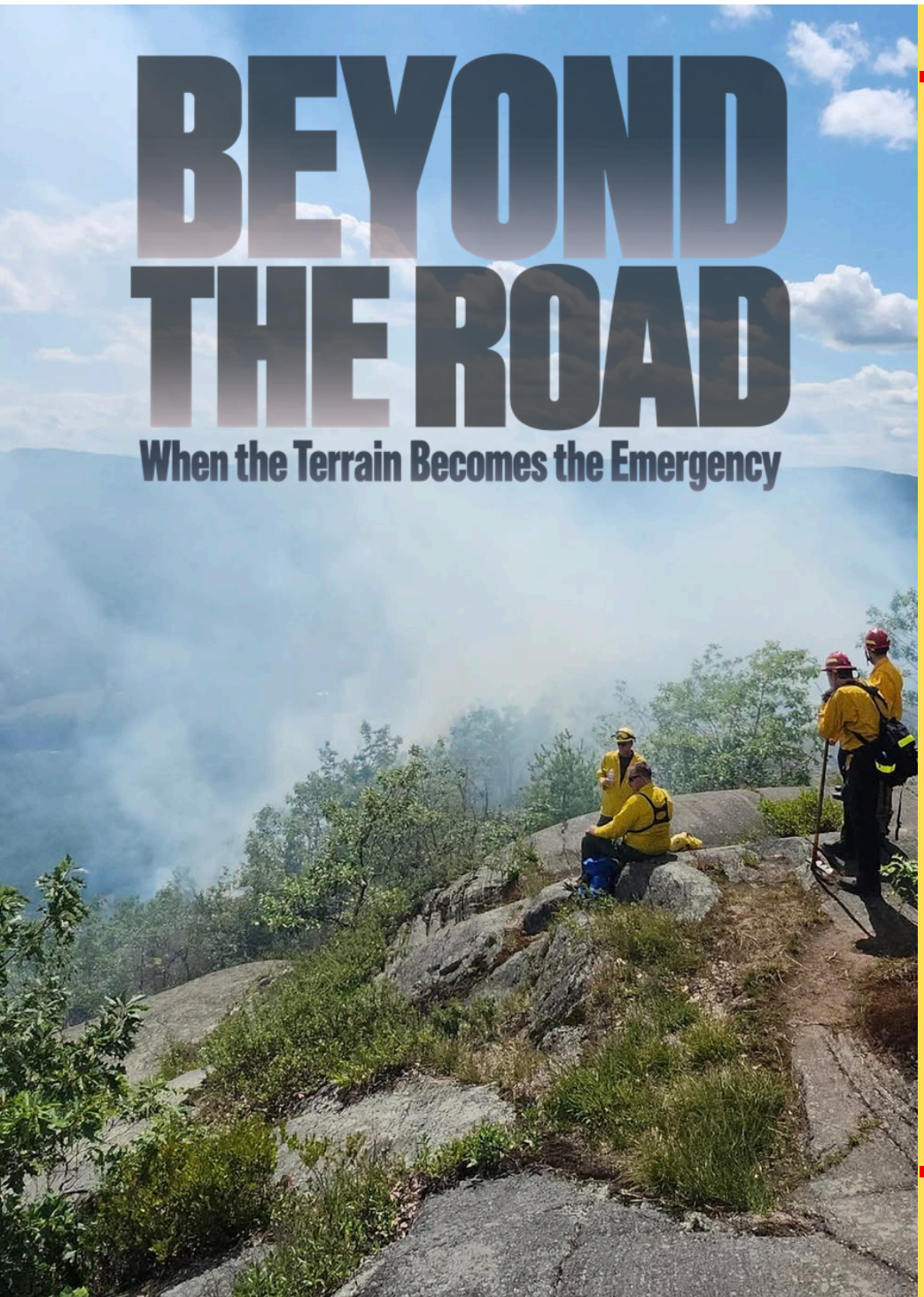
THE RURAL HITCH

A Quarterly Publication of the Lakes Region Mutual Fire Aid Association



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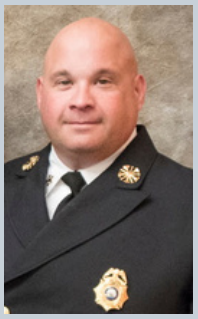
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From the Chief...

Jonathan M. Goldman, CPE



As we reflect on the third quarter of 2026, I want to recognize the extraordinary dedication and cooperation demonstrated by our member agencies, dispatchers, and mutual aid partners. The summer months brought challenging incidents across our district, reminding us of the importance of preparedness, teamwork, and the strong relationships that form the foundation of Lakes Region Mutual Fire Aid.

From the five-alarm forest fire on Rattlesnake Mountain to water rescues and structure fires, our responders faced difficult terrain, demanding conditions, and significant resource needs. These incidents demonstrated the strength of our regional mutual aid system and the professionalism of those who answer the call. Whether working on the fireground, coordinating resources from the communications center, or providing coverage for neighboring communities, every contribution plays an important role in protecting the public.

As we continue celebrating our 75th anniversary, these responses remind us why our Association was established in 1951. What began as a commitment among neighboring departments to support one another has grown into a coordinated regional system built on cooperation, trust, and shared responsibility. While technology, equipment, and emergency response practices have evolved, our fundamental mission remains unchanged.

Looking ahead, we remain focused on strengthening our organization through continued investment in training, technology, and operational readiness. Our ongoing efforts surrounding the relocation of our Communications Center represent an important step toward meeting the evolving needs of our member communities. I remain grateful for the dedication of our staff, the leadership of our Board of Directors, and the continued support of our municipal and public safety partners as we build upon 75 years of service.

Jonathan M. Goldman

Jon Goldman, CPE
Chief Coordinator
Lakes Region Mutual Fire Aid Association

The Rural Hitch

Is Curated and Published Quarterly by:

Lakes Region Mutual Fire Aid Association

Chief Coordinator
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Deputy Chief Coordinator
Erin Hannafin, RPL
Editor
Nicholas Girard



Progress Through Partnership

LRMFA/NH 911 New Building

The future home of NH 911's Laconia operations and LRMFA continues to take shape. Interior walls are up and painted, and rooms are nearly ready for furniture. With more of the interior taking shape, it is becoming easier to picture the daily operations that will one day fill these spaces.

For LRMFA, this multi-year building project with the State of New Hampshire represents an exciting next chapter. Seeing years of planning and coordination become a physical space has been especially rewarding, and we appreciate the continued work of everyone involved in bringing the project forward.

Separate from the building project, the new radio tower has been erected and awaits installation of radio equipment. We are proud to have helped develop this grant-funded regional resource, which will serve LRMFA, the State of New Hampshire, and our regional partners.

While there is still work ahead before the facility is ready for operations, we are excited by the progress and what this future home will mean for our personnel, member departments, and the communities we serve. We look forward to sharing additional updates as work advances.

The photo below shows an aerial view of the facility in July 2026.



Photo courtesy of Dispatcher Josh Hanson.

LEADERSHIP • EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS

Chief Goldman takes a national seat at the table

Lakes Region Mutual Fire Aid's chief sworn in as APCO International East Coast Regional Representative.

At the closing ceremony of the 2026 APCO International Conference in San Antonio, Texas, Lakes Region Mutual Fire Aid Chief Jonathan M. Goldman was officially sworn in as the APCO International East Coast Regional Representative.



The appointment recognizes a career shaped by service, collaboration, and a clear belief that strong emergency communications are essential to the safety of every community.

