



The Chief's Trumpet



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November/December 2011

Official Publication of the New Hampshire Association of Fire Chiefs

www.nhafc.org

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CROTCHED MOUNTAIN TO HOST DECEMBER CHRISTMAS PARTY

The holidays are coming fast, and for the NHAFC, that means our annual trek to Crotched Mountain on December 8, the second Thursday of the month. As usual, the day will begin around 3:30 pm with the pageant, followed by dinner around 5:30 pm, then the highlight of the evening; visiting the residents. We are still in the early planning stages, but we can expect the same numbers of residents as last year. Although I haven't chosen a gift/gifts yet, I will have to, soon! The winter hats with "NHAFC" on them were a hit last year. Maybe we could stay with the same theme and do scarves or mittens. If anyone has any suggestions, feel free to call me or drop an e-mail (scarrier@gilfordnh.org).

As always, we will accept any fire/ems service materials that we can hand out. In the past, notepads, pencils, stickers, and squeeze bottles have been well-received. Please contact me if you are planning to attend so that we can give the Mountain a good count for dinner. Everyone is welcome to all of the activities, but typically, only 6 people, or so, are needed for the pageant. As always, family members are welcome to attend and assist.

Upcoming Meetings/Events...

October 13Littleton/Bethlehem

November 10.....Luncheon Meeting - Manchester
(Derry/Londonderry sponsor)

December 8.....Crotched Mountain Christmas Party

Note: If you are interested in hosting a meeting, contact the Secretary, Brent Lemire, at btlemire@comcast.net or by phone at (603) 424-4911 at your earliest convenience.

This is a tentative list and subject to change

Meeting Information...

DERRY AND LONDONDERRY TO CO-HOST NOVEMBER LUNCHEON MEETING

Chiefs George Klauber and Kevin MacCaffrie will host the Association's November luncheon meeting on Thursday, the 10th at the Yard Restaurant, 1211 South Mammoth Road (Route 28), Manchester and Londonderry (yes the city line runs through the building).

Networking will begin at 11:30 AM in the Pavilion Room which can be accessed from the rear door of the main building, with luncheon and meeting to follow beginning at 12:00 PM. We will have an update on new legislation for the 2011-2012 legislative season.

Luncheon will feature a hot buffet including soup, Salad, Fresh New England Scrod and Chicken and Mushrooms in Brandy, Vegetables, Rice Pilaf, Assorted Desserts.

✂ ——— Clip and mail ———

November Meeting

Attendees: _____

Department: _____

___ Lunch (\$24.00 per person incl. tax and gratuity)

Make check payable to: **NHAFC**, and send it with the registration form to:

Chief George Klauber
Derry Fire Department
14 Manning Street
Derry, NH 03038

Reservations and payment MUST be received by November 4, 2011.

Please Patronize These Vendors Who Have Supported Our Association by Becoming Advocate Members:

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- ★ Survivalink (Defibrillators)
- ★ Task Force Tips (Nozzles & Hardware)
- ★ Tempest (Ventilation Fans)

...and many more!

Incident Management Assistance Team Being Developed

By Chief Dave Parenti, Belmont Fire Department

On Monday night, August 29, 2011, in the wrath of Tropical Storm Irene, the 3 Rivers WET Team was deployed to Andover at the request of Andover Chief Chuck Ellis. Andover, East Andover, and Andover Rescue Companies were on scene stabilizing an incident where two young girls were trapped in the middle of the Blackwater River on a flooded island. Within 30 minutes of the request, the 3 Rivers WET Team arrived on scene under the command of Chief Ober from Tilton/Northfield Fire and EMS, 21 Rescue 1, 7 Rescue 1, 19 Boat 1, and 10 Swiftwater Rescue Technicians. Within one hour of being on scene, the victims were brought to safety by WET Team personnel. Outstanding teamwork of all personnel on scene is what directly affected the safe rescue of these victims.

