



# THE CAPITAL BULLETIN



## FIRE DISTRICT NEWS

DECEMBER 24TH, 2022

EDITOR - TOM RINALDI

[tom@rinaldi1.com](mailto:tom@rinaldi1.com)

*If nothing else read the articles preceded by \*\**

*The Officers and Directors of the Capital Area Association of Fire Districts would like to express our wishes for a safe and Merry Christmas to you, your fire districts and your families.*

THE CAPITAL CALENDAR:

[WWW.AFDCA.ORG](http://WWW.AFDCA.ORG)

### **2023 CAPITAL AREA MEETING & TRAINING SCHEDULE**

Saturday January 7<sup>th</sup> 9:00am general membership breakfast serviced at 8AM

Thursday February 9<sup>th</sup> 7:00pm general membership dinner served at 6PM

Thursday March 9<sup>th</sup> 7:00pm general membership dinner served at 6PM

**Saturday, March 11, 2023 6:00 PM Officer Installation Location in Saratoga Springs TBD**

Thursday April 6<sup>th</sup> Board of Director's Meeting 7PM

Thursday May 11<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the General Membership

Thursday June 8<sup>th</sup> Board of Director's Meeting 7PM

Thursday July 13<sup>th</sup> Board of Director's Meeting 7PM

### **August, No Meeting**

Thursday September 14<sup>th</sup>, General Membership Meeting 7PM

Thursday October 12<sup>th</sup> General Membership/Nominations for Officers & Directors

Thursday November 9<sup>th</sup>, 7:00pm general membership dinner served at 6PM/Elections

### **December, No Meeting**

*Printable Calendar – See Last Page*

### **Mandated Commissioner Training Sanctioned by the State Comptroller's Office, \$85.00 per person**

Saturday, February 11, 2023 8:00 AM 6 hour Commissioner Training Averill Park, Rensselaer Co. w/Greg Serio

Saturday, March 4, 2023 8:00 AM 6 hour Commissioner Training Clifton Park Saratoga Co. w/Greg Serio

Saturday, March 25, 2023 8:00 AM 6 hour Commissioner Training Berkshire Fire District Fulton, Co. w/Greg Serio

### **2023 Membership Activity Options Being Explored**

Saturday, November 11, 2023 8:00 AM Fall Workshop Location and Date to be determined

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

CAPITAL AREA ASSOCIATION NEWS:

[WWW.AFDCA.ORG](http://WWW.AFDCA.ORG)

## [You Are Invited to Join Us!!](#)

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>

---

---

**AS WE WORK OUT ALL THE GLITCHES AND PURCHASE THE RIGHT EQUIPMENT THE CAPITAL AREA WISHES TO INFORM ALL OUR MEMBERS THAT WE ANTICIPATE THAT **ZOOM** WILL COMMENCE AT THE JANUARY 2023 MEETING. THANK YOU FOR YOUR PATIENCE.**

---

---

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

**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: [CAAOFD@GMAIL.COM](mailto:CAAOFD@GMAIL.COM)**

**518-407-5020**

---

---

**If you see \*\* it indicates a must-read article with educational value or leadership qualities.**

---

---

### **CAPITAL SHORTS:**

- **WE STILL NEED SOMEONE TO STEP UP TO BE A REGION 1 DIRECTOR FOR THE NEXT TWO YEARS, PLEASE CONTACT TOM RINALDI OR ANY OF THE OFFICERS IF YOU ARE INTERESTED. Nominations from the region can still occur.**
- The sudden passing of Bobby Halton is a great loss to the fire service nationally. He was a straight shooter, a powerful speaker, a wonderful educator, and a man of service. He will be missed, rest in peace.
- It pains me to learn of the passing of an old friend, Al Ayotte. We spent a lot of time together at SUNY Albany and sometime outside of work. Our sympathies to his wife and daughters, and to his fire service family at West Crescent.
- **Edward "Ned" Carter Memorial Scholarship** The Association of Fire Districts of the State of New York is pleased to offer the Ned Carter Memorial Scholarship Award for High School Seniors. These scholarships are named in honor of Past President Ed 'Ned' Carter, and all deceased past presidents of the Association. In keeping with Ned's lifelong dedication to community service and helping others, four, onetime \$1,500 scholarships will be presented to graduating high school seniors who will be pursuing a career in a community services related discipline. **LINK TO ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**  
[https://www.afdsny.org/general\\_information.php](https://www.afdsny.org/general_information.php)
- General Motors is recalling nearly 140,000 Chevrolet Bolt electric cars in the U.S. and Canada to fix a seat belt problem that can cause fires. In rare cases, exhaust gases from the front seat belt pretensioners can come in contact with carpet fibers **after a crash**, potentially causing a fire. The company found three reports of fires that could have been caused by the problem.
- **If you no longer wish to receive the Capital Bulletin you have the option to "unsubscribe" at the bottom of the introductory email.**

### **SPECIAL NEWS FOR *SARATOGA COUNTY DEPARTMENTS***



Claim Reporting Instructions (1).pdf



WC First Fill Form PMA Management C

The attached is information on the new on-line reporting program for the Saratoga County Fire Department VFBL third party administrator. VFBL comp claim reporting changes will be effective January 1, 2023.

On behalf of Saratoga County Workers Compensation Plan, I am excited to announce that PMA Companies has been selected as our new third party administrator assuming workers' compensation claim management services for all new and existing claims effective **January 1, 2023**. We will no longer be contracted with CorVel. *Please do not forward anything to them after close of business on December 30, 2022.*

We will continue to use a 24/7 nurse triage line (PMA Care 24) which PMA offers as a benefit to our employees. The goal of the triage service is to ensure the employee receives immediate medical attention and is provided with the most appropriate level of care. This service also initiates the claim notification process allowing for better overall management of the incident. Ideally, the employee calls at the time of a work related incident. PMA Care 24 triage posters and business cards will be provided to you. I have also attached a 1<sup>st</sup> fill information form for any prescriptions that the injured worker may need. Please share with your injured worker at the time of injury.

In addition to the employee calling the PMA Care 24 triage, it is imperative that the **employer also report** a claim immediately by logging onto PMA's website [www.pmacompanies.com](http://www.pmacompanies.com) and clicking on the "Report a Claim" function. There is a generic username and password for Saratoga County that all participants will use. I have attached the claim reporting instructions so please be sure to save these and share with anyone who would possibly be reporting a claim for your entity. If online reporting is absolutely not an option, you can report an injury via e-mail to [firstreport@pmagroup.com](mailto:firstreport@pmagroup.com) (please include the PMA account # 1423573 in the email or on the intake form to expedite claim set up), by phone at 800-762-1281, or by fax at 888-329-2721.

**There will be training available prior to the program going live. We recommend having at least one representative from each participating entity attend. The training will focus on the claim reporting process. These sessions will be held online through Zoom and should run no more than 30 minutes in length.**

**Training sessions will be held as follows:**

**December 28<sup>th</sup> @ 10:00 AM**

**December 29<sup>th</sup> @ 10:00 AM**

**Please send the fire coordinator a list of attendees no later than December 23, 2022, and we will send out the invite for the session to attend.**

Please note PMA will be investigating and administering claims going forward. Please be sure to respond promptly to any PMA team member inquiries.

PMA will also be providing us with a number of medical management tools including medical bill review services, provider networks (PPO) and pharmacy benefits management services (PBM). These tools will help reduce the overall workers' compensation costs. PMA offers extensive reporting capabilities and program analysis tools to assist with data needed in the loss control process and to assist in safety programs to help prevent future injuries.

The pertinent contact information for PMA is below:

**PMA Customer Service Center**

**PO Box 5231**

**Janesville, WI 53547-5231**

**Phone: 888-476-2669**

New Pharmacy Benefit Manager as of 1/1/23:

**Express Scripts/myMatrixx**

**Phone: 888-897-9470**

(Injured workers with existing claims should let their pharmacy know of the change in Pharmacy Benefit Manager for any Rx's filled after 1/1/23)

We will be providing additional information regarding PMA and our new program as we move forward. We are excited about this transition and look forward to partnering with PMA to improve the service to our employees and help to reduce costs in our program.

Any injured workers with a current open claim will receive a letter from PMA advising them of their new PMA Claim # along with other PMA contact information. That letter will arrive closer to 1/1/23.

## TRAINING APPROPRIATE FOR YOUR ENTIRE BOARD/SECRETARY/TREASURER



### **COFFEE WITH COMMISSIONERS LOOKING FORWARD TO 2023**

Log on To Previously Recorded Sessions

[https://www.afdsny.org/coffee\\_with\\_commissioners.php](https://www.afdsny.org/coffee_with_commissioners.php)

You Must Log On to the State AFDSNY web site to access!

## THE LATEST FROM THE NYS LEGISLATURE

### **2023 Issues of United Concern – NYS Fire Service Alliance Legislative Initiatives**

- **ENSURE VFBL PARITY WITH WORKERS COMPENSATION**  
Bring the volunteer firefighters benefit law pay equal to worker's compensation/what career firefighters receive when injured in the line of duty.  
**Corresponding legislation:** S.1340 (Brooks) / A.3597 (McMahon) (2021-2022 Session)
- **DESIGNATE EMS AS AN ESSENTIAL SERVICE AND EXPAND THE BENEFITS AVAILABLE TO EMS PERSONNEL AND SET STANDARDS FOR EMS**  
Recognizes EMS as an essential service, establishes a special district for the financing and operation of general ambulance services, expands access to health insurance and retirement benefits available to EMS providers.  
**Corresponding legislation:** S.8432-A (Mayer) / A.9509-A (Otis) (2021-2022 Session)
- **ANALYZE FINDINGS FROM THE NYS DHSES RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION TASK FORCE  
IMPLEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE LEGISLATURE ON:**  
(1) RECRUITMENT EFFORTS  
(2) RETENTION EFFORTS

### **PUBLIC SAFETY AND BUILDING CODE COMPLIANCE ISSUES**

- **AMEND PENAL CODE TO ADD ENDANGERING THE WELFARE OF OCCUPANTS AND FIRST RESPONDERS**  
**Corresponding legislation:** S.3741 (Gaughran) / A.6087 (Zebrowski) (2021-2022 Session)
- **RECOVERY OF 54-G FUNDING TO SUPPORT CODE ENFORCEMENT EFFORTS**  
Ensure state funds collected through dedicated fees on each fire policy written in the state go to support local code enforcement activities and not continue to be swept into State General Fund.  
**Corresponding legislation:** S.6970-A (Kavanagh) / A.8802-A (Zebrowski) (2021-2022 Session)
- **TIMELY ADOPTION OF UPDATED STATE FIRE AND BUILDING PREVENTION CODE**  
Would require that a new building code as published by ICC would be adopted by the NYS Codes Council within specified time frame.

