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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 – February 2026 Report

(For the period of January 1 through January 31, 2026)

ADMINISTRATION:

Personnel:

We have two full-time Fire Protection Specialist positions posted and are currently seeking approval to post a State Building Inspector position. An additional 10 vacancies are presently on hold.

Legislation:

Legislative hearings are underway for the 2026 session. Our priorities for this session include an update to the state fire code to the 2024 editions of NFPA 1 & 101, some clean-up on investigation language, and clean-up on incident reporting to align with NERIS. We continue to provide input on bills when questions arise. We are actively following:

HB 1004 exempting certain dwelling units from automatic sprinkler system requirements
Oppose as introduced.

House ED&A hearing January 28, 2026

HB 1159 relative to updating the state building code

Support

House ED&A hearing January 28, 2026, OTP

HB 1180 updating the definition of the state building code to include the International Energy Conservation Code 2024

Monitor

House ED&A hearing January 28, 2026

HB 1271 relative to third-party code review and inspection services for building permits

Monitor

House ED&A hearing January 28, 2026, Refer to Interim Study

HB 1555 relative to the administration and enforcement of the state fire code

Oppose as introduced, Monitor amendment introduced and passed February 10, 2026

House ED&A hearing January 28, 2026, executive session February 10, 2026

SB 426 repealing the permissible fireworks advisory committee

Support

Senate ED&A hearing January 14, 2026, Passed Senate January 29, 2026

SB 494 relative to the state fire code, fire incident reporting and investigations, and the duties of the state fire marshal

Support

Senate ED&A hearing January 14, 2026, OTP-A, Passed Senate February 5, 2026 and referred to Senate Finance Committee

SB 509 preventing municipalities from limiting dead-end road length if compliant with the state fire code

Monitor

Senate Commerce hearing January 27, 2026

State Emergency Response Commission (SERC)

The State Emergency Response Commission is seeking a member from the NH Association of Fire Chiefs. Please contact Assistant Director Brian Allard with any questions

brian.h.allard@dos.nh.gov.

Board of Fire Control:

The Board of Fire Control held a regular meeting at the IPOC on Tuesday, February 10th at 1 pm. The next meeting will be in May 2026.

BUREAU OF INVESTIGATIONS:

The Bureau of Investigations has 25 open cases at this time. This includes 9 criminal cases and 5 incidents involving fatalities. Investigators responded to 7 scenes in the month of January.

New cases:

- On January 7, 2026, investigators responded to Canterbury to assist with the origin and cause of a building fire. The cause of the fire is undetermined at this time but there are no criminal indicators.
- On January 16, 2026, investigators received a report from the Claremont Fire Department regarding a juvenile who sustained significant burn injuries. It was determined that the youth had been with other juveniles utilizing a fire pit when the accident occurred. The juvenile is still receiving medical care and is expected to recover. Investigators are continuing to monitor the status.
- On January 19, 2026, investigators responded to Loudon to assist the Loudon Fire Department with a building fire at an automotive shop. Loudon FD will be completing the origin and cause investigation report; however, all information obtained to date suggests that the fire was accidental.
- On January 27, 2026, investigators responded to Holderness after a reported building fire, and an occupant in the building sustained injuries. The investigation into the origin and cause is still ongoing, and the occupant who sustained injuries is expected to have a full recovery.

- On January 29, 2026, investigators responded to Monroe for a reported building fire. The investigation is still ongoing; however, there have been no indications to date that the fire is of a criminal nature.
- On January 30, 2026, investigators responded to Epping to assist the Epping Fire Department with a building fire investigation. The Epping FD will be completing the origin and cause report. All available information at this time suggests the fire was accidental.

Fatal Fire/CO Incidents:

- On January 1, 2026, investigators responded to an apartment building fire in Manchester, which resulted in two fatalities involving a 75-year-old male and a 5-year-old female. Several additional injuries were reported; however, they were determined to be non-life-threatening. The Manchester Fire Marshal's Office is investigating the origin and cause of the fire, which is ongoing; however, there is no evidence to suggest it resulted from a criminal act. The State Fire Marshal's Office worked alongside the Manchester Fire Department, Manchester Police Department, NH State Medical Examiner's Office, and the Massachusetts State Medical Examiners' Office.

