



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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Sean P. Toomey  
State Fire Marshal

## **NH State Fire Marshal's Office - March 2022 Report**

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

### **ADMINISTRATION:**

#### **Personnel:**

We currently have 6 full-time vacancies. The following openings are those that we are actively recruiting for at this time:

- Deputy Fire Marshal II (Bureau of Outreach & Education) – background in process
- 2 Fire Investigators-testing & interviews scheduled for late March
- Hazmat Coordinator
- Part-time Education & Outreach Specialist
- Part time State Building Inspector
- Part time Modular Building Program Administrator
- Part-time Building Code Review Board Administrative Secretary

#### **Legislation:**

- |         |  |
|---------|--|
| HB 1068 | Relative to Building Codes for Tiny Houses<br>Inexpedient to Legislate   |
| HB 1191 | Relative to Electrical Work, Plumbing, and Fuel Gas Fitting in One or Two Family Housing<br>Refer for Interim Study    |
| HB 1555 | Repealing the Permit Required for Fire at Campgrounds<br>Refer for Interim Study                                       |
| HB 1595 | Relative to Establishing a Statewide Food Truck License<br>Refer for Interim Study                                     |
| HB 1681 | Relative to the State Building Code<br>On House Consent Calendar OTP-A (2018 fire code added)                          |
| SB 223  | Relative to Requirements for Recovery Houses<br>Passed/Adopted in Senate   |
| SB 227  | Relative to Death Benefits For First Responders Who Die From Suicide<br>Laid on Table, last hearing 2/3                |
| SB 249  | Prohibiting Planning and Zoning Ordinances That Prohibit Short-term Rentals<br>Passed/Adopted with amendment in Senate |
| SB 339  | Relative to Meetings of Boards and Commissions in the Department Of Safety<br>Passed/Adopted with amendment in Senate  |
| SB 398  | Relative to Building Code and Fire Code Enforcement<br>Passed/Adopted with amendment in Senate                         |
| SB 443  | Relative to Municipal Authority Regarding the State Building Code<br>Passed/Adopted with amendment in Senate           |

## **BUREAU OF INVESTIGATIONS:**

### ***New/Active cases (synopsis of some of our cases are listed below):***

- Investigators continue to follow up on leads into an arson that occurred in a single-family residential home located at 77 North St. in Jaffrey.
- Investigators responded to an apartment building at 17 Bay St. in Laconia for a fire that remains under investigation.
- Investigators responded to 1545 Main St. in Berlin for a fire which was later determined to be incendiary. A joint investigation with the Berlin Police Department ensued, leading to the arrest of Messiah McMaster on March 4, 2022, charging him with felony level arson.
- Investigators responded to a fire at 72 Lafayette St. in Rochester. The property was an animal barn located on the Rochester Fairgrounds. Rochester Police Department had spoken with transients living in the area a few weeks prior to the fire. The cause of the fire is under investigation.
- An investigator responded to 47 Oriole Ave. in Keene to assist the Keene Fire Department with a fire investigation in a mobile home. The fire was determined to be accidental in nature. Two people sustained minor injuries during this fire.

### ***Fatal Fire:***

- On February 7, 2022, a fatal mobile home fire occurred at 20 Cheever St. in Stratford. An 84 year-old male was located deceased inside the home. The cause of the fire is currently under investigation.

### ***Ignitable Liquid Detection Canine Teams:***

Our two IGL Canine Teams were deployed three times in the month of February.

### ***Public Outreach:***

Investigators delivered a job presentation and a K9 demonstration at the Kearsarge Middle School.

On February 11, 2022, a Youth Firesetter Taskforce presentation was given to representatives from NAMI via Zoom.

An informational session about the BOI was presented to the Bow Fire Department.

### ***Arrests:***

Mark Rosenberg was indicted on an arson that occurred in Lincoln on December 9, 2021.

### ***Training/Committees:***

Some of our investigators attended the following trainings: FBI- NIBRS, NW3C - OSINT Module 1: Advanced Search Engine Techniques and Module 2: Deep Web Searching, and Crisis Intervention Team Training.

One of our fire investigators is currently enrolled in a Firefighter I certification class.

## **BUREAU OF BUILDING SAFETY & CONSTRUCTION:**

### ***State Building Permit System:***

We processed 19 building permit applications in the month of February.

### ***Technical Assistance, Educational & Healthcare Reviews:***

We initiated 3 educational and 3 healthcare plan reviews, completed 82 inspections and 96 technical consults in the month of February.

### ***Variance Requests:***

We processed 5 variance requests in the month of February.

*Saving lives and property through education, engineering and enforcement*

## **BUREAU OF OUTREACH & EDUCATION:**

**We have renamed the Bureau of Planning and Support Services to the Bureau of Outreach & Education.**

### **Hazardous Materials:**

Hazardous Materials response, coordination and consultation is available through the on-call FMO supervisor.

We continue to work on Tier II reporting and associated follow-ups when deficiencies are identified.

### **Swiftwater Rescue Working Group:**

Several grant awards were issued to the established teams over the past few weeks. Further discussions and work is ongoing to evaluate the swiftwater problem and funding sources. A working group meeting is scheduled for March 9, 2022.

### **Regional Outreach/Chief's Roundtables:**

We continue to partner with Director Cutting and staff and the NHAFC to conduct regional outreach/Chief's Roundtables. Please reach out to schedule.

### **Incident Reporting:**

As we work to close-out the 2021 calendar year call data we request that Fire Departments submit their NFIRS data by as soon as possible. If you have questions you can notify the NHFIRS data team using the following email: [NHFIRS@dos.nh.gov](mailto:NHFIRS@dos.nh.gov)

We continue to work with the team at the Fire Academy as departments implement the NHESR program available free of charge for incident reporting.

### **Training:**

We will be delivering an Assembly & Tent Inspection class at the Sunapee FD on March 16<sup>th</sup> at 18:00 hrs and an investigation case study in Franconia on March 24<sup>th</sup> at 18:30 hrs.

Additional programs are in the works. Please reach out if you are interested in hosting a program.