



NEW HAMPSHIRE ASSOCIATION OF FIRE CHIEFS, INC.

Working Together to Make a Difference

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Minutes of a Meeting of the NH Association of Fire Chiefs

Thursday, June 13, 2024 – Held virtually on “Go To Meeting” platform.

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

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

Welcome from Host: Chief Emanuel welcomed everyone to the meeting.

INTRODUCTION OF MEMBERS. Chief Lemire read the roster of members participating.

Special Guests: n/a

Minutes: A MOTION (Hunter/Chamberlain) to approve the minutes of the April meeting, carried unanimously.

Treasurer’s Report: A MOTION (Clough/Sitar) to approve the financial reports from April and (MOTION: Clough/Chamberlain) for May, carried unanimously.

Communications: n/a

Applications for membership: Dep. Chief Aaron Heath of Bristol, Chief Michael McMahon of Hampton and Dep. Chief John Sarnick of Berlin have been approved for membership.

Life Membership: Following the May informational session, Chief Hunter surprised Chief Thomas with his Life Membership card.

President’s Report: (Emanuel) –

- The NHMA posed a call for presentations for their annual fall conference. The NHAFC submitted topics of "A fire chief’s perspective on contemporary leadership and personnel challenges" and "strategic planning for emergency services".

- The NHAFC Board of Directors recommended the re-appointment of Sugar Hill Fire Chief Allan Clark to the Board of Fire Control
- The NH Explorer Academy looking for assistance. Anyone interested can reach out to me (e.uitts@nheseta.org) if they're interested in helping teach or to Mike Goldstein (m.goldstein@nheseta.org) if they're interested in helping with Ops/Logistics support.
- Attended a training in Kansas City on June 10-12, 2024 sponsored by Women In Fire and NDRI regarding the United In Service program to learn about and discuss the best ways to deliver fire department education and training on fire department culture and diversity, equity, and inclusion. Interested in developing opportunities in NH to deliver grant funded training on a variety of related subject materials.

Report of the Executive Director: (Lemire)

- The July BOD meeting will be virtual and held on July 10 at 0830 hours.
- The July 11 meeting will be a breakfast meeting at the NHFA. The vendor has lowered their prices so we're back to \$16.00.
- On August 8, we'll join our North Country brethren at the Town and Country in Gorham (Shelburne) where we'll have a seminar being developed by the Professional Development Committee entitled "How to Effectively Manage Fire Prevention and Inspections through Building Positive Relationships." Overnight guests will be offered a discounted rate.
- August 12 is the date for our annual Golf Tournament at Lochmere in Tilton. Sign up sheets and announcements have gone out.
- Ad book proceeds to date: Total: \$24,450; Vendor: \$17,115; Assn: \$7335.
- Finally, several of you have asked about another November Professional Enhancement Weekend. It's a GO! I have a proposal from the "Snowy Owl Inn" at Waterville Valley for November 15-17. The Professional Development Committee has proposed a subject for the morning seminar on Saturday with the monthly NHAFC meeting being held at 1:00 that afternoon.

1st Vice President Report (Watkins) – no report

Government Relations – (Schmidt) – (submitted in writing)

The Legislature is scheduled to complete their work for the 2024 session on Thursday, June 13. On that date, they will vote on committee of conference reports. The committee of conference process is used to resolve differences between the House and Senate passed versions of the same bill. If the committee of conference reports are approved by both bodies, the bill heads to the Governor for his consideration. If a report fails, in either body, it is defeated. We have included an updated legislative chart with this update. You will note the vast majority of the bills have either been killed, sent to study, or are awaiting a decision from Governor Sununu. The timeline for his consideration is dependent upon when the bill reaches his desk. That process can take several weeks. We may not know about all the vetoes (if any) until later this summer.

- **HB 1647 (Group II Retirement Reforms)** – The House agreed to the Senate changes to the bill. It will head to the Governor’s office for his consideration. The final version would increase the multiplier for Group II members, only in Tier B, to 2.5% for all years worked in excess of 15 years for members who retire under service or disability retirement. The change in years (from 10 in the House version to 15 in the Senate version) and applicability (Tier B only - Senate, rather than B and C - House), reduced the cost to approximately \$26 million, from over \$50 million. There appeared to be consensus that unknown future costs associated with the Youth Development Center settlements and education funding required the general fund costs associated with Group II reform to be reduced.

- **Ambulance Billing Issues** – There are several bills dealing with ambulance reimbursement. Here is a breakdown of where each stand in the session:
 - **SB 409/HB 1568 (Medicaid Re-imbursement for Treat/No Transport)** - Both bills have passed the House and Senate and will eventually head to the Governor. Each require NH DHHS to file a Medicaid plan amendment which, under specific circumstances, would allow for re-imbursement for instances where an individual was treated, but not transported, to a hospital. It would seem likely that one of them will be signed into law to help address this issue.

 - **HB 1081 (Direct Pay)** - The bill would require private health insurance carriers to pay providers directly, regardless of whether or not they are in network. This bill has also passed both bodies and will go to Governor Sununu for his consideration.

 - **SB 407 (NH Department of Insurance Study)** – On Thursday, the House and Senate will vote on a committee of conference report which recommends adoption of the House passed version of the bill. The House passed version requires an actuarial based study, conducted by the NH Department of Insurance to examine costs for ambulance services in order to determine an appropriate re-imbursement level in a future session. During the Committee of Conference, Senators argued that the study, as proposed by the House should happen, but in the interim, ambulance reimbursement levels should be determined by municipalities or at 325% of Medicare, whichever is less. The House was unwilling to agree to this approach. Rather than lose the entire bill, the Senate agreed to the study. We will see if the House and Senate vote to approve it on Thursday.

