

A NOTE FROM THE MFSI DIRECTOR

Happy New Year! May 2024 be a year of great forward progress and keep you safe from the hazards of the job. I hope you all enjoyed a safe and happy holiday season. As we welcome in 2024, we can be sure that it will be yet another full year of firefighter training all across the great State of Maine.

Here at MFSI, we are planning on making some adjustments in our current training model as allowed, and hope to find new and exciting pathways into the future. Our goal is to provide a number of programs regionally in population hubs across the state to meet the current demand for Fire Instructor and Fire Officer programs.

MFSI aims to continue making improvements to our delivery models and communications, so that fire service professionals across the state can plan their trainings and certification progression in order to reach their career goals.

For those with limited funds, MFSI offers the Peter Rines Memorial Scholarship Award for Fire & Emergency Services Instructor and Fire Officer programs. For more info, visit mfsi.me.edu/about-us/scholarship-opportunities/.

Let's all work together and make 2024 a successful year in fire training.



Director Jim Graves



Celebrating 75 Years of Service
1948 - 2023

THE BUGLE'S ECHO

MFSI January - February 2024 Issue III



SMCC-MFSI ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

The meeting was held on December 8th at MFSI HQ in Brunswick, with many committee members and stakeholders in attendance. One topic discussed was the use of MFSI fire training trailers (EDVT) for private ambulance services. The committee voted to stop this practice as these assets are only intended for municipal fire departments' use. MFSI will let folks know that requests for these props for private ambulance services will be denied. As a compromise, we have some spare cones that can be borrowed and utilized. MFSI cannot incur costs associated with operations outside our core mission. This was voted on and passed unanimously.

SMCC-MFSI TO FOCUS ON FIRE TRAINING MODEL

After many years of operating under the current fire training model, it is time for a professional review to see where improvements can be made to meet the demand of the fire service today. The committee voted to support the formation of a focus group on fire training to establish parameters to our operations across Maine and continue to implement the 2021-25 strategic plan. The focus group will review all aspects of MFSI operations, programs and delivery models to see where we can make incremental adjustments to make things better for the state's fire service. The focus group will begin in January/February 2024.



This issue is dedicated to the 84 fire service professionals that lost their lives in the line of duty in 2023 across the United States. These men and women shall never be forgotten, and we will continue to honor their sacrifices for eternity. For more information on LODDs and to get involved or donate to the National Fallen Firefighter Foundation, visit their website at www.firehero.org - "we shall never forget".

2023 CERTIFICATIONS

MFSI is currently in the application process for our Pro Board reaccreditation and is making updates to our Certification Policy & Procedures Manual. Once finished, we will complete the extensive application process and submit accordingly, then await a response from Pro Board. We anticipate that this submission will be completed sometime during the month of January, well in advance of the June 2024 deadline.

In addition, two members from the Certification team will be attending the annual Pro Board conference in January to support site visit preparation and network with other state and certification agencies.

Data updated as of December 19, 2023



FIRE FIGHTER NFPA 1001

Fire Fighter I — 353
 Provisional — 37
 Basic Fire School — 207
 Fire Fighter II — 339
Fire Fighter I/II ----- 692



WRITTEN EXAMS

Total number of written exams - 1,224

Firefighter I - 439 tests	81% of testers passed
Firefighter II - 500 tests	70% of testers passed
Fire Instructor I - 97 tests	97% of testers passed
Fire Instructor II - 123 tests	72% of testers passed
Fire Officer I - 58 tests	98% of testers passed
Fire Officer II - 7 tests	71% of testers passed



FIRE & EMERGENCY SERVICES INSTRUCTOR NFPA 1041

Fire Instructor I – 94
 Fire Instructor II – 88
Fire Instructor I/II --- 183
 Live Fire Instructor – 18
 LF Instructor-in-Charge – 17



PRACTICAL SKILLS END TESTS

Total number of skill test dates - 11
 Total number of Programs served - 26
 Average number per test - 38
 Number of testing candidates - 413
 Number passing candidates - 382
 Percent of Success - 92%

Hollis - 2
 Yarmouth - 3
 Bangor - 1
 Ellsworth - 2
 Farmington - 2
 North Lakes - 1



FIRE OFFICER NFPA 1021

Fire Officer I — 56
 Fire Officer II — 11
Fire Officer I/II ---- 67

DRIVER OPERATOR NFPA 1002

Basic Pumps — 253	EVDT — 569
BPOC Train-the-Trainer — 3	EVDT Train-the-Trainer — 44



LIVE FIRE INSTRUCTOR & INSTRUCTOR-IN-CHARGE

MFSI held a very successful program in Bangor in late October. The group of fire service professionals seemed to be very engaged and enjoyed the program. We have begun planning a program for Fall 2024, proposed in Scarborough with burns held at Yarmouth's fire training facility. Dates and times to be confirmed.

