



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

*Working Together to Make a Difference*

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

Thursday, August 10, 2023 – Town and Country Inn, Gorham/Shelburne, NH

After a presentation on the new ADK 3 in 1 Ice Rescue system, the meeting was called to order at 1945 hours by Chief Emanuel.

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

Chief Cloutier welcomed all to Gorham.

INTRODUCTION OF MEMBERS.

### **Special Guests:**

**Minutes** of the July meeting have been posted. A MOTION (S. Buxton/Kerrigan) to accept carried unanimously.

**Financial Reports:** July reports have been posted. A MOTION (Thomas/Sitar) to approve, carried unanimously

**Communications:** n/a

**Applications for membership:** Chief James Chamberlain of Claremont and Larry Griffith of Bohning Corp. is an Advocate member.

### **Life Memberships:**

**President's Report: (Best) – No report**

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

- The September BOD meeting will be virtual and the September 14 regular meeting will be at the LRCC and includes breakfast.

- Dep. Maurice Paquette’s appointment to the Emergency Medical and Trauma Services Coordinating Board has been confirmed, and the commissioner has re-appointed Peter Lennon of Manchester to the Building Code Review Board.
- Chief Carrier and ED Lemire have been working with our accountant to move the IRS application along. Finally some movement!
- As per direction of the BOD, I’ve reserved our table and bought the ad for the North Country Public Safety Awards banquet in November.
- Chief Shawn Murray has expressed interest in the NE Chiefs’ Director position that I know of.
- Justin Cutting, Scott Cathy, John Steele and Scott Tice have all expressed interest in the Professional Development Committee.
- Marshal Toomey was not able to make it tonight but three applications have been received and reviewed. Having met all the requirements, the three were recommended for scholarships. A motion by the Board at its August 2 meeting approved funding of \$500 each for scholarships to Brendan McQuillen, Lauren Best, and Reagan Johnson.

**1st Vice President Report (Emanuel)** – no report but our lobbyist submitted an update.

There is very little legislative activity in July and August. Committees will start to return in September to work on bills that were retained. Study Committees/Commissions are beginning to meet. Many of them have report dates in November.

The House filing period for 2024 legislation for September 11 through September 15. The Senate period for filing legislation will run from September 28 through October 12. We should start to see bill titles later this fall and text of the legislation in November.

- **HB 296 (Driveway permits)** –Governor Sununu has signed the bill into law. He signed the bill during the week of July 31 to August 4. The bill will go into effect 60 Days after passage. The final version of the bill stated that the state fire code and associated rules shall not supersede local planning and zoning boards for driveways for detached one and two family dwelling units. Minimum driveway width cannot be less than 12 feet for driveways 150 feet or longer. Prior to any land use board approval, the boards shall give due consideration to written comments from the local fire chief. These new provisions will become applicable in late September/early October.
- **HB 373 (Ambulance Billing)** – This bill sought to prohibit “balance billing” for ambulance services. NHAFC and a number of ambulance providers testified against the bill at the initial hearing earlier this year. The bill has been retained in the House Commerce Committee. NHAFC will likely need to participate in additional committee work sessions on the bill later this fall. Subsequent to the Legislative session, NHAFC was invited to participate in an “ambulance summit” at the NH Department of Insurance. The goal of the summit was to bring

together regulators, insurance carriers, and ambulance providers to attempt to address a number of issues, beyond balance billing, which impact the provision of service. The initial meeting was held on July 28. Chiefs Larry Best and Mike Sitar attended the meeting and provided comments to help the carriers and Department better understand the manner in which municipal ambulance services provide transports and bill for them. The meeting lasted a couple of hours. Another meeting will be held on August 30. The Acting Commissioner at the Department developed four core areas on which he would like the working group to focus:

1. System Efficiencies: Led by Senator Prentiss

- This group will look at alternative delivery and financial models
- Emergency Triage, Treat, and Transport (ET3) Model focus

2. Facility to Facility Transports: Led by NHID's Dr. Jason Aziz

- This group will seek to address the lack of ambulances available to transfer patients from facility to facility.

- Identify educational and promotional opportunities for providers to identify billing codes for this service.

3. Commercially Reasonable Rates: Led by NHID's Michelle Heaton & Alex Feldvebel

- This group will look at what suffices as a commercially reasonable rate within the different regions of the state.

- This group will also consider Network Adequacy & the contracting process.

- Finally, this group will consider how to align reimbursement with costs to incentivize network participation & phased reimbursement models for in-network participation.

4. Compromise Balance Billing Protections: Led by NHID's D.J. Bettencourt

- This group will focus on how, given the reforms anticipated above, a consensus might be found around balance billing protections.

The Commissioner has stated that his goal is to try to develop solutions that will not require passage of legislation. We will see how that unfolds.

