



FLASHPOINT

Fall/Winter 2018

Maine State Federation of Fire Fighters

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE – KEN DESMOND

The 16 things you can do to help your fire company succeed.

1. Attend meetings, training, and fundraisers and arrive early and stay late.
2. At meetings when voting yes for something you will be available to commit to helping. Otherwise vote no.
3. After meetings or the next day, say thank you to your directors and officers for their continued service.
4. Take part in company business. Be pro-active instead of re-active.
5. Pay attention at meetings and trainings and ask lots of questions.
6. Show up for all types of calls even the "routine" ones.
7. Help when someone asks and offer help even when they don't.
8. Educate yourself not only in department business, but in all aspects of business.
9. Co-operate TEAM players are always required.

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MEMBERSHIP

Current MSFFF membership expired on June 30th, send your 2018-2019 membership to your County VP as soon as possible!

For detailed information about membership benefits, visit our website at: <http://www.msfff.org/benefits.html>

Join NVFC! Click the following link for more information!

<http://www.nvfc.org/join-nvfc/>

MSFFF BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Next meeting will be held on Saturday Feb 9th, 2019, at the Maine Municipal Association.

Maine State Federation of Firefighters 2019 Annual Convention

Hosted by **The Western Maine Fire Fighters Association**

SAVE THE DATE! Join us in Western Maine for the 56th Annual MSFFF Convention!
More information will be announced in the next few months!



Follow us on **FACEBOOK!**

visit us soon at
<http://www.msfff2019.org>

September 13, 14, & 15, 2019 at the Fryeburg Fairgrounds

A weekend full of firefighter activities!
Music, dance, vendors, apparatus & equipment demos, a parade, muster, & much more!
WMFA PO Box 583, Norway ME 04260

Maine State Federation of Firefighters 2019 Annual Convention

Hosted by **The Western Maine Fire Fighters Association**

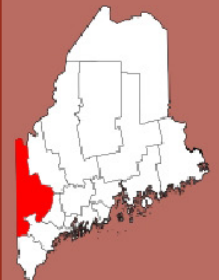
The Officers and Members of the Western Maine Firefighters Association invite your sponsorship of the 2019 MSFFF Convention. All sponsors will be noted on our webpage and in our Convention Handbook.

We are planning an amazing weekend full of firefighter and guest activities. Plan to visit with us and enjoy a parade, muster, vendors, along with great food, music and dance!



September 13, 14, & 15th at the Fryeburg Fairgrounds

Fire Chief	\$1000
Deputy Chief	\$750
Assistant Chief	\$500
Lieutenant	\$250
Captain	\$200
Battalion Chief	\$100
Company Officer	\$50
Firefighter	\$25



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ADVERTISING WITH THE MSFFF:

The Maine State Federation of Firefighters is pleased to offer exclusive annual advertising opportunities to select businesses. If you work with a vendor who would benefit from advertising with us, send them here for all the information they need: http://msfff.org/images/PDF/RateMarketingSheet_MSFFF_2018.pdf

President's Message (cont'd)

10. Accept an officer's position. Your ideas are important.

11. If appointed to a committee make it a priority and give it your best.

12. Give more than just what is minimally required.

13. Take pride in your commitment and your accomplishments.

14. Give others their moment to shine.

15. Acknowledge all those who support the dept. both financially and personally.

16. NEVER EVER GIVE UP!!!!

This is with hope that we can all remember to stay positive even in worst of times because every cloud still has the sunshine behind it.

COUNTY NEWS

Androscoggin



Turner House Fire-

House that was under construction was destroyed fire in Turner Maine October 22nd. Firefighters from Turner, and surrounding departments worked together to fight the flames. Because of the damage, the home was ripped down.



COUNTY NEWS



Mechanic Falls Mill Fire- October 14th, Firefighters from 49 departments from Androscoggin, Cumberland, Kennebec, Oxford, and Sagadahoc Counties rushed to a Massive Mill fire at the former Marcel Paper Mill of assisted other fire departments by giving station coverage during the fire. The mill was building in the 1850's and housed multiple businesses throughout its lifespan. Over 100 firefighters Firefighter battled the fire most of the night and continued for the next couple of days putting out hot spots.



Poland Fire Rescue: On Oct 31st after 20 year of service, Chief Mark Bosse retired from Poland Fire Rescue.



August 9th Durham Fire/Rescue:

Every day, people see things that they know just don't add up. A gut instinct, a premonition...something is wrong. Many people choose simply to turn the other way, unable or unwilling to take action.

Thankfully for a young woman early this June, Durham Fire/Rescue Deputy Chief Keith Russell is not one of those people. His instinct, sense of duty and compassion were displayed clearly when he took the primary role in saving the life of a distraught woman earlier this summer. Without his recognition and quick intervention, a life would surely have been lost that morning. As the Chief of Department, I was humbled and proud tonight to present him with the inaugural Durham Fire/Rescue LifeSaving Medal.

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Congrats Deputy Chief Russell, your actions reflect in the highest regards the way in which you inspire and lead this department!

Chief Joseph Moore

Aroostook North

North Lakes Fire & Rescue recently took delivery of two new to them pieces of apparatus over the summer. The first being a 2005 Pierce engine equipped with a 1,000 gallon tank and a 1,500 gpm pump. This truck is replacing a 1983 Ford Pierce engine. The second truck purchased this summer is a 1997 Freightliner tanker equipped with a 1,800 gallon tank and 500 gpm pump. Training has been completed on both of these trucks and they have been placed in service to serve the communities of NLFR's coverage area which includes the towns of Cross Lake, Madawaska Lake, Square Lake, Sinclair and Westmanland for many years to come, based out of the Sinclair substation.



2005 Pierce



1997 Freightliner



The Fort Kent Fire Department has a new utility vehicle which can travel into off-road areas and is primarily designed for fighting grass and brush fires.

FEMA awarded the FKFD a \$125,000 grant to buy the vehicle, a Ford F-550 all-wheel drive unit that carries 300 gallons of water and is equipped with a pump and hose as well as some rescue equipment. The new truck can carry up to five firefighters and carries the designation of Squad 1.

The new vehicle also will be used to tow the department's rescue boat and emergency response trailer which carries the department's snow ambulance and either a snowmobile or ATV depending on the season.

FEMA awarded the grant in September 2017, after which the fire department advertised for prospective builders for the vehicle. The low bidder was Dingee Machine Co. Inc. of Cornish, New Hampshire, which built the truck.

