



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

*Working Together to Make a Difference*

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

Thursday, February 11, 2021 (Virtual via “Go To Meeting”)

The meeting was called to order at 1605 hours by Chief Jones.

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

Chief Ken Jones welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Members were introduced by the Executive Director.

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

**Special Guests:** n/a

**Minutes** of the January 14 meeting have been posted. A MOTION (Newbury/Christopoulos) to accept carried unanimously.

**Financial Reports:** Report for January was presented and is posted. A MOTION: (Buxton/Sitar) to accept it carried unanimously.

**Communications:** n/a

**Applications for membership:** Asst. Chief William McQuillen of Portsmouth; Dep. Chief Mark Cook of North Hampton; Chief David Woodard of Colebrook and Chief David Hutchinson of Pease ANG for Active Membership and Asst. Chief Peter Donovan of Berlin’s application is pending.

**Life Membership:** n/a

**President’s Report: (Jones) –**

- Bi-Weekly Covid -19 virtual mtgs held this past Monday, current numbers currently on the trend down, Depts. Offering assisting w/ vaccines.
- Bi weekly meetings with Marshall Parisi, current covid-19 numbers, legislation Decision/up-dates, current fire trends.

- Met with Commissioner Quinn on 1/11 with discussion on filling the two current vacancies; Assistant Commissioner & FST Director
- Attended the Board of Fire Control Meeting last week for proposed amendments to the 2018 NFPA Codes by the Marshal and his staff all amendments approved
- Participated in the Five Family meeting with Chief Sitar, discussed Fire Code with the amendments, cost increase/decrease and continue discussion on sober housing, PTSD with Academy through Commission a bill to just reestablish the PTSD commission, HB 91 suicide benefit, HB 619 moving dispatchers into group II retirement, AFFF Foam DES survey 10,000 gals to take back, requesting funding to support such, some departments have not turned in 2020 department roster to NHFA & 1582 physicals current update and start drafting legislation work for 1582 physicals for remaining FF's.
- Letter sent to commissioner Quinn requesting immediate action on moving forward with 1582 physicals prior to 1997 hires.
- Primex Chief's working Group, continue to work and hope for a 2 day conference, possibly hybrid, combined with the Police Association late in Sept., and they are looking into venue. Primex annual conference May 11,12,13 to be virtual. Looking into post covid-19 issues returning back to work. Also no workers Comp for adverse reaction with vaccines.
- Discussion with Director Pendergast on Student vaccinations, Chief sign off
- Tried to have the daily covid-19 list reduced to 14 days instead of 21. But due to the MOU 21 days will remain in place.

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

- The March regular monthly meeting will be on the 11th at 0900.
- The Vendor Showcase has been moved to September 9, 2021 at the Falls Event Center in Manchester. but the annual meeting will still occur in April on the 8th.
- The November weekend is still booked at the Red Jacket Mountain View in No. Conway for November 12-14, 2021.
- The Primex conference will be virtual this year. They will return to the Omni Mt. Washington in 2022.
- I am researching a return to Sunapee for the dinner cruise on the lake. It will be other than a regular meeting date if details work. Stay tuned.

### **1st Vice President Report (Sitar) –**

- We are still accepting applications for the Chief Fire Officer Credentialing Program. Online applications are on our website nhafc.org.
- Radio re-programming grant money is still available.
- The state disaster medical advisory committee will be meeting next week.

### **2nd Vice President Report (Beattie) –**

- **HB 343**; Balance Billing

- Chief Sitar, Adam Schmidt, and Chief Beattie met with Representative Weston to ask about the bill and voice our concerns over how this would affect fire department/municipal budgets.
- A letter was sent on behalf of the NHAFC to the House Commerce Committee in opposition to the bill. This was added to the testimony by private and individual municipalities also in opposition.
- House Commerce Committee voted to retain the bill 11-8, and it will remain in committee for the rest of the year. We do expect it to come back up in 2022.
- Governor presented his budget, and can be found on YouTube
- SB 142; Omnibus Bill for certain Commissions including reestablishing the PTSD in first responders' commission.
  - Bill also requires mental health training focusing on PTSD.
- **HB385**; Heart/Lung Bill
  - Had public hearing; no vote.
- **HB 91**; Relative to death benefits for first responders who die by suicide.
  - Passed 14-4 at committee level, now to full house.
- **HB 619**; Designating police and fire dispatchers as Group II members
  - In committee, after public hearing appears to have stalled this year.
- **SB 61**; Prohibiting CBA's that require employees to join union "Right to Work"
  - Passed 13-11 (all democrats and one republican "no", 13 republicans "yes")
  - House vote expected to be close.

