

## STATE FIRE TRAINING

# THE BUGLE'S ECHO

This issue is dedicated in memory of six FDNY firefighters that died in the line of duty at the Sefu Soap and Fat Company on Friday evening, October 26, 1962, in Maspeth, Queens NY: Captain William Russell; Engine 325, Firefighter James Marino; Engine 325, Firefighter Richard Andrews; Engine 325, Firefighter George Zahn; Engine 238, Firefighter Richard Gifford; Engine 238, Firefighter Francis Egan; Ladder 115

The two-story brick building, which stood on 56th Road, measured 73-by-50-ft. and housed large tanks used for rendering fat to make soap. The fire was reported shortly after 9pm. A firefighter on the first-arriving ladder company recalls the heavy fire they encountered at the scene. Winds fanned the flames and the fire quickly escalated to four alarms.

For almost two hours, firefighters battled the intense heat and smoke created by the burning fat and chemicals. The fire was declared under control at around 10:50 pm. But then, without warning, the right-side wall began to buckle. A cry went up from the loading dock but was cut short by the crash. In an instant, twenty firefighters were buried under six feet of debris that had been the wall in front of them. Some of the firefighters closest to the wall were saved by a corrugated metal shed adjacent to the building, while the firefighters furthest away took the brunt of the wall as it fell.



Command sounded a fifth alarm, bringing more equipment and firefighters to the scene to help with the rescue and recovery efforts. Trucks brought lumber in to shore up the building in order to help firefighters free their trapped comrades.

After the collapse, some firefighters crawled or were helped to safety—but six firefighters died as a result of their injuries. [Source link.](#) May they rest in peace.

### OCTOBER 2025 ISSUE

- Letter from MFSI Director
- NFA & NFFF Programs
- Maine Fire Chiefs' Conference
- Skills Exam & FF Upgrade
- VFIS/EVDT News
- MFSI Instructor Recruitment
- Maine Fire Commission
- Fire Officer Programs

### SMCC-MFSI ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The next meeting of the SMCC-MFSI Advisory Committee will be held on **December 5, 2025 at 10AM at MFSI HQ in Brunswick.**

The SMCC/MFSI Advisory Committee plays a vital role in shaping the future of fire training in Maine. Comprised of fire chiefs in good standing and seasoned subject matter experts from key fire service agencies—including the State Fire Marshal's Office, the Chief of the Maine Forest Rangers, and representatives from the Professional Firefighters of Maine and the Maine State Federation of Firefighters—this committee provides critical guidance on training standards, programs, and statewide fire service needs.

The committee's mission is to ensure that Maine's fire training remains effective, relevant, and aligned with both professional expectations and public safety demands.

All meetings are open to the public, and we encourage participation from anyone with a vested interest in the advancement of fire service training across our great state.

For more information on the SMCC/MFSI Advisory Committee, please visit MFSI's website.



## LETTER FROM MFSI DIRECTOR GRAVES

MFSI remains extremely busy with positive programs moving forward and even more being planned for the future. I want to share a little passion with you, so bear with me, this is about vision, dreams, and reality.

As Director, I have set many goals for MFSI and for the Maine Fire Service. We've made real progress in several areas, but sometimes it feels like building a sandcastle, what we build is strong, but the tide is always pushing against us. We all know MFSI can't do *everything* we'd like, but our goals remain ambitious, and we want much more to come to fruition.

Here's the truth: there's a process and a system to how things get done, and it's not as simple as calling our office and saying, *"We need this, make it happen."* Anyone who has run a pump at a working fire knows the reality. When you're already feeding three attack lines and an exposure line, running below 20 PSI residual, and command asks for another 1¾ to Side D, you have to say, *"No sir, not without pumping the hydrant or bringing in another supply line. I'm tapped out."* The system only provides so much until reinforcements arrive.

