



MFSI Update for County Meetings: January & February 2021

Folks,

I hope you all enjoyed your holiday season and that you are safe and sound. We are headed into the deep cold months and we want you all to know we are here working and planning for when we are allowed to get things moving at our usual pace once again.

With that in mind, we here at MFSI have come up with our Top Ten Organizational Goals for 2021. They are as follows:

1. Continue efforts on Support Services Building
2. Prepare AFG Grant to procure Ventilation Prop and Air Compressors
3. Build out new updated curriculum for Maine State Fire Officer Academy
4. Build out new live fire training program
5. Build out basic extrication program
6. Prepare size up/Incident Command simulations program
7. Conduct full asset inventory and enter data into new asset management system
8. Complete MFSI Strategic Plan
9. Improve MFSI billing process to increase efficiency
10. Improve administrative financial accountability processes

Again, we hope you are all healthy at this time and we wish you a Happy New Year. May 2021 be wonderful and safe!

Stay strong and be safe when the alarm rings,

Director Jimmy Graves

1. MFSI Daily Operations

Phase four, as it is being referred to here in Maine, will have no effect on our current overall operations. Under advisement from the college, our Brunswick office will remain minimally staffed and we are primarily working remotely from home with cell phones and laptop computers. Our team members are only in the office one or two at a time, on a rotating basis, to ensure that we stay on track regarding deliveries and mail - while also following social distancing guidelines.

During this 'new normal,' our list of ongoing projects continues to expand. In addition, we will continue to update both the Resources page and the COVID-19 communications page of our website to include the latest guidelines and information from the Maine Community College System / Southern Maine Community College, and the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention.

One goal that will be prioritized in the coming months is to develop an **MFSI Strategic Plan for the years 2021-2025**. With all that we have going on, we want to document what we have set up that is solid and what we can improve within the organization. We hope the Maine Fire Service will be proud of this document and it will serve our mission and our focus.

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2. Grant Update

All items under the 2018 AFG grant have been purchased and delivered. They include:

- 4 MSA Four Gas meters with charging and calibration stations.
- 1 Custom built pump operator pump simulation trailer.
- 12 pairs of Haz-Mat boots.
- 2 Forcible Entry Door Props with two sets of irons.

We currently have \$20,000 of unspent funds for which we have filed an amendment to utilize for the following equipment, which will supplement the pump training trailer, the 4 Gas meters, and the forcible entry doors:

- Wireless headsets with necessary accouterments.
- Three 50' lengths of 2-1/2" Fire Hose.
- Three 50' lengths of 1-3/4" Fire Hose.
- One 6" Female swivel by 6" Cam Lock 15 degree elbow.
- One 5" Female swivel by 6" Cam Lock adapter.
- 1 Hydrant Diffuser.
- 2 Hand held Pitots.
- 1 Jet syphon.
- 2 Flow meters.
- 1 Hydrant assist valve.
- 1 Hydrant cap gauge.
- 2 Rubber Mallets.
- 1 Hard case for gas meters, chargers and calibration equipment.
- 2 Through-the-lock props.

Our purchasing for the equipment awarded under the 2019 AFG grant is underway. We have purchased and are awaiting delivery on:

- 32 hand tools to include axes, sledge hammers, halligans, NY Hooks, Boston Rakes, and pike poles.
- 5 rescue manikins to include two heavy adult, two teen and one infant sizes.
- 3 smoke machines.

We will be awarding the bid in the upcoming week for a new SCBA confidence trailer and are currently putting the specs together for 3 gas powered chainsaws and 3 gas powered rotary saws. We will also be planning training opportunities for the new SCBA confidence trailer as a delivery date becomes set.

As many of you know, the 2020 AFG grant application process is now underway. MFSI will be applying for funds to purchase the following:

- Car fire prop.
- Ventilation simulation trailer.
- SCBA compressor and fill station.

If you have any other items you would like us to consider, please send Deputy Director Roy (jroy2@smccme.edu) an email and we will be happy to consider any items for the betterment of this organization and the firefighters of the State of Maine.



3. Written & Skills Tests

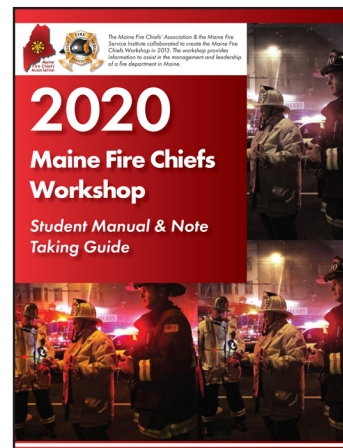
The fall skills testing season went very smoothly utilizing our updated procedure for these exams. Please review our [recent memo](#) for more detailed information. Preparation for spring and summer skills testing is underway.

