



MFSI Update for County Meetings: March & April 2021

Folks,

I hope you are all well and hanging in there. As the vaccine roll-out gains momentum here in Maine, I am optimistic about finally seeing the light at the end of the pandemic tunnel. This has been trying on all of us, and our mission - which is very dear to my heart, personally - has suffered a few delays. With that said, let's look at the positives: we have continued to provide as many training and certification opportunities as possible, and have succeeded due to the steadfast commitment of our State Fire Instructors. They deserve a multitude of credit, and I am abundantly proud of their efforts. I am also extremely proud of our staff, who have stepped up and done exceptional behind-the-scenes work to see that our mission continues and we are prepared to return to pre-pandemic operations.

On a very tragic note, we have a few staff members who have recently been diagnosed with cancer. We all know the risks in the fire service of work-related cancers but it surely has hit us hard. Staff members have needed to step away to address these serious health issues, and we all pray for a positive outcome. Please keep us in your thoughts and prayers. We are working hard to make adjustments in our operations to continue to meet the demands of the fire service - please bear with us as we navigate this newest challenge. We will be reaching out for support to make sure we continue to meet your needs.

Lastly, in one week we have lost several Maine civilians in structure fires around the state. The impact on all involved is very difficult to quantify. We wish to send our condolences to the families of these victims; they are not just a data point on a spreadsheet to us here at MFSI. Such tragedies weigh heavily on our hearts, and serve as a powerful reminder that as the State Fire Training Agency, we must ensure our Instructors are preparing our State's fire service personnel to do all they possibly can to safely and efficiently affect a positive outcome.

Please take care of yourselves, we need each and every one of you.

Stay strong and be safe when the alarm rings,

Director Jimmy Graves

1. MFSI COVID-19 Operations

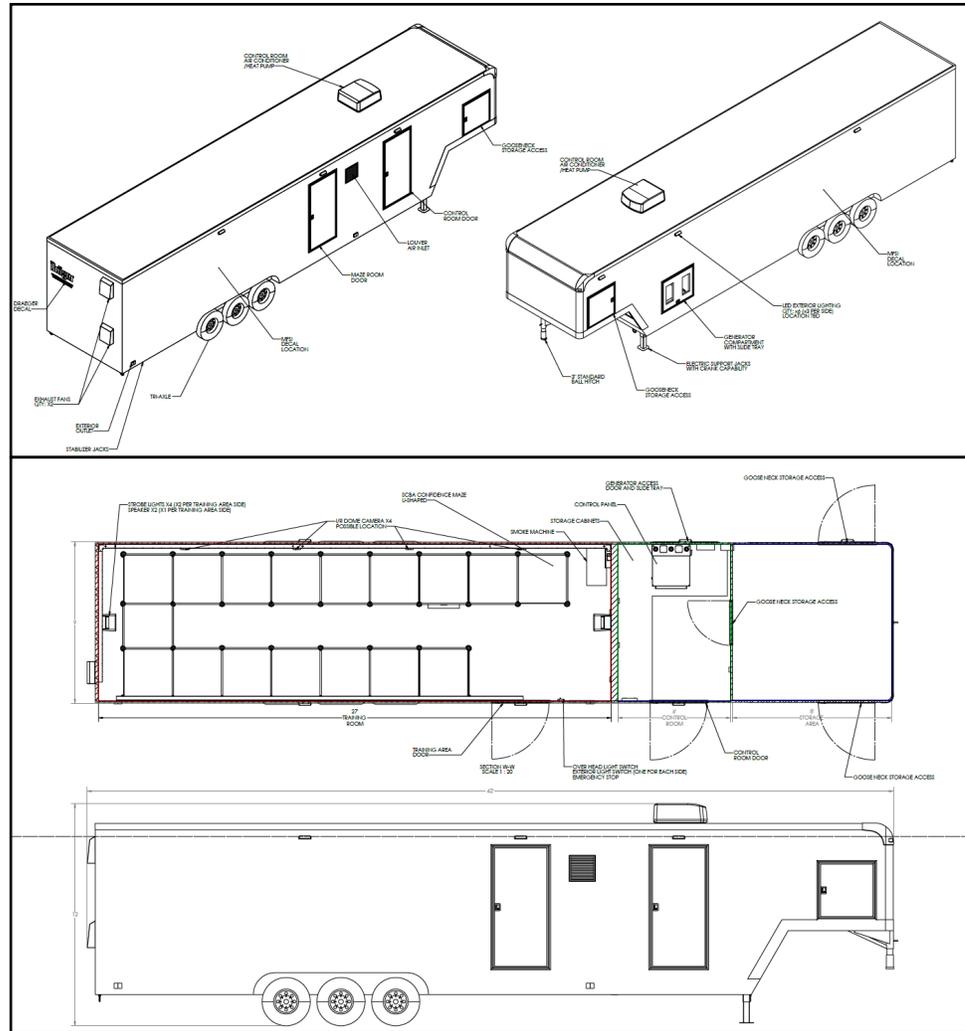
We are so grateful for the ongoing patience and cooperation that everyone has demonstrated when it comes to our COVID-19 policies. We have had to modify nearly every aspect of how our organization conducts business - and we could not have done this without all of you. In addition, we are thrilled to share that our staff have begun receiving vaccinations! There is still a long road ahead, and we will continue to practice social distancing and wear all recommended PPE at all times, but the path to healing has begun throughout Maine. We look forward to the day when we can return to our normal operations.

