



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, October 10, 2019 – Town Tavern, Hudson, NH

Called to order at 1847 hours by Chief Buxton.

Corey Clark and Trooper Joseph Villers from the NH Information Analysis Center gave a presentation detailing their efforts in the all-hazards intelligence arena. They focus on information sharing with all public safety agencies and the operation of their fusion center.

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

Chief Buxton welcomed all to Hudson.

Advocate Members present – Donald Chambers and Kevin Pratte of 1-800-Board-Up; Gary McCarragher of AT&T FirstNet and Stephen Vowels of Kingfisher Company, Inc.

Members were asked to introduce themselves and share where they were from.

Special Guests: Assistant Commissioner of Safety Perry Plummer was introduced. Also, Jody Grimbilas and Adam Schmidt were introduced as the association's new lobbyists.

Minutes of the September 12 meeting: A MOTION (Christopoulos/Sitar) to accept them carried unanimously.

Financial Report: The July, August and September financials have been posted. A MOTION (Sitar/Rhodes) to approve them carried unanimously.

Communications: Thank you notes from Michael Lajoie for his scholarship award and from NH Special Olympics for the association's participating in their fundraising golf tournament.

Applications for membership: Active Members: Fire Marshal Peter Lennon of Manchester, NH and Health Trust has re-joined as an Advocate Member.

Deputy Chiefs Brian Murray of Salem and James Paquette of Hudson were introduced as new members pending.

Life Membership: n/a

President's Report: (Buxton) –

- The Commission on PTSD met on September 6th
 - Commission has 10 deliverables to work on
 - During this organizational meeting Senator Birdsell was elected Chair
 - We will be meeting the 2nd Friday of each month
 - Next meeting which is priority setting is October 18th at 1300
- Meeting of the 5 Families was held at the IPOC
 - Discussion topics was HB4
 - Retirement
 - Sober Housing
 - Place of Assembly Permitting
 - Admin. Rule Update
 - NFORS
 - PFAS Foam/Gear
 - Procedural discussion surrounding LODD Ceremonies
- Scholarships Awards have been sent out
- Visiting Committee for FF1 has been seated
 - First meeting early November
- Haz-Mat Tech continues to progress
- First Risk Management working group meeting was held at Primex
- Reminder of the Primex Symposium November 7
- Life Scan Wellness Center Seminar 1/2020
- Thank you to everyone who participated in the Fallen FF Memorial and the NH Fire EMS Awards
- New Lobbyist
 - BOD has engaged the service of J Grimblus Associates out of Concord
 - Jodi Grimblus
 - Adam Schmit

Executive Director's Report (Lemire) –

- He reminded everyone to sign-up for the Professional Enhancement Weekend for members, spouses and guests. It will be at the Red Jacket Mountain View in

North Conway on Veteran's Day weekend, November 8-10, 2019. The November meeting will be held at 1:00 pm at the hotel on November 9. Those not attending the weekend will still be able to attend the meeting. A separate sign-up will be available. We need a minimum of 50 participants. Presentations will be made by members of the Mt. Washington Observatory and the Mountain Rescue services, as well as Director Pendergast and Marshal Parisi. Consult the website for instructions on sign-up as they are through the hotel directly.

- We believe the Crotched Mt. Christmas party will be held on December 12 but we'll get back to you on that.
- The January meeting will be at the Academy on 9th at 9:00 am. After the meeting a presentation by Life Scan Wellness Centers will focus on their screening and methodologies for early detection of cancers.
- The February 13 meeting is up for grabs....please contact me if you're interested in hosting.

1st Vice President Report (Jones) –

- He reminded all of the NH Fire Service Symposium on November 7, 2019. 0800 Breakfast – 0900 opening remarks, conclude by 1600 hrs.
- Capt. Mike Gagliano (ret.) of the Seattle Fire Department. National Speaker and recent FDIC Presenter
- This year's Program; Addressing how the culture and interaction of Company Officers and Leaders within the Firehouse can have a positive outcome in building personal relationships.
- Afternoon; Captain Gagliano wife Ann will co-present a session about the challenges facing Firefighter marriage
- 69 registered as of Monday, if you are planning on attending please register
- Immediate after these years a survey will be sent out to see what directions the committee should focus on next year and the years following
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- Breakfast & Lunch provided and no cost associated to attend.

