



NEW HAMPSHIRE ASSOCIATION OF FIRE CHIEFS, INC.

Working Together to Make a Difference

547 Charles Bancroft Hwy.

Litchfield, NH 03052

www.nhafc.org

Email: nhfirechiefs@gmail.com

Minutes of a Meeting of the NH Association of Fire Chiefs

Thursday, March 9, 2023 – NH Fire Academy, Concord, NH

The meeting was called to order at 0914 hours by Chief Best.

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

Director Cutting welcomed all to the Academy.

James Heinz, Fire/EMS Liaison Officer for the NHIAC spoke to the members about Operation Flashpoint (bombmaking materials) which is being rolled out. He also wanted to share more information about the NHIAC and stated that they have prepared a program to share on the subject.

INTRODUCTION OF MEMBERS.

Special Guests:

Minutes of the February meeting have been posted. A MOTION (Thomas/Emanuel) to accept carried unanimously.

Financial Reports: January and February reports have been posted. A MOTION (Thomas/Murray) to accept them carried unanimously.

Communications: n/a

Applications for membership: Battalion Chief Jonathan Fosher of Manchester and Chief Chad Miller of Littleton.

Life Memberships: n/a

President's Report: (Best) –

- **Nominations Committee** (Jay Lyons) - looking to fill Mike McQuillen's position, others are interested in continuing on the BOD positions as planned.

- Mike Sitar is interested in serving as the past president, Kirk Beattie has stepped down due to conflict of interest with his new position.

House Bill 436 (Pension Reform Bill)

Division 1 of House Finance held a work session on HB 436. The sponsors explained the intent to eliminate the “middle tier” in Group II and the funding mechanism to allow for that to happen (\$25 million per year in general funds, for 10 years). The House recently approved the policy and the focus of the work session was to review the financial impact.

Division members had a number of questions regarding the impacts on the retirement system of the proposed revisions to benefits. Generally, there were concerns that even after the 2011 changes, the shortfall in the retirement system has grown from \$2 billion to over \$5 billion. Supporters acknowledged that was true, but countered by highlighting the total amount of holdings by the system is over \$11 billion and the percentage of funded liabilities has improved. In addition, there were questions regarding the impacts on municipalities required contributions.

After about an hour of discussion, the Division voted 9-0 to retain the bill. Prior to the vote, several committee members indicated that the Finance Committee could attempt to implement the funding and the statutory change as part of the budget. It was not clear if there was consensus on that suggestion. The full committee will vote on the recommendation to retain the bill later this month

1200 fire department employees would be impacted. The goal is to retain employees that have between 10-19 years of service in the system.

- HB 647 immunity. The NHAFC has sent a note opposing the bill but supporting the amendment in committee to kill it.

Executive Director's Report (Lemire) –

- We will forego the Legislative Breakfast this year as the Democratic caucus is so large this year it must meet in the cafeteria.
- We will be having our Annual Meeting and celebration of the association’s 90th birthday at the Common Man Inn and Spa in Plymouth. It is the intention to have members invite spouses/guests for this meeting and dinner. We have minted a challenge coin for member attendees of the dinner/meeting. More info to follow.
- The board has decided that, due to the changed nature of the Primex conference this year, we will not be having our May meeting in Portsmouth. It will be on May 11, the regularly scheduled day at the Fire Academy again for breakfast.
- The June meeting is scheduled for Brookline with Chief Corey and gang cooking an old fashioned roast beef dinner.

1st Vice President Report (Emanuel) –

NHAFC LEGISLATIVE UPDATE – February 9

An updated legislative chart was distributed via email to all members. If you have questions about a bill, reach out to us, and we can either answer or get information from our lobbyist. There is a lot going on at the State House this time of year.

- **HB 373 (ambulance billing)** – NHAFC opposed the bill with testimony at a recent hearing. The House Commerce Committee voted to retain the bill last month. The Committee will be able to work on the issue this summer and fall. This is a positive development.
- **SB 153 (first responder program)** – NHAFC supported the bill. It is intended to create a program to help with career development, recruitment, and retention of first responders. The Senate committee voted to re-refer the legislation. The Senate will vote on their recommendation during their session next week.
- **HB 647 (qualified immunity)** – NHAFC opposed the bill as it could create liability concerns for municipalities and their workforce. The House Judiciary Committee voted 16-3 to kill the bill. It will head to the House floor late today. There is expected to be an attempt to either overturn the committee report or sent it back to committee. NHAFC prepared a letter outlining support for the committee recommendation to kill the bill.
- **SB 71 (Workers' Compensation for Firefighters with Cancer/Committee to Study Annual Cancer Screening)** – NHAFC supported the bill and it has passed the Senate. NHAFC will have a member on a commission to study annual cancer screenings for firefighters, should the bill become law. We plan to speak in favor of the bill once it is heard in the House.
- **HB 296 (Driveway permits)** – NHAFC opposed the bill as introduced since it proposed that the "...state fire code and associated rules shall not supersede the authority of local land use boards under planning and zoning provisions..." as it applied to driveway permits. The House Public Works and Highways Committee passed the bill with an amendment which narrowed the focus for detached residential one or two family dwelling units. The amendment would require a "minimum driveway width shall not be less than 12 feet for driveway over 150 feet in length." The House will vote on the bill during a session later this month. If passed, it will go to the Senate.
- **HB 436 (Group II Revisions)** - Generally, the intent of the bill is to eliminate the "middle tier" of Group II members (those who were members of Group II but not vested by 1/1/12). The bill would phase in benefits for those in the middle tier over the course of 10 years. It passed the House earlier this month. After it passed on the House floor, it was referred to the House Finance Committee to

consider the financial impact. NHAFC sent a letter to the Finance Committee in support of the bill. A committee vote will occur later this month.

