



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

The meeting was called to order at 0904 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: Adam Schmidt from our lobbying firm.

Minutes of the February 11 meeting have been posted. A MOTION (Christopoulos/Howard) to accept carried unanimously.

Financial Reports: (Submitted this morning – vote next month).

Communications: n/a

Applications for membership: Dan Dinwidde from LW Bills is a new Advocate member and Chief Alan Quimby of Chichester is a new Active member.

Life Membership: n/a

President’s Report: (Jones) –

- Bi-Weekly Covid -19 virtual mtgs held this past Monday, Current numbers currently on the trending down, to include First Responders. Announcement of Mass Vaccination at NH Motor Speedway
- Bi Weekly with Marshall Parisi, current covid-19 numbers, legislation Decision
- Called Commissioner Quinn immediately after the interviews for is assistance to encourage a Fire Representative for the position.

- Discussion w/ Jeff Phillips on advertising current available slots for the 1582 physicals to current FF's. Requested a last call notification to the FF's who were eligible for the physical but hadn't signed up prior to announcing the openings
- Discussion w/ Justin Romanello on assisting w/ Home Bound Individuals w/ the vacancies.
- Contacted Webster Fire Chief Bean and offered any assistance to his dept. or other Depts. that responded to their horrific fire.
- Received an e-mail from Chief Christopoulos identifying NHRS intentions to cover Pandemic assistance w/ vaccinations back to January 15th thru Sept 30th. Passed this on to Fallon at NHES for direction.
- Established an Audit, Nomination & Budget Committees at this time.
- Requested to sit in on an information training pertaining to Methamphetamines, instructed by Mike Lercyer DEA
 - Meth Labs in NH #1 amongst the New England States

Executive Director's Report (Lemire) –

- The April 8 meeting will be the Annual Meeting, beginning at 4:00 pm.
- I have contacted the Omni Mt. Washington to hold our deposit for 2022.
- Adam and I worked on a letter to legislators. It went out Monday and we have already had some positive feedback. Thanks to Marshal Parisi for a digital pamphlet to accompany it.
- The dues will be increasing in April.

1st Vice President Report (Sitar) –

- He is on the state emergency advisory committee and they met last week to offer input on the Johnson and Johnson vaccine roll out.
- He's still accepting applications for the Chief Fire Officer credentialing program.
- The state interoperability committee still has grant money for radio reprogramming.

2nd Vice President Report (Beattie) –

HB 111; *Elimination of various immunities for local officials and employees from tort liabilities for good faith decisions made in performance of their duties.*

Per NHMA bulletin "It expressly states that it will be no defense in such cases that the official or employee acted in good faith, or that the official or employee reasonably believed that his or her conduct was lawful."

Passed the House Judiciary Committee 19-2

Affects, Fire, Police, Building Code Officials, City/Town Management etc...

Will be difficult to find people to do these positions knowing there is no protection.

The municipality will be held financially liable, but the employee could have job loss as a result.

Unknown when next house committee meeting is; next available testimony will be when this goes to the Senate level.

NHMA taking an obvious position against this.

We need to do same, and will do so, through lobbyist, and a proactive approach on our part.

HB 187; *DHHS Advisory Commission and removal of NHAFC (and others) from this Commission*

This bill would remove, NHAFC, PFFNH, NH Police Chiefs and County Representative from the advisory committee which would be seated if the Commissioner of DHHS had to enact certain orders during a public health emergency.

Has not been done under this current pandemic, so rarely needed.

Amendment proposed to keep these positions in place.

Public hearing on Monday March 15th with ED&A to support the amendment

SB 119; *Relative to death benefits for spouses of Group I and II members*

Allow the spouse of a member who was eligible to retire, but dies prior to retiring, to receive maximum benefit.

Senate Finance Committee will be voting on it next week.

Police Chiefs contacted us to garner an opinion.

