



**JamNEW HAMPSHIRE ASSOCIATION OF FIRE CHIEFS,
INC.**

Working Together to Make a Difference

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Record of an Informational Session of the NH Association of Fire Chiefs

Due to a lack of a quorum, the meeting could not be convened but an informational session was held.

Thursday, May 16, 2024 – Sheraton Portsmouth Harborside Inn, Portsmouth, NH

The session began at 1507 hours, moderated by Chief Hunter.

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

Introduction of members: Members introduced themselves.

Special Guests: n/a

Minutes of the April Annual meeting have been posted. Approval deferred to June.

Financial Reports: April reports have been posted. Approval deferred to June.

Communications: Chief Lemire read a Thank You note from Chief Stephen Locke.

Applications for membership: Dep. Chief Aaron Heath of Bristol has been approved for membership.

Life Membership: Chief Eric Wilking (ret.) of Exeter was awarded Life Membership by the board. Following the session, Chief Hunter surprised Chief Thomas with his Life Membership card.

President's Report: (Emanuel) – (Submitted in writing)

- Chief Emanuel is committed to a Scouting event at Scout Camp at the time of our May membership meeting and will be unable to attend the NHAFC meeting.

My apologies for missing today's meeting. (Thank you James for conducting business in my absence)

- Thank you, NHAFC Board members that were able to attend the CFSI program in Washington DC, we were able to successfully meet with Representatives Papas and Kuster and Senators Hassen and Shaheen to discuss key issues at the federal government level that have direct impacts on New Hampshire constituents and their local fire departments. Issues reviewed included FEMA/SAFER/AFG funding, reauthorizing of the United States Fire Administration, cancer screening, research, and benefits offered to firefighters, lithium ion battery research, infrastructure reinvestment, and health care funding and reimbursements. Special thanks to Brent for making the arrangements for the trip and appointments.
- The World Fire Congress started May 6th in Washington DC and NHFMO Toomey is attending, I am excited that NH is being represented.
- Emanuel is asking the board of directors to increase engagement of our members in current fire service issues on the local, state, and national level.
- FEMA engaged a UNH senior marketing class capstone project to evaluate the status and to make recommendations for the 2013 USFA Fire Is Everyone's Fight program. Recommendations were made by UNH students to host internships, strengthen fire prevention week, update social media and current audio/video/electronic presence. Emanuel noted that these recommendations are also pertinent to each of our local departments, specifically relate to connecting with the next generation of firefighters and fire chiefs.
- The NH Explorer Academy is being conducted for the second time since COVID and appreciates the contribution from the NHAFC. I believe that it is aligned with our best efforts for recruitment and retention for future generations.
- The NHMA has posed a call for presentations, and I recommend that we submit at least one proposal. Last year's session outlining "A fire chief's perspective on contemporary leadership and personnel challenges" was well received. I recommend that we proceed with offering "fire chief's perspectives" to the NHMA.

Report of the Executive Director: (Lemire)

- He was thrilled with the outcome of the April 11 events. The Common Man staff was outstanding, the seminars were outstanding, the vendors were happy and we had 99 for dinner/meeting.....a record. Thanks to all who assisted. We may seek to return there next year as the vendors were very happy with the venue.
- Our trip to CFSI in Washington turned out better than expected as our two Senators were not due back in time to meet but made a special effort to be there and surprised us. Our congressional representatives were thoughtful and supportive. The National Fire and Emergency Services dinner/presentation was well done and engaging.
- Our next BOD meeting will be June 5 and will be virtual.
- The June 13 meeting will be virtual and held at 4:00 so to accommodate some of our part-time members.
- July BOD meeting will be on the 10th and virtual.
- The July 11 meeting will be a breakfast meeting at the NHFA. The vendor has lowered their prices so we're back to \$16.00 per person.
- Our August 7 BOD meeting may be virtual at 0830 hours.

- On August 8, we'll join our North Country brethren at the Town and Country in Gorham (Shelburne) where we'll have a seminar being developed by the Professional Development Committee.
- August 12 will be the Golf Tournament at Lochmere in Tilton.
- Our application for 501 c3 has been submitted to the IRS and the fee paid!
- Ad book proceeds to date: Total: \$16,950; Vendor: \$11,865; Assn: \$5085.

1st Vice President Report (Watkins) – (See below)

(Our Government Relations Specialist Adam Schmidt submitted a legislative update)

The Legislature has about one month left in the session. They are scheduled to conclude their work by June 13. All bills must be out of House and Senate committees by May 23. Soon thereafter, the committee of conference process to resolve differences between the House and Senate on bills they each have passed will commence. Leading up to the committee of conferences, there is usually a fair amount of non-germane amendments that are proposed to bring back legislation the other body has killed. It can be a challenge to keep up with issues that re-emerge in order to create a showdown between the House and Senate.

- **HB 1647 (Group II Retirement Reforms)** - The bill is a result of the Retirement Benefits Commission which met last summer and fall. As passed by the House, the bill would adjust the retirement annuity multipliers for members who started service before 7/1/11 that were not vested by 1/1/12, and those who were hired after 7/1/11, to 2.5% per year for service in excess of 10 years. This proposal was estimated to cost \$56 million. NHAFC submitted testimony in support of the bill in the House, and once again when the bill was heard in the Senate Finance Committee. Yesterday, the Senate Finance Committee passed an amendment to the bill which would increase the multiplier for Group II members, only in Tier B, to 2.5% for all years worked in excess of 15 years for members who retire under service or disability retirement. The Senate Finance Committee passed the amendment in order to reduce the cost of the legislation. The change in years (from 10 to 15) and applicability (Tier B only, rather than B and C), reduced the cost to approximately \$26 million. Supporters of the amendment highlighted the various unknown costs that the State is facing including Sununu Center settlements and education funding. With those additional costs on the horizon, there was support to amend the bill in order to lower the cost. The entire Senate will vote on the amendment during their session next week. From there, it will be up to the House to agree with the amendment or go to committee of conference.
- **Ambulance Billing Issues** – There are several bills dealing with ambulance reimbursement. Here is a breakdown of where each stand in the session:
 - **SB 409/HB 1568 (Medicaid Re-imburement for Treat/No Transport)** - Both bills would require NH DHHS to file a Medicaid plan amendment which, under specific circumstances, would allow for re-