- **SB 352 (Retired and Full Time Firefighter Cancer Screening Program)** – Governor Sununu will eventually consider signing the bill into law as it has passed both bodies. It would create a \$5 million fund from which re-imbursements to retired and full-time firefighters could seek reimbursement when specific documentation is provided. NHAFC, PPFNH, and Fire Standards and Training would be responsible for development of an initial plan to

implement the screenings. The plan would be submitted to the Governor and Commissioner of the Department of Safety.

- **HB 1352 (PFAS in station wear/PPE)** – The House and Senate agreed to final language in the bill which would enable, but not mandate, that local fire departments give preference to PPE which does not include PFAS. Language is included that states it would remain a best practice from PPE to be used while operating in a dangerous environment. Regarding station wear, by January 1, 2025, Fire Departments shall not provide as an option any station wear that contains intentionally added PFAS or “non-polymeric fire resistant chemicals”. Manufacturers are required to provide safer alternatives, should they exist. This bill will head to Governor Sununu soon as well.
- **SB 599 (State Fire Code)** – This bill would alter the reference for the State Fire Code by changing the references to both the Life Safety Code, NFPA 101 and Uniform Fire Code NFPA 1 from the 2018 editions to the 2021 editions. It also would ratify amendments approved by the Board of Fire control as of September 20, 2023. The bill has passed both the House and Senate and should be considered by the Governor at some point this spring/summer.
- All in all a “winning” year for the NHAFC.

2nd Vice President Report (Hunter) –

- He summarized the Legislative Report as Chief Watkins had to step away.
- He attended a meeting with the Commissioner and staff to discuss the outcome of legislation.
- He thanked Chiefs Sitar and Walker for testifying on SB 407 last month.

Sgt. At Arms (Chamberlain) –

- He suggested a Venmo account for virtual meetings raffle.

Committee Reports

Scholarship Committee – (Marshal Toomey) – No report

Division Reports

Fire Marshal – (Marshal Toomey)

ADMINISTRATION:

Personnel:

We currently have 1 part-time vacancy that we are actively recruiting for at this time:

Part-time Building Code Review Board Administrative Secretary

Deputy Fire Marshal's Mitch Cady and Adam Fanjoy attended Primex's five-day Collaborative Leadership Seminar for Fire, Police, and EMS chiefs.

Members of the Bureau of Investigations attended the New England Fire Investigation Seminar which is held annually at St. Anselm's College.

Legislation:

The following bills are the key bills that we are currently monitoring:

HB 1059 Relative to the state building code

Status: Amended, passed & waiting on Governor's signature

HB 1065 Relative to fire sprinkler requirements in residential buildings

Status: Amended, passed & waiting on Governor's signature

HB 1215 Relative to development approvals and appeals

Status: Committee of Conference

HB 1352 Relative to firefighting personal protective equipment

Status: Amended, passed & waiting on Governor's signature

HB 1386 Relative to prohibiting the disposal of lithium-ion batteries in solid waste

landfill facilities, composting facilities, or incinerators

Status: Committee of Conference

HB 1387 Relative to revisions to the state building code

Status: Amended, passed & waiting on Governor's signature

SB 352 Establishing an early detection cancer screening pilot program for active and

retired firefighters

Status: Amended, passed & waiting on Governor's signature

SB 365 Relative to the sale or use of lithium-ion batteries for electric bicycles, scooters,

or personal electric mobility devices

Status: Interim Study

SB 373 Relative to the state building code

Status: Amended, passed & waiting on Governor's signature

SB 430 Relative to establishing a counsel to study the impacts of electric vehicles, lithium-ion batteries, and e-mobility devices on first responder response,

the

environment, building and fire codes, and life and safety property

protection

Status: Amended, passed & waiting on Governor's signature

SB 437 Relative to local authority to amend the state building code

Status: Signed by the Governor, effective July 1st

SB 599 Relative to the state fire code
Status: Waiting on Governor's signature

Board of Fire Control:

The next Board of Fire Control meeting is scheduled for June 26, 2024.

Foam Take-back Program:

The contract for the foam take-back program was approved by the Governor & Executive Council at the end of June 2023. DES has advised that an amended contract is expected to be submitted to the Governor & Executive Council at the end of June.

BUREAU OF INVESTIGATIONS:

In the month of May, we received 12 incident notifications resulting in 6 scene responses. The Bureau of Investigations currently has 13 open arson or suspected arson investigations.

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

- On May 5, an investigator responded to Claremont for a fire in an abandoned building that was intentionally set. The investigation is ongoing with the Claremont Fire and Police Departments and suspects have been developed.
- On May 5, an investigator responded to assist the Derry Fire Department with an investigation of a structure fire where an individual sustained serious bodily injury. DFD is conducting the origin and cause investigation of the fire.
- On May 18, investigators responded to Henniker for a structure fire. The investigation is currently ongoing and does not appear to be criminal.
- On May 21, an investigator responded to New Hampton for a structure fire. The cause is undetermined but does not appear to be criminal.
- On May 23, an investigator responded to Hampstead for a structure fire. The fire is undetermined with no criminal indicators.
- On May 25, investigators responded to Portsmouth to assist Portsmouth PD with a tent fire at a homeless camp. The cause of the fire is undetermined at this time.