The Fort Kent Fire and Rescue Department also received a grant for a new Rescue Boat which cost \$27,000.00. The boat which was built by ONE Boat from Athens Alabama is a 16 ft. boat designed for rescue and has an outboard jet motor and trailer.

COUNTY NEWS

Aroostook South



Presque isle fire at a recent motor home fire.



PRESQUE ISLE, Maine - Multiple vehicles were heavily damaged by fire in the Marden's parking lot in

Presque Isle.

The Presque Isle Fire Department responded to a call around 3:30 p.m. Wednesday.

Upon arrival, they found three cars on fire. It's believed the fire started in the middle vehicle, which then set the adjacent cars on fire.

No one was injured and all owners were shopping at the time of the fire.

Fire Captain Vince Baldwin says the cause has not been determined and the investigation is ongoing.



Presque isle fire annual pump testing.



COUNTY NEWS



Emergency disaster drill at Presque Isle regional airport. Deputy chief Adam Rider command officer for this event.



Presque Isle fire helping Easton fire with a training burn in Easton.



Presque Isle fire department at a car that was stolen. After a police chase, the car lost control and struck a house. When police got out to check on the person, he had already bailed out the passenger window and fled on foot.



Firefighter Dale Morrison, Grant Spinney and Tim Browning at Logan international airport annual live training burn



Fire in Presque Isle - ten apartment complex hooked to the local IGA. Fire was contained to one apartment. Some smoke damage in the others. The IGA with little water in their back storage room. Mutual aid from Caribou, Mapleton and Easton.

COUNTY NEWS



IGA reopened, but tenants still displaced following Sunday fire in Presque Isle.

Hancock

Lamoine Fire Adds Ladder Truck to Fleet

For Immediate Release October 30, 2018

Contact: Chief George Smith 207-266-1490

Deputy Chief Stu Marckoon 207-667-2242

(Lamoine, ME) – The Lamoine Volunteer Fire Department has added a 75-foot aerial truck to the fleet. The 1997 Spartan cab and Smeal aerial was obtained from the Squamish British Columbia fire department which recently received its new aerial truck. The sale was brokered by Brindlee Mountain Fire Apparatus of Alabama.

The Lamoine VFD arranged for the sale in October 2017, and paid \$100,000 for the vehicle (excluding shipping costs) which is in excellent condition. The LVFD contributed 10% of the total cost to the purchase, and the Town of Lamoine raised the remainder of the cost at the annual town meeting in March 2018.

Fire chief George “Skip” Smith who was among about 15-department members when the truck rolled in on a flat-bed transport truck on Sunday, October 28, 2018, says the new vehicle will give the department capabilities that it has never had before. The truck is equipped with an on board tank and pump which is piped to the ladder tip. The chief remarked that the truck will be of tremendous assistance on structural and chimney fires, and other uses that require reaching significant heights. The aerial will be of great assistance to firefighters who should not have to negotiate placing extremely heavy ground ladders on structure fires.

To make room in the firehouse for the new ladder truck, the Town of Lamoine sold a 1989 tanker truck to the Winter Harbor Fire Department.



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PRESS RELEASE

Trenton Fire's Deputy Chief Chosen to present at the FDIC International Convention

Trenton Volunteer Fire Department is proud to announce that Deputy Chief Steve Heckman has been chosen from over 900 proposals, to present at the FDIC Convention of April 2019 in Indianapolis, IN. The selection process is done by the FDIC Advisory Committee and states "it is a compliment" when a proposal is among those selected. Deputy Chief Heckman will be presenting on Fire Alarm Systems – Simplified Approach to Understanding: Operation, Limitations, Industry Terminology – and those Unwanted Alarms. Deputy Chief Heckman is a subject matter expert with over 25 years in the field of commercial and industrial fire protection where he specialized in the design, installation and maintenance of alarm systems and holds certifications in Fire Protection Engineering of Fire Alarm Systems and Water-Based Suppression System Maintenance.

As a member of Trenton Fire for over 12 years, Deputy Chief Heckman is a wealth of knowledge with a degree in Fire Science Technology (SMCC); current an instructor for the Hancock County Fire Academy, Maine Fire Service Institute and EMCC Fire Science program. He also is Pro-Board-Certified Firefighter I & II and Fire Instructor I & II, Emergency Vehicle Operations Class Trainer, National Fire Academy – Fire Investigation, Incident Safety Office & Public Information Officer, Certified Hazmat Technician, Certified Fire Inspector I and holds State of Maine Licenses for Fire Sprinkler Inspector & Electricians Helper.

FDIC (Fire Department Instructors Conference) International's primary focus has been to educate and train the fire service for 92 years with the 2019 FDIC Convention. FDIC states that one of its greatest qualities is the unparalleled opportunity to network through the frequent "hallway conversations" and various special events throughout the week.

Trenton Volunteer Fire Department is located at 59 Oak Point Road, Trenton Maine and was established in 1958 and currently has 21 members.

For any questions, please contact the Trenton Fire Department at 669-4131 (voicemail).

Kennebec



Ryan Cote – New Lieutenant

On July 23rd, 2018, the Waterville Fire Department recently conducted a Lieutenant's assessment and they had three well qualified candidates, all of which would have done an excellent job for the department. After the scores were calculated, Fire Chief Shawn Esler announced that Ryan Cote will become the next Lieutenant serving on A-Shift. Above and beyond normal operations, Lt. Cote has enhanced our apparatus maintenance program and EMS division ultimately improving the delivery of services to the City.

Please join me in congratulating Lt. Ryan Cote on his recent accomplishment.

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Shawn Esler – New Fire Chief

The City of Waterville on May 21st, 2018 promoted Waterville Fire Captain Shawn Esler to become the city's new fire chief starting on July 1. Shawn Esler will not become Fire Chief for Winslow. Winslow will be hiring their own Chief. Esler, 29, of Albion, has been with the fire department 10 years, and has been captain since 2015. He was hired in 2008 and promoted to lieutenant in 2011. Chief Esler replaces Chief David Lafountain who had been in the fire service for the past 39 years, 10 years as Waterville's Chief.



Eion Pelletier – New Captain

On July 1st, 2018, Lieutenant Eion Pelletier would begin his new job as Fire Captain on A-Shift. Captain Pelletier has been with the Waterville Fire Department for

12 years, the last 4 years as Lieutenant.



