



NEW HAMPSHIRE ASSOCIATION OF FIRE CHIEFS, INC.

Working Together to Make a Difference

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Minutes of a Meeting of the NH Association of Fire Chiefs

Thursday, December 14, 2023 – Fireside Inn, Lebanon, NH

The meeting was called to order to order by Chief Emanuel at 1227 hours.

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

Welcome from Host: Chief James Wheatley welcomed everyone to Lebanon and thanked them for attending.

INTRODUCTION OF MEMBERS.

Special Guests:

Minutes of the November meeting have been posted. A MOTION (Buxton/Thomas) to accept them carried unanimously.

Financial Reports: November reports have been posted. A MOTION (Lyon/Fraitzl) to accept them carried unanimously.

Communications: n/a

Applications for membership: Chief Cody Vaillancourt of New Ipswich; Asst. Chief Adam Pouliot of Nashua; Deputy Chiefs John Fahey and Brad Winters, both of Peterborough have been approved for membership.

Life Memberships: n/a

President's Report: (Emanuel) –

CFSI 2024: On April 24-25, 2024, the Congressional Fire Services Institute (CFSI) will host the 34th Annual National Fire and Emergency Services Symposium and Dinner in Washington, DC. Members of the Board will be attending.

NHMA Conference:

“Zap the Gap: How to Make Peace & Work Effectively in a Multigenerational World.” will be held Wednesday and Thursday, November 15-16th at the DoubleTree by Hilton Downtown Manchester Hotel, Manchester, NH.

The NHAFC presentation, **A Fire Chief's Perspective on Contemporary Leadership and Personnel Challenges**, happened on **Thursday, November 16, 2023 at 2:30 p.m. - 3:45 p.m.** in the **Webster Room**.

Fire Department Safety Officer Association:

Emanuel suggested that members look at the FDSOA conference in January. <https://www.fdsoa.org/page-18155>

NFPA Chiefs' Forum:

NFPA HQ in Quincy with representatives from most of the 50 states and each of the Canadian providences. Discussions about codes, NFPA, programs, challenges.

USFA DEI Feedback:

The IAFC is conducting a study on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) in Fire and EMS within the United States to determine:

- How critical workplace issues related to DEI - such as harassment, bullying, leadership, recruitment, and retention - impact the fire and emergency service
- How definitions of diversity, equity, and inclusion in fire and EMS vary
- Regional variance in attitudes toward DEI
- The cultural readiness for change

Data collected through this form is completely anonymous. Respondents will not be asked to provide any personal identification information and we do not collect any data that would trace responses back to any one individual or organization.

We ask that you please take the time to complete the feedback form and share the link with your colleagues. The data collected through this process will be used to generate a report on the status of DEI in the American fire and emergency service. Help us make a positive cultural impact on the fire/EMS service today!

The link: <https://survey123.arcgis.com/share/bda4d29d9527412ea38cf6e4cb954ebf>

He spoke of the new First Responder Tuition Reimbursement program, funded by the state through the Community College System of NH. He shared brochures.

EO/PFF Career Development - education funding group – Final meeting on December 12th. Goal to open funding applications in January.

EV State Workgroup - cancelled December meeting because there had not been any new information or recommendations presented. NHAFC should focus on sharing information from NFPA, NIST, UL.

Report of the Executive Director: (Lemire)

- Chiefs Best, Hunter, Watkins, Lemire and Carrier attended the North Country Public Safety Awards dinner on November 10.

- Starting to work on pricing out the CFSI event to determine attendees. (Possibly 6)
- The January association meeting will be virtual.
- February meeting will be a breakfast meeting at the Academy with a Professional Development opportunity focused on municipal cybersecurity, sponsored by HSEM and Primex.
- March meeting....discussion.
- Exploring a venue for the April Annual Meeting. Manchester site unavailable. Looking at the Common Man in Plymouth again, Chief Morrison is checking on space as we'd like to have the Vendor Showcase there also.
- At the BOD meeting, discussion ensued as to the types of meetings to be held. It was decided to have one virtual meeting, one breakfast meeting and one luncheon or dinner meeting per quarter.
- It was also decided to virtually engage the professional development committee asap to discuss opportunities for programs each quarter.
- ED Lemire also mentioned that he has contacted Director Cutting to see if we could be notified when a new chief comes on board in a municipality. Chief Jones asked if they could receive the same information. Director Cutting has agreed to assist in this endeavor.
- Deputy Chief Craig Clough of Loudon has offered to serve as our representative for the Trauma Medical Review Board, and has been appointed by the Commissioner.
- Chief Thomas Blanchette has been nominated by the BOD to serve on the Manufactured Standards Housing Board and has been nominated by the Governor. Final vote is next Wednesday.

