



FLASHPOINT

Newsletter Maine State Federation of Fire Fighters

Summer 2021

President's Message – Ken Desmond

I want to report to all firefighters of Maine that everyone are getting back to normal after this long COVID-19 event.

The MSFFF is looking forward to this year's Fire Convention in Waldoboro on Sept. 10-11-12th. Make sure to go on line at www.waldoboromaine.org to see all that is going on that weekend.

The MSFFF has openings in Waldo County as the VP and Secretary Position to the Board. Anyone that would like to become an Officer needs to come to our Annual meeting on Friday night Sept. 10th at the Waldoboro Fire Dept. Meeting starts at 7pm. Also, we will have elections to all the board members in all the Counties.

Please mark your calendar for this year's Firefighter Memorial Service on October 2, 2021 at 9am at Augusta.

Don't forget we can help you with any question. Just give your VP a call. Contact us from our web site.

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Membership:

Your current MSFFF membership expired on June 30th, send your 2021-2022 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/>

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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

County News



Androscoggin County

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Lisbon Fire Department:

The past year has been a challenge in a lot of ways. One of the things we were not able to do has been our annual banquets.

We usually have them in the spring, where we recognize members for their achievements from the year before. Because of the restrictions the 2020 and 2021 banquets didn't happen. So. On the 23rd of the June we held an award ceremony.

Several members were recognized for their years of service to the department, with special mentions to Firefighter Leland Gamache for 30 year anniversary in 2020 and to Deputy Chief Robert Robitaille for his 40th year anniversary in 2019.



Fire Officers of the Year for 2019 went to Lt. Ryan Guay (Upper left) and Jared Blake (Upper Right)



Firefighters of the Year for 2019 went to Tristam Coffin (Lower Right)
Firefighters of the Year for 2019 went to Chuck Thompson (Not Pictured)

Firefighters of the Year for 2020 went to Tom McGrath (Not Pictured) and to CJ Reuling (Not Pictured)
Fire Officers of the Year for 2020 went to Lt Tom Wrobel (Not Pictured) and Capt. Chad Pelletier (Lower Left)



Livermore and Livermore Falls Fire Departments:



In June 2021, members of the LFD and the LFFD participated in a Basic pump class hosted by Livermore Fire and taught by MFSI instructors. Topics covered hydraulics, appliances, friction loss calculations, pump components, and two nights of hands on pumping.

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Easton Fire Department:

April 12 Easton fire received a call for a house fire with heavy smoke showing, mutual aid from Presque Isle fire and Fort Fairfield fire to the scene, Fire was in the attic caused by a faulty chimney.



June 17 at 1800 hours Easton and Mars Hill fire held a joint jaws training on keeping up their skills on cutting up cars. A big thank you to Impact auto for donating four cars to help with this training.



Mars Hill Fire Department: June 6th 2021



On June 6th, a fire at the Mars Hill Country Club on Sunday destroyed two storage sheds and dozens of golf carts. The Mars Hill Fire Department arrived on the scene shortly before 3 p.m. to find two cart storage sheds fully involved and the flames beginning to spread to a third shed.

