



# THE RURAL HITCH

THIRD QUARTER 2015

**A publication of  
Lakes Region  
Mutual Fire Aid  
Association**

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62 Communications Drive  
Laconia, New Hampshire 03246  
603.528.9111  
www.lrmfa.org

## Laconia Fire Department's New Station Making Progress



The City of Laconia will soon be celebrating a finished newly-renovated central station. When completed, it will encompass 12,000 square feet on two floors. The firefighters will get all-new living quarters including separate facilities for women. The administration will occupy the first floor along with an emergency operations center. The old third floor will be used for training purposes and as an exercise area. It has been a bit difficult working around each other for the past few months. 🚒

## Andover Fire Department Hosts Land Navigation for the Rescuer Program

On a beautiful mid-September Saturday members of the Andover Fire Department could be found scouring the fields and woods surrounding Proctor Academy with maps, compasses, and GPS units in hand, searching for planted targets.

This day was the culmination of two evening classes of map, compass, GPS instruction and search techniques presented by David Poole of Stinson Mountain Outfitters. Classroom instruction included basic map reading and orientation, using map grid readers to determine GPS coordinates, determining distance to travel, and plotting location.



Saturday was a full day in the woods using all of the skills learned to find targets as small as a 35mm film canister (anyone remember those), navigating from point to point using compass headings, and GPS Coordinates.

The final exercise of the day was a search for a deaf, 2½ year old girl. Students had to form an Incident Management Team and implement best practices in deploying FAST Search teams, finding and plotting evidence (clues),

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## From the Chief...

By Chief James R. Hayes



The third quarter of 2015 has continued to produce an increase in overall activity in the mutual aid system. Although we did not experience the high call activity associated with the typical summer storms, call volumes have increased for most of the departments within the LRMFA system. One summer storm in July did create some difficulties for the Communications Center in that the communications tower on Mt. Belknap sustained several direct lightning strikes, causing equipment damage along with the loss of electrical power. Fortunately LRMFA sustained only minor equipment damage, but it did affect the simulcast system. The larger problem was the loss of power and subsequent failure of the State of NH's backup power generator. This ultimately took the State Police microwave system off line. LRMFA uses that microwave to control the secondary radios at several sites and for the return audio from four of our sites. This handicapped our ability to receive communications from field units, which stresses the importance of using mobile radios as much as possible to talk to the dispatch center. Fortunately the disruption in service lasted less than eighteen hours.

We continue to work on enhancing our overall communications system and have been conducting tests to determine new transmitter site locations to recover the signal coverage that was lost due to narrowbanding of our frequency range. In the last Rural Hitch I talked about the impact of narrowbanding on signal coverage and the decreased transmission and reception ranges, especially for portable radios and decreased reception for pagers. Pagers have the least reception sensitivity of any of the communications devices we utilize and are susceptible to interference and reduced sensitivity from other sources. Other electronic devices, such as LCD/LED televisions, wireless routers, computers, and florescent lights can potentially impact the reception capability of a pager. Building components such as foil-backed insulation used under vinyl siding, metal roofing, and aluminum window screens are also potential sources of reduced reception. It may be a matter of finding the best reception location in your house and that is where your pager chargers need to sit. The use of a charger with a fixed antenna or perhaps the need to install an external antenna to replace the unit antenna are options for improving reception. In short, not all of the reception problems are a result of poor transmission signals. As stated before, we continue to enhance the radio network but it is not feasible functionally or economically to build a system that will provide 100% pager reception system wide.

It is the time of year when we develop the operating budget for 2016. A draft budget proposal was submitted to the Board of Directors at the September 16th meeting. The Board will take action on the budget – either modifying it or approving it at the October 28th meeting.

Enjoy the fall weather – you know what's coming next! 🚒

**THE RURAL HITCH**  
is published quarterly by  
Lakes Region  
Mutual Fire Aid Association

*Chief*  
James R. Hayes

*Editor*  
Debbie Kardaseski

**Email all submissions to:**  
debbie@debbiegraphics.com

# LRMFA Rolls Out New Accountability Card Application

The Lakes Region Mutual Fire Aid Communications Center has put a new "Accountability & Photo ID Card Application" online. This application may be filled out online, printed out, signed, and faxed to the Communications Center (528-5989). Or you may scan it and email it to either Erin Hannafin (ehannafin@lrmfa.org) or Lt. Rob Frame (rframe@lrmfa.org). If you have a photo suitable for your ID, you may attach it to the email at the same time. If you do not have a photo, stop by the Communications Center and a photo will be taken. 🚒

## ANDOVER – CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

establishing push zones, setting bearings, and following headings to find the victim. We are happy to report the victim was found in a timely manner, as us old folk were tired and had sore feet by the end of the day!

