



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 14, 2024 – Virtual

Called to order at 0905 hours.

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

Welcome from Host: Chief Emanuel welcomed everyone.

INTRODUCTION OF MEMBERS. Chief Lemire read the names of members who had signed up and recorded those present.

Special Guests:

Minutes: A MOTION (Nourse/H. Thomas) to approve the minutes of the October meeting, carried unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: A MOTION (D. Chamberlain/Jones) to approve the financial reports from October, carried unanimously.

Communications: n/a

Applications for membership: n/a

Life Membership: n/a

President's Report: (Emanuel) –

- Chief Emanuel noted that he had represented the NHAFC and contributed to the Interim Report- EV & Lithium-Ion Battery Study Council (SB 430), which has been submitted to the Governor.
- Chief Emanuel noted that he had represented the NHAFC and contributed to the LEO/PFF/EMT Career Development Committee- Final Report, which has been issued from the Commissioner to the Governor.

- Emergency Communications Director Mark Doyle has request for a letter of support to the governor from the NHAFC. Recommendation to address under new business.
- The NHAFC issued a letter of thanks to Senator Sue Prentis for her efforts to address challenges that the NHAFC supports. Thank you Brent for support.
- He had a telephone conversation with PFFNH President Brian Ryll regarding actions being taken by PFFNH regarding the NH Retirement System.
- He has been corresponding with Manchester’s Chief Cashin regarding questions about the NHAFC's position on the Londonderry Fire Department. Emanuel noted that the NHAFC has not been asked for comment regarding Londonderry and have not engaged in the dialogue as an Association. That he has not connected with Bo Butler or anyone from Londonderry and that neither the department or the chief, are not members of the NHAFC.
- He reported that he was pleased to represent the NHAFC at the IAFC NED conference and expo with a number of members to support Chief Jones being sworn in as the NED president.
- He reported that the 83rd NHMA Annual Conference was well attended and that he had received positive feedback from NHAFC members who presented the following programs:
 1. A Fire Chief’s Perspective on Contemporary Leadership and Personnel Challenges - Speaker(s): Dave Emanuel, Steve Buxton, Scott Hunter, and Hank Thomas
 2. Strategic Planning for Emergency Services in 2024 - Speaker(s): Dave Emanuel, Scott Hunter
 3. Transition from Department Head to Municipal Manager/Administrator - Speaker: Kirk Beattie, City Manager, City of Laconia
- He reported that the delivery of the Elephant-in-the-Room Series Aftermath by Tim Barretto at UNH on October 23 was well attended by over 100 people and generated a robust discussion about PTS in first responders and validation of the challenge. From <<https://www.visitnh.gov/things-to-do/events-calendar/events/elephant-in-the-room-series%20%ae-presents-aftermath-by>>
- He shared a Training Opportunity from the Seacoast Chief Fire Officer Mutual Aid District on November 21, 2024 – “The Art of Go/No-Go” Captain Mark Gagliano (retired)
- He also reported that retired NHFMO Fire Investigator Chris Wyman is interested in speaking with the NHAFC membership about documentation and

cancer exposure for our members to ensure that they are entitled to available benefits.

Report of the Executive Director: (Lemire)

- Obviously we're disappointed that we had to cancel the Professional Enhancement Weekend at Waterville Valley. Our November meeting will now be virtual next Thursday, the 14th at 0900.
- The December BOD meeting will be held on the 4th at the Primex facility at 0830 hours.
- The December 12 meeting will now be a dinner meeting at the Nashua Country Club, 25 Fairway St, Nashua. More details to follow.
- We have a vacancy on the Board for the Chief of a "mostly career department." It's been advertised and it will be filled by the Board shortly.
- Our application for 501 c3 has been approved, but before we file the paperwork for charity gaming, we had to fill out additional paperwork to amend our Articles of Incorporation. They have been filed and the fee paid. AS OF NOVEMBER 13, WE ARE APPROVED and will start the process of applying to casinos.
- I've met with East Coast Emergency Outfitters and we will be meeting again to restart our options for shirts, vests, etc. with Assn. logo.
- I attended the NHMA Conference in Manchester October 30/31.
- I attended the New England Association of Fire Chiefs' conference where Chief Jones was installed as President.
- We attended the North Country Public Safety Awards ceremony last Friday, November 8 at the Mt. Washington Hotel.
- Primex reps, Brian Ryll (PFFNH), Justin Cutting and I are meeting at 1100 November 14 to discuss means to insure that all reports on employee injuries are completed timely and accurately.
- Our contract with Grimblas Associates for next year has been approved and signed.
- Ad book proceeds to date: Total: \$32,250; Vendor: \$22,575; Assn: \$9,675.

1st Vice President Report (Watkins) – No report

Government Relations – (Schmidt) –

- Adam shared a list of currently filed bills. He expects many more and they'll have a better handle on which bills to follow closer to the end of the year.