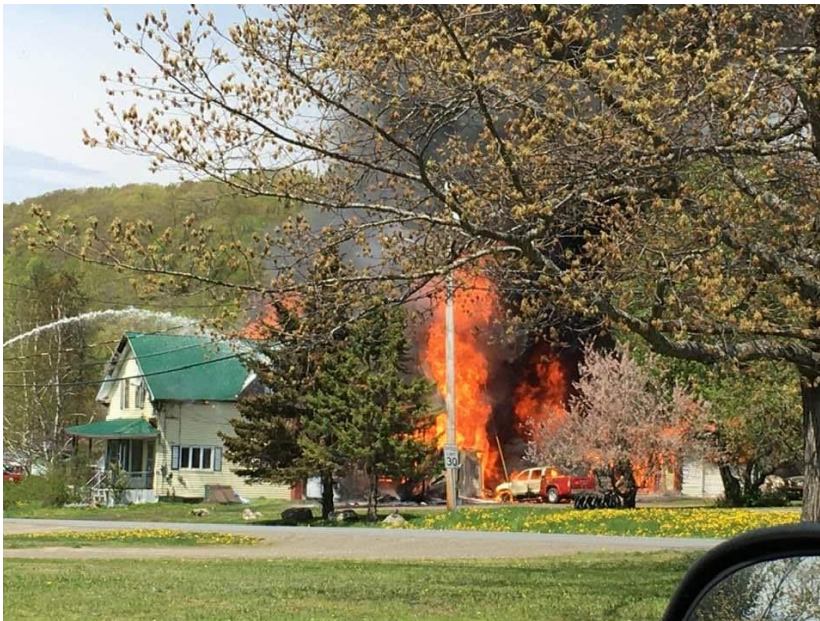
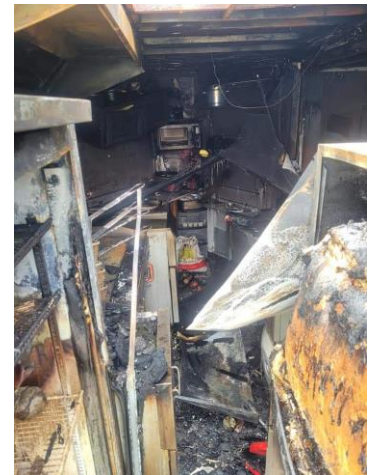


Crews from Bridgewater and Easton provided mutual aid and were at the scene until about 5:30 last evening. No one was injured. By Mark Shaw

Portage Fire Dept:



May 20 in the early afternoon portage fire department receive a call for a structure fire, house was a total loss. Maine forestry assisted with this fire with their engine and Ashland fire also provide mutual aid.





Presque Isle Fire Department:

June 26 around 0830 Presque Isle fire A- shift was dispatch for a vehicle fire on academy street on arrival vehicle was a old ambulance that was being used by a gentle man that does construction out o it none of his tools were damaged by the fire.

June 22 members from the Presque Isle fire department were Logan airport to get certified part 139 in there live fires to provide coverage at the airport.



at

Washburn Fire Dept:



Cumberland East



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Freeport Fire Rescue:



FREEPORT, Maine — Three people, including a child, were taken to the hospital Tuesday after a hot water heater leak caused high carbon monoxide levels at the Comfort Suites at 500 U.S. Rt. 1. in Freeport. Four local emergency teams responded to the hotel around 9 a.m., including Freeport, Yarmouth Brunswick, and Topsham.

According to Freeport Fire Chief Charles Jordan, the leak was caused by a broken hot water heater. Jordan said carbon monoxide levels were up into the 400-800 PPM range, which he said

is "very, very dangerous."

As of about 10:30 a.m. Tuesday, crews were checking hotel guests for symptoms of poisoning. The [U.S. CDC says common symptoms](#) include headache, dizziness, weakness, upset stomach, vomiting, chest pain, and confusion.

"CO symptoms are often described as 'flu-like,'" the CDC explains. "If you breathe in a lot of CO it can make you pass out or kill you. People who are sleeping or drunk can die from CO poisoning before they have symptoms."

An unidentified family of two adults and one child were taken to Mid Coast Hospital.

Jordan said the family's hotel room was next to the leaking hot water heater, which is why their levels were so high. They had left the hotel early Tuesday morning to drop the child off at a daycare in Bath. When the parents got back to the hotel, they found out the high carbon monoxide levels. Crews in the Bath area went to the daycare to bring the child to the hospital.

Although guests can go back into the building to get their belongings, it's unclear when the hotel will be open because of the broken hot water heater.

Jordan also said the hotel had emailed the fire department Monday saying they had an issue with their carbon monoxide detector going off. He said the fire department didn't get the email until Tuesday morning.

That's when the department went to the hotel to check on the issue and discovered dangerous levels of carbon monoxide in the lobby. At that point, the hotel was evacuated.

Freeport Fire and Rescue are still on scene as of 12:30 p.m. Carbon monoxide levels are now low, and a hot water heater repair company is on scene. Windows in the hotel remain open.

Jordan reminds the public that any time there is an issue with an alarm, carbon monoxide, or a fire, they should call 911.

