

# FLASHPOINT HEADER

## President's Message – Ken Desmond

### PRESIDENT'S REPORT

#### MSFFF Newsletter Spring 2023

I hope that all of our firefighters across Maine are doing well. As we have started the new year, we have legislative bills that are at the state house that are waiting to be passed. LOSAP LD#588, LD#516 Safety Equipment Reduce Cancer, and LD#727 Workers Comp for First Responders just to name a few that we endorse as each bill helps our members. Please contact your representatives and urge them to vote in support of each bill. This year's convention will be held in Presque Isle on September 8-10<sup>th</sup> 2023. Convention packets can be obtained on our website. Our website is [www.msfff.org](http://www.msfff.org) Please register as soon as possible. We look forward to see you there. The insurance company Provident which we are working close with is charging us one dollar per member for the accidental death benefit of 5,000 dollars. While American Income Life is \$4,000 for a total of \$9,000. That is what we offer to our members of the Federation.

Please get the message out to join our TEAM MSFFF.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Ken Desmond

President

#### Who to Contact

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**Your current MSFFF membership expires on June 30<sup>th</sup>, send your 2019-2020 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](http://msfff.org/images/PDF/RateMarketingSheet_MSFFF_2018.pdf)

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Richard Cyr receiving the 2022, MSFFF lifetime achievement award.





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# Oxford County



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Andover Fire Department:



Andover Fire Department took delivery of their new tanker pumper which has replaced their old engine 2. Congratulations Andover Fire Department.

Norway Fire Department

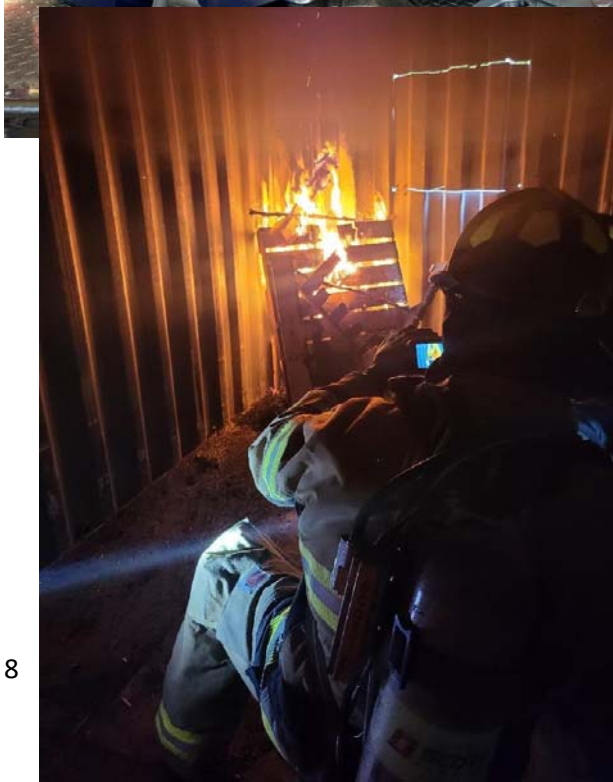


Friday, December 30 2022, Chief Dennis Yates worked his last shift as Chief of Norway Fire Department. Chief Yates is staying on as an honorary Captain on the call force for a while (in between traveling and vacations) to make his 50 years of service to the town of Norway.



**Rumford Fire Department:**

In September 2022 the Rumford Fire Department put their new Hurst EWXT battery operated Jaws of Life in service to replace their old Hurst hydraulic tools. The new tools will allow for a quicker deployment, are capable of cutting high strength metals, and can be utilized for a variety of other operations.



**West Paris Fire Dept.**  
Ladder training.  
Working from ladder with leg lock



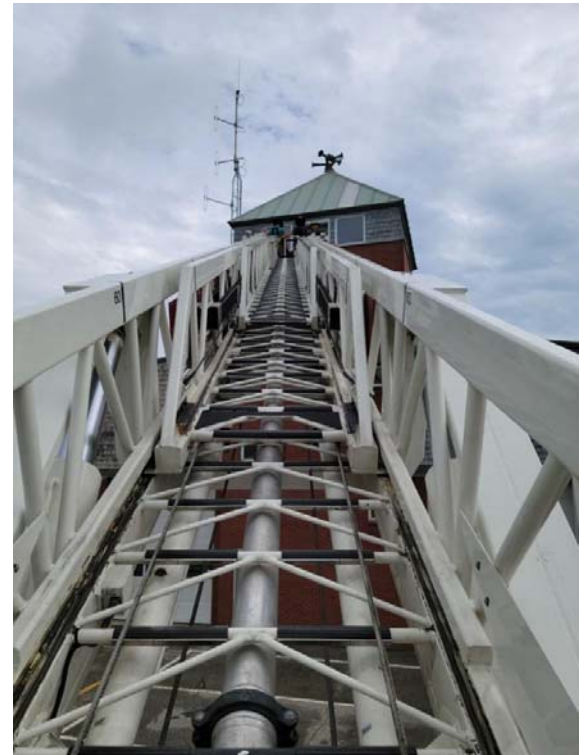






West Paris and Sumner Fire have been doing a Firefighter 1 and 2 class since March 2022, using the Jones and Bartlett curriculum.

