



THE CAPITAL BULLETIN

FIRE DISTRICT NEWS

DECEMBER 31ST, 2022

EDITOR - TOM RINALDI

tom@rinaldi.com

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

The Officers and Directors wish our members a safe, healthy and productive New Year in 2023.

THE CAPITAL CALENDAR:

WWW.AFDCA.ORG

2023 CAPITAL AREA MEETING & TRAINING SCHEDULE

Saturday January 7th 9:00am general membership breakfast serviced at 8AM

So that all of our members have access to our meetings, join us in person or by zoom

ZOOM LINK: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83036316995?pwd=SGhFUlBUa3BFVGD3dCtub3ozS09KQT09>

Thursday February 9th 7:00pm general membership dinner served at 6PM

Thursday March 9th 7:00pm general membership dinner served at 6PM

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

Thursday April 6th Board of Director's Meeting 7PM

Thursday May 11th Meeting of the General Membership

Thursday June 8th Board of Director's Meeting 7PM

Thursday July 13th Board of Director's Meeting 7PM

August, No Meeting

Thursday September 14th, General Membership Meeting 7PM

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

Thursday November 9th, 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

[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>

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

[518-407-5020](tel: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 until the May annual meeting.**
- EMS Services in both Niagara and Westchester Counties have collapsed and the respective counties have stepped in to provide services. Both counties have purchased ambulances and hired staff. We now have a county EMS model operating in two counties in NYS, so far more may be following suit.
- The New York State Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services recently announced that Luci Labriola-Cuffe has been appointed deputy state fire administrator in the Office of Fire Prevention and Control. The former chief of fire training for Westchester County is first woman to serve as deputy state fire administrator.
- **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

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 1st 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 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 (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 28th @ 10:00 AM

December 29th @ 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.

STATE ASSOCIATION NEWS:

WWW.AFDNYS.ORG

You are invited to attend...

\2023 Annual Meeting & Leadership Summit Expo

Wednesday, May 17 - Saturday, May 20

Turning Stone Resort & Casino

5218 Patrick Road

Verona, Ne 13478

Annual Meeting & Leadership Summit Expo

[Click Here to Register](#)

A link to reserve your hotel room at the Turning Stone Resort & Casino will be included on your confirmation page and in your confirmation email. **No call in reservations will be accepted.. 1 room per person**

Anyone with hotel reservations in the AFDSNY block that is NOT registered for this event will be subject to your reservation being canceled by the host. Prior notice will be given when possible but is not guaranteed.

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

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>

Parsing the Document Bill Number S9131:

- Amends the real property tax law by adding new section 466-a
- Signed by the Governor on 12/9/22 Chapter 670
- Provides all local governments with the *option* to provide a property tax exemption to volunteer firefighters and volunteer ambulance workers.

- Provides a tax exemption to **enrolled** members of an incorporated volunteer fire company or incorporated voluntary ambulance service.
- Shall be exempt from taxation to the extent of up to **ten percent of the assessed value** of such property for **city, village, town, part town, special district, school district, fire district or county purposes**, exclusive of special assessments, **provided that the governing body of a city, village, town, school district, fire district or county, after a public hearing, adopts a local law, ordinance or resolution providing therefor.**
- The property is the primary residence of the applicant. (can't be taken for a summer home, camp etc.)
- Exemptions only apply to residential property.
- In summation, the bill would 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.**
- *Volunteer firefighters and ambulance workers provide a significant benefit to residents and taxpayers through their countless hours of service protecting our communities. Currently, less than half of counties in New York are authorized to provide a local property tax exemption benefit to qualifying volunteer firefighter and ambulance workers. This bill seeks to provide a statewide option for all local governments to offer up to a 10% exemption of assessed value to eligible volunteers. This bill provides for flexibility in administering this property tax exemption by giving local governments discretion in adopting a local law or ordinance. By expanding the opportunity to provide this critical tax exemption, it will help improve recruitment and retention of our volunteer fire and ambulance services.*

The 2022 Legislative Session and Fire Service Bill Status

ALL 2022 LEGISLATION HAS BEEN SIGNED INTO LAW OR VETOED. SO BEGINS THE 2023 LEGISLATIVE SESSION.

- (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**
- (S8524B) ALLOWS FOR THE USE OF GREEN LIGHTS ON THE VEHICLES OF MOBILE MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS RESPONDERS. **VETOED BY THE GOVERNOR**
- (**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 6/23/22**
- (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 8/5/22**

- (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.*
- (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. **SIGNED BY THE GOVERNOR 12/28/22**
- (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. **SIGN BY THE GOVERNOR 12/30/22**

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, 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](#)



We Had a Collision....Now What? Part of the ESIP Webinar Series

Even perfect drivers have a bad day. During this presentation, we will discuss the main crash avoidance actions and then look at the best steps to take in the event there is a collision.

Wednesday 1/4/2022 at 7PM

REGISTER AT THIS LINK:

https://webinar.ringcentral.com/webinar/register/WN_yIN3_hgIQw66sWfA1SHI6Q?utm_source=ESIP+Risk+Management+Mailing+List&utm_campaign=0a4a011040-

[EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2020_04_21_04_23_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_f653b3c566-0a4a011040-278064383](https://webinar.ringcentral.com/webinar/register/WN_yIN3_hgIQw66sWfA1SHI6Q?utm_source=ESIP+Risk+Management+Mailing+List&utm_campaign=0a4a011040-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2020_04_21_04_23_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_f653b3c566-0a4a011040-278064383)

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:

CHALLENGES:

Mini-Pumpers and Quick Attack Rigs Remain Popular

Alan Petrillo

Some fire departments around the country continue to use the strategy of attacking a structure fire with a small quick-attack rig or mini-pumper before the big guns arrive on the scene. And manufacturers are responding to the need with minis and quick attacks that pack a much bigger punch than such rigs of earlier days.

