

MFSI County Meeting Update

***January & February
2023***



**A
Special
Anniversary
Edition
Celebrating 75
Years of Service**



**SOUTHERN
MAINE
COMMUNITY
COLLEGE**



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MFSI Update for County Meetings: January & February 2023

Folks,

We hope that everyone is enjoying the start of the new year! 2023 is incredibly special for all of us at MFSI, as it marks 75 years of our existence and our dedication to Maine's fire service. We feel this will be an epic year in fire training, and we are commemorating the occasion with this special 75th anniversary edition of our newsletter.

With as many as 20 Firefighter I & II programs running statewide, our resources will be stretched thin as we try to accommodate the demand for our services. Our props and equipment are still available on a first come, first served basis, and we want to remind you all to submit your requests as early as possible. Please also be respectful of our taxpayer-funded fire training equipment and props: we have noticed some damage and lost equipment as of late. Remember that these are shared statewide and we need them to last as long as possible. If a piece of equipment is broken or lost please reach out to Support Services Supervisor Ray Bishop at 207-205-2761 or rbishop@smccme.edu. We are also implementing a new inventory software program to help us manage our assets when they are sent out and returned.

Speaking of equipment, we are thrilled to announce that we're adding another Forcible Entry Trailer and EDVT (EVOC) Trailer to our fleet! We have many exciting things moving right now at MFSI, and we look forward to sharing them with all of you.

Be safe when the bell rings,

Director Jimmy Graves

1. 2023 Fire Instructor I & II Programs

The Washington County Fire Instructor Program has kicked off with 16 fire service professionals who are very eager to learn, and grow the fire service in Washington County. A second class will happen in Bangor at EMCC beginning on January 20th with over 20 candidates planning on attending. A third program will happen in Kittery starting in March - the flyer is available on our [website](#) - and we hope to see this program fill to capacity. A Skills test day for 27 Fire Instructor I & II candidates from the Cumberland and Bridgton programs will be held at MFSI headquarters this coming weekend. We wish all the candidates the very best of luck! We also wish to sincerely thank the following Maine State Fire Instructors for their individual efforts on these programs: David McLean, Howard Rice, Chris McLaughlin, Chris Connor, Kim Tracy, Chris Poremba & Peter Metcalf. All your hard work is truly appreciated.



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2. MFSI Regional Hiring Progress

On the weekend of January 7 & 8, MFSI staff held an Orientation program for the newest Maine State Fire Instructors who have joined our team. These folks will assist us in regional fire training efforts all around the State of Maine. They are all certified for Fire Instructor I & II, and one is also qualified for Live Fire Instructor In-Charge. Please join me in welcoming the following new members of MFSI:

Jesse Belanger – Caribou Fire Ambulance
Dylan Cyr – Presque Isle Fire Department
Shane Enger – Old Orchard Beach Fire Department
Ben Harris – Goodwin Mills Fire Department
Aaron Jellison – Orono Fire Department
Dan Molver – North Lakes Fire Department
Jon Poitras – Limestone Fire Department
Nick Poitras - Limestone Fire Department
Matt Russell – North Lakes Fire Department

We are thrilled to have them join our team, and we can't wait to see all that they will accomplish out in the field!



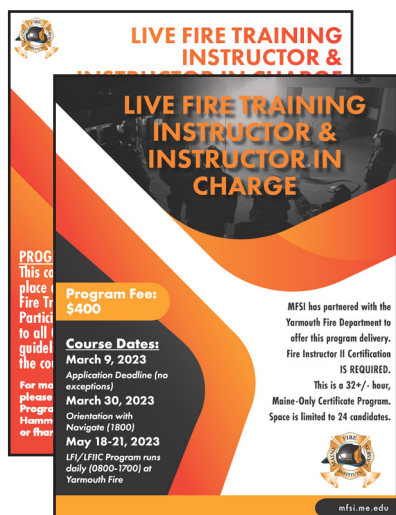
3. Fire Officer I & II 2023 Update

Both programs are off and running: as with all programs when they are pilots, we find issues during the initial rollouts that need to be worked out over time, but MFSI is committed to making sure this program is top-notch. We appreciate the candidates' patience with the program and we will work very hard to make the proper adjustments. MFSI plans to offer four Fire Officer I programs per year and one Fire Officer II Academy per year.



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4. Live Fire Instructor/Instructor In-Charge



We are excited to announce that we will be offering another Live Fire Instructor / Instructor In-Charge training program this spring at the Yarmouth Fire Training Facility. We are very grateful to the folks at Yarmouth Fire Department for all of their support and assistance toward making this program a success.

The flyer and registration packet will be available on our website by the end of this month with more program details. If you have any questions about the class, please contact Training Program Manager Frank Hammond at 207-852-8286 or fhammond@smccme.edu.

5. Cloud-Based Testing with QuestionMark

We are very excited to share that the roll-out of our new paperless testing process has been a tremendous success. We have now administered hundreds of digital exams over the course of just a few months, and we are finding that the process is far more efficient and is saving our test-takers a great deal of time. We appreciate everyone's patience as we continue to adapt and refine our new system!

