



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, November 9, 2023 – Virtual

The meeting was called to order to order by Chief Best at 0904

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

INTRODUCTION OF MEMBERS.

Special Guests:

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

Financial Reports: October reports have been posted. A MOTION (Thomas/McShane) to accept them carried unanimously.

Communications: n/a

Applications for membership: Dep. Chief Tommy Hartwell of Littleton and Dep. Chief Michael Gilbert of Hanover have been approved for membership.

Life Memberships: n/a

President's Report: (Best) –

Executive Director's Report (Lemire)

- The December meeting will be a luncheon meeting at the Fireside in Lebanon.
- Chiefs Best, Hunter, Watkins, Lemire and Carrier will be attending the North Country Public Safety Awards dinner on November 10.
- The January association meeting will be virtual.
- If you're interested in hosting the February meeting, please contact me asap.
- The board will be surveying members as to the possibility of having six virtual meetings per year and six on-site meetings.
- The March meeting is proposed to be virtual.

- The contracts have been executed for the Resource Directory/Ad Book for 2024.
- Deputy Chief Craig Clough of Loudon has offered to serve as our representative for the Trauma Medical Review Board. His information has been forwarded to Commissioner Quinn for approval.

1st Vice President Report (Emanuel) –

Subcommittee of House Bill 2 Recruitment & Retention:

Emanuel and Best met with the HB2 R&R subcommittee at the NHFA. Discussions about qualifying tuitions, requests, reimbursements, grades, and measuring metrics of success.

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.

Save the date and determine who should be attending. <https://www.cfsi.org/34th-annual-national-fire-and-emergency-services-symposium-and-dinner/>

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**, is scheduled for **Thursday, November 16, 2023 at 2:30 p.m. - 3:45 p.m. in the Webster Room.**

Are there any contemporary issues that the NHAFC should be sharing with the NHMA?

Fire Department Safety Officer Association:

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

Seacoast Chief Fire Officer Mutual Aid District Training:

Billy Goldfeder will be speaking in Dover, NH on November 8, 2023. <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/billy-goldfeder-fire-officer-and-fire-fighter-safety-seminar-tickets-729345922287>

National Firefighter Registry (NFR) for Cancer:

The Center for Public Safety Excellence (CPSE) Board of Directors recently voted unanimously to formalize their support for the National Firefighter Registry (NFR) for Cancer. A copy of the letter of support can be found along with support letters from other fire and emergency service organizations on the NFR website.

In 2018, Congress passed the Firefighter Cancer Registry Act, which directed the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) to develop a registry to study cancer among firefighters. The National Firefighter Registry for Cancer is the largest effort ever undertaken to understand and reduce risk of cancer among U.S. firefighters.

Firefighters can join the NFR through the secure [web portal](#). Participation is voluntary. Registration will take about 30 minutes. The NFR is a long-term project that will include voluntary, but important, follow-up questionnaires.

The NFR is open to all U.S. firefighters, not just those with a previous diagnosis of cancer. Having many types of firefighters join the NFR is crucial to examining relationships between firefighter activities and cancer. NIOSH encourages all firefighters to participate in the NFR, including:

- Active, former, and retired firefighters
- Career, paid-on-call, and volunteer firefighters
- Structural firefighters
- Wildland firefighters
- Industrial firefighters
- Military firefighters
- Instructors
- Fire investigators
- Other fire service members

A thorough list of [Frequently Asked Questions](#) and [Communications Materials](#) are available on the NFR website.

LEGISLATIVE REPORT:

- **2024 Bill Titles** - The filing period for 2024 legislation has passed for both the House and Senate. At this point, we can only see the titles of the bills and the sponsors. The attached list includes all of the bill titles we have flagged for NHAFC for 2024. Senators can also file “confidential” legislation, meaning that the title is never made public. We may not get to see all of the titles that impact the Association before the session begins. We should start to see text of the legislation later this month and early next month.
- **HB 373 (Ambulance Billing)/Ambulance Summit** – The discussions regarding ambulance services started with the introduction of HB 373 during the 2023 session. The bill sought to prohibit “balance billing” for ambulance services. It was retained by the House Commerce Committee after NHAFC and a number of ambulance providers testified against the bill. Subsequent to the Legislative session, NHAFC was invited to participate in an “ambulance summit” at the NH Department of Insurance. The goal of the summit was to bring together regulators, insurance carriers, and ambulance providers to attempt to address a number of issues, beyond balance billing, which impact the provision of service.

