



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

Lakes Region Community College – Laconia, NH – Thursday, September 10, 2026

The meeting was called to order at 0930 hours.

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

Welcome from Host: Professor Nick Mercuri welcomed everyone and introduced Lynda Sinkiewich, Vice President of LRCC who also appreciated our meeting here. Nick indicated that the incoming class is the largest they've had and thanked the Chiefs for all of the support.

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

Special Guests: Connor from Congresswoman Goodlander's office joined us and gave a brief legislative update. Steve Pecora from the Governor's Office also extended greetings.

Minutes: A MOTION (Fraitzl/Tremblay) to approve the minutes of the August meeting carried unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: The August reports have been posted. A MOTION (Cole/Cathy) to approve them carried unanimously.

Communications: n/a

Applications for membership: ED Lemire stated that we have three (3) new applications that have been approved, Interim Chief Royal Edgerly of Farmington, Dep. Chief Scott Mobley of Nashua and Advocate Member Paddy Ivers of First Due. Also, welcome to Forest Protection Chief Michael Matson who is attending today.

Life Membership: n/a

President's Report: (LaRoche) –

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

- The week of August 11th, I attended FRI in Kansas City.
- On August 20th, I attended a meeting at AMR in Nashua with Congresswoman Goodlander. The meeting was coordinated by Senator Prentiss and Global Medical Response, in an effort to get the Congresswoman to sign onto the RESCUE Act of 2026. The bill would mandate CMS to use the cost study data and adjust reimbursement rates accordingly. In addition to that topic, the CARES Act, recruitment and retention, workforce, and other issues were discussed. It was well attended by ~15 Fire and EMS leaders.
- I attended the New England Division conference and the Recruitment and Retention workshop. It was very good, and as they continue to run them, I strongly encourage attending one.
- I attended the 5 families meeting yesterday at the Academy. It was a good meeting, with all groups represented:
 - Director Wholey gave some information on the infrastructure project.
 - Director Wholey discussed what he believes is the good progress that Chief Clark made with Chief Matson on the Forestry portion of the new FFI curriculum. That Meeting is also this morning.
 - Director Buxton talked about concerns with this year's Homeland Security Grant. First was the again accelerated timeline, but also that we will likely see a 20% reduction in funding due to New Hampshire not complying with certain election related topics.
 - The grant will fund additional classes with C3 pathways, specifically 2 ASIM Advanced classes and 3 SAVEM classes.
 - A good discussion ensued about how to get the Basic classes to more first responders, how we are using the TtT folks from this year's classes, how to ensure the system is getting to the non-DOS Law Enforcement agencies, and the future of RTF classes.
 - The Memorial is Saturday, September 26th at 1000 hrs.
 - They are looking for a new flag NHAFC flag for the memorial before the event.
 - The next meeting will be January 5th
 - He received an email from Kyle Levesque late last night on the change to the Trauma Medical Review committee and the impact of Senate Bill 421.

Report of the Executive Director: (Lemire)

- The meeting/seminar in Gorham was a success and well received. Executive Councilor Karen Liot Hill joined us and spoke with several members.
- The October board and membership meetings will be virtual (Oct. 7 and 8 respectively)
- The November board meeting will be on 4th at Primex.
- The November meeting/seminar will be held at the Fire Academy on the 12th.
- The 100 Club of NH had their annual reception at the Manchester Country Club last evening. Chiefs Fraitzl, Buxton, Faas and myself attended.
- Goffstown Chief Selleck has asked the board to consider supporting a change to the HRSA definition of a rural community and is attending to explain his request. He passed out handouts describing the program and info to back up his assertion

that the definition as it stands, does not accurately depict the demographics of NH. We will send a letter to be sent to our Congressional delegation.

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

Government Relations – (Schmidt) –

NHAFC LEGISLATIVE UPDATE – September 9, 2026

The initial set of bills titles (aka Legislative Service Requests/LSRs) for the 2027 session have been made public. House members who are running for re-election can file bills until Friday. We have included the list of titles that we have flagged for NHAFC thus far as well as the deadlines for filing bills for next session below.

