

STATE FIRE TRAINING NEWS

THE BUGLE'S ECHO

MAINE FIRE SERVICE INSTITUTE



This edition is dedicated to the memory of Portland Firefighter Joseph E. Cavallaro, Jr., who tragically lost his life in the line of duty on Monday, March 24, 1980. At the age of 26, Firefighter Joseph C. Cavallaro, Jr., badge number 143, from Engine Co. 1, succumbed to burns and asphyxiation shortly after 2:31 a.m. while battling a three-alarm fire at Box 53, The Phoenix Nightclub, located at 83 Oak Street. Let us always remember his ultimate sacrifice.

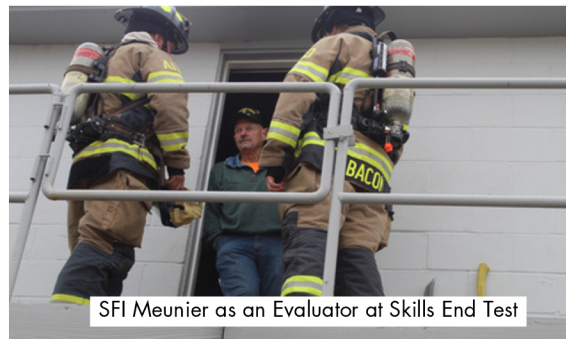
In his honor, the City of Portland Fire Department has named Marine 2 after Joseph.



NFA O0290 Training Operations for Small Departments in collaboration with SafetyWorks! in Augusta, 2025 taught by TPM Hammond, Azevedo and Director Graves



North Lakes Training with SFI Chief Woods



SFI Meunier as an Evaluator at Skills End Test



MFSI Red Maze SCBA Training Trailer supporting North Berwick training



SFI Rice and McLaughlin teach Fire & Emergency Services Instructor I/II

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Letter from the Director
- Survey on Risk Assessment
- Personnel Retirements
- Statewide Collaborations
- Instructor & Officer Programs
- Fire Fighter I & II Upgrade

LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

February 28, 2025

Dear Fire Service Professionals,

As we enter 2025, the need for fire service training throughout Maine has reached unprecedented levels. MFSI is committed to leading the way in addressing this demand, and it requires the dedication of all of us to ensure that firefighters statewide receive the highest quality training available.

MFSI has partnered with the Maine Bureau of Labor, the Maine State Fire Marshal's Office, and the Maine Forest Service to broaden training opportunities across the state. This collaboration, combined with the expertise of our subject matter instructors, guarantees that we continue to deliver exceptional fire service training. Additionally, with support from external agencies like the Pro-Board accredited Regional Alliance for Firefighter Training (RAFT), we have achieved a level of training availability and quality that is unparalleled in my experience. Here's a current list of the programs being offered:

- Fire Officer III (RAFT)
- Incident Safety Officer (RAFT)
- Wildland Basic Firefighter (Maine Forest Service)
- Fire Investigations (Maine State Fire Marshal's Office)
- NFA Training Operations in Small Departments (Maine) (MFSI & BLS)

To keep pace with this progress, we have developed a proposed two-year fire training schedule aimed at bringing essential programs to every corner of the state. This plan is in line with the guidance from SMCC President Miller, ensuring we maintain our momentum and adhere to our current strategy. Looking ahead, our mission to train and prepare Maine's firefighters is more critical than ever. Each of you plays an indispensable role in this mission, and together, we form a team whose impact extends far beyond individual contributions.

Every lesson you teach and every skill you impart directly enhances the safety and resilience of our Maine communities. By sharing your knowledge and expertise, you are not only cultivating skilled firefighters but also strengthening the very foundation of our society.

Our collective commitment ensures that when emergencies arise, trained and capable professionals are prepared to respond. This shared purpose unites us, emphasizing the importance and transformative nature of our work. In the months ahead, we will encounter challenges that will test our determination and dedication. Through unwavering collaboration and mutual support, we will surmount these obstacles and continue to further our mission.

Thank you for your tireless dedication and passion. Together, we are stronger, and together, we will continue to make a significant impact across the great state of Maine.

Stay safe and stay strong.

Jim



WORDS BY TPM HAMMOND

Training Program Manager Frank Hammond is poised to graduate this spring from Columbia Southern University with a Bachelor's degree in Fire Service Administration. The entire MFSI team is immensely proud of his commitment to furthering his education.