All agreed this was a valuable training session, as well as fun! If any member department is interested in hosting this type of training, contact DC Beland at LRMFA. 🚒



**LAKES REGION MUTUAL FIRE AID**  
62 Communications Drive, Laconia, NH 03246

**FIREFIGHTER ACCOUNTABILITY & PHOTO ID CARD RECORD**

---

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_  

First
Middle Initial
Last

**Title: (check one)**

<input type="checkbox"/> Chief	<input type="checkbox"/> Firefighter/EMT	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineer
<input type="checkbox"/> Deputy Chief	<input type="checkbox"/> Firefighter/AEMT	<input type="checkbox"/> Forest Fire Warden
<input type="checkbox"/> Assistant Chief	<input type="checkbox"/> Firefighter/Paramedic	<input type="checkbox"/> Forest Fire Deputy Warden
<input type="checkbox"/> Captain	<input type="checkbox"/> EMR	<input type="checkbox"/> Fire Prevention
<input type="checkbox"/> Lieutenant	<input type="checkbox"/> EMT	<input type="checkbox"/> Inspector
<input type="checkbox"/> Safety Officer	<input type="checkbox"/> AEMT	<input type="checkbox"/> Explorer
<input type="checkbox"/> Firefighter	<input type="checkbox"/> Paramedic	<input type="checkbox"/> Auxiliary
<input type="checkbox"/> Probationary		

**Officers Check here if:**  EMT     AEMT     Paramedic     EMS Officer

**Department or Agency:** \_\_\_\_\_

If photo is via e-mail or disc: File name or #: \_\_\_\_\_

---

Lakes Region Mutual Fire Aid is providing this photo identification for the purpose of Firefighter Accountability and fire department or agency identification.

I understand that the ID cards issued to me are the property of Lakes Region Mutual Fire Aid and shall be surrendered on demand or my separation from my department or agency.

Your department or agency must make requests for identification card renewal or re-issue.

Signature of Card Holder \_\_\_\_\_

Department Authorized Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

**# Cards Requested**

Fireground: \_\_\_\_\_

Wallet ID: \_\_\_\_\_

Revised: 1 May 2015

# "A Study of Change Following Tragedy" Presented in September

On September 14, 2015 firefighters from the New England states gathered at the Beane Center in Laconia for a seminar presented by Dr. David Griffin, Captain, Charlotte, SC Fire Department.

His presentation was a brutally honest summation of the traditions, culture, tactics, and attitudes within his department that were factors in the LODD's of nine members of his department at the Super Sofa Furniture Warehouse fire on June 18, 2007.

After a great lunch, Captain Griffin spent the afternoon talking about the transformation of organizational process-

es and employee behaviors of the Charleston Fire Department over the past eight years.

Post seminar, many of the attendees agreed this was one of the best, if not the best, seminars they have ever attended.

Dr. Griffin's research is available at amazon.com in his best-selling book "In Honor of the Charleston 9: A Study of Change Following Tragedy."

Dr. Griffin presents at FDIC and FRI, if you have the opportunity to hear his message, grab it, you won't be sorry you did!

Thanks to Laconia Fire Department and the Laconia Professional Firefighters for hosting the seminar. 🚒



# July 29 Fire at Blueberry Lane, Laconia

By Kenneth L. Erickson, Fire Chief, City of Laconia Fire Department

On Wednesday, July 29 at 11:09 a.m., Laconia, Gilford, and Belmont were dispatched to a reported porch fire at 103 Blueberry Lane in Laconia. This is a complex of townhouses varying in size from two to eight units. The buildings are all two-story wood frame townhouses with wood truss roofs. At the time of the call the Laconia duty crew was conducting a swift water drill at the Avery Dam downtown. A crew had been hired in to cover and they were at a med flight landing at the local hospital.