- **Retirement Benefits Commission** - During the debate on the state budget, language was removed from HB 2, in the Senate, which would have eliminated the “middle tier” in Group II. The language to eliminate the middle tier was replaced a Study Commission consisting of legislators and participants (employer/employee) in the retirement system. The Commission held their first meeting last week. It did not last very long. A member who was not present (Rep. Carol McGuire) was elected to serve as Chair. In the absence of the Chair being present, the meeting was adjourned. The next meeting has not yet been scheduled but may be soon. The work of the Commission could result in legislation for the 2024 session.
- **E-911 Personnel Training Study Committee** – Governor Sununu signed HB 376 into law earlier this year. The bill created a study committee to examine the

education, training, and requirements for E-911 dispatch for fire, police, and EMTs. The committee is tasked with recommending regarding uniformity in training/certifications. At the initial meeting on August 8, only 2 of the four members were able to attend. Without a quorum, they were unable to meet. There will be additional meetings scheduled in the future.

- **SB 193 – Vetoed by Governor Sununu** – On August 1, Governor Sununu vetoed SB 193. SB 193 was intended to create parameters around negotiating labor contracts in “good faith” by requiring both sides to meet within 10 days of receipt of a written request. In his veto message, Governor Sununu argued that the provisions were too restrictive and that current NH law addresses good faith in negotiations. The House and Senate will meet later this fall to vote on all of the vetoes.

#### **2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Report (Watkins) –**

- The PTSD Committee met with the funeral home directors to see if more information could be shared relative to suicides.

**Sgt. At Arms (Hunter)** – No report

#### **Committee Reports**

**Scholarship Committee – (Marshal Toomey)** – (See above)

#### **Division Reports**

**Fire Marshal** – (Marshal Toomey) (Submitted in writing)

##### **ADMINISTRATION:**

##### **Personnel:**

We currently have 3 full-time vacancies and 2 part-time vacancies. The following openings are those that we are actively recruiting for at this time:

- Full-time State Building Inspector
- Full-time State Building/Mechanical Inspector
- Full-time Hazmat Coordinator
- Part-time State Building Inspector
- Part-time Building Code Review Board Administrative Secretary

We welcome the following new staff to our office:

- Nicole Lefebvre joins our staff on August 11<sup>th</sup> as a Fire Investigator
- Megan McDevitt joins our staff on August 11<sup>th</sup> as a Fire Investigator

We have 4 new full-time positions with the FY24 budget process. These are working through the Department of Personnel process to be ready for posting.

The new positions are 91-a & Rules Coordinator, Amendments Coordinator and two Fire Protection Specialists.

**Legislation:**

- HB 296 relative to local authority for granting driveway permits  
Status: Signed into law by Governor
- SB 53 permitting the use of certain refrigerants that are in compliance with the Clean Air Act  
Status: Passed House & Senate, waiting on Governor's signature
- SB 170 relative to small group child day care centers  
Status: Passed House & Senate, waiting on Governor's signature

**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. A public hearing will be held on September 20<sup>th</sup> to address amendments.

**Foam Take-back Program:**

The contract for the foam take-back program was approved by the Governor & Executive Council at the end of June. DES is working with the vendor to schedule dates for August and September pick-ups at the following locations:

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

Additional information will be released as the details are finalized.

**Residential Sprinklers in 3 & 4 family dwellings:**

We continue to get inquiries on the need for residential sprinklers in 3 & 4 family dwellings due to the impacts of cost associated with the affordable housing crisis. We are bringing together a stakeholder group meeting that will include fire service representation from the Board of Fire Control, NH Association of Fire Chiefs and NH Fire Prevention Society. At this time, we anticipate a bill being

sponsored again this session. A few other states have developed code amendments for existing buildings undergoing renovation that are less restrictive than the provisions for new apartments. The group will assess the options in the interest in balancing the code requirements, life safety and costs.

### **BUREAU OF INVESTIGATIONS:**

In the month of July, we received 25 incident notifications resulting in 11 scene responses. The Bureau of Investigations currently has 23 open arson or suspected arson investigations.

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

- On July 3, 2023, investigators responded to Seabrook for a fire in a commercial building. The investigation is ongoing.
- On July 9, 2023, investigators responded to Sutton for a structure fire with two people unaccounted for. Two bodies were recovered, and autopsies confirmed they died due to the fire. This investigation is ongoing.
- On July 10, 2023, an investigator responded to Bartlett to assist with an origin and cause determination in a fire that had occurred in a multi-unit condominium. The fire cause was accidental due to an exhaust pipe in contact with combustible materials.
- On July 17, 2023, an investigator and K9 responded to Deerfield for an incendiary fire in a house with a suspect confession. DPD arrested the suspect.
- On July 18, 2023, investigators responded to Windham for a CO death in a garage.
- On July 19, 2023, an investigator responded to Sutton for a fire of a cabin in a remote area believed to have been ignited by a lightning strike.
- On July 24<sup>th</sup> and July 26<sup>th</sup>, 2023, an investigator and K9 responded to Concord to provide a K9 sniff at multiple incendiary fires. The Concord Police and Fire Departments are the leads on these incidents.
- On July 26, 2023, an investigator responded to Sugar Hill to assist with the origin and cause determination at a structure fire. The fire cause was determined to be a natural fire cause, due to lightning.

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

- There were 2 fire fatalities and 1 CO fatality in July.

### **Ignitable Liquid Detection Canine Teams:**

- There were 6 IGL canine deployments in July.
- IGL canine teams performed 4 demonstrations in Newbury, Concord, Manchester and Stratham.

### **Youth Firesetter:**

- There were 0 youth fire setter assessments and 1 inquiry in July, with a YFS assessment scheduled for August.

