



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 - May 2022 Report**

*(For the period of April 1 through April 30, 2021)*

### **ADMINISTRATION:**

#### **Personnel:**

We currently have 6 full-time vacancies and 4 part-time vacancies. The following openings are those that we are actively recruiting for at this time:

- 2 Fire Investigators - background in process
- Hazmat Coordinator
- Part-time Education & Outreach Specialist
- Part time State Building Inspector
- Part-time Building Code Review Board Administrative Secretary
- Part-time State Building Permit Coordinator

We are pleased to announce the promotion of Anthony Booth to the position of Deputy Fire Marshal I/District Chief, assigned to the Bureau of Investigations. District Chief Booth will be assigned as the investigations field supervisor for the northern part of the state.

We are pleased to announce the promotion of Roxie Beall to the position of Administrative Assistant I.

#### **Legislation:**

- |         |  |
|---------|--|
| HB 1681 | Relative to the State Building & Fire Code<br>Passed/Adopted in House & Senate<br>Pending Governor's signature   |
| SB 223  | Relative to Requirements for Recovery Houses<br>Passed/Adopted in House & Senate<br>Pending Governor's signature   |
| SB 227  | Relative to Death Benefits For First Responders Who Die From Suicide<br>Passed with amendment in the Senate, Passed with amendment in the House<br>Senate moved nonconcur with the House Amendment, 5/12             |
| SB 249  | Prohibiting Planning and Zoning Ordinances That Prohibit Short-term Rentals<br>Passed/Adopted with amendment in Senate<br>Referred to Interim Study in House   |
| SB 398  | Relative to Building Code and Fire Code Enforcement<br>Passed/Adopted in House & Senate<br>Pending Governor's signature  |
| SB 443  | Relative to Municipal Authority Regarding the State Building Code<br>Passed/Adopted in House & Senate<br>Pending Governor's signature<br>Note: No funding provided for requested personnel to complete required work |

## **BUREAU OF INVESTIGATIONS:**

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

- On April 5, 2022, investigators responded to 70 Winslow Rd, Sutton to assist with an origin and cause of a fire. The cause of the fire was determined to be electrical and the cause classification was accidental.
- On April 11, 2022, investigators responded to 3097 East Conway Road in Conway for a fire that leveled a meat packaging plant. The cause of the fire is undetermined.
- On April 13, 2022, investigators responded to 8 Depot Street in Pittsfield, to assist the Pittsfield Fire Department with an apartment building fire. One patient had serious injuries and was intubated. The cause of the fire is possibly associated with the use or making of methamphetamine.
- On April 30, 2022, a fire occurred at the Red Jacket Inn in North Conway, causing an entire wing of the building to be lost. The fire is currently under investigation.

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

Our two IGL Canine Teams were deployed one time in the month of April and attended four demonstrations.

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

On April 21, 2022, the case review: Catching a Serial Arsonist was presented in Franconia for approximately 20 to 25 attendees.

Assistance was given to the Wilton Police and Fire Departments regarding a male juvenile who set his father's personal items on fire. The youth had already participated in a YFS assessment and was awaiting an available mental health counselor.

### ***Arrests:***

On April 14, 2022, Kenneth Foster Jr. was indicted on a class A felony charge of arson by a Strafford County Grand Jury for a fire that occurred in Farmington in June 2021.

The NH Attorney General's Office initiated a consumer fraud investigation against Jeffrey Strouth, who was charged with unlicensed gas fitting several years ago.

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

An investigator completed the two hour DCARI: The Fire Origin Matrix course, featuring ATF SA CFI Andy Cox.

Two investigators are currently enrolled in the Leadership Foundations course through BET.

Fire fighter 1 training continues for one investigator. He is scheduled to graduate the course in June.

The peer support team met and discussed ideas for an upcoming all department training (likely in the fall).

One of our investigators, along with ATF SA Andy Cox, presented Collection and Evaluation of Witness Data in Fire Investigation to the Minnesota Chapter of the IAAI in St. Cloud, MN.

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

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

We processed 34 building permit applications in the month of April.

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

We initiated 5 educational and 13 healthcare plan reviews, completed 71 inspections and 114 technical consults in the month of April.

