



# FLASHPOINT

Spring 2015

Maine State Federation of Fire Fighters

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE – KEN DESMOND

Just a few things that have gone on this Winter and Spring. As you know, Maine's Legislative Issues have been on the front page when it comes to the Fire Service. LD164, An Act to Establish the Maine Length of Service Award Program, was submitted by Representative Evangelos of Friendship and we gave testimony on this along with the Maine Fire Chiefs' Association and the Maine Fire Protection Services Commission. I was present for these testimonies as well as the LD regarding the \$750 dollar real estate tax. We support the Fire Marshal's bill regarding extending workers' compensation to certain employees of the State Fire Marshal who contract cancer. We also are supporting the Forest Service bill. We are trying to make a difference to our Fire Service. Keep helping by contact-

ing our Representatives. I have been invited to a few county association meetings and have talked about our goals and what the MSFFF can do for all in Maine. I have received no complaints about the increase in membership dues, however I have received many positive words and thank-yous for not keeping the fundraising telemarketing company. The MSFFF board is meeting next on June 6, 2015 at 10:00am at the Maine Municipal Association Office in Augusta. I have spoken with this year's Convention Chairman and he stated that things look good for the upcoming convention and he will be at our meeting in June to give us an update. Please be safe and make sure that we all come home after the call.

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# MEMBERSHIP

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Current membership count for 2014-2015 is: 5,539

If you haven't yet paid your membership dues for 2014-2015, please know that you are currently NOT COVERED should there be a death.

Any dues for 2015-2016 not paid by June 30, 2015 will also not be covered for the upcoming membership year.

Don't let this important benefit lapse! Get your dues in today! Don't delay!

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

## 2015 MSFFF CONVENTION:

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The 52nd Annual MSFFF Convention is coming to Waldo County this year at Point Lookout and the City of Belfast September 11 - 13, 2015!

Check out the Facebook page for recent updates at <https://www.facebook.com/52MSFFFC/timeline>

If you've never attended the convention, we encourage you to do so this year!

It's an event not to be missed!

## MSFFF BOARD OF DIRECTORS — 2015 MEETING DATES:

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The next meeting is Saturday, June 6th, 10:00am at the MMA Office in Augusta.

## ADVERTISING WITH THE MSFFF:

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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://www.msfff.org/images/PDF/RateMarketingSheet\\_MSFFF\\_2014.pdf](http://www.msfff.org/images/PDF/RateMarketingSheet_MSFFF_2014.pdf)

# COUNTY NEWS

## Androscoggin

**Lisbon:** On Sunday March 22nd Lisbon Fire Department was dispatched for a reported Chimney Fire. When Chief 503 arrived on scene he confirmed a working fire, fire through the roof and struck a 1st alarm, and tankers from Sabattus, Durham and Topsham. Crews made an aggressive interior fire attack and established a water shuttle from a hydrant about a mile away. Had heavy fire throughout the attic of the building, and parts of the house, water and smoke damage throughout the entire building. (Photo below)



A homeless man from the Augusta area was arrested on a slew of charges Friday morning after police chased a stolen truck down Route 196 before the driver crashed on Canal Street and sent the truck sliding 80 feet down a riverbank, police said. The man was taken to a Lewiston hospital with minor injuries. Photos below provided from the Lisbon Fire Department.

May 5th - Firefighters from 3 counties were called to a Massive fire in Monmouth at A/D Electric. A 3 1/2 story old chicken barn converted into a warehouse in flames, and spread to a field across the street and burned around 2 acres. There were no hydrants in the area, tankers were called from around 6 towns to help shuttle water into the fire. Assistant Fire Chief Pat Smith said "First arriving crew had to deal with explosions and debris flying everywhere."

The fire started when a worker was on a bucket truck, welding and caught the hydraulic line on fire, which caught his clothing on fire. The man had to jump from the bucket truck. He was transported to the hospital with 2nd and 3rd degrees on his body, his condition is unknown. (Photos below)





# COUNTY NEWS



Sunday March 15th 2015, Lisbon Fire, EMS and Police along with Topsham Fire/EMS responded to a head on crash on Rt 196. Extrication on one vehicle and 3 ambulances transported patients to a local hospital. (Photos below)



# COUNTY NEWS



On Monday, February 23, Wales, Sabattus, Leeds, Greene, and Monmouth fire department responded to Gardner Road in Wales for a working chimney fire. Crews had flames showing when arrived. Crews contained the fire to the Chimney. (Photo below)



## Hancock



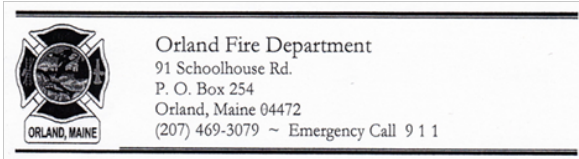
In an event sponsored by the Castine Fire Rescue Volunteer Association April 17th, the following awards were given in recognition of outstanding performance and service (L to R, top to bottom)

- Veteran Fire Service Commendation – FF Scott Vogell
- Firefighter of the Year – Captain/EMR Lisa M. Burton
- First Responder of the Year – EMT Kathy C. MacArthur
- Rookie of the Year – FF/EMT Kyle D. Fallon
- Community Member of the Year – Raeann L. Hodgson, RN
- Certificate of Commendation – LT Sam Brown
- Captain Everett E. Leach Exceptional Duty Medal – AEMT Carolyn Brouillard
- Captain Everett E. Leach Exceptional Duty Medal – Asst. Chief Tom K. Gutow