HB 91; *Relative to death benefits for first responders who die from suicide.*

Would make suicide LODD

PFFNH and Police Chiefs support bill

Division 1 of House Finance Committee voted to retain the bill 7-0. If full committee votes to retain the bill it will remain in committee for 2021 and go to the floor in early 2022

Does this take away NHFMO investigation powers?

SB 153; *Relative to retirement benefits for a police officer or firefighter disabled as a result of violent injury.*

Senate ED&A Committee voted 5-0 to re-refer the bill.

If the Senate votes to approve the recommendation, the bill will stay in committee for rest of year and go to the floor in January of 2022.

Thank you to Executive Director Lemire and Adam Schmidt for disseminating the letter to our legislators in lieu of a legislative breakfast. We have received positive feedback.

Sgt. At Arms (Emanuel) –

- He reported progress at UNH with COVID numbers returning to normal.

Committee Reports

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

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

Division Reports

Fire Marshal – (Marshal Parisi)

ADMINISTRATION:

Personnel:

We are deeply saddened to report the death of Cyndel Donoghue, a member of the Fire Marshal's Office family. Cyndel worked as a part-time program coordinator for the state building permit system under Deputy Toomey. She was a young, energetic, rising star in the FMO, and will be profoundly missed. Cyndel was also a Captain with the Webster Fire Department. Her step-dad is Webster Fire Chief Emmett Bean.

Webster FD will be hosting a celebration of life for Cyndel on Saturday, March 20. Her obituary can be found here: [Cyndel Donoghue Obituary \(2021\) - Webster, NH - Concord Monitor \(legacy.com\)](#)

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

HB 341 – Relative to 4-plex housing being a single family dwelling (OPPOSED)

BUREAU OF INVESTIGATIONS: (Deputy Keith Rodenhiser)

- New/Active cases: 12 calls for service in the month of February; our 6 investigators and 2 district chiefs are actively working 17 criminal cases.
- * On February 1, 2021, investigators responded to the Jefferson Town Offices at 698 Presidential Highway to assist the Jefferson FD with a fire investigation. A fire occurred in the structure which caused significant damage to the building and some heat damage to the town's fire department. The cause remains under investigation but at this time does not appear to be criminal in nature.
- * On February 8, 2021, the Raymond Fire Department responded to 44 Route 27 for an apartment building fire. Raymond FD investigated the fire and later asked for the assistance of the BOI to conduct follow up interviews for them.
- * On February 11, 2021, investigators and a K9 team responded to 105 Witchtrot Rd. in Wakefield to assist the Wakefield FD and PD with a fire investigation at an apartment building. WPD arrested one individual at the scene on charges related to the fire. The fire remains under investigation at this time.
- * On February 24, 2021, investigators and a K9 team responded to 252 Deer Meadow Rd. in Webster to assist the Webster FD and PD with a fire investigation at a single family residence. A mother and her two young children had to be rescued from the building by firefighters and were transported to Boston area hospitals for medical treatment. The fire remains under investigation.
- * On February 28, 2021, investigators and a K9 team responded to 30 Burgess St. in Nashua to assist Nashua FD and PD with a fire investigation where a male individual was found deceased inside the residence where the fire had been discovered. It was determined through the autopsy that the male individual did not die as a result of the fire. The fire is still under investigation at this time.
- Fatal Fires: On December 13, 2021, the Milford Fire Department responded to 21 George St. for a woman that caught her nightgown on fire from being too close to a propane heater in her garage. The female was transported to the hospital, then transferred to a Boston hospital for further treatment of burns to her torso. On 2/12/21, the FMO was advised that the patient had passed away the day prior from her injuries. While the autopsy report is still pending, it is likely that burn injuries contributed to this death. The fire appears to be accidental in nature.

On February 5, 2021, the Salem Fire Department responded to 4 Lou Al Ln. in Salem for a structure fire. One resident was transported to the hospital and then

transferred to a Boston hospital for further treatment of burns and possible airway injuries. On 2/15/21, the FMO was advised that the patient had passed away from her injuries over the weekend. While the autopsy report is still pending, it is likely that burn injuries contributed to this death. The fire remains under investigation by the Salem FD.