### **Arrests:**

- Deerfield Police made an arrest for Arson. The FMO is assisting with the investigation.

### **Court:**

- The FMO was notified of a plea deal that was reached in a 2020 Somersworth RV fire that was intentionally set by the owner, Mr. Sean Kelly. He has been sentenced to 1-3 years in prison.

### **Training/Committees:**

- Investigator Stephen Dennis completed ATF's Advanced Origin and Cause school in Huntsville, AL.

## **BUREAU OF BUILDING SAFETY & CONSTRUCTION:**

### **State Building Permit System:**

We processed the following permits in the month of July:

- Building: 18
- Electrical: 12
- Plumbing: 5
- Mechanical Fuel Gas: 27
- Mechanical Non-Fuel Gas: 3
- Fire Protection: 1
- Fire Alarm: 0

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

We initiated 12 educational and 3 healthcare plan reviews, completed 146 inspections and 229 technical consults in the month of July.

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

**Variance Requests:**

We processed 3 variance requests in the month of July.

**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 July, our Hazardous Materials Coordinator assisted with Haz Mat response coverage during the NASCAR race at NH Motor Speedway. He also coordinated with the Keene and Nashua Fire Departments regarding an EMAC request from the Vermont Hazardous Materials Team for a Haz Mat team to assist them during the flooding. Both teams were deployed on a rotating basis from July 21<sup>st</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup>.

**Electric Vehicles and Lithium-Ion Batteries**

On June 13<sup>th</sup> an initial meeting to discuss the challenges of electric vehicle fires was held at the IPOC. An initial group to include the State Fire Marshal's Office, Fire Academy, HSEM, State Police, DMV, DES, DOT, Tow Association, Auto Dealers Association, NH Chiefs of Police and the NH Association of Fire Chiefs has been identified to collaborate on this topic. A follow-up meeting is scheduled on August 23<sup>rd</sup>.

The International Code Council has established an ad-hoc group to evaluate building and fire code impacts from electric vehicles and lithium-ion batteries.

A few resources:

[Home | UL's FSRI – Fire Safety Research Institute](#)



[Lithium-Ion and Energy Storage Systems \(iafc.org\)](https://iafc.org)  
[Emergency Response Guides for Electric Vehicles \(fema.gov\)](https://fema.gov)  
<https://www.nfpa.org/EV>  
[First Responder Electric Vehicle Rescue \(autorescueapp.com\)](https://autorescueapp.com)  
[First Responders | Tesla](#)

### **Swiftwater Rescue Working Group:**

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

We assisted with coordinating EMAC deployments for swiftwater teams to Vermont. The City of Manchester Fire Department and the Souhegan Swiftwater teams responded to Vermont and assisted with multiple rescues over a several day period.

### **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.

### **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 to submit 2022 data was July 1<sup>st</sup>, so your commitment to submitting ASAP is greatly appreciated!

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

In May, the U.S. Fire Administration (USFA) announced their effort to launch a new fire information and analytics platform, known as the National Emergency Response Information System (NERIS), for the American fire and emergency services. Please find more information here: [Media Advisory: USFA Announces](#)

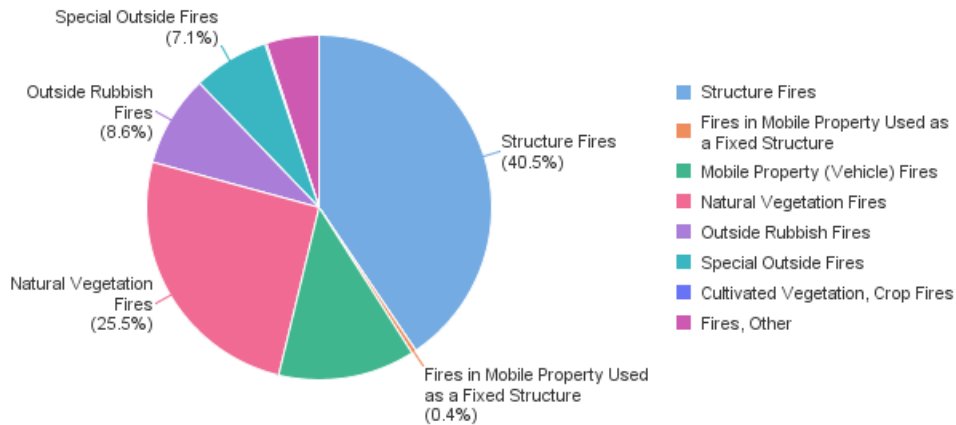
[New Fire Information Platform \(fema.gov\)](https://www.fema.gov). Once NERIS is developed and operational, USFA will work to migrate fire and emergency services departments onto the new platform. The legacy NFIRS will remain operational throughout the transition process so all fire and emergency services departments should continue to use the current NFIRS data system and maintain status quo until migrated to the new platform. More information to come once available.

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).

