

LETTER FROM THE MFSI DIRECTOR

Maine Fire Service Professionals:

Welcome to summer in Maine - a time of year that brings a significant amount of outdoor activity on the ocean and in the mountains. We hope each of you have many opportunities to enjoy relaxing and taking part in the many events across Maine this summer season with family and friends.

Here at MFSI, we have just completed the very busy spring fire training season and will be preparing for the summer fire training season with our first ever in-house Fire Officer II State Academy at MFSI HQ. In addition, Live Fire Instructor & Instructor-in-Charge program will be kicking off.

All of us here at MFSI want to extend our sincere appreciation for all the efforts of our training partners that support our mission by many means: providing a classroom facility, a piece of fire apparatus, or other resources to make programs move smoothly.

MFSI is reaching for greatness each and every day, and we proud to serve you all. Stay cool, stay hydrated but most importantly stay safe out there. The world is changing and with the recent events in the City of Auburn, please keep a clear eye and have the highest level of situational awareness possible. You folks are an extremely valuable asset to your communities and the State of Maine.

With my sincere best,



Director Jim Graves



*Celebrating 75 Years of Service
1948 - 2023*

THE BUGLE'S ECHO

Maine Fire Service Institute

July - August 2024



REMEMBERING CHIEF SHERM LAHAIE (1942 - 2024)

This issue is dedicated to the memory of Chief Sherm Lahaie. The following words were shared by MFSI Director Graves at his tribute ceremony on June 23, 2024 in Scarborough, Maine. Sherm's passion for securing quality fire training fueled his continued actions to donate significant amount of resources throughout the years and the fire service in Maine is stronger for it.

When MFSI's Certification Manager Peter Rines passed away in 2021 after a short battle with cancer, Sherm was one of the first to reach out and offer his support. He took immediate action and created the Lahaie Fund to contribute to the Peter Rines Memorial Scholarship, which provides financial support for firefighters to attend Fire Instructor and Fire Officer programs across Maine.

Sherm attended the celebratory dinner recognizing the 75th anniversary of MFT&E/MFSI's mission to support fire training in the state of Maine. He spoke of the forefathers of fire training with enthusiasm and pride of their hard work and efforts.

Sherm will forever be remembered at MFSI. His donated fire service books will go into our special collections and be displayed with honor alongside photos in his memory.

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FIRE FIGHTER NFPA 1001

Fire Fighter I — 353
Provisional — 37
Basic Fire School — 209
Fire Fighter II — 340
Fire Fighter I & II ----- 693



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



FIRE OFFICER NFPA 1021

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



FIRE FIGHTER PRACTICAL SKILLS END TESTS



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

Hollis - 2 - 96 candidates
Yarmouth - 3 - 106 candidates
Bangor - 1 - 45 candidates
Ellsworth - 2 - 40 candidates
Farmington - 2 - 115 candidates
North Lakes - 1 - 11 candidates

2023 WRITTEN EXAMS

Total number of written exams - 1,228



Fire Fighter I - 440 tests	81% passed
Fire Fighter II - 503 tests	70% passed
Fire Instructor I - 97 tests	97% passed
Fire Instructor II - 123 tests	72% passed
Fire Officer I - 58 tests	98% passed
Fire Officer II - 7 tests	71% passed



