



MINUTES

Southeastern Firefighters Association

Association des Pompier du Sud-est

Representing Albert, Kent and Westmorland Counties

Sunday, October 30, 2022 at 10:00am Riverview Fire Hall

Attendees:

*Platoon Chief, Paul Bruens – Moncton
Raymond LeBlanc – Fire Marshal
Dan Dupuis – Dorchester
Denis Richard – Saint Antoine
Doug Hamer – Salisbury
Troy Collins - Hillsborough
Dennis Reid - Dorchester*

*Dave Gallant – Saint Paul
Gerald Boudreau - Memramcook
Julien Boudreau – Dieppe/Shediac
Danny DesRoches - Cocagne
Robin True - Riverview
John Malloy – Riverview*

This meeting was held at the Riverview Fire Hall. The meeting was called to order by President, Paul Bruens.

There were 13 members in attendance representing 10 departments.

GUEST SPEAKERS

Scott Poupart, President NBAFC and Dave McKinley, Vice President, NBAFC

NBAFC will have two executives going in pairs visiting each association to hear everyone's concerns. They will be presenting the same overview to all associations.

Dave is on the National Advisory Council with CAFC. NACFC is working with government MP's to identify and scientific research the cancers affecting firefighters. We are working on nationwide recommendations to guide regional government which is where the jurisdiction lies. There will be recommendations on mostly decontamination of the clean cab protocols, etc.

NBAFC has reached out to WorkSafe NB, in discussions and communications, there seems to be in our assessment, they do not have a real good understanding of the firefighter piece of the cancer legislation. NFAFC has made a request to designate one individual with a specialized background that can deal with these issues on our behalf. We have not heard back from them yet. We have requested a meeting with the minister to discuss these issues. It is one of their priorities to meet with the minister, they have requested to have a seat on the Worksafe Executive Committee. Salisbury Fire Captain, Doug Hamer, suggested that they also try and get a seat on the Provincial Committee called NG911.

An issue came up provincially with 511 issue, notification of closure of roads, there is a good mapping system on their website, it will show you a map of all the road closures, if it is not a numbered road, it will not be self-listed. There is a new system coming online by the end of the year and a notification system as well. You can sign up for push notifications done provincially, but you will be able to do it by your service commissions, so you will not get the whole province.

Government reform which takes effect in January working closely with the OFNB with information for fire chiefs across the province on their concerns of importance of having the information flow from the departments to the association in our group, so we need to know the issues that arise over the next year or two.

The new mobile burn unit is here, this will allow for regional associations to book the unit for live fire training each year

The Canadian Firefighters Census – participation was roughly 30% which is way too low, we need more accurate numbers

Mental Health Training is being distributed to the New Brunswick Fire Chiefs through the associations for options for mental health, Train the Trainer for instance.

Regional Fire Dispatch – NBFAC is aware of the issues, they have spoken to the people that are on the committees for more information, unfortunately, we are probably going to be staying in the same spot as a lot of people. We are not getting a lot of concrete information.

President Bruens brought to their attention, the frustration in dealing with NBCC for getting books signed off, the loss of information going to NBCC. The association would like to see an Online Education Component.

President Bruens would like to get the Survey Monkey out to all the Fire Chiefs and the membership concerning NB911 so they can voice their opinions and concerns. This will be a good foundation to improve the system.

- **APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES FROM JUNE 12, 2022**

A copy of the meeting minutes was distributed to members via e-mail, posted on the website.

Motioned by: Dave Gallant

Seconded by: Robin True

MOTION CARRIED

- **REPORTS FROM OFFICERS**

President's Report – Paul Bruens

Dan Dupuis attended on Paul's behalf at NBFAC. Paul attended the NB Association of Training Advisory Committee, we'll have another meeting on the 3rd of November where items will be voted on and at that time I will discuss the outcome at our next meeting.

Vice President, Westmorland County – Derrick Fillmore

No report

Vice President, Kent County – Danny DesRoches

A review was given of the new amalgamation, see his report attached. Dave Gallant received a new fire truck

Vice President, Albert County – James Lyman

Troy Collins reported that they had 2 people of Riverside, 2 people from Alma that have been out on ropes and rappelling training. In Hillsborough, the old engine golf cart from Salisbury that we would like to dispose of if anyone is interested. Check on Facebook if there are any groups that would be interested in purchasing.

Financial/Treasurer's Report – Adam Allain

Adam was absent - banking is now online and we can do e-transfers. Adam has a debit card for our small purchases. He will be including a copy of the bank statements to his report. Paul thanked Adam for stepping up and thanked Tim Dryden for looking after the Financials in the past.

Motioned by: Julien Boudreau

Seconded by: Dave Gallant

MOTION CARRIED

NBAFPO – Derrick Fillmore

No report

OFM – Raymond LeBlanc

Training Standards Advisory Committee

Digital Logbook-a digital version of the FF logbook will be rolled out/offered in early 2023. This would be intended to improve and speed up the process of submitting logbooks to NBCC upon completion and is being done based on feedback from a survey distributed earlier this year.