- At the Executive Council meeting on March 8, 2023, Governor Sununu re-nominated Commissioner Quinn, Assistance Commissioner Edwards, and nominated Steve Lavoie to replace retiring Assistant Commissioner Bailey. The Council will likely vote on the nominations at a subsequent meeting.
- **NH HSEM Homeland Security Grant Review Committee** – He spoke about NH HSEM grant review committee which met on March 1, 2023 at the Department of Safety. The review committee recommended to the Commissioner of Safety that all the applications that met the grant requirements for funding and also received passing scores from the committee be funded. The committee also recommended that surplus grant monies be allocated to hazmat and active threat training across the State.
- **The IAFC Safety, Health, and Survival Section's (SHS) virtual 2022-2023 training** has been deployed. https://www.bigmarker.com/series/shss-virtual-training/series_details
The materials included in this offer cover a wide range of topics, including assembling a peer support team, cardiac health awareness and the benefits of early detection, the impacts of bullying on your members' health and wellness, and how to choose the right occupational healthcare provider for your department. Anyone may watch one or all training sessions – the training format allows you to choose the trainings that will make the biggest impact in your department's health, safety, and wellness programs. I am grateful for the opportunity to collaborate with the SHS on the production.

2nd Vice President Report (Watkins) –

- PTSD Committee meets tomorrow morning. He will have an update after the meeting.

Sgt. At Arms (Hunter) – No report

Committee Reports

Scholarship Committee – (Marshal Toomey) – No report

Division Reports

Fire Marshal – (Marshal Toomey)

ADMINISTRATION:

Personnel:

We currently have 5 full-time vacancies and 3 part-time vacancies. The following openings are those that we are actively recruiting for at this time:

- Full-time Fire Investigator (2 positions-one in background)
- Full-time State Building Inspector
- Full-time State Building/Mechanical Inspector
- Full-time Hazmat Coordinator
- Part time State Building Inspector
- Part-time NFIRS Coordinator
- Part-time Building Code Review Board Administrative Secretary

Legislation:

The 2023 session is just getting started. Below are some of the bills and LSR's that we are watching:

- HB 265 relative to municipal property tax relief for installation of fire suppression systems
Status: ITL
- HB 296 relative to local authority for granting driveway permits
Status: Passed House Committee (removes FD ability to regulate access for 1 & 2 family homes)
- HB 564 relative to ratification of amendments to the state building code and state fire code
Status: Passed House with Amendment
- SB 170 relative to small group child day care centers
Status: Passed Senate with Amendment

Board of Fire Control:

The Board of Fire Control and the SFMO staff have started the review of the 2021 editions of NFPA 1 and NFPA 101. The goal is to have a package ready for legislative action in 2024.

Foam Take-back Program:

We continue to work with DES to launch the foam take-back program. Due to contracting and permitting challenges the launch of this program is delayed into 2023. An important consideration in the program is the best and safest disposal methods to destroy the PFAS chemicals. The latest inventory is approximately 9,600 gallons. We need to identify a collection point in each county for foam collection, please send an email to fmo@dos.nh.gov if you are interested.

BUREAU OF INVESTIGATIONS:

In the month of February, we received 15 incident notifications resulting in 5 scene responses. The Bureau of Investigations currently has 11 open arson or suspected arson investigations.

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

- On February 3, investigators responded to a structure fire in Claremont in which people reported seeing a person throw something at the building. The fire started inside the building and the cause is under investigation at this time.
- On February 5, investigators responded to a structure fire in Rochester. The cause appears to have been accidental but is still under investigation.
- On February 10, investigators responded to a roof collapse in Bennington. High winds caused the roof of a building under construction to fall, injuring two workers.
- On February 21, investigators responded to a motor vehicle fire in Hill. A truck that had fled police earlier in the day had been found burning on a Class VI road that evening. Arson is suspected, but the cause is still under investigation.
- On February 22, investigators responded to a structure fire in Meredith, believed to have been caused by a dryer.

Ignitable Liquid Detection Canine Teams:

- An IGL canine team performed a demonstration at the Concord Regional Technical Center to their firefighting, law enforcement and medical programs.

Public Outreach:

- A presentation was given to the Town of Auburn on what the roles of the NH FMO were and the resources we can provide.

Training/Committees:

- One investigator attended a two-week Enclosure Fire School held at the ATF's Fire Research Laboratory located just outside of Washington D.C.

