On the evening of February 27, 2017, Meredith Firefighter Thomas W. Range II passed away from a hard-fought battle with pancreatic cancer. Tom was an active member with the Meredith Fire Dept. for the past 14 years, running out of the Center Station. He spent two-and-a-half years with Sherrodsville Ohio Volunteer Fire Department prior to locating to Meredith in 2001.

Late in the afternoon on February 28, MFD escorted FF Range back to Meredith. Laconia, Gilford, and Belmont Fire Duty Crews raised the US Flag with 13L1 and stood at attention as the procession proceeded by Laconia Central as 13C1 Laconia and Meredith Police Departments assisted with the escort.

On a very cold Saturday morning, March 11, 2017, MFD proceeded to Mayhew Funeral home to meet Mrs. Jamme Range and daughters Nocera and Sydnee, along with immediate family members and proceeded with FF Range to the memorial service held at St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church in Meredith, NH. Funeral services were handled by Mayhew Funeral Home/Meredith Bay Cemeterior and New Hampshire Granite Support Team under the direction of Chief Jones & MFD Officers.
The Mustang Ice Commander™ is the suit of choice for search and rescue teams, fire departments, and ice rescue professionals. The modular suit is completely waterproof with a water tight hood, integrated gloves, and attached boots. The flotation and insulation performance of a snap in buoyancy liner allows users to immerse themselves for long periods of time in icy cold water and maintain mental and physical capabilities.

Each Ice Commander™ has an integrated chest harness for attachment to tether lines, ice awl pockets for storage, rubber gloves, reinforced knees and non-slip rubber soles on the attached boots.

• Water-tight hood and face seal
• SOLAS reflective tape and Velcro™ patch for light attachment
• Heavy duty zipper - flexible full-length zipper provides a water-tight seal
• Welded nylon outer shell - provides waterproofing and durability
• High performance urethane-coated nylon exterior makes cleaning and repairs easier
• Safety harness - integral self-adjusting safety harness
• Ergonomic ice awl pockets - sleeve pockets customized to attach and stow ice awls
• Pockets easily secured with Velcro™ (ice awls not included)
• Detachable inner buoyancy liner - constructed of closed-cell AirSoft™ foam for maximum flotation and thermal insulation
• Liner can be unsnapped and removed for cleaning and in-the-field repairs
• Reinforced knees - reinforced and padded with 2.5 mm neoprene
• Seat and elbows are reinforced with shell fabric

SIZE Universal Adult
Weight: 110–330 lbs (50–150 kg)
Height: 4’11”–6’6” (1.5m–2m)

NOTE The Ice Commander is intended for ice and still/static cold water rescues only by trained professionals with the required and approved operating standards and requirements of their state or county
coordination of the program. Dispatcher Reynolds has also been asked to coordinate the NH Telecommunicator Emergency Response Taskforce Annual Mobile Command Post Rally. This rally will be held at the new NH Army National Guard facility in Pembroke, NH on May 12. NHTERT is a recognized taskforce in NH that is used as mutual aid for Dispatchers. If a Communications Center suffers catastrophic failure or is unable to staff its own communications center due to a weather event, NHTERT is available to deploy Police/Fire/EMS Dispatchers to the center to assist. NHTERT members dispatched for Grafton County Sheriffs Office in 2016 as they attended to the calling hours and funeral of Dispatcher Steve Bomba, and is a fantastic resource for us to have in NH. The NHTERT Rally is an opportunity for Mobile Command resources from around the State of NH and New England to come together and exercise our capabilities. It is also a great opportunity for attendees to see what resources are available to them and the individual resources’ capabilities.

We have also been working for the past year to upgrade our existing Computer Aided Dispatch system and recently have signed a contract to migrate to the “XCAD” system. This upgrade will occur over the next several months and will greatly enhance the communications center’s capabilities.

The end of February also brought the official retirement of Chief Coordinator Jim Hayes and official start date of our new Chief Coordinator Jon Goldman. Chief Goldman comes to us with over twenty years of service in Emergency Communications, most recently as the Director of Communications, Fire Alarm, and IT for the Derry Fire Department. Derry Fire operates a small regional Fire/EMS Communications Center dispatching for Derry and three other communities as well as the regional HAZMAT Team, and is the primary dispatch center for the Border Area Mutual Aid Group. Chief Goldman is also a Captain/AEMT with the Sandown, NH Fire Department, assigned to oversee the EMS Division and is in his last year as a member of the Board of Selectman, recently being elected Chairman.

