



NEW HAMPSHIRE ASSOCIATION OF FIRE CHIEFS, INC.

Working Together to Make a Difference

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Minutes of a Virtual Regular Meeting of the NH Association of Fire Chiefs

Thursday, August 12, 2021 (Virtual via “Go To Meeting”)

The meeting was called to order at 1602 hours by Chief Sitar.

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

Chief Sitar welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Chief Sitar welcomed and introduced U.S. Senator Maggie Hassan who gave the group and update on pertinent Federal legislation.

Members were introduced by the Executive Director.

NOTE: ALL VOTES AT THIS MEETING WERE TAKEN BY CONSENSUS.

Special Guests: Adam Schmidt from our lobbying firm.

Minutes of the July 8 meeting are posted, but the link is defective. Deferred to next month.

Financial Reports: The July financials have been received. Upon posting, approval will be asked for at the September meeting.

Communications: n/a

Applications for membership: 9 new members, Donald Matheson, Dep. Chief in Exeter; Jason Fritz, Dep. Chief in Exeter; Brendan O’Sullivan, Dep. Chief in Durham; Jeffrey Leblanc, Fire Chief in Deering; William Gillis, Battalion Chief in Derry; Ed Warren, Fire Chief in East Kingston and Ryan Cashin, Dep. Chief in Manchester. Michael Bernier of Mallard Insurance and Ralph Daniels of Daniels Equipment have joined us as Advocate Members.

Life Membership: n/a

President's Report: (Sitar) –

- ED Lemire and I will be attending a meeting with some of the North Country Fire chiefs with Director Cutting, Marshal Toomey and Executive Director Lemire on August 20.
- Discussions with Director Doyle on 988 First Responder Subcommittee for the 988 Planning Coalition.
- Discussions with Director Doyle about the proposed Nurse Triage concept for E911.
- Assisted Chief Carrier with fund raising golf tournament held on Monday 8/9/2021 at Lochmere CC. Report by Chief Carrier in Old Business

Executive Director's Report (Lemire) –

- Our Vendor Showcase will be held with our September meeting on the 9th at the Falls Event Center in Manchester. It will be our first “in person” meeting in 1.5 yrs. We are working with our vendors for sponsorships also. Our seminar will be entitled “*The Historic Role of Safety in the Decision Making Process*” presented by Chief John F. Sullivan of the Brookline, MA Fire Department.
- The October 14 meeting will be a breakfast meeting at the NH Fire Academy.
- Our November weekend is on for the Red Jacket in North Conway, November 12-14.
- Our December meeting will be on the 9th and hosted by Chief Paul Haas in Dover.
- The January, 2022 meeting will be on the 13th and be virtual.
- We will be also sponsoring a golf tournament August 8, 2022.

1st Vice President Report (Beattie) – n/r

2nd Vice President Report (Emanuel) –

- He is working with Chief Lemire on the Vendor Showcase professional development September 9.
- He has been working with Adam on a legislative update. Legislature is not in session. We will be watching for new bills in next session. Senate will be starting work in September. Governor has 55 bills on his desk for action. HB 111 is still being watched.

Sgt. At Arms (Best) – No report

Committee Reports

Scholarship Committee – (Dep. Toomey) – Three applications have been received. The committee has awarded \$500 scholarships to Lauren Best, Mariah Chamberlain and Kaycee Reagan.

Recruitment and Retention Committee – (Chief Beattie) – (no report)

Division Reports

Fire Marshal – (Marshal Toomey)

ADMINISTRATION:

Personnel:

We have several openings within the office, please share this information with anyone that may be interested:

- Full time Fire Investigator- background in process
- Part time NFIRS Program Coordinator
- Part time State Building Inspector
- Part time State Building Permit Coordinator
- Part time Fire Protection Specialist (Inspector)

Effective July 16, 2021 Deputy Fire Marshal Danielle Cole separated from her position with our office. We wish her well in her future endeavors.

Mechanical Licensing

The State Mechanical Inspectors and Mechanical Licensing Board have fully transitioned to the Office of Professional Licensure & Certification (OPLC). Mechanical inspections as part of the state building permit program will be coordinated through our office.

