



## **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

Lakes Region Community College – Laconia, NH

Friday, February 14, 2025 (postponed one day due to inclement weather)

Following a seminar presented by Portsmouth Fire Chief William McQuillen, the meeting was called to order at 1033 hours by Chief Watkins.

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

**Welcome from Host:** Professor Nick Mercuri welcomed the group and updated all members on program additions, accreditation and numbers for the Fire Science program. He also updated the number of EMS students with 17 enrolled. The Federal grant (Sen. Shaheen) has allowed them to fund the tuition for students and that will last one more year.

### **INTRODUCTION OF MEMBERS.**

**Special Guests:** Stephen Pecora, Special Asst. to Gov. Ayotte (He thanked the members for his invitation to attend), Stephanie Weiner from Rep. Goodlander's office who also welcomed input from the group, and Chris Scott from Senator Shaheen's office, who also welcomed comments/issues from the group on behalf of the Senator.

**Minutes:** A MOTION (Murray/J. Chamberlain) to approve the minutes of the January meeting, carried unanimously.

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

**Communications:** n/a

**Applications for membership:** Dep. Chief Elisa Folsom of Concord has been approved for Advocate membership.

**Life Membership:** n/a

## **President's Report: (Emanuel) – n/a**

- He is currently in DC at the CFSI events with Chiefs Hunter, Carrier and Jones.

## **Report of the Executive Director: (Lemire)**

- The FF Cancer Workgroup met again on Friday, January 31 to discuss training, paperwork, prevention and Workers' Compensation relating to cancer awareness. This meeting concentrated on the training/educational importance of the message to all firefighters and how to assist in conveying that message. Recap of the meeting will be in the regular monthly meeting minutes.
- The February NHAFC meeting will be at LRCC next Thursday and will include breakfast and a seminar entitled "Effective Listening for Leadership" presented by Nashua Fire Commissioner and Professor John Steere.
- The March BOD meeting will be virtual and held on ???
- The regular meeting will be held at Alan's of Boscawen on Thursday, March 13 featuring two dinner options, one being corned beef. Commissioner Quinn, former Commissioner Barthelmes and Gov. Ayotte will be attending.
- The April BOD meeting will be on the 2nd at Primex.
- The Annual Meeting/Seminar/Vendor Showcase/Dinner will be held on April 10 in Plymouth at the Common Man Inn and Spa. Spouses/guests will be welcome to attend.
- He attended Chief Jack Anderson's retirement party in Bethlehem on January 18. Chief Watkins presented him with his Life Membership card.
- We'll NOT be having our meeting at the Mt. Washington Hotel in May after the Primex conference this year. The NH Municipal Managers will be partnering with them this year. Our May meeting will be on the 8<sup>th</sup> at the Whelen facilities in Charlestown, NH as their guest for dinner.
- Ad book proceeds to date: Total: ; Vendor;; Assn:.

## **1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Report (Watkins) – Report on the PTSD Commission meetings**

December meeting

Discussion on adding drafting language for two (2) questions to be added to the Death Certificate Vital Records process through the "Situational Surveillance" program.

Each question will have a "Yes", "No" or "Unknown" response

*At any time did the decedent work or volunteer as a Corrections, Emergency Dispatcher, Emergency Medical Services, Fire Service, or Law Enforcement Member?*

*Did the Decedent at any time receive treatment or therapy for anxiety, acute stress disorder, depression, moral injury, or post-traumatic stress disorder?*

January Meeting

Laura Barker from Hero Pups gave an update on comfort dogs. Some training issues came up that legislation would need to address, looked at options with the group on how to actually identify a comfort dog. Once ownership is passed on to the City or Town how is it tracked to ensure training is being met and the dog is still in good standing.

## **Government Relations – (Schmidt) – UPDATE**

- *Governor Ayotte's budget address/Group II – As a follow up to my email from yesterday afternoon, I have attached a high level summary of Governor Ayotte's budget address which was prepared by her office. You will see the reference to investments in Group II. The specifics will likely be in HB 2. I have also included press coverage of her comments at the end of this email.*
- *Ambulance Bills – On Wednesday morning, Chief Sitar, Chief Walker, and I attended two hearings in Senate Health and Human Services on ambulance reimbursement. NHAFC supported both. The first, SB 130, had an amendment which replaces the entire bill. I have attached a copy. If adopted, the amendment would create a commission to examine the provision of EMS services. NHAFC would have a seat on the Commission. The second bill, SB 245, would require carriers to pay ambulance providers either a rate adopted at the local level or 325% of Medicare. As you can imagine, there was opposition from the health carriers who sited concerns regarding premium increases. The Committee did not vote on either bill. On Wednesday afternoon, Chief Sitar and I attended a House Commerce work session on 3 ambulance bills. Ultimately, the voted to kill HB 185. The bill would have required carriers to pay any amount billed by a provider. There will be an ongoing debate between HB 725 and HB 316. NHAFC supported HB 725 since it requires a carrier to reimburse at the lesser of: a contacted rate, local ordinance, or 325% of Medicare. HB 316 would require reimbursement at about 200% of Medicare. Both bills prohibit balance billing. The Committee Chair (John Hunt), NH Insurance Department, and the carriers are supportive of HB 316. Ambulance providers are supportive of HB 725. No vote was taken on either bill and more work is expected in the future. It is likely this debate will continue through the rest of session.*
- *Legislative Calendar – We have included an updated calendar below. As you will see, another busy week. As a reminder, the bill numbers provide a hyperlink to the text of the bills. If you have questions regarding any of the bills, please let us know. I highlighted SB 202. This is the bill which Senator Prentiss introduced to address concerns regarding Alzheimer's. As we discussed at the recent Board meeting, she amended the proposal from her initial concept. In speaking with PFFNH, they are still not wild about the bill, but, at this point, they do not intend to speak against it.*