Frank is currently working on a capstone project and has requested permission to distribute a research survey to MFSI's audience. If you are open to participating in the survey, the information collected is anonymous and will provide invaluable insight.



SCAN QR CODE
WITH PHONE CAMERA
OR CLICK LINK HERE
TO TAKE SURVEY.

Please note: This project is independent of MFSI, and the views expressed in this article are solely those of the author. They do not represent the opinions of Southern Maine Community College (SMCC) or the Maine Fire Service Institute (MFSI). This content is intended for educational purposes only.

The fire service is now twenty years since the establishment of the 'Everyone Goes Home' movement, a concentrated effort to reduce the annual number of firefighter line of duty-related deaths. One of the more controversial mantras or 'practices' that has become well established is the so-called estimation of survivable space for civilians and/or pets in a burning building.

The efforts to reduce firefighter line-of-duty deaths have been fruitful, reducing that number to 7.6 firefighter fatalities per 100,000 fires (Brush, 2024). There has also been a 2.5% drop in the rate of fire occurrence in the United States from 2009 to 2018.

However, civilian fire fatalities have risen by 20.5% in the same period (Brush, 2024). While factors such as modern fuels and construction methods are in play for this notable rise, **we cannot ignore the increase in risk aversion in the fire service, whatever the cause.**

Most, if not all, fire service incident managers engage in an incident management style known to many as 'Recognition Primed Decision Making,' or RPDM (Klien, 1993). In RPDM engagements, incident managers direct operations in a manner that mostly mirrors previous, similar (though not the same) incidents from myriad perspectives. Those perspectives are, for example, success as a fire attack team leader, search and rescue team leader, ladder and ventilation team leader, et al., from a fire service engagement point of view.

How can incident managers or commanders achieve acceptable outcomes at the scene of a building fire with little (or no) successful experience in this realm? Add a growing trend of the fire service being more concerned with complaints, grievances, or being disciplined than actual operational successes achieved by a competent and adequately 'aggressive' fire suppression response force, and the situation worsens exponentially.

I believe that **risk aversion must be studied with great gusto. Failure to do so will only lead to the continued increase in civilian fire fatalities,** which are mostly preventable using sound, educated, and correctly performed and supported grassroots-level firefighting operations.

Few could successfully argue that firefighting has no inherent dangers to firefighters. Training, education, proper PPE/SCBA, and adequate staffing reduce the associated risks of firefighting. Four risk principles based upon NFPA 1500 are: risk a life (our life) to save a known life, perform in a predictable, practiced manner to save an unknown life or valued property, and take no risk to save what is lost (Dodson, 2021).

To this end, it appears that many in the profession have chosen to omit the second tenet outlined by Dodson, which is to perform in a predictable, practiced manner to save an unknown life. *Continued on next page.*

PERSONNEL NEWS

Continued from previous page: Words from TPM Hammond. Numerous incidents across the country have been referenced in which civilian fire victims have been found only after a fire has been extinguished (or ran out of available fuel to burn). In these incidents, more often than not, someone in authority (incident manager, 'responsible' fire chief, or investigator) makes an exasperating statement suggesting that "the fire was too hot" or that there was "too much smoke" as factors for firefighters to essentially perform their trade as rational for the fatality or fatalities. As a fire service, we could analyze risks similarly to those outlined by Condoleezza Rice in her book *Political Risk* (Rice, 2018). We must obtain good information about our risks, ensure vigorous analysis, and integrate risk analysis with business decisions (Rice, 2018).

When first planning for this project, I bounced off the topic and my ideas with very few people, all very trusted by me. The reactions I received were spectrum opposites, from comments suggesting the timeliness of such an endeavored report to warnings that I would be directing friendly fire onto my position. These reactions fuel my belief that I am onto something. In order to glean solid, useable data to either confirm or refute my theories on the topic, it is important to remember that while focused in nature, much, if not all, of the information I receive will be driven more by emotion than verifiable facts. Maintaining a genuine focus on the issue will result in more thorough findings and conclusions (Kumar, 2018).

A survey has been created for those who wish to participate in this research. Confidentiality is guaranteed to all survey participants, as this is likely a hot topic for many (or at least those passionate about doing the work they swore to perform). If you have any questions, please email me at hammond@maineccc.edu. I look forward to reviewing and reporting the findings that are shared. Stay low in the heat. Survey link: <https://shorturl.at/qC8ow>



JOHN CHURCHILL

On April 11th, John Churchill will formally retire from his role as Assistant Certification Manager at MFSI. Throughout his career, John has committed himself to educating others in Forestry Practices and Firefighting. He started his journey at MFSI as an instructor and evaluator, and has most recently played a key role in supporting the state's certification processes.



