

MAINE FIRE PROTECTION SERVICES COMMISSION

MINUTES (Approved)

Monday, March 2, 2026, from 9-10am (1 hour)

Maine Department of Public Safety at 45 Commerce Drive, Augusta, ME and Zoom (Virtual)

Present 12

1. Chief Dan Brooks, Chair
2. Ronnie Green, 2nd VP, PFFM
3. Vicki Schmidt, MSFFF
4. Jim Graves, MFSI
5. Charlie Soltan, Insurance
6. Chief Robby Gross, MFS
7. Chief Darrell White, MFCA
8. Steve Greeley, BLS
9. Wil O'Neal, EMS
10. Rep. Steve Bunker
11. Larry Willis, MSFFF
12. Steve Mallory, MEMA

Absent

1. Senator Chip Curry
2. Rep. Dean Cray
3. Catherine Nadeau, Public Adv
4. Ken Desmond, MSFFF
5. Joe Guyotte, MSFFF
6. *Vacant, Governor's Office*

Guests

1. Bill Dingee
2. Chris Azevedo

Secretary

Shannon Els

Excused

1. Senator Scott Cyrway
2. Rep. Mike Lajoie
3. Chief Shawn Esler, FMO
4. Chief David Groder, MFCA
5. Gerry Gay, 1st VP, PFFM

Approval of Minutes: February 2025

- Motion Ronnie Green, Second: Robby Gross. Passes Unanimously.
Amendment last page, "OSHA State Plan Meeting"

I. Committee Reports

A. Best Practices Committee

- Plaque to be made for MFCA's Conference. Rep. Bunker to invite recipient to attend Award Ceremony Wednesday afternoon.

B. Professional Development Conference

- March 26-28, 2026, at Sunday River. Over 89 vendors. Recognition from Rep. Bunker re: vendor accommodations for Cancer Awareness in an already full vendor list.

C. Education and Training Strategy Committee

- UU-1 Carry over funding for Live Fire Training Facility FY on 2/25 around 10am. MFPSC Chair and MFSI Director Graves shared testimony. Confident that budget language will move forward.
- Changes to NFPA 1400 (New 2026 Standard) specific changes to 1402, 1403 standards for engineering live burn buildings – specific focus on engineering plans. MFSI will update Live Fire Burn Policy to the new standard by late summer/fall 2026, asking multiple agencies to review the policy.

D. Recruitment and Retention Committee

- Started fourth round of recruitment in high schools in Penobscot County. Local departments and high schools are very supportive. SOG is being prepared and will be shared in future meetings.

E. Wildland Fire Committee

- Fire planning is ongoing with town Warden meetings and municipalities.
- Collaborative effort with MFSI & MFS on process for Maine Basic Wildland Courses.
- Wildfire Academy in June. (Schedule published on MFSI Website)

F. Staffing Committee – no report

G. Cancer Reduction Grant

- Waiting for completion of the last applicant that needs to show proof of purchase. Sharing notes from DAFS to report all the expenditures and grant funds awarded.
- Continuing to present to departments across the state. Looking to replicate the grant program and seek sponsors to support funding.

H. Emerging Energy Hazards Committee – no report

I. Treasurer Report - no changes at \$4336.77

II. Legislative Report

- LD2223 "An Act to Increase Funding for Construction Plans Reviews and Clarify Rulemaking Authority for Municipal Reviews of Development (adds 2-4 positions for plans review at FMO).
- LD 2173 Work Session/Public Hearing attended by Chair Brooks; FM spoke on fire safety concerns.
- LD2224 (from 131st) Ongoing working group.

III. Old Business

A. LOSAP Board Report – no report

B. EMS Report

- First case of Measles in Maine (highly contagious). Monitoring closely.
- The DEA created a rule for how patients handled medications. Offered education in December 2025 re: this regulation. Effective date of March 9, 2026. Has not opened registration for agencies in Maine. Maine can move from statute, to rule, to protocol, to be compliant. Maine will need to make some changes to be compliant but is given time during transition from this federal mandate.
- LD 2128 Restructure EMS Board (OTP)
- LD 2132 Trauma hospital registry update on technical language
- LD 2133 Work session on Community Paramedicine definitions (mirror to LD 2119) working together to receive payment for CP programs.

C. OSHA/BLS Updates

- State Plan Meeting – did not attend due to snowstorm. Will be attending next meeting to report any updates from OSHA. BLS will be a vendor at MFCA conference at the end of month.

D. Other - Ongoing MFPSC Website Update - committee leads will be reached out to for content.

IV. New Business and News from Members

- The National Fire Academy is currently closed. However, the NFA In-State Weekend in Maine can be run uninterrupted. The Maine-Florida state weekend may still be affected in April due to federal shutdown. Reminder, re: Real ID is required for NFA on-campus attendance.
- Annual MFFF September 18-20 at Skowhegan Fairgrounds
- Firefighter Memorial on Saturday, October 3, 1300hrs in Augusta

Adjourn - Motion: Ronnie Green, Second: Robby Gross, Passes Unanimously

Next Meeting: April 6, 2026, at 9am