**Corresponding legislation:** S.6210-A (Skoufis) / A.3559-A (Hunter) (2021-2022 Session) provides a framework to accomplish; support amendments to extending the timeline of enactment from 12 months.

- **ACCESSORY DWELLING UNITS** – Ensure the Executive and Legislative prioritization of provision of affordable housing stock through legalization of more residential space is executed in a manner that prioritizes occupant safety and the safety of first responders in emergencies. Ensure a focus on legalizing existing units as well as create new units; advocate for increasing access to housing for first responders as a recruitment and retention tool.

**Corresponding legislation:** To be determined.

- **LITHIUM-ION BATTERY SAFETY STANDARDS**

Ensure proper registration/permitting, research and standard development, repairing and regulation of products containing lithium-ion batteries, work with stakeholders to raise public awareness around best fire safety practices, and examine solutions proposed from decision makers and opine as a trusted public safety voice.

- **CONTINUE TO IMPROVE TAX BENEFITS FOR VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS**

Push to allow volunteer firefighters to receive both real property tax exemptions and income tax credit, while continuing to advocate for an income tax credit increase (has been at \$200 since its inception in 2006.) This credit would step increase tied to qualifying years of service up to \$2,500 for 10 or more consecutive qualifying years of service.

**Corresponding legislation:** S.3989-A (Reichlin Melnick) / A.1320-A (Zebrowski) (2021-2022 Session)

- **CANCER COVERAGE COST RELIEF**

Pursue data collection to enable establishment of a funding stream to alleviate fiscal burden on districts/departments providing the coverage.

---

---

## **REAL PROPERTY TAX LAW SIGNED BY THE GOVERNOR ON 12/09/2022**

Now that the bill is signed, we now need to encourage our local government to vote to provide a property tax exemption to our volunteer firefighters, and volunteer EMS providers.

This change in the real property tax law **will allow any county to adopt a local law** that will provide an exemption on real property owned by an enrolled member of an incorporated volunteer fire company, department, or voluntary ambulance service.

The change in the law will exempt up to 10% of the assessed value for members who served a minimum of two years. The law would require localities that currently provide the exemption adopt a local law to conform to this provision.

### **LINK TO BILL:**

<https://afdca.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/BILL-NUMBER-9131-10-2022-3.docx>

---

---

## **The 2022 Legislative Session and Fire Service Bill Status**

Bills that didn't gain any traction and were stuck in committee were amendments to the heart and lung bill making them permanent, rather than renewing them every five years or so. Hopefully this effort will be renewed next year.

Several other bills that affect fire service business operations are the following, many have not been signed by the Governor yet, she is probably too busy running for re-election:

- (S6093A) THIS BILL IS INTENDED TO CLARIFY THE INTENT OF THE LEGISLATURE REGARDING EXISTING STATUTORY PRESUMPTIONS PERTAINING TO HEART-RELATED DISABILITIES SUFFERED BY MEMBERS OF THE NEW YORK STATE LOCAL POLICE, FIRE RETIREMENT SYSTEM AND THE NEW YORK STATE AND LOCAL EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM. CLARIFICATION IS NECESSARY BECAUSE A SERIES OF NARROW JUDICIAL INTERPRETATIONS HAS PREVENTED THE STATUTORY PRESUMPTIONS FROM ACHIEVING THEIR INTENDED PURPOSES. **VETOED BY THE GOVERNOR 12/16/22**
- (S7623AGAUGHRAN/A8591 THIELE) EXTENDS PROVISIONS OF LAW AUTHORIZING POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS TO PERMIT ANY PUBLIC BODY TO HOLD MEETINGS REMOTELY AND WITHOUT IN-PERSON ACCESS DURING THE COVID-19 STATE DISASTER EMERGENCY, UNTIL THE EMERGENCY IS DECLARED TO BE OVER. **SIGNED BY THE GOVERNOR 1/14/22**
- (S7718) AN ACT TO AMEND A CHAPTER OF THE LAWS OF 2021 ESTABLISHING THE NEW YORK STATE RURAL AMBULANCE SERVICES TASK FORCE IN RELATION TO MODIFYING THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE TASK FORCE. **SIGNED BY THE GOVERNOR 2/24/22**

- (S7144) PROVIDES CRISIS INTERVENTION TEAM TRAINING, MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID, IMPLICIT BIAS TRAINING AND NALOXONE TRAINING TO FIREFIGHTERS AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES PERSONNEL BY THE COMMISSIONER OF MENTAL HEALTH. **SIGNED BY THE GOVERNOR 5/6/22**
- (S9405) THE NYS ENERGY CODE PRODUCT AND APPLIANCE STANDARDS WILL DELIVER A PROJECTED \$15 BILLION OF TOTAL UTILITY BILL SAVINGS (SUPPOSEDLY) BY 2035 FOR NEW YORK CONSUMERS, INCLUDING AN ESTIMATED \$6 BILLION IN TOTAL UTILITY BILL SAVINGS FOR LOW-TO MODERATE-INCOME HOUSEHOLDS. THIS LEGISLATION ALSO PROVIDES DOS WITH ENFORCEMENT AUTHORITY OVER ANY STATE STANDARDS. **SIGNED BY THE GOVERNOR**
- (S3532) AUTHORIZES STATE AND MUNICIPALLY OWNED VEHICLES TO AFFIX GREEN OR ALTERNATING GREEN AND AMBER LIGHTS TO MOTOR VEHICLES ENGAGED IN SNOW AND ICE REMOVAL FOR THE PURPOSE OF INCREASING VISIBILITY DURING WINTER WEATHER EVENTS. **SIGNED BY THE GOVERNOR**
- (S7399A) AN AMENDMENT TO THE GENERAL MUNICIPAL LAW, IN RELATION TO AUTHORIZING A MUNICIPALITY TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF YEARS OF SERVICE THAT **A VOLUNTEER AMBULANCE SERVICE** PARTICIPANT IN A DEFINED CONTRIBUTION PLAN SERVICE AWARD PROGRAM OR A DEFINED BENEFIT PLAN SERVICE AWARD PROGRAM MAY RECEIVE A CONTRIBUTION. **SIGNED BY THE GOVERNOR ON 11/23/22 [PERTAINS TO AMBULANCE VOLUNTEERS ENROLLED IN A LOSAP PROGRAM NOT FIREFIGHTERS]**
- (S9131) A BILL TO ALLOW ANY COUNTY TO ADOPT A LOCAL LAW THAT WILL PROVIDE AN EXEMPTION ON REAL PROPERTY OWNED BY AN ENROLLED MEMBER OF AN INCORPORATED VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY, DEPARTMENT, OR VOLUNTARY AMBULANCE SERVICE. THE BILL WOULD EXEMPT UP TO 10% OF THE ASSESSED VALUE FOR MEMBERS WHO SERVED A MINIMUM OF TWO YEARS. THE BILL WOULD REQUIRE LOCALITIES THAT CURRENTLY PROVIDE THE EXEMPTION ADOPT A LOCAL LAW TO CONFORM TO THIS PROVISION. **SIGNED GOVERNOR 12/9/22**
- (S7863A) THE GENERAL BUSINESS LAW IS AMENDED TO PROVIDE THAT NO ELECTRIC SPACE HEATERS MAY BE SOLD IN NEW YORK STATE BY A PERSON, FIRM, PARTNERSHIP ASSOCIATION OR CORPORATION REGULARLY ENGAGED IN THE BUSINESS OF ASSEMBLING, MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTING, OR RETAIL SALE OF SPACE HEATERS UNLESS THEY: CONTAIN A THERMOSTAT; HAVE AN AUTOMATIC SHUTOFF; AND HAVE BEEN CERTIFIED BY AN APPROVED BODY. **SIGNED BY GOVERNOR ON 12/8/22** My Question is, who is going to enforce this. Suspect only action will be on complaints or as a result of lawsuits.
- (S8524B) ALLOWS FOR THE USE OF GREEN LIGHTS ON THE VEHICLES OF MOBILE MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS RESPONDERS. **DELIVERED TO GOVERNOR 12/6/22**
- (S926B) REQUIRES ELECTRIC CORPORATIONS TO PRIORITIZE RESTORING SERVICES TO POLICE DEPARTMENTS, FIRE DEPARTMENTS, AND AMBULANCE SERVICES, WHEN SUCH SERVICES ARE INTERRUPTED. **SIGNED BY THE GOVERNOR 12/22/22**
- (S953A) REQUIRES BUSINESSES THAT MAKE PAYMENTS IN LIEU OF TAXES TO PROVIDE LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND SCHOOL DISTRICTS WITH NOTICE OF THEIR INTENTION TO CHANGE ASSESSMENT. **Delivered to Governor 12/12/22**
- (S7582A) TO REQUIRE THAT THE BUILDING CODE COUNCIL COMPOSITION INCLUDE PERSONS WITH KNOWLEDGE OF FLOODING HAZARDS AND THAT THE BUILDING CODE BE REVISED TO INCORPORATE MEASURES FOR FLOOD MITIGATION AND FLOOD SAFETY. **Delivered to Governor 12/19/22**

It's recommended that the fire service start to think about legislation it would like to present for 2023, bills will begin to be introduced on the first week of the legislative session starting January 2<sup>nd</sup>. If you have legislation you would like to suggest, contact your local representatives or a member of the legislative committee of one of the fire service organizations in the State.