House:

- **Tuesday, September 1, 2026.** First day for incumbents running for re-election to file LSRs with complete information.
- **Friday, September 11, 2026.** Last day prior to the General Election for incumbents running for re-election to file LSRs with complete information.
- **Wednesday, November 4, 2026.** First day for all Representatives to file LSRs with complete information
- **Wednesday, November 18, 2026.** Last day to file LSRs with complete information (4:00 p.m.) Ten-day signoff begins.

Senate:

- **Monday, September 21, 2026.** First day for incumbents seeking re-election to file Legislative Service Requests (LSRs) with complete information.
- **Friday, September 25, 2026,** at 4:00 p.m. Last day for incumbents seeking re-election to file Legislative Service Requests (LSRs) with complete information.
- **Wednesday, November 4, 2026.** First day for Senators to file Legislative Service Requests (LSRs) with complete information.
- **Wednesday, November 18, 2026,** 4:00 p.m. Last day for the Office Legislative Services to accept drafting requests for Senate Bills.

Bill	Title	Sponsor
LSR 18	Relative to Lobbying Restrictions For Publicly Funded Entities.	Rep. Ellen Read
LSR 21	Prohibiting Law Enforcement Officers From Wearing Their Official Uniform While Engaged In Non-public Employment.	Rep. Ellen Read
LSR 34	Limiting Local Authority to Adopt Restrictions On The Building and Development Of Residential Properties.	Rep. Ellen Read
LSR 46	Relative to The Type Of Entities That Are Subject to Public Access Of Governmental Records and Meetings.	Rep. Ellen Read
LSR 69	Relative to Impeding, Threatening, or Harassing First Responders.	Rep. John MacDonald
LSR 84	Relative to Payment By The State Of A Portion Of Retirement System Contributions Of Political Subdivision Employers.	Rep. Brian Sullivan
LSR 89	Relative to Planning Board Authority Over Subdivision Applications.	Rep. Michael Harrington
LSR 91	Relative to The Development Of Data Centers and The Prohibition Of Non-disclosure Agreements In Their Proposed Development.	Rep. Laurel Stavis
LSR 109	Relative to Amending Warrant Articles During Deliberative Sessions.	Rep. Ross Berry
LSR 112	Relative to The Decennial Retirement Commission.	Rep. Bill Ohm
LSR 113	Relative to Auditing The New Hampshire Retirement System.	Rep. Bill Ohm
LSR 117	Relative to The Use Of A Rear-facing Blue Colored Light In Vehicles By Emergency Responders.	Rep. Mark Proulx
LSR 118	Relative to Line Of Duty Death Benefits Through The New Hampshire Retirement System.	Rep. Mark Proulx
LSR 124	Relative to Critical Incident Stress Management Teams.	Rep. Mark Proulx

The NH State Primary was held yesterday. At this point, the final results have been tabulated and reported. We have included the results of the major races below. If you have questions regarding specific NH House races, please let us know.

Governor – Incumbent Republican Governor Kelly Ayotte faced minimal competition in the primary. It appears she will win with over 91% of the vote. There was no Democratic primary for Governor. Former Executive Councilor Cinde Warmington will be the nominee.

US Senate – US Senator Jeanne Shaheen did not seek re-election. Incumbent First District Congressman Chris Pappas (D) won the Democratic primary. The margin of victory was closer than many had expected (65%-32%). He was able to hold off a progressive challenger. On the Republican side, former US Senator John E. Sununu defeated former US Senator Scott Brown. It is expected that the Pappas/Sununu race will be competitive.

US House – District 1 – With Pappas running for US Senate, the First District Congressional Seat is open. On the Democratic side, Stephanie Shaheen (daughter of US Senator Shaheen) held off several challengers to win the primary. Her margin of victory was under 2,000 votes. On the Republican side, Anthony DiLorenzo won with just over 50% of the votes over a field that included several additional candidates.

US House – District 2 – Incumbent Congresswoman Maggie Goodlander (D) faced a progressive challenger in the primary, but won with over 80% of the vote. On the Republican side, Lilly Tang Williams won the primary. This will be rematch between Goodlander and Williams. They faced one another in 2024. The second district is generally considered a safe seat for Democrats.

