

# **New Bedford Fire Department completes training program for public safety drones**

“Earlier this spring, members of the New Bedford, Fall River, and Somerset Fire Departments attended a sixteen hour training program for the use of drones for public safety and preparation for the FAA Part 107 Remote Airman Certification.

There are currently five members of the NBFD who have obtained this certification along with NFPA 2400 Drones for Public Safety training program. The Department recently used federal funding to procure three drones for public safety use. These missions include but are not limited to structural damage assessment, fire cause and origin, search and rescue on land or sea, hazardous materials incidents, and assisting with the placement of hose lines and master streams at large fires when vision is obscured by large volumes of smoke.

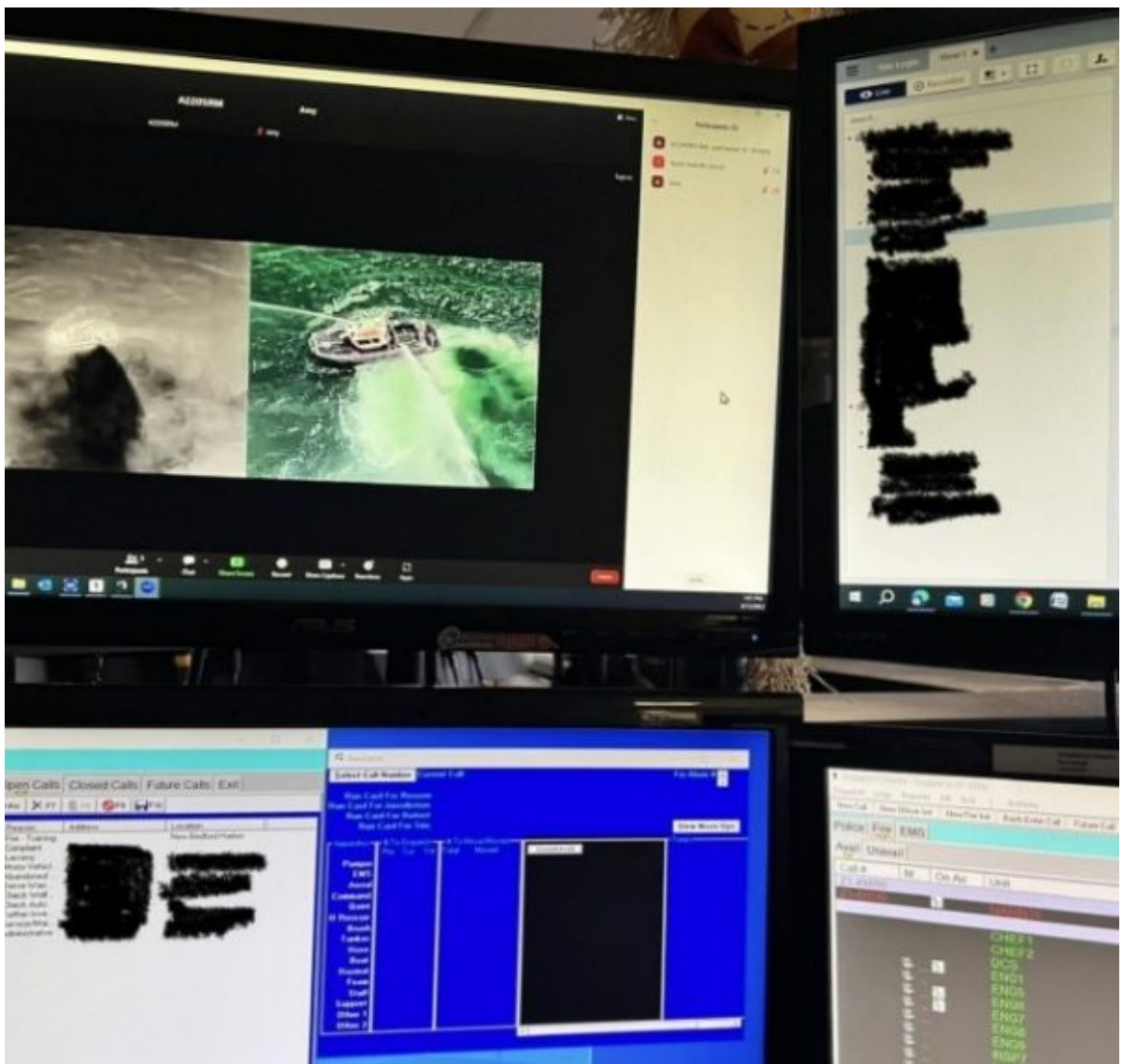
With the assistance Of Firefighter/Paramedic Kory Koster of 329 Marketing and FF Travis Rebello, the NBFD is not only able to utilize drones on scene, but to also live stream the drone footage directly to the communications/dispatch center which enables the dispatchers to view the scene in real time. The footage is viewed on a 24” smart TV and then sent via WIFI or via a WIFI hotspot to the dispatch center. The system adaptable to be utilized by any agency when needed. This increases the situational awareness of the communications personnel.

