



NEW HAMPSHIRE ASSOCIATION OF FIRE CHIEFS, INC.

Working Together to Make a Difference

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Minutes of a Meeting of the NH Association of Fire Chiefs

Thursday, September 8, 2022 – Lakes Region Community College, Laconia, NH

The meeting was called to order at 0949 hours by Chief Beattie.

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

Nick Mehuri of LRCC welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Introduction of members.

Special Guests:

Minutes of the August 11 meeting have been posted. A MOTION (Sitar/Thomas) to accept carried unanimously.

Financial Reports: July reports have been received and posted. A MOTION (Jones/Thomas) to accept them carried unanimously.

Communications: n/a

Applications for membership: Chief Clifford Plourde of New Boston and Asst. Chief Daniel Newman of Merrimack.

Life Memberships: n/a

President's Report: (Beattie) –

- He attended Chief Rob Buxton's retirement reception in Hudson.
- The Recruitment and Retention report has been released and he described the sections of the report. Director Cutting presented the final report yesterday.
- He spoke with Director Buxton yesterday. Dir. Buxton told him that he will have to resign his position as New England Chiefs director.
- Discussion ensued as to his departure due to his promotion to City Manager. The group will discuss this at a meeting soon.

Executive Director's Report (Lemire) –

- Next board meeting will be Wednesday, October 5. (Centennial Hotel)
- This month's meeting will be at LRCC tomorrow at 0900.
- October meeting will be at the NH Institute of Politics on the 13th and will include a Candidate's Forum.
- We are looking at a breakfast meeting at the NHFA on November 10.
- The NVFC has a program that awards \$100,000 in grants to municipalities funded by a cooperative program with Josh wineries. Their NH distributor wanted to do something for this state and chose the NHAFC as beneficiary of up to an \$8,600 award through the sale of Josh wines in the NH Liquor stores. Chief Corey has requested that we purchase as many bottles of Josh wines as we can so as to fulfill the total grant.

1st Vice President Report (Best) –

- He presented the contract for the upcoming year for the ad book. Discussion ensued as to the element of the contract. A MOTION (Sitar/Thomas) to authorized Chief Best to sign for the association.

2nd Vice President Report (Emanuel) – He presented the Legislative Report from our Government Affairs representative:

STATE PRIMARY

- The State of NH primary will be held on Tuesday, September 13.

VETO DAY

- The House and Senate will meet on Thursday, September 15 for Veto Day. They will vote on the 8 Vetoes issued by Governor Sununu. There will likely be an effort to suspend rules and pass legislation to help address costs associated with home hearing and electricity.

HOUSE

- Starting on September 6, House members seeking re-election could begin to file bills for the 2023 session. The filing period runs through September 16. A separate filing period for 2023 legislation will be held from November 9-November 22. This is for all newly elected (or re-elected) House members.
- On Wednesday, September 21, the House Executive Departments and Administration Committee has scheduled a full committee work session on "Group II Retirement". In speaking with Committee members, we understand the focus of the meeting will be on collecting information from the Retirement System regarding costs associated with recently passed legislation.
- Any bill sent to "interim study" in the House must be reported out by Friday, October 28. As a reminder, interim study occurs after the House or Senate vote in favor of sending a bill to study. At that point, the bill does not pass but the committee which heard the bill can continue to review the bill in the summer/fall. At the end of their

review, the committee will make a non-binding recommendation regarding whether similar legislation should be re-introduced in 2023. For example, HB 343 (balance billing/ambulance services) was sent to interim study in early 2022. The House Commerce Committee may hold work sessions on the bill in September.

SENATE

- The Senate does not use as rigid a structure for interim study process as the House.
- Further, 8 of the 24 Senators are not seeking re-election. In addition, those that are running for re-election, or higher office, may not have the time necessary during the fall campaign season for deeper dives into interim study bills.

