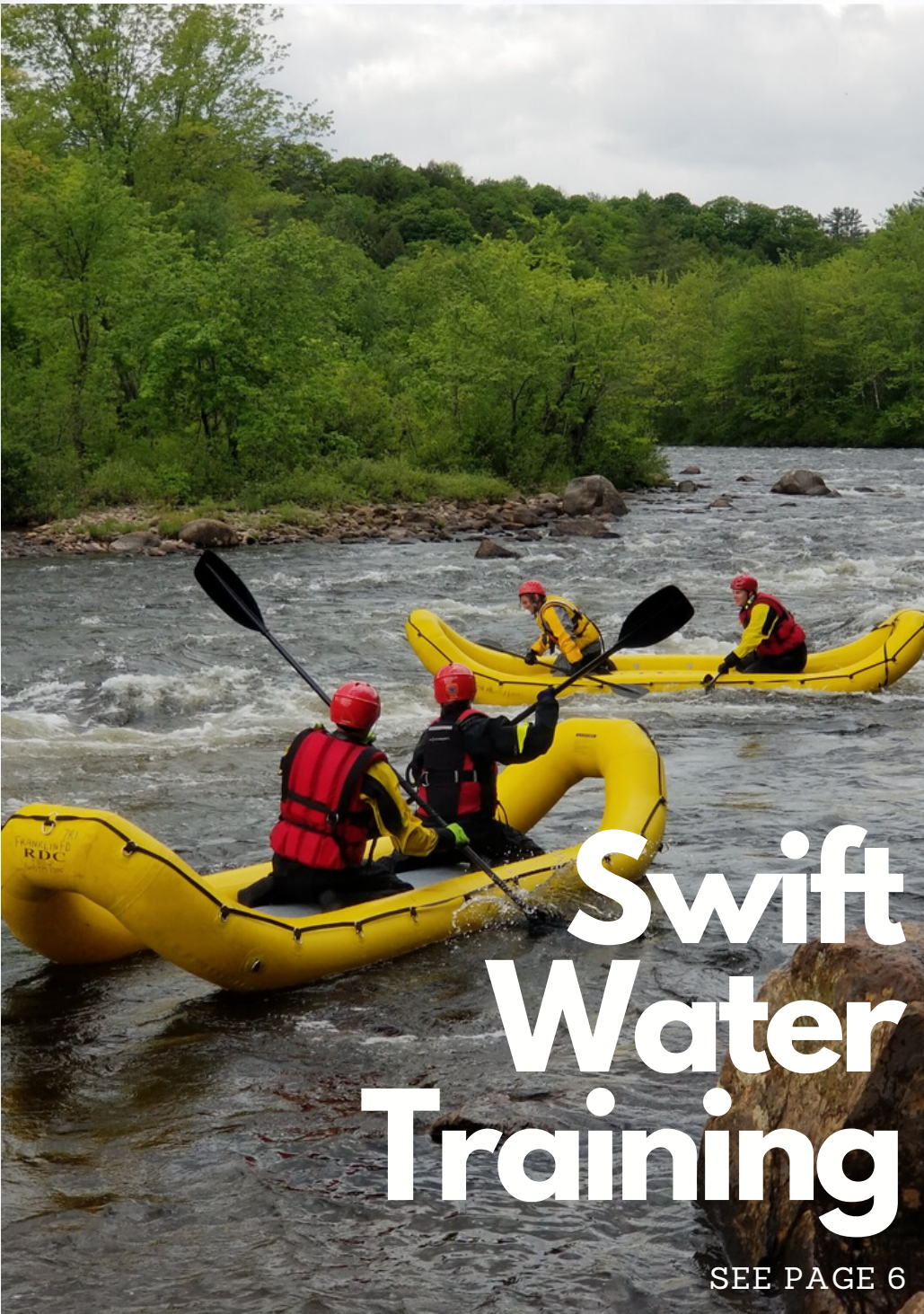


THE RURAL HITCH

A Quarterly Publication of the Lakes Region Mutual Fire Aid Association



Swift Water Training

SEE PAGE 6

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| Alexandria | Hebron |
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| Andover | Holderness |
| Ashland | Laconia |
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| Belmont | Moultonborough |
| Bridgewater | New Hampton |
| Bristol | Northfield |
| Campton | Plymouth |
| Center Harbor | Rumney |
| Danbury | Sanbornton |
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| Franklin | Thornton |
| Gilford | Tilton |
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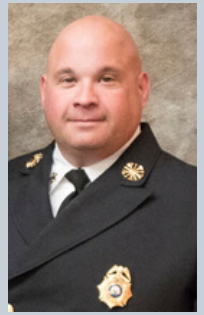
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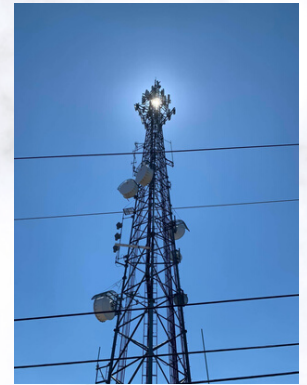
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From the Chief...

Jonathan M. Goldman, RPL



The second quarter of 2020 has been just as busy as the first quarter. Like every other agency in the area, we are busily dealing with COVID19, and the way it has changed how we do business. Fortunately, during the end of the second quarter, the LRMFA Communications Center as a building has been able to relax some of our restrictions. We are now accepting visitors, and meeting space is available if desired. Like many public buildings we are asking visitors and staff to continue to practice hand hygiene, and not enter the building if they are sick, have a fever, or have been exposed to someone possibly COVID19 positive. LRMFA has expended approximately \$10,000 in funds directly related to COVID19 and we are in the process of submitting for reimbursement through FEMA and the CARES Act.



During the second quarter of 2019, we continued to work with our Radio Vendor All Comm Technologies to move forward with the radio project. Although the COVID19 pandemic did slow us down, we are continuing to move forward. Sometime over the winter we suffered antenna damage at both Tenney Mountain, as well as Mt. Kearsarge. The damage at Tenney ended up being a workmanship error on behalf of the tower company, and the repair was done at their cost. However, at the same time, it was discovered that the microwave network owned by CAFMAC going from Mt. Kearsarge to Mt. Belknap was not going to be sufficient to carry both our and CAFMAC's radio traffic. It was decided that collaboratively we would work with CAFMAC and the Division of Emergency Services and Communications (DESC) to build a more robust microwave "hop" that would serve both agencies well into the future. This will be paid for with a combination of funds provided by CAFMAC, and well within the contingency funds built into the radio project.

