**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 10, 2022 – NH Fire Academy, Concord, NH

PRIOR TO THE MEETNG A PRESENTATION ON THE RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION REPORT WAS MADE BY KIMBERLY MCCULLOCH.

ALSO, JIM HEINZ, FIRE AND EMS LIASON FOR THE NHIAC INTRODUCED HIMSELF AND EXPLAINED THEIR FUNCTION.

The meeting was called to order at 0927 hours by Chief Best.

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

Justin Cutting, Director of FST/EMS welcomed everyone to the meeting.

INTRODUCTION OF MEMBERS.

**Special Guests:**  Commissioner Robert Quinn was introduced. He thanked his team and is appreciative of our commitment and support for his efforts.

**Minutes** of the October 13 meeting have been posted. A MOTION (S. Buxton/Poulin) to accept carried unanimously.

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

**Communications**: n/a

**Applications for membership**: Chief Clifford Plourde and Asst. Chief Brian Dubruiel of New Boston and Chief Michael McShane of Dover were approved as new members.

**Life Memberships:** Chief Chris Christopoulos of Lebanon was awarded Life Membership by the board.

**President’s Report: (Best) –**

1. On October 31st, the BOD and some of the members had a productive zoom meeting with Senator Hassen to discuss some legislation and topics that are important to us as Fire Chiefs.
2. Sgt. At Arms- Chief Hunter of Bedford was interested in filling this position for the remainder of the term which ends in April of 2023; the BOD voted to have Chief Hunter fill the Sgt. At Arms position. This move created another opening for Full-time Chief on the BOD which was sent out to the membership and closed 11/9 at 1200pm. Action to fill the Full-time Chief BOD position will be taken at the next meeting.
3. The PTSD Committee vacancy needed clarity. It appears this position has been double filled. Chief Watkins was nominated to fill the 6 months ago. Our committee records were off and with the retirement of Chief Buxton we thought it needed to be filled, but that was not the case.
4. The FST Commission vacancy for career chief was discussed. Chief Don DeAngelis of Epping was nominated by the BOD; filling of this position will go through the Governor and Executive Council process.
5. The Building Code Review Board vacancy nomination by BOD for Chief Matthew Conley of Amherst to fill this position; the nomination goes to the Commissioner of Safety for appointment. He also consented to represent us on the NH Traffic Safety Committee.
6. There are remaining vacancies which will be handled next BOD meeting.
	1. Manufactured Housing Standards Board- Municipal Fire Chief- appointment by?
	2. Mass Casualty Incident Management Committee- NHAFC Member- BOD appointment
	3. Interoperability Committee- City Chief- DOS Commissioner Appt.
* Reviewing our list to make sure we have not missed any openings
* Once we have the list completed we will post it in the members section of the web-site so members know who to contact should they have a question of a particular committee or board
1. After January 1st, it is the goal of the BOD to sit and discuss the NHAFC strategic plan to ensure it is up to date and determine if anything has fallen by the wayside and needs to be picked up again.
2. The BOD voted to approve a one-year agreement for our Government Relations firm J. Grimbilas Strategic Solutions. They have been doing a great job for us and will continue to be our eyes and ears at the State House.
3. The NH AG Office Line of Duty Death Appeals panel met last Tuesday November 1st. This hearing was an open to the public hearing as decided upon by the widow. The panel was overseen by Michael Haley from the AGs office. By RSA the appeal panel consisted of a medical doctor, a NHAFC rep, a member from the professional organization the decedent belonged to and two citizens not associated with the professions of police or fire. The members of the panel were Nate Nichols from the Wolfeboro FD, Doctor David Conway, Nina Gardner and Lauren Greenwald who were the two citizens. After hearing information provided by the widow and Attorney Hilts from the DOS, the panel unanimously voted to overturn the LODD benefit denial and grant approval for a LODD benefit to be received.