DRIVER OPERATOR

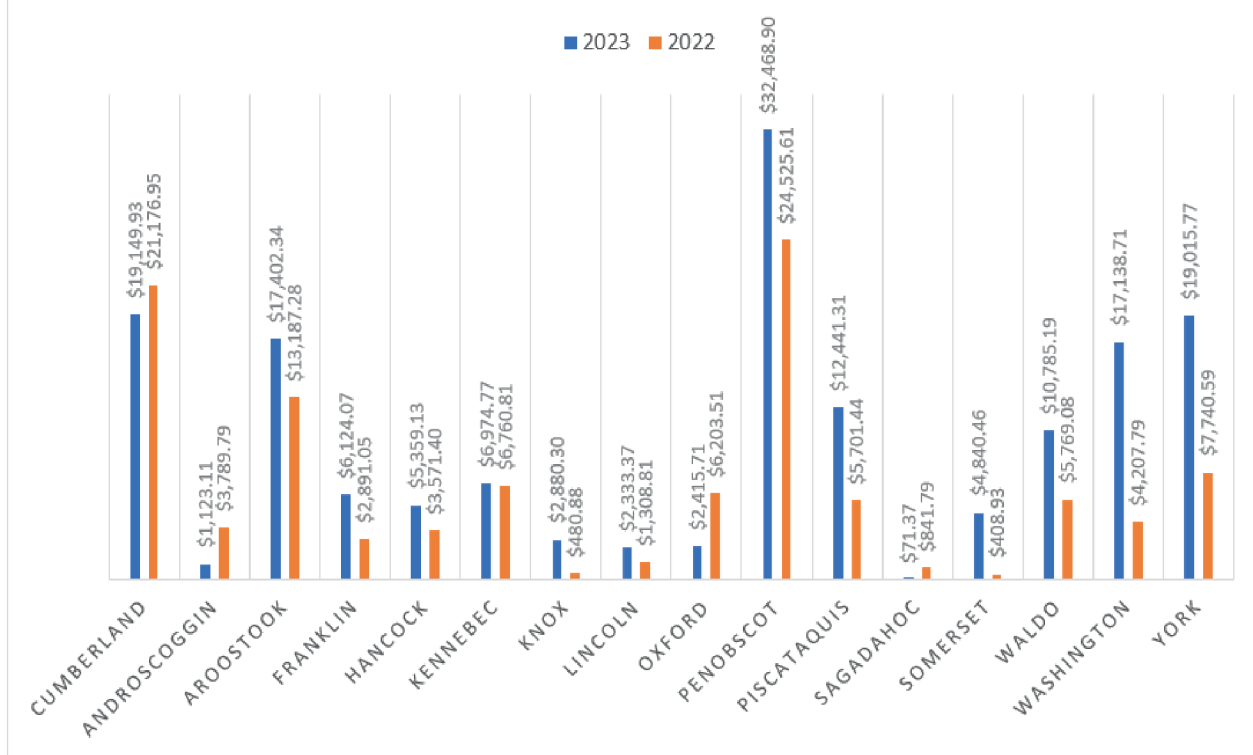
Basic Pumps — 266
BPOC Train-the-Trainer — 3

EVDT — 636
EVDT Train-the-Trainer — 44

The NFPA has updated its driver training standards and the new curriculum will launch soon. Info on upgrading will be forthcoming.

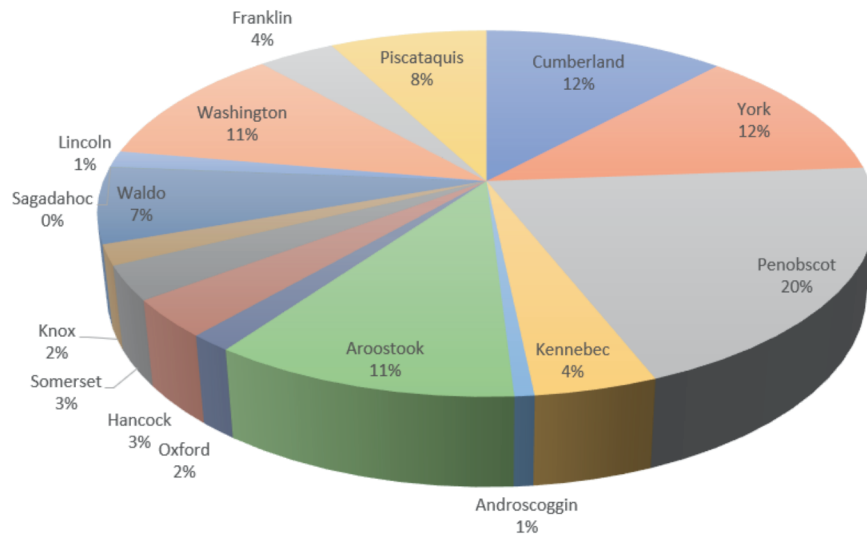
MFSI will post dates for updated EVDT Train-the-Trainer courses this summer.

2022 VS. 2023 FINANCIAL SUPPORT PER COUNTY



2023 Financial Support Per County

These numbers are calculated from instructor costs, training prop requests, and other resources that have aided municipal fire departments over the past year.



