



MFSI Update for County Meetings: July & August 2022

Folks,

It's officially summer in Maine, a chance to shut the heat off for a couple of months and try and get outside to enjoy this amazing weather. Our spring skills exams are behind us and we congratulate the many folks that have achieved Pro-Board Firefighter I & II certification. Another very positive observation is we have seen a large rise in EVOC and BPOC programs this spring, with demand being so high for these programs that we are bringing back the VFIS EVOC Train-the-Trainer program in September.

Thank you to all that support us and work hard in collaboration with MFSI to see that our state's firefighters are trained to the highest level. MFSI remains committed to raising the bar at every opportunity - and while this is a busy season for programs, we also continue to work hard on many internal projects to ensure our mission runs as smoothly as possible and that we are able to meet the fire training demand on every occasion. We appreciate everyone's help and we hope you will enjoy the summer.

Be safe when the bell rings,

Director Jimmy Graves

1. Fire Instructor I & II Programs - 2022 & 2023

We have several Fire Instructor programs currently being developed and offered throughout the state:

- Registration is open for the Live Fire Instructor & Instructor In-Charge (non-Pro-Board) Maine State Certification program in Bangor & Yarmouth this fall (please visit our [website](#) for the complete registration packet)
- Fire Instructor II Bridge Program (EMCC/Bangor - currently underway)
- Fire Instructor I & II Oxford & York Counties (Fall 2022)
- Fire Instructor I & II Washington County (January 2023)

Registration packets for the latter two courses will be made available in the coming weeks: please keep an eye on our Facebook page, email list, and website for more details.

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2. New SCBA Air Confidence Trailer (Red Maze)

We are thrilled to announce that our new SCBA Air Confidence Training Trailer (aka the “Red Maze”) has arrived and folks are already being trained on its use. Our staff participated in a fantastic initial Train-the-Trainer event with a representative from Draeger, and the prop itself will be ready for action soon.

Our current next steps are to transport it out to four locations for a second round of Train-the-Trainer sessions, with the intent of covering different geographical areas so that this prop can be utilized as much as possible throughout the state. We will share additional details about these training opportunities as soon as they are finalized.



3. Transition to Online Testing | QuestionMark

MFSI has submitted our application to ProBoard for an official change in our accreditation processes, which will facilitate our transition to paperless exams. In addition, our team has already begun the process of rebuilding exams in the new digital system - we anticipate running pilot versions of this new format in the fall or winter.

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.

4. Skills Exams Update

Upcoming 2022 Skills Exam dates & locations are as follows:

- August 13th, Ellsworth Fire Training Facility
- October 1st, Yarmouth Fire Training Facility
- October 16th, Bangor Fire Training Facility
- November 12th, Caribou Fire Training Facility
- December 3rd, Yarmouth Fire Training Facility

Altogether, these exams will provide opportunities for hundreds of firefighters to achieve ProBoard Certification.



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5. Class B Foam Issue

Please see our recent [memo](#) on the legal issues surrounding the use of Class B foam during fire training. MFSI is working on responsible ways to meet the objectives in NFPA 1001 and 1002 Standards while best protecting Maine's citizens and environment. We have updated the Letter of Intent signed by all current State Fire Instructors to reflect this policy and help ensure that MFSI training events do not involve the use of Class B foam.

6. NFA In-State Weekend

This year's NFA In-State Weekend is being planned for September 17 & 18, 2022, at MFSI headquarters in Brunswick, as well as a free course in Ellsworth. The following programs will be offered:

- F0648 - Leadership in Supervision: Frameworks to Success (MFSI/Brunswick)
- F0762 - New Fire Chief: Contemporary Issues (MFSI/Brunswick)
- NFA Incident Safety Officer Program (Ellsworth City Hall)

The ISO program in Ellsworth is offered free of charge with support from the National Fire Academy Training Grant. Visit [our website](#) for complete registration packets and program details.

September 17 & 18, 2022 | Ellsworth
NFA F0729: Incident Safety Officer
 Registration materials can be submitted to Anne Hering at "MFSI - ATTN: Anne Hering, 19 Sewall Street, Brunswick, ME 04011" or to anahering@mfsi.me.edu. Please do not send registration packets until you receive a COVID-19 Bill page for details.

September 17 & 18, 2022
Leadership in Supervision: Framework to Success
 COURSE CODE: F0762
 Registration materials can be submitted to Anne Hering at "MFSI - ATTN: Anne Hering, 19 Sewall Street, Brunswick, ME 04011" or to anahering@mfsi.me.edu. Please do not send program registration packets until you receive a COVID-19 Billing Procedure page for details.

September 17 & 18, 2022 at MFSI
New Fire Chief: Contemporary Issues
 Registration materials can be submitted to Anne Hering at "MFSI - ATTN: Anne Hering, 19 Sewall Street, Brunswick, ME 04011" or to anahering@mfsi.me.edu. Please do not send program registration packets until you receive a COVID-19 Billing Procedure page for details.

Schedule: 8:00am - 4:00pm, both days
Deadline to apply: August 12, 2022

COVID-19: Vaccination is required for all employees programs at MFSI/SMCC.

Program fee: \$25. Includes all materials needed for successful course completion.

mfsi.me.edu

7. Ventilation Prop



The new Ventilation Prop has been ordered and we anticipate that it will be delivered this fall, barring any delays.