In a recent working group meeting, the Department discussed their concept of prohibiting balance billing while creating a fee structure to re-imburse ambulance services. The intent is design a fee structure which ensure that no provider lost revenue under the new system. Included with the report is a presentation from the Department outlining the concept. Slide 7 includes the high level overview. Ambulance service providers have been asked to provide written comments on the concepts. NHAFC will be preparing a letter with our thoughts.

NHAFC was appreciative of all of the members who took the time to respond to the ambulance rate survey. It has been helpful for the continued discussions with the Department.

- **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. There is consensus that any restoration of benefits would be “pre-funded” to avoid any employer costs assessments. The initial cost estimates for pre-funding the revisions to benefits were higher than some legislators had hoped. Discussions continue about alterations which will restore some benefits without additional costs to employers. There has been a focus on altering the multiplier upward in hopes of retaining some of the members in the middle tier. The Commission is scheduled to meet again on November 8. At that time, there could be a final proposal for legislation in the 2024 session.
- **E-911 Personnel Training Study Committee** – Governor Sununu signed HB 376 into law earlier this year. The bill created a study committee to examine the education, training, and requirements for E-911 dispatch for fire, police, and EMTs. The committee is tasked with recommending regarding uniformity in training/certifications. In the final report, the committee recommended that any existing staff that has not been on the job more than 1 year would need complete 40 hours of any of the following trainings:
 - Any ANSI-compliant basic telecommunicator curriculum
 - Training and testing of the following NH Modules:
 - NH State Resources

- Air Medical Resources
- NH Right to know and confidential information handling
- NH Search and Rescue Resources
- NH Fire Mobilization plan
- NH 911 and Emergency Dispatch processes
- NH Telecommunications Response Team resources

All agencies would annually report to the Department of Safety a roster of all currently employed communications personnel. This report and its requirements will likely be a bill in 2024.

2nd Vice President Report (Watkins) –

- The PTSD Commission has completed its report and it will be shared under a separate email.

Sgt. At Arms (Hunter) –

- He explained the details of meetings of the Ambulance Billing Committee. Chief Sitar offered the following:

The Ambulance Billing Committee was organized to look at legislation regarding eliminating ambulance transport balance billing to the patient. The goal of the committee is to eliminate balance billing to the patient. The committee is divided into three sub-committees:

- System Efficiencies – this sub-committee is looking at alternate delivery methods, including community paramedicine and billing for treat no transport.
 - Treat/no transport is a billable service in most cases. Education is needed to spread this information to municipal providers.
- Facility to Facility - Looking at ambulance availability in providing timely interfacility patient transport. This is mostly a private ambulance company issue, although some municipal services offer this service.
- Commercially Reasonable Rates – Looking at how the State can implement, either through legislation or regulation, a flat rate on emergency ambulance transports. This would eliminate patient balance billing, except for patient co-pays or deductibles.
 - Rates would be different based on whether the service was urban, rural, or super rural. The rate would be based on the Medicare rate plus a percentage. The Insurance Department issued a survey to help them collect data from ambulance services to help them develop the rates the State would charge.
 - The survey was cumbersome, and the language used is not what most municipal representatives would recognize or be able to provide.
 - The Insurance Department gets certain information from insurance companies and was trying to use the survey to parse out that information for individual municipal services. This is very hard or impossible for most services to do.

- The Rate that the State would implement has nothing to do with the actual cost of service.

Chief Hunter issued a survey that I think better collects data that reflects actual costs to the municipal service.

