



Robert L. Quinn
Commissioner

State of New Hampshire

DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY

**Division of Fire Safety
Office of the State Fire Marshal**

nh.gov/firemarshal



Sean P. Toomey
State Fire Marshal

NH State Fire Marshal's Office – June 2024 Report

(For the period of May 1 through May 31, 2024)

ADMINISTRATION:

Personnel:

We currently have 1 part-time vacancy that we are actively recruiting for at this time:

Part-time Building Code Review Board Administrative Secretary

Deputy Fire Marshal's Mitch Cady and Adam Fanjoy attended Primex's five-day Collaborative Leadership Seminar for Fire, Police, and EMS chiefs.

Members of the Bureau of Investigations attended the New England Fire Investigation Seminar which is held annually at St. Anselm's College.

Legislation:

The following bills are the key bills that we are currently monitoring:

HB 1059 Relative to the state building code

Status: Amended, passed & waiting on Governor's signature

HB 1065 Relative to fire sprinkler requirements in residential buildings

Status: Amended, passed & waiting on Governor's signature

HB 1215 Relative to development approvals and appeals

Status: Committee of Conference

HB 1352 Relative to firefighting personal protective equipment

Status: Amended, passed & waiting on Governor's signature

HB 1386 Relative to prohibiting the disposal of lithium-ion batteries in solid waste landfill facilities, composting facilities, or incinerators

Status: Committee of Conference

HB 1387 Relative to revisions to the state building code

Status: Amended, passed & waiting on Governor's signature

SB 352 Establishing an early detection cancer screening pilot program for active and retired firefighters

Status: Amended, passed & waiting on Governor's signature

- SB 365 Relative to the sale or use of lithium-ion batteries for electric bicycles, scooters, or personal electric mobility devices
Status: Interim Study
- SB 373 Relative to the state building code
Status: Amended, passed & waiting on Governor's signature
- SB 430 Relative to establishing a counsel to study the impacts of electric vehicles, lithium-ion batteries, and e-mobility devices on first responder response, the environment, building and fire codes, and life and safety property protection
Status: Amended, passed & waiting on Governor's signature
- SB 437 Relative to local authority to amend the state building code
Status: Signed by the Governor, effective July 1st
- SB 599 Relative to the state fire code
Status: Waiting on Governor's signature

Board of Fire Control:

The next Board of Fire Control meeting is scheduled for June 26, 2024.

Foam Take-back Program:

The contract for the foam take-back program was approved by the Governor & Executive Council at the end of June 2023. DES has advised that an amended contract is expected to be submitted to the Governor & Executive Council at the end of June.

BUREAU OF INVESTIGATIONS:

In the month of May, we received 12 incident notifications resulting in 6 scene responses. The Bureau of Investigations currently has 13 open arson or suspected arson investigations.

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

- On May 5, an investigator responded to Claremont for a fire in an abandoned building that was intentionally set. The investigation is ongoing with the Claremont Fire and Police Departments and suspects have been developed.
- On May 5, an investigator responded to assist the Derry Fire Department with an investigation of a structure fire where an individual sustained serious bodily injury. DFD is conducting the origin and cause investigation of the fire.
- On May 18, investigators responded to Henniker for a structure fire. The investigation is currently ongoing and does not appear to be criminal.
- On May 21, an investigator responded to New Hampton for a structure fire. The cause is undetermined but does not appear to be criminal.

- On May 23, an investigator responded to Hampstead for a structure fire. The fire is undetermined with no criminal indicators.
- On May 25, investigators responded to Portsmouth to assist Portsmouth PD with a tent fire at a homeless camp. The cause of the fire is undetermined at this time.

Youth Firesetter:

- There were no youth fire setter assessments in May. There were 2 youth fire setter inquiries, and these assessments are scheduled for June.

BUREAU OF BUILDING SAFETY & CONSTRUCTION:

State Building Permit System:

We processed the following permits in the month of May:

- Building: 27
- Electrical: 10
- Plumbing: 2
- Mechanical Fuel Gas: 4
- Mechanical Non-Fuel Gas: 4
- Fire Protection: 2
- Fire Alarm: 1

Technical Assistance, Educational & Healthcare Reviews:

We initiated 25 educational and 12 healthcare plan reviews, completed 299 inspections and 181 technical consults in the month of May.

Variance Requests:

We processed 10 variance requests in the month of May.