Youth Firesetter:

- In January, we received one referral for YFS services.

BUREAU OF BUILDING SAFETY & CONSTRUCTION:

State Building Permit System:

In January, a total of 23 permits were processed through the State Building Permit System:

- Building: 7
- Electrical: 5
- Plumbing: 0
- Fuel Gas: 1
- Mechanical: 4
- Fire Protection: 3
- Fire Alarm: 3

Technical Assistance, Educational & Healthcare Reviews:

During the month of January, the following activities were completed:

- Educational Plan Reviews: 6
- Healthcare Plan Reviews: 9
- Inspections Completed: 217
- Technical Consultations Provided: 135

Variance Requests:

A total of 8 variance requests were processed in January.

Fireworks Safety and Enforcement Program

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

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

Modular Building Program

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

- Inspections: 13
- Audits of Manufacturers: 0
- Audits of Educational Facilities: 1
- Labels Issued to Manufacturers: 155
- Units Shipped to New Hampshire: 23

Tramway and Amusement Ride Safety

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

- Amusement Registrations: 25
- Amusement Inspections: 25
- Amusement Incidents: 0
- Tramway Registrations: 3
- Tramway Inspections: 38
- Tramway Incidents: 6

BUREAU OF OUTREACH & EDUCATION:

Hazardous Materials:

In the month of January, the hazardous materials section had no incident responses but consulted on a nitrogen dioxide/carbon monoxide issue at an ice rink. In that case a build-up of nitrogen dioxide and/or carbon monoxide from use of an ice resurfacer, combined with increased heating system use during cold weather, is believed to have caused several occupants of the rink to feel ill.

The SFMO Hazmat Section is working with NH Recycles and the NH Department of Environmental Services (DES) in 2026 at several training events about solid waste safety involving lithium-ion batteries. The first event is in Laconia on February 12 and will be attended by transfer station personnel and local government officials. Fire Departments are encouraged to attend as well. This training will be offered next in New London on March 19. More information and a registration link is available at NH Recycles website: <https://www.nhrecycles.org/solid-waste-safety>.

Tier II reporting is due by March 1 for calendar year 2025. Facilities are required to report on the presence of hazardous chemicals stored, used or released in their businesses that meet a threshold established by the EPA. Information concerning hazardous chemicals stored and used by businesses is sent to the state through the Hazardous Materials Section at the SFMO and also to individual jurisdictions. Reporting toxic releases is similar but different and goes to the DES. Refer to the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA Sections 311-312) for more information. Contact the SFMO if you know of a facility in your jurisdiction that is not reporting storage, use or release of chemicals. You can contact us at: hazmat@dos.nh.gov.

Incident Reporting:

NFIRS ended on December 31, 2025. All departments should have transitioned to NERIS in January 2026.

We are planning to have NERIS training on June 4th at the NH Fire Academy. Please save the date.

Please reach out to the state fire incident data team for any incident reporting questions at nhfirs@dos.nh.gov and have your NERIS contact person sign-up for the NH NERIS Newsletter by sending an email to FMO@dos.nh.gov.

Community Risk Reduction (CRR):

Announcing new training opportunity from **National Association of State Fire Marshals (NASFM) Best Practices for Addressing Homelessness and Migrant Issues!**

Homelessness and migrant-related displacement continue to create complex fire and life safety challenges nationwide—encampment fires, unsafe temporary shelter conditions, code compliance gaps, and increased risk to responders. To support states and local jurisdictions, NASFM has developed a Comprehensive Guide for Local Jurisdictions: Best Practices for Addressing Homelessness and Migrant Issues, made possible through FEMA's FP&S grant program (Award EMW 2023-FP-00222).

NASFM's Best Practices Guide and Training help communities coordinate a holistic response to homelessness and migrant displacement, improving safety while preserving dignity.

