



THE RURAL HITCH

THIRD QUARTER 2018

A publication of Lakes Region Mutual Fire Aid Association

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www.lrmfa.org

From the Chief

Chief Coordinator Jonathan M. Goldman, RPL, COML

As the third quarter of 2018 ends, we continue to be very busy here at LRMFA. Our staffing changes seem to have quieted down, which is always good. During the third quarter we welcomed Dispatcher Matt Nelson, Dispatcher Chris Rice, and Dispatcher Brian Searles to the team. None of them have dispatched before, but Dispatchers Nelson and Searles either have been, or currently are firefighters. Dispatcher Rice has not been a firefighter, but his dad served on and retired from the Salem NH Fire Department. We hope that things will level out now and we have the right people in the right seats.

Over the past month or so we had reports of a possible radio issue, which was determined to be at Mount Belknap. Deputy Chief Steele, myself, and our radio vendor had hiked up there the previous week to do preventative maintenance on the site, and less than a week later we hiked up there again to troubleshoot the issue. It was determined there was a fault on the feedline either from moisture or something else. This would necessitate the feedline, antenna and power amp in the radio having to be replaced. As I write this we are coordinating the supplies needed, and LRMFA staff will hike the needed equipment up the mountain in preparation for the tower crew and vendor going up to do the work. We had looked at using a helicopter for the "lift", but it was in the range of \$10,000 for one day. We determined we could do it ourselves the "old fashioned" way and bring the equipment ourselves. It will be good for some of the staff to see the technical side of the radio system as well.

The last half of the summer continued to be busy, as we rolled into September. We continue to work on radio projects and building maintenance projects. At the end of September our oil burner stopped working, and three separate contractors independently reported it should be replaced. We are working with the selected vendor to get that replaced as quickly as possible due to the cold weather coming in.

At the September Board of Directors meeting we presented the proposed 2019 budget draft. The draft includes a potential for the health insurance rates to increase 6%. Even with a 6% increase in health insurance, the proposed 2019 budget is increased over 2018 by 1.15%. *(Continued on Page 4)*

Board of Directors

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Photo Credit: WMUR

4th Alarm, Bristol NH September 24, 2018

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Send your Department News to ruralhitch@lrmfa.org.

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

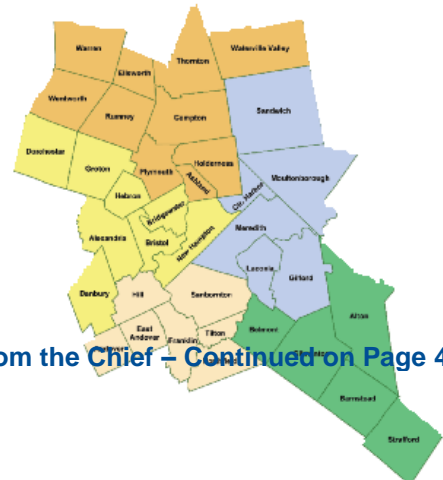
THE RURAL HITCH

is published quarterly by Lakes Region Mutual Fire Aid Association

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Chief

Lois Cilley
Editor

Email all submissions to:
ruralhitch@lrmfa.org



From the Chief – Continued on Page 4



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It is my hope that insurance stays level, goes down, or worst case does not increase by more than 5.9%.

The Board of Directors also voted to accept a grant for Car 1 which will include an accountability system, FirstNet Cellular modem, tablet for tracking resources and some other technology upgrades. These upgrades will among other tasks, also allow us access to the in-house telephone system from the field. This access will put the use of a multi-line telephone system, all the speed dials, and the recording software into the field.

The Board of Directors at their May meeting began discussion about whether to place a simulcast site at the Warren Fire Station, after Warren Fire Chief Art Heath brought discussion forward about the radio system or lack thereof in

Warren. Chief Goldman reported then, that Warren is being served by a standalone radio site at the Glencliff Home in Benton NH, that is not part of the LRMFA Simulcast system. The Board of Directors authorized Deputy Chief Steele to begin working up cost estimates. It was believed at the time that some, if not all the costs would be able to come from Grant money, using the Blue Job project from last year as the matching funds.

At the September Board of Directors Meeting, it was reported that most likely the costs will not be covered by a grant, as the Grants Management Unit has stated they will no longer fund infrastructure projects.

