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*The American Fireman, Rushing to Conflict.*  
Nathaniel Currier (1813-1888) & James Ives (1824-1895) Published: New York, 1858, by Currier and Ives



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# THE BUGLE'S ECHO

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## MAINE FIRE SERVICE INSTITUTE

*In Service Since 1948*

This first edition of *The Bugle's Echo* is dedicated to our friend Chief Jim Ellis. Chief Ellis served on our SMCC/MFSI Advisory Board and assisted us on more than one occasion with fire training programs. Back in 2001, he was the fire investigations instructor for the very first Fire Officer I Academy. Chief Ellis will be very missed by many of us and his voice will echo for years to come. May he rest in eternal peace.



*Chief Jim Ellis*

*We proudly dedicate this first edition in his memory as he will always be with us in our duties.*

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## LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

*Good Day Maine State Fire Professionals,*

*I hope you all have had a wonderful summer. It was strange weather-wise, but the good news is we do not need to worry about a drought. Plenty of water for firefighting in our lakes, ponds and streams. MFSI has had a very busy summer preparing for the fall training season. There are many regional programs underway along with two fire instructor programs and a fire officer program planning to start this fall. With that said, we have seen a large demand for these programs and I feel I need to explain our process. We plan three to four fire instructor programs per fiscal year, two in the fall and two in the spring depending on instructor availability. Fire Officer I is a bit more of a heavy lift due to the paperwork and feedback required for candidate success. We are planning two to three Fire Officer I programs using a new model on frequency of delivery to meet demand.*

*There are many, many variables to fire training programs and we will do all we can to make things move smoothly. We will also try to support one or two Live Fire Instructor programs and our annual Fire Officer II residential academy. MFSI will continue to collaborate with Texas A&M for Fire Officer III, the Fire Department Safety Officers Association for Pro Board Incident Safety Officer programs along with our annual National Fire Academy programs.*

*We will continue to work hard to get these valuable programs out in the regions to grow our fire service through professional qualifications and training opportunities. We understand it can be frustrating at times, but think of us as a fire pump, we can only put out what we are taking in, or we will cavitate.*

*Jimmy Graves*

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## INSIDE THE 2023 JULY - OCTOBER ISSUE

COURSE & PROGRAMS - STATE HOUSE UPDATES - NFA NEWS  
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CERTIFICATION ALERTS - INSTRUCTOR SPOTLIGHT - NEW HIRE



**FIRE INSTRUCTOR I & II** The Augusta program is full. This program filled in record time. MFSI will hold a program in Hancock County beginning in mid-January. We thank the City of Augusta for hosting us at the Hartford Fire Station. We are also working on a “frequency of delivery model” for the five largest populated counties. We want to get into a rhythm for planning purposes. More to come on this in the future. Meanwhile we will try and deliver three programs per year as long as the budget can support them with ease.



*Pictured: 2023 Fire Instructor II Bridge Program Graduates*

**LIVE FIRE INSTRUCTOR/INSTRUCTOR IN-CHARGE** This training program is also full. We have 24 candidates and will be partnering with the City of Bangor Fire Department to deliver this State of Maine Certification program. We thank all that applied and made this very important program take place.

## COURSE UPDATES

**FIRE OFFICER I** Oxford/Androscoggin County delivery is scheduled for the late fall and we are planning on one more delivery perhaps in Hancock or Kennebec County for Winter 2024. Like the Fire Instructor programs, we are also working on a “frequency of delivery model” for the five largest populated counties. We want to get into a rhythm for planning purposes - more to share on this in the future. Meanwhile we will aim to deliver three programs per year as long as the budget can support them with ease.

**FIRE OFFICER II** Academy planning underway for late spring 2024 we are planning a four day residential program at the University of Maine in Farmington. Much more to come in the future on this exciting program.

## REGIONAL FIREFIGHTER SKILLS EXAMS

- September 30th - Bangor
- November 6th - Yarmouth
- December 15th - Yarmouth *\*weather dependent\**

A list of upcoming programs is on the last page.

**FIRE OFFICER III** We are currently working with the Texas A&M Extension Office to bring a Fire Officer III Program to Maine in the Winter of 2024. We are working with Chief Roger Hooper for a York County delivery. The program costs have doubled, so we made the decision to offer FO-III only with FO-IV in the future.

### NFA IN-STATE PROGRAMS

MFSI works with local fire departments to sponsor in-state 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. This year, MFSI was awarded funding for NFA programs led by MFSI Instructors such as Chief Dave Groder (Augusta Fire Rescue), Chief Michael Robitaille (Yarmouth Fire Rescue), and Chief Dan Brooks (Winthrop Fire Department) and many more. *NOTE: These programs are taught by qualified Maine State Fire Instructors and are commonly referred to as NFA handoff programs.*

### NFA SIX-DAY PROGRAM

Planned for May 2024, we are excited to have been awarded one Command & Control of Incident Operations. MFSI is eligible to apply through our Training and Data Exchange Program (TRADE) group which consists of FEMA Region I (New England). We have been lucky to receive this valuable program for next May. Please check back for more information in late October.