Chief Hayes stayed onboard until March 30, 2017 in an advisory role to assist in the transition of the new Chief Coordinator. Gradually over the past month responsibilities were migrated from Chief Hayes to Chief Goldman. Chief Goldman would like to make special mention of his thanks to Chief Hayes — without him the transition would not have gone nearly as smooth as it did.

Chief Goldman is in the process now of meeting with the individual employees and talking about long-term plans and goals for LRMF A, and the communications center. He believes LRMF A is one of the best communications centers in New England. Chief Goldman believes strongly in regional emergency communications and customer service, as well as standards and accountability. He welcomes anyone with feedback to contact him either through the Communications Center or via email at jgoldman@lrmfa.org. He looks forward to working with all the communities to advance our services, infrastructure, and training and development. ☑️
What Is A Size-Up?

By Ken Erickson, Chief, Laconia and Belmont Fire Departments

After you give your initial radio report, it is important to follow through with a size-up. What exactly is a size-up? Size-up is a process where you gather important and pertinent information that helps you make safe decisions that result in an effective response to control or stabilize the problem. For this article, we will deal with size-up at residential structure fires.

Size-up begins before the call with pre-incident planning and response protocols. Departments should be developing plans for dealing with target hazards ahead of time. Run cards should be developed ahead of time to handle potential shortfalls or problems that are expected.

Essentially, the incident size-up starts when you get the call. What are the weather issues and are they going to be problematic? Weather problems can lead to delays in responses. What does LRMFA tell you about the call? Based on their information, maybe you want to upgrade to a first alarm right away. Most of us will have a general knowledge of the area where the fire is reported. Does it have hydrants? Is there a good draft site nearby? Is it frozen? Is it empty? Is the neighborhood predominately one-family homes well spread out so exposures should not be an issue? The time of day will be a big factor regarding what resources you can expect and whether the building may be occupied.

As you approach the scene, the real nuts and bolts of the size-up begin. Look at the fire building. What are the visible conditions? Look for clues about occupants. Cars in the driveway? People on the front lawn? If you are the first arriving officer (or person who will be in charge) you must take a walk around the building to determine where the fire is located and where it is going. If you are going to send your people into this building, you better learn as much as possible about it before you send them inside.

There are many points to consider in a size-up; however, for most fires, especially in the first stages of the attack, there are 3 to 4 key points to focus on. Is the building occupied or unoccupied? Is the building stable? Do I have enough help on-scene to start an attack? Where is the fire?

One of the most important points to determine is: where is the fire located? You cannot make an attack if you don’t know the fire’s location. Use a thermal camera if you have one, otherwise, use all your sense to find the fire. Where does the smoke rise the fastest? This is the hottest area. Is there visible flame? Look into the basement windows; touch them. Are they hot? If it is a basement fire, attack it from the lowest level possible. Be extremely careful about putting people above a basement fire, especially in newer buildings. For multi-floor buildings, the higher the fire floor, the more people you’ll need. However, a fire on the lower floor of a 4-story building threatens more people and more of the building.

Next, develop a plan and apply tactics. Get the first line in a position to flow water on the fire. Use the quickest method possible. Pick the right-sized hose line for the fire conditions. Start a vent in coordination with the hose line. Stretch a back-up line. Start a search; if there is no threat to life, it gets easier really quickly. Determine what stage the fire is in? Has it flashed over? Is the structure stable? Don’t risk your people for buildings that have no real value, or can’t be saved. Buildings can be replaced. Now-a-days, most insurance companies tear down buildings without a second thought.

Two recent reports about firefighter maydays and line-of-duty deaths identified the lack of a size-up as a major contributing factor. Read the NIOSH reports to learn other people’s mistakes. Don’t repeat these mistakes. The potential for error and disaster in our job is huge. Changing fire behavior is another major factor leading to maydays and death. It is imperative to study fire behavior.