Fireworks Safety and Enforcement Program

The Fireworks Safety and Enforcement Program has conducted the following in the month of May:

- Proximate Licenses Issued: 0
- Display Certificate of Competency Issued: 1
- Consumer Fireworks Retail Store Licenses Issued: 7
- Explosive Magazine Inspections: 0
- Proximate Audience Inspections: 3
- Technical Assistance: 3

Modular Building Program

The Modular Building Program has conducted the following in the month of May:

- Inspections: 6
- Audits of Manufacturers: 0
- Audits of Educational Facilities: 0
- Labels Issued to Manufacturers: 142
- Units Shipped to New Hampshire: 54

Tramway and Amusement Ride Safety

The Tramway and Amusement Ride Safety section conducted the following in the month of May:

- Amusement Registrations: 195
- Amusement Inspections: 308
- Amusement Incidents: 0
- Tramway Registrations: 15
- Tramway Inspections: 22
- Tramway Incidents: 0

BUREAU OF OUTREACH & EDUCATION:

Hazardous Materials:

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

Our Hazardous Materials Coordinator is available for PEAC Software training for fire departments. PEAC is used for documentation of Tier II facilities and chemical storage.

In the month of May, our Hazardous Materials Coordinator attended the CBRNE Responder Training, the Haz Mat Collaborative Meeting, the monthly PEAC training, and radiation training with the CST. He also provided PEAC web training to the Pembroke Fire Department.

14 Tier II reports were received from NH facilities in May, and we followed up with 100 facilities that reported in 2022 but not for 2023.

Electric Vehicles and Lithium-Ion Batteries

Pending the final approvals for SB 430 we will be formally establishing a council to study the impacts of electric vehicles, e-mobility devices, and the associated lithium-ion batteries hazards for first responder response, the environment, building and fire codes, life safety, and property protection.

Regional Outreach/Fire Chief Roundtables:

We continue to partner with the Commissioner's Office, other Department of Safety Leadership and the NHAFC to conduct regional outreach/Fire Chief Roundtables. We will be attending the June Souhegan Mutual Aid System meeting.

Incident Reporting:

Your commitment to ensuring we have great data to accurately show the fire problem in NH is greatly appreciated! Please remember to report any EV or lithium-ion battery fires to us.

Please reach out to our NHFIRS team for any incident reporting questions at nhfirs@dos.nh.gov

We continue to monitor the development of the U.S. Fire Administration's (USFA) new fire information and analytics platform, known as the National Emergency Response Information System (NERIS), for the American fire and emergency services.

A NERIS Data Framework and Development Update webinar was held on May 2nd. The webinar shared the latest NERIS developments and explored how USFA and FSRI are moving towards a modernized approach in managing emergency response data and analytics across the nation.

- Learn about the latest progress and next steps for NERIS
- Explore the newly launched beta version of the Core Data Schemas
- Hear first-hand insights from Fire Chiefs testing the prototype version

Access this webinar and other related information here: [National Emergency Response Information System \(NERIS\) \(fema.gov\)](#)

Outreach Events:

Members of the SFMO performed K9 demonstrations and provided fire safety information at Hopkinton High School and Sanbornton Central Elementary School in the month of May. There were four total K9 demonstrations this month, and one Steps to Safety presentation in Strafford.



Please consider us as you plan your next community event! Send your request to us at fmopubliceducation@dos.nh.gov.

Public Education:

Are you familiar with the USFA's Fire and Life Safety Communicators Initiative? This initiative is a collaboration among the fire and emergency medical services to speak with "one voice" on fire and life safety. They believe in working together to present consistent messages. The theme for the month of June is "Travel Safety." Whether you are staying in a hotel or a short-term rental, remember to review the fire safety plan. Know two ways out of every room and the building. Find the smoke alarms, sprinklers and carbon monoxide alarms. If you are in a hotel or motel, count the number of doors between your room and the stairs.



Find messaging, graphics, and handouts here: [Hotel and Vacation Rental Fire Safety \(fema.gov\)](https://www.fema.gov)

For more information on this initiative, or to find outreach materials on the monthly topics, please visit:

[Fire and Life Safety Communicators Initiative \(fema.gov\)](https://www.fema.gov)



We are pleased to share our Quarterly Community Risk Reduction Newsletter. It contains fire safety tips for celebrating safely with family and friends this summer. You can find the newsletter here on our website: <https://bit.ly/4bCKoLD>

Training Opportunities:

Display Fireworks Inspection Essentials

This class will provide our fire service partners with an overview of NH rules and laws surrounding fireworks, and a discussion with industry experts to provide the Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ) with the tools and information to work with display shooters to ensure a safe and enjoyable experience for all.

Monday, June 24, 2024

9:00AM-12:00PM

Stephen E. Merrill Building, DMV Auditorium, 23 Hazen Dr., Concord

Registration Link: <https://forms.office.com/g/BSXjQRb7mK>

Collection of Witness Data in Fire Investigations

Competent and credible fire investigation work requires proper consideration of witness information. This program will offer first responders with data collection techniques for successfully obtaining critical information from witnesses that will assist them in determining an origin and cause of a fire as well as information that will be needed if the decision is made to request assistance from the NH FMO.

