



MAINE FIRE SERVICE  
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# MFSI Update for County Meetings: January & February 2022

Folks,

We hope you all enjoyed your holiday celebrations and were able to get in some good rest and relaxation. We are also hopeful for 2022 to be a year of great success and growth here at the Maine Fire Service Institute. With the support of the entire fire service and all its stakeholders, we aim to make improvements at every opportunity.

We have conducted our annual internal assessment and set our goals for the year. These goals are aligned with our 2021-2025 SMCC/MFSI Strategic Plan. They include the following:

- Continue our efforts to establish a building for Support Services
- Upgrade our Pro-Board Fire Officer I & II with a fresh delivery model
- Conduct a full asset inventory and enter the data into GigaTrak
- Create annual activity report for the fire service
- Prepare another Assistance to Fire Fighters Grant to procure needed assets to improve fire training in Maine
- Finish Advanced Pumps and Water Supply and have it ready for field delivery
- Build out Basic Extrication Program
- Transfer written certification testing to a cloud-based, paperless system
- Review Fire Fighter Skills Testing Sheets to meet the NFPA 1001 Standard
- Partner with Maine High School Programs (CTE) to best utilize the Mobile Live Fire Training Trailer
- Increase collaboration with Maine State Forest Service to assist in the betterment of our state's fire fighter/wildland fire fighting skills.

These are all very aggressive given everything else we must accomplish each year, but we feel our team is poised to make these improvements and will make large steps forward in fire training in Maine. As always, we are here should you have any questions or concerns - we truly enjoy speaking with anyone that is curious about MFSI and our operations. We are moving into the future with steadfast dedication and enthusiasm!

Be safe when the bell rings,

Director Jimmy Graves

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## 1. Fire Instructor I & II

We are extremely proud of the Fire Instructor I & II candidates who are currently wrapping up in two programs; Gorham and Ellsworth. This means that another 30 or so folks will be sitting for certification at Levels I & II - we are very grateful for their efforts and dedication. The new Fire Instructor II bridge course also kicked off earlier this month, with 26 candidates who we are certain will go on to improve fire training at the municipal and statewide level. We look forward to seeing their progress!



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## 2. NFA Weekend at MFSI - March 19 & 20, 2022



Our NFA in-state weekend is scheduled for March 19th & 20th, 2022 here at MFSI headquarters in Brunswick. The following programs will be offered:

- F0612 - Command and Control of Wildland Urban Interface Fire Operations for the Structural Chief Officer
- F0648 - Leadership in Supervision: Frameworks to Success

Please visit our [website](#) for complete registration packets and more details about the programs.

In addition, please hold the date for Maine State Weekend at the National Fire Academy - April 9th & 10th. The flyer and registration materials will be available soon. *Please note: vaccination is required for on-campus activities at SMCC/MFSI, and all MFSI programming is subject to cancellation due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and changing restrictions.*

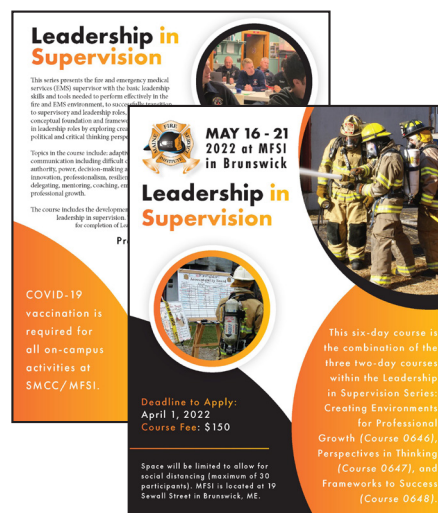
## 3. NFA 6-Day Leadership in Supervision Series - May 16-21, 2022

We're very excited to be bringing the 6-day NFA Leadership in Supervision series to our campus again this spring! This course is the combination of the three 2-day courses within the Leadership in Supervision Series: Creating Environments for Professional Growth (Course 0646), Perspectives in Thinking (Course 0647), and Frameworks to Success (Course 0648).

This series presents the fire and emergency medical services supervisor with the basic leadership skills and tools needed to perform effectively in the fire and EMS environment, to successfully transition to supervisory and leadership roles, and establish

a conceptual foundation and framework for success in leadership roles by exploring creative, analytical, political and critical thinking perspectives.

The complete registration packet is available on our [website](#).