EMS Award

On May 23rd, 2018, the Waterville Fire Department were presented EMS Excellence awards for their contribution to the Maine EMS system both locally and at the State Level.

Knox





Owls Head Central School continues educating right to the end.

OWLS HEAD – Owls Head Central School educated pupils one last time, Sunday, June 24, before the walls become dust in a few more days.

New recruits of area fire departments, as well as old hats, honed their roof-walking, spraying, and searching skills without fear of structural consequences during a one-day activity.

Everything but the fire.

"We actually wanted it for a week or two to be able to play in it," Owls Head Fire Chief Frank Ross said, "with at least a couple of times at night."

According to Ross, area law enforcement agencies had also expressed interest in conducting drills in the empty building. With the limited time, however, the law enforcement was not able to coordinate their personnel.

Though the RSU 13 school board approved of the training, according to Ross, time restrictions prevented extended use.

As soon as the building is demolished, contractors will place a large septic system where the building now stands. After that, the race is on to plant lawn and landscaping before the new school year starts in two

months.

"We have a lot of 'green' [new] people, so this is awesome," said Rockland Fire Captain Jeff Benner, safety officer for the event. "It's not something we get to do every day Cutting a hole in the roof is not something that we do a lot. This is a good time to do it, though, when it's not on fire, so we can practice."

Owls Head Fire Department currently has eight new recruits. All of them have suited up already, but the school training provided a first for many of the real-life situations to come.

"A lot of them are loving it," Ross said, of the personnel able to attend.

"The hoses are definitely powerful," said Chad Nickles. "It's cool, though, if you're sitting here running the nozzle, to get a little bit of the spray breeze on you; cools you down a little."

For Laura "Lola" Hunt, a new recruit on the auxiliary, the day provided a view from the department's perspective. Hunt is already a member of the Salvation Army and was recently certified by FEMA.

"I saw on the news that the Owls Head Fire Department needed help, so I made the call," she said.

Personnel from Rockland, South Thomaston, Rockport, Camden, Cushing, Owls Head, and Appleton also attended the training.



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OWLS HEAD – The large sign outside the Owls Head Fire Department, March 6, was intended to draw more members. In larger print: “This fire department is closed. Your insurance rates are going way up.” The smaller print: “It’s going to happen without your help...” So some townspeople panicked, having seen only the large print, that the Town Selectmen whisked the sign away within hours.

Now, a new sign is drawing the eye of passers-by as the department continues recruitment efforts to offset a shortage of firefighting and auxiliary manpower that Assistant Fire Chief John Gamage described as critical within the aging department.

Five years ago an intense recruitment push enticed 13 new members to graduate from the required State Basic Life Support Interior Firefighter program. Several have since returned to college, relocated, or simply dropped out, Gamage said. A few cited a lack of affordable housing as a reason to turn away.

Word of mouth drew one new volunteer to the station in March as members debated recruitment strategies. Limited response to traditional recruitment of the younger generations continues to plague the situation. As a result, crew members are meeting the technology generation on their terms, and with new, creative methods. Soon, perhaps, videos of Owls Head firefighters will appear on personal devices as a way to incentivize new members to join and to combat the dwindling volunteer corps.

Trepidations mount at the idea of house fires, incidents at the Knox County Regional Airport, or motor vehicle accidents occurring when the mutual aid municipalities, and Owls Head residents, cannot respond.

The fire at Fisher Engineering in Rockland, Jan. 29, tapped all available mutual aid at that time, according to Capt. Skip Hallett, during a winter recruitment meeting. Had an incident occurred closer to home during that time, the odds of anyone responding were minimal at best, he said.

“All volunteer departments are looking for new members,” said OHFD firefighter Eliot Scott. “As chairman

of the Maine State Firefighters Federation recruitment committee I am working hard to see this accomplished in our state.”

The goal is to get the young people involved, not just for their energy, but to keep the department moving forward into the future.

“This is what we’ve got,” Hallett said as he pointed to his teenage son (recently named Owls Head Junior Firefighter of the Year), and another teen, before two more teens arrived.

The department also seeks adults who work from home. These days, many people commute to work in neighboring towns — Rockland, Camden, Bath, Augusta — and they cannot easily rush to the fire station in the event of a call.

And, it is not just Owls Head facing this shortage. At most fire scenes involving volunteer departments, the conversation is the same. Crews that can be counted on two hands. Cushing has lobstermen willing to help, yet who can’t attend when out on the ocean.

Other volunteers respond for three or four departments because they know the manpower is crucial.

Some come from the fields, driving tractors with utmost speeds of 12 miles per hour. Still others not strong enough for the hard labor operate the rigs, manage the pump controls, or direct traffic.

In 2015, state legislators passed the Length of Service Award Program Cap as a way to financially reward volunteers who stay with their departments for a certain number of years.

However, “Governor LePage had previously refused to appoint members to the Maine Length of Service Award Program Board of Trustees despite the passage of the LOSAP program in 2015,” said Lindsay Crete, communications director for the Maine State House Majority Office, in an email.

In March, 2017, Rep. Erin Herbig introduced LD 1243, “An Act Regarding the Maine Length of Service Award Program Board of Trustees,” according to Crete. This bill requires the chairman of the Maine Fire Protection Services Commission to appoint initial members to the board of trustees if those appointments have not been made within 30 days of the effective date of that legislation.

“After this legislation was introduced, Governor LePage began making appointments to the board voluntarily,” Crete said. “Rep. Herbig thus requested the legislation be tabled where it died upon our adjournment.”

On April 4, the Maine House of Representatives enacted **LD 1845 into law**. “An Act to Provide Incentives to Attract Trained Firefighters to Maine and To Retain Trained Firefighters by Expanding the Provision of Live Fire Service Training,” requires the Maine Fire Protection Services

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Commission, housed within the Maine Community College System, to establish a grant program to provide funding for regional training facility improvements.

Yet, without volunteers to send, the new law has little impact on the Owls Head Fire Department. So the recruitment efforts continue, in Owls Head, and on most municipalities along the Midcoast.



Vinalhaven's Cap Conway retires after 64 years of knocking down fires.

VINALHAVEN

He had stood there, on the ice, only two days after telling current fire chief Marc Candage that he'd be out

of service for awhile after knee surgery.

Having knocked down the structure fire, Candage stepped from the building, saw Cap and Cap's cane and dark glasses. Candage shook his head, and quietly questioned Cap's safety and sanity.

Yet, with a firefighting background stretching back 64 years, no one questions Clarence 'Cap' Conway's dedication.