2nd Vice President Report (Rhodes) –

- He spoke of the presentation upcoming in January by Life Scan Wellness Centers. He described the program.
- He also described the process of choosing our next lobbyist.

Sgt. At Arms (Sitar) –

- He spoke of the NH Fire Chiefs' certification program. Working on it now. More information will be forthcoming for a January on board.
- Apparel is for sale on the website.

Committee Reports

Scholarship Committee – (Dep. Toomey) – No report

Division Reports

State Fire Marshal –Fire Marshal Parisi reported:

Bureau of Administration:

- ***SB 49 – Fire Code:*** The 2015 edition of NFPA’s Fire Code (NFPA 1) is now in effect. (Since September 8, 2019)
- ***HB 562 – Building Code:*** The 2015 I-Codes is now in effect (Since September 15, 2019).
- ***Recovery Residences:*** Recovery residences (Sober Houses) continue to be challenge on the forefront of our agenda. HB 311 was retained by the House. A subcommittee has been established and is meeting to discuss how to move forward in 2020. A statewide solution is needed. We will continue to engage the fire service, the building officials, NH Coalition for Recovery Residences (NHCORR) and the Attorney General’s office in proposed solutions. We are working on an Informational Bulletin for Recovery Residences to include a process for accommodations.
- ***2020-2021 Budget:*** The state’s continuing resolution is over and the 2020-2021 budget has been approved.
- ***Personnel:***
 - Building Safety and Construction:*** We have a current opening for a part-time Program Assistant II / Building Permit Coordinator. The position is 29.5 hours per week in Concord.
 - Planning and Support Services:*** We have a current opening for a part-time Program Assistant III/NFIRS Data Coordinator. The position is 29.5 hours per week in Concord.
 - Bureau of Investigations:*** We have two investigator positions open. Investigator Roman Bastek has left to join the Belmont PD, and Investigator Adam Fanjoy has been chosen to be promoted to District Chief to fill the vacancy left by retired DC Tom Riley. These positions will be posted shortly.

Bureau of Investigations:

- ***New/Active cases:*** 21 Calls for Service in the month of September; Our 8 investigators are actively working 17 Criminal Cases.
- ***Fatal Fire:*** Investigators responded to Farmington on September 12th for a single fatality fire. The cause of the fire remains under investigation.
- ***Accelerant Detection K-9s:*** Our two Accelerant Detection Canine Teams worked with investigators at 7 fire scenes in the month of September. They also responded to a number of public education demonstrations.
- ***Arrests:*** On September 17th investigators responded to a fire investigation at

89 York Street in Berlin. After a joint investigation with the Berlin Police Department, Kelsey O'Mealley was arrested and charged with Arson, Animal Cruelty (both felonies) and Resisting Arrest (misdemeanor).

Bureau of Building Safety and Construction:

- Educational Outreach: We continue to deliver fire service educational seminars across the state. These include sessions on school inspections, fireworks, oil and gas fired appliances, tent inspections, places of assembly, hood and kitchen inspections, etc. If you are interested in requesting a regional delivery of these programs please contact Deputy Fire Marshal Sean Toomey at Sean.Toomey@dos.nh.gov.
- NFPA 1 and 101 Training: The following training sessions on NFPA 1 and 101, 2015 editions have been scheduled:
 - NFPA 1
 - Friday, October 11th 0900-1200 hours NH Fire Academy
 - Wednesday, October 16th 1800-2100 hours Lafayette Regional School
 - NFPA 101
 - Thursday, October 10th 1800-2100 hours NH Fire Academy
 - Friday, October 11th 1300-1600 hours NH Fire Academy
 - Thursday, October 17th 1800-2100 hours Lafayette Regional School
- Solar: The Board of Fire Control will have a public hearing on November 20, 2019. The amendment addresses the requirements for solar array spacing and roof access for one and two family dwellings. The amendment would allow installations covering up to 50% of the total roof area to be exempt from the access provisions in NFPA 1. The amendment will require an 18" ridge setback unless modified by the AHJ. The amendment also requires a structural analysis for all installations.
- DES: Our office has been working with DES on aboveground and underground storage tank installations. The DES Oil Compliance Section has adopted rules that incorporate several NFPA Codes and Standards to include NFPA 30, 30A, 31, 37 & 110. We have been working to address the proper application of the codes.
- Administrative Rules: We have started work on the review and update to