Joe Messmer, president of Summit Fire Apparatus, says there seems to be a resurgence in the use of quick-attack trucks and mini-pumpers around the country. “We now can put a 1,500-gallon-per-minute (gpm)-rated pump on a Ford F-550 and on a Dodge RAM 5500 chassis because the pump manufacturers have developed bigger pumps that work on the smaller rigs,” Messmer says. “And the minis and quick attacks are great for fitting down narrow driveways and narrow roadways where full size pumpers might have difficulty.”

While some departments are going with 1,500-gpm pumps on their small rigs, Messmer believes that the majority of the minis and quick attacks are being fitted with 1,250-gpm pumps and 300 gallons of water. “Weight is everything, and it’s cumulative on these vehicles, so you have to build the mini or quick attack for the majority of fire or rescue runs that the department has instead of for the biggest calls,” he says. Messmer also finds that many departments are putting foam systems and compressed air foam systems (CAFS) on their quick attacks and minis to make the best use of the minimal amounts of water carried.

Russell Chick, marketing and communications manager for HME Ahrens-Fox, says HME recently built an EVO mini-pumper for the Argo (AL) Fire Department on a Ford F-550 chassis with a two-door extended cab, powered by a Powerstroke 330-horsepower (hp) 6.7-liter V8 engine and a Ford 10-speed automatic transmission. Chick says the Argo rig has a Hale DSD 1,500-gpm, 24-inch, side-operated pump; a UPF Poly® 500-gallon water tank; an Ahrens-Fox 3000 foam system; and a National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 1901, Standard for Automotive Fire Apparatus, compliant ladder complement of a 22-foot three-section extension ladder, a 10-foot roof ladder, and an 8-foot folding attic ladder. Ed Boring, HME’s fleet manager, says the company also built an EVO mini-pumper for the Odenville (AL) Fire Department on a RAM 5500 chassis with a four-door cab, powered by a 325-hp Cummins 6.7-liter V8 engine and an Allison six-speed automatic transmission. Boring says the Odenville rig has a Hale DSD 1,500-gpm, 24-inch pump; a UPF Poly® 400-gallon water tank; and an NFPA 1901-compliant ladder complement.

Todd Nix, apparatus consultant for Unruh Fire, says that budgeting is a big deal with fire departments right now, so they are being asked to do more with smaller rigs. “Departments are also having difficulty staffing their vehicles, plus the smaller pumpers don’t need a special license to drive and have better access to tight streets and parking garages,” Nix points out. “The majority we’re building are on Ford F-550 and Dodge 5500 chassis, usually with a 1,500-gpm pump so they can pull up on a scene and do a knockdown with the 300 gallons of water they have in the tank. Some departments

are carrying 3- and 5-inch large-diameter hose (LDH) in their mini-pumper hosebeds, while others are going to 4-inch LDH, which flows almost as much as 5-inch and allows them to put about 500 feet of LDH in the hosebed.”

Nix notes that some departments are choosing the quick-attack/rescue-style truck with a 500-gpm pump, small water tank, and combination fire/rescue style body. “We’re building a quick-attack/ rescue truck for the Cherokee Village (AR) Fire Department with a 300-gpm pump preconnected skid unit; a 300-gallon water tank; a foam tank and foam system; and a ladder complement of a 22-foot three-section extension ladder, a 16-foot folding roof ladder, a 9-foot folding attic ladder, and a 22-foot combination Duo-Safety jackknife ladder,” he says

Ben Bregg, design engineer for Spencer Manufacturing Inc., notes that Spencer recently built a mini-pumper on a Ford F-650 chassis with a crew cab set up to carry four firefighters, two in self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) seats, for the Fort Gratiot (MI) Fire Department. Bregg says the rig has a Hale DSD 1,250-gpm pump, a 400-gallon water tank, a 20-gallon foam tank, and a Hale SmartFOAM 2.1A single-agent foam system. “It has a solid polypropylene body; an enclosed pump panel; two 1¾-inch hose crosslays; 400 feet of 2½-inch hose at the rear with a Task Force Tips Blitzfire nozzle; 600 feet of LDH in the hosebed; a full set of battery-operated HURST™ Jaws of Life® eDraulic® hydraulic tools; and a ladder complement of a 26-foot three-section extension ladder, a 10-foot roof ladder, and a 10-foot folding attic ladder,” Bregg points out.

Midwest Fire recently built a mini-pumper on a Ford F-550 chassis and four-door crew cab for the Roxbury (NY) Fire Department, powered by a Ford Powerstroke 330-hp 6.7-liter V8 diesel engine. To fight fire, it carries a Hale 1,250-gpm DSD pump, an APR polypropylene 300-gallon water tank, a 12-gallon foam tank, a Hale SmartFOAM 2.1A single-agent foam system, and an Elkhart Brass Company Sidewinder EXM remote monitor.

