



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

Town and Country Resort – Shelburne/Gorham, NH - Thursday, August 6, 2026

The meeting was called to order at 1930 hours.

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

Welcome from Host: Chief Phil Cloutier welcomed everyone

INTRODUCTION OF MEMBERS. Members were asked to stand, introduce themselves and mention where they were from.

Special Guests: Executive Councilor Karen Liot Hill joined us and thanked all for being invited. She expressed her gratitude to all of the Chiefs and thanked all who participated in the CPR training program.

Minutes: A MOTION (Jones/Cathy) to approve the minutes of the July meeting carried unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: The July reports have been posted. A MOTION (Fraitzl/Sitar) to approve them carried unanimously.

Chief Carrier also spoke on restructuring our financial portfolio after a meeting with the accountant. He recommended the following:

Business Checking: Reduce to \$500 – a keep open amount – or close.

Business Savings: Reduce to \$500 – a keep open amount - or close.

HMEP Money Market: Rename to Haz Mat Conference MM.

Leave existing balance (\$14,734) as it is an in and out account for the conference.

NHAFC Main Checking: Reduce to \$60,000 – should cover annual business expenses.

Scholarship Money Market: Increase to \$49,000 – to take advantage of MM higher rates.

Existing Certificate: Leave at \$32,000 app. Remove auto-renew feature.

New Certificate: Open with \$100,000 with no auto-renew feature.

A MOTION (J. Chamberlain/Fraitzl to approve the recommendations, carried unanimously.

Communications: Rep. Goodlander sent

Applications for membership: ED Lemire stated that we have two (2) new applications that have been approved, Chief Joseph Wood of Bethlehem and NH Forest Protection Chief Michael Matson.

Life Membership: The Board of Directors awarded Chief Edmund Walker of Peterborough Life Membership. He was presented his card by Chief Fraitzl last Thursday.

President's Report: (LaRoche) –

- He reminded all of the deadline for EMS data collection. Reach out to him with questions and problem.
- He described the grant possibility for the NHFA that will provide a multi-million construction of a new burn burning

Report of the Executive Director: (Lemire)

- The September 2 Board meeting will be at Primex at 0830 hours
- The September membership meeting will be on the 10th for breakfast at Lakes Region Community College.
- The October board and membership meetings will be virtual (Oct. 7 and 8 respectively)
- We have received eight scholarship applications so far. Marshal Toomey and Chief D. Chamberlain will be conducting a preliminary review.
- The Professional Development Committee has asked that we honor our August speaker's wish that in lieu of payment, a donation be made to the "Last Call Foundation." I've checked and it is a non-profit and we are allowed to donate.

1st Vice President Report/Professional Development Committee - (Chief D. Chamberlain) - No report

Government Relations – (Schmidt) –

2nd Vice President Report (Fraitzl) –

- He and Chief Murray will be working researching vendors for a new association management system. More details will follow.

Sgt. At Arms (Wheatley) – No report

Committee Reports

Scholarship Committee – (Marshal Toomey/Chief D. Chamberlain)

- We have received eight scholarship applications so far. Marshal Toomey and Chief D. Chamberlain will be conducting a preliminary review.

Division Reports

Fire Marshal: (Marshal Toomey)

ADMINISTRATION:

Office Move:

The State Fire Marshal's Office has moved to 33 Hazen Drive

Personnel:

We currently have 14 vacancies. We are actively recruiting for the following positions:

- Full-Time Fire Protection Specialist
- Part-Time Outreach and Education Specialist
- Part-Time Tramway & Amusement Inspector
- Full-Time State Building Inspector
- Full-Time Fire Investigator

An additional 9 vacancies remain on hold due to budget considerations and the hiring freeze currently in effect.

On July 10, Lorrinda Estabrook became our Rules and 91-A Coordinator, and on July 24 we welcomed our new Administrative Assistant, Brianna Woods.

Legislation:

We are preparing for the 2027 legislative session at this time.

Board of Fire Control:

The Board of Fire Control's next regular meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 15, 2026, 1:00 pm. The meeting will be held at 33 Hazen Drive.

BUREAU OF INVESTIGATIONS:

The Bureau of Investigations currently has 39 open cases, including 9 criminal cases and 7 incidents involving fatalities. Investigators responded to 10 scenes during July. To date in 2026, we have investigated 19 fire-related fatalities, 2 carbon monoxide fatalities, and 1 fatality unrelated to fire or carbon monoxide.