Saf-C 6000, the State Fire Code with an anticipated completion of December 2019. Anyone with comments or suggestions are encourage to forward your information to our office through the fmo@dos.nh.gov email

Bureau of Planning and Support Services:

- Emergency Removal Order: Commissioner Quinn issued an emergency removal order for a firework device that was reported as a potential product defect. After an investigation into the specific product was conducted it was determined that if the product were used in its current condition it would pose a serious safety risk. A report was made to the CPSC and a hearing will be held by the Fireworks Safety Committee on October 10th at 0930 hours regarding the order.
- Side-by-side Sprinkler Prop: We have received a donation of a side-by-side residential sprinkler prop for the state from the NH Fire Prevention Society and the National Fire Sprinkler Association. The first demonstration will be on Friday October 11 at the fire academy at noon during the lunch break of the NFPA 1 and 101 code update training.
- Hazardous Materials: We are continuing to meet with the all the NH stakeholders regarding the FMO Hazmat Coordinator Position. We will be compiling this feedback in an effort to evaluate the state's current needs and future direction.
- Social Media/Public Outreach: We were able to post a video about the emergency removal of a firework device that was viewed over 7,000 times. We also recorded our first Facebook live event drawing for 3 FPW banners for fire departments that have FPW events.

We are continuing to deliver the Remembering When Program across the state which is focused on trip and fall prevention as well as fire safety for the older population. Our Youth Fire Setter Task Force is gaining momentum as they increase the awareness of the statewide problem of youth fire setters and reporting for intervention□

- Building Construction Career Days□□ On September 26 and 27 members of the FMO mechanical section, public education section, and building safety section attended the event in New Boston where 1,500 students attended to learn about careers in construction and the trades. The sprinkler trailer was also there on site and inspectors gave demonstrations about fire sprinklers .
- CO and Fire Safety: The Vermont and NH Fire Safety and Carbon

Monoxide Awareness and Prevention Summit will be held in Lebanon on November 5th and 6th. This is a free event (including lunch each day) which focuses on preventing death and injuries, specifically pertaining to Vermont and NH. The registration is open for this event, for more details contact our Public Education Section.

- *Fire Prevention Week*: Governor Sununu signed the proclamation declaring the week of October 6-12, 2019 as Fire Prevention Week. The FMO public educators and accelerant detection K-9 teams will be at events all over the state this week to help local fire departments promote fire safety in their communities.
- *State Fire Marshal's Award of Excellence*: Has a student within your community used their education and knowledge to help prevent a possible fire and life incident by seeking out the appropriate assistance to insure that the situation is safer? Has a student within your community responded appropriately during an emergency, by demonstrating key fire and life safety behaviors; dialing 911 to report an incident and calmly providing information to a dispatcher; or performed a lifesaving medical maneuver? The ***State Fire Marshal's Award of Excellence in Fire & Life Safety*** program recognizes New Hampshire students in grades prekindergarten through high school that do an outstanding act in the area of Fire and Life Safety that benefits the lives and wellbeing of those around them. We want to recognize these home town heroes!

Fire Standards/Training/EMS – (Nick Mercuri)

Logistics-

A few out-of-service announcements:

The Concord drill yard pump house is having some work done. It appears there is an issue with bearings. Water supply is not an issue as we are now using the drill yard hydrant system.

We are working with the DOS business office to expend funds from a settlement to the state to replace diesel apparatus. It may be possible to replace several pieces with the funding.

Our hazardous Materials tanker rollover prop is now back on the drill yard and in service.

