



MFSI Update for County Meetings: September & October 2022

Folks,

I hope this summer has been good to you and you have had ample opportunity to enjoy all our state has to offer us in the form of relaxation and enjoyment. We have now lost almost two hours of daylight and the inevitable reality is that winter is fast approaching - the snow season will be here before we know it! I myself look forward to seeing “Heat Miser” disappear and Jack Frost come back for a spell. When you’re considering your department’s training needs and schedules, please be reminded that our water props will be stored after November 1st pending weather conditions. We take this measure each year to avoid any potential damage that could be caused by freeze-ups.

Until the winter hits, we have a very busy fall ahead of us here at MFSI with numerous events taking place in just two short months; our staff will be traveling each weekend to assist with fire training events all across Maine. We wish everyone a safe and happy Labor Day weekend!

Be safe when the bell rings,

Director Jimmy Graves

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

The Fire Instructor II Bridge Program in Bangor was a huge success, with another group of Maine Fire Service Professionals now having achieved their Fire Instructor II Pro-Board Certification. We have several additional Instructor programs currently being developed and delivered throughout the state:

- 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 I & II - [Cumberland & Bridgton \(Fall 2022\)](#)
- Fire Instructor I & II - [Washington County \(January 2023\)](#)

We are also in the process of planning a winter Fire Instructor I & II program in Kittery - Please keep an eye on our Facebook page, email list, and website for more details.

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2. MFSI Awarded Assistance to Firefighters Grant

It is with great joy that we're able to share with you all that MFSI has once again been awarded financial support from the Assistance to Firefighters Grant program, which will be used to procure more new equipment to meet our fire training mission. We have been awarded a sum of \$124,900.00 in grant funding, which will be spent on items including:

- New traffic cones, highway barrels, and training signs for 3 EVOC trailers
- Command boards & accountability systems for Live Fire Training Operations
- 36 updated radios for Live Fire Training Operations
- 3 positive pressure fans
- 10 sets of Fire Instructor PPE

We are excited to be able to make these resources available to Maine fire fighters. If you have any questions about the grant process, or suggestions for future items for procurement, please contact Deputy Director Jim Roy at jroy2@smccme.edu.

3. Fire Officer I Updates & Pilot Offerings



After many months of preparing and planning an entirely new approach to fire officer training in Maine, we are about to take a giant step forward with an approach we feel will best fit the State of Maine Fire Service. We plan to offer two Fire Officer I pilot programs and make any necessary adjustments to the program in order to move forward. Our goal is to make these programs available to all that have the desire to attend: in the past, we had heard the frustration that folks could not realistically attend the fire officer academy and we understand that issue was especially problematic for our volunteer and rural fire officers. We are excited for this new delivery model to address the needs of all demographics.

Registration packets for the Fall 2022 MFSI Pilot Programs can be found on [our website](#). In the future, these programs may be offered as many as four times a year, with a Fire Officer II academy offered every few years for those that desire that level of certification. Those of us who have graduated from the academy see great value in attending with a group and networking; thus, we feel that the compromise is to offer Fire Officer I as a standalone program and hold a four-day Fire Officer II Academy to best meet the needs of all parties involved. We hope these changes will be well received, and will bring this valuable level of professional certification to an increased number of Maine's fire departments.

4. Class B Foam Issue

If you have not done so already, 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.

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5. NFA In-State Weekend

This year's NFA In-State Weekend is scheduled for September 17 & 18, 2022, at MFSI headquarters in Brunswick, as well as a free course in Ellsworth and we are extending the application deadline with the goal of filling more seats. The following programs will be offered:

- F0648 - Leadership in Supervision: Frameworks to Success (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 04001 or to shering@msfsi.edu. Please do not send program with registration packet - see COVID-19 HHS page for details.

September 17 & 18, 2022 at MFSI

Leadership in Supervision: Frameworks to Success

Registration materials can be submitted to Anne Hering at: MFSI - ATTN: Anne Hering, 19 Sewall Street, Brunswick, ME 04001 or to shering@msfsi.edu. Please do not send program with registration packet - see COVID-19 HHS page for details.

COURSE CODE: F0648

Schedule: 8:00a.m. to 4:00p.m. both days. Deadlines to apply: August 12, 2022.

COVID-19 restrictions in required for all our programs or MFSI/AMCC.

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

For more information, please contact Director Givens at lgivens@msfsi.edu or 207-844-2078.

mfsi.me.edu

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

The Car Fire prop is still currently out of service; however, we took delivery on August 30 of a new pilot box which will be instrumental in getting this item back into circulation. In addition, the System 64 Prop is currently out of service for repairs as well. We apologize for the inconvenience and we'll keep everyone apprised of any new developments as soon as they become available.

7. 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.

8. Ventilation Prop



The new Ventilation Prop has been ordered and we anticipate that it will be delivered sometime in **September, 2022**, 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.

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9. Article on “Why NFPA Matters to Your Firefighter Training Program”

This [article](#) is a good read and may help clarify the mission here at MFSI. Under Maine Law, quoted below, we are directed to test and certify according to specific standards.

“§9003. State agents for federal programs

- 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. *(This law makes us an agent of the National Fire Academy)*
- 2. System; testing; certification.** The system shall be the state testing agency for the National Professional Qualification Board of the Joint Council of Fire Services Organizations. The president may award certificates to personnel of municipal and incorporated volunteer fire departments using competency standards established by the Joint Council of Fire Services Organizations.” *(This law directs MFSI to follow NFPA Fire Training Standards)*

10. 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 in **November**, 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.



11. 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 - including running an initial pilot earlier this month in Bangor. We learned a lot from this pilot test, and we're grateful for everyone's patience while we address issues that may arise.

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 will continue to offer written exams free of charge at this time, and will evaluate the financial side of testing on an ongoing basis in the future to determine an appropriate fee schedule.



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12. New State Fire Instructor Hiring Process

We were very thrilled to receive a large volume of applications during our recent Instructor Recruitment period, which was focused on Aroostook, Northern Penobscot, and Washington Counties. The written materials that we received from the candidates were exceptionally impressive, and it is always a joy to hear from so many motivated individuals in support of our mission.

Candidates will be joining us in Caribou in November for the next steps in the process, including written and skill evaluations, in-person interviews, and more.



13. VFIS EVOC Train the Trainer

We're excited to announce that we have filled the upcoming VFIS EVOC Train the Trainer, to be held in Augusta in collaboration with Maine BLS. This will take place September 10 & 11, 2022 at the Maine Bureau of Labor in Augusta on Commerce Drive.

We will also be working with VFIS to offer this program again - hopefully as soon as next spring. Please contact Certification & Curriculum Assistant Manager John Churchill at jchurchill@smcme.edu or 207-844-2074 for more information about this program and future offerings.

14. 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.

That concludes our September & October 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