Youth Firesetter:

- There were no youth fire setter assessments in May. There were 2 youth fire

setter inquiries, and these assessments are scheduled for June.

BUREAU OF BUILDING SAFETY & CONSTRUCTION:

State Building Permit System:

We processed the following permits in the month of May:

- Building: 27
- Electrical: 10
- Plumbing: 2
- Mechanical Fuel Gas: 4
- Mechanical Non-Fuel Gas: 4
- Fire Protection: 2
- Fire Alarm: 1

Technical Assistance, Educational & Healthcare Reviews:

We initiated 25 educational and 12 healthcare plan reviews, completed 299 inspections and 181 technical consults in the month of May.

Variance Requests:

We processed 10 variance requests in the month of May.

Fireworks Safety and Enforcement Program

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

- Proximate Licenses Issued: 0
- Display Certificate of Competency Issued: 1
- Consumer Fireworks Retail Store Licenses Issued: 7
- Explosive Magazine Inspections: 0
- Proximate Audience Inspections: 3
- Technical Assistance: 3

Modular Building Program

The Modular Building Program has conducted the following in the month of May:

- Inspections: 6
- Audits of Manufacturers: 0

- Audits of Educational Facilities: 0
- Labels Issued to Manufacturers: 142
- Units Shipped to New Hampshire: 54

Tramway and Amusement Ride Safety

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

- Amusement Registrations: 195
- Amusement Inspections: 308
- Amusement Incidents: 0
- Tramway Registrations: 15
- Tramway Inspections: 22
- Tramway Incidents: 0

BUREAU OF OUTREACH & EDUCATION:

Hazardous Materials:

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

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

In the month of May, our Hazardous Materials Coordinator attended the CBRNE Responder Training, the Haz Mat Collaborative Meeting, the monthly PEAC training, and radiation training with the CST. He also provided PEAC web training to the Pembroke Fire Department.

14 Tier II reports were received from NH facilities in May, and we followed up with 100 facilities that reported in 2022 but not for 2023.

Electric Vehicles and Lithium-Ion Batteries

Pending the final approvals for SB 430 we will be formally establishing a council to study the impacts of electric vehicles, e-mobility devices, and the associated lithium-ion batteries hazards for first responder response, the environment, building and fire codes, life safety, and property protection.

Regional Outreach/Fire Chief Roundtables:

We continue to partner with the Commissioner's Office, other Department of Safety Leadership and the NHAFC to conduct regional outreach/Fire Chief Roundtables. We will be attending the June Souhegan Mutual Aid System meeting.

Incident Reporting:

Your commitment to ensuring we have great data to accurately show the fire problem in NH is greatly appreciated! Please remember to report any EV or lithium-ion battery fires to us.

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

We continue to monitor the development of the U.S. Fire Administration's (USFA) new fire information and analytics platform, known as the National Emergency Response Information System (NERIS), for the American fire and emergency services.

A NERIS Data Framework and Development Update webinar was held on May 2nd. The webinar shared the latest NERIS developments and explored how USFA and FSRI are moving towards a modernized approach in managing emergency response data and analytics across the nation.

- Learn about the latest progress and next steps for NERIS
- Explore the newly launched beta version of the Core Data Schemas
- Hear first-hand insights from Fire Chiefs testing the prototype version

Access this webinar and other related information here: [National Emergency Response Information System \(NERIS\) \(fema.gov\)](#)

Outreach Events:

Members of the SFMO performed K9 demonstrations and provided fire safety information at Hopkinton High School and Sanbornton Central Elementary School in the month of May. There were four total K9 demonstrations this month, and one Steps to Safety presentation in Strafford.



Please consider us as you plan your next community event! Send your request to us at fmpubliceducation@dos.nh.gov.

Public Education:

Are you familiar with the USFA's Fire and Life Safety Communicators Initiative? This initiative is a collaboration among the fire and emergency medical services to speak with "one voice" on fire and life safety. They believe in working together to present consistent messages. The theme for the month of June is "Travel Safety." Whether you are staying in a hotel or a short-term rental, remember to review the fire safety plan. Know two ways out of every room and the building. Find the smoke alarms, sprinklers and carbon monoxide alarms. If you are in a hotel or motel, count the number of doors between your room and the stairs.



Find messaging, graphics, and handouts here: [Hotel and Vacation Rental Fire Safety \(fema.gov\)](https://www.fema.gov/hotel-vacation-rental-fire-safety)

For more information on this initiative, or to find outreach materials on the monthly topics, please visit:

[Fire and Life Safety Communicators Initiative \(fema.gov\)](https://www.fema.gov/fire-life-safety-communicators-initiative)



We are pleased to share our Quarterly Community Risk Reduction Newsletter. It contains fire safety tips for celebrating safely with family and friends this summer. You can find the newsletter here on our website: <https://bit.ly/4bCKoLD>

Training Opportunities:

Display Fireworks Inspection Essentials

This class will provide our fire service partners with an overview of NH rules and laws surrounding fireworks, and a discussion with industry experts to provide the Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ) with the tools and information to work with display shooters to ensure a safe and enjoyable experience for all.

Monday, June 24, 2024

9:00AM-12:00PM

Stephen E. Merrill Building, DMV Auditorium, 23 Hazen Dr., Concord

Registration Link: <https://forms.office.com/g/BSXjQRb7mK>

Collection of Witness Data in Fire Investigations

Competent and credible fire investigation work requires proper consideration of witness information. This program will offer first responders with data collection techniques for successfully obtaining critical information from witnesses that will assist them in determining an origin and cause of a fire as well as information that will be needed if the decision is made to request assistance from the NH FMO.