We are also continuing to administer written exams to all that need them. Most exams are taking place at our offices in Brunswick, although we have added a secondary location in the greater Bangor area to meet the high demand. Please visit our [website](#) for test dates and the most current information on how we are following SMCC, MCCA, and CDC guidelines.

4. Maine Fire Chiefs Workshop

Earlier this year the Maine Fire Chiefs' Association and MFSI partnered in an official agreement to revamp, revise and update this very valuable training program to Maine's Fire Chiefs and Chief Officers. The program is invaluable and provides the attendee a comprehensive understanding of important information such as:

- Legal Aspects
- Professionalism & Politics
- Leadership
- Financial Management & Planning
- Coaching, Counseling & Correcting
- Training Safety & Risk Management
- Incident Management
- Community & Media Relations



The program is taught by State of Maine Fire Chiefs, with years of experience and knowledge of fire service management in every aspect of the job today. MFSI strongly supports this program and it can be requested by a Chief Officer by going to the Maine Fire Service Institute's website and placing a course request. We will then put you in contact with a Maine Fire Chiefs' Association Representative to organize the particulars of the program. Together we can make a brighter future for the Maine Fire Service in its entirety and better serve the people of the great State of Maine. For more information about the Maine Fire Chiefs' Association, please see their [website](#).

5. Recruitment

MFSI is considering another instructor hiring process which would potentially take place in the fall of 2021. This is in the very early stages of discussion at this point. We may be specifically seeking out instructors in geographical areas where we have the greatest need, as we are sometimes faced with difficulty finding instructors in certain counties. Again, this is very preliminary - but if you have someone from your department that is a go-getter and you feel would greatly benefit the needs of MFSI, please let us know!

MFSI Instructors have access to a wealth of resources via the online Instructor Portal, which went live in 2019 with the generous support of SMCC's I.T. department.

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6. National Fire Academy Maine State Weekend

Unfortunately, we will once again have to cancel the Maine State Weekend at the National Fire Academy due to the pandemic. The decision was difficult, but after meeting with representatives from Indiana, Florida and Superintendent Gabliks from the National Fire Academy, we all agreed that an in-person program at the NFA was not in the best interest of all parties involved. The NFA is currently working on a “Virtual Program” - we here in Maine have open lines of communication to have this presented to us when it is ready. Below is a list of programs that may be offered virtually, perhaps even in the near future. We will keep you posted as more information comes to light.

- Fire Investigation: First Responders (0770)
- Fire Service Safety Culture: Who Protects Firefighters from Firefighters (0349)
- Strategies and Tactics Initial Company Officer (0455)
- Decision Making for the Initial Company Officer (0457)
- Health and Safety Program Manager (0722)
- Training Supervision (PILOT - no code)

7. New Maine State Weekend Program Coordinator

We are excited to announce that Paul Froman will be our new Maine State Weekend Program Coordinator! Paul is a career firefighter/paramedic currently going on twelve years of service with the City of Biddeford. He has over seventeen years of fire service experience, and has served in various roles in both career and volunteer departments. Additionally, Paul teaches courses at Southern Maine Community College as an adjunct instructor in the EMS and Fire Science programs. Paul is a strong advocate for quality training and education programs in the state.



The late Deputy Fire Chief Marc Bellefeuille, a past National Fire Academy (NFA) Maine State Weekend coordinator, encouraged Paul to attend the Maine State weekend as a probationary firefighter. Paul continued to participate in state weekends and worked with the immediate past coordinator Jason Wheeler on weekend logistics as well as the memorial service traditionally held during the weekend at the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial located on the NFA grounds.

Maine has a strong connection and tradition with the National Fire Academy, and the Maine State Weekend has been taking place for over 30 years. Paul is looking forward to helping Maine firefighters connect with the NFA's fantastic training opportunities. Paul also wishes to let individuals know that the NFA has something for everyone, from the rookie to the 40-year veteran. If you have any questions regarding which class might be best for you, please reach out to him! He will be happy to have a conversation with you.