To date, the Senate has not set filing deadlines for 2023 legislation

Sgt. At Arms (Watkins) – No report

Committee Reports

Scholarship Committee – (Marshal Toomey) – n/r

Recruitment and Retention Committee – (Chief Beattie) – (above)

Division Reports

Fire Marshal – (Dep. Brian Allard)

ADMINISTRATION:

Personnel:

We currently have 7 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)

Full-time State Building Inspector- background in progress

Full-time Hazmat Coordinator

Part-time Education & Outreach Specialist-background in progress

Part time State Building Inspector

Part-time Building Code Review Board Administrative Secretary

School Safety:

The Fire Marshal's Office is working with several partners on school safety practices. We are also reviewing and updating school safety documents. Many school safety resources are available on the following website:

[NH School Safety Resources](https://schoolsafetyresources.nh.gov/) <https://schoolsafetyresources.nh.gov/>

State Fire Code:

Governor Sununu signed HB 1681 into law on July 1, 2022 which updates the state building and fire codes. This bill is effective immediately. There is a six month grace period for building permits to allow projects in queue to follow the 2015 or 2018 code. This means the State Fire Code as defined in RSA 153 will be the 2018 editions of NFPA 1 and NFPA 101 with amendments. The amendments are reflected in Saf-FMO 300. Our office is working to get updated information on our website and we are working to develop and deliver some code update classes throughout the state. Please reach out with any challenges with the 2018 codes.

BUREAU OF INVESTIGATIONS:

In addition to non-criminal fire investigation, we continue to investigate seven open arson cases from previous months in 2022. We added three new arson cases in August, making a total of ten active arson or suspected arson investigations.

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

- On August 4, 2022, investigators responded to 40 Main Street in Claremont for a vacant building fire. The damage was too extensive to determine the cause, but it is likely arson.
- On August 7, 2022, investigators responded to 18 Elm Street in Northfield for a structure fire. While the cause is undetermined at this time, there was evidence suggesting it was electrical.
- On August 12, 2022, investigators responded to 25 Water Street in Whitefield for a fire and explosion. They determined that an explosion had not occurred and the fire was likely accidental.
- On August 14, 2022, investigators investigated a burn injury at 356 Laconia Road in Belmont. A person appears to have ignited magnesium shavings, causing the injury.
- On August 14, 2022, an investigator responded to 236 North Street in Claremont for another vacant building fire and found criminal indicators. Claremont PD is leading this investigation.
- On August 15, 2022, investigators responded to 1666 NH Route 175 in Thornton for a structure fire. This fire appears to have been accidental and related to cooking.
- On August 19, 2022, investigators responded to 9 School Street in Hampstead for a house explosion. At this time it appears that recent unlicensed gas fitting work may have led to the release of propane.
- On August 22, 2022, investigators learned of a barn fire at 321 Route 10 in Piermont. The fire destroyed the structure making a scene examination impractical. We have assisted PFD with follow up interviews and are continuing our investigation.
- On August 27, 2022, the FMO and its Tramway and Amusement Ride Section investigated an employee injury at Santa's Village in Jefferson. Investigators from the BOI assisted with follow up interviews. The injured worker was caught by surprise and knocked off a ride.
- On August 28, 2022, investigators responded to 5 Meadowbrook Village in

Lebanon for a structure fire. They determined it was an incendiary fire and identified a suspect, Micah Boutin. He was arrested later that day in Vermont and faces numerous charges from Lebanon and Hanover. He was held for several days and waived extradition to New Hampshire and then brought to the Grafton County House of Corrections and is awaiting trial.

- On August 30, 2022, investigators assisted the Raymond Fire and Police Departments and NH Forest Rangers with the investigation of a brush fire. There have been several brush fires in Raymond in the recent past that may have been incendiary.
- On August 31, 2022, investigators responded to a structure fire and reported “explosion” in Brookline at 7 Gilson Road. They determined that an explosion had not occurred and that the cause of the fire was accidental.
- On August 31, 2022, the FMO consulted with the Northumberland Fire Department and NH State Police for a camper explosion at 441 Brown Road. A person was injured while trying to light a gas stove. He was transported to Brigham and Women’s Hospital and is expected to survive.