Assistant Chief Beattie could see smoke, which was visible from downtown (two miles away) and requested a first alarm. A first alarm calls in off-duty personnel and moves in cover trucks. Chief Erickson was first on scene and reported a six-unit townhouse with heavy fire in the middle unit that had extended into the attic of Exposure D. He requested a second alarm. The second alarm brought an additional Gilford Engine, and Tilton, Franklin, Sanborn-ton, and Meredith engines to the fire. Laconia crews arrived just after the Chief and a 2" line was placed into operation on Division A. A transitional attack was started, knocking down the heavy exterior fire and the fire in the attic. Captain Shipp and crew then took this line into Unit 35 and worked their way to the second floor, where they attacked the fire in the attic. A crew from Ladder 1 went to the roof to vent the fire unit and Exposure D. Gilford stretched a line into



Exposure D. Belmont stretched a back-up line into Unit 35. Other crews started search and rescue as well as checking for extension. Additional second alarm crews were used to assist in extension control and overhaul.

After 30 minutes of intense work in 90-degree heat and humidity, the heavy fire was knocked down and the fire declared under control. All crews were removed from the building for a much-needed break. The attics were well vented; ceilings had been pulled in all 3 units with no fire extension; and the fire in 35 and 34 had been extinguished. Then, unexpectedly, smoke started showing from the ridge vent of Unit 36 (exposure B). This smoke built up rapidly and turned to flames at the ridge vent. Seconds later heavy fire was blowing from the ventilation hole over Unit 35. Note — 36 and 35 shared a common

attic. At this time, Laconia Ladder 1 was placed into operation and a master stream was used to knock down the heavy fire in the attic. It was decided to go this route versus attacking from below as the firefighters were all exhausted and the attic truss was now well involved. A third alarm was

struck bringing Gilmanton, Concord, and Holderness engines and a Meredith ladder to the fire. Throughout the incident Stewarts Ambulance had a unit at the fire on stand-by and covered the city. Loudon, New Hampton, and Moultonborough covered the City. Laconia Police did a great job moving

the people away from the scene and Lakes Region CERT provide much-needed rehab.

We are unsure exactly how the fire in the attic reignited. Several Chief Officers and Company Officers had checked the attics and could see into each void from different angles. There was no visible fire and very light smoke. The attics had about one foot of rolled insulation and an additional foot of blown in cellulose insulation. The attics had fire separations every other unit. The fire extended into Exposure D through the exterior wall. The fire extended into the primary attic (Unit 35) through the soffits. The only logical explanation is we obviously created a good flow path from the interior to the roof. There were multiple holes in the ceilings and a very large hole cut in the roof. We suspect that the cellulose was super-heated and pyrolyzing. As the flow path was created, air currents from below allowed the insulation to ignite. The attic had experienced significant heat buildup so the truss and plywood sheathing were just below the ignition temperature.

Never let your guard down and expect the unexpected. Multiple Officers with dozens of years of service were all quite surprised by the rapid fire spread after knock down. No firefighters were injured. 🚒



# What's New...



## NEW HIRE

**Duncan Phillips**

Gilford Firefighter/EMTA



## NEW APPARATUS

**Bristol Fire Department – 4E4**

2015 Smeal 2,500 gallon tanker/pumper. This new truck was dedicated to the honor of John Bianchi and Robert Patten who have a combined service of 102 years to the Department.



Photo by Bob Fitz Jr. [www.firenews.org](http://www.firenews.org)

## NEW APPARATUS

**Meredith Fire Department – 14R1**

20' Walk Around Heavy Rescue manufactured by Rescue 1. ELFD 20" Raised Roof, Gladiator Spartan Chassis, 450 HP Med. Block Cummins Engine. Seating for 8 FF's, 7 SCBA Seats, Will-Burt Light Tower Nightscan Powerlight, 2 Holmatro Electric SPU16 BC Power units, capable of running 4 hydraulics tools at once, Tri Max Super 60 Cafs Foam System, electric and air reels, 4 6,000 PSI Cascade Air Bottles w/Serria Pressure Booster Pump and Revolve Air Containment, Speedy Dry Hopper, Portable 9,000 Lb. Winch, with under stairway storage as well as coffin compartment top storage.