Statewide Fire Incident Reporting:

We are working with FSTEMS on a joint initiative to implement and pilot the new NH Emergency Reporting Software using Imagetrend. This solution will soon be available for all fire departments for incident reporting, inspections, inventory and scheduling. NFIRS data reporting will remain a function of the FMO.

2021 Legislation:

We are following a number of bills, including:

HB 72 – Ratifying the amendments to the 2015 fire code by the BFC
Status: Passed/Adopted with Amendment House, Rereferred in

the Senate

SB 15 - Ratifying the amendments to the 2015 fire code by the BFC
Status: Signed by the Governor, effective July 23, 2021

HB 208 – Repealing the lightning rod program
Status: Signed by the Governor, effective January 1, 2022

SB 106 – Establishing a committee to study the adoption of the 2018 fire code,

Status: Signed by the Governor, effective July 23, 2021

SB 106 – Repealing the voluntary fire equipment certification program

Status: Signed by the Governor, effective September 21, 2021

HB 377 – Relative to the FMO issuing variances to recovery residences/Signed by Governor

Status: Signed by the Governor, effective July 5, 2021

SB 133 – Relative to the FMO issuing POA permits

Status: Signed by the Governor, effective October 10, 2021

BUREAU OF INVESTIGATIONS:

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

- On July 10, 2021, investigators assisted the Farmington FD and PD with an investigation into a male victim who received serious burn injuries from an outside fire.
- On July 12, 2021, investigators responded to 60 Tricity Place in Somersworth to assist the Somersworth FD and PD with a fire in an RV. During the course of the investigation, criminal indicators were discovered. The investigation is ongoing by the three agencies.
- On July 19, 2021, investigators responded to 47 Steeple Street in Milton to assist the Milton FD and PD with a fire at a vacant home. There are criminal indicators associated with the scene and the fire remains under investigation.
- On July 21, 2021, investigators responded to 1 Main Street in Claremont to assist the Claremont FD and PD with a fire at the Daddy Pop Diner. During the course of the investigation, criminal indicators were discovered. The investigation is ongoing by the three agencies.
- On July 23, 2021, investigators responded to 51 Russell Street in Plymouth to assist the Plymouth PD with collecting evidence at what appears to be an attempted arson. The joint investigation is ongoing.

Ignitable Liquid Detection Canine Teams:

A joint training day was conducted in Canaan with the IGL Canine Team from the Manchester Fire Department.

Historical Line of Duty Death Investigations:

An investigator was assigned to conduct investigations into two separate deaths of firefighters in Dover, NH which occurred in 1925 and 1959. These line of duty deaths were discovered recently from news articles, and other historical documents, and brought to the attention of the NHFMO to see if they are eligible to be added to the NH Fallen Firefighter's Memorial.

Public Outreach:

Investigators are assisting with youth firesetter assessments in multiple communities throughout the state. Our youth firesetter coordinator also presented a one-hour training to the most recent School Resource Officer (SRO) class.

Training/Committees:

Investigators attended several trainings in the month of July, some to include: IAAI – You’re Right but You’re Wrong, School Resource Officer, Residential Natural Gas Systems, and several trainings from the High Technology Crime Investigation Association (HTCIA) and the National White Collar Crime Center (NW3C). Our FMO representative also attended the Child Fatality Review Committee meeting this month.

Court Actions:

- Christopher Vincent was sentenced to 3 ½-7 years in prison after being found guilty of a fire he set 5 ½ years ago in Pittsfield. He received credit for 1 ½ years served. He also received 12 months for animal cruelty and another 3 ½-7 years suspended for an arson he committed on April 1, 2018 in Concord.
- Mary Elizabeth “Liz” Corliss was indicted in Merrimack Superior Court on arson, two reckless conduct with a deadly weapon – domestic violence, and two second-degree assault with a deadly weapon with serious bodily injury – domestic violence charges, all felonies for the February 24, 2021 fire in Webster.

BUREAU OF BUILDING SAFETY & CONSTRUCTION:

State Building Permit System:

We processed 34 building permit applications in the month of July.

Technical Assistance, Educational & Healthcare Reviews:

Our staff remains available for technical code assistance. We initiated 8 educational and 2 healthcare plan reviews in the month of July.