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8. National Fire Academy Programs in Brunswick

It is difficult to predict the status of the pandemic, but we hope to hold an NFA weekend here at MFSI on April 10 & 11, with two programs offered (sizes limited to allow for social distancing):

- F0602 – Shaping the Future
- F0646 - Leadership in Supervision: Creating Environments for Professional Growth

In addition, we plan to offer the 6-day “N0312 Command & Control of Fire Department Operations at Target Hazards.” This is a top notch program that cannot be delivered via Zoom - we will most likely have a maximum of 15 candidates to allow for social distancing. Flyers for these NFA programs are currently being developed.

9. Planning the 2022 Maine State Fire Officer Academy

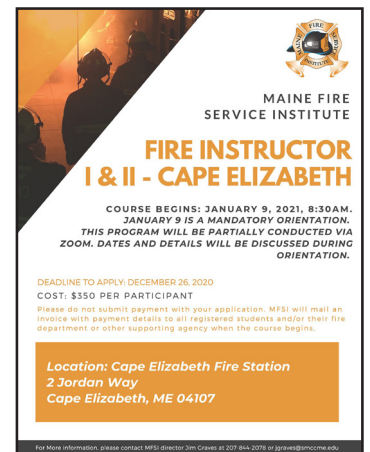
We have begun the arduous journey to retool the Maine State Fire Officer Academy with the updated curriculum. We will use this time during the pandemic to rebuild the prestigious program with the aim to make it more interactive in the classroom. We are planning to offer a program that will begin in early 2022 and we will revisit the Bangor region via our partnership with Eastern Maine Community College.

10. Fire Instructor I & II Hybrid Program

Currently we have more than 35 candidates in a two-location program: Cape Elizabeth and Eddington. The program is headed by Senior State Fire Instructor David McLean and supported by three assistant instructors; Chris McLaughlin, Chris Connor and Howard Rice. The program is going well and utilizes the new 3rd edition Jones & Bartlett curriculum.

We do plan on holding another similar program on this topic in the spring months pending the current situation with the pandemic. A flyer will be distributed in early February. This program will be held in Westbrook and Topsham. That will complete our offerings until fall.

Our program prepares the candidate for what it takes to be a quality fire service instructor, and we are very proud of the efforts by many on this new, hybrid delivery model for a highly requested training program. Lastly, we are working on a Live Fire Training program that will most likely be ready for when the pandemic is declared under control. This is very exciting and will be focused around the new live fire training facilities.



11. From the Work Bench

The Support Services team is wishing everyone a very Happy New Year! As we continue into 2021, there are a three things that we can all collectively do to make deliveries easier - and more efficient - for the team.

(continued on next page)



From the Work Bench (continued)

The first request that we make is for equipment to be in a ready state for pick up following its use. When Ray or Jason make a trip to pick up a prop, trailer, or other piece of equipment, they have scheduled their day based on this trip. For example, they might be bringing that same prop directly to another department - if they are unable to pick it up as planned, it can delay the next department's training, or it may simply mean that they made an unnecessary trip when their time and effort could have been better spent elsewhere. Help us help you!

Second, please communicate with Ray and Jason if there is a problem with a piece of equipment. We understand that things happen during training and something may be in need of repair. Since our equipment is in such high demand, assets don't always return to Brunswick before heading out for the next location. This means that if you don't inform us of any potential problems, we may not know until the prop has been brought somewhere else, and that department's training is then affected negatively or delayed.

Finally, please ensure that equipment is put back into the trailer in the same arrangement as when it arrived. When items are thrown into the trailer haphazardly after training, not only can it cause problems with weight distribution on the road, but it also makes life more difficult for the next department to receive that trailer. Thank you all for your cooperation and support! It is greatly appreciated.

12. MFSI Patch



We're guessing that most (if not all) of the folks reading this have a collection: be it challenge coins, patches, or other souvenirs from countless agencies and departments. We are excited to share that there is now an MFSI patch that you can add to your set!

The newly designed patch, shown left, will be awarded to those that achieve certification. The patch is intended to celebrate the Maine fire service community - the commitment and dedication from those that put in the hard work and effort for the greater good is something that we are all enormously proud of.

That concludes our January and February update. We want you all to know we are here to assist you in your training needs so you all go home at the end of the alarm. Kindly submit a report to Director Graves and Deputy Director Roy in an email stating items of concern that result from your county's meeting. We will address them as soon as possible. THANK YOU.

Please stay safe out there, we need you all.

With much respect,
Director Jim Graves

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