



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, January 11 – Virtual via “Go To Meeting” platform.

The meeting was called to order by Chief Emanuel at 0905 hours.

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

Welcome from Host: n/a

INTRODUCTION OF MEMBERS.

Special Guests:

Minutes of the December meeting have been posted. A MOTION (Clough/DeAnglis) to accept them carried unanimously.

Financial Reports: December reports have been posted. A MOTION (Sitar/Clough) to accept them carried unanimously.

Communications: A “thank you” was received from Director Cutting for the Association’s sponsorship of a break period at the mental health seminar.

Applications for membership: n/a

Life Memberships: n/a

President’s Report: (Emanuel) –

CFSI 2024: On April 29-30, 2024, the Congressional Fire Services Institute (CFSI) will host the 34th Annual National Fire and Emergency Services Symposium and Dinner in Washington, DC. Members of the Board will be attending.

Recruitment & Retention:

- EO/PFF Career Development - education funding group met on December 12th with a plan to open funding applications in January for the NH Community College System tuition and fee reimbursement program for first responders.

Program posting:

- Law enforcement officers and current full-time, career, part-time, on-call or volunteer firefighters and emergency medical technicians qualify for reimbursements through the program. The program covers tuition and fees for one course per semester and is subject to eligibility, available funding and successful completion with a grade of C or better. Participating employees will be certified as eligible by their employers.

<https://www.ccsnh.edu/newly-launched-program-will-offer-tuition-fee-reimbursements-to-new-hampshires-first-responders/>

Lithium Ion Battery/EV State Workgroup:

- The group cancelled the December meeting because there had not been any new information or recommendations presented. There is pending legislation to establish a State level commission to work on this project.

Report of the Executive Director: (Lemire)

- The February 8 breakfast meeting will be at the NHFA in Concord with a special seminar on cybersecurity. We will dine in the cafeteria then move to the auditorium for the seminar and meeting.
- The CFSI event this year has been rescheduled to April 29-May 1. Your Officers will represent the Association this year at the event.
- March 14 meeting – after discussion, it was suggested that we try Alan's of Boscawen again for a Corned Beef and Cabbage dinner/meeting.
- We have booked space for the April Annual Meeting. The Common Man in Plymouth is able to offer the space needed for the seminar, vendor showcase, meeting and dinner on April 11.
- For May, we will partner again with Primex for our meeting during their annual conference in Portsmouth May 15 - 16. Our meeting would be the Thursday the 16th.
- Ad book proceeds to date: Total: \$1600.00, Vendor: \$1120.00, Assn: \$480.00

Director Cutting gave a report from the Professional Development Committee. He was elected Chair. The initial steps they decided on were to survey the membership on their needs first. They will get that to me soon for dissemination. They will meet remotely on Thursday's at 12:30, dates to be set still.

1st Vice President Report (Watkins) –

Government Relations – (Schmidt) – (submitted in writing)

- 2024 Session – The House and Senate started the public hearings on bills last week. They have a few weeks to hear any bills that spend or raise money before they must go to the floor. It will be very busy in Concord for the next several weeks. Included with the update is a legislative chart. As a reminder, the bill number provides a link to the text. If there are bills on which you have questions that are not included as part of the following update, please let us know.

- SB 409 (Medicaid Re-imbursement for Treat/No Transport) – The bill would require NH DHHS to file a Medicaid plan amendment which, under specific circumstances, would allow for re-imbursement for instances where an individual was treated, but not transported, to a hospital. Chief Mike Sitar attended the hearing and testified in favor. The Committee may amend the bill to address some technical concerns. There was no opposition at the hearing.
- HB 1647 (Group II Retirement Reforms) - The bill is a result of the Retirement Benefits Commission which met last summer and fall. It would adjust the retirement annuity multipliers for members who started service before 7/1/11 that were not vested by 1/1/12, and those who were hired after 7/1/11, to 2.5% per year for service in excess of 10 years. The bill appropriates almost \$56 million to cover the majority of the costs with this change. There hearing on the bill is scheduled for Thursday, January 11. NHAFC will be submitting testimony in support of the bill.
- SB 352 (Retired and Full Time Firefighter Cancer Screening Program) – The bill would create a \$5 million fund from which re-imbursements to retired and full time fight fighters could seek re-imbursement, up to \$1,300, when specific documentation is provided. NHAFC, PPFNH, and Fire Standards and Training would be responsible for development of an initial plan to implement the screenings. The plan would be submitted to the Governor and Commissioner of the Department of Safety. The bill includes reporting requirements to the Legislature. The hearing on the bill has not yet been scheduled.
- HB 1081 (Direct Re-imbursement from private health carriers for ambulance services). This bill would require direct payment to ambulance service providers by removing the section of law that enables carriers to send payment to their member. The hearing on this bill has been scheduled for January 18 at 2:15 pm.