1. Learning fire behavior first hand
2. Search and rescue at WPFD using heavy fogger. Candidates learned how to



search, locate, and rescue victims, as well as one another in a zero visibility environment.

3. Rural water supply can be challenging. This river was essentially a puddle. The created a dam and were able to draft steadily once complete.

4&5. Candidates received tower truck training, courtesy of the Norway For Department add part of their ladders class.

6. More drafting from the shallow River.

7. Candidates getting the opportunity to look over NORWAY TOWER 1 prior to training.

8. Positive pressure ventilation using heavy fog at WPFD.

### Maine's Live Fire Training Trifecta

By Vicki Schmidt, MSFFF, July 2022

July 2022 was a monumental one for Maine's firefighters as a third, state-of-the-art, live fire training facility (LFTF) went into service. The completion of these facilities, located in Farmington, Fairfield, and Yarmouth, mark the start of an aggressive LFTF program serving all of Maine.

Maine is one of only a few states in the US without a centralized fire training facility. In fact, even today, none of the fire training facilities in Maine are owned or operated by the state.

Feasibility studies in the early 1990's put the costs of building a centralized facility for Maine at over \$50 million! While several locations partially met the needed criteria, no one location proved suitable. No nearby water infrastructure, geographical constraints to travel from all parts of the state limiting the number of firefighters that could be efficiently served, and unsuitable geotechnical characteristics (soil and rock that make up the land) were major limiting factors to many locations. While the vision of a centralized facility was attractive, it did not appear to be the answer for Maine. In 2016 The Maine Fire Protection Services Commission provided an online survey to all of Maine's fire departments, including the Maine Forest Service. Over 80% of those surveyed responded giving the Fire Commission valuable information. A major goal determined from this survey: "establish a LFTF within an hour's travel time for at least 90% of Maine's firefighters". In 2018, the Fire Commission sponsored legislation to provide grant funding to municipalities that agreed to establish a LFTF for their region. With the fully unanimous passing and funding support of LD 1845 by the 128th Maine Legislature, Maine's fire services community worked diligently to reverse the lack of live fire training facilities in Maine.

Historically, most live fire training in Maine was conducted in acquired structures. Due to costly hazard mitigation (lead paint, asbestos, etc), concerns from neighbors, and insurance and liability issues, acquired structure live fire training is rarely an option and no longer recommended. The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) sets standards for live fire training facilities. Maine's newest structures are fully NFPA1403 engineered and are specifically designed to meet the required training objectives for state and national firefighter certification. The value of the state funding and its return on investment to provide the basis for these facilities is well proven in Maine. The funding is significantly leveraged by local towns who secure donations, volunteer time, and provide hours of work and services to further magnify the grant funding. Furthermore, the grant design ensures the commitment, integrity, and responsibility for the future longevity of these regional facilities. This is a fully win-win situation for local, mutual aid, and regional towns, our taxpayers, the firefighters of Maine, and most importantly, the citizens and property we are dedicated to protect. Strategically located facilities provide many advantages: reduced costs to students and municipalities for travel, and firefighters can train with their own apparatus. Additionally, NFPA facilities are consistent in their design and operation making them more predictable and efficient to instruct with. Instructors and program managers can better plan and manage all types of training in these facilities; particularly live fire training, which is some of the most challenging to teach, especially with new recruits. Maine needs several more LFTF's to achieve the goal of a facility within an hours travel time for the majority of our states firefighters. Unfortunately, funding to continue construction of LFTF for Maine has been curtailed and our most rural areas remain under served. The Fire Commission will continue to work with Legislators, local officials and other dedicated fire service organizations in order to achieve this goal. To learn more about the Fire Commission projects visit their Training Facilities Projects page at:

[www.maine.gov/dps/fmo/about/commission/training%20facility%20projects](http://www.maine.gov/dps/fmo/about/commission/training%20facility%20projects)