On Sunday, July 8, Cap retired, officially. His retirement party drew community members as well as delegates from the Maine State Firefighters Association representing Woolwich, Hope, Cushing, Rockport, Mexico and Waldoboro.

In actuality, Conway started talking of retirement back in October, but it's hard to get party guests to Vinalhaven in the wintertime, according to his daughter, Jean.

Those winter months allowed the family, the department, the town, to know whether Cap truly meant to hang up his helmet.

"It's not a career. It's not a job. Nor is it a hobby," Conway once told MSFF President Ken Desmond. "It's the passion that I have for being a firefighter."

Without a doubt, he has passion, and it spread to his family, to his friends, and to many others.

Jean, years ago and new to the department, once learned of a car accident and thought that her daughter was in the wreck. Jean ran down the street, still wearing the new dress she'd been trying on.

"I got there and my father said: 'Damn it, you're a firefighter. Get out there and do your job,'" she said.

The Conway motto, according to Jean: "Fire first, family second."

It's the dedication. The missed holidays. The sleepless nights. The workshops and conferences all over Maine (as Arthur Kiskila, of Cushing, shared stories about), as well as the opening of house and home to firefighter trainers from the mainland (as Rockport's Bruce Woodward experienced).

"For Knox County, there is no doubt in my mind that not only Vinalhaven, but all of Knox County, and the State of Maine, that the fire service is a much better place because of that dedication," Hope Fire Chief Clarence Keller said.

Conway has held every position within the department since 1953, though, as he would say, "I've been here for a minute or two."

And in that "minute or two" he has attended every training, every meeting, every call that he could pos-

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sibly attend.

He was 18 when he started. Back then, the crew drove a 1939 'old truck,' according to Conway.

The Coast Guard brought in a gallon-a-minute pump and put that on the end of the truck. Then, about two years later, the town provided them with a 1948 truck that the department added a 500-gallon pump to that as well.

"When you live on an island, you have to invent," he said.

Some notable fires during Conway's era:

1956 – Jack's Restaurant

1959 – Medical Center/ MacIntosh Grocery

1967 – Masonic Building/ A&P Store

1971 – The Vinalhaven School

1979 – The Islander Inn

As a teen, off his military base one day and heading home with his military friend of three months, the pair came upon a house fire. Clarence said, "Let's go!" the friend said during the retirement party. There were no firemen around, just the guy who'd brought the truck and was preparing to roll out the hoses.

Clarence said, "we'll do it." So the two of them, in a pouring rain storm, without jackets, put the fire out.

"That was probably his first fire," his friend said.

From then on, he was a firefighter.

Lincoln

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Chief Paul Leeman of the Bristol who became the second full time chief in Lincoln county, a great chief and well deserved.

The county chiefs are working on securing a site in Damariscotta to build a new training facility, chiefs Huntley of Newcastle, Roberts of Damariscotta, and Morris of Jefferson are negotiating for a site in Damariscotta.

In August South Bristol fire department once again had a lobster bake for the Lincoln County Fire Chiefs Associations annual awards ceremony, the awards handed out were:

Community Merritt: Dead River Co. and The Lincoln County News

Firefighter of the Year: Jordan Powell

Officer of the Year: Jeri Pendleton

Dept. of the Year: Jefferson Fire

Chief Maxy Award: Robert Mooney

The President's Award: The Pendleton Family

Congratulations to all, Well deserved.

Lincoln County has a new Communications Center Director, Mr. Thomas Nelson of Damariscotta.

Congratulations and welcome aboard.

The Lincoln County Fire Academy is working to possibly have a Firefighter 1 & 2 class as well as a basic Firefighter class sometime in the spring, also Chief Morris is trying to put together a Basic Fire Officer class to start in mid-January and ending in March.



Deputy Chief Sylvanus "Butch" Glover of Rumford Fire being Sworn in by Town Manager Linda-Jean Briggs



Deputy Chief Sylvanus "Butch" Glover Pinned by his father

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Firefighter Samantha Cote of Rumford Fire being Sworn in by Town Manager Linda-Jean Briggs. Looking on are in the back Deputy Chief Butch Glover and to the right is Chief Chris Reed.

Chief Rob Dixon, Chief Chris Reed, Deputy Chief Sylvanus "Butch" Glover, Lt. Mike Arsenault, and Firefighter Sam Cote.



Chief Chris Reed being Sworn in by Town Manager Linda Jean Briggs with members of the Rumford Fire in the back ground. Chief Reed's wife Stephanie was there along with Family and friends, as well as Police Chief Carter and surrounding Fire Chiefs and Law Enforcement personnel.



Firefighter Samantha Cote Pinned by her father.



Members of Rumford Fire present at the promotion ceremony, L-R: Lt. Keith Bickford, Deputy Chief Christopher Bryant, Deputy



Pinned by his son Luke Reed, a police officer in Grand Prairie, TX.



Chief Reed's welcome to Rumford cake.



Here it is!! Back in June, the taxpayers of the Town of Otisfield approved the purchase of a 4-wheel-drive pickup for the Fire Department to replace our 1984, 2-wheel drive. We started the process of looking well in advance with the hope that our townspeople would recognize our need and approve the purchase. We looked at many possible vehicles. On the last day of July, we purchased this 2011 3/4 GMC on the wholesale lot from Rowe Ford in Auburn. Jeremy Stevens at Stevens Auto Body in Harrison buffed and shined it up. Chip Keene from Mr. Chips Signs designed and furnished the lettering and striping. Emergency and scene lights were purchased from Strobes 'n More. We re-purposed a siren and radio, and it was all wired up by OTFD members Jesse Cottingham and Scott Berk. Today, it is in service. Thank you Town of Otisfield and all involved in making this possible.

MAINE FIRE SERVICE INSTITUTE

November 2018 – Oxford County Outreach
Vicki Schmidt – MFSI County Representative 207-890-4590

We hope you are all doing well and are preparing for a Maine winter. MFSI has taken all the water props out of service for the year due to potential freeze ups. This includes the Car Fire Prop and the System 64 Propane Trainer. During the winter months we will be working on several special projects to make fire training more efficient and effective as we move forward. One of our major projects for this winter will be updating our Fire Fighter I & II materials

#1 - Basic Pumps Course & Advanced Pumps Course – The Basic Pumps Course is finalized and our initial classes proved the new curriculum very productive and valuable. MFSI and our Pumps Instructors will

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continue to finalize the Advanced Pumps Program over the winter months.