2nd Vice President Report (Hunter) – No report

Sgt. At Arms (Chamberlain) – No report

Committee Reports

Scholarship Committee – (Marshal Toomey) – Four applications for scholarships have been received and they all met the qualifications and have been awarded scholarships.

Division Reports

Fire Marshal: (Marshal Toomey)

ADMINISTRATION:

Personnel:

The following promotions will take place effective November 15, 2024:

Scott Newnan will be promoted to Section Chief of Inspectional Services and Modular Housing

Jane Sinotte will be promoted to Administrative Supervisor

Rebecca Cowser will be promoted to our full-time Community Risk Reduction Specialist

We are actively recruiting for a full-time Fire Investigator, a full-time Hazardous Materials Coordinator, a part-time Hazardous Materials Coordinator and a part-time Recreational Ride and Lift Inspector. Additionally, we will be recruiting shortly for a full-time Amendments Coordinator and a full-time State Building Inspector

Congratulations to District Chief Tony Booth earned certification through the International Association of Arson Investigators, Inc. as a Certified Fire Investigator.

Congratulations to State Fire Marshal Sean Toomey on being elected to the International Code Council Board of Directors.

Legislation:

We are currently monitoring the following bills:

HB 1333 Relative to Prohibiting State Agencies from Buying or Leasing Fleet Electric

Vehicles For 10 Years.

Status: Interim Study Report - Not recommended for future legislation

HB 1602 Relative to The Authority Of The Housing Appeals Board.

Status: Interim Study Report - Not recommended for future legislation

SB 365 Relative to the sale or use of lithium-ion batteries for electric bicycles, scooters or personal electric mobility devices.
Status: Interim Study Report - Not recommended for future legislation

The Legislative Service Requests (LSR's) for the upcoming legislative session are starting to be published. We will be monitoring and release a report of the bills we will be monitoring in a future monthly report.

Board of Fire Control:

The next Board of Fire Control meeting will be held on January 21, 2025 at 1:00 pm.

BUREAU OF INVESTIGATIONS:

In October, we received 19 incident notifications resulting in 8 scene responses. The Bureau of Investigations currently has 9 open arson or suspected arson investigations.

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

- On October 11, an investigator responded to a fire in Sandown. The cause is undetermined but not suspected to be incendiary.
- On October 24, investigators responded to Hudson to assist with the investigation of a motor vehicle fire determined to be incendiary. Hudson Police arrested and charged a person with arson.
- On October 25, investigators responded to Sharon to investigate multiple small fires in a house. They determined that the fires were incendiary and identified a suspect. Charges are pending completion of the investigation.
- On October 30, investigators responded to Greenville for a garage fire. The cause is undetermined but not suspected to be incendiary.

Fatal Fire/CO Incidents:

- On October 4, investigators responded to Bethlehem for a structure fire at a house, with one fatality. The cause is under investigation.
- On October 6, investigators responded to New London for a fatal motor vehicle crash which resulted in a fire. A passenger died in the crash and the driver was arrested by the New Hampshire State Police. The death was determined to be a result of the crash, not the resulting fire.
- On October 8, investigators responded to Northumberland after two people were found deceased in a house. Carbon monoxide poisoning

was initially suspected, but no evidence of a carbon monoxide release was found. The cause and manner of death are still pending results of toxicology tests.

- On October 13, investigators responded to Bedford for a carbon monoxide poisoning incident in a home in which two people died. The cause of the carbon monoxide release is under investigation.

Ignitable Liquid Detection Canine Teams:

There were three IGL canine deployments in October.

Youth Firesetter:

There were four new youth fire setter assessments/intakes in October.

Court:

On October 23, 2024, Nathan G. Nichols was found guilty in Merrimack Superior Court of one Class B Felony for Criminal Mischief and one Misdemeanor charge of Arson from fire investigations that occurred in 2022 and 2023.

BUREAU OF BUILDING SAFETY & CONSTRUCTION:

State Building Permit System:

We processed the following permits in the month of October:

- Building: 16
- Electrical: 10
- Plumbing: 6
- Fuel Gas: 8
- Mechanical Non-Fuel Gas: 7
- Fire Protection: 4
- Fire Alarm: 1

Technical Assistance, Educational & Healthcare Reviews:

We initiated 3 educational and 18 healthcare plan reviews, completed 306 inspections and 166 technical consults in the month of October.

Variance Requests:

We processed 13 variance requests in the month of October.

Fireworks Safety and Enforcement Program

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

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

Modular Building Program

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

- Inspections: 24
- Audits of Manufacturers: 0
- Audits of Educational Facilities: 0
- Labels Issued to Manufacturers: 132
- Units Shipped to New Hampshire: 36

Tramway and Amusement Ride Safety

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

- Amusement Registrations: 29
- Amusement Inspections: 46
- Amusement Incidents: 0
- Tramway Registrations: 24
- Tramway Inspections: 27
- Tramway Incidents: 0

BUREAU OF OUTREACH & EDUCATION:

Hazardous Materials:

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

Our Hazardous Materials Coordinator attended the Haz Mat Collaborative Meeting and the monthly PEAC training in the month of October.

