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Commissioner

State of New Hampshire

DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY
Division of Fire Safety
Office of the State Fire Marshal

nh.gov/firemarshal



Sean P. Toomey
State Fire Marshal

NH State Fire Marshal's Office – April 2025 Report

(For the period of March 1 through March 31, 2025)

ADMINISTRATION:

Personnel:

Stacey Dubois has resigned from our office effective March 25, 2025. Stacey was a valuable member of our office since 2007, starting as an intern before moving into a full-time role. She made significant contributions to our success as a Fire Investigator, District Chief, and Deputy Fire Marshal. Her leadership will be missed.

Olivia Garrity has joined our staff as a part-time Outreach & Education Specialist effective April 4, 2025.

We are working through an internal process to fill the vacant Deputy State Fire Marshal-Bureau of Outreach & Education.

We are also recruiting for a full-time State Building Inspector and a part-time Hazardous Materials Coordinator.

We have requested a waiver to initiate the hiring process for an additional part-time Outreach & Education Specialist from the Governor's Office.

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.
Senate Election Law & Municipal Affairs has voted ITL.

HB 134 Relative to the state building code
Bill updates the electrical code to the 2023 edition.
Senate ED&A has voted OTP-A.

HB 179-FN Relative to hazardous waste accident fees
Bill changes the \$1,000 one-time fee for non-payment.
Senate Energy & Natural Resources has voted OTP-A.

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 in the House.

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 passed/adopted with amendments in the House and is in the Senate committee.

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 was laid on the table.

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 passed in the Senate with an amendment.

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 March, we received 24 incident notifications resulting in 13 scene responses. The Bureau of Investigations currently has 8 open arson or suspected arson investigations.

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

- On March 1, investigators responded to Winchester to investigate a structure fire. There were no reported injuries, and the cause of the fire is under investigation.
- On March 2, investigators responded to Acworth to investigate a structure fire with two people injured. The cause is currently under investigation, but lithium-ion batteries are suspected as a potential cause.

- On March 3, an investigator responded to a structure fire in New Boston to assist the New Boston Fire Department. There were no injuries, and the cause is still under investigation.
- On March 8, an investigator responded to a suspected carbon monoxide poisoning incident in Ossipee and determined the release was due to the occupants operating a generator in the garage. Both occupants survived.
- On March 11, an investigator responded to a structure fire in Farmington to assist the Farmington Fire Department. The cause of the fire was attributed to an electrical failure.
- On March 11, an investigator responded to a structure fire in Freedom to assist the Freedom Fire Department. The cause of the fire was attributed to an electrical issue.
- On March 17, investigators responded to a cabin explosion and fire in Freedom that resulted in minor injuries to an occupant. The cause is currently under investigation, but it appears to have been accidental.
- On March 24, an investigator responded to Wolfeboro to investigate a structure fire that resulted in no injuries. The cause is currently under investigation.
- On March 25, an investigator responded to a small fire and burn injury in Concord and identified the cause to have been autoignition of a solvent used in an industrial oven.

Fatal Fire/CO Incidents:

- On March 8, investigators responded to a structure fire in Campton that caused the death of an occupant. The cause of the fire is currently under investigation but not considered criminal.
- On March 9, investigators responded to a structure fire in Bartlett that caused injuries to five occupants, two of who were critical and one of which later died. The cause is currently under investigation but suspected to be due to an electrical issue.
- On March 13, investigators responded to a structure fire in Rumney that caused the death of one occupant. The cause is currently under investigation but not considered to be criminal.
- On March 28, investigators responded to a structure fire in Grafton that caused two injuries, one of which was serious, and ultimately died a few days later. The cause is currently under investigation but appears to have been ignition of combustibles in close proximity to a wood stove.

Ignitable Liquid Detection Canine Teams:

- There was one IGL canine deployment in March.

Youth Firesetter:

- There were no new youth fire setter intakes in March, but one assessment had been conducted.

Training/Committees:

- Members of the BOI attended the Child Fatality Review Committee and the Incapacitated and Vulnerable Adult Fatality Review Committee meetings in March.
- Members of the BOI presented “Fire Investigation for First Responders” to several fire departments in Kingston.

