



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, January 9, 2025

Called to order at 0903 hours by Chief Emanuel.

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

Welcome from Host: N/A

INTRODUCTION OF MEMBERS. ED Lemire read the roll of attending members.

Special Guests:

Minutes: A MOTION (Clough/Ross) to approve the minutes of the December meeting, carried unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: A MOTION (D. Chamberlain/H. Thomas) to approve the financial reports from December, carried unanimously.

Communications: n/a

Applications for membership: Chief Shawn Glidden of Rollinsford, NH and Dep. Chief Erik Swenson of Amherst, NH have been approved for membership. Charles Hall and the American Red Cross – Northern Division has been approved for Advocate membership.

Life Membership: An email poll 12/30/24 of the board resulted in a MOTION (Hunter/Watkins) to grant Chief Thomas Morrison of Plymouth Life Membership. A MOTION (Hunter/Watkins) from another email poll 12/31/24 to grant Life Membership to Chief Charles Corey. Both carried unanimously.

President's Report: (Emanuel) –

- Chief Emanuel met with HSEM Director Rob Buxton and President/Chief Tim Crowley (NH Police Chiefs) RE: Unmanned aircraft, collaboration, and communication between agencies

- He also attended the 2025 Behavioral Health Summit was well attended at NHFA. Thank you Director Cutting, PFFNH, Primex, and sponsors.
- NHAFC members will be representing New Hampshire for the CFSI program in Washington DC on February 12-13, 2025.
- He mentioned that the PFAS legislation

Report of the Executive Director: (Lemire)

- Our application for 501 c3 has been approved by the Secretary of State also. I've filed 27 pages of paperwork with the Division of Charitable Trusts to become eligible to participate in the charitable gaming. That would be March 12 in our case as the IRS gave us retroactive status. We're getting there.
- I've met with East Coast Emergency Outfitters yesterday and we will be restarting our options for shirts, vests, etc. with Assn. logo.
- I attended the NH Municipal Managers' Joint Conference with Maine managers at the Wentworth By the Sea on December 6. Their keynote presentation was the stage play dealing with the aftermath of a first responder's traumatic event. It was well received by the attendees.
- The FF Cancer Workgroup will meet again on Friday, January 31 to discuss training, paperwork, prevention and Workers' Compensation relating to cancer.
- The February NHAFC meeting will be at LRCC and will include breakfast and a seminar entitled "Effective Listening for Leadership" presented by Nashua Fire Commissioner and Professor John Steere.
- President Biden signed the "Social Security Fairness Act" on Sunday.
- The contract with Golden Eagle was signed for 1 more year with a guaranteed minimum return of \$16,000/
- Ad book proceeds to date: Total: ; Vendor:; Assn:.

1st Vice President Report (Watkins) – No report

Government Relations – (Schmidt) –

- **House/Senate Rules - The attempt to change House rules to be able to forgo a public hearing on a bill if an overwhelming majority of the Committee did not want to hear it – Failed. The House's basic rules on process – all bills have a public hearing, will remain the same. With the backup of bills being drafted and released, the Senate moved its "sign off" date on bills until January 17th.**
- **More 2025 Bills – I have included another batch of 2025 Bills below. Seems as though there are several which are familiar from past years. Several new ideas as well. As a reminder, the bill number provides a link to the text. We have confirmed a meeting in our office next Friday (1/17) at 9:00 am to review and discuss the bills. Thus far, Directors Buxton and Cutting are able to make it. Marshall Toomey is looking to move a meeting so he can attend.**
- **Senator Prentiss/Alzheimer's Legislation Meeting request – earlier this afternoon, I received a call from the Alzheimer's Association asking if a Fire Chief could participate in a remote meeting on Monday, January 13 at 2 pm. Senator Prentiss is**

introducing legislation on their behalf. From the email I received, the intent would be “.... Our intention when it comes to Fire is to have this be a part of the initial training for individuals who go through the Fire Academy. As you can see, the training could be done virtually. We envision compliance to be managed similarly as the mental health for PTSD training is.” I have attached their draft language. If you are willing to participate in the remote meeting on Monday at 2 pm, please let me know. I will follow up with the Zoom link, etc.

• **Legislative Calendar** – I have included an updated legislative calendar below. As you will see, despite not all of the bills being printed, hearings are being scheduled. I plan to work on draft testimony for HB 316 over the weekend. Chief Hunter made the outreach to Chief Ed Walker to see if he could testify. Mike Sitar called me to say he would be willing to do it as well. It seems we will be able to have a Chief present testimony outlining the concerns of Departments that provide EMS services.

Tuesday, January 14, 2025

1:30 PM SENATE FINANCE hearing on [SB 20](#) - Relative to Payment By The State Of A Portion Of Retirement System Contributions Of Political Subdivision Employers in SH 103

Wednesday, January 15, 2025

9:45 AM SENATE EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS AND ADMINISTRATION hearing on [SB 21](#) - Relative to Establishing A New Hampshire State Trooper Recruitment Loan Debt Relief Program and Making An Appropriation Therefor in SH 103

10:00 AM SENATE EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS AND ADMINISTRATION hearing on [SB 28](#) - Relative to Workers' Compensation Claims Involving Emergency Responders with Acute Stress Disorder or Post-traumatic Stress Disorder in SH 103

1:15 PM HOUSE COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS public hearing on [HB 316](#) - Relative to Reimbursement For Ground Ambulance Services in LOB 302-304

2:00 PM HOUSE COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS public hearing on [HB 185](#) - Relative to Reimbursement Rates For Ambulance Service Providers in LOB 302-304

