



Robert L. Quinn  
Commissioner

# State of New Hampshire

DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY

**Division of Fire Safety  
Office of the State Fire Marshal**

[nh.gov/firemarshal](http://nh.gov/firemarshal)



Sean P. Toomey  
State Fire Marshal

## **NH State Fire Marshal's Office – March 2025 Report**

*(For the period of February 1 through February 28, 2025)*

### **ADMINISTRATION:**

#### **Personnel:**

Governor Ayotte has implemented a hiring freeze. Our waivers for a full-time State Building Inspector and a part-time Outreach & Education Specialist were approved and we are working through the hiring process. We have submitted a waiver for a part-time Hazardous Materials Coordinator

#### **Legislation:**

We continue to follow approximately sixty House and Senate Bills. The following are highlights of a few bills:

HB 91 Relative to the presence of a fire department at a fireworks display

Bill provides greater flexibility for fire department details at fireworks display sites.

This bill has passed in the House and moved to committee in the Senate.

HB 134 Relative to the state building code

Bill updates the electrical code to the 2023 edition. This bill has passed the House and moved to committee in the Senate.

HB 179-FN Relative to hazardous waste accident fees

Bill changes the \$1,000 one-time fee for non-payment. This bill has passed in committee in the House.

HB 244 Updating and recodifying the municipal enforcement of the building and fire code

Bill cleans up zoning, planning, building and fire code items into proper statutes. This bill was retained.

HB 428-L Prohibiting municipal amendments to the state building code

Bill further limits authority of municipalities to amend the state building code. This bill remains in committee in the House.

HB 432 Relative to recovery houses

Bill makes modifications to the definition of recovery house and restricts local planning and zoning authority on recovery homes. This bill will likely be ITL'd.

SB 94 prohibiting municipal amendments to the state building code

Bill further limits authority of municipalities to amend the state building and fire codes. This bill has passed the Senate.

SB 95 Relative to youth recreation camp cabins and the state building and fire codes

Bill prohibits automatic sprinkler systems for youth summer camp cabins/bunkhouses. Bill allows new structures to be treated per the applicable existing chapter in the Life Safety Code. This bill has passed the Senate.

SB 188-FN Allowing independent permitting and inspections, and allowing local governments to authorize licensed engineers and architects to perform building code inspections

Bill expands third party inspections for building code inspections. This excludes the state fire code. This bill has passed the Senate.

SB 282 Relative to stairway requirements in certain residential buildings

Bill allows single stairs for means of egress for residential buildings up to 6 stories. This bill is in committee in the Senate.

### **Board of Fire Control:**

The next Board of Fire Control meeting will be held on April 15, 2025, at 1:00 pm.

### **BUREAU OF INVESTIGATIONS:**

In February, we received 22 incident notifications resulting in 6 scene responses. The Bureau of Investigations currently has 9 open arson or suspected arson investigations.

### **New cases (synopsis of some of our cases are listed below):**

- On February 14, the State Fire Marshal and the Deputy Fire Marshal of the Bureau of Building Safety & Construction responded to Concord to assist with life safety decisions following a fire at an assisted living facility.
- On February 18, investigators responded to a structure fire in Bradford to assist the Bradford Fire Department. The fire originated on the exterior of the building and is currently undetermined but is suspected to have been related to a mechanical issue.
- On February 19, an investigator responded to a motor vehicle fire in Campton to assist the Campton-Thornton Fire Rescue Department and Campton Police Department. The vehicle had been reported stolen in Massachusetts and the operator was arrested on scene. The SFMO determined the fire had been intentionally set within the passenger compartment. The suspect is currently being held in the Grafton County House of Corrections.
- On February 21, investigators responded to a fire at a school in Fitzwilliam and determined it had been caused by recent work on the roof and was accidental.

- On February 25, investigators responded to a structure fire in Hampton in which a woman had been rescued and hospitalized. The cause is currently under investigation but not suspected to be arson.

