



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 – December 2020 Report**

*(For the period of November 1 through November 30, 2020)*

### **ADMINISTRATION:** (Assistant Director Max Schultz)

The FMO is working hard to maintain our customer satisfaction while operating at a 25% reduction in force due to a decrease in revenue in our state. We have shifted resources into the Building Safety and Construction Bureau where 50% of the vacancies exist. We will do our best to answer municipal inquiries as they come in, but please understand that they may be delayed. We appreciate your patience and understanding. If you have any questions or are running into a problem, please do not hesitate to contact FM Parisi directly at (603) 931-9538.

### **Micro-website:**

We are currently building a COVID-19 specific micro-website for the FMO. The new site will have mobile device compatibility, which our main site lacks. It will have easy to use menus and dropdowns for first responder access to important COVID-19 related information through ESF-4. We are excited to bring this customer friendly informational tool to the fire service. We hope to have it up and running in the coming weeks.

### **Personnel:**

The Governor's office authorized two part-time positions to be filled; an inspector position and a modular building program specialist.

We are pleased to welcome Jessica Plante as a Fire Protection Specialist working in the Bureau of Building Safety & Construction. Jessica brings 15 years of fire service experience to the office with the past 5 years working in fire prevention. Jessica has certifications as a fire inspector and plans examiner.

The modular position is still open and below is the link to the modular position.

### **Part time position posted until 12/31/20**

**PROGRAM SPECIALIST IV - TMPPT5888 (MODULAR BUILDING PROGRAM MANAGER) (JOB ID: 18611) PART TIME**

<https://www.indeed.com/rc/clk?jk=9436f227382e56fb&fccid=933636124ef375c8&vjs=3>

Position #TMPPT5888

Labor Grade 25

\$26.13- \$31.01/hr

**2021 Legislation:** The FMO legislative requests have been forwarded to the Commissioner's office for review. These include legislation that was not adopted from the 2020 session including the FMO as an issuing agency for POA permits, recovery residence language, the elimination of the voluntary fire suppression equipment certification program, and the adoption of the 2018 Uniform Fire Code and Life Safety Code which is being considered by the Board of Fire Control.

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

- **New/Active cases:** 16 calls for service in the month of November; our 5 investigators and 2 district chiefs are actively working 19 criminal cases.
  - On 11/09/20, investigators responded to 41 Ryan Rd. in Henniker to assist the Henniker FD and PD with a fatal mobile home fire. Two people perished in the fire; an adult female and a juvenile under the age of 5. The fire investigation is still ongoing but it appears that the fire may have been started by a candle.
  - On 11/09/20 and 11/11/20, investigators responded to Candia to assist the Candia PD with interpretations to the RSAs pertaining to crimes involving fire. The investigators also assisted with the collection of fire and ignitable liquid evidence for an investigation CPD was conducting.
- **Court Action:** Richard Mallett, Jr. of Woodsville and Philip Poirier of Corinth, VT were indicted on the charges of Negligent Homicide and Reckless Conduct and Adam Vigent of North Haverhill was indicted on the charge of Reckless Conduct. These charges stem from a January 2019 double CO fatality in Lyman. Arraignments will be held on December 14, 2020.
- **Ignitable Liquid Detection Canine Teams:** Our two IGL Canine Teams were deployed three times in the month of November. Teams also provided demonstrations for multiple agencies at the Grantham Fire Department and the West Ossipee Fire Department. An additional demonstration was given to the Con-Val High School Firefighter 1 class.
- **Public Outreach:** Investigators are assisting with youth firesetter assessments in the communities of Hillsborough, Hanover and Farmington.
- **Training/Committees:** BOI members attended a virtual training on 2021 NFPA 921 – Chapter 4 & 5 Basic Methodology and Fire Science which was presented by the International Association of Arson Investigators (IAAI). This was the last class in a monthly training series that started in May and touched upon various aspects of fire investigations to include: NFPA 921 updates, fire patterns, safety, cause determination/classification, physical evidence/K9 handler teams and basic methodology/basic fire science.