<p><u>HB 303</u></p>	<p>Rep. Brian Sullivan; Rep. Dale Girard; Rep. Donald Bouchard; Rep. Mark MacKenzie</p>	<p>Relative to Requiring The Department Of Labor Review and Adopt Workers' Occupational Safety Requirements That Are Similar to Osha Standards.</p> <p><i>I. Requires state employers to adhere to OSHA-level safety standards. II. Authorizes the commissioner to adopt rules, review standards annually, and update them as needed. III. Provides for the hiring of up to 6 labor inspectors and one support staff to enforce these standards.</i></p>
<p><u>HB 313</u></p>	<p>Rep. Joe Alexander; Rep. David Love; Rep. Ross Berry</p>	<p>Relative to Non-public Sessions At Public Meetings Where Discussion In Public Would Likely Affect A Person's Reputation.</p> <p><i>This bill allows a person who has the right to attend a public meeting to choose that the meeting remain open, even when discussion about the person in public would likely adversely affect the reputation of the person.</i></p>
<p><u>HB 314</u></p>	<p>Rep. Kelley Potenza; Rep. Claudine Burnham; Rep. Glenn Bailey; Rep. JD Bernardy; Rep. Jose Cambrils; Rep. Julius Soti; Rep. Marie Louise Bjelobrk; Rep. Matt Sabourin dit Choinière; Rep. Susan DeRoy; Rep. Tom Mannion</p>	<p>Prohibiting The Use Of Federal, State, or Local Funds For Lobbying Activities.</p> <p><i>This bill regulates the use of public funds for lobbying activities and establishes certain additional enforcement mechanisms.</i></p>
<p><u>HB 326</u></p>	<p>Rep. Timothy Horrigan</p>	<p>Prohibiting The Operation Of Antique Passenger Vehicles, Model Year 1968 or Older, On State or Local Highways For More Than 20 Miles Unless The Vehicle Is Fitted or Retrofitted with Seat or Safety Belts.</p> <p><i>This bill requires drivers and passengers of antique vehicles with model years of 1968 or older to wear seat or safety belts unless participating in a parade or traveling off-road.</i></p>

<p><u>HB</u> <u>382</u></p>	<p>Rep. Joe Sweeney; Rep. Alissandra Murray; Rep. Jason Osborne; Rep. Jessica Grill; Rep. Joe Alexander; Rep. Ross Berry</p>	<p>Removing Authority For Municipalities to Regulate Mandatory On-site Parking Requirements.</p> <p><i>This bill eliminates the authority of municipalities to adopt or enforce regulations that mandate minimum parking requirements.</i></p>
<p><u>HB</u> <u>413</u></p>	<p>Rep. Diane Pauer; Rep. Brian Cole; Rep. Hope Damon; Rep. Joe Alexander; Rep. Judy Aron; Rep. Merryl Gibbs; Rep. Michael Aron; Sen. Keith Murphy</p>	<p>Relative to Subdivision Regulations On The Completion Of Improvements and The Regulation Of Building Permits.</p> <p><i>I. Extends the existing 5-year exemption for subdivision plats to 7 years and increases the preliminary step from 2 years to 3 years. II. Changes the building code and fire code appeals process, limiting the jurisdiction of the local building code board of appeals to hearing decisions made under local amendments to those codes. III. Provides that decisions of the building code review board regarding decisions of the fire marshal and local building code board of appeals may be appealed to superio...</i></p>
<p><u>HB</u> <u>428</u></p>	<p>Rep. Joe Alexander; Rep. Carol McGuire; Rep. Dan McGuire; Rep. Jason Osborne; Rep. Joe Sweeney; Rep. Mark Warden; Rep. Ross Berry; Sen. Daniel Innis; Sen. Keith Murphy; Sen. Mark McConkey</p>	<p>Prohibiting Municipal Amendments to The State Building Code.</p> <p><i>This bill prohibits local legislative bodies from making any new changes to the state building codes.</i></p>
<p><u>SB</u> <u>20</u></p>	<p>Sen. Cindy Rosenwald; Rep. Alexis Simpson; Rep. David Nagel; Rep. Laura Telerski; Rep. Mary Jane Wallner; Rep. Michael Edgar; Sen. David Watters; Sen. Debra Altschiller; Sen. Donovan Fenton; Sen. Pat Long; Sen. Rebecca Perkins Kwoka; Sen. Suzanne Prentiss; Sen. Tara Reardon</p>	<p>Relative to Payment By The State Of A Portion Of Retirement System Contributions Of Political Subdivision Employers.</p> <p><i>This bill provides that the state shall pay 7.5 percent of contributions of retirement system employers other than the state for group I teachers and group II members.</i></p>

<p><u>SB 21</u></p>	<p>Sen. Bill Gannon; Rep. JD Bernardy; Rep. Kenneth Weyler; Rep. Kimberly Rice; Rep. Lilli Walsh; Rep. Michael Vose; Sen. David Rochefort; Sen. Howard Pearl; Sen. Kevin Avard; Sen. Pat Long; Sen. Tim McGough; Sen. Timothy Lang</p>	<p>Relative to Establishing A New Hampshire State Trooper Recruitment Loan Debt Relief Program and Making An Appropriation Therefor.</p> <p><i>This bill establishes the New Hampshire state trooper school loan debt relief program.</i></p>
<p><u>SB 28</u></p>	<p>Sen. Regina Birdsell; Rep. Stephen Pearson; Rep. Timothy Soucy; Sen. Bill Gannon; Sen. Pat Long; Sen. Suzanne Prentiss</p>	<p>Relative to Workers' Compensation Claims Involving Emergency Responders with Acute Stress Disorder or Post-traumatic Stress Disorder.</p> <p><i>This bill provides that "date of injury" for purposes of workers' compensation claims by emergency responders with acute stress disorder or post-traumatic stress disorder shall be determined in accordance with the statute governing date of injury for occupational disease or cumulative trauma.</i></p>
<p><u>HB 390</u></p>	<p>Rep. Stephen Pearson; Rep. Charles Foote; Rep. Mark Proulx; Sen. Denise Ricciardi; Sen. Regina Birdsell</p>	<p>Relative to Adding Retired Fire Apparatus (fire Trucks) to Antique Vehicle Exemptions.</p> <p><i>This bill integrates "retired fire apparatus" into the definition of antique vehicles. It also specifies exemptions and regulations for their use, similar to other antique vehicles.</i></p>
<p><u>HB 400</u></p>	<p>Rep. Pam Brown</p>	<p>Requiring A Public Body's Collective Bargaining Negotiations to Be Deemed Public Meetings and Requiring That Arguments Made and Information Generated During The Meetings Be Made Available to The Public Under The Right-to-know Law.</p> <p><i>This bill provides that collective bargaining negotiations with a public body are a meeting under the right-to-know law.</i></p>