[Stay tuned for our quarterly NHFIRS Newsletter which will be available later this month. We are also working diligently on a NHFIRS Pocket Guide to be a resource for NH fire departments, including things like coding best practices, important dates and contact information.](#)

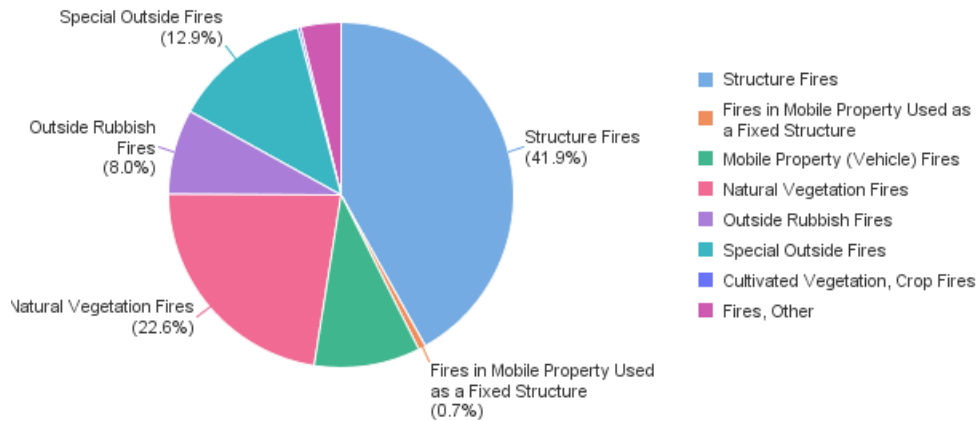
### 2022 Fire Incident Type by Category:

Fire Incident Type Category Summary



### 2023 to Date Fire Incident Type by Category:

### Fire Incident Type Category Summary

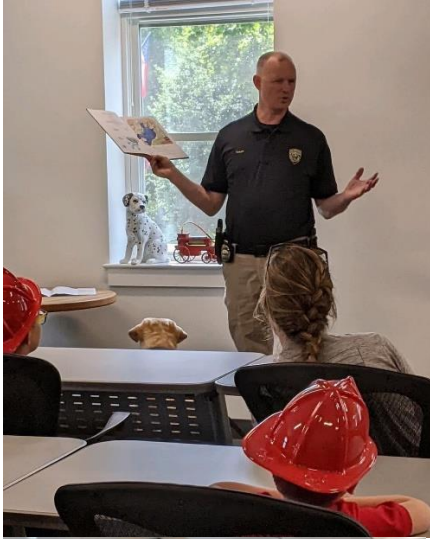


### **Outreach Events:**

On July 15<sup>th</sup>, members of the SFMO had the pleasure of attending the Stratham Summerfest and the Bartlett Fire Department Open House. Members staffed fire safety tables and handed out fire safety education materials, tested fire safety knowledge with our trivia wheel and provided canine demonstrations in Stratham.



On July 19<sup>th</sup>, Deputy Fire Marshal Adam Fanjoy joined the Newbury Fire Department and the Newbury Public Library for their Summer Reading Program. Deputy Fanjoy and K9 Anthem read Officer Buckle and Gloria to the kids in attendance and also provided a canine demonstration.



On July 25<sup>th</sup>, members of the SFMO and the Manchester Fire Department visited the Manchester Police Athletic League Summer Program. Firefighters showed the kids their gear and took them on a tour of their firetruck while we provided fire safety information. The visit concluded with a canine demonstration with Deputy Fire Marshal Adam Fanjoy and K9 Anthem.





On Wednesday July 26<sup>th</sup>, we partnered with Oscar Foss Memorial Library and Barnstead Fire & Rescue to bring a Fire Safety themed story time to families. Staff read *No Dragons for Tea* by Jean E. Pendziwol which reviews fire safety rules as a fun, rhyming story. Then probationary firefighter/AEMT Jamie Weatherbee held a “show and tell” with her gear. She discussed how each piece protects her while working. This helped children to understand how Firefighter Jamie is a community helper and friend. Events like these are important for helping children feel safe if they see a firefighter in an emergency.



### **Public Education:**

Not to rush the summer away, but the theme for the 2023 Fire Prevention Week has just been announced! The theme this year, which will be held from October 8<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup>, is “Cooking safety starts with YOU. Pay attention to fire prevention™.” The goal will be to educate everyone about the simple but important actions they can take to keep themselves and those around them safe when cooking. Find materials and resources to support your department’s efforts here: [www.firepreventionweek.org](http://www.firepreventionweek.org) and attend the following FREE webinar for more information:

### **Fire Prevention Week 2023: Cooking Safety Starts with YOU. Pay attention to fire prevention.**

August 17, 2023, 12:00-1:30PM EST

*In this 90-minute webinar, participants, will learn about the key drivers, data, and calls to action for this year’s Fire Prevention Week (FPW) theme, Cooking Safety Starts with You. Pay attention to fire prevention.™*

[Register today](#)



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

[NFPA - Campus housing](#)

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

[Home - Campus Firewatch Campus Firewatch \(campus-firewatch.com\) 17-01\\_OffCampusFireSafety\\_02.pdf \(cpsc.gov\)](#)

Are you familiar with the USFA’s Fire and Life Safety Communicators Initiative? This initiative is a collaboration among the fire and emergency medical services to speak with “one voice” on fire and life safety. They believe in working together

to present consistent messages. The theme for 2023 is “Step Up for Fire Safety” and takes a #BeKnowDo approach. The monthly theme for August is “Smoking is the leading cause of home fire deaths.” For more information on this initiative, or to find outreach materials on the monthly topics, please visit: [Fire and Life Safety Communicators Initiative \(fema.gov\)](https://www.fema.gov)