Members of the BOI also attended the following trainings: Documenting the Fire Scene & Preparing Your Expert Report, Surviving the Unthinkable, Identifying Damage to Electrical Conductors and multiple CFI Trainers.

One of the district chiefs attended the Child Fatality Review Committee. A member of the BOI has been involved in this committee for many years. It is a legislatively mandated committee. The objectives of the CFRC are:

- Describe trends and patterns of child deaths in New Hampshire, including sudden unexpected infant deaths (SUID) and sudden death in the young (SDY).
- Identify and investigate the prevalence of risks and protective factors among the populations of deceased children.
- Evaluate the service and system responses for children and families and to offer recommendations for improvement of these services.
- Improve the quality and comprehensiveness of child fatality data by enhancing and integrating information obtained from autopsies, death scene investigations, death certificates, police reports, medical records, and other relevant sources.
- Enable state agencies, law enforcement, health care providers, and community-based organizations to more effectively prevent and investigate child fatalities.

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

**State Building Permit System:** We processed 33 building permit applications in the month of November.

**Technical Assistance, Educational & Healthcare Reviews:** Our staff remains available for technical code assistance. We initiated 8 healthcare plan reviews in the month of November.

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

**State Fire Code Update:** The evaluation of the substantial changes between the 2015 and 2018 editions of NFPA 1 and 101 has started. Our office is working with the Board of Fire Control and interested stakeholders to determine the impacts and determine and necessary amendments. Additional information is available on our website. We welcome input via [fmo@dos.nh.gov](mailto:fmo@dos.nh.gov)

**BUREAU OF PLANNING AND SUPPORT SERVICES:** (Deputy Danielle Cole)**ESF-4**

Deputy Danielle Cole has been continuing to oversee SEOC ESF-4 desk 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 1,342 calls for assistance
- Assisted 101 first responders with alternative lodging accommodations
- Tracked 1,557 first responders through exposure/quarantine/testing status
- Documented 1,991 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 partner with a neighboring community for this training.

Our part time Hazardous Materials Coordinator will be available in a response capacity to advise the North Country area chiefs should there be an incident. In the event that an asset response is required in that area the FMO on-duty supervisor will contact an established team to respond. The FMO will cover the cost of the response.

**Public Education:**

Our Public Education Section hosted a holiday themed side-by-side residential sprinkler burn on November 18<sup>th</sup>. The event focused on the increased amount of combustible materials that are associated with the holidays to include Christmas trees, hanging decorations and fabrics. Several media sources came to cover the event and the FMO

had a drone covering the event from above. This public education prop will be available next spring for fire departments to use for educational events.

**Fireworks:**

We are currently in the process of conducting an evaluation of our fireworks program to ensure that the current laws and rules, as well as our internal procedures and practices, are focused on serving the citizens of the State of NH, as well as the fireworks industry.

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.

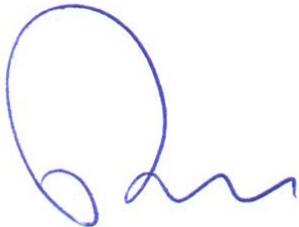
**NFIRS:**

The United States Fire Administration (USFA) underwent a major overhaul of the National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS) and the new eNFIRS data entry system went online at the end of October. Those of you that were using either the Data Entry Tool (DET) or the Data Entry Browser Interface (DEBI) should now be using the eNFIRS data entry system. While the data entry portion of this major upgrade has gone smoothly, the data validation functionality that the NHFMO uses is still not functioning properly. This has caused a delay in processing your monthly files and, unfortunately, means there will be a delay in sending your validation files back to you. Please keep sending in your monthly data as you normally do. The National Fire Data Center (NFDC) expects to have a fix soon and we ask for your continued patience.

NFIRS is mandated by RSA 153:11 and Saf-C 6000. We encourage all fire departments to strive for 100% participation in NFIRS and to submit their data every month by the 15<sup>th</sup> of the following month. If you are experiencing difficulty in meeting this requirement and need technical assistance, please contact the NH State Fire Marshal's Office at [nhfirs@dos.nh.gov](mailto:nhfirs@dos.nh.gov) and we will provide free technical support.

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