



CAPITAL AREA FIRE DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION

BULLETIN

YOUR FIRE DISTRICT NEWS SOURCE

AUGUST 26TH, 2023

EDITOR - TOM RINALDI

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Something for everyone in the Fire Service!!

THE CAPITAL CALENDAR:

WWW.AFDCA.ORG

All correspondence & Capital Area Fire Districts Association Mailing Address

should be directed to: AFDCA PO Box 242 East Schodack, NY 12063

EMAIL: CAAOFD@GMAIL.COM

August, No Meeting

Thursday September 14th, **General Membership Meeting** 7PM, All are invited or to zoom in

Thursday October 12th **General Membership/Nominations for Officers & Directors**

Thursday November 9th, 7:00pm **General Membership**, dinner served at 6PM/Elections

December, **No Meeting**

Saturday, January 6th **General Membership Breakfast Meeting** 9am, 2024 Organizational Meeting

[Printable Calendar with much more – See End of Bulletin](#)

CAPITAL AREA FIRE DISTRICTS ASSOC. NEWS:

WWW.AFDCA.ORG

[CAFDA is searching for a new Secretary](#)

CAFDA is searching for a Secretary for the Association. Contact any of the Officers or Directors to obtain details.

In the meantime, Tony Hill will perform Secretarial duties. Contact Tony Hill or any of the Officers or Directors if you are interested.

Tony Hill is currently acting Secretary/Treasurer and can be reached at : cafdatreasurer@gmail.com or caaofd@gmail.com , our mailing address is CAFDA PO Box 242, East Schodack, NY 12063

[CAFDA FALL WORKSHOP: Put it on your calendar](#)

Saturday, **November 4th, 2023 8:00 AM** Fall Workshop Verdoy Fire Department

SUBJECTS TO BE COVERED:

Harassment Challenges – Discipline as a result of Harassment Charges

How to SHOP for insurance, What Coverage Should We Have?

Removal of Fire Company Members

Ask the experts: CPA, VFBL, Attorney, Insurance, Candle Stick Maker

[Training for Fire District Officials Being Held Locally. Both Members and Non-Members are Welcome.- Mark Your Calendars-Watch for Details to Follow](#)

[PESH vs. NFPA Seminar, Law vs. Standard](#) See Flyer Last Page**

Presenter: Jennifer Puerner – NYS Department of Labor PESH Compliance Assistance Specialist

What you need to know. Join us at the DeCrescente Distributing Conference Center at 200 N. Main Street, Mechanicville (opposite the Price Chopper Plaza). FREE to all fire district officials and fire service officers.

- ❖ Tuesday September 12th from 6PM to 9PM Limited to 100 attendees, we currently have approximately 75+ signed up.
- ❖ Register now with Secretary Hill at caaofd@gmail.com

We Apologize for the Confusion but the PO Box numbers to return payment to the Treasurer were transposed, the correct number is PO Box 242. If it helps payment can be made at the door the night of the class.

****Fire District Secretary Training See Flyer Last Page**

Join Joyce Petkus as she navigates the duties and responsibilities of a Fire District Secretary...Commissioners invited who wish to better understand what duties and responsibilities Commissioners are ultimately responsible for. What you and your fire district Secretary needs to know to do their job correctly. Join us at the DeCrescente Distributing Conference Center at 200 N. Main Street, Mechanicville (opposite the Price Chopper Plaza).

- Tuesday September 19th from 6PM to 9PM Limited to 100 attendees we currently have approximately 20 signed up.
- COST: members \$10, non-members \$20 checks can be mailed to Tony Hill at Box 242, East Schodack, NY 12063, or pay at the door. Reserve a seat at caaofd@gmail.com

We want to thank the Clifton Park – Halfmoon Fire District for allowing us to use their facility for the Capital Area meetings.

The Capital Area has logo ware available, long and short sleeve polo shirts. Contact Secretary/Treasurer Tony Hill to purchase shirts.

IF NOTHING ELSE READ THE ARTICLES PRECEDED BY**

CAPITAL SHORTS:

- Congratulations to Chief Stefano Napolitano on being chosen to lead the Rochester Fire Department effective September 11th. Chief Napolitano, 56, has been the Deputy N.Y. State Fire Administrator with the Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services Office of Fire Prevention and Control since 2021, and was Batavia’s Fire Chief, Emergency Manager and Flood Plain Manager from 2017 to 2021. He began his career in the fire service in 1986 as volunteer firefighter for the Village of Frankfort Fire Department until 1991.
- **Fire District Election Schedule and Budget Schedule on Last Page of Bulletin and is posted to our current website at afdca.org!**
-

STATE ASSOCIATION NEWS:

WWW.AFDNYS.ORG

State Fire Districts Announces a move back to a Fall Annual Meeting

The State Association has announced that a Fall Conference for 2024 will be held at Turning Stone with a Sunday - Wednesday time frame October 20 – 23 in 2024.

- The September Board of Director’s meeting is being held at the Desmond-Crown Plaza on September 14th – 16th.

LOCAL CAFDA TRAINING APPROPRIATE FOR YOUR ENTIRE BOARD/SECRETARY/TREASURER

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CAFDA Annual Fall Fire District Officers/Chiefs Workshop

Mark your calendar for Saturday, November 4th 2023 for the Capital Area Fall Leadership Workshop, being held at the Verdooy Fire Station on Troy-Schenectady Road. Subjects to be covered are:

- Harassment in the Fire Service and Applying Discipline Correctly
- How to SHOP insurance for your fire district, Do We Have Correct Coverage?
- Expert's Panel, Attorneys, CPA, General Insurance, VFBL – What is your burning question?

The First CAFDA Conference Spring 2024

Coming in April 2024 the CAFDA Conference, a *local* three-day conference chocked full of information for Fire District Commissioners, Secretary's, Treasurers and Chiefs. An affordable conference at a local destination in the Capital Area. Watch for more Information as planning progresses.



Upcoming Coffee with Commissioners

Thursday, August 31st @ 7:00pm Fire District Budget Process

Saturday, September 23rd @9:00am Current Trends and Concerns

Click on Each Announced Date to Register

THE LATEST FROM ALBANY

The 2023 legislative session ended in early June, our friends in government didn't do much for the fire service this session. The only bone we were thrown was the funding in the budget for infrastructure and to pay out stipends, otherwise they couldn't even pass legislation on lithium ion batteries, although the bills were defective. Remember that bills introduced for the 2023 session will carry over to the 2024 session when it begins in January.

Consult the Score Card for the status of other fire service related legislation.

THE LATEST FROM WASHINGTON D.C.

****Ask Congress to Adequately Fund and Reauthorize AFG and SAFER**

The Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) and Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) grant programs provide direct assistance to local fire and EMS agencies to help them purchase equipment, training, and

apparatus, as well as recruit and retain career and volunteer personnel. AFG and SAFER were funded at \$360 million in FY 2023. The House FY 2024 Homeland Security appropriations bill would fund these programs at \$360 million and the Senate bill would fund these programs at \$338 million. This decrease in funding is unacceptable.

Additionally, the AFG and SAFER programs' authorizations expire at the end of FY 2023 and these programs are scheduled to sunset at the end of FY2024. In April, the Senate passed S. 870 to reauthorize these programs and the U.S. Fire Administration through 2030 by a vote of 95 to 2. Please use this action alert to tell your Senators and Representatives to fund AFG and SAFER at a minimum of the \$360 million contained within the House's FY 2024 Homeland Security appropriations bill and reauthorize these programs as soon as possible.