## NEWS FROM THE NYS VOL. FF R&R TASK FORCE

### ***Updated Link for the Recruitment and Retention Task Force:***

<https://www.dhSES.ny.gov/volunteer-firefighter-recruitment-and-retention-task-force>

The task force in their most recent meeting has broken into sub committees.

Open Meetings and Webcasts are located at: <https://www.dhSES.ny.gov/open-meetings-and-webcasts>

**LET YOUR MEMBERS KNOW ABOUT THIS OPPORTUNITY!**

## **NYS AFC 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** – NYS AFC members

**\$50** – non-members

Pre-registration encouraged.

**Albany Co. 10/23/23, Fulton Co. 9/7/23, Rensselaer Co. 4/3/23, Saratoga Co. 10/24/23, Schenectady Co. 3/6/23**

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

---



## **Beginning Thursday, December 15th, we will be rolling out a new version of VFIS University.**

This change will allow us to clean up organization rosters and offer you a streamlined and efficient experience. During the transition period, please note that the current system will be available through 12/30 (we will have a direct link to the page for this.) **We recommend downloading your organization's course history by 12/30 to ensure the smoothest transition possible, as access to course completions on the current system will *NOT* be available after that date.**

Some additional things to note:

- The training officer within your organization will approve users and assignments
- New features for your organization will be introduced in Q1 2023
- Only VFIS-authored courses and approved educational material will be available

As part of the registration process for the new system, you will be sent an email from "VFIS Authentication System" (noreply-ss0@vfris.com). You will receive the email automatically, once our staff adds you to the new system. Please follow the instructions in that email to verify your email address and update your password. The password should be at least 8 characters long and contain an uppercase letter, lowercase letter, number and symbol.

All customer service for VFIS University will be provided by VFIS, so if you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out via phone at 800.233.1957 Ext. 7228 or via email at [csapps@vfris.com](mailto:csapps@vfris.com), Monday – Friday, 9:00am-5:00pm.

Posted to our web site at this LINK: <https://afdca.org/vfris-training-opportunities-a-wealth-of-information/>

You will find:

[2022 VFISU-Flyer](#)

[2022 VFISU Course Catalog](#)

[2022 ETC-Resource-Catalog-VFIS](#)

[2022 VFIS-Responder Help Flyer](#)

---

## **Hands-On Training at FIRE 2023 Announced**

Registration is open for Hands-On Training at the NYS AFC 117th Annual Conference & FIRE 2023 Expo! HOT will be delivered from Wednesday, June 14 – Friday, June 16 at the Syracuse Fire Department Training Center. Seven courses led by some of the nation's most knowledgeable and experienced instructors will be available: "Advanced Thermal Imaging Camera Ops," "Advanced Vehicle Extrication," "Aggressive Interior Fire Attack," "Fire Behavior On the Inside," "First-In Officers' Responsibilities," "Hoarder Fires," and "Truck Company Essentials."

**Learn More and Register At This Link...** <https://www.nysfirechiefs.com/fire2023hot>

---

## **New Course! Leadership for the Fire & Emergency Services**

The NVFC has released a new course in the Virtual Classroom on “Leadership in the Fire & Emergency Services.” This on-demand course provides an overview of leadership roles, how anyone can be a leader regardless of rank, and tips to help in succeeding as an emergency service leader. Virtual Classroom courses are always free to **NVFC members**, but this course is free for a limited time to all members of the fire and emergency services. **Register now:** <https://virtualclassroom.nvfc.org/products/leadership-for-the-fire-emergency-services>

---

---

## **Innovative Recruitment Ideas for Volunteer Fire, EMS, and Rescue Departments**

Recruitment is a challenge for many volunteer and combination emergency service departments. The NVFC has released a new one-pager featuring 10 ideas to help jump-start your recruitment initiatives. Download it [here](#). You can find more tools and resources to help with recruitment – including customizable outreach materials and PSAs – from the NVFC’s [Make Me A Firefighter campaign](#).

## **OUR CHANGING FIRE SERVICE –CHALLENGES & OPPORTUNITIES!**

### **OPPORTUNITIES:**

#### **Youtube Channels That Will Make You A Smarter Firefighter**

Vincent Bettinazzi

Didn’t stay at a Holiday Inn Express last night? No fear, you can learn anything on YouTube.

This platform has evolved into the ultimate collection resource for, well, everything, and firefighting is no exception. Type whatever your heart desires into the search bar and bingo, you have several video options to view.

But what are the best YouTube channels to which all firefighters should subscribe? I’ll do my best to answer that question by offering several different YouTube channels that deliver a variety of content options, whether training and tactics or leadership or news. Of course, these channels are tops in my humble opinions. Share your suggestions in comments below and we’ll consider adding yours to the list.

I hope these recommendations provide you some excellent information and maybe even entertain you as well.

#### **1. UL’S FIRE SAFETY RESEARCH INSTITUTE**

Want to nerd out on all things fire science? Then UL’s Fire Safety Research Institute is the channel for you. This one provides so much technical information, mainly the latest on fire safety research. The channel is dived into subtopics that includes research project highlights and tactical considerations. The tactical considerations are supported by the research projects and are great for fire service officers to review. The “Close Before You Doze” PSA campaign has its own video section – invaluable public education tools for your community engagement initiatives.

#### **2. FIREHOUSE VIGILANCE**

At only 800 subscribers, this is an up-and-coming channel interview-style series. Dubbed as a live firefighter podcast, this channel provides subscribers with a weekly show called the “Weekly Scrap.” The Firehouse Vigilance team has interviewed some well-known firefighters who are routinely found instructing at big name conferences across the county. Most recently, Jim McCormack from FDTN was on the channel. Other past guests include Mark VonAppen (Fully Involved), Trey Niles (Nashville, Tennessee), Steve Robertson (Columbus, Ohio), Aaron Fields (Seattle) and Todd Edwards (Atlanta). This series has a lot of audience interaction between the channel’s host and the weekly guest, too.

#### **3. STATTER 911**

Approaching nearly 30,000 subscribers, the STATter 911 channel focuses on real-life recorded incidents. Operated by fire service veteran reporter Dave Statter, this channel includes everything from bystander cell phone footage to body cameras and recorded news conferences. Most of the channel’s videos are actually audio recordings of various emergency incidents throughout the county – and there’s certainly a lot to learn from listening to dispatch. This is a very good channel if you are looking to learn through others’ experiences.

#### **4. NFPA**

Another channel that’s over 30,000 subscribers strong, the National Fire Protection Association is no stranger to the YouTube vortex. The NFPA is the leading global advocate in reducing death, injury and property loss from fire, and its channel spotlights some of their many initiatives. The “Learn Something New” section lets viewers peruse through



different fire, electrical, and life safety hazards, including Christmas tree fires. The NFPA is an advocate for positive fire service change, and this channel showcases its commitment.

#### **5. NFPA KIDS**

Kids love YouTube, and the smart folks over at the NFPA seem to know this, as they have dedicated a separate channel to fire safety education for kids. This is a great way to strategically share information that kids will enjoy. If you are a community risk reduction officer for your organization or someone who educates children or visits schools, note this channel as a resource to help boost your message to children of all ages. Yes, Sparky is still the main dog on NFPA Kids, in case you were wondering.

#### **6. FDNY**

You can't think about the American fire service and not reference the New York City Fire Department. This agency has been both fire service innovators and steadfast traditionalists through much of its history. Its channel contains video shorts that focus on delivering public service announcements and information to the viewers. The FDNY does a really nice job highlighting the organization, not only on YouTube but on other social media platforms as well. This channel gets my vote for best fire department YouTube channel, with the Seattle Fire Department and Los Angeles County Fire Department channels as honorable mentions.

#### **7. GETTIN' SALTY EXPERIENCE**

Speaking of the FDNY, a few retired firefighters from this agency started the Gettin' Salty Experience channel a few years ago. This is another interview-style/live podcast delivery. The hosts recruit firefighters from all over the country to speak about their fire service experience. I'd say this channel definitely shifts more into the entertainment realm than the educational side. With its often edgy and blunt conversations with the guests, this channel will leave you fascinated with their fire service stories. You're guaranteed to experience multiple emotions while watching these men and women share stories about their careers.

#### **8. SEATTLE FIRE DEPARTMENT**

The Seattle Fire Department has a solid YouTube channel. Their content is diverse, from delivering well thought PSAs to highlighting important department events and even interviewing firefighters within their organization on various topics. The Seattle Fire Training Division has their own channel, which offers well produced instructional videos in a wide array of firefighting tasks. These are great reference videos for firefighters to learn and review tactics like horizontal ventilation, fire attack or targeted search.

#### **9. LOS ANGELES COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT**

LACoFD is another organization that put together a really good YouTube channel. The department offers a plethora of information for the viewer. Everything from department history, fitness tips, wildland/urban interface, to CPR and AED instruction is available at the click of a mouse. LACoFD has several members from their organization who have assisted in UL's Fire Safety Research Institute tactical considerations. These impressive videos are also available on the department page.

---

---

## **CHALLENGES:**

### **Taylor Borough Council Decertifies Volunteer Fire Company**

Madonna Mantione

It's the end of more than a century of service to local communities for a Lackawanna County volunteer fire company. Taylor Hose & Engine Company 1 was chartered in 1894. This week, borough council voted to officially decertify the volunteer fire company, blaming its low response rates.

