

# MFSI County Meeting Update

May & June  
2023



A  
Special  
Anniversary  
Edition  
Celebrating 75  
Years of Service



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# MFSI Update for County Meetings: May & June 2023

Good day Maine Fire Service Professionals,

I hope this finds you all well. I have to say as a person that enjoys cooler weather I am very happy that winter of 22/23 is in the rear view mirror. Spring in Maine begins the fire training season and it surely is in full swing. The sounds of chainsaws and the smell of two stroke smoke makes you feel alive on the fire training ground.

Speaking of vertical ventilation, our new ventilation prop will be going through some tests and hopefully we can figure out a solid plan on getting it out in support of the numerous firefighter training programs being coordinated around the state.

Also, we are about to enter into the certification skills testing season. We have a very busy schedule to get all the folks tested, certified and back to their fire departments ready to pitch in and protect the towns and cities we call home here in Maine.

We wish all the candidates the very best in their process.

With my very best, and as always stay safe when the bell rings.

Jimmy Graves

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## 1. SMCC/MFSI Advisory Meeting

The SMCC/MFSI Advisory Meeting is planned for June 2nd 10:00 AM at MFSI Headquarters. These meetings are open to the public and everyone has a period of time to pose questions and provide feedback. The meetings follow "Roberts Rules of Order" and the SMCC/MFSI Chairperson has control of the meeting. Should you want to attend please email Director Jim Graves at [jgraves@smccme.edu](mailto:jgraves@smccme.edu)



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## 2. Fire Instructor I & II Summer Fall 2023

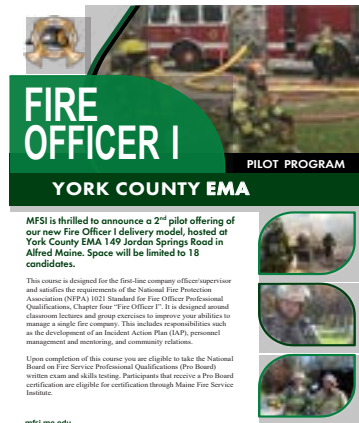
- Fire Instructor II Bridge Program in Brunswick. Here is the flier for the Bridge Program - <https://mfsi.me.edu/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/FI-II-Bridge-reg-packet-2023.pdf>
- Fire Instructor I & II is planned for Augusta in the Fall of 2023
- Fire Instructor I & II is planned for Falmouth in the Fall of 2023 (limited space)

MFSI congratulates all those that have completed this professional qualification and achieved certification and hope to see you all in a Fire Officer Program in the future.

## 3. Live Fire Instructor/Instructor-in-Charge Training Program

Spring 2023 Yarmouth Fire Training Facility Program has been cancelled due to low enrollment. We will be working with the Bangor Fire Department to bring this program to the greater Bangor area this fall.

## 4. Fire Officer I & II 2020 Ed. Update 2nd Pilot Running in York County



In an effort to wash away some of the bugs with our first set of pilots, MFSI and key instructors have made a few changes to our program and plan to deliver it again in York County in May.

For more information please see our website.

## 5. Cloud-Based Testing

MFSI is well underway with our new Written Certification Testing Program. At this time MFSI will not be charging a fee to take the certification exam. We are going to analyze the costs and look into them further in the future. The fee may become a reality in the future and we will work with program coordinators to find the best possible solution to make it all work.