Wednesday, June 26, 2024

6:00PM-8:30PM

New London Fire Department

Registration Link: <https://forms.office.com/g/BSXjQRb7mK>

An Overview of the 2024 Emergency Response Guidebook

*The Emergency Response Guidebook 2024 (ERG2024) is a guide to aid first responders during an incident involving hazardous materials in transport, by quickly identifying the specific or generic hazards of the material(s) involved; and protecting themselves and the general public during the initial response phase of the incident. This class will include an overview of the 2024 ERG, including changes to the 2024 version, as well as how to use the 2024 ERG during an incident. **Copies of the 2024 ERG will be provided for use in the class and for departments who have not yet received them (by advance request).***

Thursday, June 27, 2024

6:00PM-8:00PM

Raymond S. Burton Training Facility, Bethlehem

Registration Link: <https://forms.office.com/g/BSXjQRb7mK>

We are working on topics to include the 2024 Emergency Response Guidebook, air monitoring, inspections of multi-family dwellings and NHFIRS Incident Coding. Please reach out to Deputy Stacey Dubois at stacey.l.dubois@dos.nh.gov if you are interested in hosting one of these sessions, or a future session, or would like to suggest a future training topic.

Have you seen our [2023 Year in Review](#)? Find out what the SFMO accomplished last year!

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

Personnel

- The open Fire Service Instructor Supervisor position in the Bureau of Certification and Support remains open.

- We have one vacancy for Program Specialist III (Education Technologist) of the Educational Technology section.
- We continue to advertise for our three new full-time Fire Training Instructors. We have made one conditional offer to a candidate and continue to interview new candidates as they apply.
- We have one vacancy for Emergency Services Reporting Coordinator which has been posted internally.
- Our part-time Program Coordinator position for Fire Officer is open and we are seeking applicants.
- Our part-time Program Coordinator for EMS Simulation is open and has been posted internally.
- Nick Poulin has been hired as our part-time Program Coordinator position for CPAT.
- Steve Solomon has been hired as our part-time Program Coordinator position for Hazardous Materials.

Grants

- The Raymond S. Burton Fire and EMS Training Facility infrastructure project continues to move forward. The contract with the selected vendor is being completed with construction on phase I expected this Summer/Fall.
 - Construction documents are being developed for eventual requests for proposals for Phase II.
- Our 2023 AFG grant submission is pending.
- The NH EMT Training Program remains active with grant funding for training new and existing EMS providers. Contact our Division or NH Employment Security for details and question.
- The *Law Enforcement Officers, Professional Firefighters and Emergency Medical Technicians Career Development, Recruitment and Retention Program* committee established in New Hampshire RSA 188-F:70 announced the new program on December 18th. Details can be found on our website under the Recruitment and Retention link from the homepage.

Special Projects

- We will be hosting the Governor and Executive Council meeting on May 15th at the Concord campus.
- We have partnered with the Maine and Vermont Fire Training Academies on a federal grant to develop an EV training curriculum, fund EV training and a train the trainer program throughout all three states. The full application for the grant was submitted on April 30th.

- The grant is for a three-year project, \$420,000 for each state specifically for delivery of EV training.
- We are near completion on the Division strategic plan for FY 25-27.
- We continue to work with the Department of Administrative Services on implementation of RSA 153-A:33-a Requiring Trauma Kits to be available in state owned buildings. To date 470 kits have been allocated.
- We are working on our website transition and improvements with NH DoIT. A staff lead has been identified and has begun work on this transition.
- We are partnering with the International Society of Fire Instructors to bring their *Water Mapping* program to the Fire Academy. Part of this project will be constructing the prop, offering a train-the-trainer program and then a student offering of the class this July.

Facilities

- We have completed an inspection of the “A” building and are making needed improvements and repairs.

Legislative/Administrative Rules

- The Fire Standards and Training Commission amended Fire rules relative to the Recruitment and Retention report and its recommendations are being submitted to the Joint Legislative Committee on Administrative Rules (JLCAR), which will include public input.
- The new Educational Training Agency ruleset (Saf-C 5900 EMS) became effective April 30, 2024.
- The proposed Trauma Rules are working through the internal legal process.
- We are currently tracking fourteen Bills for the upcoming legislative session. A few of those include:
 - HB 1057 Relative to Provisional Licenses for New Applicants for State EMS Licensure
 - HB 1081 Relative to Insurance Payments to Ambulance Providers
 - HB 1328 Relative to Public Safety Providers Defined as Essential Services
 - HB 1330 Relative Establishing an Emergency Medical Services Disciplinary Review Panel, and Relative to Procedures for Removal of Records of Discipline
 - HB 1352 Relative to Firefighting Personal Protective Equipment
 - HB 1568 Relative to Direct Pay for Ambulance Services
 - SB 353 Establishing an Early Detection Cancer Screening Pilot Program for Active and Retired Firefighters
 - SB 407 Relative to Direct Pay for Ambulance Services
 - SB 409 Relative to Reimbursement for Ambulance Services Under the State Medicaid Plan

Outreach

- 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.
 - We are planning outreach meetings at Souhegan Mutual Aid in June.
- Staff members continue to attend various stakeholder and mutual aid group meetings and make department visits.