Pownal Fire Rescue:



Wednesday April 29th: Pownal was alerted to a structure fire on Lawrence Road. With a rapid response by Pownal Fire and Rescue, as well as swift responses from Freeport, Yarmouth, Durham, North Yarmouth, New Gloucester, Lisbon and Gray Fire (providing station coverage), most damage was contained to the attic space above the bathroom area. The cause of the fire is believed to be a malfunctioning exhaust fan.



North Yarmouth Fire Rescue:

Richard “Dick” Baston, 93 passed away peacefully on May 29, 2021, at Coastal Manor with his daughter and son at his side. Dick was born May 31, 1927, in North Yarmouth in the Red House (front room, left hand side) at the time the house was of Cora Bell Baston Dolloff, the town’s midwife and Dick’s great aunt. Dick lived in the town his entire life, (same house his mother was raised in). He was the only child of Florence Mountfort Baston and Harold Skillin Baston. He attended North Yarmouth Schools and graduated from NYA. Attended the USM for a short time before enlisting in the US Marine Corps (WWII) 1945-1946. After being discharged, he worked with his father as a building contractor/ carpenter till the sudden death of his dad. He married Rosalyn Isabel

Clark, Dec. 31, 1950 (“Ros” passed away in 2009).

Dick is leaving behind two children, a daughter, Gwen A Pollard and husband Wayne Pollard, and a son, Clark M. Baston and wife Marlee Woodcock Baston. 4 grandchildren-Jessica Pollard Robinson, husband Galyn, Nicole Pollard Hamilton, husband Walker, Harold Lee Baston, Mark Theodore Baston, and 3 great grandchildren Alexander Hamilton, Izabella Hamilton, Harlee Baston.

Dick after his father's death worked for Ernest Soule as a carpenter. Also worked for Lane Construction traveling through New England and New York. He returned to North Yarmouth in 1958, starting his own business, Richard M. Baston, Inc. building contractor, working 45 +years in the business. Dick enjoyed his lifelong home, raising sheep, bees and many other farm animals. He had a yearly vegetable garden and maintained a small orchard. He enjoyed canoeing and building canoes in his spare time. Vacations were spent camping and canoeing in Northern Maine, Baxter State Park and Allagash Waterway. He enjoyed hunting and playing cards. Dick was actively involved in the town of North Yarmouth. He served on the North Yarmouth Cemetery for 60 years, this being his first "got into Town politics". He belonged to the North Yarmouth Fire Company for 55+ years. He was N.Y. Fire Chief from 1979 to 2001, for 22 years. During that time, he was



president of Coastal Mutual Aid Assoc., member of the Cumberland County Fire Chief Assoc. He is a lifetime member of the Maine Fire Chiefs Assoc. He is also a member of the New England Fire Chiefs Assoc. "Being President" 98-99. He was a member of the North Yarmouth Congregational Church-serving

as head of the church's building committee in 1965. He served in the N.Y. Historical Society helped to restore the 1853 old town house in 1976. He served as a SAD#51 school board member for 8 years. He was a lifetime member of the Cumberland Farmers Club. He was a lifetime member of Casco Lodge 36 Mason Lodge. He was a Cumberland County 4-H leader for the sheep and Bee Clubs. He was secretary treasurer of the Maine State Sheep Breeders Assoc. He was a model railroad enthusiast, having a large train room in the "attic". He was a 470 Railroad trustee. He also helped with preserving the Allagash Alliance Eagle Lake West branch tramway. Because of his love of North Yarmouth he made a donation of land to the town on Royal River known as "Baston Park". He also sold a parcel of land on Knights Pond Preserve Conservation known as "Baston Woods". He will be missed.

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Nothing submitted by the VP

Bristol Fire Department:



Local builder Scott Sutter Jr. became Bristol's second full-time fire chief effective Saturday, May 1, succeeding Paul Leeman Jr. in the role. A lifelong Lincoln County resident, Sutter has spent his career working in construction and emergency services. "I've always liked helping people," Sutter said during an interview on Thursday, April 29.

Sutter owns Sutter Builders Inc. but will scale back his construction work to serve as fire chief.

"I'll do afternoons and weekends, small stuff that doesn't require a lot of time," he said.

Leeman will stay on for about a

month to help in the transition, guiding Sutter through the ins and outs of the job.

