



CAPITAL AREA FIRE DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION BULLETIN

YOUR FIRE DISTRICT NEWS SOURCE

JULY 22ND, 2023

EDITOR - TOM RINALDI

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[Information to make you think and to learn from others!!](#)

THE CAPITAL CALENDAR:

WWW.AFDCA.ORG

August, No Meeting

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

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

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

December, **No Meeting**

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

Printable Calendar – See Last Page

CAPITAL AREA FIRE DISTRICTS ASSOC. NEWS:

WWW.AFDCA.ORG

[Secretary and Treasure of CAFDA](#)

Terry Briscoe has been appointed by the Board as the **Secretary** of the Capital Area Association, she can be reached at:

caaofd@gmail.com

Tony Hill has been appointed by the Board as **Treasurer** and can be reached at : cafdatreasurer@gmail.com, **CAFDA PO**

BOX 42, EAST SCHODACK, NY 12063

[Long Way to Travel Zoom into the General Membership Meetings!](#)

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

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

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

SUBJECTS TO BE COVERED:

Harassment Challenges – Discipline as a result of Harassment Charges

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

Removal of Fire Company Members

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

[Training for Fire District Officials Being Held Locally for the Capital Area Fire Districts Association Both Members and Non-Members- Mark Your Calendars-More Details to Follow](#)

[PESH vs. NFPA Seminar, Law vs. Standard](#)

FREE to all registrants, what you need to know. Join us at the DeCrescente Distributing Conference Center at 211 N. Main Street, Mechanicville (opposite the Price Chopper Plaza). **FREE TO ALL FIRE DISTRICT OFFICIALS AND FIRE SERVICE OFFICERS.** Register to attend by emailing Secretary Briscoe at caaofd@gmail.com, FREE! **Tuesday September 12th from 6PM to 9PM.** Limited to 100 attendees.

Fire District Secretary Training

What you and your fire district Secretary need to know to do their job correctly. Join us at the DeCrescente Distributing Conference Center at 211 N. Main Street, Mechanicville (opposite the Price Chopper Plaza).

Tuesday September 19th from 6PM to 9PM.

Limited to 100 attendees. Register to attend by emailing Secretary Briscoe at caaofd@gmail.com, COST: members \$10, non-members \$20 checks can be mailed to Tony Hill at Box 42, East Schodack, NY 12063, or pay at the door.

LOCAL CAFDA Conference, Late April 2024, Location and details being developed, details to be released when they are available.

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

You Can Become a Member of the Capital Area Association!

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

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

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

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

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

IF NOTHING ELSE READ THE ARTICLES PRECEDED BY**

CAPITAL SHORTS:

- Firefighter Contamination Reduction and Cancer Prevention Training, **July 24th 6:30PM** at Rexford Fire Station.
- **Let's have some fun, A Day At The Races**, in Historic Saratoga. Fire District Officials are invited to attend on **Friday August 11th**. Free Entry Ticket to the Track, \$10.00 Concession voucher, picnic lunch and beverages provided at the paddock picnic tables. (\$15.00 to park) You Must Email Secretary Briscoe if you wish to attend: caaofd@gmail.com.
- **Fire District Election Schedule and Budget Schedule on Last Page of Bulletin!**
- 26TH Annual **Halfmoon Fire Co Golf Tournament**, **Saturday August 5th**, for more information email Golf@halfmoonfire.org
- **Fleury Risk Management** (497 Public Management Group VFBL Insurance) is running a charity golf tournament this year for **Operation At-Ease** on **August 14th at the Edison Club in Rexford**. In case you aren't familiar with Operation At-Ease, they are located in Niskayuna and train shelter animals to assist veterans and first responders with PTSD and other lite tasks. 100% of the proceeds for the golf tournament will go to them. Below is a link to register, sponsor, or donate. We appreciate any assistance you can provide to bring attention to the event and Operation at Ease. **REGISTER HERE:** <https://fleury-risk-management-charity-golf-tournament-2023.perfectgolfevent.com/>
- Congratulations to the Scotia Fire Department in Schenectady County for 150 years of service to the community. Currently, the station has a mix of eighteen career and volunteer firefighters.
- The three major fire service organizations are meeting with DHSES/OFPC on the development of rules and regulations dealing with the FF training stipends and the grant funding available for infrastructure improvements.

- It appears that DOS Codes will be seeking to approve the 2024 family of building codes in December of 2024 with minimum NYS modifications. This doesn't explain what will happen with residential sprinklers since they have been in the code since 200 and lobbying from the builders and realtors has persuaded NYS to remove the requirement. BUT, the fact that NYS is #1 in one/two family occupancy deaths in the nation has gotten the attention of some of our friends in government.