6. MFSI Top 10 Goals for 2023

Each year our team gets together to brainstorm our top ten goals for the year ahead, and then we spend the next 12 months working hard to meet them. This is an exercise in planning and preparing to meet our challenges so that we start the year feeling focused and goal-oriented. We are happy to announce that we met about 65% of our goals for 2022, and made positive progress toward every one of them.

These are our MFSI Top 10 Goals for 2023:

1. Continue efforts on Support Services Building
2. Prepare Pro-Board Accreditation
3. Continue efforts on inventory & GigaTrak Software
4. Prepare AFG Grant for custom Skill Testing Trailer
5. Finish Advanced Pumps & Water Supply Programs. Conduct Train the Trainers
6. Build out Basic Extrication Program
7. Perfect the on-line written exam software
8. Review all skill tests sheets
9. Clean and organize the MFSI warehouse
10. Change in accreditation for Fire & Life Safety Educator I; Live Fire Instructor/Instructor in charge

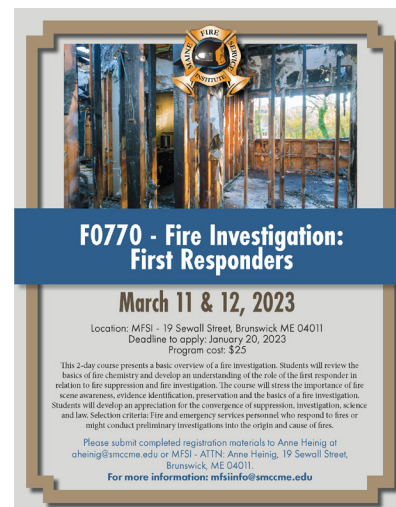
As you can see, we will have a busy year ahead of us! We look forward to working with you all to make this ambitious list a reality, and we appreciate your continued support.



7. 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.



8. Maine Fire Protection Services Commission Regional Firefighter Training Grant

The program has been released ahead of time due to the hard work and commitment of the Fire Commission Membership. The commission met on January 9th and voted in the affirmative on the following Program Awards:

- Washington County – Textbooks, Instructor Support & other training materials
- Franklin County – Textbooks, Instructor Support & other training materials
- Aroostook County – Fully Supported Program with local support
- Penobscot County – Textbooks, Instructor Support & other training materials
- Lincoln County - Textbooks, Instructor Support & other training materials
- Oxford County - Fully Supported Program with local support
- Kennebec/Somerset - Textbooks, Instructor Support & other training materials

Many thanks to the following individuals for their support on this exciting program:

- 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

Please understand that this is our first time with these grants and we will be working hard to make them better each year that passes.

More information about this newly-created grant program is available on our [website](#), and as always, our staff are happy to answer any questions that may arise.

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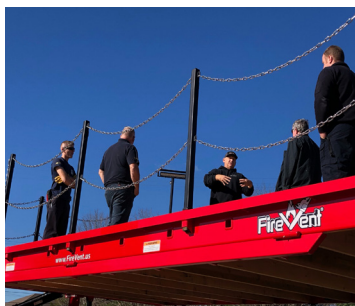
9. Electric Vehicle Fire Training

Many folks have reached out to us regarding EV Fire Training. We have established a focus group to gather valid and relevant resources on this topic and we will keep you all posted. In the meantime, the North American Fire Training Directors (NAFTD) has recommended the NFPA Program: Alternative Fuel Vehicle (AFV) Safety Training. Our focus group will be looking into Electric Vehicles, Solar Panels, Micro-mobility devices and Lithium Battery Fires. The group met on January 11th and has begun conducting research in an effort to get it out to the fire service here in Maine to help folks deal with these potential issues. We are in hopes that the new Firefighter Curriculums will have more information within them as they will be released in the next two years or so. Information will be forthcoming over the next few months.

10. New Ventilation Prop

Our initial Train-the-Trainer on our new Ventilation Prop is complete (pictured below), and we are excited to share that it is now out in the field. 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.

The prop is heading to the cities of Auburn & Lewiston for field testing and trials to see how it can best serve the State of Maine's Fire Service. Instructors Chris Poremby and Eric Watson will be working to make this prop safe, efficient and effective in the field.



11. 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 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](#).



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12. Damage to MFSI Props & Equipment

This is a reminder that MFSI Props & Equipment are property of the taxpayers of the State of Maine, and must be treated with respect. It is upsetting when we find one of our trailers returned to us in conditions like the picture below:



Currently MFSI is inventorying and organizing all of our props and equipment and seeing our equipment handled this way out in the field can no longer be tolerated. Please imagine how it would feel if someone borrowed your fire department's equipment and returned it in a condition like the photo above; presumably you would feel angry and frustrated. With our new inventory system we will be checking things in and out and we need folks to at least try to see things are secured and organized after use. Please understand that this equipment is shared and is owned by the citizens of the State of Maine, and we are better than this - our communities deserve better than this. The photos below show the condition that the equipment should have been returned in:



Please help us in our efforts to care for our valuable equipment so that it will last longer and remain in good, safe condition. We appreciate your support.



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13. Water Use Props & Cold Weather

This is a reminder that water use training props are currently winterized and out of service until approximately April 1st, 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



14. 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



That concludes our January & February 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