Also shown is a group photo of members of the Castine Fire Rescue Department, people who give unselfishly of their time, talents and energy to make Castine a safe community in which to reside. The awards were presented by Castine Fire Rescue Volunteer Association President Stephen 'Jack' Spratt, Castine Fire Rescue Department Chief Randy Stearns, Asst. Chief Tom Gutow and LT Lance Burton, who presented to the graduating MMA students. Photo credit: Rosemary Wyman



# COUNTY NEWS



Dear Fellow Firefighters,

One of our own, Firefighter Jeff Newbegin of Orland, has given over 25 years of volunteer fire service to this community. His dedication, fearlessness, and grit have inspired those around him to show up, work harder, and give more. He has answered countless calls through the years and contributed directly to the saving of lives and property.

Recently, Jeff and his family learned that he would have a new battle to fight—not the kind that can be knocked down easily, and not the kind that you can fight alone. Jeff has been diagnosed with esophageal cancer.

His illness and the side effects of the aggressive treatment have left this active, rugged man unable to continue his work as a master plumber. His family is trying to get by without his income, but it's hard. Our department and Jeff's wide circle of friends are helping, but we are writing to ask that you join us in honoring this man's service by contributing to a fund that will help the Newbegins make ends meet during Jeff's treatment and recovery.

It's no secret that times are tough and money is tight everywhere. But there is strength in numbers. We are asking every fire department in Maine to help one of our own when he needs us most. No donation will be too small. A little bit can go a long way in times like this. We ask that you answer the call and consider giving any amount that feels meaningful that your department or association can afford.

Donations can be forwarded to the Orland Fire Department at:

Orland Fire Department  
PO BOX 254  
Orland, ME 04472

Checks can be made out directly to Jeff Newbegin or to the Orland Fire Department with Jeff's name in the memo line. Checks made out to the OFD will be collected together and given directly to the family.

We thank you for your service and we thank you in advance for your generosity.

Kind Regards,  
Robert Conary, Fire Chief, OFD

## Kennebec

May 16, 2015: 7a.m. - 12 p.m: Benefit Event for Jeff

Newbegin, long time member of Orland Fire Department. Location: Orland Community Center

May 30, 2015: Principles of Modern Fire Attack: SLICE-RS 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Bucksport Fire INSTRUCTORS: Chris Connor & Pamela Payson For more info: fire@bucksportmaine.gov or call 207-356-7501

June 6, 2015: Trenton Vol. Fire Department Blueberry Pancake/French Toast Breakfast, 6a.m. - 10 a.m. All you can eat for \$7; Rt 230/Oak Point Rd. at TVFD

June 16, 2015: Tuesday, Written Test for Firefighter 1/II -Ellsworth - LOCATION: TBA 6 p.m.

June 20, 2015 Saturday, Practical Test for Firefighter I/II - Ellsworth Training Center - For more info: contact Lisa Winger 610-3761

Saturday & Sunday, August 1 & 2 - Brooksville Days Saturday events at Brooksville School: Parade 10 a.m.; 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. Craft & Food; Brooksville Fire Department Chili Cook off 2 - 3 p.m.; Supper 5 p.m. Sunday events: Fun/Walk 5K 7:30 registration; 9:30 a.m. Brunch hosted by 8th Grade Class of Brooksville Elementary School

**Gardiner:** On February 5, 2015 Gardiner Fire Department responded to an apartment building fire. The fire ended up being a two-alarm fire bringing in mutual aid from the surrounding area departments including but not limited to Augusta , Randolph, Pittston, Togus, Winthrop and Delta Ambulance. (Picture below)



**Waterville** – MSFFF President Ken Desmond was the guest speaker at Waterville Fire's Annual Awards Banquet held at the Centerpoint Community Church in Waterville on April 25. President Desmond was asked by the President of the Consolidated Firefighters of Waterville, Scott A. Holst, to speak at this year's event. President Desmond spoke on the history of the MSFFF and the work that it does for the firefighters of Maine. His speech enlightened many of the members on how and what the Federation does. His speech was well received and he received a very warm welcome. (Photo below)

# COUNTY NEWS



Allen also received a City Recognition from the Mayor of Waterville on March 3, 2015, for his heroic action in rendering aid to others in the midst of such a large scale crisis.

Also, at this banquet, three awards were handed out:



**Medal of Merit** - Allen Nygren. Chief Lafountain awarded Allen Nygren the Metal of Merit for his work he had done on the 100 Car Pile up on the Interstate on February 25, 2015. Allen also received the Career Firefighter of the Year Award.



**Call Firefighter of the Year** - Britany Corey.

## Oxford

The town of Hebron (Oxford County) 539 Greenwood Mountain Rd. Crews from several towns work together to attack this fire. The homeowner escapes without harm with the assistance of neighbors (photos below).



# COUNTY NEWS



**Harrison:** An early-morning fire destroyed a mobile home on Plains Road in Harrison on Friday. Two people were reportedly injured. Photos below by CHARLES BLAQUIERE.



## Sagadahoc

Woolwich: Fire destroyed a home at 190 Hedge Bridge Road in Woolwich Tuesday night, Feb. 24, after firefighters were unable to put water on the blaze due to a long, unplowed driveway to the residence (Photo below)



## York South



Robert Bohlmann receiving the 2015 NESEC Manager of The Year Award