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

- **July 2, 2026 – Mason:** Investigators led the origin-and-cause investigation of a barn fire that resulted in the total loss of the structure. The investigation determined that the fire was caused by a lightning strike and was classified as a natural fire.
- **July 5, 2026 – Raymond:** Investigators led the origin-and-cause investigation of a detached garage fire. This investigation is still active; however, there has been no evidence to suggest it was criminal in nature.
- **July 5, 2026 – South Hampton:** Investigators led the origin-and-cause investigation of a garage fire. The investigation identified multiple potential ignition sources within the area of origin; however, due to the extent of fire damage, investigators were unable to eliminate all potential causes or identify a single competent ignition source. As a result, the fire was classified as undetermined.
- **July 6, 2026 – Franconia:** Investigators took a report of a fire involving a trash receptacle inside a bathhouse. The investigation determined the fire was incendiary. It is believed that the suspects are juveniles; however, no suspects have been officially identified.
- **July 20, 2026 – Wakefield:** Investigators led the origin-and-cause investigation of a fire and subsequent rekindle involving two sheds and a cabin. The investigation remains active; therefore, no origin and cause determination has been made at this time.
- **July 25, 2026 – Sunapee:** Investigators led the origin-and-cause investigation of a residential structure fire in which one occupant sustained significant burn injuries and was transported to Massachusetts General Hospital, where the victim remains in critical condition. The investigation remains active and ongoing.
- **July 26, 2026 – Salisbury:** Investigators led the origin-and-cause investigation of a residential structure fire. The cause of the fire has not yet been determined, and the investigation remains active.
- **July 27, 2026 – Concord:** Investigators were notified of an incident at the New Hampshire State Prison. No injuries were reported. CFD determined that the fire was isolated to the motor of a compressor.
- **July 27, 2026 – Exeter:** Investigators responded following an industrial explosion involving a titanium 3D printer that resulted in serious burn injuries to one employee who was subsequently transported to Massachusetts General Hospital. The injuries sustained are severe; therefore, investigators are continuing to monitor the victim's status. The investigation remains ongoing.
- **July 28, 2026 – Hooksett:** Investigators were notified of an incident where a juvenile sustained severe burn injuries and was transported to Massachusetts General Hospital. The injuries sustained are severe; therefore, investigators are continuing to monitor the juvenile's status. The investigation remains ongoing.

Fatal Fire/CO Incidents:

We would like to remind all fire departments that if you experience a fatal fire, carbon monoxide or building collapse incident in your community, you should immediately contact our office for investigative assistance at (603) 223-4289. Carbon monoxide incidents in a motor vehicle are now reportable to our office.

- **July 7, 2026 – Exeter:** Investigators led the origin-and-cause investigation of a condominium fire in which a 63-year-old female sustained critical burn injuries. The victim was transported to Massachusetts General Hospital, where she succumbed to her injuries on July 8, 2026. The investigation remains active and ongoing.
- **July 20, 2026 – Pittsfield:** We were notified that the victim transported to a Massachusetts burn center succumbed to his injuries on July 20, 2026. This incident occurred on June 29, 2026, and involved an explosion inside a Connex storage container that resulted in severe burn injuries to a 55-year-old male. The investigation into the cause and circumstances surrounding the explosion remains active.
- **July 21, 2026 – Nashua:** Investigators led the origin-and-cause investigation of a fatal residential structure fire that resulted in the deaths of two occupants. The investigation determined the incident to be a murder-suicide arson. The victim was identified as a 66-year-old male, and the suspect was identified as an 80-year-old male.
- **July 26, 2026 – Farmington:** Investigators led the origin-and-cause investigation of a residential structure fire that resulted in the death of a 65-year-old female. The investigation identified the attached three-season porch as the area of origin. Smoking materials were determined to be the most probable cause; however, due to extensive fire damage, investigators could not eliminate all potential ignition sources. The fire was classified as undetermined. The victim's cause of death was smoke inhalation, and the manner of death was ruled accidental.

Ignitable Liquid Detection Canine Teams:

- There was one ignitable liquid detection canine deployment in July.

Youth Firesetter:

- In July, we received 2 referrals for YFS services.

Training/Committees:

- Investigator Solomon Rosman and his K9 partner, Reeves, successfully completed their annual certification as an Ignitable Liquids Detection Canine team.

BUREAU OF BUILDING SAFETY & CONSTRUCTION:

State Building Permit System:

In July, a total of 63 permits were processed through the State Building Permit System:

- Building: 14
- Electrical: 24
- Plumbing: 6
- Fuel Gas: 3
- Mechanical: 9
- Fire Protection: 5
- Fire Alarm: 2

Technical Assistance, Educational & Healthcare Reviews:

During the month of July, the following activities were completed:

- Educational Plan Reviews: 8
- Healthcare Plan Reviews: 13
- Inspections Completed: 219
- Technical Consultations Provided: 187

Variance Requests:

We received 3 variance requests in July.

Fireworks Safety and Enforcement Program

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

- Proximate Licenses Issued: 3
- Display Certificate of Competency Issued: 1
- Consumer Fireworks Retail Store Licenses Issued: 1
- Explosive Magazine Inspections: 0
- Proximate Audience Inspections: 5
- Technical Assistance: 1

Modular Building Program

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

- Inspections: 13

- Audits of Manufacturers: 0
- Audits of Educational Facilities: 0
- Labels Issued to Manufacturers: 83
- Labels Issued to Third-Party Agencies: 0
- Units Shipped to New Hampshire: 59

Tramway and Amusement Ride Safety

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

- Amusement Registrations: 32
- Amusement Inspections: 79
- Amusement Incidents: 3
- Tramway Registrations: 1
- Tramway Inspections: 1
- Tramway Incidents: 0

BUREAU OF OUTREACH & EDUCATION:

The Bureau of Outreach and Education includes several sections and responsibilities, including hazardous materials coordination, incident data analysis, community risk reduction, public outreach and education.

Hazardous Materials:

The Hazmat Section did not respond to any incidents in July but were notified of one propane incident in Piermont, one unstable peroxide incident at UNH Durham, and one chemical reaction between paint and spray foam insulation in Lebanon. The Midwest regional hazmat team handled the propane and chemical reaction incidents while the NH State Police Bomb Squad handled the unstable peroxide incident.