STATE ASSOCIATION NEWS:

WWW.AFDNYS.ORG

[State Fire Districts Announces a move back to a Fall Annual Meeting](#)

Another change of venue, the Fall Conference for 2024 will be held at Turning Stone on a Sunday - Wednesday time frame October 20 – 23 in 2024.

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

[PESH vs. NFPA Seminar, Law vs. Standard](#)

What you need to know. Join us at the DeCrescente Distributing Conference Center at 211 N. Main Street, Mechanicville (opposite the Price Chopper Plaza). FREE to all fire district officials and fire service officers.

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

- Harassment in the Fire Service and Applying Discipline Correctly
- How to SHOP insurance for your fire district, do we have right coverage?
- Expert's Panel, Attorneys, CPA, General Insurance, VFBL – What is your burning question?



[Upcoming Coffee with Commissioners](#)

[Thursday, August 31st @ 7:00pm Fire District Budget Process](#)

[Saturday, September 23rd @9:00am Current Trends and Concerns](#)

Click on Each Announced Date to Register

THE LATEST FROM ALBANY

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

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

THE ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

NEW REVISED MODEL SEXUAL HARASSMENT PREVENTION POLICIES, TRAINING PROGRAMS AND FORMS

Fire District Affairs

Over the past few years, fire districts and fire departments have been obligated to revise their policies and training programs due to changes in New York State's requirements concerning the protection of personnel from workplace sexual harassment. Several years ago, the state enacted laws mandating that all public and private employers adopt written sexual harassment prevention policies, which were based on a model policy created by the New York State Department of Labor and the New York State Division of Human Rights. These laws also stipulated that employers display posters in the workplace, provide a complaint form, and establish procedures for personnel to file complaints. Furthermore, additional requirements were introduced for mandatory training, necessitating employers to develop training programs and provide training to all personnel at the start of their employment and annually thereafter. Those laws also required the New York State Department of Labor and the New York State Division of Human Rights to review and update the policies and training requirements every four years. It is amazing how quickly the first four years have passed. The New York State Department of Labor and the New York State Division of Human Rights drafted updated model documents in September of 2022 and presented them for public comment in January and February of 2023. The agencies have recently granted approval for the final drafts, leading to the creation of new model policies and training programs. It is now the responsibility of fire districts and other public and private employers to update their policies, forms, and training in accordance with these developments. A revised Model Sexual Harassment Prevention Policy and Complaint Form, specifically tailored for fire districts, has been prepared based on the updated model forms. These documents are now available for your review and consideration on our website [<https://afdsny.org/>] under the Sample Forms and Policies tab in the Member Center. It is important to note that each Board of Fire Commissioners should thoroughly examine the new model documents and carefully consider the reporting structure they wish to establish. While all fire districts have a Board of Fire Commissioners and a Chief of the fire department, the management structure for paid staff may differ, including the presence of various managers and supervisors. ***Blindly adopting the model documents from the website without customization could potentially result in your district listing a supervisor who does not exist in your management structure. Boards can easily add the name of their fire district, but the model policy must be read and reviewed.*** It is worth mentioning that independent fire companies can adapt the model to their not-for-profit entity by substituting their names for “ ___ Fire District”. However, they will need to review each part of the model that discusses reporting and management structure to adapt it to their operation. ***It is important to bear in mind that if your district, department, or company faces a discrimination complaint filed with the State Division of Human Rights or the Equal Employment Commission, or if a lawsuit is initiated against you in state or federal court, you will likely be obligated to submit your policy, forms, training program, and training records as part of the proceedings.*** It is crucial to address these matters proactively. By taking proactive measures, you can reduce the likelihood of conduct that leads to complaints and enhance your ability to defend against future claims. Having the proper policy and training program in place is not a defense to claim or lawsuit, but it does lessen the likelihood that your personnel will engage in improper conduct.

The Sample Documents and Revised Policy is also available on the CAFDA website at afdca.org.

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:

*****Dynamic Leadership Styles in Today's Fire Chief***

James Lentz

One glowing similarity in the varying cultures of today's fire service is the need for robust leadership. When considering all the obstacles of running a fire department, or any business for that matter, no greater asset exists than the personnel—the people who do the work. When staffing is 100% volunteer, or the organization is dependent on people working for

free, progressive governance skills must be applied for the company to survive, subsequently, demanding the application of dynamic leadership styles in today's fire chiefs.