**Executive Director’s Report (Lemire) –**

* The next board meeting will be Wednesday, December 7 at the Primex facility in Concord.
* The December meeting will be held at the Café 532 in Jaffrey on the 8th. There will be 3 meal choices and sign-up information will be posted shortly
* The January meeting will be virtual.
* Board members will be attending the North Country Public Safety Awards dinner tomorrow night in Bretton Woods.
* The Primex Conference will be in Portsmouth this year and we have been asked to partner with them again.
* We will be working with the Legislative Committee and our Government Relations firm to set up another Legislative Breakfast. Stay tuned for additional information.

**1st Vice President Report (Emanuel**) – Legislative Report

* He spoke of the election results and how it will impact future legislation and how it affects our association.
* November 16 will feature a conference call with PFFNH on retirement system legislation.
* Adam Smith provided clarity in the election results and possible impacts.

**2nd Vice President Report (Watkins) –**

* He stated that the PTSD Committee will be meeting next week and he will have more information at the next meeting.

**Sgt. At Arms (Hunter) –** No report

***Committee Reports***

**Scholarship Committee – (Marshal Toomey) – n/r**

***Division Reports***

***Fire Marshal* – (Marshal Toomey)**

**ADMINISTRATION:**

***Personnel:***

We currently have 7 full-time vacancies and 3 part-time vacancies. The following openings are those that we are actively recruiting for at this time:

Full-time Fire Investigator (2 positions) - background in process, onboarding in December

Full-time Fire Investigator (1 position) - posted internally until 11/10

Full-time State Building Inspector- applicant withdrew, posted posted

Full-time Hazmat Coordinator

Part time State Building Inspector

 Part-time Building Code Review Board Administrative Secretary

 Part-time 91-a & Rules Coordinator

***School Safety:***

A reminder that annual school inspections are required pursuant to RSA 153:14. These inspections are required while school is in session. Fire Chiefs shall submit a written report to the State Fire Marshal no later than December 15th.

School safety resources are available on the following website: NH School Safety Resources https://schoolsafetyresources.nh.gov/

***State Fire Code:***

Governor Sununu signed HB 1681 into law on July 1, 2022 which updates the state building and fire codes.  This bill is effective immediately.  There is a six month grace period for building permits to allow projects in queue to follow the 2015 or 2018 code.  This means the State Fire Code as defined in RSA 153 will be the 2018 editions of NFPA 1 and NFPA 101 with amendments.  The amendments are reflected in Saf-FMO 300. Please reach out with any challenges with the 2018 codes.

Code update classes at the Fire Academy in Concord on November 15th and the Burton Fire Training Facility in Bethlehem on November 16th. Each day will include an afternoon and evening session.

**BUREAU OF INVESTIGATIONS:**

In the month of October, we received seventeen incident notifications resulting in six responses. We continue to investigate ten open arson cases from previous months and added two new arson cases in October. The Bureau of Investigations currently has twelve active arson or suspected arson investigations.

***New/Active cases (synopsis of our cases are listed below):***

* + On October 3, 2022, an investigator and his canine partner responded to Bartlett for a past-tense shed fire. The owners found that the shed had burned down over the last month sometime. The cause of the fire is undetermined at this time.
	+ On October 9, 2022, an investigator and his canine partner assisted with an investigation of an outside fire in Laconia that burned into a garage that stored a number of different chemicals. The cause of the fire is undetermined.
	+ On October 14, 2022, an investigator responded to a MV fire with a possible IED in Somersworth. State Police EOD personnel responded and determined the IED was not a threat. The MV fire was determined to be arson and the investigation is ongoing.
	+ On October 18, 2022, an investigator and his canine partner responded to assist the Nashua Fire Department with their investigation of a building under construction that had caught fire. A canine sniff was conducted with the local agency being the lead on the investigation.
	+ On October 21, 2022, investigators responded to Keene for a plane that had crashed into a multi-unit residential building, causing a fire. The two fatalities were the plane’s crew. Autopsies were conducted the following day but the cause and manner of their deaths are pending further studies.
	+ On October 23, 2022, an investigator responded to a kitchen fire in Hooksett. The fire was related to a domestic violence incident, with the suspect admitting to starting the fire.

***Fatal Fire:***

There was one fatal fire in the month of October. A female victim from Barrington succumbed to injuries she sustained on October 23rd from a residential fire. The fire appears to have been intentionally set by the victim.