We continue to work on a hazardous materials risk assessment for the State, by County, and have completed the assessment for Coos County. The goal is to identify the risks presented by hazardous materials using historical incident data and Tier II chemical reporting and evaluate hazmat response capabilities of area fire departments and regional hazmat teams.

Another ongoing project is the revision of the Suspicious/Unknown Substance Protocol for fire, police or hazmat personnel in cases where an unknown and possibly hazardous substance needs to be collected and analyzed at the Public Health Laboratory. A revised version should be completed in August.

Incident Reporting:

The State of New Hampshire is currently second highest in the nation for the percentage of fire departments reporting to the National Emergency Response Information System (NERIS). If your fire department is not currently reporting into NERIS, please contact the Data Analysis Unit so that we can help you get credit for the service that you provide to your local community.

Most fire departments in New Hampshire utilize a third-party RMS (Records Management System) solution for submitting incidents to NERIS. The NHSFMO does not mandate the use of any particular vendor for incident reporting. Many New Hampshire fire departments have had great success utilizing the New Hampshire Emergency Services Reporting (NHESR) system offered for free by the NH Division of Fire Standards and Training and EMS. If you wish to use this application, please contact the NHESR team at nhesr@dos.nh.gov. Direct entry into NERIS is possible if necessary and you can contact us for more information.

Reminder that if there are any suggestions for change to the NERIS modules, let us know at firedata@dos.nh.gov. FSRI is always looking for feedback on the system. They want to know what local departments think—and if changes make sense nationally, they will implement them during updates. Letting us know what you want to see changed, will give us a chance to advocate on your behalf—amplify your suggestions.

Key NERIS Resources:

- NERIS [User References](#)
- Visit [our website](#) for more NERIS support and updates.
- Incident Reporting Newsletter (quarterly). To be added to this distribution list, please e-mail the Data Analysis Unit at firedata@dos.nh.gov

Please reach out to the Data Analysis Unit for any incident reporting questions at firedata@dos.nh.gov

Community Risk Reduction (CRR):

2026 Falls Prevention Awareness Summit

The NH Fall Risk Reduction Taskforce is hosting another great learning and networking event focused on reducing falls in older adults. Join us at the Concord Community Center to hear from state/local programs and resources. Food and registration provided by Eliot Health System. The doors open @ 9:30am.

Event Details:

Wednesday, Sept. 23 10 AM - 4 PM

Concord Community Center (14 Canterbury Rd., Concord, NH)

Registration link: <https://forms.cloud.microsoft/g/rQZuyPLYjk>

Annual CO Safety & Risk Reduction Summit

This year, the 11th Annual CO Safety Summit returns to a day event of networking and learning. We'll hear from experts on carbon monoxide, risk reduction, and fire prevention. The Northeast CO Alliance website is still in development but will have more details soon: www.necarbonmonoxidealliance.com.

The 2026 expanded program features:

- Real-world case studies and prevention strategies
- Fire prevention sessions include community risk reduction (CRR), construction fire safety, and Li-ion batteries
- Carbon monoxide sessions include code updates, medical, safety in industry and at home, and more!

Thursday, November 5th - Fire Prevention and Risk Reduction

Fire Prevention | Community Risk Reduction | Lithium-ion batteries

Friday, November 6th - 11th Annual Carbon Monoxide Safety Summit

Codes | Consumer Product Safety | Industry

Mark your calendar and register today:

<https://forms.cloud.microsoft/g/JjUTtufLoq>

2026-27 Sound Off Grant Program for Elementary Schools

Beginning in 2026, selected fire departments will receive *Sound Off with the Home Fire Safety Patrol* [educational materials](#) to teach fire safety to elementary students. Smoke alarms will also be provided for installation in student homes, helping reinforce classroom lessons with real world safety improvements. Contact fmoPublicEducation@dos.nh.gov for more information.

Outreach Events:

In July, we supported 9 events across the state and lent Sparky to one. This included 2 K9 demos, Steps to Safety presentations, public safety days at campgrounds and libraries, and Stratham's Summerfest. We were excited to share Steps to Safety in a joint presentation with Laconia Fire Chief Joubert. Lakes Region Community Services filled the room with active participants as we discussed fire safety and falls prevention. Our outreach team always enjoys the opportunity to work in communities with local fire departments.

Are you interested in having the SFMO join an event in your community? Please reach out to us as early as possible so we can make every effort to attend your event. We also have [resources and equipment](#) for fire departments to borrow. Send your request to us at FMOpublicEducation@dos.nh.gov.

Public Education:

August's fire safety theme is "Fire Safety for College Students." Did you know that for many students, the last fire safety training received was in grade school. It is important that both off-campus and on-campus students know their fire risks and prevention actions that could save lives. Some causes of fires in on- and off-campus college housing include, but are not limited to cooking, candles, smoking, and overloaded power strips. It is important to never use an extension cord with large appliances like a refrigerator. When cooking, only cook in designated areas and always stand by your pan!



In-Service Training Opportunities:

The SFMO offers multiple training opportunities for our stakeholders. These training courses are typically two to three hours in length and do not have any registration fees.