#### **Sgt. At Arms (Emanuel) –**

He reported that as of today, UNH went to total remote learning as the number of Covid cases has risen dramatically. He shared the President's email to all stakeholders:

#### **University of New Hampshire Code Orange – COVID**

**Restrictions** <https://www.unh.edu/coronavirus/unh-durham-transitions-orange-slow-spread-covid-19>

*“Due to a dramatic and sustained rise in the number of positive COVID-19 cases within the Durham community, effective 6 p.m. today, Feb. 11, 2021, the Durham campus will transition to our orange mode of operation and impose the following restrictions:*

- *All courses will transition to **fully online** unless an exception is approved by the college dean. Friday laboratories may run tomorrow with full PPE; please check with your instructor. While current data show that face-to-face classes are NOT spreading events, this will support de-densification of the Durham campus. Colleges will determine the viability of clinicals, fieldwork and internships on a case-by-case basis.*
- *No spectators will be permitted at the Friday night men's hockey game; the **pilot program is postponed** until further notice.*

- All gatherings are limited to **no more than six people** with all appropriate public health recommendations in place including physical distancing and face coverings.
- Students living in campus housing cannot visit other on-campus halls or apartment buildings.
- No students living off campus are permitted in any on-campus residence hall or apartment building.
- Off-campus students may not isolate or quarantine on campus due to lack of space.
- Research and extension operations will continue as approved.

We are seeing the consequences of COVID fatigue and its impact on our ability to offer additional in-person opportunities. If the numbers continue to climb we will have to put additional measures in place. Please remain vigilant and help us slow the spread #unhtogether.” James W. Dean Jr, President

**The 2021 CPSE Excellence Conference scheduled for March 2-4, 2021, registration fee is \$250/person <https://cpse.org/conference/>**

Four sessions tracks with 36 concurrent sessions:

- **Accreditation Bootcamp:** Ideal for agencies or individuals new to accreditation
- **21st Century Fire and Emergency Services:** A deep dive into the CPSE-ICMA White Paper
- **Case Studies:** Showcasing CPSE agencies and officers tackling today’s challenges
- **A New Way Of.....:** Focusing on new methods for conducting fire department activities

### **Committee Reports**

**Scholarship Committee – (Dep. Toomey) – n/r**

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

### **Division Reports**

**Fire Marshal – (Marshal Parisi)**

**ADMINISTRATION:** (Assistant Director Max Schultz)

#### **Personnel:**

We are in the process of hiring several positions within the division, including:

- Fulltime Hazardous Materials/Pyrotechnics Coordinator
- Fulltime Supervisor VI – Building Safety and Construction
- Fulltime Fire Investigator
- Part time Building Code Review Board Administrative Support

## Part time Modular Building Program Coordinator

We are hopeful that filling these positions will allow us to better serve the needs of our constituents.

### **Micro-website:**

We are excited to announce a COVID-19 specific micro-website for the FMO. The new site has mobile device compatibility, which our current main site lacks. It has have easy to use menus and dropdowns for first responder access to important COVID-19 related information through ESF-4. We are excited to bring this customer friendly informational tool to the fire service! Please check out our new site either from a link at the top of our current website, or you may go directly to our new site at [nh.gov/firemarshal](https://nh.gov/firemarshal) .