***Ignitable Liquid Detection Canine Teams:***

Our two IGL Canine Teams were deployed three times in the month of October and attended nine demonstrations.

***Public Outreach:***

Three youth firesetter assessments were conducted during the month of October.

**BUREAU OF BUILDING SAFETY & CONSTRUCTION:**

***State Building Permit System:***

We processed 24 building permit applications in the month of October.

***Technical Assistance, Educational & Healthcare Reviews:***

We initiated 4 educational and 4 healthcare plan reviews, completed 128 inspections and 130 technical consults in the month of October.

***Variance Requests:***

We processed 4 variance requests 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.

Further discussions and work is ongoing to evaluate the hazmat problem and funding sources.

***Swiftwater Rescue Working Group:***

Further discussions and work is ongoing to evaluate the swiftwater problem and funding sources.

***Regional Outreach/Chief’s Roundtables:***

We continue to partner with Director Cutting and staff and the NHAFC to conduct regional outreach/Chief’s Roundtables.

***Incident Reporting:***

If you don’t have an account already to securely transfer and receive files with the NHFMO, please register for free today! More info included in this link: SFTP2020bulletin.pdf (nh.gov).

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 giving a presentation on the program or would like to request one, please email NHESR@dos.nh.gov.

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.

***Public Education:***

October was a very busy month as we participated in over twenty events to highlight Fire Prevention Week and the theme “Fire Won’t Wait. Plan Your Escape.” The public education team would like to thank all of the departments and organizations that asked us to join them in their FPW community events.

 November 5-12 is National Carbon Monoxide Awareness Week. Find more information at www.safekids.org.

Thank you for all you do to keep your communities safe!

***Community Outreach:***

On October 16, 2022, members of the FMO Public Education Team attended the Girl Scout Expo at the Bedford Sportsplex. The event was well attended and we were able to share fire safety education with many, with a focus on escape planning and home fire drills.

On October 21, 2022, members of the FMO and a K9 Team attended the White Mountains Regional High School’s Outdoor Expo Career Fair in Whitefield. We were able to showcase the variety of career opportunities within the FMO and provided K9 demonstrations to students in grades 9-12.

In the month of October, members of the FMO Public Education Team provided Fire Safety Workshops to seniors in Claremont and Nashua. We covered topics such as kitchen safety and fall prevention with participants.

***Training Opportunities***:

On October 12, 2022, we delivered an *Inspection Essentials: Part I* class at the Wilton Fire Department from 6:30-9:00PM.

On October 19, 2022, we offered a *Display Fireworks Emergency Response Training* class to 65 participants. The class provided hands on training with topics such as assembling a display, equipment inspections, product handling/loading, product malfunctions, etc.

On November 9, 2022, we will be offering an *Inspection Essentials: Part II* class at the Wilton Fire Department from 6:30-9:00PM. This session is a continuation of Part 1, as well as exploring frequently asked questions and common violations encountered in NFPA 101.

We will be offering four sessions of *NFPA 1 & 101: 2018 Edition Updates* on November 15and 16, 2022. The first session will be held at the NHFA on November 15th from 1:00PM-4:00PM. An evening session will also be held from 6:00PM-9:00PM. On November 16th a session will be held at the Raymond Burton Training Facility in Bethlehem from 1:00PM-4:00PM, with an additional evening session from 6:00PM-9:00PM. This seminar will provide attendees with an overview of the changes, updates, removals and additions to NFPA 1 and NFPA 101 from the 2015 to 2018 editions of the codes.

If you would like to register for these classes, please email stacey.l.dubois@dos.nh.gov. Additional programs are in the works. Please reach out if you are interested in hosting a program or would like to suggest a future training topic.