Continued on Page 4

The Rural Hitch

Is Curated and Published Quarterly by:
Lakes Region Mutual Fire Aid Association

Chief Coordinator
Jonathan M. Goldman, RPL
Deputy Chief Coordinator
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Continued from Page 2

We will realize further savings, as the DESC will be doing the tower work for us. In exchange for the tower work we will allow DESC to utilize the newly built microwave "hop" for redundancy to their radio network. As part of this project, we are actively in the process of also joining the DESC microwave network, which will allow us to transition to the new radio system using their link much more quickly than waiting for the whole project to be completed. Once the project is done, we will continue to use their microwave network as a backup to build more redundancy into our system. Although the need for the project was not anticipated originally, in the end we will all have much more resiliency by diversifying our paths to and from some of the mountain tops. We hope to have the new radio system up and running shortly.

The second full week in April has been designated National Public Safety Telecommunicator Week and is an opportunity for us to celebrate the highly skilled technical work our Dispatchers perform daily. Each year, the NH Emergency Dispatchers Association (NHEDA), in conjunction with their annual training conference hosts a NH Dispatchers Awards Ceremony. This year, the conference was to be a joint conference in November along with the Atlantic Chapter of APCO. Because of this, NHEDA was to host an all-day training program followed by an evening reception and annual meeting. During the reception the 2020 Awards winners were to be announced. Unfortunately, the program was cancelled due to COVID19, and was done virtually. LRMFA is pleased to announce, that Lt. Erin Hannafin was virtually presented with the 2020 NHEDA Trainer of the Year Award. Lt. Hannafin was nominated by her peers for this award, and we would like to congratulate her. Her commitment to the ongoing training of our existing staff, as well as recruiting and training of new hires is second to none. Also, virtually our radio vendor All COMM Technologies, and their LRMFA project team were awarded the 2020 NHEDA RF Technologist of the Year award.