Over the past three to four decades, the number of volunteer firefighters, especially in Pennsylvania, has remarkably diminished. When most of the state's fire departments rely on volunteers, these numbers quickly become a crisis. In several studies conducted around the state, **many of the foremost complaints resulting in the reduction in volunteers' recounts directly back to leadership.** Inconsistencies in the way personnel are treated, the inability to manage change, excessive time demands, and the lack of organizational support are just some of the information exposed about leadership problems around the state. Another leading factor in the failure of leadership is simply poor communication. **So often, supervisors who are expected to lead simply do not listen or want to hear what subordinates have to say, creating a sense of a lack of appreciation or inclusion in the firehouse or the team itself.**

Another unfortunate trait of some fire service leaders is the lack of drive for progressive change or improvement. Unlike businesses and corporations in today's world, fire departments predominantly are government run or have government oversight without competition. In the fast-paced business world, competitors are readily waiting to take over your market, but in the public sector, emergency services can create a sense of stability. **This security creates an environment where leaders are unwilling to accept progress or change, leading to instability within the troops.**

Contrary to some beliefs, people are not necessarily born leaders, but with a strong education in the fundamentals of leadership, one can be created. Regardless of how one's leadership skills are acquired, many personality traits are required to be successful. Characteristics such as thoughtfulness, optimism, reasonability, vibrancy, assuredness, and passion may define whether one can truly respond as a leader in today's fire service. Another positive attribute of a leader within the fire service relates to one's ability to persuade subordinates to remain positive through challenging times by sustaining optimism and displaying a positive attitude, even in the face of adversity. However, with all these attributes being recognized as strong leadership characteristics, the need for accumulating a firm understanding of different styles of leadership can make or break a boss. This understanding is necessary not only so leaders can orchestrate enthusiasm from our most senior personnel but for navigating the generations, which could be perplexing for even the most proficient fire chiefs.

Similar to the military, fire chiefs must be capable of conveying clear and concise directives in the face of a crisis and be well-versed in using all internal resources to collaboratively come to nonemergent conclusions. By engaging the subordinates in administrative policy and decision making, the level of involvement will pay dividends when it comes to buy-in and for disseminating the plan throughout the rank and file. With all of this in mind, managing a tool chest of leadership styles gets the job done tactfully with a high rate of success.

Reports around the state frequently cite leadership failures, identifying styles not conducive for progressive fire department environments, where enthusiasm would build better teams. Experts can surely point to a time and place for many different styles of leadership; however, **autocratic, democratic, and collaborative seem to be well suited for the fire department.** At times, fire chiefs have no choice but to be autocratic, arriving at emergency scenes when lives and properties are at stake. The safety of the firefighters and the public relies on experienced, educated decision making, fostering the ability to respond without hesitation at a moment's notice.

On a subtler plain, nonemergent decisions may be made with input from other subordinate members or officers of the department at the discretion of any leader or officer in charge of a project or situation. These styles may vary slightly when applying the collaborative or democratic approach. When time permits, the democratic approach could be applied to an emergency scene, with collaboration among the supervisors or administratively regarding a policy or other important matter requiring a decision. Typically, the democratic process concludes with the leader making a well-informed decision.

To the contrary, the collaborative approach allows for a consensus to come to a decision—the popular opinion, for lack of better terms. **The democratic and collaborative processes truly allow for stakeholder participation, which generates positive thinking and motivation among the troops.** Fire chiefs and supervisors alike must find the time to educate themselves on styles and positive characteristics of fire service leadership.

Whichever style a fire chief may choose must be applied with the common goals or values of an organization in mind. To expand the chances of success, departments should have a mission statement outlining why they exist and shared values to support that position. These shared values must be understood and adhered to by all members to maintain focus and respect from all the stakeholders in a community. Many departments will promote words like courage, valor, respect,

and honesty as shared core values, but making your personnel truly understand and promote such values is what defines a leader.

Like any corporation, business, nonprofit, or government agency, strong leadership is a necessary trait if surpassing the status quo is warranted. In times of war, our generals led without hesitation, like today's fire chiefs in the face of crisis, where lives depend on it. When teams are not dodging mortars or crawling down smoke-charged hallways, leaders need to find a common place that allows for safe and effective emergency operations but also an open-minded approach to policy and human relations that creates a manageable morale-driven work environment where people feel included. This is needed for progress in any fire department, paid or volunteer; however, let's face it, people are more likely to hang around for a full-time job when things are less than perfect than a volunteer position. When unpopular decisions are made in a full-time fire department, people generally still show up for work, unlike the volunteer fire service.

