Maine Fire Service Institute (MFSI)

The Bugle's Echo

Dec - Jan 2026-2027

DEDICATION



A Lifetime of Service and Dedication to the Fire Service

Chief George S. Davis began his fire service career at just 15 years old as a junior firefighter with the Cumberland Fire Department. Following his graduation from Greeley High School in 1968, he proudly served his country in Vietnam as a U.S. Army door gunner.

Returning to Maine, George continued his commitment to public service, eventually joining Goodwins Mills Fire & Rescue in Lyman. He rose through the ranks, serving as Deputy Fire Chief from 2002 to 2004. His dedication earned him the Chief Coyle R. Meserve Outstanding Member of the Year Award in 2001, and he was later recognized as an honorary member of the department.

Chief Davis also served as a full-time Fire Marshal for the Sanford Fire Department and as a Maine State Fire Instructor, sharing his knowledge and experience with fellow firefighters. In 2005, he was appointed Fire Chief of Hollis Fire & Rescue, a position he proudly held until his passing.

George was also an active member and past president of the York County Fire Chiefs Association.

Chief Davis dedicated much of his life to protecting Maine communities, mentoring firefighters, and strengthening the fire service. His commitment to leadership, training, and public safety remains an important part of his legacy.

We remember Chief George S. Davis with gratitude and respect for his many years of faithful service to the Maine Fire Service.

This edition of the Bugles Echo

- ✓ Dedication
- ✓ Letter from the Director
- ✓ Future MFSI Advisory Meeting
- ✓ National Fire Academy Programs
- ✓ External Fire Service Training
- ✓ MFSI Winter/Spring Pro Board Programs
- ✓ 14 New MFSI Instructors Join the Ranks
- ✓ How Train the Trainers Build Local Capacity
- ✓ The uniqueness of Fire Training in Maine
- ✓ Welcome Julie Campbell to MFSI
- ✓ Safe & Happy Holiday Season

LETTER FROM MFSI DIRECTOR

As we close out the 2026 training year, the Maine Fire Service Institute remains steadfast in its mission to bring training and certification opportunities within reach of firefighters across Maine. That commitment will carry into 2027. Our MFSI staff and State Fire Instructors are already preparing to meet a heavy training schedule and bring some new opportunities to the Maine fire service.

At last count, **34 Firefighter I & II programs were being planned across Maine for 2027.** To meet the anticipated demand for certification testing, MFSI has adjusted its Firefighter Skills and Testing Plan to include **10 firefighter skills exams at locations across the state.** We're placing those exams with travel distance in mind so more candidates can complete their certification requirements closer to home.

Coordinating that many exams will take a considerable effort from our staff, evaluators, instructors, and host departments. We ask for your patience as we work through dates, locations, and staffing. Those who know us know we can be a little stubborn when there's a job to finish. We'll bring that determination to the work ahead and see our training and certification goals through.
We'll continue working with the Regional Alliance for Firefighter Training (RAFT) to bring Pro Board programs to Maine that MFSI cannot currently offer on its own. We'll also work to bring more train-the-trainer opportunities to departments. When local instructors can take a program back to their own crews and neighboring departments, more firefighters get the chance to train close to home. I'm optimistic about what we can accomplish together in 2027. Thank you for working with us and for telling us what your firefighters need. I look forward to seeing many of you in classrooms and on training grounds across Maine in the year ahead.

Respectfully,
Jim Graves

SMCC-MFSI ADVISORY MEETING

The next meeting of our SMCC-MFSI Advisory Committee will be held on **December 17, 2026, at 10AM at MFSI headquarters 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 Advisory Committee's mission is to ensure that Maine's fire training remains effective, relevant, and aligned with both professional expectations and public safety demands. We encourage participation from anyone with a vested interest in the advancement of fire service training across our great state. All meetings are open to the public. To ensure sufficient seating is available, please RSVP.

NATIONAL FIRE ACADEMY (NFA)

All nine programs listed below have been accepted by the National Fire Academy. All are two-day programs.

