



NEW HAMPSHIRE ASSOCIATION OF FIRE CHIEFS, INC.

Working Together to Make a Difference

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Minutes of a Regular Meeting of the NH Association of Fire Chiefs

Thursday, January 13, 2022 – Virtual via “Go To Meeting” platform

The meeting was called to order at 1604 hours by Chief Beattie.

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

Chief Beattie welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Member Introduction: Members’ attendance was polled by the Executive Director.

Special Guests:

Minutes of the December 9 meeting will be posted. Approval will be deferred to February.

Financial Reports: The November and December financials have been posted. A MOTION (Thomas/Fraitzl) to approve them carried unanimously.

Communications: n/a

Applications for membership: Chief Anthony Burns of Mason; Deputy Chief Kevin Pierce of Plymouth and Deputy State Fire Marshal Adam Fanjoy have joined the organization. Welcome!

Life Membership: N/A

President’s Report: (Sitar) –

Executive Director’s Report (Lemire) –

- Chief Scott Hunter of Bedford has been recommended for the Board of Fire Control position vacated by Chief Gagnon.
- The board has concurred that we will continue with virtual meetings until the virus surge abates.

- I am working with Primex and the Mt. Washington Hotel on our cooperative May 12, 2022 meeting. The Primex room rate this year is \$199, which will be extended to our group also.
- June will be in Brookline, hosted by Chief Corey.
- I will also be working with Nick at LRCC on a meeting discussing several options including the Annual Meeting.
- I have been working with Chief Paul Parisi to finalize the production of the ad book. I've provided him with pictures, letters, history information and Justin is sending him an up-to-date NH list of fire chiefs.

1st Vice President Report (Beattie) –

- Continue to assist with the legislative review of newly filed bills
 - I will allow Chief Emmanuel and Adam Schmidt to speak to the specifics
- Attending hearing on 1/13/22 reference HB 1548, relative to the sale of the State School property in Laconia
 - Represented both LRMFA Executive Committee and NHAFC
 - Sale affects Lakes Region fire dispatch (LRMFA) and E911
 - 35 Communities affected as part of LRMFA
 - Not for or against sale, but supporting zero cost to the 35 communities when these agencies need to move
 - We have been working successfully with Governor Sununu, Commissioner Quinn and Director Doyle on this issue
- Attended meeting with Marshal Toomey and others to discuss recovery housing
 - Allows voice from NHAFC to mirror/support Marshal Toomey
 - These homes are in multiple communities across state and growing
 - Key question is how do we meet their want with our needs of fire and life safety?
- The BOD voted to send Chief Scott Hunter's name to the Governor for the position of Municipal Fire Chief Representative to the Board of Fire Control. Awaiting Governor and Council approval.

2nd Vice President Report (Emanuel) –

This week's House and Senate calendars included many initial public hearings for bills that the NHAFC is following. The legislative calendar below includes all of the various bills that have been scheduled to date. (Links connect to the bills) As you will see, the next few weeks will be pretty busy. There were several bills and issues we wanted to highlight:

- **SB 377 (PTSD in State Troopers)** – It may make sense to follow the debate on this bill. It creates a new presumption for PTSD for state troopers. Under the

“methodology” section of the bill states that the Department of Labor assumed the intent was “... to either broaden or clarify the existing presumption.”

- **SB 363 (Group II/qualified service eligibility)** – Again, reading from the “methodology” section of the bill “...*This bill allows Group II New Hampshire Retirement System (NHRS) members who commenced service between January 1, 2001 and December 31, 2011 to be entitled to receive credit for not less than one year and not more than four years of non-qualified service. The new provisions are as follows:*

- *A member’s purchase of the service credit is limited to the amount which will reduce the minimum age of retirement to the previous minimum age of 45.*
- *Years purchased are to have an annuity multiplier of 2.5%.*
- *The member is to pay a sum equal to their annual rate of compensation multiplied by the sum of the member and employer contribution rates in effect with respect to the member at the time of buy-in multiplied by the number of years of non-qualified service credit purchased.”*

- **SB 443 (Codes)** – I believe we may have seen similar legislation in the past. The bill would require the BCRB to approve local amendments to the state building code prior to adoption. There are additional requirements for the fire marshal to approve local amendments to the state fire code prior to adoption and enforcement.

- **House Executive Departments and Administration – Thursday, January 13** – Looks like House ED and A made next Thursday their first day to review a myriad of retirement related bills. The bill which PFFNH requested (HB 1587/average final compensation) is **NOT** part of the schedule for the day.
- **PTSD/Suicide First Responders** – A week from Wednesday, the Senate ED and A committee will hear two bills. SB 227 includes suicide under the definition of "killed in the line of duty" when considering eligibility for death benefits of first responders. SB 357 re-establishes the PTSD Commission. NHAFC would retain their seat on the Commission in the bill. The bill also proposes mental health training for fire and EMS.

- **HB 1272 (town health officer)** – Several Chiefs have expressed opposition to the bill. We confirmed that NHMA will be opposed. NHAFC is opposing the bill and seeking Chiefs who may want to testify.