FIRE INSTRUCTOR I & II

The Augusta program is coming to a close with 28 candidates coming to MFSI for their certification test on January 6, 2024. MFSI is providing another program in Ellsworth which is starting up in January. We have begun initial plans for a late summer/early fall delivery in Southern Maine. More details soon.



Live Fire Instructor/Instructor-in-Charge, Bangor, 2023

We are 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.

FIRE OFFICER I

Fire Officer I is completely full in Waterville and we are offering a second program in Brewer to meet the demand. Another program in 2024 will be offered in York/Cumberland County.

FIRE OFFICER II

Planning is underway for a late spring 2024 FO-II to be set up as an academy - a four-day residential program at the University of Maine in Farmington. A survey went out to recent graduates of FO-I to inquire about what program model to use. Of the 54 respondents, 55% voted for academy and 47% for weekend. 48% of respondents listed Firefighter as their current rank.

FIRE OFFICER III

Dates: February 5-9, 2024 administered by York County Fire Administration and Texas A&M. For more details, please contact Chief Roger Hooper at firetrain@yorkcountymaine.gov. To apply, www.yorkcountymaine.gov/york-county-fire-academy

LITHIUM-ION AWARENESS & EV FIRE TRAINING

The Maine Fire Commission is looking to support firefighter awareness training on electric vehicles and other technology fires, such as E-Bikes and Solar Panels. More information will follow as it becomes available.

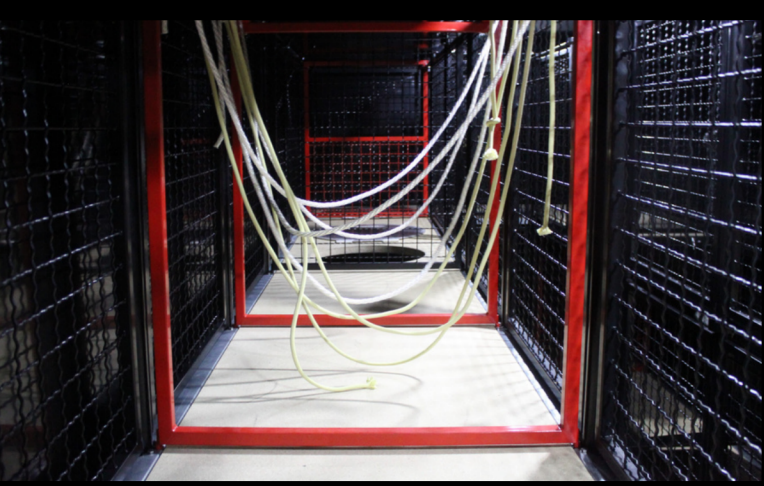
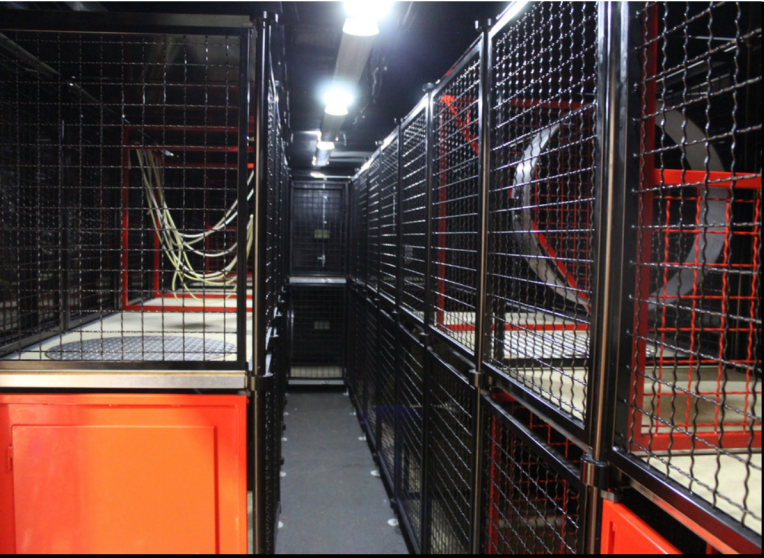
MAINE FIRE PROTECTION COMMISSION & MFSI

Regional Firefighter Grant Program

Several programs have come to a close for 2024 and a handful are accepting applications for a January start. This program is currently under review by the Maine Fire Protection Commission.