State Senate – There were several primaries for State Senate races:

1. District 16 (Republican) – Incumbent Senator Keith Murphy won his primary to in order to seek a second term in the Senate
2. District 16 (Democrat) – Dian McCarthy defeated David Dupuy (80%-20%). She will face Murphy in November.
3. District 17 (Republican) – Incumbent Senator Howard Pearl held off a primary challenger winning about 62% of the vote.
4. District 20 (Democrat)– Incumbent Senator Pat Long also won his primary (80%-20%).

2nd Vice President Report (Fraitzl) –

- He and Chief Murray secured a vendor proposal to revamp our website. The board authorized them to proceed.

Sgt. At Arms (Wheatley) – No report

Committee Reports

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

Division Reports

Fire Marshal: (Marshal Toomey)

ADMINISTRATION:

Personnel:

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

- Full-Time Fire Protection Specialist
- Part-Time Tramway & Amusement Inspector
- Full-Time State Building Inspector
- Full-Time Fire Investigator
- Full-Time Electrical Inspector
- Full-Time Administrative Assistant
- Part-Time Administrative Assistant
- Part-Time NERIS Coordinator

An additional 6 vacancies remain on hold due to budget considerations and the hiring freeze currently in effect.

On August 21st, we welcomed Cerinna Ross to the State Fire Marshal's Office as one of our part-time Outreach and Education Specialists.

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 41 open cases, including 9 criminal cases and 7 incidents involving fatalities. Investigators responded to 8 scenes during August. To date in 2026, we have investigated 19 fire-related fatalities, 2 carbon monoxide fatalities, and 2 fatalities unrelated to fire or carbon monoxide.

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

- **August 1, 2026 - Gilford:** Investigators responded to assist with the investigation of an intentionally-set outside fire involving a male subject who used gasoline to ignite a patch of grass.
- **August 6, 2026 - Belmont:** Investigators responded to an explosion that resulted in serious burn injuries. Investigators assisted with determining the circumstances surrounding the explosion and the cause of the incident. The investigation remains active.
- **August 17, 2026 - Loudon:** Investigators led the origin-and-cause investigation of a restaurant fire. Investigators evaluated the scene and potential ignition sources and identified the kitchen as the area of origin; however, a specific cause of the fire could not be conclusively determined. As a result, the fire was classified as undetermined.
- **August 20, 2026 - Hampton:** Investigators responded to assist with an incident involving Molotov cocktails that had been thrown at a home. An ignitable-liquid-detection K9 examination was conducted, resulting in an alert on evidence that was subsequently collected. Investigators determined that the fire was intentionally set, and the K9 findings supported the ongoing criminal investigation. Criminal charges were pursued and an arrest has been made by Hampton Police in connection with this incident.
- **August 25, 2026 - Dalton:** Investigators led the origin-and-cause investigation of a structure fire determined to have been intentionally set. The fire was classified as incendiary, and investigators continued working with NH State Police on the associated criminal investigation.
- **August 25, 2026 – Manchester:** Investigators responded to assist the Manchester Fire and Police Departments to provide ignitable-liquid-detection K9 assistance in connection with a suspected vehicle arson. An ignitable-liquid-detection K9 examination was conducted, resulting in an alert on evidence that was subsequently collected. The K9 findings supported the ongoing criminal investigation, and Manchester Police Department is pursuing criminal charges related to the incident.

Fatal Fire/CO Incidents:

- **August 03, 2026 - Salisbury:** Investigators were notified that a 46-year-old female who had been receiving treatment at Massachusetts General Hospital for significant burn injuries sustained during a **May 5, 2026**,

camper fire had subsequently died from her injuries. During the original incident, investigators responded to Salisbury and led the origin-and-cause investigation of the fire, which resulted in two victims sustaining significant burn injuries requiring treatment at out-of-state medical facilities. The second victim has since been released and is expected to make a strong recovery. The origin and cause of the fire remain undetermined at this time, and the investigation remains active and ongoing.