- *Committee Reports – A number of bills we discussed at the recent Board meeting are on the docket for the House session next Thursday including HB 66 (right to know), HB 179 (hazardous materials reimbursement), and all the bills from House Labor which ended up being partisan, 11-9 votes to kill the bills. If you have questions about any of the reports or want details regarding the floor debate, please let me know. You likely saw that the recommendation from House Labor to pass right to work was killed yesterday. I have also included coverage of that vote and debate below.*
- *SB 188 – At the Senate session yesterday, SB 188 was special ordered to the next session. The bill would allow for independent permitting and inspections. There have been concerns from NHMA and others about the proposal. The bill is not intended to include the fire code. Some Senators believe that, by not including the fire code, the proposed process may not end up saving any time, since it would still require a local inspection. We will let you know if there are any additional amendments brought forward.*

On Thursday, February 13, Governor Kelly Ayotte introduced her state budget. Her comments indicated that she plans to “re-calibrate” state spending and priorities now that the abundance of federal funds have been spent and state tax receipts have leveled off. She highlighted her commitment to restore Group II benefits as a priority. The details which are reflective of her comments relative to Group II reform have not yet been released, but will soon. The budget will be the biggest issue the Legislature will address this session. Their work on it will begin in earnest next week.

Included with this update is an updated legislative chart. The bill numbers provide a link to the text. If you have any questions regarding specific bills, please let me know.

There were several additional we wanted to provide:

**Ambulance Reimbursement:** There were 5 separate bills introduced dealing with ambulance reimbursement. Three of the bills were heard by the House Commerce Committee. **HB 316** would eliminate balance billing and create a reimbursement level of 200% of Medicare for ambulance providers. NHAFC testified against the legislation, highlighting the need for a more reasonable level of reimbursement. **HB 725** also proposes to eliminate balance billing but pays providers the lesser of: a contracted rate with a carrier, a rate set by a municipality, or 325% of Medicare. NHAFC testified in favor of the legislation. **HB 185** would require insurance carriers to pay the full amount of any bill submitted by a carrier. During a work session held on 2/12, a House Commerce subcommittee voted to kill HB 185 but would like to continue to discuss and consider HB 725 and HB 316. In the Senate **SB 245** and **SB 130** were heard by the Senate Health and Human Services Committee on 2/12. Both bills would require carriers to pay communities at the rates they set or 325% of Medicare. NHAFC submitted testimony in support of both bills. SB 130 will likely be turned into a study commission to examine delivery models for Emergency Services. The Commission would include a member from NHAFC. The bills, and competing rates (200% vs. 325%), will likely remain an intense debate throughout the rest of the session.

**Relative to Workers' Compensation For Firefighters with Cancer:** NHAFC signed in as supporting the bill (**SB 181**). Senator Perkins Kwoka provided history of prior efforts to create presumption standards and screening protocols for firefighters. The bill is intended to help create clarity for workers comp cases. Brian Ryll (PFFNH) testified in favor. He explained the intent was to make technical changes to the presumption law and the NH law has been one of the best in the country. According to WHO and CDC, 48% of firefighters end up with some type of cancer. The current law has not worked as intended as some cases are dismissed. The revisions are intended to create a higher standard that carriers would have to meet in order to reject a claim and shift the burden of proof to carriers and employers rather than employees.

**Codes:** There has been an increased interest in codes and code applications as the Legislature debates ways to help address the current housing issues. **SB 94** would prohibit all local legislative bodies from adopting any new regulations which differ from the state building code. Marshal Toomey testified that if the bill was going to pass, it would need technical amendments. Specifically, communities need to adopt “technical amendments” to existing codes. Without those amendments, communities may not be able to offer inspections or enforcement or charge fees. The Senate Executive Departments and Administration committee recently voted to pass the bill without any additional amendments. It may be worth reviewing the chart to see all of the bills looking to alter codes or code application.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Report (Hunter) – No Report**

**Sgt. At Arms (Chamberlain) – No report**

### **Committee Reports**

**Scholarship Committee – (Marshal Toomey) –**

### **Division Reports**

**Fire Marshal: (Marshal Toomey)**

#### **ADMINISTRATION:**

#### **Personnel:**

Governor Ayotte has implemented a hiring freeze. We have requested hiring waivers for a full-time State Building Inspector and a part-time Outreach & Education Specialist.