It's all quiet at Taylor Hose & Engine Company 1 on Union Street. That's because borough council unanimously voted on Wednesday to decertify its recognition as an emergency services provider. "I believe over a 12-month rolling period, the number was somewhere around 16% response, that's not good," said Daniel Zeleniak, Taylor Borough Manager. Zeleniak says the borough tried to help the all-volunteer fire company boost its lagging response times, but the efforts were unsuccessful.

One of the ideas presented was a possible merger with Taylor Fire Rescue, which operates two fire stations in the borough. "This is something that's been going on for a year and a half, trying to get help to them, whatever it was, help them get drivers, communications between the two fire companies, and it just wasn't happening," said Zeleniak.

An attorney representing Taylor Hose & Engine Company 1 issued a statement to Eyewitness News Friday. It reads in part, "The focus on a decline in volunteerism in the fire service is an issue being dealt with not just in Taylor or Northeastern Pennsylvania, but across the nation. While they are upset by the borough's decision, it is their intention to see what the borough will require for recertification with the hopes that they will succeed." Zeleniak does not believe the decertification hinders the community's ability to fight fires. It reads in part, "The focus on a decline in volunteerism in the fire service is an issue being dealt with not just in Taylor or Northeastern Pennsylvania, but across the nation. While they are upset by the borough's decision, it is their intention to see what the borough will require for recertification with the hopes that they will succeed." Zeleniak does not believe the decertification hinders the community's ability to fight fires.

---

---

### [Trashed Lithium-Ion Batteries Caused Three Garbage Truck Fires In California](#)

**Kevin Purdy**

A firm that handles returned Amazon electronics has agreed to pay a \$25,000 fine after lithium-ion batteries it threw away caused at least three different garbage truck fires.

iDiskk, LLC, based in San Jose, California, agreed to a settlement with the district attorney of Santa Clara County in late November over civil charges regarding improper waste disposal, as noted by E-Scrap News. The company, according to the district attorney's office, "dismantles, recycles, and disposes of consumer computer electronics that are returned through Amazon, some of which contain lithium-ion batteries."

On three different dates in 2021—September 22, October 6, and October 13—trucks picked up residential waste from iDiskk's office address in Campbell, California. A Google Street View look at the address shows a home with a driveway and garage on a tree-lined street. Dozens of lithium-ion batteries were included with typical recycling materials, allowing them to be crushed and compressed with other waste. "In each case, the ... garbage truck driver ejected the truck's load," the initial complaint reads, and the cause was found to be batteries.

Although nobody was hurt in the fires, the October 13 fire, while being dumped into the street to avoid a vehicle fire, caused the raised bin to catch on overhead utility lines. The attached utility pole broke and fell to the ground. "These fires are incredibly dangerous to the safety of the garbage truck drivers and first responders who must then act quickly to deal with the fire," said Deputy District Attorney Christopher Judge in a press release after the settlement.

While this case involves the owners of an e-waste business that (by law) should have known better than to toss batteries into standard recycling, batteries continue to be the leading cause of fires in the waste stream. A 2018 survey of recycling facilities by the California Product Safety Council found that 83 percent of 26 facilities had a fire in the two years prior, and 65 percent of them were caused by batteries. A study in MDPI by Austrian professors found that, amid increased numbers of fires and significant potential for damage, "**No other substance or material has ever comparably endangered the whole waste industry" as discarded portable batteries.**

Of course, some batteries end up in trash and recycling because there's nowhere better to take them. In many parts of the country, a Best Buy or Walmart that will take used electronics is the best option residents may have. Otherwise, the best options include hunting down a proper facility, hoarding them until your local politician hosts a hazardous waste event, or just stashing them away indefinitely (where at least they'll slowly lose charge).

Scientists have suggested solutions to making lithium-ion batteries less fire-prone. Stanford University researchers suggested in 2017 using built-in flame retardants as an anode/cathode separator, which would release when things get hot. Powdered silica in the electrolyte mix was proposed by Oak Ridge National Laboratory in 2018. Neither improvement, obviously, has gone mainstream.

## **BUILDINGS WE BUILD**

### [Building a New Station: A Primer for Small Fire Departments](#)

Scott Garner

For many fire departments in small towns and rural areas, the construction of a new station is a rare experience. It is an opportunity to organize the station to fit the way they operate and it may happen only once during their entire career. Most often, these small departments have never worked with an architect and have only a somewhat vague idea of what we do. If asked the question of an architect's role, you will likely hear, "They draw the blueprints." Granted, if you have

never gone through the design and construction process, it can be very confusing and requires an education process on what we do and how we can help them.

We take time to walk through the entire process step-by-step with full explanations of each step. Several times upon completion, a chief has commented that after going through the experience he can now see that it is a logical way to make decisions.

Designing and building a better fire station requires a team effort; the owner and architect must work closely together to define the goals and requirements for the building. The architect then designs a creative structure to fit the needs. The contractor joins the team later in the process to build the building. This requires full participation and attention of everyone. It requires dedication, commitment and hard work.

### **FIT YOUR DEPARTMENT**

Building a new station is your opportunity to create a facility to fit the way you operate. Just as a fire truck is a tool to transport firefighters and equipment, the building should also be considered a tool. It should enhance your operations and improve efficiency. This should be reflected in quicker response times and improved morale.

Starting with the site, what is the building placement for the trucks to get out quickly and respond? Visibility and traffic conditions are important. On a corner lot, you may have a choice of roads. If you are a volunteer or combination department, do firefighters come to the station before responding to the emergency? If so, parking close to the apparatus bay and direct entry will be needed with turnout gear lockers nearby. For full-time departments, the situation differs in that the firefighters are in the station. They need short, direct routes within the station to the apparatus bay.

After the fire, upon return to the station, the first order of business is to prepare for the next call. Will there be a fire hydrant conveniently located to replenish water supplies? Where will you clean the trucks? Very importantly, how do you handle decontamination of personnel? Guarding health risks for firefighters is paramount. The station layout must be designed to manage and restrict cancer-causing contaminants and provide clean, contaminant-free living areas. This is important and warrants careful attention. Protection of life at the station is as important as at the fire scene.

The classroom is for long-term preparation. How large does it need to be for the department? It must be large enough to allow for demonstrations and hands-on exercises. Which types of audio visual equipment do you use? The classroom must be comfortable and encourage learning. Will it be used as an EOC? If so, the kitchen and toilets will need to be convenient.

Sharing the use of the classroom with the community can be a plus for public relations. If so, it will need to be separated to allow the fire department to operate and respond to emergencies without interference. A controlled entrance and accessibility to toilets will be a part of this plan.

The dayroom is the living spaces for rest and recovery. As the main living room in the fire station, how do the firefighters use it? Generally, the kitchen and dining area are a part of it or very nearby. In addition to the large-screen TV and large comfortable recliners, what else should it include? Should it be enlarged to include games such as ping pong or pool? Should it be close to the exercise room to encourage interaction between the firefighters?

Perhaps for a moment we could think of the dayroom as a place for a group hang out. Now what else can we do to make it better? Does the department do things together as a team like watch TV, cook, eat, etc. or is it less formal and more individual? We need to understand your department and how you work.

### **FUTURE**

Building a new fire station is a significant project and buildings are expected to serve for 40-50 years. For this reason, primary consideration must be given to the future. Sometimes the pressing needs of the movement become the focus of the chief or department. "We need more space, or the bays are not deep enough for a ladder truck, etc." The point is, we need to think beyond the immediate moment for a longer-term view.

To help focus the thinking, we may ask questions about the department's current situation:

- What is the size of your department?
- How many volunteers do you have and how many career staff do you have?
- What is the breakdown of males and females?
- How many apparatus do you have and which type?
- What equipment do you have? Cascade machine? Washer, dryer, and vehicle exhaust?
- What is the nature of your service area? What is its size?

We encourage personnel to talk about their department to help understand their needs.

We then shift and re-ask the same questions for the time ten years earlier. This helps give some perspective on where they are currently and how have they changed. Sometimes it is apparent that the change has evolved slowly over that period of time and they have not recognized the extent of it.

Next, we focus on the future by asking the same questions for the next ten years. Usually departments have a pretty good idea about what to expect and the direction of changes. Taking it a step further, these questions will be about 20 years from now and are more difficult to answer and generally involve guesses. Instinctively however, most departments have good insight for their community, its future and what will be needed for fire protection and emergency response.

### **ENERGY EFFICIENCY**

With a larger building, very likely an adjustment in the operating budget will be needed to allow for the increased size and utility costs, good design will help. A good thermal envelope with proper insulation and tightly sealed openings is now part of the Energy Building Code. Higher efficient HVAC systems with better controls are also mandated. LED lights with occupancy sensors also save energy.

A major advantage new buildings have over older structures is that of greater energy efficiency. The cost for energy per square foot will go down, but the overall utility costs may go up due to a larger building. There are options for large reductions in the cost of utilities which will be beneficial over the many years of the life of the building.

Two good options are photo voltaic cells and geothermal heat pumps. We have used both successfully. Both systems require a higher first cost, but will provide significant operating savings over the extended life of the building. Many states offer tax credits for installation of these systems, but as fire departments do not pay taxes, this offers no benefit. However, recently photo voltaic cell prices have come down dramatically and they are becoming more affordable. Some utility companies and government agencies now offer grants for their installation which can make them viable. It is very worthwhile to investigate the possibilities.