Variance Requests:

We processed 5 variance requests in the month of July.

BUREAU OF PLANNING AND SUPPORT SERVICES:

Hazardous Materials:

Hazardous Materials coordination and coverage remains a priority. Personnel are ready to deploy if needed and may be contacted through the on-call FMO supervisor for consultation purposes.

We continue to collaborate with the regional hazmat teams relative to response, training and coordination.

We are working on a review of the Tier II reporting and have identified some deficiencies in the required reporting. Our office is working with EPA Region 1 on outreach to impacted facilities.

Public Outreach

Public Educators went to Somersworth and Lebanon to teach seniors strategies to help them prevent fire and falls. Several more sessions are scheduled statewide through September. The NFPA's ***Remembering When™*** Fire and Falls presentation is an interactive hour-long program for older adults, focusing on key messages and strategies to help them stay independent and safe in their own homes.

Our staff also utilized the FMO public education trailer to present fire safety at the Girl Scouts' Badge Day event: "Be Safe, Stay Healthy" in Bedford. Key messaging included learning to create and practice a home escape plan, the importance of having working smoke alarms, and K-9 demonstrations.

Our staff is available to partner with fire departments on public outreach programs. Please reach out with any upcoming programs.

Fire Prevention Week 2021-October 3-9, 2021:

The NFPA officially announced the theme for Fire Prevention Week 2021: *Learn the Sounds of Fire Safety*.

We will be issuing a statewide press release and proclamation the week prior. Please stay tuned for details.

Main messages:

- Recognizing the different sounds and alerts that safety devices make when there is a fire or carbon monoxide hazard
- Knowing the unique noises the alarm makes – beeping/chirping

Smoke and CO alarms are a critical part of our fire safety messaging, and this theme will provide a good opportunity to help all the individuals and families in New Hampshire learn how to maximize the effectiveness of their alarms. We look forward to an active and positive fire prevention month!

More information www.firepreventionweek.org.

NH Fire Standards, Training and EMS - (Dir. Cutting/AD Phillips)

ADMINISTRATION

Personnel

- We have two full-time fire training Captains retiring at the end of the summer, early fall.
- One of our Administrative Supervisors is retiring at the end the summer.
- Our Compliance Unit leader has left to accept a job at HSEM, we are in the process of hiring someone.
- We are in the process of hiring an EMS Training Coordinator.

Budget

- The biennial budget was signed by Governor Sununu in June.

Legislation

- We filed an Emergency Administrative Rule to increase the tuition discount for Firefighter I and II, for NH emergency service personnel as outlined in HB 2. The new cost for affiliated members for Firefighter I is \$135 per student, reduced from \$960, and \$150 per student for Fire fighter II, reduced from \$530.
- The Governor signed SB142 reestablishing the commission to study the incidence of PTSD in first responders.
- The Governor signed SB133 which includes the repeal of REPLICA and allows for the Commissioner to issue a letter of concern in EMS licensure cases when appropriate, both effective 60 days after signing.

Grants

- We have not received an update on the AFG grant, which if awarded will replace Engine 1, 3 forcible entry door props and the current certification testing software.
- The American Rescue Plan Act included \$80 million in funding to address suicide, burnout and behavioral health conditions - including substance abuse - among public safety officers and healthcare professionals. The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) announced it is accepting applications until August 30th for these funds through the Health and Public Safety Workforce Resiliency Training Program. We are working to complete a project design concept and completed grant application, even within the limited timeframe.

Special Projects

- We are planning for a September 11th memorial at our main campus.
- We are working with our partners to plan for the annual Firefighter's Memorial that will be held at the main campus on September 25th.
- We are working towards a website rebuild with our Department of Safety partners.
- We are completing an analysis of the instructor to student ratio for Firefighter I/II and how that may affect course costs.

Outreach

- August 20th we are partnering with the Fire Marshal to hold a roundtable discussion at the Burton Training facility with Fire Chief's from the northern part of the state.