#2 - Fire Instructor Courses. A fire instructor TtT for MFSI Fire Instructors is slated for November 16th at MFSI. The plan is to roll out four programs this spring semester.

- *Saco, held at Saco Fire*
- *Augusta, held at the Augusta City Center*
- *Hermon, held at the Hermon Fire Department*
- *Caribou, held at the EMA office behind the fire station*

#3 – 2018 AFG Grant Plan – The Grant was submitted we applied for Haz-Mat Training equipment as our current inventory is getting old and worn out. We also requested funds for forcible entry equipment to potentially outfit another trailer due to the high demand of these props. Lastly we went for a fire pump simulator. Wish us luck.

#4 – AFG Grant Updates: 2016 Grant - Extrication trailer bid specification has been returned and the bid has been awarded to Hackney Emergency Vehicles out of North Carolina. The trailer should be completed in December 2018.

#5 - MFSI Recruitment, The MFSI new Instructor Academy was held this past weekend at MFSI. We have eight new State Fire Instructors to assist us in the fire training mission.

Eric Watson (City of Lewiston Fire Department) Jerry LaMoria (Town of Scarborough Fire Department) Cory Wyman (City of Bangor Fire Department) Raymond Gale (Town of Sedgwick Fire Department) Steve Heckman (Town of Trenton Fire Department) Tucker Holt (City of Sanford Fire Department) Mike Surdick (Town of Milo Fire Department) and Alex Arsenault (Town of Boothbay Fire Department) We are planning to repeat the process over the winter months.

#6 – National Fire Academy Maine State Weekend is set for March 30th & 31st 2019. Save the date and please encourage folks to attend. The flier should be out soon.

#7 – National Fire Academy Command & Control of Incident Operations is planned for May 2019 at EMCC in Bangor. The flier will be out Mid-Winter 2019. This is an excellent program, MFSI offered it last May and the class was very successful. We look forward to bringing it to the greater Bangor area.

#8 – New Leadership Series from the National Fire Academy. We are working to deliver the series of three across the state. Please realize we only have three individuals trained to deliver these programs! We are working them in along with our Maine State Weekend at the NFA and our in-state deliveries from the NFA. Anyone interested in attending the Managing Company Officer program at the NFA will need these programs as prerequisites.

#9 – NFA Initial Company Operations series to be held in Cumberland County. Watch for the flier to be released soon for the entire initial company operations series over the winter months. This includes Strategies and Tactics, Decision Making for Initial Company Operations and Preparations of Initial Company Operations. These programs will be held between Scarborough and North Yarmouth Fire Departments.

#10- We will be working with Texas A&M to bring another Fire Officer III & IV next spring at MFSI. The dates that have been chosen are May 13th – 24th this is a two week program (80 Hours). The cost of the program has not been worked out and we will have room for 24 candidates.

11 – MFSI Web-site, we have added a Fire Fighter Health and Safety section under the Fire Service Resources page on our web-site. <https://mfsi.me.edu/fire-service-resources/> Click the link to have an immediate view. We will be adding documents that will assist our state's fire fighters in being mindful of health and safety. We are committed to assisting in this effort.

*#12 – We are communicating with Maine BLS on a short program on protocol for firefighter training accidents and the legal reporting requirements. We have been informed of several personal injuries during training events that were not officially documented. If any MFSI Instructor is present they have a duty to notify the administration immediately. **Municipal instructors need not notify MFSI** but they are welcome all to attend the*

COUNTY NEWS

training. Our goal will be to cover MFSI policies, the proper means and ways to document a scene after an incident and the reports that shall be filed. We will take a valuable lessons learned approach from all injuries, with an emphasis of preventing injuries in the future.

#13 – *UTV/ATV Training*, we have been asked to help coordinate some training in this regard. Chief Greg Payson and Director Graves are working with Inland Fisheries and Wildlife along with VFIS on a potential TtT on a program here in Maine. This will be at the cost of the participant. We will keep you posted.

#14 – *Major MFSI Project for the winter months: MFSI Instructor Portal*

Upgrade Basic Fire School/Match the Progress charts with FF-I Fire Fighter I & II Upgrade to 2019 Ed NFPA 1001

MFSI Equipment TtT's for next spring System 64 Car Fire Prop

Air Management Forced Entry Systems Pump Trailer VFIS/EVOC TtT Spring 2019 Update SOP's SAP's Equipment Procurement from AFG

#15 – *MFSI is working with the Maine Fire Protection Services Commission to create Live Fire Training Facility Grant Guidance and Application documents.* MFSI along with the Fire Commission will be hosting informational meetings to guide applicants through the process. We are close to having final documents and should have them ready for review within the next few weeks.

Kindly submit to Director Graves and Deputy Director Roy in an email stating any compliments or items of concern that result from your county's meeting. We will address them as soon as possible. We are getting more response and we appreciate it. THANK YOU. Please stay safe out there, you are all a very valuable resource to our beautiful state. Happy Thanksgiving to all of you from all of us here at MFSI.

Director Graves MFSI 207-844-2078



Newry Utility 1

2019 Ford F450 Xtra Cab Duel Axle 6.8L Gas Engine Cab and Chassis from Pellitier Ford out fitted with an Aluminum Utility body from F3 Mfg. The 275 gal Skid Tank with 18hp Vanguard with Waterous Fire Troll Pump with Foam should be in place within two weeks.

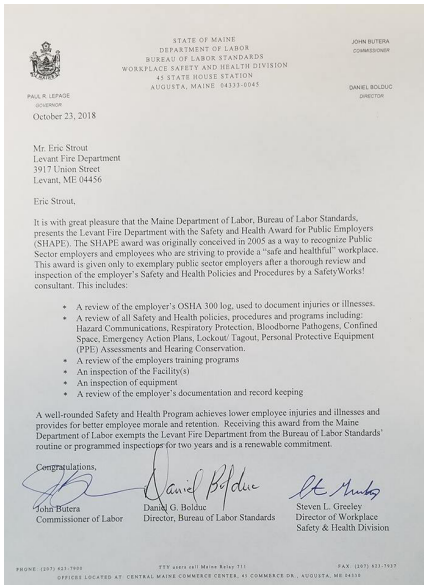
This unit is primarily being utilized as a Quick Attack 1st Responding Truck also acting as a Forestry Unit too.