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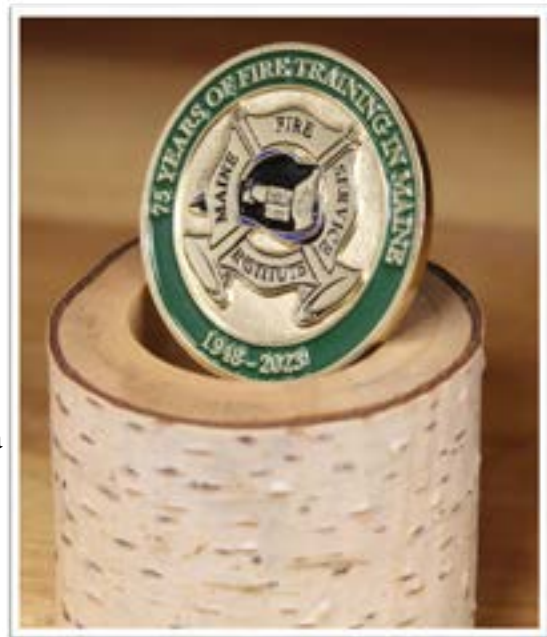
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## 6. 75th Anniversary year for (fire training) MFSI/MFTE

In 2023 MFSI will celebrate 75 years of fire training in Maine. After the 1947 wildfires, our state political leaders decided to look at means and ways to train firefighters to make them better prepared to handle fires.

We have come a long way in the past 75 years and we are proud to continue working to make MFSI better each day.

Planning is on-going for a celebration date TBD. Please watch for additional details at a later time.



## 7. NFA In-State Programs

MFSI is working with local fire departments to sponsor instate NFA Programs: These are taught by MFSI qualified NFA Instructors. Each year MFSI applies for \$20,000.00 in funding from the US Fire Administration to support local NFA programs. For more information please visit our website.

National Fire Academy Courses - Maine Fire Service Institute (me.edu)

HSPM (Health & Safety Program Manager) Westbrook Fire May 4th & 5th see flier for details

STICO (Strategies & Tactics Initial Company Operations) Augusta Fire May 6th & 7th Class is filled.

DMICO (Decision Making for Initial Company Operations) Augusta Fire May 20th & 21st

Coming this late summer and fall PICO, DMICO, STICO in the City of Ellsworth. Watch for our fliers.

For more information/course fliers please visit us at Upcoming Events - Maine Fire Service Institute (<https://mfsi.me.edu/>)





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## 8. National Fallen Firefighters Foundation Program -Taking Care of our Own

The Maine Fire Service Institute is pleased to be able to bring this important training to the Maine Fire Service. We have a duty to attend this program to always hold close the honor and code firefighters live by each day. Please consider being part of this program and hear the message.

**DATE: SATURDAY, JUNE 10, 2023**

**TIME: 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM**

**LOCATION: MFSI, 19 SEWALL STREET, BRUNSWICK, ME 04011**

There is no cost to attend this program. Pre-registration is required. Register here:  
<https://web.cvent.com/event/649f30c1-6900-4f9a-9237-ecb166b9ca5a/summary>

Class Details - Taking Care of Our Own® Training Classes (cvent.com)

For more information contact Training Program Manager Walter Morris at (207) 205-2762 or [wmorris@smccme.edu](mailto:wmorris@smccme.edu)



## 9. 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 application to Director Jim Graves at [jgraves@smccme.edu](mailto:jgraves@smccme.edu). Please cc Nancy Russell at [nrussell@smccme.edu](mailto:nrussell@smccme.edu).

With an increase in firefighter training programs across the State of Maine, MFSI must hold a hiring process to add qualified instructors to our ranks in order to meet the demand in the field.

Minimum Requirements: are as follows:

Firefighter I & II  
Fire Instructor I  
Basic Pumps (BPOC)

Preferred Requirements:

Fire Instructor II  
Live Fire Instructor & Instructor In-charge  
Fire Officer I & II  
Basic/Advanced Extrication  
NIMS 100 – 400



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## 10. Fire Department Safety Officers Association FDSOA Pro-Board HSO NFPA 1521 Certification Program

We will bring FDSOA Back in the fall of 2023 for Health and Safety Officer in the Augusta and Westbrook areas. For more information about the Fire Department Safety Officers Association please use the link below. The two Health and Safety Officer Fliers have links to sign up for this valuable professional credential.