Tuesday, January 11, 2022

2:00 HOUSE EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS AND ADMINISTRATION
PM public hearing on **HB 1037** - Relative to The Governor's Duties
During A State Of Emergency in LOB 302-304

2:00 SENATE JUDICIARY hearing on **SB 377** - Relative to The
PM Diagnosis Of Post-traumatic Stress Disorder In State Troopers in
SH 100

Wednesday, January 12, 2022

9:00 SENATE EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS AND
AM ADMINISTRATION hearing on **SB 223** - Relative to
Requirements For Recovery Houses in SH 103

9:30 SENATE EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS AND
AM ADMINISTRATION hearing on **SB 356** - Relative to Medical
Benefits Payments By State Retirees in SH 103

9:50 SENATE EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS AND
AM ADMINISTRATION hearing on **SB 363** - Relative to Service
Credit For Certain Group II Retirement Eligibility in SH 103

Thursday, January 13, 2022

9:00 HOUSE EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS AND ADMINISTRATION public hearing
AM on **HB 1535** - Relative to Cost Of Living Adjustments For Retirees In The State
Retirement System in LOB 302-304

9:20 SENATE EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS AND ADMINISTRATION hearing
AM on **SB 434** - Relative to The Reduction In The Calculation Of State Retirement
Annuities At Age 65 in SH 103

9:40 SENATE EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS AND ADMINISTRATION hearing
AM on **SB 411** - Relative to Critical Incident Stress Management For Emergency
Services Providers, and Establishing A Violent Act Injury Disability Retirement
For Public Safety Employees in SH 103

10:00 HOUSE EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS AND ADMINISTRATION public hearing
AM on **HB 1417** - Relative to Payment By The State Of A Portion Of Retirement
System Contributions Of Political Subdivision Employers in LOB 302-304

10:20 SENATE EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS AND ADMINISTRATION hearing
AM on **SB 443** - Relative to Municipal Authority Regarding The State Building Code
in SH 103

11:00 HOUSE EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS AND ADMINISTRATION public hearing
AM on **HB 1079** - Relative to Part-time Employment Of A Retirement System
Retiree in LOB 302-304

- 1:00 PM HOUSE EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS AND ADMINISTRATION public hearing on [HB 1257](#) - Requiring The Retirement System to Divest From Investment In Companies Located In China in LOB 302-304
- 1:45 PM HOUSE EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS AND ADMINISTRATION public hearing on [HB 1319](#) - Relative to Granting Certain Corrections Personnel Death Benefits If Killed In The Line Of Duty in LOB 302-304
- 2:30 PM HOUSE EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS AND ADMINISTRATION public hearing on [HB 1318](#) - Relative to Penalties For Employer Noncompliance with Retirement System Requirements in LOB 302-304
- 3:15 PM HOUSE EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS AND ADMINISTRATION public hearing on [HB 1590](#) - Relative to Municipalities Withdrawing From The State Retirement System in LOB 302-304

Tuesday, January 18, 2022

- 9:45 AM SENATE COMMERCE hearing on [SB 347](#) - Relative to The Use Of Protected Health Information By Employers in SH 100

Wednesday, January 19, 2022

- 9:15 AM SENATE EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS AND ADMINISTRATION hearing on [SB 227](#) - Relative to Death Benefits For First Responders Who Die From Suicide in SH 103
- 9:30 AM SENATE EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS AND ADMINISTRATION hearing on [SB 357](#) - Relative to Mental Health Training For First Responders in SH 103
- 9:45 AM SENATE HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES hearing on [SB 337](#) - Relative to Emergency Medical and Trauma Services Data Sharing to The Purposes Of Analysis in LOB 101

Thursday, January 20, 2022

- 11:30 AM HOUSE MUNICIPAL AND COUNTY GOVERNMENT public hearing on [HB 1272](#) - Limiting The Authority Of Town Health Officers in LOB 301-303
- 3:00 PM HOUSE LABOR, INDUSTRIAL AND REHABILITATIVE SERVICES public hearing on [HB 1156](#) - Requiring Certain Public Servants to Receive A Copy Of A Pre-employment Background Investigation in LOB 305-307

Sgt. At Arms (Best) – No report

Committee Reports

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

Recruitment and Retention Committee – (Chief Beattie) – (in his report)

Division Reports

Fire Marshal – (Marshal Toomey)

ADMINISTRATION:

Personnel:

We currently have 7 full-time vacancies. The following openings are those that we are actively recruiting for at this time:

- Administrative Supervisor
- 2 Fire Investigators
- Part time State Building Inspector
- Part time Modular Building Program Administrator

We are pleased to welcome Brian Allard to our team effective January 14th. Brian will serve as the Assistant Director/Deputy State Fire Marshal.

We are pleased to welcome Mitch Cady to our team effective January 14th. Mitch will serve as the Deputy State Fire Marshal/Bureau Commander of the Bureau of Building Safety & Construction.

Legislation:

HB 1068	Relative to Building Codes for Tiny Houses
HB 1191	Relative to Electrical Work, Plumbing, and Fuel Gas Fitting in One or Two Family Housing
HB 1555	Repealing the Permit Required for Fire at Campgrounds
HB 1595	Relative to Establishing a Statewide Food Truck License
HB 1681	Relative to the State Building Code
SB 223	Relative to Requirements for Recovery Houses
SB 227	Relative to Death Benefits For First Responders Who Die From Suicide
SB 249	Prohibiting Planning and Zoning Ordinances That Prohibit Short-term Rentals
SB 339	Relative to Meetings of Boards and Commissions in the Department Of Safety
SB 398	Relative to Building Code and Fire Code Enforcement
SB 443	Relative to Municipal Authority Regarding the State Building Code

BUREAU OF INVESTIGATIONS:

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

- On December 9, 2021, investigators responded to a fire at 36 Lodge Rd. in Lincoln, which is a condominium complex where units can be rented out, similar to a hotel. LFD Chief Beard requested the FMO after

conducting a preliminary origin and cause investigation. The investigation revealed a fire set on the exterior porch which caused a charge of smoke to enter the unit and the hallway and the fire alarm to activate. The suspect, Mark Rosenberg, admitted to lighting the fire before leaving the area. Rosenberg has a history of mental illness and was voluntarily admitted to a local hospital for psychiatric evaluation and care prior to his release and subsequent arrest.