Mental Health & Resiliency

- POWER – Training Program for First Responders – Police Academy campus July 8th
- “Unlocking the power of sleep for first responder health and wellness” – Concord July 9th
 - Presented by: Batt. Chief Dena Ali- Raleigh, NC and Capt. Brandon Dreiman- Indianapolis, IN
- We continue our work in partnership with the Police Academy to develop a more comprehensive program for PTSD training utilizing experts from this field in development of the curriculum and delivery.
 - The RFP for a mental health professional has been posted with an early June deadline for proposals.

Fire Standards and Training Commission

- The next Fire Standards and Training Commission meeting will be September 5th at 0930 in Classrooms 5/6 in the dormitory building at the main campus.
- Fire Department Notification of Employment (Fire 601.01)
 - All full-time hires, to include lateral transfers, are required to have a Form A submitted within 15 days of employment. The form can be located at: <https://www.nh.gov/safety/divisions/fstems/documents/forma2017updated.pdf>
- Requests, Determination and Duration of Waivers (Fire 704)
 - These rules outline the procedure for request a waiver of training standards for full-time career fire service personnel, how the determination is made to grant or deny a waiver, and the duration of a waiver if granted, which is only valid while the employee granted a waiver is employed in that position.

CURRICULUM

- The Hazardous Materials Operations Visiting Committee is still underway. This process is expected to conclude soon with the new Awareness and Operations curriculum going to the Fire Standards and Training Commission in September.
- Fire Inspector Visiting Committee was seated at the May Commission meeting.
 - The Inspector Visiting Committee will create two entirely new curricula for First Responder Inspector (formerly Inspector I) and Fire Inspector (formerly Inspector II).

- Rope Rescue Awareness, Operations, and Technician programs are currently with The Pro Board Committee on Accreditation (COA).
 - Once the programs are accredited, we can begin offering them.
- The Division's request for a change of accreditation to use the new electronic testing system for certification exams is with The Pro Board COA as well. As soon as the application is approved, we can begin using tablets for testing and retire the bubble sheets.
- Fire Investigator test item validation has started.

BUREAU OF FIRE TRAINING

Courses/Programs

- Firefighter I
 - Spofford – began January 16th
 - Burton campus (FF I & II) – began January 17th
 - Epping – began January 27th
 - Spring Recruit School – began March 6th
 - Sunapee – August 13th (FF I & II)
 - Madison – August 12th
 - LRCC Fall class – August 26th (FF I & II)
 - Fall Recruit School – September 3rd
 - Concord (FF II) – Concord campus Sept. 8th
- Firefighter II
 - Concord campus September 8th
- Technical Rescue
 - Trench Rescue – Concord campus May 11th
 - Trench Rescue – Concord Campus July 8th
 - Confined Space Rescue Technician – Concord campus June 1st
 - Confined Space Rescue Technician – Concord campus July 15th
 - Swiftwater Rescue Awareness – Conway May 8th
 - Swiftwater Rescue I – Conway May 8th, Franklin June 3rd, Goffstown June 4th
- Driver Operator
 - Driver/Operator – All Vehicles
 - Driver Operator – Aerial Apparatus
- Hazardous Materials
 - Hazardous Materials Spill Response (presented by NH Department of Environmental Services) – Concord campus June 20th
 - We are partnered with the International Association of Firefighters to host a Pro Board Hazardous Materials Technician program at the Concord campus from April 15th – April 26th.

- We applied for a second offering to be held here later this fall and were not selected.
- IAFF Fireground Survival
 - Concord campus June 3rd
- Airport Rescue Firefighting
 - Airport Firefighter – Concord Campus May 6th
 - Recertification Programs – scheduling for Spring deliveries
 - Vermont Air National Guard, Hancock County/Bar Harbor and Hyannis Airports attended training at the ARFF site at the end of April.
- Prop Usage
 - The SCBA trailer was utilized in Kingston.
 - Air Trailer was utilized in Jefferson.
- “On My Time” Program
 - To date, over 1,800 students have completed individual online modules.
- Special Programs
 - We are conducting training for the Seabrook Station Fire Brigade.
 - The Pipeline Emergency 3rd Edition Train-the-Trainer program will be held at the Concord campus May 14th. This will enable departments to deliver the training within their departments and mutual aid associations.
- Repairs were completed on the fuel delivery system at the ARFF site following the annual inspection.
- Ongoing maintenance and repairs continue to be done in the “J” building, on drill yard hydrants and roof props.
- Construction of a ceiling prop was completed and utilized.
- We continue to implement our own utilization of NHESR to enter and manage our equipment inventory.

Apparatus/Equipment

- The new ARFF truck is in production at E-One in Ocala, Fl. and is expected in summer of 2024.

BUREAU OF CERTIFICATION AND SUPPORT

Courses/Programs

- Instructor I/II/III Programs
 - Instructor I – Keene began April 6th
 - Instructor I – Concord campus May 14th
 - Instructor I – Rye September 11th
 - Instructor I – Concord campus October 15th