CONTACT YOUR SENATORS AND REPRESENTATIVE: <https://www.votervoice.net/NVFC/Campaigns/98446/Respond>
JUST FILL IN YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS AND HIT SEND MESSAGE AT THE BOTTOM, EASY!!

THE ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

Five Volunteers Arrested, Charged With Theft From Fire Departments

Lanell Downs Smith

Five people were arrested by the Alabama Fire Marshal's Office in connection with thefts adding up to thousands of dollars stolen from three Marengo County volunteer fire departments. Todd Foster, former fire chief for the Spring Hill Volunteer Fire Department is accused of stealing more than \$36,000 from the department. Foster is charged with first-degree theft of property and *fraudulent use of a credit card*. Lousin White and Norman Hill are charged with first-degree theft of property. Both men are accused of stealing over \$7,000 from Dixon Mills Volunteer Fire Department.

Terry and Beersheba Kiker were arrested on first-degree theft charges and *fraudulent use of a credit card*. The pair are accused of stealing in excess of \$12,000 from South Marengo Volunteer Fire Department. All five defendants are currently out on bond. **[EDITOR'S NOTE: OBVIOUS LACK ON INTERNAL CONTROLS AND OVERSIGHT]**

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STEP INTO THE CHIEF'S OFFICE:

***Subconscious Impact: Leading Without Thought and Its Ramifications*

Corley Moore

Would a leader in the fire service actively sabotage those people they are responsible for? Would a fire chief inflict harm and set their people up for failure? In most organizations, the answer would be a resounding 'No!' Although there are firefighters who may feel at times like their administration is out to get them, this is usually the exception, not the rule. Most fire chiefs and administrators want what is best for their organization; it is safe to say that most bosses are not actively seeking to do harm. Just because those people who are in charge have good intentions, however, does not mean that their actions won't have a massive negative impact on their organizations.

The subconscious, the unintentional, the accidental...no matter what label you put on the action, it does not give a reprieve for the consequences. There are ramifications when leaders act without thinking. The unintentional damage done by thoughtless action can be the most damaging of all. Most leaders would never do this on purpose; it would never be their intention to damage the level of trust in the organization. So why does it happen so often? Why do so many people in positions of authority make decisions that destroy that most important commodity?

To understand why it occurs so frequently is not a great mystery. It really boils down to one simple element. It is something we can painfully and plainly see in others, but one that is so hard to see when we look in the mirror—namely, lack of humility.

Humility is a key component for those in a leadership position, and yet it is rare to see leaders who exhibit that trait. When the person who is in charge lacks humility, the ego can really become a problem. Humility is the ingredient that is necessary for a leader to remain confident and avoid the trap of arrogance. It is the antidote for the poison that is power. Humility is what allows a person to be wrong and to admit when things are going wrong. Without humility you cannot

admit fault, and when you cannot admit fault, it is hard to grow. You cannot fix something if you can't admit there is a problem! Self-deception is a powerful force in this world, and it is the number one problem that leaders struggle to overcome.

There is a well-documented psychological phenomenon known as the Pygmalion effect. Researchers Robert Rosenthal and Lenore Jacobson documented this effect in classroom studies in the 1960s. In their studies they would label certain children as gifted. Then, without letting the children know, they would inform the teachers that the kids were gifted. Even though there was no evidence that the labeled children were special, smarter or in any way better off, the children labeled as "gifted" had a marked improvement in performance. This Pygmalion effect—the belief that the children were gifted—impacted and changed the subconscious belief and the interaction of the teachers with the students. Higher expectations, along with other subconscious behaviors, led to higher performance!

There is also the opposite of this Pygmalion effect, known as the Golem effect, which is a psychological process in which lower expectations placed on individuals leads to a performance decline. There has been much less research done on this Golem effect, because of the harshness of measuring encouraged negativity. (There is a lot of long-term harm done when researchers actively work to encourage and measure poor performance.) I would suggest that this Golem effect, however, is prevalent throughout the fire-service, especially from administrators and chiefs who would never intend to harm their organizations, but do so anyway by setting low expectations.

My questions to anyone who is in charge— anyone who is responsible for a crew, a battalion, a shift, or a department:

- What is the expectation that you are communicating to those whom you are responsible for?
- Are you setting them up for success?
- Are you empowering them with your subconscious expectations?
- Do you expect them to be awesome?
- Are you crippling them with lowered expectations?
- Are you unintentionally hampering their growth with the Golem effect?

I hope these questions will challenge everyone who reads this article. I hope that when you read this you will introspectively look at yourself and examine the expectations you have for your organization. The expectations you hold for your people, whether intentionally or subconsciously, have a huge impact on the decisions you make.

With every decision that a leader makes there are consequences. Over time, those consequences grow exponentially, compounding and building on themselves. What can be thought of as just a minor adjustment or decision can have a long-term and lasting impact on an organization. Leaders can find themselves lost in a wasteland of toxicity within their organization and have no idea how they ended up there. Every policy that is hung on the board, every standard operating guideline that is written and released, every memo that is passed out—they all have consequences. I believe that a leader can be intentional in setting high expectations for their people, and in so doing can avoid inflicting the Golem effect. Are you being deliberate in the choices you make and expectations you set? Are you setting your people up for failure? For success?

Do you have the humility to recognize the difference?

OUR CHANGING FIRE SERVICE -CHALLENGES & OPPORTUNITIES!

OPPORTUNITIES:

Residents In Royalton, Gasport Fire Districts To Vote On Volunteer Benefits Program

Thomas Tedesco, Lockport Union-Sun and Journal

Niagara County -The Town of Royalton will hold a special election next month and let residents decide whether senior volunteer firefighters will be eligible to receive benefits through the state-sanctioned Length of Service Award Program. The town board adopted a resolution last month setting special elections for residents of the town's Fire District 1, served by the Terry's Corners and Wolcottsville companies, and Gasport Fire District 1 / Gasport Chemical Hose Fire Co. According to VFIS, an insurance group that works with fire and emergency services personnel, the LOSAP program is similar to a retirement program for volunteer firefighters. It provides them with compensation based on years of service with their fire company that is paid for by the residents who live in that fire district.

According to town supervisor Dan Bragg, the program being approved in both fire districts would drive down the cost to each one.

"Once everybody votes and everybody decides they want it, then we can form a municipal shared agreement between the district and the Town of Royalton to cut the cost," Bragg said.

Bragg said he initially wanted to combine both districts in a single referendum, but was unable to do so per New York state law. "Because they are all separate taxing jurisdictions, we have to operate individually," he said. "Wherever you live, that's where you pay the tax."

Through LOSAP, the amount that a firefighter gets paid per month is based on a system of points that are earned based on their length and extent of service with the fire company. A firefighter would be eligible to receive benefits once they turn 65 and can make up to \$400 per month, Bragg said.

The goal of the program is to incentivize volunteer firefighters to serve longer with their companies as numbers of volunteers have continued to dwindle. "They're volunteers that put a lot of hours in training, a lot of hours away from home and it's just another way of saying thank you at the cost to the taxpayers," Bragg said. "But what would you rather have? When you dial 9-1-1 do you want someone to show up?"

[Volunteer Retention for the Emergency Services On-Line Course](#)

This course from the National Volunteer Fire Counsel provides an overview of volunteer retention. Many fire and EMS departments across the nation are struggling to retain volunteer members. This course will discuss retention challenges and examine potential solutions.