1st Vice President Report (Watkins) – No report

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

- **2024 Bill Titles** - The filing period for 2024 legislation has passed for both the House and Senate. Bills continue to be printed and about half of them have been made public so far. We have included a chart which contains all of the bills we have identified for NHAFC to date. The bill number provides a link to the text. Any of the titles which start with “LSR” are still not public. All that is available is the bill title, at this point. Those titles do not have a corresponding link to the language. We should see all of the bills within the next few weeks. Hearings on the new bills should start in January.
- **Ambulance Summit** – The discussions regarding ambulance are schedule to wrap up next week when the final working group meeting has been scheduled. At a meeting on Wednesday at the Department of Insurance, there appeared to be recognition from NH DOI staff that consensus on a potential fee schedule or payment structure has not yet been achieved. The final meeting has been scheduled for next week. It is not yet clear what type of legislation, if any, will

come out as a result of the working group. Chief Scott Hunter and Chief Mike Sitar have been very involved in the process and can answer questions or provide additional insight. ***Chief Hunter added background information and clarified the issue for the members.***

- **Retirement Benefits Commission** - During the debate on the state budget, language was removed, which would have eliminated the “middle tier” in Group II. The language to eliminate the middle tier was replaced a Study Commission consisting of legislators and participants (employer/employee) in the retirement system. Last month, in a very close vote, the Commission voted to support legislation which would make all members of the mid-tier, those hired after the 2012 changes, and all new hires to receive a 2.5% multiplier for any years worked beyond 10. The cost to make this plan “pre-funded” was around \$56 million. There was an alternative plan which would have created the same benefit, for the same group, after 15 years. The cost to pre-fund this benefit was around \$36 million. There appears to be consensus regarding the concept of restoring the 2.5% after a certain amount of years worked, but there was disagreement about the term (10 vs. 15 years), which impacted the cost. There should be a bill in to make this change for 2024. There are several additional retirement systems bills included on the chart as well.
- **Housing Legislation** – Housing has become a higher profile issue over the past several sessions. This past year, the House created a “Special Committee on Housing”. They spent about a year hearing from different interested parties regarding housing policy (Municipal land use regulators, Fire Marshal, developers, housing advocates, etc.) You will note a number of bills aimed at helping address the issues surrounding housing supply. Some deal with codes, other at expanding the sprinkler prohibition to include retrofitted, existing structures to include up to 4 units, and allowing for multiple ADUs on a single property.
- **Lithium Batteries** – NHAFC has been asked to support HB 1386 sponsored by Rep. Karen Ebel. The bill is intended to prohibit disposal of lithium batteries in local transfer stations, landfills and composting facilities. Rep. Ebel is concerned with the potential impacts of fires as well as environmental damage. A copy of the bill can be accessed via the chart. There are a number of other bills attempting to develop some regulations based on the potential hazards associated with EVs, charging stations, etc.

2nd Vice President Report (Hunter) – No report

Sgt. At Arms (Chamberlain) – No report.

Committee Reports

Scholarship Committee – (Marshal Toomey) – No report

Division Reports

Fire Marshal – (Marshal Toomey)

ADMINISTRATION:

Personnel:

We currently have 2 part-time vacancies that we are actively recruiting for at this time:

Part-time Building Code Review Board Administrative Secretary

Part-time State Building Permit Coordinator

We welcome the following new staff to our office:

Michael Barry, Jr joined in a full-time position as a Hazardous Materials Coordinator on November 17th

Michael Pinan joined in a part-time position as a Fire Protection Specialist on November 17th

Jane Sinotte joined in a full-time position as an Amendments Coordinator on December 1st

Steven Dunn joined in a full-time position as a Fire Protection Specialist on December 1st

Legislation:

The following bills are a summary of those we are currently monitoring:

HB 1059 Relative to the state building code

HB 1065 Relative to fire sprinkler requirements in residential buildings

HB 1215 Relative to subdivision regulations on the completion of improvements and the regulation of

building permits

HB 1332 Relative to prohibiting electric vehicles from parking in parking garages

HB 1352 Relative to firefighting personal protective equipment

HB 1386 Relative to prohibiting the disposal of lithium-ion batteries in solid waste landfill facilities, composting facilities, or incinerators.

HB 1387 Relative to revisions to the state building code

HB 1396 Relative to prohibiting municipal inspections of owner-occupied units of multi-unit housing

HB 1498 Establishing a state short term rental registry

HB 1510 Establishing a commission to identify barriers to and solutions for electric vehicle sales and use.

SB 430 relative to establishing a commission to study the impacts of electric vehicles, lithium-ion batteries, and e-mobility devices on first responder response, the environment, building and fire codes, and life and safety property protection.

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

There are still several LSR's that we are watching for language on and several bills that we will be updating on once we have more information.

Board of Fire Control:

The next Board of Fire Control meeting is scheduled for January 17, 2024. Everything is submitted to the legislature to update the State Fire Code to the 2021 editions of NFPA 1 & 101.

Foam Take-back Program:

The contract for the foam take-back program was approved by the Governor & Executive Council at the end of June. DES has advised the project has been delayed due to trucking issues with the subcontractor. Additional information will be released as soon as we have them.

Strategic Planning Initiative:

Our office is working over the next several months to develop an updated strategic plan which will be part of an overall Department of Safety plan.

BUREAU OF INVESTIGATIONS:

In the month of November, we received 20 incident notifications resulting in 8 scene responses. The Bureau of Investigations currently has 20 open arson or suspected arson investigations.

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

- On November 1, investigators responded to a motor-vehicle crash and fire in Derry that had resulted in a fatality later determined to be a trauma death, not a fire death.
- On November 4, investigators responded to a fireworks-related fire in Allenstown.
- On November 8, investigators and an IGL canine team responded to a structure fire in Fitzwilliam that was probably caused by an electrical issue.
- On November 13, investigators responded to Loudon to investigate a fire in a structure related to a barricaded subject incident. The cause of the fire is under investigation.
- On November 16, investigators responded to Merrimack to assist with the investigation of a fire in a storage container being used as a residence that

resulted in burn injuries to the occupant. A space heater is suspected to have ignited bedding.