COUNTY NEWS



The winter's first snowstorm didn't stop firefighters from Oxford County from completing their VIFS EVOC program. The class was provided by State Fire Instructors from the Maine Fire Services Institute and hosted by Peru Fire Department.

Penobscot South



"Absolute proud moment for the entire Levant Fire Department. Over a year ago the entire department made a commitment to strive to improve our training, focus on creating a safe environment, and tremendous team effort to have all the necessary paperwork in order and updated. My team of officers are beyond amazing

for working hard towards this award. This type of achievement wouldn't have happened without every single firefighter making a commitment to do the necessary training and dedicate time to ensure everything is done properly month after month! Tonight we were so proud to accept the SHAPE award from Maine Department of Labor and our thanks to them for helping us achieve this award. A moment of emotion for this department as well, Captain Greenlaw was driven to see us get this reward and was a key player in helping us achieve this....tonight - look down on the 44 house and say "We did it"! We raise this plaque in honor as you enter our station and commit to continue to improve and keep this award for years to come!! "

Piscataquis

Piscataquis County

Maine fire service training has been training firefighters from area towns in basic fire school using a building a Dover-Foxcroft. Trainings included forcible entry, ladders, search and rescue.

Greenville Fire Department took delivery on a crash truck that was located at the Brunswick Navel Base. This crash truck was added to the fleet to respond to fires at the airport, and any aircraft emergencies.

Joseph R Guyotte, Piscataquis County VP

Somerset

Skowhegan also on November 14, 5 children hurt in school bus accident.

Waldo

Brooks, Waldo, Jackson, Monroe, and Morrill fire depts. got together for a jaws extrication class, were they lifting air bags and using stabilization struts were used also had the old power hawk jaws in use. We also had AMKUS battery powered jaws displayed and used, they were very cleaver with interchangeable tips for the amkus jaws, very quick powerful and easy to use. The cost for the units have a spreader and a cutter with tips and extra batteries and charger was around \$22,580.00. We had a blast has we blew up air bag afterwards and we owe a great big thank you and happy retirement to Troy Leer from Bangor fire, for teaching the class.

COUNTY NEWS



Goodwins Mills Fire Dept - This past Tuesday we held a promotion ceremony for our newly appointed officers; Capt James Johnston, Capt Dylan Martin, Lt Jamie Mouzas, Lt Cole Tarbell and Lt Shawn Pendleton. Congratulations!

York South

VP Jonathan Gay

Berwick voters approve funding for new fire station

The voters in the town of Berwick have recently approved a \$6 million dollar bond to build a new fire station for the Berwick Fire Department. The current fire station has been battling a number of issues over the years that include; drainage, air quality, ventilation, black mold, lack of storage and lack of adequate space. In order to wash the apparatus, they require the appropriate manpower and take the vehicles to public works to wash them. They are unable to wash the apparatus in the bays due to lack of drainage. There has been a growing battle with black mold throughout the station, which has been an increasing health concern since the station is manned with a paid firefighter 24/7. The vehicle exhaust system and apparatus make for little room for movement throughout the bays, adding to the safety concerns. A new station will be safe, secure and provide the adequate space needed for years to come.

For more information, please check out;

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fHNsZITib4A&index=6&list=PL4ATay3ly-cZYWYZSrEy_AV9RQwJHJARm

https://www.berwickmaine.org/index.asp?SEC=301ED9FC-DBF3-43E7-BE51-A5C6B67A911A&DE=5F99AA8A-6413-48EB-8864-5ABFCBB7A953&Type=B_PR

'Tis the season of giving back for firefighters in York.

The York Beach and York Village Fire Departments have always received generous donations and support from the members of the community. Each year, the fire departments always look for ways to give back to the community, above and beyond the emergencies

they respond to each day.

This year, the fire departments host the 6th Annual Fill-A-Fire Truck Toys for Tots event on December 1 at the York Hannaford. This one day event brings in around one thousand unwrapped toys that will be distributed to those in need this Christmas.

The York Beach Fire Department and York Parks and Recreation teamed up to host a Veterans Day Pancake Breakfast. The breakfast was largely attended by those who have served our country. This event will now become a tradition every year, as the town continues to build on its recognition of our Veterans.

There was another first for York Beach Fire, as it held a Thanksgiving dinner that was free to community members. There were around 100 guests that were fed a delicious meal served by firefighters who volunteered their time on Thanksgiving Day to give back to others.

The recent gas emergency that occurred in the City of Lawrence, about 45 minutes from York, left many people out of their homes as the cold weather rushed into the area. The need for warm clothing, blankets and other necessities quickly became evident. When they are not working full time for the City of Lawrence Fire Department, twin brothers Peter and Eric Humphrey are volunteer Assistant and Deputy Chief Officers for the York Village Fire Department. As the dust settled from the gas emergency, Peter's wife Sarah and their two elementary and pre-school aged boys would go down to see Peter at work, where most of their firefighters are working a hundred hours or more each week. Sarah and the kids saw the need that was there and immediately jumped into action. They coordinated a very successful coats, gloves, blankets and warm clothing drive at Coastal Ridge Elementary School. The haul full of donated warm clothing and blankets made its way to Lawrence as quickly as the cold weather has. These efforts continue, since the drive Sarah has made a number of trips with car loads of warm clothing for those in need.

The holiday season reminds us that our commitment to our communities and helping those in need goes beyond a 911 call.

South Berwick Fire Honors Chief Gorman through remembrance, dedication and Miles for Mesothelioma

Fire Chief George Gorman battled many fires throughout his 53 years in the fire service, serving as Chief of the South Berwick Fire Department for 47 of those years. The hardest battle of his life was mesothelioma, which he fought valiantly until it took him from this world on October 7, 2017.

Chief Gorman is a legend in the fire service to Southern Maine and Seacoast New Hampshire. Even being

a legend is an understatement to most who knew him or served under his command. While his passing has been difficult for his family and extended fire service family, he continues to make a difference through his leadership that he instilled on the department for 47 years and life values that he gave his children and grandchildren.

Family, friends and the South Berwick Fire Department continue to remember and honor a man who gave so much to everyone else. This fall, Chief Gorman's granddaughter Ariel raised approximately \$2,000 for mesothelioma research and treatment through the Miles for Meso 5k. This event was largely attended by members of the community, the South Berwick Fire Department as well as surrounding fire departments.

