



MAINE FIRE SERVICE
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MFSI Update for County Meetings: November & December 2021

Folks,

It has been a very busy fall with many programs running all over the state of Maine. We are beyond thrilled to see so many folks getting trained and certified, and so much activity during yet another challenging season of this ongoing global pandemic. This winter will bring more programs, classes, and behind-the-scenes projects to make Maine the best it can be.

We are often asked - both by local stakeholders and in conversation with folks from other states' agencies - what our "perfect" training model for Maine would look like in an ideal world. Of course, in such a scenario, we would have unlimited funding and infinite resources in order to say "yes" to every single training request that reached our office. But even within the more realistic context of our *actual* budget, there are many pieces of fire training in Maine that are working well and improving constantly: MFSI is very fortunate to have such an expansive fleet of mobile props purchased largely via grant funding, for example, or to have had the recent chance to bring members of Alabama Fire College all the way to Maine in support of creating a Live Fire Instructor and Instructor in Charge program right here in our own state.

We're also fortunate to have so much support from local departments. Between department leaders wearing a second hat as State Fire Instructors; or loaning us their apparatus and training facilities for programs; or working with us to host programs that cross town/city borders in order to maximize attendance and encourage networking - we see a lot of success stories, and we don't always take a moment to stop and say thank you. So as we approach Thanksgiving and the rest of the holiday season, from the bottom of hearts, *thank you*, from all of us at MFSI.

We wish you all a happy holiday season. Please be safe if you are called to duty. 2021 was a year like no other - we'll see you all in 2022!

Be safe when the bell rings,

Director Jimmy Graves

1. Fire Officer I & II 2020 Update

Those familiar with ProBoard policies will not be surprised to learn that MFSI's accreditation status is an on-going task, rather than a one-time achievement: as the standard for any given program changes, our team is tasked with revising and reviewing the curricula, updating our testing banks and processes, bringing in subject matter experts to serve on Certification committees, and so much more. This process is now underway for Fire Officer I & II. The NFPA 1021 Standard for Professional Fire Officer Qualifications has changed, and MFSI will be hard at work to upgrade all of our materials and get the new program ready for delivery. We appreciate your patience as we use these winter months to move the ball forward.



2. Live Fire Instructor / Instructor In Charge

Earlier this month, MFSI partnered with Alabama Fire College to bring a 40-hour Live Fire Instructor / Instructor in Charge training program to Maine in light of the 2019 NFPA 1041 Fire & Emergency Services Professional Qualifications standard changes. There are two new chapters that specifically address “Live Fire Training.”

The program ran without a hitch November 1-5, with 21 Maine Fire Service Professionals subsequently sitting for the Pro-Board exam. We are very appreciative to the Alabama Fire College for assisting us here in Maine! It was a pleasure getting to know their team. With this initial Train-the-Trainer as our launchpad, we will begin building our Maine program and submitting it for Pro-Board approval. We are proud of all that attended and completed the program. *Please note: This does not change anything in regards to training in the State of Maine: the Fire Chief is the authority under Maine Law. This is instead an effort by MFSI to be on the cutting edge of national trends, and to improve the quality and availability of fire training in Maine. Please call Director Graves should you have any questions.*



3. Fire Instructor I & II (Fall '21) and Instructor II Bridge (2022)

Fire & Emergency Services Instructor II
BRIDGE PROGRAM

COURSE DATES

Thurs 1/6 in person, 6:00-9:30pm	Orientation
Thurs 1/13 via Zoom at 6:00pm	Various Content/ Check In
Thurs 2/3 via Zoom at 6:00pm	Chapter 9
Thurs 2/10 via Zoom at 6:00pm	Chapter 10
Thurs 2/17 via Zoom at 6:00pm	Chapter 11
Thurs 2/24 via Zoom at 6:00pm	Chapter 12

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**Fire & Emergency Services Instructor II
BRIDGE PROGRAM**

Program Fee: \$275
**Deadline to apply:
Dec. 22, 2021**

**Participants must
provide proof of
COVID-19 vaccination.**

MFSI is pleased to present a newly created bridge program from Fire Instructor I to Fire Instructor II. This program was established in anticipation of introducing the NFPA Live Burn Curriculum to Maine's fire community. The NFPA standard requires that presenters and instructors involved have Fire Instructor I & II credentials from MFSI, and we know that there are many dedicated individuals in the field who currently have Fire Instructor I only.