Upcoming training:

- NFPA 1 and 101 2024 Edition Updates
 - August 27, 9 AM - 11 AM at the Richard M. Flynn Fire Academy, Concord
 - August 27, 6 PM - 8 PM at the Richard M. Flynn Fire Academy, Concord
 - August 28, 6 PM - 8 PM at the Raymond S. Burton Training Facility, Bethlehem

- **PLEASE RSVP FOR THESE BY EMAILING:**
Anthony.M.Booth@dos.nh.gov

If you are interested in hosting a future session, or would like to suggest a future training topic, please reach out to us at fmoPublicEducation@dos.nh.gov.

Topics include:

- Application of the NH State Fire Code: A Scenario Based Training
- NFPA 1 and 101 2024 Edition Updates
- Inspections of Multi-Family Dwellings
- Tent Inspections
- Commercial Cooking and Food Trucks
- Solar Installations for One- and Two-family Homes
- Display Fireworks Inspection Essentials
- Heating and Fuel Gas Appliance Inspections
- NFPA 54 National Fuel Gas Code
- The Basics of LP Installations for One- and Two-family Homes
- Fire Investigation for First Responders
- Collection of Witness Data in Fire Investigation
- Fire Investigation Case Studies
- Air Monitoring
- PEAC Software
- An Overview of the 2024 Emergency Response Guidebook
- Electrical Inspecting for Residential and Commercial Projects
- Top 40 2023 National Electrical Code Changes and 19 NH Changes
- Grounding and Bonding for Inspectors
- Electrical Apprentice Training Program Presentation

Fire Standards/Training/EMS – (Director Wholey)

Administration

Personnel

- We continue to work within the hiring process under Governor Ayotte's Executive Order to receive waivers for position vacancies. We have submitted three full-time position waivers for approval.
- Applications for the two full-time positions – Program Assistant and RespondNH Coordinator – have closed and interviews are being scheduled.
- As of July 24, Christine Wrightington has been promoted to Administrative Assistant to the Director.
- As of August 7, the Division has hired three new part-time instructors.

Special Projects

- Phase 2 of the Firefighters First Cancer Screening Initiative has begun with the scheduling of Fall 2026 appointments, which opened on August 4 at 9:00 am. Testing will run from September 14 to October 30. Appointments may be accessed through a portal located on the Firefighters First website:
<https://www.firefightersfirst.nh.gov/appointment-scheduling>
- The *Law Enforcement Officers, Professional Firefighters, and Emergency Medical Technicians Career Development, Recruitment and Retention Program* established in New Hampshire RSA 188-F:70 remains active and available. Emergency Service Dispatchers are also eligible.
 - Program details: <https://www.fstems.dos.nh.gov/resources/recruitment-retention>

Mental Health & Resiliency

- *NAMI Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) Training* – North Hampton – August 31 - September 4
- *Mental Health First Aid* – Concord – September 15
- *NAMI Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) Training* – Concord – November 9 - 13

Legislative/Administrative Rules

- The proposed Trauma Rules are working through the internal DOS process.
- Administrative Rules to make the full transition to ETA's and sunset the former process have been developed and are working through the internal DOS process for submission to JLCAR.

Outreach

- Bureau Chief Bibeau and Captain Burns attended the Kearsarge Mutual Aid meeting in Newbury on July 15th.
- Captain Burns attended the Monadnock Area Mutual Aid meeting on July 16th.
- Captain Ingersoll attended the Mount Washington Valley Mutual Aid Chiefs' meeting in Bartlett on July 21st.
- Bureau Chief Bibeau and Captain Robblee attended Chief Walker's retirement gathering on July 30th.

Curriculum

Firefighter II

- The development of Firefighter II has concluded. The Firefighter Visiting Committee voted to recommend the new curriculum to the FSTC Curriculum Committee. The next steps include the FSTC Curriculum Committee reviewing the recommendations, making any required modifications, and voting to bring the curriculum to the full Commission in September. If approved, the curriculum will go to public comment between September and November.

Fire Officer

- The Fire Officer visiting committee met on July 22nd to discuss changes to the proposed curriculum materials and define the testing specifications for both programs. Their next meeting will be on August 18th at 0900 at the Fire Academy, where they will continue discussion about changes to the proposed curriculum materials, define the testing specifications for both programs, and vote to present the curriculum to the FSTC Curriculum Committee.

Bureau of Firefighter Training

Courses/Programs

- Firefighter I & II
 - *Firefighter I* – Concord – August 3 - November 7
 - *Fall Recruit School (FF I & II)* – August 10 - October 9
 - *Lakes Region Community College (FF I & II)* – October 26 - December 18
 - *Firefighter II* – Hampton – September 15 - October 31
- Driver Operator
 - *Driver/Operator: All Vehicles* – Bethlehem – August 31 - September 16
 - *Driver/Operator: All Vehicles* – Bethlehem – September 22 - October 13
 - *Driver/Operator: All Vehicles* – Candia – October 7 - October 28
 - *Driver/Operator: All Vehicles* – Keene – October 20 - November 10
 - *Driver/Operator: Pumping Apparatus* – Bethlehem – October 26 - November 12
 - All inquiries for these programs should be directed to
driveroperator@dos.nh.gov
- Hazardous Materials
 - *Hazardous Materials Operations with PPE & Product Control* – Bethlehem – September 15 - 20
 - *Hazardous Materials Operations with PPE & Product Control* – Concord – September 29 - October 4
 - *IAFF Hazardous Materials Technician* – Concord – October 19 - 30
 - Hazardous Materials Awareness:
<https://www.nhfaemslearning.org/login/index.php>
- Rescue Technician
 - *Confined Space Rescue Technician* – Concord – October 19 - 21
- Airport Rescue Firefighting
 - Fall Live Fire Recertifications may now be scheduled:
<https://www.fstems.dos.nh.gov/training-education/aircraft-rescue-firefighter-training>
 - *Airport Firefighter* – Concord – October 12 - 17

- “On My Time” Program
 - We continue to offer guidance to departments participating in this program.