About the FDSOA Fire Department Safety Officers Association - <https://fdsoa.org/>



Go to following link for more information for Westbrook: <https://fdsoa.org/event-5247327>

Go to following link for more information for Augusta: <https://fdsoa.org/event-5247318>

Planning is underway to bring classes to the Greater Bangor area.

## 11. New Car Fire Prop SCBA Air Management Maze Trailer TtT's

The new Car Fire Prop and Red SCBA Air Management Maze Trailer will be out for Train the Trainers as soon as we can make it happen. We are currently gearing up for firefighter skills exams around the state so we will be working on these TtT's in the summer/fall. We will keep you posted as our plans come to fruition.



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## 12. VFIS/EVDT/EMSVO Train the Trainer Program June 10th and 11th 2023 Augusta T-t-T Spring 2023

**VFIS**

### VFIS Instructor-Level Program

Emergency Vehicle Driver Training (EVDT)  
EMS Vehicle Operation (EMSVO)

**Description:**  
This program is a train-the-trainer program which is designed to teach the necessary instructional methodology in order to successfully deliver the following programs within your own agency. Upon completion, an instructor kit will be provided.

**Course Information:**  
9/10/2023 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM  
9/11/2023 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM  
Maine Department of Labor  
45 Commerce Drive  
Augusta, ME 04330

**Registration:**

Instructor Fee Schedule	
Less than 5 weeks	5 weeks or more
\$40 for first 5 weeks, \$60 for each additional	\$400

Organization	Name	Initial Due	\$
Address	Enclosed Check	Mail to:	
City, State, ZIP	Purchase Order	Address	
Phone	I authorize VFIS to charge:		
Phone (Fax)	<input type="checkbox"/> Visa <input type="checkbox"/> MasterCard <input type="checkbox"/> Discover		
Email	Credit Card #		
Instructor Kit Selection		Expiration Date	
<input type="checkbox"/> EVDT <input type="checkbox"/> EMSVO <input type="checkbox"/> Both			

Register online at [www.vfis.com](https://www.vfis.com)

Submit this registration form and payment:  
Mail to: VFIS, P.O. Box 2726, York, PA 17403  
Email to: [CS@VFIS.org](mailto:CS@VFIS.org)  
Fax to: 717.787.7028

We're excited to share that registration is now open for the Emergency Vehicle Driver Training (EVDT & EMS-VO) program that we're offering this September in conjunction with VFIS! This program is a train-the-trainer program which is designed to teach the necessary instructional methodology in order to successfully deliver the following program:

**DATES:** June 10th & 11th  
**TIMES:** 08:00am – 05:00pm  
**LOCATION:** Maine Department of Labor (Safety Works)  
**ADDRESS:** 45 Commerce Drive, Augusta, Maine

Upon completion, an instructor kit will be provided. The attached flyer contains additional program details, and the registration form can be found online:  
<https://www.vfis.com/firefighter-training>. Be sure to pick the Maine class as they are offering others throughout the country.

Please note: If you are an MFSI State Fire Instructor and you are interested in participating in this program, please contact John Churchill at [jchurchill@smccme.edu](mailto:jchurchill@smccme.edu) or by phone 207-844-2074. As always, please don't hesitate to reach out to John Churchill with any questions.





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### 13. Maine Fire Training Spotlight - Programs Spring 2023



Members from many departments across Hancock County came together to learn and sharpen their pump skills in April of 2023. We are very proud of their dedication and commitment to fire suppression in their towns and county.



Fire Instructor I & II Program Washington County - MFSI is very proud of these folks!





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National Fire Academy Preparation for Initial Company Operations Spring 2023



Fire Department Safety Officer (Pro-Board Program) Augusta



Fire Department Safety Officer (Pro-Board Program) Westbrook



## 14. MFSI Props and Equipment

MFSI props and equipment are property of the State of Maine taxpayers and shall be treated with respect. It is upsetting when we find one of our trailers returned to us in a damaged and untidy manner. Currently MFSI is inventorying and organizing all of our props and equipment and this can no longer be tolerated. Please imagine if someone borrows your equipment and returns it to you damaged and dirty, how angry and frustrated you would feel. 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, we are better than this.

