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# MFSI Update for County Meetings: March & April 2022

Folks,

I hope this bulletin finds you all well and looking forward to the warmer days ahead. With the start of spring, many of us are also starting the gradual process of restoring pre-pandemic normalcy. I truly hope that we will soon have this crisis in our rear view mirror.

I have seen so many hard working professionals step up and see things through during one of the most ambiguous times in my career. As Mainers always do, you all have risen up to meet the challenges laid at our feet with steadfast and tenacious resolve. In the past two years, we have been pushed away from one another (albeit for the greater good and in the interest of protecting our state's inhabitants) but it's time now to come back together and move our important mission forward. I very much look forward to seeing all of you in person and without a mask covering a smile or a smirk.

I am proud of all of you that have worked to provide a high level of service to each and every community in Maine. The mission never failed and that says a lot for our state. The stress that was created may last for some time: let's continue to watch out for one another as we move forward. Here at MFSI, we will need your help, guidance and support as we take the future of Maine's fire service in a positive direction. Please enjoy your spring, and we look forward to seeing you all soon.

Be safe when the bell rings,

Director Jimmy Graves

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## 1. SMCC/MCCS COVID-19: Updated Guidelines

The Maine Community College System announced recently that the seven colleges within the MCCS now have the ability to establish their own policies for use of facemasks on campus. Each college took into consideration local COVID-19 data, including Maine CDC data for the various Maine counties, local conditions, and the needs of each campus. As of March 14th, face masks are now optional at SMCC and MFSI Operations Areas except for individuals who are recovering from COVID-19.

Consistent with CDC guidance, individuals who have COVID-19 may leave quarantine on day 6 if they have a negative antigen test on day 5 and their symptoms have improved. These individuals should mask at all times in public through day 10.

This change does not impact the requirement that all students and employees who are on campus must be vaccinated and boosted.



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## 2. 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](#).

**Leadership in Supervision**

This series presents the fire and emergency medical services (EMS) 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.

Types in the course include adaptive communication including difficult authority, power, decision-making, negotiation, performance, conflict, delegating, mentoring, coaching, and professional growth.

The course includes the development of leadership in supervision for completion of the course.

**COVID-19 vaccination is required for all on-campus activities at SMCC/MFSI.**

**Deadline to Apply: April 1, 2022**  
**Course Fee: \$150**

Space will be limited to allow for social distancing (maximum of 30 participants). MFSI is located at 19 Small Street in Brunswick, ME.

**MAY 16 - 21 2022 at MFSI in Brunswick**

**Leadership in Supervision**

This six-day course is the combination of the three two-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).

## 3. 2022 Fire Fighter I Academy

**FIRE FIGHTER I ACADEMY 2022**

**TUITION FOR THE ACADEMY IS \$2000.00\*. THIS INCLUDES LODGING, MEALS, AND TEXTBOOKS.**

The Maine Fire Service Institute is excited to announce a Residential Fire Fighter I Academy for 2022. This academy offers candidates 9 days of intensive fire fighter skill training and performance qualifications. Orientation will be held April 30, 2022 in advance of the residential Academy, which will take place July 7 through July 16, 2022. All academy participants require residence and will be located at the University of Maine campus and the Farmington Regional Fire Training Facility in Farmington, ME. Have questions? Please contact Frank Hammond, Fire Fighter Academy Program Manager, (207) 852-8286 or fhammond@smccme.edu.

\*Out of State applicant tuition is \$2500.00 and acceptance is based upon availability.

Room Assignments will be on a single occupancy basis. All Academy Candidates must check in for the April session and the Residential Academy with full Personal Protection Equipment (details below). Equipment will be inspected. Candidate must also bring the test and medical clearance paperwork with them.

Personal Protective Equipment (turn-out gear) and self-contained breathing apparatus (air tank and mask) are required, as well as test and medical clearance paperwork.

Candidates will need a laptop computer and internet access in order to complete the online learning portion of this program.