Apparatus/Equipment

- All apparatus is in service.

Facilities, Prop Usage and Projects

- The Greenfield Fire Department used the Fireground Survival props and the Forcible Entry Trainer during the last week of July.
- The Sugar Hill Fire Department used the Burton “A” Building for training on July 25th as part of their OMT program.
- The NH Emergency Services Explorer Training Academy was on the Concord campus from July 12th to July 17th.
- Camp Fully Involved was on the Concord campus from July 25th to July 31st.
- Out of service nozzles were repaired or disposed of. All were pressure tested before returning to service.
- Construction work on the Investigator burn pods for the end of August is ongoing.
- Captain Williams coordinated instructor training for Ladder One and the LP Car Prop.
- We held staff orientation sessions on July 15th and 21st for the new part-time instructors.
- Captain Brunelle continues to work with On My Time programs.
- Captain Williams continues to work on additional cleaning and improvement of the Fire Station.

Bureau of Certification and Support

Courses/Programs

- Instructor I/II/III Programs
 - *Instructor I* – Concord – September 11 - October 16
 - *Instructor I* – Brentwood – October 30 - December 11
 - *Instructor II* – Virtual – September 29 - December 7
- Fire Officer I/II Programs
 - *Fire Officer I* – New Hampton – September 9 - November 4
 - *Fire Officer I* – Concord – October 26 - January 4
 - *Fire Officer II* – Virtual – October 15 - November 19
- Fire Inspector Programs
 - *First Responder Inspector* – Concord – October 15 - November 19
- Fire Investigator Programs
 - *Fire Investigator* – Concord – August 20 - November 5
- National Fire Academy & Specialty Programs
 - *Command and Control of Incident Operations* – Concord – August 30 - September 4
 - *Supervising Emergency Medical Services* – Concord – September 26 – 27
 - *Incident Command System and Resource Management for the Fire Service* – Concord – October 22 - 23
 - If you would like to see a specific NFA program or host an NFA program at your department, please contact Captain Burns at Anthony.T.Burns@dos.nh.gov.

Instructors

- New State Fire Instructor applications are available on RespondNH.
- Renewal applications closed June 30th:
 - Renewals: 196
 - Expired: 28
 - Reinstatements: 10
 - Active/Current New Hampshire State Fire Instructors: 249

- New State Fire Instructor Applications In-progress: 63
- The required audit of at least 10% of all renewal applications has been completed. The full report of the renewal cycle will be delivered to the FSTC on September 3rd.

Program Support

- Program Support now accepts credit card payments for CPAT, CPAT same-day retests, and monthly testing fees. Users can make payments through our payment portal within their RespondNH accounts.

Testing & CPAT

- Monthly Testing numbers continue to climb. Year-to-date, the Division has offered 724 monthly testing exams, including 503 written and 221 psychomotor exams.
 - Submissions for monthly testing must be entered by the last day of the month prior to the month you wish to test:
<https://www.fstems.dos.nh.gov/certification-testing/monthly-testing>
 - July marked the first month the Division charged first-time test takers from non-Division sponsored programs for monthly testing. More details about this change can be found here: <https://www.fstems.dos.nh.gov/certification-testing/monthly-testing>
- There are two remaining CPAT tests for the year:
 - October 6 – New Hampshire National Guard Recruiting Office – Nashua
 - November 18 – New Hampshire National Guard Recruiting Office – Nashua
- Department member assistance is needed for CPAT on testing days. Please confirm available personnel to assist with PC Nick Poulin at Nicholas.a.poulin@dos.nh.gov prior to the test date.

Bureau of Emergency Medical Services

Boards and Commissions

- The Trauma Medical Review Committee will meet on August 19th at 0930.
- The Privacy Committee will meet on August 26th at 1300.
- The Medical Control Board will meet on September 17th at 0930.
- The Emergency Medical and Trauma Services Coordinating Board will meet on September 17th at 1300.

Clinical Systems

- Work continues on Version 10.0 Protocol Development.
- All EMS bulletins may be found on the website: <https://www.fstems.dos.nh.gov/ems-systems/ems-bulletins>

Compliance

- There are currently 31 active investigations and ongoing cases, including 4 currently in hearings.
 - 2026 Year to Date – 101 Compliance Investigations
 - 2025 Total – 125 Compliance Investigations

Courses/Programs

- EMS in the Warm Zone
 - Awareness and Operations courses are available free to students through our online training platform: <https://www.nhfaemslearning.org/login/index.php>
 - The RTF Concepts class is a half-day, in-person training with grant funding opportunities available. Questions regarding the program should be directed to Shawn Croteau at Shawn.A.Croteau@dos.nh.gov.

Data Management

- Under guidance from the U.S. Fire Administration, all fire response information shall be recorded using the National Emergency Response Information System (NERIS). The Data Management team continues to onboard New Hampshire fire departments onto the fire incident reporting system.