BUREAU OF BUILDING SAFETY & CONSTRUCTION:

State Building Permit System:

We processed the following permits in the month of February:

- Building: 2
- Electrical: 9
- Plumbing: 4
- Mechanical Fuel Gas: 0
- Mechanical Non-Fuel Gas: 1
- Fire Protection: 2
- Fire Alarm: 0

Technical Assistance, Educational & Healthcare Reviews:

We initiated 10 educational and 3 healthcare plan reviews, completed 107 inspections and 108 technical consults in the month of February.

Variance Requests:

We processed 2 variance requests in the month of February.

BUREAU OF OUTREACH & EDUCATION:

Hazardous Materials:

Hazardous Materials response, coordination and consultation is available through the on-call FMO 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 February, our Hazardous Materials Coordinator attended the Hazardous Materials Collaborative meeting. He also provided training to the Southeastern NH Haz Mat Team on the use of PEAC software for chemical facility research and incident management. He continued working with the Regional Haz Mat Teams and HSEM on planning a Wide Area Air Monitoring Exercise for the spring of 2023.

Received 345 Tier II reports for New Hampshire facilities.

Responded to 112 questions from facilities regarding Tier II reporting.

Further discussions and work are ongoing to evaluate the hazmat problem and funding sources.

Swiftwater Rescue Working Group:

Further discussions and work is ongoing to evaluate the swiftwater problem and funding sources.

Regional Outreach/Chief's Roundtables:

We continue to partner with the Commissioner's Office, Director Cutting and the NHAFC to conduct regional outreach/Chief's Roundtables. An Ossipee Area Roundtable is being held on March 20th at 6:30 pm at the Tuftonboro Central Fire Station.

Incident Reporting:

If you don't already have an account to securely transfer to and receive files from the SFMO, please register for free today! More info included in this link:
[SFTP2020bulletin.pdf \(nh.gov\)](#).

Can you believe 2023 is already here? We ask that fire departments please submit their 2022 NFIRS data as soon as possible so we can close out the year in a timely fashion.

Have you looked at your .err files lately? These are important files that you likely receive on a monthly basis that contain invalid incidents, a.k.a. error messages. We can help you through the process so that you can resubmit any invalid incidents, and receive full credit. Please contact us at nhfirs@dos.nh.gov. We continue to work with the team at the Fire Academy as departments implement the NHESR program, available free of charge, for incident reporting. If you are interested in giving a presentation on the program or would like to request one, please email NHESR@dos.nh.gov.

We are monitoring changes proposed by the USFA to the NFIRS system. We understand a substantial redo of the system as we know it is in the works. We anticipate more details will be available in late spring 2023.

If you have questions or you are having difficulties, please reach out to the NHFIRS data team using the following email: NHFIRS@dos.nh.gov.

Training Opportunities:

Fire Investigation for the First Responder

This seminar familiarizes students (fire, police and EMS) with the roles and responsibilities of first responders and how they relate to the basic principles of arson detection and the proper procedures for scene security, evidence preservation and documentation.

March 9, 2023

Raymond S. Burton Training Facility, Bethlehem

6:00-8:30PM

Registration Link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/BurtonMarch9>

Small Town, USA – State v. John Gates

Join the NHFMO on a journey into an arson case set in a small New Hampshire town, filled with unexpected twists and turns, and involving local, state, and federal agencies. This presentation shows the ins and outs of a complex arson investigation and how the crime of arson can be just the tip of the iceberg.

March 23, 2023

NH Fire Academy Auditorium

1:00-4:00PM Session I

6:00-9:00PM Session II

Session I Registration Link:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/StateVGates1-4pm>

Session II Registration Link:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/StateVGates6-9pm>

Small Town, USA – State v. John Gates

Join the NHFMO on a journey into an arson case set in a small New Hampshire town, filled with unexpected twists and turns, and involving local, state, and federal agencies. This presentation shows the ins and outs of a complex arson investigation and how the crime of arson can be just the tip of the iceberg.

April 20, 2023

Lafayette School, 149 Main Street, Franconia

6:00-9:00PM

Registration Link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/GatesApril20>

Additional programs are in the works. Please reach out to Deputy Stacey Dubois at stacey.l.dubois@dos.nh.gov if you are interested in hosting a program or would like to suggest a future training topic.

Fire Standards/Training/EMS – (Director Cutting)

ADMINISTRATION

Personnel

- We continue to recruit and interview for our open full-time Fire Service Instructor Supervisor (Captain) positions.
- We have made an offer to a candidate for our Curriculum Administrator position with a March 24th planned start date.
- Our part-time Program Coordinator positions for Fire Instructor, Hazardous Materials, Swift Water and EMS Initial Program are open and we are seeking applicants.
- Bill Campbell has been hired as the Fire Officer Program Coordinator.
- Captain Christopher Rousseau has submitted his retirement after 17 years of service. Captain Rousseau has been instrumental in many different aspects of the Division. Most notably however is the development and creation of the

Educational Technology section. He has established the Division as one of the leaders in New Hampshire with the development of online education in which other organizations have utilized us as a resource or have requested us to develop their own training programs. We wish Captain Rousseau with best in his future endeavors.