The NFPA 1041 standard for Fire Instructor has changed significantly over the past decade or more, but we feel it remains the same: skilled instructors are vital to every domestic, successful educational program. While facilities, instructional materials, equipment and personnel with specialized technical knowledge are also needed, without instructors who are fully competent and up-to-date in the art of teaching, no educational program can be relevant, lively, effective training, lesson plan development, training in context, objective writing, Department of Labor requirements, and more. Applicants must hold a current Fire Instructor I Certification (does not need to be ProBoard accredited).

Successful completion of all course requirements by qualified individuals will allow them to sit for the ProBoard Fire Instructor II Certification exam in accordance with the 2019 edition of NFPA Standard 1041.

Hybrid Delivery: Zoom & In-Person Sessions at MFSI Headquarters in Brunswick

Registration materials can be submitted to Anna Healy at "MFSI - ATTN Anna Healy, 19 Sewall Street, Brunswick, ME 04001" or "shanghaicomms.edu". Please do not send payment with registration packet - see COVID-19 Billing Procedures page for details. For more information: info@shanghaicomms.edu.

Two Fire Instructor I & II programs are running currently in Gorham and Ellsworth. Another 40-50 of Maine's Fire Service Professionals will be testing for their Pro-Board Fire Instructor I & II before the end of the calendar year.

We also have exciting news about the introduction of a new program: the Fire & Emergency Services Instructor II Bridge course. This program was established in anticipation of introducing the NFPA Live Burn Curriculum to Maine's fire community. The NFPA standard requires that presenters and instructors involved have Fire Instructor I & II credentials from MFSI, and we know that there are many dedicated individuals in the field who currently have Fire Instructor I only. Check out our [website](#) for more details on how apply before the December 22 (2021) deadline.

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4. Recent Damage to MFSI Props

Folks, we want to see all our props out assisting and supporting fire training efforts around the state of Maine. Many of these props have received significant damage and will require repair or be taken out of service entirely due to the damage. We simply ask you do all you can to prevent damage and see that the prop is returned in good order. We also know and recognize that things happen; kindly call or email Support Services Manager, Ray Bishop, to notify us of any issues and/or damage as soon as it occurs. We may not be able to sustain some of the props we have in the future without such care and prompt reporting. Thank you.

5. Advanced Fire Officer Program Progress

The summer program has concluded and the fall program is in full swing. Please keep in mind that the conclusion of this program will end the era of the Basic and Advanced Fire Officer Programs in the state of Maine: we will be moving away from the Basic/Advanced model, to ensure we stand up to our Pro-Board Certification, and will instead be introducing a "Fire Officer I" program for the Maine State Fire Service. This valuable program will help us better meet the current demand we're seeing in the field around the state.

DATE	UNIT	JOB
Oct 17	1. Preparing for Promotion	Chapter 1
Oct 18	2. Evaluation & Discipline	Chapter 1
Oct 19	3. Organized Labor in the Fire Office	Chapter 1
Nov 4	4. Working in the Community	Chapter 1
Nov 11	5. Developing a Professional Image	Chapter 1
Nov 18	6. Pre Incident Planning & Code Enforcement	Chapter 2
Dec 2	7. Budgeting	Chapter 2
Dec 9	8. Fire Case Documentation	Chapter 2
Dec 16	9. Fire Resource Management & Funding	Chapter 2

6. Advisory Committee Updates

The SMCC/MFSI Advisory Committee will be meeting on December 10th for our biannual meeting. We are working on the agenda and reports currently and the group will have much to discuss.

We have appointed two new members to the committee:

- Chief Chris Lavoie, *Glenburn Fire Department*
- Maine State Senator Chip Curry, *Maine Fire Service Protection Commission*

We know that both individuals will make many positive contributions to the Maine Fire Service and we look forward to working with them.

7. VFIS Train-the-Trainer Event



More than two dozen Maine Fire Service Municipal and State Fire Instructors attended the VFIS EVOC Train-the-Trainer program held in Topsham on November 6-7, 2021. We would like to especially thank Chief Chris McLaughlin & Deputy Chief Gerry Pineau for their support of the program. We hope to bring VFIS back to Maine in the fall of 2022 in the Bangor area to conduct another program.



