



CAPITAL AREA FIRE DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION

BULLETIN

YOUR FIRE DISTRICT NEWS SOURCE
FEBRUARY 25TH, 2023
EDITOR - TOM RINALDI
tom@rinaldi.com

[If you can't see yourself as a life-long learner, then please do us all a favor and retire.](#)

THE CAPITAL CALENDAR:

WWW.AFDCA.ORG

2023 CAPITAL AREA MEETING & TRAINING SCHEDULE

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

ZOOM LINK FOR MARCH MEETING: Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84313653528?pwd=RIJ4T0tDVm02dWtsbFRNZlZxNmVpdz09>

Meeting ID: 843 1365 3528

Passcode: 621563

Saturday, March 11, 2023 6:00 PM Officer Installation Embassy Suites Hotel 86 Congress Street,
Saratoga Springs, NY –

Taking Reservations Now

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

It's February Already and Dues are Due!!

All of our members and potential members should have received their annual dues notice by now. Your dues go toward the day-to-day operations of the Capital Area Association which are minimal. It has been our intent the your dues benefit the membership by keeping training costs to a minimum, we don't use our training as a funding stream. The Capital Area represents fire districts in 8 counties and provides advocacy in legislative matters, works collectively with the State Association, provides locally pertinent training and will continue to work for and with our fire districts assisting them to solve problems. Please consider finding that invoice and sending it in to cover your 2023 dues.

Long Way to Travel to Meetings? Zoom In!

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

Commissioner Training, Register Now and pay at the door!

Clifton Park is filling up. There are seats available at Berkshire Fire District, 320 Steele Ave Extension, Gloversville, NY for any of the Commissioners in the Western portion of the Capital Area or adjacent counties. Whatever is convenient for you!

You are going to like the new format of this presentation.

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

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 320 Steele Ave Ext, Gloversville, NY 12078
Email caaofd@gmail.com

2023 Membership Activity Options Being Explored

Saturday, November 4th, 2023 8:00 AM Fall Workshop Location 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.

IF NOTHING ELSE READ THE ARTICLES PRECEDED BY **

CAPITAL AREA ASSOCIATION NEWS:

WWW.AFDCA.ORG

You Are Invited to Become a Member of the Capital Area Association!

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

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

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

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

The Capital Area has logo ware available, 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

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

CAPITAL SHORTS:

- The Wilton Fire District is looking for policies regarding Driver Certification, send to Megan Washburn, District Administrator at mwashburn@wiltonfiredept.org. Thank you.
- Are you interested in becoming a Director to represent our region, Region 1 for the next two years, please contact Tom Rinaldi or any of the Capital Area officers? Directors can still assume the position at the Annual Meeting in May.
- The Town of Bethlehem, Albany County has approved the property tax exemption for volunteers.

If you no longer wish to receive the Capital Bulletin you have the option to “unsubscribe” at the bottom of the introductory email.

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER:

It is with regret that OFPC announces the death of Steven Harris Jr., age 57 of the Fort Johnson Fire Department in Montgomery County on Monday February 13th. Firefighter Harris suffered a medical emergency while enroute to a structure fire with his department. Our thoughts go out to the family of firefighter Harris and the members of the Fort Johnson Fire Department.

STATE ASSOCIATION NEWS:

WWW.AFDNYS.ORG

[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.

The Capital Area Association officers and directors are urging all fire districts who are members of the State Association to at least travel to Turning Stone on Friday Afternoon May 5th no later than 4PM to VOTE in favor of the By-law change which will allow future voting either in person or by Proxy. This would empower all of the members who pay dues to vote on the future of the State Association without having to travel, pay for and attend the annual conference. *If you pay dues to this not for profit Association, you should be enfranchised to vote!*

TRAINING APPROPRIATE FOR YOUR ENTIRE BOARD/SECRETARY/TREASURER

Mark your calendar for November 4th 2023 for the Capital Area Fall Leadership Workshop, final location to be determined. If there are subjects that YOU think we should be covering, please let us know.



[Coffee with Commissioners](#)

Saturday March 4th at 9AM

Mental Health Awareness and AFDSNY Annual Conference Updates

REGISTRATION LINK: https://webinar.ringcentral.com/webinar/register/WN_MgnZuRPrSie6BUdNaMXtzQ

THE LATEST FROM ALBANY

[2023 Fire Service Lobby Day February 28](#)

FASNY will host the Fire Service Lobby Day on Tuesday, February 28 at 8:30 am at FASNY Headquarters, 107 Washington Ave., Albany, NY. The day is an opportunity to gather, find out what our legislative representatives are doing for the fire service and voice concerns about these issues. Fire service members who wish to attend should complete the registration form by Tuesday, February 21. The day will start with a welcome and briefing session. Those attending will then head

over to legislative offices to support the Fire Service Alliance's legislative agenda. Please wear "Class A" uniforms. Refreshments and lunch will be provided.

[Register Now](#)

From the 2024 Executive Budget Briefing Book

Improve Statewide Emergency Response Services.

- **Allow for Compensation Volunteer Firefighters.** The Executive Budget proposes legislation to allow municipalities and fire companies to pay volunteer firefighters modest compensation based on call response and still retain their volunteer status.
- **Volunteer Firefighter Training Stipend.** The Executive Budget includes \$6.5 million to provide a State-funded stipend to volunteer firefighters who complete foundational training as well as funds for DHSES to administer the program and enhance their training capacity.
- **Create NY Emergency Services IP Network.** The Executive Budget includes \$20 million to assist counties in transitioning to Next Generation 911 via a fiberoptic cable network that would connect to a single Public Service Answering Point in each county
- **Amend Emergency Medical Services** This part would require the State Emergency Medical Services Council to advise the Commissioner of Health on issues related to EMS; establish a statewide comprehensive emergency medical services plan; establish mobile integrated healthcare program for ESM agencies; and establish a new process for the approval of EMS applications.
- **Emergency Medical Services (EMS):** The Executive proposes \$7.6 million to increase the EMS special revenue fund in addition to providing capital equipment resources to enhance the statewide fleet of EMS vehicles including ambulances and non-transport treatment vehicles.
- **Create the Transit-Oriented Development Act of 2023** This part would require local governments to authorize the construction of residential dwelling units within proximity to any non-seasonal rail station.
- **Authorize a Property Tax Exemption for Accessory Dwelling Units** This part would authorize municipalities to adopt a property tax exemption program for residential property owners to create one or more additional residential units on their property.
- **Prohibit Installation of Fossil Fuel Equipment and Building Systems** This part would prohibit the installation of fossil-fuel equipment and building systems in new building construction and establish building benchmarking requirements

The executive budget will be presented to the legislature; they will review it, come up with their budget and then the negotiations begin. The budget is supposed to be in place by April 1st. We'll see.

N.Y. Governor To Invest \$10M In Volunteer Fire Departments

Chris Bragg, The Buffalo News

During her state budget presentation on Wednesday, Gov. Kathy Hochul rolled out a plan to invest \$10 million to support the training, recruitment and retention of volunteer firefighters.

Nine million New Yorkers live in communities served by volunteer fire departments. But the COVID-19 pandemic decreased participation in the programs, and municipalities have struggled to recruit and retain people to provide the critical services.

The new funding proposed by Hochul includes \$6.5 million to provide stipends to volunteer firefighters who complete core training. The other \$3.5 million would go to the Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services to administer the program and enhance training capacity.

In addition, Hochul's budget also includes legislation that would allow municipalities and fire companies to pay volunteer firefighters compensation for response to calls and completion of training. ***(If this passes the devil will be in the details and the fire departments will have to enact rules and regulations related to compliance)***

"Volunteer first responders put their lives on the line to support their fellow New Yorkers, and we are forever indebted to them for their heroism," Hochul said in a prepared statement. "Many communities across the state rely on services provided by volunteer firefighters but need further support to recruit and retain people willing to serve their neighbors. With this proposal, we are recognizing that it takes time, commitment and dedication to be a volunteer firefighter and that we must provide resources to support those crucial, life-saving efforts."

Volunteer fire departments provide coverage to approximately 46% of the population, but 76% have reported a decrease in volunteer service in recent years, according to Hochul's office.

Between 1997 and 2020, according to Hochul's office, there was a 29% increase in fire incidents in the state. This combined with the volunteer shortage has led to an increase in "mutual aid calls" in which the local "home" department must call on a neighboring department to help. According to Hochul's office, this has strained the resources of not only volunteer departments but also professional, career fire departments.

The deadline for Hochul and the Legislature to strike an agreement for an on-time budget is April 1.

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)

- **S4120 MAYER/A3992 OTIS---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.