REGISTER HERE: <https://virtualclassroom.nvfc.org/cart>, Members Free, Non-Members \$21

[911 AI Operator In South Carolina Weeds Out Non-Emergency Calls To Free Up First Responders](#)

Understaffed 911 call centers across the country field non-emergency calls about stray animals or noise complaints on top of their workload of answering serious reports of medical emergencies, crimes and even death. Officials in Charleston County, South Carolina, however, are now leveraging artificial intelligence to streamline non-emergency calls in an effort to free up 911 operators to focus on getting first responders to the scene of emergency incidents as quickly as possible. "Our job is to serve the public the best way we can. So, I am not in any way demeaning anyone from the public, but someone who has their favorite cat stuck in a tree, that's an emergency for them as compared to someone's just been shot," Jim Lake, director of the Charleston County Consolidated Emergency Communications Center, told FOX News Digital. ***Similar to other centers in the Early Adopters program, Lake said he teamed up with Amazon Web Services (AWS) to integrate an AI-powered system that can answer administrative, non-emergency calls to help free up the workload for human telecommunicators to answer tragic and pressing calls.***

[Callers] dial that 7200 number, and that line is already corded into the Amazon cloud, so it doesn't even ring in our center initially. It will then get screened by Amazon Connect ... we've already named [the AI call taker] Matthew. He's our favorite call taker," Lake said. Callers are then prompted to indicate on their phone's keypad if they wish to proceed in English or Spanish. The call will time out if the caller does not press their keypad, Lake said, in order to force "humans to take an action so that we don't tie up our calls with robo calls."

Matthew then asks callers to "please provide a brief description for your call. And you can say things like 'animal control' or 'check the welfare,' so we're kind of prompting them. Then based on what they say, they either get ported into the animal control workflow or the check the welfare workflow, or if it's not something we've already programmed, it goes to a call taker," Lake said.

A recent report from the National Emergency Number Association found that an estimated 82% of 911 call centers across the country are understaffed to some degree. Of the operators still in the job, 75% reported in the study feel burned out. Lake said it will likely be another year and a half of using the Amazon Connect tool until the office sees how it benefits job retention.

[Fire Truck Assistance: Bedford Hills Fire Department Helps Oneonta Fire Department](#)

A Westchester County fire department was on standby for the Oneonta Fire Department for the last few days. At the request of the State Office of Fire Prevention and Control, Bedford Hills helped Oneonta with a ladder truck. The truck was staffed with a driver, an officer and two firefighters. Oneonta's truck was out of service for repairs, but it's back

today. Bedford Hills is about three hours from Oneonta. We're told the Cooperstown Fire Department couldn't help out because their ladder truck also needed repairs. The crew from Bedford Hills didn't have to go out on a call.

CHALLENGES:

You Can Turn Your Pager Off.

Our Chief is right, all the fire departments in the county need help. We've heard all the excuses. I can't commit to (fill in the blank), I'm not always available, I'm too young/old, I don't know anything about it. They are just excuses. We are all volunteers. We can when we can and we can't when we can't.

This is an incredible job you get paid for in ways that aren't money. If you've ever thought about it, contact the VFD in your area. The hardest part, is walking through that station door the first time.

We all live in the communities we serve. How can you make a difference?

Every fire department across the country needs help.

Plainville Fire District In Dire Need Of Volunteers

Ashley Cafaro

TOWN OF LYSANDER, N.Y. – Onondaga Co. — The Plainville Fire District is in desperate need of volunteers. The district held its first public workshop Tuesday night, with hopes of recruiting men and women to join the team.

The lack of volunteers and the future of the Plainville Fire District are two big concerns that were discussed during Tuesday's workshop. It's a major crisis that's not only affecting Plainville Fire District but multiple fire departments across the nation.

Currently, there are just 17 active members in the district. The fire commissioner says they're getting by, but still need more people to step up.

The district is not only looking for volunteer firefighters but EMTs, Fire Police, administration and other positions. Not having enough volunteers can lead to delays in response times during emergencies and could result in higher home insurance rates. **Another option for the Plainville Fire District would be merging with other local departments, however, that could lead to a big increase in the annual fire tax.**

"Everything that you see here, as far as equipment is concerned, is tax money that we raise and we are proud of the fact that we are able to do that with a very reasonable tax rate for our residents. We want to try and be able to do that and if we can't get volunteers then we have to think of other ways of continuing. **One of the things that's going to happen is our tax rates are going to go up,**" said Ken Landon, Chairman of the Board of Fire Commissioners. The district has held other community events in the past, with hopes of recruiting new members. But the outcome wasn't successful. The district is hoping Tuesday's workshop gets the ball rolling.

"I have an opening statement to read explaining why basically were having this meeting tonight and any ideas what can we do about this, who can we get to help us, how can we arouse the people's interest in joining the fire department. The whole idea is it's not just about fighting fires. There are so many other things that can happen for people to do in the department," said Landon.

Tom Perkins has been a volunteer firefighter for 60 years and says it's not easy, but it's so worth it. "There's no greater benefit to the community or satisfaction for being a member then joining your volunteer fire department. It's very fulfilling and rewarding. You have your ups and downs, you have your bad calls that stay with you," said Perkins. "The amount of time people spend texting, you know if you took a portion of that and said ok, I am going to get on my volunteer fire department and take those ten hours a month that I am on my phone and give it to the community, we all would be better off."

The Plainville Fire District is looking for men and women, 18 years or older to join the district.

\$35,000 in Gear Ruined in Fighting Irwin (PA) Fire

Joe Napsha - The Tribune-Review, Greensburg

A fire that destroyed an Irwin house in June also cost the Irwin fire department more than \$35,000 in damaged equipment, an Irwin fire official said.

Irwin Councilman Shawn Stitely, who is the deputy fire chief in Irwin Volunteer Fire Department, told council last week that the fire department lost more than \$35,000 worth of equipment in battling the blaze on June 21 that destroyed the house at 535 Carroll Drive. Radios, masks, boots and other fire gear were damaged in the fire, Stitely said.

The borough turned in the claim to its insurer, said Shari Martino, borough manager. ***The insurance will pay all of the cost of the damages, with the exception of a \$1,000 deductible.***

Stitely showed fellow members of council and the audience a mask with a face shield that was partially melted in an area that would protect a firefighter's eyes. With the heat as intense as it was from the fire, "this is what could happen in a minute," Stitely said. "It could have turned out much, much worse," Stitely said. "When it gets that hot, stuff can go bad really quickly," Stitely said. The house will be demolished, Martino said. **[EDITOR'S NOTE: DO YOU EVER ASK YOURSELF WHY SO MANY RESOURCES WERE COMMITTED TO A BUILDING THAT WAS NOT OCCUPIED AND WAS SO DANGEROUS, WHEN THE OUTCOME DIDN'T CHANGE?]**

[East Lampeter \(PA\) Supervisors Sign Off on Purchase of \\$1.4M Pumper](#)

The East Lampeter Township board approved purchasing a new \$1.4 million pumper for the Hand-in-Hand Fire Company. It will replace a 23-year-old engine, becoming operational by late 2027.

