



# Maine Fire Protection Services Commission

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## Regional Firefighter Training Grant Program Taking Hold in Maine

The Maine Fire Protection Services Commission in conjunction with the Maine Fire Services Institute has announced funding awards for Regional Firefighter I & II Programs for 2023. The funding will provide curriculum, workbooks, instructors, and other resources for National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) certified Firefighter I & II programs throughout Maine. Approximately 200 firefighters from over 50 towns will be trained through these programs. Regional programs are scheduled beginning in January 2023 and will run throughout the year, with all graduates certified by January 2024.

Awarded in this initial round of funding are programs for the Washington County Fire Academy guided by Chief William Lee of Calais Fire-EMS; Franklin County Fire Academy, Chief Timothy Hardy, Farmington Fire Department; Somerset-Kennebec County Fire Academy, Chief Duane Bickford, Fairfield – Benton Fire Rescue; Penobscot Fire Academy, Chief Peter Metcalf, Veazie Fire Department; Lincoln County Fire Academy, Chief Richard Genthner, Nobleboro Fire Rescue; Oxford County Fire Academy, Chief Paul Hewey, Oxford Fire Rescue; and Northern Aroostook County Fire Academy, Chief Darren Woods, North Lakes Fire Rescue.

In May of 2022 LD 731 was signed into law and established funding for NFPA certified training through the Maine Fire Protection Services Commission and the Maine Fire Services Institute. The annual funding is designed to recruit firefighters for under-served and volunteer/on-call fire departments. Many of these are in rural areas of Maine, and may or may not have access to more urban areas and their associated live fire training facilities.

For more information on Maine's regional fire training programs please contact Chief Daniel Brooks, Chair of the Maine Fire Protection Services Commission. 207-462-2631