Municipalities can make requests for training props and certain courses. Visit mfsi.me.edu or contact MFSI office.



MFSI Instructor Sullivan - KCFTA, 2023

CERTIFICATION MANUAL

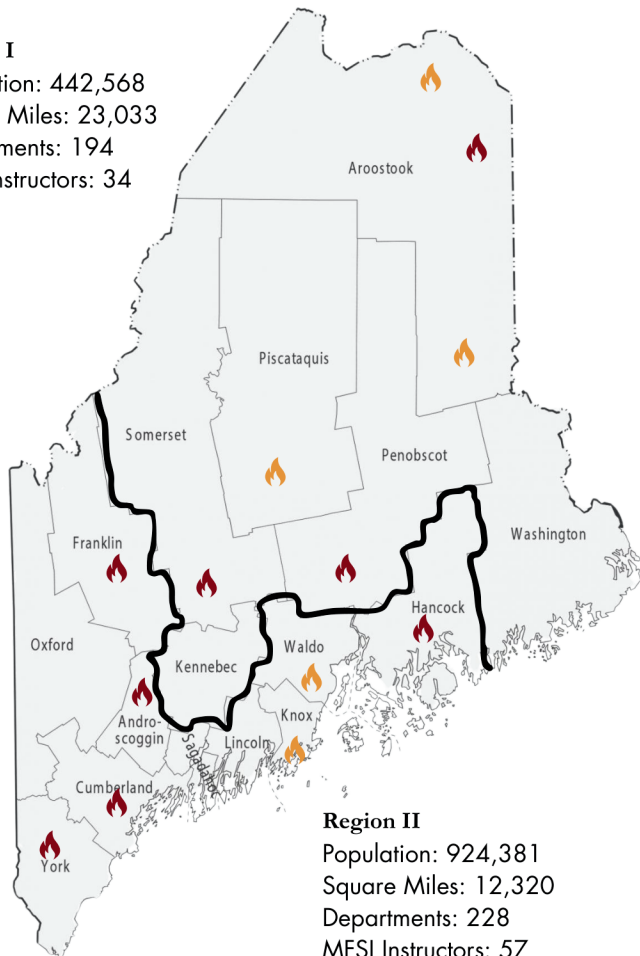
Should a candidate fail an exam, they have one (1) year within the most recent NFPA standard change to retest and will be eligible to test a total of three times. The candidate must wait 30 days before a retest can be granted. The retest may be scheduled by submitting a request to the Certification Manager at the MFSI office. [pg. 19 in MFSI Certification Manual, updated 2024]

RECORD SCANNING PROJECT UPDATE

MFSI has scanned thousands of Maine firefighters' training records into a dedicated drive, fulfilling its responsibility to maintain copies of issued certifications under state law. Additionally, copies are backed up on the Pro Board certification registry and SMCC's secure database, ensuring the safety and accessibility of these records. **Individuals looking to obtain a physical copy of their certificates on file can make a request and pay a \$10 processing fee, or at no cost request an electronic delivery.**

Region I

Population: 442,568
Square Miles: 23,033
Departments: 194
MFSI Instructors: 34



Region II

Population: 924,381
Square Miles: 12,320
Departments: 228
MFSI Instructors: 57

Androscoggin - VACANT
Aroostook - Darren Woods
Cumberland - Mike Robitaille
Franklin - Steve Bunker
Hancock - Ray Gale
Kennebec - Dave Groder
Knox - Phil Meunier
Lincoln - Paul Smeltzer
Offshore Islands - Chris Farley
Oxford - Bill Dingee
Penobscot - Pete Metcalf
Piscataquis - Mike Surdick
Sagadahoc - Chris McLaughlin
Somerset - Jim Roy
Waldo - Phil Meunier
Washington - Timothy Hernandez
York - Roger Green

🔥 Alternate Facilities

🔥 Live Fire Training Facilities

County Representatives attend _____ meetings and share notes with MFSI Director Graves to report on localized fire training news and training demands. Currently, **MFSI is seeking an Androscoggin County Representative.** If interested, contact Director Graves at 207-844-2078.