BUREAU OF FIRE TRAINING

Courses/Programs

- The Airport Firefighter programs have been completed.
- Sunapee Firefighter I program held its graduation on July 31.
- Firefighter I in Tuftonboro is on-going and ends in August.
- Firefighter II in Bethlehem is on-going and ends in August.
- Recruit School is finishing on September 10th.
- The LRCC FF I/II begins on September 10th.
- New fall courses:
 - Firefighter I in Bartlett
 - Firefighter II in Sunapee, Brookline, Newington and at the Fire Academy in Concord.
- A course planning guide/policy that will allow departments, individuals and services to share their needs for classes and to make requests for courses is anticipated to be complete by late fall.

Facilities

- A new vehicle exhaust system has been installed in the fire station.
- Minor repairs to the Burton "A" building are underway.
- The roof project on the "J" building continues and is expected to be an additional 2-3 weeks depending on weather.
- The Confined Space / Trench Rescue project should be completed in 2 weeks.

- The LPG Transport and CNG Trailer project have not yet begun.
- We experienced a culvert failure at the south entrance of the drill yard. We are working with the Division of Administration and NH DOT to facilitate repairs.

Apparatus/Equipment

- We have permanently acquired an ARFF Truck from Portland, Maine for interim use until a new one is purchased. We are working through the logistics of its delivery and subsequent storage.
- Ladder 1 Aerial portion OOS.
- The new Aerial is being built and is expected next year.

BUREAU OF CERTIFICATION AND SUPPORT

Courses/Programs

- New fall courses:
 - Instructor I at the Fire Academy in Concord.
 - Fire Officer I at the Fire Academy in Concord.
 - NFA – Preparation for Initial Company Operations
 - Fire Investigator at the Fire Academy in Concord.
- On September 30th there will be a seminar for county and federal arson prosecutors. This is a cooperative project between FSTEMS, NH FMO and US BATFE.
- The Educational Technology section continues to work on the development of content for FF I /II.

Instructors

- We are finalizing work on a comprehensive Instructor Recruitment Plan.

CPAT

- The last CPAT of the year is scheduled for Monday September 13th and will be at the academy. Candidates are able to sign up for the test until August 30th.

Testing

- If awarded, the AFG grant we will replace the current certification testing software.

BUREAU OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

Operations

- As noted above we are in the process of hiring a new full-time employee that will be focused on EMS training and continuing education offerings the Division offers.
- There is still a higher than normal delay in processing Criminal History Record Information (CHRI), background checks, on any New/Lapsed EMS Provider license applications. This process is handled by the State Police Criminal Records Unit (CRU). There is an approximately three (3) to four (4) week delay in some instances. If departments have specific issues please reach out to us.

Clinical Systems

- Trauma Systems
 - We are working on the transition of level 3 trauma center designations from the state to ACS, reviewing the state level 4 designation and the proposal of a new level of Trauma Ready.
- Specialty Services
 - We are still progressing forward on a project within the BEMS that would add a Specialty Service sub-section to include Inter-Facility Transportation and Mobile Integrated Healthcare programs. This proposal would dedicate a combination of full and part-time personnel to these programs as a resource for development, management, education, training, integration and oversight. They would coordinate operations including infrastructure, stakeholder communications, and oversight of MIH application process, customer service, and efficiency and continuously improving operations and outcomes by using evidence-based methods. Funding is through a grant for two years with an evaluation on whether or not to continue these based on program success and EMS system needs. The work includes finalizing an MOU with DHHS, our legal department and preparation for approval at Governor and Council.
- Critical Care Protocols

- Work continues on the development of expanded scope of practice to facilitate critical care transport in the state outside of the current licensed unit (DHART). This includes four additional services in Maine, Massachusetts and New York whom are all currently operating in the State on variable regularity. This is currently in a sub-committee of the MCB and has been discussed with several stakeholder groups. A meeting with all sub-committee members is currently being planned for the second week of September with an actual date to be determined.

Data Management

➤ Respond NH

- Implementation is still moving forward. As issues and problems are identified, they are taken care of by either fixing it internally or submitting a “ticket” to Image Trend to address.

➤ TEMSIS

- Based on stakeholder input we created a *Report Writer 101* presentation with the goals of instructing leaders on how to build their own reports, how to automate reports, how to export data to Excel, to provide sample Excel templates with pivot tables and how to share reports among administrators.
- Work is in progress to create videos for users to reference at their own convenience.