Grants

- We continue to work with the architectural firm on the design process for the Raymond S. Burton Fire and EMS Training Facility project.
 - We are working with all parties to overcome the challenge of significant price increases in construction costs over the last year.
- We have submitted our application for the 2022 AFG Program.
- All grant funded Technical Rescue and EMS in the Warm Zone training programs that are eligible for overtime and backfill will require us to change our registration process, more specifically closing registration earlier than we have historically so we can process all necessary paperwork. Grants agreements now need to be in place with local agencies prior to the training program and will require approval from Governor and the Executive Council to be reimbursed.
- We are working with the Department of Health and Human Services Covid Disparities Funding program to expand Image Trend to add Continuum, additional IFT, MIH and simulation training and staff support.

Fire Standards and Training Commission / Curriculum

- The next Fire Standards and Training Commission meeting will be May 4th at 0930 in Classrooms 5/6 in the dormitory building at the main campus. The full schedule for 2023 also includes meetings on September 7th and November 2nd.
 - The Visiting Committee's for the development of a Fire Officer III & IV program and the Technical Rescue Program – Rope Operations and Technician continue their work.
 - The Commission voted to establish a Visiting Committee for the Fire Investigator Program and is seeking interested individuals.
 - The Administrative Rules Sub-Committee has re-convened and will be evaluating the Fire rules relative to the Recruitment and Retention report and their recommendations as their first priority. Additional meetings were held on March 8th and planned for April 12th.

Special Projects

- We are now registered with NH Works which will provide grant funding to train non-affiliated individuals seeking training at the Fire Academy for Firefighter I, Firefighter II and CPAT.

- Our Division and New Hampshire Employment Security have finalized the details on the New Hampshire Emergency Medical Technician Training Program using the \$2,535,030 in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funds that were approved.

Facilities

- We are working on “B” building upgrades.
- We continue to work with NH Public Works on getting the design and engineering complete to repair the roadway washout on the south side of the drill yard at the Concord campus. An engineering firm has been hired to design the reconstruction. We have received our wetlands permit and will be reviewing estimates for repair costs.
- We are working on the replacement of two AC condenser units in the dormitory building.

Legislative/Administrative Rules

- The new legislative session has begun, and we are tracking a number of bills this year. A few include:
 - HB 183 Relative to Employment of Retired Firefighters at the Fire Academy
 - SB 153 relative to establishing a First Responder Career Development, Recruitment and Retention program
- 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.

Outreach

- We are seeking requests for training programs that would be scheduled between January 1, 2024, and June 30, 2024. Our goal is to announce all scheduled training programs for this timeframe by May 1, 2023. We will be collecting requests for this time period through March 15, 2023. You can submit your request at <https://nhfa-ems.com/training-request/>.
- We are continuing our Leadership Roundtables with the Commissioner, Fire Marshal’s Office, HSEM and Emergency Services and Communications with regional Fire Chief’s and EMD’s.
 - Ossipee area is planned for March 20th at Tuftonboro FD at 1830.
 - North Country area is being planned.

Mental Health & Resiliency

- Mental Health First Aid for Fire & EMS will begin in Glen March 8th.

Recruitment and Retention

- Upcoming Recruitment and Retention events:
 - March 11th NVFC Recruitment and Retention 8-hour workshop in Concord

- April 5th NH Business and Economic Affairs – Where to Find Federal Funds to Train Fire and EMS in Derry.
- “Exploring Exploring” presented by the Daniel Webster Council Boy Scouts in Concord May 4th.
- A Recruitment Event is being planned for early fall to be held here at the Concord campus.

BUREAU OF FIRE TRAINING

Courses/Programs

- Firefighter I
 - There will be two Recruit Schools offered in 2023. The Spring program begins with orientation on March 13th and the Fall program on August 14th.
 - The LRCC I/II and Brookline I/II combined classes are ongoing.
 - The Bethlehem and Kingston classes are ongoing.
- Firefighter II
 - Lakes Region Fire Mutual Aid Association class began March 7th in New Hampton.
- Technical Rescue
 - Swift Water Level II begins in Lincoln beginning April 28th.
 - The Campton Ice Rescue Technician class begins on March 11th.
 - Swift Water/Flood Rescue Boat Operator begins in Bedford on April 10th.
 - Swift Water Level I begins in Littleton on May 12th and Bedford on June 9th.
- Driver Operator
 - Driver/Operator – All Vehicles begins in Henniker April 10th and Center Ossipee on April 18th.
- Airport Firefighter
 - This course begins at the Concord campus on April 24th.
- Facilities and Prop Usage
- Online Training Courses
 - “Fire Mobilization” is a free 1-hour program that supports the NH Federation of Mutual Aid “Fire (& EMS) Mobilization Plan”
 - “Fire Service Communications” is a free 1-hour program.
- All of the curricula for programs may be found at <https://nhfa-ems.com/curricula/>. Departments have asked for this information so it can be used in the delivery of local training drills and evolutions.
- For all current course listings, you can go to <https://nhfa-ems.com/scheduled-courses/>

Apparatus/Equipment

- The new ARFF truck is in production at E-One in Ocala, Fl. and delivery is expected in the fall of 2023 which is later than anticipated.