Greg Blanchat, president of Blanchat Manufacturing, says a lot of fire departments are having to fight fires with fewer people and fewer pieces of apparatus. “The departments also want vehicles that can get into narrow roads, driveways, and other tight areas,” Blanchat says. “We developed a user-friendly CAFS system reconfigured to use dishwashing soap to make foam for use on wildland and quick-attack trucks, which we build on a Ford F-550 chassis with 600 gallons of water and Hale HP200 and Rowe portable pumps. Each pump produces 120 gpm at 120 pounds per square inch (psi), and if you put them in tandem, you can double that to 240 gpm. For mountain wildland work, we can bring the pressure up to 250 psi, and if the department wants a transfer pump, we use the Hale HP75 that can tandem up to 500 psi.” Jason Black, president of MTECH Inc.’s QTAC Fire and Rescue Apparatus, says QTAC makes the Super 3™, a Type 3 engine on a Ford F-550 chassis that doubles as a quick-attack/mini-pumper. “It carries 500 gallons of water on a chassis that features Super Singles wheels and tires,” he says, “and has a dual pump system of two WATERAX BB-4 pumps that can produce 250 gpm at 150 psi running in parallel. The Super 3 has a PolyTough™ body, runs a FoamPro foam proportioning system, and can be tailored either for wildland urban interface or straight wildland response.”

QTAC also makes the Super 6™ mini-pumper/wildland rig, which can be configured with water tanks from 300 to 399 gallons, two WATERAX B2X medium pressure pumps, preconnected hosebeds, a FoamPro foam proportioning system, and maximized compartment storage including a transverse compartment that can hold a 28-inch chain saw. The Super 6s are typically built on Ford F-550 and Dodge RAM 550 chassis, Black adds

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Chaplain, Fred Richards

It is with deep sadness we note that on December 20th Allen Louis Ayotte of Halfmoon, passed on. Throughout his life all who knew or worked with Al personally often witnessed his unselfish love and earnest passion to serve others who had health or safety needs.

His obituary located at: <https://gordoncemerickfuneralhome.com/tribute/details/1843/Allen-Ayotte/obituary.html#tribute-start> outlines some of the organizational activities Al was involved in. His many endeavors often provided the citizens he served with some form of life-giving assistance (in his local community, the military and as a civil servant in New York State government).

As an active volunteer firefighter and officer Al served 48 years in the West Crescent, WK Mansfield Hose Company. As a commissioner in the West Crescent Fire District he also served for a time as Chairman of the Board.

We express our condolences to his wife Denise, daughters Stephanie and Christina and other members of the Ayotte family for their loss. We also thank you for sharing Al's life with so many of us.

To celebrate Allen Ayotte's life, we ask each Capital Area Member to join with us holding the Ayotte family and Al's associates in the West Crescent Fire District in your thoughts and prayers. We humbly ask our gracious Heavenly Father, His precious Son and the ever present Holy Spirit to abide with each mourning individual and bring them growing peace.

HEALTH - SAFETY & LODDS - TAKING CARE OF OUR MEMBERS!

IN 2022 WE HAVE SADLY EXPERIENCED *101 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...

- Rock Hill S.C. firefighter/paramedic David Campbell dies in vehicle crash on the way to work,
- North Park, Illinois Fire Protection District Volunteer Firefighter/EMT Brian "Tater" Rehnberg, 50, died on Sunday at home after responding to an activated alarm with carbon monoxide present
- 31 year old Summerfield N.C. firefighter Matthew Hall found deceased at the scene of a MVC.
- Matthias Wirtz, a 22-year veteran of the North Haven Fire Department, was pronounced dead at Yale New Haven Hospital, after he was found unconscious and unresponsive outside a two-alarm house fire.
- Mequon Wisconsin Firefighter-Paramedic Josh Lipp was seriously injured while off duty Friday morning. He was struck by a vehicle after stopping to render aid at the scene of a previous crash,
- at: <https://www.firefighterclosecalls.com/>

Reference Material for Use in a Line of Duty Death

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

Fire Deaths in 1&2 Family Dwellings in NYS	75+2=77(Exceeded 2021)
Last fire death New York City, Male 14 & Female 12	
Fire Deaths in any type of Dwelling in NYS	129+6=135
Fire Deaths in 1&2 Family Dwellings Nationally	1340+ 45=1385
Top Three State with the most 1&2 Family Deaths	1 PA 124
	2 OH 101
	3 TX 90
There has been a total of 2251 civilian home fire fatalities in 2022	
There were a total of 2248 residential fire fatalities reported in 2021 in the US media.	
Both the states of Maryland and California require sprinklers in residential dwellings	

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

THE ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

Santa Will Sue You!

A man who was riding the front bumper of a ladder truck while dressed as Santa Claus has filed suit seeking nearly \$500,000 in damages for the injuries he sustained when the truck went over a drainage channel. Roak D. TenEyck filed suit against the Umatilla Rural Fire Protection District, the Umatilla Volunteer Firefighters Association, and the driver of the ladder truck.