HB 1352 (PFAS in station wear/PPE) – The bill would require Fire Departments to “...give preference” to PPE which does not include PFAS, once those alternatives are made available. In the interim, Fire Departments shall have in place a policy that limits unnecessary exposure to PPE. Language is included that states it would remain a best practice from PPE to be used while operating in a dangerous environment. Regarding station wear, by January 1, 2025, Fire Departments shall not provide as an option any station wear that contains intentionally added PFAS or fire resistive chemicals (fluorine, chlorine, bromine, lead, or antimony). Manufacturers are required to provide the safer alternatives, should they exist. The bill was requested by PPFNH. NHAFC has had some initial conversations with them regarding potential challenges with implementation and potential costs for PPE. The hearing has not yet been scheduled.

2nd Vice President Report (Hunter) – No report

Sgt. At Arms (Chamberlain) – No report

Committee Reports

Scholarship Committee – (Marshal Toomey) – No report

Division Reports

Fire Marshal – (Marshal Toomey)

ADMINISTRATION:

Personnel:

We currently have 4 part-time vacancies that we are actively recruiting for at this time:

- Part-time Building Code Review Board Administrative Secretary
- Part-time State Building Permit Coordinator
- Part-time Community Risk Reduction Specialist
- Part-time Accreditation Manager

Legislation:

The following bills are the bills that we are currently monitoring:

- HB 1059 Relative to the state building code
- HB 1065 Relative to fire sprinkler requirements in residential buildings
- HB 1215 Relative to subdivision regulations on the completion of improvements and the regulation of building permits
- garages HB 1332 Relative to prohibiting electric vehicles from parking in parking
- HB 1352 Relative to firefighting personal protective equipment
- HB 1386 Relative to prohibiting the disposal of lithium-ion batteries in solid waste landfill facilities, composting facilities, or incinerators
- HB 1387 Relative to revisions to the state building code
- HB 1396 Relative to prohibiting municipal inspections of owner-occupied units of multi-unit housing
- HB 1498 Establishing a state short term rental registry
- HB 1510 Establishing a commission to identify barriers to and solutions for electric vehicle sales and use
- HB 1635 Relative to the definition of short term rental
- affordability SB 221 Establishing a study committee to examine day care access and
- SB 365 Relative to the sale or use of lithium-ion batteries for electric bicycles, scooters, or personal electric mobility devices
- SB 373 Relative to the state building code
- SB 430 Relative to establishing a commission to study the impacts of electric vehicles, lithium-ion batteries, and e-mobility devices on

first responder response, the environment, building and fire codes, and life and safety property protection
SB 437 Relative to local authority to amend the state building code

Board of Fire Control:

The next Board of Fire Control meeting is scheduled for January 17, 2024. Everything is submitted to the legislature to update the State Fire Code to the 2021 editions of NFPA 1 & 101.

Foam Take-back Program:

The contract for the foam take-back program was approved by the Governor & Executive Council at the end of June 2023. DES has updated that they are now working on some facility disposal items with the vendor and anticipate the program remaining in a delayed status until late spring.

Strategic Planning Initiative:

Our office is finalizing an updated strategic plan which will be part of an overall Department of Safety plan. Please reach out with any thoughts.

BUREAU OF INVESTIGATIONS:

In the month of December, we received 20 incident notifications resulting in 9 scene responses. The Bureau of Investigations currently has 18 open arson or suspected arson investigations.

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

- On December 6, investigators responded to a double fatal in Claremont. The deaths were initially believed to have been due to CO poisoning, but the autopsies determined they were not caused by CO. The official cause and manner of death is pending.
- On December 8, investigators responded to Pittsfield for a consult for an accidental electrical fire.
- On December 9, an investigator responded to Warren for a fire investigation, with injury. The victim was transported to Boston for medical treatment. The fire cause is undetermined.
- On December 12, investigators responded to Gilmanton for a consult on an accidental electrical fire.
- On December 15, investigators responded to North Hampton for the passing of a Rye Fire Department Lieutenant, that had occurred within hours of completing a shift.

- On December 20, investigators responded to Colebrook for an accidental fire in a vacant cabin.
- On December 20, investigators responded to Bartlett for a fire in an 8-unit condominium. The cause of the fire was likely an accidental electrical issue.
- On December 31, investigators responded to Campton for a RV fire. The cause of the fire was determined to be accidental.

Fatal Fire/CO Incidents:

On December 7, an investigator responded to Conway for a CO death investigation. The death was determined to be a suicide.

Arrests:

- There was 1 arrest by the FMO in December. The arrest stemmed from a joint investigation with the Bradford Police and Fire Departments. Nathan Nichols was arrested and charged with five counts of felony level arson which involved multiple outside fires, two of which involved structures. These fires occurred between May 2022 and September 2023 in the towns of Bradford and Warner. Nichols was released on personal recognizance bail and an arraignment is scheduled in February.

Training/Committees:

- Members of the FMO attended a three-day training presented by Dr. David Icove, a professor from the University of Tennessee, who specializes in fire investigations and fire protection engineering.