- The new Engine bid has been awarded to Rosenbauer. At this time, it appears the chassis will be available in early 2023 with an anticipated timeframe for completion later that fall.

BUREAU OF CERTIFICATION AND SUPPORT

Courses/Programs

- Instructor I/II/III Programs
 - Instructor I in Concord March 14th.
 - Instructor I in Concord and at Monadnock Hospital begin May 2nd.
 - Instructor II/III began January 23rd.
 - Instructor Professional Development – March 9th - Debriefing for Skills Development (I/C CE: 2 Hours) Location: Concord
 - Instructor Professional Development – April 6th Learning Accommodations in the Classroom (I/C CE: 2 Hours) Concord
- Fire Officer I/II Programs
 - Fire Officer I began in Epping January 21st.
 - Fire Officer I begins in Concord March 23rd.
 - Fire Officer II begins June 8th.
- Fire Inspector Programs
 - Fire Inspector I began in Concord January 10th and another at the Bethlehem campus on April 1st.
 - Fire Inspector II begins at the Concord campus on April 6th.
- Fire Investigator
 - The 2023 offering begins August 24th at the Concord campus.
- National Fire Academy
 - 2023 Three State Weekend in Emmitsburg, MD will be March 10-12, 2023.
 - Youth Firesetter Intervention Specialist begins at the Concord campus on March 14th.
 - Leadership in Supervision: Creating Environments for Professional Growth begins in Bethlehem on April 11th.
 - Command and Control of Incident Operations (6 day) begins at the Concord campus on May 8th.
 - Incident Safety Officer begins in Portsmouth on May 23rd.
- Incident Command
 - ICS 400 - Concord on May 2nd.
 - ICS 300 – Nashua on June 6th.
- We have developed a new 6-hour non-certification program titled “Your Workplace has Changed: Fire Dynamics for Structural Firefighting”.
 - An offering was held on February 16th at Hampton Fire Rescue.
 - The next offering will be held in Laconia on May 25th.
 - This program has been very successful and highly requested.

- For all current course listings, you can go to <https://nhfa-ems.com/scheduled-courses/>

Instructors

- We continue to work on the Instructor Recruitment Plan and analyzing the onboarding and probationary instructor process.
 - The Division is always looking for highly motivated team members to become instructors. At the end of 2022 we had 186 instructors. If you are interested in becoming an instructor, please contact Assistant Director Jeffrey Phillips at Jeffrey.r.phillips@dos.nh.gov or 603-223-4213.

CPAT

- The 2023 CPAT orientation and testing will be held at the Laconia Ice Arena April 26th, May 16th and June 12th. CPAT testing will be held at the NH Fire Academy in September.

Testing

- Our work continues on acquisition of new testing software for the Division with vendor presentations scheduled for the week of March 20th. When complete this will enable us to begin computer-based testing and eliminate the paper method.

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 March 16th in classrooms 5 & 6 in the dormitory building.
- The NH Trauma Medical Review Committee (TMRC) will meet at 0930 on April 20th in classroom 2 in the administration building.
- We are working towards the first meeting of the Privacy Committee as established in RSA 153-A:35 II.

Operations

- Administrative rules for Educational Training Agencies have been drafted and we continue to work with the Department of Safety legal unit to complete these.
- The Criminal History Records Information wait times have been averaging approximately 3 weeks.

Courses/Programs

- Mobile Integrated Healthcare Provider
 - This course began at the Concord campus on January 19, 2023, and at the Bethlehem campus on January 24, 2023.
 - The MIH-P continuing education program consists of classes developed to equip experienced EMS providers with the skills they need to succeed in a mobile integrated healthcare program.

- These courses are full with waitlisted registrants.
- Emergency Medical Responder (EMR)
 - The winter 2023 course began January 11th.
 - EMR Data to Date
 - 102 individuals from 37 communities throughout the State have participated in this program.
 - 6 EMR's have upgraded to EMT that have been through this program
- EMS Continuing Education
 - Addiction as a Brain Disease and Substance Use Disorder – virtual on March 16th.
 - NCCP – Cardiovascular - Concord March 19th.
 - Rules, Laws and Investigations in EMS: Compliance Section - virtual on March 23rd.
 - Physiology, Pathology and Bloodless Medicine - Concord on April 5th and virtual on April 20th.
 - EMS Grands Rounds: Trauma Case Review - Concord on April 12th.
 - Autism Awareness for the First Responder – Concord on April 12th.
 - Pediatrics: Respiratory Distress – Littleton on April 22nd.
 - The Medical Marijuana Debate – Cutting Through the Smoke – Concord on May 3rd and virtual on May 18th.
 - NCCP – Trauma – Concord on May 6th.
 - Introduction to Prehospital Ultrasound for Paramedics – Concord on May 20th.
 - Obstetrics Abnormal Delivery – Concord on May 20th and in Bethlehem June 10th.
 - The Cost of Code 3: An Evidence-Based Look at Lights and Siren Usage – Concord June 7th and virtual June 15th.
 - NCCP-Trauma and Operations – Concord June 24th.
 - For all current course listings, you can go to <https://nhfa-ems.com/scheduled-courses/>
- EMS in the Warm Zone Awareness, Operations and Rescue Task Force Concepts
 - These courses are available free to students on our online training platform. The RTF Concepts class is a half-day in-person training that is also available. Grant funding opportunities are available for those that have not done so already.