This lack of leadership will continue to have adverse effects on the volunteer fire service that, ultimately, will lead to its demise if conduct is not curved. Explanations for the decline in volunteers include the need to participate in fundraising, excessive training requirements, work, and family commitments; however, leadership has a direct correlation in oversight in all these factors. The only way to curve this trend is forced education and training in leadership, from the fire service all the way to the governor's office. If our general assembly truly does not understand the root of the real problem, the chance of resolution will fade away, leaving citizens to pick up the pieces.

Fire chiefs and supervisors alike must find the time to educate themselves on styles and positive characteristics of fire service leadership for organizations to survive.

FIRE DISTRICT FINANCES....ITS TAXPAYER'S MONEY!!

2024 Tax Cap At 2%, While The Inflation Factor Is At 6.26%....We Are Falling Behind!!!

The State Comptroller has announced that **the property tax levy growth will be capped at 2% for 2024 for local governments.** The allowable tax levy growth will be limited to 2% for a third consecutive year. DiNapoli's office calculated the 2024 ***inflation factor at 6.26%*** for those local governments with a calendar fiscal year, **well above the 2% allowable levy increase, and indicative of the higher costs facing these localities.**

The tax cap, which first applied to local governments and school districts in 2012, limits annual tax levy increases to the lesser of the rate of inflation or 2% with certain exceptions including a provision that allows municipalities to override the tax cap.

OUR CHANGING FIRE SERVICE -CHALLENGES & OPPORTUNITIES!

OPPORTUNITIES:

Southold Passes Proposal To Help First Responders Find Affordable Places To Live

The Town of Southold unanimously passed a proposal Tuesday that they say will help first responders find affordable places to live. Town officials say names are typically drawn out of the housing registry's list, which includes hundreds of people to be notified about new affordable housing opportunities and housing lotteries. The new measure would give those who qualify a priority placement on the list. ***"We can keep young people in town to join the fire department and stay in the fire department,"*** says James Kalin, a 45-year veteran of Greenport Fire Department. "It'll be a plus for everybody." Town Supervisor Scott Russell says the proposal hopes to recruit volunteer firefighters and EMTs at local firehouses servicing Southold communities.

Russell says the number of volunteers serving in nearby fire departments in Southold is shrinking while the number of people moving into the area has increased since the start of the pandemic.

He says the cost of owning a home has driven many young potential recruits away from the area and hopes the proposal will retain current volunteers.

"The calls are going up substantially, yet the membership is going down so these are men and women who work three, four times harder and they are all volunteers," Russell says.

The proposed measure is open to anyone in EMT or fire services from Suffolk County who served three years, but once they secure affordable housing, they must then serve in one of the Southold communities.

The proposal now has to go to the state to be signed off and could go into effect in a month.

Town officials estimate the first registry could occur in the fall. They say that a spot on the registry does not guarantee housing upon entering a drawing, but it gives priority.

CHALLENGES:

Emergency Declared as Hayward (CA) Cyberattack Impedes Emergency Dispatch System

The Hayward City Council declared a local emergency Thursday over an ongoing cyberattack, in an effort to more quickly acquire resources to respond to what officials have described as intruders trying to hold municipal computer systems and networks hostage.

The attack has gripped the city since it was discovered Sunday — affecting an array of services from emergency dispatching to electronic payments to library check-out systems — and left officials without an answer for when the disruption will be fully resolved.

“We’re still trying to assess that at this point,” Hayward City Manager Kelly McAdoo told the council, adding that some services such as the city website have been restored while others remain offline. “Our priority is ensuring public safety services are restored to the extent that those need to be.”

McAdoo said the city’s 911 dispatch center has “had to pivot the most in this emergency” while it continues to answer calls and help police officers and firefighters respond in a timely manner.

Firefighters Resign en Masse from TN Fire Department

Ben Benton,

NEW HOPE, Tenn. — Arriving in a small convoy of pickup trucks, six of the New Hope Volunteer Fire Department’s eight volunteer firefighters unlocked the door to their fire hall Monday in South Marion County, Tennessee, deposited their gear on a table, got back in their trucks and left.

The same convoy headed across the Tennessee River to neighboring South Pittsburg’s public boat ramp to speak about their reasons for quitting.

The reason for nearly every firefighter quitting the department, former New Hope Fire Capt. Robert Kortz said, was;

- because they were working in a hostile workplace with old gear.
- New Hope Mayor Mark Myers, when asked, provided no proof the volunteer firefighters were covered by workers’ compensation or that their equipment was insured
- At least one of the fire trucks was not registered to New Hope but was still registered to the previous town it served.