- Instructor II - Virtual February 20th
- Instructor II – Virtual October 21st
- Instructor III – Virtual March 4th
- Instructor Professional Development
 - Engaging the Affective Domain – Concord campus May 9th and Virtual May 14th
 - Meaningful Measurements: Test Item Writing – Concord campus July 11th and Virtual July 16th
 - Measure the Measurement: Test Item Evaluation – Concord campus September 19th and Virtual September 24th
 - Designing Simulation Based Education – Concord campus November 14th and Virtual November 19th
- Fire Officer I/II Programs
 - Fire Officer I – Concord campus September 3rd
 - Fire Officer I – Concord campus December 4th
 - Fire Officer II – Virtual October 15th
- Fire Inspector Programs
 - Fire Inspector I – Concord campus September 12th
 - Fire Inspector II – Manchester March 28th
- Fire Investigator - Concord campus August 22nd
- Warrants and Citations – Concord campus November 13th
- National Fire Academy
 - National Fire Academy Three State Weekend June 22 & 23rd
 - Command and Control of Incident Operations – Concord campus – June 12th
 - Incident Safety Officer – Concord campus June 15-16
 - Shaping the Future – Concord campus June 15th
 - Exercising Leadership to Facilitate Adaptive Change – Concord campus October 21st
 - Youth Firesetter Intervention Specialist – Concord campus November 14th
 - Decision Making for Initial Company Operations – Concord campus March 10, 2025
 - Incident Safety Officer – Concord campus April 7, 2025
- Your Workplace has Changed: Fire Dynamics for Structural Firefighting
 - Hanover June 12th

Recruitment and Retention

- Upcoming Recruitment and Retention events:
 - Building Fire and EMS Talent with an Apprenticeship Program – New Hampton May 1st and Stratham June 5th.

- Extended Learning Opportunities Networking – Concord campus May 14th
- How to Stand Out in an Oral Board: Helping Candidates Succeed – Concord campus May 23rd
- CPAT Prep for Women – Laconia June 9th
- The April edition of the Recruitment and Retention Newsletter is available at <https://www.nh.gov/safety/divisions/fstems/RecruitmentandRetention.html>

Education Technology

- The OB Emergencies online course is in progress, EMS Documentation is complete, preparations are underway to record the Sleep Hygiene course being held this summer, the Firefighter Survival module is being updated, we have created a new CPAT Orientation online course and the instructor continuing education offerings are being evaluated for revised versions to replace outdated ones.
- We are working with vendors on an evaluation of our existing classroom technology in preparation for upgrades.

Instructors

- We are nearing completion of a comprehensive on-boarding and preceptor program for all new instructors to better integrate them into the Division ensuring their success and improving the overall student experience.
- The Division is always looking for highly motivated team members to become instructors. If you are interested in becoming an instructor, please contact Assistant Director Jeffrey Phillips at Jeffrey.r.phillips@dos.nh.gov or 603-223-4213

CPAT

- There are (6) CPAT dates in 2024. We have restructured the schedule of these exams to better span the entire year to make this test more aligned with department hiring needs. Remaining 2024 exams are:
 - April 22nd at Laconia Ice Rink (47 candidates tested, 39 individuals passed and were added to eligibility list)
 - June 10th at Laconia Ice Rink (retest June 11th)
 - August 12th at NHFA (retest August 13th)
 - October 21st at NHFA (retest October 22nd)
 - November 18th at NHFA (retest November 19th)
- 2024 CPAT
 - Department member assistance is needed for CPAT on testing days. Please confirm available personnel to assist with Bureau PC Nick Poulin at Nicholas.a.poulin@dos.nh.gov prior to the test date to assist in planning.

Testing

- Monthly Testing was completed this month (in addition to end of course testing for each program):

BUREAU OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

Boards and Commissions

- The NH Medical Control Board meeting will meet at 0930 on May 16th.
- The NH Emergency Medical and Trauma Services Coordinating Board meeting will meet on May 16th at 1300 at 1300.
- The NH Trauma Medical Review Committee (TMRC) will meet at 0930 on June 16th.
- The Privacy Committee will meet April 24th at 1300. (Cancelled)

Operations

- With final adoption of the Educational Training Agency ruleset as of April 30, 2024 the Administrative Packet for application is complete and can be found at on the Division website and Resource Center.
- The EMS license renewals period has concluded with 503 providers lapsing during this cycle.
- The EMS Simulation Training Program is active with ongoing open enrollment courses in 2024.

Courses/Programs

- Emergency Medical Responder (EMR)
 - The Summer class begins June 1st in Concord, Lempster and Tuftonboro.
 - The Fall class begins September 21st in Keene, Bartlett and Concord.
- EMS Continuing Education and Simulation Education
 - Pediatric Fundamental Critical Care – Keene May 6th
 - Fundamental Critical Care Support: Obstetrics – Concord campus May 20th
 - Asthma Care for EMS – Concord campus May 1st and Virtually May 16th
 - FP-C, CCP-C and CFRN Advanced Practice Update and Critical Care Review – Bethlehem campus May 28th and Concord campus May 30th
 - Cardiology Adult Cardiac Arrest – Concord campus May 15th and Bethlehem campus June 12th
 - Creepy Crawlies & Things With Wings – Concord campus June 5th and Virtual June 20th

- Medical Neurological Emergencies – Concord campus July 17th and Bethlehem campus August 14th
- Frequently Forgotten but Definitely Damaging: Over-the-Counter Overdose – Concord campus Sept. 4th and Virtual Sept. 19th
- Cardiology Pediatric Cardiac Arrest – Concord campus September 18th and Bethlehem campus October 16th
- Pre-Hospital Trauma Life Support (PHTLS) – Bethlehem campus September 21st
- SIRS, Sepsis, Shock and Death: Recognition and Intervention for Systemic Infection – Concord campus October 2nd and Virtual October 17th
- EMS Grand Rounds: Altered Mental Status – Concord campus October 3rd
- NFA F0146 Supervising Emergency Medical Services – Concord campus October 7th
- Pre-Hospital and Interfacility Transport Stroke Care – Concord campus November 6th and Virtual November 21st
- Cognitive Bias in EMS – Concord campus December 4th and Virtual December 19th
- Obstetrics Childbirth – Concord campus November 13th and Bethlehem December 11th
- EMS in the Warm Zone Awareness, Operations and Rescue Task Force Concepts
 - The Awareness and Operations courses are available free to students on our online training platform. The RTF Concepts class is a half-day in-person training that is also available. Grant funding opportunities are available for those that have not done so already.
 - If anyone is looking for this program, please contact Shawn Croteau at Shawn.A.Croteau@DOS.NH.GOV

