



Robert L. Quinn  
Commissioner

# State of New Hampshire

DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY

*Division of Fire Safety*

*Office of the State Fire Marshal*

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Paul J. Parisi  
State Fire Marshal

## **NH State Fire Marshal's Office - March 2021 Report**

*(For the period of February 1 through February 28, 2021)*

### **ADMINISTRATION:**

#### **Personnel:**

We are deeply saddened to report the death of Cyndel Donoghue, a member of the Fire Marshal's Office family. Cyndel worked as a part-time program coordinator for the state building permit system under Deputy Toomey. She was a young, energetic, rising star in the FMO, and will be profoundly missed. Cyndel was also a Captain with the Webster Fire Department. Her step-dad is Webster Fire Chief Emmett Bean.

Webster FD will be hosting a celebration of life for Cyndel on Saturday, March 20. Her obituary can be found here: [Cyndel Donoghue Obituary \(2021\) - Webster, NH - Concord Monitor \(legacy.com\)](#)

#### **2021 Legislation:**

The 2021 legislative session is in full swing. We are following a number of bills, including:

- HB 72 – Ratifying the amendments to the 2015 fire code by the BFC
- SB 15 - Ratifying the amendments to the 2015 fire code by the BFC
- HB 208 – Repealing the lightning rod program
- SB 106 – Establishing a committee to study the adoption of the 2018 fire code
- SB 106 – Repealing the voluntary fire equipment certification program
- HB 377 – Relative to the FMO issuing variances to recovery residences
- SB 133 – Relative to the FMO issuing POA permits
- HB 341 – Relative to 4-plex housing being a single family dwelling (OPPOSED)

### **BUREAU OF INVESTIGATIONS:** (Deputy Keith Rodenhiser)

- New/Active cases: 12 calls for service in the month of February; our 6 investigators and 2 district chiefs are actively working 17 criminal cases.

- \* On February 1, 2021, investigators responded to the Jefferson Town Offices at 698 Presidential Highway to assist the Jefferson FD with a fire investigation. A fire occurred in the structure which caused significant damage to the building and some heat damage to the town's fire department. The cause remains under investigation but at this time does not appear to be criminal in nature.
- \* On February 8, 2021, the Raymond Fire Department responded to 44 Route 27 for an apartment building fire. Raymond FD investigated the fire and later asked for the assistance of the BOI to conduct follow up interviews for them.
- \* On February 11, 2021, investigators and a K9 team responded to 105 Witchtrot Rd. in Wakefield to assist the Wakefield FD and PD with a fire investigation at an apartment building. WPD arrested one individual at the scene on charges related to the fire. The fire remains under investigation at this time.
- \* On February 24, 2021, investigators and a K9 team responded to 252 Deer Meadow Rd. in Webster to assist the Webster FD and PD with a fire investigation at a single family residence. A mother and her two young children had to be rescued from the building by firefighters and were transported to Boston area hospitals for medical treatment. The fire remains under investigation.
- \* On February 28, 2021, investigators and a K9 team responded to 30 Burgess St. in Nashua to assist Nashua FD and PD with a fire investigation where a male individual was found deceased inside the residence where the fire had been discovered. It was determined through the autopsy that the male individual did not die as a result of the fire. The fire is still under investigation at this time.
- Fatal Fires: On December 13, 2021, the Milford Fire Department responded to 21 George St. for a woman that caught her nightgown on fire from being too close to a propane heater in her garage. The female was transported to the hospital, then transferred to a Boston hospital for further treatment of burns to her torso. On 2/12/21, the FMO was advised that the patient had passed away the day prior from her injuries. While the autopsy report is still pending, it is likely that burn injuries contributed to this death. The fire appears to be accidental in nature.

On February 5, 2021, the Salem Fire Department responded to 4 Lou Al Ln. in Salem for a structure fire. One resident was transported to the hospital and then transferred to a Boston hospital for further treatment of burns and possible airway injuries. On 2/15/21, the FMO was advised that the patient had passed away from her injuries over the weekend. While the autopsy report is still pending, it is likely that burn injuries contributed to this death. The fire remains under investigation by the Salem FD.

- Ignitable Liquid Detection Canine Teams: Our two IGL Canine Teams were deployed three times in the month of February. The NHFMO and the Manchester FD conducted a joint-training day with the three dogs in the state where we worked on building sniffs using a scene in Henniker. A dog demonstration was conducted for a Cub Scout Pack in Newmarket.

- Public Outreach: Investigators are assisting with youth firesetter assessments in several communities throughout the state.
- Training/Committees: BOI members attended a virtual training on Giving Stronger Deposition and Trial Testimony which was presented by the International Association of Arson Investigators (IAAI). Members of the BOI attended the Electric & Hybrid Vehicle Design Basics and other CFI Trainer classes. BOI members also completed a training on Crisis Response: De-Escalation Skills for Law Enforcement.
- ESF-4: Five members of the BOI continue to fill shifts in the state's Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) staffing the ESF-4 (Firefighting) desk.
- An FMO Fire Investigator position was posted on 1/19/21. We have several candidates that have applied and the physical agility test, and the written test, are scheduled for 4/5/21.

**BUREAU OF BUILDING SAFETY & CONSTRUCTION:** (Deputy Sean Toomey)

State Building Permit System: We processed 18 building permit applications in the month of January.

Technical Assistance, Educational & Healthcare Reviews: Our staff remains available for technical code assistance. We initiated 1 educational plan review and 10 healthcare plan reviews in the month of January.

Variance Requests: We processed 4 variance requests in the month of January.

State Fire Code Update: The Board of Fire Control held a public hearing on January 27<sup>th</sup> to address amendments to the 2018 editions of NFPA 1 and 101. The Board voted to approve nine exhibits/amendments in preparation of the legislative hearings on the adoption on the 2018 state fire code.