Sutter said he has "big shoes to fill," but is determined to do the best job he can for the town of Bristol.

"It's going to be a learning curve. We're hoping for a seamless transition," Sutter said.

In addition to fire chief, Sutter will serve as compliance officer, director of civil emergency preparedness, director of emergency medical services, and fire warden for Bristol.

He said the job involves a lot of paperwork related to the testing of equipment, training, documenting emergency calls, and labor rules for town employees.

"It's a little overwhelming jumping into it. There's a lot to it," Sutter said.

Sutter will hold office hours at one of Bristol's three stations from roughly 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. and will respond immediately to any call that comes in during those hours. He said other duties will involve truck and station checks.

Bristol Fire Chief Scott Sutter Jr. holds the chief's helmet by the chief's truck on Thursday, April 29. Sutter became the town's second full-time fire chief effective Saturday, May 1. (Evan Houk photo)

Sutter said Bristol's municipal departments have received the Safety and Health Award for Public Employers, or SHAPE, from the Maine Bureau of Labor Standards since 2014. The award recognizes public-sector employers that maintain an exemplary safety and health management system.

He said Bristol is one of seven towns in the state that maintains this certification for all town departments.

Sutter grew up in Wiscasset and then Edgecomb. He joined the Edgecomb Fire Department at the age of 16, shortly after his family moved there in 1996. He graduated from Wiscasset High School.

Public service runs in his family. His father, Scott Sutter Sr., served on the Wiscasset Fire Department and as director of the Wiscasset Ambulance Service.

Although he is the first Bristol fire chief not to have been born and raised in the town, he has long-standing ties to Bristol. He lived on Indian Trail when he was a baby and his grandmother lived on Huddle Road for years.

He moved to Bristol and joined the fire department in 2013 after meeting his future wife, then Sarah Pendleton, on Facebook. The two married the next year.

He already knew members of Sarah's family, which has been heavily involved in the Samoset Fire Co. of Bristol since its founding in 1944, from Lincoln County firefighter trainings.

Sarah’s grandparents, Ron and Jeri Pendleton, were recognized by the Bristol Fire Department for their combined 100 years of service in 2018.

Sutter said the department is lucky to have Jared and Brad Pendleton as assistant chiefs because they can usually respond quickly to any calls, breaking away from work with the family business, Pendleton’s Plumbing and Heating.

“We’re very fortunate down here to have members that their jobs allow them to respond really well. With some towns it’s very hard,” Sutter said.

Sutter said he started as a regular firefighter at Bristol in 2013, then became a lieutenant for four years, and has served as captain for the past two years.

“I worked up the ranks,” he said.

Bristol Fire Chief Paul Leeman Jr. (left) passes the chief’s helmet to his successor, Scott Sutter Jr., in front of the chief’s truck on Thursday, April 29. Sutter officially took over two days later, Saturday, May 1. (Evan Houk photo)

After graduating high school, Sutter went to college in Nashville, Tenn. and completed a yearlong program to become a diesel mechanic but was anxious to get back to Maine.

He said he didn’t realize how nice he had it on the Midcoast, without the hot summers and congested city life. Sutter moved to Boothbay Harbor around 2000 and joined the fire department there, eventually becoming assistant chief. He served on the Boothbay Region Ambulance Service at the same time.

After working as a mechanic at a few different places, Sutter realized he was “too big to work on cars” and found a job as a delivery driver for Poole Brothers Lumber, which piqued his interest in building.

He then worked for a time for the Boothbay Harbor Public Works Department and as a subcontractor for builder Mike Leighton. Sutter said he learned a lot about building from Mike and his father, Pete Leighton.

“We did everything from the foundation up — carpentry, woodworking, roofing — we did it all,” Sutter said.

Sutter said he has been building since around 2004 and he started Sutter Builders in 2017.

Sutter also worked as a part-time police officer for Boothbay

Harbor and Damariscotta and worked security at the Fryeburg and Windsor fairs.

“All my jobs were happening at the same time. Taxes one year, I had nine W-2 forms,” Sutter said with a laugh. “I enjoyed doing it all.”

Sutter does not have any plans for changes at the fire department yet and simply hopes to continue the good work of his predecessor, Leeman.