All COMM was nominated by Chief Jon Goldman, and Deputy Chief Steele in part due to their tenacity and commitment to the LRMFA Radio project. There were times during much of the site work last fall, that they worked so late into the night they came off the mountain tops in the dark, and on several occasions actually slept in the mountain top radio shelters, so they could get up and get right back to work in the morning. On one occasion they were on a mountain top, and a storm came through knocking out the radio network for Strafford County Sheriffs Office. The All COMM crew, worked with SCSO for several hours into the late evening to get them back on the air, much more quickly than if SCSO had to send their own radio technicians up to the remote site.

June of 2020 also saw the delivery of LRMFA Car 2. We originally had ordered a 2019 Ford Police Interceptor in the fall of 2018. Through multiple delays by Ford, and their changing of the line the car was never built, and we had to reorder it as a 2020. A year later in December of 2019 the car was delivered. Unfortunately, the 2020 model year was so new, the up fitters were not able to order the upfit equipment for it right away. Eventually after much work, the car was delivered completed to LRMFA in June of 2020. We are working to get the lettering done and look forward to a "Big Reveal" on Social Media in July, when we can finally put both vehicles next to each other have them branded in such a way that they match.

As we roll into the third quarter of 2020, we will wrap up the radio project just in time to move into the revival of the CAD project. LRMFA has been struggling with our CAD vendor and its deployment of an upgraded CAD program since 2015. We hope to have some good news on that project shortly, so we can begin to move the project forward. The benefits we will realize are tremendous, and one of the biggest ones we are excited to roll out to our member communities who wish to take advantage of it, is the prospect of Mobile Data Terminals (MDT's) as well as improved mapping, hazard and water supply awareness and more flexible run cards. One benefit already realized, which many have already seen is the text messaging ability to be more particular. Lt. Parker spent a lot of time rewriting our Call for Service Codes so that member departments can see more a more detailed description in the text messages and reports coming across to you. Thank you to Lt. Parker for this expanded project.

We wish you all a safe, and happy summer and look forward to a time when we can all meet again for Chiefs Breakfasts, in person training and meetings. 🍷

Respectfully,
Jon Goldman, RPL
Chief Coordinator





**Swift
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Traing**

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BRISTOL, AND PLYMOUTH HOLD
REFRESHER SWIFT WATER RESCUE
TRAINING





Franklin Fire Department Welcomes Michael Mussey

Michael Mussey started with the Franklin Fire Department as an explorer in 2011. In 2017, he was hired as a call firefighter. Michael was certified as a Firefighter Level II in 2016 and he recently obtained his Advanced EMT this past year.

Michael has worked hard to achieve his goal of becoming a career level firefighter. Welcome aboard!

CUE THE
confetti

Laconia Fire Department Welcomes Luke Hodgson

Laconia Fire Department is pleased to welcome our newest employee, Probationary Firefighter/Paramedic Luke Hodgson.

Luke started with Laconia as a student from and until returning to us worked in Vermont. Welcome back Luke!





GILMANTON FIRE DEPARTMENT

The Town of Gilmanton NH

FIREFIGHTER AEMT- Per-Diem

The Town of Gilmanton Fire Department is currently creating a list for Per-Diem Firefighter /AEMTs. This list will be used to fill 2-12-hour shifts per week, 7am-7pm Sat/Sun as well as vacation and sick time. The position responsibilities include but are not limited to; response to fire and medical emergencies, operating department apparatus, inspection and maintenance of department equipment, and the maintenance of Fire Department buildings and grounds.

Minimum qualifications: High School diploma or equivalent, possession of a valid State of NH CDL-B (tank endorsement) driver's license, Nationally Registered AEMT, State certified level II Firefighter, NH ambulance providers license. Criminal background check and State of NH drivers License record.

Salary range 17.50 per hour

Interested candidates should send a resume and cover letter to:

Per Diem Position

Attn: Chief Paul J. Hempel III

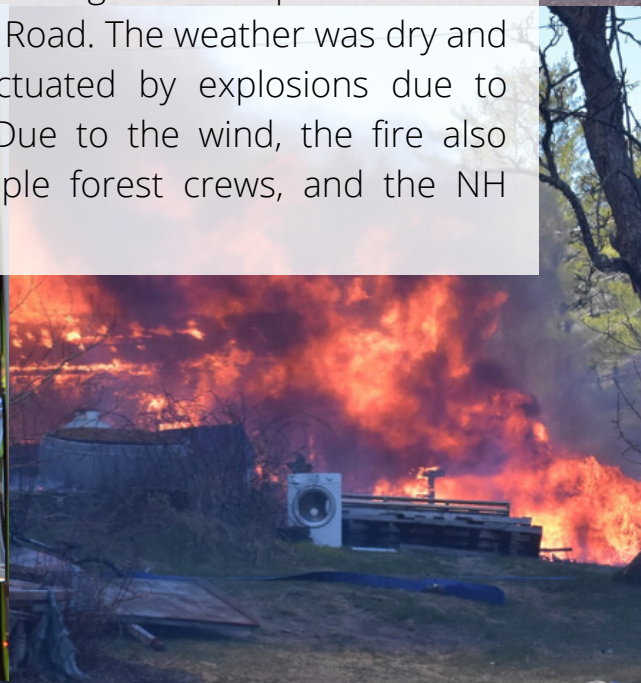
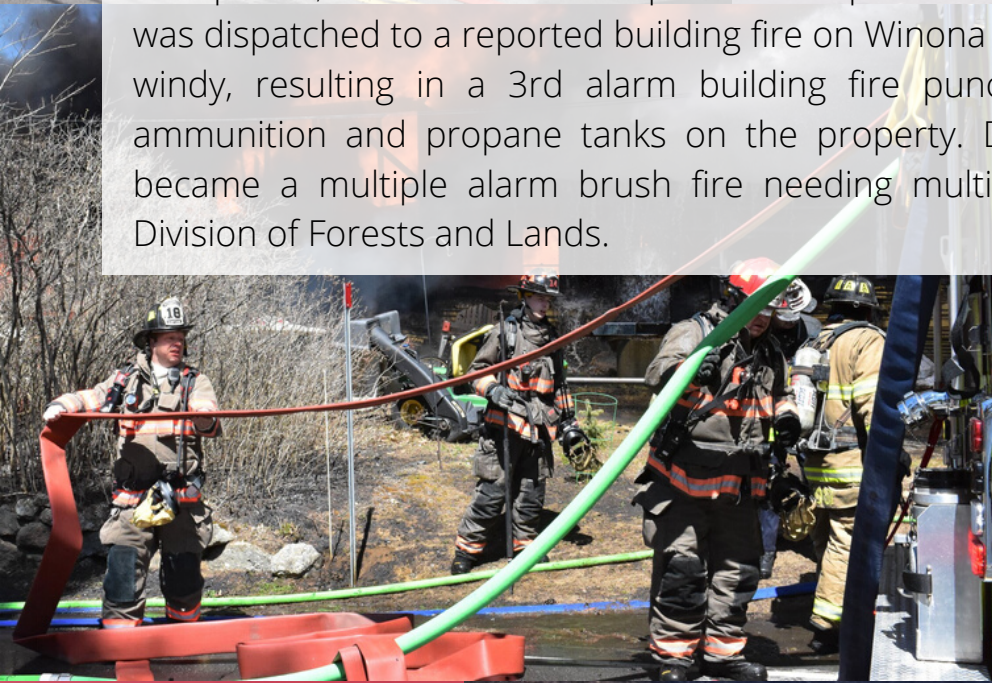
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NEW HAMPTON FIRE



On April 23, 2020 the New Hampton Fire Department along with multiple mutual aid was dispatched to a reported building fire on Winona Road. The weather was dry and windy, resulting in a 3rd alarm building fire punctuated by explosions due to ammunition and propane tanks on the property. Due to the wind, the fire also became a multiple alarm brush fire needing multiple forest crews, and the NH Division of Forests and Lands.





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To all our firefighter friends.....

Izayah is an 8 year old Make a Wish kid from Alton who has cerebral palsy and epilepsy.

In the next few weeks, he is getting a 12'x14' firemen themed playhouse/shed with a loft and a fire pole. He wants to be a firefighter and has started on his way by collecting fire patches and department shirts from all over.

If you have an adult small shirt and a patch you can free up and want to donate something... Please send it to:

LRMFA

ATTN: Chief Goldman

62 Communications Drive

Laconia, NH 03246





Crews fight 1st alarm fire in Alexandria

On May 12, 2020 @ 1932hrs the Alexandria and Bristol Fire Departments were dispatched to a reported building fire @ 120 Belser Rd in South Alexandria. The Bristol Fire Department was conducting monthly training and was on a slight delay for the response. Two Alexandria firefighters arrived 1st via POV and requested a 1st alarm followed by Bristol Deputy and Alexandria Chief. Bristol Deputy was the incident commander and Alexandria C1 was operations.

