

The Fire and Emergency Medical Services News



New Hampshire Fire Academy



Spring 2009

A Service of New Hampshire Division of Fire Standards & Training and Emergency Medical Services
"Training on the Leading Edge"

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Active membership vs. ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP: Finding the Balance

I have the fortunate opportunity to be an active member of many professional and non-profit associations. "Active member", however, needs to be defined. As in most by-laws you are an active member if you fit the membership criteria (i.e. a chief officer in a fire chief's association). So by virtue of paying your dues you are given the status of "active member". This title can be used on your CFO/CMO portfolio, resume, curriculum vitae, or application for employment. It is my opinion that one needs to find the balance of activity in any group you claim to be an active member, and not just have membership so it looks good on a resume!

When I was first promoted to the rank of shift captain in a small New Hampshire city fire department in the late 1970's I was also given the title of Fire Prevention Officer, as the city did not have the luxury of having a full-time prevention officer. Immediately upon receiving this additional title, I realized that a great resource would be to join the New Hampshire Fire Prevention Society and become an active member. My reasoning was that the NHFPS would be the folks that could help me in my new position. Becoming an active member worked, very well! I got advice, assistance, and whenever needed the group was there. It did not end there however! That would be too easy. As a token of my appreciation to the society I got ACTIVE by becoming the society's secretary. As such I was responsible for all the official records. This "active" roll was embraced by my fire chief, as the expertise I received in return was well worth the time it took to be the secretary!

When I became training officer the same set of events took place. First as a member of the fire instructor's association, then as a chief officer with the fire chief's association! Not just as I did, but as many others have and will do in the future: One needs to know how to use one's own resources. Sometimes that means inventing the resources you rarely have to start a new program...by inquiring you can probably find a program to fit your needs and that has been tested by another group.

I am not stating that when you become an association member you need to rise through the governance chairs of the group. What I am saying is you should be supportive: attend meetings and give input, assist with special projects - both meaningful and social projects, and be there for your brother and sister members. Basically, please do not be a paper member: do your part! When you join an association, especially one that meets your professional position or your personal values, please be sure to do what you can to make the group flourish. It is the responsibility of ALL active members!

Stay Safe!

Rick Mason

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

1st Thursday of each month (Except July-August)	NH Fire Standards & Training Commission Meeting, 10:00 a.m.	NHFA
2nd Thursday of each month	Tests/Retests; sittings at 9:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.; pre-registration required by 1st of month	NHFA
FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES INSTRUCTOR PROGRAMS:		
4/29-5/27	Emergency Services Instructor I	Linwood Ambulance Service
FIREFIGHTER CLASSES:		
4/7/09-5/1/09	Firefighter II	NHFA
4/27/09-6/19/09	Certified Career Fire Fighter	NHFA
HAZARDOUS MATERIALS PROGRAMS:		
5/18/09-6/1/09	Hazardous Materials Technician	Epping Fire Station
5/13/09	Hazardous Materials Operations: Train-the-Trainer	NHFA
SPECIAL HAZARDS PROGRAMS:		
4/18/09-4/19/09	F458: Prep for Initial Company Operations	Berlin Tech College
4/7/09-4/16/09	H806: NIMS-ICS for the Fire Service	Charlestown Fire Department
4/20/09	HSEEP Module 6: Evaluator Module	Concord Hospital
4/18/09	AWR 130: Incident Response to Terrorist Bombings	NHFA
5/19/09-5/21/09	MGT-313: WMD Incident Management/Unified Command for CBRNE Incidents	Goffstown Fire Department
6/9/09-6/11/09	MGT-313: WMD Incident Management/Unified Command for CBRNE Incidents	NHFA
5/7/09-5/10/09	PER 211: EMS Operations & Planning for Weapons of Mass Destruction	Monadnock Hospital
INCIDENT COMMAND SYSTEMS PROGRAMS:		
4/25/09-4/26-09	ICS 400: Advanced ICS	Meadowood
5/27/09-5/28-09	ICS 400: Advanced ICS	Goffstown Fire Department
SPECIALTY PROGRAMS:		
6/15/09-6/19/09	CPAT 2009 Orientation	Manchester Armory
6/2/09-6/4/09	Basic Public Information Officer	Nashua Fire and Rescue
6/2/09-6/13/09	Introduction to Technical Rescue Skills	Candia Fire Department
5/5/09-5/10/09	Emergency Vehicle Driver Training	Hillsborough Fire Department and Conval HS
5/12/09-5/17/09	Emergency Vehicle Driver Training	Souhegan Valley Ambulance and Conval HS
AIRPORT RESCUE FIREFIGHTER		
5/18/09-5/23-09	Airport Rescue Firefighter	NHFA
4/21/09-4/29/09	Airport Rescue Firefighter LIVE FIRE TRAINING	NHFA
5/7/09-5/29/09	Airport Rescue Firefighter LIVE FIRE TRAINING	NHFA
6/2/09-6/25/09	Airport Rescue Firefighter LIVE FIRE TRAINING	NHFA
EMS PROGRAMS:		
Please check our the Course and Exam Schedule for upcoming EMS programs at :		
http://www.nh.gov/safety/divisions/fstems/ems/training/documents/course_and_exam.pdf		