- On December 24, 2021, investigators responded to 2725 Westside Rd. in North Conway, Lot #44, to assist the North Conway Fire Department with a fire investigation in a mobile home. The investigation revealed a room and contents fire that was intentionally set by a renter. Investigators completed a prayer and complaint for an adult female in need of psychiatric care.
- On December 29, 2021, investigators responded to 67 Main St. in Antrim to assist the Antrim Fire and Police Departments with a fire investigation in an occupied apartment building. A fire was intentionally set in a hallway. The investigation into the incident is ongoing.
- Ongoing case work is being done in a joint effort with the FBI, NH State Police and other local NH police departments in a series of motor vehicle thefts involving gang activity. One of the stolen motor vehicles was discovered burned in the Lakes Region with additional new information suggesting the vehicle fire was intentionally set.

Fatal Fire:

- On December 16, 2021, investigators were notified by the Medical Examiner's Office of a possible fire related fatality that had occurred at 192 Lancaster Rd. in Northumberland. An autopsy later that day confirmed that 70-year-old Brian Connor had died from smoke inhalation. The investigation into the circumstances surrounding the incident are ongoing.
- On December 19, 2021, investigators responded to an RV fire fatality at 45 High St. in Manchester. The female victim, 34-year-old Chandel Vanenburg, was positively identified at autopsy and died from smoke inhalation. The investigation into the fire is open and ongoing.
- On December 31, 2021, investigators responded to a report of an explosion with one fatality at 32 New Hampton Rd. in Franklin. The investigation into the circumstances surrounding the incident identified that the explosion and fatality occurred as a result of the misuse of a propane tank. The victim, 44-year-old Nathaniel Krauz, was positively identified and died from blunt force trauma.

Ignitable Liquid Detection Canine Teams:

Our two IGL Canine Teams were deployed two times in the month of December. One K9 demonstration was conducted in December for a fire investigation class at Lakes Region Community College.

Public Outreach:

Investigators, in conjunction with the Nashua Fire Rescue's Fire Marshal's Office and ATF, provided an informational session to members of the Nashua Police Department on December 2, 2021. The presentation covered basic fire behavior, fire scene awareness, evidence collection, resources the FMO and ATF can provide upon request, and the importance of a team approach between the NPD Detectives and the NFR Fire Investigators in successful arson cases.

Investigators presented a case study to NH fire service and law enforcement, titled *Catching a Serial Arsonist*, which was held at the NH Fire Academy Auditorium on December 7, 2021 from 6:00-8:30PM. Feedback from the presentation has been positive, with several communities wanting to request FMO assistance based on what they learned.

Two of our investigators taught the Warrants and Citations class to fire service personnel involved in fire code enforcement.

Investigators are assisting with youth fire setter assessments in multiple communities throughout the state.

Arrests:

- Kathy Canfield, age 60, was arrested via a FMO warrant in connection with an arson fire that occurred in an apartment building, located at 4 Commerce St. in Hill on November 22, 2021. CANFIELD was arraigned on December 27, 2021, at Merrimack Superior Court on charges of one count of Arson (Class A Felony) and one count of Breach of Bail (Misdemeanor A) from two unrelated previous felony charges. Following her arraignment, she was released on PR bail and is awaiting a trial date due to COVID.
- Mark Rosenberg, age 58, was arrested via a FMO warrant in connection with an arson fire that occurred in a hotel located at 36 Lodge Rd in Lincoln on December 9, 2021. Rosenberg was released on PR bail and is currently being held in Massachusetts on separate charges.

Training/Committees:

Investigators attended an in service training on our new records management system. Several investigators attended: How to Navigate the Joint Fire & Death Investigation, High Tech Crimes and IAAI Is the Fire Accidental.

BUREAU OF BUILDING SAFETY & CONSTRUCTION:

State Building Permit System:

We processed 33 building permit applications in the month of December.

Technical Assistance, Educational & Healthcare Reviews:

We initiated 9 educational and 6 healthcare plan reviews, completed 109 inspections and 99 technical consults in the month of December.

Variance Requests:

We processed 3 variance requests in the month of December.

BUREAU OF PLANNING AND SUPPORT SERVICES:

Hazardous Materials:

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

We continue to work on Tier II reporting and associated follow-ups when deficiencies are identified.

Swiftwater Rescue Working Group:

Working to identify funding and training opportunities for the teams. We anticipate a grant application announcement out to the teams in mid to late January.

All-Hazards Fire Mobilization Plan:

The Federation of Mutual Aids and the State Fire Marshal's Office has completed the biannual review of the NH Statewide Fire Mobilization Implementation Master Plan. The updated plan will be made available shortly.

Community Risk Reduction & Community Outreach:

We have been delivering the Remembering When, a falls and fire prevention program for older adults in several communities.

Training:

We are working to schedule upcoming inspection training programs throughout the state. Please reach out if you are interested in hosting a program.

NH Fire Standards, Training and EMS - (Dir. Cutting)

ADMINISTRATION

Personnel

- We conducted the interview and evaluation process of hiring a fire training Captain on January 12th and expect to hold second interviews next week.
- Our new Administrative Assistant starts on January 14th.
- We have hired Mike Munck as our Part-time Compliance Specialist. Mr. Monk will be retiring soon as the Deputy Police Chief in Exeter.

- The Recruitment & Retention Coordinator and three Specialty Services positions have been advertised for applicants.
- We have finalized position descriptions for the Drill-yard and Technical Rescue part-time program coordinators and have begun advertising them.
- Over 20% of our staff positions are currently vacant.

Grants

- We submitted an AFG 2021 grant for structural and wildland personal protective equipment, SCBA's, training mannequins and multi-gas meters.
- We submitted a Homeland Security grant for computers, cameras and other related equipment for our educational technology section.
- We have begun working with our State partners to advance the Burton Fire and EMS Training Facility project however no projected start timeframe has been established.

Fire Standards and Training Commission / Curriculum

- The next Fire Standards and Training Commission meeting will be February 3rd at 0930 in Classrooms 5/6 in the dormitory building at the main campus. The Commission also approved meeting dates for April 7th, June 2nd, September 1st and November 3rd.
- The Hazardous Materials Technician program and Fire Officer I/II program updates were approved by the Curriculum Committee and will be presented to the full Commission in February.
- The preliminary draft of the NFPA 1001, FF I/II, Curriculum Review Report was submitted to the Curriculum Committee and we are working on the final version.