***Fire Standards/Training/EMS* – (Director Cutting)**

**ADMINISTRATION**

*Personnel*

* Melinda Frick began as a full-time Program Assistant I on November 4th.
* Tiffany Doucet began as a full-time Program Assistant I on November 4th.
* David Simpson began as our full-time EMS Training Coordinator position on November 4th.
* Andrea Kolden began as our part-time Informational Representative (Communications and Social Media) on November 4th.
* Brad Wilson has been hired as our part-time Program Coordinator position for EMS in the Warm Zone.
* Drew Toma has been hired as our part-time Program Coordinator for the EMS Simulation position.
* An offer has been made for our full-time position for an Administrative Supervisor position with an anticipated start date in late November.
* We have interviews scheduled for our two open full-time Fire Service Instructor Supervisor (Captain) positions and our open Curriculum Administrator position.
* One full-time EMS Training Coordinator in Bethlehem position is open and we are seeking applicants.
* Our part-time Program Coordinator position for the Fire Officer program is open and we are seeking applicants.

*Grants*

* We continue to work with the architectural firm on the design process for the Raymond S. Burton Fire and EMS Training Facility project.
	+ Our estimated timeline to begin construction is the spring of 2023.
	+ We are working with all parties to overcome the challenge of significant price increases in construction costs over the last year.

*Fire Standards and Training Commission / Curriculum*

* The next Fire Standards and Training Commission meeting will be November 10th at 1030 in Classrooms 5/6 in the dormitory building at the main campus. *\*Please note the date and time change.* The full schedule for 2023 will be voted on at the November meeting.
	+ The Visiting Committee’s for the development of a Fire Officer III & IV program and the Technical Rescue Program – Rope Operations and Technician continue their work.
* 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.
	+ 63 departments have reported to date.

*Special Projects*

* A new training opportunity, *Preventing Harassment and Discrimination for Fire and EMS leaders,* will be held at the Concord campus on December 6th from 0830-1130. This is being conducted in partnership with the Human Rights Commission and the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.
* We are planning to upgrade the current Online Learning Academy to a new platform.  This upgrade is scheduled for January 1, 2023

*Legislative/Administrative Rules*

* 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.

*Outreach*

* We are continuing our Leadership Roundtables with the Commissioner, Fire Marshal’s Office and regional Fire Chief’s with additional dates being planned this fall and early winter of 2023.

*Mental Health & Resiliency*

* The *2023 Mental Health Leadership Seminar* will be held on January 9, 2023. This is a second offering of the seminar that was held at the NH Fire and EMS Academy on June 8th.
	+ The planning group is also working towards “Part 2”.

**BUREAU OF FIRE TRAINING**

*Courses/Programs*

* Firefighter I
	+ The Jaffrey and Bristol classes continue.
	+ The Lakes Region Community college Firefighter I and II class is ongoing.
	+ The Bethlehem class will begin on January 18, 2023.
	+ The East Kingston class will begin on January 28, 2023.
* Firefighter II
	+ The Bethlehem class is complete.
	+ The Plaistow class is complete.
	+ The Henniker class began October 12th.
	+ The Colebrook class will begin in the spring.
* Technical Rescue
	+ Swift Water Level II in Conway is completeand another will begin in Bedford beginning April 28, 2023.
	+ Rope Rescue Operations being held in Durham is complete.
	+ Confined Space Rescue begins at the Concord campus on January 22, 2023.
	+ Ice Rescue Technician will begin in Center Harbor January 21, 2023, in Campton on March 11, 2023 and in Sunapee - date TBD.
	+ Swift Water/Flood Rescue Boat Operator will begin in Bedford on April 10, 2023.
	+ Swift Water Level I will begin in Bedford on June 9, 2023.
* Driver Operator
	+ Driver Operator programs have or will be held in Chichester, Goffstown, Bedford, Northwood, Henniker, Ossipee and Lyme.
		- Partner delivery programs have been conducted in Bedford and Derry with more planned.
	+ All Driver Operator All Vehicle programs will include the necessary content for eligibility for CDL licensing.
		- We have confirmed that this will also allow individuals that live in Vermont, Massachusetts or Maine the ability to test for their CDL as well.
* Facilities and Prop Usage
	+ We hosted Seabrook Station fire brigade members who conducted annual training at the main campus in Concord.
* Online Training Courses
	+ “Fire Mobilization” is a free 1 hour program that supports the NH Federation of Mutual Aid “Fire (& EMS) Mobilization Plan”
	+ “Fire Service Communications” is a free 1 hour program.
* All of the curricula for programs may be found at https://nhfa-ems.com/curricula/ . Departments have asked for this information so it can be used in the delivery of local training drills and evolutions.
* For all current course listings you can go to https://nhfa-ems.com/scheduled-courses/
* To RSVP a dorm room you can go to the links at https://nhfa-ems.com/academy-resource-request/ and https://www.nh.gov/safety/divisions/fstems/documents/dormpayment.pdf
	+ There are no fees for New Hampshire emergency service personnel. For emergency service personnel from another state or non-emergency service personnel the fee is $40 per person, per night.