2nd Vice President Report (Hunter) –

Sgt. At Arms (Chamberlain) – No report

Committee Reports

Scholarship Committee – (Marshal Toomey) – No report

Division Reports

Fire Marshal: (Marshal Toomey)

ADMINISTRATION:

Personnel:

We are actively recruiting for a full-time Fire Investigator, a full-time Hazardous Materials Coordinator, a part-time Hazardous Materials Coordinator, a full-time Amendments Coordinator and a full-time State Building Inspector.

We have hired Andrea Crowell as our new part-time Recreational Ride and Lift Inspector effective January 24, 2025.

Legislation:

The Legislative Service Requests (LSR's) for the upcoming legislative session have been published. We are monitoring and will release a report of the bills we will be monitoring in a future monthly report.

Board of Fire Control:

The next Board of Fire Control meeting will be held on February 5, 2025, at 1:00 pm.

BUREAU OF INVESTIGATIONS:

In December, we received 19 incident notifications resulting in 10 scene responses. The Bureau of Investigations currently has 8 open arson or suspected arson investigations.

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

- On December 10, investigators responded to Charlestown for a structure fire. The cause is still under investigation but suspected to be electrical.
- On December 10, investigators responded to Northwood for a structure fire. The cause is currently undetermined due to the extensive damage resulting from the fire.
- On December 12, an investigator responded to Kensington for a structure fire. The cause is under investigation but suspected to be a water heater malfunction.
- On December 14, an investigator responded to Rochester for a barn

fire. The cause is under investigation but suspected to have been caused by the use of sparklers by a juvenile.

- On December 17, investigators responded to Seabrook for a structure fire. The cause is currently undetermined due to the extensive damage resulting from the fire.
- On December 20, the BOI received information of a previously unknown possible arson/insurance fraud case in the state. This is currently under investigation.
- On December 22, an investigator responded to Jackson for a structure fire. The cause is under investigation but suspected to be electrical.
- On December 25, investigators responded to Goffstown for a suspected case of arson involving incendiary devices. This is currently under investigation.
- On December 25, an investigator responded to Barnstead for a structure fire. The cause is undetermined at this time, but suspected to be an electrical cause in the kitchen.

Fatal Fire/CO Incidents:

- On December 4, the BOI received notification of a death, later determined to be from carbon monoxide exposure, and opened an investigation. This occurred in the Lakes Region.
- On December 16, the FMO was notified of a structure fire in Canaan believed to have started on a porch due to smoking materials or a candle. An occupant was burned and later died in a hospital. The cause and manner of death are pending at this time, but the death is related to the fire, which appears to have been accidental.
- On December 25, investigators responded to a carbon monoxide incident in a house in Wakefield that resulted in the deaths of four people, possibly several days before. The CO release is suspected to be related to the home's heating system, but is still under investigation.
- On December 26, investigators responded to Bradford for a structure fire involving a barricaded subject who was later found deceased in the building. The cause of the fire is currently under investigation, as is the cause and manner of the person's death.
- On December 27, the FMO was notified of a death in Londonderry that had occurred in November of 2024 and later determined to be due to carbon monoxide poisoning. This case is under investigation.

Youth Firesetter:

- There were two youth fire setter intakes received in December, which are currently open.

Training/Committees:

- Members of the FMO participated in the Special Olympics Leadership Conference in Waterville Valley.

BUREAU OF BUILDING SAFETY & CONSTRUCTION:

State Building Permit System:

We processed the following permits in the month of December:

- Building: 23
- Electrical: 11
- Plumbing: 10
- Fuel Gas: 2
- Mechanical Non-Fuel Gas: 2
- Fire Protection: 4
- Fire Alarm: 8

Technical Assistance, Educational & Healthcare Reviews:

We initiated 5 educational and 8 healthcare plan reviews, completed 255 inspections and 163 technical consults in the month of December.

Variance Requests:

We processed 1 variance requests in the month of December.

Fireworks Safety and Enforcement Program

The Fireworks Safety and Enforcement Program has conducted the following in the month of December:

- Proximate Licenses Issued: 2
- Display Certificate of Competency Issued: 0
- Consumer Fireworks Retail Store Licenses Issued: 2
- Explosive Magazine Inspections: 0
- Proximate Audience Inspections: 2
- Technical Assistance: 23

Modular Building Program

The Modular Building Program conducted the following in the month of December:

- Inspections: 15
- Audits of Manufacturers: 0
- Audits of Educational Facilities: 0
- Labels Issued to Manufacturers: 10
- Units Shipped to New Hampshire: 20

Tramway and Amusement Ride Safety

The Tramway and Amusement Ride Safety section conducted the following in the month of December:

- Amusement Registrations: 27
- Amusement Inspections: 28
- Amusement Incidents: 0
- Tramway Registrations: 31
- Tramway Inspections: 35
- Tramway Incidents: 0

BUREAU OF OUTREACH & EDUCATION:

Hazardous Materials:

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

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

In the month of December, our Hazardous Materials Coordinator attended the PEAC monthly training, DEA Clandestine Lab Training, Haz Mat Collaborative Meeting, the State Emergency Response Commission meeting, and met with the Seacoast, Southeastern and Central NH Haz Mat Teams regarding strategic planning.