Fatal Investigations:

- On August 2, 2022, an investigator responded to 13 Eastern Avenue in North Conway for an apparent carbon monoxide death. Evidence indicated this was a suicide.
- On August 5, 2022, investigators responded to 247 Bennet Street in Sandwich for a structure fire caused by a lightning strike. One female resident was not able to escape and died in the fire.

Ignitable Liquid Detection Canine Teams:

IGL K9 Units responded to four requests for assistance investigating fires in: Manchester, Northfield, Lebanon and Raymond.

IGL K9 Units also performed K9 demonstrations in Concord, Thornton and Warner.

Public Outreach:

1 new youth fire setter intake and 2 attempted youth fire setter assessments were conducted in August.

Court Proceedings: None

BUREAU OF BUILDING SAFETY & CONSTRUCTION:

State Building Permit System:

We processed 65 building permit applications in the month of August.

Technical Assistance, Educational & Healthcare Reviews:

We initiated 11 educational and 5 healthcare plan reviews, completed 140 inspections and 171 technical consults in the month of August.

Variance Requests:

We processed 4 variance requests in the month of August.

BUREAU OF OUTREACH & EDUCATION:

Hazardous Materials:

Hazardous Materials response, coordination and consultation is available through the on-call FMO supervisor. Our Hazardous Materials Coordinator is available for PEAC Software training for fire departments. PEAC is used for documentation of Tier II facilities and chemical storage.

The second SERC meeting was held in the month of August and the group continues to work on formation of the committee.

Our Hazardous Materials Coordinator attended an exercise at the Manchester Boston Regional Airport involving the Southeast Haz Mat team, Londonderry Police and Fire and the NG 12th CST.

Swiftwater Rescue Working Group:

Further discussions and work is ongoing to evaluate the swiftwater problem and funding sources. A grant funding opportunity was released to the swiftwater teams in the month of July.

Regional Outreach/Chief's Roundtables:

We continue to partner with Director Cutting and staff and the NHAFC to conduct regional outreach/Chief's Roundtables.

Incident Reporting:

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

TIP: Have you looked at your .err files lately? These are important files that you likely receive on a monthly basis, which 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.

In addition, we are pleased to report that all 2021 NFIRS data that was received has been uploaded to USFA and we appreciate all of your efforts. 181 departments submitted incident data for all twelve months of the year! Thank you very much.

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 giving a presentation on the program or would like to request one, please email NHESR@dos.nh.gov.

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.

Public Education:

Fire Prevention Week is coming right up! As you may be aware, October 9-15, 2022 will mark 100 years of Fire Prevention Week. This year's theme is "Fire Won't Wait. Plan Your Escape," which draws attention to the fact that fire is faster and deadlier than ever, making the need for planning and practicing fire escape all the more critical. There are several resources to help you get prepared for community events and outreach!

- Webinar - You can watch/listen to the NFPA's [Fire Prevention Week Webinar Recording](#)
- Live Discussion - September 15 @ 2-3pm. Watch on [Facebook](#) or register to attend on [Zoom](#).
- Free Resources - www.firepreventionweek.org
- NFPA Catalogue - [FPW Catalogue](#)

Learn more at www.fpw.org



Thank you for all you do to keep your communities safe!

Community Outreach:

On August 2, 2022, members of the FMO attended five different National Night Out events throughout the state. We had teams in Campton-Thornton, Concord, Goffstown, Exeter and Somersworth to provide fire safety education in fun and unique ways to attendees. We had a great time and we can't wait for next year!

On August 10, 2022, members of the FMO and Sparky attended the Fisher Cats Camp Day at the NH Fisher Cats Stadium in Manchester. The event was well attended and

Sparky got to meet many new friends and hand out some fun swag to the campers in attendance.

Join Us!