The township will contribute 60% to the engine, while the fire company will provide 40% of the cost, the report said. Hand-in-Hand serves all of East Lampeter Township and offers support to Ronks, Witmer and Lafayette fire companies and neighboring townships. The replacement offers additional seats with SCBA, enhanced braking, handling and safety features and a single-piece windshield, the report said. The engine should last 20 to 25 years. **[EDITOR'S NOTE: THE SHOCKING NEW NORM IS THE \$1M+ PRICE FOR A PUMPER! SINGLE PIECE WINDSHIELD? REALLY? THAT WAS YOUR SELLING POINT?]**

[Robotaxi in Collision with San Francisco \(CA\) Aerial](#)

A robotaxi and a San Francisco Fire Department tiller truck collided Thursday night when the truck was answering a fire call, injuring the car's passenger. The incident happened around 10 p.m. in the Tenderloin district of the city. Cruise, the owner of the taxi, reported on social media that its vehicle proceeded through a green light and was struck by the fire truck, which was responding to a call at the time. The accident comes just days after California regulators voted to allow robotaxis to operate round-the-clock in the city, overruling objections put forward by the San Francisco Fire Department and Police Department. **[COMING TO A CITY NEAR YOU?]**

TRAINING FOR YOUR MEMBERS AND OFFICERS: PASS IT FORWARD!!

[NYSAFC 2023 Seminar Series, "Truck Skills Beyond the Textbooks"](#)

Early in our firefighting orientation, we're taught basic skills and tactics from textbooks. In addition, we'll drill and be tested on many of these skills at fire academy buildings to attain our firefighting certifications. It's a good process, but our learning shouldn't stop there because we haven't been exposed to many of the situations we'll encounter at fires and emergencies. Plus, the buildings in the academy aren't conducive to allowing us to operate with tools to open the walls and ceilings, pull suspended ceilings, remove baseboard and window trim, or even cut open tongue and groove sheathed roofs. This [interactive lecture](#) strives to go beyond textbook learning and bring alive street skills, tips, and tactics of truck work in: portable ladders, overhaul, forcible entry, roof ventilation, tool use, and more.

Registration (per person):

\$35 – NYSAFC members

\$50 – non-members

Pre-registration encouraged.

- **Albany Co. October/23/23,**
- **Fulton Co. September/7/23,**
- **Saratoga Co. October/24/23**

REGISTER AT THIS LINK: <https://www.nysfirechiefs.com/2023seminarseries>

[Bring NYSAFC Training to Your Area](#)

Fire departments and county agencies or associations that are interested in hosting classroom-based programs or Regional Hands-On Training are invited to submit host request forms. The forms outline the specific host responsibilities and logistical considerations for each NYSAFC program. Sites are now being considered for programs in 2024.

VFIS TRAINING AND RESOURCE CATALOG 2023

<https://afdca.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/2023-ETC-Resource-Catalog-VFIS.pdf>

VFIS UNIVERSITY – USERS GUIDE

<https://afdca.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/VFIS-University-User-Guide-3.pdf>

VFIS TRAINING OFFICER USERS GUIDE

<https://afdca.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/VFISU-Training-Officer-User-Guide.pdf>

VFIS RESPONDER HELP FLYER

<https://afdca.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/2023-VFIS-Responder-Help-Flyer.pdf>



3 Cancer prevention resources for firefighters

Cancer is gaining nationwide recognition as one of the most dangerous health and safety threats to firefighters—and for good reason. Your fire department's leadership team and members each play an important role in helping reduce the chance of cancer—and everyone can make a meaningful difference by continually evaluating best practices and instituting needed changes.

The latest + trending cancer prevention resources

on RESPONDER+HELP

- **How clean is clean?** Two major research efforts are addressing just that, including PPE cleaning procedures and the possible effects of cross-contamination. [Learn more>>>](#)
- **All U.S. firefighters are encouraged to join the National Firefighter Registry for Cancer**, including those with and without cancer and those who are active or retired, so that researchers can continue to learn about cancer and how to help prevent it. [Learn more>>>](#)
- **This sample SOG** can help your fire department implement cancer prevention best practices, including on-scene decontamination, respiratory protection, healthy habits and more. [Learn more>>>](#)

DOWNLOAD SAMPLE SOG AT THIS LINK: <https://www.responderhelp.com/media/2330/sog-sample-carcinogen-preventive-practices.docx>



QPR Suicide Prevention ESIP WEBINAR SERIES - -Question-Persuade-Refer

Sadly, we lose many members of the fire and EMS services to suicide every year. During our next ESIP webinar, Gerald Shalk joins us to review the QPR approach to suicide prevention so we may look after each other when one of us is in crisis.

Wednesday September 6th at 7:00PM

REGISTER HERE AT THIS LINK: <https://mcneilandcompany.us8.list-manage.com/track/click?u=03596f243a9d922954ebaf15e&id=fcac5edad3&e=781e9a2c81>

THE SAFETY OFFICER – TAKING CARE OF OUR MEMBERS!

IN 2023 WE HAVE SADLY EXPERIENCED 52 FIRE FIGHTER LODD'S

*According to FirefighterCloseCalls.com**

In 2022 we experienced 101 LODDs reported nationally.!

You Just Never Know!

- Shawn Giles was struck by a vehicle and killed while operating Sunday afternoon at the scene of an earlier crash, according to reports. A 53 year old member of the Fuller Hose Volunteer Fire Company #1 in North East, was assisting Pennsylvania State Police by directing traffic during a crash investigation in the eastbound lanes of Route 20. At 12:47 p.m., he was struck by a 2007 Lexus RX350. A 41-year-old Erie resident who was driving with a suspended license, is facing homicide charges in the as-yet-unidentified firefighter's death.
 - An Orange County, Florida firefighter was sent to the hospital after working to put out a fire at a church west of Orlando Tuesday evening. The firefighter had to call a Mayday when he got disoriented, but crew members were able to safely remove the firefighter from the building, he was hospitalized with minor burns.
-
-

A Battalion Chief Suspended After Teen Burned During Training Session

Francis Scarcella-The Daily Item

SHAMOKIN — Shamokin City Councilman Bill Milbrand said a battalion fire chief will be suspended indefinitely after a **junior firefighter allegedly suffered burns during a training exercise** in Selinsgrove in July.

On Monday, Shamokin Council voted 4-1 to suspend Northumberland County Director of Public Safety Steve Jeffery. Milbrand said Jeffery, Shamokin fire chief, and Thomas Jeffery, captain at the Friendship Fire Co. in Shamokin, were suspended following an investigation into an alleged incident that took place during the training session in Snyder County.

Milbrand said a 17-year-old was burned during the session. Milbrand, who serves as public safety director for Shamokin, said the probe is still ongoing. "We are still getting information and as of now the suspensions will take place," he said.

Milbrand said Shamokin and Friendship Fire Company were fined \$1,000 from the department of labor and industry for the incident.

Northumberland County Commissioner Sam Schiccatano said the county was made aware of the situation but officials there are not commenting until they get more information. Schiccatano said he would update the public once the county conducts its own investigation. Milbrand said he will also keep the public informed on the probe when more information becomes available.

DISTRICT FINANCES

Struggling Chaumont Fire Department Looks At Creating Fire District

The Chaumont Volunteer Fire Department says chicken barbecues just don't fully fund a fire department. That's why it's looking at creating a new taxing jurisdiction: a fire district. Chief William Lipczynski says the move could help ensure financial stability "We're a village fire department and the village right now doesn't have the funding available to sustain our fire department," he said. A fire district would enable the department to bring in more funding to purchase another truck and maintain equipment. It would likely mean higher taxes for folks in Chaumont and the town of Lyme. As a tradeoff, residents would have a higher influence on the department, being able to serve as fire commissioners. "It would be anyone from the contractual district. They'd be voted on at election timeframe," said Lipczynski.