### **Training Opportunities:**

Additional SFMO programs are in the works for this fall. 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**

- The remaining open Fire Service Instructor Supervisor position in the Bureau of Certification and Support has been advertised for candidates. Interviews will be scheduled this month.
- We have two vacancies for Program Specialist III (Education Technologist) of the Educational Technology section of the Division and we have advertised the positions for candidates. Interviews for these positions continue.
- We have one part-time Compliance Specialist position open and we will be conducting interviews.
- We have a part-time EMS Vehicle Inspector Coordinator position open and are advertising for candidates.
- Our part-time Program Coordinator positions for Fire Officer, Instructor, Hazardous Materials, Swift Water and EMS Initial Programs are open and we are seeking applicants.



- Frank Fraitzl has been hired as the Program Coordinator for Promotional Exams.
- Shawn Croteau has been hired as the Program Coordinator for EMS in the Warm Zone.

### Grants

- We are working to acquire equipment funded by the \$476,186, 2022 AFG that we were awarded.
- The architectural firm retained for the Raymond S. Burton Fire and EMS Training Facility project is proceeding with obtaining necessary permits and completion of the construction documents in preparation of advertising the project for bids this fall.
  - Land clearing is expected to begin this fall/winter with site work starting in the spring of 2024.
- We continue to work with the Department of Health and Human Services Covid Disparities Funding program to expand Image Trend to add Continuum, additional IFT, MIH and simulation training and staff support.
- 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 was not selected to be funded. We will continue to pursue other funding for this initiative as it becomes available.
- The NH EMT Training Program remains active with grant funding for training new and existing EMS providers. Contact our Division or NH Employment Security for details and question.

### Special Projects

- We are working on a project to link the online Moodle platform and RespondNH which tracks courses on student transcripts. Students will be able to directly self-enroll into any of the online Firefighter I and II modules and achieve completion. A State instructor will then be able to CREF the skills portion, conduct the training, submit the course completion paperwork, along with student applications, to achieve completion of a module. After a student completes all modules they would be eligible for certification testing.
- Work is being done to renew our Division metrics and reporting.
- Work has begun on an improved capital planning and equipment replacement process.
- We have begun the planning process for our website transition and improvements with NH DoIT.
- The New Hampshire Fire and EMS Committee of Merit and the annual awards ceremony will be held on Sunday, September 17<sup>th</sup> at the Capital Center for the Arts at 1330.

- The annual FF Memorial will be held on Saturday, September 23<sup>rd</sup> at 1000.
- The first meeting of the *Law Enforcement Officers, Professional Firefighters and Emergency Medical Technicians Career Development, Recruitment and Retention Program* in New Hampshire RSA 188-F:70 was held August 3<sup>rd</sup> and will meet next on September 7<sup>th</sup> at the Fire Academy, 0930-1100 in Classroom 1.

### Facilities

- The “B” building upgrades were completed in July.
  - To maintain compliance with NFPA 1402 the prop was retrofitted to add additional safety features including new fireplace burner controls, replacing safety shutoff valves, new piping and rewiring where necessary, replacing the controller, a new computer, new software, high temperature settings, adding wireless operator present pendants and replacement of the existing smoke generator.
- We are working on the replacement of two AC condenser units in the older portion of the dormitory building. The bid process, issuing of contracts and Governor and Council approval are anticipated this fall.

### Legislative/Administrative Rules

- The Fire Standards and Training Commission amended Fire rules relative to the Recruitment and Retention report and its recommendations are working through the internal legal process in preparation for submission to the Joint Legislative Committee on Administrative Rules which will include public input.
- A public hearing on the proposed Administrative rules for Educational Training Agencies (Saf-C 5900 EMS) on August 28<sup>th</sup> at 1000 on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor conference room at the Department of Safety, 33 Hazen Dr. Concord, NH.

### Outreach

- We are seeking training requests for the Fall 2024 semester. These request will be accepted through August 31, 2023, please submit your request at <https://nhfa-ems.com/training-request/>
- We are continuing our Leadership Roundtables with the Commissioner, Fire Marshal’s Office, HSEM and Emergency Services and Communications with regional Fire Chief’s and EMD’s.
  - Souhegan Mutual Aid group is planned for September 13<sup>th</sup>.
- On June 22<sup>nd</sup> we participated in a roundtable discussion with Executive Councilor Warmington, Senator Prentiss, Ed Daniels and Dr. Ed Duffy of Littleton Regional Healthcare, Chris Stawasz of AMR and Justin Kantar of the PFFNH related to the overall EMS system including emergency response, interfacility transfers and staffing.