Programs-

The Fire Investigator Certification program is nearing completion. The students have provided verbal feedback so far and are giving excellent reviews of the program and the instructors. They completed their first fire investigation practical scenario.

We hosted NH 2019 Trauma Conference on September 26 and 27 with approximately 75 attendees.

We will be starting our Fire Officer II program next week. The New Instructor candidate training program has been successful with 5 new instructors now hired on as probationary instructors for our fire and EMS programs.

Recruit school - We graduated 27 new firefighters from the summer recruit program for 2019. We will begin planning for the 2020 recruit program in the coming weeks.

Budget- The Continuing resolution has come to an end and we are now working off of our 2019/2020 biennial budget

Other news-

On October 4, Executive Councilor Cryans toured our drill yard and firehouse. We discussed new equipment and apparatus purchases, and other resource needs of our Division. We also viewed demonstrations by our Lakes Region CC FF I program students as well as our Fire Investigator students. Finally, he toured the technical rescue building observing the many uses of this resource.

We have instituted an easy-to-access student evaluation form in an online format. This was one of our initiatives in our Customer Service Plan. We are eliminating the paper evaluations and staff will now have the ability to monitor in real-time, the feedback that students are giving us.

Bureau of EMS – (Justin Romanello) –

State of NH Medical Director RFP – Ongoing process. Clinical Bulletin #55 and #56. Multi-Function Cardiac Monitor Clinical Bulletin #58 NPA Failures EMS Rules – Cleaned up version is currently posted on the website DHHS - Request to work on an Ambulance/Medical Mobilization plan similar to Fire Mobilization Plan EMS Operations • NREMT Remote Testing Site for Cognitive Exam o NREMT Remote Testing Coordinator – Part-Time – Budget Approved Clinical Systems • PIFT/Critical Care Workgroup – Making great strides • Open Positions - o Trauma Coordinator – Full-Time – Budget Approved o PIFT/Critical Care Program Coordinator – Part-Time – Budget Approved o MIH Program Coordinator – Part-Time – Budget Approved Data Systems • DERMIS – User Management System o Ongoing developmental meetings with ImageTrend • Open Positions - o TEMSIS Elite Support Specialist Coordinator – Full-Time – In-Process of Interviewing o Records Management Coordinator – Part-Time – In-Process of Interviewing EMS Training • Continuing Education o Teleconferencing ♣ Hospital Sites – 10 Sites and 2 upcoming • Bethlehem and Gorham • Concord Hospital, Wentworth Douglas Hospital, New London Hospital, Monadnock Hospital, St Joseph’s Hospital, 45th Parallel EMS, Cheshire Medical Center and Dartmouth Medical Center • Linwood Ambulance and SOLO EMS o Weekend Quarterly Training ♣ 0830 – 1230 Saturdays ♣ 14 December 2019 • Initial Programs o EMR Course – Late Fall • Open Positions o Simulation Program Coordinator – Bruce Goldthwaite 11 October o Staff Instructor – In process Special Projects • Educational Training Agencies – Ongoing development • Stakeholders presentation to all IC’s o CB presentation in November Recruitment and Retention ♣ Workforce Engagement Study with office of Rural Health ♣ The aim of the surveys is to find out what drives people to become a provider, barriers to maintaining certification, and what drives people to leave the profession ♣ All respondents will begin the survey the same way and the first question will direct them to one of the categories ♣ The surveys have been pilot-tested with 6 providers from a variety of

circumstances, new, current, and non-returning licensees and they had some excellent feedback and updates for the surveys.

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

- If anyone wants a pallet of water, he has one pallets left. Please let him know tonight. You have to come to the Brookline Fire Station to pick it up.