SAFETY NOTE FROM ASSISTANT TEAM LEADER

(Deputy Chief Kevin LaChapelle): Structural firefighting gear was not designed for water rescue and should not be worn in the water rescue environment. All personnel operating in a boat should wear a properly-fitting PFD! Nuff said! Stay safe! Make it safe! The Lakes Region Fire Mutual Aid Association is accepting applications for the newly-developed Incident Management Assistance Team (IMAT).

The Lakes Region Mutual Fire Aid (LRMFA) IMAT is a multi-disciplinary group assembled for the purpose of completing and/or enhancing the incident command system at the local or state response level. The team can also be used for large-scale events that require preplanning. Members of the team are professionals drawn from local response agencies and members of Lakes Region's Communities.

The purpose of creating the LRMFA IMAT is to provide a valuable resource for state and local Incident Command/Unified Command staff at the scene of an emergency, disaster or special event. The Incident Management Assistance Team (IMAT) would provide support to the Incident Commander or Unified Command in the implementation of the incident command system and specifically, planning in the development, implementation, and evaluation of the Incident Action Plan (IAP); managing logistical concerns; and providing financial documentation in the finance/admin. section. The LRMFA IMAT will support the incident commander, not assume or divide command. For deployments in the Lakes Region, members should strive for a two-hour response time to the incident from notification time. If the deployment is outside of the LRMFA, members should strive for a two-hour response time to the assembly point, which is identified as the LRMFA communication center. Personnel agreeing to participate in "on-call status" are committing to being available for a possible 72-hour deployment.

If you have questions about the LRMFA Incident Management Assistance Team, please contact any of the following committee members:

Chief Dave Parenti dparenti@belmontnh.org
or call (603) 267-8333

Chief Jim Hayes jhayes@lrmfa.org
or call (603) 528-9111


Chief Steve Yannuzzi syannuzzi@townofbristolnh.org
or call (603) 744-2632

Chief Eleanor Mardin hfdchief12@roadrunner.com
or call (603) 968-4491

Deputy Charlie Roffo LFDFPO@metrocast.net
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FIRE CORPS News Alert

October 14, 2011

Fire Prevention Week: Keep Fire Prevention Messages Alive All Year

As Fire Prevention Week comes to a close, we must remember that fire prevention is something we need to emphasize all year long. Fire departments and Fire Corps programs are encouraged to continue to strengthen their prevention and safety campaigns and spread community awareness to help keep residents safe and prevent tragedy throughout the year.

Fire service organizations across the country utilized Fire Prevention Week to spread important fire prevention and safety messages and information in their communities. This year's theme was "It's Fire Prevention Week! Protect Your Family From Fire!" The National Fire Prevention Association (NFPA) reports that there were more than 360,000 home fires reported in the U.S. in 2009. In addition, almost 62 percent of reported home fire deaths happen in homes with no smoke alarms or no working smoke alarms. These tragic statistics highlight the critical need for fire prevention and safety programs to educate community members about what they can do to prevent home fires and protect themselves and their families.

Fire Corps provides many tools and resources to help your department and Fire Corps team organize fire prevention programs throughout your community. These include:

- All-Ways Fire Safe at Home module, which includes programs that can be used to promote fire and life safety to community members in different stages of life, from preschool to older adult.
- Home Safety Checklist, which provides a basic step-by-step approach to conducting home safety checks in your community and ensuring residents are safer and more secure.
- First Alert Smoke Alarm Donation Program, which provides free smoke alarms to registered Fire Corps teams to install in their communities (limitations and restrictions apply).
- Getting Started with Firewise, which provides information about building and maintaining communities in a way that is compatible with the natural surroundings to help protect property and natural resources from the threat of wildfires.
- Links to fire prevention programs and resources, such as the USFA Smoking and Home Fires Campaign, Fire Safety for Children, Firefacts.org, and the Ready Responder Toolkit.
- Tips sheets you can use to distribute in your community all year long.

Find all these resources and more at <http://firecorps.org/prevention>.

You can also find more tools and information about Fire Prevention Week that can be applied all year at www.firepreventionweek.org.