### **2021 Legislation:**

The 2021 legislative session is in full swing. We are following a number of bills, including:

HB 72 – Ratifying the amendments to the 2015 fire code by the BFC

SB 15 - Ratifying the amendments to the 2015 fire code by the BFC

HB 208 – Repealing the lightning rod program

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

SB 106 – Repealing the voluntary fire equipment certification program

HB 377 – Relative to the FMO issuing variances to recovery residences

SB 133 – Relative to the FMO issuing POA permits

### **BUREAU OF INVESTIGATIONS:** (Deputy Keith Rodenhiser)

**New/Active cases:** 18 calls for service in the month of January; our 6 investigators and 2 district chiefs are actively working 18 criminal cases.

- On January 6, 2021, investigators responded to 18 Keene Road in Winchester to assist the Winchester FD and PD with a fire investigation. A fire occurred in an apartment building and it is believed that the fire may have started from a cell phone's lithium battery when it became damaged. The cause of the fire appears to be accidental in nature.
- On January 18, 2021, a K9 team and an investigator, responded to the Grappone Toyota at 594 Rt. 3A in Bow to assist the Bow FD and PD with a vehicle fire. NH FMO personnel assisted with the collection of physical evidence from the vehicle and brought the evidence to the lab for further

analysis. The fire remains under investigation by BFD and BPD.

- On January 19, 2021, investigators and a K9 team responded to 28 Tate's Brook Road to assist the Somersworth FD and PD with a fire investigation. It appears the fire was incendiary in nature and Somersworth PD has since arrested Darien J. Young, 27, who has no fixed address, and charged him with Class A felony arson, Class A felony burglary and felony-level possession of methamphetamine.
- On January 21, 2021, a K9 team and an investigator, responded to 76 Main Street to assist the Errol FD with a fire investigation at the Errol General Store. The fire is still under investigation at this time and there were no injuries.
- On January 22, 2021, an investigator responded to 2 Bay Shore Dr. to assist the Meredith FD with a fire investigation at the Meredith Marina and Boating Center. The fire is still under investigation at this time but does not appear to be criminal in nature.

**Fatal Fires:**

- On January 24, 2021, investigators responded to a fire at a mobile home at 19 Breezy Acres Mobile Home Park in Epsom where a deceased female subject was discovered by emergency responders. The cause of death is still pending further investigation and the cause of the fire also remains under investigation at this time.
  - On January 29, 2021, investigators responded to a fire at a residential structure at 89 Old Village Rd. in Northumberland. An elderly male subject was able to escape the fire; however, a deceased female subject was discovered by emergency responders inside the house during overhaul operations. The cause of death was determined to be smoke inhalation and the manner of death was accidental. The fire still remains under investigation.
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- **Ignitable Liquid Detection Canine Teams:** Our two IGL Canine Teams were deployed five times in the month of January.
  - **Public Outreach:** Investigators are assisting with youth firesetter assessments in several communities throughout the state.
  - **Training/Committees:** Members of the BOI attended an in-service training and refresher on Inkscape, which is a computer program that can be used to construct diagrams of fire scenes and crime scenes. Members of the BOI also attended the following trainings: Computer Encryption Techniques, The

Future of Preserving Digital Evidence, Human Trafficking Seminar and several CFI Trainer classes. One of the district chiefs attended the bi-monthly Child Fatality Review Committee meeting. A presentation was given to the Merrimack County Child Advocacy Center on the FMO's Youth Firesetter Program. Another presentation was given to the State's Incapacitated Vulnerable Adult Fatality Review Committee on a fire investigation the FMO had conducted several years ago.

- **ESF-4:** Five members of the BOI continue to fill shifts in the state's Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) staffing the ESF-4 (Firefighting) desk.

### **BUREAU OF BUILDING SAFETY & CONSTRUCTION:** (Deputy Sean Toomey)

**State Building Permit System:** We processed 18 building permit applications in the month of January.

**Technical Assistance, Educational & Healthcare Reviews:** Our staff remains available for technical code assistance. We initiated 1 educational plan review and 10 healthcare plan reviews in the month of January.

**Variance Requests:** We processed 4 variance requests in the month of January.

**State Fire Code Update:** The Board of Fire Control held a public hearing on January 27<sup>th</sup> to address amendments to the 2018 editions of NFPA 1 and 101. The Board voted to approve nine exhibits/amendments in preparation of the legislative hearings on the adoption on the 2018 state fire code.