A 1 story residential home was found to be on fire with fire showing from the B and C sides of the home. Bristol A2 arrived with 2 personnel followed by Bristol E2 with 4 personnel, they laid 1600 feet of 4" supply line to the fire from Route 104. Due to the number of members who arrived on scene in a short time 2 hand lines were deployed and as the fire was being checked from the exterior as a line was moving in the front door for interior extinguishment and primary search of the fire area. A mixed crew of 3 from Bristol and Alexandria made a primary search while fire attack was knocking down heavy heat and fire on the interior. A mixed crew again laddered the roof and cut a vertical ventilation hole to release heat and smoke up and out of the home.

After the arrival of addition Bristol and Alexandria companies and Bristol C1 an additional hand line was stretched to the basement to check for and further fire extension. Utilities to include gas and power were secured by FF's on scene and NHECO-OP was requested to the scene.

Water supply consisted of Bristol E2 (Fire attack, 1000 gallons H₂O), Bristol E4 (2500 gallons H₂O), Alexandria E2 (1200 gallons H₂O) and Alexandria E1 (2300 gallons H₂O) for a total of 7000 gallons of water before any other mutual aid assistance arrived. A fill site was established on Pleasant St in Bristol at the pressurized hydrant in front of F-NOK by Alexandria Rescue 1. It is training and planning with personnel and equipment from both fire departments that create the best possible outcomes for incidents in our area.

There were no injuries to civilians or firefighters, Alexandria Police was on scene to assist with fire ground operations and traffic control for incoming and off-loading fire engines. All companies cleared the scene at 21:18hrs. Photos and Video are courtesy of Bristol Deputy Chief Dolloff and Alexandria Police Chief Sullivan

New Hampshire Department of Safety:

Colonel Nathan Noyes, Director of the New Hampshire State Police, along with Director Mark Doyle, Division of Emergency Services and Communications, have authorized and approved a Marine Patrol policy that will utilize VTAC12 to communicate with area first responders when responding and during on-water emergencies that require a multi-disciplined, multi-jurisdictional response.

When recent changes were made to have Marine Patrol Units dispatched by State Police Communications, County and local first responders were left unable to communicate with Marine Patrol Boats responding to on-water emergencies. The apparent inability to be able to cross communicate led to the failure of creating a coordinated response to on-water events.

On all waterways in New Hampshire patrolled by Marine Patrol, to include coastal waterways, first responders are directed to communicate with Marine Patrol Officers on VTAC12. Interoperability "HBank" Channels exist to insure a coordinated response during an on-scene emergency. VTAC12 will provide and deliver this on-scene coordination.

The SWIC's Office remains steadfast in addressing issues related to interoperability statewide. As in most cases, it is not an issue of capability, but more often a training, or procedural issue that can often be easily resolved.

Respectfully,
John T. Stevens, SWIC New Hampshire Department of Safety



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RICHARD C. BAILEY, JR.
ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER

PERRY E. PLUMMER
ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER

July 1, 2020

Marine Patrol Communications Regarding On-Water Emergencies

Protocol: (effective July 1, 2020)

The Department of Safety, Division of State Police, Marine Patrol Unit, as an established policy will communicate with area first responders on VTAC12 while responding and during on-water emergencies that require a multi-disciplined, multi-jurisdictional response.

Authorization:

Colonel Nathan Noyes, New Hampshire State Police, along with the Director of Emergency Services and Communications Mark Doyle have authorized and approved the use of VTAC12 pertaining to on-water emergencies.

Scope:

When recent changes were made to have Marine Patrol Units dispatched by State Police Communications, county and local first responding agencies were left unable to communicate with Marine Patrol boats responding to on-water emergencies. The apparent inability to be able to cross communicate has led to the failure of creating a coordinated response to on-water events. Recognizing VTAC12 as the "HBank" Channel of choice for all on-water events statewide patrolled by Marine Patrol will resolve the challenges exhibited.

Procedure:

On all waterways in New Hampshire patrolled by Marine Patrol, to include coastal waterways, first responders are directed to communicate with Marine Patrol Officers on VTAC12. Interoperability "HBank" Channels exist to insure a coordinated response during an on-scene emergency. During any emergent circumstance on New Hampshire waterways that requires a multi-agency response in collaboration with Marine Patrol responding units, the use of VTAC12 will be utilized to establish on-scene coordination.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John T. Stevens".