- For departments using NHESR, the Division's NHESR team continues to work with fire departments to assist with the transition. Questions may be directed to NHESR@dos.nh.gov.

Operations

- NH EMS System, July 2026
 - Licensed EMS Unit – 310
 - Licensed EMS Providers – 6,641
 - Licensed EMS Vehicles – 491 Ambulances and 14 Helicopters
- A new course change form has been published on the FSTEMS website for instructors to report changes to course details: <https://www.fstems.dos.nh.gov/resources/initial-course-requests/ems-course-update-form>
- Educational Training Agencies (ETA) support and relicensing are ongoing with no observed issues. Since inception, we have seen an average of a 5% increase in NREMT pass rates across all levels of initial training.
 - 24 licensed ETAs with 5 more in-process
 - The Administrative Packet for the application and licensing information can be found on the Division website: <https://www.fstems.dos.nh.gov/licensing/eta-licensing>

Preparedness and Special Projects

- The Preparedness team continues to support the AED Program in coordination with the Division of Emergency Services.
- Staff continue to support MIH and IFT programs and outreach around the state. There are 14 current MIH programs in the state.

Fire Standards and Training Commission – (Chiefs Clark/Miller) – No Report

**Homeland Security and Emergency Management – (Director Buxton) –
*Report submitted for the minutes.***

HSEM

HSEM operations continue under reduced staffing, with essential functions maintained and priority placed on mission critical activities.

FEMA

We regret to announce the passing of Regional Administrator Fred Doucette. Fred is a former State of NH Representative from Salem and retired Lieutenant from Salem Fire. Currently, the Deputy Regional Administrator is filling this role in an acting capacity. Engagement with FEMA Region 1 leadership remains strong, emphasizing regional preparedness coordination. Carroll County's federal disaster declaration request has been denied by the White House. This is for a flooding event that took place June 10th and 11th. We are currently in the process of developing an appeal for reconsideration.

Grants

EMPG grant activities are on track, with the FY26 application having been submitted. The Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP) for the FY26 application also has been submitted. Unfortunately, the HSGP currently has a pending litigation surrounding election security requirements. Thank you for your continued participation in this process.

REP

Coordination with Seabrook Station leadership remains active, focusing on preparedness and regulatory expectations. Planning for the upcoming graded exercise is underway, with interagency scheduling in progress. Annual assessment activities have been completed for FY27. We are currently working to develop assessment notices for the communities involved in the Seabrook Station Response Plan. Additionally, we participated in the Seabrook Summit with the EPZ communities this week. Thank you to all that attended.

Project Updates

The School Mapping Project continues on schedule. Critical Response Group (CRG) will be working to schedule site visits soon. Currently, we have a tremendous response to our initial outreach. Thank you for your efforts on this project. The New Hampshire Disaster Relief Rules have been adopted by the Joint Legislative Committee on Administrative Rules (JLCAR). This program makes potential funding available for 50% of the non-federal share of public assistance and mitigation projects. Please reach out with eligibility and program specific questions.

Professional Development Committee – (Chiefs D. Chamberlain/Cathy)

Division of Emergency Services and Communications – (Director Doyle)

- Genasys Emergency notification platform ([NH Alerts](#)) is up and running, If you are interested in becoming a POC for your community to use the ENS for local messaging, please let us know. The statewide ENS system is offered to local communities at no cost. For more information, reach out to Matt White, matthew.w.white@desc.nh.gov at DESC;
- Community Events / school visits reminder – connect with our Public Outreach / Education Team for more info: Patrick Cavanaugh (603-271-6911), DESCPIO@dos.nh.gov;
- Radio Communications Section is currently working on NASCAR Preparations;
- WEA / Emergency Alert protocol development continues B/T DESC and HSEM...provide guidance on how to disseminate a WEA via IPAWS (for agencies that have authorized access), and how you can request one, if necessary through the Supervisor's desk in the PSAP;
- Homeland Security Grant Review Committee meeting on 7/15 – reviewed and approved several local applications;
- High-Level Bridge / Piscataqua working group meeting on 7/30. Discussed projects related to bridge fencing and progress on camera access from DOT cameras;
- First Rules Hearing coming up related to Saf-C 7000 / DESC Rules...(chapter needs to be renewed) on 8/7;
- Public Information/Outreach:

In July, the Division used its social media channels (Facebook, Instagram, and X) to highlight the revamped New Hampshire 911 C.A.R.E.S. website, with improvements focused on accessibility and user interface. We also celebrated employee achievements and milestones, promoted community outreach efforts, and provided updates on the status of our new Laconia facility. Engagement remained strong across all social media platforms.

- Social Media Update:



Any questions, comments, concerns please reach out: (c) 603-931-2298 / mark.e.doyle@desc.nh.gov

E 911 Commission – (Chief Thomas) – No report

Forests and Lands – (Chief Matson) – No Report

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

(U) Operational Security:

- There has been a report of criminals getting into fire stations in Massachusetts, stealing extrication tools and using them to commit crimes. (Breaking into ATM's etc.).
- There have been several shooting events nationwide involving fire stations. Please consider a lock-down procedure for your facilities.