Electric Vehicles and Lithium-Ion Batteries

The council to study the impacts of electric vehicles, e-mobility devices, and the associated lithium-ion batteries hazards for first responder response, the environment, building and fire codes, life safety, and property protection continues its work. The interim report of the council was submitted to the Governor and General Court on November 1, 2024. The first meeting in 2025 will be held on January 14th at 1:00 pm.

Have an EV or lithium-ion battery incident to report? Please fill out this form: [Electric Vehicle \(EV\) and Battery Incident Reporting \(office.com\)](#)

Incident Reporting:

Your commitment to ensuring we have great data to accurately show the fire problem in NH is greatly appreciated!

Please reach out to our NHFIRS team for any incident reporting questions at nhfirs@dos.nh.gov.

We continue to monitor the development of the U.S. Fire Administration's (USFA) new fire information and analytics platform, known as the National Emergency Response Information System (NERIS), for the American fire and emergency services. We will be attending a session at the National Fire Academy at the end of January to learn about the implementation schedule and onboarding process.

Find more information and resources here: [National Emergency Response Information System \(NERIS\) \(fema.gov\)](https://www.fema.gov/national-emergency-response-information-system-neris)

Outreach Events:

[There was one Steps to Safety presentation in December. This presentation shares fire safety and falls prevention messages tailored to older adults. It was one event in the series "Coffee and Causes" hosted by United Way of Greater Nashua.](#)

On December 12, we partnered with the Manchester Fire Department, State Farm, the NH Fire Prevention Society, and the National Fire Sprinkler Association to present a sprinkler demonstration for members of the news media and the public. The demonstration was possible using a Side-by-Side Burn Trailer, with two "rooms" decorated and furnished equally. The only difference being one side has sprinklers installed. This event highlighted the importance of working smoke alarms, the positive impact of having a sprinkler system in the home, and shared other holiday fire safety tips.

You can view a recording of the full event on the NH Dept. of Safety's YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VnVEp9AD74k>

The Boston Globe also ran a story on their website, Firefighters ignite N.H. living room for holiday fire safety. It can be found here:

<https://www.bostonglobe.com/2024/12/13/metro/new-hampshire-holiday-home-fire-safety/>

New Hampshire State Fire Marshal Sean P. Toomey and the Manchester Fire Department set fire Thursday, Dec. 12, 2024,



to a decorated living room in a trailer in Manchester, N.H., to raise awareness about fire safety tips during the holidays. Steven Porter/Globe Staff

[Interested in having the SFMO join an event in your community? Please reach out to us as early as possible so we can make every effort to attend your event. Send your request to us at \[fmpubliceducation@dos.nh.gov\]\(mailto:fmpubliceducation@dos.nh.gov\).](#)

[Want to know what resources we have available to supplement your event? Check out what is available to loan here: \[Equipment Loan\]\(#\)](#)

Public Education:

The USFA's Fire and Life Safety Communicators Initiative is a collaboration among the fire and emergency medical services to speak with "one voice" on fire and life safety. The theme for this January is "Escape Planning." In the event of a home fire, every second counts. Use these messages and free materials to teach your community about the importance of making and practicing a home fire escape plan.



Resources:

[Every Second Counts: Plan 2 Ways Out!](#)
[High-Rise Apartment and Condominium Fire Safety](#)
[Our Home Fire Escape Plan](#)

Videos:

Have Two Ways Out: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EKnUjC5xlgw>

Find the monthly themes for 2025 here:

[Fire and Life Safety Communicators Initiative \(fema.gov\)](#)

Training Opportunities:

Preparations are underway for 2025 offerings. If you are interested in hosting a future session, or would like to suggest a future training topic, please reach out to us at fmopubliceducation@dos.nh.gov

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

Personnel

- We have one vacancy for Program Specialist III (Education Technologist) of the Educational Technology section.
- We have two vacancies for full-time Fire Training Instructor positions. One candidate has been given a conditional offer.
- Rachel Larry has been hired as our Specialty Services Specialist (Mobile Integrated Healthcare) and started in late December.
- A final offer has been made to a candidate for our part-time Communications Specialist who begins on January 10th.
- Peter Slayton has begun as our part-time Program Coordinator for EMS Education Assessment.
- We have one vacancy for our part-time EMS Compliance Specialist.
- We have one vacancy for our part-time EMS Vehicle Inspector Coordinator.
- We have vacancies for EMS Exam Coordinators.
- We have vacancies for EMS Vehicle Inspectors.

Grants

- We submitted our application for the 2024 AFG grant.
- The NH EMT Training Program funded by GOFFER has ended. NH Employment Security is in the process of finalizing all eligible reimbursements.

Special Projects

- The early detection cancer screening pilot program RFP is posted.
- The Raymond S. Burton Fire and EMS Training Facility infrastructure project continues to move forward.
 - Phase II which includes the heated garage and classroom building upgrades is underway.
 - No new classes or prop usages are being scheduled for this campus until construction is completed. Classes will be moved to other facilities in the area.
 - Work continues at this facility with weekly meetings taking place with all of the pertinent parties involved.
 - Ditches have been filled in for the winter. The area surrounding the “A” Building has been leveled and graded.
 - All equipment in the Admin/Classroom building has been removed and placed in storage so construction can begin in that structure.
 - Props and Equipment have been stored in connex boxes and the area immediately surrounding the White Building has been cleared in preparation for demolition.
 - Driveway markers have been installed in areas with holes, ditches, and uneven ground.
- We continue to work with the NH Department of Insurance on the Ground Ambulance Cost Reporting Program and Study as part of the recently passed SB 407. The final report is expected to be released in early January.
- We continue to work on our website transition and improvements with NH DoIT. Much of this work is being done offline in preparation of a full transition to the new state web platform.
- The *Law Enforcement Officers, Professional Firefighters and Emergency Medical Technicians Career Development, Recruitment and Retention Program* established in New Hampshire RSA 188-F:70 remains active and available.
 - Details can be found on our website under the Recruitment and Retention link from the homepage.