The incident occurred on December 24, 2020. According to the complaint:

- Plaintiff was riding on the front bumper of Defendant URFPD and/or UVFA's ladder truck driven by Defendant Carl Arbogast.
- Plaintiff had been asked by Defendants URFPD and/or UVFA to dress as a Santa Claus and hand out candy on the URFPD and/or UVFA ladder truck, as part of an annual event which the URFPD and/or UVFA helped operate.
- Defendant Carl Arbogast drove the URFPD and/or UVFA ladder truck over a drainage channel cut into Cliff Street in the city of Umatilla, causing the ladder truck to lower itself in the road, and pulling Plaintiff's left foot under the ladder truck's bumper.
- Plaintiff suffered severe and permanent injuries including but not limited to:
 - -Fracture of the left fibula, requiring surgery;
 - -Sprain of the left tibiofibular ligament;
 - -Post-surgical complications;
 - -Nerve damage in left foot;
 - -Loss of circulation in left foot;
 - -Numbness in left leg and foot;
 - -Altered gait;
 - -Ingrown nail;
 - -Contusions and lacerations; and
 - -Mental upset and anguish.

The suit accuses the department, the association and the driver of negligence, and the department and association with negligent entrustment, failure to train and failure to manage the risks associated with personnel riding on the "outside front end of a vehicle." TenEyck is seeking \$471,243.45 in damages.

THE STUFF WE BUY!

Your questions answered: Gear Up for Changes – What's Ahead for NFPA 1971

Jeffery and Grace Stull

In a [recent webinar hosted by FireRescue1](#), I provided insight on possible changes under consideration for the next edition of NFPA 1971 affecting firefighter PPE.

Due to a packed presentation, I did not have the chance to reply to all questions posed by the audience. This article provides extended answers to both questions answered as part of the digital event, as well as those not answered due to time limitations.

PARTICULATE-BLOCKING HOODS

Question: Are there currently (or are there proposed) TPP/THL values for particulate-blocking hoods? And are there testing procedures in place to determine whether a hood meets a certain baseline to be considered particulate-blocking?

Answer: In the current edition of NFPA 1971, particulate-blocking hoods have the same TPP requirement of 20 cal/cm², as do regular hoods. However, particulate-blocking hoods also have a THL requirement of at least 325 W/m² (regular hoods do not have this requirement). There are several particulate-blocking hoods in the marketplace that achieve these requirements and are certified. Nevertheless, when more insulation is needed, such as those hoods that are used by instructors, it is expected that while these hoods will have high TPP values, they will not meet the current breathability requirement with a THL set at 325 W/m². Changes to these requirements are being considered, but no definitive proposal has been made.

Question: Is there anything on particulate-blocking hoods only being used once during fire?

Answer: All protective hoods made for the fire industry today are required to demonstrate continued performance for certain test properties after multiple cycles of cleaning. This is partly done to demonstrate that the hoods can be repeatedly used in the field without loss of protection. Currently there are no provisions that allow for a disposable hood since any hood certified to NFPA 1971 must meet the washing requirements. Research performed at North Carolina State University has shown that some types of hoods subjected to repeated wearing, including heat and UV light exposure, donning and doffing, and washing, may break down sooner than other hoods.

Question: Will NFPA be studying the potential negative impacts of having a multi-layered hood and then a helmet shroud [ear covers], making the face mask the weakest link?

Answer: In actuality, the requirements for testing of SCBA facepieces are stricter than clothing requirements in terms of heat exposure for their certification to NFPA 1981. SCBA requirements were specifically increased to ensure that they do not fail before the clothing, given the essential need to maintain breathing air on the fireground. The minimum insulation level for hoods is a TPP rating of 20 cal/cm². Helmet ear covers also have a minimum TPP rating of 20 cal/cm². In comparison, NFPA requires that clothing and gloves have a TPP value of 35 cal/cm². Therefore, the insulation provided by hoods in combination with the ear covers is only slightly more than what is provided by the gear itself. Yet, it is important that gear thermal insulation is often much higher than the minimum because of different additional reinforcement and insulation layers in different parts of the gear. It is further important to understand in setting these requirements that the committee took into consideration potential vulnerabilities of the firefighter's head and neck in an area of the ensemble where multiple clothing and equipment items come together (helmet, SCBA facepiece, hood, and coat collar).

CLOTHING THERMAL PROTECTION AND BREATHABILITY

Question: Is there any standard for base layer under turnout gear?

Answer: Yes, requirements and certification of station/work uniforms are addressed in NFPA 1975, which will become part of the NFPA 1970 consolidated standard along with NFPA 1971, NFPA 1981 (SCBA) and NFPA 1982 (PASS) in late 2023 or early 2024. The general requirements in NFPA 1975 cover the use of materials that do not melt or that could adhere to the individual firefighter's skin when exposed to high heat; there are optional requirements for flame resistance, water absorption resistance and insect repellency. The type of clothing items considered work apparel include short- and long-sleeve regular shirts, polo shirts, T-shirts, sweatshirts, jackets, pants and shorts. Technically speaking, it is possible that garments subjected to the standard could include base layer products that are close-fitting clothing items to the individual wearer's body. This base layer could be either short- or long-sleeve shorts or even long underwear for the lower torso. One proposal under consideration by the committee in the new edition (NFPA 1970) is the use of base layer fabrics that may add particulate-blocking qualities to the ensemble when worn under garments.

In this proposal, it is suggested that combination of base layer clothing with structural firefighting protective ensembles can be used to show overall garment particulate-blocking capabilities where the exterior clothing still must independently meet the NFPA 1971 requirements, and the underlying garments must comply with NFPA 1975 criteria.