MA

September 21st - 22nd – Massachusetts Fire & Life Safety Conference, Southbridge

We will be presenting a session on Thursday, 9/22 @ 2:15pm about classroom fire prevention outreach strategies. <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/2022-fire-and-life-safety-education-conference>

September 23rd – Sprinkler Demonstration @ The Big E! (Springfield, MA) for NH Day

Training:

In the month of August, we delivered one *A Practical Guide to Field Inspections (Places of Assembly & Tents)* class at the Henniker Fire Department on August 10th and one *A Practical Guide to Field Inspections (Educational & Healthcare)* class at the Jaffrey Fire Department on August 25th.

We will be delivering three training opportunities in the month of September. The class, *A Practical Guide to Field Inspections (Educational & Healthcare)*, will be held on September 15th at the Southwestern NH District Fire Mutual Aid in Keene from 6:00-8:30PM. This session is designed to assist the Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ) conduct life safety inspections in educational and healthcare occupancies. Addressed within this presentation will be the mandatory reporting requirements by the AHJ through the Department of Education. A Bureau of Investigations case study, *Catching a Serial Arsonist*, will be held on September 22nd at the Jaffrey Fire Department from 6:30-9:30PM. An additional Bureau of Investigations offering, *Fire Investigation for the First Responder*, will be held at the Canterbury Fire Department on September 26th from 6:30-9:00PM.

If you would like to register for these classes, please email stacey.l.dubois@dos.nh.gov. Additional programs are in the works. Please reach out if you are interested in hosting a program or would like to suggest a future training topic.

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

Personnel

- Two full-time Program Assistant I positions are open with one in the interview process and the other being posted for applicants.

- A part-time Informational Representative II position is being reposted for candidates.
- Part-time Program Coordinator positions for EMS in the Warm Zone and EMS Simulation have been posted for candidates until September 15th.
- Two full-time Fire Service Instructor Supervisor (Captain) positions have been posted with closing dates in September.
- A full-time position for an Administrative Supervisor is also open and being advertised for candidates.
- One full-time EMS Training Coordinator position is in the interview process.
- A conditional offer has been made for our full-time Program Specialist III position in the Educational Technology section.
- Max Dodge has been hired as the Program Coordinator for our Instructor programs.
- Captain Greg Brown will be leaving our Division after many years of service to pursue another opportunity in the NH fire service.
- Captain Chris Cole retired at the end of August. Chris worked for our Division for a short time but had a long dedicated career to the fire service.
- Hayley O'Brien has moved on to pursue new career opportunities after many years of dedicated service to the Division.

Grants

- We continue to work with the architectural firm on the design process for the Raymond S. Burton Fire and EMS Training Facility project.
 - Our estimated timeline to begin construction is the spring of 2023 and represents approximately 2.5 million dollars of investments into infrastructure and equipment at this facility.

Fire Standards and Training Commission / Curriculum

- The next Fire Standards and Training Commission meeting will be November 3rd at 0930 in Classrooms 5/6 in the dormitory building at the main campus. The next meeting will be in January and the full schedule will be voted on at the November meeting.
 - The Visiting Committee's for the development of a Fire Officer III & IV program and the Technical Rescue Program – Rope Operations and Technician continue their work.
- The Fire Standards and Training Commission has approved the written comment period to open through November 1, 2022 for public comment on the proposed changes to the following curriculums:
 - NFPA 1002 2017, Driver Operator All Vehicle
 - Public comment can be submitted at: <https://nhfa-ems.com/fst-commission-curriculum-public-feedback-form/>

- Overview of changes:
 - This curriculum revision includes the following changes due to the omission coverage of section 4.4 of the NFPA 1002 2017 edition.
 - Addition of the Firefighter I textbook Chapter 3, Fire Department Communications
 - Addition of the completion online content of Firefighter I, which covers the Fire Department Communications.