Please check our website regularly for upcoming programs at <http://www.nh.gov/safety/divisions/fstems/training/schedtrdates.html>

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Calendar of Events	Pg. 2
ECSI Hits the Ground Running in NH-Capt. Chris Rousseau	Pg. 3
2009 State Entrance Testing Information-Scott Merrill	Pg. 3
New Firefighter I & II Curriculum Update-Capt. Chris Rousseau	Pg. 4
NIMS Update for 2009-Capt. Bob Pragoff	Pg. 4
Beware of Bean Bag Injuries-Clay Odell	Pg. 5
NHOODLE-Brad Weilbrenner	Pg. 5
What's the Buzz?-Eric Perry	Pg. 6
Staff Biography-Joann Beaudoin & Joe Sampson	Pg. 6

ECSI Hits the Ground Running in NH

-Captain Christopher Rousseau

As many of you know, the Division became an Emergency Care and Safety Institute (ECSI) Educational Training Center last year. Since that time, we have been working hard to successfully integrate professional rescuer CPR/AED and standard first aid training into our firefighter and EMS programs.

For us here at the Division, it is finally report card time! Time to see just how successful our efforts have been in bringing this process to our organization and to see if it has made things more streamline. I am happy to say so far, it has exceeded our expectations.

Since we began, we have trained and brought on board thirty two (32) instructors who can teach all levels of CPR/AED, First Aid, and Blood Borne Pathogens. We will continue to offer Instructor Development Courses (IDC) in order to support the growing numbers of instructors with the Division.

We have successfully migrated away from individual instructors teaching from a wide range of outside certifying agencies in our firefighter programs, to all ECSI instructors teaching ECSI courses. We have documented student's training and manufactured their certificates, in most cases, in less than three days time. This has meant more efficient administrative support and processing time which equates to faster receipt of certification for our students.

We are also beginning the first phases of providing support to EMS instructors who are teaching CPR/AED certification to their EMT programs and providing refresher and re-certification programs to their services. I can only foresee this continuing to grow as time goes on.

A representative from the Division has secured a spot on the ECSI National Advisory committee and New Hampshire now has input on shaping the future of ECSI courses and programs in hopes that they will continue to meet the specific needs of our state and the fire service and EMS in general.

This has been by far, a great achievement over the last year. It has made a very positive impact on the way we conduct business here at the Academy and most importantly, it has benefited YOU, our firefighters, EMS personnel, and instructors.

Those who may be interested in transferring their CPR/AED or first aid certification from current certifying agency to ECSI should contact Chris Rousseau for details. Those who are interested in becoming an instructor for the first time should watch the six-month-calendar posted on the Division's website for upcoming dates and times of instructor Development Programs.

2009 State Entrance Testing Information

If you would, please put the following dates aside for 2009:

June 15, 16, 17, 18, and 19: Orientation for CPAT at the Manchester Armory

August 31st and September 1st: CPAT Written Test at the NH Fire Academy

September 3, 4, 7, 8, 9, and 10: CPAT testing at Armory

The application period for the 2009 CPAT ended on April 4th. Even with a slow start, we reached 538 applicants!

Department Heads, please understand we still need assistance for the 2009 testing! Contact Scott Merrill at the number(s) below to assist!