We currently have one more Emergency Response Guidebook training scheduled this fall. Details available below in the “Training Opportunities” section.

Electric Vehicles and Lithium-Ion Batteries

The council to study the impacts of electric vehicles, e-mobility devices, and the associated lithium-ion batteries hazards for first responder response, the environment, building and fire codes, life safety, and property protection continues its work. The interim report of the council was submitted to the Governor and General Court on November 1, 2024. Work will continue through 2025.

Have an EV or lithium-ion battery incident to report? Please fill out this form: [Electric Vehicle \(EV\) and Battery Incident Reporting \(office.com\)](#)

Incident Reporting:

Your commitment to ensuring we have great data to accurately show the fire problem in NH is greatly appreciated!

Please reach out to our NHFIRS team for any incident reporting questions at nhfirs@dos.nh.gov.

We continue to monitor the development of the U.S. Fire Administration’s (USFA) new fire information and analytics platform, known as the National Emergency Response Information System (NERIS), for the American fire and emergency services.

Find more information and resources here: [National Emergency Response Information System \(NERIS\) \(fema.gov\)](#)

The Fire Safety Research Institute (FSRI) hosted their latest informational webinar on October 29th:

NERIS Version 1: Platform Launch and National Rollout

Topics covered:

- An overview of the NERIS V1 launch and onboarding of 100 departments.
- A walkthrough of the user experience and key features.
- The rollout timeline and next steps for fire departments and vendors.
- Information on new onboarding resources, APIs, and Version 1 data schemas.

On-Demand Access Here: [Learn about NERIS Version 1: Platform Launch and National Rollout](#)

Outreach Events:

Members of the SFMO were very busy in the month of October, supporting 28 events and interacting with just over 3,200 people throughout the state. These events included 19 K9 demonstrations as well.







[Interested in having the SFMO join an event in your community? Please reach out to us as early as possible so we can make every effort to attend your event. Send your request to us at \[fmopubliceducation@dos.nh.gov\]\(mailto:fmopubliceducation@dos.nh.gov\).](#)

[Want to know what resources we have available to supplement your event? Check out what is available to loan here: \[Equipment Loan\]\(#\)](#)

[The SFMO's FPW Chalk Art Contest Winner Announced!](#)

[We would like to congratulate the Manchester Fire Department – Station 7 for winning the 2024 Chalk Art Challenge with a total of 246 votes! Thank you to the departments who participated, and we look forward to seeing what you will design next year!](#)



Public Education:

November is Carbon Monoxide Awareness Month!

Each year in the United States, there are over 100,000 emergency visits, 14,000 hospitalizations, and 1,200 deaths due to carbon monoxide poisoning. These numbers are rising; however, carbon monoxide poisoning is preventable.

Carbon monoxide is a silent killer, but with your help, it doesn't need to be.

This month, the National Carbon Monoxide Awareness Association (NCOAA) invites you to use their [CO Awareness Month Toolkit](#) to share safety tips with your network. The toolkit is packed with daily, ready-to-use social media posts and email templates to educate people throughout the month. Spread awareness and save lives.

The USFA's Fire and Life Safety Communicators Initiative is a collaboration among the fire and emergency medical services to speak with "one voice" on fire and life safety. The theme for the month of November is "Lithium-Ion Batteries."



Resources: [Battery Fire Safety](#)

Webinar: <https://youtu.be/KLOBxdiPdeI?si=IrnngJfHD2vLr8YFt>

Find the monthly themes for 2024 here: [Fire and Life Safety Communicators Initiative \(fema.gov\)](#)

Training Opportunities:

An Overview of the 2024 Emergency Response Guidebook

November 21, 2024

6:30PM to 8:30PM

Tuftonboro Central Station

189 Middle Rd., Center Tuftonboro

The Emergency Response Guidebook 2024 (ERG2024) is a guide to aid first responders during an incident involving hazardous materials in transport, by quickly identifying the specific or generic hazards of the material(s) involved; and protecting themselves and the general public during the initial response phase of the incident. This class will include an overview of the 2024 ERG, including changes to the 2024 version, as well as how to use the 2024 ERG during an incident.

Register Here: <https://forms.office.com/g/BSXjQRb7mK>

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

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

Personnel

- We have one vacancy for Program Specialist III (Education Technologist) of the Educational Technology section.
- We have two vacancies for full-time Fire Training Instructor positions.
- We have one vacancy for a Specialty Services Specialist (Mobile Integrated Healthcare) and have made a conditional offer to a candidate.
- We have one vacancy for our part-time Medical Director.
- We have one vacancy for our part-time Communications Specialist and have made a conditional offer to a candidate.
- Rich Myer has begun as our part-time Program Coordinator position for Fire Officer.
- Robin Behl has been hired as our part-time Program Coordinator for EMS Simulation.
- We have one vacancy for our part-time Program Coordinator for EMS Education Assessment Coordinator.
- We have one vacancy for our part-time Program Coordinator for Technical Rescue Programs.
- We have one vacancy for our part-time EMS Vehicle Inspector Coordinator.
- We have vacancies for EMS Vehicle Inspectors and are conducting interviews.