Marianne Heinrich has been hired as a Fire Investigator effective February 21, 2025.

#### **Legislation:**

We are following numerous House and Senate Bills (See Attachment).

**Board of Fire Control:**

The next Board of Fire Control meeting will be held on April 15, 2025, at 1:00 pm.

**BUREAU OF INVESTIGATIONS:**

In January, we received 21 incident notifications resulting in 6 scene responses. The Bureau of Investigations currently has 8 open arson or suspected arson investigations.

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

- On January 1, investigators responded to Salem for a house fire in which a person was injured. The cause is still under investigation.
- On January 2, investigators responded to Center Harbor for a house fire. The cause could not be determined due to the extensive damage, but arson is not suspected.
- On January 13, investigators responded to Salem for an unattended death that was suspected to have been caused by carbon monoxide poisoning. The investigation revealed that the person died of natural causes, not carbon monoxide.
- On January 22, an investigator responded to Lebanon to assist the Lebanon Police and Fire Departments with the investigation of two motor vehicle fires at a business. LPD ultimately arrested a suspect and is handling the criminal charges.
- On January 27, investigators responded to Franklin for a fire that had occurred around 11PM on January 26. A man was injured in the fire. The cause is currently under investigation and arson is suspected.

**Fatal Fire/CO Incidents:**

- On January 23, the FMO was notified of a burn injury in Claremont. The victim had apparently caused their clothing to ignite, and the incident was being investigated by the Claremont Fire Department. The victim died on January 29 while hospitalized for the burns, prompting a FMO investigation. The cause and manner of death are pending at this time.
- On January 25, investigators responded to Deering for a house fire in which one person died, and one person was injured. The cause of the fire is currently under investigation and the cause and manner of death are pending. Arson is not suspected.

**Ignitable Liquid Detection Canine Teams:**

- There was one IGL canine deployment in January.

### **Youth Fire Setter:**

- Two youth fire setter intakes were received in January and one assessment was completed for a previous referral.

The NH State Fire Marshal's Office requests that all fires resulting in serious bodily injury be reported immediately at the time of the event. This allows us to determine if a response and investigation are necessary.

During normal business hours, please contact an on-call supervisor at 603-223-4289. For after-hours calls and on weekends, you can reach NH State Police Communications at 603-223-4381.

### **BUREAU OF BUILDING SAFETY & CONSTRUCTION:**

#### **State Building Permit System:**

We processed the following permits in the month of January:

- Building: 5
- Electrical: 11
- Plumbing: 2
- Fuel Gas: 2
- Mechanical Non-Fuel Gas: 3
- Fire Protection: 4
- Fire Alarm: 4

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

We initiated 5 educational and 9 healthcare plan reviews, completed 264 inspections and 231 technical consults in the month of January.

#### **Variance Requests:**

We processed 8 variance requests in the month of January.

#### **Fireworks Safety and Enforcement Program**

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

- Proximate Licenses Issued: 1
- Display Certificate of Competency Issued: 1
- Consumer Fireworks Retail Store Licenses Issued: 2
- Explosive Magazine Inspections: 9

- Proximate Audience Inspections: 2
- Technical Assistance: 1

### **Modular Building Program**

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

- Inspections: 19
- Audits of Manufacturers: 0
- Audits of Educational Facilities: 0
- Labels Issued to Manufacturers: 142
- Units Shipped to New Hampshire: 13

### **Tramway and Amusement Ride Safety**

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

- Amusement Registrations: 49
- Amusement Inspections: 52
- Amusement Incidents: 1
- Tramway Registrations: 5
- Tramway Inspections: 48
- Tramway Incidents: 6

## **BUREAU OF OUTREACH & EDUCATION:**

### **Hazardous Materials:**

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

In the month of January, our Hazardous Materials Coordinator attended monthly PEAC Training and Seacoast Haz Mat Team training. The Hazardous Materials Coordinator presented on the EPA Region 1 EPCRA Tier II Webinar and provided training to Stratham Fire on the Emergency Response Guidebook.

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.

Training is also available on the use of the Emergency Response Guidebook.

### **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. The first meeting in 2025 was held on January 14<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 pm. The next meeting will be held on April 14<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 pm.

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!

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. We attended a training at the National Fire Academy at the end of January and learned about the implementation schedule and onboarding process. It looks like New Hampshire is scheduled for onboarding in October 2025. Find more information and resources at [National Emergency Response Information System \(NERIS\) \(fema.gov\)](#).