- **August 16, 2026 - Canaan:**

Investigators responded to a fatal incident involving an Expandable Container Tiny Home in which a wall fell onto a 57-year-old male, resulting in fatal injuries. Investigators examined the circumstances and determined the incident was accidental and occurred while the expandable structure was being set up. No structural failure was identified, and the incident was therefore determined not to be a building collapse.

Ignitable Liquid Detection Canine Teams:

There were four ignitable-liquid-detection canine deployments in August.

Youth Firesetter:

During August, no referrals were received for YFS-related services.

Training/Committees:

Investigator Stephen Dennis successfully completed the K-9 Academy and graduated with his new partner, Dougie, a fully trained ignitable-liquid-detection K-9.

BUREAU OF BUILDING SAFETY & CONSTRUCTION:

As the school year has begun, we would like to remind fire departments of RSA 153:14(b), which requires each local fire chief to conduct an annual inspection of all school buildings within their jurisdiction while school is in session. A written report must be submitted to the State Fire Marshal's Office no later than December 15 each year.

We have worked with the New Hampshire Fire Academy to update the ImageTrend reporting form for those who utilize that system. Two additional reporting options are also available (link provided below):

- A fillable PDF version
- An online reporting form

<https://www.firemarshal.dos.nh.gov/prevention-safety/building-safety-construction/school-safety>

State Building Permit System:

In August, a total of 31 permits were processed through the State Building Permit System:

- Building: 9
- Electrical: 15
- Plumbing: 0
- Fuel Gas: 0
- Mechanical: 0
- Fire Protection: 6
- Fire Alarm: 1

Technical Assistance, Educational & Healthcare Reviews:

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

- Educational Plan Reviews: 8
- Healthcare Plan Reviews: 6
- Inspections Completed: 368
- Technical Consultations Provided: 151

Variance Requests:

We received 3 variance requests in August.

Fireworks Safety and Enforcement Program

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

- Proximate Licenses Issued: 7
- Display Certificate of Competency Issued: 2
- Consumer Fireworks Retail Store Licenses Issued: 1
- Explosive Magazine Inspections: 5
- Proximate Audience Inspections: 3
- Technical Assistance: 0

Modular Building Program

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

- Inspections: 11
- Audits of Manufacturers: 0
- Audits of Educational Facilities: 0
- Labels Issued to Manufacturers: 186
- Labels Issued to Third-Party Agencies: 0

- Units Shipped to New Hampshire: 37

Tramway and Amusement Ride Safety

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

- Amusement Registrations: 13
- Amusement Inspections: 69
- Amusement Incidents: 2
- Tramway Registrations: 0
- Tramway Inspections: 3
- 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 August. We have completed a draft 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. We will work with the New Hampshire Hazmat Team Collaborative to create a final revision.

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.

Incident Reporting:

The State of New Hampshire is currently 2nd highest in the nation for the percentage of fire departments reporting to the National Emergency Response Information System (NERIS). We know that we can do better! 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 SFMO 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.

Key NERIS Resources:

- NERIS [User References](#)
- Visit [our website](#) for more NERIS support and updates.
- Incident Reporting Newsletter (quarterly)—*next edition coming in October*. To be added to this distribution list, please e-mail the DAU at firedata@dos.nh.gov

Please reach out to the NHFMO 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 Elliot 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 two-day event of networking and learning. We'll hear from experts on carbon monoxide, risk reduction, and fire prevention. 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

In the next month or two, 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 August, we supported 16 events across the state with a total of 1,644 engagements. On National Night Out, it was all hands-on-deck to simultaneously join 7 communities across the state. Thank you for the invitation: Claremont, Somersworth, Nashua, Rochester, Waterville Valley, Gorham, and Loudon! We also joined Colebrook's Moose Festival and Hudson's Old Home Day, where we highlighted the dangers of carbon monoxide and importance of working alarms.