BUREAU OF BUILDING SAFETY & CONSTRUCTION:

State Building Permit System:

We processed the following permits in the month of December:

- Building: 10
- Electrical: 20
- Plumbing: 6
- Mechanical Fuel Gas: 4
- Mechanical Non-Fuel Gas: 9
- Fire Protection: 8
- Fire Alarm: 6

Technical Assistance, Educational & Healthcare Reviews:

We initiated 11 educational and 7 healthcare plan reviews, completed 179 inspections and 124 technical consults in the month of December.

Variance Requests:

We processed 11 variance requests in the month of December.

Modular Building Program

We completed 10 modular building inspections in the month of December.

BUREAU OF OUTREACH & EDUCATION:

Hazardous Materials:

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

Our Hazardous Materials Coordinators are available for PEAC Software training for fire departments. PEAC is used for documentation of Tier II facilities and chemical storage.

In the month of December, our Hazardous Materials Coordinators attended the Haz Mat Collaborative Meeting, the monthly PEAC Software Training, the EPA Webinar on Ammonia Facility Operations and Safety, the DEA Clandestine Lab Training and the Radiation Response Training with the NH National Guard CST. In addition, they assisted the Seacoast Haz Mat Team with SHSP Grant applications.

Also, in the month of December, one of our Hazardous Materials Coordinators attended the Hazard 3 Lithium Battery Program at the Massachusetts Fire Academy. This program discussed dealing with Lithium-Ion Batteries during incident responses and establishing ideas on how to stabilize what is happening safely.

Electric Vehicles and Lithium-Ion Batteries

A stakeholder meeting to discuss the challenges of electric vehicle fires and lithium-ion batteries will be held on January 16th at the IPOC. These meetings have included representatives from the State Fire Marshal's Office, Fire Academy, HSEM, State Police, DMV, DES, DOT, Tow Association, Auto Dealers Association, Clean Energy NH, NH Chiefs of Police and the NH Association of Fire Chiefs.

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. Please reach out if you are interested in hosting a meeting.

Incident Reporting:

If you have not yet submitted your 2023 data, we ask that you please submit it as soon as possible. Your commitment to ensuring we have great data to accurately show the fire problem in NH is greatly appreciated! If you are having difficulty sending your data or need assistance, please reach out to our team.

Did you know that we are transitioning away from accepting data via email attachments? If you are a department that submits via email attachment and have not yet created a Secure File Transfer Protocol (SFTP) Account, please reach out to our team for assistance.

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.

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.

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 \(fema.gov\)](#). 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. The latest NERIS webinar, *Understanding the Proposed NERIS Data Framework*, was held on December 14, 2023. This one hour session highlighted the project's advancements, key attributes of the new framework, opportunities to offer feedback, and tangible benefits the system will offer to first responders, agencies, and the public. Watch the recording here: [On Demand Access to NERIS Draft Data Framework Webinar \(fsri.org\)](#).

In addition, the USFA and FSRI have announced a 30-day national engagement period for the NERIS Draft Data Framework. During this critical phase, they are seeking input on the newly developed data schemas that make up the Framework. These schemas, which are integral to the operations of NERIS, include a Fire Department Specification schema, a Computer-Aided Dispatch

(CAD) schema, and an Incident Data schema. Your input is sought after reviewing the Core NERIS Data Framework and schemas. Please find the Draft NERIS Data Framework, schemas and access to the Feedback Form here: [National Engagement Open Now for NERIS Draft Data Framework | UL's FSRI – Fire Safety Research Institute](#). **Feedback must be received by January 19, 2024.**

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.

Outreach Events:

On December 7th, the SFMO participated in a Career Spotlight at the White Mountains Regional High School. We spent the morning with the entire student body in grades 9-12, discussing the roles and responsibilities of the SFMO. Students also enjoyed an Ignitable Liquide Detection Canine Demonstration. The afternoon was spent with the school's criminal justice students for a more detailed discussion about fire investigation.

Public Education:

The USFA's Fire and Life Safety Communicators Initiative theme for the month of January is Escape Planning. Fire is fast. Plan ahead to save lives. Start the year by creating and practicing your home fire escape plan to keep you and your loved ones safe. #FireEscapePlan

Fire and Older Adults

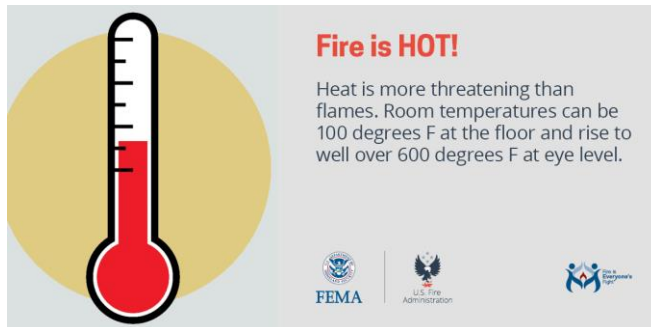
Did you know? In 2020, older adults in the United States:

- Had a 2.5 times greater risk of dying in a fire than the total population.
- Ages 85 and over were 4.0 times more likely to die in a fire than the total population.
- Ages 85 and over had the highest fire death rate.