## NEW CHIEF

**Chief Ryan Ridley**

Alton Fire Department

## RETIRED

**Chief Scott Williams**

Alton Fire Department

## NEW CHIEF

**Chief Ted Call**

Sandwich Fire Department

## CHANGE IN POSITION

**Captain Louis Brunelle**

Sandwich Fire Department  
Former Chief Brunelle recommended that the Chief's position become part-time. Because he has a fulltime job, he stepped down as Chief but has remained in the department as Captain.



## NEW APPARATUS

**Sanbornton Fire Department – 19U1**

2016 Ford F-250 crew cab with 8-foot body and full equipment storage including an eight-foot slide-out tray in the bed.



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# Campton-Thornton FD Events



On July 17, 2015, the Lakes Region WET team trained at Livermore Falls.



Campton-Thornton Fire Department participated with Woodstock Fire Department in a combined water shuttle training at the Route 112/118 split on August 5.



Ladder training on August 24.



On Sept. 5, DHART was requested due to serious injuries sustained by a swimmer at Livermore Falls. 35E2 and 12R1 established the LZ in Holderness.



Sept. 9, 2015, Jeanne Erickson of Warren-Wentworth EMS and Spareer Memorial, along with the rest of the NH Protocol Committee, receives the Pamela Mitchell/Richard Connolly Memorial EMS Achievement Award.



Nick Varin, Campton-Thornton Fire Department and Stewart's Ambulance Service, receives the David F. Dow Memorial EMS provider of the year award from the Fire and EMS Committee of Merit.





# Training Division News

## COMPANY OFFICER DEVELOPMENT SERIES, FOURTH QUARTER 2015

This program is funded by LRMFA Training Division and is free to LRMFA members. Walk-in registration is welcome. Programs begin at 6:30 p.m.

### TUESDAY NOVEMBER 3, 2015 SETTING THE STAGE: INITIAL FIREGROUND SIZE UP AND FIRST-IN STRATEGIES AND TACTICS.

**Location: Lakes Region Mutual Aid**

This program will be highly interactive and scenario-based. Different fire scenarios will be presented to the students, who will be coached on making critical initial decisions and implementing strategies and tactics which will lead to successful management of emergency incidents. This is the perfect program for Company Officers to hone their size-up and initial actions skills in a fun, safe, non-threatening environment!

**Instructor:** Assistant Chief Kirk Beattie, Laconia Fire Department started his fire service career as a Fire Explorer with the Franklin Fire Department, promoting to a Call Firefighter and serving ten years in that position. In 1997 Chief

Beattie was hired as a Career Firefighter with the City of Laconia. Chief Beattie was first promoted to the rank of Lieutenant in 2006, followed by promotion to Captain/Shift Commander, and then to his current position as Assistant Fire Chief.

Chief Beattie holds a BS Degree in Public Service Administration, as well as Associate Degrees in Fire Protection and Emergency Medical Services.

Chief Beattie has several years of experience as an effective company officer and fireground commander; he will bring that knowledge, experience, and lessons to this program.

### TUESDAY DECEMBER 1, 2015 MEDICAL RESERVE CORPS (MRC)

**Location: Franklin Fire Department**

The Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) program coordinates the skills of practicing and retired physicians, nurses, and other health professionals, EMS responders, and other citizens interested in health issues, who are eager to volunteer to address their community's ongoing public health needs and help their community during large-scale emergency situations.

This program will discuss capabilities and limitations of the MRC Team as well

as deployment models and how the team integrates with on-scene Incident Management Systems. Case scenarios involving activations for flood and wild-fires will be discussed.

**Instructor:** Captain Steve Fecteau, Franklin Fire Department, has more than 20 years of emergency response service. He currently serves as a Shift Captain with the Franklin Fire Department. In addition to his emergency response duties with the fire department, Captain Fecteau serves as the Commander of NH Metropolitan Medical Response Team — Medical Task Force-1, (NH-MMRS-TSF-1), and serves as a Paramedic on the US Department of Health and Human Services, NH Disaster Medical Assistance Team.

Captain Fecteau holds an Associate of Arts and Sciences Degree in Fire Protection and a Bachelor of Science Degree in Fire/Emergency Management.