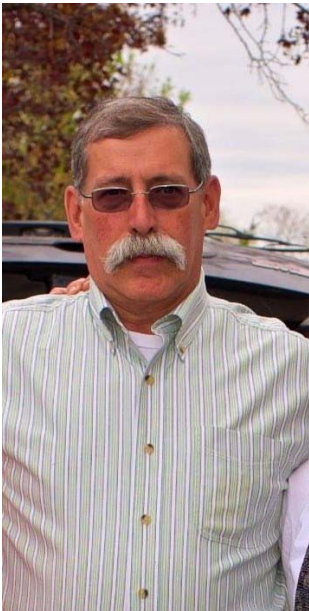
Vicki Schmidt is a Maine Fire Services Instructor and serves on the Maine Fire Protection Services Commission for the Maine Federation of Firefighters, Volunteer and On Call Firefighters

#### Sweden Fire Department

SWEDEN – The Fire Department is pleased to announce that we have been awarded an Assistance to Firefighter Grant (AFG) from the Department of Homeland Security for Fiscal Year (FY) 2021 in the amount of \$84,705.76 in Federal funding. Sweden Assistant Fire Chief Tommie McKenzie said this is tremendous for the struggling department. The funds are to be used for radio equipment and shall consist of the replacement and upgrading of all department radios, mobiles and portables. This is excellent time for our department, as Oxford County Regional Communication Center (Oxford RCC) is well into the process of upgrading the county radio network to better serve all first responders. Communications is a critical link to all first responders' operations and our old, mismatched radio equipment has always added a great level of

difficulty to all incidents. The new radio shall be state-of-the-art and uniform in use, allowing for the user to be familiar with the units and its operation. This is a huge addition to the safety of all of firefighters on all scenes. We do not currently have enough radios to safely operate at an incident which creates an extreme safety risk to firefighters. With the addition of the new radios, all members shall now be radio equipped and a blackhole of communication will be greatly covered. The next big hurdle for Sweden is a new fire station which we hope shall become a reality next year. The plans have been drawn, the site is available and most in the community recognize the critical need for a new fire station. As with any community, especially the small ones, funding is a huge huddle and inquires are in the works to find the necessary funding. As the seasons change and we head into fall and winter, we prepare ourselves, apparatus, and station for the coming challenges to be presented. We hope that all members of each department throughout the State have a safe and successful year.

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LIFETIME OF SERVICE — Dover-Foxcroft Fire Chief Joe Guyotte, pictured with family members during a surprise presentation, was recognized with the Lifetime Achievement Award at the 58th Maine State Federation of Firefighters Convention in Fryeburg, which was held Sept. 15-18. Guyotte has spent more than a half century in the fire service. The Dover-Foxcroft Fire Department earned the “Outstanding Fire Department 2022” award as well as many individual honors for department and members’ apparatus brought to convention.

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Old Orchard Beach:





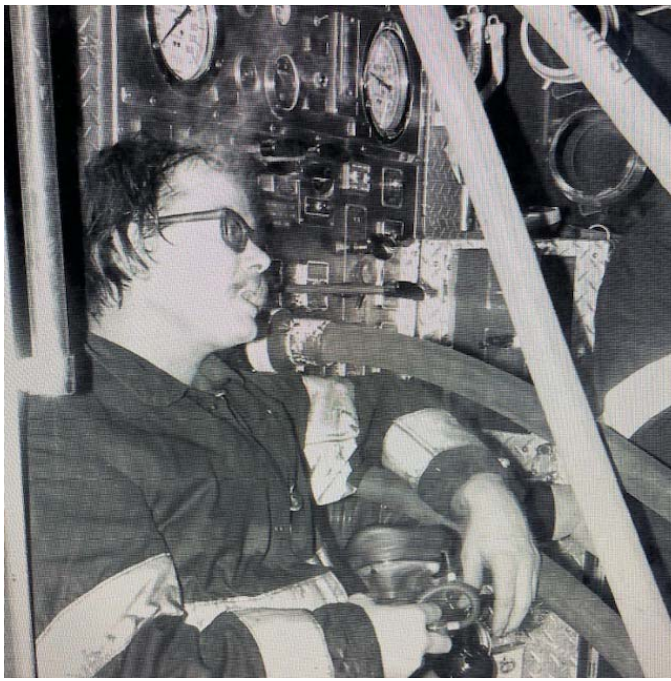
Last night at the Town Council meeting Chief Gilboy had the pleasure of appointing two new firefighters and promoting two line officers. A big welcome to Firefighter Ben Lariviere and Firefighter Josh Petrin. Firefighter/Paramedic Mike Baker was promoted to Lieutenant and Lieutenant Corey Pelletier was promoted to Captain. Congratulations to all on your well deserved appointments and promotions.

## York South



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**MSFFF Fundraising:**

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

**Legislative News:**