➤ NFIRS

- As of July 23rd we are officially receiving reports in the NFIRS reporting system from two agencies, Lisbon and Peterborough.
- We continue to work with services to onboard. Onboarding time for services is also significantly decreasing – Peterborough Fire was a cumulative 10 hours to get to reporting status; comparatively Tilton-Northfield began reporting after 3 hours of onboarding. The expectation is that through education and outreach, onboarding will be accomplished in less than an hour for most services.

- Anyone interested in the system can contact Joseph Cartier at 603-223-3403 or joseph.w.cartier@dos.nh.gov

Preparedness Section

- On August 17th there will be a Pediatric Surge Stakeholders Meetings with GSHCC.
- Ongoing discussions regarding hospital diversion and the use of Juvare with communication of such between hospitals and EMS services.

Chief Robert Buxton made a MOTION, seconded by Chief Rhodes, to send a letter of thanks to Director Cutting, Senator Hennessy, Governor Sununu and Commissioner Quinn for their work supporting FST by procuring supplemental funding carried unanimously.

Chief Clark added his opinion supporting this letter and

NH Fire Standards and Training Commission – (Chiefs Clark/Buxton)

The Commission did not meet in July its last meeting was June 3rd

Michael Joyal who represents the NH Municipal Association has announced that he will not be seeking a reappointment when his current appointment expires in November. It is my understanding that the Municipal Association is seeking members that would be interested in serving on the Commission.

The State Budget passed with a special allocation of \$600,000 due to the efforts of Senator Hennessey of Littleton. \$400,000 is allocated to the Academy to reduce the cost of Firefighter 1 and Firefighter 2 courses and to be utilized to offer additional FF1 and FF2 classes. The other \$200,000 is to be added to the Fire Fund to start replenishing the fund.

Through the efforts of many, but especially Commissioner Quinn the cost of FF 1 was reduced from \$960 to \$135 and FF 2 to \$150. The revised cost is effective now. The Commission is exploring with Director Cutting various ways of delivering FF 1.

The Instructor Courses are being revamped and Level II and III will be more like a college level on-line class. The Visiting Committee is to meet with the Curriculum Committee to discuss on August 24th. Also, at that time the Visiting Committee is expected seat the Visiting Committee for Fire Officer I and II curriculum.

The Commission's next regular meeting is September 2nd.

NH Emergency Medical and Trauma Services Coord. Board – (Chief Allard)
n/r

National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC) – (Chief Corey) – n/r

Homeland Security and Emergency Management – (Director Harper)

- We thought we were done with COVID but we're not. NH is in the top 10 states for vaccinations.
- Department is putting out a second mobile health van for vaccinations.
- They have been getting calls with questions about what actions to take. COVID calls will be re-started.
- They are writing an RFP for an after-action report on the COVID response.
- She described the various flooding events this summer. They are seeking information for FEMA reimbursement requests. They hope for a mid-September filing for funds.
- They have a request for 3 more disaster staff personnel to assist the division.
- The training classes will be ramping up. Check the website for details.

EMS Trauma Medical Review Board – (Chief Beaudoin) – n/r

Forest Protection Bureau – (Chief Sherman) - n/r

Board of Fire Control – (Chief Clark) –

The NH Board of Fire Control did not meet during the summer. They next meet on September 22nd. At that meeting there will be a Public Hearing to amend the Fire Code to be compliant with a DES rule.

A high priority for the Board this fall is having the State Fire Code updated to incorporate NFPA 1 and NFPA 101 version 2018. I will be working with the Joint Committee of Codes to encourage the Building Code Review Board to complete their work to have the State Building Code incorporate the 2018 code versions.

The Board is closely watching court cases of Short Term Rentals and compliance with the Fire Code. This is a hot topic of many Chiefs.

Building Code Review Board – (Marshal Lennon) –

- Meeting to get the ICC Code amendments ready for the legislative session in September.