The photos in this post depict Marine 38 conducting training in Clarks Cove. The footage can be viewed in a split screen showing a regular view along with thermal imaging. The footage is high definition without any latency. Each drone is supplied with four batteries which allows for continuous flying at

longer duration incidents.

We also recognize the City of New Bedford MIS for their assistance.”-New Bedford Fire Department.

**All photos by the New Bedford Fire Department:**



# Massachusetts Lawmakers announce legislation to bolster rescue of stranded sea turtles

“Today, on World Sea Turtle Day, Senators Edward J. Markey (D-Mass.) and John Cornyn (R-Texas) announced the reintroduction of the Sea Turtle Rescue Assistance Act, bipartisan and bicameral legislation to establish a new \$30 million grant program at the Department of Commerce to fund institutions in Massachusetts and across the United States in their efforts to rescue, rehabilitate, and research stranded sea turtles. Congressman Bill Keating (MA-09) has introduced companion legislation in the U.S. House of Representatives.

All recognized species of sea turtles found within the United States are considered threatened or endangered. In 2000, 49 sea turtles were stranded and found on the beaches of Cape Cod, and in 2022, that number skyrocketed to 866. Current rescue efforts are predominantly volunteer and underfunded, but sea turtles face increasing risks that make strandings more likely, including temperature changes, red tide events, and entanglement in marine debris.

“We can’t leave our sea turtles stranded,” said Senator Markey. “Organizations and volunteers across the United States have rallied to help protect threatened and endangered sea turtles—now, it’s our turn to rally behind them. I am proud to introduce this bipartisan and bicameral legislation to provide much-needed financial support for invaluable sea turtle rescue efforts.”



“The waters off of the Texas Gulf Coast are home to several species of sea turtles which are crucial to the health of our diverse marine ecosystem,” said Senator Cornyn. “This legislation will support the rescue and recovery efforts of today while also investing in research to better protect the future of America’s sea turtle population.”

The federal government must step up to support sea turtle rescue and rehabilitation before it is too late,” said Congressman Keating. “Passage of the Sea Turtle Rescue Assistance Act will reduce the strain on non-profit organizations doing the vital work to save these endangered animals, including the hundreds rescued on Cape Cod annually. I am proud to work with Senator Markey and the bipartisan group of co-sponsors committed to supporting sea turtle rescue efforts.”

“Sea turtles are critical to our marine ecosystems and face serious threats to their survival. Conservation partners like the National Aquarium in Baltimore do important work to protect them – but these organizations need more support. This legislation will unlock more federal resources for their rescue and rehabilitation to support the sea turtle population

and the overall health of our ocean life,” said Senator Van Hollen.

A copy of the legislation can be found [HERE](#).



Cosponsors include Senators Lindsey Graham (R-S.C.), Roger Wicker (R-Miss.), and Chris Van Hollen (D-Md.).

**Specifically, the Sea Turtle Rescue Assistance Act would:**

1. Create a new grant program to fund rescue, recovery and research of sea turtles in the U.S., and authorize \$5 million annually from 2024 through 2029 in new funding;
2. Require that the Secretary, in consultation with the Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, provide opportunities for engagement with stakeholders; and,
3. Direct the Secretary of Commerce to prioritize applicants with an established record of rescuing, recovering, rehabilitating, transporting, or releasing stranded marine turtles or conducting scientific research pertinent to the causes of strandings.

“Successfully rescuing and rehabilitating hundreds of

endangered sea turtles from the shores of New England each year involves a large network of partners across the country. Government funding assistance would have a significant impact on the continuation of this collaborative conservation work and the resulting research to solve ocean challenges. We thank Senator Markey and Representative Keating for their commitment to ensure the recovery and survival of these ocean animals,” said Vikki N. Spruill, President and CEO of the New England Aquarium.