imbursement for instances where an individual was treated, but not transported, to a hospital. Chief Mike Sitar attended the Senate and House hearings on SB 409 and testified in favor. At this point, it seems that the House and Senate are supportive of the concept, but there are some differences between their proposals. We will continue to monitor both bills in hopes that one will become law.

- **HB 1081 (Direct Pay)** - The bill would require private health insurance carriers to pay providers directly, regardless of whether or not they are in network. HB 1081 was passed by the House earlier this year and was recommended for passage by the Senate Health and Human Services Committee earlier today by a vote of 5-0. It will go to the Senate floor next week. Should it pass, it will go to Governor Sununu for his consideration.
- **SB 407 (NH Department of Insurance Study)** – As passed by the Senate, this bill would require that carriers pay ambulance providers directly and require a minimum payment from carriers to private providers. When the bill was heard in the House Commerce Committee, there was an estimate that passing the bill would increase health insurance premiums in the small group and individual market by \$4 per member, per month. This cost seemed too high for Committee members. Instead of passing the bill, they amended it to create an actuarial based study, conducted by the NH Department of Insurance to examine costs for ambulance services in order to determine an appropriate re-imbursement level in a future session. The House will vote on the recommendation next week. If it passes the House, we will have to see how the Senate reacts to the House amendment.
- **SB 352 (Retired and Full Time Firefighter Cancer Screening Program)**
 - The bill would create a \$5 million fund from which re-imbursements to retired and full-time fire fighters could seek re-imbursement when specific documentation is provided. NHAFC, PPFNH, and Fire Standards and Training would be responsible for development of an initial plan to implement the screenings. The plan would be submitted to the Governor and Commissioner of the Department of Safety. NHAFC signed in as supporting the legislation in both the House and Senate. The bill passed the Senate earlier this spring, it passed the House Health and Human Services Committee several weeks ago, and yesterday, it was approved by the House Finance Committee. The committee removed the \$1,300 cap for individuals but kept the \$5 million overall cap. The entire House will vote on the bill next week.
- **HB 1352 (PFAS in station wear/PPE)** – As introduced, the bill would require Fire Departments to “...give preference” to PPE which does not include PFAS, once those alternatives are made available. In the interim, Fire Departments shall have in place a policy that limits unnecessary exposure to PPE. Language is included that states it would remain a best practice from PPE to be

used while operating in a dangerous environment. Regarding station wear, by January 1, 2025, Fire Departments shall not provide as an option any station wear that contains intentionally added PFAS or fire resistive chemicals (fluorine, chlorine, bromine, lead, or antimony). Manufacturers are required to provide safer alternatives, should they exist. The bill was requested by PFFNH. The current version of the bill would enable, but not mandate that local fire departments to give preference to PPE which does not include PFAS. The amendment was consistent with conversations with PFFNH to ensure the bill could be enacted without confusion. The full House passed the bill in late March and a Senate committee voted 5-0 to pass it earlier today. It will be voted on by the Senate next week.

- **SB 309 (Reduction in vesting period from 10 to 5 years)** – Similar to HB 1647, this bill was developed as part of the Retirement benefits Commission. The bill initially passed the Senate Executive Departments and Administration Committee, and then the entire Senate. It was referred to the Senate Finance Committee for their consideration. At a Finance Committee meeting on April 9, the Committee voted 5-2 to send the bill to interim study, rather than recommending passage. Those who favored interim study indicated that there were costs associated with the bill that were not previously known. In addition, the committee was contacted by several municipalities who argued that the bill would have an unintended impact on workforce. The Retirement Benefits Commission felt the bill would help attract more state/municipal employees since it would reduce the barriers to vesting. Municipalities were concerned that the bill would actually create more individuals leaving government service earlier in their career. The Senate voted to table the bill April 11. It will stay there through the end of session and will not pass this session.
- **SB 599 (State Fire Code)** – This bill would alter the reference for the State Fire Code by changing the references to both the Life Safety Code, NFPA 101 and Uniform Fire Code NFPA 1 from the 2018 editions to the 2021 editions. It also would ratify amendments approved by the Board of Fire control as of September 20, 2023. The bill has passed both the House and Senate and should be considered by the Governor at some point this spring/summer.

BACKGROUND FOR SB 407 – relative to direct pay for ambulance services.

The NH Legislature is currently considering SB 407. The bill has two main objectives:

1. Ensure health insurance carriers provide payment directly to ambulance providers (rather than patients).
2. Create a re-imbursalment level for the payment by private health insurance carriers which is closer to the actual costs of service.

The bill does not impact balance billing.

The Senate passed version of the bill would require health insurance carriers to pay ambulance service providers, who do not have a contract with the carrier, the lesser of

rates set by the local government, or at “...325% of the published rate for ambulance services established under Medicare law...”, or participating ambulances billed charges. Last summer and fall, NHAFC surveyed fire-based EMS agencies that transport patients. The data included below comes from the survey responses and is reflective of 2022 data. While the surveys did not include all providers, it included information for almost 50,000 transports in New Hampshire.