Mayor Myers could not be reached for a comment Monday. He wasn’t present when the firefighters turned in their gear, and he didn’t respond to a message relayed to him seeking an interview.

Members of the department have been discussing whether to quit for about a month, Kortz said, ever since New Hope’s firefighters and a fire truck were called to provide mutual aid to responding emergency crews at a fire on Interstate 24, Kortz said.

“We’re here to help people. Less than a month ago, we got paged out to a fire on the interstate,” Kortz said. “We got to the interstate; the truck got there first before we got there with my car — I had three guys in my car. We were all called back.” New Hope’s crew left the scene outraged, Kortz said.

Former New Hope Fire Chief Jimmy Haley apologized to the community and appeared upset about the situation. “As outgoing chief, I want to apologize to the residents of the city of New Hope because we tried “I want to apologize to them for not being able to carry on what we started because we had a great team, and now it’s no more.”

The New Hope crew was once known as the county’s “hammer team” — having been so dubbed by the county’s Emergency Management Agency director for group’s response times, Haley said. None of New Hope’s other firefighters are from New Hope; they’re volunteers from nearby communities, the former chief said. Haley and former Assistant Chief Brandon Gilliam were among the firefighters who turned in their gear and resigned Monday. “I love New Hope. I love the people of New Hope. They’re great people, but they don’t deserve what they’re getting,” Haley said. “A change in leadership would be sweet, and if they want us to come back, I would go back in a heartbeat with a change in leadership. I cannot work in a hostile environment, and I will not work in a hostile environment.”

Gilliam said Monday he was demoted for going to the fire on the interstate, and Myers' actions were causing other firefighters to leave. Gilliam said he believes an audit should be performed on the department. Marion County Emergency Management Agency Director Steve Lamb said he was unaware of the firefighters' plans to quit, but he wasn't too surprised. "There have been some differences between the chief and the mayor," Lamb said Monday in a phone interview. "As the county EMA director, it's not my place to get into local debates."

Myers is the elected official with the authority to find a backup plan until a long-term solution is found, Lamb said. The EMA director said he wasn't aware of any operational problems at the town's fire department. "I think the people who have been running the Fire Department over there have been doing a good job," Lamb said, "but I'm also not aware of their day-to-day activities."

Marion County Mayor David Jackson also said he wasn't aware of the firefighters' plan and didn't feel it was his place to comment on the city's affairs. "It would be a concern for the people in New Hope for all your firefighters to quit," Jackson said, but he didn't elaborate.

[Former Firefighter Accused of Taking Tools, Equipment from New Market \(TN\) Fire Department](#)

One person was arrested this week following an investigation into stolen equipment from the New Market Volunteer Fire Department. The suspect is a former member of the fire department, according to the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office, the report said. More than \$60,000 worth of equipment was taken from the fire department recently.

According to a sheriff's official, the person was arrested at his residence, the report said. After an interview with him, law enforcement received information that some of the equipment and tools were at a Knox County location, according to the report. The following items were reported stolen: Chain saws, fans, hand tools and a combination Amkus extrication tool according to the sheriff's department.

The Jefferson County Sheriff's Office partnered with the Knox County Sheriff's Office and went to the location.

After the search, they found most of the equipment and tools that were stolen, except for one tool that investigators were still searching for.

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

Fire Engineering

WEBCASTS

[Five Steps to Simplify PPE Checks for NFPA 1851 Compliance](#)

July 27, 2023 | 1 PM EDT

A certificate of attendance will be offered.

Free to Attend – Save My Seat!

A firefighter's exposure to carcinogens and other hazardous materials doesn't end when the fire is put out. Members face risk if PPE isn't thoroughly inspected, cleaned, or functioning properly.

The NFPA established the 1851 standard to increase focus on decontamination of PPE to reduce cancer risks and minimize fireground exposure. Join us for this upcoming webcast to see how Vector Check It and its mobile app can help your department set forth an effective PPE inspection program to assure continued performance of essential equipment and achieve NFPA 1851 compliance.

REGISTER AT THIS LINK: https://www.cfmediaview.com/lp1.aspx?v=31_195428588_13374_5

[Hazmat and Railroad Emergency Training Resources](#)

William Off

Recently we have seen several major railroad accidents in the news. I have previously worked for a passenger and a freight railroad and unfortunately experienced train derailments during my time there. It is more common than you would think, and we had a formal protocol of dealing with them—something that every fire department with a railroad nearby should have as well. This previous experience has inspired me to educate my department on what to do in the event of a train accident. Using the knowledge of former employment and how it relates to being a firefighter is something that we can all do to help us perform our jobs better.