He says his department was often told to host more fundraisers when it brought up financial struggles in the past. **The issue is, no amount of chicken barbecues can pay for a fire truck.**

"Especially since COVID, everything from our fire gear to fixing our fire trucks just keeps going up drastically," said Lipczynski.

Although the proposal has seen support from village officials, some say they're concerned about how much the district would raise taxes. **[EDITOR'S NOTE: THIS IS ALWAYS THE NUMBER ONE QUESTION, HAVE AN ANSWER.]**

"At this point, we'll have another meeting and then if they're able to answer some of the questions, the next step would be a public hearing," said Chaumont Mayor Jim Morrow. Morrow says it's far too early to know what the tax could be.

Hamlin Morton Walker Fire District – Financial Management

Background

The District provides fire protection services within the Towns of Clarkson and Hamlin in Monroe County and the Town of Kendall in Orleans County.

An elected five-member Board is responsible for the general management and control of financial operations, including adopting annual budgets and establishing financial policies. The Board appointed an Administrator who is responsible for assisting the Board with the District's day-to-day operations.

The Board appointed a Treasurer, who serves as the District's chief fiscal officer and is responsible for the custody, receipt, disbursement and accounting for District funds and preparing periodic financial reports. The Deputy Treasurer assists with these responsibilities.

The Treasurer for 2021 and 2022 became the Deputy Treasurer for 2023. The 2022 Deputy Treasurer became the Treasurer for 2023. Another individual was Treasurer for 2020 and Deputy Treasurer for 2021.

Audit Objective

Determine whether the Hamlin Morton Walker Fire District (District) Board of Fire Commissioners (Board) and officials effectively managed fund balance.

Key Findings

The Board and officials did not effectively manage fund balance. As a result, they were not transparent with taxpayers and fund balance declined. We found:

- From 2020 through 2022, restricted fund balance declined by \$676,641 (66 percent). As of December 31, 2022, unrestricted fund balance was \$34,092, which was less than 4 percent of the 2023 appropriations.
- **The Board did not adopt realistic budgets.** For example, **expenditures were underestimated** by nearly \$1.5 million (45 percent) and **revenues were underestimated** by \$215,772 (8 percent) for 2020 through 2022.
- ***The District did not have a written multiyear financial plan or adequate capital plan***, which inhibits the Board and District officials from effectively managing finances and addressing future operating and capital needs.

Key Recommendations

- Maintain reasonable, sufficient unrestricted fund balance and reserves.
- Adopt realistic budgets that include all anticipated revenues and planned expenditures.
- Amend the written fund balance policy and adopt comprehensive written financial and capital plans.

READ THE COMPLETE REPORT HERE:

<https://www.osc.state.ny.us/files/local-government/audits/2023/pdf/hamlin-morton-walker-fire-district-2023-67.pdf>

LIVING WITH NEW GREEN TECHNOLOGY - - HOT TOPIC!

****Battery-Powered Saws, Drills, Other Tools Becoming Commonplace on Rescue Trucks**

Alan M. Petrillo

Recent major improvements in battery power and life have increased the use of battery-powered hand tools like drills and saws instead of electric corded versions. *Fire Apparatus & Emergency Equipment* examines the reasons behind the move to battery tools and checks out the models and types of battery-powered hand tools being carried on rescues.

Robert Ingram, district manager of fire rescue services for Makita USA Inc., points out that one of Makita's newer products used in the fire service is the CEB-01 14-inch rotary battery-powered saw. "The saw can take either a 14-inch or a 12-inch blade, which makes it versatile in the fire service," Ingram notes. "It's an 80-volt tool that runs off of two of our 40-volt lithium-ion batteries and delivers the power of a 75-cubic-centimeter (cc) gasoline-powered saw." Makita makes its own brand of 40-volt and 18-volt batteries, Ingram adds.

Ingram says that Makita makes a series of battery-powered chain saws (the GCU-04, 05, and 06 models) that are run by a single 40-volt battery. "The 04 model is a standard stud-and-nut style on the side of an 18-inch bar," he says. "The 05 has a 16-inch bar, the 06 has an 18-inch bar, and both don't need tools to remove the bar. With all three models, firefighters get instant power right away, equivalent to a 40- to 45-cc gasoline-powered chain saw and a run time similar to that of a tank of gasoline."

Makita also makes a rotary hammer tool, the GRH06, that is used often by firefighters for collapse rescue and urban search and rescue situations, Ingram says. The tool runs on two 40-volt Makita batteries and can run a core bit up to two inches in diameter to a depth of eight inches, Ingram says. "We took the antivibration technology from our corded rotary hammer and incorporated it into our battery model, which has counterbalances to take out some of the vibration."

Another Makita tool used by firefighters is the Rod Flush Cutter, XCS-06T1, which has a carbide tooth blade that can cut flush with a concrete wall as close as 1/8 inch, Ingram points out. “It will cut up to 1-inch rebar and vehicle steering wheels or brake pedals. It takes the cutter less than a second to cut through them, powered by an 18-volt battery.”

Milwaukee® Tool has introduced the M18 FUEL™ 7¼-inch rear handle circular saw, a battery-powered unit that the company says not only generates the power of a 15-amp corded saw but also cuts faster than the leading corded saws in the industry. Milwaukee notes that the M18 FUEL saw has three innovations: a POWERSTATE™ brushless motor, a REDLITHIUM™ battery pack, and REDLINK PLUS™ intelligence.

Milwaukee’s POWERSTATE brushless motor delivers 5,800 revolutions per minute, while the REDLINK PLUS intelligence package ensures maximum saw performance under load and prevents against overload and overheat, a Milwaukee spokesperson says. The spokesperson adds that when equipped with Milwaukee’s new REDLITHIUM high-output HD12.0 battery, the saw can power through up to 570 cuts on a single charge, providing 50 percent more power, running 50 percent cooler, and delivering 33 percent more run time than the previous HD9.0 battery.

The rear-handle circular saw has cast magnesium construction to reduce weight without sacrificing durability, Milwaukee notes, and features an LED work light to allow more accurate cuts and a multisized rafter hook for easy storage.

Batteries that work across multiple tool platforms, even beyond drills and saws, also are gaining traction in the fire service, say battery and tool manufacturers. Lou Zara, product manager for Safe Fleet, says that his company’s FRC Spectra Mobile LED portable light is a 15,000-lumen design with a compact head, hanging strap, and spike that is powered by an 18-volt Milwaukee Tool 12-amp-hour battery. “The Spectra Mobile light can use the same type of battery as many of the saws and drills that you would find on a fire apparatus, so there’s no need to carry a proprietary battery to power the unit,” Zara points out.

Michael Canon, director of distribution for IDEX Fire & Safety, points out that the fire service uses two unofficial classes of batteries—a retail/technical model that’s used in the fire service without modification and smaller, more specialized purpose-built batteries for emergency service use. For instance, HURST Jaws of Life® specifically built its battery-powered hydraulic rescue tools to use the emergency services category of battery, he says, because **they are constructed to operate at a high temperature range and to be waterproof.**

“Our 9-amp, 25.2-volt batteries are designed and built by a custom battery maker for us,” Canon says. **“They meet the IP67 and IP68 standards for water resistance, which no retail battery does, and can also be used to operate smoke ejection fans to the National Fire Protection Association standard.** We have a cooperative agreement with Super Vac and Leader (Tempest) to allow them to use our battery technology and design their battery-powered fans so they interface correctly with our HURST E3 waterproof high-capacity eDRAULIC® batteries.”