Notes: Wellness and fitness screenings will take place during orientation weekend (April 30) and upon check-in for the Residential Academy in July 2022. Current COVID-19 vaccinations are required; testing may also be necessary.

**FUNDAMENTALS OF FIRE FIGHTER SKILLS JONES & BARTLETT LEARNING, 4th EDITION**

This Academy will meet the NFPA 1001 Standard for Fire Fighter Professional Qualifications 2019 Edition.

Maine Fire Service Institute  
SMCC-Maine Campus  
at Brunswick Landing  
19 Small Street  
Brunswick, ME 04011  
Phone: 207-854-2070  
Website: MFSI.smccme.edu

Registration is currently open for the 2022 Fire Fighter I Academy, which will take place in Farmington. Visit our [website](#) for a complete registration packet containing additional details about scheduling, costs, eligibility requirements, and much more.

Please note: the deadline to apply for this program is April 1, 2022. Orientation will take place on April 30, and the residential portion of the Academy will take place from July 7 through July 16, 2022. If you have any questions about the Fire Fighter I Academy, please don't hesitate to contact Frank Hammond (Fire Fighter Academy Program Manager) at 207-852-8286 or fhammond@smccme.edu.

## 4. Fire Instructor II Bridge Program

The pilot Fire Instructor II Bridge Course was a complete success and we will be offering it again in the future. We have certified over 160 Fire Instructors since the pandemic began, since this is a program that is well-suited to a hybrid delivery model and the use of Zoom videoconferencing. We're proud of every single one of them and their hard work.

The Fire Instructor II Bridge Program was created to address the many folks certified to the Fire Instructor I level in the state who wanted to step up to Fire Instructor II due to the substantive changes to the NFPA 1403 Live Fire Training Standard. We plan to offer more bridge programs in order to meet this demand.



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## 5. 2022 Maine Fire Chiefs Conference

The 2022 Maine Fire Chiefs Conference is here! 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.



### Learn More:

For more information about the 2022 Maine Fire Chiefs' Association Professional Development Conference, please check out the Attendee Packet which is available [online](https://www.maine-fire-chiefs.com/attendee-packet).

This packet contains a detailed breakdown of the conference schedule, info about travel and lodging, and the paperwork required to register for the event.

The conference serves as an excellent opportunity for learning and networking within the field. We hope to see many of you there!

## 6. 2022 Skills Exam Dates

MFSI will be conducting skills tests on the dates listed below. Additional dates for skills testing will be announced as soon as they are confirmed.

- June 4th Hollis Fire Training Facility
- June 5th Hollis Fire Training Facility
- June 26th Yarmouth Fire Training facility

Please contact Deputy Director Jim Roy ([jroy2@smccme.edu](mailto:jroy2@smccme.edu) or 207-844-2076) for more information about the 2022 skills testing season.





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## 7. 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 April.



## 8. Transition to Online Testing | QuestionMark

Over the past few months, MFSI has been 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. We have awarded the bid to QuestionMark and are working currently to finalize our contract with them in order to begin the implementation steps.

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 for success.

## 9. UL Fire Dynamics Boot Camp

Several members of the MFSI team attended the UL Fire Dynamics Training Boot Camp earlier this month. This 3-day program, hosted at the Connecticut Fire Academy, focused on fire dynamics and fire fighting tactics. This was a great opportunity for our Training Program Manager Frank Hammond, as well as Maine State Fire Instructors Tim Hardy, Chris Poremby, Phil Selberg, and Dan Verrill.



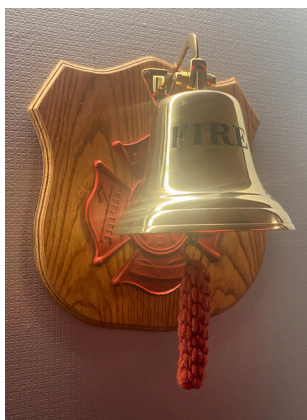
To view more photos or read more details about the program, you can check out the Journal Inquirer's event write-up [here](#).

