



# State of New Hampshire

DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY

**Division of Fire Safety**

**Office of the State Fire Marshal**

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



Commissioner Robert L. Quinn | State Fire Marshal Sean P. Toomey

## **NH State Fire Marshal's Office – February 2024 Report**

*(For the period of January 1 through January 31, 2024)*

### **ADMINISTRATION:**

#### **Personnel:**

We currently have 4 part-time vacancies that we are actively recruiting for at this time:

- Part-time Building Code Review Board Administrative Secretary
- Part-time State Building Permit Coordinator
- Part-time Community Risk Reduction Specialist
- Part-time Accreditation Manager

#### **Employee Development:**

Several members of the Command Staff attended ICS-400 training in January.  
One investigator attended a four-day training course for Clandestine Laboratory Site Safety.

#### **Legislation:**

The following bills are the key bills that we are currently monitoring:

- HB 1059 Relative to the state building code
- HB 1065 Relative to fire sprinkler requirements in residential buildings
- HB 1215 Relative to subdivision regulations on the completion of improvements and the regulation of building permits
- HB 1332 Relative to prohibiting electric vehicles from parking in parking garages
- HB 1352 Relative to firefighting personal protective equipment
- HB 1386 Relative to prohibiting the disposal of lithium-ion batteries in solid waste landfill facilities, composting facilities, or incinerators
- HB 1387 Relative to revisions to the state building code
- HB 1396 Relative to prohibiting municipal inspections of owner-occupied units of multi-unit housing
- HB 1498 Establishing a state short-term rental registry
- HB 1510 Establishing a commission to identify barriers to and solutions for electric vehicle sales and use
- SB 1635 Relative to the definition of short-term rental
- SB 221 establishing a study committee to examine day care access and affordability

SB 365 relative to the sale or use of lithium-ion batteries for electric bicycles, scooters, or personal electric mobility devices  
SB 373 Relative to the state building code  
SB 430 relative to establishing a commission to study the impacts of electric vehicles, lithium-ion batteries, and e-mobility devices on first responder response, the environment, building and fire codes, and life and safety property protection  
SB 437 Relative to local authority to amend the state building code

**Board of Fire Control:**

The Board of Fire Control met on January 17, 2024. Everything is submitted to the legislature to update the State Fire Code to the 2021 editions of NFPA 1 & 101. We will likely see the Senate bill heard the week of February 12<sup>th</sup>. The next meeting will be on March 20, 2024.

**Foam Take-back Program:**

The contract for the foam take-back program was approved by the Governor & Executive Council at the end of June 2023. DES has updated that they are now working on some facility disposal items with the vendor and anticipate the program remaining in a delayed status until late spring.

**Strategic Planning Initiative:**

Our office has worked over the past few months to develop an updated strategic plan which will be part of an overall Department of Safety plan. The high-level goals for the office include accreditation, development of a statewide community risk reduction program, employee development, development of a statewide hazmat strategic plan, and facility/office space enhancement.

**BUREAU OF INVESTIGATIONS:**

In the month of January, we received 21 incident notifications resulting in 13 scene responses. The Bureau of Investigations currently has 19 open arson or suspected arson investigations.

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

- On January 1 investigators and a K9 team responded to Troy for a fire in an old mill. The investigation is ongoing.
- On January 1 investigators also responded to a structure fire in Peterborough and determined it was an accidental fire.
- On January 5, investigators responded to Rochester for a structure fire. The investigation is currently ongoing.
- On January 8, investigators responded to Tuftonboro for a structure fire. The fire originated in a garage and the cause was undetermined but probably electrical and accidental.
- On January 12, investigators assisted Manchester Police and Fire Departments with a motor vehicle fire involving a stolen vehicle. This was an incendiary fire.
- On January 13, investigators assisted Epping Fire Department with a large fire involving several fuel tankers. The cause was attributed to a vehicle issue and was accidental.