Question: Are there any studies that evaluate station uniforms in conjunction with turnouts regarding TPP and breathability, specifically cotton vs. synthetics, shorts vs. pants, or even shirt and class B plus turnouts?

Answer: Some research has been performed to look at the contribution of the station work uniform to the overall insulation of the firefighter from heat, as well as its impact on turnout breathability. These studies have suggested that the work uniform adds thermal insulation but subtracts breathability. While consideration has been given on several occasions to the utility of base station uniforms contributing to the turnout clothing TPP values, concerns exist that reducing the turnout clothing TPP to account for the station work uniform would be problematic. This is because some items may not fully cover the same areas of the body as the turnout gear (e.g., short-sleeve shirts). Moreover, fire departments would have to carefully monitor their members to ensure that the station work uniform is worn in order to attain the necessary minimum insulation.

HELMETS

Question: Are any changes to helmet style/design being considered?

Answer: Design requirements are limited to helmets having certain minimum components, such as ear covers, at-the-shoulder goggles, and reflective trim. The configuration of the helmet is controlled by how the helmet meets the respective performance requirements, such as impact and penetration resistance for overall protection, and other areas, such as the effectiveness of the suspension system and retention system. The standard is not intended to restrict specific helmet styles. For example, some traditional styles of helmets that use leather in their construction can be and are certified to the standard, but require changes in some components to allow their ability to meet certain performance requirements. Similarly, European-style helmets can also be certified to NFPA 1971 requirements.

Question: Is there a better way to clean leather helmet components since they do not detach as other helmets do?

Answer: In the current edition of NFPA 1971, there is one requirement affecting how easily a helmet can be disassembled for purposes of cleaning. It indicates that your covers must be capable of being detached from and reinstalled on the helmet per the manufacturer's instructions within a period of 20 minutes. Nevertheless, this amount of time could still be considered excessive and problematic for those departments where ease of removing certain components, including the suspension, would better enable their more effective cleaning. Many departments choose to use ultrasonic cleaning as a way of better ridding the helmet of contaminants, but standardized procedures for these types of approaches have not been created and are available from certain independent service providers. The committee is considering ways to further encourage helmet designs that enable easier removal of components, such as suspensions and ear covers that likely may provide more effective cleaning for the textile portions of the helmet that often come in contact with the wearer's face.

PPE USE, CARE AND SERVICE LIFE

Question: Due to budgetary constraints, my department uses out-of-date gear for non-certified personnel. When they complete class, we order up-to-date gear. Are there any issues with doing this?

Answer: The use of out-of-date gear for firefighters in training for those that are not yet qualified for service may seem to be reasonable; however, differences between old gear and new gear could be significant in creating new firefighter expectations for protection, plus the physiological impact that affects their understanding of gear limitations. Unfortunately, recruits are sometimes burned or subject to heat exhaustion during fire training, which may occur because they are unsure as to how much heat tolerance is expected. It is important that your department adhere to any federal, state or local requirements for providing appropriate PPE, which often means meeting current standards and not extending the use of gear beyond any established service life criteria.

Question: Is there anything on expiration dates of wildland PPE?

Answer: NFPA 1877 currently does not impose a maximum service life requirement, as is the case for NFPA 1851 and structural firefighting gear.

Question: I'm working on getting my department up to date with PPE inspection, care and cleaning. Do you have recommendations on where I should begin?

Answer: Individual fire departments comply with NFPA 1851 to different extents, depending on the jurisdiction and department practices. It is best to check with different groups in your facility, or contact independent service providers (ISPs) or manufacturers for their knowledge. The annex section of the NFPA 1851 standard contains several recommendations for how to undertake inspection, cleaning, repair and gear storage. Many ISPs and manufacturers further offer training for helping departments become compliant with the standard.

Question: Regarding the ability to effectively clean materials to remove fireground contaminants, will NFPA be addressing on-scene decon effectiveness?

Answer: The current proposal to NFPA 1971 to add cleaning verification requirements is being positioned for different materials or products for reporting purposes only. To make uniform any reported cleaning efficiency data, the proposed test procedures will involve standardized washer/extractor approaches so that material or product cleaning effectiveness can be best compared. Separate work has been undertaken by the Fire Protection Research Foundation to investigate the additional contributions from on-scene preliminary exposure reduction in combination with advanced cleaning to determine how much cleaning effectiveness can be enhanced by these practices.

Question: What is the current recommendation on washes before PPE is broken down?

Answer: Many manufacturers and material suppliers have demonstrated that their materials can be washed up to 30 to 50 laundering cycles and still attain expected performance. However, the breakdown of clothing, and in particular performance properties, is affected by more than just cleaning. It can be affected by frequency of use, undue exposure to UV light, excessive wear and tear, and the overall general care undertaken for specific clothing items. For this reason, it can be very difficult to provide an accurate prediction of how long gear can stay in service or how many washings gear can be subjected to without damage or loss of performance.

Question: Service life for garments is 10 years from date of manufacture. There are some personnel concerned about the life of helmets. Has there been talk of that in the standard?