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2. AFG Grant Update

MFSI is very proud to announce that we have we have signed a contract with Drager to construct our third SCBA Air Management trailer. We expect to receive the trailer late this summer and training on this new piece of equipment will be provided. Anyone that would like to use this new piece of equipment will need to attend a Train-the-Trainer on its setup and use. We look forward to utilizing the new “Red Maze” as it is already being called:



If you have questions about the AFG funding process, or any other items you would like us to consider for future grant purchasing, please send Deputy Director Roy (jroy2@smccme.edu) an email. 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.

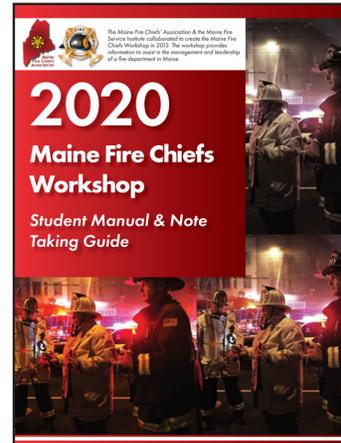
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4. Maine Fire Chiefs Workshop

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](#).

This workshop is being offered in York County currently - a large volume of applications were received, and we are excited to see so many participants in this valuable program!

5. LD242 - An Act to Support the Maine Fire Protection Services Commission

By now, most of you have no doubt become acquainted with LD242, an act designed to ensure that:

- Live Fire Training Facilities are geographically located across Maine
- Quality training is readily available for more distant and rural firefighters
- Equitable training & testing is provided by fire instructors and training agencies
- Local resources are leveraged to maximize return on State taxpayer investments

We ask for assistance from all of you in advocating for this very important legislation. For more information about the act, check out the [LD242 Talking Points](#) and [LD242 Frequently Asked Questions](#) resources compiled by the Maine Fire Protection Services Commission.

Your continued advocacy to your Senators and Representatives is greatly appreciated!

**LD242 An Act To Support the
Maine Fire Protection Services Commission**

LD242 removes the sunset provision & funds the MFPSC
Live Fire Training Facility Grant Program

Maine Fire Protection Services Commission LD242



From this...



To this...

**Our
Firefighters
Deserve It!**

Franklin County Regional
Fire Academy Facility
Fall 2020

Firefighters in Maine are required by the Maine Bureau of Labor Standards to train, maintain, and be proficient in tasks before performing those tasks on the fire ground. Few fire training facilities in Maine meet national standards relevant to today's firefighting needs. Many of our current training facilities are failing structurally and are lacking in geographic location - with Maine's rural firefighters severely under served. We are working to reverse these issues with grants: provided locally and leveraged with well managed fire training programs. **As determined by our 2018 study and report - Our goal is to provide and support compliant live fire training facilities within an hours travel time for over 90% of Maine's Firefighters.** LD242 helps us meet our goals for Maine firefighters, our citizens, and taxpayers. Please help continue our success! Support improvements for Maine's Firefighters — support LD242

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6. National Fire Academy Maine State Weekend

MAINE STATE WEEKEND
MAY 1-2, 2021
Presented by the National Fire Academy

Important Information

Each student must obtain a student identification number (SID). You cannot use a Social Security Number for registration. If you do not already have a SID please go to <https://sids.dhs.gov/termsandconditions.aspx>. NOTE: Keep your SID number! You will need it for any future classes or courses affiliated with the NFA.

