

MFSI County Meeting Update

***March & April
2023***



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



MAINE FIRE SERVICE
INSTITUTE
Service Since 1948

MFSI Update for County Meetings: March & April 2023

Folks,

Welcome to the latest installment of our special, anniversary-edition County Updates. March is a particularly special time for me personally: in March of 1985 I became a volunteer firefighter in my hometown, and had the opportunity to participate in a live fire training exercise. After that day, I was hooked.

We need to hook many more folks to help fill our department rosters around the state. We are seeing good numbers in the four programs we are currently supporting via the extra funding and the grant process with the Maine Fire Commission, but we know that departments everywhere are struggling to find enough motivated and qualified individuals to cover every shift adequately and safely. We have so much more work to do.

Given these challenges, we humbly request that any of you who are willing to assist us in our mission please consider applying to serve as a State Fire Instructor for MFSI. We will be accepting resumes and letters of interest for the position of Maine State Fire Instructor on an ongoing basis (please see item 1 below for more details). We all need to work hard and find folks who will discover the passion of fire service involvement and help protect our beautiful state.

Be safe when the bell rings,

Director Jimmy Graves

1. MFSI State Fire Instructor Recruitment 2023

Are you motivated and self-driven? Are you willing to help advance our noble mission of fire training in Maine? We will be accepting resumes and letters of interest on an ongoing basis into this summer or fall. Please send your application materials to Director Jim Graves at jgraves@smccme.edu, and CC Gwen Fraser at gfraser@smccme.edu. With an increase in firefighter training programs across the State of Maine, the demand is such that MFSI must hold a hiring process to add qualified instructors to our ranks in order to have adequate staffing for all of the existing requested courses. In order to apply to be a State Fire Instructor, you must have the following qualifications: Firefighter I & II, Fire Instructor I (II Preferred), Fire Officer I (II Preferred). We look forward to hearing from you!



2. Fire Officer I & II 2020 Update

Congratulations to the many newly-certified Fire Officer Is! The course success rate of our pilot program was extremely high. We are all very proud of your efforts. And as we look to the future, these initial programs provided MFSI with some very valuable feedback via the after-program meetings with MFSI Admin and students. We will work hard to improve our new delivery model based on the candidates' insights.

As far as next steps, we are meeting on March 20th to work out the bugs and get ready to offer two more programs before summer. Please understand: we cannot provide a Fire Officer I program to every department that desires one. MFSI has a plan to offer four programs per fiscal year around the State of Maine - with programs being offered more frequently in the more populated regions of our state. This model has been very effective with our Fire Instructor programming, and we plan to follow it with Fire Officer I for that reason. We have also been receiving requests for Fire Officer II and we will be working on a Fire Officer II Academy in the future.

3. MFCA Professional Development Conference 2023



This year's Maine Fire Chiefs Association Professional Development Conference will take place March 22-24 at the Sunday River Grand Summit Resort Hotel & Conference Center located in Newry, Maine. This conference is a fantastic opportunity to network with fire service professionals from all around the state, as well as acquire new skills and knowledge to make everyone better at this job we all love.

More information and registration materials can be found [here](https://www.maine-firechiefs.com). We hope to see many of you there, and don't forget to stop by the MFSI booth!

4. Electric Vehicle Fire Training

We know that many of you are seeking information and training opportunities regarding Electric Vehicle (EV) fires and lithium-ion batteries. The North American Fire Training Directors (NAFTD) has recommended the NFPA Alternative Fuel Vehicle (AFV) Safety Training program, which is accessible [online](https://www.nfpa.com/afv).

To help provide some guidance on the subject, MFSI has put together a focus group to look 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 share resources with the fire service here in Maine and help folks deal with these potential issues as they become increasingly common. We are in hopes that the new Firefighter curricula will also have more information within them on this topics: these are expected to be released in the next two years or so. More information from the efforts of our own internal focus group will be forthcoming over the next few months. If you have discovered resources or training programs that you have found valuable for yourself or your department, please do not hesitate to share them with our staff.

MAINE FIRE SERVICE
INSTITUTE
Since 1948



MAINE FIRE SERVICE
INSTITUTE
Since 1948



5. FDSOA ProBoard NFPA 1521 Certification Programs

MFSI and the City of Westbrook & Augusta Fire Departments have collaborated to bring the Fire Department Safety Officers Association to Maine for the NFPA 1521 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. Applicants must 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.