April 3–4, 2027 Maine Fire Service Institute Brunswick, Maine. In-State Weekend hosted by MFSI with a cost of $30.00 for lunch both days. We hope to see you here in the spring of 2027

Fire Investigation: First Responders F0770 - Maine Fire Service Institute

Incident Command System for Structural Collapse Incidents F0322 - Maine Fire Service Institute

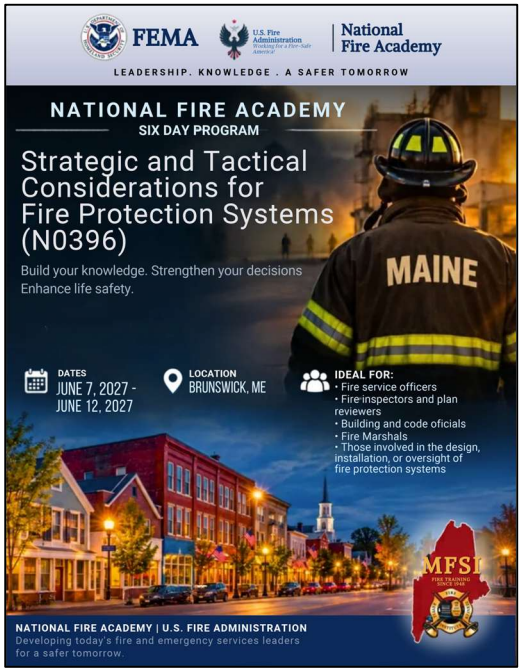
NFA Politics and the White Helmet F0121 - Maine Fire Service Institute

April 24–25, 2027 Maine State Weekend at the National Fire Academy – Emmitsburg, Maryland. Flier will be out in January. Below are programs being offered.

1. W0520 – Executive Skills Series: Exercising Leadership Within Communities
2. W0146 – Supervising Emergency Medical Services
3. W0376 – Incident Command System and Resource Management for the Fire Service
4. W0457 – Decision-Making for Initial Company Operations

June 7 –12 2027 National Fire Academy 6 Day Program at the Maine Fire Service Institute - Brunswick, Maine. MFSI is proud to

offer a six Day NFA program here in Brunswick. The cost is $150.00 for lunch and break snacks provided all week. We hope you will consider attending this program as it will provide you will the proper knowledge to deal with fires in properties protected by special fire protection systems.



SAVE THE DATE: September 25–26, 2027 Maine Fire Service Institute – Brunswick, Maine

1. F0455 – Strategy and Tactics for Initial Company Operations

2. F0646 – Leadership in Supervision: Creating Environments for Professional Growth

NEW NATIONAL FIRE ACADEMY PROGRAM

On December 12 & 13, 2026, MFSI is hosting the National Fire Academy's **Applications of Operational Safety (O2500)** course in Houlton. In early November in Stockholm, Maine, 23 participants completed the training and earned NFA certificates. We're proud of everyone who stepped up to help keep their crews safe on the fireground and at other emergencies.



EXTERNAL TRAININGS

Regional Alliance for Firefighter Training (RAFT) Candidates will have the opportunity to seek Pro Board certification at the end of the program.

- ❑ **Fire Officer III** – Augusta (Dec 7–10, 2026)
- ❑ **Fire Officer IV** – Brunswick (Jan 25–27, 2027)
- ❑ **HSO/ISO** Program – Augusta (Feb 20–24, 2027)
- ❑ **Fire Instructor III - March - Course is full**

York County Regional Training Center (schedule) Many new and exciting opportunities await at the York County Training Center. Check them out here.

MFSI PROGRAMS

Due to high demand, Fire Instructor I/II and Fire Officer Pro Board programs have been placed on an

annual schedule. The following are currently in progress:

→ **Fire Instructor I/II** – Knox County (Rockland)
→ **Fire Instructor I/II** – Kennebec County (Augusta)
→ **Fire Officer I** – Franklin County (Farmington)
→ **Fire Officer I** – Oxford County (Oxford)

MFSI is currently working on the application of extension of accreditation on Fire Instructor I & II. With the recent changes in the NFPA 1020 Standard along with NFPA 1400, we will also be reviewing and upgrading our Live Fire Instructor/Instructor In-Charge program to make sure we are on the cutting edge of these important professional credentials. The plan is to pursue Pro Board accreditation with the Live Fire Training program as soon as we have had time to review, upgrade, and exercise the program.

