President’s Message – Ken Desmond

PRESIDENT’S REPORT

The Maine State Federation of Firefighters are hoping that all Maine Firefighters and families are staying safe and keeping our distance during this time with Covid-19.

For years, the fire service has dealt with pandemic events. Post 911, the fire service answered the call for our first taste of biological terrorism with the anthrax scares. “White Powder” calls became common place, prompting hazmat responses nationwide. We identified, detected, and mitigated hundreds of calls without a single injury of fatality.

Fast forward a few years, and we dealt with H1N1, Swine Flu and Ebola. Our level of preparedness from the federal level down to the local responders are massive, immense and ready to deploy. We are prepared for any emergency and threat as a response agency and now we are simply facing a new one-Covid-19. We have the training and experience in infectious diseases to help mitigate this problem. Make no mistake, Covid-19 is a dangerous virus.

We must adjust our response operations to some extent. Our Executive Board has begun to plan future events and meetings talk about having distance meetings using Zoom?

To finish my report the bottom line is: Let’s protect our members and keep them safe, educate the public, and guidance. Reduce contaminant with limiting contact, wearing masks, and disinfecting. Washing your hands.

STAY SAFE
KEN DESMOND PRESIDENT, MSFFF
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Membership:

Your current MSFFF membership expires on June 30th, send your 2020-2021 membership to your County VP as soon as possible!

For detailed information about membership benefits, visit our website at:  
[http://www.msfff.org/benefits.html](http://www.msfff.org/benefits.html)

Join NVFC! Click the following link for more information!  
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Treasurer

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Secretary

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MSFFF 2020 Convention has been canceled due to the COVID-19. See you in 2021 in Waldoboro!

Advertising with the MSFFF:

The Maine State Federation of Firefighters is pleased to offer exclusive annual advertising opportunities to select businesses. If you work with a vendor who would benefit from advertising with us, send them here for all the information they need:


County News

Androscoggin County

Jared Blake MSFFF-VP
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Durham Fire Rescue:

MVA on February 1st closed Newell Brook Rd (Rt 9) from Rt 136 to Swamp Rd while CMP replaced a pole.

Lisbon Fire Department:

2019 Pierce Enforcer
Caribou Fire Department:

CFAD was called to 529 Van Buren Rd. in Caribou for a structure fire on February 7th at 1654 hours. Upon arrival crews found heavy fire and smoke conditions but were notified that the lone occupant had been rescued by passerbys. Blizzard conditions played a factor and hampered efforts to extinguish the blaze. Crews were able to move the resident’s vehicle out of the driveway and save it from being destroyed. The building was a total loss. Crews were able to use the remote control for the Aerial and master stream to direct the master stream from a safe vantage point.
In the early afternoon of March 5th, CFAD was called to 72 Madawaska Rd. for a structure fire called in by a passer-by. Crews arrived to find a well involved commercial sign manufacturing shop. Crews were initially hampered by small crews due to daytime coverage. Crews were able to save 2 of the company’s boom trucks. The building was a complete loss. Mutual aid was provided by Limestone, Fort Fairfield, Presque Isle, Washburn and North Lakes fire departments as well as assistance from Caribou Public works, Caribou PD and Emera Maine.
Fort Fairfield Fire Department:
On the morning of January 13, 2020, Fort Fairfield Fire Department responded to 34 Densmore Rd in FF for a fully involved residential structure fire.

At 4:20 AM, the neighbor across from 34 Densmore RD. called 9-1-1 to report the fire. Fire personnel from Fort Fairfield, Easton, Presque Isle and Caribou arrived on the scene to battle the blaze. Unfortunately the sole occupant of the building did not survive. The Maine State Fire Marshall’s office was called in to investigate.

On the evening of January 14, 2020, Fort Fairfield Fire department responded to the Sam Everett Rd. in Fort Fairfield for a structure fire. Upon arrival crews found a fully involved house fire. Crews were able to extinguish the blaze with the assistance of Easton and Caribou Fire department, unfortunately the building was a complete loss.