Special Projects

- In an effort to better serve you, the Division is implementing a new initiative to develop a 9 to 12 month training calendar so departments and prospective students can better plan their future training opportunities. The Academy has established two semesters of training moving forward, a spring and fall training semester. Twice a year we will actively solicit training requests which will be taken into consideration during the future course planning process. Additionally,

you may submit training request at any time throughout the year which will be considered during the next planning period.

- At this time we are seeking requests for training programs that would be scheduled between July 1, 2022 and June 30, 2023. Our goal is to announce all scheduled training programs for this timeframe by May 1, 2022. We will be collecting requests for this time period through February 28, 2022. You can submit your request at <https://nhfa-ems.com/training-request/>.
- Commissioner Quinn and Director Cutting met with Chancellor Mark Rubenstein and some of his staff from the Community College System of NH to discuss methods of collaboration and potential areas of partnership.
- Additional drilling for PFAS monitoring wells throughout the Concord campus is planned.
- We participated in a meeting with NHAFC, PFFNH, FMO, FSTEMS and the State Firefighters Association on December 16th at the academy.
- We are nearing completion of realigning and restructuring the geographical areas of the state that our (field) Fire Captain's cover and will communicate those when the final open Captain position is filled.

Legislative/Administrative Rules

- We are monitoring a number of bills in the legislature. A few that we want to highlight are:
 - SB 357, relative to Mental Health Training for First Responders.
 - SB 339, relative to Meetings of Boards and Commissions in the Department of Safety.
 - SB 337, relative to Emergency Medical and Trauma Services Data sharing for the purposes of analysis.
- The "Letter of Concern" option for EMS licensure actions that was passed in 2021 legislation is being worked on through the administrative rules process.

Outreach

- We are continuing our Leadership Roundtables with the Fire Marshal's Office and regional Fire Chief's with dates planned in January.

- Southwest - January 19th
- North Country - January 21st

Mental Health & Resiliency

- We are waiting for notification on whether our American Rescue Plan Act grant request through the Health Resources and Services Administration officials has been approved or not to address suicide, burnout and behavioral health conditions - including substance abuse among public safety officials.
- We continue our meetings with mental health professionals to develop a spring 2022 seminar with Fire Chief's, Police Chief's, labor leaders and clinicians to provide professional development, continuing education and a networking opportunity.
- We are working with the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation to host train-the-trainer programs here in NH for some of their firefighter behavioral health courses, including stress management and mental health for responders.

BUREAU OF FIRE TRAINING

Courses/Programs

- Firefighter I classes
 - The Bartlett class is scheduled for testing later this month.
 - Plaistow and Henniker classes begin this month.
 - The Burton Facility, Bethlehem class, begins early February.
- Firefighter II classes
 - The LRCC class begins this month.
 - The Tilton class begins this month.
- Beginning February of 2022, to be eligible to take the required skills or knowledge tests, commercial driver's license applicants must have completed applicable entry-level driver training from a registered training provider. This is a federal requirement.
 - We are working with NH DMV with the goal of becoming one of those providers.

- Legislation is being promulgated to exempt state and local agencies that provide this training from certain requirements in the RSA's.

Facilities

- We are awaiting work to begin on the roadway washout on the south side of the drill yard at the Concord campus.

Apparatus/Equipment

- Committees for construction of the new ARFF truck and Engine continue to make progress.
- Completion of the new aerial is still expected next year.

BUREAU OF CERTIFICATION AND SUPPORT

Courses/Programs

- Instructor I/II/III Programs
 - Instructor I began January 10th.
 - There will be a Saturday offering of Instructor I at the Burton Training Facility beginning March 12th.
 - We are exploring sites in the Upper Valley for an additional Instructor I class in the spring.
 - The first Instructor II/III course in 2022 will begin February 20th.
- Fire Officer I/II Programs
 - The next Fire Officer I course begins January 20th.
 - The next Fire Officer II course begins March 24th.
- Fire Inspector Programs
 - The Warrants and Citations course will be held December 8th & 9th.
 - Fire Inspector I class began January 11th.
 - The next Fire Inspector II class begins April 5th.
- Fire Investigator
 - The next offering will begin August 25, 2022.
- For all current course listings you can go to <https://nhfa-ems.com/events/>

Instructors

- We continue to work the Instructor Recruitment Plan. Recruiting more, new, instructors remains a top priority for our Division.

CPAT

- The 2022 CPAT dates are planned for April 18th, May 23rd, June 6th & 7th and September is TBD.

Testing

- With the award of the AFG grant we continue to work with the DOS IT group to develop the RFP to replace the current certification testing software.

BUREAU OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

Boards and Commissions

- The NH Medical Control Board and the NH Emergency Medical and Trauma Services Coordinating Board meetings will take place at 0900 and 1300, respectively, on January 20th in classrooms 5 & 6 in the dormitory building.
- The NH Trauma Medical Review Committee (TMRC) will meet at 0930 on February 17th in classroom 2 in the administration building.