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:



September's fire safety theme is "[Appliance Safety](#)." Remind your community of these safety tips:

- Keep anything that can burn at least 3 feet from all heat sources including fireplaces, wood stoves, radiators, space heaters, or candles
- Turn space heaters off when leaving the room or going to bed
- Plug large appliances directly into a wall outlet, don't use an extension cord or power strip
- Check your appliance for cracked or damaged cords and plugs
- Maintain heating equipment and chimneys by having them cleaned and inspected annually by a professional.

In-Service Training Opportunities:

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

The NH Fire Academy will offer the following two-day courses, all located at the Richard M. Flynn Training Facility (98 Smokey Bear Blvd., Concord, NH). For questions pertaining to these courses, please contact Captain Burns at anthony.t.burns@dos.nh.gov.

Fire as a Weapon (F0756)

January 14, 2027 @ 8:30 AM – 5:00 PM

January 15, 2027 @ 8:30 AM – 5:00 PM

Registration open October 21 – January 6.

<https://nhfa-ems.com/scheduled-course/fire-as-a-weapon-f0756/>

The New Hampshire Fire & EMS Conference

Saturday, February 6, 2027 @ 8:30 AM – 5:00 PM

Sunday, February 7, 2027 @ 8:30 AM – 5:00 PM

Registration open October 21 – January 27.

- [Building Organizational Support for Community Risk Reduction Programs \(FO636\)](#)
- [Leadership in Supervision: Creating Environments for Professional Growth \(FO646\)](#)
- [New Fire Chief: Challenging Issues \(FO760\)](#)
- [Exercising Leadership Within Communities \(FO520\)](#)

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. Four full-time position waivers have been approved for Data Team, Certification and Support, EMS ETA Support, and Curriculum Support.
- Interviews are ongoing for the RespondNH Coordinator.
- As of September 4, Sheila Towne has joined the Bureau of Certification and Support as a full-time Academic and Administrative Unit Assistant.

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 16. Appointments may be accessed through a portal located on the Firefighters First website:
<https://www.firefightersfirst.nh.gov/appointment-scheduling>
- Governor Ayotte and Council have approved the purchase of a new Rescue truck that was supported by VW Mitigation Fund. The 2026 Founts manufactured apparatus will replace the 1997 International Rescue at the Concord Facility. Delivery is expected by December 1.
- 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

- *Mental Health First Aid* – Concord – September 15
- *Suicide Prevention Training for First Responders* – Bethlehem – October 1
- *NAMI Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) Training* – Concord – November 9 - 13

Curriculum

Public Comment

- The Fire Standards and Training Commission (FTSC) has voted to move the proposed Firefighter II, Fire Officer I, and Fire Officer II curricula to public comment. The public comment period runs from September 4th to November 2nd. During this time, the public is invited to review the curriculum and provide feedback. The curriculum documents and public feedback form can be found on the Division website at:
<https://www.fstems.dos.nh.gov/about-us/boards-commissions/public-feedback>
 - Two in-person public hearings will be held at the Fire Academy in Concord, NH, for the Firefighter II curriculum on October 5th at 1300 and October 7th at 1800.
 - Two in-person public hearings will be held at the Fire Academy in Concord, NH, for the Fire Officer I & II curricula on October 9th at 1300 and at 1800.

Newly Approved Curricula

- During their September 3rd meeting at the Burton Training Facility in Bethlehem, NH, the commission voted to officially adopt the following curricula:
 - Firefighter I (NFPA 1010, 2024 Edition)
 - Driver/Operator: All Vehicles (NFPA 1010, 2024 Edition)
 - Driver/Operator: Pumper (NFPA 1010, 2024 Edition)
 - Driver/Operator: Aerial (NFPA 1010, 2024 Edition)
- Implementation of these programs by the Division will continue as planned with a roll-out date of Spring 2027.

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

Facilities, Prop Usage and Projects

- The Greenfield Fire Department used the Forcible Entry Door for training August 1st through August 6th.
- The Sugar Hill Fire Department used the Burton “A” Building for training on August 3rd, 6th, 8th, 12th, and 13th as part of their OMT program.
- Captain Williams continues to prepare the Technical Rescue trailers with PC Mansfield.
- Connex boxes at the Burton Facility were relocated from the grass area at the entrance of the facility to the Drillyard.
- Steady clean up of the Drillyard continues each week; DOT assisted us with moving the concrete barriers and sand piles to a better location on August 13th.