#### **Fatal Fire/CO Incidents:**

- On February 4, the SFMO assisted the Manchester Fire and Police Departments investigate a fire in a recreational vehicle that resulted in two fatalities. The fire originated in the rear of the camper and is suspected to have been caused by an electrical issue.
- On February 10, the SFMO was notified of a past-tense death in Rochester that was initially suspected to be an overdose but was later determined to be from carbon monoxide poisoning from a motor vehicle. It was ruled as an accidental death and the SFMO did not respond to the scene.

#### **Arrests:**

- The SFMO made one arrest in February for a fire that occurred in Plaistow in November 2024. The subject was charged with reckless conduct, falsifying physical evidence, possession of a controlled drug x2, and endangering the welfare of a child.

#### **Youth Firesetter:**

- There were no new youth fire setter intakes in February; however, one assessment was conducted.

#### **Trainings:**

- Investigator Megan McDevitt attended Crisis Intervention Training.
- Assistant Director Allard, Investigator Matt Wilmot and Investigator Sol Rosman became certified in Critical Incident Stress Management.

The NH State Fire Marshal's Office requests that all fires resulting in serious bodily injury be reported immediately at the time of the event. This allows us to determine if a response and investigation are necessary.

During normal business hours, please contact an on-call supervisor at 603-223-4289. For after-hours calls and on weekends, you can reach NH State Police Communications at 603-223-4381.

## **BUREAU OF BUILDING SAFETY & CONSTRUCTION:**

### **State Building Permit System:**

We processed the following permits in the month of February:

- Building: 9
- Electrical: 9
- Plumbing: 4
- Fuel Gas: 1
- Mechanical: 3
- Fire Protection: 2
- Fire Alarm: 2

### **Technical Assistance, Educational & Healthcare Reviews:**

We initiated 1 educational and 8 healthcare plan reviews, completed 234 inspections and 173 technical consults in the month of February.

### **Variance Requests:**

We processed 5 variance requests in the month of February.

### **Fireworks Safety and Enforcement Program**

The Fireworks Safety and Enforcement Program has conducted the following in the month of February:

- Proximate Licenses Issued: 1
- Display Certificate of Competency Issued: 1
- Consumer Fireworks Retail Store Licenses Issued: 0
- Explosive Magazine Inspections: 0
- Proximate Audience Inspections: 0
- Technical Assistance: 0

### **Modular Building Program**

The Modular Building Program conducted the following in the month of February:

- Inspections: 17
- Audits of Manufacturers: 0
- Audits of Educational Facilities: 0
- Labels Issued to Manufacturers: 134
- Units Shipped to New Hampshire: 14

### **Tramway and Amusement Ride Safety**

The Tramway and Amusement Ride Safety section conducted the following in the month of February:

- Amusement Registrations: 1
- Amusement Inspections: 1
- Amusement Incidents: 0
- Tramway Registrations: 1
- Tramway Inspections: 20
- Tramway Incidents: 7

### **BUREAU OF OUTREACH & EDUCATION:**

#### **Hazardous Materials:**

Hazardous Materials response, coordination and consultation is available through the on-call SFMO supervisor.

In the month of February, our Hazardous Materials Coordinator attended monthly PEAC training. He provided training to the Seacoast Haz Mat Team on PEAC Software, as well as, provided training to the Southeastern NH Haz Mat Team on the Redwave Gas Identifier.

We received 406 Tier 2 reports from NH facilities and responded to 26 Tier 2 reporting questions.

We also attended the Hazardous Materials Collaborative meeting and the Ossipee Valley Mutual Aid Association meeting.

Our Hazardous Materials Coordinator is available for PEAC Software training for fire departments. PEAC is used for documentation of Tier II facilities and chemical storage.

Training is also available on the use of the Emergency Response Guidebook.