Clinical Systems

- Work continues on EMS Protocols Ver. 9.0.
- The Public Health Incident declared by Acting Commissioner Weaver of NH Department of Health and Human Services has been extended to March 31, 2023.

The extension of the Public Health Incident allows for the continuation of all Emergency Protocols and any modifications to ambulance staffing requirements. These include:

- Emergency Protocol - COVID-19
 - Emergency Protocol - COVID-19 Testing
 - Emergency Protocol - COVID-19 Immunization
 - Emergency Protocol - Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
 - Emergency Protocol - COVID-19 Temporary Mobile Integrated Healthcare (MIH)
 - Staffing modifications under Saf-C 5902.06 (m), as it relates to a public health or safety incident declared in writing to the governor by the commissioner of the department of safety or the commissioner of the department of health and human services.
 - We are continually reviewing these Emergency Protocols for their effectiveness on the delivery of patient care as well as well as their necessity in day-to-day operations within this evolving environment.
- The development of Trauma Rules is still underway and making progress.
- We continue our outreach and support to agencies for inter-facility transfers and mobile integrated health programs.

Data Management

➤ Reporting

- We've added a new folder to ELITE report writer called **Grant Data Templates**. Several of the templates are preset to run totals for the years 2020-2022 as required for the current AFG grant request. So far, we've built the following report templates for services to copy and customize:
 - Total Calls by Incident Type Category for years 2020-2022
 - Total Calls by Incident Type Code for years 2020-2022
 - Mutual Aid Given/Received for years 2020-2022
 - Mutual Aid Given/Received – Structure Fires only (NFIRS 111-123) for years 2020-2022
 - EMS Runs by Patient Disposition – 2020-2022
- These reports can work for most grant as they all ask for similar information. We've included instructions in the description area explaining how to change the time period on the filter tab.
- We have also built reports for services to extract run data for the CMS data reporting requirements that CMS requires of transporting EMS services. Each year over a 3-year period CMS assigns different services to report a large amount of data with the intent of determining the actual cost of delivering EMS care. Most of the data comes from financial records, but some of it comes from run records. They all start with "CMS" with the rest

of the label including the specific question number from the data collection guide.

➤ 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/nhesrashboard/>.
- Our next fire reporting user group is scheduled for Wednesday March 8th at 1300 hrs. **All departments who utilize hours tracking within this system for payroll purposes are recommended to attend or send a representative to this meeting.** A recording of this meeting will be emailed after the meeting if you are unable to attend.
- There are 14 departments in the onboarding process, and 3 awaiting onboarding, for this software and many are using it.
- Coordination continues with the Fire Marshal's Office for further education and guidance for reporting.
- Anyone interested in the system can contact Joseph Cartier at 603-223-3403 or joseph.w.cartier@dos.nh.gov.

➤ RespondNH

- The Division continues to expand the capabilities of the RespondNH system. As we are able to utilize this system and analyze more data it is important to have department roster information updated and current. Each department has the full capability to manage their own roster by adding new staff and removing those that may have left. Departments are able to do this at any time. For State level reporting information please fill out your roster information to include their status (career, call, or volunteer) as well as the duties they provide such as EMS care and/or fire suppression.

➤ TEMSIS

- 20,059 EMS incidents were entered into the system for February.
- We are working in preparation for NEMSIS 3.5.

Compliance

- There are currently over 20 active investigations and ongoing cases.

Preparedness and Special Projects

- Work continues on our Division COOP project within the Department of Safety.
- Our Division has a Preparedness and Special Projects Coordinator who is available to assist communities with planning efforts for multiple and mass casualty incidents.

Fire Standards and Training Commission – Chiefs Clark/DeAngelis –

- He described the matrix they used to review the curriculum and reiterated the points that Director Cutting shared.

NH Emergency Medical and Trauma Services Coord. Board – (Dep. Chief Bean) – No Report

National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC) – (Chief Corey) – He reported that the June 8 meeting will be held in Brookline and will be a home-cooked roast beef dinner.

Homeland Security and Emergency Management – (Dir. Buxton)

Updates on Division Priorities:

We continue to work towards our 2023 Goals

- This will include;
 - i. Increased efforts for Training, Exercise and Development
 - 1. We are working to develop a strategic vision to meet the needs of the State of New Hampshire in the area of active threat.
 - ii. Implementation of a Community Services Branch
 - 1. Inclusive of a stakeholder liaison group
 - iii. Continued review of procedures to make sure we are providing you efficient delivery of the Public Assistance process
 - iv. We have met with the Regional Planning Commissions to improve the Mitigation planning process
- To date 11 school security assessments completed
- To date 3 tabletop exercises and an initial planning meeting for schools (2023)

Media Interactions and Events:

