



The Chief's Trumpet



Issue #56

September/October 2011

Official Publication of the New Hampshire Association of Fire Chiefs

www.nhafc.org

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**RICHARD & KATHLEEN MASON
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PORTSMOUTH, NEW HAMPSHIRE 03801-5910
{603} 436-0840**

August 17, 2011

New Hampshire Association of Fire Chiefs
ATTN: Brent Lemire, Secretary
P. O. Box #617
Concord, New Hampshire 03302

Dear Brent and Fellow Members:

I am speechless! I can't express the gratitude and appreciation I have for your very generous gift for my retirement as Director for the New Hampshire Division of Fire Standards and Training and Emergency Medical Services. I could not get to the Fallen Firefighters Memorial on the day the bench was set, but I was recently passing through and stopped, it is beautiful and I thank you so much for this fabulous recognition!

I have attached a picture and send my sincerest THANKS to a group of true professionals, but most of all...FRIENDS, thank you!

Sincerely,


Richard A. Mason



Upcoming Meetings/Events...

September 8 Belmont

October 13 Littleton/Bethlehem

November 10..... Luncheon Meeting - Derry

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...

BELMONT TO HOST SEPTEMBER MEETING

Chief David Parenti of the Belmont Fire-Rescue Department will host the September meeting of the NHAFC on Thursday, the 8th.

Tom Green of Green Insurance will give a presentation on benefits available for firefighting personnel. His presentation will include information on benefits for call, volunteer, career fire and EMS personnel available in NH; PSOB Federal benefit; benefits from local agencies; benefits that a department can provide to personnel; LOSAP (Length of Service Awards Programs) and recruitment and retention.

Networking will begin at 1700 hours at the **"Food for Thought Café"** which is on the fourth floor of the historic Belmont Mill, 14 Mill Street in Belmont. The restaurant is the culinary school for Lakes Region Community College. Dinner will be a buffet and will be served at 1800 hours with the meeting to follow.

BETHLEHEM & LITTLETON TO HOST OCTOBER MEETING

Chief Jack Anderson of the Bethlehem Fire Department and Chief Joe Mercieri of the Littleton Fire Department invite you all to the North Country! They have made arrangements for the October 13th meeting of the NHAFC to be held at the historic Maplewood Country Club and Resort, 2691 Main Street, Bethlehem.

Networking will begin at 1700 hours with dinner and meeting to follow at 1800 hours. Dinner will be a buffet and include cold hors d'oeuvres (cheese/crackers & fruit); plated mixed greens salad w/rolls and choices of prime rib, baked stuffed chicken, roasted red potatoes, seasonal vegetables; dessert - chef's choice (2), and coffee, tea.

PS: It's a great time of the year to spend some time leaf peeping! Make arrangements at one of the many hotels, etc. in Bethlehem or Littleton to extend your stay!

Directions:

Take I-93 North (through Franconia Notch) to Exit 37 (to Route 142). Take a right on Rt. 142 (Forest Hill Rd.) and continue 5.2 miles to Main Street (Route 302). Turn right on Rt. 302 (Main St.) and go 1.1 miles to the Maplewood.

✂ ——— Clip and mail ———

September Meeting

Attending: _____

Department: _____

_____ Dinner - \$30.00 per person
(including tax and gratuity)

Make check payable to: NHAFC. Reservations and payment *MUST* be received by Sept. 2, 2011.

Return to: Belmont Fire-Rescue
ATTN: Renee Jesseman
PO Box 837
Belmont, NH 03220

✂ ——— Clip and mail ———

October Meeting

Attending: _____

Department: _____

_____ Dinner - \$32.00 per person
(including tax and gratuity)

Make check payable to: NHAFC.