That's where MFSI stands today. We cannot deliver *more* until additional resources, in the form of personnel, are provided. Maine's fire service leadership understands this, and we are working to move the needle. I ask you to trust us and trust the system. If you want to play a part, educate yourself, get involved with your stakeholder group, and join the fight for professional improvement. Work for the greater good, not just individual gain.

It's time to raise our collective game. Mainers expect us to be there in their darkest hour. Firefighters need the right training to meet that call. And if there's one thing I know about Mainers, it's that we *will* find a path, even in the darkest and most un navigated woods. Our resolve is stronger than ever. Imagine a Pro Board Driver Operator Program, Pro Board Fire Officer III, and more. Imagine a system of Fire Officer professional development that raises the bar higher than we've ever seen in Maine.

This is not a pipe dream; it is within reach. But it will take all of us pulling for the greater good. Together, we can build something lasting, something Mainers can be proud of when the alarm sounds. Stay safe, we need all of you out there.

Director Graves & Staff



## NATIONAL FIRE ACADEMY

This past In-State Weekend centered on courses designed to equip Maine's Fire Service for future challenges. **Mark your calendars for the next In-State NFA Weekend at MFSI: March 14 & 15, 2026.** The courses offered will include:

- Exercising Leadership Ethically (F0523)
- Wildland Urban Interface for the Structural Company Officer (F0610)
- Fire Investigation: Fire as a Weapon (F0756)



Shaping the Future – NFA & MFSI Senior Instructor Geoff Low & course participants



Wildland Urban Interface for Chief Officer - NFA Instructor Tim Woodward & course participants

## FIRE INVESTIGATIONS FOR FIRST RESPONDERS (NFA F0770)

Our thoughts and prayers are with the NFA Instructor, who experienced a medical emergency just before the weekend and was unable to deliver the program. MFSI communicated with all registered attendees, and some participants chose to attend alternative programs. **Additionally, there is an online format available** for NFA Fire Investigation: First Responders (S0770).

This online, instructor-led (live) delivery is presented via ZOOM for two consecutive days. No more than five (5) applications from the same agency will be accepted for an individual offering.





Exercising Leadership Through Difficult Conversations  
- NFA Instructor Thomas Poulin & course participants

## HIGH RATE OF CANCELLATIONS FROM NFA PARTICIPANTS

Unfortunately, MFSI experienced a significant number of last-minute drops from September's In-State NFA Weekend. We understand that life happens, but this level of attrition has a real impact. To ensure we are making the best use of both Federal and State Fire Training support, MFSI will be reviewing our internal processes to prevent this from happening in the future.

## NATIONAL FALLEN FIREFIGHTERS FOUNDATION COURSES

Manager of Fire Training, Lisa Burton, is a long time advocate of the NFFF and Women in Fire organizations. If you're interested in training, reach out to her at [cfrdstaysafe@gmail.com](mailto:cfrdstaysafe@gmail.com).



National Fallen Firefighters Instructor Lisa Burton  
and course participants

## 2026 MAINE FIRE CHIEFS' ANNUAL PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE IN NEWRY, ME

MFSI has signed a contract with Chief Paul Doughty to be the Keynote Speaker for the 2026 Maine Fire Chiefs' Annual Conference at Sunday River from March 27-29th. Chief Doughty's topic will be on **Fire Service Leadership in the Modern Era: Navigating Risks Beyond the Fireground**, exploring how Fire Service Leadership is no longer just about getting the job done on the fireground; it's about navigating the risks that continue long after the smoke clears.

Topics include:

- Operational risk management in high-risk fireground and technical rescue
- Firefighters' 1st Amendment rights and the boundaries of social media
- Legal foundations of firefighter discipline, incl. due process and just cause
- Command Under Fire: Leadership, lawsuits, and personal liability



This session will provide real-world strategies for leading with clarity, accountability, and resilience. From high liability calls to personnel challenges, media scrutiny to municipal politics, you'll leave with the tools to:

- Strengthen your command presence
- Protect your organization
- Prepare your department for the next challenge, whether it arrives on the next call or in the courtroom

About the Speaker: **Chief Paul Doughty** is currently serving as Fire Chief in St. Albans, Maine. Chief Doughty brings over 40 years of fire service experience, including 32 years in urban operations with Providence, RI, national FEMA USAR deployments, and rural Maine firefighting. With a B.S. in Fire Science and two decades as an employment and labor law attorney, Chief Doughty offers a rare combination of street-smart tactics and legal foresight.