Unfortunately an occupant of the house did not survive. The Maine State Fire Marshall’s office was called in to investigate.
Fort Fairfield Fire Department announces the receipt of their new 3M Scott Airpaks. These new SCBA’s will replace their old Survivair SCBA’s that were no longer serviceable. The FFFD would like to thank the members of their community, their town manager and their town council for supporting them in buying these new pieces of equipment that will keep their firefighters safe.

Caribou Fire & Ambulance department recently donated 2 Laryngoscope sets as well as PPE to the Fort Fairfield Fire Department to aid in their efforts of supplying their new ambulance service. FFFD is very grateful for the support and donation from Chief Scott Susi and the CFAD. Fort Fairfield is currently accepting applications for Firefighter/EMTs as they prepare to start their own fulltime Fire and Ambulance department. This new venture will provide better fire and EMS protection for the citizens and visitors of the town of Fort Fairfield. Anyone interested should contact the Fort Fairfield Town Manager by email at townmanager@fortfairfield.org.
The Limestone Fire department recently announced the purchase of a new to them tanker truck. The new truck is a 2000 GMC/Dependable Fire Apparatus with a 3,000 gallon water tank and a 500 gpm pump. This truck replaces a 1993 International S2600 5,000 gallon tanker that was recently taken out of service due to mechanical and rust issues. They are very grateful for the citizens of Limestone for their support in purchasing this new tanker.

The Limestone Fire Department recently announced the receipt of their new Hurst Edraulic rescue tools and Rescue 42 JR strut system through a grant from the Steven and Tabitha King Foundation. These battery operated hydraulic tools will soon be placed into service. This equipment will greatly enhance their department’s ability to operate safely and efficiently during vehicle rescue operations.
North Lakes Fire & Rescue:

North Lakes Fire and Rescue serving the communities of Madawaska Lake, Sinclair, and Cross Lake are excited to announce the receipt of their new Hurst Edraulic Jaws of Life tools through the Steven and Tabitha King Foundation. These tools will replace older tools that required a lot of maintenance to keep them running. This allows NLFR to have updated hydraulic tools located at all 3 of their stations.

St Agatha Fire Department:

The St. Agatha Fire Department recently took delivery of their new Hurst Edraulic rescue tools and Rescue 42 Struts that were purchased through a grant from the Steven and Tabitha King Foundation. These new battery powered tools will replace tools that were made in 1976 and donated to their department by the Southington, Connecticut Fire Department in 1996. They recently held an in service training with these new tools and they are now in service to serve their community.
Aroostook South:

Dale Morrison MSFFF-VP
43 Lombard Street, Presque Isle, Maine 04769
firepi57@hotmail.com, 207-764-5466

Presque Isle Fire Department:

We want to give a big shout out to Isaac Nelson at Aroostook Trusses for giving us some much needed N95 masks. With everything going on, there is a major shortage of these masks and are very difficult to come by. He called us yesterday morning and offered what he had. We are very thankful for Isaac’s contribution to our department and his thoughtfulness.

Crews B conducting Ice water rescue training
February 25th a House fire in Presque Isle which started in the kitchen and spread to the living room quick knock down with the on duty crew plus the family dog was located in the bedroom and was rescued and with the dog mask was given oxygen and is doing fine.

Fire behavior class being put on by Captain Kyle Bartley who built the house and shows how the fire travels throughout the house.
We want to extend a huge thank you to some of our local businesses who have helped us recently with some huge donations to our Department. Shawn Dumais, the Store Manager at Lowes donated N-95 masks, Tyvek Suits, protective gloves, and protective glasses. Lisa Wark at Glass with Class and Mark from Honeywell donated more N-95 masks. Jared Hitchcock, one of our volunteers also donated a box of N-95 masks. In the near future, we will be contacting other departments around the area and providing what we can to them. We greatly appreciate this show of kindness and support pouring in from our community, we want to make sure that it does not go unnoticed.

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**Franklin County**

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LOSAP funding didn't make it through the special session and is on hold until the legislature goes back into session.