Online - Homelessness & Migrant Issues Best Practices

This online class takes about 1-2 hours to complete and includes modules on: Understanding the Crisis, A Compassionate Response, and Sustainable Systems and Solutions. Receive a certificate of completion after final quiz.

Included are downloadable resources such as the 71-page NASFM Comprehensive Guide for Local Jurisdictions and a Planning Worksheet to guide notes as you complete the course. Afterwards, use these resources to build your own customized local plan. **Register Here: NASFM Training Portal - <https://nasfm-training.org/>**

May 5, 2026 * Concord, NH * 9AM - 3PM

NASFM and the NHSFMO are working together to bring this training to New Hampshire. Communities need practical solutions that reduce risk, protect dignity, and save lives. NASFM's Best Practices Program equips leaders with guidance and training to strengthen preparedness and response. This 6-hour in-person training will blend lecture and workshop formats with opportunities to network with local resources. Stay tuned for more details!

Register Here: <https://forms.office.com/g/GUu5U84N4U>

Outreach Events:

In January, we conducted two K9 demonstrations and participated in Mascot Day at Pat's Peak.

The Fire and Life Safety Educator Network discussed community risk reduction with CRR expert, Mike Sinsigalli. Together we explored key aspects of CRR from challenges departments face to current educational programs. Our next meeting is Wednesday, February 11th at 10:30-11:30AM EST. We will discuss homelessness and migrant-related displacement. Meeting access is provided upon registration or by contacting our office. Use the [registration link](#) to receive a calendar invite.

The Bureau of Outreach and Education team is excited for the new year. Last year we partnered with all counties and hope to do it again!

Are you interested in having the NH 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. We also have [resources and equipment](#) for fire departments to borrow. Send your request to us at FMOpublicEducation@dos.nh.gov.

We invite anyone in a fire department to complete our brief 12-question end-of-year survey. It takes only a few minutes, and your feedback directly influences the programs, resources, and educational offerings we develop for the year ahead. It is not limited to one per department.

2025 SFMO Outreach Survey Link: www.surveymonkey.com/r/NHSFMO-BOE



Public Education:

Residents could have less than 2 minutes to escape a home fire once the smoke alarm sounds. In the event of a home fire, every second counts. Fires in high-rise and condominium buildings are especially dangerous. Encourage residents to know where all the exit stairs are and how to escape in an emergency.

Our public education theme for February is "[Home Fire Escape Plans.](#)" When escaping a fire, make sure to close the door behind you. If you cannot escape, get behind a closed door and call 9-1-1. A closed door can act as a barrier between you and the fire. Close Before You Doze: Always close your bedroom door before you go to sleep. Share these safety tips to help increase awareness in your community about the importance of a closed door.



Training Opportunities:

The SFMO can present training courses to fire service professionals law enforcement officers, and building inspectors. These training courses are typically two to three hours in length.

Currently, one class is being scheduled in Bradford for late February or early March, but the time and date have not been determined. Chief Mechanical Inspector Marc Prindiville and Mechanical Inspector Aurelian Ricardo will present information about Heating and Fuel Gas Appliance Inspections.

The SFMO will also present information on how to use the Emergency Response Guidebook at the Auburn Fire Department on March 4th at 6PM. Seating is limited. Contact Deputy Fire Marshal Anthony Booth for questions or to register: anthony.m.booth@dos.nh.gov.

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.

Topics include:

- Application of the NH State Fire Code: A Scenario Based Training
- NFPA 1 and 101 2021 Edition Updates
- Inspections of Multi-Family Dwellings
- Tent Inspections
- Commercial Cooking and Food Trucks
- Solar Installations for One- and Two-family Homes
- Display Fireworks Inspection Essentials
- Heating and Fuel Gas Appliance Inspections
- The Basics of LP Installations for One- and Two-family Homes
- Fire Investigation for First Responders
- Collection of Witness Data in Fire Investigation
- Fire Investigation Case Studies
- Air Monitoring
- PEAC Software
- An Overview of the 2024 Emergency Response Guidebook