This month's Focus: *Forced Entry Training Systems:*

MFSI continues to see unnecessary damages to the Firehouse Innovation Doors. This is a reminder that 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 are no damages to the prop and the prop is stored in the proper 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. 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 damages to this area of the prop and we appreciate your efforts to prevent future damages.

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. The use of "impact" drivers is unacceptable. Sockets and wrenches are provided for this.

Please remember to store the bolts flush to the base after usage. Prior to dropping in the columns please verify that the bolts are flush. These pictures show proper storage of the base. (See Pictures for more detail)



Proper Storage of Base

This is the condition we aim to see our trailers in upon return.

continued



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continued

### Incorrect Storage of Bolts



This is what we don't want to see when our trailers are returned to us.

Please help us keep and maintain these valuable assets that we have been lucky to have for our Statewide use.

## 15. NFA In-State Weekend

In-state weekend is scheduled for September 16th & 17th 2023 at MFSI Headquarters in Brunswick. The flier will be out by late May and the cost will be \$25.00 per student with a reduction on multiple attendees from the same organization. Lunch will be provided.

Come hang out with other likeminded professionals, network and share all in the premise of making the Maine Fire Service better for the future. Director Graves will be on hand to meet and greet everyone. Course Offerings are:

- F0520 - Executive Skills Series: Exercising Leadership within Communities
- F0722 - Health and Safety Program Manager

NOTE: This HSPM program is very different then the FDSOA Health and Safety Officer Pro-Board Program but a great program to add to your knowledge base and help protect and serve your departments personnel.

## 16. Regional Firefighter Skills Exams

Each year over 350 Maine Firefighters take part in our certification skills exams. These exams typically take place during weekends at one of the several approved testing locations across the State of Maine. This is how the spring testing season is shaping up thus far. Contact John Churchill at [jchurchill@smccme.edu](mailto:jchurchill@smccme.edu) FMI.

- April 23<sup>rd</sup> Ellsworth Fire Training Facility
- June 3<sup>rd</sup> Hollis Fire Training Facility
- June 4<sup>th</sup> Hollis Fire Training Facility
- June 24<sup>th</sup> Farmington Fire Training Facility
- June 25<sup>th</sup> Ellsworth Fire Training Facility

The fall schedule is pending and other skills exam dates will be scheduled as necessary.





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## 17. MFSI New Forced Entry Training Trailers

With the demand of the Forced Entry Training Systems so high, MFSI has plans to replace the two old trailers and add one more F/E system to our fleet. These trailers are larger and will have a much better system to secure the doors for transportation and provide easier loading and unloading. What we ask is that folks who request these valuable training props look out for the proper care and use so we can stretch their useful life for many years to come.



In the next edition we will show the layout of these new trailers so folks can have an idea of how they should be secured and assist in unloading and loading. Please always ensure the equipment is properly loaded.

## 18. Electric Vehicle Fire Training

The North American Fire Training Directors (NAFTD) recommended the NFPA Program to help provide some guidance on the subject. Use the following link for Alternative Fuel Vehicle (AFV) Safety Training | NFPA:

[https://www.nfpa.org/EV?gclid=aw.ds&&order\\_src=G076&gad=1&gclid=CjwKCA-jw6IiiBhAOEiwALNqncCfV3AnwQVvLgAE8IlnHXJYoM79cpFob160tV9i7Co5VetqRcx8Y-RoCc88QAvD\\_BwE&gclid=aw.ds](https://www.nfpa.org/EV?gclid=aw.ds&&order_src=G076&gad=1&gclid=CjwKCA-jw6IiiBhAOEiwALNqncCfV3AnwQVvLgAE8IlnHXJYoM79cpFob160tV9i7Co5VetqRcx8Y-RoCc88QAvD_BwE&gclid=aw.ds)

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 get it out to the fire service here in Maine to help folks deal with the 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.