(Continued on Page 5)



MISSION STATEMENT:

“To deliver the highest quality telecommunications, training and education, and emergency services coordination for our community partners and the public we serve.”

VISION STATEMENT:

“We strive to develop and promote exemplary, nationally recognized, regional emergency communication and mutual aid services resulting in a culture of safety for our communities.”

LRMFA Meeting Dates:

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

(1st Tuesday of each month at the Communications Center at 1400)

11/6/18

12/4/18

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETINGS

(Quarterly at the Communications Center at 1900)

10/24/18

Tilton-Northfield, Franklin, and Sanbornton Coordinate Monthly Training



Photo Credits: Franklin Fire Department

(Continued from Page 4)

Warren Fire Chief, Art Heath reported that his town had authorized a generator for the building, and the Warren Fireman's Association had authorized funding a 45-foot tower for the site. Deputy Chief Steele and Chief Goldman offered three options for enhancing the radio coverage in Warren. Option 1 was to do nothing, option 2 was to simply move the equipment from the Glencliff Home to the Warren Fire Station, and option 3 was to build out a simulcast site at the Warren Fire Station. Option 3 was the preferred method as it would leave the equipment at the Glencliff home intact as a backup. The Board of Directors authorized option 3, and we are working to get the project completed.

All in all, it has been a busy quarter for LRMFA, and I am continuously amazed each day with the caliber and dedication of our staff. We recognize that most of the staff is new and is adapting to their new career choices. We ask for and appreciate your understanding as they go through their "rookie" stage. We have all been there, and all gone through it. They are handling it well, and continue to take advantage of training, and the resources we offer to help them in this transition.

LRMFA Reorganizes the Training Division

With the appointment of Deputy Chief Steele, as a Full Time Deputy Chief Coordinator, the Executive Committee, Board of Directors, and Chief Goldman very much saw the value in the LRMFA Training Division and did not want to see that value waiver. Chief Steve Carrier of Gilford has chaired the training committee for many years, and we thank him for his leadership. Deputy Chief Steele coordinated and hosted a reorganizational meeting on September 18th with an ice cream smorgasbord. There were about fifteen department members from throughout the district representing career, call, and volunteer departments as well as others who are interested but were unable to make the meeting. Chief Steve Carrier was looking for someone else to chair the committee, and Tim Joubert and David Hall, both from Tilton-Northfield Fire and EMS were nominated for and accepted the positions of Co-Chairs. The Training Committee discussed opportunities for hosting training, and the different types of training that could be hosted. Free training, revival of the fireground development series, training with a cost, and grant funded trainings were some of the discussion. They also briefly discussed the Gilford Training facility, that it was almost complete and that it would certainly open some opportunities for additional hands on and practical training within the district. The Committee discussed trying to host a pumps class this fall but will concentrate on 2019 training opportunities. If you have suggestions, or comments for the Training Division, or would be interested in sitting on the Training Committee feel free to reach out to LRMFA Deputy Chief Coordinator, Paul Steele at psteele@lrmfa.org.



TNFD, Franklin, and Sanbornton working together at a recent combined training.



NH E9-1-1 Response Determinant Update

Derek Aumann

NH E9-1-1

On October 1, 2018, NH Bureau of Emergency Communications, E-911 upgraded the Medical Priority Dispatch System (MPDS) from v. 13.0 to 13.1. While this update had numerous changes involving call handling for the 911 staff, there are two changes that will be noticeably different for our dispatch partners and responders. Both changes involve Protocol 23, Overdose and Poisoning, the intent to further protect responders and optimize patient care. Historically, overdoses that were unconscious and not breathing were processed on Protocol 9, Cardiac Arrest, and assigned an ECHO level determinant. The first change is due to scene safety concerns involving intoxicants, particularly opioids and their synthetic derivatives. These calls will no longer be handled on Protocol 9 and instead handled on Protocol 23. Additionally, these calls won't be given an ECHO level assignment but a DELTA level assignment after Case Entry and Key Questioning is completed.

