

MAINE FIRE PROTECTION SERVICES COMMISSION MINUTES

Monday, January 5, 2026

9:00-11am (2hrs)

Champlain Conference Room, Maine Department of Public Safety, 45 Commerce Drive, Augusta, ME

[Zoom Link](#) Meeting ID: 897 3609 0724 Passcode: 946438

Present (14)

1. Chief Dan Brooks, Chair
2. Gerry Gay, 1st VP, PFFM
3. Ronnie Green, 2nd VP, PFFM
4. Chief Shawn Esler, FMO
5. Senator Scott Cyrway
6. Vicki Schmidt, MSFFF
7. Ken Desmond, MSFFF
8. Jim Graves, MFSI
9. Charlie Soltan, Insurance
10. Chief Robby Gross, MFS
11. Chief Darrell White, MFCA
12. Chief David Groder, MFCA
13. Steve Greeley, BLS
14. Steve Mallory, MEMA

Absent

1. Wil O'Neal, EMS
2. Joe Guyotte, MSFFF
3. Senator Chip Curry
4. Rep. Dean Cray
5. *Vacant, Governor's Office*

Guests

1. Bill St. Michel
2. Bill Dingee
3. Chris McLaughlin
4. Chief Bill Gillespie

Secretary

Shannon Els

Excused

1. Catherine Nadeau, Public Adv
2. Rep. Steve Bunker
3. Larry Willis, MSFFF
4. Rep. Mike Lajoie

Approval of Minutes: December 2025

Motion: Ken Desmond, second: Gerry Gay -- Passed unanimously

I. Committee Reports

A. Best Practices Committee

- Tabling until February meeting.

B. Professional Development Conference

- Schedule is set.

C. Education and Training Strategy Committee

- 2025 Facilities grant progress ongoing – no updates.
 - Interest in facility from Washington County for next grant cycle.
- Many Basic Fire & FF I/II programs run in 2026.
 - Roll out of the new 5th edition (NFPA 1010) in 2026.
 - Beginning upgrade to Fire Instructor/Officer standards (NFPA 1020).
 - Navigating policy and curriculum in relation to AI.

D. Recruitment and Retention Committee - no report

E. Wildland Fire Committee – no report

- Retirement of Lt. George Harris (position to be filled). Recruitment ongoing for 8 positions.

F. Staffing Committee

- NERIS reporting transition is complete January 1, 2026. NERIS has many more fields than MEFIRS and FMO is working with ImageTrend to fix issues that arose during the first days.

APPROVED 2/2/2026

Note: FMO reduced the original form by 30% for reporting and will continue to refine to meet the needs of the state of Maine. Mapping issues captured and working on.

- Fire Chiefs are unable to adjust their own forms. This was done because FMO cannot maintain 300 different forms. There may be an option to customize after this transition is complete (but this is not guaranteed).
- If departments use other programs besides ImageTrend, then they will need to report separately to the state. About 16 departments are using other systems, ex: ESO). Note: All Maine EMS reports use ImageTrend.
- BRIC grant progress; FMO has been participating in meetings to examine the work done. Created survey tools for FF, Code Enforcement Officers, Town Managers. FM sought to understand the contracts and time frame for data collection and reporting. With raw data, report is being put together for MOCA and Code Enforcement boards (rough draft) and extensive. MOCA will share the case that the Codes Division was part of FMO and originally, it was one person to oversee across the state. Related to working group of LD 1375 to provide funding/staffing to support Code Enforcement across state. Note: Town Managers identified opportunity for a need for CEO training. Analytics behind CEO data can be defined by rural/urban, population, and other factors.
 - For the Fire Service, here are three deliverables asked of BRIC this year (what can be accomplished in this amount of time):
 1. Mutual aid data across the state.
 2. How many FFs and departments are active.
 3. The training level of FFs in the state.
- Discussion re: conversations across state on regional operations for fire service and resource sharing – apparatus, staffing, training, etc. Fire districts history mentioned and at national level, several fire apparatus companies are under investigation for price gouging.

G. Cancer Reduction Grant – no changes. Awaiting proof of purchase from Boothbay and Eustis FDs.

H. Emerging Energy Hazards Committee – no updates. Researching training developed by CT.

I. Treasurer Report – no changes at \$4336.77.

II. Legislative Report

- LD 1005, Hearing on Tuesday, January 6 at 1pm presentation on allowing municipal departments to conduct sprinkler plan reviews. FMO called out on delays in sprinkler plan reviews; to clarify, the delay is related to construction permits, and sometimes the permits include sprinkler reviews which most have been conducted.
- LD 1212, Covering carbon monoxide detectors – Hearing Tuesday, January 6. Designed specifically to support adopting current safety code standards (cleans up current law and adds enforcement clarity for Fire Chief and FMO). The law is intended for the adoption of NFPA standards in real time so as not to prevent future obstacles from adopting Life Safety Codes. NFPA did not have many references, rules, and guidelines in relation to carbon monoxide detectors. FMO has not continued to adopt this standard because in previous administrations codes have been put on hold.
- LD 2016, Fund Thermal Imaging Cameras. Seeks to remove as it is not in demand anymore.
- LD 2076, Reporting of Incidents for Municipal Fire Chiefs. Allows reports to go from MEFIRS to NERIS, which is the ongoing/current system.

APPROVED 2/2/2026

- LD 1375 (status: report from committee, recs from working group) carried over from previous session.
- Note: fire service representation is limited re: Maine EMS (LR 2781). Intent is to reduce board members from 12 to 5 which isolates them to employees of Maine EMS. Separate from Maine EMS Commission created in the last legislative session.

Note: Commission was unable to schedule a legislative breakfast or Hall of Flags event for 2026. Strategizing how to secure a 2027 event.

III. Old Business

A. LOSAP Board Report

- Need members from MMA, Fire Chiefs, and need to be active participants.
- Bill Gillespie is beginning to prepare a succession plan. BOD is struggling to get participation. Plan to go in for \$500k and sign a new contract.

B. EMS Report – no report

C. OSHA/BLS Updates

- No updates regarding OSHA proposed Emergency Response standard (federal).
- Reminder, by statute, *Title 26*, BLS is mandated to adopt OSHA standards at a minimum.
- LD 1375, Sen Cyrway brought up concerns on how it affects specific constituents.

IV. New Business and News from Members

- Annual Report for 2025 is completed.
- Ongoing progress towards committees/info pages on MFPSC website on FMO site.
- MFSI is exploring systems for state instructors and building talent to meet statewide demands.

Adjourn

Motion: Robby Gross, second: Jim Graves – Passed Unanimously

Next Meeting: February 2, 2026 at 9am

Champlain Conference Room, Maine Department of Public Safety, 45 Commerce Drive, Augusta, ME

APPROVED 2/2/2026