- **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

- **S3458 SKOFUS/A2776 ZEBROWSKI---AMEND PENAL CODE TO ADD ENDANGERING THE WELFARE OF OCCUPANTS AND FIRST RESPONDERS**

- **S2986 KAVANAGH/A4430 ZEBROWSKI---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)

- **S3531 SKOFUS---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.

- **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.

- **S324 OBERACKER---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.

ALSO: A165 WOERNER AND S324 OBERACKER

- **A1999 HAWLEY---CANCER COVERAGE COST RELIEF**

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

- *occupational, and other information from firefighters on an ongoing basis to enable public health researchers to learn more about the causes of firefighter cancer in order to better treat and prevent it.*

- **The SIREN Grant**, which is run through the Department of Health and Human Services and helps public and private nonprofit EMS agencies that serve rural areas pay for equipment, training, and staffing.

- Housing Guaranteed Loan Program assists approved lenders in providing loans to low- and moderate- income households to build, rehabilitate, or improve a home in eligible rural areas. **This bill will allow volunteer firefighters to participate in the loan program even if their income exceeds the maximum allowable income level by up to \$18,000.** The Department of Housing and Urban Development's Good Neighbor Next Door Sales Program *gives law enforcement officers, teachers, firefighters, and emergency medical technicians a 50-percent discount from the list price of a home located in a revitalization area.*

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

View the final report of the NYS VFF Task Force [HERE](#):

<https://afdca.org/view-the-final-report-of-the-nys-vff-task-force/>

The report can also be downloaded from the Association's website at AFDCA.org



LET YOUR MEMBERS KNOW ABOUT THIS OPPORTUNITY!

UL FSRI Fire Safety Academy – 1 Hour Web Based Course on Lithium Ion Batteries

This course focuses on foundational research about lithium-ion batteries, thermal runaway and how fire and explosion hazards can develop. The knowledge you gain in this course can help you identify the risks associated with lithium-ion battery products in your personal and professional life.

COURSE ACCESS AT THIS LINK: <https://training.fsri.org/course/035-science-lib>

[Available at any time for your members.](#)



Dealing With A "Toxic Leader" ESIP LEADERSHIP SERIES

Join our panel for a discussion on what a "Toxic Leader" is and how toxic leadership impacts an organization. We will also discuss techniques that will help cure a toxic leader. We have all dealt with this one time or another and is a major reason why members abandon the volunteer fire service.

Wednesday, March 1st, 2023 at 7PM

REGISTER AT THIS LINK: [https://mcneilandcompany.us8.list-](https://mcneilandcompany.us8.list-manage.com/track/click?u=03596f243a9d922954ebaf15e&id=48ef4ac6fa&e=781e9a2c81)

[manage.com/track/click?u=03596f243a9d922954ebaf15e&id=48ef4ac6fa&e=781e9a2c81](https://mcneilandcompany.us8.list-manage.com/track/click?u=03596f243a9d922954ebaf15e&id=48ef4ac6fa&e=781e9a2c81)

REGISTRATION IS OPEN FOR THE NYSAFC 117TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE & FIRE 2023 EXPO!

June 14-17 • The Oncenter • Syracuse, NY With exhibits, fire and EMS classes, Hands-On Training, and networking events for personnel of all ranks, there's something for everyone at the premier fire industry, rescue, and EMS conference and expo in the Northeast!

CLASSROOM EDUCATION

More than **35 classes** will be presented by some of the most respected leaders in the industry from Wednesday – Saturday for Conference Full Term registrants. **EMS CME** classes will be delivered, and special training for **codes** personnel and **commissioners** will be available. The schedule of classes is coming soon!

ATTENDEE REGISTRATION

REGISTER IN ADVANCE or at the door! **New** – online registration is available for single registrants! Those registering groups must use the PDF form.

ONE DAY TICKETS (EXPO ONLY)

Pre-Registration: \$25 (per person, includes three tickets)

On-Site: \$10 (per person, per day)

FULL TERM REGISTRATION (EXPO & CLASSES)

NYS AFC Individual Member: \$100 (per person)

Non-Member: \$175 (per person)

NYSAFC 2023 Seminar Series, "Truck Skills Beyond the Textbooks" Local Date Coming Up

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>



VFIS Instructor-Level Program Emergency Vehicle Driver Training (EVDT) EMS Vehicle Operation (EMSVO)

Description This program is a train-the-trainer program which is designed to teach the necessary instructional methodology in order to successfully deliver the following programs. Upon completion, an instructor kit will be provided.

Course Information 3/11/2023 8:30 AM – 5:00 PM 3/12/2023 8:00 AM – 3:30 PM Empress Ambulance 740 Nepperhan Avenue Yonkers, NY 10703

Registration Insured by VFIS Not Insured by VFIS \$0 for first 3 seats, \$60 for each additional \$500

[VFIS TRAINING AND RESOURCE CATALOG 2023](#)

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

[VFIS UNIVERSITY – USERS GUIDE](#)

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

[VFIS TRAINING OFFICER USERS GUIDE](#)

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

[VFIS RESPONDER HELP FLYER](#)

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

[Hands-On Training at FIRE 2023 in Syracuse 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) <https://www.nysfirechiefs.com/fire2023hot>

OUR CHANGING FIRE SERVICE –CHALLENGES & OPPORTUNITIES!

[OPPORTUNITIES:](#)

[Apply Now for New Turnout Gear and Helmets Through MSA and DuPont's 2023 Globe Gear Giveaway](#)

13 departments will each receive four new sets of turnouts and four helmets.

The ability, or lack thereof, to purchase adequate personal protective equipment is a well-known struggle for many volunteer fire departments across the U.S. To help combat this problem and keep first responders safe while they protect our communities, MSA Safety, DuPont Personal Protection, and the National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC) have partnered for the 12th year to award volunteer fire departments in need with state-of-the-art turnout gear and helmets through MSA and DuPont's 2023 Globe Gear Giveaway.

"Year after year, I've seen this program change lives," said NVFC chair Steve Hirsch. "At the end of the day, volunteer firefighters want, and deserve, to have the adequate protection to keep them safe and healthy. We are honored to partner with MSA and DuPont for over a decade to provide this critical equipment to our nation's first responders."

"Partnerships such as these are important because our mission is to help keep people safe at work," said Bob Apel, chief operating officer of Globe Manufacturing Company. "This program allows us to support our valuable volunteer firefighters so they can help keep their communities safe and be there when their neighbors are in need."

Applications are now being accepted. To be eligible to apply, departments must be over 50% volunteer, serve a population of 25,000 or less, be located in the U.S. or Canada, demonstrate a need for new gear, and the person applying or the department chief must be a member of the NVFC. MSA will provide complimentary NVFC memberships to the first 500 applicants to help departments meet the membership requirement.

Learn more and apply by June 1 at www.nvfc.org/gear. Winners will be announced monthly between July and December. Stay tuned to the [NVFC web site](#), [Dispatch newsletter](#), and [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) pages, as well as the [Globe Facebook page](#), for details.

[Apply Now for a \\$1500 College Scholarship!](#)

FASNY wants to help you retain your young members and one of the ways we do that is with the Gerard J. Buckenmeyer Memorial FASNY Volunteer Scholarship Program. Each year we provide 25 deserving high school seniors with a \$1500 scholarship to continue their post-secondary education. We're asking you to help spread the word about these scholarships. [Applications are being accepted online](#). [The submission deadline is March 15](#).

[The Farm Medic Program](#)

Much of New York State is still rural and there are large operational farms in many Counties. ESIP is the vendor for the Farm Medic Program and the contact is Lee Price; sprice@mcneilandcompany.com or call 800-822-3742 ext 176.

Agriculture is one of the most dangerous industries in America. Each year, needless injuries and deaths occur to farmers, family members, farm employees, and rescue personnel. Emergency responders often lack knowledge of the nature of farm machinery, chemicals, and farm structures; in addition, some rescue techniques may actually increase the risk to the victim and rescue personnel. Training and education in the methods of farm/rural rescue are essential for proper response and safety of the rescuer and patient. The main goal of the National Farmmedic Training Program developed by [Cornell University](#) is to provide rural fire/rescue responders with a systematic approach to farm rescue procedures that address the safety of both patients and responders.

The National Farmmedic Training Program, owned and operated by McNeil & Co., includes the [Provider Training Programs](#) in which certified instructors will use classroom work, farm tours, demonstrations, and hands-on extrications with mannequins in real life scenarios to train local responders. An outreach program for the rural community at-large called [First On The Scene](#) is also available.