John T. Stevens, SWIC
New Hampshire Department of Safety

Retirement Announcement

FF JONATHAN GLINES



Firefighter Jonathan Glines started as a call firefighter in December of 1998. After serving a portion of his career with the Gilman Fire Department, Jon was hired as a Franklin career firefighter in May of 2007.

Afternoon Fire burns 2 acres in Plymouth

At approximately 3:30 yesterday Plymouth Fire-Rescue, along with Ashland Fire Department were dispatched to an outside fire at 395 Daniel Webster Highway in Plymouth. This is the well-known Glove Hollow Christmas Tree Farm. Upon arrival, initial companies found approximately one acre burning in the lower field. As the wind shifted and the fire advanced towards the railroad tracks, a second alarm was called, which brought in additional companies from Ashland, Holderness, Rumney, Campton-Thornton and New Hampton to the scene. Waterville Valley and Meredith EMS provided station coverage. We were also assisted at the scene by the Plymouth Police Department and Forest Ranger Tom Trask from the N. H. Division of Forests and Lands. Crews remained on scene for approximately two hours. The total area burned was 2.1 acres, which only included one Christmas tree. It was believed the fire started from a mowing operation.



Barnstead Fire Rescue Dept responded to a report of a vehicle fire on Beauty Hill Rd. this afternoon. Upon arriving at the location, they discovered it was a piece of logging equipment on fire well off the road in the woods. Due to the location and a resulting brush fire, mutual aid was requested to suppress the heavy equipment fire and stop the spread of the brush fire.



Moultonborough firefighters and Stewart's Ambulance were dispatched at 06:45 for a building fire on Shangri La Drive, upon arrival they found a well involved, detached two-car garage with fire extending to the house approximately 15 feet away. After confirming the occupants were out of the building a line was quickly put into operation and the fire was knocked down on the exterior of the house. Crews pulled interior walls and ceilings checking for extension. The fire was upgraded to a first alarm bringing mutual aid companies from Tuftonboro, Sandwich, Holderness, Center Harbor and Meredith to the scene to assist. Multiple vehicles including a classic car, a tractor and a camper were lost in the fire.

A water supply was established at the Balmoral Beach dry hydrant and shuttled to the scene by tankers.

Elevated temperatures and humidity taxed personnel with two firefighters being treated for heat related issues. Moultonborough Fire Rescue would like to thank all who brought water to the scene to help firefighters rehydrate. We would like to offer a special thank you to Skelley's Market for the breakfast sandwiches they provided.



SEALED BID PROCESS

LRMFA is disposing of a 2009 GMC Yukon XL with 99,251 miles on it
via a sealed bid process.

- Anyone wishing to view the vehicle may do so at 62 Communications Drive in Laconia, NH by Appointment only. Appointments may be made by contacting Deputy Chief Paul Steele via email psteele@lrmfa.org
- Vehicle is sold AS IS, and WHERE IS.
- It is the buyers responsibility to pay by certified funds and remove the vehicle from the property within 72 hours of being notified of the winning bid.
- We reserve the right to accept or reject any bid, for any reason.

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LRMFA

2009 Yukon Process

Attn: Chief Jon Goldman

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NH Enhanced 9-1-1 Division of Emergency Communications Telecommunicator wins Dispatcher of the Year

Bethany Drew, of NH Enhanced 9-1-1 was presented with the International Academy of Emergency Dispatch, Dispatcher of the Year. Bethany was nominated and received the award for her processing of a call that required her to give pre-arrival CPR instructions. Bethany was on the phone with the caller providing CPR instructions for 68 minutes.

For Bethany's incredible compassion, and resourcefulness she was presented with the award. Unfortunately, the IAED Navigator Conference was cancelled, so the award ceremony was held virtually. Congratulations Bethany, and NH Enhanced 9-1-1.



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To see how you can help your community, contact Deputy Chief Bonan at 536-1253, or e-mail him at jrbonan@plymouth.edu and ask how you can join.





Belmont Fire Department Multiple Mutual Aid handle 3rd Alarm Brush Fire

On May 21, 2020 the Belmont Fire Department was dispatched by LRMFA Dispatchers to a brush fire at Nutter Enterprises Inc. The fire escalated to a third alarm brush fire bringing in 19 additional fire departments to the scene.