Answer: The 10-year maximum service life has been a requirement in NFPA 1851 for several editions. Each time the standard is revised, this issue comes up for discussion by the committee, and several individuals have argued that helmets should be exempt from the 10-year maximum service life. Part of the reason why this requirement is not overturned for helmets is the inability to non-destructively inspect or test helmets in the field to determine if they still offer adequate protection. While damage to helmets can compromise performance at any time during service life, the committee feels that the longer helmets remain in service, the greater the chance that unobservable effects from use can occur that compromise protection. In addition, significant changes can occur from one edition to the standard, where standards are revised every five years, and 10 years represents essentially two cycles of changes for the NFPA 1971 standard. It is further believed that the improvement of protection technology and the consideration of additional design or performance criteria that go into successive revision of editions of the standard warrant replacement of older products. This ensures that the products provided to firefighters for their protection keep pace with the latest updated minimum requirements and minimizes the differences between new and old gear in the field. Lastly, recent arguments suggest that the inability to fully clean different types of clothing and equipment may result in unnecessary firefighter secondary exposure to contaminants as they may accumulate on items over time. Still, it is expected that this issue will come up again the next time that NFPA 1851 is revised beginning in mid-2023.

CONSOLIDATION OF STANDARDS

Question: Will new equipment be labeled with two labels – 1971 and NFPA 1970?

Answer: Under the proposed labeling scheme, the original number of the standard (i.e., NFPA 1971) will be used to identify that the product meets the respective requirements for that part of NFPA 1970, though the reference standard

will be the entire title of the new NFPA 1970 standard. It is hoped that this approach will maintain the prevailing identification of products with existing standards as the consolidation effort goes forward.

HUMAN RESOURCES

Your Volunteer Retention Playbook: How To Maintain Membership

Dan Rogers

What's the process for bringing new volunteers into your department? Do you simply provide the new member gear, a pager and a T-shirt and expect them to succeed?

Even for officers who see the clear fault in that approach, some likely find themselves wondering how to meet the needs of the department and their recruits – a lot of work for a volunteer officer, perhaps more than they want to take on. While it does take work, officers must recognize that fostering new members is critical to the future of the volunteer fire service – critical in getting members to stay.

In the accompanying article on recruitment, "Your volunteer recruitment playbook: How to develop the plan and execute," I touched on firefighter retention and the reasons we *believe* firefighters are leaving the ranks.

The more likely reasons for our retention issues fall into four categories:

1. Lack of quality training and leadership;
2. Culture of cliques that exclude others;
3. Generational differences that cause tension; and
4. Lack of camaraderie or sense of community.

Let's break down each reason to better understand what we can do to eliminate these issues.

1. LACK OF QUALITY TRAINING AND LEADERSHIP

Just because we were successful in recruiting new members doesn't mean our job is complete. A recruitment plan must include a path for new members to become fully trained and developed public servants. After all, there is nothing worse than wasting a fully committed volunteer due to lack of training or lackluster leadership.

Remember, as department officers, we made a promise to these new recruits to provide them the training they needed to keep themselves and those around them safe. Make sure you have a quality training plan ready. Focus early trainings on what Seattle Captain (ret.) Mike Gagliano calls the "flawless execution of the basics." Assign them a mentor who will provide continuous coaching for success.

2. CULTURE OF CLIQUES THAT EXCLUDE OTHERS

This is far more common than we think. Chief officers do this subconsciously. Why? Because those members who show up more tend to be given the "better" jobs on the fireground. Why? Because we trust them more. As a result, those members tend to hang within their own group. In addition, generational cohorts tend to stick together.

We must identify cliques within our department and ensure that we are spreading the workload more evenly. Yes, this is easier said than done, especially when safety is involved. However, we must, at a minimum, have a group conversation about expectations; this can help diffuse the situation without hurting anyone's feelings. Simply explain: "If you want better jobs on the fireground, then show up to more trainings."

Further, make a solid effort to break up these exclusionary groups by teaming members who might not normally choose to work together. This might also involve having some difficult conversations in private with your veteran members. Explain to them that they are the future of this department, and the responsibility lies with them. Challenge them: "Where will we be in 15 years given our current situation?" We never know day to day who will show up, so forming that brotherhood and sisterhood bond starts with leaders and veterans. It starts with culture.

3. GENERATIONAL DIFFERENCES THAT CAUSE TENSION

When I joined the department, the older "salty" members complained about my generation and called us weak. But 30 years before that, the veteran members of my department also complained about the incoming generation. This type of complaining has been going on since firefighters learned to complain.

It's time we put our differences aside and focus on what we have in common – our desire to help the community. The sooner we can focus energy on the advancement of the department, the sooner we can work together as a team.

Remind the older members that their family, friends and neighbors will benefit from change, spending money and/or technology. Remind the younger members that everything we do is for the benefit of the community we serve. Remind

newer members that the “saltier” members have, in fact, seen and done a few things, and still have a lot to offer the department.

Cohesiveness is achieved by defining specific goals, mixing new and old experiences, and reaching these goals as a team. And when things go right, celebrate your successes together.

4. LACK OF CAMARADERIE OR SENSE OF COMMUNITY

Feelings cannot be forced. We cannot force a member to have pride in the department or a sense of community, or even camaraderie with another firefighter. We can only facilitate an atmosphere that focuses on teamwork, all while moving toward a common goal of providing better service for our community.

Consider the U.S. Army. Despite coming from all walks of life with many diverse backgrounds, soldiers form an unbreakable bond that comes to bear during even the most extreme situations. Why? Because they were trained to depend on each other when their environment gets hairy (similar to ours). When things get tough, they lean on each other, because they trust each other.