### Mental Health & Resiliency

- The mental health planning group has been active in preparing for another Mental Health Seminar to held in January 2024.
  - The 2024 Mental Health & Wellness Seminar will take place at the NH Fire Academy in Concord, NH on January 17-18, 2024. We are looking for exceptional presenters and leaders who may be interested in presenting on mental health, wellness and resiliency topics to public safety personnel and mental health professionals. Ideal presentations would be 90 minutes in length, although longer presentations will be considered. Please submit proposals by completing the form at <https://nhfa-ems.com/mhcall/> by September 1, 2023. Selected presenters will be notified in October with additional details.
- We continue our work in partnership with the Police Academy to develop a more comprehensive program for PTSD training utilizing experts from this field in development of the curriculum and delivery. We met with the Director of Behavioral Health at DHHS and began work on a MOU for grant funding.

### Recruitment and Retention

- Upcoming Recruitment and Retention events:
  - Retention Tool for Volunteer & Call Departments: Length of Service Awards Program (LOSAP) – Swanzey August 3<sup>rd</sup>
  - Exploring “Exploring” – Burton Facility August 22<sup>nd</sup>
  - When Retirement Rules Change, Change Your Financial Game: A Reason to Start & Stay in the Fire Service – Concord Campus September 13<sup>th</sup>
  - Kevlar to Leather-Bridging the Gap to Continued Service – Concord Campus September 16<sup>th</sup>
  - Boost Your SAFER Grant Writing for Recruitment & Retention – Concord Campus September 25<sup>th</sup>
  - IAFC Recruitment and Retention Certification Course – Concord October 28<sup>th</sup>
  - Fire & EMS Mentorship Program – Virtual November 14<sup>th</sup>
- The July edition of the Recruitment and Retention Newsletter is available at <https://www.nh.gov/safety/divisions/fstems/documents/RTNewsletterJuly2023.pdf>

### Fire Standards and Training Commission / Curriculum

- The next Fire Standards and Training Commission meeting will be 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>.

## **BUREAU OF FIRE TRAINING**

### Courses/Programs

- Firefighter I
  - The LRCC program began August 4<sup>th</sup>.
  - The Fall Recruit class will begin on August 14<sup>th</sup>
  - Loudon - August 28<sup>th</sup>
  - Lyme - August 15<sup>th</sup>
- Firefighter II
  - Burton Campus (moved from Colebrook) – August 26<sup>th</sup>
  - Concord – September 9<sup>th</sup>
  - Hampton Falls – September 13<sup>th</sup>
- Technical Rescue
  - Trench Rescue – Concord Campus October 14<sup>th</sup> and October 30<sup>th</sup>
  - Confined Space Rescue Technician – Concord Campus- November 29<sup>th</sup> & December 9<sup>th</sup>
- Driver Operator
  - Driver/Operator – All Vehicles
    - Meredith - August 1<sup>st</sup>
    - Bartlett (Glen) – October 4<sup>th</sup>
  - Driver Operator – Aerial Apparatus
    - Loudon October 17<sup>th</sup>
- ARFF
- Facilities and Prop Usage
  - We hosted 21 cadets and numerous volunteer leaders from Camp Fully Involved the last week in July.
- 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.
- All of the curricula for programs may be found at <https://nhfa-ems.com/curricula/>. Departments have asked for this information so it can be used in the delivery of local training drills and evolutions.
- For all current course listings, you can go to <https://nhfa-ems.com/scheduled-courses/>

### Apparatus/Equipment

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

## **BUREAU OF CERTIFICATION AND SUPPORT**

### Courses/Programs

- Instructor I/II/III Programs

- Instructor I – Burton Campus October 4<sup>th</sup>
- Instructor I – Concord Campus January 11, 2024
- Instructor I – Keene April 6, 2024
- Instructor II – Virtual August 1<sup>st</sup>
- Instructor Professional Development
  - Additional education is expected to be available beginning early this fall.
- Fire Officer I/II Programs
  - 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 Campus September 7<sup>th</sup> and January 11, 2024
- Fire Investigator
  - The 2023 offering begins August 24<sup>th</sup> at the Concord campus.
- National Fire Academy
  - F0142 Residential Sprinkler Plans Review – Nashua October 11<sup>th</sup>
  - W0770 Fire Investigations: First Responders – Concord Campus December 9<sup>th</sup>
  - F0322 Incident Command for Structural Collapse Incidents – Concord Campus January 24, 2024
  - F0458 Preparation for Initial Company Operations – Concord Campus February 10, 2024
- Incident Command
- “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

- We are conducting a review and analysis of our per diem Instructor pay and incentive structure and are developing a program of professional development for Instructors.
- The Division is always looking for highly motivated team members to become instructors. If you are interested in becoming an instructor, please contact Assistant Director Jeffrey Phillips at [Jeffrey.r.phillips@dos.nh.gov](mailto:Jeffrey.r.phillips@dos.nh.gov) or 603-223-4213

### CPAT

- The next 2023 CPAT testing will be held at the NH Fire Academy on September 18<sup>th</sup>

### Testing

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

## **BUREAU OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES**

### Boards and Commissions

- The NH Medical Control Board meeting will meet at 0900 on September 21<sup>st</sup> in classrooms 5 & 6 in the dormitory building.
- The NH Emergency Medical and Trauma Services Coordinating Board meeting will meet at 1300 on September 21<sup>st</sup> in classrooms 5 & 6 in the dormitory building.
- The NH Trauma Medical Review Committee (TMRC) will meet at 0930 on August 16<sup>th</sup> in classroom 2.
- The Privacy Committee will meet at 1300 August 23<sup>rd</sup> in the dry lab.