Canon notes that while every fire department has a need for power tools that are powered by retail type batteries, there are instances where a higher performance is necessary to do the job at hand. “We are currently exploring more cooperative agreements with hand power tool manufacturers to expand the use of our batteries beyond exhaust fans and LED lights,” he says.

How Lithium-Ion Batteries Are Changing Fire Department Response

Michael O’Brian

Lithium-ion batteries are powering more devices than ever. From our personal electronics and mobility devices (e-bikes, scooters, wheelchairs) to energy storage systems (ESS), electric vehicles and manufacturing facilities, our firefighters are responding to myriad incident types that require a new approach. **These calls challenge our crews, in part due to their long duration.**

Consider an e-bike. While an e-bike has lots of advantages for our community in providing affordable transportation, when the battery pack powering the device is not properly constructed, over-charged or damaged, the effects of a cell in thermal runaway are devastating. Recent studies by UL’s Fire Safety Research Institute have proven the speed at which lithium-ion battery fires grow.

Firefighters must understand the effects of thermal runaway, namely cell-to-cell propagation and off-gassing. **The smoke from these fires is filled with flammable gasses, which, depending on the location of the fire, can create rapid fire development and flashover in under 30 seconds.** Then, as cells go through thermal runaway, the heat can propagate to additional cells, creating a series of pops and additional cell ignitions.

The fire service is rapidly refining our response techniques, not only in fire suppression but post-incident mitigation as well. Our actions can dictate if we will have a second event after the first. Such actions involve packing of batteries post-incident, working with our secondary responders on proper towing and storage, and working with vendors on proper transport.

As our neighborhoods continue to electrify, the fire service is poised to lead the necessary conversations in our communities. Collectively we are very good at educating our community on the various hazards that can occur in the home. Developing our understanding and providing education to our community about proper charging and storage and what to do when a battery pack is damaged are key parts of our expanding roles.

As we educate our citizens, we must also work to develop a strong community response across public safety. This includes working with our law enforcement partners on the hazards associated with electric vehicles involved in a crash and developing processes for proper towing and handling. Further, we can work with our community partners to develop collection points for suspect or possibly damaged batteries, and **we must drive conversation with community leaders that tactics on ESS and EVs do sometimes involve letting the unit burn out.**

The fire service is uniquely positioned to lead the transition to more electric devices in our homes, workplaces and community as a whole. We must train our firefighters and company officers with the latest information, build strong partnerships within our community for post-incident response, and work to educate everyone on these new hazards.

Where There's Smoke, There's An Autonomous Vehicle Blocking A Fire

San Francisco is on the cutting edge of driverless vehicle tech. One group isn't pleased about it, the city's first responders.

- Two weeks ago: Regulators greenlit GM's Cruise and Google's Waymo robotaxi expansion in SF, allowing them to serve live, paying customers 24/7.
 - Opposed but overruled: the city's police and fire departments, which cited dozens of incidents where self-driving cars interrupted rescue operations.
- One week ago: Right on cue, a Cruise vehicle collided with a fire truck en route to an emergency. (Regulators halved Cruise's active fleet, pending an investigation.)

What's going wrong?

Per *The Los Angeles Times*, robotaxis have:

- Run through emergency tape, straight into downed electrical wires.
- Forced a firetruck to back up and reroute to a blaze.
- Entered an active fire scene, then parked on top of a fire hose.
- **Blocked firehouse driveways. Twice.**

Neither company has offered a reason why their vehicles have responded this way, per *NPR*.

Waymo claims its cars are designed to identify, and yield to, emergency vehicles, among other built-in precautions — like a 24-hour hotline to connect first responders and Waymo staff.

But every second counts in an emergency, and SF Fire Chief Jeanine Nicholson says firefighters “cannot be paying attention to an autonomous vehicle when [they've] got ladders to throw.”

Things may get more unwieldy soon

Cruise and Waymo has asked the California Public Utilities Commission, which dismissed San Francisco's first responders' concerns, to weigh in on expanded testing in more cities, including Los Angeles.

- SFFD fields ~160k calls per year; LAFD responded to 505k+ calls last year.

Trust the LA residents behind this newsletter: The city's drivers need no help making the roads *absolutely impossible* for emergency vehicles.

[EDITOR'S NOTE: THAT'S WHY WE HAVE LARGE HEAVY BUMPERS ON FIRE TRUCKS. DESTROY A FEW OF THESE ROBOTAXIS AND I'M SURE CHANGE WILL COME QUICKLY.]

BUILDING & FIRE CODE ISSUES – WHY ARE THEY IMPORTANT TO YOU? WEEKLY FIRE FATALITY DATA AS REPORTED BY THE MEDIA

Home builders and realtors already “drive” legislation with a history of disregard for life safety and a disgusting misinformation campaign about the cost of residential fire sprinklers, deaths are an awfully expensive price to pay to

save money. Stop the carnage, install residential sprinklers. Residential sprinklers are a component of the plumbing system, with approximately 1 head per room. The purpose of residential sprinklers is to allow time for the occupants to escape. Residential sprinklers are designed for quick response and only one at the most two heads may be triggered. With residential sprinklers present, the civilian death rate is 89% LOWER. Residential sprinklers will assist responding firefighters to do their jobs and save firefighters lives also, especially since everyone is short staffed!!
CHIEFS NEED TO SPEAK UP: This fire would not have been as bad if there were residential sprinklers!!

HOME FIRE FATALITIES REPORTED BY THE MEDIA FROM THE US FIRE ADMINISTRATION	
Fire Deaths in 1&2 Family Dwellings in NYS	52+0 = 52
Last fire death 8/2 Bronx, Bronx Co	
Fire Deaths in any type of Dwelling in NYS	103+5 = 108
Fire Deaths in 1&2 Family Dwellings Nationally	841 + 33= 874
Top 3 States with the greatest 1&2 Family Deaths	1 PA = 58
	2 NY = 52
	3 OH = 47
There has been a total of 1410 civilian home fire fatalities in 2023	
There were a total of 2251 residential fire fatalities reported in 2022 in the US media.	
Both the states of Maryland and California require sprinklers in residential dwellings	

In 2022 in New York State 77 residents perished in fires in 1 & 2 family occupancies.

APPARATUS PURCHASING....IN TODAY'S ENVIRONMENT

****Content Change Highlights for NFPA 1901 and 1906 for 2024**

WATER FORDING Manufacturers will be required to state the height of the lowest portion of the air intake system that is not sealed (open to water intrusion) in the operator manual.

ELECTRIC VEHICLE ACCOMMODATION The old standards were written before the advent of electric vehicles and included requirements that were not appropriate for EVs. Chapters were rewritten in a way that makes a distinction between electric propulsion and internal combustion engine propulsion. Certain unique EV safety requirements were added as well. Requirements for batteries now make a distinction between high voltage and low voltage batteries.