- *Ignitable Liquid Detection Canine Teams:* Our two IGL Canine Teams were deployed three times in the month of February. The NHFMO and the Manchester FD conducted a joint-training day with the three dogs in the state where we worked on building sniffs using a scene in Henniker. A dog demonstration was conducted for a Cub Scout Pack in Newmarket.
- *Public Outreach:* Investigators are assisting with youth firesetter assessments in several communities throughout the state.
- *Training/Committees:* BOI members attended a virtual training on Giving Stronger Deposition and Trial Testimony which was presented by the International Association of Arson Investigators (IAAI). Members of the BOI attended the Electric & Hybrid Vehicle Design Basics and other CFI Trainer classes. BOI members also completed a training on Crisis Response: De-Escalation Skills for Law Enforcement.
- *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.
- An FMO Fire Investigator position was posted on 1/19/21. We have several candidates that have applied and the physical agility test, and the written test, are scheduled for 4/5/21.

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 27th 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 1547 calls for assistance
- Assisted 126 first responders with alternative lodging accommodations
- Tracked 2101 first responders through exposure/quarantine/testing status
- Documented 2,463 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. If you are from a smaller department please try to collaborate with a neighboring community for this training.

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 for more information on the use of PEAC-WEB.

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

Fireworks:

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:

Our office recently released a notice about the availability of new online fire data tools. It includes critical information about account registration, vendor considerations, and troubleshooting. It pertains to the existing online NFIRS system (**not** the new initiative for RespondNH) and is attached to this monthly report.

FEMA has released several eNIFRS training videos on the following topics:

- How to create an incident
- How to Register
- How to search for an incident
- How to import incidents

Check them out at <https://www.usfa.fema.gov/data/nfirs/support/training.html>

For those of you that have newly-assigned personnel entering your NFIRS data, the USFA also offers a self-study course on the modules, data conversion, and coding scenarios. [National Fire Incident Reporting System \(NFIRS\) self-study course \(fema.gov\)](#)

Community Risk Reduction:

The state of New Hampshire has six departments participating in the NFPA's Community Risk Assessment (CRA) pilot program, aligned with the NFPA 1300 Standard on Community Risk Assessment and Community Risk Reduction Plan Development. They include Bedford, Concord, Hampton, Manchester, Newington, Peterborough.

The International Fire Safety Training Institute (IFSTA) recently introduced a free, short online introductory course Community Risk Reduction. If the concept of CRR is familiar but you aren't entirely sure how it applies to your department day-to-day, we encourage you to spend 10 minutes on the first module of *Essentials of Community Risk Reduction* for a quick introduction. <https://strategicfire.org/crressentials>

Vision 20/20 has released a new podcast on CRR Radio. It covers the role of preventive cardiac health as a CRR issue and can be listened to [here](#).

Public Education:

This weekend is Daylight Savings Time (March 14th) and we encourage you to remind residents that it's also time to check their smoke alarms. We will be doing the same on our social media. Follow us on Facebook and Twitter @NHFMO.

The NFPA has released their updated, 2020 Educational Messaging Desk Reference. There are **new chapters** on youth firesetters and pet fire safety. There are also several new sections with hyperlinks from the Table of Contents.

New sections include:

- Carbon Monoxide – boating and marinas
- Home Fire Escape - people who are deaf or have hearing loss, use a mobility device and are blind or have low vision
- Fire Safety Away from Home - peer-to-peer hospitality, motor home, camper and recreation vehicle safety, safety in places of public assembly, car fire safety
- Cooking - microwave ovens, gas grills
- Electrical- pools, hot tubs, and spas, equipment safety, marine and boating safety
- Candle - how to burn a candle, candles for religious/ceremonial use in homes
- Outdoor burning – campfire safety, fire pit safety, recreational fire use
- Flammable and Combustible Liquid and Gases – propane gas safety, propane appliance maintenance, gel fuel safety
- Battery Safety – 9-volt batteries, battery disposal

Fire Standards/Training/EMS – (Director Pendergast)

Logistics-

We have awarded the bid for our aerial truck and have ordered a Rosenbauer Viper 100 foot aerial with 500 gal. tank and 2000 gpm pump. Approximately half of the funding is from FEMA in our AFG grant.