Grants

- The Raymond S. Burton Fire and EMS Training Facility infrastructure project continues to move forward.
 - Ongoing construction meetings are occurring on a regular basis.
 - The Phase II contract has been approved by the Governor and Executive Council with an expected start date early in 2025.
- We are in the process of applying for the 2024 AFG grant which is open from November 12th until December 20th.
- 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.
 - Funding will only be available through the end of 2024.

Special Projects

- We have been working with the Police Academy, Department of Safety personnel, federal partners and local public safety leaders on developing a coordinated strategic approach, training and management of active threat incidents.

- We are working with the NHAFC, PFFNH, State Fireman's Association, the Fire Marshal and Primex on performing a gap analysis in cancer awareness and training.
- With the passage of SB 352 we worked with the committee as outlined in the law to develop an early detection cancer screening pilot program plan. The committee developed the initial plan that was presented to the Commissioner of Safety and Governor, and the Governor approved the plan. We are working to finalize the RFP for this program.
- We continue to work with the NH Department of Insurance on the Ground Ambulance Cost Reporting Program and Study as part of the recently passed SB 407.
- We partnered with the Maine and Vermont Fire Training Academies on a federal grant to develop an EV training curriculum, fund EV training and a train the trainer program throughout all three states. The full application for the grant was submitted on April 30th for a three-year project, \$420,000 for each state specifically for delivery of EV training.
 - We were not awarded this grant. Three agencies were however awarded funding for development of training, and we will be following their progress.
- We continue to work on our website transition and improvements with NH DoIT. Much of this work is being done offline in preparation of a full transition to the new state web platform.
- The *Law Enforcement Officers, Professional Firefighters and Emergency Medical Technicians Career Development, Recruitment and Retention Program* established in New Hampshire RSA 188-F:70 remains active and available.
 - Details can be found on our website under the Recruitment and Retention link from the homepage.
 - The annual report was submitted by the committee to Governor and legislative leaders as required by law.

Legislative/Administrative Rules

- The Fire Standards and Training Commission amended Fire rules relative to the Recruitment and Retention report and its recommendations have been submitted to the Joint Legislative Committee on Administrative Rules (JLCAR).
- The proposed Trauma Rules are working through the internal legal process.
- An EMS discipline related administrative rule proposal has been drafted and is working through the internal legal process. This proposed change is supported by the EMS Coordinating Board and would allow for deceased providers names to be removed the public listing.
- We are working through the internal legal process for provisional EMS License rules following the passage of HB 1057 in the last legislative session.

Outreach

- Staff members continue to attend various stakeholder and mutual aid group meetings and make department visits.

Mental Health & Resiliency

- We are working with our Mental Health Seminar planning group on the 2025 seminar which is planned for January 7-8, 2025 at the Richard Flynn campus in Concord. The content and presenters have been finalized and registration is expected to open in November.
- 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.
 - The Governor and Executive Council have approved a contract with Dr. Nicole Sawyer to serve as the mental health professional consultant on this project which is set to begin later this month.

Fire Standards and Training Commission

- The next Fire Standards and Training Commission meeting will be January 9th at 1000 in Classrooms 5/6 in the dormitory building at the Richard Flynn Fire Academy in Concord.
- The NH Fire Standards and Training Commission has approved the written comment period to open through November 12, 2024 to January 11, 2025 for public comment on the proposed administrative update to the Airport Firefighter curriculum.
 - Public comment can be submitted at: <https://nhfa-ems.com/fst-commission-curriculum-public-feedback-form/>. Public hearings are in the process of being schedule and will be announced shortly.
 - You can find the curriculum information at <https://www.nh.gov/safety/divisions/fstems/boards/index.html>
- The NH Fire Standards and Training Commission (FSTC) seated volunteers for a curriculum development Visiting Committee for the new NFPA 1010 Firefighter I and Firefighter II standards. The new 1010 standard is part of the NFPA standards consolidation project.
 - Members of the Visiting Committee (VC) will be responsible for determining what students should know and be able to do, what the structure of the courses should look like, and how student skill and understanding should be measured.