Chief George Gorman's impact will be forever remembered through family, friends and the fire service. In honor of his service, a plaque was unveiled in a ceremony that took place at the South Berwick Fire Department in early November (Doyle, 2018). This plaque will forever staple and honor Chief Gorman's legacy and dedication to the fire service and community.

Doyle, J. 2018. 'Wonderful tribute' for late South Berwick Chief. Seacoastonline.com. Retrieved from: <http://www.fosters.com/news/20181114/wonderful-tribute-for-late-south-berwick-chief>

MSFFF FUNDRAISING:

If you have any ideas or suggestions for fundraising for the Federation, please contact President Ken Desmond.

EDUCATION & TRAINING:

SAVE DATE

Small Town Fire Chief Seminar

Hosted by New England Volunteer Fire & EMS Coalition, Inc.



Saturday, April 6, 2019 | Maine Fire Service Institute

Contact info: Director James Graves, 207-844-2070 or MFSInfo@smccme.edu

MFSI Update for County Meetings: October 2018

Folks, I truly hope you enjoyed your summer and had an opportunity to spend time with friends and family. The fall training season is upon us and it is very busy, to say the least. We are getting more and more popular in places that never used us in the past. This is both good and concerning, our instructors are very busy with work and family life and filling the bill has been difficult as of late. Please pass along we will be hiring again in the future and we need highly motivated and qualified folks that are willing to pay it forward to others. To our instructors, please make contact with your regional Training Program Manager to see where you may be able to help out. It's been a very busy summer at MFSI and the following is what we have going on now and what we are working on to the future of fire training better and better each passing year.

#1 - Basic Pumps Course & Advanced Pumps Course – Great progress has been made. We have held two very successful train the trainers in Brunswick and Eddington. We would like to thank everyone that made these programs a success. As demand increases we will run another train the trainer, perhaps in the spring. Please email Deputy Jim Roy at jroy2@smccme.edu if you are interested in the BPOC TtT.

#2 - Fire Instructor Courses. A serious amount work has been done upgrading the new program. The plan is to hold a train the trainer for our staff in mid-November and get a few programs out all over the state in the spring. We only have enough funding for four programs a year, we will get some offerings out as soon as possible.

#3 - Pro-Board Review 2018 – As you may have heard we have been reaccredited with Pro-Board. This is no small task, one would need to work in the office to clearly understand the process, and it is very detailed to say the least. We are proud to say we had no

EDUCATION & TRAINING

major issues and we are all set until summer 2023.

#4 – National Fire Academy Weekend at EMCC in Bangor was a great success both programs had over 15 students and everyone seemed to enjoy their time with us at EMCC. Several folks made comments that it's nice to see us out of Brunswick. We received great support from the good people of EMCC and we plan on being back once a year with a weekend NFA delivery for sure.

#5 – 2018 AFG Grant Plan – The current plan is to attempt to procure a new car fire trainer, the current trainer is beginning to show the signs of heavy use. The unit is in high demand and we do not want to see an interruption in fire training on a prop like this. We are also considering more forced entry systems to replace the older friction forced doors.

#6 – AFG Grant Updates: 2016 Grant - Extrication trailer bid specification has been returned and the bid has been awarded to Hackney Emergency Vehicles out of North Carolina. The trailer should be completed in December 2018.

2017 Grant – Progress is moving well, the bid for PPE is about to close and notifications will be made to the winning bidder by November 1st. We will be purchasing two hauling trucks and we are currently working on specifications with Maine DOT. The bid documents are being worked on for the fire extinguisher trainer and the simulations software/laptop packages.

#7 - MFSI Recruitment, we had over twenty candidates apply to become MFSI Instructors. The process was successful and we have made offers to seven new probationary state fire instructors. The new instructor academy will take place the weekend of November 2, 3, & 4th at MFSI. We will be doing another search for instructors this spring. If you are interested please watch for the announcement.

#8 – VFIS (Volunteer Fire Insurance Service) EVOG (Emergency Vehicle Operators Course) has been updated. MFSI and VFIS has partnered to bring two full Train the Trainers to Maine. Both were well attended and over 80 MFSI and Municipal Fire Instructors have been trained as trainers and have all the updates and materials to perform the training in the field. We will no longer accept any older programs to avoid legal issues. We are planning another Train the Trainer for next spring here in Brunswick. Also, we are working with VFIS to bring the following program to Maine in the spring of 2019 see below:

Emergency Services UTV/ATV Safety Instructor (UTV/ATV-I)

Utility Terrain Vehicles (UTV) and All-Terrain Vehicles (ATV) have gained wider acceptance and use in both the fire service and EMS. These vehicles can help responders take quick action with less physical exhaustion of department members. These vehicles not only help emergency responders that use them, but also benefit the people served by the emergency service organization. Adding UTVs and ATVs to an ESO fleet can provide great benefits but might also present safety issues if the vehicles have not been properly trained in the operation and maintenance. This safety program was developed to provide refresher training for ESOs that use these types of specialty vehicles.

#9 – Pine Tree Burn Foundation Conference. Please consider attending this year's PTBFC in Portland the flier is attached. It is a great opportunity to learn and network.

#10 - Communications - County Representatives & SMCC/ MFSI Advisory Committee membership – In an earnest effort we are attempting to communicate better with the State's Fire Service. YOU folks are all key to this effort. We will be cc'ing all the advisory membership on these county rep updates each month. We are in hopes that this will assist in curbing rumors while eliciting facts. We ask for your support in this endeavor and remember we are a phone call away for any clarification. It's very important that our county reps are attending meetings to not only provide information but to obtain information regarding needs of their respective counties.

#11- We will be working with Texas A&M to bring another Fire Officer III & IV next spring at MFSI. We will suspend our Fire Officer I & II Program for one year to get on a schedule for providing both programs in a rotation that works and meets the demands. The program will be limited to 24 candidates so be sure to get your application in when the flier comes out in December/January.

#12 – National Fire Academy Command & Control of Incident Operations is planned for May 2019 at EMCC in Bangor. The flier will be out Mid-Winter 2019. This is an excellent program, we offered it last May and the class was very successful. We look forward to bringing it to the greater Bangor area.

#14 – New Leadership Series from the National Fire Academy. We are working to deliver the series of three across the state. Please understand we only have three individuals trained to deliver these programs so we are working them in on our Maine State Weekend at the NFA and our instate delivers from the NFA. Anyone of you that want to obtain the Managing Company Officer program at the NFA will need these programs as prerequisites.

#15 – We are planning for a couple County Outreach programs for next spring so watch for fliers in the late winter.