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8. 2022 Maine Fire Chiefs Conference

Planning is underway for the 2022 annual Maine Fire Chiefs Conference in Newry. We are working with 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.

9. MFSI Prop Availability

It's that time of year again! In order to protect our valuable [water props](#) from damage over the winter months, they will be out of service from now until April of 2022. In addition, the MAST trailer will only be delivered to locations where it can be stored indoors.

We do also still have some tools that are out of circulation due to COVID and our inability to sanitize them in a cost-effective manner. This list is included at the top of the [Request Training Props and Equipment form](#) on our website. Thanks for understanding!

Water Use Props & Cold Weather

ATTENTION: As of November 1st the following water use training props will be winterized and out of service until April 1st 2021, weather permitting:

- Car Fire Prop
- System 64 Propane Prop
- Fire Extinguisher Prop
- Live Fire Training Trailer
- Pump Simulator Prop Trailer

In addition, the MAST trailer will only be delivered to locations where it can be stored indoors.

This is due to potential freeze ups and the severe damage that can be caused by such freeze ups. Should you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate in contacting Director Jim Roy, Graves or Deputy Director Jim Roy. Thank you for your support!

mfsi.me.edu

10. 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 now been pushed back due in part to the fact that several components of the trailer are currently unavailable. We will of course keep everyone posted as soon as more information is available. 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 the second week of December.





11. Instructor Recruitment

This was another highly competitive recruitment period, with many passionate and talented candidates. The following individuals have been offered positions as a State Fire Instructor with MFSI:

- Deputy Chief Edward Dexter, *City of Biddeford Fire Department*
- Fire Fighter Joseph Donovan, *City of Bangor Fire Department*
- Fire Fighter Hale Fitzgerald, *City of South Portland Fire Department*
- Fire Fighter Jeffery Goodness, *City of Portland Fire Department*
- Deputy Chief Timothy Hernandez, *Town of Addison Fire Department*
- Lieutenant Patrick Sarto, *City of Saco Fire Department*
- Chief Nathan Schools, *Town of Buxton Fire Department*
- Fire Fighter Alan Stewart, *Town of Farmington Fire Department*
- Fire Fighter Dan Verrill, *City of Portland Fire Department*

We are so excited to welcome these folks to our team. Please join us in congratulating them, when you see them out in the field!

12. Skills Exams

It was a very busy year with skills exams, and at the time of writing we still have three more on the docket before the year ends: one in Bangor, one in Caribou and one in Yarmouth. The Skills Exams will be taking on a slightly new look next season, with a greater emphasis on several specific critical skills, i.e. skills that will assist in raising the bar on fire training in Maine and that address the practical needs of Maine departments.



13. NFA Weekends - Save the Dates

Mark your calendars! The NFA in-state weekend is being planned for March 19 & 20, 2022 at MFSI 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 also hold the date for the Maine State Weekend at the National Fire Academy - April 9 & 10 (the registration packet will be available in early 2022).

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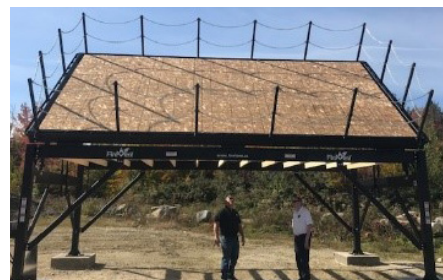


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14. Improvements to Farmington Fire Training Facility

We want to thank Chief Bell and his staff for all the hard work on their fire training facility. Over the past two months they have added two significant fire training props for the betterment of the region:

- A ventilation prop purchased from Fire Vent USA (a 20' x 12' training prop to assist in the skills development for fire service ventilation)
- A Forced Entry Training System purchased from East Coast Rescue Systems



All of us here at MFSCI congratulate Chief Bell and all the good people of the Farmington Region that assisted in these efforts to see fire training improve.

15. Oxford County Outreach Program

We held an outreach program in Fryeburg on October 23rd & 24th at the Fryeburg Fair Grounds. Three programs went off very well with over 45 area fire fighters taking part. The programs were:

- Maine Fire Chiefs Workshop
- Emergency Vehicle Operators Course
- National Fire Academy Incident Safety Officer

Sadly, we had to cancel the Basic Pumps Program due to lack of instructor availability, but we have promised to deliver a program in the spring instead.



That concludes our November & December 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