- Volunteers selected for the VC will guide the Division of Fire Standards and Training & EMS in creating the curriculum and instructional materials, testing materials, and other requirements outlined in Administrative Rule. The VC will meet once per month to review work done by Division curriculum developers and instructional designers. This process will finish when the curriculum is ready to be presented to the FSTC for approval and public comment.
- NFPA 1010 Standard on Professional Qualifications for Firefighters (2024) <https://www.nfpa.org/1010>

CURRICULUM

- *Hazardous Materials*: The FST Commission has approved the revised programs after the conclusion of the public comment sessions
- *Fire Inspector*: The visiting committee for First Responder Inspector (formerly Inspector I) and Fire Inspector (formerly Inspector II) continues to meet. An extension of accreditation has been requested for the current Fire Inspector programs.
- *Fire Investigator*: The Investigator certification was approved by the Pro Board for reaccreditation.
- *Firefighter I & II*: The 2024 Practice Analysis results and data was presented to the FST Commission at the November meeting.
- *Airport Firefighter*: An administrative update of the Airport Firefighter curriculum is under way. No Job Performance Requirements (JPRs) changed when the old NFPA 1003 standard was consolidated into the new NFPA 1010 standard. This administrative update is currently available for the standard public comment period

BUREAU OF FIRE TRAINING

Courses/Programs

- Firefighter I
 - Sunapee – ongoing (FF I & II)
 - Madison – ongoing
 - LRCC Fall class – concluded on October 18th (FF I & II)
 - Fall Recruit School – ongoing
 - Litchfield – January 21st
 - Keene – March 10th (FF I & II)
 - Spring Recruit School – March 3rd
- Firefighter II
 - Richard Flynn campus – Concord, ongoing

- Epping – February 19th
- Technical Rescue
 - Ice Rescue – Newbury – February 8th
 - Ice Rescue – Center Harbor – February 22nd
 - Swiftwater Rescue Boat Operations – Goffstown, April 11th
 - Swiftwater Level I – North Woodstock, May 5th and Franklin June 2nd
 - Swiftwater Level II – Goffstown, May 7th
- Driver Operator
 - DO – All Vehicle – were held in Littleton on September 23rd, Richard Flynn campus in Concord on October 14th and in Bartlett on October 21st which were attended by 43 students
- Hazardous Materials
 - Operations – Richard Flynn campus – Concord, October 19th
 - Operations – Ray Burton campus – Bethlehem, November 23rd
- Module Deliveries
 - Fire Behavior Skills – Richard Flynn campus – Concord, November 24th
 - Firefighter II Vehicle Extrication – Dalton – December 6th
- IAFF Fireground Survival
 - Richard Flynn campus – Concord, December 16th
- Airport Rescue Firefighting
 - Richard Flynn campus - September 25th
- Facilities, Prop Usage and Projects
 - Annual pump testing was conducted in October and aerial and ground ladder testing is being scheduled.
 - The NH Fire Marshal’s Office used the Burton Facility Classroom for training on the 2024 Emergency Response Guidebook update on October 17th.
 - NH Marine Patrol held a Boater Safety class at the Burton Facility on October 19th.
 - Barnes Air National Guard participated in the last two ARFF Recertification classes for the year on October 7th and 8th.
 - The NH Fire Marshal’s Office used our ARFF Site for Training on October 2nd.
 - The Bedford Fire Department used the “A” Building at the Concord Campus on October 10th and 11th for their ISO Certification.
 - The Auburn Fire Department used the “B” Building on October 12th.
 - The Marlborough Fire Department used the “A” Building on the Concord Campus on October 13th.
 - The Center Ossipee Fire Department used the Forcible Entry Trainer at their station on October 17th.

- The Manchester Fire Department used the “A” Building on the Concord Campus on October 24th, 28th, and 29th.
- We have ongoing maintenance and repair happening with our Drillyard hydrants; currently two are still out of service awaiting parts.
- Work continues on the construction of a metal doll house as time allows.
- Meetings and email correspondence continue with the DOT, FAA, and Jacobs Engineering on the upgrade for the ARFF Site.
- The ARFF Burn Pit has been shut down until the Spring of 2025.
-
- “On My Time” Program
 - To date over 3,000 students have completed individual online modules and over 200 skills modules.
 - We continue to offer support and guidance to many departments participating in this program.
- Special Programs
 - FirstNet First Responder Network Authority – Richard Flynn campus – Concord, December 11th
 - This training program is delivered by the FirstNet Authority to better understand the development, features and use of broadband networks to enhance fire service communications.
 - This program is developed with eight modules ranging from the use of broadband within the fire station, interaction between broadband networks (LTE) and land mobile radio (LMR) networks, security of broadband networks, to advanced discussions on how broadband networks operate. The entire eight modules have been developed in the train-the-trainer format and are intended to be handed off to various training agencies within the fire service. The program includes PowerPoint slide decks, student guide and instructor’s guide for each module. Each module can be delivered independently; it is anticipated that all eight modules will be delivered in approximately eight hours.
- Electric Vehicle Training Resources
 - US Department of Energy, Alternate Fuels Data Center, EV Safety Training Resources for First and Second Responders
 - <https://afdc.energy.gov/vehicles/electric-responders>

Testing

- We have begun using the new electronic testing system (Question mark) for certification exams. Fire Officer I tested in late October and Fire Investigator will test in November.
- Monthly Testing was completed this month for the NFPA 1001, 1002 and 1003 testing processes which includes administering the written and practical exams.
 - The next monthly test is at the Richard Flynn campus in Concord on December 10th and at the Ray Burton campus on December 11th.