“The fire department here is a great bunch of people. They’ve accepted me,” he said, and he has the members’ support.

Sutter said he is grateful for his career in public service and the opportunity it gives him to help people.

“I’ve enjoyed every minute of it,” he said. “It keeps you on your toes. You never know what’s going to happen.”



Newcastle Fire Department:



Members of Newcastle's Taniscot Engine Company remember longtime Fire Chief Clayton V. Huntley Jr. fondly as a friend and mentor and for his 50 years of service working to improve training and recruit firefighters.

"He was a true native son of Newcastle, one of Newcastle's finest," firefighter Tom Stevens, who served as chief for a year prior to Huntley, said during an interview on Sunday, April 11 at the newly named Clayton V. Huntley Jr. Station.

Huntley died April 5 after a yearlong bout with cancer.

Deputy Fire Chief Casey Stevens, Tom Stevens' son, said the department came up with the idea to name the fire station for Huntley in January and hoped to have a naming ceremony after Huntley recovered from his illness.

"It wasn't intended as a memorial," Tom Stevens said.

The Newcastle Board of Selectmen approved the name change in a proclamation April 6.

Casey Stevens said that Huntley's 50-year anniversary with the department was in January and Huntley had served as chief since 1990.

Members of the department installed the new sign for the fire station April 3 and Huntley was told about the honor.

Tom Stevens said that Huntley was always looking to recruit new members, including Tom Stevens himself in 1982. Casey Stevens grew up in the fire department and ended up joining as a junior firefighter when he was 16.

"I couldn't have asked for a better mentor for firefighting than Chief Huntley," Casey Stevens said.

He said that Huntley usually knew the best and safest way to go about any task in the fire company.

"Watching Clayton and everybody having the trust in him, you knew that what he did or what he said was probably the best way to do it," Casey Stevens said.

He said Huntley advocated for all types of training and would always participate along with the other members.

"He was never one to ask you to do something and him not do it," Casey Stevens said.

Casey Stevens talked about how after every incident or call, Huntley would discuss it with the members, always looking for ways to do things better.

He said Huntley was always first to respond to a fire call when he was chief.

"He learned that if he could get there before the rest of the members with the equipment, he could have time to see what's going on and put a plan together in his mind and have good, clear directions by the time we get there," Casey Stevens said.



A plaque in the fire chief's office at the Clayton V. Huntley Jr. Station in Newcastle commemorates Huntley's installation as the town's first full-time fire chief on April 20, 2009. (Evan Houk photo)

Tom Stevens said that the “controlled chaos” of a fire scene makes it hard to stay organized unless someone responds first and puts a plan together.

Tom Stevens said that Huntley was committed to the history of the Taniscot Engine Company, which was founded in 1876 and has always been an entity independent of the town of Newcastle.

Both Tom and Casey Stevens talked about Huntley's acquisition and restoration of two historic pieces of fire equipment — an original 1876 hand pumper and a classic 1928 Maxim fire engine.

Tom Stevens said that being a private company allowed for more access to grants, which Huntley always doggedly pursued, so as to limit use of Newcastle tax dollars.

Casey Stevens said that Huntley was also steadfast in pursuing donations and sent out a letter every year to Newcastle residents seeking financial support for the department.

“We've always been able to keep our budget low without having to request money through taxes from the town, always trying to seek other revenue sources. He was successful for many, many years in doing that,” Casey Stevens said.

Tom Stevens said that Huntley continued the grant work of former member Jim Brinkler and was able to upgrade much of the equipment in the station, so he left the Taniscot Engine Company a well-equipped volunteer fire department.

“For a volunteer fire company, the technology that we have is just as good as some of these bigger departments,” Tom Stevens said.

Newcastle firefighter Jim Bryant remembers Huntley as an advocate for mutual aid. Bryant served as Nobleboro's fire chief before moving to Newcastle and joining the Taniscot Engine Company.

Bryant said that mutual aid was mostly between the towns of Damariscotta, Newcastle, and Nobleboro in the beginning, but Huntley worked to expand that to all of Lincoln County.

“Clayton really believed in mutual aid a lot,” Bryant said.

He said Huntley's biggest concerns were training, safety, and saving the town money.