- On November 19, investigators responded to a burn injury in Rochester resulting from an accidental cooking fire.
- On November 20, investigators and an IGL canine team responded to a structure fire in Franklin that coincided with a barricaded subject and officer-involved shooting that resulted in the occupant's death. The cause of the fire is under investigation.
- On November 28, investigators assisted NH State Police with a homicide investigation in Goffstown. The cause of the fire is under investigation.

Youth Firesetter:

- There were no youth fire setter assessments and 3 inquiries in November.

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Court:

- FMO personnel presented a case to a Merrimack County Grand Jury for a Possession of Infernal Machine charge that occurred in Allenstown in 2021. Personnel also attended a sentencing hearing in Grafton County where the defendant failed to appear again, and a warrant was issued for his arrest.

Training/Committees:

- The BOI Bureau Commander attended an internal affairs training class at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center in Glynco, Georgia in November.
- Several members of the FMO attended law-enforcement accreditation training in November. This will be an ongoing practice in advance of obtaining national accreditation.

BUREAU OF BUILDING SAFETY & CONSTRUCTION:

State Building Permit System:

We processed the following permits in the month of November:

- Building: 16
- Electrical: 9
- Plumbing: 3
- Mechanical Fuel Gas: 3
- Mechanical Non-Fuel Gas: 6
- Fire Protection: 2
- Fire Alarm: 1

Technical Assistance, Educational & Healthcare Reviews:

We initiated 13 educational and 7 healthcare plan reviews, completed 241 inspections and 145 technical consults in the month of November.

Variance Requests:

We processed 11 variance requests in the month of November.

Modular Building Program

We completed 5 modular building inspections in the month of November.

BUREAU OF OUTREACH & EDUCATION:

Hazardous Materials:

In the month of November, we welcomed our new, full-time Hazardous Materials Coordinator Michael Barry. He is looking forward to getting out and meeting department and Haz Mat team members.

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

We are available for PEAC Software training for fire departments. PEAC is used for documentation of Tier II facilities and chemical storage.

In the month of November, we provided training on the Suspicious Package Protocol to the Southeastern NH Haz Mat Team and provided technical assistance to the Franklin Fire Department during a gasoline incident. We also attended the Haz Mat Collaborative Meeting, the monthly PEAC Software Training and attended a planning meeting for the NH Haz Mat Conference. We continue to work with HSEM on the HMEP Grant applications.

Electric Vehicles and Lithium-Ion Batteries

We have held several meetings to discuss the challenges of electric vehicle fires and lithium-ion batteries. The meetings have included representatives from the State Fire Marshal's Office, Fire Academy, HSEM, State Police, DMV, DES, DOT, Tow Association, Auto Dealers Association, Clean Energy NH, NH Chiefs of Police and the NH Association of Fire Chiefs. The next meeting is scheduled on January 16, 2024.

The International Code Council has established an ad-hoc group to evaluate building and fire code impacts from electric vehicles and lithium-ion batteries. The National Fire Protection Association Research Foundation is conducting a study. UL's Fire Safety Research Institute is also conducting a study. UL FSRI launched a lithium-ion battery educational outreach initiative in mid-November.

Incident Reporting:

End of year is here! We ask that you please submit your 2023 data as soon as possible. Your commitment to ensuring we have great data to accurately show the fire problem in NH is greatly appreciated! If you are having difficulty sending your data or need assistance, please reach out to our team.

Did you know that we are transitioning away from accepting data via email attachments? If you are a department that submits via email attachment and have not yet created a Secure File Transfer Protocol (SFTP) Account, please reach out to our team for assistance. Our goal is to have all departments submitting data via the SFTP on or before January 1, 2024.

Have you looked at your .err files lately? These are important files that you likely receive on a monthly basis that contain invalid incidents, a.k.a. error messages. We can help you through the process so that you can resubmit any invalid incidents and receive full credit. Please contact us at nhfirs@dos.nh.gov.

We continue to work with the team at the Fire Academy as departments implement the NHESR program, available free of charge, for incident reporting. If you are interested in having a presentation on the program or would like to request one, please email NHESR@dos.nh.gov.

We released the latest edition of our NHFIRS Quarterly Newsletter and our brand new NHFIRS Incident Coding Guide, a resource we think will help those responsible for incident reporting – both new and veteran reporters! The guide covers topics such as:

- How to calculate property loss
- Plus-one codes
- Incident type scenarios
- Impact reporting has on communities – local, state and national

In May, the U.S. Fire Administration (USFA) announced their effort to launch a new fire information and analytics platform, known as the National Emergency Response Information System (NERIS), for the American fire and emergency services. Please find more information here: [Media Advisory: USFA Announces New Fire Information Platform \(fema.gov\)](https://www.fema.gov). Once NERIS is developed and operational, USFA will work to migrate fire and emergency services departments onto the new platform. The legacy NFIRS will remain operational throughout the transition process so all fire and emergency services departments should continue to use the current NFIRS

data system and maintain status quo until migrated to the new platform. For more information, please check out this on demand webinar:

[Now Available: On Demand Access to Modernizing the U.S. Fire Data System - An Introduction to the National Emergency Response Information System | UL's FSRI – Fire Safety Research Institute](#)

A follow-up webinar, *Understanding the Proposed NERIS Data Framework*, is scheduled for December 14, 2023 from 1:00-2:00PM. This session will be an opportunity to hear directly from project staff. It will highlight the project's advancements, key attributes of the new framework, opportunities to offer feedback, and tangible benefits the system will offer to first responders, agencies, and the public. Please register by December 12, 2023 at [Webinar - NERIS Data Framework Webinar \(cvent.com\)](#).

