

MAINE FIRE PROTECTION SERVICES COMMISSION

AGENDA

Monday, May 5, 2025

8:00AM – 11:00AM

Champlain Conference Room, Maine Department of Public Safety

45 Commerce Drive, Augusta, ME

Option to Join via Zoom

Attendance: **9 of 21 (No Quorum) Bold = Present**

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|--|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| • Chief Dan Brooks, Chair | ▪ Chief Joe Guyotte, MSFFF | ▪ Chief Larry Willis (ret.) |
| • Gerry Gay, 1st VP | ▪ Steve Mallory, MEMA | ▪ Deputy Chief Ken Desmond |
| • Ronnie Green, 2nd VP | ▪ Wil O'Neal, EMS | ▪ Catherine Nadeau, Public Adv |
| • Chief Darrell White, MFCA | ▪ Chief David Groder, MFCA | ▪ Senator Chip Curry |
| • Vicki Schmidt, MSFFF | ▪ Jim Graves, MFSI | ▪ Confirming Legislative |
| • Steve Greeley, BLS | ▪ Chief Robby Gross, MFS | Appointees (VS, SE) |
| • Charlie Soltan, Insurance | ▪ Chief Shawn Esler, FMO | |

Scribe: **Shannon Els**; Guests: **Chris Azevedo, MFSI**; **Bill St. Michel, PFFM**; **Rebecca Graham, MMA**; **Peter Rogers, MEMA**; **Bill Gillespie**

*Official meeting is dedicated/in memory of Shannon Haley FF/Paramedic (Scarborough)
and Lt. William "Billy" VanPeursesem (Bangor).*

Approval of Minutes: April 2025 – **Approved Unanimously**

I. Committee Reports

A. Best Practices Committee - No Report

B. Professional Development Conference

Largest to date; most vendors. Actively looking for ways to add more vendors to the conference. There will be a June MFCA Conference in Bar Harbor with Chief Locke (speaker) and Chief Brillant discussing PFAs.

C. Education and Training Strategy Committee

Working with DAFS on transfer of money appropriately. Confirmed with vendor that facilities can be built by May 2026. Four inquiries for repairs on current facilities were made. Adjusted provision to future buildings: Must have live fire instructor on-site to oversee live burns. There was a discussion on a strategy to hold onto funds for future engineering reports vs. Funding additional builds. Confirmed that business plan is part of the application process (facilities are locally owned, not state-owned). Discussion on current usage of buildings and reinstating the responsibility of the municipality, including annual reports. Discussion on commissions role to enforce maintenance of buildings and correct live fire usage. *Suggestion made to set up a Special Meeting with fire chiefs of current and future facilities.*

D. Recruitment and Retention Committee

Penobscot County, 11 events, 100% support from fire departments and partnership with admissions. Five live ins joining the program. MaineWorks featured ad: Fire/EMS from Dexter Tri-County, licensed EMT/FF.

E. Wildland Fire Committee

Cheabeague Island submitted a grant through GOPIF to put together a community wildfire protection plan (first state program to use state funding to development this type of plan).
MFS is hopeful for communities to put together their own plans for preparedness.

F. Staffing Committee

BRIC survey moving forward. Requests fire service participation.

G. Cancer Reduction Grant

Moving forward with awards process and collection of SOPs. Chair to confirm receipt of SOPs before awards are to be granted.

H. Emerging Energy Hazards Committee

Discussion on LD 1659 (see Legislative Report).

I. Treasurer Report – No changes.

J. Other

II. Legislative Report

LD 659 – voted ANTP

LD 1659 – Provide funding to electric vehicle fire training (lists MFPSC to manage funds). Discussion on how this might work. Commission to submit legislation.

LD 1759

LD 1272

III. Old Business

A. LOSAP Board Report

Unanimous out of committee, removed fiscal note and asked to carry over remaining funds to manage portfolio of 700 participants; continue with that money to grow portfolio. Easier to see BRIC survey results to understand data; encourage chiefs to fill out and up to towns to contribute or not. Determined in 1999 founding legislation.

B. EMS Report – No Report, Chair reached out and EMS Director is actively at State House

C. OSHA/BLS Updates – No Report. Further support to form subcommittee within commission.

D. Other

IV. New Business and News from Members

A. Election of Officers – No quorum in May, Voting is Moved to June 2nd Meeting

Welcome Chief Groder to represent MFCA, replacing Chief Thomas Higgins

B. Noting absence of legislative representatives which impacts quorum and voting.

Recommendation made to send a letter to Legislative President to note absence of reps.

C. Check By-Laws re: Proxy Voting, Virtual Meetings (GG and CS)

Question: Is proxy voting allowed under the by-laws?

Motion to Adjourn: 10:11am