - Concord – September 9<sup>th</sup>
  - Hampton Falls – September 13<sup>th</sup>
- Technical Rescue
  - Swift Water Level - Bedford June 9<sup>th</sup>.
  - Trench Rescue – Concord October 14<sup>th</sup> and October 30<sup>th</sup>
  - Confined Space Rescue Technician – Concord - November 29<sup>th</sup> and Concord - December 9<sup>th</sup>
- Driver Operator
  - Driver/Operator – All Vehicles
    - Chester class began May 25<sup>th</sup>
    - Concord - July 20<sup>th</sup>
    - Meredith - August 1<sup>st</sup>
  - Driver Operator – Aerial Apparatus
    - Loudon October 17<sup>th</sup>
- ARFF
  - Airport Firefighter recertification programs continued weekly throughout May.
- Facilities and Prop Usage
  - Lebanon, Hanover and Hartford fire department members conducted four days of live fire training at the Concord campus.
  - Seabrook Station Fire Brigade is nearing the end their 6 weeks of annual recertification on our campus.
  - Manchester Fire Department members utilized the Concord campus.

- Lincoln Fire Department members held live fire training at the Burton facility.
- Online Training Courses
  - “Fire Mobilization” is a free 1-hour program that supports the NH Federation of Mutual Aid “Fire (& EMS) Mobilization Plan”
  - “Fire Service Communications” is a free 1-hour program.
- Firefighter I and II program improvements continue to be made.
- All of the curricula for programs may be found at <https://nhfa-ems.com/curricula/>. Departments have asked for this information so it can be used in the delivery of local training drills and evolutions.
- For all current course listings, you can go to <https://nhfa-ems.com/scheduled-courses/>

### Apparatus/Equipment

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

## **BUREAU OF CERTIFICATION AND SUPPORT**

### Courses/Programs

- Instructor I/II/III Programs
  - Instructor I - Monadnock Hospital was held in May.
  - Instructor I – Concord July 10<sup>th</sup>
  - Instructor I – Bethlehem October 4<sup>th</sup>
  - Instructor I – Concord January 11, 2024
  - Instructor I – Keene April 6, 2024
  - Instructor II – Virtual August 1<sup>st</sup>
- Instructor Professional Development
  - Competency Based Education – June 8<sup>th</sup>.
- Fire Officer I/II Programs
  - Fire Officer II – Virtual June 8<sup>th</sup>.
  - Fire Officer I – Keene August 24<sup>th</sup> and Concord December 7<sup>th</sup>
  - Fire Officer II – Virtual October 12<sup>th</sup>
- Fire Inspector Programs
  - Fire Inspector I – Concord September 7<sup>th</sup> and January 11<sup>th</sup>
- Fire Investigator
  - The 2023 offering begins August 24<sup>th</sup> at the Concord campus.
- National Fire Academy
  - Youth Firesetter Intervention Specialist was held at the Concord campus in May.

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

### Instructors

- The Division is always looking for highly motivated team members to become instructors. If you are interested in becoming an instructor, please contact Assistant Director Jeffrey Phillips at [Jeffrey.r.phillips@dos.nh.gov](mailto:Jeffrey.r.phillips@dos.nh.gov) or 603-223-4213.
- State fire instructor renewals are due by June 30. If any instructor has questions or concerns, contact us.

### CPAT

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

### Testing

- Our work continues on acquisition of new testing software for the Division. When final, this will enable us to begin computer-based testing and eliminate the paper method.

## **BUREAU OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES**

### Boards and Commissions

- The NH Medical Control Board and the NH Emergency Medical and Trauma Services Coordinating Board meetings will take place at 0900 and 1300, respectively, on July 20<sup>th</sup> in classrooms 5 & 6 in the dormitory building.
- The NH Trauma Medical Review Committee (TMRC) will meet at 0930 on June 21<sup>st</sup> in classroom 2 in the administration building.
- The first meeting of the Privacy Committee as established in RSA 153-A:35 II was held on May 31<sup>st</sup> at 0900. The next meeting will be held on June 28<sup>th</sup>.