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
 - *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.
- A new State Fire Instructor Onboarding Process & Class is in development
- State Fire Instructor Statistics:
 - Active/Current New Hampshire State Fire Instructors: 252
 - New State Fire Instructor Applications: 63

Testing & CPAT

- Monthly Testing numbers continue to climb. Year-to-date, the Division has offered 778 monthly testing exams, including 535 written and 243 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>
- Students will now receive their written examination results immediately upon completion through Questionmark, including coaching reports for candidates who do not pass. This change provides students with faster feedback while reducing manual administrative steps for staff.
- 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
 - YTD CPAT: 185 exams, 29 passed (70%)
- 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 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.
- The Trauma Medical Review Committee will meet on October 21st at 0930.
- The Privacy Committee will meet on October 28th at 1330.

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 37 active investigations and ongoing cases, including 2 currently in hearings.

Data Management

- Under guidance from the U.S. Fire Administration, the Data Management team continues to onboard New Hampshire fire departments onto the National Emergency Response Information System (NERIS). 142 fire departments have been officially onboarded and reporting NERIS fire reports in NHESR, with an additional 5 agencies in process.
- 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

- EMS Provider CHRI background check will see a price increase from \$47.00 to \$50.00 due to a nationwide increase in background check fees from the Federal Bureau of Investigation.
- There are currently 24 licensed Educational Training Agencies (ETA) 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

- Staff continue to support MIH and IFT programs and outreach around the state. There are 14 current MIH programs in the state.

Fire Standards, Training and EMS Commission (Chiefs Clark/Miller)

Chief Miller reported that:

- The Commission approved four 704 waivers and a 701.02(b) certification time extension.
- The commission adopted the Firefighter I curriculum with modifications made to the forestry section. Students can now take S130/S190 and complete the practical portion of those programs in the Firefighter I program.
- The commission also adopted Driver Operator All Vehicles, Driver Operator Pumper and Driver Operator Aerial.
- The commission moved Firefighter II, Fire Officer I and Fire Officer II to public comment.
- Lastly, the commission revoked the certification of a firefighter who pled guilty to an arson.

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

Homeland Security and Emergency Management (Director Buxton)

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

- We have added a Special Events section to ReadyNH. This is a location where you will be able to find guidance for special events in your communities. Currently, we have started the build out with Campaign Event guidance with additional information to follow.
- Conducted Town/City Moderator Training.
- Supported State Primary on September 8th.
- On November 15th, we will be conducting a full-scale exercise at the NH State House.
- C3 Pathway Active Shooter Training:
 - 2 ASIM Advanced classes.
 - 3 SAVEM programs.

FEMA

- Jarrett Devine continues as Region 1 Acting Administrator.

- We participated in a Region 1 Hurricane IMAT drill.
- Appeal for the June flooding in Carroll County has been submitted to FEMA Headquarters.

Grants

We are currently awaiting our FY 26 Homeland and EMPG awards.

REP

Coordination with Seabrook Station leadership remains active, focusing on preparedness and regulatory expectations.

- Graded Exercise September 23rd.
- Assessment notices have been distributed. If you have any questions, please contact me.

CRG Updates

The School Mapping Project continues on schedule.

- Onsite visits are well underway with 312 schools scheduled as of August 27th.
- Please make sure you are reaching out to school districts to participate in the mapping process.
- Thank you for your continued support of this project.