### **Variance Requests:**

We processed 7 variance requests in the month of April.

## **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. We also continue to provide training on the PEAC Haz Mat Response software to the regional teams and local fire departments.

Our Hazardous Materials Coordinator continues to attend the regional Haz Mat Team trainings to offer support and provide updates regarding statewide Haz Mat response. In April, he participated in a Haz Mat Exercise with the Midwestern Haz Mat Team at Dartmouth College, as well as a Haz Mat Training with the Southeast Haz Mat Team at the Manchester-Boston Regional Airport.

Also in April, our Hazardous Materials Coordinator attended the National Association of State Title Three Program Officials Conference in Covington, KY. This conference focuses on the Emergency Preparedness and Community Right to Know Act (EPCRA), including Tier II reporting by facilities and operations of State Emergency Response Commissions and Local Emergency Planning Committees.

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

Several grant awards were recently issued to the established teams. Further discussions and work is ongoing to evaluate the swiftwater problem and funding sources.

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

We continue to partner with Director Cutting and staff and the NHAFC to conduct regional outreach/Chief's Roundtables. On May 5, 2022 we will be in Newington to meet with the Seacoast Area Fire Chiefs. Please reach out to schedule.

### **Incident Reporting:**

As we continue working to close-out the 2021 calendar year call data, we request that Fire Departments submit their NFIRS data 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. Forty-one departments are actively using the program. If you are interested in giving a presentation or would like to request one, please email [NHESR@dos.nh.gov](mailto:NHESR@dos.nh.gov).

The NHESR – Fire User Group, which is a user-driven forum designed for all users of the system to regularly discuss challenges and solutions specific to users of the state’s fire reporting system, is gearing up for its first meeting. A presentation by a subject matter expert will also be frequently included in the meetings. The first NHESR -Fire User Group meeting is scheduled for May 18, 2022 from 0900-1100 hours through Microsoft Teams. Information to join is below.

### Microsoft Teams meeting

**Join on your computer or mobile app**

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

**Or call in (audio only)**

+1 603-931-4944,376884359# United States, Concord

Phone Conference ID: 376 884 359#

[Find a local number](#) | [Reset PIN](#)

[Learn More](#) | [Meeting options](#)

### **Public Education:**

Preparations are underway for our annual 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Poster Contest. Stay tuned for more details!

### **Community Outreach:**

On April 16, 2022 members of the FMO and Sparky participated in the Governor’s Annual Easter Egg Hunt held on the grounds of the State House. This was an exciting opportunity to engage with the community and we handed out over nearly 200 Easter eggs and fire safety goodies to those in attendance.

### **Training:**

We delivered two Inspection Essentials: Part I classes in the month of April. The first was on April 13<sup>th</sup> at the Burton Academy in Bethlehem and the second was on April 20<sup>th</sup> at the Sunapee Fire Department. The Inspection Essentials: Part I class is designed to assist the Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ) with an understanding of where your authority comes from, the essentials of constructing an inspection report and exploring frequently asked questions and common violations encountered in NFPA 1. We also delivered an investigation case study in Franconia on April 21<sup>st</sup> which was very well attended.

We will be delivering two Places of Assembly and Tents classes in the month of May. The first is on May 5<sup>th</sup> at the Jaffrey Fire Department from 1830-2130 hours and the second is at Southwestern NH District Fire Mutual Aid in Keene on May 10<sup>th</sup> from 1800-2030 hours. This Places of Assembly and Tents class is designed to assist the Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ) conduct life safety inspections in places of assembly and tents.

We will also be delivering two Inspection Essentials: Part II classes in the month of May. The first is on May 11<sup>th</sup> at the Burton Academy in Bethlehem from 1800-2030 hours and the second is on May 25<sup>th</sup> at the Sunapee Fire Department from 1800-2100 hours. Inspection Essentials: Part II is a continuation of Part I, as well as exploring frequently asked questions and common violations encountered in NFPA 101. If you would like to register for any of these classes, please email [stacey.l.dubois@dos.nh.gov](mailto:stacey.l.dubois@dos.nh.gov).

Additional programs are in the works. Please reach out if you are interested in hosting a program or would like to suggest a future training topic.