*Image courtesy of  
Jim Michaud,  
Journal Inquirer*



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## 10. Tribute Bell at MFSI



We now have a tribute bell here at headquarters to honor and recognize fallen fire service professionals. The bell is mounted in the hallway of MFSI and is sounded when a United States Firefighter falls in the line of duty. The bell is not to be rung for any other reason than to take a moment of silence and honor the fallen.

The bell was donated, and State Fire Instructor Phil Meunier donated his talents and time to create a plaque to mount it and display it. We thank Phil for his hard work and dedication on this noble act of remembrance.

## 11. National Fire Academy Programs - Explained

MFSI is, under Maine Law, the “State Agent” to coordinate and provide training based on the 1974 Fire Prevention and Control Act. With this goal in mind, MFSI has a number of means and ways to provide National Fire Academy Programs here in Maine. Sadly, we cancel many of these offerings due to low enrollment, so we wanted to take a portion of this newsletter to highlight various NFA offerings and their value. Here are a few ways that Maine Fire Service Professionals can attend the National Fire Academy.

**Maine State Weekend** – Five classes are set aside for our state’s fire fighters to travel down to the NFA in Emmitsburg, Maryland and experience the academy and all its traditions. You can also visit the National Fallen Firefighters memorial and pay respects to our State’s firefighters who have been lost in the line of duty. We encourage everyone to experience the academy and the ceremony memorializing our fallen.

**In-State Offering with NFA Instructors** – MFSI is allowed to hold four programs in the State of Maine with experienced and knowledgeable instructors who travel from all over the United States to teach here.

**NFA 6 Day Programs** - Through a partnership with the Training Resource and Data Exchange (TRADE) MFSI can request a 6-Day NFA program within our region.

**NFA Handoff Classes** – MFSI has the ability with trained and qualified State of Maine Fire Service Instructors to deliver programs in the State of Maine and obtain a certificate from the NFA. Students must have a FEMA “Student Identification Number” (SID#) in order to achieve certification awarded from the NFA. These are typically sent via email.

**National Fire Academy Resident Courses** – Any Maine Fire Service Professional has the opportunity to attend the National Fire Academy Residential Programs at no cost other than the meal plan ticket for the time you are on campus. The best part of attending is getting to meet and become friends with other like-minded fire service professionals all over the United States.

**NFA Online Virtual Programs** – Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the NFA worked hard to get many two day programs set up for virtual deliveries so that folks can stay in



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the comfort of their own home/space and still “attend” an NFA program.

**NFA Executive Fire Officer Program** – This is a prestigious program that many highly regarded fire service professionals strive to attend. MFSI has a few State Fire Instructors that have reached this level of certification and we encourage everyone that wants to reach for the sky to look into this excellent offering.

**NFA Managing Officer Program** – This is another prestigious program for the company officer. If you are at the level of company officer and you want to raise your knowledge and become more effective, this program is going to provide you with the skills necessary to achieve this.

As your State Fire Training Director, I feel it is my duty to encourage you all to take advantage of these opportunities, thus making yourself better prepared and raising the bar of the Maine State Fire Service. I have copied below the Maine State Law in regards to why we work hard to support and deliver NFA Programs in Maine. In the past 7 years we have been forced to cancel 25% of the in-state offerings. We can do better than that. Please promote these programs at your local and regional level.

**MRS Title 20-A, §9003. STATE AGENTS FOR FEDERAL PROGRAMS**

*The following provisions shall apply to federal fire programs in the State. [PL 1981, c. 693, §§ 5, 8 (NEW).] 1. President; state agent. The president shall be the state agent to be contacted by the United States Fire Administration about matters dealing with the Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974, Public Law 93-498.*

For more information about NFA Programs, please visit their [website](#).

Should you have any questions about MFSI's collaborative process with the National Fire Academy and their programs, please contact Director Jim Graves at [jgraves@smccme.edu](mailto:jgraves@smccme.edu) or 207-844-2078.

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