“Sea turtles have the power to connect us all, and we see that every day in our aquariums through the eyes of our guests. Sea turtles are a pathway to conservation action, and their stories inspire everyone – regardless of where you live or political affiliation – to work toward a sustainable future for their sake, and our own. Witnessing our guests’ visceral reactions to sea turtles undergo rehabilitation within our aquariums only amplifies the importance of the Sea Turtle Rescue Assistance Act, and its goal to build a federal funding stream to continue saving sea turtles and inspiring conservation of the natural world for generations to come,” said Kevin Mills, President and CEO of the South Carolina Aquarium.

“The National Aquarium applauds Senators Markey, Van Hollen and Cornyn and Representatives Keating and González-Colón for introducing the bicameral, bipartisan Sea Turtle Rescue Assistance Act of 2023. We are proud to be part of the nationwide network of organizations engaged in sea turtle conservation and in educating the public on the challenges facing these threatened and endangered species. Sea turtle strandings are on the rise as are the expenses related to rescuing, rehabilitating and releasing them back to their ocean home. The level of voluntary contribution from stranding network partners is not sustainable. We thank Congressional champions for their leadership in creating a much-needed federal grant program to support this important work,” said

John Racanelli, President and CEO of the National Aquarium.”-  
Senator Edward J. Markey.

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## **Massachusetts sends wildland firefighters to help battle Quebec blazes**

“Governor Maura Healey, Lieutenant Governor Kim Driscoll, Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA) Secretary Rebecca Tepper, and officials from the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) joined together to send off 11 state wildland firefighters to Quebec, Canada to help battle some of the more than 124 wildfires that have burned since the beginning of June.

“Over the last several years we have seen the impacts of the climate crisis here at home and around the world, in the forms of extreme weather and increasingly severe wildfires that continue to ravage our forests,” said Governor Maura Healey. “We are proud of these 11 Massachusetts wildland firefighters who are heading up to assist our Canadian partners in battling these intense wildfires.”



*Mass.gov photo.*

“We feel the effects of the climate crisis every day from the extreme heat to droughts to the smoke polluting our air,” said Lieutenant Governor Kim Driscoll. “We appreciate the men and women from Massachusetts that will join the team fighting wildfires in Quebec and making our environment safer for all of us.”

“Firefighters are on the frontlines of the climate crisis, risking their lives to save others,” said Energy & Environmental Affairs Secretary Tepper. “I was grateful for the opportunity to thank them directly this morning and we will keep them in our thoughts as we forge ahead to a clean energy future. The clean energy transition is about people, and we see that today.”

“DCR is committed to doing everything we can to protecting our natural lands for generations to come and today’s deployment of these 11 DCR firefighters to help our friends and partners in Quebec is part of that commitment,” said DCR Commissioner Brian Arrigo. “These are extremely well-trained and dedicated firefighters whose skills are much needed, and whose help, we know is enormously appreciated.”

The officials gathered this morning to send off the



firefighter crew at DCR's Bureau of Forestry and Fire Control headquarters in Carlisle.

The deployment is in response to a request DCR received last week from the Northeast Forest Fire Protection Commission and the Northeastern Interagency Coordination Center at the White Mountain National Forest in Campden, NH. The firefighters will travel to La Touque, where they will be assigned to one of many ongoing fire incidents throughout the province. The crew, which is also referred to as a "Wildfire Suppression Module," will engage in direct fire suppression, working on the fire line for about 14 days – building fire breaks, securing fire perimeters, containing fires, and protecting structures.

Rising temperatures, drier conditions due to years long droughts, and a lack of rain and snowfall, all caused by climate change, are fueling increased fire activity, making fire season last longer and its effects more severe. These conditions have made wildfires over the last few years more extreme and active than in the past. Climate change is also affecting wildlife in forested areas including an increase in insect activity which affects tree mortality and can create more fuel for fires to feed off. So far this year in Massachusetts, over 820 wildfires have burned 1,500 acres.

The Quebec situation is just the latest in an ongoing wildfire issue across Canada this year, including British Columbia, Alberta, and most recently Nova Scotia, and has resulted in major smoke impacts across the northeastern United States. The Northeast Forest Fire Protection Commission is a compact comprised of the six New England states, New York and four eastern Canadian provinces, including Quebec. Massachusetts is one of the original members of the compact, which was formed in 1949 to provide interstate and international wildland fire mutual aid assistance.