Legislative/Administrative Rules

- The 2025 legislative session has begun. We are monitoring 15 legislative service requests (LSR's) and will review final language as it is available.
- The Fire Standards and Training Commission amended Fire rules relative to the Recruitment and Retention report and its recommendations were approved at the December 19th Joint Legislative Committee on Administrative Rules (JLCAR) meeting. These rules now need formal adoption by the FSTC and Commissioner.

- The proposed Trauma Rules are working through the internal legal process.
- An EMS discipline and other various administrative rule changes proposal has been submitted to JLCAR. This proposed change is supported by the EMS Coordinating Board and would allow for deceased providers names to be removed the public listing, along with other various changes to the ruleset.
 - There will be a public hearing on January 17th at 1000 in the second-floor conference room of the Department of Safety, 33 Hazen Drive, Concord, NH.
 - The written comment period deadline is January 27th at 1615 hrs. and may be submitted to Marta Modigliani by fax to 603-271-1033 or email at rules@dos.nh.gov.
 - Any questions, or if copies are needed, please contact Ms. Modigliani at rules@dos.nh.gov or by phone at 603-223-3896.
- Interim provisional EMS License rules are on the JLCAR agenda on January 17th at the Legislative Office building in rooms 306-308 at 0900.
- Administrative Rules to make the full transition to ETA's and sunset the former process have been developed and are working through the internal legal process for submission to JLCAR.

Outreach

- Staff members continue to attend various stakeholder and mutual aid group meetings and make department visits.
 - In December staff attended the Route 125's Chief's meeting, the Mt. Washington Valley Chief's meeting, and the Monadnock Area Fire Chief's Association meeting.

Mental Health & Resiliency

- The Mental Health Seminar for 2025 is scheduled for January 7-8, 2025 at the Richard Flynn campus in Concord. The content and presenters have been finalized and registration is open.
- PTSD Documentary Film followed by a panel discussion sponsored by Sobriety Centers and Forge VFR, January 31st from 9-12 at the Richard Flynn campus in Concord.
- 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.
 - The Governor and Executive Council have approved a contract with Dr. Nicole Sawyer to serve as the mental health professional consultant on this project which is underway.

Fire Standards and Training Commission

- The next Fire Standards and Training Commission meeting will be January 9th at 1000 in Classrooms 5/6 in the dormitory building at the Richard Flynn Fire Academy in Concord.
- 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. 75% of departments complied in 2023.
- The NH Fire Standards and Training Commission has approved the written comment period to open through November 12, 2024 to January 11, 2025 for public comment on the proposed administrative update to the Airport Firefighter curriculum.
 - Public comment can be submitted at: <https://nhfa-ems.com/fst-commission-curriculum-public-feedback-form/>. Public hearings were held on December 3rd at 1500 and 1700 hours.
 - You can find the curriculum information at <https://www.nh.gov/safety/divisions/fstems/boards/index.html>
- The NH Fire Standards and Training Commission (FSTC) seated volunteers for a curriculum development Visiting Committee for the new NFPA 1010 Firefighter I and Firefighter II standards. The new 1010 standard is part of the NFPA standards consolidation project.

CURRICULUM

- *Accreditation:* The five-year process of re-accreditation through the Pro Board has begun. The process involves completing a comprehensive self-assessment of the Division's policies and certification exam practices. This entire process culminates in a site visit from the Pro Board representatives to review all documentation.
- *Hazardous Materials:* The Hazardous Materials Awareness and Operations Level certification exams have been accredited by the Pro Board.
 - As of January 1st the new version of Hazardous Materials Awareness is available for self-enrollment through our online learning system.
 - Any person who completed Awareness and Operations within six months prior to Jan. 1st will have six months from the completion of their course to complete the previously accredited exam.
 - The Operations programs will be scheduled and delivered throughout 2025.
- *Fire Inspector:* The development of Fire Inspector and First Responder Inspector curricula has been tentatively suspended by vote of the Visiting Committee. It will tentatively resume in February.
- *Firefighter I & II:* The members of the Firefighter I & II Visiting Committee have been selected by the Fire Standards and Training Commission. The first meeting of the Visiting Committee was held on Wednesday, December 18th and the next is scheduled for January 15th at 9am at the Richard Flynn campus.

- *Airport Firefighter*: An administrative update of the Airport Firefighter curriculum is under way. No Job Performance Requirements (JPRs) changed when the old NFPA 1003 standard was consolidated into the new NFPA 1010 standard. This administrative update is currently available for the standard public comment period

BUREAU OF FIRE TRAINING

Courses/Programs

- Firefighter I
 - Litchfield – January 21st
 - Keene – March 10th (FF I & II)
 - Spring LRCC Class – January 21st (FF I & II)
 - Spring Recruit School – March 3rd
- Firefighter II
 - Epping – February 19th
- Technical Rescue
 - Ice Rescue – Newbury – February 8th
 - Ice Rescue – Center Harbor – February 22nd
 - Swiftwater Rescue Boat Operations – Goffstown, April 11th
 - Swiftwater Level I – North Woodstock, May 5th and Franklin June 2nd
 - Swiftwater Level II – Goffstown, May 7th
- Driver Operator
- Hazardous Materials
- Module Deliveries
 - Firefighter II Vehicle Extrication – Dalton – December 6th (cancelled for low enrollment)
- IAFF Fireground Survival
- Airport Rescue Firefighting
 - Richard Flynn campus - September 25th
- “On My Time” Program
 - To date over 3,000 students have completed individual online modules and over 200 skills modules.
 - We continue to offer support and guidance to many departments participating in this program.
- Special Programs
 - Doing it Right: Reducing Cancer in the Fire Service - Train the Trainer – Richard Flynn campus January 24th or Saturday January 25th, each day is from 0800-1600. Registration can be found at <https://forms.gle/pUVCQYaCXNyXNSnk8>