### **BUREAU OF PLANNING AND SUPPORT SERVICES:** (Deputy Danielle Cole)

#### **ESF-4**

Deputy Danielle Cole has been continuing to oversee SEOC ESF-4 operations. This emergency support function is dedicated to supporting first responders in providing the most up to date unprotected exposure information, member testing location information, transportation of specimens, alternative lodging requests and inquiries of specimens at the Public Health Lab.

Since the beginning of the state of emergency, the ESF-4 (Firefighting) desk has:

- Answered 1445 calls for assistance
- Assisted 125 first responders with alternative lodging accommodations
- Tracked 2076 first responders through exposure/quarantine/testing status
- Documented 2,422 activities performed in WebEOC. These activities include, fulfilling requests for PPE from first responders, answering questions related to exposures, quarantine, housing, code related questions and more

- Continue to produce and distribute numerous first responder informational documents statewide with the most up to date information

**The ESF-4 desk phone number is 223-3718 and is answered 24/7 during the State of Emergency. If you have members that need to be tested and you want first responder priority through the Public Health Lab, please be sure to use the PHL Requisition form and transport the specimen via your agency to the lab.**

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

If you would like to virtually attend a one-hour training on the newly released suspicious unknown package protocol, please reach out to our Hazardous Materials Coordinator Jim Stone at [James.H.Stone@dos.nh.gov](mailto:James.H.Stone@dos.nh.gov). If you are from a smaller department please try to partner with a neighboring community for this training.

Our part time Hazardous Materials Coordinator will be available in a response capacity to advise the North Country area chiefs should there be an incident. In the event that an asset response is required in that area the FMO on-duty supervisor will contact an established team to respond. The FMO will cover the cost of the response.

The FMO is excited to announce the launch a portal web page for facilities to submit their EPCRA Tier II reports. This portal will streamline the process for facilities to submit their reports. This data will be entered in the PEAC-WMD software that is utilized by the regional Hazardous Materials Teams providing them with up-to-date chemical information for the reporting facilities.

This data can also be made available at no cost to local fire departments through the web based PEAC-Web software. Contact Hazardous Materials Coordinator Jim Stone at [james.h.stone@dos.nh.gov](mailto:james.h.stone@dos.nh.gov) for more information on the use of PEAC-WEB.

The 2020 Emergency Response Guidebooks are available, please contact us for the coordination of delivery.

**Public Education:**

This month we took part in a statewide Houses of Worship presentation series hosted by Homeland Security and Emergency Management with over 200 viewers. Our 30-minute presentation focused on an overview fire and life safety and the presentation is available at the Houses of

Worship resource center at  
[https://prd.blogs.nh.gov/dos/hsem/?page\\_id=5994](https://prd.blogs.nh.gov/dos/hsem/?page_id=5994).

**Fireworks:**

We are currently in the process of conducting an evaluation of our fireworks program to ensure that the current laws and rules, as well as our internal procedures and practices, are focused on serving the citizens of the State of NH, as well as the fireworks industry.

We continue to license fireworks operators, as well as conduct required inspections to all retail stores and as well as explosives product storage. We are available by phone, drop box, email and standard mail, at this time the building is not allowing public entry.

**NFIRS:**

The USFA is using the National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS) to conduct a national-level Special Study on fire department responses to the COVID-19 pandemic. The goal of the study is to determine if COVID-19 was a factor during the response.

[www.usfa.fema.gov/data/nfirs/covid-19\\_dashboard.html](http://www.usfa.fema.gov/data/nfirs/covid-19_dashboard.html)

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

• **Logistics-**

We have reviewed all aerial bids and are finalizing the details of the purchase of a Rosenbauer Ladder vehicle.

We continue to work with NH DOT Aeronautical. They have applied for federal funding on our behalf to replace our ARFF vehicle as well as upgrades to the spill pit at the ARFF training site.

The Heat and hot water project in the dorm/class building has been completed. It required replacing more infrastructure than the engineers originally had planned on.