*Facilities*

* We continue to work with NH Public Works on getting the design and engineering complete to repair the roadway washout on the south side of the drill yard at the Concord campus. An engineering firm has been hired to design the reconstruction.
* Our facilities team is conducting additional work at the Concord campus repairing many of the storm drain/catch basins.

*Apparatus/Equipment*

* The new ARFF truck is in production at E-One in Ocala, Fl. and delivery is expected in the fall of 2023 which is later than anticipated.
* The new Engine bid has been awarded to Rosenbauer. At this time it appears the chassis will be available in early 2023 with an anticipated timeframe for completion later that fall.

**BUREAU OF CERTIFICATION AND SUPPORT**

*Courses/Programs*

* Instructor I/II/III Programs
	+ Instructor I in Portsmouth began October 4th.
* Fire Officer I/II Programs
	+ The Campton Fire Officer I class began October 27th.
	+ Fire Officer II is being held virtually and began on September 29th.
	+ Fire Officer I will begin in Epping January 21, 2023.
* Fire Inspector Programs
	+ The Fire Inspector I class in Portsmouth began September 21st.
	+ The Warrants and Citations course will be held December 14th & 15th.
	+ Fire Inspector I will begin in Concord January 10th, 2023 and at the Bethlehem campus on April 1, 2023.
	+ Fire Inspector II will begin at the Concord campus on April 6, 2023.
* Fire Investigator
	+ The 2022 offering is complete.
* National Fire Academy
	+ Crew Resource Management and High Reliability Organization was held in Concord on October 5th and virtually on October 20th.
	+ Leadership in Supervision: Framework to Success was held in Concord October 25th.
	+ Fire Service Safety Culture: Protecting Firefighters from Firefighters will be held in Concord November 5th and 6th.
	+ Shaping the Future will be held beginning January 10, 2023.
	+ Strategy and Tactics for Initial Company Operations will begin Concord February 11, 2023.
	+ Youth Firesetter Intervention Specialist will begin at the Concord campus on March 14, 2023.
	+ Leadership in Supervision: Creating Environments for Professional Growth will be held in Bethlehem on April 11, 2023.
* Incident Command
	+ ICS 300 and 400 are in person courses that are offered at no cost to students and funded through grants. These are delivered in conjunction with Homeland Security and Emergency Management.
		- ICS 300 will be held Concord beginning January 31, 2023.
* We have developed a new 6 hour non-certification program titled “Your Workplace has Changed: Fire Dynamics for Structural Firefighting”.
	+ The second class was held at the Concord campus on November 9th.
* “Kitchen Table Conversations”
	+ We continue to produce podcasts on a wide range of fire and EMS topics with a diverse group of special guests. These can be found at https://nhfa-ems.com/kitchen-table-conversations/
* For all current course listings you can go to https://nhfa-ems.com/scheduled-courses/
* To RSVP a dorm room you can go to the links at https://nhfa-ems.com/academy-resource-request/ and https://www.nh.gov/safety/divisions/fstems/documents/dormpayment.pdf
	+ There are no fees for New Hampshire emergency service personnel. For emergency service personnel from another state or non-emergency service personnel the fee is $40 per person, per night.

*Instructors*

* We continue to work on the Instructor Recruitment Plan and analyzing the onboarding process.
	+ We are reaching out to all instructors that have not taught in the last 24 months to determine their future plans teaching here at the academy and assist them with becoming current if they choose to.