The APCO East Coast Region represents emergency communications professionals from 16 states and the District of Columbia, stretching from Maine to South Carolina. In his new role, Chief Goldman will advocate for 9-1-1 professionals throughout the region and help shape the future of emergency communications at the national level.

"A well-deserved achievement—and a proud moment for the professionals who serve our communities every day."

— LAKES REGION MUTUAL FIRE AID

A REGIONAL ROLE, A LOCAL COMMITMENT

From New Hampshire to the national stage

Although the position extends far beyond New Hampshire, Chief Goldman will continue to be a strong advocate for Lakes Region Mutual Fire Aid and for the emergency communications professionals who serve local communities every day.

That balance—bringing a local perspective to a regional and national conversation—is central to the value of the appointment.

As Regional Representative, he will help connect the experience of communications centers across the East Coast, elevate the issues facing 9-1-1 professionals, and contribute to the conversation about what comes next for emergency communications.

Congratulations, Chief Goldman, on this well-deserved achievement. Lakes Region Mutual Fire Aid is proud to see your leadership recognized on the national stage.



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BEYOND THE ROAD

Five-Alarm Forest Fire Challenges Responders on Rattlesnake Mountain

Steep terrain, rocky ledges, and difficult access bring together approximately 60 emergency responders in Rumney.

On Friday, August 14, 2026, at approximately 10:30 a.m., the Rumney and Wentworth Fire Departments were dispatched to Rattlesnake Mountain, off Buffalo Road in Rumney, for a reported smoke investigation. What began as a routine investigation quickly developed into a challenging, multi-agency forest fire response.

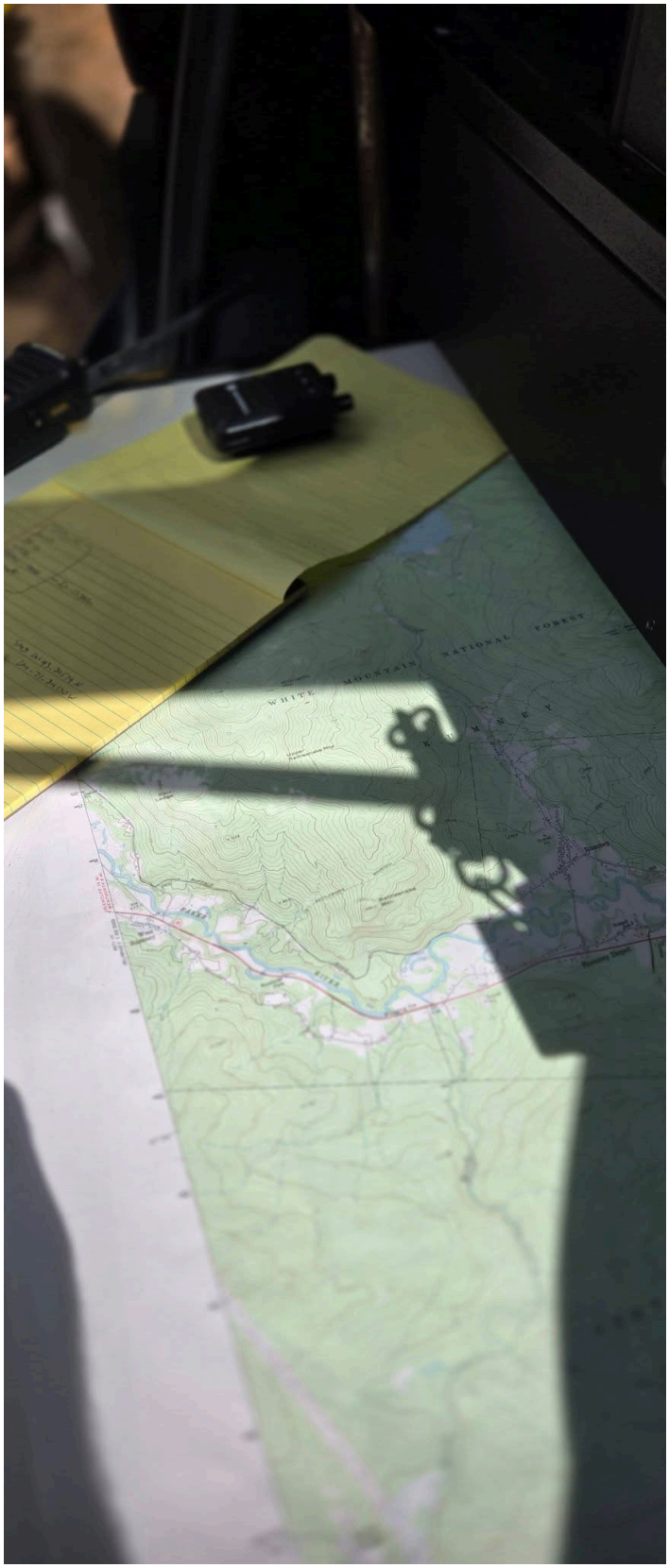
While crews were responding, Lakes Region Mutual Fire Aid received a second report from a hiker who could see smoke and flames in the area. With confirmation of an active fire in a remote location, Rumney Fire Chief Evan Hacker requested a first-alarm forestry assignment and a drone to assist with the response.

The response demonstrated the importance of regional mutual aid, particularly during incidents where geography and limited access create challenges beyond those encountered during a typical emergency.



Continued on the next page

A remote mountain fire tested regional coordination, stamina, and access.



As firefighters made their way toward the fire, the challenges posed by the mountain became increasingly apparent. The fire was burning among steep, rocky terrain, including large cliffs and ledges that made accessing the affected area extremely difficult. Unlike incidents where apparatus can position close to the scene, this operation required firefighters to navigate challenging terrain while carrying the equipment necessary to combat the fire.

The incident ultimately escalated to a fifth alarm, primarily because of the significant manpower required to operate safely and effectively in such demanding conditions. Approximately 60 personnel from fire departments and assisting agencies throughout the region responded.

The incident ultimately escalated to a fifth alarm, primarily because of the significant manpower required to operate safely and effectively in such demanding conditions. Approximately 60 personnel from fire departments and assisting agencies throughout the region responded. Firefighters worked for roughly eight hours to access, contain, and extinguish the fire. The last crews cleared the mountain and returned to service at approximately 7:30 p.m.

Continued on the next page

Throughout the operation, departments from across the Lakes Region and surrounding communities worked together alongside the White Mountain National Forest and the New Hampshire Division of Forests and Lands. The response demonstrated the importance of regional mutual aid, particularly during incidents where geography and limited access create challenges beyond those encountered during a typical emergency.



Fortunately, no injuries were reported. At the time of the initial incident report, the fire's size and cause remained under investigation by the White Mountain National Forest Office.

The Rattlesnake Mountain fire serves as a reminder that emergency response in rural New Hampshire often extends far beyond paved roads and accessible neighborhoods. From remote hiking trails to densely wooded mountainsides, firefighters must be prepared to adapt to whatever challenges the landscape presents.

Just as importantly, the incident reinforces the value of a strong mutual aid system. No single department can be expected to manage every large-scale emergency alone, particularly when difficult terrain demands substantial personnel and resources.

When the road ends, the commitment to protecting lives and property continues.

Lakes Region Mutual Fire Aid extends its appreciation to all responding departments, agencies, and personnel whose coordination, dedication, and hard work contributed to bringing this challenging incident to a safe conclusion.