[Enhancing Volunteer Firefighter Recruitment and Retention Programs Through SAFER Grant Funding](#)

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and the [Federal Emergency Management Agency \(FEMA\)](#) established the [Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response \(SAFER\) grant program](#) to provide financial assistance to help fire departments increase staffing levels by hiring full-time paid firefighters or to recruit and retain volunteer [firefighters](#).

Since the initiation of this grant program, more than \$5 billion has been awarded to fire departments across the U.S. to enhance [staffing](#) levels.

The SAFER grant program establishes a minimum allocation of 10% of funding each year to be awarded to [volunteer fire department recruitment](#) and retention (R&R) programs. To put that into dollars, if the annual allocation for SAFER is \$350 million, then a minimum of \$35 million must be awarded for volunteer R&R. Each year, the grant program receives approximately 500 applications from departments and special interest organizations requesting approximately \$200 million in funding for R&R projects. Only about one-quarter of those applications will be awarded funding. So, the question is: how can you best compete in this arena with so many other applicants looking for a portion of the available funding?

Success through the SAFER grant program has to be viewed beyond just hiring of paid firefighters or posting a sign in front the fire station stating, “Volunteers Needed.” Your path to success is built on a foundation of planning what is best for your members, the department, and the community. Start now in designing your balanced “plate” of project initiatives that provide the recruitment AND the retention incentives needed to help your department meet staffing requirements for safe and efficient mission performance.

CHALLENGES:

Firefighter Trapped In Truck By Power Lines While Fighting Selkirk Fire

VIDEO: While fighting a fire in Selkirk Sunday, a ladder truck driver was trapped after a power line fell on top of the vehicle. This on 147 Rarick Road, where several fire departments arrived on the scene to a structure nearly fully involved. As they were working to get the hoses in place, a power line fell on top of the ladder truck. The truck driver had to stay in the vehicle until National Grid came to turn off the power. He was unharmed. Selkirk, Elsmere, Delmar FAST team, Onesthequaw, Coeymans Hollow and Coeymans were all on the scene. No one was hurt. The fire chief says crews couldn't enter the structure because of the extent of the fire. The building is considered a total loss, we're working to find out how many people are without a home.

Tyre Looks To Form New Fire Department To Succeed Magee FD

DAVID L. SHAW

Last October, the town board voted unanimously to form a new, incorporated town fire company. That was one of four options presented by a special board committee consisting of board members Kenneth Sutterby and Reginald Aceto. Since then, the town has been taking steps to implement that plan. The Town Board will meet in special session at 6:30 p.m. Feb. 7 for a workshop to review drafted bylaws and articles of incorporation needed for the creation of a new fire company.

The town has been without an in-town fire department since a court granted the state Attorney General’s Office litigation to dissolve the Magee Fire Department in January 2022. ***The dissolution of the Magee Fire Department was due to irregularities and violations of state gaming and labor laws.***

Since then, the town has contracted with the Galen-Clyde Fire District to use Magee’s facilities in order to provide fire-protection services. In addition, the town and fire district are preparing a 2018 Spartan Pumper apparatus for use by present and future Tyre resident firefighters, according to Supervisor Beth Partee.

“We are continuing to move forward with forming a new fire company in Tyre, but this process will take time,” Partee said. ***“Under the not-for-profit corporation law, the town has the legal authority to form a new fire company, adopt bylaws and rules and regulations for operating the fire company, and to appoint the initial members.”***

Partee said the town, under the court’s direction, acquired all of the Magee Fire Department assets in July 2022. She said once the 2018 Spartan Pumper is in service, Tyre resident firefighters will work closely with the Galen-Clyde Fire District for training, call response, and other on-duty activities. “An intermunicipal agreement between the town and the Galen-Clyde Fire District to detail this arrangement is also in the works,” Partee said.

As part of the approved plan, assets of the former Magee Fire Department acquired by the town will be used for fire protection for the residents and taxpayers within the town of Tyre. Officials said use of that equipment for firefighting purposes outside Tyre is not in the town’s best interests.

The town was given \$2.8 million in Magee Fire Department assets and had to pay off \$169,000 in liens and unpaid bills. The assets include two firehouses, engines, apparatus, and other real property.

In moving forward with a new fire company, the town rejected continuing to contract with Galen-Clyde, extending the Galen-Clyde Fire District to include the town of Tyre, and creating a new, townwide fire district.

The report said the fire protection being provided by Galen-Clyde is very good and should continue until a new fire company under control of the town board can be formed by a group of Tyre residents.

LIVING WITH LI-ION TECHNOLOGY

Brooklyn Bike Shop Guttled By Blaze That Damaged Dozens Of E-Bikes

Two firefighters were hurt after a fire ripped through a Brooklyn e-bike store, damaging dozens of devices, officials said. The episode unfolded at around 2:15 a.m. Saturday at the 11th Avenue Bike Shop at 6308 11th Avenue, near 63rd Street in Dyker Heights, the FDNY said. Firefighters battled the blaze for nearly two hours before declaring the fire under control, officials said. At least 50 e-bikes were inside the shop and dozens were damaged, one witness reported. Two firefighters were taken to an area hospital with minor injuries. The cause of the blaze is "under investigation," the FDNY said Saturday morning. E-bike-related fires seem to be occurring fast and furious. Earlier this week, a 67-year-old woman was critically injured in a massive early-morning Brooklyn fire caused by e-bike batteries, officials said Tuesday.

Lithium-Ion Batteries: The 18650

Chris Greene

The Micro-mobility or E-mobility industry has been receiving a lot of publicity over the past few years—and for all the wrong reasons. Through the media, online videos, and direct experience, we have all been witness to the increasing frequency of fires involving E-bikes/scooters. This phenomenon has drawn a lot of attention to this industry, and deservedly so, but it is important to understand the underlying energy source—the 18650 lithium-ion cell. It is the workhorse of the E-mobility, power tool, and portable power supply industry and one of the most common lithium-ion cells on the market. It is small enough to power an E-cigarette/vape cartridge, easily fitting into your pocket, or can be strung together to power much larger items that have become commonplace in the American home.

This cylindrical battery, which derives its name from its dimension—18mm diameter by 65mm in length—was developed in 1994 in response to an increasing demand for smaller and more powerful portable battery-operated devices. The 18650 cell offered a small/compact lightweight rechargeable energy source with high battery voltage—3.2v to 4.2v. The battery had an added benefit of being modular, making it appealing to a variety of rechargeable handheld products as well as larger stationary storage uses.

The 18650 is often compared to an AA battery because of the cylindrical similarities, but this is where the similarities end. The 18650 is larger in size than the AA battery, and its voltage is more than double. The energy density is four-plus times greater than that of an AA battery, but the real difference is in how long this battery can power a device and how fast it can offload its power when needed. This combination of longer-duration use and high cycle life coupled with its ability to offer high-output demands is rare. The 18650 fits into a category of batteries often described as “high drain” and is suited to portable devices that required constant higher voltage such as E-cigarettes, laptop computers, and power tools.

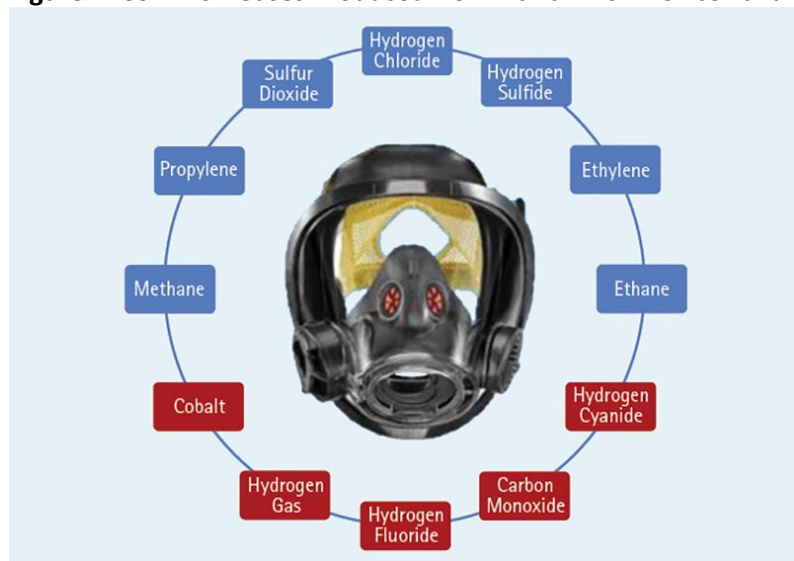
How It Works

Like all rechargeable batteries, it has three primary components: an anode, a cathode, and a separator. The design allows electrons to flow in both directions—hence, the “rechargeable capability.” This is different from a standard traditional nonrechargeable battery where electrons flow in one direction until the battery is depleted or “dead.” Rechargeable batteries are more complicated than your standard battery, and manufacturers employ a variety of proprietary chemistries to achieve their goals.