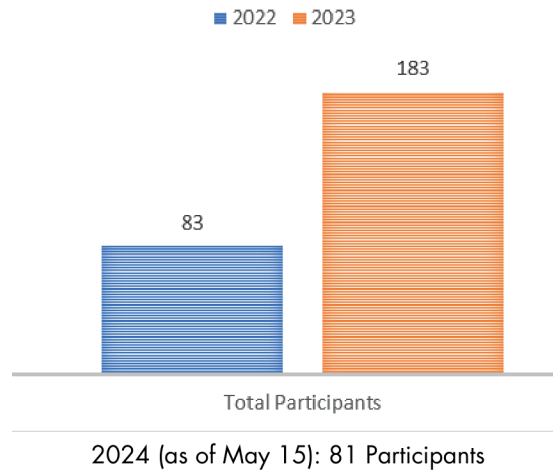


MFSI-NFA Program Deliveries

- Incident Safety Officer - NFA 00729 (2x) — 31 Participants
- STICO - 00455 (Ellsworth & Augusta) — 43 Participants
- DMICO - 00457 (Ellsworth & Augusta) — 40 Participants
- Preparations for Initial Company Operations - 00458 — 49 Participants
- Health & Safety Program Manager - NFA 00722 — 20 Participants

2022: \$4,208.38

2023: \$6,882.60



More info online at mfsi.me.edu/events. Register sooner than later to ensure courses run. A minimum of 12 students are required for NFA courses to run.

UPCOMING NATIONAL FIRE ACADEMY (NFA) PROGRAMS

- Leadership in Supervision: Perspectives in Thinking (00647) - August
- Leadership in Supervision: Frameworks to Success (00648) - September

DEADLINES APPROACHING:

- Leadership in Supervision: Creating Environments for Professional Growth (00646) - July
- Decision-Making for Initial Company Operations (F0457)
- Incident Command System & Resource Management for the Fire Service (F0376)

SAVE-THE-DATE:

- April 26-27, 2025 - Maine/Florida State Weekend @ NFA - Courses: W0146, W0296, W0443, W0457, W0523, W0634, W0722
- May 12 - 17, 2025 - NFA 6-Day: Leadership in Supervision Series



'FROM THE FIELD' ON FACEBOOK

SFI Mike Surdick shares stories from the field to highlight the amount of training conducted in Piscataquis county. State Fire Instructors Darren Woods, Vicki Schmidt, and contribute to help highlight all the work around the state. *Below:* A recent post showcasing the multi-generational and family nature of the fire service.



Maine Fire Service Institute

Published by Shannon Els · May 21 at 8:30 AM ·

FROM THE FIELD: State Fire Instructor Mike Surdick reports, "What a fun and exciting training day at the Milo Fire training facility in Milo with lots accomplished! We had high school Fire Fighter I & II programs from **Tri-County Technical Center** (7 students) led by Bill Wentworth & Lincoln Region 3 (2) led by Rick Smart. Etna Fire had 2 students to finish an in-house basic fire school, and we finished propane burns for the Sebec Basic Fire School (5 students from 4 departmen... See more



This training was a family affair. Instructor Kim Tracy had his grandson in attendance for TCTC, while mom Krystal watched on taking pictures. She used to be an engine operator and did it while pregnant. Chief Tim Hall from Etna was in attendance with his son to finish BFS. Instructor Mike Surdick was in attendance with wife Heather on **Milo Firefighters' Auxiliary**.

Pictured together: MFSI instructors Dan Brooks, Kim Tracy, Mike Surdick, Adam Burgess, Dylan Cyr, also pictured assistant instructor Chief Tim Hall. **Not pictured:** MFSI Training Program Manager Frank Hammond.

MFSI had mutual aid from Milo, Lagrange, and Etna Fire departments for apparatus and general assistance, and the Milo Firefighter's Auxiliary (Jessica Glidden, Heather Lewis-Surdick). **Lagrange, Maine Fire Department Etna Volunteer Fire And Rescue**

APPROACHING DEADLINES - APPLY TODAY!

Visit mfsi.me.edu/events/ for full dates, prerequisites and application forms. For NFA courses, see pg 5.