## 4. Advanced Fire Officer

Our Fall AFO program is wrapping up, and with it, these programs will be laid to rest following an upgrade in the Fire Officer I & II curriculum. As most of you know, we will be transitioning away from the Advanced/Basic model and will be introducing a Fire Officer I & II program model for Maine instead. The build-out of this new format is currently underway - we appreciate your continued patience as we tackle the many behind-the-scenes steps that are involved in such a change.



## 5. 2022 Maine Fire Chiefs Conference

The 2022 conference is officially set for March 23rd - 25th in Newry! We look forward to having retired FDNY Captain Michael Dugan as the Keynote speaker. We encourage all to attend and hear the good words of such a strong Fire Service Leader.



Michael M. Dugan is a 38-year veteran of the fire service and a 26-year veteran of the New York City Fire Department (FDNY), currently serving as captain of Ladder Company 123 in Brooklyn. As a firefighter in Ladder Company 43, Dugan received the James Gordon Bennett medal in 1992 and the Harry M. Archer Medal in 1993, the FDNY's highest award for bravery. He was an instructor at the inception of the FDNY's Annual Education Day and has developed programs currently taught to all FDNY members during the annual event. Dugan is a member of the IAFC Safety, Health & Survival Section. He serves as a HOT instructor at Firehouse Expo and FDIC, and is a regular contributor to fire service magazines. He also lectures at various events around the country on topics dealing with truck company operations, building construction, scene size-up and today's fire service.

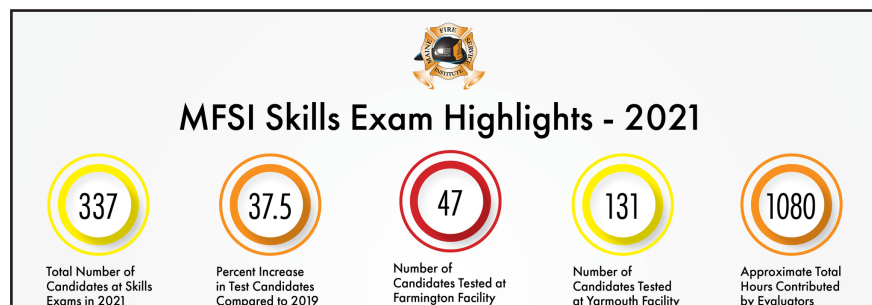
## 6. COVID-19 Boosters Required for On-Campus Programs

MFSI continues to refer to SMCC and MCCS guidelines when it comes to navigating the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. The situation is still evolving, and as such, best-practices are changing rapidly along with it.

Most recently, SMCC announced that all on-campus programming, including MFSI programs here in Brunswick, will require that all participants be fully vaccinated - **including booster shots** - beginning February 1, 2022. This applies to written exams as well.

For more information on the most current COVID-19 policies, please visit [SMCC's website](#). Thank you for your continued patience and understanding.

## 7. Skills Exams: 2021 Recap & 2022 Planning



*(click image to view highlights & statistics from our 2021 Skills Test season)*

MFSI had a very busy skills test season in 2021 with over 330 folks testing and receiving Fire Fighter I & II certification. We are working with all the many programs around the state to set dates for 2022 to assist everyone involved with skills testing - a flyer will be coming out soon with all the scheduled dates and locations for the skills exams. Many of the details are still being finalized, but at this time we do plan to offer a weekend of skills exams at the Hollis Fire Training Facility on June 4th & 5th.





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## 8. New SCBA Air Confidence Trailer (Red Maze)

The delivery of our new Red Maze, purchased in a prior grant cycle, has gone through several delays. Construction was slowed and the delivery has been pushed back repeatedly due in part to supply chain shortages and manufacturing issues. However, we are excited to share that headway is being made - we even have some progress pics!

Our plan is to hold several Train-the-Trainers on the unit so that as many of our state's fire service professionals can utilize this very valuable piece of training equipment as possible. We are hoping to take delivery of this trailer in February.



## 9. Live Fire Instructor & Instructor In Charge Program Update

Maine's new Live Fire Instructor & Instructor In Charge program is being built out and the first delivery is being tentatively planned for the fall of 2022. Please watch our Facebook page and sign up to receive our emails on our website. NOTE: MFSI is not changing the way Live Fire Training is done, it remains in the hands of the authority having jurisdiction (AHJ); we are merely adjusting to a substantial change in the NPFA 1041 Standard for Fire & Emergency Service Instructor Professional Qualifications.