REQUIREMENTS BY APPARATUS TYPE The old standards had unique chapters for the requirements of unique apparatus types such as pumper, initial attack, mobile water supply, etc. These requirements were combined into a single chapter with a master table that indicates requirements by type. *Most the of loose equipment requirements including ground ladders, hose, and nozzles are no longer required, but instead have been moved to the annex as suggestions only.*

STRUCTURAL AND WILDLAND CHAPTERS COMBINED In past revisions the apparatus committee made an effort to have 1901 (structural) and 1906 (wildland) chapters match one another wherever possible. When these chapters were combined into a single document it was clear that there was a significant amount of duplication of text. These chapters were therefore combined. For those features where there is a difference the text will call for the feature to apply only to "Structural" or "Wildland" apparatus as appropriate. **NIGHT MODE FOR WARNING LIGHTS** The committee debated extensively the need for a mode that would reduce the intensity of warning lights for nighttime operation. It became clear that the high intensity of most current warning lights is not required by the standard at all but is a result of competitive pressures within the lighting industry. The minimum intensity standards are already appropriate for nighttime operation. Guidelines for warning light night mode features have been added to the annex.

BACKUP CAMERA A rear view camera is now required on all apparatus.

LOW VOLTAGE BATTERY CHARGERS Battery chargers that are permanently installed on the apparatus will need to be tested prior to delivery. The test requirements were pulled directly from the annual test required by NFPA 1911.

SEATING The new standard is more specific about providing adequate room for occupants. A distinction is made between a seat that is intended to be occupied on every response, and those seats that are provided for occasional use. The purchaser must be intentional about seating configurations and consider more carefully how they plan to staff the cab.

CLEAN CAB Clean cab features are not required in the new standard, but guidance is provided in the annex for those wishing to adopt clean cab procedures.

EQUIPMENT AND LADDER RACKS The equipment rack section was revised to provide requirements for both automatic and manual racks with an eye to ergonomics of deployment.

REAR CHEVRON STRIPING The requirement for rear chevron striping is retained, but the color requirement is now optional.

HOSE REEL REWIND Any hose reel with more than 100 feet of hose must include a powered rewind function

AERIAL STABILIZER PAD SIZE The maximum aerial stabilizer pad pressure allowed has been increased from 75 psi to 100 psi. *This may reduce the size of the stabilizer pads depending on the weight of the apparatus.*

AERIAL LOAD CHART DEFINED Every aerial device has a load chart but the requirements for the load chart have never been defined. The new standard requires the following minimum information:

- Rated capacity through the range of motion of the device
- Rated vertical height
- Rated horizontal reach
- Rated water flow (if applicable)
- Rated wind speed

THE LIGHTER SIDE!

Remember when people kept diaries and got mad when someone read them? Now they put everything online and get mad when people don't read it!!

CLASSIFIED SECTION

FIRE DISTRICT TREASURER VACANCY

PAID POSITION

MIDWAY FIRE DISTRICT

The Fire District is soliciting letters of interest and resumes for the Treasurer position. The term of service for this appointed position is normally for an annual term commencing on January 1 but an unexpected vacancy required filling this position as soon as possible. Those interested in being considered for this position should submit their name and any resume or summary of qualifications to Michael Cerone, Board of Fire Commissioners, mcerone@aol.com

General Requirements. The treasurer must have basic bookkeeping skills and familiarity with double entry accounting. Experience and a working knowledge of Quick Books accounting software also required for this position. Attendance at all meetings of the Board of Fire Commissioners is required (currently 3rd Monday of each month at 7:00 PM) but much of the work of this job is accomplished during regular hours or whenever the treasurer prefers. The treasurer must be familiar with computers and use email. Familiarity with Word and Excel is also required.

A detailed position description for this job may be obtained upon request. mcerone@aol.com

There will be a criminal background check made upon the selected candidate prior to finalization of hire.

Remember it is preferred by state law that fire district treasurers live within the fire district they are working for!!

OFFICERS OF THE CAPITAL AREA ASSOCIATION OF FIRE DISTRICTS

2023 OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

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Treasurer: Tony Hill
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The Capital Area Association represents fire district officials from the fire districts in Albany, Schenectady, Rensselaer, Warren, Washington, Saratoga, Fulton and Montgomery Counties
Fire District Officials include Commissioners, Treasurers, and Deputy Treasurers
Secretaries and Chiefs are also invited to participate!

The Capital Area Association wants to take this opportunity to thank all the Fire Districts who continue to support the local Capital Area Association as members for 2023.

Please advise your secretaries that all correspondence go to the Capital Area Association Mailing Address at:

AFDCA PO Box 242 East Schodack, NY 12063

[EMAIL TREASURER: CFDATREASURER@GMAIL.COM](mailto:CFDATREASURER@GMAIL.COM)

[518-407-5020](tel:518-407-5020)

Long Way to Travel Zoom into the General Membership Meetings!

It's our desire that every member fire district have the opportunity to attend Capital Area meetings. We know we cover a large area, in 8 counties and beyond, and wish to give all of our members a chance to participate in the general membership meetings. You have a voice, and we would like to hear it. Join us at our next meeting either in person or via Zoom. The link will be sent via constant contact prior to each general membership meeting. Thank you for being a member and we hope you will join us.

FIRE DISTRICT RESOURCES - - THE BACK PAGE - - FOR YOU TO FOLLOW UP!

What are the duties and responsibilities of a Commissioner?

The Answer is posted on our web site at www.AFDCA.org

Vital Statistics on the State Association Regions – the break out is on our web site.

Membership Audit

CAFDA, currently has **79-member Fire Districts** in Albany, Schenectady, Fulton, Montgomery, Rensselaer, Warren, Washington and Saratoga Counties.

We currently have **21 fire districts that are NOT currently members**, they are: Berne, Delmar, Elsmere and McKownville in Albany County; West Charlton in Saratoga County; Glenville #2, Rotterdam #4 and Duanesburg in Schenectady County; Northville Joint in Fulton County; Bolton, Luzern-Hadley, North Creek and Pottersville in Warren County; and Best Luther, East Schodack, Schodack Center, Schodack Landing, Eastern Pittstown, Nassau #1 and Stephentown in Rensselaer County.

Are we missing anyone? Sometimes there is confusion between the State Association and regional associations such as CAFDA. CAFDA is not a branch or subsidiary of the State Association, we are not in each other reporting chain or organizational structure. **We exist solely as a not for profit for the benefit of the member fire districts.**

CAPITAL AREA BUSINESS PARTNER'S

PLEASE SUPPORT THOSE WHO SUPPORT US!!

Business Partner Applications Available At: WWW.AFDCA.ORG

We invite our business partners to submit educational information to be included in this Bulletin for district commissioners and chief officers

Write me at tom@rinaldi1.com

Please Support Those Who Support Us!!

If you have information on new products you wish to showcase or is educational and informative for fire districts, please submit it and we will use it in this Bulletin under the appropriate heading.

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Veteran Owned Business

The Capital Bulletin is reaching well over 400+ fire district members and now other members of the fire service on a regular basis. Since the Capital Area Association covers an area the size of Connecticut it is difficult to meet in person to exchange information and ideas.

This is a service of the Capital Area Association through the effort of Tom Rinaldi who can be reached at tom@rinaldi1.com for comments or content contributions are always welcome.

You Can Become a Member of the Capital Area Association!

The Capital Area Association has voted to amend its By-laws to allow both individual and regional or county Fire District Associations to join. The updated By-laws are posted to the AFDCA.org website.

Individual membership fee will be \$50 annually, fire district association fees will be \$300 annually.

