



TOWN OF FALMOUTH, MAINE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Falmouth Deputy Fire Chief Completes Prestigious Executive Fire Officer Program

FALMOUTH, Maine—Deputy Chief Colin Shea of Falmouth Fire-EMS successfully completed the National Fire Academy’s Executive Fire Officer (EFO) Program. The highly competitive, graduate level program is widely accepted as one of the most well-respected and reputable development programs for fire service leaders. According to the National Fire Academy, the EFO Program is the pinnacle of programming “preparing executive officers to meet the ever-changing demands of the dynamic communities in which they serve.” Deputy Chief Shea was awarded his certification at a ceremony held at the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg, Maryland on February 24.

The EFO program focuses on four components: personal leadership philosophy, organizational leadership, focus on the community, and a capstone project consisting of a portfolio, a research paper, and a presentation. The goal of the program is to provide bold, thoughtful, and innovative solutions through applied research to create safe, healthy, prepared, and resilient communities. For his capstone project, Deputy Chief Shea developed a program on severe weather response for Falmouth Fire-EMS, focusing primarily on the Department’s response and safety precautions during severe thunderstorms and major snowstorms.

“Deputy Chief Shea’s capstone project provides a welcome program that will be implemented in our community to better serve our residents,” said Fire Chief Howard Rice. “While Falmouth Fire-EMS has guidelines and practices in place regarding responses to a multitude of fire and EMS incidents, the Department has never had a standard operating guideline that specifically addresses the safety and logistical challenges that come with a major storm, such as a blizzard.”

Maine has had 18 graduates of the EFO program since its inception over thirty years ago. “Graduates like Deputy Chief Shea are equipped with skills and abilities to lead a community into and through risk reduction programs, adaptive leadership changes, and utilizing models for successful growth,” noted Buxton Fire Chief Nathan Schools, a 2010 graduate of the EFO program.

Deputy Chief Shea came to Falmouth Fire-EMS in April 2019. In addition to his role as a Deputy Chief, he has taken the lead for Falmouth Emergency Management in dealing with the COVID pandemic since March 2020.

More information on the program can be found at: <https://www.usfa.fema.gov/training/nfa/programs/efop.html>

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