The chart includes information regarding the minimum, maximum and average costs included in the survey responses. In addition, the chart included Medicare reimbursement levels at 100 % (current level) and 325% of Medicare. It is likely the bill will pass the Senate. NHAFC expects the insurance industry to strongly oppose the bill in the House. This information is meant to help Chiefs and fire-based EMS agencies understand the potential revenue implications of passing SB 407 so that we can develop stronger support for the bill in the House.

**DATA FROM NHAFC SURVEY
REIMBURSEMENT BASED ON % OF MEDICARE**

Type of Service	Minimum	Maximum	Average	Medicare 100%	Medicare 325%
BLS	\$517	\$1619	\$934	\$455.20	\$1,478.40
ALS 1	\$616	\$2420	\$1403	\$540.55	\$1,756.79
ALS 2	\$880	\$3571	\$2058	\$782.38	\$2,542.74
Mileage	\$11	\$44	\$23	\$7.71	\$28.31

Important note: There are several other bills dealing with ambulance reimbursement. HB 1081 requires direct payment to providers. SB 409 and HB 1568 would create parameters for “treat, no transport” payments in the Medicaid program.

2nd Vice President Report (Hunter) – No report

Sgt. At Arms (Chamberlain) – No report

Committee Reports

Scholarship Committee – (Dep. Toomey) – Information was released.

Division Reports

Fire Marshal – (Marshal Toomey)

ADMINISTRATION:

Personnel:

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

Part-time Building Code Review Board Administrative Secretary

On March 22nd we welcomed Bryce Michaud to our staff as the part-time State Building Permit Coordinator.

On March 22nd we welcomed Glen MacDonald to our staff as a part-time Community Risk Reduction Specialist.

Legislation:

The following bills are the key bills that we are currently monitoring:

- HB 1059 Relative to the state building code
Status: Passed House with Amendment, In Committee in Senate
- HB 1065 Relative to fire sprinkler requirements in residential buildings
Status: Passed House with Amendment, In Committee in Senate
- HB 1215 Relative to development approvals and appeals
Status: Passed House with Amendment, In Committee in Senate
- HB 1352 Relative to firefighting personal protective equipment
Status: Passed House with Amendment, In Committee in Senate
- HB 1386 Relative to prohibiting the disposal of lithium-ion batteries in solid waste
landfill facilities, composting facilities, or incinerators
Status: Passed House with Amendment, OTPA in Senate
- HB 1387 Relative to revisions to the state building code
Status: Passed House with Amendment, In Committee in Senate
- SB 352 Establishing an early detection cancer screening pilot program for active and
retired firefighters
Status: Passed Senate, In Committee in House

- SB 365 Relative to the sale or use of lithium-ion batteries for electric bicycles, scooters,
or personal electric mobility devices
Status: Passed Senate, In Committee in House
- SB 373 Relative to the state building code
Status: Amended in Senate, In Committee in House
- SB 430 Relative to establishing a counsel to study the impacts of electric vehicles,
lithium-ion batteries, and e-mobility devices on first responder response, the
environment, building and fire codes, and life and safety property protection
Status: Passed Senate, OTPA in the House
- SB 437 Relative to local authority to amend the state building code
Status: Passed Senate with Amendment, OTP in the House
- SB 599 Relative to the state fire code
Status: Passed Senate, OTP in the House

Board of Fire Control:

The next Board of Fire Control meeting is scheduled for June 19, 2024.

Foam Take-back Program:

The contract for the foam take-back program was approved by the Governor & Executive Council at the end of June 2023. DES has updated that they are now working on some facility disposal items with the vendor and anticipate the program remaining in a delayed status until late spring.

BUREAU OF INVESTIGATIONS:

In the month of April, we received 29 incident notifications resulting in 13 scene responses. The Bureau of Investigations currently has 14 open arson or suspected arson investigations.

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

- On April 3rd, investigators responded to Rye to assist with a building fire. The fire had occurred during a nor'easter, with strong winds and resulted in excessive fire damage. The cause of the fire was undetermined.
- On April 7th, investigators responded to Canaan to assist with a barn fire. The cause of the fire is undetermined.
- On April 18th, an investigator responded to Nashua for an intentionally set fire on state property. This joint investigation with Nashua Police and Fire Departments remains ongoing.
- On April 20th, investigators responded to Plymouth for a fire in multiple commercial buildings. No one was injured and the cause of the fire is currently under investigation.
- On April 23rd, investigators responded to Newbury for a house and two chicken coops on fire. The fire cause is undetermined.
- On April 23rd, investigators responded to Barnstead for a building fire. The cause of the fire is undetermined.
- On April 24th, investigators responded to Pelham for a motor vehicle accident and fire, with a fatality. Autopsy determined that the victim had died from traumatic injuries, thus ending SFMO's involvement.

- On April 27th, an investigator responded to Plymouth for a fire at a multi-unit residence. The cause of the fire is undetermined.
- On April 27th, an investigator responded to Lincoln for a fire in a multi-use building. The cause of the fire is undetermined.
- On April 29th, an IGL K9 team assisted Merrimack Fire and Police Departments with intentionally set fires on an island. The Merrimack Fire and Police Departments are conducting the investigation and three people have been arrested.

Fatal Fire/CO Incidents:

- On April 4th, investigators responded to Derry for an explosion at a single-family home. One person was pronounced dead on scene while a juvenile was transported to the hospital for treatment and later released. The explosion and subsequent fire happened during a nor'easter, the effects of which had caused a tree to fall, severing the propane line to the home. The cause of the explosion/fire was accidental.
- On April 25th, the SFMO was notified of a fire fatality. The victim died at a Massachusetts hospital where they had been receiving treatment for their injuries. The fire had occurred in Nashua on April 22nd.
- On April 25th, investigators responded to a fatal fire in Concord. SFMO investigators worked alongside Concord Fire Department investigators to document the fire scene. The fire remains under investigation.
- On April 26th, investigators responded to a fatal fire in Manchester. SFMO investigators and Manchester Fire Marshal's Office investigators worked in tandem to document the fire scene. The fire remains under investigation.
- On April 27th, investigators responded to a fatal fire in Nashua. SFMO investigators along with Nashua Fire Marshal's Office investigators and Nashua Police Department detectives collaborated to document the fire scene and conduct witness interviews. The cause of the fire remains under investigation.