Apparatus/Equipment

- Following annual pump testing Engine 2 and Ladder 1 have been removed from service until repairs are made by the respective manufacturers.
- The Portland Crash Truck (Red 5) that was donated to us for use to bridge the gap between our original Crash 5 and the new vehicle, will be going to the White Farm in November.

BUREAU OF CERTIFICATION AND SUPPORT

Courses/Programs

- Instructor I/II/III Programs
 - Instructor I – Manchester – January 16th
 - Instructor I – North Woodstock – March 29th
 - Instructor I – Richard Flynn campus – Concord – May 7th
 - Instructor II – Virtual October 21st
 - Instructor II - Virtual February 24th
 - Instructor III – Virtual April 9th
- Instructor Professional Development
 - Designing Simulation Based Education – Richard Flynn campus – Concord, November 14th and Virtual November 19th
 - Designing Effective Curriculum – Virtual February 25th, Richard Flynn campus February 27th
 - Developing Learning Objectives – Virtual March 25th and Richard Flynn campus March 27th
 - Engaging Instructional Strategies – Richard Flynn campus April 22nd and April 24th
- Fire Officer I/II Programs
 - Fire Officer I – Richard Flynn campus - Concord, December 4th
 - Fire Officer I – Richard Flynn campus – Concord, February 4th
 - Fire Officer I – Richard Flynn campus – Concord, May 13th
 - Fire Officer II – Virtual October 15th
 - Fire Officer II – Virtual April 2nd

- Fire Inspector Programs
 - Fire Inspector I – Portsmouth, January 15th
 - Fire Inspector II – Richard Flynn campus – Concord, April 3rd
- Fire Investigator
- Warrants and Citations – Richard Flynn campus – Concord, November 13th
- National Fire Academy
 - Youth Firesetter Intervention Specialist – Richard Flynn campus – Concord, November 14th
 - Decision Making for Initial Company Operations – Richard Flynn campus – Concord, March 10, 2025
 - Incident Safety Officer – Richard Flynn campus – Concord, April 7, 2025
- Your Workplace has Changed: Fire Dynamics for Structural Firefighting

Education Technology

- We are evaluating potential updates to the Resource Center Course Catalog to simplify and organize courses based on discipline.
- The FF I Communication module update is near completion and certain content will mirror training for police recruits to aid in consistency and interoperability.
- The OB Normal Labor & Delivery course development work continues with the final review beginning soon.
- The Sleep seminar held earlier this year, which has been developed into an online course has been completed.
- There will be upgrades to the classroom television displays. Some new, larger displays have arrived and will be installed in certain classrooms. Other currently hung displays will be repurposed throughout the classrooms.

Instructors

- We are in the final stages of completion of a comprehensive on-boarding and preceptor program for all new instructors to better integrate them into the Division ensuring their success and improving the overall student experience.
- 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

- There are (6) CPAT dates in 2024. We have restructured the schedule of these exams to better span the entire year to make this test more aligned with department hiring needs.

- Remaining 2024 exams are:
 - 31 new candidates were added to the list at the October 21st test.
 - November 18th at Richard Flynn campus, Concord (retest November 19th)
- 2024 CPAT
 - Department member assistance is needed for CPAT on testing days. Please confirm available personnel to assist with PC Nick Poulin at Nicholas.a.poulin@dos.nh.gov prior to the test date to assist in planning.

BUREAU OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

Boards and Commissions

- The NH Medical Control Board meeting will meet at 0930 on November 21st.
- The NH Emergency Medical and Trauma Services Coordinating Board meeting will meet on November 21st at 1300.
- The NH Trauma Medical Review Committee (TMRC) will meet at 0930 on December 18th. The October meeting has been cancelled due to the Concord Hospital Trauma Conference.
- The Privacy Committee will meet December 11th at 1300.

Operations

- With final adoption of the Educational Training Agency ruleset as of April 30, 2024, the Administrative Packet for application can be found at on the Division website and Resource Center.
- The EMS Simulation Training Program is active with ongoing open enrollment courses in 2024.

Courses/Programs

- Emergency Medical Responder (EMR)
 - The Fall class began September 21st in Keene, Bartlett and Concord.
- EMS Continuing Education and Simulation Education
 - *Pre-Hospital and Interfacility Transport Stroke Care* – Richard Flynn campus - Concord November 6th and Virtual November 21st
 - *The Cost of Code 3 – An Evidence-Based Look at Lights and Siren Usage* – Richard Flynn campus, Concord December 4th and Virtual December 19th
 - *Cognitive Bias in EMS* – Richard Flynn campus - Concord December 4th and Virtual December 19th
 - *The Pre-Hospital Use of Ketamine* – Virtual, December 10th

- *Obstetrics Childbirth* – Richard Flynn campus - Concord November 13th and Ray Burton campus - Bethlehem December 11th
- *The CBRNE Patient* – Richard Flynn campus – Concord February 5th and Virtual February 20th
- *Pre-Hospital Trauma Life Support (PHTLS)* – Richard Flynn campus - Concord March 21st
- *NFA FO146 Supervising Emergency Medical Services* – Ray Burton campus - Bethlehem April 26th
- EMS in the Warm Zone Awareness, Operations and Rescue Task Force Concepts
 - 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

- We continue our outreach and support to agencies for inter-facility transfers and mobile integrated health programs.