For a municipal service, any revenue lost through the inability to balance bill or due to an appropriate rate mandated by the State, will be on the backs of the local taxpayers.

Committee Reports

Scholarship Committee – (Marshal Toomey) – No report

Division Reports

Fire Marshal – (Marshal Toomey)

ADMINISTRATION:

Personnel:

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

Part-time Building Code Review Board Administrative Secretary

We welcome the following new staff to our office:

Michael Pinan joins our staff in a part-time position as a Fire Protection Specialist on November 17TH

Legislation:

There are 882 legislative service requests (LSR's) filed for the upcoming session. We are watching for language on 38 of these at this time. We will work to evaluate the LSR's and share information as it becomes available.

Board of Fire Control:

The next Board of Fire Control meeting is scheduled for January 17, 2024. Everything is submitted 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 the details are finalized.

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 October, we received 12 incident notifications resulting in 5 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 October 9, an FMO investigator assisted the Plaistow Fire Department investigate a structure fire of undetermined cause but no criminal indicators.
- On October 14, FMO investigators and an IGL canine team responded to Hampton to investigate a structure fire of a vacant residence. The cause classification is suspected to be incendiary, and this is an active arson investigation.
- On October 27, FMO investigators and an IGL canine team assisted the Lebanon Fire and Police Departments investigate a fire at an apartment building under construction. LPD arrested an 18-year-old male and 17-year-old male that were responsible for setting the fire.

Fatal Incidents:

- On October 5, FMO investigators and an IGL canine team assisted the Nashua FD investigate a fire that resulted in the death of one resident. Two residents were hospitalized but survived. The cause is suspected to be from an accidental electrical issue.
- On October 27, FMO investigators assisted the Hooksett Fire and Police Departments investigate an explosion and fire that resulted in serious bodily injury to a man. At this time, it appears that the man had accidentally caused an explosion of gasoline vapors while working on a vehicle. The man later died as a result of his injuries.

Ignitable Liquid Detection Canine Teams:

- In addition to the deployments shown above, a training day was conducted with our IGL canine teams with the assistance of NH State Police's Marine Patrol. The training focused on marine operations, boat safety, building sniffs and outdoor area searches.

Youth Firesetter:

- There were 3 youth fire setter assessments and 1 inquiry in October.

Arrests:

- We assisted the Lebanon Fire and Police Departments investigate a fire that resulted in two arrests.

Training/Committees:

- Our three newest investigators have completed the Fire Investigator Certification course at the New Hampshire Fire Academy.
Two investigators attended Google geofence warrant training.

BUREAU OF BUILDING SAFETY & CONSTRUCTION:

State Building Permit System:

We processed the following permits in the month of October:

- Building: 39
- Electrical: 13
- Plumbing: 6
- Mechanical Fuel Gas: 6
- Mechanical Non-Fuel Gas: 5
- Fire Protection: 2
- Fire Alarm: 3

Technical Assistance, Educational & Healthcare Reviews:

We initiated 11 educational and 17 healthcare plan reviews, completed 259 inspections and 137 technical consults in the month of October.

Variance Requests:

We processed 6 variance requests in the month of October.

Modular Building Program

We completed 9 modular building inspections in the month of October.

BUREAU OF OUTREACH & EDUCATION:

Hazardous Materials:

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

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

In the month of October, our Hazardous Materials Coordinator provided a chemical identification training to members of our Bureau of Investigations. He also provided CAMEO training to the Southeastern NH Haz Mat Team and a presentation to the Nashua REPC on Tier II Reporting. He also coordinated with the Southeastern NH Haz Mat Team to secure grant funding that provided four days of hazardous materials air monitoring training to the nine regional Haz Mat teams.

In the month of October, our Hazardous Materials Coordinator attended the virtual National SERC Meeting and the monthly PEAC Software Training.

Electric Vehicles and Lithium-Ion Batteries

We have held two 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. Another meeting is scheduled for November 21st.

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 will be launching a lithium ion battery educational outreach initiative in mid-November.