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. Both program locations are full, demonstrating the need for this training. **We have received lots of feedback regarding demand, and we will bring FDSOA back in 2024.**

6. Advisory Committee Announcements

The date has been announced for the next SMCC/MFSI meeting: the group will convene again on Friday, June 2nd, 2023 to discuss MFSI updates, vote on action items, and address any concerns. We would also like to take a moment to welcome our newest member - please join us in congratulating Chief Rich McCarthy on his appointment to State Fire Marshal, and by extension, to our Advisory Committee! We cannot wait to work with him and see everything he will bring to the table with his depth of knowledge, experience, and insight.

7. Upcoming NFA In-State Programs

MFSI is working with local fire departments to sponsor several upcoming instate NFA programs. These are taught by qualified NFA Instructors: each year, MFSI applies for \$20,000.00 in funding from the US Fire Administration to support local NFA programs. Current upcoming courses include:

- PICO (Preparation for Initial Company Operations) Augusta Fire, April 1st & 2nd
- HSPM (Health & Safety Program Manager) Westbrook Fire, May 4th & 5th
- STICO (Strategies & Tactics Initial Company Operations) Augusta Fire, May 6th & 7th

Flyers & registration packets for all three programs can be found on our [website](#).

Health & Safety Program Manager
NFA 00722

May 4 & 5, 2023
8:00am-4:00pm

Location: City of Westbrook Central Fire Station, 370 Main Street
Deadline to apply: April 27, 2023

This 2-day course is designed to provide fire, Emergency Medical Services (EMS) departmental personnel, and other related emergency responders with the effective and efficient means to manage the duties and responsibilities of the Health and Safety Program Manager (HSPM) within their respective organizations.

Persons attending this course should have working knowledge of the Incident Command System, as taught by the NFPA, applicable National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) and Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) requirements and recommendations, and responsible for writing policy for the department on such issues. The course provides information using instructor-led discussion, multimedia activities, and small group discussions to convey instructional points.

This free program is brought to you by the National Fire Academy Fire Training Grant Program. Please submit completed registration materials to Anne Hening at ahening@smccme.edu or MFSI - ATTN: Anne Hening, 19 Sewall Street, Brunswick, ME 04001.

For more info: Walter.Morris@smccme.edu or 207-305-2762

smc.me.edu

NFA 00458
Preparation for Initial Company Operations

April 1 & 2, 2023
(8:00am-4:00pm each day)

Apply by March 27, 2023

For more info: email mfsiinfo@smccme.edu

This 2-day course is designed to develop a better understanding of the roles and responsibilities of Company Officers (COs) in preparing their company for incident operations and to clarify the transition from firefighter to CO and the new roles relating to leadership and safety.

This course is designed for COs, acting COs or senior firefighters responsible for the management of a single fire company at an emergency incident, including those officers who are responsible for company readiness, personnel safety and leadership as it relates to company operations.

Instructor: Fire Chief David Grodzky, City of Augusta Fire Rescue

Program Location: City of Augusta Fire Rescue Central Station at 100 Water Street. Note: please use the outside second floor entrance on Side D of the building.

Registration materials can be submitted to Anne Hening at MFSI - ATTN: Anne Hening, 19 Sewall Street, Brunswick, ME 04001 or to ahening@smccme.edu.

This free program is brought to you by the National Fire Academy Fire Training Grant Program, and with partnership from the Augusta Fire Department.

Strategy and Tactics for Initial Company Operations
NFA 00458

May 6 & 7, 2023 (8:00am-4:00pm each day) in Augusta

Apply by April 28, 2023

For more info: email mfsiinfo@smccme.edu

This 2-day course is designed to meet the needs of Company Officers (COs) responsible for managing the operation of 1 or more companies during structural firefighting operations. This course is designed to develop the management skills needed by COs to successfully manage tactics at structure fires.

Instructor: Fire Chief David Grodzky, City of Augusta Fire Rescue

Program Location: City of Augusta Fire Rescue Central Station at 100 Water Street. Note: please use the outside second floor entrance on Side D of the building.

Registration materials can be submitted to Anne Hening at MFSI - ATTN: Anne Hening, 19 Sewall Street, Brunswick, ME 04001 or to ahening@smccme.edu.