The key to a successful outcome is anticipation. Anticipate where the fire is going. Anticipate how good the firefight-
After the memorial service, the funeral procession proceeded to Meredith Center Fire Station (Fire Station 2), where the “last call” was done by Lakes Region Fire Mutual Aid. Once the last call was completed, the procession proceeded to Church Landing—Winnipesaukee Ballroom for a celebration of life where MFD marched in with FF Range, saluting and stating their final words. Videos and pictures of FF Range’s 47 years of life where shared with all as Chief Jones encourage those attending to share stories and memorable experiences they had encounter over the years with FF Range.

A SPECIAL THANKS TO THE FOLLOWING:
- Deputies Kloetz, Haines, Capts. Parker and Taggert, Lts. Cornelissen, Currier, Taggert, FF LaFavre, Ludwick, other MFD Members, Auxiliary, and Chief Morrow and MPD
- Lakes Region Fire Mutual Aid and Chief Goldman.
- Church Landing for the Ball Room Facility and Common Man for severing preparations.
- As well as all departments, organizations, businesses, and individuals who help support the benefit for FF Range.

FF Range will certainly be missed by his FF Brothers and Sisters in the Lakes Region Area.

MEMORIAL SERVICE — CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1
- Mayhew Funeral Home, Peter, Mike, and Granite State Support Team, Tom Green, and Members
- Belmont Fire and Franklin Fire for Station Coverage, Cert Team with Parking Assistance
- Chief Carrier, Chief Erickson, Deputy Beattie, Investigator Matt Wilmont, and Inspector Ron Ansty for their professional assistance
- Lakes Region Fire Mutual Aid and Chief Goldman.
Life Hazard is driven by Occupancy. For most of us, the occupants are out of the building on arrival. If they are inside, the question to then ask is — are they alive or can they be saved? These are difficult questions and very tough decisions. Over the past 20 years, more than 80 firefighters have lost their lives searching buildings that had no civilians inside. Do not put firefighters inside burning buildings for the sake of an unknown search. Base your decision on the evidence. If you do a search, it is imperative to protect the crew with a hose line. Get a hose to the base of the stairs or outside the window; don’t send a team in without hose protection. Once you open the door or window you will feed the fire more oxygen and the fire will grow rapidly.

Second to fire location is Occupancy. Occupancy determines what the building is used for — life hazard and fire potential. Is it an occupied single family, multi-family, drugstore, lumber yard, nursing home or school? An unoccupied building reduces the concern for life safety, except for our own people. The bigger the building the more people who may be inside. The occupancy will also dictate fire load and flame spread. Does it have hazardous materials, or is it an office.

Water supply can be very complicated, even when you have hydrants. You should pre-plan your town and know where your water issues are well ahead of time. Then you should develop a water plan ahead of time. Study your buildings. You have essentially four or five types of homes: a one-story Ranch, a two-story Colonial, a Cape, a large Victorian. The flow rate is fairly consistent. Your fire flow is going to vary from about 250 to 600 gallons per minute. In most cases, you need to plan for 30 minutes of water. So, you’ll need a plan to get between 7,500 gallons and 18,000 gallons of water to the scene in a fairly uninterrupted flow. If you have three 2,000 gallon tankers and they can fill and empty in 15 minutes, then you can flow 400 gallons-per-minute. If you can improve efficiency by unloading or refilling quicker the flow improves. Shave off three minutes and you can flow 500 GPM.

Time of day can indicate whether people are in a building, and if they are alert and capable of getting out on their own. A fire in any residence at 2 a.m. is going to create problems. Time is a major issue for many call and volunteer departments. Fires during weekdays may result in long delays for help. Fires at night and on weekends should get a better response. It is highly recommended that you utilize automatic aid on high risk calls. Any call that is a serious threat should get help moving early. If LRMFA reports multiple calls, then at least a first alarm should be requested. Don’t cut corners when lives and property are at stake. You can always cancel the alarm. There is the opposite to this theory as well where we can call too much help. A fully involved barn with no exposures does not need extensive mutual aid. If left to its own natural course, the fire would probably burn itself out much sooner than it will if we start pouring water onto it. There is a point of no return on mutual aid.

Remember, when torn between attack and search, go with attack — put out the fire and the problem goes away. There is a difference between search and making rescues. If you have a positive source telling you people are in the building and you know where in the building they are located, assign people to get them out. But protect the rescue with a hose line. If you don’t know where the people are in the building, go after the fire. Searching a burning building, even when an attack hose is operating, is dangerous. Searching a burning building with no hose line working is almost suicidal. Protect your people.