Think about the railroads that run through your department's local. In my local, New Jersey Transit runs 24 passenger trains a day. CSX and Norfolk Southern run and store cars on multiple lines that go into different directions. There is also a freight train yard,

Southern Railroad of New Jersey. That's four railroad companies, freight and passenger, that include not only diesel locomotives but also flammable gas and liquid tanker cars.

If your department has a railroad passing through your department's local, here are some websites for training and education. These can help your department put together standard operating guidelines (SOGs) and training plans. You can also reach out to these railroads directly. They are happy to help and even invite you to their yards or a location to give educational seminars. These are a business in your community, and they appreciate your services to protect their assets. This is also a great opportunity to perform preplans. Although, most of the time we think of preplans for buildings or dwellings, this type of operation requires your attention, as well. The preplan should include point of contact information, gate access (key box or code), access roads to different locations of the rail lines, type of locomotive (diesel or electric), type of freight, and type of storage cars (material or tanker). This can be a great review for your department to better prepare in case of an emergency.

FREE EDUCATIONAL AND TRAINING RESOURCES

Transcaer: Online Hazmat Training – Railroads

<https://www.transcaer.com/training/online-training-courses>

1. Anhydrous Ammonia Safety Training
2. Chlorine Safety Training
3. Chlorine Emergencies: An Overview for First Responders
4. CSX Emergency Response to Railroad Incidents
5. Ethanol Training & Emergency Response
6. Flammable Liquids Safety Training
7. Norfolk Southern Corporation – Locomotive Fires
8. Over the Road Transportation of Flammable Liquids Training
9. Steel Drums 101 for Emergency Responders
10. Union Pacific Railroad – Hazmat Management – Railroading 101

FEDERAL RAILROAD ADMINISTRATION: LOCOMOTIVE EMERGENCY RESPONSE TRAINING PDF

- <https://railroads.dot.gov/elibrary/locomotive-emergency-response-training>
- <https://railroads.dot.gov/sites/fra.dot.gov/files/2021-03/Loco%20Emergency%20Response%20Training-A.pdf> (31-page Emergency Preparation Guide)

The goal of this program is to develop an informational video for firefighters. The video covers pertinent and valuable information firefighters need to respond to a call involving the railroad quickly, efficiently, and safely.

<https://www.bnsfhazmat.com/community-responders/community-responders-home/training/online-training-center/>

1. Passenger Train Emergency Response
2. Crude Oil By Rail – First Responder Training
3. Ethanol Emergency Response Considerations

BNSF PRE-RECORDED WEBINARS

1. RAILCAR KNOWLEDGE FOR FIRST RESPONDERS
2. RAILROAD EME
3. AGENCY RESPONSE AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS AWARENESS
4. LOCOMOTIVE AWARENESS AND RESPONSE

BNSF HAZMAT TRAINING ONLINE: HAZMAT AND RAILROAD EMERGENCY TRAINING FOR FIRST RESPONDERS

<https://www.bnsfhazmat.com/community-responders/community-responders-home/training/online-training-center/>

1. Passenger Train Emergency Response
2. Crude Oil By Rail – First Responder Training
3. Ethanol Emergency Response Considerations

CSX: EMERGENCY RESPONDER TRAINING AND EDUCATION

<https://www.csx.com/index.cfm/about-us/safety/community/emergency-responder-training-and-education/>

EMERGENCY RESPONDER MATERIALS: TWO HARDCOPY GUIDES (FREE MATERIAL AND SHIPPING)

https://www.nationsprint.com/clients/csx/start_new_order.cgi?

1. **Emergency Response to Railroad Incidents Self Study Guide**

The Emergency Response to Railroad Incidents Self Study Guide was developed to provide emergency responders with a training and reference document for preparing for incidents involving railroad property or equipment. The guide contains information about safety around the railroad, incident preplanning, and initial response procedures as well as railroad equipment and personnel. That guide contains a quiz the trainees can complete and mail to CSX Transportation's hazardous material systems group for grading and

certificate issuance. The book is intended to be a companion to the self-study video. When ordering, request one copy per anticipated training attendee.

- **Community Awareness Emergency Planning Guide**

The CSX Transportation Community Awareness Emergency Planning Guide was developed to assist emergency managers and response agency leaders with their efforts to plan for and respond to incidents involving railroad property or equipment and is intended to augment existing plans and operating procedures. The guide is not intended to be used for individual training of responders, rather as a reference for agency decision-makers. Quantities are limited.