### Operations

- The proposed Administrative rules for Educational Training Agencies have been completed and are being submitted to JLCAR.
- The Criminal History Records Information wait times have been averaging approximately 3 weeks.

## Courses/Programs

- Mobile Integrated Healthcare Provider
  - MIH for Agency Leadership – future programs are being planned for.
    - This seminar explored the positive impact a Mobile Integrated Healthcare (MIH) program can have on these and other system challenges, discuss the differences between the traditional 911 program and a MIH program and explore cases from NH’s active MIH programs. This seminar was for any agency chief looking to explore the “Why”, “What” and “How” of a Mobile Integrated Healthcare Program in NH.
  - Mobile Integrated Healthcare Provider – future programs are being planned for.
    - The MIH-P continuing education program consists of classes developed to equip experienced EMS providers with the skills they need to succeed in a mobile integrated healthcare program.
- Emergency Medical Responder (EMR)
  - The spring class in Brookline, Concord and Littleton began May 10<sup>th</sup>.
  - The fall class begins September 20<sup>th</sup> at Monadnock Hospital, Concord and in Bethlehem.
  - The winter 2024 class begins January 10<sup>th</sup> in Concord, Mont Vernon and Littleton.
    - Since the inception of this grant funded program there have been 138 students complete the program with an overall pass rate of 79% on the cognitive and 93% on the practical exams which are both higher than the state average.
- EMS Continuing Education
  - The Cost of Code 3: An Evidence-Based Look at Lights and Siren Usage – Concord June 7<sup>th</sup> and virtual June 15<sup>th</sup>.
  - Obstetrics Abnormal Delivery – Bethlehem June 10<sup>th</sup>
  - Trauma Arrest – Concord July 5<sup>th</sup> and Virtual July 20<sup>th</sup>
  - NCCP-Medical – Concord July 8<sup>th</sup>
  - Detailed Documentation – Concord August 2<sup>nd</sup> and Virtual August 17<sup>th</sup>
  - The Other End of the Line: An Inside Look at NH 911 – Virtual August 30<sup>th</sup>
  - Arrhythmia Fundamentals – Concord September 6<sup>th</sup> and virtual September 21<sup>st</sup>
  - Cardiology Adult Cardiac Arrest – Concord September 8<sup>th</sup>, Bethlehem October 20<sup>th</sup>
  - Taking Care of Mom and Dad – Concord October 4<sup>th</sup>, Virtual October 19<sup>th</sup>
  - For all current course listings, you can go to <https://nhfa-ems.com/scheduled-courses/>

- EMS in the Warm Zone Awareness, Operations and Rescue Task Force Concepts
  - 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 at [Shawn.A.Croteau@DOS.NH.GOV](mailto:Shawn.A.Croteau@DOS.NH.GOV) or Maria Varanka at [maria.c.varanka@dos.nh.gov](mailto:maria.c.varanka@dos.nh.gov)

### Clinical Systems

- Work continues on EMS Protocols Ver. 9.0.
- The development of Trauma Rules is still underway and continues to make progress.
- 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/>.
  - A Fire User Group meeting was held on May 10<sup>th</sup>. These meetings serve as a forum to collaborate, share challenges and find solutions in the NHESR system. These meetings occur remotely on the second Wednesday at 1300 hours each month. Contact Joseph Cartier for the link.
  - Coordination continues with the Fire Marshal's Office for further education and guidance for reporting.
  - Anyone interested in the system can contact Joseph Cartier at 603-223-3403 or [joseph.w.cartier@dos.nh.gov](mailto:joseph.w.cartier@dos.nh.gov).
- RespondNH
  - The Division continues to expand the capabilities of the RespondNH system. As we are able to utilize this system and analyze more data it is important to have department roster information updated and current. Each department has the full capability to manage their own roster by adding new staff and removing those that may have left. Departments are able to do this at any time. For State level reporting information please fill out your roster information to include their status (career, call, or volunteer) as well as the duties they provide such as EMS care and/or fire suppression.
- TEMSIS

- 22,090 EMS incidents were entered into the system for May and 111,422 incidents to date.
- Preparation for NEMESIS 3.5 is ongoing.