As your plan is being executed you must evaluate and continually size-up the fire. Are your firefighters making progress? If not, what is the next plan. The first 20-minute mark is a good point to think about changing from offensive to defensive. If you have not made progress at the first 20-minute mark, the building is starting to fail. Actually, in lightweight construction the building started losing strength once it went from room and contents to structural.
March 14, 2017. Search for a stranded snowmobiler during Nor’easter.

March 13, 2017. CTFD Ladder 2 working a chimney fire on Randall Road.


Feb. 27, 2017. CTFD wall breach training.

Dec. 27, 2016. CTFD Ladder 2 working a chimney fire on Randall Road.


Feb. 28, 2017. CTFD wall breach training.

March 14, 2017. Motor vehicle accident during Nor’easter, Rt. 175, Thornton.

March 28, 2017. LRMFA Training Division, “The Dreaded RIT Assignment.”
On January 26, 2017, New Hampton Fire Department hosted the Bi-Annual Meeting of the general membership. A great spaghetti dinner was served to the nearly 60 attendees. General Membership Committee Chair Deputy Chief Tom Joslin (retired) presided over the meeting. During the meeting, DC Joslin and Secretary/Treasurer DC Paquette were re-elected to serve another term in their respective posts.

Reports were given by Chief Rene Lefebvre, President LRMFA; Chief Stephen Carrier, President, NH Assoc. of Fire Chiefs; and Deputy Coordinator John Beland, LRMFA Training Division.

Following the meeting FETC Services Instructor Bill Greenwood presented an engaging program entitled “Developing the Leader Within.”

The next meeting of the LRMFA Membership is July 27, 2017; the location will be announced at a later date.
Lakes Region Mutual Fire Aid, in partnership with the LRMFA Training Division, and the NH Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management hosted four days of Emergency Dispatcher Training this week. NH HSEM funded the regional training program at no charge to the participating agencies. Police/Fire/EMS Emergency Dispatchers from all over NH attended the training. Each class was conducted over two days, with some Dispatchers participating in each two-day session, and others coming to one of the two-day sessions.

Dave Larton, of First Contact 9-1-1 LLC, a nationally-recognized instructor conducted the training at the NH Marine Patrol Headquarters in Gilford, NH.

The first program was “All Hazards Incident Dispatcher Training,” which is a program that, over the two days, prepares Emergency Dispatchers to support incidents within the field from mobile command posts or other forward deployed resources. The LRMFA Chief Coordinator Jon Goldman said, “Incident Dispatcher Training is important, as field deployed ‘incident dispatchers’ are integral to relieving incident specific call volume and activity from the Communications Center, and are able to provide more direct support to the local incident commander while operating alongside of them in the field either at a major incident, or a pre-planned event such as bike week in Laconia, or one of the many area fairs.”

The second two-day program held was “Active Shooter Responsibilities for Dispatchers” and over the course of the program students were instructed in how to best prepare their communications centers for an active shooter incident in their jurisdiction, and how to best handle an in progress active shooter incident and its aftermath. Although an Active Shooter incident is primarily a law enforcement dispatcher function, it generally spills over to the Fire/EMS disciplines as there can be multiple casualties because of the incident.

When asked, LRMFA Deputy Coordinator John Beland said he wanted to “thank HSEM for funding the programs, and thank you to Captain Dunleavey, of NH Marine Patrol and his staff for the use of their excellent classroom, Annie’s Café of Laconia, and the Fireside Inn of Gilford for their hospitality.”
2017 Programs


**April 29–30, 2017. 0800–1630 hours. 16-hour Basic Pump Operations Course (Non-Certified). Holderness Fire Department. NH Fire Academy or www.lrmfa.org**

**July 2017. TBD. Driver Operator All Vehicle. TBD. NH Fire Academy or www.lrmfa.org**


**September 2017. TBD. Driver Operator All Vehicles — Driver Operator Pumping Apparatus (NHFA Certified Program). Moultonborough Fire Department. NH Fire Academy**