- On January 15, investigators responded to a structure fire in Grantham in which one person was burned. The cause is suspected to be a wood stove and the investigation is ongoing.
- On January 18, investigators responded to a structure fire in an apartment building in Sunapee. The investigation is ongoing.
- On January 22, an investigator responded to a structure fire in Canaan that was caused by an electrical issue and was accidental.
- On January 24, investigators responded to Wilmot for what was initially reported as a barn fire. The owner had demolished the barn and set fire to the pile without obtaining permits.
- On January 26, investigators responded to a structure fire in Lee. The cause is undetermined and still under investigation.
- On January 30, investigators were notified of a structure fire that had occurred in Barrington. The investigation was delayed as part of a coordinated effort between FMO personnel and Barrington Police and Fire Departments and was conducted on February 1<sup>st</sup>. Barrington Police had made a non-fire related arrest as part of this case. The fire was caused by combustible materials in contact with heating elements on the kitchen stove. The investigation is ongoing.

**Fatal Fire/CO Incidents:**

There was one fatal carbon monoxide incident in January. On January 16, investigators responded to Laconia to investigate an unattended death that was later determined to be carbon monoxide poisoning attributed to the operation of an unvented diesel heater within a structure.

**Ignitable Liquid Detection Canine Teams:**

There was 1 IGL canine deployment in January.

**Court:**

One investigator was deposed for a civil case in January.

**BUREAU OF BUILDING SAFETY & CONSTRUCTION:**

**State Building Permit System:**

We processed the following permits in the month of January:

Building: 14  
 Electrical: 13  
 Plumbing: 5  
 Mechanical Fuel Gas: 0  
 Mechanical Non-Fuel Gas: 4  
 Fire Protection: 3  
 Fire Alarm: 4

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

We initiated 11 educational and 7 healthcare plan reviews, completed 238 inspections and 156 technical consults in the month of January.

**Variance Requests:**

We processed 32 variance requests in the month of January.

**Fireworks Safety and Enforcement Program**

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

Proximate Licenses Issued: 0  
Display Certificate of Competency Issued: 0  
Consumer Fireworks Retail Store Licenses Issued: 0  
Explosive Magazine Inspections: 9  
Proximate Audience Inspections: 2  
Technical Assistance: 3

**Modular Building Program**

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

Inspections: 3  
Audits of Manufacturers: 0  
Audits of Educational Facilities: 0  
Labels Issued to Manufacturers: 176  
Units Shipped to New Hampshire: 199

**Tramway and Amusement Ride Safety**

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

Amusement Registrations: 14  
Amusement Inspections: 22  
Amusement Incidents: 0  
Tramway Registrations: 10  
Tramway Inspections: 52  
Tramway Incidents: 8

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

### **Hazardous Materials:**

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

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

In the month of January, our Hazardous Materials Coordinators attended the Haz Mat Collaborative Meeting, the PEAC monthly training, a training with Hazard 3 on emerging threats for 2024, held the quarterly SERC meeting, presented part of the EPA Tier II reporting webinar, and attended the Southeast Haz Mat Team drill on January 17th. In addition, they met with the Seacoast Haz Mat Team to discuss incident cost recovery. They also worked on Job Aids for Li Batteries and RAD Response.

Also, in the month of January, we received 69 Tier II reports from NH facilities. We also responded to 12 questions from facilities regarding Tier II reporting. We responded to two incidents, a Li battery fire involving an E-Bike in Durham and a RAD detection response at a waste facility in Concord.

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

We have held three meetings to discuss the challenges of electric vehicle fires and lithium-ion batteries. The meetings have included representatives from the State Fire Marshal's Office, Fire Academy, HSEM, State Police, DMV, DES, DOT, Tow Association, Auto Dealers Association, Clean Energy NH, NH Chiefs of Police and the NH Association of Fire Chiefs.

The International Code Council has established an ad-hoc group to evaluate building and fire code impacts from electric vehicles and lithium-ion batteries. The National Fire Protection Association Research Foundation is conducting a study. UL's Fire Safety Research Institute (FSRI) is also conducting a study. UL FSRI has additional information and resources for first responders here: [Safeguard the future of Lithium-Ion Battery Devices with FSRI \(batteryfiresafety.org\)](https://www.firesafety.org/).