- Electric Vehicle Training Resources
 - US Department of Energy, Alternate Fuels Data Center, EV Safety Training Resources for First and Second Responders
 - <https://afdc.energy.gov/vehicles/electric-responders>

Testing

- Monthly Testing was completed this month for the NFPA 1001, 1002 and 1003 testing processes which includes administering the written and practical exams.
 - Monthly testing is the 2nd Tuesday of every month. Burton campus monthly testing is only in March, June, September and December on the Wednesday after the Flynn campus exam date. Submissions must be entered by the last day of the month before the month you wish to test.
- Electronic certification testing continues. We are working to streamline the process of collecting course completion data, verifying eligibility to test, scheduling candidates for exams, generating reports for results and remediation, and scheduling exam item validation.

Apparatus/Equipment

- Engine Three is out of service, awaiting repair to pump valves.
- Utility One is out of service at Liberty International for a recall notice.
- Utility Five is out of service with a radiator problem. The repair date was pushed back to January by the repair facility.
- The Chevy Silverado S608 is limited to use on the Concord Campus.
- The Ford Pickup S609 is out of service until further notice as a result of an MVA.
- Three new trailers were delivered in December. A 16' Utility Trailer will replace the Forcible Entry trailer, and two enclosed trailers to replace our two SCBA refilling trailers. Our plan is to have them in service by the end of January.
- All other Fleet Vehicles are in service.
- All hose testing at the Flynn campus has been completed with several lengths taken out of service.
- Hose testing at the Burton facility is scheduled for early this spring.

Facilities, Prop Usage and Projects

- The Derry Fire Department used the “B” Building on the Flynn Campus on December 11th and had the Forcible Entry Trainer at their station on December 17th.
- The Tuftonboro Fire Department used the Forcible Entry Trainer on December 12th.
- The Berlin/Gorham SRT used the White Building at the Burton Facility on December 12th. This the last prop usage at that site until construction is completed.

BUREAU OF CERTIFICATION AND SUPPORT

Courses/Programs

- Instructor I/II/III Programs
 - Instructor I – Manchester – January 16th
 - Instructor I – North Woodstock – March 29th
 - Instructor I – Richard Flynn campus – Concord – May 7th
 - Instructor II – Virtual October 21st
 - Instructor II - Virtual February 24th
 - Instructor III – Virtual April 9th
- Instructor Professional Development
 - Designing Effective Curriculum – Virtual February 25th, Richard Flynn campus February 27th
 - Developing Learning Objectives – Virtual March 25th and Richard Flynn campus March 27th
 - Engaging Instructional Strategies – Richard Flynn campus April 22nd and April 24th
 - Assessing Student Performance Using a Skill Acquisition Model – Virtual, May 27th and Richard Flynn campus May 29th
- Fire Officer I/II Programs
 - Fire Officer I – Richard Flynn campus – Concord, February 4th
 - Fire Officer I – Richard Flynn campus – Concord, May 13th
 - Fire Officer II – Virtual October 15th
 - Fire Officer II – Virtual April 2nd
- Fire Inspector Programs
 - Fire Inspector I – Portsmouth, January 15th
 - Fire Inspector II – Richard Flynn campus – Concord, April 3rd
- Fire Investigator
- Warrants and Citations – Richard Flynn campus – Concord, November 13th
- National Fire Academy
 - Decision Making for Initial Company Operations – Richard Flynn campus – Concord, March 10, 2025
 - Incident Safety Officer – Richard Flynn campus – Concord, April 7, 2025
- Your Workplace has Changed: Fire Dynamics for Structural Firefighting

Education Technology

- There is now a separate course tile in the course listing on the Resource Center to accommodate modular delivery.
- An updated Stroke program is in development. This update will remove the current focus on an old Scope of Practice and Protocols.

- Work continues on the OB Emergencies program. Orientation, Prenatal Assessment, Normal Labor & Delivery, and Newborn Resuscitation are under SME review. The course is close to publishing.
- FF I modules for Communications and Ventilation have been updated and are in final review.
- Safe Pediatric Transport is under final review.

Instructors

- The Fire Training Captains have been actively training and endorsing Instructors and Program Assistants in numerous classes and prop operations.
- 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

- There are (6) CPAT dates in 2025. We restructured the schedule of these exams to better span the entire year to make this test more aligned with department hiring needs.
 - February 3rd – Concord - New Hampshire National Guard-Army Aviation Support
 - April 22nd – Laconia – Merrill Fay Ice Arena
 - June 17th - Laconia – Merrill Fay Ice Arena
 - August 12th - Laconia – Merrill Fay Ice Arena
 - Additional dates TBA
- Department member assistance is needed for CPAT on testing days. Please confirm available personnel to assist with PC Nick Poulin at Nicholas.a.poulin@dos.nh.gov prior to the test date to assist in planning.

BUREAU OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

Boards and Commissions

- The NH Medical Control Board meeting will meet at 0930 on January 16th.
- The NH Emergency Medical and Trauma Services Coordinating Board meeting will meet on January 16th at 1300.
- The NH Trauma Medical Review Committee (TMRC) will meet at 0930 on February 19th.
- The Privacy Committee will meet February 26th at 1300.

