JANET T. MILLS
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
BUREAU OF LABOR STANDARDS
WORKPLACE SAFETY AND HEALTH DIVISION
45 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0045

LAURA A. FORTMAN
COMMISSIONER

MICHAEL ROLAND
DIRECTOR

October 27, 2020

Dear Maine Chiefs,

Due to the current extreme drought conditions in various regions in Northern Maine, the Maine Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Standards (BLS) is offering *temporary guidance* for the fire departments that perform their own annual pump tests and are finding it difficult to get close to suitable water sources.

We (BLS) have received a request for guidance on how to meet the annual pump test requirement in rural areas where the water supply is extremely low. We have discussed this concern with the Maine Department of Environmental Protection's Water Bureau both in Northern Maine and the Director in Augusta. The concern is that the lack of water (or low water) will cause departments to attempt to get their apparatus close to a water source which could contaminate the water with fuel and oil. Additionally, putting apparatus and manpower too close to the water edge could be catastrophic.

*We encourage all fire departments to make every effort to get their annual pump test done as soon as possible by using a pump testing company or by finding a suitable water source and following the NFPA pump test protocols.

* If neither is possible, we will *temporarily* allow your testing to be done in the spring or when we have suitable water levels.

* If a representative of BLS visits your department and testing has not been completed, we will ask for your 2019 pump test records. If annual pump testing was not done in 2019, a citation can be issued.

*Do not fabricate pump test records, we are willing to work with you to get through this unusual drought.

Sincerely,

Steven L. Greeley, Director
Maine Department of Labor
Workplace Safety & Health Division