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

Outreach Events:

In the month of November, members of the SFMO attended Safety Week at the Penacook Elementary School on November 13th. We visited grades K-5, sharing fire safety information and performing K9 demonstrations with each group. Members also participated in and handed out safety information at an evening Generator Public Safety Panel in Milford on November 17th. On November 29th, members of the SFMO provided general and campus specific fire safety information to students at Saint Anselm College.

Public Education:

Are you familiar with the USFA's Fire and Life Safety Communicators Initiative? This initiative is a collaboration among the fire and emergency medical services to speak with "one voice" on fire and life safety. They believe in working together to present consistent messages. The theme for 2023 is "Step Up for Fire Safety" and takes a #BeKnowDo approach. The theme for the month of December is Holiday Fire Safety.

Decorating homes and businesses is a long-standing tradition around the holiday season. Unfortunately, these same decorations may increase your community's chances of a fire.



Holiday Fire Safety Videos: <https://youtu.be/ixPiiw81n0Y> and <https://youtu.be/26A-49Wb2F4>

For more information on this initiative, or to find outreach materials on the monthly topics (examples below), please visit: [Fire and Life Safety Communicators Initiative \(fema.gov\)](https://www.fema.gov)

Training Opportunities:

Have you visited the FM Global Fire Service Learning Network online?

Pre-Incident Planning for the Fire Service Certificate (New Training Opportunity)

Pre-incident planning is the key to effective and efficient response to fires and other emergencies in sprinklered buildings. It can mean the difference between a routine suppression call and a total loss. The FM Global Fire Service Learning Network now offers a Pre-Incident Planning for the Fire Service Certificate for firefighters, fire officers, and executive officers to expand their pre-incident planning skillset. Complete four online programs to earn the certificate and 7 hours of continuing education credit. For More Information or the Begin the Program, please visit Pre-Incident Planning for the Fire Service (fmglobalfireservicerresources.com)

Upcoming SFMO Led Classes:

Application of the NH State Fire Code: A Scenario-Based Training Thursday, January 11, 2024

6:00PM-9:00PM

Raymond S. Burton Training Academy

This session is designed to assist the Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ) or his designee with the application of the state fire code to frequently asked questions and common violations encountered in the enforcement of NFPA 1 and NFPA 101. This class will include scenario-based instruction and allow participants to use their knowledge, and that of their peers, to discuss how they would approach certain situations.

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

Application of the NH State Fire Code: A Scenario-Based Training

Wednesday, January 24, 2024

6:00PM-9:00PM

New London Fire Department

This session is designed to assist the Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ) or his designee with the application of the state fire code to frequently asked questions and common violations encountered in the enforcement of NFPA 1 and NFPA 101. This class will include scenario-based instruction and allow participants to use their knowledge, and that of their peers, to discuss how they would approach certain situations.

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

Heating and Fuel Gas Appliance Inspections

Wednesday, February 28, 2024

6:00PM-9:00PM

New London Fire Department

A review of the State Fire Code relative to NFPA 54: National Fuel Gas Code, NFPA 58: Liquefied Petroleum Gas Code, and NFPA 31: Standard for the Installation of Oil-Burning Equipment. This session will give the Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ) or his designee a better understating of how to navigate these codes and standards.

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

Additional locations and offerings will be announced soon.

Please reach out to Deputy Stacey Dubois at stacey.l.dubois@dos.nh.gov if you are interested in hosting one of these sessions, a past or future session, or would like to suggest a future training topic.

Fire Standards/Training/EMS – (Director Cutting) (Submitted in writing for the minutes.

ADMINISTRATION

Personnel

- The open Fire Service Instructor Supervisor position in the Bureau of Certification and Support remains open. We have updated the job description and are waiting for approval from the Division of Personnel and then the position will be re-advertised.
- We have one vacancy for Program Specialist III (Education Technologist) of the Educational Technology section of the Division and we have advertised the positions for candidates.
- We continue to advertise for our three new full-time Fire Training Instructors.
- We have one part-time Compliance Specialist position open and interviews will begin this month.

- The part-time EMS Vehicle Inspector Coordinator position application period has closed and we are conducting interviews.
- Our part-time Program Coordinator position for Fire Officer is open and we are seeking applicants.
- Karen Scott has been hired as the Program Coordinator for EMS Initial Programs and will begin in that role at the end of December.
- Bob Field has been hired as the Program Coordinator for the Instructor Programs.

Grants

- The architectural firm retained for the Raymond S. Burton Fire and EMS Training Facility project has finalized the construction documents.
 - Advertisement of bids is planned for December 12th.
 - Land clearing is expected to begin this fall/winter with site work starting in the spring of 2024.
- The Department of Health and Human Services Covid Disparities Funding program we are seeking funds from will allow us to expand Image Trend to add Continuum, additional IFT, MIH and simulation training and staff support. We are working this through Governor and Executive Council for their approval.
- The NH EMT Training Program remains active with grant funding for training new and existing EMS providers. Contact our Division or NH Employment Security for details and question.