### **Key NERIS Resources:**

- [Register for the next National NERIS Webinar](#)
- [National Roll-Out Schedule](#)
- [Series of Video Reels on Fire Data & NERIS](#)
- [User References](#)
- [NERIS Onboarding Checklist and Guide](#)
- Visit [our website](#) for more NERIS support and updates.

Please reach out to our NHFIRS team for any incident reporting questions at [nhfirs@dos.nh.gov](mailto:nhfirs@dos.nh.gov) and have your NFIRS/NERIS Point of Contact person sign-up for the NHFIRS Newsletter by sending an email to [FMO@dos.nh.gov](mailto:FMO@dos.nh.gov).

### **Outreach Events:**

In January, there was one [Steps to Safety™ Prevent Fire and Falls at Home](#) presentation with Concord's Fire Marshal, Paul Sirois. This presentation shares fire safety and falls prevention messages tailored to older adults.

We partnered with Alton Fire Department and Barnstead Fire-Rescue to speak to all K-8 students at Barnstead Elementary and Alton Central School. Local firefighters, Jamie Weatherbee and Deputy Chief Evan Turcotte, demonstrated

their gear while teaching safety. Deputy Fire Marshal Fanjoy and K-9 Anthem demonstrated how they work fire scenes. Together, we focused on the importance of installing working smoke and carbon monoxide alarms in homes, creating home fire escape plans, and learning the sounds of different alarms.

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](#)

### **Public Education:**

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 this February is "Closed door messages."

When escaping a fire, make sure to close the door behind you. If you cannot escape, get behind a closed door and call 9-1-1. Always, close your bedroom door before you go to sleep. **#CloseBeforeYouDoze**



Resources:

[Close Before You Doze](#)

[Close Before You Doze Flyer](#)

Videos:

[Close Before you Doze - See the Dramatic Difference a Door Can Make](#)

Find the monthly themes for 2025 here:

[Fire and Life Safety Communicators Initiative \(fema.gov\)](#)

### **Training Opportunities:**

Upcoming Trainings:

## Commercial Hood and Food Truck Inspections

Jackson Fire Department (58 Main St, Jackson)

February 26, 2025 @ 1800-2000

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

If you are interested in hosting a future session, or would like to suggest a future training topic, please reach out to us at [fmopubliceducation@dos.nh.gov](mailto:fmopubliceducation@dos.nh.gov)

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

### Personnel

- On January 22<sup>nd</sup> Governor Kelly Ayotte signed an Executive Order instituting a hiring freeze across state government. We will work within the process to identify any positions that are eligible for a waiver under the order.
- Bureau Chief Scott Doherty has submitted his intent to retire, effective April 30, 2025, following ten years of dedicated service. During his time with us Chief Doherty has played a crucial role in numerous initiatives, and we wish him the best in retirement.
- EMS Compliance Coordinator Elizabeth Goguet has recently left the Division. We thank Liz for her time, efforts and contributions, and wish her the best in her future endeavors.
- Shelby Haydu has been hired as our part-time Communications Specialist.
- Jacob Macomber has been hired as a full-time Fire Training Instructor.
- We have one vacancy for Program Specialist III (Education Technologist) of the Educational Technology section.
- We have one vacancy for a full-time Fire Training Instructor position.
- We have one vacancy for a full-time Program Assistant I.
- We have one vacancy for our full-time EMS Compliance Coordinator.
- We have one vacancy for our part-time EMS Compliance Specialist.
- We have one vacancy for our part-time EMS Vehicle Inspector Coordinator.
- We have vacancies for EMS Exam Coordinators.
- We have vacancies for EMS Vehicle Inspectors.

### Grants

- We submitted our application for the 2024 AFG grant.

### Special Projects

- The early detection cancer screening pilot program RFP is posted on the state website with proposals due on February 19<sup>th</sup>. The estimated timeframe for oral presentations and interviews is early March, and an estimated time for notification of the selected vendor is mid-March.
- The Raymond S. Burton Fire and EMS Training Facility infrastructure project continues to move forward.
  - Phase II which includes the heated garage and classroom building upgrades is underway.
  - No new classes or prop usages are being scheduled for this campus until construction is completed. Classes will be moved to other facilities in the area.
  - Work continues at this facility with weekly meetings taking place with all of the pertinent parties involved.
  - The foundation and footings are in place for the heated garage building. The classroom renovations have also begun.
- 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.