Data Management

- We continue to work on implementation of the Mobile Integrated Healthcare and Continuum software.
- 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.
 - 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 nhesr@dos.nh.gov by email, submit a ticket at <https://nhfa-ems.com/support/>, or call 603-223-4200 and ask for a member of the data team to reach us.
- 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.

➤ New Hampshire Emergency Services Reporting (NHESR)

- 22,659 EMS incidents were entered into the system for October bringing the total for 2024 to 221,104.

Compliance

- There are currently over 40 active investigations and ongoing cases.

Preparedness and Special Projects

- Outreach continues on AED consultations and orientation sessions.

Professional Development Committee _ (Director Cutting) – No report

Fire Standards and Training Commission – (Chiefs Clark/DeAngelis) –

Chief Clark reported:

The Commission met on November with a full agenda, The highlights of that meeting were as follows:

1. Commission voted to approve the revised curricula for Hazmat Awareness and Hazmat Operations.
2. Based on the recommendations of the Curriculum Committee voted to preliminary approval of the Airport Firefighter curricula and schedule the 60 day public comment period. No Visiting Committee was sat for Airport Firefighter as no substantive changes. The Curriculum Committee reviewed changes in place of a Visiting Committee.
3. Based on the recommendations of the Curriculum Committee the Commission sat the 7 members to the Visiting Committee to join the Commission's representative, Commissioner John Keller and the Divisions representative Deputy Chief Anderson. Of the 7 voted members 4 are chiefs:
 - a) Chief Chad Miller – Littleton
 - b) Chief Jeff Currier – Bartlett

c) Chief Dana Cullen – Center Ossipee
d) Chief Tom Blanchette - Loudon
Chief Dana Bengston of Moultonborough will serve as an alternate member of the Visiting Committee.

4. A large contingency of Chiefs from the Capitol Area Mutual Aid Association was in attendance and expressed their concerns to the Commission. The majority of the comments focused on recruiting and retaining firefighters.

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

National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC) – (Chiefs E. Thomas/Cathy) – No report

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

Homeland Security and Emergency Management – (Director Buxton) – No report

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

Forests and Lands – (Chief Sherman) – No report

Board of Fire Control – (Chiefs Clark/Hunter) –

There has been no meeting since the September meeting.

The Board is working on reviewing NFPA 1 and NFPA 101 version 2021 as compared to 2018.

The Board is watching the move by OSHA to include municipal fire departments in their regulations even though New Hampshire is not an OSHA state.

Building Code Review Board – (Chief Conley/Asst. Chief Pouliot) – Report submitted for minutes:

Here are some highlights from October's meeting, the chair cancelled the November meeting.

We discussed how the last couple of rounds, codes in effect July 1st but signed by Governor in August and made retroactive. Concurrency period gives 6 months to use old code. Impact is if bill doesn't float to top in June, we are left with a bill going into effect retroactively on July 1st.

There has been a lot of back and forth with the energy code, LSR 2025-0131: Relooking at 2021 Energy code, BCRB is staying out of that. Will be speaking with the legislative

committees after the election when we know who the Chairs are. If the bill moves forward, there is housekeeping that needs to be done. The Board's position on 2021 energy code remains the same.

Administrative rule review – BCR100, BCR200: BCR's – the next step with these is to look through them again, and make sure they are in the proper format. (Discussion on this began at the September meeting of the BCRB)

We did a review of the code adoption process as there are new board members who may not be familiar with the process. Reviewed "How Statewide Building Code Amendments Are Adopted."

Manufactured Housing Installation Standards Board: (Chief Blanchette) –

The board met October 18 and was introduced to the new Communications Administrator Christina McCullough who handles all public relations communications and press releases for the OPLC. The board was also introduced and had a chance to meet the new Executive Director of the OPLC Deanna Jurius.

The board voted to approve and move forward the adoption of the Inst 100, Inst 300, & Inst 600 rules for the Manufactured Housing Installation Standards Board.

The board reviewed the initial proposal on the Inst 400 rules and approved to have them sent back to legal for final review.

The board conducted a public hearing on the Inst 500 rules and no public comment was received. Those will also be sent back for final legal review.

The board received and reviewed the final proposals on the Inst 700 rules which are still waiting for some diagrams of proper concrete slab installation, proper tie down installation, & proper blocking and leveling installation. The Inst 800 final annotated proposal rules were reviewed and should be moving forward to a public hearing shortly.