## NATIONAL FIRE ACADEMY NEWS

### NFA @ MFSI

Sadly we had to once again cancel our In-State (2) two day programs due to very low enrollment. Going forward we may put out a survey and have you folks pick the programs we offer. The process takes time, but in order to get buy-in by our fire service we will hold a survey in early March to get your valuable feedback. Please watch for it on our Facebook page and our website. We want these programs to be filled to capacity. *NOTE: These programs are taught by qualified National Fire Academy Instructors that are sent to Maine to assist us in providing an outside perspective.*

For more information please visit the MFSI website under “National Fire Academy Courses” or visit the Upcoming Events” for course information and fliers.

DEDICATION. PROFESSIONALISM. EXCELLENCE

## COMMAND & CONTROL OF INCIDENT OPERATIONS N0312

In this 6-day course, fire officers are introduced to the Incident Command System (ICS), and they study proper command techniques for control and extinguishment of fires ranging from small, residential structures to multioccupancy, commercial complexes.

- Problem-solving and fire command
- Interagency and mutual aid
- The ICS and incident management
- Size-up, strategy, tactics and action plans
- Truck company & engine company ops
- Building construction and fire behavior
- Pre-incident preparation, incident organization and strategic command

*Special emphasis placed on firefighter safety*

Please mail registration forms to:  
 Maine Fire Service Institute (MFSI)  
 ATTN: Anne Heinig  
 19 Sewall Street  
 Brunswick, ME 04011  
 or email  
 aheinig@smccme.edu

Questions?  
 207-844-2077

A Six-Day Course  
**MAY 13 - 18, 2024**

Course Location  
**MFSI Headquarters**  
 19 Sewall Street  
 Brunswick, ME 04011

Registration Fee: \$150

**REGISTER BY MARCH 28**  
 Must have at least 15 participants registered to run

## MAINE FIRE SERVICE AT THE STATE HOUSE

This past legislative season, the Maine Fire Service was supported by our state elected officials with funding for:  
Length of Service Award Program - \$500,000.00  
Live Fire Training Facilities Grant Program - \$1,500,000.00  
Cancer Prevention Program - \$250,000.00

This is a very large step forward for the Maine Fire Service and we should all be very thankful our state’s elected officials hear us and are doing what they can to support us. In my many years involved in the fire service this did not happen. Our political activism is being heard loud and clear.

## NEW CAR FIRE PROP & SCBA AIR MANAGEMENT MAZE TRAILER TTT'S

The new units will be out for Train-the-Trainers as soon as we can make it happen. We are currently wrapping up firefighter skills exams around the state, so we will be working on these TtT's in the summer and fall. We will keep you posted as these plans come to fruition.



## TRAINING PROPS, EQUIPMENT & TRAILERS

### MFSI NEW FORCED ENTRY TRAINING TRAILERS

With the demand of the Forced Entry Training Systems so high, MFSI replaced the two old trailers and added one more F/E system to our fleet. These trailers are larger and have a much better system to secure the doors for transportation and provide easier loading and unloading. We kindly ask that folks who request these valuable training props look out for the proper care and use of each equipment so that they can be utilized for many years to come.



*Please always ensure that equipment is properly loaded and secured. A memo will be released shortly to address the damage and misuse of MFSI training equipment, props, and trailers.*

## MFSI 2023 STATE FIRE INSTRUCTOR RECRUITMENT UPDATE

We had an overwhelming response from 26 Maine Fire Service Professionals. Presentations and interviews will be held on September 27th & 28th at MFSI. MFSI will not hold another hiring process until 2025.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### MFSI AT THE MAINE STATE FEDERATION OF FIRE FIGHTERS IN PRESQUE ISLE

Deputy Director Jim Roy will be attending the annual convention. Please stop by the MFSI table and say hello.

### FIRE DEPARTMENT SAFETY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OFFERINGS (FDSOA.ORG)

FDSOA Health & Safety Officer 2-Day Academy \$495 fee includes FDSOA Membership & HSO Pro Board Certification Exam. Upcoming dates in Augusta October 17-18, 2023 and Westbrook November 8-9, 2023. PLEASE CONSIDER SIGNING UP TODAY!

### MORE UPCOMING EVENTS LISTED ON NEXT PAGE

If you have news to share for the November issue or photos from fire training programs, email Director Jim Graves at [jgraves@smccme.edu](mailto:jgraves@smccme.edu).

## FIRE DEPARTMENT SAFETY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION FDSOA PRO BOARD ISO NFPA 1521 CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

We are bringing the FDSOA team of instructors for another Pro Board Incident Safety Officer Program to be held at the Eastern Maine Community College in Bangor on October 28th & 29th 2023. PLEASE CONSIDER SIGNING UP TODAY!