Since 1985, partnering with the U.S. Forest Service and the Northeast Forest Fire Protection Commission, DCR's Bureau of

Forest Fire Control has sent crews to fight fires in areas of the western and Rocky Mountain states, as well as Alaska, Florida, Virginia and Quebec.

All firefighters are federally certified, having passed a 40-hour federal wildland firefighting class and physical fitness test.

**The responding DCR firefighters are as follows:**

- Benjamin Jennell of West Newbury
- Robert Armstrong of Conway
- George Kleczka of Plainville
- James Kontoules of Salem
- Eryn Donohoe of Sagamore Beach
- Charles Uchendu of Oak Bluffs
- Jacob O'Donnell of Millis
- Anders Anderson of Carver
- Derick Valovcin of Holliston
- Tyler Desautels of Milbury
- Alex Desrochers of Plymouth”-Mass.gov.

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## **New Bedford Fire Department acquires new cutting-edge equipment and vehicles**

“The New Bedford Fire Department is proud to present our newly acquired equipment and vehicles. These items were acquired with the assistance of local and federal funding. The Nbfd thanks Mayor Mitchell and the City Council for their support.

**Featured in the following video are the following items:**

- Lithium-ion battery fire mitigation equipment.
- MobileDetect Fentanyl & Xylazine Test Strips for rapid on scene identification
- Emergency-Plug electric vehicle disabling device for all EVs including Tesla.
- Three drones, including one mini drone and all associated equipment.
- Twenty-two (22) Zoll AEDs which replace older Philips model AEDs. These are compatible with NBEMS' Zoll cardiac monitors and streamline cardiac arrest care and increase the chance of ROSC.
- Mobile breathing air system trailer. This unit is equipped with an air compressor, generator, light tower and air tool connections. It also has the capability to fill SCUBA cylinders.
- Two administrative Chevrolet Tahoes
- Two Ford F-150 Command Units
- Two Chevrolet Silverado 1500 Fire Investigator Units"-New Bedford Fire Department.

**All photos by the New Bedford Fire Department:**



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## **Dehydrated, hypothermic, oprhaned Massachusetts skunk kit on her third day of battle to live**

This time of year people encounter oprhaned or seemingly abandoned baby animals. The Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife reccomends that people leave baby animals alone because in most cases they haven't mean abandoned, but the mother or father is out collecting food, or eating so they have milk to feed their babies with.

However, in cases where a person is 100% sure that something did happen to a baby animal's parent or parents, people will rescue the animals and bring them to a shelter. To leave a

baby animal that is unable to feed or defend itself to die is something difficult for any animal lover or human being with compassion. It's hard to just walk away and let that baby or babies die.

This story is an update of a skunk kit that was found a few days ago. Things were looking bleak and it did not look like she would survive the night let alone the next few days.

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“What a difference three days can make! This orphaned skunk hadn't seen her mother in days when she came in. She was hypothermic and very dehydrated.

Today she is a whole new skunk! We are so thankful that we can provide a second chance to wild animals like her. She now has a warm cozy place to stay, new adopted siblings to play with and a group of people who are dedicated to helping her.

We couldn't do this without all of your support and we are eternally grateful. ?♥?”-Newhouse Wildlife Rescue.

This tough girl needs a name. Showing my age, I'd choose to name her Rocky, alluding to the Beatle's song, “Rocky Raccoon.” However, it also brings to mind the story of Rocky Balboa who fought against all odds to win.

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**Town of Dartmouth,  
Massachusetts DoH, seek**

# persons who had contact with Woodchuck

“IF YOU OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW HAD DIRECT CONTACT with a Woodchuck at John George Ice Cream in Dartmouth, MA on June 11, 2023, at roughly 5 PM, please contact the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH) at 617-983-6800 (available 24 hours/7 days a week) or your health care provider for a rabies exposure risk assessment as soon as possible.

Woodchucks are considered high-risk animals for transmitting rabies. Even animals that appear healthy may have rabies virus in their saliva. Any person who has contact with saliva through a bite or a scratch, or if saliva gets into a fresh wound, or the eyes, nose or mouth, can be exposed to the virus.