We look very forward to working with Chief Doughty on this amazing fire service training opportunity. When the Maine Fire Chiefs' Association releases more information about the conference, we will be sure to share it with all fire service stakeholders to support their efforts at the MFCA. The conference is becoming a great retreat for many Maine Fire Service members to meet, learn and engage in networking opportunities.

Each year, the Deputy Chief Marc Bellefeuille State Fire Instructor of the Year Award is given to a Senior State Fire Instructor that demonstrates an ongoing commitment to serving Maine's fire service by teaching and encouraging others. **Nominations open in January and presented at the annual conference in Newry, ME.**



SFI Wyman was the 2024 Recipient of the Marc Bellefeuille SFI of the Year Award.

## IMPORTANT UPDATES TO FIREFIGHTER TRAINING AND CERTIFICATION

Two major changes have recently taken place in firefighter training and education:

1) The National Fire Protection Association issued **NFPA 1010**, Standard on Professional Qualifications for Firefighters. This standard officially took effect on January 10, 2024, and Pro Board accredited agencies have two years to update their programs.

2) In May 2024, **Jones & Bartlett released the 5th edition of Fundamentals of Firefighter Skills** and Hazardous Materials Response. This text remains the foundation of MFSI's firefighter training curriculum. In response to these changes, MFSI has been working toward Pro Board reaccreditation for Firefighter I & II – which includes:

- Updating curriculum to align with NFPA 1010
- Reviewing & clarifying skill objectives for accuracy
- Reviewing over 300 new written exam questions
- Vetting all questions with subject-matter-experts.
- Building new exams on our online testing platform.

The goal is to have all supporting documentation submitted, reviewed, and approved by Pro Board so that beginning in 2026, all firefighter programs will test to the new NFPA 1010 Standard.

**Important: Any firefighter program starting now, with the intent to test in the next testing season, must use the 5th edition of Jones & Bartlett.**

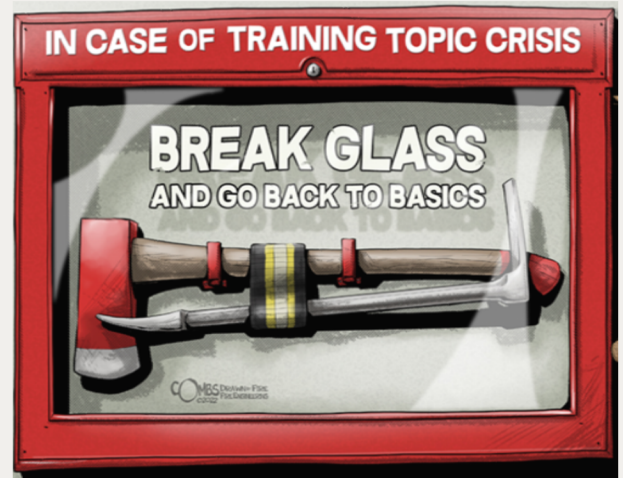
### Upcoming Coordinator/Instructor Meeting

MFSI will be holding a Program Coordinator/Instructor Meeting in the coming months. Please keep an eye on your email, our website, and our Facebook page for the official announcement. At this meeting, we will:

- Distribute all new documentation required for successful program delivery.
- Share best practices and lessons learned from the last season to improve the certification process.
- Gather feedback from coordinators and instructors to strengthen our programs.

As always, your input is valued and appreciated. Together, we'll ensure a smooth transition to the new standard and continued success for firefighter training.