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD: INVESTIGATION REPORT

Conrail Freight Train Derailment with Vinyl Chloride

Release: <https://www.nts.gov/investigations/AccidentReports/Reports/RAR1401.pdf>

A 90-page PDF report on a November 30, 2012 incident in Paulsboro, New Jersey. This investigation led to the discovery of lack of training and certifications of the emergency personnel.

There are many more websites and information for you to obtain, but these are just a few to get your department started. Do your research and become more valuable to your community. If your department does not have training plans or SOGs in place, start putting this information together. Reach out to your officers or training department. This is another great opportunity for any level of firefighter to learn the process of building preplans, SOGs, or training lesson plans.

- [Company-Level Hoseline Deployment Drills](#)
- [Top Free Firefighter Training Resources for Fire Instructors](#)

NationalGrid First Responder Utility Safety Training Program

What's that smell? Is it a natural gas leak?

This interactive self-study program starts with the basic properties, characteristics and behaviors of natural gas. Once you're familiar with the basic principles you'll learn about specific response tactics to the most common utility-related incidents.

The course is modular, and can be done a step at a time, as your busy schedule permits.

Get started today!

1. **Register at firstresponder.ngridsafety.com.** Once you create your user ID and password, you'll be able to access all the e-learning modules and resources.
2. **Complete all e-learning modules and receive a certificate of completion** that may serve to satisfy your department's utility safety training requirements.

REGISTER NOW AT THIS LINK: https://www.cfmediaview.com/lp1.aspx?v=31_192123919_13259_5

NYS AFC 2023 Seminar Series, "Truck Skills Beyond the Textbooks"

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

Registration (per person):

\$35 – NYS AFC members

\$50 – non-members

Pre-registration encouraged.

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

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

University Provides a Wealth of Training Opportunities UPDATED FOR 2023

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>

THE SAFETY OFFICER – TAKING CARE OF OUR MEMBERS!

IN 2023 WE HAVE SADLY EXPERIENCED 45 FIRE FIGHTER LODD'S

*According to FirefighterCloseCalls.com**

In 2022 we experienced 101 LODDs reported nationally.!

You Just Never Know!

- Devyn Gale, 19, died after being trapped beneath a tree that hit her while she was clearing brush near a fire in a remote area outside Revelstoke, British Columbia.
- Another wildland firefighter Adam Yeadon age 25 died last week while fighting a wildfire in Fort Liard, North West Territory, Canada.
- One of two Birmingham firefighters shot last week at a fire station in the city's Norwood community has died. Birmingham Fire and Rescue Service Firefighter Jordan Melton was pronounced dead Monday evening. He was 28 and had only been a firefighter for several weeks.
- Firefighters Logan Gordy and Trista Cheeks were ejected from the apparatus and seriously injured in the crash while responding to a reported accident. They are both members of the Rock Hill, GA Upson County, volunteer fire department. Both are in serious condition with head injuries.
- Memphis Tennessee firefighter Lt. Jeffery Norman was killed while operating at a vacant home after becoming trapped with three other firefighters who were injured.
- An emotionally disturbed man stabbed an EMT inside an ambulance in Manhattan on this week, according to police and witnesses. The first responder was trying to assist the patient in the back of the ambulance as it approached Mount Sinai West in Midtown on W. 59th St. near 10th Ave. just before 9 p.m., according to a witness.

Don't Ignore Your Member's Behavioral Health – Help is Available

Courses Offered Jill M. Holland, MS OTR/L, CTP

914-799-5024

jillhollandotr@gmail.com

Please contact for a quote (prices dependent on travel, lodging and materials)

- **It Starts At The Top: The Importance of Supporting Behavioral Health in the Fire Service** (2 Hours) ○ This course discusses the importance of leadership's role in supporting behavioral health and wellness.
- **QPR: Question, Persuade, Refer Gatekeeper** ~ (1.5- 2 Hours) ○ QPR is a suicide prevention training for participants to be able to recognize the warning signs of suicide and question, persuade, and refer people at risk for suicide for help. ○ I can do this training with any population but I have designed a specific, QPR Institute approved, course for Fire, EMS, 911
- **Adult Mental Health First Aid:** (Mental Health First Aid Classes are 6-8 hrs depending on the format) ○ Pre/Post Course Work plus 6 hour training ○ In addition to general population, I have my certification for the following MHFA Courses:
 - Fire & EMS
 - Veterans
 - Rural Communities
 - Universities
- **Youth Mental Health First Aid:** Pre/Post Course Work plus 6 hour training (Mental Health First Aid Classes are 6-8 hrs depending on the format)

