



Robert L. Quinn
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 – January 2026 Report

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

ADMINISTRATION:

Personnel:

We remain under a statewide hiring freeze and currently have 13 vacant positions.

Congratulations to Fire Investigator Marianne Heinrich for completing Firefighter II.

Legislation:

Legislative hearings have started 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 have provided some input on a few bills so far and we are continuing to review others that may impact the fire service. We are actively following:

HB 1004 exempting certain dwelling units from automatic sprinkler system requirements

HB 1159 relative to updating the state building code

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

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

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

SB 426 repealing the permissible fireworks advisory committee

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

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

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 will hold a regular meeting at the IPOC on Tuesday, February 10th at 1 pm.

BUREAU OF INVESTIGATIONS:

In December, we received 17 incident notifications resulting in 5 scene responses. The Bureau of Investigations currently has 6 open arson or suspected arson investigations.

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

- On December 29, 2025, investigators were requested by the Rindge Police and Fire Departments to investigate an arson, where pallets and tires were set on fire. This is currently an active criminal investigation.

Fatal Fire/CO Incidents:

- On December 1, 2025, investigators responded to a building fire in Boscawen, which resulted in the death of a 66-year-old male occupant. The cause of the fire is currently under investigation; however, there is no evidence to suggest that it resulted from a criminal act. The State Fire Marshal's Office worked alongside the Boscawen Fire Department, Boscawen Police Department, Boscawen Public Works, and the State Medical Examiner's Office.
- On December 6, 2025, investigators responded to a building fire in Milton, which resulted in the death of a 70-year-old female occupant. The cause of the fire is currently under investigation; however, there is no evidence to suggest that it resulted from a criminal act. The State Fire Marshal's Office worked alongside the Milton Fire Department, Milton Police Department, and the State Medical Examiner's Office. Additionally, the New Hampshire State Police was prepared to assist with a K9 if needed, and numerous fire personnel from surrounding departments assisted with the recovery efforts.
- On December 30, 2025, investigators responded to a suspected carbon monoxide toxicity fatality in Hanover. Investigators identified the deceased as a 24-year-old male. The State Fire Marshal's Office worked alongside the Hanover Police and Fire Departments, representatives from the Midwest Hazmat team, and the State Medical Examiner's Office.
- On December 31, 2025, investigators responded to an incident in which a small fire occurred within a home, and a deceased individual was located inside the home. The occupant of the home was identified as an 81-year-old male. The circumstances surrounding the fire are still under investigation; however, there is no evidence to suggest it was the result of a criminal act. The cause of death was ruled as Carbon Monoxide Toxicity, and the manner of death was accidental. The State Fire Marshal's Office worked alongside the Meredith Police Department, the Meredith Fire Department, and the State Medical Examiner's Office.

Arrests/Court:

- An investigator testified in the Plymouth District Court for a probable cause hearing regarding an arson investigation that had occurred in October 2025. Probable cause was found for Joseph Wescott, and the case has been bound over to the Grafton Superior Court for indictment.

Training:

- Investigator Stephen Dennis completed DEA Clandestine Lab recertification.

BUREAU OF BUILDING SAFETY & CONSTRUCTION:

The National Electrical Code (NFPA 70), 2023 edition is in full effect as of January 1, 2026.

State Building Permit System:

In December, a total of 41 permits were processed through the State Building Permit System:

- Building: 8
- Electrical: 12
- Plumbing: 6
- Fuel Gas: 4
- Mechanical: 6
- Fire Protection: 1
- Fire Alarm: 4

Technical Assistance, Educational & Healthcare Reviews:

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

- Educational Plan Reviews: 7
- Healthcare Plan Reviews: 22
- Inspections Completed: 423
- Technical Consultations Provided: 113

Variance Requests:

A total of 7 variance requests were processed in December.

Fireworks Safety and Enforcement Program

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

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

Modular Building Program

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

- Inspections: 14
- Audits of Manufacturers: 0
- Audits of Educational Facilities: 0
- Labels Issued to Manufacturers: 136
- Units Shipped to New Hampshire: 29

Tramway and Amusement Ride Safety

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

- Amusement Registrations: 44
- Amusement Inspections: 44
- Amusement Incidents: 0
- Tramway Registrations: 30
- Tramway Inspections: 38
- Tramway Incidents: 1

BUREAU OF OUTREACH & EDUCATION:

Hazardous Materials:

In the month of December, the hazardous materials section had no incident responses but received some notifications and inquiries. We provided advice to a business owner about e-bike parking. We were also notified of CO alarm that was activated in a school due to cross-sensitivity from gases produced by a floor buffer machine that was charging.