### Legislative/Administrative Rules

- The 2025 legislative session has begun. We are monitoring 15 legislative Bills.
- The proposed Trauma Rules are working through the internal DOS process.
- An EMS discipline and other various administrative rule changes proposal has been submitted to JLCAR. This proposed change is supported by the EMS Coordinating Board and would allow for deceased providers names to be removed the public listing, along with other various changes to the ruleset.
  - A public hearing was held on January 17<sup>th</sup> at 1000 and the written comment period deadline was January 27<sup>th</sup> at 1615 hrs.
- Interim provisional EMS License rules were approved JLCAR on January 17<sup>th</sup> and adopted by Commissioner Quinn on January 21<sup>st</sup>.
- Administrative Rules to make the full transition to ETA's and sunset the former process have been developed and are working through the internal DOS process for submission to JLCAR.

### Outreach

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

### Mental Health & Resiliency

- Crisis Intervention Team Training – Littleton Regional Healthcare – March 3<sup>rd</sup>
- 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.

### Fire Standards and Training Commission

- The next Fire Standards and Training Commission meeting will be March 6<sup>th</sup> at 0930 in Classrooms 5/6 in the dormitory building at the Richard Flynn Fire Academy in Concord.

## **CURRICULUM**

- *Accreditation:* The five-year process of re-accreditation through the Pro Board has begun. The process involves completing a comprehensive self-assessment of the Division's policies and certification exam practices. This entire process culminates in a site visit from the Pro Board representatives to review all documentation.
- *Hazardous Materials:*
  - As of January 1<sup>st</sup>, the new version of Hazardous Materials Awareness is available for self-enrollment through our online learning system.
  - Any person who completed Awareness and Operations within six months prior to Jan. 1<sup>st</sup> will have six months from the completion of their course to complete the previously accredited exam.
  - The Operations programs will be scheduled and delivered throughout 2025.
- *Fire Inspector:* The next meeting of Fire Inspector and First Responder Inspector Visiting Committee will be on March 5<sup>th</sup>.
- *Firefighter I & II:* The members of the Firefighter I & II Visiting Committee met on January 15<sup>th</sup>. The next meeting is scheduled for February 19<sup>th</sup> at 0900 in Classroom 1 at the Richard Flynn campus.
  - The modules to be discussed will be Fire Service Orientation, History of the Fire Service, Health and Wellness, Stress in Emergency Services, Cancer Awareness, and PPE & SCBA.

- *Airport Firefighter*: The public comment period has closed for Airport Firefighter with no comments received. A new textbook and exam question bank will be available from IFSTA in the coming weeks. Exam validation will begin shortly.

## **BUREAU OF FIRE TRAINING**

### Courses/Programs

- Firefighter I
  - Litchfield – January 21<sup>st</sup>
  - Keene – March 10<sup>th</sup> (FF I & II)
  - Spring LRCC Class – January 21<sup>st</sup> (FF I & II)
  - Spring Recruit School – March 3<sup>rd</sup>
- Firefighter II
  - Epping – February 19<sup>th</sup>
- Technical Rescue
  - Ice Rescue – Newbury – February 8<sup>th</sup>
  - Ice Rescue – Center Harbor – February 22<sup>nd</sup>
  - Swiftwater Level I – North Woodstock, May 5<sup>th</sup> and Franklin June 2<sup>nd</sup>
- Driver Operator
  - All inquiries for these programs should be directed to Captain Paul Ingersoll at [paul.h.ingersoll@dos.nh.gov](mailto:paul.h.ingersoll@dos.nh.gov)
- Hazardous Materials
  - Hazardous Materials Awareness is available at <https://www.nhfaemslearning.org/login/index.php>
- Module Deliveries
- IAFF Fireground Survival
- Airport Rescue Firefighting
  - Richard Flynn campus - September 25<sup>th</sup>
- “On My Time” Program
  - We continue to offer support and guidance to many departments participating in this program.
- Special Programs
- 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

- Monthly Testing was completed this month for the NFPA 1001, 1002 and 1003 testing processes which includes administering the written and practical exams.
  - Monthly testing is the 2nd Tuesday of every month. Burton campus monthly testing is only in March, June, September and December on the Wednesday after the Flynn campus exam date. Submissions must be entered by the last day of the month before the month you wish to test.

### Apparatus/Equipment

- Engine Three is out of service awaiting repair to pump valves.
- Utility Five has been removed from service. This vehicle is scheduled to be replaced this year.
- Utility Six is out of service until further notice as a result of an MVA.
- All other Fleet Vehicles are in service.

### Facilities, Prop Usage and Projects

- The Drylab classroom and a portion of the first floor at the Richard Flynn building have been recently renovated.
- There were no department prop usages in January.