- We worked with stakeholders to improve cold weather messaging surrounding cold weather event in January.
- Social Media Contacts
 - Facebook 22,590
 - Twitter 8,566
 - Instagram 1,329

Legislative Interactions:

- Monitoring HB 84 – relative to the emergency management powers of the department of transportation

- Monitoring HB 127- relative to the Declaration of a State of Emergency

Federal Government Interactions:

- Submission of final application for HHPD award for FFY 2022
- Awaiting feedback regarding disaster declaration
- Weekly trainings with FEMA on Hazard Mitigation items and Public Assistance process
- Received the State of NH Annual Letter of Certification for the Seabrook Station Nuclear Power Plant
- Anticipation of the COVID-19 emergency sunsetting on May 11, 2023
- We are reviewing the impact adopting FEMA's Public Assistance Simplified procedures process.

Other items of importance:

- Internally we have started to prepare for the upcoming Nascar and airshow events
- Starting to plan for a renovation to the State EOC

EMS Trauma Medical Review Board – (Chief Beaudoin) – No report

Commission to study the Incidence of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder in First Responders – (Chief Watkins) - (Reported earlier in minutes)

Forests and Lands – (Chief Sherman) – No report

Board of Fire Control – (Chiefs Clark/Hunter) –

- They will be meeting on March 15.

Building Code Review Board – (Marshal Lennon/Chief Conley) – Chief Conley submitted the following report:

Here are highlights from the February 10th meeting of the NHSBCRB:

- Public Hearing on:
 - Proposed amendments to the International Building Code: BD-21-01-23, BD-21-02-23, BD-21-03-23, BD-21-04-23, BD-21-05-23, BD-21-06-23, BD-21-07-23, BD-08-01-23, BD-21-09-23, BD-21-10-23
 - Proposed amendments to the International Existing Building Code: EX-21-01-23, EX-21-02-23, EX-21-03-23, EX-21-04-23, EX-21-05-23
- Board discussion and vote:
 - a. IBC report
 - b. IBC amendments
 - c. IEBC report
 - d. IEBC amendments
- Legislative Updates:

- LSR 0271 – Ratifying codes. Now HB564 changes the date in 155-A that says all the amendments BCRB have reviewed and approved to November 4, 2022, to ratify the amendments through November. Bill and RSA says all of the amendments through “this date” are part of the State Building Code.
- LSR 0806 – This is going to turn into a bill, but it is not changing anything in the building code at this time. FMO has been working with a group from the day care industry, both architect and user. It has to do with tiny house daycares to tiny office daycares. Size threshold do not align with 101.
- HB111 – Establishes a committee to study electrical vehicle charging for residential renters.
- HB173 – Relative to toilet facilities provided by restaurants. Eliminates DHHS requirements for separate bathroom fixtures in small restaurants or any place that serves alcohol. Statute written in 1935 in a section titled tenement houses under RSA 155, not 155-A.
- HB558 – Was LSR 203. Talks about electric micro-grids.

Next meeting is Friday, March 10th.

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

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

- Laconia Facility Update: Selection of the A&E firm has been made ... ironing-out details of the contract for the A&E firm to perform the design. ROUGH timeline pushes completion of the project into Summer of 2025;
- Staffing vacancies – down 12 in the PSAP (17%)...However, we are continuing to maintain call answering standards, and minimum coverage with existing staffing;
- Legislation Watch (updates are highlighted):
 - Study Committee for Dispatcher & Telecommunicator Training Standards (HB 376) (Unanimously voted OTP; moved to Consent Calendar)
 - Access to an individual’s 911 call / Exemption from 91A (SB 183)
 - Causes of action for individual rights (HB 647) (Motion to ITL, Passed)
 - Telephone carrier of last resort obligations (HB 257) (Exec. Session: 3/13)

- Behavioral Health Services access and Mental Health programs [Funding & Sustainability] (SB 85)
 - Requiring Trauma Kits in State Owned Buildings (SB 204)
- E9-1-1 Commission Meeting scheduled for March 17th at the Fire Academy Dormitories;
- In February, the Division of Emergency Services and Communications utilized its social media platforms (Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram) to promote American Heart Month with messages that touched on heart health, cardiac arrests, learning CPR, and AED awareness/registry requirements. Additionally, we posted safety tips and reminders for several snow storms, solicited applicants for our open 911 telecommunicator positions, and highlighted some of our recent public outreach and education efforts (school visits, PSAP tours, NH State Home Show).