Ignitable Liquid Detection Canine Teams:

- There was 1 IGL canine deployment in April.

Youth Firesetter:

- There were no youth fire setter assessments in April; however, there were 3 cases involving youth firesetters and 2 inquiries.

Training/Committees:

- Two investigators attended the IAAI (International Association of Arson Investigators) conference in Las Vegas during the week of April 8th.

BUREAU OF BUILDING SAFETY & CONSTRUCTION:

State Building Permit System:

We processed the following permits in the month of April:

- Building: 21
- Electrical: 24
- Plumbing: 5
- Mechanical Fuel Gas: 3
- Mechanical Non-Fuel Gas: 4
- Fire Protection: 2
- Fire Alarm: 7

Technical Assistance, Educational & Healthcare Reviews:

We initiated 9 educational and 9 healthcare plan reviews, completed 236 inspections and 213 technical consults in the month of April.

Variance Requests:

We processed 5 variance requests in the month of April.

Fireworks Safety and Enforcement Program

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

- Proximate Licenses Issued: 1
- Display Certificate of Competency Issued: 5
- Consumer Fireworks Retail Store Licenses Issued: 3
- Explosive Magazine Inspections: 10

- Proximate Audience Inspections: 0
- Technical Assistance: 1

Modular Building Program

The Modular Building Program has conducted the following in the month of April:

- Inspections: 3
- Audits of Manufacturers: 2
- Audits of Educational Facilities: 0
- Labels Issued to Manufacturers: 38
- Units Shipped to New Hampshire: 61

Tramway and Amusement Ride Safety

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

- Amusement Registrations: 117
- Amusement Inspections: 137
- Amusement Incidents: 0
- Tramway Registrations: 2
- Tramway Inspections: 2
- Tramway Incidents: 1

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.

In the month of April, our Hazardous Materials Coordinators attended an HSEM REP Exercise, the Haz Mat Collaborative Meeting, TEEX Haz Mat Trainer Class, Hazard 3 EV Webinar and the monthly PEAC Training. They also assisted the Haz Mat Collaborative with the two-day NH Haz Mat Conference and presented a session on PEAC software.

Also, in the month of April, we received 4 Tier II reports from NH facilities.

Electric Vehicles and Lithium-Ion Batteries

Pending the final approvals for SB 430 we will be formally establishing a 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.

Regional Outreach/Fire Chief Roundtables:

We continue to partner with the Commissioner's Office, other Department of Safety Leadership and the NHAFC to conduct regional outreach/Fire Chief Roundtables. Our latest meeting was held at the Burton Fire & EMS Training Facility in Bethlehem on April 11th. We are planning a program in the Souhegan Mutual Aid System for June.

Incident Reporting:

Your commitment to ensuring we have great data to accurately show the fire problem in NH is greatly appreciated! Please remember to report any EV or lithium-ion battery fires to us.

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.

Outreach Events:

Members of the SFMO were busy in the month of April, engaging with just over 1000 people at a variety of events across the state. Members of the SFMO attended the Keene Home Show on April 6th and 7th to hand out fire safety education and our side-by-side sprinkler trailer was used to show the difference between fires in a room with and without sprinklers.



Members of the SFMO also presented at and attended career fairs at Conant High School, Somersworth Middle School, Lin-Wood High School, Groveton High School, Concord Regional Technical Center, Lakes Region Community College, and the University of New Hampshire. Our K-9 teams provided five demonstrations in the month of April.

Please consider us as you plan your next community event! Send your request to us at fmopubliceducation@dos.nh.gov.

Public Education:

Are you familiar with the USFA's Fire and Life Safety Communicators Initiative? This initiative is a collaboration among the fire and emergency medical services to speak with "one voice" on fire and life safety. They believe in working together to present consistent messages. The theme for the month of May is "Home Fire Sprinklers."



Handout: [Home Fire Sprinklers Save Lives \(fema.gov\)](https://www.fema.gov)

Video: <https://youtu.be/-zMKhJckhDQ>

For more information on this initiative, or to find outreach materials on the monthly topics, please visit:

[Fire and Life Safety Communicators Initiative \(fema.gov\)](https://www.fema.gov)

[Arson Awareness Week 2024 runs from May 5-11, 2024. This year's theme is "Protecting Houses of Worship – Fire as a Weapon." Arson was the leading cause of reported fires in houses of worship in 2020. Excluding fires for which a cause was undetermined, 58% of fires in houses of worship were classified as "incendiary."](https://www.fema.gov)

Find messages and assets to share here: [Protecting Houses of Worship Against Arson \(fema.gov\)](https://www.fema.gov)

Training Opportunities:

Heating and Fuel Gas Appliance Inspections

Thursday, May 16, 2024

6:00PM-9:00PM

Wilton Fire Department

A review of the State Fire Code relative to NFPA 54: National Fuel Gas Code, NFPA 58: Liquefied Petroleum Gas Code, and NFPA 31: Standard for the Installation of Oil-Burning Equipment. This session will give the Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ) or their designee a better understating of how to navigate these codes and standards.