Another option may be Geothermal Heat Pumps. They also represent higher first cost, but operate at a fraction of the cost of standard air-to-air systems. Many military and governmental agencies are starting to utilize them. Geothermal utilizes wells and ground temperature for the heat exchange in lieu of condensing units. This is a major advantage in coastal areas where outside condensers require replacement every 4-5 years due to the rust caused by the salt air environment. Over the life of the building, this replacement cost can be significant. Both systems are becoming used more and more. They do a good job saving energy and operating costs. We have done a number of stations with these items and it has worked out very well.

### **FIRE STATION IMAGE**

The image of the fire department is important! Some departments may think a strictly utilitarian building will be fine. Fire departments are almost always well-liked and admired by the communities they serve.

Residents take pride in their fire department. Everyone knows where the fire station is, it is a local landmark to the community. New businesses coming to a community want to know about the local fire department and may want to see it and talk about their service. The image of the station is a part of your identity.

For the firefighters, having a nice station makes them feel good and appreciated. It is a source of pride and can be good for recruiting. Firefighters enjoy telling colleagues from nearby departments about their station especially when it is an opportunity to be one up!

### **BUDGET**

Budget is always a very important part of the process and required part of the discussion. As architects, we deal primarily with construction cost and soft cost which make up our project cost. The cost for land, administrative, and legal services are in addition to this.

Construction costs are generally understood as the money paid to the contractor for building the building. What may not be clear is how to prepare a budget for it. Frequently, the cost for a nearby station is known and taking their square foot cost, multiplying it by the size of your proposed station, you get the construction cost. Well, maybe not.

What about the neighboring station's site conditions? What are the differences in the buildings? What amenities do they have versus what you have? How long ago was it bid? What were the market conditions then and now? This is not the way to determine construction cost. It is much better to let the architect work with local contractors to get a realistic assessment of all the factors and arrive at a likely cost. This requires time and effort, but establishing realistic cost estimates is critical to the design and decision-making process.

Soft costs are also a necessary part of the budget, but often less understood. We all know the architect must be paid, but what else? Soft costs are the necessary items and services required for construction. Survey, engineering testing, special inspections, information technology, security, interior design, furniture, telephones, AV and TVs, etc. are all included in soft costs. These are all necessary and needed and represent a significant amount of money.

Another extremely important part of the budget is a construction contingency. The bid price is not a turnkey price. The contingency is for those unforeseen and sometimes overlooked items that come up during construction and must be covered.

A fire station is a very specialized and unique building project and there will be changes during construction. Some changes may be initiated by the owner who can see things more clearly looking at the building as it goes up, rather than looking at drawings. There may be building code updates which require changes. Unsuitable soil is always a concern and can be very expensive to replace.

In renovations, there are always a multitude of unseen conditions which are not apparent until the project starts and the building is opened up. In construction there are changes which frequently involve costs. For these reasons, a contingency is necessary. It is like an insurance policy with unused funds reverting to the owner.

Budget is important in every project. It must be established early in the process and must be realistic. To successfully manage the budget, it must be monitored continuously throughout the decision-making process. When changes in construction occur, there may be an adjustment in the contract. If work is added, the contractor must be paid. If work is taken out, the owner gets a credit. It must be fair both ways. Managing the budget is key to a successful project. It starts at the outset and continues through every step up to and including final inspection and close out.

Designing and building a fire station is a very special and unique experience. It is an opportunity to build for the future and to build a better fire station. This requires teamwork to make it happen. The reward for a job well done is a sense of satisfaction and accomplishment.

## CONSOLIDATION – PROS AND CONS

### *WI Fire Departments Talk Potential Merger*

Andrew Dowd

Fire departments in Eau Claire and Altoona are in early talks about the possibility of a merger or other way to deal with rising costs both are experiencing.

A few meetings between fire chiefs have happened this year on the topic, plus a gathering that included other leaders from both cities this fall to discuss the idea, according to Eau Claire Fire Chief Chris Bell.

“If we merge fire departments it would be an all-inclusive fire and EMS department,” he said.

The idea of a merger has been occasionally brought up during the past two decades, Bell said, but it’s gained more attention this year.

Altoona City Administrator Mike Golat said the talks are very preliminary at this point and have been to gauge any interest in discussing the idea of a merger.

“We met with them once to consider whether there’s interest discussing it,” he said, referring to the fall meeting that included top staffers from both cities.

While a merger is worth talking about, Golat said, it is not the only route Altoona is looking into as it plans the future of emergency services for the city and its fast-growing population.

“That’s one option as we see it,” he said.

Altoona has budgeted \$50,000 for a study next year to explore the operations, capital and facilities needs for its Fire Department.

While a potential merger with Eau Claire will be among the options studied, Golat noted that consultants doing the study will investigate numerous other possibilities, too.

The Eau Claire City Council agenda for Tuesday initially included an item that could’ve pressured talks next year for a merger or renegotiation of the current pact Eau Claire has to provide ambulance service to Altoona. The original meeting notice published on Thursday evening included a vote on terminating the existing EMS contract with Altoona at the end of 2023 — five years before it was scheduled to end. However, at noon Friday a revised notice removed the EMS contract vote from Tuesday’s City Council agenda.

City councils in both Eau Claire and Altoona are now expected to discuss the contract during the first half of 2023, Bell said Friday afternoon.

### **DEALING WITH COSTS**

A motivation for Eau Claire to pursue a merger is to spread around the rising costs of running its ambulance service.

“We’ve seen substantial increases in costs across the board,” Bell said.

For example, over the past five years the budget for medical supplies alone has gone up 30% to deal with the higher costs, he said. Maintenance costs have risen by double-digits as well, Bell added.

The Altoona Fire Department is also facing some sizable expenses in its future with firetrucks, engines and other pieces of equipment it is looking to buy in coming years, Altoona Fire Chief Mark Renderman said.

Discussing potential arrangements for consolidating or networking when it comes to those vehicles has been of interest to the Altoona fire chief.

“We’re not sure if there’s a way to do that yet, but we’re looking at the possibility of doing it,” Renderman said.

Bell also pitches the merger as a way to cut down on administrative costs, equipment and capital infrastructure for the two cities’ fire departments. And by saving on overhead costs, Bell said the merger could result in hiring more firefighter/paramedics.

Eau Claire currently has 90 full-time sworn personnel who handle fire, rescue and medical calls, and another 3 1/2 other employees. A referendum approved by Eau Claire voters in November is adding six more firefighter/paramedic positions next year.

Altoona’s Fire Department has four full-time employees and about 40 part-time on-call staffers, including first responders who arrive at emergency medical situations to assess and stabilize patients to assist ambulances that arrive from Eau Claire.

### **GROWTH PROMPTS STUDY**

One of the fastest growing cities in the state, Altoona is at a crossroads when it comes to how it delivers emergency services to its increasing population.

“We’re at a place at our growth and history where we’re going to have to figure out both operations and facilities,” Golat said.

The city administrator is looking forward to next year’s study to help decide potential changes for the Altoona Fire Department — including whether it should remain its own entity or merge with Eau Claire’s.

Eau Claire has provided ambulance service to Altoona and other neighboring communities since 2008 through regional EMS contracts. Prior to that, Altoona and others had been served by Gold Cross, but the Eau Claire Fire Department would send an ambulance when the private service was already busy with other calls.

Currently there are 14 communities with agreements to get ambulance service from the Eau Claire Fire Department. Those are Altoona, Fall Creek, the Eau Claire County towns of Union, Pleasant Valley, Ludington, Clear Creek, Washington, Brunswick, Lincoln, Drammen, Seymour, the Dunn County towns of Rock Creek and Spring Brook, and a portion of the Chippewa County town of Wheaton.

Of those municipalities, Altoona accounted for 42% of the regional EMS calls last year, according to the Eau Claire Fire Department’s 2021 Annual Report. And of the Fire Department’s 8,544 total ambulance responses last year to Eau Claire and surrounding areas, 894 — about 10% — went to Altoona.

Altoona’s population is estimated at 9,149 for the start of 2022, according to the state Department of Administration’s Demographic Services Center. That is 10% growth on the 8,293 residents counted there in the 2020 Census.

**HEALTH – SAFETY & LODDS – TAKING CARE OF OUR MEMBERS!**

***IN 2022 WE HAVE SADLY EXPERIENCED 95 FIRE FIGHTER LODD’S***

*According to FirefighterCloseCalls.com*

***In 2021 we experienced 136 LODDs reported nationally.!***

**National Vol Fire Council FIRST RESPONDER HELPLINE AVAILABLE FOR MEMBERS AND THEIR FAMILIES**

Firefighting and emergency response are stressful, and the holidays can bring added pressures. The [NVFC First Responder Helpline](#) is here for you. NVFC members and their household families can call for assistance with work-life-volunteer challenges, including stress management, relationships, financial concerns, addiction, and more. [Register for this webinar](#) to learn more about the Helpline. If you are unable to purchase an NVFC membership for yourself or someone else who needs the Helpline, use [this form](#) to receive a complimentary membership.