Unique to the lithium-ion battery is the use of lithium-ion particles in a liquid electrolyte suspension medium. This battery is designed to allow electrons to move from anode to cathode through the “load” as ions flow through the separator. The separator serves an important role and offers some insight as to how these batteries may fail. It keeps the anode and cathode separate; however, it needs to allow ions to flow back and forth through it during the discharge and charging cycle.

When the separator fails, the anode and cathode can contact each other and short out, creating a spark inside the battery. The electrolyte solution for the lithium particles is extremely flammable. As the separator fails and the anode and cathode fault, heat is generated and gas forms inside the battery cell. As the heat and pressure build, the battery casing weakens and fails, resulting in gas discharge from the cell. Some failures occur through the vent port, while others cause swelling of the casing, leading to a breach. This failure process can take days or happen instantly. The failure of one 18650 cell may seem harmless, but consider this: One 18650 lithium-ion battery can produce eight liters of toxic/flammable gas. Many devices use several 18650 cells to work. In the case of a typical electric bike/scooter, the battery may contain between 50 and 130 cells. That's a lot of heat and a lot of gas. Complicating this battery failure process is that hydrogen gas is one of the primary gases produced when a lithium-ion battery fails. So, we now have a combination of high heat, a spark leading to fire, and a gas compound that includes a high concentration of hydrogen gas discharging at high pressure like a mini blowtorch.

Figure 1. Common Gases Produced from Lithium-Ion Device Failure



This situation is not unique to the 18650 cell; it is the basic failure domino effect for any lithium-ion rechargeable battery format. This article focuses on the 18650 because of its total market saturation in the mobile and stationary energy storage space but, most importantly, because of how common this cell is in our homes. If you own a rechargeable drill that is less than 10 years old, it is likely powered by 18650 cells. That new 20v power pack for your cordless drill is five 18650 3.7v cells wired in series. If you have a 40v, then you have 10 18650s powering that tool.

An electric scooter may have as many as 130 18650 cells inside its power pack battery. If that battery fails catastrophically, that's a lot of gas. If you own an E-mobility device, it is 99.9% powered by the 18650 cells. When considering a fire scenario involving this device, it's a simple question of how many 18650 cells are in the battery pack and the location of the bike in your home.

18650 Cell Chemistry

The design chemistry for these cells is numerous. The most common ones in use are nickel cobalt aluminum (NCA), nickel manganese cobalt (NMC), and lithium iron phosphate (LiFePO₄). Each chemistry has a specific strength of application.

NMC is currently the most popular chemistry, with a sizeable market share. It is cheap, has a good cycle life, and is considered a durable battery. This is likely what you see in most E-bikes, power tools, and some electric vehicles.

NCA is most noted for its superior power density and low passive discharge rate (a term used to describe a battery cell's propensity to lose power while not in use). ***This battery chemistry has been a staple for Tesla vehicles—some models have more than 7,000 18650 cells.***

LiFePO₄ is considered the most thermally stable of the three chemistries; however, it has a lower energy density by volume, which means more cells may be needed to achieve the same energy density as an NCA. With stationary battery

energy storage systems (BESS) facilities, where space is not necessarily an issue, this chemistry has become quite popular. One of the hazard considerations for this chemistry is that when LiFePO₄ cells fail, the off-gas contains more hydrogen gas by volume than any of the other lithium-ion battery chemistries. Couple this with an enclosed BESS facility, with typical capacity in excess of 10 megawatts, and the hazard profile goes up tremendously. A BESS exploded in Surprise, Arizona, in April 2019 and injured eight firefighters and one police officer. That was a two-megawatt BESS of LiFePO₄ cell chemistry. For the Seattle (WA) Fire Department's Energy Response Teams, any fixed-facility BESS involved in a fire situation mandates an automatic "Defensive Posture" from the onset. The liquid electrolyte solution acts as a suspension medium for the lithium-ion particles. The electrolyte is extremely flammable.

Fire Gas Considerations

Most of the fire gases will be similar to those found in a couch/car fire, but there are a few new ones that we have not seen at this scale before.

Hydrogen gas is one of the primary fire gases present with any incident that involves lithium-ion batteries and creates thermal and explosive issues. We must be prepared for this eventuality. Whether the batteries are the cause of the fire or are damaged as a result of proximity to the fire matters not; the result will be the same: Up to 40% of the fire gases produced by volume can be hydrogen gas.

This is new. We have not seen hydrogen gas in residential spaces prior to this—not to this scale, anyway. This change is a result of two factors: First, all lithium-ion batteries will produce hydrogen gas when they fail. Each chemistry may produce a different amount of hydrogen gas, but it will be present. Second, this is a ubiquitous energy source. From the handheld E-cigarette to computers to the E-mobility, all are powered by this technology. As you can see, these devices are in every home in America, and that is not going to change anytime soon.

For operations, ensure continuous ventilation and don't leave one single lithium-ion cell behind. This means increased time on scene performing a thorough overhaul. Don't let the thermal imaging camera (TIC) dictate whether a lithium-ion cell represents a hazard. That cell may read cold on the TIC, but that does not mean that the cell is not in the slow process of failing. Get every cell out of the building. Cells left behind at fires that were believed to be fully extinguished have rekindled days later. The overhaul game has changed, so take your time and be thorough. Remember, no cells left behind.

Hydrogen fluoride gas. Like hydrogen gas, we have not seen hydrogen fluoride gas to this scale in traditional firefighting spaces. Beyond wearing your full personal protective equipment (PPE) with self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA), it is going to be difficult to safeguard for this gas when lithium ion is present. Like hydrogen gas, hydrogen fluoride gas is invisible. It may be present even when a fire-damaged product is reading cold on your TIC. Stay vigilant. Wear your SCBA and ventilate continuously until all cells have been removed from the structure. And, of course, launder 100% of your PPE immediately as you would after any fire.

The 18650 lithium-ion cell is one of the most common building blocks for battery designers. These products will be with us for a long time, and we must understand the hazards and that the fundamental firefighting tactics in the residential space may need to change.

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

*IN 2022 WE HAVE SADLY EXPERIENCED *10 FIRE FIGHTER LODD'S*

*According to FirefighterCloseCalls.com**

In 2022 we experienced 101 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...

- Paw Paw VFD has lost a firefighter in the Line of Duty due to a fallen power line caused by an ice storm.
- Tesla driver killed after plowing into a Contra Costa County tiller, four firefighters were treated for minor injuries. The \$1.4M truck was towed away. It was not clear whether the driver may have been intoxicated or whether the Tesla Model S was operating with automation or driving assistance features.
- 2 of 3 FDNY firefighters seriously injured in fire still hospitalized and a total of 20 firefighters were hurt in the Staten Island residential blaze.
- More 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](http://www.firehero.org) https://www.firehero.org

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

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

****Station Nightclub Fire: Lessons, Code Changes Follow Tragedy**

Joshua Davis

The 2003 nightclub fire in Rhode Island was the fourth deadliest nightclub fire in U.S. history.

It took less than 5 minutes for fire to engulf The Station nightclub, packed with concertgoers, on Feb. 20, 2003. ***One hundred individuals died*** in the West Warwick, R.I., fire, making it the fourth deadliest nightclub fire in U.S. history.

Although many factors were involved in the loss of so many lives that day, the installation of a properly functioning sprinkler system would have positively impacted the outcome. The building was not protected with a sprinkler system, partly due to a grandfathered clause relating to the adopted codes at the time of construction or other triggers such as major alterations or change in occupancy.

The aftermath of this tragedy forever changed the way we design, inspect and enjoy these venues.

A CHANGING VENUE

In 1946, brothers Casey and Henry Lada opened a gin mill at 211 Cowesett Ave. in West Warwick, R.I., called The Wheel. Over the years, the building changed ownership multiple times and experienced numerous remodels and renovations.

In 1972, a fire caused the building to close its doors until 1974, when it reopened as a restaurant. Ownership changed in 1985, and the building became a pub. Records indicate that in 1991, the building was turned into a nightclub.

In 2000, almost 54 years after the original construction, brothers Michael and Jeffrey Derderian purchased the property. They renamed the building The Station and maintained its use as a nightclub, with live music and events as the main attraction.

FIRE IGNITES

On the evening of Feb. 20, 2003, ***a crowd estimated at 440-458 occupants packed into the 4,484-square-foot, single-story wood-framed building for that night’s show.***

At approximately 11:07 p.m., the club’s lights dimmed, and the headlining band, Great White, stepped out onto the stage. According to the incident National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) report, a set of multi-colored lights were activated, and four pyrotechnic devices called gerbs, which project sparks vertically, were ignited to begin the show.