For information, please contact  
Assistant Certification Manager  
Derek Klemanski  
[dklemanski@mainecc.edu](mailto:dklemanski@mainecc.edu)



## APPLY TO BE A MAINE STATE FIRE INSTRUCTOR. ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS THRU JAN 30, 2026.

As mandated by Maine state law, it is our duty to deliver high-quality, consistent, and professional fire training across every region of the state. We need your support to accomplish this mission—not in the future, but urgently, right now.

**Submit an updated resume, copies of certificates, and a cover letter detailing your qualifications and interest in becoming a State Fire Instructor within the application period: September 1, 2025 thru January 30, 2026.**

#### Minimum Qualifications:

- Certified Firefighter I & II
- Certified Fire Instructor I

#### Preferred Qualifications:

- Fire Instructor II
- Fire Officer I & II
- Incident Safety Officer

Whether it involves delivering programs, mentoring new instructors, assisting with curriculum development, or taking on leadership responsibilities, there is much work to be done.

Our mission is clear: to support Maine's Fire Service and ensure that training is robust, accessible, and sustainable. We can't accomplish this on our own; it takes more than just a handful of individuals. Yet, if those who still possess that inner spark step up, together, we can make a lasting impact.

**Apply online and upload your application materials: [mfsi.me.edu/blog/sfi-hire/](https://mfsi.me.edu/blog/sfi-hire/)**

Applications are reviewed on a rolling basis until January 30, 2026. Send questions to [mfsiinfo@mainecc.edu](mailto:mfsiinfo@mainecc.edu).





# EMERGENCY VEHICLE DRIVER TRAINING

## VFIS EVDT Training Update

MFSI has successfully reviewed VFIS's curriculum modifications for the 2024 EVDT update. This comprehensive review involved collaboration with VFIS Education staff, instructor training exercises, two pilot classes, and the creation of a list of suggested adaptations for MFSI's course administration and delivery.

- **Training Process for State Fire Instructors:** MFSI will initiate a 30-day training period for State Fire Instructors to familiarize them with the updated administration processes and course delivery changes. This training will take place before the full transition to the 2024 curriculum begins in early November.
- **Collaboration with Local Instructors:** Local and regional municipal instructors will also be invited to trainings to ensure they understand how the changes may impact municipal EVDT programs.
- **Communication:** MFSI will actively communicate with regional training associations, Chief's Associations, and local departments, as well as MFSI instructors, regarding updates in course administration and the new Learning Management System (LMS).

**It is important to note that VFIS requires current instructors to complete the online EVDT Instructor updates from VFIS University to teach the new curriculum.** For further information, please contact MFSI TPM Chris Azevedo.

### VFIS Instructor-Level Program

#### Emergency Vehicle Driver Training (EVDT)

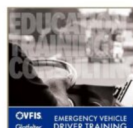
This program is a train-the-trainer program that includes both fire and EMS. It is designed to teach the necessary instructional methodology to successfully deliver the following programs within your own agency. Upon completion, an instructor kit will be provided.

#### Date/Time

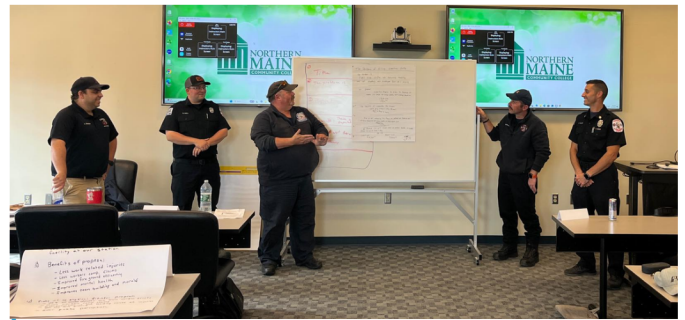
10/4/2025 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM  
10/5/2025 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM

#### Location

Maine Fire Service Institute  
19 Sewall Street  
Brunswick, ME 04011



MFSI is offering a **VFIS Train-the-Trainer program at its Brunswick campus on October 4-5.** This Train-the-Trainer program, conducted by VFIS, is recommended but not mandatory for instructors already certified as VFIS EVDT instructors. Registration and fee payment will be handled through VFIS, and links to this information can be found on the course flyer.