**BUREAU OF PLANNING AND SUPPORT SERVICES:** (Deputy Danielle Cole)

**ESF-4:**

Deputy Danielle Cole has been continuing to oversee SEOC ESF-4 operations. This emergency support function is dedicated to supporting first responders in providing the most up to date unprotected exposure information, member testing location information, transportation of specimens, alternative lodging requests and inquiries of specimens at the Public Health Lab.

Since the beginning of the state of emergency, the ESF-4 (Firefighting) desk has:

- Answered 1547 calls for assistance
- Assisted 126 first responders with alternative lodging accommodations

- Tracked 2101 first responders through exposure/quarantine/testing status
- Documented 2,463 activities performed in WebEOC. These activities include, fulfilling requests for PPE from first responders, answering questions related to exposures, quarantine, housing, code related questions and more
- Continue to produce and distribute numerous first responder informational documents statewide with the most up to date information

**The ESF-4 desk phone number is 223-3718 and is answered 24/7 during the State of Emergency. If you have members that need to be tested and you want first responder priority through the Public Health Lab, please be sure to use the PHL Requisition form and transport the specimen via your agency to the lab.**

### **Hazardous Materials:**

Hazardous Materials coordination and coverage remains a priority despite the state of emergency. Personnel are ready to deploy if needed and may be contacted through the on-call FMO supervisor for consultation purposes.

If you would like to virtually attend a one-hour training on the newly released suspicious unknown package protocol, please reach out to our Hazardous Materials Coordinator Jim Stone at [James.H.Stone@dos.nh.gov](mailto:James.H.Stone@dos.nh.gov). If you are from a smaller department please try to collaborate with a neighboring community for this training.

The FMO is excited to announce the launch a portal web page for facilities to submit their EPCRA Tier II reports. This portal will streamline the process for facilities to submit their reports. This data will be entered in the PEAC-WMD software that is utilized by the regional Hazardous Materials Teams providing them with up-to-date chemical information for the reporting facilities.

This data can also be made available at no cost to local fire departments through the web based PEAC-Web software. Contact Hazardous Materials Coordinator Jim Stone at [james.h.stone@dos.nh.gov](mailto:james.h.stone@dos.nh.gov) for more information on the use of PEAC-WEB.

The 2020 Emergency Response Guidebooks are available, please contact us for the coordination of delivery.

### **Fireworks:**

We continue to license fireworks operators, as well as conduct required inspections to all retail stores and as well as explosives product storage. We are available by phone, drop box, email and standard mail, at this time the building is not allowing public entry.

**NFIRS:**

Our office recently released a notice about the availability of new online fire data tools. It includes critical information about account registration, vendor considerations, and troubleshooting. It pertains to the existing online NFIRS system (**not** the new initiative for RespondNH) and is attached to this monthly report.

FEMA has released several eNIFRS training videos on the following topics:

- How to create an incident
- How to Register
- How to search for an incident
- How to import incidents

Check them out at <https://www.usfa.fema.gov/data/nfirs/support/training.html>

For those of you that have newly-assigned personnel entering your NFIRS data, the USFA also offers a self-study course on the modules, data conversion, and coding scenarios.

[National Fire Incident Reporting System \(NFIRS\) self-study course \(fema.gov\)](#)

**Community Risk Reduction:**

The state of New Hampshire has six departments participating in the NFPA's Community Risk Assessment (CRA) pilot program, aligned with the NFPA 1300 Standard on Community Risk Assessment and Community Risk Reduction Plan Development. They include Bedford, Concord, Hampton, Manchester, Newington, Peterborough.

The International Fire Safety Training Institute (IFSTA) recently introduced a free, short online introductory course Community Risk Reduction. If the concept of CRR is familiar but you aren't entirely sure how it applies to your department day-to-day, we encourage you to spend 10 minutes on the first module of *Essentials of Community Risk Reduction* for a quick introduction.

<https://strategicfire.org/crressentials>

Vision 20/20 has released a new podcast on CRR Radio. It covers the role of preventive cardiac health as a CRR issue and can be listened to [here](#).

**Public Education:**

This weekend is Daylight Savings Time (March 14<sup>th</sup>) and we encourage you to remind residents that it's also time to check their smoke alarms. We will be doing the same on our social media. Follow us on Facebook and Twitter @NHFM0.

The NFPA has released their updated, 2020 Educational Messaging Desk Reference. There are **new chapters** on youth firesetters and pet fire safety. There are also several new sections

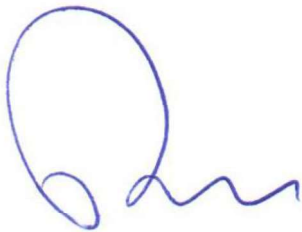
with hyperlinks from the Table of Contents.

New sections include:

- Carbon Monoxide – boating and marinas
- Home Fire Escape - people who are deaf or have hearing loss, use a mobility device and are blind or have low vision
- Fire Safety Away from Home - peer-to-peer hospitality, motor home, camper and recreation vehicle safety, safety in places of public assembly, car fire safety
- Cooking - microwave ovens, gas grills
- Electrical- pools, hot tubs, and spas, equipment safety, marine and boating safety
- Candle - how to burn a candle, candles for religious/ceremonial use in homes
- Outdoor burning – campfire safety, fire pit safety, recreational fire use
- Flammable and Combustible Liquid and Gases – propane gas safety, propane appliance maintenance, gel fuel safety
- Battery Safety – 9-volt batteries, battery disposal

Thank you for taking the time to review this report. If you have any questions about our office, please don't hesitate to reach out to me at (603) 931-9538. Be careful out there.

Yours in fire and life safety,



Paul J. Parisi  
State Fire Marshal