Block re-distribution-In early 2023 NBCC will redistribute the block system to allow prerequisites for subsequent courses (auto ex, pump operator) to be obtained without obtaining an entire FF1 certificate. Example, Pump Operator may not need to do HazMat to enter a pump operator course. They will not obtain a FF1 certificate, however if they choose to return later and complete the HazMat block, they can obtain it.

Mental Health-An online, self-taught “Mental Health Awareness” for Firefighters will be available free of charge online in February. The course will take 3-4 hours to complete and will be available on the OFM website. Topics include resources, self-recognition of indicators of stress, and what FF’s encounter in the line of duty. Will be a requisite to obtain your FF1 certificate, and available to all else as professional development.

Leadership

Creating a Leadership Course which will focus on areas where no formal training presently exists (Worksafe NB Legislation, How to Develop a Budget, Intro to Local Governance Act, HR Relations within Fire Departments, etc).; The course will involve online self-taught aspects, and 2 days in-person (Friday evening/Saturday) and be offered annually-date TBD. Target demographic is current and future fire chiefs and senior officers.

Virtual Courses-OFM now has 3 online courses on the website. No sign-up needed, self-taught.

NFPA 10 (Portable extinguishers)

Fire Investigation

Fire Prevention Act

Minimum Service Regulations

The OFM is looking to introduce regulations under the fire protection act that would set certain minimums for Municipalities to meet in terms of their fire service. We are considering the LSD Fire Policy as a jumping-off point, with the additional consideration for requirements on FUS rating levels, maximum apparatus age for front line, etc.

Consultation Period-Two surveys were distributed to CAO/Mayors and Fire Chiefs. We are looking to develop feedback on priorities for minimum service regulations.

Price and Service Delivery-Primary motives for this are to hold Local Governments responsible for ensuring the fire service in their community provides a strong, well-equipped fire service and keeps fire insurance rates affordable for ratepayers as a result.

Firefighter Peer Support Network

FF Peer Support Network continues to be active-it is available 24/7/365 free of charge for all NB Firefighters and is staffed by volunteers who are also FF. If anyone else is interested in joining, they can contact Brian Brown at the OFM.

1-833-535-3472 (1-833-535-FIRE)

Future Training

NFPA 1035 (Fire and Life Safety Educator)-Campbellton Nov 18-19, 2022. Course seats are available, entry cost is minimal, and applicants will have the ability to write IFSAC and Proboard dual seals.

NFPA 931 (Fire Investigator) – Provincial course will occur in late 2023. Location and costs TBD. More information to follow in spring.

Fire Death and Injury Report

OFM is reviewing every fire fatality and Injury that occurred from 2010-Present to identify secondary factors. These secondary factors are items which may not be directly related to the fire's cause or origin, but nonetheless contributed to its ignition, continuation, injuries, or fatalities. The idea of this is to identify trends to better target prevention **by identifying high-risk groups.**

Example: A pot of grease on a stove caught on fire during cooking process when left unattended. Cause is unattended pot on stove, origin is stove. Secondary contributing factors would be that the victim was in a wheelchair and had cognitive issues-both of which are contributing factors that would make that demographic at greater risk

Fire Investigation Portal

FIRS now has an added functionality-fire investigators (municipal and provincial) now have a dedicated portal to enter Fire Investigation Reports into the FIRS system. This will allow us (for the first time) to track fire investigation reports provincially, query data submitted, and track contributing factors. All municipalities will be expected to utilize this system by June 1, 2023.

Sprinkler Regulations

Sprinkler regulations being introduced for designers/installers in Spring 2023. We are looking to have a recourse against poor quality installers whose defects cause hundreds of thousands or millions of dollars of damage. At present, there is no way to prevent an installer from continuing to work. We are proposing a license system where the Fire Marshal may suspend or withdraw a sprinkler installer's license for poor quality work. **There will be no additional requirements to obtain this license if you are already a sprinkler installer (designated trade). It is only intended to give us a tool to suspend in the event of faulty work.**

Fire Chiefs Handbook

In conjunction with our proposed leadership course, we are looking at creating a Fire Chiefs Handbook to provide guidance on all conceivable topics relevant to NB Fire Chiefs. This is intended as a reference document for any fire department or officer. Aiming for end of 2023.

Scene Security

If NBAFC votes to allow OFM to take over scene security, we will offer casual call-when-needed contracts for suitable candidates to offer fire scene security throughout the province.

Candidates will be contacted when scene security must be maintained, and will be compensated roughly 26\$ an hour, plus mileage, incidentals and hourly for car use. An application form will follow-but reach out to your PFI if you have any questions.