PHIL MEUNIER

We want to express our sincere gratitude to State Fire Instructor Phil Meunier, who has retired from MFSI after many years of devoted service. Phil dedicated countless hours to Firefighter Training and served as an Evaluator for Skills Exams, helping to shape the future of firefighters. His passion and expertise have made a significant impact on MFSI and the firefighting community. Thank you, Phil, for your many years of dedication and service.

FOREST FIREFIGHTER TRAININGS WITH MAINE FOREST SERVICE

Strengthening Wildland Fire Response

As part of our ongoing commitment to fire service training in Maine, MFSI is collaborating with the Maine Forest Service under the state agency agreement to enhance Basic Forest Firefighter Training across the state. In partnership with Chief Gross and Maine Forest Service leadership, we are working closely with Regional Forest Rangers to deliver these critical programs where and when resources allow.

This training The Maine Basic Wildland Training Course is designed to meet NFPA 1001 Standard on Professional Qualifications for Firefighter and, in the near future, will align with NFPA 1010 and NFPA 1051 Wildland Firefighting Personnel Professional Qualifications – Basic Level. Participants who complete the program will receive a certificate from MFSI, recognizing their achievement in wildland firefighting fundamentals. The Maine Forest Service regularly offers the national S130/S190 course as well, for those interested. These programs will be scheduled regionally based on need and availability.

FIRE INVESTIGATOR PROGRAM WITH MAINE STATE FIRE MARSHAL OFFICE

Enhancing Statewide Training Initiatives

Through a collaborative agreement with state agencies, the Maine Fire Service Institute (MFSI) is thrilled to assist the Fire Marshal's Office (FMO) in expanding Fire Investigation training across the state. We are working closely with State Fire Marshal Esler, Investigators Roberts and Damren, along with Kevin Connelly from the ATF, to coordinate efforts. We aim to provide up to four (4) 40-hour Fire Investigation courses each year, contingent upon available resources and scheduling. This includes two courses within the Community College Fire Science Programs and two offered at regional locations. Participants will receive State of Maine Certification (not Pro Board), adhering to the NFPA 1033 Standard on Professional Qualifications for Fire Investigators and the NFPA 921 Guide for Fire & Explosion Investigations. We employ the Jones & Bartlett curriculum, Fire Investigator: Principles & Practice, Sixth Edition, to guarantee a high standard of proficiency in fire origin and cause investigation. Each course concludes with a formal assessment to validate participants' knowledge and skills.

Please note that Fire Investigator programs are not available upon request, as demand currently exceeds our capacity. They will instead, be scheduled based on statewide demands and agency priorities. For further details, please contact Director Graves. MFSI remains committed to supporting the FMO in delivering this critical training to Maine's fire service professionals.



FIRE & LIFE SAFETY EDUCATOR I

Thanks to the dedicated efforts of MFSI's Certification Division, MFSI has received a Pro Board Extension of Accreditation for Fire Life Safety Educator I, 2024 Edition.

Additionally, discussions about the future delivery of this program are taking place with the State Fire Marshal's Office.

MFSI STATE FIRE INSTRUCTOR DEVELOPMENT

Unfortunately, we have learned that the Instructor Development program from Louisiana State University will not be able to partner with MFSI this year. However, we are excited to announce that we will be hosting a workshop for MFSI State Fire Instructors in October 2025. Additional details will be provided soon.

STATE & NATIONAL

MFSI & THE MAINE FIRE PROTECTION SERVICES COMMISSION

MFSI remains dedicated to collaborating with the Maine Fire Commission on Live Fire Training Facilities and providing support for Regional Firefighter Training. On February 4th, Director Graves spoke before the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs, as well as the Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety at the Maine State House, advocating for the continuation of general funding support amounting to \$200,000.00 in the general fund budget. This funding is crucial for the firefighter training program made possible by MRS Title 20-A §9005, which establishes the Regional Fire Service Training Fund. During the meeting, several questions arose, and Representative Ken Fredette of Newport requested a report on training, which Director Graves has since submitted.

NATIONAL FIRE ACADEMY

The In-State weekend on March 8 & 9, 2025 at MFSI HQ in Brunswick will run both planned programs: Exercising Leadership through Difficult Conversations (FO522) and Wildland Interface.