• **Programs-**

Both our FF I and FF II day programs are well underway and our seacoast FF I will be starting shortly. We are nearing completion of the evening Fire Instructor program. We have completed day I of the Fire Officer day program in Concord with a full class of enthusiastic students. I was happy to address the students from all over the state comprised of new and aspiring line officers.

We continue to perform Covid rapid testing on Tuesday and Thursdays for IPOC personnel and the Commissioner's office.

Our EMS licensing group is extremely busy as our State's EMTs submit relicensing applications or new providers look to license for the first time. We are also very actively transitioning to the new Respond NH system.

We continue to support departments in need of hiring or promotional testing resources. Reach out to Matt LaMothe if you need further information.

- **Communications-**

We have recently sent out communication about the state Fire Incident reporting system as we prepare to make that available. We are looking for a small advisory group to help make this new program a valuable product for the NH Fire Service. Reach out to AD Jeff Phillips if interested.

The scheduling of firefighter 1582 physicals (hired previous to 1/1/1997) Got for those wanting to use the contracted vendor, has begun. Several communications have been sent to those eligible members, as well as department Chiefs. Reimbursement details were also shared with eligible members.

- **Challenges-**

We are currently still the host site for the Press Conferences for Governor Sununu, although these have been reduced to one per week, but have limited our use of classrooms 1 and 2.

We are working with our stakeholder groups to come up with a policy for continuing classes that are considered “close contact” that were all cancelled in 2020. For example our swiftwater and ice rescue programs require students to “rescue” and otherwise be in very close situations during part of the training, but not able to wear masks. We will communicate when that policy is finalized.

We will continue to assess the current data daily from NH DHHS, and determine our strategy for continuation of in-person programs. As we get closer to spring, we have received more requests for outside groups to use our facility. We are handling these on a case-by-case basis, and their ability to pass the checkpoint screening.

### **EMS Bureau Report – Justin Romanello** **Bureau Report**

- **FROST – Program Status?**
- **New Rules – JLCAR Feb?**
  - # of providers required to transport
  - Licensing as “Non-Affiliated”
- **Electrostatic Sprayers – Battery Recall Underway – Appears that it only is first delivery of devices (92 units)**
- **Vaccination Planning**
- **Complacency**

### **COVID-19 Summary**

- **Emergency Protocols – 1 Emergency Protocols Released**
  - COVID-19 Vaccinations Version 2 - **Released 3 February 2021**
    - Version 1 - **Released 23 December 2020**
  - Personal Protective Equipment Version 2 - **Released 23 December 2020**

- Version 1 - **Released 27 July 2020**
  - COVID-19 Version 4 – **Released 23 December 2020**
    - Version 3 – **Released 27 July 2020**
    - Version 2 – **Released 17 April 2020**
    - Version 1 – **Released 17 March 2020**
  - COVID-19 Testing Version 3 – **Released 23 December 2020**
    - Version 2 – **Released 27 July 2020**
    - Version 1 – **Released 26 March 2020**
  - COVID-19 Destination Determination Version 2 – **Released 27 July 2020**
    - Version 1 – **Released 26 March 2020**
  - COVID-19 Temporary MIH Version 1 – **Released 17 April 2020**
- **Emergency Rules**
  1. # of Providers Required for Patient Transport – **Released 19 March 2020**
  2. Expiration Extension of Currently Licensed EMS Providers – **Released 19 March 2020 (Expired 19 September 2020)**
- **Emergency Waivers**
  - Provisional Certification – **Continued to 1 April 2021**
  - Partial Background Checks – **No longer accepting**
- **Executive Orders**
  - Alternate Vehicle Use and Waiver of Required Equipment – **Drafted NOT Issued**

### Clinical Systems

- **2020 NH Patient Care Protocols v.8.0 – Released 27 August 2020**
  - **In effect statewide 1 November 2020**
- Trauma Program –
  - **Site Visits – Extension for all programs 1-year**
  - **Trauma Coordinator – In a limited capacity, visiting hospitals around state**
- MIH Program – **Continued support of COVID and Non-COVID MIH programs**
- Open Positions – 2 Part-Time
  - PIFT/Critical Care Program Coordinator – **Part-Time – ON HOLD**
  - MIH Program Coordinator – **Part-Time – ON HOLD**