Return to: Littleton Fire Department
ATTN: Chief Joe Mercieri
230 West Main Street
Littleton, NH 03561

Menu for the September Meeting in Belmont

Soup

Corn Chowder
Fresh Rolls and Butter

Salads

Mixed Green salad w/ Dressings
Orzo Greek Salad

Entrées

Italian Marinated Steak Tips with onions and Peppers
Chicken Marsala
Chicken Cream Rosa with Tomatoes, Artichokes, and Spinach in a vodka pink cream sauce
with gemelli pasta.
Baked Haddock with Lemon butter
Baked Cheese Tortellini with Marinara and Buffalo Mozzarella
Roasted Creamer Potatoes
Sautéed Summer Vegetables in Garlic Butter

Dessert

Assorted Cookies, Bars, Desserts



Fire/EMS Training

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

Training is the corner stone of success both individually and organizationally. Training is the framework for assisting our members in the development of their personal and organizational skills, knowledge and abilities. This is extremely important if we want a strong, healthy and safe organization. The fact is, we can buy all the latest and greatest fire and EMS equipment but the amount and quality of training avoided to members continues to be the number one factor of success, employee happiness and a safer workplace.

Does your department have a new firefighter training program such as a formal "probie" training program? Does your department have a continuous training program for all members at all levels? Does your department have new training on a regular basis? Does your department support and encourage outside training on an individual basis? If your members would answer yes to all these questions, then congratulations, your department is probably among the elite of the fire service.

These are difficult times, departments suffer from inadequate staffing, decreasing budgets, decreased retention, the mass exits' of senior members with a tremendous amount of knowledge and experience, as well as a declining public employee image.

Difficult times often cause a decline in training at all levels. Many departments have said, "I can't afford to train anymore"! The truth is you can't afford not to train. When charged with doing more with less we are forced to be more efficient and better trained to maximize our resources as well as ensure the level of safety is as high as it can be. Decreasing budgets should never eliminate training. There is a lot of quality training that you can still conduct, provide, support and attend within a limited budget. Drilling on the basics can be very inexpensive. With limited budgets you can't afford a loss time injury due to lack of training. With the decrease in fires and increase of stress to our members many are looking to step away from responding to emergencies, which always invigorated them. Members really want to be involved and like training provided the training of a high quality and is meaningful. Training reminds members why they joined the department. Training improves recruitment as well. Quality members want to be a member of a well trained department. Members love to talk about the training their department is conducting or they have taken. Training is an excellent method to increase morale of your current members. People like to learn, get together for a common purpose and foster a team atmosphere. All of which increases morale. It's also, a great time to really see how your department is functioning and spend some time with the troops.

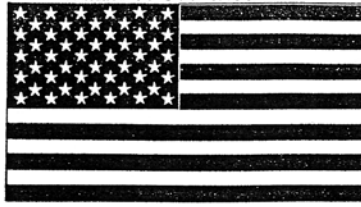
A well rounded diverse training approach is the only way to bring your department back up to speed after losing senior leadership. We can not expect our new leaders to know it all, and be 100% efficient without providing training. In addition to the new promotions, the trickle down training can easily be overlooked. When crews or shifts are moved around, training is needed to ensure the members are working in concert. Nobody wants their members to be receiving "on the job" training during their emergency. Residents and the public love to know their fire department is ready and able to help them if and when they are needed. What better way to show them you are prepared than having them see you training on a regular basis. If they see your crews or shifts out training as a group on a regular basis then they will have confidence in the department and its leadership. The more they see you out there the better prepared they will feel you are. Having the local media stop by while you are training is another great way for you to let your customers know you are working hard for them. When your members complete a class put their picture in the paper with a note lets everyone know they just received their new certification.

A diverse training program is a key component of a quality, happy, healthy department. Whether it is at the academy, in-house training, college classes, officer training or just street drills around the kitchen table, it all makes a difference. You can never train enough as an organization or an individual. If you want your members to train, then provide support and let them see you training as well.

Take a class, attend a seminar, and put some fun drills together.

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Ron DeBlois, president of DRS, is a 20 year veteran of the NH fire service, currently serving as deputy chief of the Hollis Fire Dept, has 25+ years of experience as a licensed PE working on projects for municipal, industrial, and private clients throughout the country and abroad. Ron and his staff work with all applicable fire and building codes to make sure that projects in your town are being done right.