**Hancock County**

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**Knox County**

Eliot Scott MSFFF-VP  
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News from Knox county, we are sad to announce the passing of former fire chief from Cushing Author Kiskila, and May Grant of Owls Head. Also Eliot Scott has been elected president of the Knox county firefighters association.
Jack O. Brackett, 83, of New Harbor, passed away on the morning of March 24, 2020 at the Mid Coast Hospital in Brunswick. Born on Aug. 30, 1936 in Portland, he was the son of Linwood and Una Brackett.

Jack graduated from Bristol High School in 1954, and married Isabel Olson later that same year. He went on to pursue his interest in commercial fishing, and spent several years working on the ocean. In 1971 he started his own business, Brackett & Sons Well Drilling, retiring from that in 2008.

He was a member of Bristol Fire and Rescue for over 65 years, and served the department as captain for several years. He joined the Bristol Masonic Lodge in 1976, and remained active there until his passing. He was also a member of the Maine Ground Water Association, and volunteered for the Caring for Kids lunch program in Bristol.

A strong yet caring man, Jack loved to share his knowledge of history with the Bristol Historical Society. Above all else, his most cherished moments were being with family.

Besides his parents, he was predeceased by his son, Gary in 2012.

Jack is survived by his wife of 64 years, Isabel; children, Karen Bryant and her husband Randy of Bristol, Judy Verney and her husband Kevin of Sheepscot, and Greg Brackett and his wife Shelley of Chamberlain; grandchildren, Marcey Gilbert and husband George of Bristol, Christy Toman and husband Daryn of Bristol, Brett Verney and wife Megan of Sheepscot, Eric Brackett of Portland, Matt Brackett of Gorham, Nichole L. Brackett of Gray, Kurt Brackett of Nobleboro, Lindsay Brackett of Gardiner, and Nichole Brackett of Gardiner; extended grandchildren, Meredith Hughes of Bristol, and Rachel Jones of Gardiner; as well as nine great-grandchildren.
Due to the current limitations on gatherings, a private graveside service for his family will be held at the New Harbor Cemetery. A public memorial service will be announced, and held, at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Caring for Kids Program, P.O. Box 142, New Harbor, ME 04554.

Arrangements are under the direction and care of the Strong-Hancock Funeral Home, 612 Main St., Damariscotta. Condolences and messages for his family, may be expressed by visiting StrongHancock.com.

Richard Jones MSFFF-VP
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Rumford Fire Department:

2020 Freightliner Midwest 2000 Gallon All-poly, 1000 GPM pump.

Penobscot North

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York North

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Waterboro Fire/EMS:

E-One Severe Duty 12” tall galvanized frame system. All 3/16” extruded aluminum cab and body. Hale 1500 GPM pump 1000 gallon UPF water tank. FF Decon discharge on the pump panel. Low, removable speedlays. 360 degree coverage of scene lighting.

York South
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York Beach Fire Department:

2019 Ford F 550 Crew cab Rescue/Mini pumper. 1000 GPM Hale pump, 300 gallons water, 30 gallons foam. 400’ of 4” LDH, (2) 1 3/4” cross lays, 200’ 2 1/2”. This truck replaced a 2004 GMC Sierra Ext Cab. Truck was purchased through Greenwood and built by Warner Bodies Elwood.

MSFFF Fundraising:
The Portland Sea Dogs, Class AA Affiliate of the Boston Red Sox, are happy to welcome the Maine State Federation of Firefighters to our game on Saturday, May 23rd as we take on the Hartford Yard Goats, AA Affiliate of the Colorado Rockies. The game will start at 1:00 PM and the gates will open at 11:30 AM.

With every ticket purchased through this link, the Sea Dogs will donate a portion of the sale price to the Federation, and everyone who purchases will be invited onto the field before the game for a group photo in front of the Maine Monster. To be in the photo, please check in at the left field grandstand no later than noon on the day of the game.

If you have any questions, please contact Alan in the ticket office at 207-879-9500 or email abarker@seadogs.com for more information.

https://groupmatics.events/event/MSFFF523

If you have any ideas or suggestions for fundraising for the Federation, please contact President Ken Desmond.