FROM MOUNTAINS TO SHORELINES

Fireboats Join Mutual Aid Response to Moultonborough Cottage Fire

On July 20, 2026, Moultonborough Fire Rescue, along with Center Harbor, Sandwich, and Stewart's Ambulance, responded to a reported building fire on Clement Road.

As crews responded, Lakes Region Mutual Fire Aid dispatchers received multiple calls reporting a working structure fire, prompting a first-alarm assignment that included fireboats from Gilford and Tuftonboro.
Chief David Bengtson arrived to find a cottage fully involved in flames, with a nearby structure threatened by the rapidly spreading fire. Fortunately, all occupants had safely evacuated.

Firefighters initiated defensive operations, with fireboats using their master streams to attack the flames from Lake Winnipesaukee. Meanwhile, Engine 3's crew stretched more than 300 feet of hose and deployed two handlines to protect nearby structures.



Additional crews from Meredith, Holderness, and Laconia assisted, while Wolfeboro provided station coverage.

The fire was brought under control in approximately 40 minutes. Although the cottage was destroyed, no civilian or firefighter injuries were reported.

From remote mountainsides to the shores of Lake Winnipesaukee, these incidents highlight the importance of regional cooperation and the strength of our mutual aid system.

LIGHTNING STRIKES ROUNDTOP MOUNTAIN

Remote Forest Fire Challenges Bristol Responders



On August 15, 2026, at approximately 4:54 p.m., Bristol Fire Department was dispatched to investigate reports of smoke near Roundtop Mountain. The initial report came from the Cardigan Mountain Fire Tower in Alexandria and was cross-referenced with observations from the Green Mountain Fire Tower in Effingham.



Responders located smoke near the southwest peak of Roundtop and established staging near a cell phone tower on Chestnut Street. Firefighters then hiked into the steep terrain carrying forestry tools, assisted by a drone that helped guide crews toward the fire.

An approximately half-acre fire was discovered, spreading slowly despite persistent northern winds. The cause was determined to be a lightning strike.

Nine Bristol Fire Department personnel responded, supported by mutual aid partners from neighboring communities. Crews planned to return the following morning to continue overhaul operations.

The incident demonstrated the importance of early detection, technology, and regional cooperation when responding to emergencies in remote and difficult-to-access areas.

When emergencies take responders beyond the road, preparation and teamwork make all the difference.

IN MEMORIAM



Chief Fred Mollins

Moultonborough Fire Rescue

End of Watch: September 30, 2026

Chief Fred Mollins dedicated more than 42 years to serving and protecting the Moultonborough community. His leadership, commitment to training, and dedication to improving emergency services helped shape the department and the generations of firefighters who followed.

Joined Moultonborough Volunteer Fire Rescue - January 1966
Served as Fire Chief - 1987-1993
Retired after more than 42 years of service - August 2008

Remembered as a leader, mentor, teacher, and friend, Chief Mollins leaves behind a lasting legacy of service and dedication. His contributions to firefighter training, emergency response capabilities, and the community he loved will not be forgotten.

IN MEMORIAM



Chief John Hemeon

Rumney Fire Department

End of Watch: September 2, 2026

Chief John Hemeon dedicated 35 years to serving and protecting the Town of Rumney. His courage, leadership, and unwavering commitment to his fellow firefighters left a lasting impact on the department and the community he proudly served.

Joined Rumney Fire Department - 1965
Served as Fire Chief - 1988-2000
Retired after 35 years of service - 2000

Chief Hemeon is especially remembered for his heroic actions during a 1978 church fire, when he rescued a fellow firefighter who had partially fallen through an attic floor.
Beyond his years of service, he remained a familiar presence at the fire station, sharing stories and maintaining the friendships he built throughout his career. His dedication, courage, and friendship will be deeply missed.

BLAST FROM THE PAST

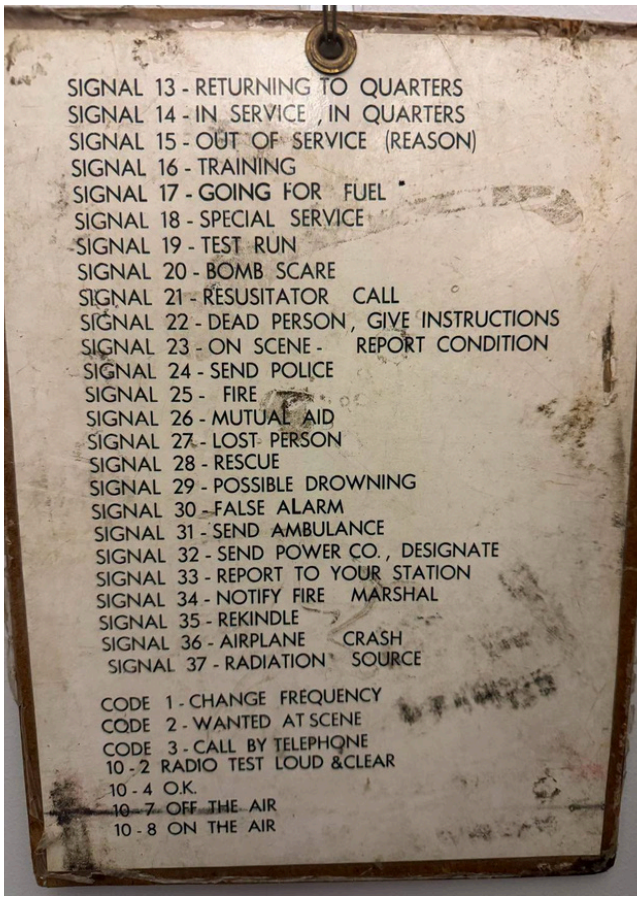
75 Years of LRMFA: A Look Back at Radio Communications

Long before today's computerized dispatch systems, radio communications relied heavily on numbered signals and codes to relay information quickly and efficiently.

This historic signal board offers a glimpse into an earlier era of emergency communications at Lakes Region Mutual Fire Aid. From Signal 16 – Training and Signal 26 – Mutual Aid to Signal 29 – Possible Drowning, these codes provided a shorthand for communicating important information over the radio.

Some entries, such as Signal 21 – Resuscitator Call and Signal 37 – Radiation Source, reflect the terminology and operational practices of the time.

As LRMFA celebrates its 75th anniversary, artifacts like this remind us just how much emergency communications have changed over the decades. While technology, terminology, and procedures have evolved, the mission of coordinating emergency response and supporting our member communities remains the same.



Historic LRMFA radio signal board — a glimpse into an earlier era of emergency communications.

The equipment may change, but the commitment to service never does.

MULTIPLE EMERGENCIES STRETCH REGIONAL RESOURCES

Water Rescue and Back-to-Back Emergencies Challenge Responders

On Saturday, July 25, 2026, at approximately 1:00 p.m., Campton-Thornton Fire Rescue, Thornton Police, and Waterville Valley Department of Public Safety responded to the Pemigewassett River near Sugar Shack Campground in Thornton for a reported water rescue.

Lakes Region Mutual Fire Aid dispatchers advised responding crews that a tuber had slipped on a rock, suffered a hip injury, and was unable to move from the water. Additional personnel from Woodstock Fire Department were requested to assist.

Crews reached the injured individual, provided medical treatment, and deployed a specialized rescue boat, commonly referred to as a "banana boat," to safely transport the patient to shore. The patient was subsequently transported to Speare Memorial Hospital in Plymouth with non-life-threatening injuries.