Fire is FAST!

There is little time to escape. It only takes minutes for thick black smoke to fill your home.

Logos: FEMA, U.S. Fire Administration, Fire Department



Escape Planning Video: <https://youtu.be/EKnUjC5xlgw>

For more information on this initiative, or to find outreach materials on the monthly topics (examples below), please visit: [Fire and Life Safety Communicators Initiative \(fema.gov\)](https://www.fema.gov/fire-and-life-safety-communicators-initiative)

Training Opportunities:

FM Global provides the FM Global Fire Service Learning Network to deliver critical training for the fire service in FM Global's focus areas, including fire protection in commercial and industrial properties. The network offers online training programs, including FM Global's popular "Fighting Fire in Sprinklered Buildings" course, and fire service resources. Available resources include FM Global Data Sheets, pocket guides, and pre-incident planning materials guide. All training and resources are free. Create an account and log in to access the fire service training and resources here: [Fighting Fire In Sprinklered Buildings | Fire Service Learning Network \(fmglobalfireserviceresources.com\)](https://www.fmglobalfireserviceresources.com)

Pre-Incident Planning for the Fire Service Certificate (New Training Opportunity)

[Pre-incident planning is the key to effective and efficient response to fires and other emergencies in sprinklered buildings. It can mean the difference between a routine suppression call and a total loss. The FM Global Fire Service Learning Network now offers a Pre-Incident Planning for the Fire Service Certificate for](#)

firefighters, fire officers, and executive officers to expand their pre-incident planning skillset. Complete 4 online programs to earn the certificate and 7 hours of continuing education credit. For More Information or the Begin the Program, please visit [Pre-Incident Planning for the Fire Service \(fmglobalsfireserviceresources.com\)](https://fmglobalsfireserviceresources.com)

Upcoming SFMO Led Classes:

Application of the NH State Fire Code: A Scenario-Based Training Thursday, January 11, 2024

6:00PM-9:00PM

Raymond S. Burton Training Academy

This session is designed to assist the Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ) or his designee with the application of the state fire code to frequently asked questions and common violations encountered in the enforcement of NFPA 1 and NFPA 101. This class will include scenario-based instruction and allow participants to use their knowledge, and that of their peers, to discuss how they would approach certain situations.

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

Application of the NH State Fire Code: A Scenario-Based Training Wednesday, January 24, 2024

6:00PM-9:00PM

New London Fire Department

This session is designed to assist the Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ) or his designee with the application of the state fire code to frequently asked questions and common violations encountered in the enforcement of NFPA 1 and NFPA 101. This class will include scenario-based instruction and allow participants to use their knowledge, and that of their peers, to discuss how they would approach certain situations.

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

Heating and Fuel Gas Appliance Inspections

Wednesday, February 28, 2024

6:00PM-9:00PM

New London Fire Department

A review of the State Fire Code relative to NFPA 54: National Fuel Gas Code, NFPA 58: Liquefied Petroleum Gas Code, and NFPA 31: Standard for the Installation of Oil-Burning Equipment. This session will give the Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ) or his designee a better understanding of how to navigate these codes and standards.

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

Additional locations and offerings will be announced soon.

Please reach out to Deputy Stacey Dubois at stacey.l.dubois@dos.nh.gov if you are interested in hosting one of these sessions, a past or future session, or would like to suggest a future training topic.

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

Personnel

- The open Fire Service Instructor Supervisor position in the Bureau of Certification and Support remains open. We have updated the job description and have advertised the position.
- We have one vacancy for Program Specialist III (Education Technologist) of the Educational Technology section of the Division and we will be reviewing candidates and scheduling interviews.
- We have a Program Assistant I position open and the internal advertisement is closed. We will be reviewing candidates and scheduling interviews.
- We continue to advertise for our three new full-time Fire Training Instructors.
- We have one part-time Compliance Specialist position open and interviews will begin this month.
- We have made a conditional offer for the part-time EMS Vehicle Inspector Coordinator position.
- Our part-time Program Coordinator position for Fire Officer is open and we are seeking applicants.
- Captain Kathy Higgins-Doolan has announced her retirement from the Division. Kathy has dedicated over 31 years of service to the EMS system in New Hampshire. Please join us in wishing her a healthy and happy retirement.