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 March:

- Building: 14
- Electrical: 3
- Plumbing: 2
- Fuel Gas: 7
- Mechanical: 4
- Fire Protection: 3
- Fire Alarm: 1

Technical Assistance, Educational & Healthcare Reviews:

We initiated 5 educational and 13 healthcare plan reviews, completed 219 inspections and 212 technical consults in the month of March.

Variance Requests:

We processed 12 variance requests in the month of March.

Fireworks Safety and Enforcement Program

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

- Proximate Licenses Issued: 0
- Display Certificate of Competency Issued: 2
- Consumer Fireworks Retail Store Licenses Issued: 3
- Explosive Magazine Inspections: 7
- Proximate Audience Inspections: 1

- Technical Assistance: 0

Modular Building Program

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

- Inspections: 15
- Audits of Manufacturers: 0
- Audits of Educational Facilities: 0
- Labels Issued to Manufacturers: 300
- Units Shipped to New Hampshire: 2

Tramway and Amusement Ride Safety

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

- Amusement Registrations: 21
- Amusement Inspections: 21
- Amusement Incidents: 0
- Tramway Registrations: 0
- Tramway Inspections: 13
- Tramway Incidents: 3

BUREAU OF OUTREACH & EDUCATION:

Hazardous Materials:

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

In the month of March, our Hazardous Materials Coordinator attended monthly PEAC Training and the New England Hazardous Materials Conference. We provided training to the Meredith Fire Department on the 2024 Emergency Response Guidebook.

Our Hazardous Materials Coordinator attended the Hazardous Materials Collaborative meeting, Carroll County Haz Mat Team meeting, Midwestern NH Haz Mat Team, Strategic Planning meeting, and Seabrook Radiological Emergency Plan meeting. Our Hazardous Materials Coordinator participated in the RFP review for the PEAC Software.

We responded to propane gas explosion and consulted with Seacoast Haz mat Team on a sick building call.

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 14th 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:

In March, we released the latest edition of [NHFIRS Newsletter](#), which includes a timetable for NERIS rollout with links to NERIS resources, and tips about how quality data can help fire departments advocate for themselves.

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 \(NERIS\) \(fema.gov\)](#).

Thank you to the 125+ departments who responded to our recent survey in preparation of NERIS! If you have not completed it, please do so quickly.

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

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 and have your NFIRS/NERIS contact person sign-up for the NHFIRS Newsletter by sending an email to FMO@dos.nh.gov.

Outreach Events:

In March, we shared public education about smoke and carbon monoxide alarms at the well-attended Manchester Home Show. There were six K-9 demos and one Steps to Safety presentation this month.

We partnered with American Red Cross and Effingham, Center Ossipee and Freedom Fire Departments for an alarm installation day. 59 smoke alarms and 20 carbon monoxide alarms were installed in 22 homes! The CO alarms came directly from our [CPSC's CO Poisoning Prevention Grant](#). The American Red Cross has already installed 162 CO alarms in homes through this grant!

We want to highlight Deputy Fire Marshal Fanjoy, District Chief Crosby, and Fire Investigators Dennis and Lutz who joined other statewide agencies in handing out medals to athletes at the Special Olympics NH 2025 Winter Games in Waterville Valley.

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 fmpubliceducation@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:




Our public education theme for this April is "Medical Oxygen." As more people are bringing medical oxygen into the home, they need to understand the new fire risks they also bring into the home. **Never smoke around medical oxygen.** Medical oxygen can explode if a flame or spark is nearby. Even if the oxygen is turned off, it can still catch on fire.

There is no safe way to smoke near oxygen. Using home oxygen increases the risk of fires and burns. When oxygen is used in the home, the amount of oxygen in the air, furniture, clothing, and hair goes up, making it easier for a fire to start and spread. In 2024, smoking on medical oxygen resulted in 5 preventable deaths in New Hampshire.



Don't smoke around medical oxygen.

Fire needs oxygen to burn. When more oxygen is in the air, any fire that starts will burn hotter and faster than usual. There is no safe way to smoke in the home when oxygen is in use.



There is no safe way to smoke on medical oxygen.



Smoking on medical oxygen resulted in **5** preventable deaths in New Hampshire during 2024.



Resources:

[Smoking Fire Safety](#)

Training Opportunities:

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