This is how we need to train our members. Put members in simulated situations where they are forced to lean on each other. Team members who wouldn't normally choose each other and facilitate solidarity. A simple Google search yields hundreds of team-building exercises that promote trust and communication that can be carried over to the fireground. Now that we have touched on the retention issues plaguing our agencies, let's now consider some solutions to overcome these retention pitfalls.

START A MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

The best way to help ensure retention of newly recruited firefighters is to implement a mentor program.

Each recruit should be assigned their own mentor, typically not an officer, but rather an active firefighter with 5 years or more experience, who would report additional to the chief officer. The mentor serves as a sounding board for recruits, sometimes afraid to talk with their officer.

The mentor should be tasked with overseeing training, answering questions, introducing the recruit to active members, and ensuring that all associated documentation is up to date. The mentor is the go-to person for the recruit. Through this process, the mentor will gain valuable experience in dealing with personnel and equipment issues. What better way to gauge the abilities of a potential future officer?

FORM COMMITTEES WITHIN YOUR DEPARTMENT

I am a huge proponent of committees. I believe wholeheartedly that committees can help halt a downward trajectory and increase morale within your agency.

Start by establishing three to five committees. Assign two to three firefighters per committee, and task them with handling various equipment needs, regulatory compliances, and divisions.

Require them to report at each meeting on needs, updates and improvements made within their committee. Ask to hear from each member and continue to task them with activities that fall within their respective committee. Hold them accountable for these duties and be clear with your expectations.

How do committees fit into retention?

- You're giving members a voice at the meeting. They have ownership and feel like a member of the team.
- You're giving members responsibility within the department. Responsibility = commitment; commitment = pride; pride = retention.
- You're breaking down generational barriers by promoting healthy working relationships among members.
- You're relieving overworked officers of basic tasks.

Some examples of committees:

- *Small equipment:* This committee is tasked with starting, checking and maintaining all small engines and equipment within the department. Repairs and issues should be brought to the membership's attention via the meeting report as well as updates and potential new equipment purchases. Let these folks spec new equipment. Trust them.
- *ISO/NFPA/OSHA compliance:* ISO, NFPA, OSHA compliances can be difficult for small departments to manage. Create a committee to research NFPA/OSHA standards to ensure your agency is compliant. Task the members with not just bringing non-compliance to light but also brainstorming solutions before presenting to the membership.

- *PPE*: This committee is charged with categorizing, inventorying and issuing PPE. It is also in charge of PPE NFPA compliance and developing new gear specs when the time comes to purchase.

Speaking of PPE, here's an example of why it's important to include non-officers on purchasing committees: My department was awarded a PPE grant. We formed a purchasing committee that was ultimately given the responsibility of choosing the gear our department will be wearing for the next 10 years. The committee included interior firefighters, only two of whom were officers and none who worked too closely with department finances. This allowed them to go beyond the bottom line to focus on the equipment.

The committee was tasked with meeting with seven vendors and demonstrating several sets of gear from each vendor. They returned a set of specs that were sent out for bid. Once the bids returned, the chief and I worked with the group on the financial side.

The committee chose a vendor and presented the PPE request of choice to the membership for vote. Members asked several questions, and the committee answered without issue. In the end, the process gave the committee members a sense of responsibility and belonging.

SHOW YOUR APPRECIATION

Most chief officers know that we will never get a formal thank you from the thousands of people we help during our careers. But the "thankless" element of the job should really only relate to interactions with the public.

I know what you're thinking: "No one ever thanked me for running into burning buildings." You're right, me either. But times have changed, members have changed, and if we are serious about the retention, we must adapt. Thank your members for showing up and let them know you appreciate their time.

There are many other ways we can thank our members. Length of service awards, response stipends and training incentives are some of the best ways to show appreciation. These tokens of appreciation can come in the form of a department shirt, plaque, gift card or even monetary payment. I know my department can't afford these things when we can barely cover PPE upgrades, so we apply for funding to help with this. Let's tackle this next.

APPLY FOR GRANTS

The most underrated grant in the fire service is the Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) Grant. This grant has a portion of funding dedicated solely to the recruitment and retention of volunteer firefighters.

By developing a recruitment and retention plan, you can apply to have your marketing, training and retention programs funded without matching any funds. This program, as I have experienced myself, is an absolute game-changer when it comes to recruiting and retaining volunteers.

Several retention tools are covered through SAFER grants:

Retention/training

- Tuition for training: Funding for a training to advance members' careers.
- Basic firefighter training: Funding designed for the recruit to earn a basic level of certification as your department requires.

Retention/acknowledgement

- Length of service awards: Funding to purchase length of service awards for current members and even recruits outlined in your recruitment plan.
- Response stipend: Funding to provide firefighters with a monetary payment or gift card based on response totals (also can be utilized as a recruitment tool).
- Training incentives: Funding to provide firefighters with a clothing incentive when training requirements are met or exceeded. (How many chiefs get nagged about a new department hoodie? Make them earn it.)

When applying for grant funding, especially a SAFER grant, it's important that you identify the need, research the core issues, and develop a solution. This is referred to as a basic Applied Research Project (APR), and you don't have to be a scientist to make one.

Grants are all based on the basic premise of needs vs. wants. As a grant writer, I always envision myself at the desk of the peer reviewer considering if this funding request is for an actual need or simply a want. You have to prove to me that there is a need, and a quality APR usually answers this question for me.