While crews were managing the water rescue, another emergency was reported on the Welch-Dickey Loop Trail in Waterville Valley involving a patient in cardiac arrest. Waterville Valley's ambulance was reassigned to that incident, joining Pemigewassett Search and Rescue and New Hampshire Fish and Game. Tragically, the patient did not survive.

With multiple emergencies occurring simultaneously, regional ambulance resources were significantly stretched. At one point, nearly every ambulance between Littleton and Ashland was committed to emergency calls. Ashland Fire Department provided ambulance coverage for Campton-Thornton while crews remained engaged.

Later that afternoon, Campton-Thornton personnel responded to another medical emergency near Mill Brook Cascade in Thornton. The patient ultimately declined ambulance transport.

The day's overlapping emergencies highlighted the importance of regional mutual aid, coordinated dispatching, and the flexibility required to manage multiple incidents across a geographically challenging region.





September 9, 2026

EMS PEARL:

ANGIOEDEMA





Rob Rix, MD - CH EMS Medical Director

Concord Hospital EMS Pearl: Angioedema

Case #1: 48 y/o female with a history of asthma calls 911 for an "allergic reaction" after she notices her lips and tongue began tingling right after eating lunch. She also complains that her back and chest are itchy. She is awake and alert with unremarkable vitals when you arrive, but her lips and tongue are swollen, and she is itching all over.

Case #2: 72 y/o male with a history of congestive heart failure and hypertension calls 911 for an "allergic reaction" after noticing that his lips and tongue were swollen. He said both felt weird last night before bed and when he woke up, he was startled to see his swollen lips and tongue in the mirror. His vitals are unremarkable, his skin is normal, and his fat tongue is making his speech a little muffled, but otherwise he looks good.
You consider NH State protocol 2.2A "Anaphylaxis/Allergic Reaction" and the therapeutic options. You astutely diagnose both patients with suffering from an acute attack of angioedema, but is the treatment the same for both?

I***ntroduction to angioedema:*** When the term angioedema is used, it generally refers to swelling of the lips, tongue, or airway tissues. Technically however, angioedema is swelling of the mucous membranes of either the skin, respiratory, gastrointestinal, or genitourinary tracts. When present in a pre-hospital EMS patient, angioedema is essentially due to 1 of 2 very different disease processes. In the NH State EMS protocols, angioedema is discussed under "2.2A Anaphylaxis/Allergic Reaction" however only one type of angioedema is actually an allergy. All "allergies" are histamine driven and when a patient has angioedema from an allergic reaction, histamine release in and around the lips/tongue/airway tissues is indeed the culprit. However, the other main type of angioedema has nothing to do with allergy and is caused by a substance called bradykinin. In the Protocols, bradykinin-induced angioedema is listed under the Paramedic section in 2.2A, which isn't really scientifically accurate (since it's not actually an "allergy"), but it's reasonable to put it there as you'll see why by the end of this pearl. There's a 3rd type too, which is inherited and rare and most of the time the patients will tell you they have the inherited/genetic type of angioedema, so we're only going to focus on the first two as this makes up the very large majority of what we're going to see.

Histamine's role in allergy: Most reading this are familiar with the fact that an allergic reaction causes the release of histamine. Histamine is contained in specialized cells called "mast cells" which normally are just chillin', floating around the body. When a mast cell is triggered (classically by an allergic trigger), they release histamine and this causes blood vessels to get leaky. Histamine-induced leaky blood vessels lead to swelling, redness, and itching. On a small local scale, this is just going to lead to some annoying

hives, but on a large scale, it can lead to hypotension and complete hemodynamic collapse due to widespread blood vessel dilatation. To understand how histamine leads to shock, think about the piping of your house; if you suddenly doubled the size of all the pipes and turned on the faucet, the water pressure would be terrible. Same thing happens when the body's vasculature suddenly dilates uncontrollably from widespread histamine release; our blood pressure suddenly becomes terrible. This is why anaphylaxis is considered a type of "distributive" shock. **Bonus question: what is the other type of distributive shock?.....yep, septic shock. The shock state induced by sepsis is also due to widespread vasodilatation, but in that case it's due to bacterial-induced over the top immune response leading to widespread dilated and leaky blood vessels.**

Histamine induced angioedema: Histamine release from an allergic exposure can cause angioedema if the mast cells in and around the lips/tongue/airway get triggered. Allergy-induced angioedema typically progresses very quickly so the faster the onset (especially after a food exposure, insect sting, or new medication), the more you should be suspect histamine mediated angioedema and treat accordingly. Your first, second, and third line treatment for allergy (histamine) induced angioedema is IM epi, epi, epi, and don't forget about epi. And after your first IM epi, make sure to get that IV in and bolus some IVF while getting ready for your second dose of epi as per your protocols. These patients need epi and they need it 2 minutes ago. All the other stuff (diphenhydramine and nebs) should wait until the epi is in. IM epi is incredibly safe so don't hesitate, follow your protocols, and rapidly transport to the ED while watching closely for airway compromise. This is the answer to case #1. Acute onset after food + itchy rash = histamine driven angioedema every time.

ACE-Inhibitor or Bradykinin induced Angioedema: The other big cause of angioedema has to do with a substance called bradykinin. How it causes angioedema is beyond the scope of this pearl but just know that it has nothing to do with histamine but it can also lead to leaky blood vessels. Bradykinin-induced angioedema can happen randomly, because of an inherited condition, or most commonly, because of medications called ACE-inhibitors ("- opril" meds: lisinopril, enalapril, captopril, etc.) which are a super common class of blood pressure medications. 30% of all ED visits for angioedema are due to ACE-inhibitor use. It's important to know that ACE-inhibitor induced angioedema is NOT an allergic reaction to the medication and can occur anywhere from minutes to up to 10 years after taking the medication! This is the most common comment I get from patients whom I give this diagnosis to. They all say the same thing: "but I've been taking lisinopril for years!". Overall, about 0.7% of patients on ACE-inhibitors will develop angioedema at some point while they're taking it. Typically, these patients have a slower more gradual onset of lip

and/or tongue swelling than the allergy/histamine induced version of the disease. They can also have swelling of their genitals and extremities.

T***reatment of ACE-inhibitor Induced Angioedema:*** There really aren't any great pharmacologic options and the focus should be on airway. However, as up to 60% of the cases of angioedema we see in the pre-hospital and ED environment will be histamine (allergy) induced, IM epi should probably still be tried if you're at all uncertain. It's important to have an understanding however that epi isn't going to work if the angioedema is due to ACE-inhibitor use/bradykinin so don't keep administering it if the patient's presentation is not suggesting allergy/anaphylaxis. ACE-inhibitor induced angioedema typically has a slower, more gradual onset to the symptoms, and there aren't any other findings of an allergic reaction (rash or itching). Gradual onset + no rash + no history of anaphylaxis + they're on an ACE-inhibitor ("-opril" medication) = not anaphylaxis = epi does nothing.

As noted above, despite no great treatment options for ACE-inhibitor induced angioedema, most of these cases have a slower build up/progression so there's probably time to get to the ED where advanced fiberoptic airway techniques in a more controlled environment can be utilized if the airway needs to be secured. However, as a quick Google search of ACE-inhibitor angioedema will verify, sometimes the swelling can progress to a very dangerous point, and the patient needs an emergent airway. If you're an RSI medic in the unfortunate situation of having to immediately take the airway of an angioedema patient, you must be physically and very mentally prepared to perform a cricothyrotomy as these are extremely difficult airways to secure orally. I would actually suggest marking your incision point on the neck with a pen/marker prior to any oral attempt with RSI. This lets everyone know (including your inner-self) that a cric is highly likely to happen and avoids any hesitation you or others may have.