Fire Service 2025

Fire Service 2025 report is nearly complete and will be shared with the NBAFC, Mayor/CAO's, Fire Departments/Chiefs. Individual fire department reports are not available publicly-only regional averages will be shared in the final report. Individual departments will be able to ask their PFI's about their report and update their areas for improvement if they wish. The FS2025 initiative will now be used to support the push for minimum service regulations.

Scott Poupart mentioned there are quite a few departments in the province that did not take part in the survey, it is volunteer and not mandated. NBAFC would like to stress the importance that the fire chiefs fill out these surveys. It is a tool to help the fire departments that may not have the ability or the support to get themselves up to the standards. You can get in touch with Raymond and set up an appointment to get the survey done. The survey will be shared by region.

Doug Hamer mentioned that the government announced that the Regional Service Commission will play a role in the division of fire service and what role will that be. Scott Poupart responded that it will be a consolatory type role only.

• COMMITTEE REPORTS

ATC Report – Daniel Dupuis

Training

Training is moving forward with things opening, courses may be given face to face, as well as online or a combination of both.

Level 1

We are looking to get a level 1 started in the fall, Sackville has offered to host in class sessions and if others want to join either online or in person (we must get at least 12-18 students), we will be starting late November-early December. (We will be using the new 7th edition)

Level 2

Looking to start a level 2 training, please send number of students willing to participate, as stated, maybe in class or online and possibly both depending on numbers.

Basic Off-Road Rescue

Please advise if you have any firefighters interested in doing the course

Low Angle Rope Rescue

Please advise if you have any students for a new course

Auto Extrication

Seffa sponsored Fall auto ex training will be online session for theory, dates are Nov 9th, Nov 16th, Nov 23rd and if needed, Nov 24th from 6:30pm-9:30pm using teams, 33 students are registered for the full course, practical day will be in Hillsborough on Saturday, Nov 26th at 8am. Lunch and refreshments will be provided. If anyone wants to help or come sharpen their skills, please let me know.

Officer Course

Officer course may be offered online if we have enough students, please advise if you have any students willing to participate

Instructor Course

We have had some requests for an instructor course, please advise if you have any firefighters interested

Spring Training

Open for suggestions and or depending on number of level 1 sign offs in the Spring.

Mobile Burn Unit

Update: SEFFA was supposed to get the trailer after the Miramichi workshop, unfortunately the unit broke down and is waiting for parts along with insurance issues for hauling down the road. As soon as we can get it down, training will be provided to key instructors and students will be able to participate. Will keep you posted on progress.

IFTA Edition 7

The new 7th edition is rolling out, this means, JPRS for past 6th edition should be finished ASAP, we will get a year or so to get it done. Edition 7 is available online for purchase.

Paul mentioned that the New Brunswick Fire Marshall will be purchasing 2 new publications for each fire station in New Brunswick.

Commissionaires

Scott Poupart spoke about Fire Scene Security with the Commissionaires. They moved their management to Nova Scotia and since then communication has been very hard. The Fire Marshal's office has taken it upon themselves to look at a new set up and working on it right now. They would like to recruit several individuals and build a pool that will be available for fire scene security, with a half decent wage, their mileage and expenses paid. Further details will be available in the near future.

I have a few books on solar electricity to hand out if anyone is interested.

The convention will be held on May 27th and 28th. The workshop will be held on September 8th and 9th.

If you have any training ideas or have firefighters interested in attending mentioned training sessions, please advise me ASAP so we can start planning these sessions.

Firefighter.dan@hotmail.com 506 875 3540

Communications – Robin True

Nothing new since the last meeting. We are setting up another meeting which would possibly include NB 911 and DTI Radio Communications (which has subsequently been held).

• UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None to report.

- **NEW BUSINESS**

- Our zoom account will expire the end of this year. We are going to cancel the zoom account and Paul will send an expense report to get reimbursed for the \$230 charge for 2022.
- NBAFC is looking to modify the way Infinity Marketing promotes their publication. They still want a tool to be recognized for donating companies. NBAFC is pushing for them to contact the Fire Chiefs and see how many books they want instead of just sending them boxes. Money would be better spent on publications for the province.
- Doug Hamer wanted to remind everyone to promote the NB Firefighter Raffle on their Facebook page. The main problem is that it is not being promoted by all the departments. NBAFC is looking into different ways to promote the raffle.
- Dave Gallant mentioned that there will be cap training and fire tac training with a Calgary Instructor, Matt Friedman from 830 to 430 on December 3rd and 4th at the Saint Paul Fire Hall.
- Logan Morin is the new NB CN Cop. Chief Hamer will invite him to our next meeting.
- In closing, on behalf of the NBAFC, Scott thanked everyone for their fire service and those that volunteer.

NEXT MEETING – TO BE DEPTERMINED

Motioned by: Dave Gallant

Seconded by: Robin True

MOTION CARRIED