Operations

- With final adoption of the Educational Training Agency ruleset as of April 30, 2024, the Administrative Packet for application can be found at on the Division website and Resource Center.
- Initial EMS Instructor license applications are now available in Respond NH.
 - Interested individuals should start the application first and then you will be contacted.
- The EMS Simulation Training Program is active with ongoing open enrollment courses.
- There are currently 308 licensed EMS Units and 6,069 EMS Providers.
- 31 ambulance and 5 wheelchair van inspections were conducted last month.
- Background checks are currently averaging 6 days for new applicants for licensure.
- EMS Psychomotor Exams
 - 4 BLS exams scheduled until May 31, 2025
 - 5 ALS exams scheduled until May 31, 2025

Courses/Programs

- Emergency Medical Responder (EMR)
 - The Winter 2025 Emergency Medical Responder (EMR) course will run from February 1, 2025, to March 29, 2025. There will be a two week break between orientation and the start of course work. This course will be a hybrid program consisting of both online and in-person instruction. Online lectures will be on Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 6:00pm to 9:00pm and in-person skills days on Saturdays from 9:00am to 4:00pm.
 - This program will be offered at the Richard Flynn campus in Concord.
 - Cost per student is \$895.00 for affiliated students and \$1,295.00 for unaffiliated students. (ARPA funding has expired)
- EMS Continuing Education and Simulation Education
 - *Neurological Trauma* – Richard Flynn campus – Concord January 15th
 - *Germs and Source Control for EMS Providers* – Richard Flynn campus – Concord February 11th
 - *Neurological Trauma* – Littleton February 15th
 - *The CBRNE Patient* – Richard Flynn campus – Concord February 5th and Virtual February 20th
 - *Pre-Hospital Trauma Life Support (PHTLS)* – Richard Flynn campus - Concord March 21st
 - *Adult and Pediatric Gastrointestinal Emergencies* – Richard Flynn campus – Concord March 12th and Littleton Hospital April 12th

- *NFA FO146 Supervising Emergency Medical Services* – Location TBA April 26th
- EMS in the Warm Zone Awareness, Operations and Rescue Task Force Concepts
 - 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.
 - We are developing the 2025 schedule for six open enrollment RTF courses.
 - If anyone is looking for this program, please contact Shawn Croteau at Shawn.A.Croteau@DOS.NH.GOV

Clinical Systems

- We continue work to support multiple initiatives including enhancing “Leave Behind” Narcan distribution, updating EMS Infection Control Best Practices in collaboration with DHHS and our education group, and reviewing EMS System Efficiency concepts.
- All EMS Bulletins can be found on our website at: <https://www.nh.gov/safety/divisions/fstems/ems/bulletins/index.html>
- We continue our outreach and support to agencies for inter-facility transfers and mobile integrated health programs.
 - There are currently 15 MIH programs in NH.

Data Management

- NHESR
 - 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/>.
 - We are preparing to restart the monthly EMS and Fire Reporting Users groups. Staff are currently developing a plan for more broad engagement, and determining topics and successful formats other states are using. We will be sending out a service survey shortly to get feedback for scheduling and other factors.
 - 114 departments are utilizing the system for incident reporting.
 - We have created several templates for reporting including an AFG Grant Checklist Report and a new ISO Audit Report.
 - Anyone interested in the system can contact nhesr@dos.nh.gov by email, submit a ticket at <https://nhfa-ems.com/support/>, or call 603-223-4200 and ask for a member of the data team to reach us.
- 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 can 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.
- EMS Instructor Initial/Reinstatement applications are online and available for licensing.
- EMS Instructor Renewal applications will be available online in early 2025.
- EMS Units utilizing third party ePCR software are being encouraged to finish onboarding.
- Total EMS incidents entered into the system for 2024 were 266,564.

Compliance

- There are currently 30 active investigations and ongoing cases.

Preparedness and Special Projects

- Outreach events for AED consultations and orientation sessions continue.

Professional Development Committee _ (Director Cutting) – No report

Fire Standards and Training Commission – (Chiefs Clark/DeAngelis) –

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

National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC) – (Chiefs E. Thomas/Cathy) –

- Small town fire chief seminar will be in Waldo, ME on April 5.

EMS Trauma Medical Review Committee (Dep. Chief Clough) –

Meeting opened at 0930

1) Welcome/Membership

Open position for Neurosurgery Rep as well as Medical Examiners Office

2) Approval of the minutes

A motion was made (Maggio/Clough to approve the August 21, 2024 meeting minutes as presented. All in favor, none opposed.

3) BUREAU REPORTS

a) ARPA Funds – Work Invest Program. Ended on 12/27/2024. All funds must be allocated and expended by June 30, 2025.

b) SB407 – Ground Ambulance Cost Study Project

- Overall, approximate 70% response rate from licensed EMS Service transport units
- Enough data to complete survey
- Robust analysis that is covering all sectors of EMS delivery in NH

c) Dr. Rob Rix of Concord Hospital is the new State EMS Medical Director effective 12/13/2024

d) TMRC is supporting/assisting with multiple EMS initiatives including:

- Enhanced “Leave Behind” Narcan Distribution (with DHHS)
- Updating EMS Infection Control Best Practices (with DHHS and BEMS Education Workgroup)
- Reviewing EMS System Efficiency Concepts

e) Bulletin #89 – BAXTER IV Solutions Expiration Date Extensions

4) SUBCOMMITTEE & TOPIC REPORTS

Item 1: Trauma Registry Sub-committee-Walter Trachim

– Data working group met and discussed the 2025 NTDB dictionary released in July. Five new data elements and pre-existing conditions were added, and so these will be updated in the state trauma dictionary as well. Final Draft is complete and sent out and to be voted/approved at February meeting.

– Lengthy discussion of what the goals of the TMRC are as many people feel the group has become stagnant with little movement/direction to justify existence.