Special Projects

- We are working with the Police Academy and other Department of Safety partners on an educational opportunity focused on school safety targeted at school and public safety leaders.
- The report of the Fire and EMS Recruitment and Retention Workgroup that Commissioner Quinn established is complete and is available on our website.
- We are working with our partners to plan for the annual Firefighter's Memorial that will be held at the main campus on September 24th at 1000.
- The 2022 Fire and EMS Committee of Merit Awards and Recognition ceremony will be held on Sunday, September 18th, at 1:30 PM, at the Capital Center for the Arts in Concord, New Hampshire. Seating starts at noon.
- We will be hosting the Firefighter Cancer Cohort Study group who is conducting a "Women Firefighters Study: Stress, Cancer Risk and Reproductive Toxicity", a FEMA-funded research project, on September 17-18, at the main campus in Concord. The goal of this study is to evaluate causes of stress, cancer, and adverse reproductive health effects in women firefighters, and plan effective interventions to mitigate these conditions by enrolling 100 female firefighters from New England.

Legislative/Administrative Rules

- We continue our work in partnership with the Police Academy to develop a program for PTSD training utilizing experts from this field in development of the curriculum.

Outreach

- We are continuing our Leadership Roundtables with the Commissioner, Fire Marshal's Office and regional Fire Chief's with additional dates being planned for the fall.

Mental Health & Resiliency

- We are in the preliminary planning stage to offer the *2022 Mental Health Leadership Seminar* that was held at the NH Fire and EMS Academy on June 8th again this fall due to the high demand and an extensive waitlist we had.
 - The planning group is also working towards “Part 2” in the spring that will include additional topics and breakout sessions based on the feedback we received in the seminar survey.
- We hosted the International Association of Firefighters for their initial offering of a two-day Mental Health Clinician Training seminar here at the Fire Academy on September 7th & 8th. This was be the first delivery of this program in the country with over twenty that serve NH members.
- *Other Training Opportunities*
 - Monday, Sept. 12, 08:30-4:30 NHFA-Concord, Mental Health First Aid for Fire and EMS (grant funded)(planning the same class in the north country for early 2023)
 - M-F September 19-23, 2022- City of Franklin Opera House, Crisis Intervention Team training (grant funded) 40 hours of internationally recognized curriculum to help the responder recognize types of mental illness, learn safe de-escalation techniques. Learn about state resources and also learn about keeping themselves safe, learning self- care and the importance of peer support
 - Friday, November 4, 08:00-4:30 NHFA- Concord, Healing through Trauma Symposium. Full day of presentations by responders with lived experience dealing with trauma, addiction, post-traumatic stress and healing. No charge, Co-sponsored with First Responder Coaching

BUREAU OF FIRE TRAINING

Courses/Programs

- The 2022 Recruit School started this month with a full class.
- Firefighter I
 - The Jaffrey class began August 15th.
 - The Lakes Region Community college Firefighter I and II class began this month.
- Firefighter II
 - The Bethlehem class began August 22nd.
 - The Plaistow class began September 6th.
 - The Henniker class begins October 13th.
- Technical Rescue
 - Trench Rescue will be offered at the Burton facility beginning September 19th.
 - Swift water Level I is scheduled to begin in Littleton this fall.
 - Swift water Level II will begin in Conway on October 28th.

- Confined Space Technician will be offered at the Burton facility beginning September 12th.
- Rope Rescue Operations will be held in Durham and begins October 3rd.
- Driver Operator
 - Driver Operator – Pumping Apparatus class will be held in Chichester beginning September 13th.
 - Driver Operator All Vehicle will be held in Goffstown beginning October 5th and Northwood beginning November 2nd.
 - Driver Operator – Aerial will be held in Keene beginning October 18th.
 - All Driver Operator All Vehicle programs will include the necessary content for eligibility for CDL licensing.
- 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 can 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/>

Facilities

- We continue to work with NH Public Works on getting the design and engineering complete to repair the roadway washout on the south side of the drill yard at the Concord campus.

Apparatus/Equipment

- The new ARFF truck is in production at E-One in Ocala, Fl. and delivery is expected in February 2023.
- 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 that fall.
- The new aerial was delivered in July. Rosenbauer recently completed the factory orientation and we are working to finalize an update to our internal training and endorsement process.
- We are in the preliminary stages of developing specifications for an engine that will be assigned to the Burton facility.