What about TXA?

IV TXA is an option for paramedics per NH protocol, but honestly, its utility is questionable at best. There have been some case reports suggesting a benefit, and pharmacologically it makes sense as TXA inhibits bradykinin formation, but a 2018 systematic review of 31 studies found no strong evidence that it works (Journal of Cutaneous Immunology and Allergy). Do I use it for non-histamine angioedema? I have definitely given it, as TXA is a very safe medication so there's little downside, but most of the time for those cases I'll give one dose of IM epi then transition to supportive care in the form of watching the airway over a course of 6-24 hours to make sure it's going in the right direction (decreasing). And there we have the answer for case #2: older patient + on meds for HTN + onset overnight (slower) = He's probably on an ACE- inhibitor and this is bradykinin induced angioedema. You should

consider trying IM epi once depending on the severity of the case, +/- give IV TXA if you're a medic but otherwise watch the airway and transport.

Thanks for reading!
Robby
rrix@crhc.org

A SPECIAL DELIVERY IN BELMONT!

Firefighters Recognized for Ambulance Birth

On August 22, 2026, Belmont Fire Department personnel experienced a memorable emergency response when a baby boy was safely delivered aboard Belmont Ambulance 2 while en route to Concord Hospital.

Lieutenant Tom Ryan delivered the baby with assistance from Probationary Firefighter Josh Chandler and Call Lieutenant Andrew Frechette, while Firefighter Jim Hayes safely transported the crew to the hospital. The occasion was especially meaningful for Lt. Ryan and Probationary Firefighter Chandler, as it marked their first ambulance delivery.

On September 23, Concord Hospital System EMS Manager Craig Clough recognized the crew's outstanding efforts by presenting them with stork pins, a special recognition for assisting with a childbirth.



The successful delivery highlights the teamwork, professionalism, and dedication of the personnel involved. Congratulations to the entire crew, and a warm welcome to Belmont's newest resident!

Also recognized for their involvement: Deputy Chief Erin Hannafin, Dispatcher T. Adam Sattler, and EMD Brittany Elliott (not pictured).



NEW 23ENGINE2 ARRIVES!

After more than three years of planning and anticipation, the Waterville Valley Department of Public Safety is excited to welcome its brand-new Engine 2!

Built by E-ONE in partnership with Desorcie Emergency Products, the new apparatus marks an exciting milestone in the department's history.

For the first time, the department's entire apparatus fleet consists of the same manufacturer, E-ONE.

Over the coming weeks, crews will focus on training, familiarization, and outfitting the new engine before officially placing it into service. The department extends its appreciation to Desorcie and E-ONE for their partnership throughout the process and to the community for its continued support in making this important investment possible.



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Two Fires, Different Challenges for Bristol Firefighters

BEYOND THE FLAMES

During the summer of 2026, the Bristol Fire Department responded to two significant condominium fires, each presenting different challenges and highlighting the importance of rapid response, situational awareness, and coordinated firefighting operations.



Second-Alarm Fire Damages Woodbury Drive Condominiums

On July 24, at approximately 4:06 p.m., Bristol firefighters were dispatched to a reported building fire at 30 Woodbury Drive. Multiple calls were received reporting the fire, and Deputy Chief Dolloff arrived just four minutes after dispatch to find heavy fire coming from one unit of an attached five-unit condominium building.

A second alarm was requested, bringing additional personnel and apparatus from throughout the region. Bristol responded with 11 personnel, supported by numerous mutual aid agencies providing assistance at the scene and station coverage.

The fire damaged three condominium units, leaving all three uninhabitable. One civilian sustained an injury and received treatment at the scene. The cause remained under investigation but was not considered suspicious.

Bristol Fire Department expressed its appreciation to the many mutual aid partners who assisted, as well as community members who provided drinking water to firefighters working at the scene.

Continued on the next page

Hidden Dangers at Village West Drive

Just weeks later, on August 15, Bristol and Alexandria firefighters were dispatched to another condominium fire, this time at 21 Village West Drive.

Engine 2, under the command of Captain Clayman, arrived to find smoke coming from the first and second floors. During his initial investigation, Captain Clayman identified the fire's origin in the basement, prompting crews to stretch a handline to the rear of the three-story structure.

Firefighters discovered that the fire had been burning within concealed ceiling and floor spaces, creating a large hole extending into the first floor. The compromised flooring presented a serious hazard to responding personnel, particularly given the limited visibility inside the building.

A wood stove and hearth were later found partially suspended over the burned-out floor, illustrating just how dangerous conditions had become.



Crews quickly communicated the hazard, deployed additional handlines, and contained the fire to the basement and first floor. Searches confirmed no occupants were inside. A cat was located and removed, but unfortunately, resuscitation efforts were unsuccessful.

Thanks to the coordinated efforts of responding firefighters, neighboring condominium residents were able to remain in their homes following smoke removal and air quality monitoring.

Different Fires, Shared Commitment

Although these incidents unfolded under different circumstances, both demonstrated the challenges firefighters face when responding to structure fires. From rapidly spreading flames to hidden structural hazards, successful operations depend on training, sound decision-making, and the support of neighboring departments.

The Bristol Fire Department extends its appreciation to the mutual aid partners who assisted during both incidents, reinforcing the value of regional cooperation in protecting the communities we serve.



EXPLOSION SPARKS SECOND-ALARM FIRE IN BELMONT

Neighbor's Heroic Actions Save Resident as Firefighters Battle Intense Flames

On August 6, 2026, Belmont Fire Department responded to 124 Sunset Drive following multiple 911 calls reporting an explosion, heavy smoke, and a residence on fire. A second alarm was immediately requested after arriving personnel confirmed a heavily involved structure fire.

Before firefighters arrived, an anonymous neighbor courageously entered the burning home and rescued an injured resident, sustaining minor burns in the process. The resident suffered serious burn injuries and was transported to Concord Hospital before being transferred to Massachusetts General Hospital.

Firefighters from Laconia, Belmont, and Tilton-Northfield worked to contain the flames while protecting a neighboring residence and propane tank from intense heat. Tilton-Northfield established a drafting operation at a nearby boat ramp to maintain water supply. Despite these efforts, the neighboring home sustained significant exterior damage.



The fire was brought under control at approximately 6:38 p.m., with no reported firefighter injuries. The cause remained under investigation by the New Hampshire State Fire Marshal's Office.

The incident highlighted extraordinary bravery, rapid decision-making, and the strength of regional mutual aid during a critical emergency.

CRASH SENDS VEHICLE INTO WOODS IN CENTER HARBOR

Mutual Aid Response Highlights Regional Coordination



On September 30, 2026, shortly after 5:00 p.m., Center Harbor Fire Department responded to a reported head-on motor vehicle collision on Whittier Highway, with initial reports indicating people were trapped.

With Meredith's heavy rescue already committed to another emergency, Moultonborough Fire Rescue was requested to assist. Upon arrival, crews discovered a vehicle approximately 20 feet off the roadway in a wooded area, with one occupant initially unable to exit. A second vehicle involved in the collision sustained only minor damage to its passenger-side mirror.

Fortunately, the occupant of the vehicle in the woods was able to self-extricate through the moonroof, eliminating the need for a technical extrication. Moultonborough's heavy rescue was subsequently released from the scene.