WINTER/SPRING PROGRAMS BEING PLANNED

→ **Fire Instructor I & II** - Cumberland County Windham Fire Rescue
→ **Fire Instructor I & II** - Washington County (Calais)
→ **Fire Officer I** - Washington County (Calais) BONUS PROGRAM PLANNED
Fire Officer I - Kennebec County (Augusta)
→ **Fire Officer I** -Cumberland County (Raymond)

All applications and information can be found by clicking on the link below:
Upcoming Events - Maine Fire Service Institute

MFSI WELCOMES 14 NEW STATE FIRE INSTRUCTOR CANDIDATES



The Maine Fire Service Institute is pleased to announce that **14 Maine fire service professionals have accepted offers to join the ranks of our State Fire Instructors (SFI).**

These individuals bring a wide range of experience, knowledge, and dedication to Maine's fire service. They will attend the **MFSI State Fire Instructor Orientation on October 16-17, 2026, at MFSI in Brunswick**, where they will learn more about our instructional expectations, policies, programs, safety culture, and commitment to providing consistent, high-quality training throughout the State of Maine.

In the next edition of **The Bugle**, we look forward to introducing each of these new instructors and sharing a little about their backgrounds and the experience they bring to our team.

Following orientation and completion of the onboarding process, our goal is to get these new instructors into the field, working alongside our experienced SFI cadre and **making a positive impact on fire service training at every level across Maine.**

We are excited to welcome them to MFSI and appreciate their willingness to step forward, share their knowledge, and serve Maine's firefighters and communities.

Welcome to the MFSI team. We look forward to working with you!

HOW TRAIN THE TRAINERS BUILDS LOCAL FIRE TRAINING CAPACITY IN MAINE

For years, we've talked about growing local capacity in Maine's fire service. Train-the-trainer programs put that idea to work. We teach local instructors how to set up, inspect, and operate a specific prop or piece of equipment and how to coach firefighters through the drill. Those instructors can take what they learn back to their departments and bring neighboring crews together to train closer to home.

A distinctive part of Maine's fire training system is the statewide inventory of props, trailers, and equipment managed by the Maine Fire Service Institute (MFSI). Fire chiefs and their designees can request those resources for local and regional drills, subject to the qualifications for each prop. MFSI handles routine maintenance and repairs, so departments can use equipment they might otherwise have to buy and maintain on their own.

Take an $8,000 forcible-entry door as an example. If one department uses it to train 100 firefighters in a year, the purchase price works out to **$80 per firefighter**. If a shared MFSI door of the same price reaches 600 firefighters in that same year, the figure drops to **about $13.33 per firefighter**. That's six times the reach and about an 83 percent reduction in purchase cost per firefighter. The example counts the purchase price alone.

Training on the specific equipment also matters for safety and accountability. When instructors follow the manufacturer's instructions and document who was trained and what they demonstrated, the department has a record of the steps it took if a drill is reviewed after an incident. The host department remains responsible for safe use and supervision.

MFSI plans to offer more train-the-trainer sessions so more departments can put these resources to work and give their firefighters more opportunities to practice together.

To request equipment for an upcoming drill, visit MFSI's equipment request page.



More than 20 local fire service instructors can now bring hands-on SCBA air management drills back to their departments and neighboring crews. At a recent Train the Trainer session in Bar Harbor, Senior State Fire Instructor Chris Poremby taught participants how to set up, operate, and take down MFSI's Red SCBA Air Management/Confidence Maze.

That's what growing local training capacity looks like. One session in Hancock County will lead to more opportunities for firefighters to practice close to home. Thank you to the Bar Harbor Fire Department and Deputy Chief Mahaney for helping make it happen.



Train the Trainer for the SCBA (Red Maze) in Bar Harbor



THE UNIQUENESS OF FIRE SERVICE TRAINING IN MAINE.