This prop was purchased via grant funding and will be provided by FireVent, LLC. FireVent is the leading manufacturer of mobile and stationary ventilation training props for the fire service.

8. Car Fire & System 64 Props - Out of Service

Due to unforeseen complications, our Car Fire Prop will be out of service for longer than anticipated. The unit has a significant failure in the "Pilot Flame Control Box." The unit is being completely rebuilt and should be back in service by **October 1st, 2022**. We apologize for the inconvenience. In addition, the System 64 Prop is currently out of service for repairs as well. We'll keep everyone apprised of any new developments as soon as they become available.



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9. Fire Officer I & II Update

The NFPA 1021 Standard for Professional Fire Officer Qualifications has changed and MFSI will be at work to upgrade the program and get it out as soon as we can. We have been meeting with the build-out team to get the online program up to speed and make adjustments to the delivery model. At some point in late fall 2022, we should be ready to go live with this new program.

10. Info about the Maine Fire Protection Services Commission

Who and what is the MFPS in Maine? The Maine Fire Protection Services Commission was created into law back in 1999 to provide guidance to the fire service stakeholders and the state legislature. Currently, the commission is working on a number of positive projects such as:

- LOSAP – Length of Service Award Program
- Live Fire Training Facilities
- Wildland Fire Issues
- Fire Training Funding
- Recruitment & Retention
- Best Practices in the Maine Fire Service
- Professional Development

For more information please visit: [Maine Fire Protection Services Commission | Office of State Fire Marshal](#).

11. We're Hiring!

We're excited to share that we're holding a State Fire Instructor Recruitment Period from July 8-August 5, with the goal of adding new instructors to the team in Aroostook, northern Penobscot, and Washington Counties.

Meeting the demand for our services in previously under-served regions is an ongoing goal for our team. Details can be found on our [website](#). We hope that you'll share this opportunity broadly and with anyone in your network who might be interested in helping to shape the future of the fire service in Maine.



12. MFSI's 75th Anniversary

In 2023, MFSI will celebrate 75 years of fire training in Maine. After the 1947 wildfires, our state's political leaders recognized the urgent need to better train firefighters and ensure their safety during firefighting operations. We have come a long way in the past 75 years, and we are proud to continue working to make MFSI better each day.



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13. Live Fire Training Facilities Engineering Inspections

MFSI and the Maine Fire Protection Services Commission collaborated to have seven regional fire training facilities inspected by a licensed engineer in accordance with the NFPA 1403 Standard on Live Fire Training Evolutions. The Live Fire Training Facilities inspections have all been completed and compliance is ensured until 2027. MFSI and the Fire Commission sincerely thank all that made this possible, specifically our local partners in the following communities: Auburn, Bangor, Caribou, Ellsworth, Farmington, Hollis, Yarmouth, and coming soon, the newly constructed facility in Fairfield!



In addition to the external facilities that have an existing MOU/MOA with our team, other props and facilities that are compliant with NFPA 1403 include: Waldo County Facility, North Lakes Facility, Bath Facility, St George Facility, Milo (Prop), Hodgdon (prop), and the MFSI Live Fire Training Trailer.

14. VFIS EVOC Train the Trainer

Planning is well underway for a VFIS EVOC Train the Trainer to be held in Augusta in collaboration with Maine BLS. More information will be forthcoming. **SAVE THE DATE: September 10 & 11, 2022 at the Maine Bureau of Labor in Augusta on Commerce Drive.** Please contact Certification & Curriculum Assistant Manager John Churchill at jchurchill@smccme.edu or 207-844-2074 for more information.

The flyer can be found [here](#). If you are a current MFSI State Fire Instructor and you are interested in this program, please contact John Churchill and Jim Graves (jgraves@smccme.edu) prior to filling out an application.

Speaking of John Churchill - as you all no doubt know by now, John joined our team early this spring in support of our Certification Division. As of June 1, John is now officially working with MFSI full-time. As a veteran State Fire Instructor with miles of experience and common sense, John's impact at MFSI is already being felt, and his commitment to seeing improvements and forward progression is outstanding. The MFSI Administrative team has another strong asset in John. You can all be sure bigger and better advancements from MFSI are well on their way. We're lucky to have you, John!





15. White Maze - Removed from Circulation

We have arrived at the end of an amazing run for the “White Maze” trailer. After over 30 years of use, we have had to make the decision to remove the battle-hardened White Maze from over-the-road service. The White Maze was purchased in 1989 and has served the Maine fire service for 33 years. So many of us have crawled through this training prop over and over again. We had looked into having it refurbished but it did not prove to be a wise financial decision. We will be working with the Finance office to perhaps offer it to a fire training site on a long-term loan, or to sell it outright.

16. In Memoriam

Our team was deeply saddened to learn of the passing of Stephen G. “Gig” Hasson, 93, on July 5. Gig was a military veteran and long-time supporter of the fire service in Maine, as well as a dedicated community member and true family-man. He was extremely influential in shaping Maine Fire Training & Education, now MFSI, and his positive influence will never be forgotten.

To learn more about Gig’s legacy or to share an online condolence, please visit his [Memorial page](#). May he rest in peace.



That concludes our July & August 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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