(U) Water Supply/Critical Infrastructure:

- It is vitally important to build relationships with your water and wastewater partners because municipal water systems continue to be targeted by cyber threat actors, including control devices, passwords and chemical monitoring devices.
- Suspicious Activity Reports (SARs) targeting Critical Infrastructure and Key Resource (CIKR) continue to be reported nationally.

(U) Bomb Making Materials, Terrorism:

Committed to training, educating and certifying emergency and community responders to protect the citizens and visitors of New Hampshire

- A recent arson investigation at an elementary school in Maryland identified a painted reference to the Newton, CT school shooter. Please be aware that arson could be an indicator that a person may be on the “pathway to violence”.
- Operation Flashpoint is an awareness campaign developed in partnership with FBI and DHS. A programmatic overview with objectives is outlined here – [Operation Flashpoint Program | CISA](#). Members of the NHIAC continue to 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.

(U) Haz-Mat:

- It is recommended that you treat downed drones/UAS as suspicious/unknown packages.

(U) UAS/Drone Activity:

- NHIAC is interested in drone activity conflicting with Fire/EMS operations. Please report any incidents of drones flying or hovering around your emergency operations centers or fire stations to law enforcement, particularly reconnaissance type of behavior. Please also inform your Fire Service Intelligence Liaison Jim Heinz at James.B.Heinz@dos.nh.gov. Please see the following link for more information. [Drone Response Playbook for Public Safety](#)

(U) Human Trafficking:

- Vacation rental platforms can be leveraged and exploited by traffickers and human exploitation actors, making determinations difficult. The NHIAC in cooperation with the NHHTCTF has produced a 90-minute program for first responders. This free EMS condensed is easily delivered to your stations. Please contact Intelligence Liaison Officer Jim Heinz at James.B.Heinz@dos.nh.gov if you are interested.

Commission to study the Incidence of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder in

First Responders – (Chief Watkins) – No report

Board of Fire Control – (Chiefs Clark/Emanuel) – No report

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

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

- He attended a Peer Review Committee and the NFA. It was obvious that grants submitted without help were not as comprehensive. The NVFC offers grant writing assistance.

EMS Trauma Medical Review Committee (Dep. Chief Clough) – No report

Building Code Review Board – (Asst. Chief Pouliot/Chief Reinert) – Minutes submitted for this report

Members Present:

Philip Sherman, P.E., Chair Lily Beyer, Board of Professional Engineers – Structural Lee Carroll, Board of Professional Engineers - Electrical Kevin Gagne, PFGFHVAC of NH Arthur Guadano, Board of Architects Med Kopczynski, NH Municipal Association James Maxfield, Bureau of Electrical Safety & Licensing Kate Richardson, Governor's Commission on Disability, Interim Vice Chair Arthur Rose, Associated General Contractors of NH Robert Roy, Mechanical Licensing Board Michael Soucy, Department of Energy William Dinsmore, NH Building Officials Association Tedd Evans, Mechanical Licensing Board Keith Kelley, Associated General Contractors of NH Roger Maynard, PFGFHVAC of NH Ken Paul, NH Home Builders Association Jerry Tepe, Governor's Commission on Disability Ken Walsh, Department of Energy

Absent:

Karen Kitchen, NH Home Builders Association Adam Pouliot, NH Association of Fire Chiefs James Reinert, NH Association of Fire Chiefs Dean Sotirakopoulos, Electrical Contractors Business Association David Mendzela, Electrical Contractors Business Association Tom Tombarello, Bureau of Electrical Safety & Licensing 2

Also Present:

Scott Newnan, Fire Marshal's Office Jane Sinotte, Fire Marshal's Office

Guests:

Denise Presby, Enforcement Department of Energy Gary Haines, PGANE Alex Koutroubas, AGC of NH Paul Bemis, ASHRAE NH

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting, held in-person, called to order at 10:00 am. A quorum was established.

Board Membership Status: Chair Sherman mentioned Rob Roy's term expires in October. Will Dinsmore will remain on the NH Building Officials Association as an alternate. Ken Walsh will be retiring in August and will be his last BCRB meeting. Med Kopczynski was reappointed for October.

2026 Web base training, RSA Chapter 15-A: All board members have completed the statewide training and 15-A financial statements.

Acceptance of Minutes: May 8, 2026, minutes were reviewed by Chair Sherman, Kate Richardson and Dean Sotirakopoulos. A motion was made by Lily Beyer to approve May 8, 2026 minutes, seconded by Med Kopczynski. All in favor, none opposed, Jim Maxfield, Ken Walsh, Keith Kelley, Lee Carroll and Tedd Evans abstained. Motion carried without further discussion. A motion was made by Kate Richardson to approve June 12, 2026 minutes, seconded by Art Guadano. All in favor, none opposed, Lee Carroll, Roger Maynard, Keith Kelley, abstained. Motion carried without further discussion.

APPEALS: City of Laconia, 2026-2. The case was withdrawn.

PUBLIC HEARING: RE-24-09-26 R2 Appendix BC, Accessory Dwelling Units: There was no discussion brought before the board. A motion was made by Med Kopczynski to approve RE-24-09-26 R2, seconded by Lee Carroll. Motion carried without further discussion.