The second change is now the EMD can solicit if Narcan (naloxone) is available and give instructions to the caller. The previous MPDS version only allowed this if the caller offered that Narcan was available. If there are any questions regarding these changes or other changes occurring at NH 911 please don't hesitate to contact Chief David Rivers at drivers@e911.nh.gov, or myself, Derick Aumann at daumann@e911.nh.gov

Central NH Hazardous Materials Team

Tony Manning

Team Chief

When was the last time your department responded to a HazMat call? I'm guessing you have responded to one or more calls that have involved hazardous materials such as carbon monoxide, gasoline or oil leak, propane or natural gas leak, overturned vehicle or tanker truck, or some type of chemical release in the past year. So when do you need the HazMat Team? Something you haven't been trained on or do not have the correct tools to do the job. We're here to assist you. We can consult over the phone or respond if needed. Typically we are called out for overturned vehicles leaking, leaking containers, propane leaks, hazardous or unknown substances. We have advanced monitoring and product identification capabilities. Central NH HazMat Team is a specialized team that will respond to any substance (gas, liquid or solid) capable of creating harm to people, the environment, or property. We have the ability to pre-plan your facility and transportation potential problems. We look forward to working with you.

ADVISORY NOTICE REGARDING NEW CANCER LAW

REQUIRED DEPARTMENTAL POLICY:

As part of the requirements for firefighters to have presumption, RSA 281-A:17, II requires that each fire department voluntarily establish a policy that follows the Fire Standards and Training Commission curriculum requirement for best practices for the use and cleaning of equipment.

At this time, the following items are outlined in the curriculum regarding the use and cleaning of equipment:

- The proper use of personal protective equipment during fire ground operations and during overhaul. PPE and SCBA shall be used during overhaul until air monitoring has been conducted and the area has been cleared.
- Ensure the use of vehicle exhaust system to remove toxic gases from the station. If your station is not equipped with an exhaust system, measures should be made to operate the vehicles in a building for the shortest time possible.
- Proper storage, cleaning, and replacement of Personal Protective Equipment
- Ensure firefighters shower after every fire



DATE: September, 2018



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NH Fire and EMS Committee of Merit Ceremony

On the evening of September 24, 2018 hundreds of members of the NH Fire and EMS community as their friends and families gathered for the annual NH Fire and EMS Committee of Merit Awards ceremony. The ceremony was held at "The Audi" in Concord. The Committee of Merit discussed moving the ceremony due to the large crowd that was in attendance in 2017, but thought the crowd was an anomaly due to the many years of service awards given that year. We were pleasantly surprised to see that, last year was not an anomaly and will be looking at a larger venue for 2019. In May of 2018, the Laconia Fire Department honored a "Make a Wish" for Paul Swenson. Paul was sworn in as a Laconia Firefighter for the day. During Firefighter Swenson's day on "the job" he was able to respond to a "building fire" and while enroute to the "building fire" Firefighter Swenson observed heavy fire showing and called for a "First Alarm." LRMFA Lt. Nugent was on the radio during this "incident" and handled the building fire well.



Photo Credit: Karen Bobotas/Laconia Daily Sun



Photo Credit: Karen Bobotas/Laconia Daily Sun

As a result of this incident, NH Fire and EMS Committee of Merit Chairman, Alan Sypek felt that Firefighter Swenson was deserving of a Class III Medal of Valor for his actions putting the fire out. Laconia Firefighter Paul Swenson was given this award in front of the hundreds of firefighters in attendance, as well as his family, and the Laconia Fire Department. Members of the Laconia Fire Department, as well as LRMFA Lt. Kevin Nugent were also honored with a Unit Citation for their commitment to the public we serve, and their actions that May day. A part of all our jobs, our calling is to protect life and property, but an even larger part of our jobs, our calling is to give back to the community we serve. The Laconia Fire Department, and LRMFA were proud to play a part in Firefighter Swenson's Wish Day. Even more humbling, was the part that Firefighter Swenson, and his wish day played in everyone else's career. He is a special young man, and we wish him well.

NH Fire and EMS Committee of Merit Ceremony (continued)



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Photo Credit: Karen Bobotas/Laconia Daily Sun



Photo Credit: Karen Bobotas/Laconia Daily Sun

2018 ALS BREAKFAST AND QUALITY MANAGEMENT (QM) MEETINGS

DATE	HOST	QM REGION	NOTES
August 1	New Hampton	2	**QM Meeting Only. Time TBD
September 5	Laconia	3	
October 3	Stewarts	1	Location TBD
November 7	New Hampton	2	
December 5	Laconia	3	

Time: ALS Breakfast will be at **0830hrs** and QM meeting to follow immediately.