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Meeting Minutes

Minutes of a Meeting of the NH Association of Fire Chiefs

August 11, 2011 – Lebanon, NH

Chief Lyon introduced Bob Zarnetzke, Regional Administrator for the GSA who spoke to the group about the services offered by the GSA and how they relate to local governments.

The meeting was called to order by 2nd Vice President Lyon at 1902 hours.

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

Host Asst. Chief Jeff Libbey welcomed the members and guests to Lebanon. Chief Christopoulos sends his best also.

Advocate Members were introduced, and included Mike O'Rourke and John Therriault from Tri-State Fire Protection and Tim Travers from NFPA.

Guests were introduced

Chief Lemire stated that the minutes of the May meeting were printed and available. A MOTION (Murray/Klauber) to accept them carried unanimously.

Treasurer Martin Carrier presented the financial report for July. A MOTION (Parenti/Beland) to accept his report, carried unanimously.

There were three applications for membership in first reading.

2nd Vice President Lyon reported that:

- President Landry could not attend due to a family emergency
- Bench in honor of Director Mason has been placed at the Academy
- The Executive Committee voted to contribute \$500 toward the IAFC conference on behalf of the New England Division. Chief Jack Parrow (MA) will be retiring as IAFC President.
- Website will list career opportunities and classifieds for members free. Outside of the organization will cost \$50 per month.

Chief Lyon reported on legislative concerns and issues expected to be addressed this fall.

Chief Parenti reported on his efforts in designing and purchasing salable to benefit the organization and described

the pricing. Included are hats, golf shirts, wind shirts, golf towels, attaché cases and t-shirts. He will take orders.

Clay O'Dell, Bureau Chief for EMS, reported on efforts to eliminate the practical exam have been successful. The skills evaluation will be part of the 24 hour refresher course. They've attempted to make it flexible as it will be the job of the instructor to evaluate the skills, not the state. He also informed the group that efforts to revamp the levels of EMS providers will begin and they will notice the changes in enhanced levels of training. Most changes will be incorporated into the refresher courses. A problem will be with upgrading from EMT-I to the new level will have to take a new cognitive exam. This will be a national standard and will be a cost issue for many. The bureau will be looking to assist where they can.

Chief Murray stated that this is a major problem and will severely affect local agencies. He suggested that a committee be formed to look into the ramifications of the change. Director Plummer explained the change and pointed out that the hours will basically be the same. He agreed that a group should be formed to present ideas on the issue. He suggested that we have no choice in the matter and should probably look at the change in a more positive light.

Deputy Chief Steve Carrier reported that the committee studying LRCC and the Fire Program will be meeting with the new President soon.

Fire Marshal William Degnan reported on:

- Fire Code revision will be undertaken – comments will be accepted.
- Sprinkler regulations governed by the new law have taken affect. Planning Boards may no longer adopt new regulations to or require sprinklers in new units. Grievances have been filed. (Discussion ensued on the lack of clarity on the regulations).

Fire Standards, Training and EMS Director Plummer on:

- Fire Officer & Instructor programs have been difficult to get into. They will be providing more opportunities and will be blended programs, having an online component. Fire Inspector in the fall will have blended component also.
- North Country Training Facility – Director Plummer went up to sit in on a meeting that would work on providing an option for funding.

Meeting Minutes

- Potential for several seminars – they are looking for co-sponsoring organizations and some to become fiscal agents for some of the events. Contact the Director for details.
- He appreciates all of the input that he has received over the past couple of months

Chief Klauber, for the Fire Standards and Training Commission reiterated the positive aspects of Director Plummer's report and also the transition from Director Mason's tenure. He also mentioned the rule changes that have been made due to the number of laid off firefighters of late. They now have 26 months before they have to take a CPAT test again. Also, they do not need to have a Worker's Comp sign-off before they take a class at NHFA.

Deputy M. Carrier reported that the Fall meeting of the NVFC will be in September.