Regional Outreach/Chief's Roundtables:

We continue to partner with the Commissioner's Office, other Department of Safety Leadership and the NHAFC to conduct regional outreach/Chief's Roundtables.

Incident Reporting:

2023 is quickly ending and we ask that you submit your 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 at NHESR@dos.nh.gov.

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.

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). 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](#)

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:

Members of the SFMO were very busy attending a variety of Fire Prevention Week activities, open houses and events in the month of October. We supported 30 events throughout the state and SFMO personnel attended 25 events. This included 11 canine demonstrations, and visits to 10 K-12 schools and 2 senior programs. A big thank you to all those who invited us to join you. Enjoy some highlights below!









In October, several members of the SFMO assisted HSEM during their Radiological Emergency Preparedness Exercise for Seabrook Station. Members filled multiple roles in multiple locations during the exercise.

Public Education:

November is Carbon Monoxide Awareness Month. As the colder temperatures usher in and we begin to fire up our heating appliances, to include alternative heating sources, consider sharing carbon monoxide safety tips in your community. Here is a link to our latest carbon monoxide informational bulletin to assist you in your efforts: [co-alarms-info-bulletin-final.pdf \(nh.gov\)](https://co-alarms-info-bulletin-final.pdf)

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 November is “Take C.H.A.R.G.E. of battery safety.”

**Choose certified products
Handle with care
Always stay alert
Recycle properly
Get out quickly
Educate others**

Lithium-ion batteries and other types of batteries present fire dangers if community residents don't follow product instructions when using, storing or disposing of them.



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/fire-and-life-safety-communicators-initiative)

Training Opportunities:

Have you visited the FM Global Fire Service Learning Network online? FM Global has a longstanding, deep commitment to assisting the fire service through training, education, and grant funding in fire prevention, fighting fire in sprinklered buildings, fire response to commercial/industrial properties, ignitable liquids and gases, pre-incident planning, and fire protection systems. As part of this commitment, FM Global provides the FM Global Fire Service

Learning Network to deliver critical training for the fire service in FM Global's focus areas, including fire protection in commercial and industrial properties. The network offers online training programs, including FM Global's popular "Fighting Fire in Sprinklered Buildings" course, and fire service resources. Available resources include FM Global Data Sheets, pocket guides, and pre-incident planning materials guide. All training and resources are free. Create an account and log in to access the fire service training and resources here: [Fighting Fire In Sprinklered Buildings | Fire Service Learning Network](https://fmglobalfireserviceresources.com) (fmglobalfireserviceresources.com)

Small Town, USA – State v. John Gates

A Bureau of Investigations Case Study

Thursday, December 7, 2023

6:00PM-9:00PM

Raymond S. Burton Training Academy

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

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

Save the Date – Registration Links Available Soon:

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

Thursday, January 11, 2023

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.

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

Wednesday, January 24, 2023

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.

Heating and Fuel Gas Appliance Inspections

Wednesday, February 28, 2023

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 understanding of how to navigate these codes and standards.

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)

ADMINISTRATION

Personnel

- The open Fire Service Instructor Supervisor position in the Bureau of Certification and Support application period has closed and we are evaluating candidates for the next phase of the process.
- 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. Interviews for these positions continue.
- We continue to advertise for our three new full-time Fire Training Instructors.
- We have one part-time Compliance Specialist position open which has been advertised for candidates.
- 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.
- We have made an offer to a candidate for the part-time Program Coordinator for EMS Initial Programs.
- We have made an offer to a candidate for the part-time Program Coordinator for Instructor Programs.