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School Inspection Reporting

By J. William Degnan, NH State Fire Marshal

The time of year has come to complete your annual school inspection reporting as required by RSA 153:14. The statute reads: RSA 153:14 (b) Each local fire chief shall annually inspect all school buildings within his or her jurisdiction while school is in session and submit a written report to the state fire marshal on the condition of all such school buildings. A copy of the report shall be furnished to the school district superintendent and school board members. The report shall detail any state fire code compliance issues in each school building. The report shall be submitted no later than December 15 each year.

To be consistent in reporting which is used by the legislature as they plan for future funding and also to meet the reporting required by the Department of Education we have an electronic form that needs to be submitted. This data base is submitted at the first of the year to the Department of Education to meet their respective requirements so you no longer have to submit one separately to them. The on-line inspection link is listed below: <http://www.nh.gov/safety/divisions/firesafety/building/SchoolInspectionProgram.html>

The purpose of this law is to ensure the inspection reflects how the building is being used and that your reports make it to the right people in the school district to manage their facilities along with the state and local legislators to plan for funding future projects. We all know that how important data is in today's environment. Your cooperation in submitting the reports by the 15th of December is greatly appreciated.

Statewide Hazardous Materials Evaluation Program

By Les A Cartier NHFMO

Over the years I have been asked "How well is the State of New Hampshire prepared for a hazardous materials incident anywhere in the state"? The answer to that question was unknown because we have never had a full evaluation of this Hazardous Materials question until now.

Tetra-Tech a national contractor recognized for reviewing hazardous materials capabilities of local and state emergency responders, has been contracted to answer this question. Tetra-Tech has developed a web-based survey for Fire Departments and HazMat Team throughout the state. They have notified or attempted to notify all the Fire Departments utilizing e-mail or standard mailings for those without e-mail, in order to try and contact those departments that may have not received the letter or e-mail. I'm including the contact information for you. If you have e-mail capabilities please contact Mr. Eric Deselich at eric.deselich@Tetrattech.com or call him directly at 816-412-1750 to utilize the website.

The survey will take approximately 20-30 minutes for Fire Departments and longer for Hazardous Materials equipped departments and Regional/Local HazMat teams.

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Meeting Minutes

Minutes of a Meeting of the NH Association of Fire Chiefs

September 8, 2011 – Belmont Mill, Belmont, NH

The meeting was called to order by President Landry at 1844 hours.

Following a salute to the flag and a moment of silence, a quorum was declared.

Host Chief David Parenti welcomed the members and guests and thanked all for making the trip north. He thanked the staff of the LRCC culinary program who prepared the meal.

(Advocate Member Tom Green presented a program on Firefighter insurance coverage plans prior to dinner.)

Chief Lemire stated that the printed minutes of the August meeting were distributed. A MOTION (Parenti/McCusker) to accept them carried unanimously.

Dep. M. Carrier presented the financial report. A MOTION (Andrus/McCusker) to accept it carried unanimously.

There were no applications for membership.

President Landry reported that:

- The 9/11 commemoration ceremony will be held Sunday at 0835 hours at the State House.
- He attended FRI in Atlanta and stated that the sessions were very informative. He left Friday night due to Hurricane Irene.
- He and 1st Vice President Lyon will be meeting with Governor Lynch and Legislative leadership on pertinent issues.
- The contract with our lobbyist Doug Patch, was signed.
- He attended the 100 Club Dinner last week in Bedford. The 100 Club provides financial support to families of Police and Firefighters who have suffered a death.
- He visited with FF Doug Hayes of the Strafford Fire Department who was injured during the Tropical Storm. The NH Police, Fire and EMS foundation was great, being able to procure a check overnight for the injured. He was seriously injured by a tree falling.

- The Board of Directors voted to co-sponsor a benefit golf tournament for the NH Police, Fire and EMS foundation.

Director Pope offered the services of the Emergency Operations Center list serve to get info to the Fire Chiefs in off hours when the LGC center is closed. Members were urged to sign the agreement with Homeland Security to receive them.