Operations

- 283 EMS Unit licenses were issued in December.
 - 250 of those applications (88%) were created and submitted by the services externally through the public portal.
- EMS provider renewals will be available in RespondNH this spring.
 - As of January 12th there are 5,552 licensed EMS providers in NH.
- EMR classes in 2022 - the first begins January 19th, delivered primarily through a hybrid format of live streaming classroom sessions and in-person skills training.
 - We have waitlists at the Bethlehem and Concord campuses.
- Our EMS Education Coordinator continues the monthly continuing education courses at the Concord campus and regionally around the State.
 - For all current course listings you can go to <https://nhfa-ems.com/events/>
- We are working with Board of Nursing as a Subject Matter Expert for consideration of the following:
 - In-State Paramedic to RN Program - TBD

- Online Paramedic to RN Program – Northwest Arkansas Community College
- Advanced EMT and above to LPN

Clinical Systems

- Patient Care Protocol updates and corrections (8.1 Mid Cycle Roll-out) were approved by the Medical Control Board on November 18th.
 - The sixty-day opened on December 17th and in-person public comment will be available January 27th from 12-3p at the NH Fire Academy in Classroom 1.
- On December 21st the “*State of New Hampshire - Emergency Protocol - COVID19 Destination Determination v.3*” was reinstated to assist units in their COVID-19 response regarding destination determination and the transport decision of suspected COVID patients. Additionally, the “*State of New Hampshire - Emergency Protocol - COVID19 v.6*” was updated to include additional personal protective equipment required by providers when caring for a patient with suspected or confirmed COVID and/or in the performance of high level or aerosol generating procedures.
- Covid-19 protocols and the “public health incident” are still in place allowing for 1 EMS provider in a transporting ambulance if staffing is low.

Data Management

- EMS Reporting
 - 258,340 EMS incident were entered into TEMSIS in 2021.
- NFIRS/Respond NH
 - Work continues on the New Hampshire Emergency Services Reporting System (NHESR), which is an extension of the TEMSIS system. If you would like to start using the system, please fill out the form available at <https://nhfa-ems.com/nhesronboard/>.
 - There are currently 36 departments using the software and 6 on the onboarding list.
 - No services have indicated they will not use the system after evaluation and onboarding.

- Coordination continues with the Fire Marshal's Office for further education and guidance for reporting.
- Anyone interested in the system can contact Joseph Cartier at 603-223-3403 or joseph.w.cartier@dos.nh.gov

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NH Fire Standards and Training Commission – (Chiefs Clark/Buxton)

The Commission last met on November 3, 2021 and is scheduled to meet February 3rd. The January 6th meeting was pushed back to allow staff sufficient time to prepare for the meeting. There are several new members on the Commission and the membership on the various standing committees will be revised.

The Curriculum Committee held a 3 1/2 hour meeting on January 6th to deal with a very busy agenda. At that meeting they heard the reports of the Visiting Committee for HazMat Technician and Officer I and II. All three reports were approved with revisions to be recommended to the Commission to schedule Public Hearing and solicit public input.

The Academy staff is in the process of analyzing, evaluating and developing a report concerning the new delivery of Firefighter 1 and Firefighter 2. The preliminary report only dealt with Firefighter 1 and was only a draft. There was much discussion by Committee members of what information would be important to the Commission. It is anticipated that the report will be complete for the next Commission meeting.

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

n/r

National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC) – (Chief Corey) –

He mentioned the recent dues increase and offered several reasons to join the organization.

ACEPS Committee – (Chief Thomas)

- The New Hampshire Association of Fire Chiefs and the Hazmat Collaborative are sponsoring the April Hazmat Conference in Laconia. The HMEP Grant will cover the costs of the conference. I am asking the Association to accept the Grants Funding for the conference.
- The motion is for the New Hampshire Chiefs Association to accept the terms of the Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness (HMEP) Grant, \$32,500.00 for the purpose of holding a two-day conference. The New Hampshire Chiefs Association will be responsible for a 20% match. Chief

Best seconded the motion. After discussion and questions, the motion carried unanimously.

Homeland Security and Emergency Management – (Director Harper) COVID Updates:

- ✚ Federal assets currently in NH:
 - DOD Air Force Medical Team started at Elliot Hospital 1/7; demob 2/5
 - 30 paramedics at 5 hospitals - extended to 2/2 from 1/14
 - mAb Teams at 3 hospitals
- ✚ COO created mask mandate map (with a link to the local ordinance) at request of Governor's Office that will be posted shortly on DHHS COVID website
- ✚ Reminder that you can find the most up to date COVID info on DHHS COVID website: [Welcome | NH COVID-19 Response](#)
- ✚ Booster Blitz Saturday, January 8th 9,971 boosters administered –thanks for your help!
- ✚ Vaccine sites -- by the end of the month there will be 10 fixed sites stood up statewide; 5 are already open in Berlin, Ashland, Laconia, Claremont and Rochester. This is in addition to people who can already go to their Dr office, hospital, drug store, Conv MD, Walmart, etc. to get vaccines.
- ✚ PCR & Antigen testing sites can be found statewide – here's the link: [Testing Guidance | NH COVID-19 Response](#)
- ✚ 1200 EMD COVID update conf calls are scheduled for 3rd Thursday month through June; if you did not get the Outlook invite let me know.

HR Updates:

- ✚ Note changes:
 - Addition of 10 FEMA Public Assistance and Mitigation funded positions; approved by Fiscal and G&C. They are posted and we will begin the interview/background/hiring process for them within the next couple of weeks.
 - Fallon Reed has been reassigned to 'special projects' under the Director's Office.
 - Context for 10 new positions: NH currently has 8 open Presidentially declared disasters dating back to 2017. FEMA provides States with management funds to hire staff, purchase equipment, rent space, (all the things required to manage a program) with the expectation that we will effectively and efficiently manage the disaster(s) using 100% federal funds with a goal of not impacting all the mission critical work that HSEM does on a daily basis. HSEM has never seen had the number of projects/applicants that we are now working with, so adding these positions – in addition to the ones we already added for COVID – will set us up for success in our management of these – and future disasters.

PA & Mitigation Updates:

- ✚ Mitigation and Recovery staff have completed the Recovery Scoping meetings for the initial 25 applicants (state, local & PNP) impacted by the July/August 2021

rainstorms in Cheshire and Sullivan counties; several other communities are currently starting the process.

- ✚ The appeal submitted by HSEM to FEMA for the second presidentially declared disaster (DR-4624) to extend the incident period July 29-30 to July 29-August 2 was approved. This approval will allow us to assist communities and state agencies in Cheshire and Sullivan counties with increased public assistance and hazard mitigation program funding.