ADDITIONAL CODE DEVELOPMENT:

Form EC-1 Rev. 6: Chair Sherman mentioned Ken Walsh, Mike Soucy and Department of Energy have been working to keep forms in compliance with new amendments. Ken Walsh 3 introduced Denise Presby from the Department of Energy who now manages the EC-1 forms. EN-18-19-26 was briefly discussed. A motion was made by Ken Walsh to approve amendment EN-18-19-26, seconded by Kate Richardson. All in favor, none opposed. Motion carried without further discussion.

Fuel Gas Code Status: Tedd Evans mentioned the committee reviewed the International Fuel Gas Code and condensed it to one section of inspections. Chair Sherman is in contact with the State Fire Marshal's Office for conflicts. The goal is for the amendment to be presented in August and have the public hearing in September.

SB540 Status and Portable Solar Generation Device Amendment: SB540 has been signed. Ken Walsh and the Energy Department will continue to monitor.

SPF Lumber Amendment Status: Chair Sherman forwarded amendments to Mr. Mayberry from the NH Home Builder's Association for review. The goal is for the amendments to be presented in August and have the public hearing in September if needed.

IECC discussion status: No recent activity to report.

Other Code Development Issues: Kate Richardson shared that a discussion with the Governor's Commission on Disability is necessary regarding changing tables. HB1681, relative to the definition, inspection, and local approval of tiny houses and yurts as innovative housing structures. Has not been signed. Ken Paul and Karen Kitchen will review and prepare any potential amendments. The goal is for the amendments to be presented in August and have the public hearing in September if needed. Med Kopczynski updated the board regarding HUD's NOFO, a notice of funding opportunity. New Hampshire Housing's available funding for building projects. Chair Sherman commented that the National Home Builder's Association reported the housing cost of single family homes have been up due to building codes over the past decade. The International Code Council disagrees with the conclusions reached in that report. The Chair recommended board members review code changes from the 2018, 2021 and 2024 codes, including the trade codes, to see if there are issues that warrant further review. Chair Sherman mentioned that the adoption of the flood zone appendix may resurface. Mike Hagan is currently working with other state agencies regarding flood zoning. The Chair recommended the board members to review. 4 Chair Sherman mentioned the appendix on signage. Local towns and cities may request that the board consider adopting this appendix. The Chair recommended the board members review the signage appendix.

HB428, relative to the state building code, in effect July 1, 2026. Municipalities are reviewing their ordinances, and the board may see increased numbers of ordinances to confirm. There was discussion regarding snow loads for the International Residential Code. Lily Beyer noted the courtesy document continues to reference CRREL for the IRC. The Chair, Lily and Jerry Tepe will research.

LEGISLATIVE STATUS (as of 7/3/26):

HB244, updating recodifying the municipal enforcement of the building and fire code (our 67x) series is moving forward to be placed in RSA 155-A. Not yet signed by the Governor.

HB1681, relative to the definition, inspection, and local approval of tiny houses and yurts as innovative housing structures. Not yet signed by the Governor.

HB428 relative to the state building code, in effect July 1, 2026. Municipalities are reviewing their ordinances.

OLD BUSINESS:

Website status: No new activity to report.

Administrative rule review: BCR100, BCR200: No new activity to report.

MUNICIPAL AMENDMENT REVIEW:

Manchester: city council reviewing

Portsmouth: the city council is reviewing; may be proposed at the board's August meeting

Hanover: newly submitted

Municipalities have the option to bring before the board to confirm, for a formal advisory opinion, or board members can review informally, and the municipality can edit prior to bringing before the board for approval.

New Business: No new activity to report.

Other Business to Come Before the Board:

Ken Walsh was looking for clarification regarding the Chapter One amendment concerning applying the residential portion of the IECC to non-residential buildings and whether the 4,000 sf is intended to mean the total building square footage, or the square footage on each floor. It was determined that the amendment intent was the gross total floor square footage. 5 Chair Sherman concluded the meeting, advising the International Residential Code committee and the International Existing Building Code committee to have breakout sessions to determine who will replace Mike Hagan as Chair. Chair Sherman requested the board to advise if they will not be in attendance at the August meeting, to ensure a quorum is present.

NEXT MEETING: August 14, 2026

Meeting adjourned at 11:00 am

Manufactured Housing Installation Standards Board: (Chief Blanchette) –

- The board met July 9 at 0900. They read and approved minutes from the February 9th Meeting
- The board reviewed final proposal of Installers 102 rules and moved to forward JLCAR
- The board read and certified Installers 400 rules.
- The board conducted a public hearing @ 9:15 on the proposed Installers 700 rules. No member of the public attended in person or online.
- OPLC Deputy Director provided a synopsis of the 2026 legislative updates.
- The board opened up the floor for public comment. No members of the public in attendance or online so no comment received.
- The board entered into a non-public session to review legal advice and enforcement matters.
- The Board came out of the non-public session and voted to seal the minutes of the non-public session.

- The Board voted to adjourn the meeting.

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

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

- He mentioned that the conference plans are complete (Aug 26 – 28) and that Chief James Chamberlain will be sworn as Director for New Hampshire.
- He mentioned the SAFER grant that will pay for eligible attendees at the conference.

Old Business –

New Business –

- Chief Cathy mentioned the 3rd annual NH Fire and Rescue Conference September 12 at LRCC.

Good and Welfare –

Raffle – The raffle was held. \$320 was collected and \$160.00 was given in prizes. Counted by Chiefs Wheatley and Fraitzl.

The meeting was adjourned at 2004 hrs.

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

August 6, 2026