BUREAU OF CERTIFICATION AND SUPPORT

Courses/Programs

- Instructor I/II/III Programs

- Instructor I began at the Concord campus on August 23rd and will be offered in Portsmouth October 4th.
- Fire Officer I/II Programs
 - The Campton Fire Officer I class will begin October 27th.
 - Fire Officer II will be held virtually beginning September 29th.
- Fire Inspector Programs
 - The Fire Inspector I class in Portsmouth begins September 21st.
 - The Warrants and Citations course will be held December 8th & 9th.
- Fire Investigator
 - The 2022 offering is ongoing.
- National Fire Academy
 - Crew Resource Management and High Reliability Organization will begin in Concord on October 5th and virtually on October 20th.
 - Fire Service Safety Culture: Protecting Firefighters from Firefighters will be held in Concord November 5th and 6th.
- Incident Command
 - ICS 300 and 400 are in person courses that are offered at no cost to students and funded through grants. These are delivered in conjunction with Homeland Security and Emergency Management.
 - ICS 300 will be held in Portsmouth beginning September 26th.
- We have developed a new 4 hour non-certification program titled “Your Workplace has Changed: Fire Dynamics for Structural Firefighting”.
 - The first class will be held at the Concord campus on September 21st.
- “Kitchen Table Conversations”
 - We continue to produce podcasts on a wide range of fire and EMS topics with a diverse group of special guests. These can be found at <https://nhfa-ems.com/kitchen-table-conversations/>
- For all current course listings you can go to <https://nhfa-ems.com/scheduled-courses/>

Instructors

- We continue to work the Instructor Recruitment Plan and analyzing the onboarding process.
 - In the past quarter we have 21 candidates in the process of completing their mentor hours and 8 new people that have been hired as staff instructors since June.
 - Since June 15th 10 Fire Instructor endorsement classes have been offered.

CPAT

- The last 2022 CPAT is planned for September 19th & 20th.

- There will be tables set up for departments that want to meet with candidates after they complete testing.

Testing

- We continue to work with the Department of Information and Technology to obtain new testing software for the Division.

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 September 15th in classrooms 5 & 6 in the dormitory building.
- The NH Trauma Medical Review Committee (TMRC) will meet at 0930 on October 19th in classroom 2 in the administration building.

Operations

- Administrative rules for Educational Training Agencies have been drafted and are under review by the Department of Safety legal unit.
- The process of licensing wheelchair vans for hire and out of state rotary wing ambulance licensing is ongoing and we continue to make progress.


Courses/Programs

- The EMR program began on August 3rd and is being held in Concord, Brookline and Lancaster. This is fully funded for in-state providers with no cost to students.
- We are pleased to announce the upcoming Fall 2022 Emergency Medical Responder (EMR) course. This course will be a hybrid program consisting of both online and in-person instruction. Online lectures will be on Wednesday and Friday evenings from 6:00pm to 10:00pm and In-person skills days on Saturdays from 9:00am to 3:00pm. **Week 1: October 12, 14, and 15. Week 2: October 21, and 22. Week 3: October 26, 28, 29. Week 4: November 2, 4, 5. Week 5: November 9 only. Week 6: November 16, 18, 19. State BLS Exam: Saturday, December 3, 2022.** This program will be offered at the following locations:

- Stratham Volunteer Fire Department
2 Winnicut Road
Stratham, NH 03885
CREF#: [2322EMR3337](#)
- Walpole Fire - EMS
278 Main Street
Walpole, NH 03608
CREF#: [2322EMR3338](#)
- Pittsburg Fire Department
1684 Main Street

Pittsburg, NH 03592

CREF#: [2322EMR3339](#)