Legislative items with impacts to HSEM if passed:

- ✚ SB 402 - Related to the two Presidentially Declared Disasters in Cheshire and Sullivan counties. The bill if passed would assist communities by providing 12.5% of the 25% cost match required under the FEMA public assistance disaster grant program. Status can be found here: [Current Legislation Search \(state.nh.us\)](https://www.state.nh.us/leg/Current%20Legislation/Search.aspx)
- ✚ HB 1125 - This bill if passed would change the reporting requirements in RSA 189:64 to the director of homeland security and emergency management of the department of safety, rather than the current requirement which is the department of education. Status can be found here: [Current Legislation Search \(state.nh.us\)](https://www.state.nh.us/leg/Current%20Legislation/Search.aspx)

Other:

- ✚ Community Outreach Office published the Q4 2021 HSEM Newsletter; link is: [HSEM Quarterly Newsletter – Homeland Security Emergency Management \(nh.gov\)](https://www.nh.gov/CommunityOutreachOffice/HSEMQuarterlyNewsletter)
- ✚ For communities in the Seabrook Emergency Planning Zone, the 2nd combined functional exercise is on Wednesday, February 9th.

As always, if you have any questions on anything here or something else please call me anytime. **MS Trauma Medical Review Board – (Chief Beaudoin) – n/r**

Division of Forests and Lands – (Chief Sherman)

- Captain Doug Miner retired as of December 31st. This was a result of a medical diagnosis and subsequent surgery, which will require a lengthy recovery. This was unexpected for both Captain Miner and the Department. Doug has been with the department for over 35 years and has played a major role in our wildfire program. As his recovery progresses, we expect to have him remain involved with our program. We wish him the best of luck. While it would have been great to have a celebration to show him how much he is appreciated, several factors – including COVID and his recovery – make that impossible. Instead, we would like to present him with a scrapbook that encapsulates his work over the decades.

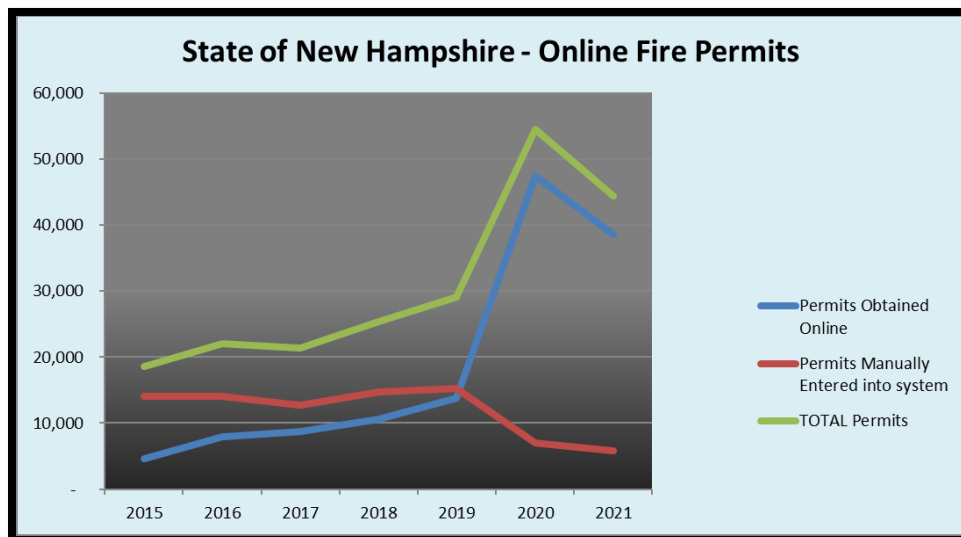
Here is where you come in: If you are able to do so, it would be great if you could contribute something to the scrapbook. It could be anything you'd like: a formal letter, handwritten note, newspaper clipping or maybe a picture or drawing of something that you and Doug worked on together – whatever is meaningful to you. Whatever you decide to send, please make sure it would fit in an 8.5 x 11 plastic sleeve, which is how we plan to assemble the scrapbook.