Registration Deadline

Deadline for submitting your Part 1 application for the 2021 virtual weekend will be **March 20, 2021**.

New Coordinator

Contact Information:
Paul D. Froman MSW
Coordinator
Cell: 207-294-2285
Email: pfroman@smccme.edu



Welcome to our 33rd year!

This year marks the 33rd year Maine firefighters would have had the opportunity to participate in programs offered by the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg, Maryland. Sadly, despite our wish to be back at the academy in person, COVID-19 has not made this possible. However, after consultation with the folks at the NFA and the representatives from Florida and Indiana we will be able to offer six (6) courses virtually during the same weekend instead.

Registration Information

Due to this years unique online offerings the registration process has changed. There will not be a paper application this year. Instead there will be a two part online registration process. Part 1 is our registration process and Part 2 is the NFA registration. Due to this years circumstances and the fact we will not be going to the campus there will be no registration fee for these courses.

We are excited to announce the open registration process for the 2021 Maine, Florida, and Indiana weekend sponsored by the National Fire Academy!

We are disappointed that we will not be able to attend in person this year - however, we have a great opportunity to take courses from the NFA at no cost, with peers from around the country, without leaving the safety of our homes.

The flyer, previewed left, can be viewed [here](#) as a PDF with hyperlinks and more details on how to register for this exciting training opportunity. You can also reach out to our new Maine State Coordinator, Paul Froman, for additional information about the program: 207-294-2285 or pfroman@smccme.edu.

7. 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.

8. National Fire Academy Programs in Brunswick

Unfortunately, MFSI has been forced to cancel the April offering of F0602 - Shaping the Future due to low enrollment. However, F0646 - Leadership in Supervision: Creating Environments for Professional Growth is still slated to take place that weekend, with a few open seats remaining! Visit our [website](#) for registration materials (the deadline has been extended).

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. The registration packet for this course can also be found on our [website](#).



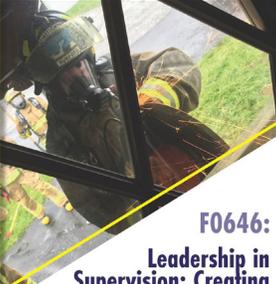
NFA Weekend at MFSI

APRIL 10 & 11 2021

19 Sewall Street
Brunswick, ME 04011

8:00am - 4:00pm
Program fee: \$25
(lunch not provided)
Deadline to apply: March 1, 2021

For more information, please email mfsinfo@smccme.edu



F0646: Leadership in Supervision: Creating Environments for Professional Growth

Curriculum: Leadership and Executive Development

This two-day course presents the supervisor with the basic leadership skills and tools needed to perform effectively in the fire and EMS environment. The course includes concepts related to a successful transition to supervisory and leadership roles, including concepts of adaptive leadership; change management; active followership; effective communication, including difficult conversations and advocacy; inquiry based dialogue; ethics; authority; power; decision-making; and active engagement through development of a personal plan.

Please submit completed registration materials to Anne Heing at aheing@smccme.edu or MFSI - ATTN: Anne Heing, 19 Sewall Street, Brunswick, ME 04011.

Please note: This training weekend is subject to cancellation due to ongoing COVID-19 concerns. In the event of cancellation, participants will be refunded the \$25 program fee.

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10. Fire & Emergency Services Instructor I & II Hybrid Program

We have worked in partnership with Maine EMS to update our marketing materials for the Fire & Emergency Services Instructor I & II program (formerly titled “Fire Instructor I & II”). This course is designed to meet requirements for both the Maine EMS identified standards for courses that lead to licensure for Instructor Coordinators, as well as the NFPA 1041 standard for Fire & Emergency Services Instructor I & II Professional Qualifications.

The latest offering will take place in Topsham and Westbrook. 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.

For more details, or to register, please visit our [website](#).



11. MFSI Facebook Page

Looking to stay in the loop on upcoming courses and other announcements from MFSI? Check out our [Facebook page](#), if you haven't already!

Now more than ever, staying connected digitally is of the utmost importance. We miss seeing familiar faces around the office, or chatting about announcements on the bulletin board at our headquarters - but social media offers a great way to stay in touch safely during the ongoing COVID-19 crisis.

That concludes our March & April 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