If you have any needs, comments or input please give Scott Merrill a call at 617-510-8193, or at the Academy, 603-223-4200.

NEW FIREFIGHTER I and II CURRICULUM UPDATE

-Capt. Chris Rousseau

The Division is moving full steam ahead with our migration to the new Jones and Bartlett Firefighter curriculum. Currently we have two (2) pilot programs running, one here at the Academy, the other a field program in conjunction with the IEU.

Once the locations and dates of these programs were determined the Division developed and offered two pilot Firefighter I Instructor Train the Trainer (TtT) courses. These courses served to update those instructors who would be teaching in the above programs.

With the Train the Trainers complete, we commenced Firefighter I pilots and have been monitoring the individual classes, quiz results and feedback, as well as performance of hands-on "skills drills" out in the drill yards.

We are currently developing the Firefighter II Instructor TtT program and anticipate rolling out that course during the April time frame. Again, this will only be offered to those instructors teaching in the two (2) pilot programs.

Complete Firefighter I and II Instructor TtT programs will be offered to the general instructional staff upon completion and evaluation of the pilot programs so that last minute "adjustments" can be forged and implemented.

Thus far, the results have been promising, and our hope for an improved training program, more consistency between academy and field programs, as well as better adherence to PRO-BOARD accreditation standards appears to be on the horizon.

NIMS Update for 2009

-Capt. Bob Pragoff

The 4-hour IS-700 Introduction to NIMS class is no more. Recent updates to the actual NIMS document by the Federal government prompted changes to the program (now titled IS-700.a) and increased the number of classroom hours to 8 (eight). Here at the Academy, we had coupled the original IS-700 course into all of our ICS programs for several years. When we would begin an ICS class, the question as to whether or not they had completed the IS-700 was posed to the students. Early on, the indicators showed that they had not, hence the presentation was given. More recent indicators show that the vast majority of ICS students have already completed the course online. All of that, coupled with the changes, forced us to revisit the process of offering the IS-700 within our ICS classes. The final verdict is that it is not longer offered. The program is still available online at the address listed below:

<http://training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/is700a.asp>.

Taking the class online is now the recommended method for students to complete the course. All of the completion data is forwarded to us from FEMA monthly, so anyone that completes the course will have their information entered into our database and their transcripts will reflect that.

A reminder to all Fire Chief Officers: ICS 300 and ICS 400-level training must be completed by you in order to maintain your NIMS compliance. This training is only available in a classroom, and encompasses a total of 40 hours of classroom time; 24 hours for ICS 300 and 16 hours for ICS 400. Check our website for upcoming ICS 300 and ICS 400 training opportunities or contact your Field Captain for information on how to host one of these programs in your area. TEEX, a US DHS training partner, offers their MGT-313 course which is the equivalent to ICS 300 and we have scheduled several of their offerings throughout the State of NH in recent months. It is an exceptional program, but due to their contract requirements with DHS, they have a minimum student registration of 32 before they can commit the resources to provide field training. So, if you see one of those classes on our schedule and you are available to participate, please register as soon as possible. All of this training is free of charge and under certain conditions, payroll reimbursement can be made. Please contact Capt. Bob Pragoff at robert.pragoff@dos.nh.gov for more information on the reimbursement process. Not everyone qualifies, and certain conditions must be met, but you won't know if you're eligible unless you ask.

Beware of Bean Bag Injuries

By Clay Odell, EMTP, RN, Trauma Coordinator

An article in the January 2009 issue of the *Journal of Emergency Nursing* reviewed a case study of a 61 year old male subject brought to the Emergency Department by police for medical evaluation. The patient had been exhibiting violent behavior and the SWAT team shot him with two bean bags in order to subdue him.

The ED staff found the patient aggressive and very difficult to evaluate. They noted he had been struck with two projectiles, one to the left anterior chest and the other to the left thigh. They administered haloperidol to control his agitation. The initial exam was unremarkable except for bruises from the bean bags, however 12-lead ECG revealed ST segment elevation in V3 through V6 leads (an infarct pattern) and his cardiac enzymes were elevated. Because of these findings and the mechanism of injury he was treated for a suspected myocardial contusion, and the cardiology team elected to administer thrombolytics. After 90 minutes the patient's ST elevation had diminished. He was admitted to the ICU, and had no long-term cardiac impairment.