****Please note the new start time****

For any questions, please contact Shawn Riley at smriley@lrg.org



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NH State Fireman's Association honors NH's Fallen

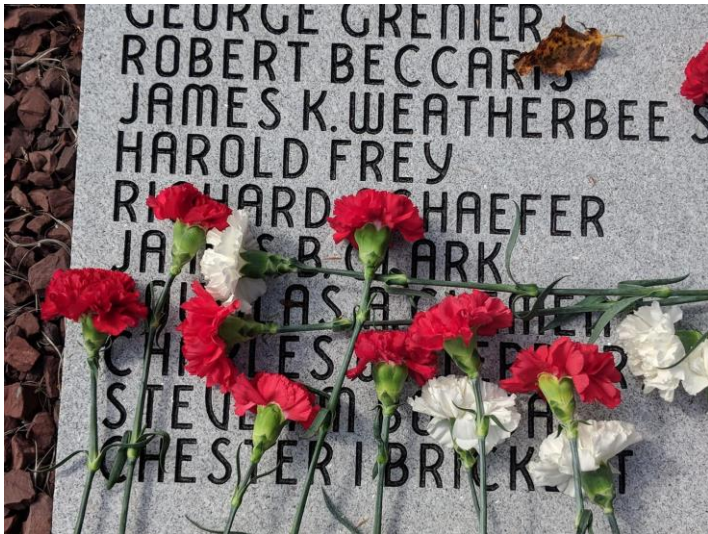


Photo Credit: Mimi Pare, Sandown NH



Photo Credit: Mimi Pare, Sandown NH

On September 29, 2018 over 100 Firefighters, and family members gathered on the hallowed grounds of the NH Fire Academy to observe the 12th annual State Fallen Firefighters Memorial. No names were placed on the memorial this year, which is always a relief, but we honored those who have died in the past. Litchfield Fire Chief Frank Fraitz served as the master of ceremonies, and Governor Chris Sununu, Fire Marshal Parisi, and Director Deb Pendergast all spoke. The theme this year was the fire service family, and what it means to us. Keynote speaker was Sandown Firefighter Gerry LaChance, who at 70 years old rode his bicycle from Key West Florida to Pittsburgh NH to raise money for Project Hero. Project Hero assists military, and first responders with adaptive bicycles, and sports programs to help make them the best they can be physically and mentally after a debilitating injury. At the end of the service, all 87 names of NH's fallen firefighters were ceremoniously read. As each fallen member name was read their family was invited to come forward and place a memorial carnation on their firefighter's name. For the families who were unable to make it, their departments solemnly took over the task for them, and for others who did not have department representation the Red Knights Motorcycle Club dutifully performed the task. The weather was beautiful, and the memorial gave everyone an opportunity to see old friends, make new friends, and remember those who have gone before us.

Laconia and Belmont Fire Chief Ken Erickson Retires

On September 28th, 2018, Laconia and Belmont Fire Chief Kenneth Erickson retired after serving the citizens of Laconia and Belmont for many years. Chief Erickson was the Laconia Fire Chief for the past seventeen years, and in an agreement with the Town of Belmont began also serving as their Fire Chief for the last few years. It was an emotional retirement ceremony, as many well-wishers packed the Laconia Central Station to wish Chief Erickson farewell. Many people brought crock pots full of food, and the Laconia Firefighters cooked hamburgers and hot dogs on the grill. Chief Erickson served in the Massachusetts towns of North Attleboro, Walpole, and Duxbury as a Firefighter, and climbing the ranks to Fire Chief. He then accepted a position with the City of Laconia as their Fire Chief where he has continued to serve, and lead not only the Lakes Region, but the NH Fire Service. Chief Erickson was presented with several tokens of appreciation from many different agencies, and associations. Perhaps the most emotional moment was when he spoke.