Compliance

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

Preparedness and Special Projects

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

**Fire Standards and Training Commission – Chiefs Clark/DeAngelis – No report**

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

**National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC) – (Chief Corey) – No report**

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

Updates on Division Priorities:

- Happy to announce that Governor Sununu and the Executive Council have confirmed Megan Hoskins as Assistant Director for HSEM. We look forward to working with NHAFC to move your goals forward.
- 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.
        - a. Warner
        - b. Concord
        - c. Gilford
        - d. Derry
    - ii. Implementation of a Community Services Branch
      1. We are working to have new program in place by the end of July.
    - iii. Continued review of procedures to make sure we are providing you efficient delivery of the Public Assistance process.
- Public Assistance



- FEMA will be continuing the Preliminary Damage Assessment process for the May Flooding.
- We are pending a Disaster Declaration to President Biden for the March 2023 snowstorm.
- JFO has been established at 25 Triangle Park Drive to start processing the December 2022 winter storm disaster declaration.
- EMPG
  - Executive Council has approved funding for Epsom, Greenville, North Hampton, and Portsmouth (approximate value \$137,037).
  - We look forward to having an update application process for communities in July.

**Federal Government:**

- We continue to monitor and plan for potential impacts of increased border crossing as Title 42 ended on May 11, 2023.
- 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:
  - Laconia Bike Week
  - NASCAR
  - Pease Air Show
  - Border Migration
  - Solar Eclipse
- Planning continues for a renovation to the State EOC
- COVID 19 AAR is underway.
- Participated in Northern Border Communication meeting.

**EMS Trauma Medical Review Board – (Chief Beaudoin) – 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) – He echoed the substance of the Fire Marshal's report.**

**Building Code Review Board – (Marshal Lennon/Chief Conley) – Chief Conley submitted the following report:**

Legislative Updates:

HB51 – relative to requiring towns and school districts to use warrant articles for lobbying agents - inexpedient to legislate.

HB63 – relative to religious use of land and structures – inexpedient to legislate.

HB104 – relative to multi-stall bathrooms and locker rooms in schools – laid on the table.

HB111 – establishing a committee to study electrical vehicle charging for residential renters - passed the house and senate.

HB173 – relative to toilet facilities provided by restaurants - retained in committee.

HB205 – relative to testing of private wells – laid on the table.

HB477 – to prohibit municipal inspections of owner-occupied units of multi-unit housing – passed the house – Senate inexpedient to legislate

HB558 – relative to electric microgrids and electric grid resiliency – retained in committee.

HB564 – relative to ratification of amendments to the state building code and state fire code – passed the house and senate.

HB 655 – relative to the office of professional licensure and certification – passed the house with amendments – senate ED&A report filed, ought to pass

SB53 – permitting the use of certain refrigerants that are in compliance with the Clean Air Act – in committee. Passes Senate, in House ED&A

SB78 –prohibits ongoing new codes on preapproved subdivisions. popped up overnight; considered nongermane to the bill it was attached to. Mike Hagan explained it may still get attached to something else. Consequence is subdivisions would be stuck on whatever code it was built on.

SB137 – relative to nano brewery licenses and beverage manufacturers' licenses - passed house, rereferred to Senate Commerce Committee.

#### General Info:

There were members of the board looking to see if there were any updates from the committee that was tasked to review the differences between the fire codes and the building codes. At the time of the May meeting there weren't any updates.

Park Model Trailers – There is an official request for interpretation in to FMO. RSA 155:A – refers to buildings built in NH, Fire and Building codes don't apply to park model trailers that are built elsewhere. James Grant stated that RSA 153 stands on its

own and may apply to all brought into NH. Chair Sherman wants to wait on Marshal Toomey's response.

Discussion items included question over what the newest NFPA code says, whether it should be an amendment or an add, what qualifies as a tent vs temporary structure, whether the 120 sq ft verbiage should change, or whether an exception to the 120 sq ft should be added. Chair Sherman asked Board to vote based on the amendment as presented, and to bring any changes forward as an updated amendment at a later date.