- **There is no cost for this program as it is 100% grant funded through the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021.** Course includes electronic online textbook, audiobook, quizzes, online lectures, skills sessions, study materials, and National Registry practical (psychomotor) exam. Registration is open as of 7 October, 2022 and is here, <https://nhfa-ems.com/events/>. Please complete and submit a [General Admission Application](#)  in order to register. **When registering please specify which location you wish to attend and list the appropriate CREF # for such.** Applications and prerequisite certification can be submitted in person, by mail, fax or email. Signed & scanned applications can be sent via email to: fstems@dos.nh.gov.
- EMS in the Warm Zone Awareness and Operations courses are available free to students on our online training platform. The RTF Concepts class is a half-day in-person training that is also available. Grant funding opportunities are available for those that have not done so already.
- Our EMS Education Coordinator continues the monthly continuing education courses at the Concord campus and regionally around the State.
 - For all current course listings you can go to <https://nhfa-ems.com/scheduled-courses/>

Clinical Systems

- The Public Health Incident declared by Commissioner Shibinette of NH Department of Health and Human Services has been extended to September 30, 2022. The extension of the Public Health Incident allows for the continuation of all Emergency Protocols and any modifications to ambulance staffing requirements. These include:
 - Emergency Protocol - COVID-19, Emergency Protocol - COVID-19 Testing, Emergency Protocol - COVID-19 Immunization, Emergency Protocol - Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), Emergency Protocol - COVID-19 Temporary Mobile Integrated Healthcare (MIH), Emergency Protocol - COVID-19 Destination Determination and staffing modifications under Saf-C 5902.06 (m), as it relates to a public health or safety incident.
 - We are continually reviewing these Emergency Protocols for their effectiveness on the delivery of patient care as well as their necessity in day to day operations within this evolving environment.

Data Management

- NFIRS/Respond NH

- Work continues on the New Hampshire Emergency Services Reporting System (NHESR), which is an extension of the TEMSIS system. If you would like to start using the system, please fill out the form available at <https://nhfa-ems.com/nhesronboard/>.
 - There are currently 81 departments that have completed the onboarding process for this software.
 - Coordination continues with the Fire Marshal's Office for further education and guidance for reporting.
 - Anyone interested in the system can contact Joseph Cartier at 603-223-3403 or joseph.w.cartier@dos.nh.gov.
- RespondNH
- The Division continues to expand the capabilities of the RespondNH system. As we are able to utilize this system and analyze more data it is important to have department roster information updated and current. Each department has the full capability to manage their own roster by adding new staff and removing those that may have left. Departments are able to do this at any time. For State level reporting information please fill out your roster information to include their status (career, call, or volunteer) as well as the duties they provide such as EMS care and/or fire suppression.

Compliance

- There are currently fifteen active investigations and seven preliminary 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.

Fire Standards and Training Commission – Chiefs Clark/Buxton – n/r

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

National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC) – (Chief Corey) – (In Exec. Dir. Report)

Advisory Council on Emergency Preparedness and Security – (Chief Christopoulos) – n/r

Homeland Security and Emergency Management – n/r

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

Forests and Lands – (Chief Sherman) – (Submitted in writing)

Fire activity has been steady over the summer. With the lack of precipitation through July and August, fires

have been burning deep and taking multiple days to extinguish. Unextinguished campfires have been the

main cause for these stubborn fires. The recent rain will help reduce the wildfire activity for the short term.

With drought conditions over much of the state we will need more precipitation to completely alleviate the

water deficit.

We have an S-130 Basic Wildland Firefighter training currently being held in Lancaster. 15 students are

enrolled. We plan to hold this training multiple times next spring through fall.

We have hired a new forest ranger. Katie Baughman has accepted the position for District 21 which is in the

Hillsborough County area. For the FY24/25 budget, the department is requesting funding for our 10 th ranger

position which is currently unfunded as well as an additional ranger position.