Manufactured Housing Installation Standards Board: (Chief) n/r

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

- DHS Data push, Card 36 (Protocol 36) interrogation has successfully been discontinued;
- Airshow Comms assistance at Pease has started, working with HSEM and the Guard re: needs assessment and support;
- 9-8-8 Planning Coalition meetings and Subcommittee meetings held via Zoom. Subcommittee for 911 / L.E. review of process flow for call referral (PSAP to Headrest) and alternatives to LE Response, training & education needs and access to CMHC's and CIT's; Training module to be developed with FSTEMS and PSTC re: what is 988 as well as an overview presentation for Fire & Police Chiefs & NHEDA;
- Presented the work of the 9-8-8 Planning Coalition and First Responder subcommittee at the Halias Safety Symposium;
- **REMINDER: Impact of the 10-digit dialing requirement for all local calls in New Hampshire – required as of October 2021. Check your speed dials / transfer #'s in your Comm. Centers!**
- SIEC Meeting scheduled for 8/13 at the New Hampshire Fire Academy;
- Discussion with DNCR continues re: Radio planning and consolidation of maintenance efforts;
- Currently undertaking a refresh of our ESF #2 / Communications section of the SEOP – annual review process;
- E9-1-1 Commission Meeting will be held, In person, at the IPOC on Friday, September 10^h at 11:00. All are invited to attend as there will be no remote option;



- 7/7/21 – 9-1-1 Telecommunicator Jennifer Huckins received a Letter of Commendation for a CPR save in Keene. Caller reported an unknown person who was in distress knocked on the door. TC Huckins provided Emergency Medical Dispatch CPR instructions until the ambulance arrived on the scene.
- 7/5/21 – Recognizing that 26 years ago NH E9-1-1 “turned the key” to start receiving 9-1-1 calls at the statewide PSAP.



- **7/12/21 – The Chain of Survival – A Wakefield Resident’s Life is saved – A ‘Miracle Man’**

Wakefield Fire/Rescue hosted a celebration of life on 7/12/21 for Al Gray. Al, a DJ, collapsed during a 30th birthday celebration. His heart was revived 19 times during ambulance transport, emergency room and cardiac cath lab. Members of the Wakefield Fire/Rescue, Wakefield Police, Carroll County Sheriff’s Office and 9-1-1 Telecommunicator Kevin Chaff were recognized.

Read the story on our Facebook page or here on Concord Patch:

<https://patch.com/new-hampshire/concord-nh/mans-heart-stops-19-times-revived-team-people>

- **Radio Communications Team supported operations at the NASCAR event from a Communications needs standpoint;**



- **New employees of NH Homeland Security and Emergency Management toured the Concord 9-1-1 call center today. The New Hampshire Department of Safety encourages interagency training. In emergency response situations, it is important to look at the big picture rather than focus on just one piece of it.**



- **911 TC Emily Milligan received a commendation for a call she handled on June 11th. Caller was experiencing severe abdominal pain, chest pain, nausea, & bleeding. Emily notified local dispatch & stayed on the line for 11 min. Caller thanked Emily for reassuring kindness. Congrats!**
- **Met with Belknap County Chiefs of Police (7/22) to discuss 988 and impact on First Responders;**
- **Director Doyle attended the National Emergency Number Association (NENA) Conference in Columbus;**



- **NH's emergency response teamwork saves another life! 9-1-1 Telecommunicator Stephanie Williams answered a call for help for a reported stranded kayaker on the Pemigewasset River who was stuck in trees in the fast-moving current. TC Williams located the kayaker using 9-1-1 mapping software.**

E-911 Commission – (Chief Thomas) – n/r

IAFC Director – (Chief Christopoulos) – n/r

Chief Sitar stated that several chiefs attended FRI and reported it being productive.

New England Fire Chiefs – a Division of the IAFC – (Chief Jones) – n/r

Old Business –

- Report on the golf tournament – Chief Carrier

He thanked everyone for the support and reported that we had 84 golfers. Great feedback from golfers.

- Vote on the 2021-22 budget. A MOTION (Best/Watkins) to approve, carried unanimously.

New Business –

Good and Welfare –

The next meeting will be held virtually on Thursday, September 9 starting at 1300 hours.

A MOTION (Carrier/McMillan) to adjourn the meeting carried at 1715 hours.

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

August 12, 2021