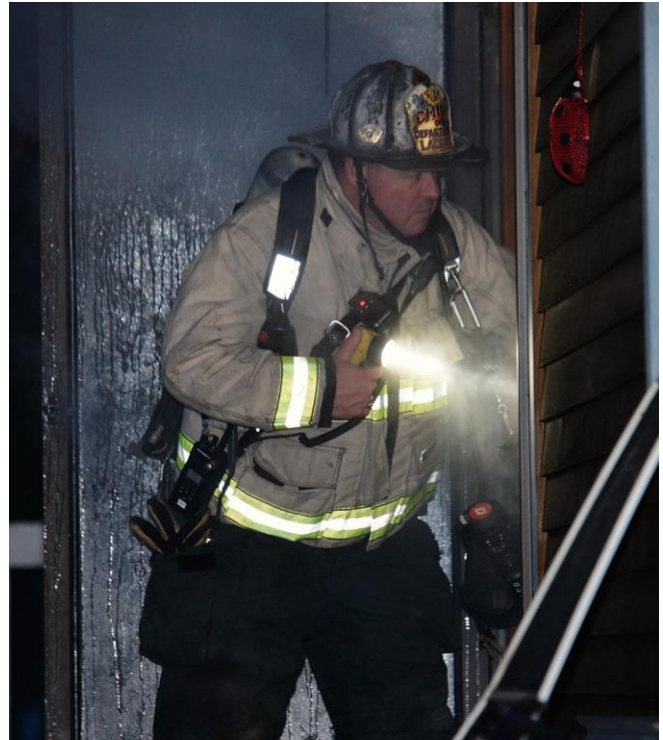


Photo Credit: Jay Heath, Salem NH Fire

Anyone who knows Chief Erickson knows he is not an emotional person by nature. After the presentations, Chief Erickson spoke about his time as a Firefighter, who he was mentored by and took a moment to thank his family, and his wonderful wife for supporting him over the years. At the end of the presentations, the ceremony was finished with an emotional, and heartfelt tone, and announcement from Lakes Region Mutual Fire Aid. We all want to wish Chief Erickson well, and thank him for everything he has done for the citizens of Laconia, Belmont, and the citizens of the Lakes Region.



Photo Credit: LRMFA

Two LRMFA Team Members Receive Commendation

On August 28, 2018 Lt. Nugent and Dispatcher Matt Nelson were working in Operations at Lakes Region Mutual Fire Aid. Lt. Nugent as the shift supervisor, and Dispatcher Nelson, as the Dispatcher. At approximately 1608 they began receiving multiple telephone calls reporting a severe motor vehicle accident on Lakeshore Drive in Gilford, NH.

Lt. Nugent, and Dispatcher Nelson took multiple phone calls, one caller who was a nurse reported “this was a head on, high speed accident, you are going to need more than one ambulance.” Additional callers reported at least one patient was in traumatic arrest, and CPR was in progress on scene.

Upon the arrival of the first piece of apparatus, a “1st Alarm MCI” was declared to bring additional resources to the scene and to cover Gilford.



Photo Credit: WMUR

During the initial twenty minutes of this incident, Lt. Nugent and Dispatcher Nelson processed fourteen minutes of telephone calls, and twelve minutes of radio traffic. They processed a total of twenty-six minutes of audible messages in the first twenty-minute period.

During this incident there were sixteen emergency response resources dispatched, and managed; to include seven ambulances, two engine companies, one rescue company, one utility truck, one air medical helicopter, and four chief officers.

Lt. Kevin Nugent, and Dispatcher Matt Nelson both received commendations for this incident, they maintained a calm, professional demeanor, coordinated all needed resources and worked closely with the incident commander to assure all resource requests were filled in a timely manner.

Every day the men and woman of the Lakes Region Mutual Fire Aid Association demonstrate their impressive skill set, professionalism, and competence. Unfortunately, it is tragic calls like this that highlight those skills. Although our thoughts are with those involved in this tragic accident, we would like to again recognize Lt. Nugent and Dispatcher Nelson for their actions during this tragic, and stressful incident.



Photo Credit: WMUR

LRMFA FIRST QUARTER STATISTICS

	Admin-Phones	Emergency-Phones	Incidents
January	1,900	2,886	2,449
February	1,425	2,376	1,977
March	1,310	2,080	1,825
Total	4,635	7,342	6,251
Average/Day	51.5	81.5	69.5

LRMFA SECOND QUARTER STATISTICS

	Admin-Phones	Emergency-Phones	Incidents
April	1,454	2,291	1,942
May	1,802	2,649	2,211
June	2,027	2,936	2,315
Total	5,283	7,876	6,468
Average/Day	58.7	87.5	71.86

LRMFA THIRD QUARTER STATISTICS

	Admin-Phones	Emergency-Phones	Incidents
July	2,110	3,112	2,668
August	2,142	3,116	2,663
September	1,934	2,705	2,253
Total	6,186	8,933	7,584
Average/Day	67.24	97.09	82.4

LRMFA YTD STATISTICS

Admin-Phones	Emergency-Phones	Incidents
16,104	24,151	20,303
59/day	88.46/day	74.3/day



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