



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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[www.nh.gov/firesafety](http://www.nh.gov/firesafety)



Paul J. Parisi  
State Fire Marshal

## **NH State Fire Marshal's Office – September 2020 Report**

*(For the period of August 1 through August 31, 2020)*

### **ADMINISTRATION:**

As previously reported, the FMO is moving forward with a 25% reduction in force. This has resulted in the loss of 3 full time and 5 part time positions within the agency through attrition. This reduction will affect our ability to offer services and resources to our stakeholders. However, we will do our best to stick to our core mission and meet your needs. Fire and death investigation requests will be responded to immediately, within our existing protocols. Areas that we will have a reduced capacity in will be public education, hazardous materials, routine state building inspection program, and fireworks. 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.

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 991 calls for assistance
- Assisted 270 front line workers with alternative lodging accommodations
- Provided 852 front line workers with exposure/quarantine/testing guidance
- Documented 1684 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
- Produced and distributed (16) first responder informational documents

**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.**

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

**2020 Legislation:** We are putting together our legislative priorities this month. These will likely include the adoption of the 2018 Uniform Fire Code and Life Safety Code which is being considered by the Board of Fire Control.

**Personnel:** We are pleased to report that Assistant Director Max Schultz has returned from sick leave and is back to work light duty.

### **BUREAU OF INVESTIGATIONS:**

**New/Active cases:** 17 Calls for Service in the month of August; our 6 investigators and 2 district chiefs are actively working 28 Criminal Cases.

- On 8/12/20, investigators responded to 14 Polly Ann Park in Dover to assist the Dover FD and PD with a fire investigation. One occupant in the mobile home sustained serious injuries from the fire and was transported to Boston for treatment. The fire investigation is still ongoing but it does not appear to be criminal in nature at this time.
- On 8/15/20, investigators responded to 25 Nyberg Rd. in Bristol for a house fire and a deceased individual was found inside. At this time the fire is still under investigation but it does not appear to be criminal in nature.
- On 8/28/20, investigators responded to 8 Huntress Bridge Rd. in Effingham to assist the Effingham FD and PD with a fire investigation that started on the exterior of the house and then communicated to the interior. It was determined that the homeowner had lit some combustible materials and then left it unattended allowing the fire to spread to the house.

**Court Action:** Grand Juries and court proceedings are slated to begin again soon. Once this happens, several of our investigations will be moving forward with criminal prosecutions.

**Accelerant Detection Canine Teams:** Our two Accelerant Detection Canine (ADC) Teams were deployed twice in the month of August. One of our canine teams met with each of the winners and their families at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Fire Safety Calendar Contest.

The canine team performed demonstrations and congratulated the winners. District Chief Adam Fanjoy and K9 Anthem were invited to present at Camp CHAD (Children's Hospital at Dartmouth) through a virtual platform. With the assistance of the NH Fire Academy, we were able to film an entire segment of how our canines work and we were able to read a book to the kids.

Yearly, our canine teams must be recertified by Maine Specialty Dogs and the Maine's Criminal Justice Academy. Both of our canines were successful in their recertification process.

**Training:** BOI members attended a virtual training on 2021 NFPA 921 – Chapter 19 Fire Cause Determination & Classification of Fire Cause which was presented by the International Association of Arson Investigators (IAAI). This is part of a live monthly training series that started in May and runs through November and touches 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. If anybody is interested in attending these trainings the information can be found at [www.firearson.com](http://www.firearson.com). There is a nominal fee associated with each class and they can be taken as tested or untested. The modules that have already been delivered can be taken, just not in a live setting.

Investigators participated in an in service training on the topic of youth fire setting and also attended the following committee meetings: National Insurance Crime Bureau meeting and the Child Fatality Review Committee.

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

**State Building Permit System:** We processed 28 permit applications in the month of August.

**Technical Assistance, Educational & Healthcare Reviews:** Our staff remains available for technical code assistance. We initiated 9 educational plan reviews and 8 healthcare plan reviews in the month of August.

**Variance Requests:** We processed 1 variance request in the month of August.

**Rules Update:** The most recent Saf-C 6000 and Saf-FMO 300 rules are both available on the SFMO website under the Laws & Rules page. The Saf-C 6000 rules have been renamed Fire & Life Safety Rules. The Saf-FMO 300 rules are the amendments to the State Fire Code.

#### **BUREAU OF PLANNING AND SUPPORT SERVICES:**

**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. The Hazmat Collaborative, the Public Health Laboratory and our office, has finalized the

unknown package protocol. This allows for the transportation of substances by either NH State Police EOD members or FMO investigators.

**North Country Hazardous Materials Coverage:** 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. This MOU has been approved and will be presented at the next Governor and Council meeting for the final step in the process.

**Public Education:** We were able to hold an in-person ceremony for the 12 winners of the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade fire safety calendar contest. These students were recognized for their artistic safety messaging, which will soon be display statewide in their poster.

Members of the division will be participating in a controlled burn in Tilton, which will highlight several different fire safety messages to be aired on WMUR's Chronicle series during Fire Prevention Week in October.

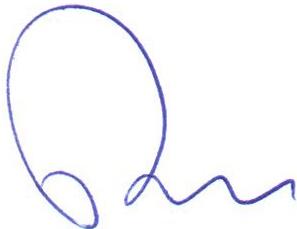
**Fireworks:** Display shows are beginning to be scheduled again and this is a considerable increase compared to the beginning of the summer.

The state also continues to see drought-like conditions recently and we remain concerned about the dangers in using fireworks in these dry times. Unsafe fireworks usage can result in injury, death, property damage and wildland fires. Be sure to check out our website where we have provided information and safety tips about fireworks usage.

For anything COVID-19 related you should reach out directly to ESF-4, 24 hours 7 days per week at 603-223-3718.

Thanks 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