We have the below courses planned for this fall. All of these will be held at our Bear Brook facility in Allenstown. The course nominations form are on our website at:

<https://www.nh.gov/nhdfl/community/fire-warden-information/wildland-fire-training.htm>

Course/Dates:

S-131 Firefighter Type 1 9/27/22 9/28/22

S-230 Crew Boss 10/19/22

S-231 Engine Boss 10/20/22 10/21/22

We have posted our first newsletter. This will be a 3 to 4 times a year newsletter to provide you with more

detailed updates of Bureau activities, programs and resources. We will be posting these on our website at:

<https://www.nh.gov/nhdfl/about-us/donec-ultricies-ex-posuere-1.htm> and you can find the 9/2022 newsletter

direct at: https://www.nh.gov/nhdfl/documents/nhfpb_newsletter.pdf

Six NH Wildland Firefighters just returned from a fire assignment in Montana/Idaho. They we part of a 20-

person type 2 initial attack interagency crew we assembled with the state of Maine. We have also filled

resource orders for incidents in Alaska, New Mexico and Oregon with Safety Officers, Medical Unit

Leaders, Resource Unit Leader, Demobilization Unit Leaders and Paramedics.

Board of Fire Control – (Chiefs Clark/Hunter) – They meet tomorrow.

Building Code Review Board – (Marshal Lennon) – n/r

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

Division of Emergency Services and Communications – (Director Doyle) –
(Report submitted in writing below)

- Laconia Facility Update: A Final rendering has just been completed and is under review. More modifications will likely need to be made to get within budget parameters.
- Divisional COOP Planning update is underway.
- On social media platforms, DESC again released public service announcements on TEXT 9-1-1 in New Hampshire.
 - Posts also included “Don’t Hang Up!” and recruiting for full-time Emergency Medical Dispatcher positions as well as “Answering the 9-1-1 call taker’s questions” does not delay the arrival of emergency responders.
 - For September, DESC will be focusing on ‘suicide awareness’ month.
- Director Doyle and Commissioner Quinn spoke with Councilor Warmington regarding the progress of the 9-8-8 roll-out in New Hampshire. Specifically, the process, challenges and geo-location issues.
- Director and Radio Communications staff attended the annual “Amber Alert” committee meeting.
- August 30, 2022 – Director Doyle interviewed by NHPR on our AED registry and deployment in New Hampshire.
- August 31, 2022 – Informational Representative II Wanda Scott retired after 27 1/2 years of service.

- September 8, 2022 – Director Doyle Presented training at Hudson Police RE: 988 & Rapid Response/Access Point.
- September 8, 2022 – Attended Communications Sector Cybersecurity Workshop planning meeting with HSEM.
- E9-1-1 Commission Meeting scheduled for September 9th (11A-1P) at the IPOC.

E-911 Commission – (Chief Thomas) – He echoed Director Doyle’s report

IAFC Director – (Chief Christopoulos) – n/r

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

Old Business

New Business –

Good and Welfare –

- Tom Green spoke of the Firefighters’ Memorial and the work completed to refurbish it. The memorial service on Sept. 24 at 1000 hours.
- Chief Jones reported the activities on the NE Chiefs. Conference next year will be at Mohegan Sun in CT. They’re revamping the educational programs and conference activities. He spoke of the impending opening for Director Buxton and urged members to reflect on the 9-yr. commitment.
- Chief Sitar reminded members that the Credentialed Officer program in ongoing and the applications are on the website.
- Michael McGinn (Northwood) spoke of efforts to resurrect the Explorer Academy and the success they’ve had. It will be next June (2023) and applications will be on various websites.
- Chief Wilking asked about the impact of the Senate bill that takes effect this month relative to mental health training for all new hires. There has been no guidance on the issue. Fire Academy staff stated that their online program meets the goals of the SB.

Professor Mercuri introduced the President Patrick Cate and also described the programs in the Fire Sciences programs. The paramedic program will launch in 19 days.

Raffle – The raffle was drawn and \$85 in prizes were awarded and \$85 was realized for the Association. The proceeds were counted by Chiefs Best and Watkins.

The meeting was adjourned at 1057 hrs.

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

September 8, 2022