Forest and Lands Chief Brad Simpkins reported on:

- Low potential for brush fires of late. Higher up north.
- Resources being sent out of state. A crew went down to Tennessee and individual specialists have gone to Texas and Oklahoma.
- Incident Managers have gone out on mutual aid also.
- Weekend training in September (26-27) upcoming.
- Volunteer Fire Grant paperwork due in now.
- Town Tools program now administered through Concord Office (Jen), not warehouse any more.

Chief Carrier, for the NEDIAFC reported on the upcoming FRI in Atlanta and that the attendance numbers are way down. The NE Division luncheon will be Thursday.

Chief Murray for the NEAFC, reported on the June conference and efforts to increase the attendance. Final tallys will be released in September. He congratulated Dep. Chief Steve Carrier for being nominated for President of the NEDIAFC.

Chief Lyon reported that the Executive Committee is renewing the contract for our lobbyist with Orr and Reno. He also reported on Legislative Committee efforts and the need for additional members.

Next meeting will be in Belmont in September.

Director Plummer reported that the State Firemen's Association is developing a September 11 remembrance ceremony. More information will follow and will be placed on the website.

Following the raffle, the meeting was adjourned at 2030 hours.

Respectfully submitted,

Chief Brent T. Lemire, ret.
Secretary

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New Voluntary Certification Program Initiated

By: Robert Farley, CFI

The NH Division of Fire Safety has implemented a new voluntary certification program for fire protection equipment technicians. The program follows several years of planning and rulemaking on the part of the Fire Protection Equipment Technician Certification Advisory Committee that was formed by legislation. In 2004, the NH legislature combined several bills into one known as Senate Bill 355 (SB355). This bill created an advisory committee and authorized the commissioner of Safety to create rules to implement the program. The effective date of the legislation was January 1, 2005. The first meeting of the committee was held on January 19, 2005. The rules were adopted by the commissioner in November of 2010. The infrastructure to process the applications was put into place and June 1, 2011 the system went on-line.

The certifications cover technicians involved in the installation, inspection and servicing of portable fire extinguishers, fixed fire extinguishing systems, automatic fire sprinkler systems, and fire alarm systems. The rules do not apply to fire departments or certified private firefighting units who service fire extinguishers intended solely for the fire department's use. It does not apply to persons or organizations that only sell products or parts for systems. It does not apply to government officials or insurance officials acting in an official capacity conducting inspections.

The rules set forth the minimum work experience requirements and the education requirements for each of the trades

involved. The committee recommended certain training curricula for the various trades as a starting block for the educational requirements. Some of the trades have identified two separate levels of certification. For automatic fire sprinklers, there is a limited fire sprinkler technician endorsement and an unlimited fire sprinkler technician endorsement. This is also true for the fire alarm system technician endorsements.

The certifications are good for three years and require some level of continuing education to be renewed. There is also a provisional certification level for those who are just starting out in a particular trade. The provisional certificate is only good for two years and is not renewable.

Towns and cities may elect to adopt the certification program and the rules as a local ordinance, but will be required to modify the language to add certain due process provisions that are not included in the state rules. For example, since this is a voluntary certification program, there is no language relative to hearings for suspensions or revocations. Towns will have to add such language in order to make it mandatory in their town. Currently the suspension and revocation section only covers those acts in acquiring the certification and failure to maintain required education, etc. Local officials may use this certification program to determine if the person is technically qualified to make the installation as is required by the NH State Fire Code. For more information go to <http://www.nh.gov/safety/divisions/firesafety/building/mechanical/fireprotection/index.html>

NFPA Urges Extreme Caution When Using Gel Fuel Stop, Drop and Roll May Not Extinguish Clothing That Catches Fire

August 11, 2011 – The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) is urging the public to employ extreme caution when using gel fuel, a product typically used with fire pots, personal fireplaces, and some patio torches. Stop, drop and roll may not extinguish clothing that catches fire involving splattered or spilled gel fuel. A dry chemical extinguisher or baking soda is recommended to extinguish the fire.

