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MFSI Update for County Meetings: November & December 2022

Folks,

We have just ended one of the most demanding fire training periods in my entire career here at MFSI. I am proud of everyone who was involved in making it such a success despite the many challenges (including staff members being out of the office with COVID). There may have been times when I wanted to pull what was left of my hair completely out - but we met the challenge and that is all that matters. MFSI will continue to be challenged with the current demand for our services and we intend to meet that task with steadfast enthusiasm and commitment to our state's fire service. As always, our goal is to ensure we are raising the bar and preparing folks for the future.

The holiday season is upon us and for us northern New Englanders, that means time in the woods hunting, family gatherings with great meals, and of course - football. Please enjoy these times, and look to 2023 with a focus on what we can do to better the Maine Fire Service as a whole. We are after all Mainers, and Maine people are quite capable of greatness with any challenge placed before them.

I want to take a moment and thank each and every State Fire Instructor, MFSI staff member, the Maine Fire Chiefs, the Maine Fire Protection Services Commission, and the numerous other fire service stakeholders that assist us in our tasks around the beautiful State of Maine each year. You are the best, and I am honored to serve with you and for you all.

Be safe when the bell rings,

Director Jimmy Graves

1. 2023 Fire Instructor I & II Planning

The Fire Instructor Program planning is well underway for 2023. Please watch for our flyers and registration packets on Facebook, our website, or our email list. We have four seats available in the Washington County program at the time of writing, and registration is open for a program beginning in Bangor in January. A registration packet for the subsequent course in Kittery will be available soon as well:

- Fire Instructor I & II Washington County (Calais) - [registration packet](#)
- Fire Instructor I & II Penobscot County (Bangor) - [registration packet](#)
- Fire Instructor I & II York County (Kittery) - beginning late March 2023, registration materials are pending



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2. Fire Officer I Updates & Pilot Offerings



Both pilot programs of our new delivery model are running as well as can be expected. As is the case with all programs when they are pilots, we use this early stage of the process to find issues that need to be worked out over time. MFSI is committed to making sure this program is top-notch and we are working with the ProBoard to finalize the Change in Accreditation process to reflect the new model. We appreciate the candidates' patience with the program and we will work very hard to make any necessary adjustments that would make future deliveries even better. MFSI plans to offer four Fire Officer I programs per year and one Fire Officer II Academy per year.

3. MFSI Regional Hiring Progress

With nine prospective candidates in the latest hiring process, MFSI staff and admin went on the road to the City of Caribou to conduct the next steps at the Aroostook County EMA office. All nine were present and did very well and our plan is to hold a new State Fire Instructor Academy/Orientation in early January to bring them up to speed on our day-to-day operations. We look forward to sharing more details with you all soon!

4. 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.

5. 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.



6. NFA In-State Weekend

We hope that many of you will be able to join us here at headquarters for F0770 - Fire Investigation: First Responders on March 11 & 12, 2023.

This 2-day course presents a basic overview of a fire investigation. Students will review the basics of fire chemistry and develop an understanding of the role of the first responder in relation to fire suppression and fire investigation. The course will stress the importance of fire scene awareness, evidence identification, preservation and the basics of a fire investigation. Students will develop an appreciation for the convergence of suppression, investigation, science and law. Visit our [website](#) for a registration packet.



7. Newly Created Maine Fire Protection Services Commission Regional Firefighter Training Grant

As many of you have no doubt heard, we recently established a new Regional Firefighter Training Grant. The plan is to award programs by January and begin programs so that they can be completed by the spring skills testing season. Please consider applying for this amazing opportunity for any region of the State of Maine. The Sub-Committee on training and education for the fire commission is comprised of the following professionals and will be selecting the awardee.

- Chief Dan Brooks, Chair MFPSC
- Gerry Gay, Professional Firefighters of Maine
- Chief Chris Whytock, Rockland Fire Department
- Vicki Schmidt, Maine State Federation of Firefighters
- James Graves, State of Maine Fire Training Director MFSI

We wish you all luck throughout the process and look forward to working with you to get folks trained in your departments. Detailed information and supporting documents are available on our [website](#).

8. New Car Fire Prop



MFSI has ordered a new car fire training prop from Symtech Fire Training Props. The prop should be delivered by June of 2023. The image to the left is a picture of what we will be receiving, although ours will be in an enclosed trailer.

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9. Transition to Online Testing | QuestionMark

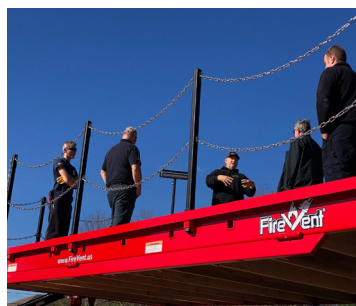
We are thrilled to announce that we have successfully completed our Change in Accreditation with the ProBoard, and MFSI is now fully accredited to run paperless exams! Our team has already built out the exams in the new digital system and have successfully completed several pilot tests. We are learning as we go, 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.

10. New Ventilation Prop

To say that we are thrilled about the delivery of our new Ventilation Prop would be an understatement! Our initial Train-the-Trainer is complete (pictured below), and we can't wait to get this prop out into rotation in the field soon.

This prop was purchased via grant funding and was provided by FireVent LLC, the leading manufacturer of mobile & stationary ventilation training props for the fire service. This asset will open up so many new training possibilities for our beautiful state.



11. MMA Article About MFSI

Our team is honored and excited to have been featured in the October edition of Maine Town & City. We can't thank everyone enough for their kind words, and of course, we are forever grateful to our cadre of State Fire Instructors, our friends at the Maine Municipal Association (MMA), and our many other partners & stakeholders throughout the state for making our mission possible. From everyone here at Maine Fire Service Institute, THANK YOU!! The publication can be viewed [here](#).