We will be partnering with NH Recycles and the NH Department of Environmental Services (DES) in 2026 at several community events about solid waste safety. The SFMO will be presenting information regarding battery fires, specifically those that occur in dumpsters, trash trucks and at waste and recycling centers. Members of the Hazardous Materials Section are part of a working group among the hazardous materials teams to look at damaged battery disposal options.

Tier II reporting has started to increase again. It is done annually by March 1 for the previous year. 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 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:

The switch to the U.S. Fire Administration's (USFA) new fire information and analytics platform, known as the National Emergency Response Information System (NERIS), was effective January 1, 2026. Incident reports created in the NFIRS system after that date can't be reported to the State Fire Marshal's Office or USFA. We urge you to begin reporting in NERIS as soon as possible if you haven't already.

Please reach out to our Data Analysis Section at nhfirs@dos.nh.gov if you need assistance.

Key NERIS Resources:

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

Community Risk Reduction (CRR):

[CRR Week](#) is Monday, January 19 – Sunday, January 25. The idea is to help promote the awareness of Community Risk Reduction within the fire service by having a week where everyone can do CRR programs and demonstrate its importance to the fire service.

Here are some ways your department can participate:

1. January 14, 2026 @ 10:30AM - 11:30AM
Fire & Life Safety Educator Network will host special guest Mike Sinsigalli, a CRR instructor at the National Fire Academy, to join the monthly conversation and answer your questions about CRR. Teams link provided upon RSVP: [NH Fire & Life Safety Network](#)
2. January 21, 2026 @ 2PM EST
Join a free virtual presentation to explore Colorado fire departments' impressive risk reduction efforts. Learn innovative strategies from experienced firefighters and community leaders. [Register with this link.](#)
3. Complete free courses online: [CRR Essentials | Vision 20/20](#)
4. Start a Community Risk Assessment for your town: [Community Risk Assessment Guide from Vision 20/20](#)

5. Sign-up for our newsletters by sending us a note at fmo@dos.nh.gov or find newsletters on our website: <https://www.firemarshal.dos.nh.gov/news-events/newsletters>

Mark your calendars for one of these free online training courses about Alzheimer's, tailored specifically to Fire and EMS personnel: **UNDERSTAND, APPROACH & RESPOND: Effective Interventions for First Responders**

The goal of this training is to educate Fire and EMS personnel on the impact that Alzheimer's Disease and other dementias may have on individuals and communities. This program has been developed specifically for Fire and EMS. Strategies acquired from this training will provide an understanding of Alzheimer's Disease and other dementias and will help personnel optimize the effectiveness of responding during interventions with persons living with dementia, and their families.

THIS PROGRAM WILL BE OFFERED VIRTUALLY ON TWO DATES:

- Wednesday, Jan. 14th, 2026 @ 7:00 - 9:00 AM
Presenter: Melissa Grenier, LCSW, Regional Manager, New Hampshire, Alzheimer's Association
- Thursday, Jan. 22nd, 2026 @ 6:00 - 8:00 PM
Presenter: Jennifer Hoadley, CDP, Regional Manager, Southeastern MA, Alzheimer's Association

Please register by contacting Melissa Grenier at mgrenier@alz.org.

Outreach Events:

In December, we conducted one K9 demonstration, provided Sparky for one event, participated in the NH Injury Prevention Advisory Committee meeting, and hosted a Heating and Fuel Gas Appliance Inspections training.

The Fire and Life Safety Educator Network discussed heating concerns in winter. This group meets via Teams at 10:30AM (EST) on the second Wednesday of each month. Our next meeting is **Wednesday, January 14th at 10:30-11:30AM** EST. We will discuss community risk reduction with CRR expert, Mike Sinsigalli. 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 to share 2025 numbers. We attended a total of 127 outreach events and provided equipment for 7 events. We partnered with 69 towns, which includes 16 school events, 43 K-9 demos, 31 Fire Prevention Week activities, 8 virtual presentations, and so much more! Thank you to everyone who invited us to participate in your events this year. We look forward to an eventful 2026!



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

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.

Public Education:

Our theme for January is "[Home Fire Escape Plans.](#)" The increasing severity of home fires due to modern building contents and open space configurations makes it crucial that people are prepared to leave their homes immediately in the event of fire. Residents could have less than 2 minutes to escape a home fire once the smoke alarm sounds.



Training Opportunities:

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

Currently, one class is being scheduled in Bradford, 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 4 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