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.

We have been approved to move forward with our vehicle exhaust upgrade in the fire station. That project is going out to bid shortly.

The A building re-lining and upgrade project is complete and now being used for live fire training.

Programs-

Both our FF I and FF II day programs are well underway and our seacoast FF I will be starting shortly with all seats filled. We have also posted our southwest FF I class in Sunapee and our recently posted Inspector II program is already filled. We recently completed an Instructor I and now have an Instructor II program underway with all seats filled. 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 are pleased to provide a full schedule of classes again, and we continue to maintain CDC and DOS guidelines for health during the pandemic.

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 re-licensing 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 the vaccine clinics and sites and have supported the effort with over 100 personnel days at 65 different sites.

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.

We are completing the second and final week of hosting the vendor Life Scan, who are providing comprehensive and low cost NFPA 1582 physicals to firefighters hired before 1/1/97. This will allow these firefighters to now be eligible for the State's Cancer presumption law. We had all 90 appointments filled.

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 have also scheduled several press conferences for the AG office in March

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. Update: The stakeholder groups are in agreement and we will be completing a "sign off" letter for the chief of department to confirm that their member has received the Covid 19 vaccine(s).

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.

OTHER-

I continue to meet in person with newly appointed fire chiefs around the state. I have both Littleton and Mason on the schedule currently.

Fire Standards and Training Commission –

Asst. Director Jeff Phillips explained the changes to the FF III program regarding the rescue modules.

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

- **FROST – Program Ending 3/31/2021**
- **New Rules – Adopted**
 - # 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**
 - **FSTEMS personnel assisting with vaccinations at fixed sites and homebound population**
- **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 – **Expiring 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 – Up and running as of 1 April 2021**
 - **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 – 3/12 Start Date**
 - Records Management Coordinator – **Full-Time – 3/12 Start Date**

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

Special Projects

- Educational Training Agencies – **Sub-Committee meeting on 12 March, 2021**

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

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

Homeland Security and Emergency Management – (Director Harper)

- **State EOC continues to be activated for response efforts to COVID-19. Activities include:**
 - Vaccine Distribution and Immunization continues to be the priority.
 - On Tuesday, March 9th the Laconia site moved to Belmont inside at the Belknap Mall. The team is working on getting sites secured to move inside in Salem and Newington – hopefully within the next couple weeks. The vaccine sites are Mon-Sat 12 hours a day. Thank you for your continued assistance with staffing.
 - COVID Presidential Disaster Declaration DR4516 received April 3, 2020.
 - HSEM staff continue to work with communities on FEMA reimbursements on a consistent basis. FEMA confirmed yesterday that there is no ‘end’ date on this disaster yet.
 - Communities have received \$1,286,685.34 in reimbursements to date; that is the 75% share obligated by FEMA....the 100% will catch up with that eventually.
 - GOFERR is sending letters to communities that utilized CARES funds as the 25% match. If there are questions please reach back to them as HSEM is not involved in that program.
 - State held a Vaccine Supersite clinic March 6-8 at NHMS where over 11,400 doses of Johnson & Johnson were provided to NH residents; these

were people who had appointments scheduled for April/May timeframe. HSEM thanks all those that assisted with the planning and execution of this mission – it was very successful. We have an AAR meeting today to discuss what worked well and what we can enhance for next time; if we get a large allocation of J&J we are likely to do this again.