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

Collection of Witness Data in Fire Investigations

Thursday, May 23, 2024

6:00PM-8:30PM

Raymond S. Burton Training Facility, Bethlehem

Competent and credible fire investigation work requires proper consideration of witness information. This program will offer first responders data collection techniques for successfully obtaining critical information from witnesses that will assist them in determining the origin and cause of a fire, as well as information that will be needed if the decision is made to request assistance from the NH SFMO.

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

Additional locations and offerings will be announced soon. We are working on topics to include interviewing witnesses, air monitoring, inspections of multi-family dwellings and NHFIRS Incident Coding. 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) (Submitted in writing)

ADMINISTRATION

Personnel

- The open Fire Service Instructor Supervisor position in the Bureau of Certification and Support remains open.
- We have one vacancy for Program Specialist III (Education Technologist) of the Educational Technology section.
- We continue to advertise for our three new full-time Fire Training Instructors. We have made one conditional offer to a candidate and continue to interview new candidates as they apply.
- We have one vacancy for Emergency Services Reporting Coordinator which has been posted internally.
- Our part-time Program Coordinator position for Fire Officer is open and we are seeking applicants.
- Our part-time Program Coordinator for EMS Simulation is open and has been posted internally.
- Nick Poulin has been hired as our part-time Program Coordinator position for CPAT.
- Steve Solomon has been hired as our part-time Program Coordinator position for Hazardous Materials.

Grants

- The Raymond S. Burton Fire and EMS Training Facility infrastructure project continues to move forward. The contract with the selected vendor is being completed with construction on phase I expected this Summer/Fall.
 - Construction documents are being developed for eventual requests for proposals for Phase II.
- Our 2023 AFG grant submission is pending.
- 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.
- The *Law Enforcement Officers, Professional Firefighters and Emergency Medical Technicians Career Development, Recruitment and Retention Program* committee established in New Hampshire RSA 188-F:70 announced the new program on December 18th. Details can be found on our website under the Recruitment and Retention link from the homepage.

Special Projects

- We will be hosting the Governor and Executive Council meeting on May 15th at the Concord campus.
- We have 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.
 - The grant is for a three-year project, \$420,000 for each state specifically for delivery of EV training.
- We are near completion on the Division strategic plan for FY 25-27.
- We continue to work with the Department of Administrative Services on implementation of RSA 153-A:33-a Requiring Trauma Kits to be available in state owned buildings. To date 470 kits have been allocated.
- We are working on our website transition and improvements with NH DoIT. A staff lead has been identified and has begun work on this transition.
- We are partnering with the International Society of Fire Instructors to bring their *Water Mapping* program to the Fire Academy. Part of this project will be constructing the prop, offering a train-the-trainer program and then a student offering of the class this July.

Facilities

- We have completed an inspection of the “A” building and are making needed improvements and repairs.

Legislative/Administrative Rules

- The Fire Standards and Training Commission amended Fire rules relative to the Recruitment and Retention report and its recommendations are being submitted to the Joint Legislative Committee on Administrative Rules (JLCAR), which will include public input.
- The new Educational Training Agency ruleset (Saf-C 5900 EMS) became effective April 30, 2024.
- The proposed Trauma Rules are working through the internal legal process.
- We are currently tracking fourteen Bills for the upcoming legislative session. A few of those include:
 - HB 1057 Relative to Provisional Licenses for New Applicants for State EMS Licensure
 - HB 1081 Relative to Insurance Payments to Ambulance Providers
 - HB 1328 Relative to Public Safety Providers Defined as Essential Services
 - HB 1330 Relative Establishing an Emergency Medical Services Disciplinary Review Panel, and Relative to Procedures for Removal of Records of Discipline
 - HB 1352 Relative to Firefighting Personal Protective Equipment
 - HB 1568 Relative to Direct Pay for Ambulance Services
 - SB 353 Establishing an Early Detection Cancer Screening Pilot Program for Active and Retired Firefighters
 - SB 407 Relative to Direct Pay for Ambulance Services
 - SB 409 Relative to Reimbursement for Ambulance Services Under the State Medicaid Plan

Outreach

- We are continuing our Leadership Roundtables with the Commissioner, Fire Marshal's Office, HSEM and Emergency Services and Communications with regional Fire Chief's and EMD's.
 - We are planning outreach meetings at Souhegan Mutual Aid in June.
- Staff members continue to attend various stakeholder and mutual aid group meetings and make department visits.

Mental Health & Resiliency

- POWER – Training Program for First Responders – Police Academy campus July 8th
- “Unlocking the power of sleep for first responder health and wellness” – Concord July 9th
 - Presented by: Batt. Chief Dena Ali- Raleigh, NC and Capt. Brandon Dreiman- Indianapolis, IN
- 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 RFP for a mental health professional has been posted with an early June deadline for proposals.

Fire Standards and Training Commission

- The next Fire Standards and Training Commission meeting will be September 5th at 0930 in Classrooms 5/6 in the dormitory building at the main campus.
- Fire Department Notification of Employment (Fire 601.01)
 - All full-time hires, to include lateral transfers, are required to have a Form A submitted within 15 days of employment. The form can be located at: <https://www.nh.gov/safety/divisions/fstems/documents/forma2017updated.pdf>
- Requests, Determination and Duration of Waivers (Fire 704)
 - These rules outline the procedure for request a waiver of training standards for full-time career fire service personnel, how the determination is made to grant or deny a waiver, and the duration of a waiver if granted, which is only valid while the employee granted a waiver is employed in that position.