## **BUREAU OF CERTIFICATION AND SUPPORT**

### Courses/Programs

- Instructor I/II/III Programs
  - Instructor I – Manchester – January 16<sup>th</sup>
  - Instructor I – North Woodstock – March 29<sup>th</sup>
  - Instructor I – Richard Flynn campus – Concord – May 7<sup>th</sup>
  - Instructor II – Virtual October 21<sup>st</sup>
  - Instructor II - Virtual February 24<sup>th</sup>
  - Instructor III – Virtual April 9<sup>th</sup>
- Instructor Professional Development
  - Designing Effective Curriculum – Virtual February 25<sup>th</sup>, Richard Flynn campus February 27<sup>th</sup>
  - Developing Learning Objectives – Virtual March 25<sup>th</sup> and Richard Flynn campus March 27<sup>th</sup>
  - Engaging Instructional Strategies – Richard Flynn campus April 22<sup>nd</sup> and April 24<sup>th</sup>
  - Assessing Student Performance Using a Skill Acquisition Model – Virtual, May 27<sup>th</sup> and Richard Flynn campus May 29<sup>th</sup>
- Fire Officer I/II Programs

- Fire Officer I – Richard Flynn campus – Concord, February 4<sup>th</sup>
- Fire Officer I – Richard Flynn campus – Concord, May 13<sup>th</sup>
- Fire Officer II – Virtual October 15<sup>th</sup>
- Fire Officer II – Virtual April 2<sup>nd</sup>
- Fire Inspector Programs
  - Fire Inspector I – Portsmouth, January 15<sup>th</sup>
  - Fire Inspector II – Richard Flynn campus – Concord, April 3<sup>rd</sup>
- Fire Investigator
- Warrants and Citations
- National Fire Academy
  - Decision Making for Initial Company Operations – Richard Flynn campus – Concord, March 10<sup>th</sup>
  - Incident Safety Officer – Richard Flynn campus – Concord, April 7<sup>th</sup>
- Your Workplace has Changed: Fire Dynamics for Structural Firefighting

### Education Technology

- Staff are working with the Firefighter I visiting committee and will continue to attend their meetings.
- Work continues on the Resource Center with an updated and more comprehensive schedule and catalog descriptions that students and potential students should find more informative and better to use. A more robust curriculum section is being developed as well.
- The new OB Emergencies courses have been completed. They've had extensive review by EMS Bureau staff and were delivered to students in a North Country offering in Errol. These students have provided us feedback on the modules.
- Safe Pediatric Transport was completed and will be launched soon.
- The new HazMat Awareness is online and available for students.
- The updated FFI Communication module was completed and is in all courses. The module has new video from NH911 and that portion of the course was expanded.
- The new Stroke program is in the full production phase.
- Preliminary work for the initial video for the Cancer Screening Initiative has begun.
- New computers have been installed in Classrooms 1, 2 and 4 with Classrooms 5 and 6 receiving them this month.
- The Drylab classroom has a new display screen.

### Instructors

- The Fire Training Captains have been actively training and endorsing Instructors and Program Assistants in numerous classes and prop operations.



- 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](mailto:Jeffrey.r.phillips@dos.nh.gov) or 603-223-4213

### CPAT

- There are (6) CPAT dates in 2025. We restructured the schedule of these exams to better span the entire year to make this test more aligned with department hiring needs.
  - February 3<sup>rd</sup> – 34 candidates tested, with 26 passing.
  - April 22<sup>nd</sup> – Laconia – Merrill Fay Ice Arena
  - June 17<sup>th</sup> - Laconia – Merrill Fay Ice Arena
  - August 12<sup>th</sup> - Laconia – Merrill Fay Ice Arena
  - Additional dates TBA
- 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](mailto: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 March 20<sup>th</sup>.
- The NH Emergency Medical and Trauma Services Coordinating Board meeting will meet on March 20<sup>th</sup> at 1300.
- The NH Trauma Medical Review Committee (TMRC) will meet at 0930 on February 19<sup>th</sup>.
- The Privacy Committee will meet February 26<sup>th</sup> 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.
  - There are currently 13 ETA's, 6 in processing and 22 additional that have expressed interest.
- Initial EMS Instructor license applications are now available in Respond NH.
  - Interested individuals should start the application first and then you will be contacted.
- The EMS Simulation Training Program is active with ongoing open enrollment courses.

- There are currently 308 licensed EMS Units and 6,249 EMS Providers.
- 21 ambulance inspections were conducted last month.
- Background checks are currently averaging 2.5 days for new applicants for licensure.
- EMS Psychomotor Exams
  - 4 BLS exams were held in January and 3 ALS exams were held in January.

