



March 16, 2020



**To:** Maine Fire Service Community

**From:** MFSI Administration

**Regarding:** COVID-19 Response

Dear Maine Fire Service Members,

I am writing to inform you of the current situation that we face here in our state in regards to the coronavirus and fire training. We have been in contact with the college administration, representatives from the Maine Fire Chiefs' Association, and the SMCC/MFSI Advisory Committee. We will be shutting down parts of our field operations in order to limit exposure to the current threat for our states' first responders and citizens. Consider this our official email from our office making you aware that as of Monday, March 16th, 2020 we will not be conducting business as usual.

Instead, our day-to-day operations will be modified as follows:

- MFSI offices will remain open. Should any full time staff become ill, we will encourage them to stay at home. Some may work from home if they so choose. Please be advised that if several staff are out, our operations will slow for that period of time.
- Our Support Services team will continue to deliver training props and equipment. However, if one or both of the staff in support services become ill, there will be a slowing down of the delivery schedule. Trailers may remain at fire stations for some time, or not be delivered at all. We ask for your patience in this matter. We will do all we can to make contact with the requester as soon as possible if these changes will impact their training delivery.
- Field operations/training and certification testing will cease all activities for a period of two weeks beginning Monday 3/16/2020 to allow us to properly assess the situation. This means we will send **NO** state fire instructors into the field to conduct training of any kind during this period. You will be contacted by either your assigned state fire instructor or your regional Training Program Manager to plan the rescheduling of the program/training until we know the full threat in front of us.
- **If your department has requested equipment for programs that will no longer be running as planned, please contact our Support Services Supervisor, Ray Bishop, at 207-205-2761 or rbishop@smccme.edu as soon as possible.**

We will honor all programs we have agreed to support, however they may be postponed until we all have a better handle on things. We will do all we can to assist, while also acting to limit first



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responder exposure to this threat. We ask that you, as Maine's first defense, do your part and help make folks aware of the best practices and other resources that have been posted by the Maine CDC, and can be viewed online [here](#).

The National Fire Academy Maine State Weekend has also been postponed by the National Fire Academy, and the National Fire Academy will be shut down for a period of four weeks. Please review their announcement below:

### **NFA on-campus training suspended until April 12**

National Fire Academy training at the National Emergency Training Center (NETC) is suspended for a four-week period (March 14 – April 11). Training was suspended due to low enrollment and cancellations. If you were scheduled for a class at NETC, our Admissions Office will contact you to reschedule. Off-campus students: please contact your state fire training agency for information on your class.

The Maine Fire Chiefs' Association 2020 Professional Development Conference in Newry, Maine has also been postponed.

I know there will be lots of questions and concerns. We ask that you all please bear with us during these times of unknown. We will get through this and be better for it. We appreciate your continued support as we face difficult decisions and navigate an unpredictable situation.

As Mainers, we will get through this. We have always been a people that can take on any challenge and meet it with steadfast strength and courage.

Thank you, and be safe.

Sincerely,

James A. Graves

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