**October 2017. TBD. Driver Operator — Aerial Apparatus. Meredith Fire Department. NH Fire Academy**

**November 21, 2017. 1830–2100. Tactical TIC Thermal Imager Training — Do We Really Understand How This Thing Works? Instructor: Bill Greenwood, FETC Services, Laconia Fire Department, 848 North Main St., Laconia, NH (Parking across the street at Opechee Park). www.lrmfa.org**

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**Second Alarm, School St., Ashland January 1, 25, 2017**

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**CAD Change Request Form Updated**

The LRMFA “CAD Team” has updated the CAD Change Request Form and it has been placed in the “forms” section of the LRMFA website. The CAD team is requesting that all requests for CAD changes be submitted electronically using the newly designed form. Once the form is filled out it should be submitted electronically to cadchange request@lrmfa.org, and can be submitted electronically directly from the form. This new process will allow the CAD Team to better monitor the requests received, as well as track them to completion, and return a “receipt” to the requestor confirming that the change request has been completed. 📫
Chief Billy Goldfeder will present through video, audio and "WAKE UP" style lecture, an in-depth program featuring specific and very recent fireground events with a strong focus on structural fires that ended with tragic results. The program focuses specifically in helping emergency 9-1-1 communication center personnel understand the fireground LESSONS LEARNED so that these incidents (and those involved) don’t ever become forgotten. This very personal, high energy direct and frank program is presented specifically for emergency communications personnel, providing them an excellent opportunity to understand how, what and why things go wrong on the fireground and the critical role of call takers and dispatchers.

The goal of the program, from your most SENIOR communications center leaders to your NEWEST probationary call taker/dispatch personnel and firefighters of ALL ranks, is to have them leave more knowledgeable, educated and informed. Most importantly it will leave them THINKING HARD about their role, their responsibilities before, when fire companies arrive and while they are operating at fire incidents. These factual "LESSONS LEARNED" and related CASE STUDIES will help insure that history is never forgotten by the true "first responders"...the 9-1-1 call takers and communication center dispatchers.

Some firefighters make it home after a fire... and some don’t...
This program will help Communication Center team members learn and understand the how, what & why!

For more information, visit NHEDA.org!
New Faces, Places, Equipment, Congrats

Retired
Chief James R. Hayes
Lakes Region Mutual Fire Aid

Retired
Captain Steve Fecteau
Franklin Fire Dept.

Promoted to Captain
Mike Foss
Franklin Fire Dept.

New Hire
Anthony Roberts
FF/A-EMT
Franklin Fire Dept.

Promoted to Lieutenant
James “Jim” Brown
FF/A-EMT
Alton Fire-Rescue Dept.

New Engine – Franklin 7E1
2017 Sutphen. 1,000 gals. water, 1,500 GPM pump.

Dispatcher Hannafin Graduates Primex Supervisors Academy

LRMFA Dispatcher Erin Hannafin has successfully completed the Primex Supervisors Academy held at their headquarters in Concord, NH. Supervisors’ Academy is a challenging, 3-day experience conducted by Primex3. Participants take an active role in the classroom as they learn about a broad range of immediately useful leadership topics. Seasoned Primex3 practitioners and instructors guide the participants through case studies and discussions to ensure that the learning objectives are achieved.

Primex3 recognizes the importance of effective management and established the Supervisors’ Academy series to address the need to build the skills of supervisors. To date, over 2,500 supervisors from throughout New Hampshire’s public sector have attended this information-packed training experience.

The LRMFA Administration and staff congratulate Dispatcher Hannafin on her achievement.

New Fulltime Dispatcher

Lois Cilley is the newest fulltime dispatcher at LRMFA’s Communication Center. Ms. Cilley joined LRMFA about a month ago and is undergoing her final training. She comes to us from recent employment at the NH Fire Academy.

When asked if she had prior experience in the fire service, she replied she didn’t but had always been interested in it. Before working at the NHFA, she had worked at the Division of Motor Vehicles. When she graduated, she knew she wanted to work in dispatch.

Lois lives in Concord and in her off-duty time she trains for triathlons! She has participated in a Tough Mudder, the Iron Man, and a Spartan Run. Welcome, Lois.

Lakes Region Mutual Fire Aid
First Quarter 2017 Statistics...