Grants

- The architectural firm retained for the Raymond S. Burton Fire and EMS Training Facility project has finalized the construction documents.
 - The RFP was opened December 12th and closes this month.
- The Department of Health and Human Services Covid Disparities Funding program we are seeking funds from will allow us to expand Image Trend to add Continuum, additional IFT, MIH and simulation training and staff support. We are working this through Governor and Executive Council for their approval.
- 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 our website transition and improvements with NH DoIT.
- We are working on WiFi improvements to better support students and guests at our Concord campus in the Administration building, Dormitory, Fire Station and ARFF classroom. These upgrades are planned to be completed in January.
- The *Law Enforcement Officers, Professional Firefighters and Emergency Medical Technicians Career Development, Recruitment and Retention Program* committee established in New Hampshire RSA 188-F:70 announced the new program on December 18th. Details can be found on our website under the Recruitment and Retention link from the homepage.
- The Education Technology section is working to update the online Narcan for First Responders course, the Hazardous Materials course, Firefighter I and II modules and enhance the continuing education courses. Work is also being done for the new protocol rollout later this quarter.
- We have begun researching Immersive Learning (virtual reality, augmented reality, etc) for firefighter training with both private vendors and SNHU.
- We will be partnering with the International Society of Fire Instructors to bring their *Water Mapping* program to the fire academy. Part of this project will be constructing the prop, offering a train-the-trainer program and then a student offering of the class this summer.

Facilities

- We are working to have an inspection done of the “A” building by the manufacturer.
- The replacement of two AC condenser units in the older portion of the dormitory building will be completed this winter after receiving final approval this month.

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 (JLCAR) which will include public input.
- The Educational Training Agency ruleset (Saf-C 5900 EMS) continues to be facilitated through the JLCAR process.
- The proposed Trauma Rules are working through the internal legal process.
- We are currently tracking fourteen Bills for the upcoming legislative session. A few of those include:
 - HB 1057 Relative to Provisional Licenses for New Applicants for State EMS Licensure
 - HB 1081 Relative to Insurance Payments to Ambulance Providers
 - HB 1328 Relative to Public Safety Providers Defined as Essential Services
 - HB 1330 Relative Establishing an Emergency Medical Services Disciplinary Review Panel, and Relative to Procedures for Removal of Records of Discipline
 - HB 1352 Relative to Firefighting Personal Protective Equipment
 - HB 1568 Relative to Direct Pay for Ambulance Services

- SB 353 Establishing an Early Detection Cancer Screening Pilot Program for Active and Retired Firefighters
- SB 407 Relative to Direct Pay for Ambulance Services
- SB 409 Relative to Reimbursement for Ambulance Services Under the State Medicaid Plan

Outreach

- 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.
 - We are planning outreach meetings at Souhegan Mutual Aid and in the north country for early 2024.
 - Our Division representatives will be attending the Lakes Region Chief's meeting in January.

Mental Health & Resiliency

- The 2024 Mental Health & Wellness Seminar will take place at the NH Fire Academy in Concord, NH on January 17-18, 2024.
 - Day one will have two full group sessions and two separate breakout sessions with various topics being presented for attendees to choose from. Day two will include a presentation of Primex's play titled "The Aftermath" with a panel discussion following.
- Trauma Informed First Responder Training – Concord campus February 28th
- 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 are working through the Governor and Executive Council process for approval and acceptance of the funding to begin the project.

Recruitment and Retention

- Upcoming Recruitment and Retention events:
 - Get the Scoop on the Work Invest NH – EMT Training Incentive Program – Concord campus January 10th
 - Boost Your SAFER Grant Writing for Recruitment and Retention – Concord campus January 22nd
 - CPAT Prep for Women – Concord campus February 4th
 - How to Stand Out In an Oral Board – Concord campus February 6th
 - Wage and Hour Laws Bootcamp – Concord campus February 13th
- We are partnering with the International Association of Fire Chief's to host a two-day course called *Developing Inclusive Teams Workshop* April 13-14 at the Concord campus.

- This workshop equips members of the fire service with knowledge and skills to support diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) in the workforce. The course is interactive, placing the participant in thought-provoking situations through role play, group and individual exercises, and class discussion. It includes several scenarios that are constructed to mimic real world situations, allowing participants to simulate how they would handle issues effectively as they emerge in the real world.
- Registration can be completed at <https://www.iafc.org/events/event/2024/04/13/default-calendar/developing-inclusive-teams-workshop-concord>
- Our Recruitment and Retention Coordinator has been invited to become a member of the U.S. Fire Administrators Recruitment and Retention Work Group and will begin working with them at their next meeting.
- The January edition of the Recruitment and Retention Newsletter is available at <https://www.nh.gov/safety/divisions/fstems/RecruitmentandRetention.html>

Fire Standards and Training Commission / Curriculum

- The next Fire Standards and Training Commission meeting will be March 7th at 0930 in Classrooms 5/6 in the dormitory building at the main campus. The January meeting was cancelled.
- Fire 602 requires that each fire department supply the Commission with a current roster of all fire service personnel by December 31st of each calendar year. This can be accomplished using RespondNH.
 - 187 departments out of 228, or 82%, reported for 2023.

