

NEW HAMPSHIRE BOARD OF FIRE CONTROL
MEETING, JUNE 17, 2015
9:30 AM
IPOC MEDIA ROOM
110 SMOKEY BEAR BLVD
CONCORD, NH

Attendees: J. William Degnan, Max Schultz, Richard Heath, John Ela, Martin Michaelis, Steven Freitas, Floyd Hayes, Allan Clark, Dan Andrus, Tom Riley, Buddy Thibeault, Christopher Wyman and Jeff Cyr .

Absent: William Mead, Norman Skantze and Brian Boudreau

Meeting Called to Order at 9:34 am by Richard Heath.

A motion was made by John Ela to accept the minutes of the December 18, 2014 meeting and the March 18, 2015 meeting. It was seconded by Allan Clark. All approved.

Presentation by Brian Thibeault

Brian was asked by the State Fire Marshal to present a report on the Statewide Fire Mobilization Plan implemented in the late 1990's. He showed how departments across the state are working together to improve the way each department responds to HazMat and fire events as well as flooding related disasters. He mentioned that re-imbursement is an issue at this time. Forestry rates for that type of incident and Department of Safety rules for Hazardous Materials responses are not the same. This is an item that needs to be addressed or at least explained to the fire service. This plan was implemented based on the New England Fire Plan that is being worked on.

Report of State Fire Marshal

This time of year is busy with the fireworks applications and licensing. Tom Riley is the District Chief overseeing this division with assistance from full time investigator Chris Wyman. The licensing part of fireworks came over to the Fire Marshal's office beginning January 1, 2015. Previously the State Police handled all licensing requests. Chris Wyman spoke to the board on the status of fireworks stores in New Hampshire as well as the education ongoing in the North Country and along the seacoast.

The fourth of July will be a long weekend with inspections being held at stores and venues by Inspectors Chris Wyman, Andy Lubrano and Pat Poirier. There is an average of 80- 90 shows during the Fourth of July holiday. Each store is licensed on a yearly basis. This office has received complaints regarding noise and debris caused from use of New Hampshire Permissible Fireworks. This department is continually working on handouts and website items to educate the public on using fireworks safely.

Training throughout the State

With the new Burton Fire & EMS Academy now open in Bethlehem there have been several classes offered on how to do inspections for fireworks displays, schools, electrical and mechanical work sites.

Recently training was held for prosecutors across the state with forensic and arson classes to help with cases which involve these items especially when a fatality occurs. It was very well received and those who attended gave great reviews.

In May the Fire Marshal's office sponsored a pipeline training to educate first responders on how to handle pipeline mishaps. The program was designed to train fire fighters in each region who would then go back to their local area departments and train others for these emergencies. There will be a follow up with these fire fighters to see how the training is going for their departments. District Chief Riley will oversee this follow up.

The licensing department located on the first floor of the IPOC building is still on track for a service window to be installed for licensing. This will eliminate the need for the public to enter that office. The window will also be used when there is an EOC activation and will be more secure when people present their personal information while attending these events.

The mechanical inspectors have been busy checking licenses from out of state workers and were successful in recently charging three unlicensed gas fitters from New York State working without NH license.

HazMat training continues throughout the state which includes classes on Clandestine Labs and Designer Drugs. These classes are well attended and participants are well informed with the material they receive that is ever changing within the drug community.

Tramway Report

There has been a lot of activity regarding the Bouncy House issues in the news across the country. The Fire Marshal's office has received many calls regarding the permits required as well as regulations for using bouncy houses.

During the ski season there was a ski lift issue at Sugar Loaf Ski Area which prompted the Tramway inspectors to inspect lifts throughout the state. They found some lifts needing immediate attention but for the most part all looked in order.

Public Education

District Chief Stacey Dubois along with Mary MacCaffrie and Sheryl Nielsen has been very busy sponsoring events for educating the public. Recently they held the 3rd annual calendar contest which showcased the art of 3rd graders across the state. Awards were given and all enjoyed pizza at the end of the event.

Some of the other events attended by the Pub Ed group have been the Safety Education Program hosted by Concord, the task force for juvenile setters and healthy homes with information on lead poisoning, kitchen safety and unhealthy air inside NH homes.

The Remembering When program is a successful tool for teaching the elderly how to stay safe in their homes.