## FIRE OFFICER I

Programs are underway in Aroostook County (Presque Isle). **Applications Open Nov 14 for Cumberland County (Scarborough) and Penobscot County (Bangor).**

## FIRE OFFICER II ACADEMY

Preparations are underway for the 2026 State Fire Officer Academy. We have received feedback indicating that many are unable to attend a week-long program, so considerations for a new format to better support Maine's volunteer firefighters is being considered. **The MFSI Model** offers an intensive and immersive learning experience that fosters peer-to-peer interaction. This approach allows officers from different departments to share their experiences and solutions. MFSI collaborates with various state agencies, such as the Maine Forest Service and the State Fire Marshal, to ensure candidates can train in scenarios specific to Maine.

## FIRE OFFICER III, IV, AND ISO

The following programs are Pro Board certified and taught by RAFT at MFSI HQ in Brunswick.

Fire Officer III - May 18-21, 2026

Fire Officer IV - December 8,9 & 10, 2025

Incident Safety Officer - March 16 & 17, 2026

**Register through RAFT.**

## FIRE & EMERGENCY SERVICES INSTRUCTOR I & II

Both Penobscot and Cumberland County programs filled beyond capacity. Both programs have kicked off and are rolling forward with all candidates engaged. **Applications Open Nov 14 for Franklin County (Farmington) and another location TBA.**

# PROTECTION SERVICES COMMISSION

## NEWS FROM THE MAINE FIRE

On Monday, September 7, the Maine Fire Protection Services Commission met at Public Safety Headquarters in Augusta. The meeting was highly productive and highlighted important progress being made in support of the Maine Fire Service. Some key highlights include:

**Cancer Prevention Funding:** Over \$200,000 in grant funds has been distributed to departments across Maine to purchase PPE extractors, smoke exhaust systems, and more. This initiative was driven by the hard work and passion of Stephen Bunker—Farmington Firefighter, MFSI State Fire Instructor, and Maine State Representative serving on the Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee.

**Training & Education Support:** Under the leadership of Chief Dan Brooks and the Commission's Training & Education Subcommittee, financial steps have been taken to reimburse the City of Auburn for its upgraded Live Fire Training Facility. This investment directly strengthens fire service training opportunities statewide. Additionally, the Fire Commission is working with the City of Bangor for an updated facility, Yarmouth for repairs and Farmington for some upgrades for a second egress off the second floor.

**Recruitment and Retention:** Retired Chief Larry Willis shared insights on the successful development of the EMCC Fire Science program in Bangor, which has established a robust live-in student initiative that bolsters regional departments and enhances recruitment efforts.

**Comprehensive Statewide Staffing Study:** State Fire Marshal Shawn Esler is actively collaborating with community partners and his team on an extensive statewide firefighter staffing study. This vital data will influence future decisions, so we strongly encourage everyone to engage in these surveys to contribute to a well-equipped future.

**Wildland Fire Protection Efforts:** Chief Robby Gross and the Maine Forest Service team discussed the challenges of the current fire season. They provided updates on the online burn permit system and highlighted ongoing community and state agency meetings aimed at ensuring preparedness.

**Legislative Advocacy:** Lawmakers such as Senator Chip Curry and Representative Scott Cyrway continue to robustly support the Maine Fire Service, advocating for commission initiatives and backing programs that advance our mission.

This collective effort demonstrates the strength of collaboration between fire service leaders, state officials, and legislators. Together, these actions are advancing the Maine Fire Service in real and meaningful ways. For more information, visit the Maine Fire Protection Services Commission page on the State Fire Marshal's website. Everyone is encouraged to attend meetings, stay informed, and support these efforts.