- **Live Fire Instructor Instructor-in-Charge Cumberland County**
Deadline Closed
- **Fire Instructor I/II in York County**
Dates TBA mid-July
- **Fire Instructor I/II in Lincoln/Knox County**
Dates TBA mid-July
- **Fire Officer I in Cumberland County**
Apply by 7/31
- **Fire Officer I in Kennebec County**
Apply by 8/30
- **Fire Officer II Alternate Programming in York County**
Apply by 8/14 **This is not an MFSI program.*

For retests and practical skills exams, contact John Churchill 207-844-2074.

Fire Officer II Academy: 24 candidates reported to MFSI for Orientation on June 25th. MFSI intends to offer one (1) FO-II program per year across regions and presented in the traditional fire academy model.



MFSI is embarking on state and municipal fire instructor trainings on our new equipment. Sessions for the SCBA Air Management 'Red Maze' were conducted over the past winter and spring months.



Train-the-Trainers for the new Symtech SUV vehicle fire prop will begin late summer/fall. For more info and/or interest, contact Deputy Director Jim Roy at 207-844-2076, jroy2@smccme.edu.

The Black Maze is currently under a full refurbishment at Maine Trailer in Hermon. We expect it back in late summer 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 with this very important firefighter training asset.

REQUEST FOR PROGRAM COORDINATORS

MFSI can help share Fire Fighter I & II programs. We often get field inquiries from the public about how to become a firefighter.

1. Visit MFSI Website at mfsi.me.edu
2. Under Fire Training Certification
3. Select Fire Fighter
4. Scroll to bottom of page
5. Submit the following information.

FOR PROGRAM COORDINATOR USE ONLY: Fire Fighter I & II Training Notification

This form is to be used by Program Coordinators to report Fire Fighter trainings across the state so that MFSI can help inform interested candidates on where/when trainings occur. For more program and curriculum support, contact the Certification Office via Deputy Director, Jim Roy or Certification Program Manager, John Churchill.

POLICY ON PREREQUISITES FOR MFSI PROGRAMS

See attached copy of the most recently signed MFSI Standard Policy 02.



Southern Maine Community College & Maine Fire Service Institute

19 Sewall Street, Brunswick, Maine 04011

mfsi.me.edu

STANDARD POLICY	
Subject: Instructor & Officer Program Prerequisites	Number: 02
Effective Date: Immediately	Rescinds: New
Reference: N/A	Review Date: 06/07/2024
Standard(s): N/A	

Fire Instructor I & II (Pro Board)

- Three (3) years of fire service experience, documented by Fire Chief. Alternatively, training and education in similar discipline with chief's permission to participate.
- Authority - MFSI Advisory Committee/MFSI Certification Division

Live Fire Instructor & Live Fire Instructor In-Charge (State of Maine Certification Only)

- Fire Fighter II, Fire Instructor I (LFI) and/or II (LFI/LFIIC) Certification (Pro Board or Valid Non-Pro Board) *NFPA 1041 7.1.1*
- Six (6) years of combined fire service experience & instruction, documented by the fire chief for (Live Fire Instructor In-Charge)
- Authority - MFSI Advisory Committee/MFSI Admin/Certification Division

Fire Officer I (Pro Board)

- IS-100.C: Introduction to the Incident Command System, ICS - 100 NFPA 1021 4.1 – 4.1.1
- IS-200.C Basic Incident Command System for Initial Response, ICS-200 NFPA 1021 4.1 – 4.1.1
- Firefighter II Certification (Pro Board or Valid Non-Pro Board) *NFPA 1021 4.1*
- Fire Instructor I Certification (Pro Board or Valid Non-Pro Board) *NFPA 1021 4.1*
- Five (5) years of fire service experience, documented by Fire Chief. Alternatively, based on comparable training and education in similar discipline or prior supervision or managerial experience.
- Authority - MFSI Advisory Committee/MFSI Certification Division

Fire Officer II (Pro Board)

- Fire Officer I Certification (Pro Board or Valid Non-Pro Board) *NFPA 1021 5.1*
- Authority - MFSI Advisory Committee/MFSI Admin/Certification Division

MFSI reserves the right to limit and waive applications. Chiefs and candidates can select to write letters to MFSI to waive prerequisite requirements, however waivers are not guaranteed. Prerequisites are set to be in compliance with NFPA standards and will be reviewed every three to five years.