There were no reports from the 1st or 2nd Vice President or the Legislative Committee.

Chief Parenti mentioned the saleables and will take orders after the meeting.

Director Plummer reported on the committee session investigating funding for Police and Fire Training. The mood was very positive and there is hope that it will be a productive process. He praised Mr. Patch for his efforts on our behalf and the rapport that he has with the legislators.

Fire Marshal Degnan reported on the overrides of the Governor's vetos by the Senate. Hopefully the House will sustain the sprinkler veto (SB 91). He urged members to contact their legislators with talking points. He and Chief Landry spoke of several other bills being worked on this session.

Chief O'Brien reported that there will be a meeting of the EMS boards next week at Cannon Mt. He mentioned that they will be looking at the TEMSIS data being submitted.

Asst. Chief Cleary described the 9/11 commemoration in depth. It will be held beginning at 0835 hours directly in front of the State House in Concord.

Chief Andrus reported that the Board of Fire Control met and had a lengthy discussion on the State Fire Code.

Fire Marshal Degnan stated that the SFC updates will be going to JELCAR next week for review. He described some of the changes that will take effect the first of the year. He also mentioned that the pyrotechnic rules are stand-alone now, having been removed from the SFC. He went over some of the statics gathered recently on fire fatalities and the analysis of it. It will be released shortly and helps to determine the proper focus for fire prevention education activities.

Meeting Minutes

Director Plummer, for Fire Standards, Training and EMS reported on changes being made on class registration. Applications will be taken right up to the day of a given class. Email addresses will be taken and used in case of a class vacancy. Members on wait lists will have opportunities to fill classes as emails will be sent out up to class dates. They will be working on the application rejection procedure and late registration procedures. There have been changes to the Driver/Operator class processing of paperwork so as to streamline the eligibility for other classes. They are studying the minimums for class running and are also adjusting maximum levels. There were several additional adjustments made that will appear on the website. He mentioned that a 9 person committee has been formed to study a North Country training facility and that a staff person will be assigned to study the data and report back to communities the information submitted in the TEMSIS system.

Director of Homeland Security Chris Pope reported on activities during the storm (Irene) and the declarations of disaster for all 10 counties. He mentioned specifically the 90 structures lost in Conway and the procedures that Chiefs should take. After action info should be shared with him if there were issues. He mentioned that terrorist briefings will be taking

place shortly as credible threats have been received. More info will be forthcoming. Noon conference calls during storm were very helpful to chiefs. Lengthy discussion ensued on the efforts of all of the public safety personnel during the storm. There were 200 injuries and one fatality during the storm.

Deputy Carrier reported that the NVFC meeting will be at the end of the month and there have been several sponsors identified for LOSAP legislation.

Chief Landry reported that the Building Code Review board meets tomorrow.

The NEAFC and NEDIAFC reps are meeting in Springfield. Their reports will be held for next month.

Good of the Order: The next meeting will be in Bethlehem, co-sponsored by Littleton.

Motion to adjourn at 2006 hrs.

Respectfully submitted,

Chief Brent Lemire,
Secretary, NHAFC

Fire Protection Engineering Consulting Services

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Leadership in Difficult Times

By Perry Plummer, Director of Fire Standards, Training and EMS

Most of us recognize the importance of good, effective leadership, but sometimes we overlook the contribution that good leadership can make during the difficult times that we face now and in the future.

Good leaders are most needed and recognized during times of change, when a Department may be unstable, challenged and even under attack. During this change, firefighters may be fearful, and may lack a clear understanding of the direction in which the organization is going. During difficult times, emotions can run high, with firefighters longing for leadership and brotherhood, even if they do not recognize it.

A good leader can calm firefighter's fears and assure members that the department is moving in the proper direction. Good leaders clarify the department's goals and communicate with them in a way that helps unite the workforce. While some leaders have the "I'm the Chief leadership mentality" and try to do everything themselves, the most effective leaders help create and support other leaders within the organization.