Wednesday, June 26, 2024

6:00PM-8:30PM

New London Fire Department

Registration Link: <https://forms.office.com/g/BSXjQRb7mK>

An Overview of the 2024 Emergency Response Guidebook

The Emergency Response Guidebook 2024 (ERG2024) is a guide to aid first responders during an incident involving hazardous materials in transport, by quickly identifying the specific or generic hazards of the material(s) involved; and protecting themselves and the general public during the initial response phase of the incident. This class will include an overview of the 2024 ERG, including changes to the 2024 version, as well as how to use the 2024 ERG during an incident. **Copies of the 2024 ERG will be provided for use in the class and for departments who have not yet received them (by advance request).**

Thursday, June 27, 2024

6:00PM-8:00PM

Raymond S. Burton Training Facility, Bethlehem

Registration Link: <https://forms.office.com/g/BSXjQRb7mK>

We are working on topics to include the 2024 Emergency Response Guidebook, air monitoring, inspections of multi-family dwellings and NHFIRS Incident Coding. Please reach out to Deputy Stacey Dubois at stacey.l.dubois@dos.nh.gov if you are interested in hosting one of these sessions, or a future session, or would like to suggest a future training topic.

Have you seen our [2023 Year in Review](#)? Find out what the SFMO accomplished last year!

2023

YEAR IN REVIEW

THE DIVISION OF FIRE SAFETY, OFFICE OF THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL

The NH State Fire Marshal's Office is responsible for protecting the public and working with the state's fire service through coordinated efforts in public education, code enforcement, hazardous materials, and fire incident investigation. These efforts reduce the loss of life and property due to fire, building collapse, explosive incidents, and other emergencies in the State of New Hampshire, which contributes to the economic viability of the State. The Division is divided into three bureaus: the Bureau of Outreach and Education (BOE), the Bureau of Building Safety and Construction (BSC), and the Bureau of Investigations (BOI). The Division of Fire Safety is led by State Fire Marshal/Director Sean R. Toomey. The Director's current term of office runs through March 31, 2028.

OUTREACH & EDUCATION

The Bureau of Outreach and Education participated in 73 outreach events in 2023. This was up from 64 in 2022. We also provided 30 educational classes to our first responder partners.

73
OUTREACH EVENTS

30
EDUCATIONAL CLASSES

In 2023, New Hampshire fire departments reported responding to 196,604 calls for service. 3,167 fires occurred in New Hampshire during this same period, causing \$48,091,450 in total fire damage with 51 civilian and 50 firefighter fire-related injuries.

196,604
CALLS FOR SERVICE

3,167
FIRES

\$48,091,450
TOTAL IN FIRE DAMAGES

51
CIVILIANS
50
FIREFIGHTERS

Mission

It is our mission to save lives and property through education, engineering and enforcement.

Core Values

Professionalism | Integrity
Respect | Consistency

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Social Media

Over the past three years, our Facebook followers increased by 19%, from 7,600 to 9,223, and our Twitter followers increased by 21%, from 2,736 to 3,256. We ended 2023 with 775 Instagram followers. We continue to notice an increase in local news outlets monitoring our social media feeds and supplementing their coverage with our fire safety tips.

9.8K

775

3.3K

TOTAL # OF FOLLOWERS BY SOCIAL MEDIA CHANNEL

BUILDING SAFETY & CONSTRUCTION

The Bureau of Building Safety and Construction is responsible for inspectional services, modular housing, fireworks safety and licensing and tramway and amusement ride safety.

- 767 permits issued (+ 17% from 2022 CY)
- 2,062 inspections conducted (+ 58% from 2022 CY)
- 1,774 technical consultations performed (+ 10% from 2022 CY)
- 81 fire code variances provided (- 11% from 2022 CY)

Modular Housing Program

- 1,374 labels issued
- 173 inspections conducted
- 575 units shipped to NH
- 4 new manufacturer applications received

Fireworks Safety and Licensing Unit

- 54 promissory audience licenses issued
- 25 consumer fireworks retail store licenses issued
- 107 inspections conducted

Tramway and Amusement Ride Safety Section

- 647 amusement rides registered
- 1,191 inspections conducted
- 5 amusement incidents investigated

Tramway Inspections

- 179 registrations issued
- 335 inspections conducted
- 21 incidents reported

INVESTIGATIONS

The Bureau of Investigations responded to 83 scenes in 2023, 25 of which were death investigations, and two involved multiple victims (12 fire, 2 CO, 13 other). They worked 21 criminal cases with one arrest (five complaints/charges). They assisted with the prosecution of five other individuals that were arrested by other agencies.

The Bureau of Investigations' two ingestible liquid detection canine teams were deployed 23 times in 2023. They also performed 57 canine demonstrations at outreach and education events around the state.

83
SCENES

25 / 27
DEATH INVESTIGATIONS / VICTIMS

21
CRIMINAL CASES

8
TIMES B-9 TEAMS WERE DEPLOYED

57
B-E-D DEMOS

2
CARBON MONOXIDE

12
FIRE

13
OTHER

801
ARREST