**Fire Department Safety Officers Association  
INCIDENT SAFETY OFFICER ACADEMY**

Comprehensive and fast-paced, the ISO Academy focuses on the knowledge and experience of an effective ISO. The ISO Academy includes situational exercises and scenario practice. The Academy is ideal for seasoned fire officers and aspiring fire officers likely to serve as *Incident Safety Officer*.  
*Recommended Text: Fire Department Incident Safety Officer (Revised 3rd Edition) by Dave Dodson*  
*Not included with registration - Available for \$99.50 at the FDSOA Shop*

**October 28 (Sat) -29 (Sun), 2023, 8:00AM-5:00PM (EST) daily**  
**\$495pp**  
INCLUDES: FDSOA Membership (\$99 value) & Pro Board Certification Exam (\$95 value)




**ACADEMY FEATURES & BENEFITS:**

- ✓ Excellent opportunity to prepare for the Pro Board *Incident Safety Officer* Certification exam.
- ✓ Up-to-the-minute information on *Incident Safety Officer* challenges and trends
- ✓ Designed to address spirit and intent of NFPA 1521 (2015 ed.), Chapter 5, *Incident Safety Officer*
- ✓ Provides KSA's for Reading Buildings, Reading Smoke, Risk Assessment, Hazardous Energy, and Firefighters
- ✓ Preventing firefighter injuries through proactive "Prehab" and "Rehab"
- ✓ Challenges of interacting with the IC on scene
- ✓ The ISO Action Model
- ✓ Video clip review from of actual incidents
- ✓ Group activities and scenario practice

**ACADEMY Eastern Maine Community College**  
**LOCATION:** 354 Hogan Road (Public Safety Building) Bangor, ME 04401

[Click Here To Register](#) – or go to [FDSOA.org](https://www.fdssoa.org)

QUESTIONS  
FDSOA Phone:  
(248) 880-1864  
Email:  
[programs@fdssoa.org](mailto:programs@fdssoa.org)  
Website: [FDSOA.org](https://www.fdssoa.org)

## VFIS EVDT/EMSVO TRAIN THE TRAINER PROGRAM SEPTEMBER 16TH & 17TH 2023 EMCC BANGOR

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 which is designed to teach the necessary instructional methodology in order to successfully deliver the program. Upon completion, an instructor kit will be provided. We will do all we can to bring VFIS back in 2024 to continue our collaboration and networking.

**DATES:** September 16-17, 2023

**TIME:** 08:00 – 17:00

**LOCATION:** Eastern Maine Community College  
354 Hogan Road in Bangor, Maine

The registration form can be found at [mfsi.me.edu](http://mfsi.me.edu) under Upcoming Events - VFIS EVDT & EMS-VO TrT (Bangor).

*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 207-844-2074. As always, please don't hesitate to reach out to John Churchill with any questions.



MAINE STATE FIRE INSTRUCTOR PROFILE

**TIM HARDY**

FIRE CHIEF IN THE TOWN OF FARMINGTON & MFTE/MFSI STATE FIRE INSTRUCTOR SINCE 2001

Tim was raised in the fire service in Maine with his father getting him involved at a young age. As a Fire Chief and State Fire Instructor, Tim sees the importance of the fire training model in Maine and has stepped up to see that programs are supported and run smoothly. His efforts with the live fire training facility in Farmington back in 2020 have forever solidified Farmington as a mecca for fire training opportunities supporting the greater Franklin County Region. We thank Timmy “TD” Hardy for his steadfast dedication to the mission of fire training.

**UPCOMING PROGRAMS**

9/12 Written Certification Exam at MFSI

**9/16 Train-the-Trainer  
VFIS EVDT & EMS-VO**  
Bangor *\*Seats Available*

**9/20 Fire & Emergency Instructor I & II**  
Augusta *\*FULL*

**9/23 DMICO (NFA O0457)**  
Ellsworth *\*Limited Seats*

**10/14 STICO (NFA O0458)**  
Ellsworth *\*Limited Seats*

10/16 Written Certification Exam at MFSI

**10/17 FDSOA Health & Safety Officer**  
Augusta *\*Seats Available*

**10/22 - 12/16 Fire Officer I**  
Oxford Hills Region *\*Seats Available*

**10/28 FDSOA Incident Safety Officer**  
Bangor *\*Seats Available*

**11/8 FDSOA Health & Safety Officer**  
Westbrook *\*Seats Available*

*Visit [mfsi.me.edu/events/](https://mfsi.me.edu/events/) for more info.*

**MFSI HIRES NEW MARKETING & SOFTWARE MANAGER**

We are proud to announce that we have filled this extremely important role within MFSI with Shannon Els. Raised in Arlington, VA, her experiences and degrees focus on nonprofit marketing and delivering community-based education programs. She lives in Woolwich with her husband and dog, often finding time to explore the state’s forests and waterways. At MFSI, her top priorities include assisting MFSI’s Director and Deputy Director on updates to the website, email listservs, newsletters, and expanding MFSI’s content and presence on social media. Shannon will utilize her tech skills to help improve our communications with instructors and enhance MFSI’s photography and branding



by incorporating local flavor to further bring attention to the fire service profession at regional, state, and national levels.