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;

- Laconia PSAP Progress continues with a scheduled completion of Fall. Punch-list development, and radio tower/shelter/IT networking completion currently underway.
- Radio Communications Section is currently working on Seafood Fest; Assistance for Plaistow Dispatch and potential support for Highland Games;
- Rules hearing held last month related to Saf-C 7000 / DESC Rules...(chapter needs to be renewed) Comments received and edits to rules have been made;
- Hosted Rep. Goodlander at the IPOC for a Legislative/Operational brief as well as a tour with HSEM and SP Communications;
- E911 Commission Meeting this Friday at the IPOC. 1100 hrs.;
- Preparing the Communications AAR for the NASCAR event;
- Public Information/Outreach:

08/01/2026	NH 911 table at Pittsfield Balloon Rally Touch a Truck
08/04/2026	NH 911 C.A.R.E.S. Presentation to Life Coping Inc Case Managers
08/04/2026	NH 911 table at Woodstock-Lincoln National Night Out
08/04/2026	NH 911 table at Manchester National Night Out
08/05/2026	NH 911 table at Hampton Beach Water Safety Day
08/07/2026	NH 911 Incident Management Vehicle attended Tanger Outlets Touch-A-Truck Event
08/08/2026	NH 911 participated in Loudon Old Home Day
08/19/2026	NH 911 Incident Management Vehicle attended Lakes Media Touch-A-Truck Event
08/31/2026	NH 911 Joint Presentation w/ Hollis Communications at Alvirne High School

- 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) –

- He reiterated details on the compromise forest fire curriculum that was reached for FFI.
- He mentioned some of the enforcement efforts on wood and timber activities.

NH Information Analysis Center – (James Heinz-liaison) – (Submitted for the minutes)

(U) Operational Security:

- A man entered a fire station in Kentucky and attacked two firefighters with bear spray.
- A Chief's command vehicle was recently broken into and several items stolen including SCBA, TIC, Irons, AED, and uniforms. (uniforms can be used to gain access to secure facilities for attack planning).
- 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.
- Several vehicle ramming calls worldwide were dispatched only as vehicle vs pedestrian. Situational awareness is paramount on these types of responses.

(U) Water Supply/Critical Infrastructure:

- A remotely accessible programmable logic controller at a New England landfill "off gas process" was recently compromised. If you have a landfill in your AOR please check with the operator.
- 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.

(U) Bomb Making Materials, Terrorism:

- Materials purchased at fireworks and hardware stores continue to be used to make homemade explosives.
- A July arson resulted in a double murder with explosives. Tactical incidents involving arson are on the rise nationally. Training with law enforcement is important.
- A recent arson investigation at an elementary school in Maryland identified a painted (on a nearby tennis court) 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:

- An explosive laden UAS was recently found at a major airport. Several national fire service groups are currently working on a “Downed UAS” SOG.
- The 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 con-ed is easily delivered to your stations. Please contact Intelligence Liaison Officer Jim Heinz at James.B.Heinz@dos.nh.gov if you are interested.

(U) The NHIAC is an integrated, all crimes/all hazards information sharing network that analyzes and disseminates information to engaged stakeholders from a variety of sources. If you are interested in receiving items from the NHIAC, contact ILO Jim Heinz at James.B.Heinz@dos.nh.gov for an Information Sharing Agreement (ISA).

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/Cole) – No report

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

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

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

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

New England Fire Chiefs – a Division of the IAFC – (Chiefs J. Chamberlain/Jones) –

Conference Information:

Dashboard totals 703 attendees and 76 exhibitors. About 4-5 exhibitors dropped out. So closer to 70.

Registration Levels

Staff- 30 (Includes board and family members)

Presenter- 5

ODP- 54

R&R Workshop- 61

Full Conference- 62

Thursday Only- 18

Friday Only- 4

Floor pass only- 223

Exhibitor Booths

8x10- 63

8x30= 4

8x40- 5

Expo Pass Financials

Credit Card Payments- \$109,325

Invoices/Pay by check- \$24,300

Total transactions- \$133,625

Credit Card Processing Fees- \$5,411.70

Refunds- \$2800

Total Receipts- \$125,413.30

Old Business –

- Chief Cloutier asked about Primex increasing rates and if anyone else feels the impact. Chief LaRoche will have us look further into the issue. He suggested that each town should contact Primex.

New Business –

- Tom Green spoke of the upcoming ceremony at the Memorial at the end of the month.
- Chief Gilbert and Rick Todd are working on logistics for FF Phillips funeral.

Good and Welfare –

Raffle – No raffle was held.

The meeting was adjourned at 1029 hrs.

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

September 10, 2026