The NFA Six-Day program is scheduled to take place from May 12-17, 2025, at MFSI HQ in Brunswick. This Leadership in Supervision Series comprises three courses:

- (O0646) Creating Environments for Professional Growth
- (O0647) Perspectives in Thinking
- (O0648) Frameworks to Success

The goal of this series is to ensure a seamless transition into supervisory and leadership roles, while providing a robust conceptual foundation for achieving success. Participants will delve into various viewpoints, including creative, analytical, political, and critical thinking.

Maine has been fortunate to have access to these programs in recent years, which we offer alongside five other New England states.

NEW FIRE FIGHTER I & II UPGRADE

Currently, MFSI will continue to utilize the 4th edition of the Jones & Bartlett Fire Fighter Curriculum. Local agencies may upgrade, but they will need to adhere to our existing paperwork for certification purposes. With the release of the new NFPA 1010 standard, MFSI will embark on the extensive task of updating documents and submitting the new materials to Pro Board for the certification process. We will keep local municipal fire training coordinators and those involved in the fire fighter training system in Maine informed with updates and before we launch the new curriculum.



Maine-Florida State Weekend at NFA in Emmitsburg, MD is set for April 4-6, 2025 with over 40 Maine Fire Service professionals signed up to attend.



FIRE FIGHTER I & II SKILLS END TESTS

- May 17 in Ellsworth
- May 20 in Farmington
- June 7 & 8 in Hollis

Additional dates TBA. To be added to the skills testing roster, please contact the Certification Office via email: jchurchill@mainecc.edu and jroy@mainecc.edu.

UPCOMING EVENTS

TRAINING SCHEDULE FOR FIRE INSTRUCTOR & OFFICER PROGRAMS

The planned schedule for professional certification promotes a fair statewide approach, enabling individuals to plan accordingly. Each region will have opportunities every four years, while densely populated areas will offer them every two years due to demand. The schedule listed below is tentative and will be updated as more information arises.

FIRE & EMERGENCY SERVICES INSTRUCTOR I & II

The Presque Isle and Scarborough programs running now will conduct certification tests in March/April. Both programs had a waitlist, emphasizing the demand for these courses across Maine.

- Aroostook County (Presque Isle) **Full**
- Cumberland County (Scarborough) **Full**
- Cumberland County (Brunswick) Fall '25
- Penobscot County (Bangor) Fall '25
- Franklin County (Farmington) Winter '26
- York County (Alfred) Winter '26
- Oxford County (Oxford) Fall '26
- Kennebec County (TBA) Fall '26

LIVE FIRE INSTRUCTOR & LIVE FIRE INSTRUCTOR IN-CHARGE

- Hancock County (Ellsworth) Fall '25
- Aroostook County (Caribou) Fall '26

FIRE OFFICER I

- Hancock County (Ellsworth) **Few Spots**
- Lincoln County (Waldoboro) **Apply by 3/5**
- Aroostook County (TBA) Fall '25
- York County (Alfred) Fall '25
- Cumberland County (Scarborough) Winter '26
- Penobscot County (Bangor) Winter '26
- Franklin County (Farmington) Fall '26
- TBD Fall '26

FIRE OFFICER II ACADEMY

The program is currently being planned for Summer 2025. More information TBA.

SMCC/MFSI ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting Date Reminder: The next meeting will be held on **June 6, 2025 @ 10AM** at MFSI HQ in Brunswick.

MAINE FIRE CHIEFS' CONFERENCE

The MFCA is excited to present its annual Professional Development Conference, set to take place at the Sunday River Grand Summit Resort Hotel & Conference Center in Newry, Maine, from March 26-28, 2025. Co-sponsored by MFSI and the Maine Fire Commission, this event promises valuable insights and networking opportunities.

- The Annual Membership Meeting on Wednesday, March 26 at 3:15PM.
- Presentations for the Maine Fire Chief of the Year award (MFCA), the Best Practices award (MFPSC), and the Instructor of the Year award (MFSI).
- An "Appreciation Hour with the Vendors" in the exhibit area following the presentations.

Don't miss the keynote address by Deputy Chief Frank Viscuso, a Leadership & Team Building Specialist, featuring the "Flash Point" Team Building Seminar.

FIRE OFFICER III (RAFT DELIVERY)

A program in Augusta has just been completed. The current plan is to bring another Pro Board-certified Fire Officer III to the Bangor area in September/October 2025. More information TBA in the summer.