There was one complaint received by the board which was reviewed in a non-public session. The minutes of the non -public meeting were sealed at the conclusion of the meeting.

The next scheduled meeting of the board will be at 09:00 on Monday November 18th, 2024 at the OPLC Office.

Division of Emergency Services and Communications – (Director Doyle)

- Laconia Facility Update: Project has been fully funded, and Pre-Construction meetings set for this morning 11/12;

- Community Events reminder – connect with our Public Outreach / Education Team for more info: Patrick Cavanaugh, 603-271-6911, patrick.m.cavanaugh@desc.nh.gov ;
- PSAP Comfort Dog is in training with her Handler, “Winni” is expected to be full time at the completion of her training this fall;
- Critical Incident Curriculum Planning continues with Director Scippa and the Active Assailant response subcommittee;
- Mental Health Symposium planning continues for the event being held at FSTEMS January 7-8. Registration to open soon:



- Media events:



In October, the Division of Emergency Services and Communications used its social media platforms (Facebook, X, and Instagram) to spread the word about Sudden Cardiac Awareness Month, emphasizing the importance of AEDs and how they need to be registered. We also posted safety reminders during leaf-peeper season, encouraging motorists to “pay attention to more than just the leaves.” We continued our efforts to educate the public, along with New Hampshire schools, reinforcing the importance of how to call 911 and always knowing your location. We continue to post monthly employee announcements, celebrating their milestones and achievements. DESC’s social media engagement remains strong, and we will continue to drive engagement to our page in the months ahead.

- Behavioral Health Crisis Systems Study Committee met for its final meeting and is preparing it’s report for the Senate;
- Working with New Boston PD/FD and Space Force re: Re alignment of ESZ’s and 911 call direction / Table-Top exercise planning;
- Policy & 1-pager of “Best Practices” and for local messaging using Genasys is complete and will be distributed to the membership shortly;

- Met with Northern Border Dispatch re: discussion of their new CAD project and radio enhancements for Colebrook / Pittsburg / and interoperability with CBP and NHSP;
- The quarterly meeting of the SIEC was held on November 8th at the Fire Academy – received an update from AT&T / FirstNet;
- Reviewing Mutualink usage and issues – let us know of any success stories and/or chronic issues you may have with the system;
- Participating in the 988 Implementation and Planning Coalition meetings, engaging Law Enforcement and the Emergency Departments is the current focus;
- KPI's (YTD through August 2024):
 - 99.65% of all calls answered w/i 15 seconds (exceeding NENA standard of 90% w/i 15 seconds)
 - Avg. Police/fire Transfer time = 50.01 seconds (exceeding NFPA Std. of 60 Sec.)
 - Avg. EMD Transfer time = 125.2 seconds – stable relative to last year.
 - Running @ 17% below last year's call volume
 - 457 Transfers to 988 / RRAP since July 2022
- Any questions, comments, concerns, please reach out...

E 911 Commission – (Chief Thomas) – No report

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

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

Water and wastewater systems are still a frequent target for cyber compromise. The NHIAC is aware of several water systems in the northeast that have been successfully cyber attacked resulting in a potential loss of pressure and volume needed for fire flow. The NHIAC urges fire departments to build relationships with your municipal water partners, and to continue to work on protecting these systems.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact your Fire/EMS Liaison Officer Jim Heinz at: James.B.Heinz@dos.nh.gov

New England Fire Chiefs – a Division of the IAFC – (Chiefs Jones/Murray) –

NED-IAFC Conf/Expo will be held October 28-31, 2025 at Mohegan Sun.

Chief Jones thanked all members who attended the Expo and witnessed his installation as President of the NE Division of the IAFC. He also mentioned that he will be forming a subcommittee to search out new venues for the Expo.

He reminded IAFC members of the new dues structure for next year.

He urged members to get involved with the NEDIAFC by volunteering for committee assignments, etc., and urged non-members to sign up for membership. He urged members to contact their Federal delegation and ask them to support it.

He also mentioned the Social Security Fairness Act that has passed the House and is on the way to the Senate. This bill will remove the provisions that if you're a public safety person collecting a pension, your SS benefits are offset.

Old Business -

New Business –

Good and Welfare –

The NHFA excited to host a training program brought to you by the FirstNet Authority to better understand the development, features and use of broadband networks to enhance fire service communications.

This program is developed with eight modules ranging from the use of broadband within the fire station, interaction between broadband networks (LTE) and land mobile radio (LMR) networks, security of broadband networks, to advanced discussions on how broadband networks operate. The entire eight modules have been developed in the train-the-trainer format and are intended to be handed off to various training agencies within the fire service. The program includes PowerPoint slide decks, student guide and instructor's guide for each module. Each module can be delivered independently; it is anticipated that all eight modules will be delivered in approximately eight hours.

Following the raffle, the meeting was adjourned at 0956 hrs.

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

November 14, 2024