CURRICULUM

- The Hazardous Materials Operations Visiting Committee is still underway. This process is expected to conclude soon with the new Awareness and Operations curriculum going to the Fire Standards and Training Commission in September.
- Fire Inspector Visiting Committee was seated at the May Commission meeting.
 - The Inspector Visiting Committee will create two entirely new curricula for First Responder Inspector (formerly Inspector I) and Fire Inspector (formerly Inspector II).
- Rope Rescue Awareness, Operations, and Technician programs are currently with The Pro Board Committee on Accreditation (COA).
 - Once the programs are accredited, we can begin offering them.
- The Division's request for a change of accreditation to use the new electronic testing system for certification exams is with The Pro Board COA as well. As soon as the application is approved, we can begin using tablets for testing and retire the bubble sheets.
- Fire Investigator test item validation has started.

BUREAU OF FIRE TRAINING

Courses/Programs

- Firefighter I
 - Spofford – began January 16th
 - Burton campus (FF I & II) – began January 17th
 - Epping – began January 27th
 - Spring Recruit School – began March 6th
 - Sunapee – August 13th (FF I & II)
 - Madison – August 12th
 - LRCC Fall class – August 26th (FF I & II)
 - Fall Recruit School – September 3rd
 - Concord (FF II) – Concord campus Sept. 8th

- Firefighter II
 - Concord campus September 8th
- Technical Rescue
 - Trench Rescue – Concord campus May 11th
 - Trench Rescue – Concord Campus July 8th
 - Confined Space Rescue Technician – Concord campus June 1st
 - Confined Space Rescue Technician – Concord campus July 15th
 - Swiftwater Rescue Awareness – Conway May 8th
 - Swiftwater Rescue I – Conway May 8th, Franklin June 3rd, Goffstown June 4th
- Driver Operator
 - Driver/Operator – All Vehicles
 - Driver Operator – Aerial Apparatus
- Hazardous Materials
 - Hazardous Materials Spill Response (presented by NH Department of Environmental Services) – Concord campus June 20th
 - We are partnered with the International Association of Firefighters to host a Pro Board Hazardous Materials Technician program at the Concord campus from April 15th – April 26th.
 - We applied for a second offering to be held here later this fall and were not selected.
- IAFF Fireground Survival
 - Concord campus June 3rd
- Airport Rescue Firefighting
 - Airport Firefighter – Concord Campus May 6th
 - Recertification Programs – scheduling for Spring deliveries
 - Vermont Air National Guard, Hancock County/Bar Harbor and Hyannis Airports attended training at the ARFF site at the end of April.
- Prop Usage
 - The SCBA trailer was utilized in Kingston.
 - Air Trailer was utilized in Jefferson.
- “On My Time” Program
 - To date, over 1,800 students have completed individual online modules.
- Special Programs
 - We are conducting training for the Seabrook Station Fire Brigade.
 - The Pipeline Emergency 3rd Edition Train-the-Trainer program will be held at the Concord campus May 14th. This will enable departments to deliver the training within their departments and mutual aid associations.
- Repairs were completed on the fuel delivery system at the ARFF site following the annual inspection.

- Ongoing maintenance and repairs continue to be done in the “J” building, on drill yard hydrants and roof props.
- Construction of a ceiling prop was completed and utilized.
- We continue to implement our own utilization of NHESR to enter and manage our equipment inventory.

Apparatus/Equipment

- The new ARFF truck is in production at E-One in Ocala, Fl. and is expected in summer of 2024.

BUREAU OF CERTIFICATION AND SUPPORT

Courses/Programs

- Instructor I/II/III Programs
 - Instructor I – Keene began April 6th
 - Instructor I – Concord campus May 14th
 - Instructor I – Rye September 11th
 - Instructor I – Concord campus October 15th
 - Instructor II - Virtual February 20th
 - Instructor II – Virtual October 21st
 - Instructor III – Virtual March 4th
- Instructor Professional Development
 - Engaging the Affective Domain – Concord campus May 9th and Virtual May 14th
 - Meaningful Measurements: Test Item Writing – Concord campus July 11th and Virtual July 16th
 - Measure the Measurement: Test Item Evaluation – Concord campus September 19th and Virtual September 24th
 - Designing Simulation Based Education – Concord campus November 14th and Virtual November 19th
- Fire Officer I/II Programs
 - Fire Officer I – Concord campus September 3rd
 - Fire Officer I – Concord campus December 4th
 - Fire Officer II – Virtual October 15th
- Fire Inspector Programs
 - Fire Inspector I – Concord campus September 12th
 - Fire Inspector II – Manchester March 28th
- Fire Investigator - Concord campus August 22nd
- Warrants and Citations – Concord campus November 13th
- National Fire Academy

- National Fire Academy Three State Weekend June 22 & 23rd
- Command and Control of Incident Operations – Concord campus – June 12th
- Incident Safety Officer – Concord campus June 15-16
- Shaping the Future – Concord campus June 15th
- Exercising Leadership to Facilitate Adaptive Change – Concord campus October 21st
- Youth Firesetter Intervention Specialist – Concord campus November 14th
- Decision Making for Initial Company Operations – Concord campus March 10, 2025
- Incident Safety Officer – Concord campus April 7, 2025
- Your Workplace has Changed: Fire Dynamics for Structural Firefighting
 - Hanover June 12th

Recruitment and Retention

- Upcoming Recruitment and Retention events:
 - Building Fire and EMS Talent with an Apprenticeship Program – New Hampton May 1st and Stratham June 5th.
 - Extended Learning Opportunities Networking – Concord campus May 14th
 - How to Stand Out in an Oral Board: Helping Candidates Succeed – Concord campus May 23rd
 - CPAT Prep for Women – Laconia June 9th
- The April edition of the Recruitment and Retention Newsletter is available at <https://www.nh.gov/safety/divisions/fstems/RecruitmentandRetention.html>

Education Technology

- The OB Emergencies online course is in progress, EMS Documentation is complete, preparations are underway to record the Sleep Hygiene course being held this summer, the Firefighter Survival module is being updated, we have created a new CPAT Orientation online course and the instructor continuing education offerings are being evaluated for revised versions to replace outdated ones.
- We are working with vendors on an evaluation of our existing classroom technology in preparation for upgrades.