The article discusses bean bags as part of the arsenal that police may use for non-lethal submission of a violent subject (termed "impact munitions"). Other weapons in this category include pepper balls and rubber projectiles. The bean bags are a fabric pillow, approximately 2" x 2", typically filled with about 1.5 ounces of lead shot. They are typically fired by a shotgun with a specialized shell.

Serious injuries discussed in the article include cardiac contusion, cardiac tamponade, ruptured spleen, ruptured eyeball, pneumothorax, and compartment syndrome of the arm. There was one fatality cited. The take home message for EMS is that although bean bags and other such weapons are less lethal than firearms, they can cause serious injury. The patient discussed in this article would have likely suffered long-term effects if his heart injury had not been treated. NH EMS providers may recall a fatal injury involving a pepper ball gun following a 2004 Red Sox game.

People who find themselves at the wrong end of a bean bag gun are frequently a challenge to assess due to their altered mental status, combativeness, etc. The EMS provider needs to work cooperatively with law enforcement to ensure that a patient who has been subjected to impact munitions is thoroughly assessed, and should have a high index of suspicion for serious trauma.

Schade, K; Blunt Chest Trauma from a Bean Bag Gun, *Journal of Emergency Nursing*, 2009; 35: 74-5

NHOODLE

-Brad Weilbrenner

With advances in technology, continuing education can now be brought to all EMS providers in the state of NH more easily, especially to the rural areas, through a distance learning system. This can allow the providers to receive continuing education at a time and location that are more convenient for them. NH Fire Standards & Training and EMS is preparing to launch the NH EMS and Fire Distant Learning Environment or (NHOODLE), pronounced "noodle." NHOODLE would not be possible without the support of our friends at the NH Department of Health and Human Services Division of Public Health, Office of Rural Health and Primary Care.

NHOODLE is a web-based platform designed to distribute different forms of education. The first type of education, and the main focus, is continuing education. We all know how difficult it is to either find the time to go to con-ed classes or even to find con-ed classes without having to travel great distances. The continuing education courses on NHOODLE will be straight forward; watch the presentation, successfully complete the post-test, and complete a short survey. You will then be able to print off a certificate for your file. This is a free service that will be available to the EMS providers and Fire Fighters of NH. As NHOODLE continues to grow, multi-module courses will be added as well as other forms of content. Another great aspect of NHOODLE is the opportunity to provide just-in-time training for a wide spread event such as a pandemic. It is conceivable to train all of the EMS providers in the state within 24 hours. This task would not be possible by other conventional methods.

With any new system there will be unforeseen bugs to work out and adjustments to be made in order to turn it into a smooth process. If you have any suggestions for content, please feel free to email them to me at brad.weilbrenner@dos.nh.gov. We will provide more information, such as how to log on and navigate the system, as the launch date grows closer.

WHAT'S THE BUZZ?

A look at the National EMS Education Standards

Eric W. Perry, EMS Education Coordinator

There is a buzz in the EMS community! Newly-released National EMS Education Standards are being discussed, and providers, instructors, and unit leaders are grappling not only with what the changes actually mean but how everyone will be affected. The NH Bureau of EMS is currently studying and analyzing the new, federally adopted National EMS Education Standards and its partner documents with the goal of evaluating just what the changes will mean for providers as well as for the EMS system as a whole.

The NH Education Standards Implementation Team has been meeting for almost a year to plan for the leap to the new scope of practice and education standards. The ten person team includes the following:

- 2 - **NH EMS Coordinating Board** members
- 1 - **NH EMS Instructor Cabinet** representative
- 1 - **EMS Instructor / Coordinator** *
- 2 - **Bureau of EMS Field Services Section** staff members
- 4 - **Bureau of EMS Education** staff members

Two major goals and considerations are being considered by the team. The first is to provide for a high level of public protection and patient care excellence. The second is to ensure the integrity of the EMS Education Systems during the implementation.

* Many of the other team members are Instructor / Coordinators but are assigned to the team to represent a specific group. Seven of the ten team members are licensed NH EMS Instructor / Coordinators.