At the NHMS last month District Chief Dubois was in attendance with K9 Molly as well as Manchester's Deputy Fire Chief Mitch Cady and K9 Wynett. They did a demonstration on how the K9's are used at fire scenes and how valuable they are in these cases.

No Match for Children is a book that has been distributed to all town and school libraries in New Hampshire as well as day cares. The next goal will be to get copies distributed to all pediatrician offices across the state.

Investigators

Assistant Director Max Schultz shared information on several fire cases that the investigators are working on which included fires in the towns of Nashua, Raymond and Portsmouth. There have been 12 fire related deaths so far this year.

The department recently went through an interview process for three candidates to fill vacancies in the fire investigator division. There were thirteen applicants who passed all three tests and one candidate was offered a position and we are awaiting an answer from him. It takes at least a month to go through the psychological and

background check which includes interviews with prior employers as well as a lie detector test.

Because of the Affordable Care Act people working part time with the state can no longer work 20 hours at one department and 20 hours at another. They will need to choose which department to work for and this necessitated our department to let go of some of the part time people who did inspections when needed.

Legislative Session Report

HB 427 (Relative to the definition of the NH fire code) has been re-referred to Committee. Not sure when this will be discussed again. Senator Carson will revisit her stand and present her plan again later this year.

HB 130 (relative to the use of blue lights on emergency vehicles) was passed. This bill will be helpful for the safety of all when approaching a scene when the blue lights are more visible than red lights.

HB 292 (expanding the Good Samaritan law to engineers and architects) will be helpful when they are asked to assist at a scene for structural questions and safety.

HB 415 (Limiting liability of out of state emergency services entities responding to incidents in New Hampshire) this will impact mostly border communities.

HB 492 (relative to military and historic re-enactments and commemorations) this bill passed.

HB 533 (relative to arc-fault circuit breaker protection in residential construction) there is still discussion regarding this bill on the House level as well as the BCRB.

SB 146 (relative to accessory dwelling units) this bill had many proposed changes and there were life safety issues concerning the changes so the bill was retained.

SB 18 (prohibiting the use of PVC piping as a flue material for venting combustion gasses) this was a proposal to ban all PVC piping for venting. This bill should have come before the board for discussion prior to proposal.

Jeff Cyr from the mechanical division gave a report on the status of mechanical safety and licensing. Lately this department has been successful in finding installers working in New Hampshire area without licenses. They were instructed where to get the education needed and told what the process is to get a New Hampshire license.

There have been several cases where the department needed the assistance of the Bureau of Investigations. One of the cases both departments are still working on is the PVC piping case in Plaistow which occurred in February 2014. There have been several meetings with the industry as well as the state officials and this office to decide what types of PVC piping can be used for venting process. Jeff proposed that there should be an amendment to the code as follows: #1. Amend the code to make the installer responsible for the type of material used. #2. Provide material to all licensees of the changes to venting materials. #3. Hold continued education classes each year for all licensees.

There was some discussion regarding what temperature the PVC piping can be installed under and how the board should be involved with the process. Allan Clark made a motion to accept the proposals above and to hold a public meeting at the next planned board meeting in September. Dan Andrus 2nd the motion and all approved. At the meeting in September there will be a public meeting and audio recording equipment will be used during that meeting.

There was still some discussion on the installer and not the manufacturer being responsible for installs. It was determined that the final say would be the installer. There will need to be better training and educational material for the licensee to ensure correct procedures are followed.

Another concern in the propane industry is the changing out of tanks on residential/commercial properties. In the past the owner of the tanks (Propane Company) would go to a customer to change out a tank when requested. Propane is now available at a lower cost and many customers are changing to new propane companies and this has been creating a problem. The new propane company would come in and change out the tank which causes issues with the propane company who owns the existing tank. There is a safety issue because of the way the extraction of remaining propane in the tank is being done. Many of these tanks are being left at shopping centers which do not have the gated areas protected from public access. The board discussed a proposal to the NFPA 50 chapter 7 to include that only the owner of the tank can remove the tank from a customer's property.

A motion was made by Dan Andrus to accept proposal as written. It was 2nd by Allan Clark. All approved.

A motion was made by Dan Andrus to adjourn meeting. It was 2nd by Steven Frietas. All approved.

Meeting adjourned at 12:30 pm and next meeting will be held September 16, 2015.