### **Regional Outreach/Chief's Roundtables:**

We continue to partner with the Commissioner's Office, other Department of Safety Leadership and the NHAFC to conduct regional outreach/Chief's Roundtables. The next meeting is scheduled at the Burton Fire & EMS Training Facility in Bethlehem on April 11<sup>th</sup> at 10 am.

### **Incident Reporting:**

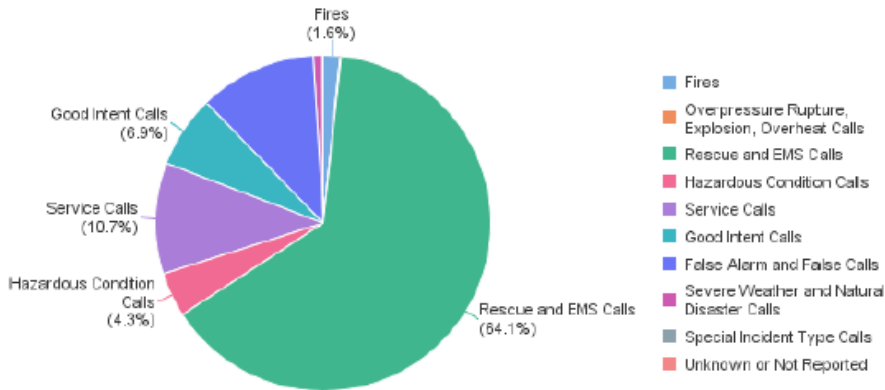
If you have not yet submitted your 2023 data, we ask that you please submit it as soon as possible. Your commitment to ensuring we have great data to accurately show the fire problem in NH is greatly appreciated! Please remember to report any EV or lithium-ion battery fires to us.

Please reach out to our NHFIRS team for any incident reporting questions at [nhfirs@dos.nh.gov](mailto:nhfirs@dos.nh.gov)

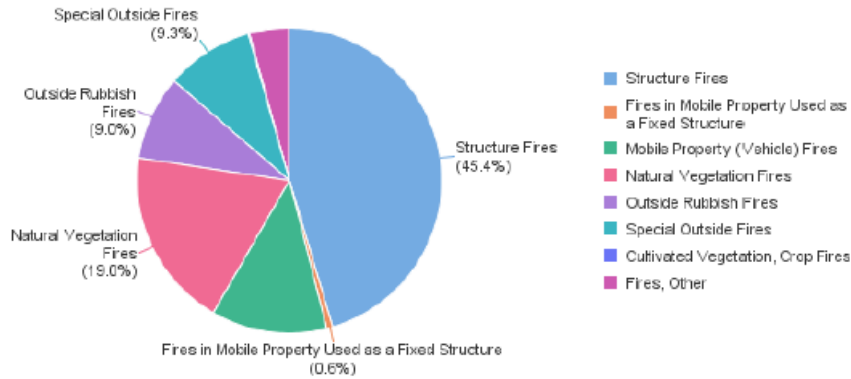
We continue to monitor the development of the U.S. Fire Administration's (USFA) new fire information and analytics platform, known as the National Emergency Response Information System (NERIS), for the American fire and emergency services.