### Operations

- October 30<sup>th</sup> 106 current EMR's are due to expire. Licensing renewals can be completed online at [www.respondnh.org](http://www.respondnh.org)

### Courses/Programs

- Emergency Medical Responder (EMR)
  - The fall class begins September 20<sup>th</sup> in Walpole, Concord and in Bethlehem.
  - The winter 2024 class begins January 10<sup>th</sup> in Concord, Mont Vernon and Littleton.
- EMS Continuing Education
  - Detailed Documentation – Concord Campus 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 Campus September 6<sup>th</sup> and Virtual September 21<sup>st</sup>
  - Cardiology Adult Cardiac Arrest – Concord Campus September 8<sup>th</sup> & Burton Campus October 20<sup>th</sup>
  - Taking Care of Mom and Dad – Concord Campus October 4<sup>th</sup>, Virtual October 19<sup>th</sup>
  - Cardiology Pediatric Cardiac Arrest – Concord Campus November 9<sup>th</sup> & Burton Campus December 29<sup>th</sup>
  - Hoarding Disorder – Concord Campus December 6<sup>th</sup> & Virtual December 21<sup>st</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
  - EMS in the Warm Zone RTF Concepts –
    - Brentwood August 12<sup>th</sup>

- New Hampton September 23<sup>rd</sup>
- These courses are available free to students on our online training platform. The RTF Concepts class is a half-day in-person training that is also available. Grant funding opportunities are available for those that have not done so already.
- If anyone is looking for this program please contact Shawn Croteau at [Shawn.A.Croteau@DOS.NH.GOV](mailto:Shawn.A.Croteau@DOS.NH.GOV)

### Clinical Systems

- Senate Bill 268, Allowing for Pre-Hospital Treatment and Transportation for Operational Canines
  - Governor Sununu signed SB 268 allowing for pre-hospital treatment and transportation of operational canines. This new RSA (153-A:37) allows all licensed ambulances to transport operational canines to a veterinary care facility if the canine is ill or has been injured in the course of their official duties and no human needs transport or treatment. Treatment of operational canines will require prior approval at the licensed unit level through prerequisite protocol authorization. Part of this approval process will require additional training for EMS providers as well as relationships to be formed between the operational canine owners, their veterinarians, 24-hour veterinarian clinics and the licensed EMS unit.
    - The Division is currently working with the NH Medical Control Board on an Operational K9 Prerequisite Protocol which licensed EMS units will be able to apply for. The prerequisite protocol, and its accompanying administration packet, will outline all the necessary requirements to ensure care is performed at a similar level and expectation as human patients. A future notification will be released when the prerequisite protocol is available.
- 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/>.
  - Fire User Group meetings occur remotely on the second Wednesday at 1300 hours each month. Contact Joseph Cartier for the link.



- EMS User Group meetings occur remotely on the fourth Wednesday at 0930 hours each month.
  - Coordination continues with the Fire Marshal's Office for further education and guidance for reporting.
  - Anyone interested in the system can contact Joseph Cartier at 603-223-3403 or [joseph.w.cartier@dos.nh.gov](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
- TEMSIS is being renamed to NHESR, which stands for "New Hampshire Emergency Services Reporting". This name change includes a new web address. It will change from [www.nhtemis.org](http://www.nhtemis.org) to [www.nhesr.org](http://www.nhesr.org). Additionally, the login page will have a new look. This change occurred as of August 2nd, 2023. Current services and TEMSIS users will need to change their bookmarks. We will be reaching out through multiple methods to notify all individual providers and service leaders about the change and what they will need to do. Directions for users to do this are in the link below.
    - Full URL Transition Guide  
<https://www.respondnh.org/lms/public/file/cms/2023/7/21/4%204%20Full%20Guide%20for%20Transition%20from%20NHTEMSIS%20ORG%20to%20NHESR%20ORG.pdf>

For clarity, TEMSIS is not going away, it's just getting a new name. All other functionality, access to previous run forms, service settings etc. will remain just the same.
  - 23,378 EMS incidents were entered into the system for June and 158,415 incidents to date.
  - Preparation for NEMSIS 3.5 is ongoing.

### Compliance

- There are currently over 33 active investigations and ongoing cases.



Preparedness and Special Projects 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 – Chief Clark reported:**

No meetings over the summer for the full Commission. The Curriculum Committee is meeting next week to hear reports from the following Visiting Committees:

- Hazardous Materials – NFPA 1072
- Ropes – Rescue – NFPA 2500
- Instructor III – NFPA 1041

Provided the Curriculum Committee accepts the reports of the three various Visiting Committees the proposed curriculum will be recommended to the full Commission to hold the required Public Hearings.

The Inspector Visiting Committee has been seated and the Curriculum Committee will be expecting to hear their recommendations this fall.

Several Firefighter I and Firefighter II courses are being held this fall and many have vacancies, check the Academy website.

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

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

- Long time member of NVFC, Ron Roy was the director from Washington passed away on July 31, after a year and half battle with cancer. No service until maybe October.
- The second chance for a pallet of water ends August 15.
- NVFC is looking for more members. You get training, life insurance, water, fire extinguisher, and many more benefits for your department.