Homeland Security and Emergency Management – (Director Harper)

- Assistant Director Kevin LaChapelle – onboard since 9/2
- Disaster Update – July 11th major rain/flooding in Grafton County. Took new approach and are using the FEMA Integration Team (FIT) recovery staff person who is assigned to HSEM and is working with HSEM F.Rep and communities; it is working extremely well.
- Swiftwater Rescue Working Group – assessing statewide swift/flood rescue resources
 - Grant funds available once assessment is completed.
- US DHS Homeland Security Grants Committee Meeting 10/9
 - FY20 \$ carved out for Swiftwater/HazMat/MMRS/IAC/SOU/Exercises/Training
 - Competitive for CBRNE/Respose/Recovery
 - Funds available Fall 2020
- Threat and Identification and Risk Assessment (THIRA)/Stakeholder Preparedness Review (SPR)

The THIRA is an **analysis of the threats and hazards** that the State could potentially face based on **specific probable scenarios**. **Stakeholder Preparedness Review (SPR)** is an annual three-step self-assessment of a community's capability levels based on the capability targets identified in the THIRA.

We appreciate everyone's input on this year's THIRA/SPR process we are tracking to submit it next month – a month ahead of time.
- School Taskforce Recommendations Working Group continues to meet on monthly basis
 - 59 Recommendations: 24 completed; 25 in progress; 8 monitoring; 2 ongoing
 - School Resource Center – 'one stop' for anything to do with schools for teachers, principals, SAUs, parents–plans, SOPs, templates, etc. Send us items that would help to populate the site.
- Meeting with the National Weather Service Gray, ME Officials next week – discussion on products, how we can get info to communities more effectively and

efficiently. Survey coming out from HSEM asking questions on how everyone gets and/or wants to get information.

- Seabrook Station Exercise Series beginning next month through next September. Appreciate all the Seabrook towns input and look forward to a successful cycle of exercises.
- See Something, Say Something (aka S4) – we still have a lot of materials and would like to see them in all public buildings – let your F.Rep know if you want them.

EMS Trauma Medical Review Board – (Chief Allard) (No report)

Forests and Lands – Chief Sherman – (No report)

Building Code Review Board – (Chiefs Powers/Tetreault)

- Building Code Review Board – We are still wrapping our minds around some of the last-second changes in the laws passed, and how we will handle them. We meet this Friday and will be reviewing a number of proposed amendments relative to baby changing stations and universal changing station for large venues.

Manufactured Housing Installation Standards Board: Chief Powers

- Manufactured Housing Installation Standards Board – No meetings; no report. I've been nominated to continue to serve on the board. I have the task of calling each of the executive council members prior to October 23rd to beg for their support before the vote.

Board of Fire Control – Chief Andrus / Chief Clark

- Fire Marshal Parisi provided an update to the Board on the adoption of the 2015 codes and the training sessions that are being offered, as well as the other activities of the State Fire Marshal's Office. The Board reviewed a request for a code amendment relating to ridge setbacks for photovoltaic systems on residential roofs and set a public hearing for November 20, 2019 at 12:30 p.m.

Emergency Services and Communications – Director Doyle

- 10/4 – Communications Truck/IMV sent to UNH for Homecoming / Communications support;
- 9/26 – Communications Support meeting re: Protest preparations with Bow EOC/Police/Fire and State Police at Bow EOC;
- 9/26 – Department of Safety meeting to coordinate activities and Communications Support for the protest in Bow;
- 9/26 – Communications Trailer sent to Bow to support emergency first responders with communications assets during the planned protests;
- 9/28 – Division members / Radio Comms & ESF #2 manned the ICP and SEOC during the Bow protests;