Stewart's Ambulance transported one patient to Concord Hospital in Laconia for treatment of minor injuries. Preliminary findings suggested a possible medical emergency may have contributed to the collision, although the circumstances remained under investigation by Center Harbor Police.

The incident demonstrated the importance of regional mutual aid and resource coordination, particularly when neighboring departments are already committed to other emergencies. Center Harbor Fire Department expressed its appreciation to the surrounding law enforcement agencies and mutual aid partners who assisted with the response.

SEPTEMBER 11, 2001

25 Years Later — We Will Never Forget

September 11, 2026, marked 25 years since the terrorist attacks that forever changed our nation. On that tragic morning in 2001, nearly 3,000 lives were lost, including 343 members of the New York City Fire Department (FDNY), along with law enforcement officers and other emergency personnel who rushed toward danger to help others.

For those in public safety, September 11 remains a powerful reminder of the courage, sacrifice, and unwavering commitment that define the emergency services profession. Firefighters, police officers, emergency medical personnel, and dispatchers answered the call that day, many placing the lives of others above their own.

In the years since, the legacy of September 11 has continued to shape the fire service and emergency response community. The lessons learned have influenced training, communications, preparedness, and the importance of working together across agencies and jurisdictions.

Throughout the Lakes Region, numerous beautiful and meaningful ceremonies were held to honor the lives lost and recognize the sacrifices made that day. Members of Lakes Region Mutual Fire Aid's staff were fortunate to attend remembrance ceremonies in both Meredith and Laconia, joining fellow first responders, community members, and local officials in paying tribute to those who made the ultimate sacrifice. These gatherings serve as an important reminder that, even 25 years later, the promise to never forget remains strong within our communities.



As we reflect on this milestone anniversary, we remember not only those who lost their lives that day, but also the families, colleagues, and communities forever changed by their loss. We also honor those who have suffered or died in the years since from illnesses connected to their service at the attack sites.

For 75 years, Lakes Region Mutual Fire Aid has been built on the principles of service, cooperation, and commitment to others. Those same values were demonstrated through extraordinary acts of courage on September 11, 2001, and continue to guide public safety professionals across our nation today.

We remember the lives lost. We honor the sacrifices made.
We will never forget.

SECOND-ALARM FIRE DISPLACES 12 IN LACONIA

Early Warning and Rapid Response Help Prevent Injuries

On August 28, 2026, at approximately 7:04 p.m., Laconia Fire Department responded to a reported building fire at 118 Court Street following multiple 911 calls reporting smoke and fire in the ceiling. All occupants were reportedly outside the building when crews arrived.

Firefighters encountered heavy smoke coming from the second floor of a two-story, multi-family building. Crews initiated an aggressive interior attack and search, locating fire in the attic and an apartment despite limited visibility. As conditions intensified, a second alarm was requested to bring additional personnel and resources to the scene.

The building's complicated layout required extensive overhaul, ventilation, and searches for hidden fire. Firefighters also worked to minimize water damage to neighboring apartments and remove smoke throughout the structure.

During suppression operations, one firefighter sustained minor injuries when a wooden attic stair tread broke. The firefighter was evaluated, required no treatment, and continued operating safely at the scene. No civilian injuries were reported.

Approximately 12 residents were displaced, with the American Red Cross providing assistance. The fire's cause remained under investigation but was not considered suspicious.

Laconia Fire Department credited the occupants' quick recognition of the fire and early notification to 911 with helping prevent injuries and allowing everyone to evacuate safely. Numerous mutual aid departments assisted at the scene and provided station coverage throughout the incident.

The response highlighted the importance of early reporting, coordinated firefighting operations, and the strength of regional mutual aid.



LAKES REGION FIRE APPARATUS, INC.

Oxford Maine. Fire Dept.

Alexis 1500gpm Mini Pumper

ALEXIS









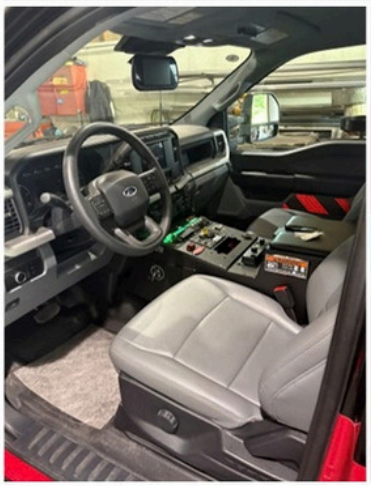


TECHNICAL SPECFICTIONS

Just some of the features:

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TorqShift 10-Speed Automatic Transmission
Heavy Duty Stainless Steel Body and Stainless Steel Subframe
Stainless Steel Side Control Pump Module with Stainless Steel Subframe
Luverne Running Boards
Rear Hitch with Trailer and Winch Wiring
Go Industries Brush Guard with Winch Wiring
Hale DSD 1500 GPM Split Shaft Pump with Hale ESP Priming Pump
FRC PumpBoss Pressure Governor & FRC TankVision Water Tank Level Gauge
Two (2) 6" Intakes, One (1) Each Side with Electric Valves
One (1) 2½" Gated Intake Left Side
One (1) 5" Rear Intake, Right Side
Two (2) 1½" Crosslay Preconnects
Two (2) 2½" Discharges, Left Side, One (1) 2½" Discharge, Right Side
One (1) 3" Discharge Adapted to 4" Storz, Right Side
One (1) 2½" Preconnect, Front of Hose Bed Right Side
One (1) 3" Discharge, Dunnage Area for Deck Gun
ROM Roll-Up Doors
Three (3) Single Bottle Wheel Well Air Bottle Compartments
Ladder Storage Right Side Above Compartments
Hard Suction Storage Left Side Above Compartments
275-Gallon Poly Tank
12 Volt Electrical System with NFPA Compliant Warning Light Package
Progressive Dynamics Charger with Viair Compressor and Auxiliary Air Tank
Kussmaul 120V 20A Super Auto Eject, Left Rear Wheel Well
Tecniq LED Warning Light Package
Whelen 200 Watt Siren & 100W Speaker
Six (6) Tecniq K90 LED Scene Lights, Two (2) Each Side and Two (2) Rear
One (1) Firetech HiViz 21" LED Scene Light Bar, Front Brush Guard
One (1) 14' 2-Section Ladder, One (1) 8' Attic Ladder, and two (2) 8' lengths of Hard Suction Hose







688 Ossipee Mountain Hwy./Route 25, Tamworth, NH
Phone: 603-323-7117 Email: Info@lakesfire.com

TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT

LRMFA Training Division

3rd Annual New Hampshire Fire & Rescue Conference.



On September 12, the LRMFA Training Division hosted the 3rd Annual New Hampshire Fire and Rescue Conference, bringing together attendees and instructors from across New England for a day of education, collaboration, and professional development.

This year's conference featured keynote speaker Chief Darryl Jones of the Pittsburgh Bureau of Fire. His presentation helped set the stage for a day focused on strengthening the knowledge and skills of those serving our communities.

Throughout the day, attendees had opportunities to learn from experienced instructors, exchange ideas with colleagues, and connect with fire and rescue professionals from other departments. The conference provided a valuable setting to share perspectives, discuss challenges, and bring fresh ideas back to their organizations.

Now in its third year, the New Hampshire Fire and Rescue Conference continues to bring regional training opportunities and professional connections to the fire and rescue community. Its success reflects the commitment of those who make time to teach, attend, and support the event.

Its success reflects the commitment of those who make time to teach, attend, and support the event.

TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT

LRMFA Training Division

New Hampshire Fire and Rescue Conference

The LRMFA Training Division extends its sincere thanks to our sponsors, vendors, speakers, and attendees. Your support, expertise, and participation made another successful conference possible. We appreciate your investment in training and in the people who serve our communities.

We look forward to building on this year's success and welcoming everyone back for the 4th Annual New Hampshire Fire and Rescue Conference in 2027!







PLYMOUTH FIRE RESCUE N.H.

FIRE MARSHAL NEW HAMPSHIRE DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY

NFPA 1 & 101 UPDATE TRAINING

PRESENTED BY THE NH FIRE MARSHALLS OFFICE

NFPA® | NFPA® 101

This training will provide an update on key changes and requirements in NFPA 1 (Fire Code) and NFPA 101 (Life Safety Code).

DATE & TIME
October 21st
6:00 PM – 8:00 PM

LOCATION
Plymouth Fire Rescue
42 Highland St, Plymouth, NH



TO SIGN UP / REGISTER
Contact Bureau Commander Anthony Booth at
Anthony.M.Booth@DOS.NH.GOV



FIRE OFFICER 3

FEBRUARY 15-18, 2027

LACONIA FIRE DEPARTMENT
848 N MAIN ST
LACONIA, NH 03246

COURSE TUITION

LRMFA MEMBERS	NON-MEMBERS
$900	$1,000

Registration via the link or QR Code:
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LACONIA FIRE DEPARTMENT

HOSTS

2026 LAKES REGION PARAMEDIC REFRESHER

ADVANCED EDUCATION. CLOSE TO HOME.

Laconia Fire Department is proud to provide regional paramedic education close to home. This four-day program combines focused classroom instruction, practical learning, and the certifications paramedics need to serve their communities.

ACLS | PALS | BLS | CERTIFICATIONS INCLUDED

PROGRAM DATES

- 26 — MONDAY, OCTOBER 26
- 28 — WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 28
- 2 — MONDAY, NOVEMBER 2
- 4 — WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 4

ALL SESSIONS | 8:00 AM-5:00 PM

PROGRAM COST

$450 LAKES REGION DEPARTMENTS

$550 NON-LAKES REGION DEPARTMENTS

LOCATION

LACONIA FIRE DEPARTMENT

848 North Main Street

Laconia, NH 03246

LIGHT REFRESHMENTS PROVIDED

SCAN TO REGISTER

Space is limited. Register early to reserve your seat.

Questions? Deputy Chief Scott Lewandowski

slewandowski@laconianh.gov | 603-524-6881



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Regional training backed by a local commitment to the paramedics and communities of the Lakes Region.

HAPPENINGS

LAKES REGION MUTUAL FIRE AID



CELEBRATING 13 YEARS OF SERVICE!

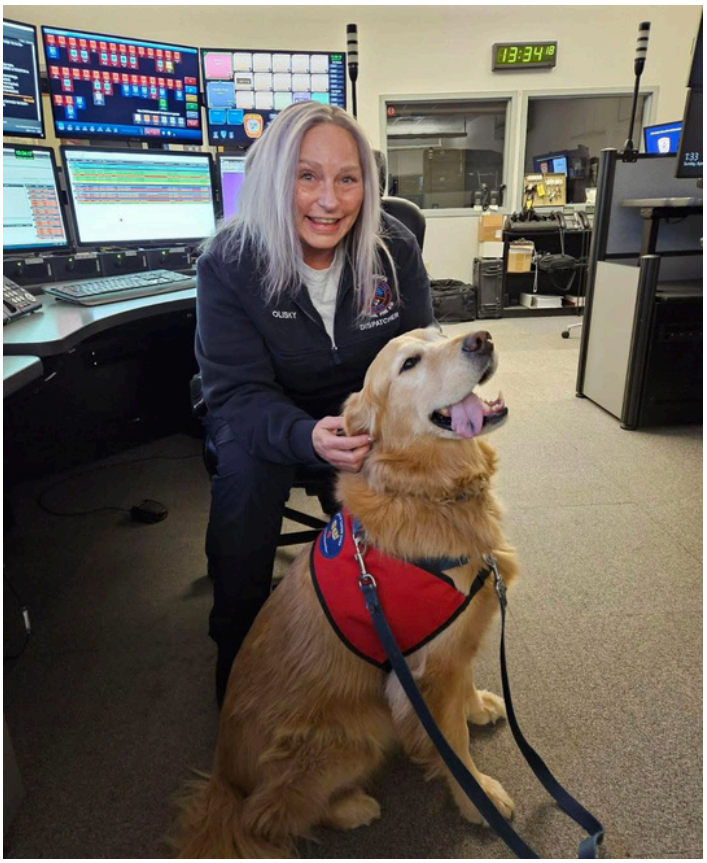
On July 23, 2026, Deputy Chief Erin Hannafin celebrated 13 years of dedicated service with Lakes Region Mutual Fire Aid! Throughout her career, Erin's leadership, professionalism, and commitment to public safety have made a lasting impact on our organization, member agencies, and communities.

Congratulations, Deputy Chief Hannafin, and thank you for 13 years of outstanding service!

CELEBRATING 3 YEARS OF SERVICE!

On July 21, 2026, Dispatcher Jennifer Olisky celebrated three years of dedicated service with Lakes Region Mutual Fire Aid! Jennifer's professionalism, calm presence on the radio, and commitment to teamwork make her a valued member of our dispatch team. Beyond her dispatch responsibilities, she also serves as LRMFA's Media Archivist and a member of the Joint Loss Committee.

Congratulations, Jennifer, and thank you for three years of outstanding service!



HAPPENINGS

ALTON FIRE DEPARTMENT



ALTON WELCOMES STUDENT INTERNS!

Alton Fire & Rescue recently welcomed Alex and Aidan as its newest Student Interns! The two kicked off their training with hose deployments and acrophobia testing alongside department members. Over the next two years, they will gain hands-on experience in firefighting and EMS while pursuing degrees in Fire Science. Throughout the program, they will work alongside experienced firefighters, participate in training, and develop the skills needed for a career in emergency services. This opportunity will provide valuable exposure to the teamwork, challenges, and responsibilities of the fire service. Congratulations and welcome to the team!

PARAMEDIC MILESTONES!

Alton Fire-Rescue proudly congratulates Captain Pat O'Brien and Firefighter Trevor Smith on completing their Paramedic education through the New England EMS Institute (NEEMSI)! Both members dedicated countless hours to classroom instruction, clinical training, and field experience while continuing to serve their community. Captain O'Brien received the Clinical Excellence Award, while Firefighter Smith earned both Academic and Leadership Awards, recognizing their outstanding dedication and achievement.



HAPPENINGS

LACONIA FIRE DEPARTMENT



Congratulations to new Laconia Fire Department members Kyle Reardon, Cam White, Brian Engelsen, and Nick Dal Bon on completing their two week recruit school.



NATIONAL FIRE ACADEMY EXECUTIVE FIRE OFFICER

At the August 24th Laconia City Council meeting, Deputy Chief Louis Loutrel was recognized by Mayor Bordes and the City Council for completing the prestigious National Fire Academy Executive Fire Officer (EFO) program. Less than 1% of the fire service as a whole hold this credential. At Laconia Fire, we are luck to now have two EFO graduates, Chief Joubert and Deputy Chief Loutrel, with a third graduate on the way, as Deputy Chief Lewandowski is a little more than halfway through the EFO program.