Tom Stevens remembered Huntley as a serious fire chief but also a fun-loving guy who liked to give nicknames.

He said Huntley called him “Veto” because every time Huntley wanted to spend money, he would vote against it. He said one of the members was nicknamed “Peach Fuzz” and Huntley bestowed the nickname “Newman” on Lincoln County Fire Academy President Michael Santos, an assistant fire chief in Newcastle who died in 2015.

Casey Stevens said that Huntley wouldn't have been able to accomplish a lot of what he did without the support of his wife, Margo Huntley.

Bryant said that Margo Huntley was heavily involved in the fire company and helped with rehab efforts at fire scenes.

Lincoln County EMA:

County EMA Specialist Retires After 50-Plus Years in Emergency Services

May 14, 2021 at 9:20 am

Charlotte Boynton

Lincoln County Emergency Management Agency Training and Operations Specialist Kenneth Desmond retired effective April 29. (Charlotte Boynton photo)

Kenneth Desmond, a training, and operations specialist at the Lincoln County Emergency Management Agency since February 2007, retired effective April 29 after more than 50 years in emergency services.

Desmond announced his retirement to the Lincoln County Board of Commissioners on April 20. The commissioners thanked him for his service and accepted his resignation with regret.

Desmond graduated from Winslow High School in 1968 and joined the Winslow Fire Department in 1970. He served with Winslow until 1986, then on the Chambersburg (Pennsylvania) Fire Department until 1988.

Over the years, he has continued his education in fire science, including

training in fire department administration and management; fire investigation; and the fundamentals of fire prevention. He also has training as an emergency medical technician.

From 1988-2005, Desmond worked for the Bath Fire Department as a training officer, fire safety education officer, and incident commander. He then served two years as Woolwich's fire chief, EMA director, and code enforcement officer before coming to Lincoln County in 2007.

Desmond has worked with three EMA directors: Tim Pellerin, Tod Hartung, and current Director Casey Stevens.

Stevens said that Desmond's duties have far exceeded his job description as training and operations specialist. "Ken has a lot of experience, is always willing to share his experience, and continues to train to gain additional skills and knowledge of emergency management," Stevens said.

Desmond responded to the fire at the Washburn & Doughty shipyard in East Boothbay in 2008, a windstorm that wreaked havoc across the county in 2017, and the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 and 2021.

"He was always willing to do whatever needed to be done," Stevens said. "He was a team player in any emergency. I could always count on Ken to get a job done."



Desmond has played a major role in the county's response to the pandemic, according to Stevens, who called it the largest and longest emergency in 100 years.

In 2020, Desmond delivered more than 10,000 pieces of personal protective equipment and fitted 650 masks for health care workers and first responders in Lincoln County.

Desmond also assisted the county in distributing food to families on Monhegan during the pandemic.

Deputy EMA Director Melissa Temple said that although Desmond has extensive experience in emergency services and a willingness to help however, he can, he has somewhat less capacity when it comes to computers.

Temple said she served as his personal "information technology person" at the office. Whenever she helped him with his computer, he would say, "Thank you, and just add it to my bill."

"I have been adding to his bill for five years," Temple said with a smile. "I doubt if he plans to pay me. That really doesn't matter — I will still offer my services when he retires if he needs me to fix his computer."

The county will advertise the position, but Stevens and Temple said Desmond cannot be replaced personally or professionally.

"We are very thankful for Ken's contribution to Lincoln County EMA and wish him the best for his retirement. He will be missed by many," Stevens said.

Jefferson Fire Chief Walter Morris said he will miss Desmond too, calling him a tremendous asset to the county for his knowledge and ability to teach emergency response and hazmat training.

Morris said he wishes Desmond well and hopes he will continue to share his knowledge with the county.

Former Bristol Deputy EMA Director Tony Norman also shared memories of Desmond. Norman has known Desmond since 1978, when they both served on the Winslow Fire Department.

Desmond taught the first-class Norman took on hazardous materials in 1978, and Norman taught the first-class Desmond took on incident command. In 2008, they taught Firefighter I and II classes together.

Norman remembers Desmond telling a class they were teaching that between the two of them, they had 100 years of firefighting experience. He said Desmond has been a good advocate for fire departments working together through the mutual-aid system.