Instructors

- We are nearing 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:
 - April 22nd at Laconia Ice Rink (47 candidates tested, 39 individuals passed and were added to eligibility list)
 - June 10th at Laconia Ice Rink (retest June 11th)
 - August 12th at NHFA (retest August 13th)
 - October 21st at NHFA (retest October 22nd)
 - November 18th at NHFA (retest November 19th)
- 2024 CPAT
 - Department member assistance is needed for CPAT on testing days. Please confirm available personnel to assist with Bureau PC Nick Poulin at Nicholas.a.poulin@dos.nh.gov prior to the test date to assist in planning.

Testing

- Monthly Testing was completed this month (in addition to end of course testing for each program):

BUREAU OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

Boards and Commissions

- The NH Medical Control Board meeting will meet at 0930 on May 16th.
- The NH Emergency Medical and Trauma Services Coordinating Board meeting will meet on May 16th at 1300 at 1300.
- The NH Trauma Medical Review Committee (TMRC) will meet at 0930 on June 16th.
- The Privacy Committee will meet April 24th at 1300. (Cancelled)

Operations

- With final adoption of the Educational Training Agency ruleset as of April 30, 2024 the Administrative Packet for application is complete and can be found at on the Division website and Resource Center.
- The EMS license renewals period has concluded with 503 providers lapsing during this cycle.
- The EMS Simulation Training Program is active with ongoing open enrollment courses in 2024.

Courses/Programs

- Emergency Medical Responder (EMR)
 - The Summer class begins June 1st in Concord, Lempster and Tuftonboro.
 - The Fall class begins September 21st in Keene, Bartlett and Concord.
- EMS Continuing Education and Simulation Education
 - Pediatric Fundamental Critical Care – Keene May 6th
 - Fundamental Critical Care Support: Obstetrics – Concord campus May 20th
 - Asthma Care for EMS – Concord campus May 1st and Virtually May 16th
 - FP-C, CCP-C and CFRN Advanced Practice Update and Critical Care Review – Bethlehem campus May 28th and Concord campus May 30th
 - Cardiology Adult Cardiac Arrest – Concord campus May 15th and Bethlehem campus June 12th
 - Creepy Crawlies & Things With Wings – Concord campus June 5th and Virtual June 20th
 - Medical Neurological Emergencies – Concord campus July 17th and Bethlehem campus August 14th
 - Frequently Forgotten but Definitely Damaging: Over-the-Counter Overdose – Concord campus Sept. 4th and Virtual Sept. 19th
 - Cardiology Pediatric Cardiac Arrest – Concord campus September 18th and Bethlehem campus October 16th
 - Pre-Hospital Trauma Life Support (PHTLS) – Bethlehem campus September 21st
 - SIRS, Sepsis, Shock and Death: Recognition and Intervention for Systemic Infection – Concord campus October 2nd and Virtual October 17th
 - EMS Grand Rounds: Altered Mental Status – Concord campus October 3rd
 - NFA F0146 Supervising Emergency Medical Services – Concord campus October 7th
 - Pre-Hospital and Interfacility Transport Stroke Care – Concord campus November 6th and Virtual November 21st
 - Cognitive Bias in EMS – Concord campus December 4th and Virtual December 19th
 - Obstetrics Childbirth – Concord campus November 13th and Bethlehem December 11th
- 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

- The EMS Protocols Ver. 9.0 were released on March 28th, effective statewide on June 1st.
 - Licensed EMS units and affiliated licensed EMS providers shall begin using the 2024 State of New Hampshire Patient Care Protocols Version 9.0 **beginning on June 1st, 2024**. Licensed EMS units and affiliated licensed EMS providers must continue to operate using the current Version 8.2 during this transition phase.
 - The protocol rollout was created to educate the provider of the changes between Version 8.2 and Version 9.0 of the New Hampshire Patient Care Protocols; and not act as the sole mechanism to teach providers on new skills, processes, and medications. Consult with your unit leader to determine the process you must undergo to familiarize yourself with the new protocols.
 - The new version of protocols can be found online at:
 - <https://www.nh.gov/safety/divisions/fstems/ems/advlifesup/patientcare.html>
- We are working with the Trauma Medical Review Committee on the Trauma Plan v.6, ACS Migration Plan for Trauma Hospital designations, Trauma Rules and Data Sharing.
- We continue our outreach and support to agencies for inter-facility transfers and mobile integrated health programs.

Data Management

- NFIRS/Respond NH
 - If you would like to start using the New Hampshire Emergency Services Reporting System (NHESR), please fill out the form available at <https://nhfa-ems.com/nhesronboard/>.
 - Fire User Group meetings occur remotely on the second Wednesday at 1300 hours each month.
 - Our Fire Reporting Coordinator position is currently vacant due to a promotion and user groups will be temporarily cancelled until the position is filled.
 - 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)
 - The New Hampshire Emergency Services Reporting (NHESR) system has been updated to the NEMSIS 3.5 standard as of February 27th, 2024, and has been fully transitioned for all services effective April 1st, 2024.
 - 20,139 EMS incidents were entered into the system for April bringing the total for 2024 to 87,920.

Compliance

- There are currently over 36 active investigations and ongoing cases.

Preparedness and Special Projects

- Outreach continues on both AED and CPR programs.