#16 – Jones & Bartlett Curriculum Update and Fire Instructor Workshop. Jones & Bartlett publishers will be at the Maine Fire Service Institute on November 1st 2018 for an informational update on the new curriculum based on the 2019 edition of the NFPA 1001 standard. The flier will be out soon, the program is free to all. However, you must send in a registration form to attend so can get an accurate head count for the meal.

Kindly submit a report to Director Graves and Deputy Director Roy in an email stating items of concern that result from your county's meeting. We will address them as soon as possible. We are getting more response and we appreciate it. THANK YOU.....

**Please stay safe out there, you are all a very valuable resource to our beautiful state.
Director Graves**

MISCELLANEOUS:

To Firefighters Who've Served: Thank You for Your Service

By Adria Horn, Director, Maine Bureau of Veterans' Services
For MSFFF *Flashpoint*
August 2018

"Thank you for your service." These five words are commonly expressed to military veterans, but we at the Maine Bureau of Veterans' Services also recognize the bravery and sacrifices made by our firefighters and first responders—the men and women who ensure the safety, protection and health of our local communities and its citizens. To you, we say "thank you for your service."

Like military veterans, first responders work in unstable, unpredictable, and dangerous environments. And like military veterans, your core mission is also to serve. In fact, many first responders served their country in uniform before joining their local station; according to U.S. Department of Labor data, one-fifth of firefighters nationally are veterans.

With this message, I invite Maine's fire departments and first responders to learn more about the mission of the Maine Bureau of Veterans' Services and our scope of services, so that when a colleague or a citizen needs help, you will know who to call, and in the process may save lives.

What is the Maine Bureau of Veterans' Services?

As Maine's primary public advocate for veterans, service members, and their families, the Maine Bureau of Veterans' Services exists to help Mainers who served, and their loved ones, understand and navigate the benefits, services, and programs available to them. We are public servants, like you, and we take our duty just as seriously.

One of the challenges we face in carrying out our mission is that many veterans don't realize the incredible wealth of benefits and resources available to them here in Maine. To this end, we are working hard to reach out to veterans where they live and work to ensure they are receiving the care they are owed.

From assisting veterans with obtaining military discharge records, connecting veterans with VA benefits and disability compensation, and maximizing their use of the numerous programs available to them, we help veterans navigate and access all their post-service needs.

Statewide, we work closely with partner agencies like the VA to bolster employment opportunities for veterans, improve access to education, reduce homelessness, and connect veterans with available mental health services.

The Bureau has six field offices statewide, as well as an office at the VA Maine Healthcare System at Togus. Our locations include: Caribou, Bangor, Machias, Lewiston, South Portland and Springvale. Each office is staffed by a Veteran Service Officer (VSO) who is ready and able to assist veterans in a variety of ways.

Like military veterans, first responders face consistent exposure to highly-stressful and traumatic situations. This makes first responders more vulnerable to post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), which can be compounded by prior experiences in the military for first responders who are veterans. For those who recognize signs of PTSD in themselves or others, our VSOs are ready to help you access the necessary mental health services.

What services are available?

The State of Maine provides nearly 20 programs for veterans and their families, including:

Tax Exemptions

Military Pensions: Fully exempt from income tax as of 1/1/16.

Homestead Exemption: \$20,000 exemption for veterans that have owned homestead property in Maine for at least 12 months and make the property their permanent residence by April 1.

Veteran Identification

Free Copies of DD 214s: Maine veterans may request a free copy of their DD 214 from the Bureau's archive of more than 45,000.

Veterans must have this critical document to prove veteran status for everything from retail discounts to applying for state and federal benefit programs.

Military Service Driver's License: Honorably discharged veterans may obtain a driver's license that identifies them as a veteran. The designation allows the license-holder to prove veteran status to obtain retail and restaurant discounts, as well as free admission to most of Maine's State Parks.

Recreation

Free Lifetime Veterans Park Pass: Maine veteran residents who were honorably discharged may receive a free, lifetime park pass for complimentary admission to most of Maine's State Parks and Historic Sites.

Disabled Veterans Controlled Moose Hunt: First of its kind in the nation, the Moose Hunt offers 25 disabled veterans (15 in-state residents and 10 out-of-state residents) the opportunity to tag a moose, with nearly all guide services, equipment, lodging, food, and meat processing costs covered by sponsors. The Hunt is a joint effort of the Bureau of Veterans' Services, the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife and Bridgewater, Maine-based Smoldering Lake Outfitters.

Disabled Veterans Free Licenses: Veterans with a service-connected disability of 50% or more may receive a complimentary license to fish, trap, hunt a range of wildlife (bear, migratory bird, pheasant, wild turkey, among others). The license remains valid for the life of the license holder, as long as the license holder continues to satisfy residency requirements and the license is not revoked or suspended.

Disabled Veteran Access to State Parks: Any veteran displaying a specially designated disabled veteran license plate or other placard (in accordance with Title 29-A, section 523, subsections 1 and 2) is allowed free admission to any state-owned park, camping area or beach.

Are there any employment resources for volunteer firefighters looking for jobs?

Veteran Assistance at Career Centers: All of Maine's Career Centers have dedicated Veteran Employment Representatives who help veterans find jobs by assisting with resume writing, networking,

MISCELLANEOUS:

and interviewing skills.

State of Maine Veteran Hiring Preference: Any veteran candidate who meets the minimum qualifications for a State job is guaranteed an interview, including veterans with an “Other Than Honorable” discharge. Gold Star spouses are also eligible for the hiring preference.

Accelerated Occupational Licensing Initiative: Provides fast-track civilian licensing for veterans with military expertise in Boiler, Electrical, Fuel, Plumbing.

Health Care Employment For Military Veterans:

All veterans discharged or released under conditions other than dishonorable, who completed health care related military training while in the Armed Forces, may utilize their military credentials when seeking civilian employment. Qualified veterans will receive individualized assistance when connecting one-on-one with the Department of Labor’s program staff to facilitate the transition.

Where can I get more information?

Should you have any questions about how the Maine Bureau of Veterans’ Services can better assist you, please do not hesitate to contact us. We can be reached by phone at 207-430-6035 or via email at mainebvs@maine.gov.

We also encourage you to [subscribe to our monthly e-newsletter](#); here you can stay up-to-date on the latest news, events and happenings in the veteran community.

Again, thank you for all you do for our communities, and thank you for your service!