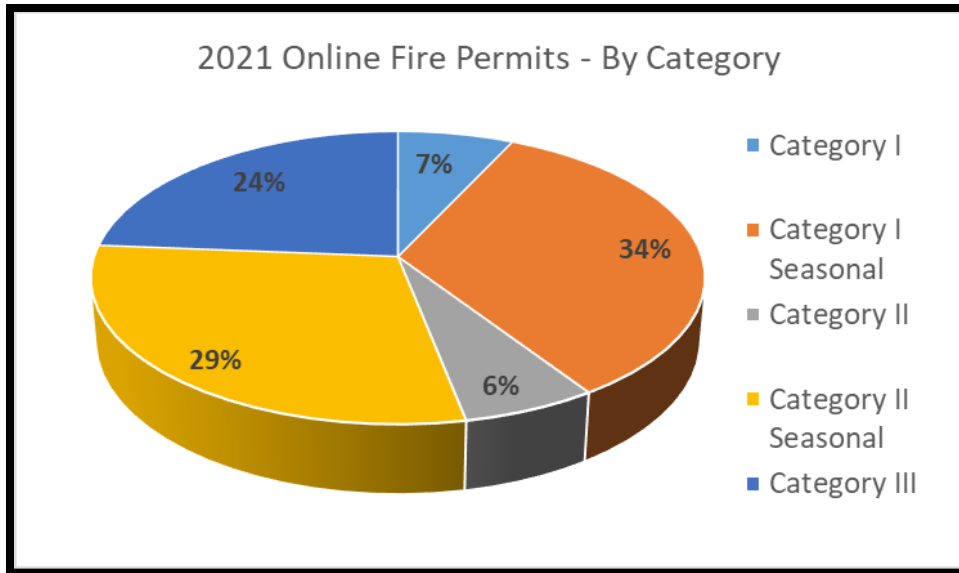
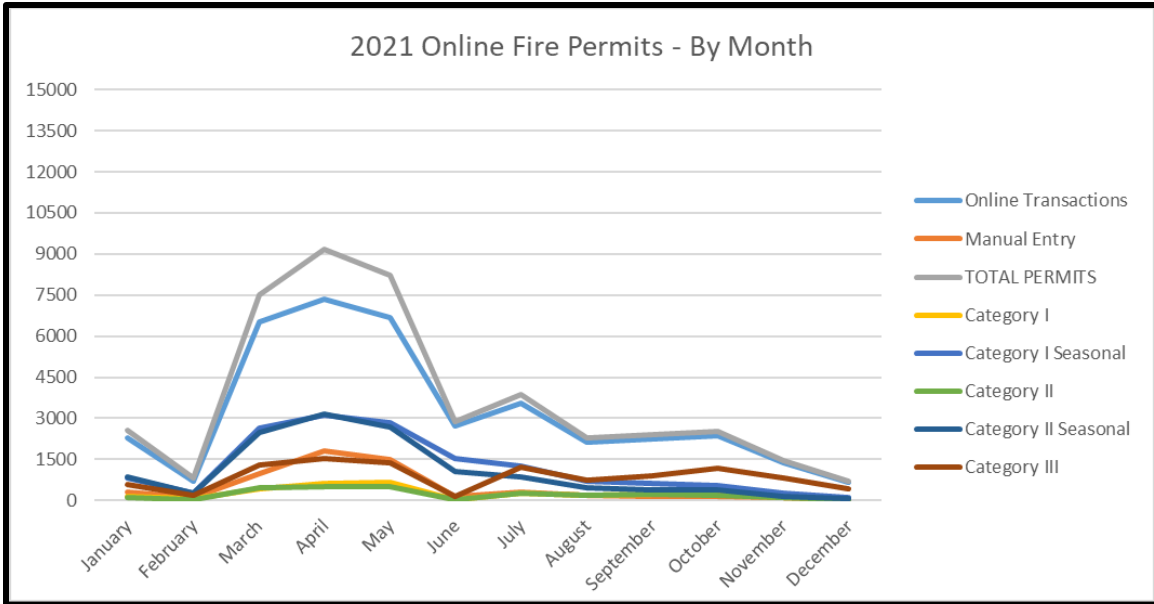
Please send your item by **January 31st** to the following address so that we can have all items in one place:

Shelly Angers, Public Information Officer
N.H. Department of Natural & Cultural Resources
19 Pillsbury St.
Concord, NH 03301

Thank you for your participation. I know that Doug will appreciate it.

- We will be moving forward to fill the Captain vacancy. As this will take time, we know we will be entering the spring fire season with 50% reduced ranger staffing. Out of our 10 Forest Ranger positions, we will have 3 rangers in the police academy through April, 1 ranger position continues to remain unfunded, and the 1 vacancy we are in the process of filling, which leaves 5 rangers in the field. We will have our wildfire patrols and Special Deputy Forest Fire Wardens available to assist as well. If you need assistance, do not hesitate to call us.
- Legislation – We are preparing our opposition of HB 1555 Titled “Repealing the permit requirement for fires at campgrounds”. While the bill title suggests it will only repeal the permit requirement for campgrounds, the actual language of **HB 1555 will repeal the permit requirement for all Category I and II fires**. This means that there will be no state or local oversight of category I and II fires and limited opportunity to regulate burning during high fire danger or interact with citizens and visitors for wildfire prevention purposes, all of which we expect will increase wildfire occurrence and suppression costs for the state and municipalities. For this reason, the Division of Forests and Lands will be opposing HB 1555. The complete text of HB 1555 is included at the end of this report.
- The Online Fire Permit program was updated in 2021 and had a bug fix in December. The system has proven very effective and useful over the past 2 years, which is shown by the marked increase in permits obtained. We will have new training guides later this winter and will review the system functions during the spring warden trainings.





- We are in the process of hiring part time positions to staff the fire towers every Saturday and Sunday from 11:00am to 5:00 pm, April through October. Staffing the fire towers on a regular basis has been a goal of the division, and we have managed to secure funding to staff the weekends. We will still staff on weekdays when the fire danger is high, but this additional funding will allow us to reach out to more visitors and provide better maintenance to our facilities, while providing detection during the weekends. If you know of someone who may be interested, please ask them to reach out to you forest ranger for more information.

Respectfully Submitted,
Chief Steven Sherman

2022 SESSION

22-2354
04/11

HOUSE BILL ***1555-FN***

AN ACT repealing the permit required for fires at campgrounds.

SPONSORS: Rep. Burt, Hills. 39; Rep. Steven Smith, Sull. 11; Rep. Notter, Hills. 21; Rep. Leishman, Hills. 24; Rep. Pearl, Merr. 26; Rep. Avellani, Carr. 5; Rep. Hill, Merr. 3; Rep. Nunez, Hills. 37; Rep. Groen, Straf. 23; Rep. Piemonte, Rock. 4; Sen. Avard, Dist 12; Sen. Gannon, Dist 23; Sen. Reagan, Dist 17

COMMITTEE: Resources, Recreation and Development

ANALYSIS

This bill removes the permit requirement for camp fires.

Explanation: Matter added to current law appears in ***bold italics***.
Matter removed from current law appears [~~in brackets and struck through.~~]
Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.
22-2354
04/11

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Twenty Two

AN ACT repealing the permit required for fires at campgrounds.