Special Projects

- We have begun the planning process for our website transition and improvements with NH DoIT.
- We have coordinated with DoIT on an assessment of our classroom technology and are awaiting the recommendation report.
 - We are working on WiFi improvements to better support students and guests at our Concord campus in the Administration building, Dormitory, Fire Station and ARFF classroom. These upgrades are planned to be completed in January.
- The *Law Enforcement Officers, Professional Firefighters and Emergency Medical Technicians Career Development, Recruitment and Retention Program* committee established in New Hampshire RSA 188-F:70 met on December 12 to finalize the plan criteria and procedures. The program will be announced December 18th.
- The Education Technology section is working to update the online Narcan for First Responders course, the Hazardous Materials course and many Firefighter I and II modules.

Facilities

- The replacement of two AC condenser units in the older portion of the dormitory building will be completed this winter after receiving final approval this month.

Legislative/Administrative Rules

- The Fire Standards and Training Commission amended Fire rules relative to the Recruitment and Retention report and its recommendations are working through the internal legal process in preparation for submission to the Joint Legislative Committee on Administrative Rules (JLCAR) which will include public input.
- We have opened the sixty (60) day public comment period on the proposed State of New Hampshire Patient Care Protocols Version 8.2, specifically the Operational K9 Prerequisite Protocol. Comments can be submitted to justin.s.romanello@dos.nh.gov until December 19, 2023. Additionally, the Division will be holding a public hearing on:
 - Wednesday, December 13, 2023 at 09:00 a.m. at Fire Standards and Training & Emergency Medical Services, Classroom 1, 98 Smokey Bear Blvd Concord, NH 03305
 - Link to documents:
 - <https://www.nh.gov/safety/divisions/fstems/documents/NHOperationalK9Protocolsdraftforpubliccomment.pdf>
- The Educational Training Agency ruleset (Saf-C 5900 EMS) continues to be facilitated through the JLCAR process.
 - The Department of Safety held a public hearing on the proposed Administrative Rule changes for Saf-C 5900 in relation to Educational Training Agencies on October 23rd.
 - We have reviewed comments that were submitted and made changes to incorporate those that fit the vision for this change.
 - Links to documents:
 - [Rulemaking notice 2023-0228](#)
 - [Proposed Rules](#)
- The proposed Trauma Rules are working through the internal legal process.
- We are currently tracking twenty LSR's for the upcoming legislative session.

Outreach

- We are continuing our Leadership Roundtables with the Commissioner, Fire Marshal's Office, HSEM and Emergency Services and Communications with regional Fire Chief's and EMD's.
 - We are planning outreach meetings at Souhegan Mutual Aid and in the north country for early 2024.

Mental Health & Resiliency

- The 2024 Mental Health & Wellness Seminar will take place at the NH Fire Academy in Concord, NH on January 17-18, 2024.

- Day one will have two full group sessions and two separate breakout sessions with various topics being presented for attendees to choose from. Day two will include a presentation of Primex's play titled "The Aftermath" with a panel discussion following.
- Trauma Informed First Responder Training – Concord campus February 28th
- We continue our work in partnership with the Police Academy to develop a more comprehensive program for PTSD training utilizing experts from this field in development of the curriculum and delivery. We are completing the required MOU's with DHHS to secure the funding and begin the project.

Recruitment and Retention

- Upcoming Recruitment and Retention events:
 - Extinguishing Sexual Harassment in the Fire Service – Concord campus December 6th
 - Basic Training on Recruiting Veteran's – Virtual December 19th
 - Get the Scoop on the Work Invest NH – EMT Training Incentive Program – Concord campus January 10th
 - Boost Your SAFER Grant Writing for Recruitment and Retention – Concord campus January 22nd
 - CPAT Prep for Women – Concord campus February 4th
 - How to Stand Out In an Oral Board – Concord campus February 6th
 - Wage and Hour Laws Bootcamp – Concord campus February 13th
- The July edition of the Recruitment and Retention Newsletter is available at <https://www.nh.gov/safety/divisions/fstems/documents/RTNewsletterJuly2023.pdf>

Fire Standards and Training Commission / Curriculum

- The next Fire Standards and Training Commission meeting will be January 4th at 0930 in Classrooms 5/6 in the dormitory building at the main campus.
- Fire 602 requires that each fire department supply the Commission with a current roster of all fire service personnel by December 31st of each calendar year. This can be accomplished using RespondNH.

BUREAU OF FIRE TRAINING

Courses/Programs

- Firefighter I
 - LRCC – testing is complete with graduation on December 15th
 - Loudon – testing is this month with graduation planned for December 18th
 - Lyme – testing is complete