Good leadership is associated with people who are confident in their speech and their actions. They are purposeful. At the same time, good leaders have compassion for their employees. They know how to handle pressure and use it as a stimulus, as opposed to a hindrance to progress. Most importantly, good leaders recognize that their role is to work with their peers and subordinates for the common goal. If you and your employee groups are at odds, meet with them and try to get on the same page.

You may be an officer, but you won't become a leader until you have followers who first believe in you, trust you and elevate you to that role. Their trust in you and their belief that you trust them, has put you in the leadership role. You must clearly communicate in every way possible that you recognize that you're not accomplishing anything by yourself, but rather through the efforts of your members. You must acknowledge your fellow firefighters' accomplishments and always deflect credit in their direction. In addition, you must understand and clearly state your convictions. You don't lead employees by focusing on yourself, your ego or the new fire station. You lead employees by focusing on the people.

To grow as a leader, discover exactly who and what you are. You can do this by taking a brutally honest and personal look

at yourself. It's never too late to become a better leader. All your life people tell you to be yourself. It might be time to change your paradigm. Maybe it's time to not be yourself. It might be the time to be the person you want to be. Be the friend you want to have, be the brother or sister you want to be. Be the Officer you want to work with and work for. Be the Officer that does the right thing.

In fact, most Officers want to do the right thing, most of the time. Surprisingly, that is not the hardest part of what to do.

It's not hard to do the right thing; in fact it's easy. What's hard is knowing what the right thing to do is. Once you know that, and believe it, doing the right thing is easy. Please do not mistake doing the right thing for doing the easy thing or the popular thing.

True leaders will not do the wrong thing just to be liked. Leaders must make the best available right decision, and if they do, even when it is unpopular, they will at least be respected for being a person of principle.

This kind of leader is shown to have four characteristics that stand out: courage, character, competence and compassion. It is these four characteristics that help them; that enable them; and that guide them in making the tough choices.

Please ask yourself, what kind of leader you would want to work for? Do you want to work for the person who always looks good, but cleverly avoids the tough decisions, or makes the wrong ones? Or would you rather have a leader who struggles mightily, evaluating what the right thing to do is, and then does it, no matter how difficult, how painful or how unpopular it might be.

In closing, I want to say working together works! I recently listened to a well-respected labor attorney speak to the members he represents. He was very passionate in his words when he conveyed that working together works. He told his labor leaders to reach out the olive branch to their Fire Chief. Not only should we grab the olive branch, we should reach out to them today. At the end of the day, we all want the same thing and we are all just people trying to do the right thing.

Waterville Valley Chief Sets Cross State Bicycling Record

Early on Sunday morning, Sept. 11, Waterville Valley Fire Chief Chris Hodges mounted his bicycle in Pittsburg, NH at the Canadian border and began his quest for a record and to raise funds and awareness for Hoops for Heroes, and to honor the memory of those lost in the 9/11 attacks and since then. Hodges already holds the cycling record for traversing New Hampshire from east to west. "It was quite a challenge. I had no idea how it was going to end up," Chris said in his quiet, understated manner. The previous cross state record was 13 hours, 39 minutes. Hodges said that in earlier attempts cyclists chose the route with the least amount of hills, averaging 250–260 miles. Chris said, "I chose the route with hill climbs because it is shorter, about 229 miles." Even if the hills caused him to be slower, he felt that he could make up the time difference. And, did he ever make up time. Hodges started out at the Canadian border in darkness at 5:50 a.m. and arrived in Hollis, NH at the Massachusetts border 12 hours and 37 minutes later — a new cross state cycling record. He averaged 18 mph, which included stops for breaks, and he burned 15,000 calories. Hodges' support team included his wife, Tiffany, and sons Kyle and Drew, and his mother Elizabeth Martin. Also by his side throughout Chris' epic journey was his friend and fellow recordbreaker, Dave Cummings, with Army Spc. Marc Paul Decoteau's image lying close to his heart. Decoteau grew up in Waterville Valley and was killed in 2010.

Information courtesy of Jan Stearns





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