Be it Enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court convened:

1 Woodland Fire Control; Permits; Damages; Penalties. Amend RSA 227-L:17, IV to read as follows:
IV. Camp or cooking fires may be kindled only with written permission of the landowner or the landowner's agent [~~and written permission of the forest fire warden of the town in which the fire is to be kindled~~] and only at suitable times and in suitable places when the fire will not endanger woodlands; except in such towns as have adopted bylaws or regulations equally as stringent as provided in this paragraph. Camp or cooking fires may be built without written permission on public camp or picnic grounds when such areas are open for public use or private camp and picnic places where suitable fireplaces approved by the forest fire warden are provided for such fires. As used in this paragraph, a camp or cooking fire shall be a small fire suitable for cooking purposes used in connection with camp, picnic or lunch purposes and does not include the burning of household rubbish, or large amounts of brush or other flammable material. Whoever shall kindle or cause to be kindled any such fire or use an abandoned fire in or near woodlands shall totally extinguish the same before leaving it and, upon failure to do so, such person or persons shall be subject to the same liabilities and penalties as prescribed in this section.

2 Repeal. RSA 216-I:9, V, requiring recreational campground or camping park owners to obtain a fire permit, is repealed.

3 Effective Date. This act shall take effect 60 days after its passage.

LBA
22-2354
11/17/21

**HB 1555-FN- FISCAL NOTE
AS INTRODUCED**

AN ACT repealing the permit required for fires at campgrounds.

FISCAL IMPACT: State County Local None

STATE:	Estimated Increase / (Decrease)			
	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025
Appropriation	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Revenue	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Expenditures	\$11,100	\$0	\$0	\$0
Funding Source:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> General	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Highway	<input type="checkbox"/> Other

METHODOLOGY:

The Department of Natural and Cultural Resources states this bill would eliminate the requirement of a permit for all camping and cooking fires, which would require the reprinting of fire permits, brochures, posters, and other materials to reflect the law change. The Department estimates this would cost approximately \$11,100. It is assumed since this bill is effective 60 days after passage, expenditures would be incurred in FY 2022. There will be no impact on county and local revenue or expenditures.

AGENCIES CONTACTED:

Department of Natural and Cultural Resources and New Hampshire Municipal Association

NH Board of Fire Control – (Chief Clark)

The NH Board of Fire Control last met on September 22nd. It has been working on assisting the Marshal in filling vacancies by serving on Oral Boards and monitoring proposed legislation.

A high priority for the Board is having the State Fire Code updated to incorporate NFPA 1 and NFPA 101 version 2018. It is anticipated that it will pass in this legislative session as the State Building Code.

The Board is monitoring SB 443 which would require the building code review board to approve local amendments to the state building code prior to their adoption and enforcement and requires the Board to maintain and publish a catalog of local amendments to the State Building Code and State Fire Code.

This bill also would require the State Fire Marshal to approve local amendments to the State Fire Code prior to their adoption and enforcement and requires the fire marshal, with assistance of the Board of Fire Control, to maintain and publish a catalog of local fire safety codes and ordinances. The bill prohibits municipalities from imposing a fee to appeal the decision of a code compliance official.

The Board continues to closely watch court cases of Short-Term Rentals (“STR”) and subsequent compliance with the Fire Code. At issue is if a single-family home rented on a short-term basis year-round without the owner’s ever occupying the home a residential use or a commercial use for zoning.

There are proposed bills in this session of the legislatures. A committee of the Marshal’s Staff, Board members and interested Fire Chiefs will be formed to review the proposed STR bills and what impact that they might have on the Fire Service.

The Association is working to fill nominations for the Career Fire Chief’s position on the Board for the Governor’s Approval. We are still looking for a Board representative from Manufacturing.

The next meeting of the Board is January 19, 2022.

Board of Fire Control – (Chief Clark)

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

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

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

- New Telecommunicator Class has started and should be ready to take calls by mid-february;
- 9-8-8 Planning Coalition meetings and Subcommittee meetings continue to be held via Zoom. Moving from planning to implementation mode after the final submission of the plan is sent to Vibrant for approval;
- 9-8-8 Listening session scheduled for North Country Chefs and EMS Leadership, Nov. 22 at 6P;
- E9-1-1 Commission meeting to be held on 12/10 at the IPOC, 11A-1P;
- Messaging for the phasing-out of 3G phones and devices has begun, could affect 3G uninitialized 9-1-1 phones and older medical alerts and systems on the 3G network...more to come, but the phasing out begins in early 2022, and the specific date is dependent upon the carrier;



- Potential relocation and prep for potential sale of Laconia Property and a relocation of the State 9-1-1 PSAP continues. Scoping a parcel in Laconia

now that meets the criteria and are determining access to utilities in the area.

- Meeting with County Police Chiefs related to 9-8-8 response and protocol development for CMHC's and CIT's continues, Hillsborough County recently and was mentioned at Merrimack County Chiefs meeting as well;
- Nurse Triage protocol meeting scheduled for early winter to bring in reps from Priority Dispatch to speak to the details associated with the protocol and answer questions.
- The Division's "Deployable Asset Policy" continues to be fine tuned and is about ready for distribution to Fire and Police Chiefs. An inventory of available Communications equipment will be distributed to those groups and information on how to request those assets.
- Thank you all for the messaging assist on the 10-digit dialing – we appreciate the help and it rolled out with very little push-back, because of the messaging that you leveraged and pushed out at the local level – many thanks!
- Met several times with the new EMS Team in the City of Berlin relative to call transfer protocols and their new EMS Service;
- The Division's membership attended the APCO conference in Stowe;



- Final testing and planned cutover is underway for our upgraded NexGen network and CPE;

E-911 Commission – (Chief Thomas) –

Opioid Fatality Study Committee – (Chief Thomas)

- Awards were given to retiring commission and division members at their last meeting.
- New mapping info for AED's has been rolled.
- Towers and cell coverage has been improving throughout the state.

IAFC Director – (Chief Christopoulos) – n/r

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

- He again mentioned the upcoming Expo (June 22 – 25, 2022) in Worcester.
- He mentioned the survey outgoing for volunteer and combination departments and asked members to complete.
- He also offered his services to help those interested in membership.

Old Business –

New Business –

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, February 10, 2022 starting at 0900 hours virtually.

A MOTION to adjourn the meeting carried at 1712 hours.

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

January 13, 2022