Grants

- We continue to acquire equipment funded by the 2021 and 2022 AFG's that we were awarded.
- The architectural firm retained for the Raymond S. Burton Fire and EMS Training Facility project is finalizing the construction documents.
 - Advertisement of bids is planned for the end of November.
 - 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 to complete the MOU and facilitate this through Governor and Executive Council.
- 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

- In mid-October we announced the launch of the “On My Time” Firefighter I and II Training program. This program allows students and departments to work with a State Fire Instructor to complete Firefighter I and II training modules on their time and pace. This link <https://nhfa-ems.com/omt/> outlines the program.
 - Two informational sessions were held on Monday, October 23, 2023 @ 1:00pm and Tuesday, October 24, 2023 @ 6:00pm that were attended by nearly eighty people.
 - If you have questions please reach out to your field Captain.
 - To date nearly 300 online modules have been completed by students in this program.
- 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.
- 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 October 12th. The final meeting will be held in early December at the Fire Academy.
- We have expressed our interest in participating with the North American Fire Training Directors and the National Volunteer Fire Council on a project funded through an Assistance to Firefighters Grant titled *Understanding the Role of Training on Volunteer Firefighter Recruitment and Retention*.

- This two-year project aims to better understand the role that training plays on volunteer fire service recruitment and retention, and to provide recommendations for future associated considerations and implementation by volunteer fire departments and training academies. It also works to determine whether or not a correlation exists between training and volunteer firefighter recruitment and retention. Principal partners for this project include Fire Protection Research Foundation, the National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC) and the North American Fire Training Directors (NAFTD).

Facilities

- Two new stop signs have been placed in the concord campus parking lot to increase traffic and pedestrian safety.
- We are working on the replacement of two AC condenser units in the older portion of the dormitory building. The bid process, issuing of contracts and Governor and Council approval are anticipated this fall.

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 are in the process of reviewing the comments that were submitted.
 - 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 were invited by and attended the Seacoast Chief's Mutual Aid District on November 2nd.
 - We are planning outreach meetings at Souhegan Mutual Aid and in the north country for early 2024.

Mental Health & Resiliency

- The mental health planning group has been active in preparing for another Mental Health Seminar to held in January 2024.
- 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 break out 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 met with the Director of Behavioral Health at DHHS and are working to finalize a MOU for grant funding.

Recruitment and Retention

- Upcoming Recruitment and Retention events:
- Building Community Support to Improve Hiring – Hampton November 1st
 - Fire & EMS Mentorship Program, "More than Just Matchmaking: 8 Steps to Building a Functional and Sustainable Mentorship Program for Your Emergency Services Organization" – Virtual November 14th
 - Extinguishing Sexual Harassment in the Fire Service – Concord campus December 6th
 - Basic Training on Recruiting Veteran's – Virtual December 19th

- Boost Your SAFER Grant Writing for Recruitment and Retention – Concord campus January 22nd
- 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.
 - Chief Eric Wilking was re-elected as Chair and Chief Fraitzl was re-elected as Vice-Chair for 2024.
- The Fire Standards and Training Commission has approved the written comment period to open from September 8, 2023, to November 11, 2023, for public comment on the proposed changes to the NFPA 1033 Fire Investigator curriculum following their preliminary approval of the curriculum updates.
 - Public comment can be submitted at: <https://nhfa-ems.com/fst-commission-curriculum-public-feedback-form/> and the public hearings were held Wednesday October 18th at 1500 and 1700 at the Bedford Fire Department, 55 Constitution Dr., Bedford, NH.

BUREAU OF FIRE TRAINING

Courses/Programs

- Firefighter I
 - LRCC - ongoing
 - The Fall Recruit class graduates November 9th
 - Loudon – ongoing
 - Lyme – ongoing
 - Spofford – January 16th
- Firefighter II
 - Burton Campus – students tested October 28th
 - Concord – ongoing
 - Hampton Falls – students tested November 1st
- 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