Nutter Enterprises has expressed their gratitude by donating \$500 to the Lakes Region Mutual Fire Aid Training Division. The LRMFA Training Division plans, and coordinates training that is available to all fire and EMS departments within the LRMFA District and beyond. These funds will be used to defer expenses for members of the LRMFA.

We want to thank Nutter Enterprises for their generous donation and ongoing commitment to the Lakes Region Community.



Ashland Captain Jeffrey Uhlman is laid to rest

Ashland Captain Jeffrey Uhlman passed away suddenly at home on April 30, 2020. Captain Uhlman served the Ashland community for thirty-seven years and was the longest serving member of the Ashland Fire Department. Captain Uhlman served as a Captain for thirty-three of those years. To say he left a void in the Department, would be an understatement.

Due to COVID19 there was no immediate service for Jeff. The members of the Ashland Fire Department quickly lettered 2E1, fondly named "his truck" with his name in gold leaf. Captain Uhlman's niece was quoted as saying "This engine was acquired by AFD in 1987, the same year that Uncle Jeff began his 33-year Captainship. This has always been Captain Uhlman's truck, and now it always will be. This kind of tribute is unprecedented in department history, words don't suffice."

Members of Captain Uhlman's family, friends, the Ashland Fire Department and community joined together on June 28, 2020 to lay Captain Uhlman to rest. Ashland Lt. Kendall Hughes and Erica Johnson of the Granite State Fire Service Support Team worked to assist the Ashland Fire Department in rendering final honors to Captain Uhlman. As friends, family and department members were gathered Captain Uhlman was brought to his final resting place aboard 2E1, which was dedicated to him shortly after his passing. Once at the cemetery Captain Uhlman's urn was carried through a "sea of blue" comprised of Ashland Firefighters, and others from throughout the LRMFA District. After a brief service, Lt. David Parker of LRMFA performed the "Final Call." A solemn tradition in the fire service where a fallen member is called via radio several times before the Communications center once again tones out the fallen member, and announces their passing, length of service and that the member has answered their last alarm.



Campton Thornton Fire Rescue battles mountain top fire

Just before noon on Saturday June 20, 2020, Campton-Thornton Fire Rescue responded to a smoke investigation in Thornton near Covered Bridge Road. Two callers witnessed a lightning strike followed by a plume of smoke near the top of a mountain and contacted the station.

Crews established a staging area at the Sugar Shack Campground, where one of the calls originated from. Due to the proximity to the White Mountain National Forest, the US Forest Service was requested to assist. An engine and Battalion Chief responded and a unified command structure was established.

Crews had difficulty locating the fire, which was on top of a steep mountain. The fire was eventually located with the assistance of a drone from the Waterville Valley Department of Public Safety. The location of the fire was at approximately 1100 feet of elevation, on a mountain located between Kings Chair and the Mill Brook valley. Although not a US Forest Service fire, the USFS responded to assist, and aptly named it "Sugar Shack Fire" because their protocols state they will name each incident they respond to.

Crews worked to contain the small fire, approximately 1/4 acre in size. A fire line was established, and backpack pumps were used to mop up. Due to the dry conditions, the fire burned deep into the ground. Fortunately, the rain associated with the lightning strike limited the spread of the fire.