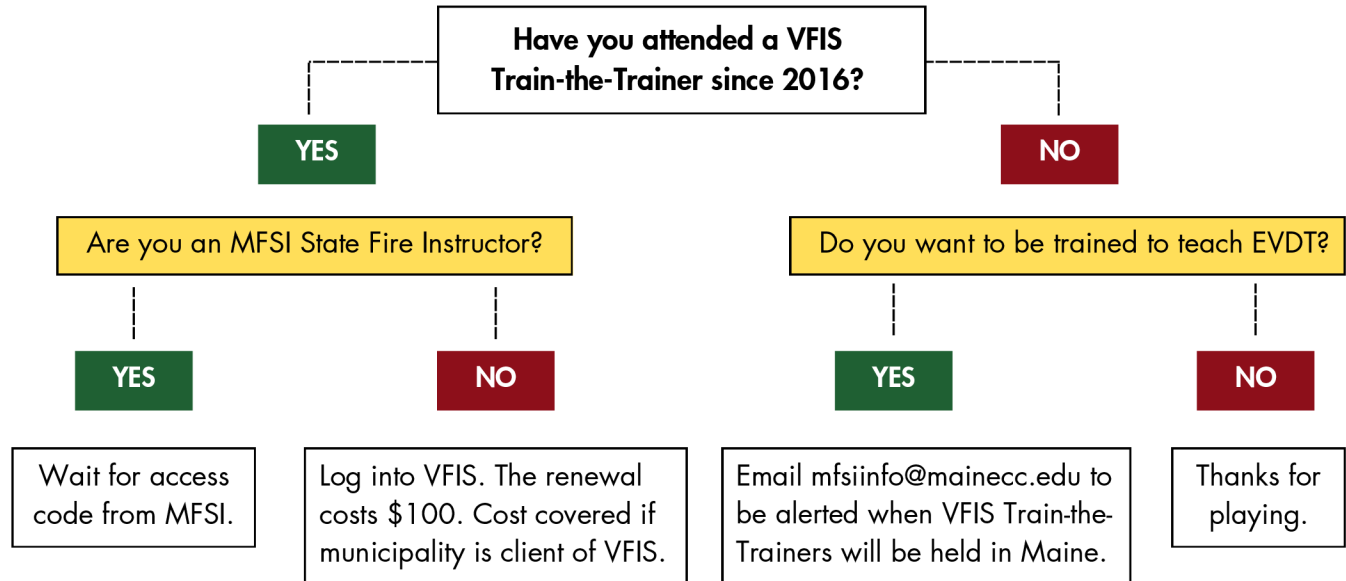
NOTE: OUTSIDE PROGRAMS

Collaborations with outside organizations like RAFT and FDSOA are planned months out, so they are not included in the lists to the left.

TRAININGS & PROP UPDATES

EVOC/EVDT UPDATE

MFSI has established an agreement and partnership with Volunteer Firemen's Insurance Services (VFIS) to implement Emergency Vehicle Driver Training (EVDT) for emergency vehicle operator courses statewide. EVDT Instructors must be trained by VFIS in order to use their copyrighted program, a process that MFSI has supported over the past nine years. **The newly released Third Edition of EVDT replaces the Second Edition from 2016. All instructors must update to the Third Edition.** Updates will be available on VFIS' online portal. VFIS clients can log in now, while non-clients await further instructions on access.



WATER TRAINING PROPS

Most of our props are being prepared for service to ensure they are fully ready for the bustling spring training season. The following water training props will return to service starting in April, weather permitting:

- Fire Extinguisher System – BullEx or Tutor
- MAST Mobile Alarm Sprinkler Trailer
- Vehicle Fire Training Prop
- Pump Simulator Support Trailer
- System 64 Propane Gas Trainer



SYSTEM 64 PROP UPGRADE

MFSI has invested \$5,000 to replace the 200lb propane prop used with the System 64 trailer, ensuring our training equipment remains in excellent working condition.

COOL THE PROP: Please make sure to utilize the cooling line effectively to avoid any potential damage. If there is a delay in cooling the prop—whether caused by a student or a mechanical issue—be sure to cool it thoroughly with a hose stream. This additional step will help prevent warping and the failure of welds.

SECURE THE PROP: Each leg of the propane prop has a hole for inserting a pin. Ensure that the propane prop is securely attached to the burn pan. Properly securing the prop is crucial to avoid any rocking. Make sure all four sides of the prop are fastened and that all four pins are correctly in place.