Regional Live Fire Training Facility

Grant Program - With recent funding we will be planning and preparing the 2024 Live Fire Training Grant Process. The funds will not start coming in until after July 2024, thus we will plan to award perhaps late Fall of 2024. More information to follow. We are so very fortunate to be able to potentially provide two or three more facilities regionally in Maine for fire training purposes.



A partnership with Maine Fire Service Institute

TRAIN-THE-TRAINER



SCBA

AIR MANAGEMENT TRAILER

MFSI held a State Fire Instructor Workshop and training our instructors was the priority on many new props and equipment. As identified in the damage to equipment, MFSI will embark on a scheduled state and municipal fire instructor training on our new equipment. The first round of Train-the-Trainers will be scheduled this winter and spring on the new Red SCBA Air Management maze.



A draft of a possible schedule is as follows. All dates and details will be determined via a virtual Zoom meeting in the coming months. Please contact departments directly to reserve a seat at a session. Sessions are limited to six (6) participants.

- Saco Fire, January 2024
- SMCC Fire Science, January 2024
- Brunswick Fire, February 2024
- Auburn Fire, February 2024
- Augusta or Waterville Fire, March 2024
- Bangor Fire or EMCC Fire Science, April 2024
- Presque Isle - Caribou Fire, May 2024



Train-the-Trainers for the new Symtech vehicle fire prop will follow in the spring and summer.

SCBA AIR MANAGEMENT BLACK MAZE TRAILER REPAIR UPDATE

The Black Maze is currently under a full refurbishment at Maine Trailer in Hermon. We expect it back in late spring and to get a few more years out of the training trailer. We thank the good people of Maine Trailer for seeing the value in assisting us with this very important firefighter training asset.

WELCOMING NEW INSTRUCTORS

MFSI hired seven State Fire Instructors in October. New Instructor Orientation will be held in January at MFSI. The orientation weekend is designed to assist new MFSI State Fire Instructors with knowledge of the organization, the process of fire instruction paperwork and payroll, along with welcoming them into the ideals of Maine fire training.

Doug Belletete – Ellsworth
Dan Brooks - Winthrop
Vincenzo Carciofolo – Biddeford
Benjamin Caron – Windham
William Dingee – Denmark
Andrew Guerrette – Frenchville
Kenneth O'Bar – Caribou
Tony Ramsdell – Princeton

NATIONAL FIRE ACADEMY UPCOMING PROGRAMS

Maine State Weekend This year's weekend is paired with the Sunshine State of Florida. Please consider attending and filling each program to capacity. The National Fire Academy Maine State Weekend Coordinator is Paul Froman. *Flier coming soon.* Dates: April 27-28, 2024.

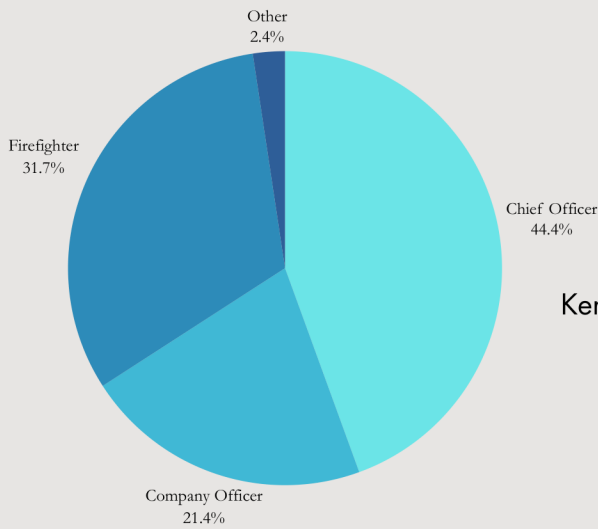
NFA Six-Day We are excited to share that we've been awarded a Command & Control of Incident Operations course in May 2024. MFSI is eligible to apply through our Training and data exchange Program (TRADE) group consisting of FEMA Region 1 (New England). To be held at MFSI HQ. Dates: May 13-18, 2024.

NFA Two-Day MFSI will host two National Fire Academy programs here in Brunswick - Preparation of Initial Company Operations (PICO) & Executive Skills: Exercising Leadership to Facilitate Adaptive Change. Dates: March 9-10, 2024

VISIT MFSI.ME.EDU/EVENTS/ FOR FLIERS.



SFI Rick Johnson at Skills End Test, Bangor, 2023



REGIONS & ROLES OF 126 SURVEY PARTICIPANTS FOR NFA COURSE CALL

Maine Highlands (Lincoln, Millinocket, Bangor)	- 20.63%
Aroostook (Caribou, Houlton)	- 17.46%
Mid Coast (Bath, Brunswick)	- 15.87%
Kennebec River Valleys (Skowhegan, Waterville, Augusta)	- 14.29%
Southern Maine (Alfred, Sanford, Biddeford)	- 12.70%
Greater Portland (Westbrook, Portland, Gorham)	- 11.90%
Downeast (Calais, Ellsworth and Bar Harbor)	- 8.73%
Western Maine (Fryeburg, Bethel, Rumford, South Paris)	- 7.94%

WHAT REASONS AFFECT YOUR ABILITY TO ATTEND A NFA COURSE?