Each type of participant in the system will be affected differently, making it a challenge to ease everyone's concerns. The information below takes a closer look at some of the big question items that have come forward most recently.

Pending questions:

How is the move from EMT-185 to AEMT going to be handled?

There have been articles from NREMT about a testing component for those providers moving from I85 to AEMT. New Hampshire is working closely with the NREMT to look at this issue and come up with a reasonable process for this move. The psychomotor and cognitive expectations of the AEMT are much different than the I85 so, unlike the other levels, this presents a greater challenge of implementation.

What will be the future requirements for EMS Instructors?

Many of the recommendations in the Education Standards and accompanying documents recommend an EMS education system in the post-secondary school environment. New Hampshire is unique in that, unlike most states, we have very few EMS programs in true academic institutions. Despite this fact, NH still has a proven track record of high-quality instructors with excellent success rates. However, this will need to be analyzed in more depth, and discussions amongst our current instructors should start to include this topic.

Things We Know:

- Changes will need to be made to New Hampshire's system to align with the new National EMS Education Standards. Updates will be made in administrative rules, practical exams, testing procedures, instructor orientations, instructor requirements, and course approval requirements.
- The new National Scope of Practice and National EMS Education Standards recognize the following four levels of certification / licensure:
 - Emergency Medical Responder (EMR)
 - Emergency Medical Technician (EMT)
 - Advanced Emergency Medical Technician (AEMT)
 - Paramedic
- The move from the *current* certification / licensure designations to the *new* certification / licensure designations will take place over a three year period and will be a part of the standard refresher process.
- The guidelines set in the National EMS Education Standards and Scope of Practice Model are a minimum set of competencies. New Hampshire's EMS Medical Control board ultimately sets the Scope of Practice for all providers in NH via the Statewide NH Patient Care Protocols.
- The implementation of these education standards will require teamwork and a partnership from all EMS stakeholders.

These are the highlights of the implementation. At this time, many more components and aspects still need to be intensely scrutinized. The NH Division of Fire Standards and Training & Emergency Medical Services is dedicated to keeping everyone informed as the implementation progresses. Until then, keep buzzing!

Thank you to June Connor, Secretary II, for her extensive editing and review of this article. -ewp-

Staff Biographical Sketches

With the addition of new full-time staff at the Division of Fire Standards & Training and Emergency Medical Services, the Fire and Emergency Medical Services News is printing profiles of said new Division employees. In this Quarterly Newsletter we welcome two new staff members—both of whom have the same name!! Below you will find their shortened biographies along with their photograph. This will assist you in putting a face with a name in future visits, or during phone calls.



Joann Beaudoin recently started work at the Division of Fire Standards and Training & EMS as a Program Coordinator in the Special Hazards Section. She joins us here at the Academy after “many” years experience in emergency preparedness as a Sr. Field Representative across the way at Homeland Security & Emergency Management.

Jo resides in Goffstown with her son Sean. In her free time she enjoys hanging out with family and friends, spending time at the ocean, reading, crafting, gardening and bicycling. She has already become an integral asset to the Division in the few short months she’s been with us!

Well it all started around the time of birth for **Joe Sampson**! He was born in Manchester and lived there for most of his childhood. At the age of 13 his family moved to Hooksett where Joe discovered scouting and was actively involved until he enlisted in the USMC in 1971. After returning home from a tour in the Marines Joe pursued a career in construction and completed an apprenticeship in the Concord NH Carpenter’s Union. The first job he was sent to was the construction of Seabrook Station in 1977. While working the job, he lived on the seacoast. In 1995, Joe enlisted in the NH Air National Guard and worked for the Adjutant General at Pease ANGB as a State Maintenance Mechanic and a traditional Guardsman. In 2000, he was given an opportunity to come back to Concord and work for the Army as a Maintenance Supervisor for the State Armories.

Joe started work at the Division of Fire Standards and Training and EMS as the Maintenance Supervisor on March 30, 2009.



Welcome to the Team, both of you!

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If you already receive one, please do not fill out this request unless your Email address or Fire Department has changed. We have changed the distribution to electronic (by email) only to save time and resources.

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<http://maillist2.nh.gov/mailman/listinfo/fstemsnews>