### EMS Operations

- **Provider Renewals – RespondNH up and running**
- Practical Exam Program – **Up and running as of 13 July 2020**
- Ambulance Inspections Program – **Up and running as of 13 July 2020**
- EMS Training and I/C Program – **Exploring options for future support**
- Open Positions – 2 Full-Time and multiple Part-Time
  - Licensing Coordinator – **Full-Time – ON HOLD**

- Ambulance Inspector – **Part-Time – ON HOLD**
- NREMT Remote Testing Coordinator– **Part-Time – ON HOLD**

### **Data Systems**

- Respond NH – User Management System
  - Moving along, on schedule.
    - Services - Entered
    - Vehicles – Entered
    - Personnel – Entered
  - System is operational.
- Open Positions – 2 Full-Time
  - Records Management Coordinator – **Full-Time – In Process of Interviewing**
  - Records Management Coordinator – **Full-Time – In Process of Interviewing**
  -

### **EMS Training**

- Continuing Education – **Exploring options for future programs**
- EMR Programs – **Exploring options for future programs**
- Simulation Program – **Up and running as of July 2020**
- Open Positions – Multiple Part Time
  - Staff Instructor – Ongoing Hiring – **ON HOLD**

### **Special Projects**

- Educational Training Agencies – **Sub-Committee meeting on 2 December, 2020**

### **NH Emergency Medical and Trauma Services Coord. Board – (Chief Allard)**

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Here are the highlights from the January 21, 2021 Coordinating Board meeting:

#### **1. Division/BEMS Updates**

- a. Spring programs are starting up. Electrostatic sprayers are being used to clean classrooms before & after use. As well as mandatory mask wearing.
- b. Covid rapid testing is still being done on campus for our Division, students, instructors, the Fire Marshals Office, E911 and HSEM.
- c. State revenues have been higher than expected, the Division currently has 6 vacant positions and got the okay to fill 3 of those positions.

d. Director Pendergast will be retiring after her second 4 year term, effective March 31st, 2021. It will be her 8th year at the Division and 29th year in Fire & EMS.

e. A Rules hearing occurred January 8th regarding the required number of providers to transport to a hospital and licensing a non-affiliated. This will go to JLCAR in February. If both pass, they could be put in place immediately.

f. At this time, 260 services have received electrostatic sprayers. 20 dispatch centers will receive these sprayers as well.

g. The State is requiring mandatory training for civility and respect in the workplace be completed by Board Members. More information to come, but this is a 30 minute module with a deadline of March 14, 2021

## **2. Legislative Report**

a. Nick Mercuri announced his retirement at the last CB meeting. At this time, Director Pendergast, Assistant Director Phillips and Chief Romanello are handling legislation until the Division is notified of whether his position will be filled or not.

b. The Department of Safety is watching certain bills and the Division will chose which bills to pay attention too. Reports will be provided at the CB meetings from Division staff.

## **3. Committee/Board/Work Group Reports**

### **• Medical Control**

a. Brief discussion on “Just Culture” and a slideshow presentation for EMS for Children.

b. The Protocol Sub-Committee was discussed and the Attorney General’s Office requested this group be more formalized. The sub-committee will consist of 3 MCB voting members to make a quorum of 2. The other participants will still be participating as public guests.

c. AED registry update provided with information about moving towards the pulse point app.

### **• Recruitment and Retention**

a. Intentions of pushing the workforce study survey out with RespondNH once it is fully operational. Just met last week on this. National Registry wanted to participate in this.

- **Stroke Care –Sue Barnard**

- a. FAST-ED went out for training for all EMS providers and hospital staff.

- b. Would like to monitor and collect FAST-ED scores that are being put in. This is a work in progress.

#### **4. Old Business**

- **BioSpatial**

- a. Nothing more on this. The Division will continue to watch this move through Legislation.