### Courses/Programs

- Emergency Medical Responder (EMR)
  - The Winter 2025 Emergency Medical Responder (EMR) course will run from February 1, 2025, to March 29, 2025. This course will be a hybrid program consisting of both online and in-person instruction. Online lectures will be on Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 6:00pm to 9:00pm and in-person skills days on Saturdays from 9:00am to 4:00pm.
    - This program will be offered at the Richard Flynn campus in Concord.
    - Cost per student is \$895.00 for affiliated students and \$1,295.00 for unaffiliated students. (ARPA funding has expired)
- EMS Continuing Education and Simulation Education
  - *Germ and Source Control for EMS Providers* – Richard Flynn campus – Concord February 11<sup>th</sup> and Littleton Regional Healthcare May 5<sup>th</sup>
  - *Neurological Trauma* – Littleton February 15<sup>th</sup>
  - *The CBRNE Patient* – Richard Flynn campus – Concord February 5<sup>th</sup> and Virtual February 20<sup>th</sup>
  - *Pre-Hospital Trauma Life Support (PHTLS)* – Richard Flynn campus - Concord March 21<sup>st</sup>
  - *Managing Hypothermia and the Near Drowning Patient* – Richard Flynn campus – Concord March 5<sup>th</sup> and Virtual March 20<sup>th</sup>
  - *Adult and Pediatric Gastrointestinal Emergencies* – Richard Flynn campus – Concord March 12<sup>th</sup> and Littleton Hospital April 12<sup>th</sup>
  - *Public Health: How it works and why EMS should care* – Richard Flynn campus – Concord April 2<sup>nd</sup> and Virtual April 17<sup>th</sup>
  - *The Other End of the Line: An Inside Look at NH 911* – Virtual April 23<sup>rd</sup>
  - *NFA FO146 Supervising Emergency Medical Services* – Littleton Regional Healthcare April 26<sup>th</sup>
  - *Tactical Emergency Casualty Care* – [Richard Flynn campus – Concord May 2<sup>nd</sup>](#)
  - *Capnography: What does it Mean?* – [Richard Flynn campus – Concord May 7<sup>th</sup> and Virtual May 15<sup>th</sup>](#)

- *Adult and Pediatric Electrical Emergencies* – [Richard Flynn campus – Concord May 14<sup>th</sup>](#)
- 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.
  - We are developing the 2025 schedule for six open enrollment RTF courses.
  - If anyone is looking for this program, please contact Shawn Croteau at [Shawn.A.Croteau@DOS.NH.GOV](mailto: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.
- EMS Protocols Version 9.1 Mid Cycle Rollout is currently in the public comment period until March 18<sup>th</sup>. The public hearing will be held March 5<sup>th</sup>.
- EMS Protocols Version 10.0 development has begun.
- All EMS Bulletins can be found on our website at: <https://www.nh.gov/safety/divisions/fstems/ems/bulletins/index.html>

### Data Management

- NHESR
  - 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/>.
  - 114 fire departments are utilizing the system for incident reporting.
  - Anyone interested in the system can contact [nhesr@dos.nh.gov](mailto: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 can 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.

- EMS Instructor Initial/Reinstatement applications are available online for licensing.
- EMS Instructor Renewal applications are available online.
- Total EMS incidents entered into the system for January were 25,037.

### Compliance

- There are currently 20 active investigations and ongoing cases.
- All compliance related inquiries should be directed to Bureau Chief Romanello.
- The Division has transitioned from the “old” list on our website to a new public look-up page in RespondNH. This will allow anyone to search an individual and find out if they have any license sanctions against them.

### Preparedness and Special Projects

- Outreach events for AED consultations and orientation sessions continue.

**Professional Development Committee \_ (Director Cutting) – No report**

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

Chief Clark reported:

The Commission last met in January with a full agenda. The highlights of that meeting were as follows:

1. The Commission adopted changes to the Rules which reflect recommendations related to the task force on Recruitment and Retainment in the Fire Service.
2. The Airport Firefighter curricula was not approved as the public comment period had not yet expired. To date there were no comments.
3. The Visiting Committee reviewing the Firefighter I and II curriculum have been meeting. Minutes are available online and Fire Chiefs are well represented with 4 of the 7 available seats being Chiefs. If you have concerns or comments concerning the work of the Visiting Committee, contact one of the Chiefs on the committee:
  - a) Chief Chad Miller – Littleton
  - b) Chief Jeff Currier – Bartlett
  - c) Chief Dana Cullen – Center Ossipee
  - d) Chief Tom Blanchette - Loudon

4. A contingency of Chiefs from the Capitol Area Mutual Aid Association was in attendance and again expressed their concerns to the Commission. The majority of the comments focused on recruiting and retaining firefighters.
5. It was reported that work on Phase 2 at the Burton Fire & EMS Academy were underway. Due to the extent of construction, training will not continue until the work is complete, but training is available off site.
6. Next Meeting is March 9, 2025.

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

**National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC) – (Chiefs E. Thomas/Cathy) –**

**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) – Report given above.**

**Forests and Lands – (Chief Sherman) – No report**

**Board of Fire Control – (Chiefs Clark/Hunter) – Chief Clark reported:**

The Board met on February 5<sup>th</sup> with all Board members in attendance. Chief Scott Hunter attended his last meeting as he is retiring from the Fire Service. The Board is seeking a career municipal fire chief to take Chief Hunter's place.

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. It was noted that there was a legislative bill to make NH an OSHA state.