Too far to travel - 43.65% - 55

Time commitment - 38.89% - 49

Unaware of the programs being offered - 32.54% - 41

None of the above - 19.84% - 25

Costs associated with program - 16.67% - 21

Other (please specify) - 7.14% - 9

- Already have taken the programs offered (5)
- Current staffing shortage - no outside trainings
- Programs geared toward practical applications in how ME responds
- Don't want to do it on the weekends

Lack of support from department - 6.35% - 8

Lack of interest in NFA Programs - 3.17% - 4

MFSI conducted this survey in Fall 2023 to explore where to focus and streamline future field deliveries of National Fire Academy (NFA) programs in the state of Maine.

TOPICS OF MOST INTEREST

Training Operations in Small Departments - 42.06% - 53

Initial Company Operations Series - 39.68% - 50

Leadership in Supervision Series - 38.89% - 49

Executive Skills Series - 37.30% - 47

Incident Command System - 35.71% - 45

Fire Investigation: First Responders - 31.75% - 40

New Fire Chief Series - 30.16% - 38

Wildland Urban Interface Firefighting - 14.29% - 18

Responder Health & Safety - 9.52% - 12

EMS Functions in ICS - 2.38% - 3



AN ALLIANCE OF STATE AGENCIES

On October 16, 2023, the Maine Fire Service Institute, Maine State Fire Marshal, Maine Forest Service and SafetyWorks! signed an agreement to collaborate on Fire Training opportunities and information sharing. One goal includes to develop training and education programs for firefighters, fire investigators, and fire inspection professionals to provide understanding of workers' rights. For more info on this agreement, visit mfsi.me.edu/blog.

ASSISTANCE TO FIREFIGHTERS GRANTS PROGRAM (AFG)

We will be purchasing Turnout Gear as soon as we meet with vendors and figure out actual costs as this will determine how many sets we are able to purchase with the funds available.

2018 Closed out

2019 AFG Original purchases

- 5 Manikins
- Assorted Hand Tools
- SCBA Trailer
- Saws (all 6)
- 3 Smoke Machines

Amended 2019 AFG for use of remaining funds and purchased

- 5 Manikins
- Assorted Hand Tools
- 4 Saws
- 1 Flir Thermal Imagery Camera with Truck Charger

2020 AFG Original Purchases

- Training Foam
- Forcible Entry Door
- Car Fire Prop
- Ventilation Prop
- Breathing Air Compressor
- Still have Training Funds remaining for use until next year*

2021 AFG Original Purchases

- EVOC Equipment
- 2 Command Boards
- 36 Radios
- 3 Positive Pressure Fans





MFSI.ME.EDU



The mission of the Maine Fire Service Institute is to assist in the development of skills and abilities in support of Maine's Fire Service at the local, regional and state level, in collaboration with the Fire Chiefs of Maine.

2023-24 STAFF DIRECTORY

Director of Maine Fire Service Institute

Jim Graves
Phone: 207-844-2078 Cell: 207-210-1196
Email: jgraves@smccme.edu

Deputy Director

Jim Roy
Phone: 207-844-2076 Cell: 207-680-8064
Email: jroy2@smccme.edu

Training Program Manager

Frank Hammond, Jr.
Phone: 207-844-2070 Cell: 207-852-8286
Email: fhammond@smccme.edu

Certification & Curriculum, Assistant Manager

John Churchill
Phone: 207-844-2074
Email: jchurchill@smccme.edu

Certification & Curriculum, Administrative Specialist

Anne Heinig
Phone: 207-844-2077
Email: aheinig@smccme.edu

Administrative & Financial Coordinator

Nancy Russell
Phone: 207-844-2071
Email: nrussell@smccme.edu

Marketing & Software Manager

Shannon Els
Phone: 207-844-2073
Email: sels@smccme.edu

Support Services, Supervisor

Ray Bishop
Phone: 207-844-2072 Cell: 207-205-2761
Warehouse: 207-844-2135
Email: rbishop@smccme.edu

Support Services, Specialist

Jason Osborne
Cell: 207-317-2511
Email: josborne@smccme.edu

SMCC Mid Coast Campus
19 Sewall St. Brunswick, ME 04011
207-844-2070 - mfsiinfo@smccme.edu