## CLOSING STATEMENT

In closing, we hope you all enjoyed summer and were able to spend some time with friends and family. As we head into fall, if you plan on getting out into the woods for hunting or recreation, we wish you good luck and remind you to be safe.

A quick training note: **MFSI water-based fire training props, car fire and gas fire (class B) prop, will be winterized by November 1 and available again on April 1, weather permitting.** Be sure to wrap up those outside training evolutions soon, old man winter will be here before we know it, pushing us back indoors until spring.

Have a Happy Halloween and Thanksgiving, and of course to all the Veterans, thank you for your service to our great country. Stay sharp, stay safe, and may each of you return home when the alarm sounds.

*Dirigo "We Lead"*  
The MFSI Team



# STORIES FROM THE FIELD

**Sipayik Fire Department** · Follow  
September 21 at 3:38 PM · 🌐

Administration would like to sincerely thank each of you both the men and women of our department for your outstanding dedication and commitment to our community. Completing 8 hours in the classroom and 8 hours in the field shows not only discipline, but also your determination to grow as firefighters and to strengthen the safety of Sipayik.

We would also like to extend special thanks to Tommy Critchley and the Port for allowing us the use of the pad to complete EVDT training.

We would also like to recognize and extend special thanks to MFSI and Instructor Mike Surdick for their guidance and support throughout this training.

Your hard work, sacrifice, and dedication do not go unnoticed. Thank you for all that you do!

**Aroostook County Fire Chief's Association**  
September 14 at 2:22 PM · 🌐



**Darren Woods** is with **Geoff Low** and **Ben Harris**.  
September 14 at 8:22 AM · 🌐

Another great weekend of teaching with some great guys Chief Geoff Low and Deputy Chief Ben Harris.

[Maine Fire Service Institute](#)

**Maine ANG Fire Department** · Follow  
September 17 at 3:25 PM · 🌐

C-Shift had [Maine Fire Service Institute](#) instructor Rob Hendrick out there training with them today on the [Symtech Fire SUV](#) trainer. This prop and the work that was put... See more



**Maine Fire Service Institute**  
Published by Joe Kreig · September 7 at 7:29 AM · 🌐

"Exciting news! Our Maine Fire Service Institute (MFSI) programs are rolling out across the state!

We've kicked off the Cumberland County Fire Instructor I & II program and the Aroostook County Fire Officer I program. Shortly, we'll be starting the Penobscot County Fire Instructor I & II program and the York County Fire Officer I program.

Mark your calendars! MFSI will be posting fliers in mid-November for our next round of programs starting in January 2026. Stay tuned for more information and get ready to take your fire service career to the next level! [#MFSI](#) [#FireService](#) [#Training](#) [#CareerDevelopment](#)"



**Falmouth Fire-EMS**  
September 15 at 8:57 PM · 🌐

Training this week is on alarms and sprinkler systems using Maine Fire Service Institute's MAST (mobile alarm and sprinkler trailer). Thanks MFSI!! Tonight the call company and on duty shift trained. The other shifts will train this week at 1300 hours. After a classroom presentation from Captain Pelletier we went through the trailer and then at the end looked for a volunteer(s) to plug an active sprinkler head. FF Carle stepped up!



FROM THE FIELD: Instructor Ray Gale with the support of other local instructors taught a 2-Day Basic Pumps Operator Course (BPOC) to 26 students from departments across Hancock County.

He reports that "all students successfully learned how to convert pounds per square inch (PSI) to the required gallons per minute (GPM) to extinguish fire situations more effectively. The 26 students were fully engaged in both the classroom and in the field. Each one of them was a real pleasure and an honor to teach."

The additional local support is vital to these programs in the field especially since 26 students is an immense undertaking. "Many thanks to the other local instructors and the departments that supplied the 5 needed engines. 2 of which were completely mechanical engines."