*CPAT*

* The last 2022 CPAT was held September 19th & 20th.
	+ The list has been distributed.

*Testing*

* We continue to work with the Department of Information and Technology to finalize the RFP for new testing software for the Division. When complete 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 and the NH Emergency Medical and Trauma Services Coordinating Board meetings will take place at 0900 and 1300, respectively, on November 17th in classrooms 5 & 6 in the dormitory building.
* The NH Trauma Medical Review Committee (TMRC) will meet at 0930 on December 21st in classroom 2 in the administration building.

*Operations*

* The EMR renewal process in September was successfully completed with only eighteen individuals not relicensing.
* The Criminal History Record Information timeline is currently averaging approximately 4 weeks.
* Administrative rules for Educational Training Agencies have been drafted and are under review by the Department of Safety legal unit.
* The process of licensing wheelchair vans for hire and out of state rotary wing ambulance licensing is ongoing and we continue to make progress.

*Courses/Programs*

* A Mobile Integrated Healthcare Provider course begins at the Concord campus on January 19, 2023 and at the Bethlehem campus on January 24, 2023.
	+ The MIH-P continuing education program consists of classes developed to equip experienced EMS providers with the skills they need to succeed in a mobile integrated healthcare program.
* The fall 2022 Emergency Medical Responder (EMR) course began October 12th and is being held in Stratham, Walpole and Pittsburg.
* EMS in the Warm Zone 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.
* Our EMS Education Coordinator continues the monthly continuing education courses at the Concord campus and regionally around the State.
	+ For all current course listings you can go to https://nhfa-ems.com/scheduled-courses/
* To RSVP a dorm room you can go to the links at https://nhfa-ems.com/academy-resource-request/ and https://www.nh.gov/safety/divisions/fstems/documents/dormpayment.pdf
	+ There are no fees for New Hampshire emergency service personnel. For emergency service personnel from another state or non-emergency service personnel the fee is $40 per person, per night.

*Clinical Systems*

* The Public Health Incident declared by Commissioner Shibinette of NH Department of Health and Human Services has been extended to December 31, 2022. The extension of the Public Health Incident allows for the continuation of all Emergency Protocols and any modifications to ambulance staffing requirements. These include:
	+ - We are continually reviewing these Emergency Protocols for their effectiveness on the delivery of patient care as well as well as their necessity in day to day operations within this evolving environment.
* The development of Trauma Rules in still underway and making progress.

*Data Management*

* NFIRS/Respond NH
* Work continues on the New Hampshire Emergency Services Reporting System (NHESR), which is an extension of the TEMSIS system. If you would like to start using the system, please fill out the form available at https://nhfa-ems.com/nhesronboard/.
* There are currently 88 departments that have completed the onboarding process for this software and 56 using it.
* 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
	+ Over twenty thousand EMS incidents were entered into the system in October with 225,846 to date for 2022.

*Compliance*

* There are currently nineteen active investigations and two preliminary cases.

*Preparedness and Special Projects*

* Our Division has a Preparedness and Special Projects Coordinator who is available to assist communities with planning efforts for multiple and mass casualty incidents.

***Fire Standards and Training Commission –* Chiefs Clark/Buxton – n/r**

**NH Emergency Medical and Trauma Services Coord. Board – (Dep. Chief Bean) –** No report. They will be meeting next week.