**Manufactured Housing Installation Standards Board: (Chief) – 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. Scoping meetings to begin this summer - ROUGH timeline pushes completion of the project into Summer of 2025;
- Staffing vacancies – down 13 in the PSAP (17%) ...However, we are continuing to maintain call answering standards and minimum coverage with existing staffing;
- Legislation Watch [MAJOR ITEMS]:
  - Study Committee for Dispatcher & Telecommunicator Training Standards (HB 376) (Unanimously voted OTP; moved to Consent Calendar) / Testified in support in the Senate Public Hearing; PASSED
- E911 Commission Meeting scheduled for June 16<sup>th</sup> at the Fire Academy;
- Participated in the Cheshire Medical Center's "Celebration of Survival" where 4 of our TC's were recognized for their lifesaving efforts with other First Responders;
- Social Media: "Text to 911" (newly released PSA); Elementary school education on 911; Summer safety messaging; Starting to look at promoting "What 3 Words" as a resource for assisting folks in identifying their location;
- Also, working with DHHS on mandatory reporting of child abuse and neglect calls into 911;

- CARES Registry is scheduled for a “soft roll-out” in Hampton Falls and North Hampton, for newly registered individuals;
- Troop “F” Radio Enhancements scheduled for later this summer, while Troop “C” enhancements are underway – go live in June.
- 988 Coalition meetings continue – Attended the “New Hampshire Crisis Systems in the North Country” meeting in Lancaster last week (Weeks Memorial);
- Working with Pittsburg PD/SP/Colebrook Dispatch/CBP/F&G on the concerns at the Norther Border...Meeting on May 23<sup>rd</sup> was very well attended. Action items identified and next meeting is planned for this Fall;
- Attended the Governor’s Task Force on School Safety meeting on May 22<sup>nd</sup>;
- Participated in the Concord High School CRTIC program end of the year wrap-up;
- NASCAR Planning for July continues with HSEM;
- SIEC Meeting was held on Friday, the 12<sup>th</sup> at the Derry Municipal Complex.
- Attended the “Summer Safety News Conference at Hampton Beach on the 25<sup>th</sup>, messaging about NH911’s role in providing emergency services when needed;
- Attended the NHACOP Conference at the Double Tree – “Officer Wellness and Suicide Prevention”;
- Attended the Digital Government Summit in Manchester – focus on cybersecurity;
- Met with Department of Corrections officials to discuss planning their updated radio system;

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

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

- He stated that they would be pushing our a request for information shortly

**IAFC Director – (Chief Christopoulos) – (Report submitted in writing)**

IAFC Board Meeting May 20 & 21 at the IAFC Headquarters

2023 FRI – IAFC 150<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

August 16 – 18, 2023

Kansas City, MO

Registration Opened may 4<sup>th</sup>.

New England Division Hotel – Kansas City Marriott Downtown (co-host hotel)

***(note: Attendees can only access the FRI housing block once they have completed their registration. Hotel is shared with 3 other Divisions – suggest registering and holding room soon if you plan to attend)***

Technology Summit International

- December 5 - 7, 2023

- Irving Convention Center, Irving, TX

As technology advances, new practical applications are imagined to keep communities safer. Augmented reality that can scan a collapsed building or landslide to see cellphone pings of missing persons. Artificial intelligence that can predict disasters. These are just some technologies currently being developed, and Technology Summit International aims to bring the tech of the future to today's fire and emergency service professionals – helping them reduce risks to their communities and improve their ability to respond to emergencies.

**New England Fire Chiefs – a Division of the IAFC – (Director Buxton) –**

- Planning continues for the annual conference
  - Information is currently being added to the website as it is finalized.
  - Currently educational opportunities are being finalized.
  - We are anticipating having formal agenda and information available soon for the membership.
- As a reminder NHAFC will need to elect a NH representative to replace him as he will term out at the conference.

**Old Business -**

**New Business –**

**Good and Welfare** – Chief Sitar spoke on the golf tournament August 14.

**Raffle** – The raffle was held. \$240 was collected and \$120 was awarded. Proceeds were counted by Chief Hunter and ED Lemire.

The meeting was adjourned at 1923 hrs.

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

June 8, 2023