Clinical Systems

- The EMS Protocols Ver. 9.0 were released on March 28th, effective statewide on June 1st.
 - Licensed EMS units and affiliated licensed EMS providers shall begin using the 2024 State of New Hampshire Patient Care Protocols Version 9.0 **beginning on June 1st, 2024**. Licensed EMS units and affiliated licensed EMS providers must continue to operate using the current Version 8.2 during this transition phase.
 - The protocol rollout was created to educate the provider of the changes between Version 8.2 and Version 9.0 of the New Hampshire Patient Care Protocols; and not act as the sole mechanism to teach providers on new skills, processes, and medications. Consult with your unit leader to

determine the process you must undergo to familiarize yourself with the new protocols.

- The new version of protocols can be found online at:
 - <https://www.nh.gov/safety/divisions/fstems/ems/advlifesup/patientcare.html>
- We are working with the Trauma Medical Review Committee on the Trauma Plan v.6, ACS Migration Plan for Trauma Hospital designations, Trauma Rules and Data Sharing.
- We continue our outreach and support to agencies for inter-facility transfers and mobile integrated health programs.

Data Management

- NFIRS/Respond NH
 - If you would like to start using the New Hampshire Emergency Services Reporting System (NHESR), please fill out the form available at <https://nhfa-ems.com/nhesronboard/>.
 - Fire User Group meetings occur remotely on the second Wednesday at 1300 hours each month.
 - Our Fire Reporting Coordinator position is currently vacant due to a promotion and user groups will be temporarily cancelled until the position is filled.
 - EMS User Group meetings occur remotely on the fourth Wednesday at 0930 hours each month.
 - Coordination continues with the Fire Marshal's Office for further education and guidance for reporting.
 - Anyone interested in the system can contact nhesr@dos.nh.gov by email, submit a ticket at <https://nhfa-ems.com/support/>, or call 603-223-4200 and ask for a member of the data team to reach us.
- RespondNH
 - The Division continues to expand the capabilities of the RespondNH system. As we are able to utilize this system and analyze more data it is important to have department roster information updated and current. Each department has the full capability to manage their own roster by adding new staff and removing those that may have left. Departments 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.

- New Hampshire Emergency Services Reporting (NHESR)
 - The New Hampshire Emergency Services Reporting (NHESR) system has been updated to the NEMSIS 3.5 standard as of February 27th, 2024, and has been fully transitioned for all services effective April 1st, 2024.
 - 20,139 EMS incidents were entered into the system for April bringing the total for 2024 to 87,920.

Compliance

- There are currently over 36 active investigations and ongoing cases.

Preparedness and Special Projects

- Outreach continues on both AED and CPR programs.

Professional Development Committee _ (Director Cutting) No report

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

- The results of the last meeting of the Commission which was May 2, 2024 was previously reported. The next meeting of the Commission is not scheduled until September 5th when the revised curriculum for Hazardous Materials Awareness and
- Operations will likely be accepted for public comment.
- The Visiting Committee for Haz-Mat Awareness and Operations have completed their review and are expected to present their findings and recommendations to the Curriculum Committee, which I chair, the last week of June.
- The Curriculum Committee sat the Visiting Committee for the Fire Inspector curriculum, and it is anticipated that the first meeting of the Visiting Committee will be in July. There have been significant changes in NFPA 1031 which now is
- incorporated in NFPA 1030 deals with Fire Inspectors and the classification of Fire Inspectors to First Responder Inspector, Fire Inspector and Plan Examiner certifications. It is anticipated that the Visiting Committee will complete their analysis and report in late Fall.

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

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

- Chief Corey has submitted his resignation as NVFC representative. The Board will be seeking a replacement for him.

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

- Meeting opened at 0930 April 17, 2024

- **Welcome/Membership**

- **Approval of the minutes**
- Vote: A motion was made Marcotte/Sweeney to approve the December 20, 2023 minutes. All in favor. None
- opposed.

- **BUREAU REPORTS – Chief Romanello**
 - Protocols 9.0 – Protocols are in public comment period with minor revisions being fixed. Rollout expected beginning of April.

 - NEMSIS 3.5 update and rollout is ongoing through the end of the month. There are changes to NHESR (aka TEMSIS) that will look different to users as well as updates to reports that are run through Image Trend. All info related to changes, etc. is on the NHESR login page.

- **SUBCOMMITTEE & TOPIC REPORTS**

Item 1: Trauma Registry Sub-committee-Walter Trachim

- 2024 Data Dictionary was completed, reviewed and approved. This can be requested by emailing the State if you are interested in reading it.
- Statewide Trauma Plan was sent out to stakeholders for review. Final vote on Trauma Plan will be on 4/17. Let me know if you would like to see a copy of it.

Item 2. Education Subcommittee- Vacant

- Nothing to report.