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

**Homeland Security and Emergency Management – (Dir. Buxton)** –No report

**EMS Trauma Medical Review Board – (Chief Beaudoin)** – No report

**Forests and Lands** – (**Chief Sherman)** –

* Fire activity slowed down through September and most of October. With Fall leaf drop and the warmer temperatures we have seen the fire activity pick up slightly at the end of October. A 9.6 acre fire burned in Gilmanton on October 31st. The cause was determined to be the careless disposal of wood stove ash. This is a good time to remind people to use a fire-resistive bucket for their wood stove ash.
* We have concluded our S-130 Basic Wildland Firefighter trainings for 2022. We are planning more for next year and will post all of the dates early in 2023 so people can plan their attendance ahead of time.
* We had 45 students attend the S-131, Squad Boss; S-230 Crew Boss; and S-231 Engine Boss courses we put on this fall. All of these were held at our Bear Brook facility in Allenstown.
* We awarded the Volunteer Fire Assistance Grants in October. This year we increased our amount from $45,000 to $86,000. We received $120,000 in grant requests. Priority was given to PPE and the last date a town received the grant was taken into consideration. Next year we will have $70,000 available and will keep the 50/50 grant award at $2,499. All towns are encouraged to apply and towns which did not receive the grant this year will be moved up in the priority lists. Thank you to the Grant Committee members for their time and work in awarding these funds: Albert Akerstrom III (Central NH Rep.), Mark Tibbetts (Southeast NH Rep.), John Ross Jr. (Northern NH Rep.), Brian Barden (Southwest Rep.), Charles Corey (National Volunteer Firefighter Council Rep.), Forest Ranger Captain Mike Matson.
* The Forest Protection Bureau has applied for a USFS grant which will allow us to purchase some much needed equipment including a Remote Automated Weather Station, UTV, and a UTV skid unit. We will also be updating some of our fire suppression equipment such as hose, chainsaws and appliances. This funding will also allow us to hire a part time Prescribed Fire Coordinator to work on burn plans and trainings.

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

**Building Code Review Board – (Marshal Lennon) –**

* The only thing I have to report is that we are starting the review of the 2021 IBC codes.  I am working on making sure that the IBC codes are not any less restrictive then the NFPA codes.  I am working with the NHFMO and should have a report complete by January 1.

**Manufactured Housing Installation Standards Board:** (**Chief) - n/r**

**Division of Emergency Services and Communications – (Director Doyle) –**

* Laconia Facility Update: Working with DAS to get latest info on proposed sale of the facility and establish a potential timeline for a move;
* DESC made posts regarding employees of the month; Sudden Cardiac Arrest Awareness; Mental Health; the importance of AEDs;
* October 20, 2022 – “2023 Homeland Security Grant Committee” Organizational Meeting;
* Participated in the Easter Seals – “All Youth Count” event held at St. George’s Church in Manchester;
* November 2, 2022 – NH 988 planning coalition – planning for a First Responder specific meeting to discuss 988 and Access Point interaction with First Responders in Manchester & Littleton;
* November 1, 2022 – APCO Annual Meeting and conference – Mt. Washington Hotel;
* Staffed ESF #2 for the elections in support of HSEM;
* November 7, 2022 - Presented at the HOSA Future Health Professionals annual meeting in Concord;
* Welcomed our Division’s new PIO/Public Education/Outreach Coordinator, Patrick Cavanaugh who replaced Wanda Scott who retired after 27 Years;
* November 4, 2022 – Attended the “Healing through Trauma” seminar at the NHFA;
* November 4, 2022 – Quarterly SIEC Meeting at NHFA;
* November 10, 2022 – Lifesaving event held at the IPOC recognizing our

9-1-1 Telecommunicator, Abigail Rider, Windham Fire & Police personnel as well Mr. David Hughes who was successfully resuscitated during the event after he collapsed in his yard.

**E-911 Commission – (Chief Thomas) –** No report. Meeting in December.

**IAFC Director – (Chief)** – No report

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

* Conference in 2023 will be in October and at Mohegan Sun Casino.
* He clarified the vacancy situation. Director Buxton and Chief Christopoulos are still in their positions until determination of their status is clarified by their actions.

**Old Business**

* Chief Sitar presented NHAFC CFO II certification to FST/EMS Director Justin Cutting; Exeter Deputy Chief Donald Matheson and Barnstead Chief Alfred Poulin. CONGRATULATIONS!

**New Business –**

**Good and Welfare –**

**Raffle –** The raffle was held and $70.00 was given away. $125.00 is to be deposited in the NHAFC budget. Counted by Chiefs Hunter and Watkins.

The meeting was adjourned at 1015 hrs.

Chief Brent T. Lemire, Ret.

Executive Director, NHAFC

November 10, 2022