12. Live Fire Instructor/Instructor In-Charge Training Programs

The administration of MFSI wants to provide crystal clear communication to the Maine Fire Service regarding this program. The sole and primary purpose of this program is to provide fire service personnel with everything they need to perform live-fire training evolutions safely, effectively, and efficiently. This program discusses topics ranging from the pre-planning stage, through conducting actual burn evolutions and then post-burn



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12. Live Fire Instructor/Instructor In-Charge Training Programs (continued)

sessions. The program includes specific materials and handouts for future reference, e.g. water flow calculations and a burn plan template. This program also includes hands-on training (H.O.T.) experience to prepare individuals to manage and control live fire training evolutions. During this program, students are exposed to a variety of fuel load packages, fuel load layouts, and the timing of live fire evolutions. This program is designed to educate each candidate in the arts and practices of live fire training evolutions, and to have them leave with the confidence to perform such drills in their local areas as a Live Fire Instructor -and/or- a Live Fire Instructor In Charge. In NO WAY SHAPE OR FORM is this program intended to dictate how the local Authority Having Jurisdiction conducts live fire operations. By following NFPA 1041 Professional Qualification of Fire & Emergency Services Instructor Chapters 7 & 8, this program can certify instructional staff/personnel to help ensure that live fire training sessions are conducted by qualified fire instructors in order to achieve a more efficient and modern approach to live fire training operations that meets and/or exceeds statutes and standards. **NOTE: MFSI plans to hold two of these programs next year one in the spring of 2023 and one in the fall. Please watch for our registration materials.**



13. FDSOA Pro-Board NFPA 1521 Certification Program

MFSI and the City of Augusta Fire Department have collaborated to bring the Fire Department Safety Officers Association (FDSOA) to Maine for this very important Incident Safety Officer program. The FDSOA program allows members, non-members sponsored by the Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ), and individuals meeting the duties and requirements of a company officer or incident scene safety officer to apply and test for certification. An applicant shall meet the requirements of NFPA 1021 Standard for Fire Officer Chapter 4 Section 4.1 and the job performance requirements (JPRs) defined in NFPA 1521-2015 Standard for Fire Department Safety Officer Chapter 5 Section 5.1.1. You might



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13. FDSOA Pro-Board NFPA 1521 Certification Program (continued)

be wondering - how is this program different than the National Fire Academy Incident Safety Officer Program? The NFA program does not have a “skills” portion and is not part of a ProBoard certification process. MFSI is embarking on the credentialing of all its live fire training staff as a risk management model and we strongly encourage folks to sign up for the FDSOA ProBoard Program.

MFSI is currently working with Deputy Chief Brian Langerman of the City of Westbrook to bring another program to Maine in late March of 2023. You can register [here](#).

14. Water Use Props & Cold Weather

It's that time of year once again! Please be advised that as of November 1st, water use training props will be winterized and out of service until approximately April 1st 2022, weather permitting. In addition, the MAST trailer will only be delivered to locations where it can be stored indoors. This is due to the risk of freeze ups and potential damage to the equipment.

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, 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 the risk of severe damage caused by potential freeze ups. Should you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate in contacting our team. Thank you for your support!

mfsi.me.edu

15. 59th Annual MFFF Conference

Mark your calendars! Dates are set for the 59th Annual MFFF Conference. Please check out their announcement below for details.

SAVE THE DATE
59th MSFFF ANNUAL CONVENTION
September 8th-10th, 2023
Hosted by Presque Isle Fire Department



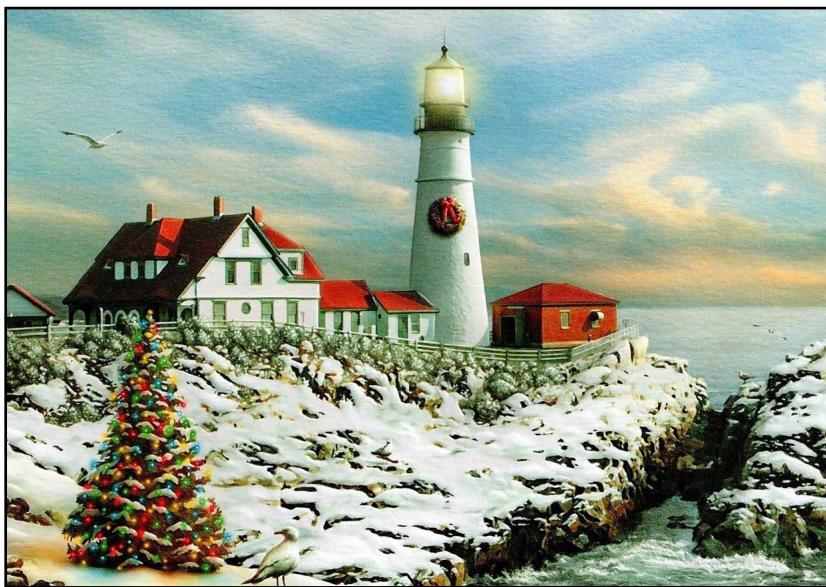
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16. Advisory Committee Meeting

The SMCC/MFSI Advisory Committee will be meeting on December 3rd for our biannual meeting. These meetings help shape the course of operations at MFSI and this year in particular we have a very full agenda with much to report about and discuss. We look forward to (virtually) seeing the committee members, and we also wanted to take a moment to express our gratitude for their support and guidance.

Happy Holidays!

We wish everyone a very Happy Thanksgiving and Holiday Season! We thank you all for all you do for the citizens of the State of Maine. From all of us at MFSI - have a happy and safe holiday season, and let's make 2023 an incredible year for fire training!



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