#### **5. New Business**

- **Data Requests – Chair LaPlante**

- a. The Chair is required to appoint 4 members from the CB to sit on the Data Review Committee. This committee is specific to education and 91-A requests. Any interested parties, please email Chair LaPlante. Chair LaPlante will send out an email by the end of the week to the CB members with who has been chosen to sit on this committee.

- **EMSC Update – Anna Sessa**

- a. Anna manages the EMS for Children Program and she shared a power point presentation to share an update on EMSC program efforts, free pediatric resources for EMS (prehospital) agencies and an upcoming regional effort to recognized EDs' readiness for pediatric patients.

The next meeting is scheduled for March 18, 2021

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

**Homeland Security and Emergency Management – (Director Harper)**

- **State EOC continues to be activated for response efforts to COVID-19. Activities include:**

- Vaccine Distribution and Immunization is the priority.
  - On Sunday, February 7<sup>th</sup> vaccine sites went to 7 days week, 12 hours day. Thank you for your continued assistance with staffing.
    - We are working with DHHS to finalize contract language with DHHS for reimbursement of personnel time working at the sites. These will be for 'actual costs incurred' vs the 'up to \$65 hour' that was discussed last week with many of you.
    - Reimbursement under FEMA PA is not eligible for communities as the sites are run by the State.

- COVID Presidential Disaster Declaration DR4516 received April 3, 2020.
  - HSEM staff continue to work with communities on FEMA reimbursements on a consistent basis.
    - Communities have received \$1,041,047.68 in reimbursements to date; that is the 75% share obligated by FEMA
    - Two presidential memos were released in the last 30 days that increased the federal share of the FEMA PA Program for DR 4516 (COVID) to 100%. The second of these two memos clarified that the increase in funding would be retroactive, where the eligibility guidelines for all obligations made by FEMA for work completed prior to the release of the first memo (1/21/21) will remain the same. Additionally, the Biden administration directed FEMA to expand eligibility for certain activities in the FEMA PA Program for work completed on or after the release of the first memo on 1/21/21. This updated guidance on expanded eligibility has not yet been released.
- Procurement of PPE continues to be a priority for the State to ensure we can meet the demand.
- **Non-COVID related activities:**
  - Made a number of promotions over the last couple of months so you may see new names/faces; the staff are amazing and continue to ensure day-to-day activities are worked on along with COVID activities.
  - EMPG COVID-19 Supplemental (EMPG-S) has been spent down; \$737.00 remaining.
  - The FFY 2020 BRIC Application was submitted with 5 projects to FEMA last month; award notice expected this Summer.
  - Working on the Year 3 HMEP Application submission for 2020-2021.
  - Radiological Emergency Preparedness Program has been moved over to Field Services and Dave Vaillancourt is now the lead for 'all things Seabrook'. This will provide a one stop shop for the entire program; previously there were several area's within HSEM that had pieces of the program, this will streamline all REP activities. We are in the midst of hiring several positions to fill vacancies that have occurred over the last few months due to promotions/resignations.
  - We are working on a capital budget item for upgrading the State EOC technology needs; RFP to go out in next couple months. Technology that was installed when the building was built in 2009 needs to be updated.
- **As always let me know if you need anything, my cell is 419-9179.**

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

### **Forests and Lands – (Chief Sherman) –**

- Forest Rangers Nathan Blanchard and David Smith, Jr. have been assigned to their districts and a new district map and contact info. is attached.
- We are finishing up the development of the Spring Warden Training. This will be offered virtually this year with a combination of video presentations and Zoom meetings. The video presentations will be loaded on to our NHForestProtection YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC6xOrq9Q7D6dO6h5lPZJfxw/playlists> and will be available for self-paced viewing. Starting mid-March through early April, we will be hosting 9 Zoom Meetings which you will need to pre-register for. These meetings will include agency updates as well as open discussions with the district forest rangers. The announcement with details will be out soon.
- We have a new contract for the online fire permit system and are working on a new, responsive platform for 2021. This will allow the system to work better across all types of devices. The upgrade will also allow permit issuers and fire departments to fill out a no-cost permit which will be entered into the system for mapping and dispatching purposes and will also generate a print copy for the permittee. The state does not pay the vendor for development and maintenance of the online system, it is supported completely through the transaction fees. The cost of the fire permits when the new system goes live will be \$5.50 and will remain that price through 2024.
- The online fire permit system has proven capable and valuable in 2020. In 2020 we had 47,479 online permits obtained, up from our previous high in 2019 of 13,845. The program supported the increased demand and has allowed safer operations for fire departments and Wardens during the pandemic. In the near future all communities in NH will be open to online permits and we encourage all towns and dispatch centers to contact us to set up user accounts.