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

**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/Clark) – Chief Clark reported:**

The Legislators approved adding a NH Licensed Fire Protection Engineer to the Board. The Board is working to fill that position as that will provide added technical knowledge as the Board's current function is primarily related to the State Fire Code.

The focus of the Board is to have necessary amendments to NFPA 1, v. 2021 and NFPA 101 v. 2021 prepared for the Legislators to enact in their next session. An effort is being made to reduce conflicts between the State Fire Code and the State Building Code.

The Board's committee met this week and discussed the changes between 2018 and 2021 and the amendments that will be proposed. Some current amendments can be eliminated as the new code addressed the issues. Overall, there are not many significant changes between the two versions of the NFPA codes.

There is discussion that the Legislators are considering removing the requirement for fire suppression sprinklers from 3 and 4 family dwelling units like they did with 1 and 2 family dwellings. The claim is that the cost is prohibiting affordable housing being developed.

A meeting with the various stakeholders will be held on August 21<sup>st</sup> to learn if there is a solution other than legislative action.

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

**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. Contract development for their services is underway;
- Legislation Watch:
  - The Study Committee for Dispatcher & Telecommunicator Training Standards (HB 376) scheduled to meet Tuesday morning at the LOB, however, cancelled due to no quorum...more to follow on process (Tours, testimony, etc.)

- SB 183 (Amending RSA 106-H:14, II) goes into effect 9-26-2003, allowing release of 911 calls for civil litigation to Attorneys.
- SECC (Statewide Emergency Communications Committee Meeting) held on 7/26 – The National WEA & EAS tests are scheduled for October 4<sup>th</sup> at 2:20 P.M. For more info:  
  
<https://www.fema.gov/press-release/20230803/fema-and-fcc-plan-nationwide-emergency-alert-test-oct-4-2023>
- 988 Coalition meeting with HHS, SAMHSA, NSPL & statewide stakeholders on 8/3 (230 transfers to 988 from NH911 since go-Live in July 2022; NH has seen an Increase in call volume and answer rate [90%]; Nationally, 5 million texts, calls and chats made to 988);
- Participating in a National Community of Practice with Vibrant Health regarding the development of best practices for 988 and National implementation (Developing Technologies; Decision Trees; and Risk management)
- The Northern Border coalition (small group) is tentatively scheduled to meet on the 17<sup>th</sup> in the Colebrook area (more to follow once details are nailed down) as a follow up to the May meeting;
- Social Media:

*In July, the Division of Emergency Services and Communications utilized its social media platforms (Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram) to share 4<sup>th</sup> of July safety tips, further promote soft launch efforts for our New Hampshire 911 CARES program, solicit applications for telecommunicators, and document the initial phases of our Concord PSAP renovation project (with more videos forthcoming!). Additionally, we released the latest edition of our external newsletter, provided race weekend safety reminders for the NHMS NASCAR races, showcased the impressive work of our Radio Communications team, and recognized numerous employee achievements.*



- PSAP renovation in Concord is underway, completion scheduled for August 14<sup>th</sup> opening;
- SIEC (Statewide Interoperability Executive Committee) is meeting Friday the 11<sup>th</sup> at the Marine Patrol Building in Gilford, all are invited to attend;
- Mutualink trainings continue around the state facilitated by the SWIC, John Stevens – next step is in development...an “Exercise in a Box”, we can use to bring around the state to further assist in developing day to day use of M/L;
- AAR being conducted by HSEM for DOS response to the Covid Pandemic (Consultant will be performing the data gathering and final report);
- August 10<sup>th</sup> is the Halias Safety Symposium at UNH;

**Training Announcement:**

The Other End of the Line: An Inside Look at NH 911  
 August 30 @ 18:00 - 19:00

Virtual Event  
 Wednesday  
 Description

The Other End of the Line: An Inside Look at New Hampshire 911, provides New Hampshire first responders and emergency personnel with an in-depth look into the policies and workflows of New Hampshire 911 telecommunicators.

Learn about how NH 911's training programs and certifications, state-of-the-art computer systems, in-house mapping unit, and emergency medical dispatch protocols provide tangible benefits for both local public safety agencies and the people of New Hampshire.

<https://nhfa-ems.com/scheduled-course/the-other-end-of-the-line-an-inside-look-at-nh-911/>

### **NH E-911 Commission – (Chief Thomas)**

- They will be meeting in September.

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

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

- They are starting their review of stress testing of events throughout the state.

### **IAFC Director – (Chief Christopoulos) – (No report)**

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

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

### **Old Business -**

### **New Business –**

### **Good and Welfare – ALL WERE REMINDED OF THE GOLF TOURNAMENT TO BE HELD MONDAY IN TILTON.**

**Raffle** – The raffle was held. \$385 was collected and \$190 was awarded. Proceeds were counted by Chief Hunter and ED Lemire.

The meeting was adjourned at 2020 hrs.

\*\*Subsequent to the meeting, members of the New England Association of Fire Chiefs – Division of the International Association of Fire Chiefs, caucused and recommended

that the name of Fire Chief Shawn Murray of Goffstown be put forth for election as NH Director at the October conference at Mohegan Sun.

Respectfully submitted,

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

August 10, 2023