The hot sparks from the pyrotechnics contacted the wall and ceiling immediately adjacent to the drummer's alcove. Flames were visible on the wall's surface within nine seconds after discharge. Within 19 seconds, the fire was progressing toward the ceiling, and smoke began to fill the building. After approximately 30 seconds, the band stopped playing after noticing flames rolling across the ceiling. The fire alarm activated at around 41 seconds, sounding and flashing strobes. By this time, the club's occupants had begun moving toward the exits. It's estimated that between 56 and 66% of the occupants attempted to leave the same way they had entered the building – through the main entrance.

A toxic smoke layer filled the space as the occupants attempted to exit. The main exit quickly became unusable as people fell and tried to climb over one another to escape, creating an unpassable wedge.

Less than two minutes after the first flames appeared, heavy black smoke could be seen pumping from the main entrance over the jammed doorway. **According to the NIST analysis of the fire, untenable conditions were reached on the dance floor in less than 90 seconds.**

The first engine arrived on the scene around 5½ minutes after the fire started and was positioned in front of the building. The crew immediately stretched a 1¾-inch hoseline while reporting heavy smoke and flames pouring from multiple locations.

The first-arriving engine crew found clubgoers jumping from the windows and piled on top of one another at the main door, unable to exit. Hundreds of "walking wounded" were scattered throughout the scene, many with serious injuries. The fire department implemented its mass casualty incident (MCI) plan within 10 minutes of arriving and activated its mutual-aid task force response.

The technical investigation report acknowledged that, "given the hazardous mix of materials in The Station and the lack of installed sprinklers, nothing that the fire department could have done that night would have saved the building from the fast-growing fire."

In total, 100 lives were lost, more than 230 people were injured, and countless lives within the community were impacted.

LEGAL ANGLE

After a nine-month grand jury investigation, the band manager and the owners of the club were each indicted on 100 counts of criminal negligence and 100 counts of misdemeanor manslaughter.

The band manager, Daniel Biechele, who lit the pyrotechnics, pleaded guilty to 100 counts and was sentenced to 15 years in prison, with four years to serve and 11 years suspended, plus three years of probation. After serving 12 months of his sentence, Biechele was released from prison in 2008.

The Station owners, brothers Michael and Jeffrey Derderian, changed their original plea of not guilty to no contest, effectively avoiding a jury trial. Michael Derderian served 2 years and 9 months in prison, while his brother Jeffery received 3 years of probation with 500 hours of community service.

The civil suits that followed resulted in a recovery of \$176 million for the victims and families affected by the fire.

LEARNING FROM TRAGEDY

Every tragedy has something to teach us and paves the way for numerous technical investigations, recommendations and changes to model codes.

Examples of similar tragedies:

- Coconut Grove nightclub, Boston; Nov. 28, 1942; Deaths: 492
- Rhythm Club dance hall, Natchez, Mississippi; April 23, 1940; Deaths: 207
- Beverly Hills Supper Club, Southgate, Kentucky; May 28, 1977; Deaths: 165
- Happy Land Social Club, Bronx, New York; March 25, 1990; Deaths: 87

We've learned from these fires that the appropriate fire protection systems, building features, construction, enforcement and education improve safety for us all.

The Station fire was ignited by the illegal use of pyrotechnics and worsened by the available fuel load, building layout, construction and occupant load during the event. We also understand that lives would have been saved if the building had been protected by an automatic fire sprinkler system. In the aftermath, numerous agencies and organizations attempted to understand what could have been done to avoid this event and, more importantly, determine how we could prevent a similar tragedy.

Within weeks of the fire, the NFPA called an emergency meeting to address assembly occupancy concerns. The meeting resulted in multiple tentative interim amendments (TIAs), passed on July 26, 2003:

- NFPA 101 - *New & Existing*: Restrict festival if occupant load (OL) is greater than 250 unless a life safety (LS) evaluation is conducted
- NFPA 101 - *New & Existing*: Crowd manager required for all occupancies of assembly
- NFPA 101 - Sprinkler (existing) nightclub-type facilities with OL greater than 100
- NFPA 101 - Sprinkler (new) nightclub-type facilities and festival seating venues
- NFPA 101 - *Existing*: Require means of egress inspections and record-keeping
- NFPA 5000 - *New*: Restrict festival seating if OL is greater than 250 unless a LS evaluation is conducted
- NFPA 5000 - *New*: Sprinkler (new) nightclub-type facilities and festival seating venues

Further, on Feb. 27, 2003, under the authority of the National Construction Safety Team (NCST) Act, NIST began a technical investigation into the causes that led to this tragedy. The report was completed in June 2005 and listed multiple recommendations related to the following issues:

Code Adoption and Enforcement

- Adopt building and fire codes, implement aggressive and adequate fire inspections and enforcement, and maintain appropriately qualified and trained staffing levels to perform these duties.
- Require NFPA 13 sprinkler systems installed in all nightclubs, regardless of size, including existing with an occupant load >100.
- Expressly forbid non-fire retarded flexible polyurethane foam and other materials that ignite as easily and propagate flames for all new and existing nightclubs.
- Modify NFPA 286 to provide more explicit guidance for when large-scale tests are required.
- Modify ASTM E-84, NFPA 255 and NFPA 286 to ensure that product classification and the pass/fail criteria for flame spread tests and large-scale tests use the best measurement and prediction practices available.
- Strengthen NFPA 1126 (Use of Pyrotechnics before a Proximate Audience) to ban indoor use of pyrotechnics in new and existing nightclubs not equipped with an NFPA 13-compliant automatic sprinkler system, include minimum occupancy and/or area for a nightclub, and require the minimum clearances.
- Establish provisions for determining occupancy limits of all new and existing nightclubs, and aggressively enforce adopted provisions.
- Perform a study of a fully occupied nightclub to determine the accessibility of fire extinguishers.

Emergency Response

- State and local authorities adopt and adhere to existing model standards on communications, mutual aid, command structure and staffing

Research

- Conduct research to better understand human behavior in emergency situations and to predict the impact of building design on safe egress in fires and other emergencies.
- Conduct research to understand fire spread and suppression.
- Analysis of computer-aided decision tools for determining the costs and benefits of alternative code changes and fire safety technologies.
- develop computer models to assist communities in allocating resources.

Today's model codes are too often a painful list of lessons learned. Although many necessary updates and changes have resulted from the findings and recommendations in the wake of The Station fire, we continue to find code-related and enforcement concerns within similar reports. Prevention-related activities are often underutilized or unrealized assets in the fire service, and they continue to be underfunded and understaffed in most fire departments. *Consider these questions:*

- *Does your department have a "prevention first" mindset?*
- *Are prevention efforts supported by leadership?*
- *How are outreach practices determined and prioritized?*
- *Are those responsible for enforcement qualified to national standards?*
- *What are the concerns and hazards in your community?*

A SHARED RESPONSIBILITY

"Fire is Everyone's Fight," and we all share the responsibility for fire safety in our communities. The most productive approach to avoiding similar disasters is to work together. We must feel comfortable having difficult conversations and

understand why regulations and codes exist. Prevention activities should be supported, and inspectors held to a high standard. Those responsible for enforcing the rules and regulations should feel confident in educating customers and requiring compliance with adopted codes. Success is found in the comprehensive collaboration among all administrative agencies, communities and business partners.

The changes made after The Station fire will only make a difference if they are adopted and effectively enforced and our communities are educated. Working cooperatively in this effort is how we honor those lost and the lives forever changed by this disaster. ***Have we learned from this tragedy or are we doomed to repeat it?***

Fire Deaths in 1&2 Family Dwellings in NYS	17+5 = 22
Last fire death Monroe, Orange Co. Male 33 + Females 27 & 7	
Fire Deaths in any type of Dwelling in NYS	30+6 = 36
Fire Deaths in 1&2 Family Dwellings Nationally	225 + 38 = 225
Top Three State with the most 1&2 Family Deaths	1 NY = 22
	2 PA = 15
	3 NC = 14
There has been a total of 0443 civilian home fire fatalities in 2023	
There were a total of 2251 residential fire fatalities reported in 2022 in the US media.	
Both the states of Maryland and California require sprinklers in residential dwellings	

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

RETENTION & RECRUITMENT

[New York State 2023 Evidence Based EMS Agenda for the Future](#)

FIND THE ENTIRE REPORT AT THIS LINK: [The NYS 2023 Evidence Based EMS Agenda for the Future - Report!](#)

Excerpt from the Executive Summary:

“The New York State EMS system has markedly deteriorated over the past several years due to declining volunteerism, lack of public funding to cover costs of readiness, inadequate staffing, rising costs, insufficient insurance reimbursement, rising call volumes, a lack of performance standards, poor understanding of the EMS system by elected officials and the public, NYS home rule, and lack of transparency and accountability for EMS agencies. New York State's (NYS) emergency medical services (EMS) are in trouble. Multiple ambulance services have closed their doors over the past several years, and many who remain open are unable to respond to emergency calls in any consistent fashion. Originally established as a transportation provider, EMS has developed over time to encompass healthcare, public safety, disaster response, mitigation, and public health. Today, EMS is an unanticipated (and often unfunded) safety net provider of pre-hospital healthcare, offering care to all patients regardless of their ability to pay for services.”