**January 1, 2017 – March 31, 2017**

**Incidents Dispatched:**
- January 2017: 1,926
- February 2017: 1,979
- March: 2,277

**Quarter Total:** 6,182

**Statistics For This Quarter:**
- Number of incidents: 6,182
- Radio transmissions: 61,398
- Emergency phones: 7,251
- Administrative phones: 4,726

This breaks down on a daily basis to 69 incidents per day and 10 radio transmissions for each incident – or 682 per day on average. Along with the emergency incidents we answered/made, 53 calls were made on the administrative lines and 81 calls on the emergency phones were made per day.

Overall system wide for the first quarter there has been a 7% increase in incidents from 2016. Or an overall 18% increase over the past 3 years during the first quarters.

**Resources Available:**
- Engines: 60
- Tankers: 28
- Ladders: 8
- Rescues: 20
- Forestry: 29
- Ambulances: 47
- Utilities: 23
- Fire Boats: 30
- Towers: 4
- Air Units: 2
- ATVs: 15
- Command Vehicles: 23

**Statistics:**
- Dispatches Fire and Medical Emergencies for 35 communities and 35 Fire and EMS Agencies.
- Serves a population of 115,383 residents.
- Is spread over 5 NH Counties, covering a geographical area of 1,494 square miles (16% of the area of the State of NH – 1.5 times the size of the state of Rhode Island).
- Protects over $18.8 billion dollars of property.
- Has an operating budget of $1,165,880 (2014 budget).
- Has 8 full-time and 7 part-time employees.
- Dispatched 23,039 incidents during 2016 (63 calls per day).
- Dispatched 23,550 incidents during 2015 (65 calls per day).
- Dispatched 22,072 incidents during 2014 (60 calls per day).
- Dispatched 21,570 incidents during 2013 (59.1 calls per day).

**LRMFA Celebrates National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week**

LRMFA is celebrating the second full week of April (April 9–15) as National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week. This week, sponsored by the Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials (APCO) International and celebrated annually, honors the thousands of men and women who respond to emergency calls, dispatch emergency professionals and equipment, and render life-saving assistance to the world’s citizens.

**2017 Rural Hitch Schedule**

**Second Quarter Issue:** June 26, 2017

**Third Quarter Issue:** September 25, 2017

**Fourth Quarter Issue:** December 26, 2017

Please send your ads, articles, photos, new apparatus photos, new department member information, promotions, department events, etc. to debbie@debbiekgraphics.com.

If you would like help writing an article or need photos taken, please give Debbie Kardaseski a call at 603-344-9812.

**Remember:** This newsletter belongs to all members of Lakes Region Mutual Fire Aid. It’s a wonderful opportunity to get your information out to all departments within the system as well as over 100 other interested people. And it’s FREE to members!
Congratulations, Chief Kim Kercewich, Alstead, NH Fire Department on the recent delivery of your HME Ahrens-Rox Rescue Pumper.

This HME Ahrens-Fox includes:

- 1871W Raised Roof Cab
- 450 HP
- Class A Foam
- 8KW Hydraulic Generator
- Full Depth Rescue Style Compartments
- Galvanized Frame Rails
- 1500 Pump With Top Mount Controls
- 1000 Gallon Tank
- Preconnected Hyd Tools
- Extensive Equipment Mounting

PO Box 970, West Ossipee, NH 03890 • Phone: 603-323-7117 • Fax: 603-323-7447
Email: info@lakesfire.com • www.lakesfire.com
Department News
Send your Department News to debbie@debbiekgraphics.com.
Include new hires, promotions, new apparatus, department events, open training events, etc.

Send your Department News to debbie@debbiekgraphics.com.
Include new hires, promotions, new apparatus, department events, open training events, fires, rescues, etc.

AL's Breakfast
Con-Ed for EMS and Nursing
2017 SCHEDULE

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All Breakfasts will be from 0900-1100hrs

Any Question please contact Shawn Riley 524-6881 or smriley@lrgh.org

“Rural Hitch” Available Electronically
If you would like to receive the Rural Hitch electronically (and save trees and postage!), please send your email to debbie@debbiekgraphics.com. Feel free to share your electronic copy with others. We’ll add anyone to the email list who is interested in receiving the Rural Hitch.

SCBA Respirator Fit Testing Service Available From LRMFA For Member Agencies!
To schedule Fit Testing at your department, please contact Deputy Chief Beland at 528-9111 or jbeland@lrhma.org.