#### **Electric Vehicles and Lithium-Ion Batteries**

The council to study the impacts of electric vehicles, e-mobility devices, and the associated lithium-ion batteries hazards for first responder response, the environment, building and fire codes, life safety, and property protection continues its work. The interim report of the council was submitted to the Governor and General Court on November 1, 2024. The next meeting will be held on April 14<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 pm.

Have an EV or lithium-ion battery incident to report? Please fill out this form: [Electric Vehicle \(EV\) and Battery Incident Reporting \(office.com\)](#)

### **Incident Reporting:**

Your commitment to ensuring we have great data to accurately show the fire problem in NH is greatly appreciated!

We continue to monitor the development of the U.S. Fire Administration's (USFA) new fire information and analytics platform, known as the National Emergency Response Information System (NERIS), for the American fire and emergency services. New Hampshire is scheduled for onboarding in October 2025. Find more information and resources at [National Emergency Response Information System \(NERIS\) \(fema.gov\)](https://www.fema.gov/national-emergency-response-information-system-neris).

Thank you to the departments who responded to our recent survey in preparation of NERIS! We have responses from nearly half of all departments!

If you have not completed it, please do so quickly.

Link to our NERIS Survey: <https://forms.office.com/g/WBLdY7E8zc?origin=lprLink>

### **Key NERIS Resources:**

- [User References](#)
- [NERIS Onboarding Checklist and Guide](#)
- Visit [our website](#) for more NERIS support and updates.

Please reach out to our NHFIRS team for any incident reporting questions at [nhfirs@dos.nh.gov](mailto:nhfirs@dos.nh.gov) and have your NFIRS/NERIS Point of Contact person sign-up for the NHFIRS Newsletter by sending an email to [FMO@dos.nh.gov](mailto:FMO@dos.nh.gov).

### **Outreach Events:**

In February, we released the latest edition of [Quarterly Risk Reduction](#) newsletter and included a digital guide, [2025 Fire & Life Safety Messaging](#), which will help departments plan for public messaging. If someone is interested in joining the mailing list for our Outreach and Education newsletters, they can sign-up directly by sending a message to [FMO@dos.nh.gov](mailto:FMO@dos.nh.gov).

*If you haven't already, we also ask fire service members to take our two-minute [Outreach and Education survey](#) to help us continue to better support fire departments across New Hampshire.*

Interested in having the SFMO join an event in your community? Please reach out to us as early as possible so we can make every effort to attend your event. Send your request to us at [fmopubliceducation@dos.nh.gov](mailto:fmopubliceducation@dos.nh.gov).

Want to know what resources we have available to supplement your event? Check out what is available to loan here: [Equipment Loan](#)

**Public Education:**

The USFA's Fire and Life Safety Communicators Initiative is a collaboration among the fire and emergency medical services to speak with "one voice" on fire and life safety. The theme for this March is "Smoke Alarms."

Installing smoke alarms in every bedroom, outside each separate sleeping area, and on every level of a home — including the basement — is a fire safety precaution that all homeowners and landlords in your community need to take to protect residents from fire.



**Test your smoke alarms once a month.**

A smoke alarm can save your life in a fire. Use the test button to make sure your smoke alarms are working.



FEMA | U.S. Fire Administration | Fire is Everyone's Fight

Resources:

NH Fire Marshal's Office - [Smoke Alarm Bulletin](#)

USFA – [Don't Wait, Check the Date](#)

USFA – [Hear the Beep Where you Sleep](#)

Videos:

USFA – [Sleep Safely](#)

USFA – [Learn the Sounds of Safety](#)

Find the monthly themes for 2025 here:

[Fire and Life Safety Communicators Initiative \(fema.gov\)](https://www.fema.gov)

**Training Opportunities:**

Upcoming Trainings:

Solar Panels and Firefighter Operations

Nelson Town Hall (7 Nelson Common Rd., Nelson)

March 19, 2025 @ 1800-2000

If you are interested in hosting a future session, or would like to suggest a future training topic, please reach out to us at [fmopubliceducation@dos.nh.gov](mailto:fmopubliceducation@dos.nh.gov)