BUREAU OF FIRE TRAINING

Courses/Programs

- Firefighter I
 - Spofford – January 16th
 - Burton campus (FF I & II) – January 17th
 - Spring Recruit School – March 6th
 - LRCC Spring Class – Orientation began on December 6th
 - Seacoast – Epping January 27th
- Firefighter II
- Technical Rescue
 - Ice Rescue Technician – Tuftonboro March 16th
 - Trench Rescue – Concord campus May 11th
 - Trench Rescue – Concord Campus July 8th

- Confined Space Rescue Technician – Concord campus June 1st
- Confined Space Rescue Technician – Concord campus July 15th
- Swiftwater Rescue I – Goffstown June 4th
- Driver Operator
 - Driver/Operator – All Vehicles
 - Driver Operator – Aerial Apparatus
- Hazardous Materials
 - We are partnering with the International Association of Firefighters to host a Pro Board Hazardous Materials Technician program at the Concord campus from April 15th – April 26th, application for this program will open January 4th.
- IAFF Fireground Survival
- Airport Rescue Firefighting
 - Airport Firefighter – Concord Campus May 6th
- Facilities and Prop Usage
- “On My Time” Program
 - To date, 811 students have completed individual online modules and 30 students have completed individual skills modules.
- Special Programs
 - The Pipeline Emergency 3rd Edition Train-the-Trainer program will be held at the Concord campus May 14th. This will enable departments to deliver the training within their departments and mutual aid associations.
- Electric Vehicle Resources
 - NFPA:
 - [Alternative Fuel Vehicles Training program for Emergency Responders Online Training](#)
 - Fire Safety Research Institute (FSRI) programs:
 - [Know the Hazards Generated by Electric Vehicle Battery Fires \(fsri.org\)](#)
 - [Uncover the Impact of Lithium-Ion batteries on Fire \(fsri.org\)](#)
 - [Examine the fire safety hazards of Lithium-Ion Batteries \(fsri.org\)](#)
 - [On Line Course: Fire Service Considerations with Lithium-Ion Battery ESS](#)
 - [On line course: Science of Fire and Explosion Hazards from Lithium-Ion Batteries](#)
- All of the curricula for programs may be found at <https://nhfa-ems.com/curricula/>.
- 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 – Concord Campus January 11th
 - Instructor I – Concord campus February 27th
 - Instructor I – Keene April 6th
 - Instructor II - Virtual February 20th
- Instructor Professional Development
 - Update: 2021 National EMS Education Standards – Concord campus January 11th, January 23rd and Virtual January 16th and January 25th
 - Working with Working Memory: Cognitive Load Theory in Action – Concord campus February 15th and February 20th
 - UDL Workshop: Planning Lessons for Engagement – Concord campus March 14th and March 19th
- Fire Officer I/II Programs
 - Fire Officer I – began in Concord December 7th
 - Fire Officer II – Virtual October 12th
- Fire Inspector Programs
 - Fire Inspector I - January 11th
 - Fire Inspector II – Manchester March 28th
- Fire Investigator
 - The 2024 offering is being planned for.
- Warrants and Citations – Concord campus November 13, 2024
- National Fire Academy
 - F0322 Incident Command for Structural Collapse Incidents – Concord Campus January 24, 2024
 - F0458 Preparation for Initial Company Operations – Concord Campus February 10, 2024
 - F0522 ESS: Exercising Leadership Through Difficult Conversations – Concord campus March 19th
 - F0760 New Fire Chief: Challenging Issues – Concord campus April 6th
- Incident Command
- “Your Workplace has Changed: Fire Dynamics for Structural Firefighting”
 - Planning is underway for 2024 deliveries
- For all current course listings, you can go to <https://nhfa-ems.com/scheduled-courses/>

Instructors

- We have completed our review and analysis of our per diem Instructor pay and the Commissioner has approved the new compensation structure. All part-time non-classified staff have been given their new rates.
- We 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 or 603-223-4213

CPAT

- The 2024 CPAT dates are listed below. We have restructured the schedule of these exams to better span the entire year to make this test more aligned with department hiring needs.
 - February 5th at NHFA (retest February 6th)
 - April 22nd at Laconia Ice Rink (retest April 23rd)
 - June 10th at Laconia Ice Rink (retest June 11th)
 - August 12th at NHFA (retest August 13th)
 - October 21st at NHFA (retest October 22nd)
 - December 9th at NHFA (retest December 10th)
- 2024 CPAT
 - Department leaders are asked to fill out the agreement being sent which should arrive this month. This will come with a cover letter that includes testing dates and locations and a form to be returned requesting department information and a designated contact person for the department.
 - Department member assistance is needed for CPAT on testing days. Please confirm available personnel to assist with Scott Merrill at scott.d.merrill@dos.nh.gov prior to the test date to assist in planning.

Testing

- Monthly Testing was completed this month (in addition to end of course testing for each program):
- We have acquired the new certification testing software and have begun training and developing an implementation plan.

BUREAU OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

Boards and Commissions

- The NH Medical Control Board meeting will meet at 0930 on January 18th in classrooms 5 & 6 in the dormitory building.

