

# Southern Maine Community College Creates Maine Fire Service Institute

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Southern Maine Community Colleges (SMCC) announces the creation of the Maine Fire Service Institute (MFSI) to replace Maine Fire Training and Education and to reflect a new Mission and Vision to serve the fire training needs of Maine's fire chiefs.

Following a 2-year effort of reorganization and redirection MFSI has been established to provide training to nearly 12,000 firefighters throughout the state of Maine. MFSI will be relocating all operations to the new SMCC Midcoast Campus in Brunswick in the summer 2011 to provide the foundation to develop a statewide fire training facility with the long term plan of having regional training sites throughout the state of Maine.

MFSI is a department within SMCC that does not have a classroom on any college campus. In fact, some of the classrooms may be located on the back of fire apparatus in remote areas of the state. Since the mid-1950's Maine Fire Training and Education has served as the primary organization dedicated to training volunteer and paid firefighters throughout the state of Maine. On any given day one of a nearly 100 contract instructors supported by nine full-time and two part-time staff provide fire training in a classroom fire station or outdoor training site somewhere in the state.

MFSI's mission is to assist in the development of skills and abilities in support of Maine's Fire service at the local, regional, and State level in collaboration with the fire chiefs of Maine. Through partnerships, MFSI staff and instructors work to provide training to everyone in the fire community from entry-level firefighters through the rank of chief. As part of our partnership, eighteen Trailers with props are used to support local fire training efforts. Applying nationally recognized curriculums MFSI assists fire chiefs to ensure firefighter safety and compliance in training according to state and national standards.

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