Item 3. Pre-Hospital Subcommittee- Joel Coelho

- Nothing to report.

Item 4. Coordinating Board Report- Craig Clough

- Protocols approved. Rollout coming.

Item 5. Medical Control Board Report- Tom Trimarco

- Same as above.

Item 6. Injury Prevention Report- Jim Esdon

- Nothing to report.

Item 7. Rehabilitation Report- Matthew Petrin

- Nothing to report.

Item 8. Medical Examiner Report- Vacant

- Nothing to report. Looking for new member to committee from their office.

Item 9. Hospital Designation Subcommittee- Walter Trachim

- No meeting was held.

Homeland Security and Emergency Management – (Director Buxton) – No report

Commission to study the Incidence of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder in First Responders – (Chief Watkins) – No report

Forests and Lands – (Chief Sherman) – No report

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

- The Board of Fire Control has not met since January 17th due to a variety of reasons. Primary focus has been on monitoring various legislation that could impact the State Fire Code. The State Fire Code is expected to be updated to be primarily based on NFPA 1 and NFPA 101 although there are many amendments to those Codes that are specific to New Hampshire that will carry forward. A full report of the legislation followed by the Board of Fire Control is included in the monthly reports of the Fire Marshal.
- The Board of Fire Control's next meeting is June 26th and the agenda for issues related to the State Fire Code review will be identified. One issue that will be addressed is youth summer residential camps and the impact of the State Fire Code on traditional summer camper cabins.
- Thanks to the Board of Directors for supporting me for another and my final term on the Board of Fire Control.

Building Code Review Board – (Marshal Lennon/Chief Conley) – No report

Manufactured Housing Installation Standards Board: (Chief Blanchette) –

- They finally met this morning.
- They will be reviewing all of their rules as they have expired
- The board is looking to either hire a full time inspector or contract it out and they're seeking input.
- Next meeting will be Tuesday, August 6.

Division of Emergency Services and Communications – (Director Doyle)

- Laconia Facility Update: Design concept is being finalized with the detailed design underway – cost estimation is the next step;
- Genasys Emergency notification platform is up and running. If you are interested in becoming a POC for your community to use the ENS for local messaging, please let me know. The statewide ENS system is offered to local communities at no cost;

- Community Events reminder – connect with our Public Outreach / Education Team for more info: Patrick Cavanaugh, 603-271-6911, patrick.m.cavanaugh@desc.nh.gov ;
- NASCAR planning in full swing for the June event. Next meeting is Wednesday afternoon to discuss finalization;
- PSAP Comfort Dog is in training with her Handler, “Winni” is expected to be full time at the completion of her training this fall;
- Halias Symposium date – 8/15/2025 (Panel discussion with DHHS, 988, Team members “Geographic Challenges”);
- Souhegan Valley Mutual Aid Roundtable with DOS Team at Hollis Fire Wednesday the 12th;
- Behavioral Health Crissi Systems committee meets Friday the 14th at 1000;
- Social Media update:

In May, the Division of Emergency Services and Communications utilized its social media platforms (Facebook, X, and Instagram) to recognize our public safety partners during International Firefighters Day, National Police Week, and National EMS Week, spotlight several members of our team for the various achievements and milestones, shared a series of graphics for National Fentanyl Awareness Day, and promoted Mental Health Awareness Month. In addition, we saw great engagement when sharing photos of our public outreach efforts and safety tips at the kickoff of summer before Memorial Day Weekend. We continue to see a steady growth in followers due to relevant content and frequent engagement with our public safety partners.



- Strategic Plan for the Division is complete and being compiled in final form to be shared with our P/S Partners shortly;
- E911 Commission meeting is this Friday the 14th at the Fire Academy Dormitory starting at 11:00;
- Planning on a Communications Cybersecurity workshop with the Telecomms in September with CISA;
- CRD (Satellite) usage was well-received in both Lancaster and in Eaton for the Eclipse and a missing person call, FYSA if needed;
- Met with SWMFA, HCSO & New Ipswich Fire re: Call transfers;
- Summer Safety Press Conference 5/31 in Hampton;
- KPI's (YTD through May 2024):

- 99.71% of all calls answered w/i 15 seconds (exceeding NENA standard of 90% w/i 15 seconds)
- Avg. Police/fire Transfer time = 51.26 seconds (exceeding NFPA Std. of 60 Sec.)
- Avg. EMD Transfer time = 124.40 seconds – stable relative to last year.
- Running @ 18.5% below last year's call volume
- 405 Transfers to 988 / RRAP (since July 2022 - reflects @ 22.4% drop compared to last year's YTD);
- Any questions, comments, concerns, please reach out...

E 911 Commission – (Chief Thomas) – No report

NH Drug Overdose Commission – (Chief Thomas) – No report

NH Information Analysis Center – (James Heinz-liaison) – No report

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

NED-IAFC Conf/Expo

The annual Conf Expo is scheduled for October 16th – 18th, 2024 at Mohegan Sun in Uncasville, CT. Currently scheduling Professional Development, expo spaces, program layout and most importantly working on a new registration format.

IAFC 2nd VP Candidates

There is now 2 candidates fort the office of 2nd Vice President for the IAFC. We have supported Chief Steve Locke of So. Burlington, Vt.

Old Business -

New Business –

Good and Welfare – Deb Pendergast shared a national-level seminar in July (info forthcoming) and also, in memory of Jess Wyman, they are starting a Womens' Fire Service organization.

The meeting was adjourned at 1653 hrs.

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

June 13, 2024