Professional Development Committee – (Director Cutting) – No report

Fire Standards and Training Commission – Chiefs Clark/DeAngelis – No report

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

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

EMS Trauma Medical Review Board – (Chief Clough) – (Submitted in writing)

BUREAU REPORTS – Chief Romanello

- a) Protocols 9.0 – Released on 28 March 2024
 - i) Statewide Implementation – 1 June 2024
 - ii) As of 15 April 2024, 708 total providers have taken the NH V9.0 Rollout.

(1) Paramedic - 229

(2) AEMT - 256

(3) EMT - 200

(4) EMR – 23

b) TMRC approved the updated State Trauma Plan. It will be voted on by MCB and Coordinating Board on May 16.

c) Trauma Rules to Legal for Review. This has been approved and are being pushed to the Coordinating Board and Medical Control Board for final review and approval by both. Once that is done, public comment period for 60 days then to Commissioner for approval.

4) SUBCOMMITTEE & TOPIC REPORTS

Item 1: Trauma Registry Sub-committee-Walter Trachim

- Vote to approve the 2024 Trauma Plan as written. Motion approved.

Item 2. Coordinating Board Report- Craig Clough

- Approved Protocols 9.0 at March Meeting

Item 3. Medical Control Board Report- Tom Trimarco, MD

- Same as above.

Item 4. Rehabilitation Report- Matthew Petrin

- Discussed the need for rehab beds statewide as well as the lack of physical therapists. This hinders hospital discharges in many cases, which makes for overcrowding in hospitals, holds in ED, and longer times to see providers in E.D., etc. No solutions offered.

Item 5. Hospital Designation Subcommittee- Eric Martin, MD

- Discussion on requirements for Level 4 Trauma Designation at State level. Level 3 will be moving to American College of Surgeons (ACS) verification Statewide as opposed to State level designation. This follows verification process for Level 1 and Level 2, but with less requirements.

5) OLD BUSINESS

- Stop the Bleed Instructors/Classes – A discussion was held regarding the importance of Stop the Bleed training statewide, working with different groups to conduct classes and assist others as necessary. There is no network/list currently to be able to reach out beyond local areas to collaborate on classes as well as conduct additional instructor classes. Motion made and approved that the TMRC request the Bureau of EMS to maintain a Stop the Bleed Instructor list for all active instructors across NH.

6) NEW BUSINESS

- Discussion initiated by Assistant Chief Clough regarding the purpose/plans/goals of the TMRC. Many members and attendees feel that the group needs additional direction and

strategic goals moving forward to incorporate all disciplines that make up the Committee to continue to improve trauma care, educate, develop goals/plans in conjunction with the Bureau of EMS, DHHS and more. A sub-committee was discussed to work with those other disciplines to do this. At the June TMRC meeting, this topic will be brought up as a work-group discussion and lay out ideas/plans to form the layout of the TMRC moving forward.

Next meeting is June 21, 2024. Adjourned at 1100.

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

Forests and Lands – (Chief Sherman) – No report

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

Building Code Review Board – (Marshal Lennon/Chief Conley) – No report

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

Division of Emergency Services and Communications – (Director Doyle) – (Submitted in writing)

- Laconia Facility Update: Design concept is being finalized with the detailed design underway;
- 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 messaging, please let me know. The statewide ENS system is offered to local communities at no cost;
- Community Events reminder – connect with our Public Outreach / Education Team for more info: Patrick Cavanaugh, 603-271-6911, patrick.m.cavanaugh@desc.nh.gov ;
- NASCAR planning in full swing for the June event;
- Legislation:
 - Watching HB 1078 (Coverage Gaps in PS Radio systems) and wkg. With Sen. Carson and crafted language to allow for sharing of GIS data for P/S agencies to use to assist in reducing coverage gaps in their jurisdictions;

- Working with Sen. Prentiss on SB 85-FN-A on the Committee to study Behavioral Health Crisis Services & Programs & sustainable funding for the 988 system – several meetings held with excellent discussion.
- Social Media update:

In April, the Division of Emergency Services and Communications utilized its social media platforms (Facebook, X, and Instagram) to showcase the important work of our 911 telecommunicators during National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week, announce the establishment of the Division's comfort dog program, recruit for open positions across the Division, and share safety tips for the solar eclipse (in collaboration with our DOS partners). We use social media to highlight the milestones and achievements of our employees to increase recognition and morale. As always, we continue to engage with our public safety partners to increase engagement.



- Strategic Plan for the Division is complete and being compiled in final form to be shared with our P/S Partners shortly;
- The quarterly meeting of the SIEC was held on May 10th at the Marine Patrol facility in Gilford;

- SIEC Working Group meetings were held April 30th at the IPOC at 1000 – met with AT&T / FirstNet re: update on the outage affecting FirstNet users in NH;
- NHEDA Conference / Awards Banquet held on April 15 in Bartlett;
- Any questions, comments, concerns, please reach out...

E-911 Commission – (Chief Thomas) – Next meeting June 14.

NH Drug Overdose Commission – (Chief Thomas) – They reviewed two cases at the last meeting but are limited in findings due to lack of information.

NH IAC – (James Heinz) – He thanked everyone for sharing their activity reports.

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

- Chief Murray reported on the October (14-18) conference at Mohegan Sun.
- He shared that Chief Jones is the 1st VP and will move up to the Presidency and urged members to attend the conference to support him.
- He also expressed his support for Chief Locke for the IAFC Presidency. Voting is NOW open. Check your email for instructions (IAFC members).
- The NE Chiefs have appropriated \$30,000 for a scholarship program. More information to follow.
- NE Chiefs' conference registration to open soon with new website.

Old Business –

New Business –

Good and Welfare –

The raffle was held. (\$65 was collected and \$30 was distributed in prizes. Counted by Chiefs Blanchette and Chamberlain).

The session was terminated at 1604 hrs.

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

May 16, 2024