- Spofford – January 16th
- Burton campus (FF I & II) – January 17th
- Spring Recruit School – March 6th
- LRCC Spring Class – Orientation began on December 6th
- Seacoast – Epping January 27th
- Firefighter II
- Technical Rescue
 - Confined Space Rescue Technician – Concord Campus- November 29th
 - Confined Space Rescue Technician – Concord Campus December 9th
- Driver Operator
 - Driver/Operator – All Vehicles
 - Driver Operator – Aerial Apparatus
 - The Loudon program was completed this month
- Hazardous Materials
 - We are partnering with the International Association of Firefighters to host a Pro Board Hazardous Materials Technician program at the Concord campus from April 15th – April 26th, application for this program will open January 4th.
- IAFF Fireground Survival
 - Held in Concord November 13th
- Airport Rescue Firefighting
 - Airport Firefighter – Concord Campus May 6th
- Facilities and Prop Usage
 - Cheshire High School Firefighter Program was on campus in November using the “B” building maze and Fire Behavior Trainer.
 - SCBA Trailer was used at Newbury FD
 - Forcible Entry Prop was used at Antrim FD and Northwood FD
 - Bath FD completed live fire training at the Burton campus in November
 - Dover FD completed live fire training in the “B” Building at the Concord campus in December
- “On My Time” Program
 - 486 students have completed individual online modules and 30 students have completed individual skills modules.
- Specialty Programs
 - We are working with the National Association of Fire Marshals to bring the Pipeline Emergency 3rd Edition Train-the-Trainer program to the Concord campus this Spring. This will enable departments to deliver the training within their departments and mutual aid associations.
- Electric Vehicle Resources
 - NFPA:

- [Alternative Fuel Vehicles Training program for Emergency Responders Online Training](#)
- Fire Safety Research Institute (FSRI) programs:
 - [Know the Hazards Generated by Electric Vehicle Battery Fires \(fsri.org\)](#)
 - [Uncover the Impact of Lithium-Ion batteries on Fire \(fsri.org\)](#)
 - [Examine the fire safety hazards of Lithium-Ion Batteries \(fsri.org\)](#)
 - [On Line Course: Fire Service Considerations with Lithium-Ion Battery ESS](#)
 - [On line course: Science of Fire and Explosion Hazards from Lithium-Ion Batteries](#)
- All of the curricula for programs may be found at <https://nhfa-ems.com/curricula/>.
- For all current course listings, you can go to <https://nhfa-ems.com/scheduled-courses/>

Apparatus/Equipment

- The new ARFF truck is in production at E-One in Ocala, Fl. and is expected in 2024.
- The new Engine is in production with an anticipated timeframe for completion in the spring of 2024.

BUREAU OF CERTIFICATION AND SUPPORT

Courses/Programs

- Instructor I/II/III Programs
 - Instructor I – Concord Campus January 11th
 - Instructor I – Concord campus February 27th
 - Instructor I – Keene April 6th
 - Instructor II - Virtual February 20th
- Instructor Professional Development
 - Update: 2021 National EMS Education Standards – Concord campus January 11th, January 23rd and Virtual January 16th and January 25th
 - Working with Working Memory: Cognitive Load Theory in Action – Concord campus February 15th and February 20th
 - UDL Workshop: Planning Lessons for Engagement – Concord campus March 14th and March 19th
- Fire Officer I/II Programs
 - Fire Officer I - Concord December 7th
 - Fire Officer II – Virtual October 12th
- Fire Inspector Programs
 - Fire Inspector I - January 11th

- Fire Inspector II – Manchester March 28th
- Fire Investigator
 - The 2024 offering is being planned for.
- Warrants and Citations – Concord campus November 13th (2024)
- National Fire Academy
 - W0770 Fire Investigations: First Responders – Concord Campus December 9th
 - F0322 Incident Command for Structural Collapse Incidents – Concord Campus January 24, 2024
 - F0458 Preparation for Initial Company Operations – Concord Campus February 10, 2024
 - F0522 ESS: Exercising Leadership Through Difficult Conversations – Concord campus March 19th
 - F0760 New Fire Chief: Challenging Issues – Concord campus April 6th
- Incident Command
- “Your Workplace has Changed: Fire Dynamics for Structural Firefighting”
 - Planning is underway for 2024 deliveries
- For all current course listings, you can go to <https://nhfa-ems.com/scheduled-courses/>

Instructors

- We are near completed of our review and analysis of our per diem Instructor pay and incentive structure and are developing a program of professional development for Instructors.
- The Division is always looking for highly motivated team members to become instructors. If you are interested in becoming an instructor, please contact Assistant Director Jeffrey Phillips at Jeffrey.r.phillips@dos.nh.gov or 603-223-4213

CPAT

- The first 2024 CPAT will be held at the NH Fire Academy on February 5th
- 2024 CPAT
 - Department leaders are asked to fill out the agreement being sent which should arrive this month. This will come with a cover letter that includes testing dates and locations and a form to be returned requesting department information and a designated contact person for the department.
 - Department member assistance is needed for CPAT on testing days. Please confirm available personnel to assist with Scott Merrill at scott.d.merrill@dos.nh.gov prior to the test date to assist in planning.

Testing

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

- We have acquired the new certification testing software and will begin training and developing an implementation plan.

BUREAU OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

Boards and Commissions

- The NH Medical Control Board meeting will meet at 0900 on January 18th in classrooms 5 & 6 in the dormitory building.
- The NH Emergency Medical and Trauma Services Coordinating Board meeting will meet on December 21st (Special Meeting) at 0900 and January 18th at 1300 in classrooms 5 & 6 in the dormitory building.
- The NH Trauma Medical Review Committee (TMRC) will meet at 0930 on December 20th in classroom 2.
- The Privacy Committee will meet at 1300 January 10th in Classroom 7.