HAPPENINGS

BELMONT FIRE DEPARTMENT



NEW TOOLS FROM AL'S TOWING

Pictured here is Chief Pickowicz receiving a generous donation of brand-new tools from Al Raper, owner of Al's Towing in Laconia.

Al's Towing recently donated an assortment of new tools to the Belmont Fire Department that will be placed on their new fire engine scheduled to arrive this fall. These new tools will be put to good use and will serve their firefighters and residents for many years to come.

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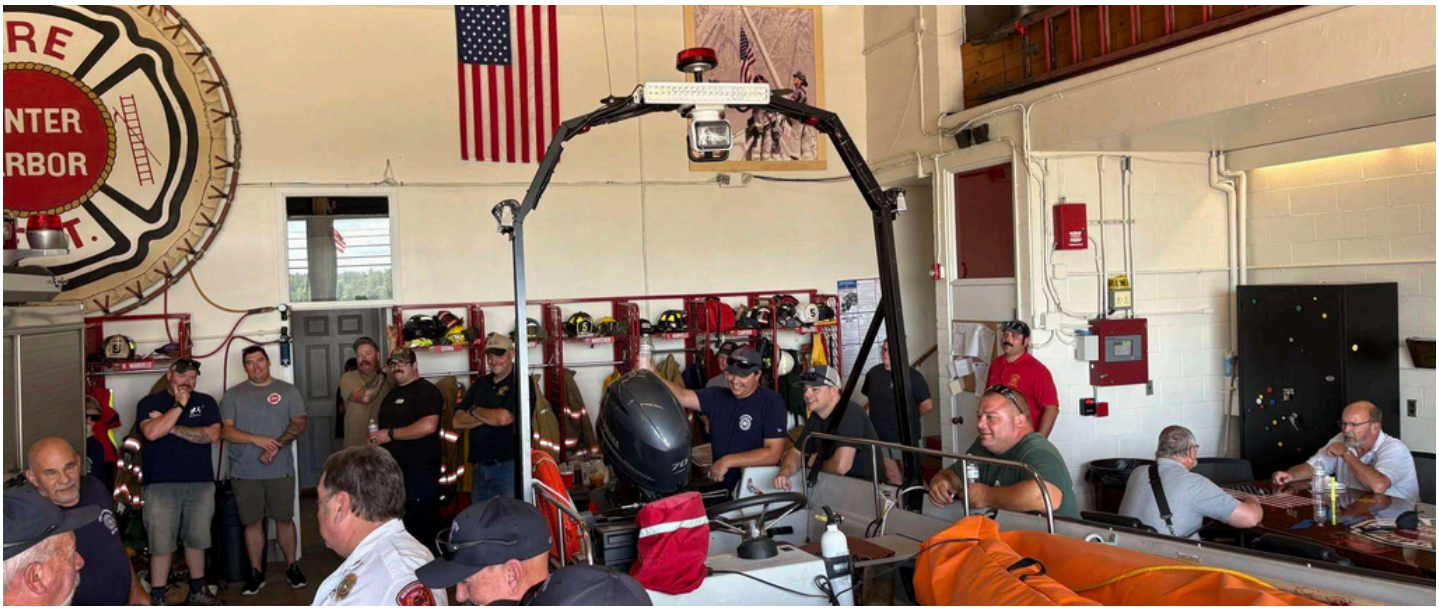
HAPPENINGS

CENTER HARBOR FIRE DEPARTMENT





Center Harbor Fire Department recently celebrated the retirement of Engineer Don Bosse after many years of dedicated service. Don brought valuable experience in heavy equipment operation and maintenance to the department throughout his career. Friends and colleagues gathered for a retirement lunch to recognize his contributions and wish him well in his future endeavors. Congratulations on your retirement, Don!



HAPPENINGS

PLYMOUTH FIRE DEPARTMENT







PLYMOUTH CELEBRATES DEPARTMENT MILESTONES!

On July 20, 2026, Plymouth Fire Rescue held a welcome and swearing-in ceremony attended by family, friends, and community members. Thanks to grant funding and community support, the department has expanded staffing to four personnel per shift, providing 24/7 coverage. Firefighters Kurt Warnick and Jason Haines were officially pinned following the successful completion of their probationary year, while six newly hired firefighters were welcomed to the department. Congratulations to all on these exciting milestones!



HAPPENINGS

FRANKLIN FIRE DEPARTMENT

Continuing a Family Tradition of Service



Franklin Fire Department recently welcomed Ethan Ellingson as its newest firefighter! Coming from a family of firefighters, Ethan has been around the firehouse his entire life and joined Franklin as a call member last November. He recently completed his Advanced EMT training and is currently attending the New Hampshire Fire Academy's firefighter recruit program. Congratulations, Ethan, and welcome to the team!



HAPPENINGS

ASHLAND AND HOLDERNESS FIRE DEPARTMENTS



ASHLAND & HOLDERNESS TRAIN TOGETHER!



Ashland and Holderness Fire Departments recently joined forces for hands-on water rescue training. Crews practiced various rescue scenarios on the river, building valuable skills and strengthening their ability to work together during emergencies.

The departments also partnered for rope rescue training, familiarizing personnel with 3-to-1 rope systems and specialized equipment used by both agencies. These joint training opportunities allow neighboring departments to share knowledge, improve coordination, and strengthen their readiness to respond when it matters most.

HAPPENINGS

BRISTOL FIRE DEPARTMENT

Bristol Welcomes Three Student Interns!



CAIDEN DOHERTY

C-Shift Student Intern



COLE EMANUEL

B-Shift Student Intern



COLE MOBLEY

A-Shift Student Intern

Bristol Fire Department recently welcomed three student interns: Cole Mobley (A-Shift), Cole Emanuel (B-Shift), and Caiden Doherty (C-Shift)! All three are students in the Fire Science program at Lakes Region Community College, gaining valuable hands-on experience while living at the fire station. Through training and daily involvement in department operations, they are developing the skills and knowledge needed for careers in the fire service. Welcome to the team, Cole, Cole, and Caiden!



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Please contact me for Demos, Pricing, or Information

Jeff Labrie
603-670-8495
Jeff@Beltronics.net
www.Beltronics.net

LAKES REGION MUTUAL FIRE AID BY THE NUMBERS

	Month	Admin	Emergency	Incidents
2026 First Quarter	January	1263	2693	2171
	February	995	2271	1828
	March	1256	2436	2037
	Total for Quarter	3514	7400	6036
	Avg/Day	39	82	67
2026 Second Quarter	April	1332	2510	2080
	May	1442	3971	2283
	June	1505	6142	2506
	Total for Quarter	4279	12623	6869
	Avg/Day	47	137	75
2026 Third Quarter	July	*	5833	2827
	August	*	4343	2377
	September	*	3232	2357
	Total for Quarter	*	13408	7561
	Avg/Day	*	146	82
2026 Fourth Quarter	October			
	November			
	December			
	Total for Quarter			
	Avg/Day			
2026	Month	Admin	Emergency	Incidents
	Total for 2026	7793	33431	20466
	Avg/Day	28.55	122.46	74.97

* 2026 Third Quarter Admin call data is unavailable due to a new phone system

SEND US YOUR DEPARTMENT NEWS!

Extra! Extra!

Have news to share? New hires, promotions, retirements, awards, new apparatus, training milestones, or department events?

Send your submissions and photographs to:

ruralhitch@lrmfa.nh.gov

We welcome submissions from all member communities.
Deadline for the next issue: content is accepted on a rolling basis.