Download THE APPLICATION HERE: <https://afdca.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/2022-Application.doc>

Benefits of membership include meeting attendance, receiving the Bulletin, access to legal advice

MEMBERSHIP IN THE CAPITAL AREA FIRE DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION (CAFDA)

Would you like to join Capital Area Fire Districts Association along with 75 members in 8 counties? Individuals, fire district associations, fire protection districts and Village departments are all eligible for membership.

Annual dues (January 1st to December 31st) shall be as follows and shall be based on the annual budget of the Fire District/Organization;

\$0 to \$200,000: \$50

\$200,001 to \$400,000: \$100

\$400,001 to \$600,000: \$200

\$600,001 plus: \$300

Individuals \$50.00 and Other Associations \$300 annually.

Business Partners: \$100.00 annual member fee

CAFDA UPCOMING TRAINING AND MEETING CALENDAR NEXT PAGE



The following calendar, while tentative, provides our members and participants some insight into the planned activities to be provided locally to our membership and other fire district participants for '23, '24 and '25. We hope you will join us on this journey to provide reasonably priced, quality training in a local setting for your convenience.



For General Membership meetings food is served 1 hour prior to the start time of the meeting, at 6pm, meetings begin promptly at 7PM

Capital Area Meetings/Seminars/Trainings/Conference Dates (Subject to Change & Updated 7/14/2023)				
Day/Date	Time	Type	Location	Notes
2023				
AUGUST				
NO MEETING				
Tuesday, September 12, 2023	6:00 PM	PESH vs. NFPA Seminar	DeCrescente	Mechanicville
Thursday, September 14, 2023	7:00 PM	General Membership Mtg.	Clifton Park	
Tuesday, September 19, 2023	6:00 PM	Secretary Training	DeCrescente	Mechanicville
Thursday, October 12, 2023	7:00 PM	General Membership Mtg.	Clifton Park	Officers/Director Nominations
Saturday, November 4, 2023	8:00 AM	Fall Workshop	Verdoy FD	
Thursday, November 9, 2023	7:00 PM	General Membership Mtg.	Clifton Park	Officer/Director Elections
DECEMBER				
NO MEETING				
2024				
Saturday, January 6, 2024	9:00 AM	General Membership Mtg.	Clifton Park	Organizational/Morning Meeting
Monday, January 22, 2024	6:00 PM	Secretary Training	TBD	Snowdate - Tuesday, January 23, 2023
Saturday, February 3, 2024	8:00 AM	Commissioner Training	Averill Park	Snowdate - Sunday, February 4, 2024
Thursday, February 8, 2024	7:00 PM	General Membership Mtg.	Clifton Park	
Thursday, February 29, 2024	8:00 AM	It's Not YOUR Money! Financial Trng. w/OSC	Halfmoon Fire District	
Friday, March 1, 2024	8:00 AM			
Saturday, March 2, 2024	8:00 AM	Commissioner Training	Halfmoon FD	Snowdate - Sunday, March 3, 2024
Thursday, March 7, 2024	7:00 PM	General Membership Mtg.	Clifton Park	
Saturday, March 9, 2024	6:00 PM	Officer Installation	TBD	
Saturday, March 23, 2024	8:00 AM	Commissioner Training	Berkshire FD	Snowdate - Sunday, March 24, 2024
Saturday, April 6, 2024	8:00 AM	Commissioner Training	Warrensburg FD	Snowdate - Sunday, April 7, 2024
Thursday, April 11, 2024	7:00 PM	Board of Directors Meeting	Clifton Park	
Thur- Sat April 24,25,26/2024		CAFDA Conference	Lake George, NY	
Thursday, May 9, 2024	7:00 PM	General Membership Mtg.	Clifton Park	
Thursday, June 6, 2024	7:00 PM	Board of Directors Meeting	Clifton Park	
JULY				
NO MEETING				
AUGUST				
NO MEETING				
Friday, August 9, 2024	11:00 AM	DAY AT THE RACES	Saratoga Race Course	Officers, Directors, Vendors
SEPTEMBER				
Thursday, September 12, 2024	7:00 PM	General Membership Mtg.	Clifton Park	
Thursday, October 10, 2024	7:00 PM	General Membership Mtg.	Clifton Park	Officers/Director Nominations
Saturday, November 2, 2024	8:00 AM	Fall Workshop	TBD	
Thursday, November 7, 2024	7:00 PM	General Membership Mtg.	Clifton Park	Officer/Director Elections
DECEMBER				
NO MEETING				
2025				
Saturday, January 4, 2025	9:00 AM	General Membership Mtg.	Clifton Park	Organizational/Morning Meeting

[CLICK ON PDF TO OPEN FIRE DISTRICT BUDGET SCHEDULE](#)

There was previous difficulty in opening this document, it should be corrected.

Click on this link, or go to our website at afdca.org

<https://afdca.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/Fire-District-Budget-Schedule.pdf>

[CLICK ON PDF TO OPEN FIRE DISTRICT ELECTION SCHEDULE](#)

There was previous difficulty in opening this document, it should be corrected.

Click on this link, or go to our website at afdca.org

<https://afdca.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/Fire-District-Elections-Schedule-2023.pdf>

Also Both are Available on the legacy CAFDA Web Site at:

<https://afdca.org/fire-district-budget-schedule-and-fire-district-election-schedule/>

Capital Area Fire Districts Association

CAFDA

Presents

PESH vs NFPA Myth vs Fact



Date: Tuesday, September 12 th

Time: 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm

Location:

DeCrescente Distributing Co.

211 North Main Street

Mechanicville, NY

(across from Price Chopper)

Speaker: Jennifer Puerner

NYS Public Employees

Safety and Health Bureau

There is NO CHARGE for this event!

Seating is **LIMITED**

Reserve your seat NOW
by emailing caaofd@gmail.com

How many times in the Fire Service have you heard the phrase;

“Because we’ve always done it that way”

Join us as Jennifer Puerner of the NYS Public Employee Safety and Health Bureau, will shed light on:

- What Training is required?
- What standards apply?
- What needs to be done annually, or not?
- What mandates are actually real?
- What records do we need to keep and for how long?
- How long is turn out gear good for?
- Bailout system requirements
- And everything else that sometimes become the rules



NOTE THE PO BOX SHOULD BE 242 NOT 424 PAY AT THE DOOR IF NECESSARY



CAFDA Training Seminar for **Fire District Secretaries**

Whether you are a seasoned Fire District Secretary or new to the job, there is something for everyone in this seminar. Join Joyce as she takes you through the life of the Fire District Secretary, and let's share information, ideas, tips and tricks on how to make our jobs easier.

This class is not just for Fire District Secretaries...Commissioners are also encourage to attend to get a better understanding of the duties and responsibilities of your secretaries!

Date: Tuesday, September 19th

Time: 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm

Location: DeCrescente Distributing Ctr.
211 N. Main Street
Mechanicville NY
(across from Price Chopper)

Presenter: Joyce Petkus, Director,
Capital Area Fire Districts Association,
District Administrator, Secretary, and
Treasurer Greenfield Fire District,
Saratoga County.

Fee: CAFDA Members \$10

Non Members \$20

Please make checks payable to
CAFDA
PO Box 242
East Schodack, NY 12063

Limited Seating: reserve your seat by
emailing us at CAAOFD@gmail.com
Reserve by **September 12, 2023**

**Capital Area
Fire Districts
Association**