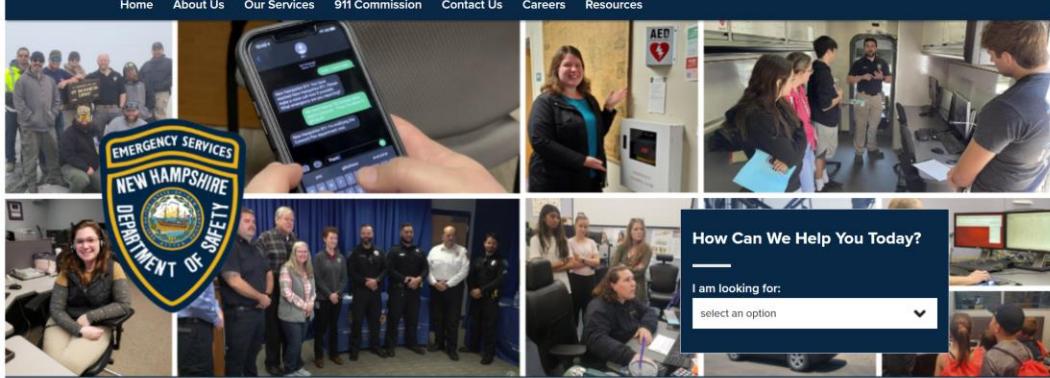
- New DESC / Division's website has launched and can be found at 911.nh.gov

New Hampshire Emergency Services and Communications
A Division of the New Hampshire Department of Safety

[Back to NH Department of Safety](#)

[Facebook](#) [Twitter](#) [Instagram](#) [YouTube](#)





Welcome to the NH Division of Emergency Services and Communications
(New Hampshire 911)

- 988 Coalition meetings continue – working on trainings to be held in Littleton and in other sections of the state (TBD);

- Updated the Governor's Task Force on School Safety with the status of our Division's recommendations;
- Attended the Quarterly Statewide Interoperability Executive Committee Meeting on 2/10;
- Participated in the HSGP Grant Review Committee to review and approve Grant applications from around the State;

E-911 Commission – (Chief Thomas) –

- Current members of the commission are meeting next week to meet new members.

NH Information Analysis Center – (James Heinz-liaison)

- A memo has been sent out in the last two editions of the NHIAC monthly Salutaris Vitae regarding Operation Flashpoint. The awareness campaign was developed in partnership by FBI and DHS. See this link to review the program overview and objectives - [Operation Flashpoint Program | CISA](#). Members of the NHIAC will be out in NH communities working with businesses on bomb making materials awareness. As we all know, some of the materials used in the Boston Marathon bombing were purchased locally. An educational and informational program has been developed and is being presented which includes visual aids and informational sessions by members of the NHIAC.
- If you or members of your department are interested in what the NHIAC is and does, we have assembled a very brief program on NHIAC Awareness for the Fire Service. This presentation takes only a short time and is approved for one hour of EMS con-ed. We can deliver the program to your departments for free. If you are interested, please contact your Intelligence Liaison Officer James Heinz at James.B.Heinz@dos.nh.gov.
- The NHIAC is an integrated, all-crimes/all hazards information sharing network that analyzes and disseminates information to engaged stakeholders from a variety of sources. If you are interested in receiving items from the NHIAC, contact ILO James Heinz at James.B.heinz@dos.nh.gov and he will send you an Information Sharing Agreement

IAFC Director – (Chief Christopoulos) – (Report submitted in writing)

AFG AND SAFER

On Wednesday, March 8, the U.S. Senate's Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs will consider legislation to reauthorize funding for the Assistance

to Firefighters Grant (AFG) program (popularly known as the “FIRE grants”); the Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) grant program; and the U.S. Fire Administration (USFA).

Currently, the AFG and SAFER programs are scheduled to expire on September 30, 2024. The Fire Grants and Safety Act (S. 559) would protect these programs. The bipartisan legislation would:

- Extend the authorization of funding for the AFG, SAFER and USFA programs through Fiscal Year (FY) 2030.
- Increased the authorization for the USFA to \$95 million.
 - USFA was authorized at \$76.49 million in FY 2023, so that’s an almost \$20 million increase.
- Extended the sunset for the AFG and SAFER programs to September 30, 2032.

S. 559 was sponsored by Senators Gary Peters (D-MI); Susan Collins (R-ME); Lisa Murkowski (R-AK); and Tom Carper (D-DE).

The AFG and SAFER programs provide critical matching grants to local fire departments for training, equipment, and staffing. The grant funds are awarded using a peer-review process that includes input from fire and emergency service personnel across the nation. The USFA hosts the National Fire Academy, the nation’s premier fire service educational institution.

Please ask your Senators to pass S. 559.

2023 Fire Rescue International

August 16 – 18, 2023 in Kansas City, Missouri

- Registration will open in the spring. The New England Division Hotel is yet to be determined

New England Fire Chiefs – a Division of the IAFC – (Director Buxton) –

- He reported that they have been meeting to work on the conference. It will be at Mohegan Sun for the next two years.

Old Business

New Business –

Good and Welfare –

- Chief Lyon reported the preliminary work of the Nominations Committee.
- Nick Mecuri reported that they will be sponsoring a Jobs Fair in April. More info to follow.

- Chief Hall stated that they are sponsoring a NH Fire and Rescue Conference in conjunction with the Lakes Region Community College April 15 and 16.
- Chief Warren spoke about electric vehicle fires and wanted to know if E911 can ask if the vehicle is electric or fuel operated upon receipt of emergency call. Director Doyle stated that the local dispatchers should be asking.

Raffle – The raffle was held. \$230 was collected and \$115 was awarded. Proceeds were counted by Chiefs Hunter and Carrier.

The meeting was adjourned at 1020 hrs.

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

March 9, 2023