- Hazardous Materials
 - We are partnering with the International Association of Firefighters to host a Pro Board Hazardous Materials Technician program at the Concord campus in the Spring of 2024.
- IAFF Fireground Survival
 - Concord November 13th
- Airport Rescue Firefighting
 - Airport Firefighter – Concord Campus May 6th
- Facilities and Prop Usage
 - Bath FD conducted training at the Burton campus
 - Concord High School Firefighter program utilized the Concord campus
 - SCBA prop was utilized in Fitzwilliam
 - Forcible Entry prop was utilized at the Manchester-Boston Regional Airport, Wilton, Grafton and at the Burton campus for Easton.
- 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 11, 2024
 - Instructor I – Keene April 6, 2024
 - Instructor II – Virtual August 1st
 - Instructor II - Virtual February 20th
 - Instructor III – Virtual March 4th
- Instructor Professional Development
 - Titrate Your Training: Using Outcomes and Objectives – Concord campus on November 16th and November 21st
 - 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 11, 2024
 - Fire Inspector II – Manchester March 28th
- Fire Investigator
 - The 2024 offering is being planned for.
- Warrants and Citations – Concord November 15th
- National Fire Academy
 - MGT-347 Incident Command System Forms Review – Concord campus November 28th-30th
 - Wo770 Fire Investigations: First Responders – Concord Campus December 9th
 - Fo322 Incident Command for Structural Collapse Incidents – Concord Campus January 24, 2024
 - Fo458 Preparation for Initial Company Operations – Concord Campus February 10, 2024
 - Fo522 ESS: Exercising Leadership Through Difficult Conversations – Concord campus March 19th
 - Fo760 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 completion 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 final 2023 CPAT was held at the NH Fire Academy on November 3rd with retesting on November 4th.
 - 60 tests were administered with 40 new candidates added to the eligibility list. The total number of candidates who have a current CPAT certificate is 508.
- 2024 CPAT
 - Department leaders are asked to fill out the agreement being sent which should arrive later this year. 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 (in addition to end of course testing for each program):
 - October monthly certification testing included delivery of seven written exams and no practical exams.
- Our work continues on acquisition of new testing software for the Division. The vendor that was chosen has withdrawn their proposal. We are working on the next steps necessary. When final, this will enable us to begin computer-based testing and eliminate the paper method.

BUREAU OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

Boards and Commissions

- The NH Medical Control Board meeting will meet at 0900 on November 16th in classrooms 5 & 6 in the dormitory building.
- The NH Emergency Medical and Trauma Services Coordinating Board meeting will meet at 1300 on November 16th 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

- The NH Insurance Department has recently been working with various stakeholders to try to address the issue of balance billing for ground ambulances in the commercial insurance market. To better inform the discussion, the Insurance Department looking to collect additional data from ambulance service providers to supplement data the Insurance Department already has from insurance carriers. To that purpose, the Insurance Department has created a survey and is looking to obtain responses from as many ambulance providers as possible.
Survey responses can be sent to doi.healthcareanalytics@ins.nh.gov. Responses are requested by November 15th. They consider the revenue information submitted on the survey to be commercial financial information exempt from disclosure under RSA 91-A:5, IV. No individual data collected will be publicly disclosed. They will only disclose aggregate data. If you have any questions about the survey or how to fill it out, please email doi.healthcareanalytics@ins.nh.gov.
- The EMS Simulation Training Program is active with ongoing planning for open enrollment courses in 2024.
- EMS license applicants are experiencing a three week wait for background checks.

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 November 16th

- 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
 - 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.
- 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.

- 21,881 EMS incidents were entered into the system for October and 222,853 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) –

- He affirmed Director Cutting's report.

NH Emergency Medical and Trauma Services Coord. Board – (Dep. Chief Paquette) –

Met July and September. Highlights

HB 373 regarding Balance Billing for Ambulance Services

SB 204 For Trauma Kits in State owned buildings - Division provided information relative to contents of the kits. Pulse Point App help guide people to nearest AED, Trauma kits and Narcan

Canine protocols (prerequisite protocols) finished presented soon to Medical control and coordinating board soon (emergency meeting TBD)

Updated 18 protocols mostly wording and clarification. Added separate EMR section for clarity

The Committee of Merit awarded 23 EMS awards. Always seeking nominations

Watched presentation regarding Prone CPR from E911

Discussion regarding Stroke assessment by EMS vs Hospital inpatient vs NIHSS

Discussion regarding mobile crisis teams and wording in protocols

Presentation from Commissioner Quinn regarding ETA rules, public comment sessions pending