- The NH Emergency Medical and Trauma Services Coordinating Board meeting will meet on January 18th at 1300 and January 18th at 1300 in classrooms 5 & 6 in the dormitory building.
- The NH Trauma Medical Review Committee (TMRC) will meet at 0930 on February 21st.
- The Privacy Committee will meet February 28th at 1300.

Operations

- The EMS Simulation Training Program is active with ongoing planning for open enrollment courses in 2024.

Courses/Programs

- Emergency Medical Responder (EMR)
 - The Winter 2024 class begins January 10th in Concord, Mont Vernon and Littleton.
 - The Spring 2024 class begins April 3rd in Bethlehem, Peterborough and Concord.
- EMS Continuing Education and Simulation Education
 - EMS Response to Domestic Violence – Concord campus January 3rd and Virtual January 18th
 - EMS Medical/Trauma Simulations – Concord campus January 24th
 - Crew Resource Management and High Reliability Organization – Virtual February 7th and Concord campus February 15th
 - Tactical Emergency Casualty Care – Concord campus February 17th & 18th
 - Endocrine Emergencies – Burton campus February 21st and April 17th and Concord campus March 13th
 - Investigative Pharmacology – Concord campus March 6th and Virtual March 21st
 - Rules, Laws and Investigations in EMS: Compliance Section – Virtual March 13th
 - Recognizing and Reporting Elder Abuse for First Responders – Concord campus April 3rd and Virtual April 18th
 - Asthma Care for EMS – Concord campus May 1st and Virtually May 16th
 - Cardiology Adult Cardiac Arrest – Concord campus May 15th and Burton campus June 12th
 - 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
 - Concord campus January 10th
 - The Awareness and Operations courses are available free to students on our online training platform. The RTF Concepts class is a half-day in-person training that is also available. Grant funding opportunities are available 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

Clinical Systems

- Work continues on EMS Protocols Ver. 9.0 with a projected release in the first quarter of 2024.
- Work is being done to reformat the EMR protocols in Ver. 9.0 with an evaluation of alignment with the National Curriculum standards.
- The Operational Canine protocol has been approved and shared with the EMS system.
- We are working with the Trauma Medical Review Committee on the ACS Migration Plan for Trauma Hospital designations.
- 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.
- 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

- The EMS data team continues to get feedback and suggestions for updates to the EMS form. The purpose of this working group meeting was to solicit constructive feedback and recommendations from EMS providers who utilize the EMS forms in practice, on ways the run form can improve going forward.
 - The data team will be hosting bi-monthly remote meetings to review current change requests and implement them into the form.
 - All NH EMS providers are invited to attend regardless of rank, call volume, or time in the field. Attendees should bring a collaborative, solution-based approach. This is your chance to have input into the EMS form that you use every day. Note that this meeting will not be discussing the fire run form, or other aspects of NHESR beyond the EMS run form itself.
 - Feel free to email nhesr@dos.nh.gov for the meeting link or with any questions or comments.
- 21,860 EMS incidents were entered into the system for December and 261,888 incidents for 2023.
- Preparation for NEMSIS 3.5 is ongoing.
 - NH has now “gone green”, which means NH has submitted over 50 live NEMSIS 3.5 records to the national data repository. The rollout of the new 3.5 run form will be released this quarter. Two services have piloted the new run form with success. Two training videos have been produced as well as written guides that will be published soon.

Compliance

- There are currently over 38 active investigations and ongoing cases.

Preparedness and Special Projects

- Outreach continues on both AED and CPR programs.

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

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

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

EMS Trauma Medical Review Committee (Dep. Chief Clough)

Meeting opened at 0930

1) Welcome/Membership

Item 1. Mark Kromer & Tony Maggio need re-appointment letters from their organizations.

2) Approval of the minutes

Vote: A motion was made Clough/Patterson to approve the October 18, 2023 minutes. All in favor. None opposed.

3) BUREAU REPORTS- Vicki Blanchard

a) Protocols 9.0 – Estimated Release Q1 2024. Final protocols will be voted on at next MCB and CB meetings on 1/18. After that, open for 60 day review/public comments, then to Commissioner for approval. Will be working on rollout for April 1.

b) Reformatting EMR Protocols for 9.0 – These will be updated to mirror National Scope and entered into the State Protocols with EMT/AEMT/Medic, etc.

c) Operational Canine Protocol – BLS/ALS Pre-Requisite Protocol – Released as 8.2 Protocol Release.

d) Fall 2024 Statewide EMS Conference Planning, may actually not be until Spring or Fall of 2025

e) EMR Programs – On-Going

f) Currently tracking fifteen (15) LSR's related to EMS and Fire.

g) RSA 153-A:33-a Requiring Trauma Kits to be available in state-owned buildings. This will require training and roll out to those buildings/departments.

- Working with Administrative Services on:
- Kit contents and build out strategies
- Deployment strategies
- Identified current State buildings with registered AED
- PulsePoint has a module to recognize trauma kits and naloxone

h) Looking at additional MIH programs in 2024 as well as Ground Critical Care program.