- Procurement of PPE continues to be a priority for the State to ensure we can meet the demand; which has diminished over the last month.
- **Non-COVID related activities:**
 - EMPG COVID-19 Supplemental (EMPG-S) has been totally spent down.
 - Year 3 HMEP Application submitted last night:
 - NH Department of Safety, Fire Standards & Training & EMS \$61,440.00
 - NH Department of Safety, Fire Marshal's Office \$27,875.00
 - City of Keene Fire Department \$3,000.00
 - Midwestern NH Regional HazMat Response Team \$7,200.00
 - City of Nashua – SMART \$7,200.00
 - Southeastern NH HazMat MAD \$10,187.00
 - Lastly, Governor Sununu nominated Grant Nichols for the position of HSEM Assistant Director; confirmation is expected on March 24th. Grant is currently the Deputy Harbor Master at the NH Division of Ports & Harbors in Portsmouth. Grants background is diverse, he was a police officer in Alton and Dover. He is retired from US Air Force & Air National Guard where he was a security forces police academy instructor, team leader and recruiter. He has a Juris Doctorate from the Massachusetts School of Law and a Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice from Columbia Southern University.

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

Forests and Lands – (Chief Sherman) –

- **Spring Warden Training.** This will be offered virtually this year with a combination of video presentations and Zoom meetings. The video presentations have been uploaded on to our NHForestProtection YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC6xOrq9Q7D6dO6h5lPZJfxw/playlists> and are 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 is attached to this report.
- Since January we have been supporting the vaccination efforts. We have been staffing the vaccine distribution daily since late January by providing staff to pick up and deliver the vaccine to sites throughout the state. Our Command Trailer has also been deployed at one of the fixed sites for use by the NHNG for their mission.
- We are sending an EMT, a Paramedic and a Medical Unit Leader to Rhode Island to assist at a FEMA supported vaccination site. This mobilization is done through the USFS and our Stafford Act Agreement. The firefighters will be there for a 14-day

assignment as part of a 13-person module.

- We are monitoring weather and fuel conditions as we approach the spring fire season. Currently, parts of western NH are in the abnormally dry to moderate drought status. It is predicted to improve, but we will continue to monitor and factor into the daily fire danger predictions.
- We continue to work with the contractor on development of the new, responsive platform for the online fire permit system. This will allow the system to work better across all types of devices. The upgrade will also allow permit issuers and fire departments to directly enter a no-cost permit which will be entered into the system for mapping and dispatching purposes and will 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.

Board of Fire Control – (Chief Clark) – n/r

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;
- Division members are assisting with 2-1-1 call center call-taking needs and providing comms support for the Vaccination Super Site at NHMS. ESF #2 support continues as needed;
- SIEC (Statewide Interoperability Executive Committee) Meeting held on 2/12 at 9:00 – virtual meeting.
- NASNA (National Association of State 9-1-1 Administrators) update meeting & presentation (2/19) relative to the FCC's roll-out of the 9-8-8 suicide helpline.
- 10-Digit dialing requirement is coming by Oct. 24th, will require dialing of the area code for all local numbers;
- Preparations underway for the deployment of the NexGen 9-1-1 upgrade of our call delivery network and customer premise equipment scheduled for early spring.
- Mutualink trainings in full swing – 150+ individuals have been trained so far on the Mutualink platform.
- 988 Suicide helpline kick-off with 988 Planning Coalition via Zoom (March 4th)

E-911 Commission – (Chief Thomas) –

He reminded all of the request for info on any issues with the E-911 system.

He also spoke of available funding for another HazMat conference for next year. He will work with Chief Christopoulos on the project. A MOTION (Thomas/Sitar) to apply for grant funding for a Hazardous Materials conference in 2022, and that the New Hampshire Association of Fire Chiefs shall be the fiscal agent, carried without opposition.

IAFC Director – (Chief Christopoulos) –

He attended a board meeting last week. They are still discussing FRI and more information is forthcoming.

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

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

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.

Chief Jones mentioned the association's efforts to increase revenue.

New Business –

Good and Welfare –

Chief Emanuel will be running for an at-large director position on the IAFC Safety, Health and Survival Section.

The meeting was adjourned at 1039 hours.

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

March 11, 2021