Next meeting November 16 at 1300

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:

- Happy to that our current staffing continues to improve. We currently have approximately 6 full-time openings.
- We continue to work towards our 2023 Goals.
 - This will include:
 - i. Increased efforts for Training, Exercise and Development
 - 1. We are working to develop a strategic vision to meet the needs of the State of New Hampshire around active threat.
 - ii. Implementation of a Community Services Branch
 - 1. Full program implementation is expected to take place for October 1, 2023
 - iii. Continued review of procedures to make sure we are providing you efficient delivery of the Public Assistance process.
- Public Assistance
 - We are pending a Disaster Declaration to President Biden for the March, May and July 2023 storms.
 - JFO has been established at 25 Triangle Park Drive to start processing the December 2022 winter storm disaster declaration.
- EMPG
 - We continue to update and process project applications.
 - We are in the process of closing out the 2020 EMPG grant. \

Federal Government:

- Immediate Needs Funding Restriction
 - The reduction in funding is due to balance concerns in the National Disaster Relief fund.
 - Governor Sununu as sent a letter to the NH Federal Delegation urging increased funding of the Disaster Relief Fund
 - This limitation will affect all Mitigation Planning and pending funding programs and Non-Category A/B Declaration request.
- We continue to monitor and plan for potential impacts of increased border crossing.
 - Division is preparing to work with State Police on the implementation of the Northern Borders Alliance program.
 - This is a \$1.4 million State Funded investment in Border Security
- We are reviewing the impact adopting FEMA's Public Assistance Simplified procedures process.
- **Other Items of Importance:**

- Internally we have started to plan for the following upcoming events:
 - Border Migration
 - Solar Eclipse
- Planning continues for a renovation to the State EOC
- COVID 19 AAR is underway.
- We attended the November Seacoast Fire Chief's meeting.

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

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

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) –

- Dwelling Units Sprinkled
 - An automatic sprinkler system shall not be required in up to four dwelling units where the following are met:
 - a. Building is three stories or less in height undergoing a change in occupancy to Group R-2 containing not more than four dwelling units and does not include congregate living. Building does not involve an increase in height or area except for egress or accessibility.
 - b. Each dwelling unit has either:
 - a. An exit door directly to the exterior at the level of exit discharge,
 - b. Direct access to an exterior stair serving a maximum of two dwelling units on the same story, or
 - c. Direct access to an interior stair serving only that dwelling unit and separated from all other portions of the building with 1-hour fire resistance rated fire barriers.
 - c. Dwelling units have emergency escape and rescue openings in accordance with IBC Section 1030.

Much of the discussion had to do with Group R-2 & R-3 Occupancy Types as well as renovations being greater than 50%. More to follow at the next meeting.

Egress as it relates to Group R-2, R-3, & R-4 Occupancy Types including basements and sleeping rooms.

Recovery Housing complying with RSA 153:10-D, this became tabled in order to identify the true definition of a Recovery House.

Solar Panel amendment was discussed and approved:

R324.6 Roof access and pathways.

Roof access, pathways and setback requirements shall be provided in accordance with Sections R324.6.1 through R324.6.2.1. Access and minimum spacing shall be required to provide emergency access to the roof, to provide pathways to specific areas of the roof, provide for smoke ventilation opportunity areas, and to provide emergency egress from the roof.

Exceptions:

1. 1.Detached, non-habitable structures, including but not limited to detached garages, parking shade structures, carports, solar trellises and similar structures, shall not be required to provide roof access.
2. 2.Roof access, pathways and setbacks need not be provided where the code official has determined that rooftop operations will not be employed.
3. 3.These requirements shall not apply to roofs with slopes of 2 units vertical in 12 units horizontal (17-percent slope) or less.
4. 4.BIPV systems *listed* in accordance with Section 690.12(B)(2) of NFPA 70, where the removal or cutting away of portions of the BIPV system during fire-fighting operations has been determined to not expose a fire fighter to electrical shock hazards.
5. Access pathways are not required where PV arrays occupy up to 50 percent of the plan view roof area with a common horizontal ridge.