**YOU JUST NEVER KNOW...**

- Firefighter/Paramedic David Campbell of the Rock Hill, NC
- Union Fire and Hose company chief Troy Dettinger, 55 dies of an apparent heart attack hours after responding to an EMS call.
- The chief of the EMS division of Boothwyn PA, Fire and EMS died at a Philadelphia medical facility after succumbing to injuries suffered at the fire station in **January**.
- Bruce Lang, a 30-year EMT and fire training officer, died after the vehicle he was driving broke through the ice during the rescue attempt in Pine Haven Wyoming.
- First responders and others in the community will mark the 10th anniversary of the ambush in West Webster that killed two firefighters who responded to a fire on Lake Road. On Christmas Eve of 2012, authorities said that William Spengler set a fire at his house to lure firefighters to his home and then shot at them, killing Lieutenant Mike Chiapperini and Tomasz Kaczowka. Two other firefighters and a police officer were injured in the ambush. Spengler's sister also was killed that day. Spengler later took his own life. Al Sienkiewicz is a spokesman for the West Webster Fire Department. He said that he can't ever forget what happened that day, although there are more recent members of the West Webster fire department who aren't as familiar with the details of that tragedy. Never forget their sacrifice.
- at: <https://www.firefighterclosecalls.com/>

**Reference Material for Use in a Line of Duty Death**

- [VFBL Firefighters Guide to Benefits](http://wcb.ny.gov/content/main/vf-vaw/injured-in-lin-of-duty.pdf), wcb.ny.gov/content/main/vf-vaw/injured-in-lin-of-duty.pdf
- [Survivors Benefit Guide](http://www.firehero.org), www.firehero.org
- [National Fallen Firefighters Foundation](https://www.firehero.org) https://www.firehero.org

**BUILDING & FIRE CODE ISSUES – WHY ARE THEY IMPORTANT TO YOU?**

*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.*

**WEEKLY FIRE FATALITY DATA AS REPORTED BY THE MEDIA**

<b>Fire Deaths in 1&amp;2 Family Dwellings in NYS</b>	<b>74+1=75(Exceeded 2021)</b>
Last fire death Wynantskill, Rensselaer Co. Female 82	
<b>Fire Deaths in any type of Dwelling in NYS</b>	<b>128+1=129</b>
<b>Fire Deaths in 1&amp;2 Family Dwellings Nationally</b>	<b>1291+ 49=1340</b>
<b>Top Three State with the most 1&amp;2 Family Deaths</b>	<b>1 PA -- 123</b>
	<b>2 OH -- 88</b>
	<b>3 TX -- 89</b>
<b>There has been a total of 2165 civilian home fire fatalities in 2022</b>	
There were a total of 2248 residential fire fatalities reported in 2021 in the US media.	

In 2021 in New York State 68 residents perished in fires in 1 & 2 family occupancies.

## THE ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

### NEW YORK STATE ARCHIVES AND FIRE DISTRICT RECORDS MANAGEMENT

#### Fire District Affairs

The New York State Archives is a state agency which assists local governments in managing and retaining their records. In addition to setting the standard for fire district records retention under its LGS-1 Records Retention Schedule it provides information that will assist you in developing records management programs. Many fire district officials ask about the process of digitizing records in order to more efficiently use limited space for records storage. The New York State Archives will assist you in developing those programs. Ms. Maria McCashion, Records Advisory Officer, Cities, Fire Districts, and NYC Municipal Agencies, New York State Archives, recently contacted us and requested to be able to provide our members with information available from her agency in this publication. The following is her submission: New York State Archives, a Free Resource for Fire District Records. The State Archives helps fire districts implement records management programs required by the Arts and Cultural Affairs Law, Article 57-A, known as the Local Government Records Law, and manage district records following requirements and guidance in the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education, part 185.

#### **The law requires fire districts to:**

- support a program for managing records,
- designate a Records Management Officer (RMO), who is always the Fire District Secretary, to coordinate the program with cooperation from all staff, and
- adopt the Retention and Disposition Schedule for New York Local Government Records (LGS-1) by resolution for legal disposition of records, including destruction of obsolete records

#### **The regulations:**

- describe the duties of the RMO,
- identify the appropriate records retention schedule to adopt,
- require special approvals for destruction of records before 1910, damaged records, records not in the schedule, and disciplinary records, and
- list requirements for the creation, retention, and preservation of electronic records

The State Archives provides free resources to help fire districts manage records effectively:

- Training – onsite or virtually, created to meet the needs of your district.
- Webinars – live and recorded on dozens of records management topics.
- Web content and publications – Records Management resources from a general Introduction For Records Managers to focused topics like the Digital Imaging Guidelines, for scanning records.
- Grants – Local Government Records Management Improvement Fund (LGRMIF) grants to assist fire districts with records management issues.
- Records Management News – sign up for the free Local Government News e-newsletter.

If you have any questions, want to schedule a site visit, or need to know where to begin, please contact State Archives Records Advisor for Fire Districts, Maria McCashion, email [maria.mccashion@nysed.gov](mailto:maria.mccashion@nysed.gov) or phone 518-486-4823

## THE STUFF WE BUY!

### Fire Departments Use More Electronic Devices in Rigs and on Scene

#### Alan M. Petrillo

Makers of those electronic devices are responding to fire service needs by producing an array of devices that are proving to be durable, easy to use, and full of pertinent data and information.

David Plourde, Dell product marketing rugged manager, points out that firefighters should look at four main attributes in their tablets/laptops for fire use: elements-proof units, readable screens, dedicated GPS, and expanded accessories.



“Dell designed and engineered the Rugged Latitude line separate from our standard Latitude,” Plourde says. These include the Dell Latitude 5430 Rugged and the Latitude 7330 Rugged Extreme, which have 11th-generation Intel® Core™ processors with optional vPro, Intel Wi-Fi 6E, and optional 5G capability and battery run time of nearly 25 hours with dual hot swappable batteries. He notes the Rugged Latitude models are engineered to resist vibration, water, and dust ingress; enhance heat management; and protect from salt fog that can corrode sensitive parts. “We test the Rugged Latitude for operational thermal extremes from -20°F to +145°F and storage thermal extremes from -40°F to +165°F,” he says. Plourde says that when a tablet is mounted on an engine’s doghouse, it gets a lot of vibrations, so Dell builds a dampening material into the unit’s chassis. “It’s a magnesium alloy made with high-strength plastics and carbon fiber into an extremely rigid hard case with dampening material on the inside,” he says. “We also do (military specification) testing of 26 drops from a six-foot height on the corners, sides, and faces of our Rugged Latitude laptop models. For our semi-rugged version, we do the drops from a height of three feet, while our Rugged Tablet, which has no integrated keyboard, drops from four feet high.” Dell’s touch screens are very bright, Plourde says, going up to 1,400 nits brightness rating and as low as three nits for dimly lit conditions. “All of our touch screens are glove capable,” he adds. Plourde says that Dell sees more laptops installed in engines and ladders, while tablets are more in use on rescues and emergency medical services vehicles. “With the tablet, they want to hand-hold it easily,” he says. “Plus, we have a pens screen feature for signatures and touch boxes, and the user can add a bar code scanner on the back of the tablet for inventory management.”

Daniel Tyk, battalion chief for North Shore (WI) Fire/Rescue, says his department switched over to Apple iPads for their ease of portability, superior connectivity, and ease of customization. “We currently are replacing our seventh generation iPads with eighth- and ninth generation units,” Tyk points out. “We run out of five stations and have a total of 27 iPads in the department. All our stations are dual houses, so there’s an engine or truck company at every station, as well as an ambulance or EMS medical unit. Each vehicle has an iPad, and all of them are in OtterBox Defender cases, which are made of a military grade plastic with a silicone rubber bumper and a removable front cover.” Tyk says that the administrative functions at the stations use either iPad Air or iPad Pro models, and some stations also have an iPad that is used for fitness and training purposes. “We are using Image Trend software for EMS reporting and Operative IQ for asset and fleet management,” he points out. “We recently implemented First Due, a preplan module that uses Google Maps, which allows us to drop on overlays. Our crews use it for mapping and can log en route on the iPad and send data about the route and map back to our CAD (computer aided dispatch) system.”

Chris Ingram, a captain at the Santa Clara County (CA) Fire Department, says Santa Clara County has used Apple computers since the 1980s. “Cupertino, where Apple has its headquarters, is in our fire district, and we’ve used Apple computers on desks for a long time, most recently the iMac models,” Ingram says. “In 2014, we transitioned from the Panasonic Toughbook to the standard 10-inch screen Apple iPad in our rigs and use Marvliis, a routing and two-way communication software, with our CAD. It’s capable of having our custom GIS base map on at all times, has status buttons with tabs, and can switch back and forth between the map and CAD notes. It also can take our custom data and can edit routing data.” Santa Clara County has 15 stations staffed by 19 companies daily with a total of 230 firefighter/EMTs/paramedics. Ingram says the department has iPads in 45 apparatus and that the devices use software that keeps the display on 24/7. “The units are constantly on the charger, and it’s impressive that with the heavy use that they get, they are giving us up to four years of use,” he says. “Every rig has two iPads,” Ingram points out. “The captain has one for routing, and the second iPad is mounted in the back and used for electronic patient care. It goes in and out of the rig all the time.” Ingram adds that each iPad has an iPort induction case and charger. “In the near future, we will do business inspections using the iPads as well as wildland inspections for clearing brush using our Esri Field Map software that connects to our GIS data like Marvliis does,” he says. “We’ll also use iPads for hydrant inspections and will do preplanning on them as well.” Ingram says the department currently is using the Intterra web application connected to its CAD and record management system on the iPads as well as an automatic vehicle locator system that provides a map of where all vehicles are located. “They can integrate our various GIS

## FIRE DEPARTMENT FINANCIALS

**[\\*\\*Message from OSC to all Fire District Treasurers in the State](#)**

**Dear Fire District Treasurer:**

Local governments are required to file an Annual Update Document (AUD) with the Office of the State Comptroller (OSC) after the close of their fiscal year (General Municipal Law §30). This reporting serves as an important source of financial information for the public, our staff and other data users and stakeholders.

The software, tools and prior-year data file that you will need to prepare your AUD will be available on our website after your December 31, 2022 fiscal-year end. The filing is due within 60-120 days. Our website has your local government’s [filing deadline](#) – Please submit your information accordingly.

Additionally, our office is transitioning to the new Annual Financial Reporting ([AFR](#)) application, and ***the current reporting website will be decommissioned in September of 2023. All reports not submitted by August 30, 2023 are required to be completed in the new application. To avoid losing your progress, you must complete and submit reports for fiscal years ending prior to 2023 by August 30, 2023.***

**Getting started**

- Visit OSC’s [Annual Update Document \(AUD\) Filing website](#).
- Log in using the **User ID** and **PIN/Password** provided above. You will also need this PIN/Password to complete your certification later in the process.
- In the **Reporting Options** section, click on **Annual Financial Reporting**. Review the instructions on the steps involved.