Operations

- As we approach the end of 2023 many licensed EMS units, over 200 out of 308, still need to complete the renewal process. The RespondNH system automatically has sent out ninety (90), sixty (60), and thirty (30) day email notices to all Authorized Signers associated with each licensed EMS unit. If you have not received any of these communications, please check your RespondNH account to ensure it has the most current and appreciate email address.
 - The current EMS Unit Licenses expire December 31, 2023
- The EMS Simulation Training Program is active with ongoing planning for open enrollment courses in 2024.
- As of December 1st there are 5,842 licensed EMS providers, 719 unaffiliated providers and 94 Instructor Coordinators.

Courses/Programs

- Emergency Medical Responder (EMR)
 - The winter 2024 class begins January 10th in Concord, Mont Vernon and Littleton.
 - The Spring 2024 class begins April 3rd in Bethlehem, Peterborough and Concord.
- EMS Continuing Education
 - Just Breathe: An Overview of Pediatric Respiratory Illnesses – Concord campus November 1st and Virtual
 - Cardiology Pediatric Cardiac Arrest – Concord Campus November 9th & Burton Campus December 29th
 - Hoarding Disorder – Concord Campus December 6th & Virtual December 21st

- NAEMT Tactical Emergency Casualty Care (TECC) – Concord campus December 9th
- EMS Response to Domestic Violence – Concord campus January 3rd and Virtual January 18th
- EMS Medical/Trauma Simulations – Concord campus January 24th
- Endocrine Emergencies – Burton campus February 21st and April 17th and Concord campus March 13th
- Investigative Pharmacology – Concord campus March 6th and Virtual March 21st
- Rules, Laws and Investigations in EMS: Compliance Section – Virtual March 13th
- Recognizing and Reporting Elder Abuse for First Responders – Concord campus April 3rd and Virtual April 18th
- For all current course listings, you can go to <https://nhfa-ems.com/scheduled-courses/>
- EMS in the Warm Zone Awareness, Operations and Rescue Task Force Concepts
 - Concord campus January 10th
 - The Awareness and Operations courses are available free to students on our online training platform. The RTF Concepts class is a half-day in-person training that is also available. Grant funding opportunities are available for those that have not done so already.
 - If anyone is looking for this program, please contact Shawn Croteau at Shawn.A.Croteau@DOS.NH.GOV

Clinical Systems

- Work continues on EMS Protocols Ver. 9.0 with a projected release in the first quarter of 2024.
- Work is being done to reformat the EMR protocols in Ver. 9.0 with an evaluation of alignment with the National Curriculum standards.
- Work continues on the Operational Canine protocol. The 60 day comment period is open until December 13th. Additional information is noted above in the Legal section of this report.
- We are working with the Trauma Medical Review Committee on the ACS Migration Plan for Trauma Hospital designations.
- We continue our outreach and support to agencies for inter-facility transfers and mobile integrated health programs.

Data Management

- NFIRS/Respond NH

- If you would like to start using the New Hampshire Emergency Services Reporting System (NHESR), please fill out the form available at <https://nhfa-ems.com/nhesronboard/>.
 - Fire User Group meetings occur remotely on the second Wednesday at 1300 hours each month. Contact Joseph Cartier for the link.
 - EMS User Group meetings occur remotely on the fourth Wednesday at 0930 hours each month.
 - Coordination continues with the Fire Marshal's Office for further education and guidance for reporting.
 - There are currently 113 departments using NHESR for NFIRS with 67,590 incidents entered as of December 1st.
 - Anyone interested in the system can contact Joseph Cartier at 603-223-3403 or joseph.w.cartier@dos.nh.gov.
- RespondNH
- The Division continues to expand the capabilities of the RespondNH system. As we are able to utilize this system and analyze more data it is important to have department roster information updated and current. Each department has the full capability to manage their own roster by adding new staff and removing those that may have left. Departments are able to do this at any time. For State level reporting information please fill out your roster information to include their status (career, call, or volunteer) as well as the duties they provide such as EMS care and/or fire suppression.
- TEMSIS
- The EMS data team held another meeting on October 27th to get feedback and suggestions for updates to the EMS form. The purpose of this working group meeting was to solicit constructive feedback and recommendations from EMS providers who utilize the EMS forms in practice, on ways the run form can improve going forward.
 - The data team will be hosting bi-monthly remote meetings to review current change requests and implement them into the form.
 - All NH EMS providers are invited to attend regardless of rank, call volume, or time in the field. Attendees should bring a collaborative, solution-based approach. This is your chance to have input into the EMS form that you use every day. Note that this meeting will not be discussing the fire run form, or other aspects of NHESR beyond the EMS run form itself.
 - Feel free to email nhesr@dos.nh.gov for the meeting link or with any questions or comments.
 - 20,629 EMS incidents were entered into the system for November and 243,764 incidents to date.

- Preparation for NEMSIS 3.5 is ongoing.

Compliance

- There are currently over 38 active investigations and ongoing cases.

Preparedness and Special Projects

- Outreach continues on both AED and CPR programs.