R324.6.1 Pathways.

Not fewer than two pathways, on separate roof planes from lowest roof edge to ridge and not less than 36 inches (914 mm) wide, shall be provided on all buildings. Not fewer than one pathway shall be provided on the street or driveway side of the roof. For each roof plane with a photovoltaic array, a pathway not less than 36 inches wide (914 mm) shall be provided from the lowest roof edge to ridge on the same roof plane as the photovoltaic array, on an adjacent roof plane, or straddling the same and adjacent roof planes. Pathways shall be over areas capable of supporting fire fighters accessing the roof. Pathways shall be located in areas with minimal obstructions such as vent pipes, conduit, or mechanical equipment.

Exception:

Access pathways are not required where PV arrays occupy up to 50 percent of the plan view roof area with a common horizontal ridge.

R324.6.2 Setback at ridge.

For photovoltaic arrays occupying not more than 33 50 percent of the plan view total roof area with a common horizontal ridge, not less than an 18-inch (457 mm) clear setback is required on both sides of a horizontal ridge.

For photovoltaic arrays occupying more than 33 50 percent of the plan view total roof area with a common horizontal ridge, not less than a 36-inch (914 mm) clear setback is required on both sides of a horizontal ridge.

R324.6.3 Emergency Escape and Rescue Openings. No change.

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

- **Division of Emergency Services and Communications – (Director Doyle)** – Laconia Facility Update: Kickoff meeting and design session

completed. Conceptual design / first draft s/b out by the first of December for review;

- Met with LRMFA Directors and members on 11/1 re: Update on the laconia PSAP project;
- Met with Hero Pups re: PSAP Comfort Dog program;
- Legislation Watch:
 - The Study Committee for Dispatcher & Telecommunicator Training Standards has issued its final report;
- The quarterly 911 Commission meeting is scheduled for December 8th at the Fire Academy – Dorm Building;
- DESC personnel attended the Atlantic APCO Chapter annual meeting in Albany, attending various breakout sessions and networking;
- Social Media:

In October, the Division of Emergency Services and Communications utilized its social media platforms (Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram) to educate the public on text to 911 and knowing your location, share information about Sudden Cardiac Arrest Awareness Month and the importance of AEDs, and recognize employees all around the Division, including those completing our Portsmouth data collection project – a massive undertaking! Additionally, we showcased our public education and outreach initiatives with pictures of our visits to several schools and local fire departments, and kept our audience informed by sharing relevant fire prevention messaging from our partner agencies.



- Met with RI 911 at the IPOC to discuss both our collaboration with 988 / Rapid Response and our Text-to-911 capabilities;
- 988/911 Community of Practice meetings continue monthly...I will be presenting at the National Community of Practice meeting on the 14th regarding New Hampshire's model and 911/First Responder collaboration;
- A number of DOS personnel, including the SWIC and myself, attended the follow up Northern Borders Interoperability meeting in Pittsburg on 10/17 – follow up to the May meeting where issues and communications challenges were discussed;
- Attending the NCPSF Awards on the 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);

- Attended the FirstNet / SIEC Workgroup showcase at Manchester Airport on 10/26;
- Met with DNCR and the folks from NH ARES (Amateur Radio) regarding co-locating equipment on their Towers to enhance emergency Communications capabilities as part of the ESF-2 role in the State Emergency Operations Plan;
- “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 a subscriber/POC for your own community, please reach out to me;

E 911 Commission – (Chief Thomas) – Included in Director’s report

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

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

New England Fire Chiefs – a Division of the IAFC – (Chiefs Jones/Murray) –
• They will be meeting on November 30.

Old Business -

New Business –

Good and Welfare –

Raffle – n/a

The meeting was adjourned at 0947 hrs.

Respectfully submitted,

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

November 9, 2023