Item 4. Coordinating Board Report- Joel Coelho

– Nothing to report

Item 5. Medical Control Board Report- Tom Trimarco

– Need to vote new MCB Chair with Dr. Rix taking State EMS Medical Director position.

Item 6. Injury Prevention Report- Jim Esdon

– Nothing to report

Item 9. Hospital Designation Subcommittee- Eric Martin

– 1/26/2025 – Level 3 Designation for Trauma Centers will become ACS, no longer done by State. Pediatric designations as well.

5.) OLD BUSINESS

– Suggested alternate meeting locations in 2026
State Trauma Conference on hold due to budget constraints

6.) NEW BUSINESS

- o Discussion of adding legislative updates to the agenda.
- o Reto B. discussed Epic for Kids- Studies have been done in Arizona for traumatic brain injuries in children.
- o A discussion about military re-integration into civilian hospitals due to a major event was held and how this would impact the trauma system.

A motion was made (Clough/Marcotte) to accept the 2025 TMRC Meeting Schedule. Approved

7.) GOOD OF THE ORDER

8.) ADJOURNMENT

– Motion made (Clough/Maggio) to adjourn the meeting at 10:44am. All in favor, none opposed.
Next Meeting – 2/19/2025

Homeland Security and Emergency Management – (Director 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 Clark/Hunter) – No report

Building Code Review Board – (Chief Conley/Asst. Chief Pouliot) – No report

Manufactured Housing Installation Standards Board: (Chief Blanchette) – No report

Division of Emergency Services and Communications – (Director Doyle)

- Laconia Facility Update: Project has been fully funded, and Pre-Construction meeting has kicked off – ground breaking April 1st-ish;
- Genasys Emergency notification platform is up and running, 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;

- Community Events reminder – connect with our Public Outreach / Education Team for more info: Patrick Cavanaugh, 603-271-6911, patrick.m.cavanaugh@desc.nh.gov ;
- Social Media Updates:

*(We recognized 14 Division employees for their longevity with the 911, amounting to **265** years of service!)*



- Media events:

In December, the Division of Emergency Services and Communications used its social media platforms (Facebook, X, and Instagram) to spread holiday safety messages and highlight various areas of the Division with the help of "Dash," our elf on the shelf. Dash made appearances throughout the Division, bringing festive cheer to our posts. Every social media update during December featured Dash, making him the star of our holiday season content. His journey was a fun way to engage with our followers and showcase the Division's work in a lighthearted and creative way.

- Legislation update:
 - LSR filed for clarifying language to allow for transfers to Rapid Response;
 - Surcharge increase approved by the E911 Commission is in front of the PUC for review;

- Policy & 1-pager of “Best Practices” and for local messaging will be distributed to the membership this month as part of the minutes. If interested in becoming a local POC for Genasys, please reach out to me;
- KPI’s (YTD through November 2024):
 - 99.66% of all calls answered w/i 15 seconds (exceeding NENA standard of 90% w/i 15 seconds)
 - Avg. Police/fire Transfer time = 49.7 seconds (exceeding NFPA Std. of 60 Sec.)
 - Avg. EMD Transfer time = 125 seconds – stable relative to last year
 - Call volume @ 14.3% below last year’s call volume
 - 481 Transfers to 988 / RRAP since July 2022 (Total for 2024 was @ 50% of 2023...121 vs. 256 transfers to 988)
- Any questions, comments, concerns, please reach out...

E 911 Commission – (Chief Thomas) – Next meeting in March

NH Drug Overdose Commission – (Chief Thomas) –

- Their report is ready to be released. They will approve the draft at the next meeting.

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

- They’re tracking an incident where high tension power lines were damaged by gunfire.
- They’re following info that arson attacks may occur in greater frequency at houses of worship this year.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact your Fire/EMS Liaison Officer Jim Heinz at: James.B.Heinz@dos.nh.gov

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

NED-IAFC Conf/Expo will be held October 28-31, 2025 at Mohegan Sun.

- Thanks to all the Chiefs who sent support letters to the NH Delegation regarding the Social Security Fairness Act.

- NEAFC is currently working on a Safer Grant Application for 5 million dollars for recruitment and retention. We drafted an RFP for assistance with the grant application and distribution of funds if awarded. One Company proposed a bid. A contract has been signed with the company called Adapt out of Bosie, ID. Adapt is currently contracted RIAFCs in which were awarded 1.5 million through last year's safer grant. If awarded, this grant will support volunteer companies who apply with NFPA Physicals, Turnout Gear, Training to include FF level I, II, and Haz-Mat. We predict \$600,000 of funding available per state on a first come first serve basis.
- I established a committee to begin looking at various potential venues to host the future Conf/Expo with a goal of relocating to a central location within the NE States if possible.
- At our next annual meeting in Oct., we will be electing a Chief to fill the forthcoming vacancy of the New England Director of the IAFC. Chief Keith Stark from Weymouth, MA is retiring in July. Prior to Chief Stark, our own NH Chief Chris Christopoulos held the position,
- Save the Date March 18th NEAFC Symposium in Devens, MA

Old Business -

New Business –

- Chief Cloutier shared that Medicare rates for EMS are being cut for some in rural areas. He'll share the message that he received.

Good and Welfare –

- The 2025 Golf Tournament will be held at Lochmere CC in Tilton on August 11.
- The Annual Meeting/Vendor Showcase/Seminar will be held on April 10, 2025 in Plymouth at the Common Man Inn and Resort.
- There have been no conversations as of yet that we'll be at the Mt. Washington in May. The NH Municipal Managers will be partnering with them this year.
- Nick Mercuri reported that LRCC students now have auto admission to UNH.
- They also received notice that the UNH BS in Fire Service Administration has been awarded FESHE (Fire and Emergency Services Higher Education) recognition from the National Fire Academy.

There was no raffle.

The meeting was adjourned at 1010 hrs.

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

January 9, 2025