If you need assistance with filing, contact our Help Desk at 866-321-8503.

For questions relating to accounting or financial reporting issues, contact your OSC [Regional Office](#).

---

**Glen Aubrey Fire Company – Board Oversight**

**Background**

The Company is a not-for-profit organization that provides fire protection and other emergency services in the Towns of Lisle, Maine and Naticoke (Towns) located in Broome County.

The Company is composed of volunteer members (membership) and is governed by its adopted bylaws and a membership-elected seven-member Board: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and three Members at Large. The Board is responsible for overseeing the Company’s operational and financial activities and ensuring compliance with contracts and lease agreements. The Company’s sources of revenue are contracts, fundraising activities, property hall rentals and donations.

**Audit Objective**

Determine whether the Glen Aubrey Fire Company, Inc. (Company) Board of Directors (Board) ensured compliance with fire protection contracts (contracts) and lease agreements.

**Key Findings**

The Company Board did not ensure compliance with contracts or enforce the lease agreement’s terms and conditions. As a result, there is an increased risk that funds could be subject to loss, theft or misappropriation.

The Board did not:

- Develop written financial policies or procedures.
- Properly prepare a budget and present it to the Towns or audit the Company’s records.
- Regularly review and approve financial transactions.
- Charge service fees and interest for late payments associated with the lease agreement.

**Key Recommendations**

- Ensure compliance with the terms and conditions of all contracts and lease agreements.
- Develop written financial policies and procedures.
- Properly prepare budgets and present them to the membership and the Towns annually.
- Review and approve financial transactions on a regular basis and have them audited annually.
- Charge the appropriate service fees and interest on late lease payments.

**Complete Report Link**

<https://www.osc.state.ny.us/files/local-government/audits/2022/pdf/glen-aubrey-fire-company-2022-139.pdf>

---

## STEP INTO THE CHIEF'S OFFICE:

### *Your 2023 Strategic Plan: It's Time To Prepare For The New Year*

Robert Rielage

As we say goodbye to 2022, here's a question to contemplate: What is your 2023 strategic plan, both for your department and yourself?

As a brief refresher, a strategic plan is a process used to identify personal improvement or organizational goals and the means by which these goals can be accomplished. A strategic plan should include a clear vision, a timeline, and quarterly or even monthly benchmarks with a method to track your progress. It can also identify the individuals, as well as internal and external organizations, that can assist you in achieving these goals.

This type of planning doesn't need to be an exhaustive blueprint for the year. However, creating a loose framework for what you want to accomplish in specific areas of your life can put your goals into tighter focus and make them more attainable.

Despite the advantages of having a strategic plan, some will push back on the practice with an excuse, such as, "I just don't have the time for that much work." Others, particularly those near the end of their career, may say, "Leave that to the next chief." However, without a strategic plan or at least one strategic goal, you are likely to enter 2023 doing the same thing you have done for years, while, in some cases, expecting a different outcome. Good luck with that approach.

#### **STRATEGIC PLANS FOR ALL AREAS OF LIFE**

The creation of a strategic plan is the first step to making lasting change in either your personal life or in the future of your department.

- **Personal plan:** A personal strategic plan may be taking at least one new course on fireground tactics, or perhaps starting or finishing that degree program you've always wanted, knowing that, in today's fire service, education and career experience are cornerstones to successive leadership roles.

Department plan: What are the hard issues facing your department? Recruitment? Retention? Competitive salaries and benefits? How are you going to implement a plan to influence the need for these changes and gain the support of your citizens and of your governing legislative body in these inflationary times?

The plan, however, is just the beginning. My suggestion is to start small and learn from one or two more easily achievable goals. That experience should help teach you how a strategic plan with lasting goals should work within your organization.

#### **STRATEGIC PLAN BUY-IN**

Whether personal, departmental or both, it's called a strategic plan because it will require time, diligence, a degree of flexibility, patience and the assistance of others to see it through from beginning to end. Some strategic plans may take years to fully implement and achieve, underscoring the need for set benchmarks along the way. Remember that there can be many distractions that may temporarily derail the timeline for your plans. I build in reminders for my benchmarks with calendar reminders interspersed throughout my daily planner. These are realistic interim goals that help keep me on track.

Whatever you decide your personal and departmental goals for 2023 might be, it will take some planning, input and, above all, buy-in from those assisting you with either. Personal buy-in includes your family, who will have to understand that in addition to your regular hours at the department, you will need additional time, even at home, to initiate, conduct and complete your personal or departmental strategic plan. Buy-in partners should also include key members of the department, particularly any officers or staff members who provided input and agree with the goals, as well as the path to achieve the overall objectives.

#### **A SUCCESSFUL PLAN IS EVERYONE'S RESPONSIBILITY**

A true strategic plan for the department will also require a thorough understanding of how it will be accomplished, not just by the officers, but by most department personnel, from the seasoned veterans to the newest recruit. The plan is more likely to succeed when everyone understands what it is designed to achieve and how the outcome will affect them personally. Periodic updates on the progress of the plan will also keep everyone on board.

A leadership course I took several years ago addressed how an uncoordinated plan develops silos in which people whose working concept of the plan isn't the same as what was written and proposed. These individuals may think they are working within the plan's stated goals but are actually detached from the organization's original strategy.

The five metronomes are started at different times and are in different phases of beating their rhythm. Once suspended in the air, the individual metronomes are influenced by the other rhythms until all are moving in the same direction, to the same rhythm, at the same time.

Strategic plans help fire, rescue and EMS departments be more in sync organizationally. No one misses a beat, and a similar synchronous, synergistic effect occurs.

Don't wait, the time to start this process is now; 2023 will be here before you know it. Good luck!

Stay safe!

**CLASSIFIED**

# **Full Time Stationkeeper Position Announcement West Crescent Fire District**

The West Crescent Fire District is looking for a professional and highly-motivated person to perform custodial services and to maintain fire district buildings, grounds and equipment. Must have good communication skills, the ability to manage several projects simultaneously, be flexible with work hours when necessary. Prior experience preferred and all candidates must have clean driver's license. Employment application and job description can be found on the district website at [www.westcrescentfire.com](http://www.westcrescentfire.com) or by emailing Fire District Secretary Arthur Hunsinger at [wcfdsec@nycap.rr.com](mailto:wcfdsec@nycap.rr.com)

**Please send application, cover letter & resume to Arthur Hunsinger via email at [wcfdsec@nycap.rr.com](mailto:wcfdsec@nycap.rr.com)**

## **Position Announcement Station Keeper/Maintenance Person**

**Full Time (40 hours/week) at a rate of up to \$18.00 an hour. Benefits available (health and disability insurance, vacation, sick days, holidays, retirement).**

### **Qualifications/Requirements:**

- Minimum High School diploma or equivalent
- Relevant work or experience
- Pass District Physical, able to lift objects weighing 70 lbs. & Drug Testing
- Preference given to those candidates at least 21 years of age
- Ability to understand and carry out instructions.
- Ability to deal with the public and work successfully with other employees and members of the Fire Department.
- Familiarity with equipment found in fire stations.
- Experience with cleaning and light building maintenance.
- Ability to perform minor mechanical repairs.
- Initiative, resourcefulness and good judgement.
- Basic computer knowledge for data entry.
- Hold a valid NYS vehicle operator's license. A CDL-B license will be required within six (6) months of employment, to include Air Brake Endorsement. Driver's license will be enrolled in the NYS License Event Notification Service. License acceptable to Fire District's insurance carrier
- Background check for Arson Conviction and Sex Offender Registry.
- Preference may be given to an active SCBA qualified member in a local fire department.
- Need to be CPR/AED Certified



**OFFICERS OF THE CAPITAL AREA ASSOCIATION OF FIRE DISTRICTS**

**2023 OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS**

**President:** Tom Rinaldi, Commissioner Stillwater/Saratoga  
**1<sup>st</sup> VP:** John Meehan, Commissioner West Crescent/Saratoga  
**2<sup>nd</sup> VP:** Art Hunsinger, Commissioner Clifton Park Halfmoon/Saratoga  
**Board of Directors:** Les Bonesteel Commissioner Burnt Hills/Saratoga, Tom Wood Commissioner Northumberland/Saratoga, Joyce Petkus Treasurer Greenfield/Saratoga, Ed Woehrle Commissioner Niskayuna #1/Schenectady and Mike Podolec Commissioner West Glenville/Schenectady  
**Secretary/Treasurer:** Tony Hill  
**Sargent at Arms:** Tom Wood  
**Chaplain:** Fred Richards  
**Legal Council:** Greg Serio

*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, Secretaries and Chief*

*All are invited to participate in all of the Capital Area Activities*

*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.*

**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](http://www.AFDCA.org)*

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

# CAPITAL AREA BUSINESS PARTNER'S

PLEASE SUPPORT THOSE WHO SUPPORT US!!

**NOTE: BST & Co. CPAs Has Moved to 10 British American Blvd, Latham NY 12110**

Business Partner Applications Available At: [WWW.AFDCA.ORG](http://WWW.AFDCA.ORG)

[Welcome Back all of our Business Partners for 2022](#)

*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](mailto: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.*

## LEGAL SERVICES

### Young, Fenton, Kelsey & Brown, PC

General Practice Matters plus -  
Fire Service Attorneys  
1881 Western Ave. Suite 140  
Albany, N.Y. 12203  
518.456.6767

## ARCHITECT/ ENGINEERS

### C.T. Male Associates

Engineering, Surveying, Architecture, Landscape Architecture & Geology, D.P.C.