APPARATUS IDEAS FROM OTHER DEPARTMENTS

[Some Departments Choose Wet Rescues For Their Fleets](#)

Alan M. Petrillo

The ability to have a fire suppression system at the scene of a rescue, extrication, or motor vehicle accident is increasing the popularity of wet rescues or, more descriptively, rescue trucks carrying a pump, water tank, or compressed air foam system (CAFS).

Apparatus manufacturers are offering a wide array of wet rescues styles and a variety of fire suppression systems on them.

Mark Brenneman, assistant sales manager for 4 Guys Fire Trucks, says 4 Guys built a wet rescue for the West Bradford (PA) Fire Company on a Spartan Gladiator chassis with a 15-foot walk-around body carrying a Hale CBP 250-gallon-per-

minute (gpm) pump and a 300-gallon UPF Poly® water tank. “The West Bradford wet rescue has two crosslays above the pump panel in the R1 compartment, a FRC InControl pressure governor, a Trident air primer, and four Akron Electric valve controllers,” Brenneman says.

Bill Proft, business unit director of rescue products for Pierce Manufacturing Inc., says Pierce built a wet rescue for the Waldorf (MD) Fire Department on an Enforcer chassis with a two-door cab and a walk-in body that has seating for five firefighters. It’s equipped with a Hale 250-gpm PTO-driven pump set between the frame rails, with a 250-gallon water tank and a single discharge in the front bumper. At the other end of the scale, Pierce built a walk-around wet rescue for the Lakeside (NY) Fire Department on a Velocity chassis with an 84-inch-long cab, carrying a PUC 1,500-gpm pump, 500 gallons of water, 20 gallons of foam, and a Husky 3 foam proportioning system.

Proft notes that Pierce built an unusual wet rescue for the New Jersey Transit Fire Department on an Enforcer chassis with a Hale 500-gpm pump, a 300-gallon water tank, a 20-gallon foam tank, and a Husky 3 foam system. “The unusual part of the truck is that it has two sets of rail wheels on it so it can travel on railroad tracks,” Proft says. “The rail wheels at the front of the rescue swing down and raise the front of the truck up so the front tires are off the tracks, and the second set behind the rear axle go straight up and down and also side to side, while the rescue’s inner rear wheels propel the truck down the tracks.”

Brad Turk, regional sales manager for Rescue 1, points out, “When a customer asks about a wet rescue, they usually are on the fence about a rescue-pumper vs. a rescue with a PTO pump and a couple hundred gallons of water. We advise them that real estate on a rescue is very expensive, so they have to use it wisely. Some departments choose a wet rescue with a small pump, 300 gallons of water, and a single handline, while others might want a larger pump and a couple of crosslays.”

Turk notes that Rescue 1 has built a number of wet rescues that carry either TRI-MAX or Enforcer compressed air foam fire suppression systems. “We’ll mount systems of 10, 20, 30, through 60 gallons on a rollout tray, and if the department wants, we can make the smaller systems mobile,” Turk says. “Some departments choose to mount their CAFS on top of the rescue and run the hose down like they would a cord reel. Most departments don’t want to give up a lot of space, so they choose either the 10- or 20-gallon CAFS system.”

Justin Howell, Southeast region sales territory manager for Sutphen Corp., says Sutphen built a walk-around wet rescue for the Circleville (PA) Fire Department with a Hale 2,000-gpm pump, 750 gallons of water, and 50 gallons of foam. “It is a unibody design where the pump and rescue body were built as a single unit,” Howell observes. “The rescue also has 485 cubic feet of compartment space and carries an Alco-Lite 24-foot two-section extension ladder, a 14-foot roof ladder, and a 10-foot attic ladder.”

Howell adds that Sutphen also has built wet rescues with a Hale 500-gpm Sidekick pump in the bottom of the L1 compartment, with a 300- to 500-gallon water tank straddling the frame rails and either a couple of 2½-inch discharges or a pair of crosslays.

Todd Nix, apparatus consultant for Unruh Fire, says Unruh’s standard setup for a wet rescue is a Hale HPX200 pump, a 300-gallon water tank, and a 12-gallon foam tank if the department chooses to have foam on the rig. “That’s a well-rounded pump that seems to fit most departments’ needs for a wet rescue,” Nix says. “They can attack a car fire or dumpster with it and flow up to 250 gpm at between 150 and 175 pounds per square inch (psi), normally through a 1¾-inch hose plumbed to the rear of the vehicle.”

Nix says most of Unruh’s wet rescues are on Ford F-550 or Dodge 5500 chassis with between 9- and 12-foot rescue bodies. “Some departments that want firefighting capability on their rescue use the TRI-MAX 30 CAFS system, which we put on a slide-out tray for ease of deployment and refilling. We built such a rig on a Ford chassis for the New Martinsville (WV) Fire Department.”

Robert Pike, corporate services manager for Fort Garry Fire Trucks, says his company built a wet rescue for the Lanigan (SASK) Fire Department on an International HV607 chassis and cab seating for four firefighters with an 18-foot walk-around rescue body. Pike says the wet rescue carries an HMA Fire Ultra High-Pressure HYDRUS® Droplet fire suppression system, a 350-gallon water tank, and a booster reel holding 100 feet of one-inch hose.

Mike Weis, owner of Weis Fire and Safety, notes that his company recently built a wet rescue for the Scott County (KS) Fire Department on a 2022 Dodge 5500 chassis and crew cab with custom Weis Fire cab step bars. It also has a Hale HPX200-H2O pump powered by a 20-hp Honda V-Twin gasoline engine, a 300-gallon UPF water tank, a FoamPro 1601 Class A foam system, and a Hannay booster reel with 100 feet of 1-inch red rubber booster hose.

“The rescue has a custom transverse compartment with a 500-pound capacity slide tray, Hansen roll-up compartment doors, and three roof-mounted coffin compartments with adjustable dividers,” Weis adds.

Spencer Manufacturing Inc. built a wet rescue for the Lakeland (MI) Fire Department on an International MV607 chassis and a 14-foot Spencer Solid-Poly rescue body with a Darley Davey pump and 200-gallon water tank, says Alex Hobday, Spencer sales engineer.

Hobday notes that for the Muskegon (MI) Township Fire Department, Spencer built a wet rescue on a Ford F-550 chassis with a Darley portable pump powered by a 21-hp Honda engine, a 300-gallon water tank, and a booster reel at the rear. For the Wayne (OH) Volunteer Fire Department, Spencer built a wet rescue on a Ford F-550 chassis with a Hale HPX450 pump, a 275-gallon water tank, a rear booster reel, and an Elkhart Brass front bumper monitor, he says.

Joe Messmer, president of Summit Fire Apparatus, says Summit has built a half dozen wet rescues carrying a Berner CAFS system, most recently on a heavy technical rescue for the Alexandria (KY) Fire Department. “The other type of popular wet rescue is with a light rescue body on a small chassis with an open rear end to the body to hold a pump skid unit and a 200-gallon water tank,” Messmer says. “We built one like that recently for the Verona (KY) Fire Department, and we’re building a walk-around wet rescue now for the Lackington (OH) Fire Department on a Spartan chassis that will carry a stored-pressure MicroCAFS Automation CAFS unit in an over-the-wheel-well compartment.”

David Abernathy, sales representative for BFX Fire Apparatus, says BFX built a wet rescue for the Wichita Falls (TX) Fire Department on a Ford F-550 4x4 chassis with a four-person cab, carrying a Darley 1.5AGE pump and a 250-gallon water tank. “The wet rescue has a transverse compartment behind the cab, with SCBA cylinders on one side and battery-operated hydraulic rescue tools on the other,” Abernathy points out.

“For the Dallas (TX) Fire Department, we built several wet rescues on the Ford F-550 chassis with a Highland fiber composite body, a pump skid unit in the rear, a 300-gallon water tank, and a direct tank fill in the back for vehicles that they use a lot in low-ceiling parking garages,” he says. “Clemson University in South Carolina had us build a similar unit that they use due to tight side clearances and low ceiling levels in the tunnel coming into their football stadium.”