This new program was developed following an extensive professional development program with representatives from the Alabama Fire College - we are very grateful for their support. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact Director Graves at 207-844-2078.

## 10. MFSI Gets a New Look

SMCC's Facilities team has worked with us over the past few weeks to freshen up our main office in Brunswick. We are very grateful for their support and hard work!

We have many Fire Officer and Fire Fighter class photos displayed throughout our main corridor: we believe in pride and dedication to Maine's fire service, and we are honored to have so many of our state's proud moments displayed on our walls. It is a daily reminder of why we do what we do.

If you are in the area, you are always welcome to stop by and visit, and ask questions about what the team is up to here at MFSI.





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## 11. Website Updates - MFCA

We've made a few small changes to our website in order to better highlight the collaborative relationship between MFSI and the Maine Fire Chiefs' Association - the one that will likely have the biggest impact for most of our readers is that you will see a new category in the dropdown menu of our [Request a Course](#) form. In addition to "Firefighter" and "NFA" courses, requesters can also select "Chief Officer Professional Development" which displays additional offerings, such as the Maine Fire Chiefs Workshop.

We hope that this will help make these courses more accessible, and we're very excited about our ongoing partnership with the MFCA. As always, please don't hesitate to reach out to our team with any questions!

## 12. 2022 ProBoard Conference in Orlando, Florida

Two of our team members have just returned from the annual ProBoard Accreditation and Educational conference, which took place in Orlando this year. Jim Roy, Deputy Director, and Gwen Fraser, Marketing & Certification Software Manager, both learned a ton and had great opportunities to network with other industry professionals who are facing many of the same challenges that we see here at MFSI.

Gwen was also selected as one of the recipients of the highly competitive 2022 Chief Jim Estep Scholarship Awards. This meant that both she and Deputy Roy (as the agency's official representative) were able to attend the conference at no cost to MFSI.

We are already looking forward to next year's conference, slated for Dallas in January 2023!



(Gwen & James A. Burns, Vice-Chair of the Board of Directors)

## 13. Partnership with the Maine Forest Service

MFSI & the Maine Forest Service are collaborating to support the betterment of our State's Firefighters with an exciting, updated Basic Wildland Firefighter program. The program meets and exceeds *NFPA 1001 Fire Fighter Professional Qualifications* as far as meeting the Job Performance Requirements in wildland firefighting. It also meets *NFPA 1051 Standard for Wildland Firefighter Personnel Professional Qualifications* to the Basic Level.

This 12 hour course is designed to provide Maine's firefighters the skills and knowledge necessary to suppress wildland fires here in the State of Maine. This course is not a substitute for the NWCG S-130, S-190 (Red Card) course. Those wishing to mobilize nationally with Maine's Forest Rangers to fight fire outside of the State will need to complete the 32 hour S-130 / S-190 course, as well as pass a physical test consisting of a 3 mile pack carry. For more information on either course, please [contact your local Forest Ranger](#).



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## 14. Transition to Online Testing

As most of you are no doubt aware by now, MFSI is exploring software solutions that will help us bring our offices into the 21st century, and move from paper written exams toward an online testing platform. Our RFP for online testing solutions was distributed in late fall, and we will be taking steps over the coming weeks/months to finalize and implement our decision.

Many aspects of our written testing process will remain exactly the same - there will still be a live proctor in the room with all candidates, for example, and we will still be using PTS as our source for test banks - but there are also many advantages and improvements that come with switching to an online delivery method.

We look forward to sharing more updates with you all as they become available! And of course, one of our top priorities will be ensuring that all test-takers, program coordinators, proctors, and other stakeholders have all the tools & information that they need to be successful.

## 15. Cold Weather Firefighting Tips

This time of year presents unique challenges for first responders in Maine. The following websites provide valuable advice and resources for fighting winter fires:

Fire Rescue 1 - [Cold Weather Firefighting Tips](#)

Fire Engineering - [The Challenges of Fire Operations in Extreme Cold](#)

Please also keep in mind that several of our MFSI props are [out of service for the season](#), and will return to circulation on or about April 1. This is to protect our valuable water props from damage that can occur as a result of potential freeze-ups. The MAST trailer is also only available to locations where it can be safely stored indoors for the winter months. Thank you for your cooperation!

That concludes our January & 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