Desmond said he is looking forward to retirement and traveling with his wife, Robin, to visit his children and grandchildren in Florida. He has three children and nine grandchildren, including a set of triplets. He also plans to spend some time golfing.

Desmond said he will remain active as volunteer state director of the National Volunteer Fire Council and in volunteer work with the Maine Fire Protection Services Commission, the New England Association of Fire Marshals, and other organizations.

Oxford County

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Lovell Fire Department:

Our departments amazing team members that made the climb for the "Fight for Air" in Boston this weekend. They joined many other departments to raise awareness for the American Lung Association and to promote the importance of healthy lungs and fresh air. They placed 3rd overall as a team and surpassed their donation goal!



Mexico Fire Department: Fire Chief Richard “Jonesy” Jones has retired, ending a 44-year career with the department, including the past four as chief.

“It’s been quite a ride, the last 44 1/2 years,” he said Thursday. “It’s like anything else, when you’re committed like that, there were a lot of things that I missed in my life, but I don’t regret it for a second.”

Jones, 65, said he missed important birthdays and other special moments, “but when I signed on, to me, it was a commitment, which I was going to fulfill.” His interest in firefighting began in the mid-1970s.

“I remember that there was a fire up behind the old high school,” he said. “It looked like they needed some help, so I stopped and helped them get their hoses hooked up and stuff. And that kind of led me into it.”

Motivated by a desire to help people, Jones decided to join the Mexico department, but there was a waiting list to get in. There were three companies of 15 men each and among them was Ray Broomhall who started in 1962. Broomhall, who served during much of Jones’ career, [retired in 2012 after 50 years of service](#) but returned for a few years to serve on traffic details.

Broomhall said with Jones’ retirement, he, too, would be stepping away from the department again. Jones has served under Chiefs Scotty Whytock, Roland Berry and Gary Wentzell.

He became chief in 2017 following Wentzell’s death.



“I thought it was an honor, stepping up into that position,” Jones said. “Had some really big shoes to fill, following Gary. It sucked moving up that way, but I was ready to take it on when he was gone.”

One of the most memorable fires he covered was early in his career. It was a motel on Main Street near the site now occupied by the Far East Restaurant. “I can remember standing out at night in the winter on the centerline, in the middle of Route 2, with

a 2½-inch nozzle, and still could not touch the building with a straight stream, the wind was blowing that hard,” he said. “We were all iced up. Almost had to take a hammer to get your buckles undone so you could get your clothes off.”

One of the activities the department used to do was firemen’s musters.

“We used to go to the clam festival and muster down there, Olde Home Days in Andover and at a few state conventions,” he said. “We also mustered the two times Mexico and Rumford hosted the state conventions in 1987 and 2001.”

In 2008, [Jones was presented the Lifetime Achievement Award](#) at the annual Maine State Federation of Firefighters convention in Boothbay Harbor. Until then the award was known as Firefighter of the Year. In the parade that year, Jones drove a vehicle with Broomhall as his passenger. Broomhall was Firefighter of the Year in 2006.

Jones is a vice president of the Maine State Federation of Firefighters and president of Northern Oxford Mutual Aid, a nonprofit established in 2004 by fire chiefs in 11 towns to discuss operations, training and equipment. The towns include Rumford, Mexico, Dixfield, Peru, Roxbury, Andover, Bethel, Newry, Gilead, Greenwood and Woodstock. While retired from firefighting, Jones still works for Bancroft Contracting in South Paris, marking 43 years there in June.

Otisfield Fire Department:

Earlier this week we had a surprise visit right before scheduled monthly training. Local Girl Scout Emily McAllister presented our members with an assortment of cookies. Thank you so much kiddo!!!



our

Rumford Fire Department:



After 35 years of Service, Dale Roberts has retired from Rumford Fire.

Dale became a member of the call force for Rumford Fire in 1986, he held a few positions, Lieutenant and Captain. Dale was trained on the truck that is stationed at the Rumford Point Fire station, by being trained on this truck, he was able to bring this truck to fire scenes and operate the truck. Even though he has retired from Rumford Fire, he will remain active with the Roxbury Fire Department which he also a member. Dale is an Assistant Fire Chief for Roxbury Fire.

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