4) SUBCOMMITTEE & TOPIC REPORTS

Item 1: Trauma Registry Sub-committee-Walter Trachim

- Sent trauma plan to group in October, will submit for review before final vote in February.
- Voting on the data dictionary will also be at the February meeting.

Item 2. Education Subcommittee- Vacant

- Nothing to report.

Item 3. Pre-Hospital Subcommittee- Joel Coelho

- Nothing to report.

Item 4. Coordinating Board Report- Craig Clough

- Special meeting to be held December 21, 2023 regarding Operational Canine Protocols
- Reviewed and approved protocols from MCB

Item 5. Medical Control Board Report- Tom Trimarco

- Protocols- Discussed the last round of protocols. One that would be of interest to the
TMRC is the pilot protocol which will enable EMS agencies to apply to try new potential
pre-requisite protocols. Also adding “patella reduction” to AEMT/Paramedic level.

Item 6. Injury Prevention Report- Jim Esdon

- Nothing to report.

Item 7. Rehabilitation Report- Matthew Petrin

- Nothing to report.

Item 8. Medical Examiner Report- Vacant

- Nothing to report. Looking for new member to committee from their office.

Item 9. Hospital Designation Subcommittee- Walter Trachim

- No meeting was held.

8.) ADJOURNMENT

- Motion made Clough/Sweeney to adjourn. All in favor. None opposed.

Homeland Security and Emergency Management – (Dir. Buxton) – No report

Commission to study the Incidence of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder in First Responders – (Chief Watkins) – No report

Forests and Lands – (Chief Sherman) – No report

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

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

Manufactured Housing Installation Standards Board: (Chief Blanchette) –
He attended his first meeting last week and will be getting

Division of Emergency Services and Communications – (Director Doyle)

(Report submitted in writing for the minutes)

- Laconia Facility Update: Space needs being reviewed, more to follow;
- Genasys Emergency notification platform is up and running, CodeRed is transitioning out. If you are interested in becoming a POC for your community to use the ENS for local messaging, please let me know. The statewide ENS system is offered to local communities at no cost;
- The quarterly 911 Commission meeting was held on December 8th at the Fire Academy;
- Eclipse planning is underway – the SWIC is coordinating with local entities in Pittsburg and surrounding locales to establish interoperable comms for the event;
- Social Media:

In December, the Division of Emergency Services and Communications utilized its social media platforms (Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram) to promote holiday safety tips and reminders (primarily starring Dash, DESC's Elf on the Shelf), showcase the achievements, milestones, and even a retirement celebration of many of our team members across the Division. We continue to share highlights from our public outreach and education events, and consistently remind our audience about the importance of knowing their location and text-to-911. In addition, we continue to solicit invitations to NH schools and local community events – DESC's Public Information team is eager to partner with NH communities to spread the message of public safety and make sure residents and visitors are aware of the resources available to them in an emergency.



- 988/911 Community of Practice meetings continue monthly...Meeting with DHHS for the annual review of collaborative efforts between 911 and 988/RRAP this week;
- Staffing update: less than 1% vacancy...approx. 6 Telecommunicator positions open, new class tentatively starting in March;
- Strategic Planning for the Division has begun. If you have any suggestions, please reach out and let us know!
- Comfort Dog program is in the planning stages for our PSAP, timeline is roughly 12 months out at this point...more to come!
- Troop “F” radio enhancement project is in the project planning stage to start this spring and finish by the fall (replaces the current zone configuration with a simulcast system);
- KPI’s (through November 30, 2023):

- 99.52% of all calls answered w/i 15 seconds (exceeding NENA standard of 90% w/i 15 seconds)
- Avg. Police/fire Transfer time = 50.6 seconds (exceeding NFPA Std. of 60 Sec.)
- Avg. EMD Transfer time = 118.59 seconds – stable relative to last year.
- Running @ 11% above last year’s call volume
- 337 Transfers to 988 / RRAP since July 2022;
- Any questions, comments, concerns, please reach out...

E 911 Commission – (Chief Thomas) – No report

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

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

He reminded all of the “See something, say something” protocols regarding any suspicious activities.

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

Chief Murray stated that they are actively working on this year’s conference which will be held again at Mohegan Sun. They are working on improving several functions of the conference (registration) and the division.

Old Business -

New Business –

Chief McShane and Marshal Toomey both serve on the International Code Committee. Marshal Toomey stated that it was a unique opportunity to impact the process and if anyone has any input for them.

Good and Welfare –

- Chief Chapman of Milan contacted us. He’s proposing to take his department from all volunteer to on-call with stipend. His BOS is fighting it but he has a petition warrant article going before the voters at town meeting. He views it as a recruitment and retention issue and is looking for support from the Association. Director Cutting will ask his R & R coordinator to reach out to him for assistance.

Raffle – n/a

The meeting was adjourned at 1009 hrs.

Respectfully submitted,

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

January 10, 2024