Rabies is a serious disease and consultation with medical staff is needed after possible exposures. Following an exposure to rabies, disease can be prevented with prompt administration of rabies post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP).”-

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## Massachusetts wildlife rescuers nurse orphaned raccoon during his critical days

“UPDATE:

Our orphaned raccoon, that was rescued by Jenny when he fell

from a tree, is feeling better. He is still lethargic but he does enjoy his bottles. His temporary home is an incubator which keeps him warm and cozy. He is fully hydrated and slowly gaining weight.

He is having trouble walking but we believe it is due to his fall and his emaciation. The body is very efficient. After it has used all of its fat resources, it will absorb muscle for vital energy needed to survive. This may have happened to him.

Either way, his recovery is slow but definitely steady. We are hopeful he will have a full recovery!"-Newhouse Wildlife Rescue.

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## **Bristol County Sheriff's holds first class dealing with mental illness training, implicit bias, deescalation**

"There are many different ways to solve a problem, or in the case of the next generation of Bristol County Corrections Officers, many ways to deescalate a situation.

Deescalation is one of the main focuses of the expanded training academy for CO recruits at the Bristol County Sheriff's Office this week with classes on duty to intervene, implicit bias, dealing with mental illness, and deescalation.

"The biggest takeaway was that not everyone reacts the same," said Haeley Burchell, cadet class president. "We all have different backgrounds, all have different triggers, and

different stressors. Understanding these differences is very important to being a corrections officer.”

The current class of 22 cadets is the first BCSO academy to expand from eight weeks to nine, and included the 15 hours of additional training on deescalation, duty to intervene, implicit bias, and dealing with mental illness. Previously, all topics were covered in various classes but not focused on with their own sessions.

“Everything changed in law enforcement after the George Floyd tragedy,” Sheriff Paul Heroux said. “We need to be more professional and better trained. Previously, COs were told of their obligation to do these things and to be mindful, but COs were not given the techniques or role-play scenarios to live those de-escalation tactics.”

Instructors from Commonwealth Police Legacy spent two days at the BCSO training academy this week giving 15 hours of training across the four new classes. All instruction featured scenario-based exercises geared to a corrections setting.

“One of the first things the instructor did was come to us and ask us different situations that we’ve seen inside the jail,” BCSO Training Director Lt. Robert Matos said. “They used real-life scenarios. There was a lot of good information in these sessions and I have no doubt our officers will be better for it.”

All training academies for CO recruits will include the new classes going forward, and Lt. Matos added that the lessons learned will be more incorporated into the regular annual in-service training for all security staff.

In addition to the new classes, training hours were added to the academy in defensive tactics, report writing, suicide trauma awareness and physical fitness. The new officers are scheduled to graduate on June 21.



Brittany Correia, platoon leader for the cadet class, said the recruits took a lot out of the new sessions.

“This can be used not just behind the wall (of a jail), but out in the public as well,” she said. “At home, anywhere there’s an argument or frustration. It opened a lot of eyes.”

Investment in skills training is nothing new for Sheriff Heroux, who not only campaigned on increasing deescalation and other tactics, but tripled the police training budget during his time as Mayor of Attleboro.

“This is what we need to do to make sure COs are prepared to resolve complex situations with inmates,” he said. “These are the tools they need to do their jobs better and keep themselves and the people in their care and custody as safe as possible.”-Bristol County Sheriff’s Office.

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## **New Bedford Fire Department’s S.A.F.E. Program educators visit Brooks Elementary School**

“Firefighters Anthony Poente, Lora Brightman, Jason Hinchliffe and Michael DeSouza made their first ON SITE visit with the new inflatable fire safety house!!!

The kindergarten and first grade students learned about fire prevention & fire safety in the house. They also learned about Stop, Drop and Roll.

Thank you Brooks School for having us! The students took it

all in – we hope they go home and teach everyone in their households. ??”-New Bedford Fire Department.



*New Bedford Fire Department photo.*



*New Bedford Fire Department photo.*



*New Bedford Fire Department photo.*



*New Bedford Fire Department photo.*

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# **Bristol County Sheriff's Office offers driving safety course to inmates**

"One of the biggest roadblocks to success upon leaving jail is the lack of a driver's license. This week, inmates had the opportunity to take an 8-hour driving safety class over Zoom hosted by the National Safety Council.

This class can help remove "points" from one's license and help an inmate get a suspended or revoked license back. It's the same class folks on the outside must take through the RMV if they get too many citations or accidents. B

CSO Educator Bill Villineau facilitated the class this afternoon."-Bristol County Sheriff's Office.