



Maine Fire Chiefs' ASSOCIATION

Local Government Center 60 Community Drive Augusta, Maine 04330-9486

Officers

President
Chief Jeffrey Cammack
City of Bangor

1st Vice President
Chief Stephen Nichols, Sr.
Town of Kennebunk

2nd Vice President
Chief Jonathan Marshall
City of Ellsworth

Sgt. At Arms
Chief Daniel Moore
Town of Wells

Correspondence Secretary
Chief Darrel Fournier
Town of Freeport

Treasurer
Chief William St. Michel
Town of Durham

Past President
Chief William St. Michel
Town of Durham

Board of Directors (3-yrs.)

Chief Richard Spofford
Lincoln County

Chief Norman E. Webb II
Penobscot County

Chief Duane Bickford
Somerset County

Chief Thomas Doe
Waldo County

Chief Dan Carlow
Washington County

Board of Directors (2-yrs.)

Deputy Chief Marc Veilleux
Androscoggin County

Chief Kevin Guimond
Cumberland County

Chief Michael Bender
Hancock County

Chief Barry W. Norris
Knox County

Chief Joe Guyotte
Piscataquis County

Chief John Duross
York County

Board of Directors (1-yr.)

Chief Roy "Jack" Woods
Aroostook County

Chief William Hussey
Franklin County

Chief David P. Lafountain
Kennebec County

Assistant Chief Ken Dixon
Oxford County

Chief Kenneth A. Brillant
Sagadahoc County

This is in response to the recent Governor's Proposal to change the current allocation formula of the Fire Investigation Prevention Tax. The Fire Investigation Prevention Tax is a tax that is based on the portion of the insurance premium that is used to figure the amount of the premium needed to cover any anticipated loss due to the threat of Fire. This tax is currently 1.4% of that premium of which the Maine Fire Service Institute receives 24.3% and 75.7% of which the State Fire Marshal's Office receives. This tax has been consistently getting smaller due to the increased training of Firefighters to sharpen skills that help to reduce Fire loss due to Fire and due to the continued efforts of the State Fire Inspectors to correct any deficiencies that may cause a loss due to Fire.

The proposal to change the current funding allocation will eliminate 1/3 of the current training being provided to Maine's Firefighters. This will have a direct effect on the safety of State of Maine citizens and firefighters and will cause the loss due to the threat of Fire to rise throughout the State of Maine.

Two years ago, during similar budgetary proposals, the Fire Marshals office had in excess of \$2 million dollars that was used to fund other state programs that the Fire Investigation Prevention Tax was never intended to fund, creating the current crisis that exists today. The current proposal is a knee jerk reaction that needs to be thought through before changing the current allocation formula.

A possible funding source to maintain the current funding for both organizations is to explore the possibility of taxing if approved by the Legislature, the sale of Fireworks.

The Maine Fire Chiefs Association does not support the current proposal to change the reallocation of Fire Investigation Prevention Tax and urges the Legislature to not support such a proposal.