This free program is brought to you by the National Fire Academy Fire Training Grant Program, and with partnership from the Augusta Fire Department.

mfsi.me.edu

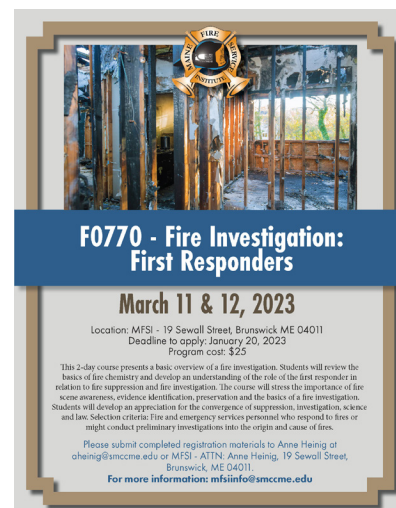


MAINE FIRE SERVICE
INSTITUTE
Service Since 1948



8. NFA In-State Weekend

We had a very successful Fire Investigation: First Responders (NFA F0770) program here at our headquarters in Brunswick, with 34 candidates participating in the course. We are grateful to all who collaborated to make this training opportunity possible, and we are especially grateful to the candidates for their focus, dedication, and positive attitudes!



9. Fire Instructor Programs & Planning

We currently have several Fire Instructor I & II classes running throughout the state - the photos below were taken at a session of the program in Kittery. It has been exciting for our staff to see so many motivated individuals in these courses, and such a high demand for this program statewide. We hope that many of the course candidates will one day be a part of our Maine State Fire Instructor cadre!

Planning is also underway for summer/fall Fire Instructor I & II programs – we are tentatively looking to run one in Augusta in the fall of 2023; other dates & locations are TBD.



10. New SCBA Air Management Maze Trailer TtT's

After experiencing numerous manufacturing and supply chain issues throughout the acquisition of our new SCBA Air Management Trailer (aka the “Red Maze”) we are excited to share that we have begun planning Train-the-Trainer sessions for as early as this spring. This highly-anticipated prop will serve as a valuable asset, and our goal is to plan T-t-T sessions in various locations around the state so that we can get folks up to speed on its use, and ultimately get it out into the field for training. We will keep you all posted as details of this planning become available.



MAINE FIRE SERVICE
INSTITUTE
Service Since 1948



11. MFSI Props & Equipment

MFSI props & equipment are property of the taxpayers of the State of Maine - as such, it is imperative that these assets are treated with respect. It is upsetting when we find one of our trailers returned to us in poor, or even unsafe, conditions. Currently MFSI is inventorying and organizing all of our props and equipment to help increase accountability and identify the source of issues that we discover when our equipment is loaned and returned. Please understand that all of our equipment is shared and owned by the citizens of the State of Maine, and it is all of our responsibility to treat it with the care it requires.

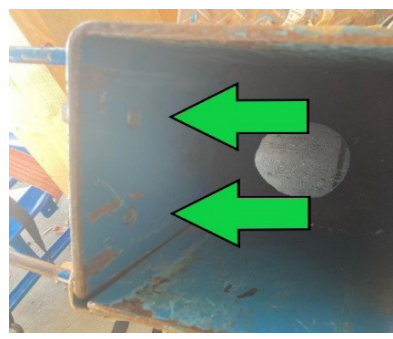
Forcible Entry Training Systems:

MFSI continues to see unnecessary damages to the Firehouse Innovation Doors. Remember: the department hosting the training is responsible for any damages to the prop(s), including missing equipment that has been lent out. It is critical that people inspect the prop before and after completion of the training to ensure that there is no damage to the prop and that the prop is stored in the appropriate manner for the next department to use.

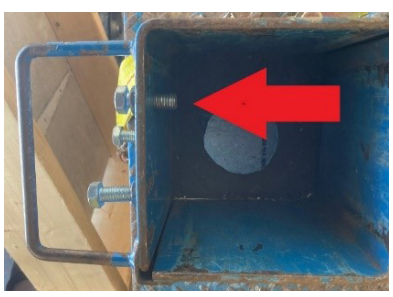
When training is completed, the hex bolts that are friction-tight against the columns need to be backed out so they sit flush with the inner column base. The photos below provide a better picture of the proper storage of the base. If the bolts are *not* flush with the base, when the column is placed into the base the weight of the column will either bend the bolt(s) or snap the thread portion of the base, making the prop inoperable. There has been a recent increase in damage to this area of the prop and we appreciate your efforts to help prevent future issues.

Finally, the bolts are designed as set screws for the columns. They only need to be tightened enough to remove any gaps that are in the base area and to make the prop a rigid unit once it is all assembled. We are starting to notice that the columns are having thread marks which is an indication that people are overtightening the bolts.

Remember to store the bolts flush to the base after usage. Prior to dropping in the columns, verify that the bolts are flush. These pictures show proper storage of the base:



Incorrect Storage of bolts:





12. 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.

13. 59th Annual MFFF Conference

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



That concludes our March & April 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

MAINE FIRE SERVICE
INSTITUTE
On Service Since 1948