The Board discussed the unusually high number of fire and CO deaths during 2024. The common denominator being lack or non-working smoke and CO detectors. A campaign is being created to make the public aware of the problem and to make detectors available. The board members offered many suggestions on how to get the word out.

There are numerous legislative bills being watched which could impact fire safety. A significant initiative has been taken place to make homes more affordable. Although the focus this year appears to be mostly around zoning there continues to be a movement to relax codes.

The issue of youth summer camp sleeping cabins was discussed, and it is anticipated that the requirement for them to be sprinklered will likely be relaxed provided certain measures are provided. This is a work in process, but hopefully will be addressed through an amendment in the Fire Code and not by law.

The preliminary report of the special Council on Electric Vehicles and Ion Batteries was reviewed and discussed. Although the number of document incidents are low it is expected that they will increase over time.

Next meeting is in April.

**Building Code Review Board – (Chief Conley/Asst. Chief Pouliot) –**  
Chief Conley reported:

Predominately there has been a lot of legislative discussions.

- HB 244, this bill takes building code, building officials, and board of appeal information out of 67X series and puts it into RS A 155-A. I was asked by Chief Hunter from Bedford to take a look at this as it has been something spoken about through the NHAFC. I will provide more feedback after the BCRB meets on Friday.
- Review of Canaan's Building Code.
- New Castle Building Code Ordinance.
- Manchester's Building Code.

Lastly, committee assignments were filled for 2025.

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

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

- Laconia Facility Update: Project movinmg forward Pre-Construction meetings have kicked off – ground breaking April 1<sup>st</sup>-ish;
- Genasys Emergency notification platform is up and running, If you are interested in becoming a POC for your community to use the ENS for local messasging, please let me know. The statewide ENS system is offfered to local communities at no cost;
  - A Best Practices and Guidance Document for local messaging will be distributed to the membership this month as part of the minutes;
- Community Events reminder – connect with our Public Outreach / Education Team for more info: Patrick Cavanaugh, 603-271-6911, [patrick.m.cavanaugh@desc.nh.gov](mailto:patrick.m.cavanaugh@desc.nh.gov) ;

- SIEC Quarterly Meeting scheduled on Feb 21<sup>st</sup> at the Fire Academy at 0900;
- E911 Commission meeting to be held on March 7<sup>th</sup>, at The IPOC Situation Room at 1100;
- Legislation update:
  - HB579, clarifying language for transfers to 988 / Rapid Response
  - Surcharge increase approved by the E911 Commission is in front of the PUC for review;
- Testing FirstNet CRD and HPUE devices in the NBA Patrol areas to potentially add coverage enhancements;
- Social Media Updates:



- Media events:
  - In January, the Division of Emergency Services and Communications used its social media platforms (Facebook, X, and Instagram) to share important seasonal safety reminders, including ice safety tips and the importance of having a visible address marker for first responders. We

also reinforced awareness of New Hampshire's Text-to-911 capability, ensuring residents know how to use this critical service in an emergency. We recognized employee work anniversaries and highlighted the contributions of our Peer Support team, including their participation in mental health presentations. Our "Unique NH road names" content continues to be a hit with our audience, sparking engagement and conversation. Additionally, DESC's ongoing collaboration with local public safety partners continues to strengthen our reach and impact. Our social media engagement remains strong, and we look forward to growing our connections in the months ahead.

- KPI's (YTD through January 2025):
  - \*96.86% of all calls answered w/i 15 seconds (exceeding NENA standard of 90% w/i 15 seconds) (\*Earthquake calls = 1200 within 23 minutes of the first report pulled this percentage down)
  - Avg. Police/fire Transfer time = 49 seconds (exceeding NFPA Std. of 60 Sec.)
  - Avg. EMD Transfer time = 124 seconds – stable relative to last year
  - Call volume @ .36% above last January's (2024) call volume
  - 490 Transfers to 988 / RRAP since July 2022
- Any questions, comments, concerns, please reach out...

**E 911 Commission – (Chief Thomas) – Next meeting in March**

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

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

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

- They are putting together a seminar on mental health to be held in April in Boston.

**Old Business -**

**New Business –**

- Deb Pendergast spoke of the value of Chief McQuillen's presentation. She indicated that the two NH peer support groups are getting together to sponsor a class on training Peer Support personnel. If the Chiefs are interested, let her know.

**Good and Welfare –**



- The 2025 Golf Tournament will be held at Lochmere CC in Tilton on August 11.
- Chris Scott mentioned that there may be an opening for fire service grants for towns under 20,000 for equipment as they move through the process. He also mentioned that there were resources available for veterans in NH.

The raffle was held. \$200 was collected, \$100 was given in prizes. Money counted by Chiefs D. Chamberlain and Murray.

The meeting was adjourned at 1116 hours.

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

February 14, 2025