- 9/27 – E9-1-1 Commission meeting held at the IPOC. PSAP orientation provided for new members;
- 9/30 – Director Doyle and Asst. Director DeNutte attended the “Committee of Merit Awards” where Former Commissioner Doug Aiken was recognized for his service as Chief of Lakes Region Fire Mutual Aid and for his long service as Chair of the E9-1-1 Commission;
- 9/19 - Assisted Portsmouth PD and the Pease Passport / Visa centers with Variable message board signage/support for their active shooter exercise;
- 9/26 - Deployed Communications Command post and radio Trailers to the Bow power plant for support of Bow and State police;
- 9/20 - Communications Trailer delivered to Brookline for their 250th parade celebration, supporting first responders during the events;
- 9/20 - SIEC meeting providing updates on working group projects and P25 Radio roll-out;
- 9/23 - Director Doyle, Asst. Director DeNutte and Asst. Commissioner Bailey met with members of the Keene Fire Department and Southwest Fire Mutual Aid in Keene to talk about 9-1-1 service and call transfers;
- 9/4 - P25 Radio system cutover to the new State Police Radio system – Troop “A” successfully transitioned to the new system;
- 9/5 - P25 Radio system cutover to the new State Police Radio system – Troop “B” successfully transitioned to the new system;
- 9/10 - P25 Radio system cutover to the new State Police Radio system – Troop “C” successfully transitioned to the new system;
- 9/11 - P25 Radio system cutover to the new State Police Radio system scheduled – Troops “D” and “E” transitioned to the new system;
- 9/23 - P25 Radio system cutover to the new State Police Radio system scheduled – Troop “F” transitioned to the new system;
- 9/6 - Director Doyle met with State Police and Amber Alert Committee to discuss protocol revision to include “Blue Alerts”;
- 9/3 - Director Doyle spoke at the Nashua Area Radio Society, an amateur radio club associated with NH Amateur Emergency Radio Service which support the Division of Emergency Services and Communications during EOC operations;
- 9/10 – 9/11 Joined AT&T / FirstNet representatives to talk about the FirstNet Roadmap and AT&T buildout and interoperable opportunities using FirstNet at the two-day symposium at the National Guard RTI in Pembroke;
- 8/15 – Director Doyle attended the Halias Symposium at UNH with the SWIC, John Stevens;
- 8/28 – SWIC, John Stevens, attended the North Country Interoperability Consortium meeting in Hanover;
- 8/15 – Command Trailer sent to the Jaffrey Fireworks Celebration to provide communications support for First Responders who will be working the event;
- 8/15 – Command Vehicle sent to assist NHSP with Communications support in Claremont with barricaded subject;
- 8/20 – Command Communications Vehicle sent to Gilmanton iron works, participating in Touch- A-Truck” event;
- Variable message boards sent to:
 - o Wilton re: Old Home Days celebration (x2);

- o Concord for the Bridges House Celebration (x3);
- 8/20 – Command Trailer sent to assist First Responders with communications support in Pembroke at their Old Home Days celebration;
- 8/27 – Command Trailer sent to Hopkinton State Fair to assist First Responders with Communications Support for the Fair;

E-911 Commission – (Chief Thomas) – He mentioned action being taken to eliminate having to dial 9 before getting out on phone systems for emergency calls. He also mentioned that action is being taken to identify specific lines in large building specific to emergencies.

New England Division of the IAFC – Chief Rhodes

He recommended that members access all of the information available on the IAFC website. Also, April 8 and 9 will be the annual conference and meeting in Mystic, CT. He also spoke of the opportunity that he and Chief Buxton had to participate in the “Connections” program. He mentioned that Manchester and Nashua are the only two agencies in NH eligible to participate. He suggested that we lobby the IAFC to allow more that those to agencies to participate.

New England Association of Fire Chiefs – Chief Jones reported that they are moving forward with the merger. The lawyers are working at the process now. He also reminded everyone that the June, 2020 NE Chiefs’ Conference will be at the DCU Center in Worcester, MA. Chief Christopoulos stated that they are working to have votes in each section of NE to vote on the proposal.

Recruitment and Retention Committee – (Chief Beattie) – (no report)

Old Business –

New Business – A MOTION (Christopoulos/Cotreau) to contribute \$500 to the NH/VT Fire Service Summit carried unanimously.

Good and Welfare –

The next meeting will be held at the NHAFC Professional Enhancement Weekend at the Red Jacket Mountain View Resort at 1300 hours on Saturday, November 9.

The raffle was held with \$285 taken and \$145 distributed. Counted by Chiefs Christopoulos and Sitar.

A MOTION to adjourn, carried at 1943 hours.

GO PATS!

Respectfully submitted,
Chief Brent T. Lemire, Ret.
Executive Director/Secretary, NHAFC
October 10, 2019