“As with any product, manufacturer’s instructions should be followed, but NFPA is issuing a special alert because we are seeing a number of cases where people have been injured while using gel fuel and are seemingly unaware of the dangers associated with its use,” said Lorraine Carli, NFPA’s vice president of communications.

Recent news reports from across the country have highlighted several incidents where people have been injured while using gel fuel. A number of these injuries have occurred during the refueling process. NFPA warns the public that a flame may still be burning even when it is not visible, which is not uncommon with some gel fuel, and pouring fuel on any open flame is extremely unsafe. According to NFPA, it is also important to allow a gel fuel device to cool completely (30-45 minutes) before refueling because if the fuel comes into contact with the hot device it may splatter on clothing or skin, resulting in a burn injury.

“Anytime you are using devices that involve fire, it is critical to use caution and follow safety tips. This is proving to be

especially important with gel fuel,” said Carli.

NFPA offers the following safety tips when using devices that gel fuel:

- Keep your face away from the device when refueling.
- If gel fuel is spilled on clothing, remove the clothing and launder it immediately.
- Never leave a lit fire pot, personal fireplace or patio torch unattended.
- Keep these devices at least one foot from anything that can burn.
- Place the fire pot or personal fireplace on a sturdy surface.
- Make sure patio torches are secure and not in the path of people or pets.
- Keep children and pets at least 3 feet away.
- These devices will be hot during and after burning; do not touch or move.
- Be careful reaching over the device because clothing or hair could catch fire.

- Use only gel fuel to refuel. Never substitute another kind of fuel.
- Citronella gel fuel is intended for outdoor use only.
- Allow the device to cool for 30–45 minutes before refueling.
- Pouring gel fuel in a device that is not completely cool may result in a fire or injury.
- Store the gel fuel in its tightly sealed original container; away from heat sources and out of reach of children and pets.

About the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA)

NFPA is a worldwide leader in fire, electrical, building, and life safety. The mission of the international nonprofit organization founded in 1896 is to reduce the worldwide burden of fire and other hazards on the quality of life by providing and advocating consensus codes and standards, research, training, and education.

Contact: Lorraine Carli, Public Affairs Office: +1 617 984-7275

UPDATE

Conversion of EMT-Intermediate to Advanced EMT

- We are coming to the end of a process that began in 2001 to enhance the knowledge and scope of practice of all levels of EMS provider.
- Nationally levels are changing:
First Responder to Emergency Medical Responder (EMR)
EMT-Basic to Emergency Medical Technician (EMT)
EMT-Intermediate to Advanced Emergency Medical Technician (AEMT)
EMT-Paramedic to Paramedic
- All providers, not just new ones, will need to attend a conversion course to enhance their knowledge and obtain the skills of the new scope of practice.
- Most of the current provider levels have two recertification cycles to accomplish this.
- EMR, EMT and Paramedic conversion will not be very problematic.
- The most far-reaching change is the EMT-Intermediate to Advanced EMT level.
- The increase in the knowledge base required of this enhanced level will require the EMT-Intermediate to attend a conversion course – which would be in place of a refresher training program the year that they take it.
- The state committee currently reviewing the process has made a preliminary recommendation that the number of

hours required to meet the needs of the program is 36 hours. This would include an evaluation of the practical skills that are new to the AEMTscope of practice.

- The National Registry of EMT’s has determined that the difference in the level of knowledge between the EMT-I level and AEMT is significant enough that a test of the individual’s knowledge is required to ensure competency. Therefore after attending the conversion course the candidate would be required to take the computer-based NREMT cognitive examination.
- This computer based test will be conducted at any Pearson-Vue approved facility, and has the cost of \$70.
- Any EMT-I who does not wish to convert to the AEMT level, or who has been unsuccessful at multiple attempts to pass the cognitive exam, may receive certification by the National Registry as an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT)
- EMT-I’s whose certification expires in March 2013 must complete the conversion process by March 31, 2017.
- EMT-I’s whose certification expires in March 2012 must complete the conversion process by March 2016.

Clay Odell, EMTP, RN

Bureau Chief

New Hampshire Department of Safety

Division of Fire and Emergency Medical Services

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