Like us on Facebook: Lakes Region Mutual Fire Aid Training Division

**Train Like Your Life Depends On It: Because for You, Your Brothers and Sisters, and Those You Serve, It Does!**

## Campton-Thornton FD Events



A dump truck rolled over on Route 3 in Thornton. The driver received minor injuries.

Lakes Region Mutual Fire Aid Training Division presents...



## Practical Applications of Incident Command for Small Town and Rural Fire Departments



A 2-day seminar that focuses on commanding the everyday fire and rescue incident from a house fire on First Crown Point Rd, to a wreck on Route 126.

<p><b>November 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> 2015</b>                  US National Guard                  Route 126                  Center Strafford NH 03815</p>	<p>Cost: \$125.00 pp                  8 am – 4 pm                  *Includes handouts &amp; lunch!</p>
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Instructors: BC Shane Darwick & BC Mark Davis

For more information or to register: Visit [www.lrmfa.org](http://www.lrmfa.org), or contact Deputy Chief John Beland 603-528-9111 or by email: [jbeland@lrmfa.org](mailto:jbeland@lrmfa.org)

LRGHealthcare

# AL's Breakfast

Con-Ed for EMS and Nursing

2015 SCHEDULE

Wednesday	May 6th	Stewart's Ambulance
Wednesday	June 3rd	Franklin
Enjoy your	July	Summer
Enjoy your	August	Summer
Wednesday	September 2nd	New Hampton
Watch for	Paramedic	RTP
Wednesday	November 4th	Laconia <small>(hopefully in their new Building)</small>
Wednesday	December 2nd	Stewart's Ambulance <small>(hopefully in their new Building)</small>

All Breakfasts will be from 0900-1100hrs

Any Question please contact Shawn Riley 524-6881

### SCBA Respirator Fit Testing Service Available From LRMFA For Member Agencies!

TO SCHEDULE FIT TESTING AT YOUR DEPARTMENT, PLEASE CONTACT DEPUTY CHIEF BELAND AT 528-9111 OR [JBELAND@LRMFA.ORG](mailto:JBELAND@LRMFA.ORG).

### "Rural Hitch" Available Electronically

If you would like to receive the *Rural Hitch* electronically (and save trees and postage!), please send your email to [debbie@debbiekgraphics.com](mailto:debbie@debbiekgraphics.com).

Feel free to share your electronic copy with others. We'll add anyone to the email list who is interested in receiving the *Rural Hitch*.

# Ashland Firefighters 2nd Annual EMT Class

Lead Instructor Tony Manning National Registered Paramedic

Orientation December 17,  
Class January 2, 2016  
At the Ashland Fire Station

Student Requirements:  
18 by end of class  
Proof of; NH State Police  
Report and Immunizations

**Students are Responsible for  
Testing fees.**

Books will be ordered December  
17, that portion is no refundable.  
Text book will be Jones and  
Bartlett, On line learning Plat-  
form and book



Cost: \$900.00  
Due by December 30,  
2015. or Department PO,  
or arrangements

Students must have  
internet access  
75% required on  
final exam

Classes EVERY  
Thursday Night 530 PM to  
9:30 PM  
Saturday 8:00 AM to 4:30  
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For info Contact Kendall Hughes  
At  
AshlandEMTclass@gmail.com



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# Laconia Firefighters Join Swiftwater Training This Past Summer



**COMING IN SPRING 2016**  
**NHFA**  
**Certified Driver/Operator**  
**Pumps Class**  
**Dates and Location**  
**To Be Determined**

## LRMFA Executive Board Meetings

All meetings held at the LRMFA Conference Room, 62 Communication Drive, Laconia NH, unless otherwise noted.

- October 13, 2015 at 4 p.m.
- November 10, 2015 at 4 p.m.
- December 8, 2015 at 4 p.m.

## Board of Directors Meetings

- October 28, 2015 at 7 p.m.

# LRMFA Now Accepting Applications for Per Diem Dispatcher Positions

Lakes Region Mutual Fire Aid (LRMFA) is currently accepting applications for the position of Per Diem Dispatcher. This position requires working in a fast-paced emergency communications center answering business and emergency calls and dispatching appropriate Fire and EMS response personnel. This position primarily covers vacancies due to injury and sick leave, annual leave, and professional development leave for the fulltime career staff. This position requires working days, nights, weekends, and holidays. Day shifts are 7 a.m.–6 p.m. and night shifts 6 p.m.–7 a.m.