MFSI Fire Instructors Rob Hendrick and Jeff Aucoin recently joined the Vinalhaven Fire Department on the island for a Basic Pump Operator Course. Pump training takes on added importance for Maine's offshore island departments, where local crews may have to manage an incident for hours before help arrives from the mainland. Training on the island gives firefighters a chance to practice together in the community they serve and utilize the apparatus and equipment they will operate at an incident.

MFSI is also planning to support Vinalhaven and North Haven with a Basic Fire School this spring, ahead of the busy summer season. Special thanks to Rob, Jeff, the Vinalhaven Fire Department, and everyone who helped make the pump training run smoothly.

Pictured : Vinalhaven's Fire Chief Marc Candage operates a hose line in support of the Basic Pumps Program. Note the lobster traps and boats in the foreground. How Maine is this; island life is as unique as it gets.

Drafting from an old granite Quarry on Vinalhaven Island a great water supply of fresh water when you are surrounded by salt water.



SFI Robert Hendrick works with Vinalhaven Firefighters on Basic Pump Skills

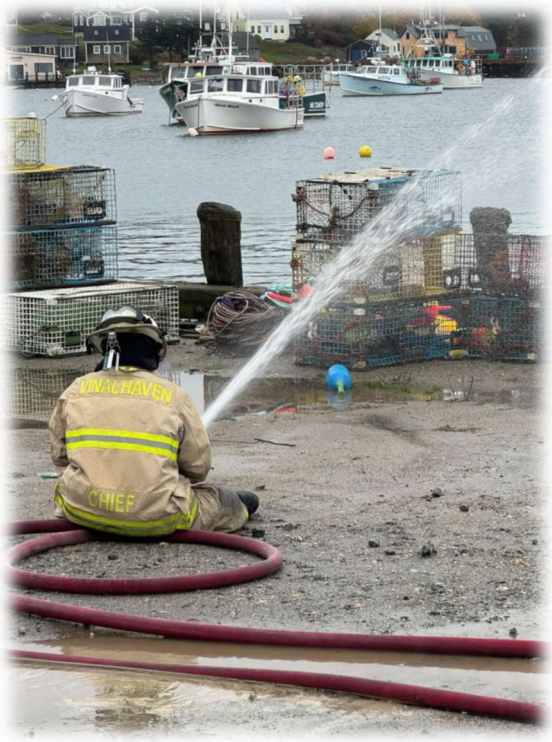


Photo Credit to the Vinalhaven Fire Department



Drafting from an old granite quarry

MFSI WELCOMES NEW EMPLOYEE

On Monday November 16, 2026 Juli Campbell began her journey as the Certification Software and Marketing Manager here at MFSI.



"Starting a new chapter at MFSI as the Marketing and Certification Software Manager is an exciting next step for me. Over the past 18 years at Maine Behavioral Healthcare—culminating in my role as Intentional Peer Support Program Coordinator—I've focused on supporting people and programs, while my B.F.A. from Manhattanville College in New York has always anchored my creative side. I'm looking forward to bringing both perspectives to MFSI as I report to State Fire Administrator Jim Graves and begin collaborating with the team." ~Juli Campbell

Very Safe & Happy Holiday Season From all of us at MFSI



To the Maine Fire Service,

From the islands and working harbors to the western mountains and the County, you've put in a good year's work. You've made time to train, shared what you know with the next generation, and answered the call when your neighbors needed you.

All of us at the Maine Fire Service Institute are grateful to the firefighters, instructors, chiefs, and training partners who helped bring training closer to home this year. To the families who make room for drill nights, weekends away, and calls that come in the middle of supper, thank you. Your support means a great deal to the people who serve and to the communities they protect.

To those spending part of Christmas on duty or carrying a pager, we hope it's a quiet shift and that you get some good time at home with the people you love.

From all of us at MFSI, Merry Christmas, happy holidays, and best wishes for a safe and healthy New Year.

Director Jim Graves and the MFSI Staff







There is nothing like Maine at Christmas