If this all sounds a little too much for you to handle, remember that grant writer fees are 100% reimbursable if awarded. There are many grant writers who can help you through each step of the process. Reach out to someone and give your agency the best chance of being successful.

BE THE CHANGE

While there is no single solution to our retention issues, I have seen these tactics work to recruit members, train them, and retain them as quality, volunteer firefighters. I know that if you put in the work, use the resources, and keep up the recruitment and retention work, your agency will maintain a quality membership well beyond your days as the member wearing the white helmet.

The future belongs to those who are willing to make the changes. The true test of a fire department is how well the membership operates in our absence. If you feel like you, personally, must be present for your agency to get the job done, then you have failed at preparing for the future, and it's time to change that.

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](#).

For information only and not for the purpose of providing legal advice. The opinions expressed are the opinions of the individual author at the time the facts were presented and based on the law then applicable. The information contained in these opinions is not guaranteed to be up to date. The information provided is not legal advice. Since legal advice must be tailored to the specific circumstances of each case, and laws are constantly changing, nothing on this site should be used as a substitute for the advice of competent legal counsel. The authors assume no responsibility to any person who relies on information contained herein and disclaim all liability in respect to such information. You should not act upon information in this publication without seeking professional counsel from an attorney admitted to practice in your jurisdiction.

STEP INTO THE CHIEF'S OFFICE:

Achieving Buy-In: How Officers Can Connect Members And Mission

Adam Yelich

Over the past few years, I've had the honor of serving at many different organizations, ranging from a small combination department of 15 firefighters to a major metropolitan department of 1,800. While demographics change and run volumes vary, one factor that matters across departments is the buy-in of the rank and file. Their acceptance and willingness to actively support department initiatives is critical to long-term department success.

Three priorities for officers working to achieve buy-in among members: the mission, my troops and myself. Let's explore all three and how they intersect.

THE OFFICER'S ROLE IN BUY-IN

It goes without saying that the backbone of the job is the membership – the brothers and sisters on the line, 24/7, 365. It is vital to listen to their voice, as this is the first step in achieving buy-in.

At the other end of the spectrum are the appointed or elected officials sitting in the front office. Administrations have agendas, and these officials are making decisions that affect the firefighters. But really, it's the support of the firefighters that can either make or break that agenda. Some call this leadership from the ground up.

So who does this impact next, from either side? The senior firefighters and the officers. As an officer, the buy-in of YOUR firefighters depends on YOU. And the buy-in of your crew can and will affect the company's performance on the fireground. After all, firefighters are more willing to push their limits on and off the fireground if they know they have the support of their peers and supervision.

Further, it's critical to include firefighters in decision-making, as this can and will inspire them to look for opportunities to serve in decision-making roles. If you show your firefighters that you trust them, they will trust you. My go-to order I give is "handle it." This instills trust and motivates my firefighters to be as educated and prepared for whatever they may encounter.

This all starts at the heart and soul of the firehouse – the kitchen table. An officer's expectations must reflect the mission statement of the department. The officer must also be approachable and humble enough to hear what the firefighters expect from the officer. The kitchen table is a good place for officers to monitor member morale to ensure that everyone is "all in" on the department mission.

ACTION-ORIENTED MISSION

When is morale highest in the house? When we get to be firefighters. It may sound twisted to the average citizen, but you tend to see more smiles and hear more laughs after a good fire. You may see an uptick in healthy razzing back at the station after a successful extrication. Firefighters are inherently action-driven, so when we get to do the job we signed up to do, we are most satisfied and morale is strong.

Conversely, if run volumes are down, or it's been a while since that last fire, you tend to hear more negativity from members. It's hard to focus on the mission, protecting lives and property, when you haven't had a chance to do it! This becomes a training issue.

Not only is it essential that we stay sharp on our skills during these lull periods, but it is essential to keep morale strong. Getting hot and sweaty may be a chore, but after relevant, realistic and challenging training, firefighters seem more upbeat. This reflects on the fireground, and the focus shifts back to the mission.

PERSONAL BUY-IN

Officer or not, buy-in takes some soul-searching at times. Showing up early for work isn't always easy. Some shifts you just want to survive your time and go home. This is the time to step back and take a moment and reflect on why you are here. We all got started in this career for a reason. Remaining positive all the time is unrealistic to ask of people when we are exposed to so much tragedy. But the buy-in of those around you may be enough to keep you focused on the bigger picture. The buy-in of each other as brothers and sisters may be enough to keep someone going. When everyone is "all in" on the bigger picture, the smaller issues seem to disappear.

So next time A-shift steals your ketchup, step back, relax, and remember this is still the best job in the world with some of the best people in the world.

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 or by emailing Fire District Secretary Arthur Hunsinger at wcfdsec@nycap.rr.com

Please send application, cover letter & resume to Arthur Hunsinger via email at 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

Give a person a fish and you feed them for a day. Teach a person to use the Internet and they won't bother you for weeks, months, maybe years.

OFFICERS OF THE CAPITAL AREA ASSOCIATION OF FIRE DISTRICTS

2023 OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

President: Tom Rinaldi, Commissioner Stillwater/Saratoga
1st VP: John Meehan, Commissioner West Crescent/Saratoga
2nd VP: Art Hunsinger, Commissioner Clifton Park Halfmoon/Saratoga
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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

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

[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

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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Gregory Serio, Partner
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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 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

Date	Time	Type	Location
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