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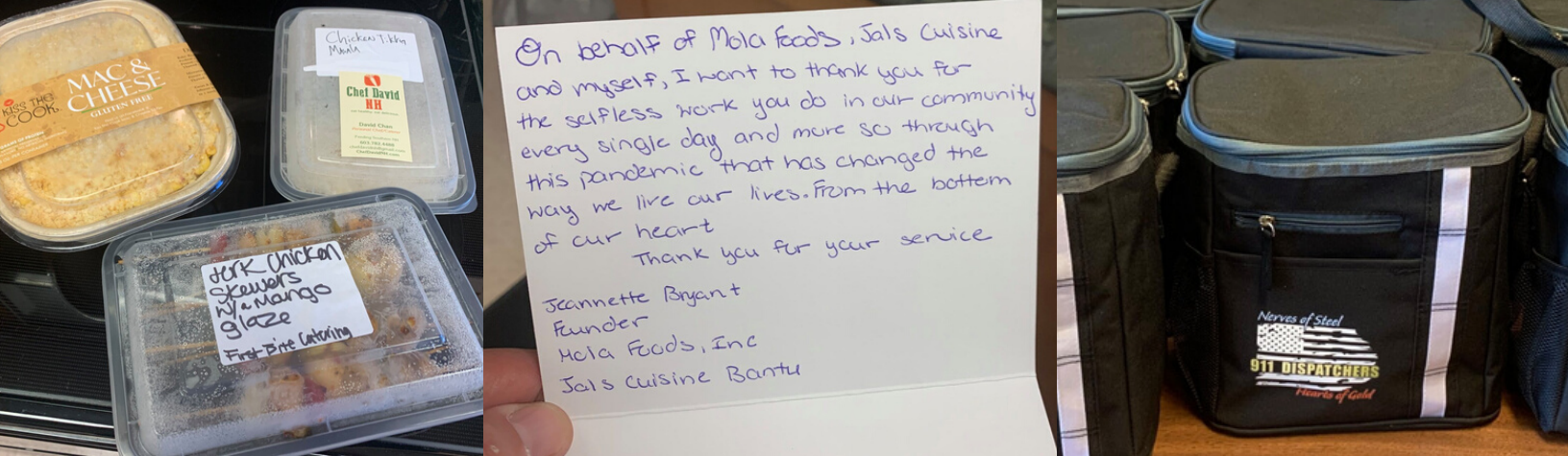
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The second full week in April of each year is dedicated to National Public Safety Telecommunicator Week. A week to celebrate and honor the highly skilled, and highly trained Emergency Telecommunicators, and Dispatchers for the vital, and critical work they skillfully do each day. LRMFA usually celebrates this week with a cookout, and open house where we invite the public in to meet these dedicated staff, and see what they do by touring our communications center, and seeing some of our emergency equipment.

This year, due to Covid-19 we were unable to invite the public in, and the small gifts our Dispatchers were to receive were very delayed in shipping. So we have made a decision to make today "the day" below are some photos of some small gifts our staff members will be receiving, as well as some wonderfully delicious meals.

Creative Chef Kitchens in Derry NH has been working throughout the Covid-19 pandemic along with their partners to provide meals for First Responders. They just made a delivery for the LRMFA Staff consisting of Tikki Masala Chicken, Mac and Cheese, Jerk Chicken Kabobs, and so much more. BOTH of our freezers are now stocked for your LRMFA Dispatchers.

We would like to thank Creative Chef Kitchens, Jals, MolaFoods for their generosity, it is appreciated. We would also like to thank our staff for the work they do everyday to keep our citizens, residents, and member communities safe.

We are privileged to have such a dedicated, committed, and highly trained staff here at LRMFA.



Want to receive the Rural Hitch by email?

Just send your email address by text message:

Text LRMFA to 22828 to get started.



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LAKES REGION MUTUAL FIRE AID STATISTICS

	<i>Month</i>	<i>Admin</i>	<i>Emergency</i>	<i>Incidents</i>
2020 First Quarter	January	1683	2241	2031
	February	1406	2401	2125
	March	1425	2196	1935
	<i>Total for Quarter</i>	<i>4514</i>	<i>6838</i>	<i>6091</i>
	<i>Avg/Day</i>	<i>49.60</i>	<i>75.14</i>	<i>66.93</i>
2020 Second Quarter	April	1320	2177	1885
	May	1496	2442	2124
	June	1525	2700	2721
	<i>Total for Quarter</i>	<i>4341</i>	<i>7319</i>	<i>6730</i>
	<i>Avg/Day</i>	<i>47.7</i>	<i>80.43</i>	<i>73.96</i>
2020 Third Quarter	July			
	August			
	September			
	<i>Total for Quarter</i>			
	<i>Avg/Day</i>			
2020 Fourth Quarter	October			
	November			
	December			
	<i>Total for Quarter</i>			
	<i>Avg/Day</i>			
2020	<i>Month</i>	<i>Admin</i>	<i>Emergency</i>	<i>Incidents</i>
	<i>Total for 2020</i>	<i>8855</i>	<i>14157</i>	<i>12821</i>
	<i>Avg/Day</i>	<i>49.60</i>	<i>75.14</i>	<i>66.93</i>

Send Us Your Department News

Send your Department News to ruralhitch@lrmfa.org.

Include new hires, promotions, new apparatus, department events, open training events, and more.

We love to brag about our departments!