## 2023 NHFIRS Data:

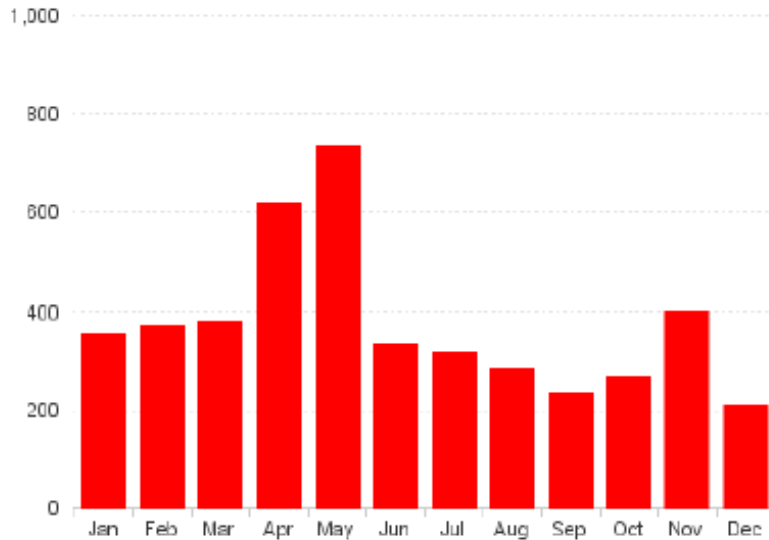
### Incident Type Category Summary



### Fire Incident Type Category Summary



### Fire Incident Counts By Month of Year



### **Outreach Events:**

In the month of January, members of the SFMO participated in a Storytime and K9 Demo at the Chester Library.



### **Public Education:**

The USFA's Fire and Life Safety Communicators Initiative theme for the month of February is closed door messages. 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. Close Before You Doze: Always, close your bedroom door before you go to sleep.

Find information to share with your communities here:

[Close Before You Doze | UL's FSRI – Fire Safety Research Institute](#)

[First Responders | Close Your Door](#)

For more information on this initiative, or to find outreach materials on the monthly topics, please visit: [Fire and Life Safety Communicators Initiative \(fema.gov\)](https://www.fema.gov)

**Training Opportunities:**

**Heating and Fuel Gas Appliance Inspections**

**Tuesday, February 20, 2024**

**6:00PM-9:00PM**

**Raymond S. Burton Training Facility, Bethlehem**

*A review of the State Fire Code relative to NFPA 54: National Fuel Gas Code, NFPA 58: Liquefied Petroleum Gas Code, and NFPA 31: Standard for the Installation of Oil-Burning Equipment. This session will give the Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ) or his designee a better understating of how to navigate these codes and standards.*

**Registration Link:** <https://forms.office.com/g/BSXjQRb7mK>

**Heating and Fuel Gas Appliance Inspections**

**Wednesday, February 28, 2024**

**6:00PM-9:00PM**

**New London Fire Department**

*A review of the State Fire Code relative to NFPA 54: National Fuel Gas Code, NFPA 58: Liquefied Petroleum Gas Code, and NFPA 31: Standard for the Installation of Oil-Burning Equipment. This session will give the Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ) or his designee a better understating of how to navigate these codes and standards.*

**Registration Link:** <https://forms.office.com/g/BSXjQRb7mK>

**Application of the NH State Fire Code: A Scenario-Based Training**

**Wednesday, March 13, 2024**

**6:00PM-9:00PM**

**Jaffrey Fire Department**

*This session is designed to assist the Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ) or his designee with the application of the state fire code to frequently asked questions and common violations encountered in the enforcement of NFPA 1 and NFPA 101. This class will include scenario-based instruction and allow participants to use their knowledge, and that of their peers, to discuss how they would approach certain situations.*

**Registration Link:** <https://forms.office.com/g/BSXjQRb7mK>

**Heating and Fuel Gas Appliance Inspections**

**Wednesday, April 3, 2024**

**6:00PM-9:00PM**

**Jaffrey Fire Department**

*A review of the State Fire Code relative to NFPA 54: National Fuel Gas Code, NFPA 58: Liquefied Petroleum Gas Code, and NFPA 31: Standard for the Installation of Oil-Burning Equipment. This session will give the Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ) or his designee a better understating of how to navigate these codes and standards.*

**Registration Link:** <https://forms.office.com/g/BSXjQRb7mK>

Additional locations and offerings will be announced soon.

Please reach out to Deputy Stacey Dubois at [stacey.l.dubois@dos.nh.gov](mailto:stacey.l.dubois@dos.nh.gov) if you are interested in hosting one of these sessions, a past or future session, or would like to suggest a future training topic.