The applicant will be in good health, participate in an application review process, oral interview process, and pass a criminal background check. Minimum qualifications are high school diploma or GED, valid driver's license, and reliable transportation.

Training will be provided for the successful candidates to become familiar with computer based dispatching systems.

This is an opportunity for a self-motivated and dedicated individual to join a professional communication staff in a modern dispatching environment.

Candidates must apply on a LRMFA Application form available on the Employment page of the LRMFA Web Site ([www.lrmfa.org](http://www.lrmfa.org)).

Application period will remain open until positions are filled.

Application materials may be submitted directly to Deputy Coordinator John Beland via e-mail: [jbeland@lrmfa.org](mailto:jbeland@lrmfa.org) or by mail to LRMFA, 62 Communications Drive, Laconia, NH 03246 🚒



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# LRMFA Headquarters Laconia, NH

PHOTO COURTESY CHRIS REYNOLDS ©2015



## Third Quarter Stats...

**JULY 1, 2015–SEPTEMBER 30, 2015**

<b>Incidents Dispatched:</b>	July 2015	2,210
	August 2015	2,305
	September 2015	2,024
	<b>Total</b>	<b>6,539</b>
	<b>YTD Total</b>	<b>12,549</b>

### Resources Available:

Engines	92	Tankers	12
Ladders	5	Rescues	22
Forestry	38	Ambulances	52
Utilities	26	Fire Boats	30
Towers	7	Air Units	5
ATVs	13	Command Vehicles	31

### Statistics:

- 🚒 Began operations in September of 1971. Moved operations to our current facility in June of 2000.
- 🚒 Dispatches Fire and Medical Emergencies for 35 communities and 35 Fire and EMS Agencies.
- 🚒 Serves a population of 115,383 residents.
- 🚒 Is spread over 5 NH Counties, covering a geographical area of 1,494 square miles (16% of the area of the State of NH – 1.5 times the size of the state of Rhode Island).
- 🚒 Protects over \$18.8 billion dollars of property.
- 🚒 Has an operating budget of \$1,165,880 (2014 budget).
- 🚒 Has 8 full-time and 7 part-time employees.
- 🚒 Dispatched 22,072 incidents during 2014 (60 calls per day).
- 🚒 Dispatched 21,570 incidents during 2013 (59.1 calls per day).
- 🚒 Dispatched 21,504 incidents during 2012 (58.92 calls per day).

## Department News

Send your Department News to  
[debbie@debbiekgraphics.com](mailto:debbie@debbiekgraphics.com).

Include new hires, promotions, new apparatus, department events, open training events, etc.

## Third Quarter 2015 Statistics

Number of incidents = 6,539	YTD 18,155
Radio transmissions = 82,593	YTD 243,094
Emergency phones = 7,869	YTD 23,006
Admin phones = 5,826	YTD 16,847

This breaks down on a daily basis to 71 incidents per day and 13 radio transmissions for each incident, or 898 per day on average. Along with the emergency incidents we answered/made 63 calls on the administrative lines per day and 86 calls on the emergency phones per day.



Fire Apparatus Sales & Service Since 1991



## Lakes Region Fire Apparatus Recent Deliveries!

**Congratulations Charlton Volunteer Fire District  
Ballston Lake, NY — Chief Aaron Dyer  
On The Delivery of This HME Ahrens-Fox Pumper**



- ◆ 1871W Custom Chassis
- ◆ 450 HP
- ◆ Seating for 6
- ◆ Fully enclosed and heated pump panel
- ◆ Hale 1250 gpm Pump
- ◆ Class A Foam
- ◆ 1600 gallon tank with jet dump
- ◆ Stainless steel big water body
- ◆ Stainless coffin compartments
- ◆ LED response and scene lighting

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Email: [info@lakesfire.com](mailto:info@lakesfire.com) • [www.lakesfire.com](http://www.lakesfire.com)





**Lakes Region Mutual Fire Aid Association**  
62 Communications Drive  
Laconia, NH 03246

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