Fire Standards and Training Commission – (Chiefs Clark/DeAngelis) – No report

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

National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC) – (Chief Corey) – No report

Homeland Security and Emergency Management – (Dir. Buxton) – (Report submitted in writing for the minutes)

Updates on Division Priorities:

- HSEM will be implementing the following programs in January 2024
 - Stakeholder Liaison Program
 - Critical Operations Resiliency Exercises (CORE) training programs
- We continue to work towards our 2023 Goals.
 - Seabrook Exercise Cycle
 - i. CFE2 is scheduled for February 2024
 - ii. Full Scale Exercise will take place in April 2024
 - Increased House of Worship trainings are being scheduled across NH.
 - Increased planning and training active threat program.
 - Increased CRASE training
- Public Assistance
 - We continue to work with FEMA to implement the July Flooding Disaster Declaration.
- EMPG
 - We continue to update and process project applications.
 - The team continues to identify and implement process improvement to reduce the amount of time from application to award.
- Homeland Security Grant applications are open.

Federal Government:

- We are pending the appointment of a new FEMA Deputy Regional Administrator.
- We are working with communities regarding the BRIC and SWIF Mitigation Grant programs.

Other Items of Importance:

- Internally we have started to plan for the following upcoming events:
 - Border Migration
 - Solar Eclipse
- COVID 19 AAR is underway.
- Monthly EMD call will be held on December 21, 2023, at 12:00

EMS Trauma Medical Review Board – (Chief Clough) – no report

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

Forests and Lands – (Chief Sherman) – No report

Board of Fire Control – (Chiefs Hunter/Clark) – Chief Hunter deferred to Marshal Toomey’s report.

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

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

Division of Emergency Services and Communications – (Director Doyle)

(Report submitted in writing for the minutes)

- Laconia Facility Update: Needs assessment completed; Architect’s contract aproved; First Design to be coming in (Aggressive timeline);
- The quarterly 911 Commission meeting was held on December 8th at the Fire Academy – Dorm Building;
- Social Media:

In November, the Division of Emergency Services and Communications utilized its social media platforms (Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram) to promote Thanksgiving safety tips (in collaboration with our DOS partners), share pictures from our public outreach engagements, as well as celebrate the achievements and work anniversaries of many of our team members across the Division. We continue to spread awareness of our New Hampshire 911 CARES database and

constantly remind people of the resources available to them in an emergency (text-to-911, “what3words”, etc.). Additionally, we utilized our platforms to pay tribute to Department of Safety Security Officer Bradley Haas after the tragedy at New Hampshire Hospital.



- 988/911 Community of Practice & Planning and Implementation Committee meetings continue monthly...DESC presented at the National Community of Practice meeting on the 14th regarding New Hampshire’s model and 911/First Responder collaboration;
- Attended the North Country Public Safety Foundation Awards on November 10th in Bretton Woods;

- Presented to the Governor’s Commission on Disabilities on 11/7 re: 911 Operations and the new CARES program (Chief Bray and Supv. Hodgkins spoke to the group and answered questions);
- Met with HSEM / Grants Management relative to Homeland Security Grant guidelines for 2024;
- Attended the NASNA monthly meetings for Nov & Dec;
- “Genasys” is the new platform we will be using for our ENS (Emergency Notification System) replacing “CodeRed”. Training has kicked off, and if you have a need to be an Authorized User / POC for your own community, please reach out to me;
- Reminder: The “Language Line” is for life/safety purposes only – we are having an internal demo with “*Convey911*” after the holidays – more to follow on the possibility of utilizing their services...many PD’s are moving to them for in-the-field Interpretive services;
- Staffing update: 10 in-class right now...will hit the floor in January – another class tentatively scheduled for February/March;
- Strategic Planning for the Division has begun;
- KPI’s:
 - 99.52% of all calls answered w/i 15 seconds (exceeding NENA standard of 90% w/i 15 seconds)
 - Avg. Police/fire Transfer time = 50.6 seconds (exceeding NFPA Std. of 60 Sec.)
 - Avg. EMD Transfer time = 118.59 seconds – stable relative to last year.

- Running @ 11% above last year's call volume
- 337 Transfers to 988 / RRAP since July 2022;

E 911 Commission – (Chief Thomas) –

- Video Wall is complete at PSAP
- Working on the Arrow Tower-Radio improvements
- Reviewing the Mutual Link Contract
- Calendar Year New Hampshire are up 40,000 Calls even though October and November call volumes are down
- Eleven new Call Takers are about to go on the floor
- E 9-1-1 has a proposal of hiring a Comfort Dog for Critical Incident Stress. “Hero Pups” has been contacted for the proposal
- Mile markers will be changed on Rt 101 from Manchester to Hampton
- Full E 9 1-1 Data Update was completed in Portsmouth within a two week period
- Each New Hampshire Trooper has been issued a First Net Phone
- The first five year contract for First Net is up. First Net is looking at their Goals for the future
- E 9-1-1 is continuing to work on communication issues at our border with Canada
- There is proposed legislation proposed that proposed cell towers have to allow space for First Responder equipment
- Code Red will be changing to Genesis
- Mutual link contract is going through the Department of Justice then the Governor and Council

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

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

- He mentioned that there have been attempted cyber attacks on water systems.
- Any drone issues locally should be reported to the NHIAC immediately.
- There have been letters sent already to election officials and they are monitoring that.

New England Fire Chiefs – a Division of the IAFC – (Chiefs Jones/Murray) – No report

Old Business -

New Business –

A question was raised as how to document electrical vehicle fires. Fire Marshal Toomey will send a form to ED Lemire to distribute.

Good and Welfare –

Raffle – \$225 was collected. \$110 was given for prizes. Counted by Chiefs Chamberlain and Hunter.

The meeting was adjourned at 1323 hrs.

Respectfully submitted,

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

December 14, 2023