Single Source Responsibility  
for all your  
Essential Facility Design Services

 [www.ctmale.com](http://www.ctmale.com)  
50 Century Hill Drive, Latham, NY 12110 518.786.7400

## INSURANCE

### **AMSURE**

Specializing in insurance for Fire Districts and  
Departments

**Dave Meager**

31 Church Street Saratoga Springs, NY  
518-584-5300x3243 [dmeager@amsureins.com](mailto:dmeager@amsureins.com)

### HANNIGAN LAW FIRM PLLC

388 Kenwood Avenue  
Delmar, New York 12054  
P: (518) 869-9911  
F: (518) 869-9915  
[www.hannigan.pro](http://www.hannigan.pro)  
Fire/EMS -Municipal Law



### Mitchell Associates Architects

518-765-4571  
Specializing in Fire Stations  
[www.mitchell-architects.com](http://www.mitchell-architects.com)



John Caputo  
Marketing Manager  
One Blue Hill Plaza - 16<sup>th</sup> Floor  
PO Box 1609  
Pearl River, NY 10965  
845.8855.X7011  
Cell 631.601.5305  
[jcaputo@fdmny.com](mailto:jcaputo@fdmny.com)  
VFB/Workers' Comp Coverage



**The D'Amato Law Group LLP**  
**Gregory Serio, Partner**  
111 Washington Ave Suite 600  
Albany, NY 12210  
518.426.3800  
Email: [gserio@dlgny.com](mailto:gserio@dlgny.com)  
[damatolawgroup.com](http://damatolawgroup.com)



Architects & Engineers  
3 Lear Jet Lane, Suite 205  
Latham, NY 12110  
518-765-5105

Dennis Ross, Dir of Emergency Services Market  
[www.H2M.com](http://www.H2M.com)

### Haughey Insurance Agency

850 State Route 50  
Burnt Hills, NY 12027  
518-399-1583  
[www.haugheyagency.com](http://www.haugheyagency.com)

## BANKING

### **PIONEER** BANK

Member FDIC | Equal Housing Lender

David Farstad, Municipal Banking Officer  
652 Albany-Shaker Road, Albany NY 12211  
P/F: 518-730-3120  
M: 518-506-0075  
[farstadd@pioneerbanking.com](mailto:farstadd@pioneerbanking.com)

## PEST CONTROL

### **FOX** PEST CONTROL

518-300-4732  
431 New Karner Rd Suite 170  
Albany, NY 12205  
<https://foxpest-albany.com>



Contact Linda Flanagan  
110 Main Street  
Poughkeepsie, NY 12601  
845-331-2255 X2768

"Insurance for First Responders"  
<https://marshallsterling.com/linda-flanagan>



98B Troy Road  
East Greenbush, NY 12061  
518-479-2004  
[www.dignuminc.com](http://www.dignuminc.com)



**JOHN M. LESNIEWSKI**  
Assistant Vice President and  
Senior Business Banking Officer  
Fulton/Montgomery Markets

12 Fremont Street, Gloversville, NY 12078  
P: 518.775-5205 | M: 518.848-0612

NMLS ID 915694

[www.nbtbank.com](http://www.nbtbank.com)





Ballston Spa National Bank  
PO Box 70  
Ballston Spa, NY 12020  
Deborah JR O'Connor  
518.363.8119  
Deborah.oconnor@bsnb.com



**Don McCormack**  
425 Main Street Catskill, NY 12414  
[www.tbogc.com](http://www.tbogc.com)  
518.943.2600 X2109  
[donaldm@tbogc.com](mailto:donaldm@tbogc.com)  
Specializing in Fire Service Financing

## LOSAP MANAGEMENT



Service Award Programs (LOSAP)  
**Anthony Hill** ahill@fireflyadmin.com  
President (518) 687-1400 (office)  
[www.fireflyadmin.com](http://www.fireflyadmin.com) (518) 937-6174 (cell)



A division of RBC Capital Markets, LLC,  
Member NYSE/FINRA/SIPC.

518-432-5087  
[www.thelosapgroup.com](http://www.thelosapgroup.com),



**Jason Cyboron**  
Sr. Manager of Business Development & Accts  
518-783-6933 ext 15  
Cell 518.401.5195  
[www.penflexinc.com](http://www.penflexinc.com)  
[jcyboron@penflex.com](mailto:jcyboron@penflex.com)



**UBS Financial Advisors**  
Ralph Lemme, CFP  
8 Southwoods Blvd Suite 207  
Albany, NY 12211  
518.445.1667



**Zoriana M. Stawnychy**  
973.283.0024  
[zoriana@stawnychyfinancial.com](mailto:zoriana@stawnychyfinancial.com)  
135 Kinnelon Road Suite 101  
Kinnelon, NJ 07405  
Serving fire districts in New York State

## COMPUTER SYSTEMS

White Wolf Computer, LLC \* Leading the Pack



Managed Services  
Cloud/Hosted Solutions  
Telephone/Data Cabling  
Backup/Disaster Recovery  
Web Design

266 Delaware Ave, Delmar NY WhiteWolfComputer.com  
(518) 459-WOLF (9653) Support@WhiteWolfComputer.com

## FIRE EQ TESTING



**Safety First Equipment Testing**  
99 Glass Lake Road  
Averill Park, NY 12018  
518-674-8363  
[www.safetyfirstfirehose.com](http://www.safetyfirstfirehose.com)

## SCBA COMPRESSOR SERVICE



Quality. Our DNA

Breathing Air Comp Maintenance  
Air Quality Tests and Repairs  
Chris Jeffreys  
315-729-6071 Cell  
315-699-4533 Office

## WARNING PACKAGES/REPAIRS BODY SHOP



Vehicle Repair, Warning Packages, Body Shop  
78 Freemans Bridge Road, Glenville  
518-377-5555  
Veteran Owned Business

## INSURANCE



New York State  
Public Entities  
Safety Group<sup>SM</sup>

**Fleury Risk Management**  
28 Corporate Drive, Suite 104  
Clifton Park, NY 12065  
518.478.6314

<https://www.fleuryrisk.com/nysgroup497>  
VFBL Insurances Services



A Division of Glafelter Insurance Group

Pat Daglio  
[pdaglio@vfis.com](mailto:pdaglio@vfis.com)  
717.819.3072

## FIRE APPARATUS



**LARRY GATES**  
SERVICE AND PARTS MANAGER  
EASTERN APPARATUS SALES

1 SUPER 50 WAY, BALLSTON LAKE, NY 12019

[larry.vmfire@verizon.net](mailto:larry.vmfire@verizon.net)  
[www.vm-fire.com](http://www.vm-fire.com)

(518) 926-0451

**Salt City Fire  
Equipment**  
4474 Bussey Road  
Syracuse, NY 13215  
315-741-5258

[Saltcityfireequipment.com](http://Saltcityfireequipment.com)  
Proud Dealer of Seagrave  
Fire Apparatus



## CPA/AUDITS



### Gentile Brengel & Lin LLP

*Accounting, Consulting and IT Security Analysis*

1581 Franklin Avenue  
Mineola, NY 11501

[www.gblny.com](http://www.gblny.com)

Phone: 518-310-4094

[info@gblny.com](mailto:info@gblny.com)  
[customerservice@gblny.com](mailto:customerservice@gblny.com)



**BRYANS & GRAMUGLIA**  
CPA, LLC

Robert V. Gramuglia, CPA  
1 Pine West Plaza Suite 107, Albany NY 12205  
518.452.8055 or 518.859.5851cell  
Email: [rgramuglia@BGCPA.net](mailto:rgramuglia@BGCPA.net)



ACCOUNTING / TAX / ADVISORY

518.459.6700

10 British American Blvd, Latham NY 12110

[www.bstco.com](http://www.bstco.com)

Brendan Kennedy ext 356

*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](mailto:tom@rinaldi1.com) for comments or content contributions are always welcome.*

---

**MEMBERSHIP IN THE ASSOCIATION OF FIRE DISTRICTS OF THE CAPITAL AREA**

Would you like to join the Association of Fire Districts of the Capital Area and join 75 members in 8 counties? Both fire protection districts and Village departments are eligible for membership.

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

**To take effect January 2023:**

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

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

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

\$600,001 plus: \$300

**Business Partners: \$100.00 annual member fee**



**association of fire districts**  
*OF THE*  
**CAPITAL AREA, INC.**

**2023 Events Calendar**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Location</b>
Saturday, January 7, 2023	9:00 AM	Organizational Meeting	Clifton Park
Thursday, February 9, 2023	7:00 PM	General Membership	Clifton Park
Saturday, February 11, 2023	8:00 AM	Commissioner Training	Averill Park
Saturday, March 4, 2023	8:00 AM	Commissioner Training	Clifton Park
Thursday, March 9, 2023	7:00 PM	General Membership	Clifton Park
Saturday, March 11, 2023	6:00 PM	Officer Installation & Reception Dinner	Embassy Suites, Saratoga
Saturday, March 25, 2023	8:00 AM	Commissioner Training	Berkshire
Thursday, April 6, 2023	7:00 PM	Board Meeting	Clifton Park
Thursday, May 11, 2023	7:00 PM	General Membership	Clifton Park
Thursday, June 8, 2023	7:00 PM	General Membership	Clifton Park
Thursday, July 13, 2023	7:00 PM	Board Meeting	Clifton Park
Thursday, September 14, 2023	7:00 PM	General Membership	Clifton Park
October 2023	NO MEETING		
Thursday, October 12, 2023	7:00 PM	General Membership	Clifton Park
Saturday, November 4, 2023	8:00 AM	Fall Workshop	TBD
Thursday, November 9, 2023	7:00 PM	General Membership	Clifton Park
December 2023	NO MEETING		
Saturday, January 6, 2024	9:00 AM	Organizational Meeting	TBD