

Maine Fire Service Institute

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In service since 1948



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The Southern Maine Community College and the Maine Fire Service Institute extend our deepest condolences to the families, departments, agencies, and communities affected by the tragic events that occurred in the Town of Searsmont in Waldo County on Friday, May 15th.

We mourn the loss of firefighter Andrew Cross and recognize the injuries and profound loss suffered by several first responders who answered the call in service to others. Across Maine, and especially within our close-knit fire and emergency services community, these events are felt deeply and personally. When one department hurts, all departments hurt.

The men and women of the fire and emergency services place themselves in harm's way without hesitation, driven by duty, courage, and an unwavering commitment to protect their communities. The sacrifices made this past Friday serve as a solemn reminder of the risks carried by those who serve.

To our brothers and sisters in Waldo and Knox Counties, and throughout the surrounding region, please know you are not alone. The entire Maine fire service family stands beside you. Southern Maine Community College and the Maine Fire Service Institute remain committed to supporting our fire and emergency services community in whatever ways may be needed during this difficult time.

From all of us at SMCC and MFSI, we offer our prayers, our respect, and our unwavering support to all those affected by this tragedy.

In service and solidarity,

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