Greg Blanchat, president of Blanchat Manufacturing, says his company only builds wet rescue, not dry ones. “We want to give fire departments a multi-functional truck so we build them as mini pumpers, wildland pumpers, and wet rescues all in one,” he says. “Often Blanchat sets up the wet rescues with a CAFS unit.” He adds he will not put pump controls at the back of a truck because of the safety issue of another vehicle coming through a smoky area and potentially rear-ending the fire vehicle.

FIRE STATION IDEAS BEING USED BY OTHER DEPARTMENTS

Solar Photovoltaic Panels on Fire Stations

Janet Wilmoth

Fourteen years ago, Madison, WI, Fire Department’s Station No. 12 won awards for “environmental responsibility.” The progressive Fire Chief Debra Amesqua led the department ahead of most Midwest fire departments in the “greening” of fire stations and that effort continues today under Fire Chief Chris Carbon.

Back in 2009, the department’s 13,500-sq.-ft. building was designed to support the health and wellness of firefighters and indoor environmental quality. The station included many “green” features including rainwater cisterns, a live green roof and solar panels. Solar photovoltaic panels (PVs) on a Wisconsin fire station 14 years ago? We thought PVs were only for the citizens of California, Arizona or Florida, let alone fire stations. Wrong!

Technology has advanced and the costs have come down for PVs significantly over the years and are no longer limited to western or southern states. In fact, according to Madison Fire Department’s Assistant Chief Scott Bavery, PVs are being retrofitted to older stations, including Station 8 where they are placing their new EV engine. Bavery commented, “It would have been great to already have them in place with their increased electrical usage.” He shared that the department is currently looking at adding an EV Command car.

The 2022 Station Design Awards included several entries on the East Coast and Midwest that mentioned the use of PVs, including Alexandria, VA, Fairfax, VA, Raleigh, NC, and Clive, IA.

Renewable energy = cost savings

As expected, the popularity of PVs on the West Coast continues to increase due to municipalities' commitments to reduced energy cost savings and environmental issues.

Jonathan Salsman, PE, Sr. Civil Engineer, City of Chula Vista's Engineering & Capital Projects, shared, "Implementation of photovoltaics on our new City buildings, including new Fire Stations, is in keeping with the City of Chula Vista's Climate Action Plan." He said, "The PV system provides renewable power to the building saving on energy costs and reducing the building's carbon footprint."

Quest Energy Group specializes in formal LEED Certification Assistance on PVs. Greg Kinkel, principal, explained that while many people still believe that the panels can only be installed facing south, sometimes facing west will save the most on utility costs and have other advantages.

"If you are considering installing panels on your facility, several items need to be determined, including how many hours are being used and the type of roof area available," Kinkel said, adding that an energy profile and basic energy usage of the building also needs to be established.

The costs of installing PVs will vary on multiple factors. "Particularly since fire departments, law enforcement and other public safety facilities can't take advantage of the tax benefits that most commercial businesses receive," Kinkel said.

According to Kinkel, another factor to consider is the maintenance of PVs. "Arizona does have a monsoon season and dust storms, so maintenance is recommended twice a year and it includes checking the mountings and clearing dust that can reduce exposure for the panels."

In the city of Tucson, Terry Gilliland, LEED, A.P., Executive Management Advisor, City Manager's Office, explained they have panels in use on three different facilities. "Our HQ/Fire Station 1 facility has roof-mounted panels. Our training facility has multiple covered parking areas with panels and our two recently completed fire stations have panel-covered parking areas."

Gilliland shared that the city has an agreement with a local operator who installs the panel system at zero cost. "In return, we enter into an agreement to buy the power back from them at a significantly reduced rate for a fixed price into the future," he said. "It's a win-win situation for both the City of Tucson as well as the vendor."

Win-win situation

Is there a downside to having photovoltaics? Neither Salsman nor Gilliland could think of a downside of the panels in use in their cities.

Salsman commented, "I am not aware of any significant downside other than the initial capital investment. The inclusion of the PV system has long-term benefits, but it also has a significant upfront cost. So, if a project has a tight budget, the inclusion of panels may require cuts in other areas of the project."

For the City of Tucson, Gilliland cannot think of a downside to having panels. "We benefit from lower, controlled utility expenses. We benefit from covered parking for employees and city vehicles, and we are contributing to lowering our carbon footprint."

What should your department consider if planning to include the panels on your facility? Quest Energy's Kinkel advises that if you are thinking about installing PVs, make sure it's the right system for the right building. "Investigate and don't just throw panels on every building," he said.

"Evaluate your options and discuss with the local utility provider to find out about existing programs that may already be in place to take advantage of," Gilliland said. "Ensure your design team for new facilities is aware of your commitment to utilizing PVs and ensure they take that into consideration with each design decision. Find a reputable contractor to partner with early in the planning stages."

Meanwhile, Assistant Chief Bavery noted that their panels are not limited to rooftops but are installed or retrofitted on poles behind or alongside some of their stations.

"Station No. 7's panels are on a lot next to the police station, so the panels benefit both the fire and police stations," Bavery said.

With recent advancements in PV panels, it is worth considering for your next station and retrofitting to existing stations. If the panels work in Wisconsin, there are few limitations to where they would work.

THE ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

[Veterinarian Takes Steps To Sue Fire Departments After Blaze Destroys Clinic](#)**

TOWN OF LOUISVILLE, St. Lawrence County - Three months after flames destroyed a Massena-area veterinary clinic, the owner is taking steps to sue the fire departments that battled the blaze for \$4.5 million.

Dr. Wilfredo Perez, the owner of Java's Veterinary Center, has filed a notice of claim against the town of Louisville, the Louisville Fire District, the town of Massena, and the Massena Fire District.

The document says the Akwesasne, Potsdam, Madrid, West Stockholm, Norfolk, Brasher-Winthrop, and Waddington fire departments could also be sued. In his notice of claim, Perez accuses the towns and fire departments of negligence during the fire at the veterinary center.

A notice of claim is a legal document that's the first step in filing a lawsuit.

The fire broke out at Java's Veterinary Center on State Route 56 in the town of Louisville at 3 a.m. on October 28.

According to court documents, the fire rekindled at noon after firefighters left the scene. The papers state the fire rekindled again on October 29.

7 News reported on October 28 that volunteers from the following fire departments responded: Louisville; Akwesasne; Potsdam; Madrid; West Stockholm; Norfolk; Massena; Brasher-Winthrop, and Waddington.

Perez's notice claims those fire departments had left the scene by the time the flames rekindled at noon.

"By the time the fire rekindled the first time in the afternoon, personnel and resources had been removed from the location that could have been used to help combat the fire. The Massena Volunteer Fire Department also responded with an aerial truck. Upon information and belief, only the Louisville Fire Department responded to the second rekindling that occurred on Saturday, October 29, 2022. Thus, the aforementioned fire departments may bear some or all responsibility for the loss suffered by Dr. Perez," the notice of claim states.

The documents state two dogs died in the fire. They also say the building, all of the veterinary equipment/materials, and all of Dr. Perez's personal belongings were destroyed.

"The estimated total loss is approximately \$4,500,000.00," the documents state.

Perez opened a temporary veterinary clinic in the Massena Industrial Park in November and told 7 News he planned to rebuild Java's Veterinary Center at its original location. Perez is being represented by a New York City law firm.

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:

****"I Don't Know' And 'I Need Help': Powerful Words For Any Fire Service Leader**

Chief Marc Bashoor

Much like parenting, leadership is a perpetual responsibility. Whether it's in our personal or professional lives, leadership is NOT something that's a one-and-done class or certification/credential.

Learning through experience, coupled with demonstration from their own family, new parents endeavor to teach their children the difference between right and wrong and to provide their children with the tools they need to lead successful adult lives. It's no different in the fire service: We demonstrate, and we learn throughout the lifespan of our careers, trying to provide our members with what they need to lead successful careers.

Leading our members (and ourselves) through the labyrinth of career development is one of the cornerstones of the parent-like relationship we have with our members. The key is forming a total package of development tools. After all, books and classes don't make chiefs, just as hoselines and ladders don't make firefighters. It's the synergy of our experiences that leads to long-term success. That being said, there's a powerful tool often lost amid our advancements and accomplishments – the power of acknowledging what we don't know and what we need from

IT'S OK TO SAY 'I DON'T KNOW'

Chiefs may be the ones with the bugles on the collar, but let's face it, none of us knows it all. If we did, we would have licked the fire problem in the United States, and there would be little need for the fire service. Clearly, we're far from this, proving that no one has all the answers.