### **Board of Fire Control – (Chief Clark) –**

He stated that the Board extensively researched changes in the NFPA code for the legislation and he is somewhat disappointed that it is not being submitted to them at this time.

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

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

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

- The next E9-1-1 Commission meeting will be held on March 12th at 1100 hours, We will have a presentation from the NHACOP, the NHAFC and NHEDA;
- Mutualink rollout completed - phase 2 in motion. MOA's being received back now and Training has begun;

- SIEC Meeting is Tomorrow, Friday, via Webex, if you want/need access and haven't received an invite, please reach out to the SWIC's office at: [NHSWIC@dos.nh.gov](mailto:NHSWIC@dos.nh.gov)
- Division members are assisting with 2-1-1 call center call-taking needs;
- Grant planning for the 9-8-8 3-digit 2022 rollout has moved to next steps - The application for grant funding was approved by the "Vibrant Emotional Health Suicide prevention Lifeline 9-8-8 State Planning Grant Initiative" for \$128K. Next steps to be determined by the Suicide Prevention Coalition which includes 9-1-1, Headrest, NHAMI, DHHS, Granite United Way / 2-1-1,
- New Trainees have graduated and are on their own, screening applicant for the next class of TC's slated to start training in March;
- ESF #2 support continues for many Mission Tasks, including radio supply to vaccination sites, as needed during the COVID response by the state;
- Presentations made to CRTC (Concord High) re: 9-1-1 capabilities and technologies including interaction with Public Safety agencies;
- Met with Chief Goldman, Sheriff Wright (Belknap), NHEDA Reps., and Rep. Doug Trottier re: inclusion of PS Dispatchers and Telecommunicators into Group II Retirement. As recommended by the group, the committee at ED&A "Retained" the Bill so that further research could be done re: unanswered questions;
- Working with DNCR to provide guidance re: their Capital Radio project to assist in the purchase of and maintenance of their radio system in support of Parks, Forests & Lands, Rangers, etc.;
- Met with members of the Governor's Task Force on School Safety for Division-related updates on the recommendations made in the report;

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

He will be making a presentation to the Commission at the next meeting on any concerns on the E-911 system.

**IAFC Director – (Chief Christopoulos) –**

He spoke of participation on IAFC Committees. He will be happy to recommend anyone in NE who is interested.

FRI public gathering restrictions in Charlotte MAY cause the conference to be altered. Also the membership management software has sent some incorrect invoices through the emails. We will be sending out an explanatory email.

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

A virtual meeting was held in January. They are still hoping to host the June conference but are still waiting for conditions to improve.

The budget will be slightly in the red for this year.

**Old Business –**

Chief Thomas reported on the meeting of the NH Overdose Fatality Committee meeting. They are receiving various reports on Narcan useage, demographics of the victims, etc. They will be reviewing these reports to recognize trends. Contact him with pertinent information. Their final report has to be in by December.

**New Business –**

Chief Jones has appointed a Nomination Committee for the April meeting (Chiefs Carrier, Lyon and Klose).

He needs two members to assist Chief Thomas on the Auditing Committee. Chiefs Don DeAngelis of Epping and Mark Cotreau of Rye volunteered.

**Good and Welfare –**

He mentioned a call he received from Aubuchon Hardware asking for his department to take possession of a recalled fire-starter. Marshal Parisi will be investigating.

The meeting was adjourned at 1734 hours.

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

February 11, 2021