Battalion Chief Dena Ali makes this case in her recent article ‘Be a not-knower’: The power of leading with humility, highlighting the developmental and functional humility that comes with the words “I don’t know.” Ali starts her article with a provoking quote from an unlikely place – the Pierce pumper operations and maintenance manual:

You are the only person who knows what you don't know. You must speak up about the things you don't know, so you can learn about them before someone is injured or killed because of your lack of knowledge.”

*These words are chilling, and mine will be equally as pointed. If you haven't done it already, it's time to admit that sometimes you're the expert and sometimes you're the student. **If you can't see yourself as a life-long learner, then please do us all a favor and retire.***

Classrooms, coursework, drill fields and online environments are all important work that produces the certifications, credentials and degrees, but truly being a student of the craft goes well beyond these achievements. *Every opportunity to train, to interact with the community and peers, to reach across jurisdictional or organizational borders, or just to listen are all daily opportunities to continue your student life.*

IT'S HONORABLE TO SAY ‘I NEED HELP’

Thinking about what we don’t know likely brings to mind tactics and training, but it’s also important to consider “I don’t know” in the context of needing help beyond functional firefighting. Marion County (Florida) Fire and Rescue Chief James Banta did just that recently.

If you have not already, please take 3 minutes to watch Chief Banta’s video, which he recorded following the suicide deaths of two Marion County firefighters within a 19-day period – two of Chief Banta’s fire service family members. As you watch the video, it’s easy to understand why there’s no instruction manual or playbook for this. It’s also easy to see that the chief is, as to be expected, leaning on a whole lot of on-the-job learning. Banta even acknowledges, *“We’re all searching for answers and trying to assign blame” – a common experience following tragedy.*

His vulnerability and honesty in this moment is leadership in action.

I encourage each of you to share Chief Banta’s video (<https://www.firerescue1.com/firefighter-death/articles/video-after-2-ff-deaths-fla-chief-asks-for-help-vows-more-mental-health-support-Zm6Xxb8LAOclQmC/>) for all of your folks to watch and discuss. Take the proactive steps to acknowledge the hard work your members are doing every day and to acknowledge that we ALL need help from time to time. Asking for help, bringing in outside resources, and sharing the pain is all part of our personal (and yes, career) development process.

SUPPORT YOUR PERSONAL AND ORGANIZATIONAL TETRAHEDRONS

Personal and organizational success requires a critical look at your success tetrahedron where service forms the base, and the triad of physical strength, mental toughness and moral focus need support and work. None of the sides of the tetrahedron provide enough support on their own; they connect to create the strength to achieve our service delivery mission. We EACH need to work on our personal tetrahedrons, and as chiefs, we are responsible to ensure our organizational tetrahedron is as well-oiled a machine as possible.

Chiefs Ali and Banta have both recognized the importance of strengthening personal and organizational tetrahedrons. It’s also important to recognize that both what Ali underscores and what Banta demonstrates comes down to a simple, yet powerful acknowledgement that **we sometimes need to help each other, and yes, we don’t know it all!**

****The 2020 NVFC Retention Research Report**

Both chiefs and commissioners need to take a few minutes to page through this report and listen to what members of volunteer departments are saying, what we are doing WRONG, what we are doing RIGHT and thus painting a clear picture of what we need to START doing and what we need to STOP doing. Please take the time to read this and think about it in terms of YOUR department.



NVFC-Retention-Research-Report-FINAL

Position Announcement Greenfield Fire District

The Greenfield Fire District is looking for a professional and highly-motivated person to perform custodial services and maintenance of fire district buildings, grounds and equipment. Must have good communication skills, the ability to manage several projects simultaneously, and 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.greenfieldfd.org.

Please send application, cover letter & resume to Joyce Petkus, District Administrator via email at jpetkus@greenfieldfd.org or regular mail to Greenfield Fire District, P.O. Box 103 Greenfield Center, NY 12833 no later than Friday, March 17, 2023.

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

THE LIGHTER SIDE!

Some angry guy with road rage just yelled out his window, "I'm gonna make your life a living hell!" I yelled back, "Thanks but I'm already in a relationship right now."

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

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

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!!

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.

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

HANNIGAN LAW FIRM PLLC

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



The D'Amato Law Group LLP
Gregory Serio, Partner
111 Washington Ave Suite 600
Albany, NY 12210
518.426.3800
Email: gserio@dlgny.com
damatolawgroup.com

Ducharme, Clark & Sovern, LLP

Jack Clark, Fire District Attorney
646 Plank Rd. Clifton Park, NY 12065
518-373-1482
Ducharmeclark.com

BANKING

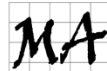


David Farstad, Municipal Banking Officer
652 Albany-Shaker Road, Albany NY 12211
P/F: 518-730-3120
M: 518-506-0075
farstadd@pioneerbanking.com

ARCHITECT/ ENGINEERS



Melissa Smith
Senior Marketing Manager
518-903-8394 X7732
21 Fox Street, 2nd Floor
Poughkeepsie, NY 12601
www.labellapc.com



Mitchell Associates Architects
518-765-4571
Specializing in Fire Stations
www.mitchell-architects.com



architects
+
engineers



Architects & Engineers
3 Lear Jet Lane, Suite 205
Latham, NY 12110
518-765-5105
Dennis Ross, Dir of Emergency Services Market
www.H2M.com

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
50 Century Hill Drive, Latham, NY 12110 518.786.7400

INSURANCE



Specializing in insurance for Fire Districts and
Departments

Dave Meager
31 Church Street Saratoga Springs, NY
518-584-5300x3243 dmeager@amsureins.com



John Caputo
Marketing Manager
One Blue Hill Plaza – 16th Floor
PO Box 1609
Pearl River, NY 10965
845.8855 X7011
Cell 631.601.5305
jcaputo@fdmny.com
VFBI/Workers' Comp Coverage

Haughey Insurance Agency

850 State Route 50
Burnt Hills, NY 12027
518-399-1583
www.haugheyagency.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



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



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

INSURANCE



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

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

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



Carla West, Territory Sales Mgr
 800-822-3747 ext 138
 cwest@mcneiland.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
 518.943.2600 X2109
donaldm@tbogc.com
 Specializing in Fire Service Financing

FIRE EQ TESTING



Safety First Equipment Testing
 99 Glass Lake Road
 Averill Park, NY 12018
 518-674-8363
www.safetyfirstfirehose.com



Pat Daglio
pdaglio@vfis.com
 717.819.3072

LOSAP MANAGEMENT



Service Award Programs (LOSAP)

Anthony Hill ahill@fireflyadmin.com
 President (518) 687-1400 (office)
www.fireflyadmin.com (518) 937-6174 (cell)

THE LOSAP GROUP



RBC Wealth Management

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

518-432-5087
www.thelosapgroup.com,

SCBA COMPRESSOR SERVICE



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

FIRE APPARATUS



LARRY GATES
 SERVICE AND PARTS MANAGER
 EASTERN APPARATUS SALES
 1 SUPER 50 WAY, BALLSTON LAKE, NY 12019
larry.vmfire@verizon.net
www.vm-fire.com (518) 926-0451



FIRE STATION PEST CONTROL

518-394-7894
 Cell 607-423-4811
www.penflexinc.com
 nmeeker@penflexinc.com

WARNING PACKAGES/REPAIRS BODY SHOP



DRYER VENT CLEANING

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

**Salt City Fire
 Equipment**

4474 Bussey Road
 Syracuse, NY 13215
 315-741-5258
Saltcityfireequipment.com
 Proud Dealer of Seagrave
 Fire Apparatus





PEST CONTROL

518-300-4732

431 New Karner Rd Suite 170

Albany, NY 12205

<https://foxpest-albany.com>



DRYER VENT WIZARD

JORDAN CATINO

8 NAPA COURT, SCHENECTADY, NY 12309

518-344-0664

SARATOGADRYERVENT.COM

FIRE DISTRICT CPA/AUDITS/FINANCIAL SERVICES



Zoriana M. Stawnychy

973.283.0024

zoriana@stawnychyfinancial.com

135 Kinnelon Road Suite 101

Kinnelon, NJ 07405

Serving fire districts in New York State



Gentile Brengel & Lin LLP

Accounting, Consulting and IT Security Analysis

1581 Franklin Avenue

Mineola, NY 11501

www.gblny.com

Phone: 518-310-4094

info@gblny.com

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



ACCOUNTING / TAX / ADVISORY

518.459.6700

10 British American Blvd, Latham NY 12110

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 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, 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