- **Getting your ZZZ's: The importance of sleep for first responders** (2 hours)~This course is designed to educate first responders on the impact sleep has in their daily lives and overall health. Strategies to help improve sleep are discussed.
 - **Helping Those That Help Others: Understand the Culture of First Responders**~ Designed to increase cultural competence and understanding for those in health care who work with first responders
 - **QPR Trainer Training**~ For those who would like to be QPR Trainers-Pre/Post-course work plus 6 hour training o \$495 per person plus \$14.95 for materials o Minimum 10 people o There are no discounts for additional people o Travel expenses (Ex. \$509.95 x 10= \$5,099.50 plus any travel expenses)
- ***Course scheduling and contracts for the QPR Trainer Training would be done through the QPR Institute. I would be reimbursed for the course and travel through the QPR Institute. Contact information will be provided.
-
-

Fire Department In Washington Joins Peer Support Program Aimed At Reducing Stigma Around Mental Health Care

Tumwater Fire Chief Brian Hurley is joining a countywide mission to show it's OK for firefighters, EMTs and other frontline workers to talk about their mental health. It's being done through the Peer Support Program, a confidential opportunity to debrief with colleagues. Hurley and Rian Winter, lead of the Peer Support Group and EMS lieutenant, gave a presentation to the Tumwater Public Health and Safety Committee on July 11. Tumwater will be the next city to join the program, which Winter said most cities in Thurston County already participate in. There are 46 firefighters and EMS employees in Tumwater, and the goal is to have eight of them be trained in peer support. Two people per shift will go through a total of 24 hours of training with professional mental health counselors and other trainers involved in peer networking, and they'll receive yearly continuing education. "As a volunteer when I started you didn't talk about mental health," Hurley said. "

****Firefighter Protective Hoods: An Ongoing Evolution Amid NFPA 1971 Changes**

Jeffrey O. and Grace G. Stull

In the FireRescue1 webinar "[Gear up for PPE changes,](#)" we announced that one of the more significant transformations in the upcoming revision to [NFPA 1971 standard for structural firefighting protective clothing](#) was the full industry transition to mandatory particulate-blocking hoods.

If this is indeed included in the next edition, we will consider this to be a huge change. After all, over the past 30-plus years that firefighters have worn hoods, these hoods have almost universally been two to three layers of knit material to provide insulation to those areas of the firefighter's neck and face that were not fully protected by other gear.

Here we will explain how the use of hoods came about and why this new direction ***Now, potentially beginning in 2024, only hoods that completely incorporate a particulate-blocking layer will be permitted to be certified for structural firefighting. In addition, certain other characteristics of these hoods will change as the result of modifications to the NFPA 1971 hood criteria.***is being considered for inclusion.

FIRE HOODS: A SHORT HISTORY

Fire hoods of one sort or another have been around for quite a while. Some firefighters began wearing hoods made of leather back in the early 1900s, but as fire gear improved during the last 50 years, use of a balaclava or ski-hood-like design became more prominent, though not frequently worn. Advancements in other parts of the protective ensemble led to a greater need to protect the head and face, particularly as firefighters could enter deeper into and stay longer in structural fires given modern technical materials and clothing designs.

While the standard knit hood preceded its standardization as part of NFPA 1971 in 1991, the formal adoption of fire hoods as an interface component was embraced at least 10 years earlier. Some holdouts for wearing hoods remained, as these firefighters believed that their ears were an "early warning device" when they were on the fireground too long. Ultimately, the use of knit fire hoods by larger metropolitan fire departments further paved way for their more routine use.

Protective hoods became defined as an "interface component" primarily because the clothing item was designed to provide protection at the juncture of several other protective ensemble elements, namely the fire helmet (with ear covers), SCBA facepiece, and protective coat collar. Coming up with a product that could be integrated into this complex body area was best addressed by a "one-size fits most" stretchable knit product that could fill the "gaps" in protection.

Protective hoods have subsequently become a consistent part of the overall structural firefighting protective ensemble where requirements were defined for their design and performance, including areas of coverage, thermal insulation, flame resistance, heat resistance, thermal shrinkage, cleaning shrinkage, and fabric and seam strength. In the last rendition of criteria for these products within NFPA 1971 (2018), one area of focus was placed on the size and retention of the face opening dimensions.

THE GENESIS FOR IMPROVED FACE/NECK PARTICULATE PROTECTION

From 2013 to 2015, separate research conducted by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) and the International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF) found that the face and neck area of firefighters in smoke or simulated smoke conditions was one of the most contaminated areas of the firefighter's body. As part of a [NIOSH Health Hazard Evaluation Program](#), researchers ran several firefighters through simulated fireground exposures to measure polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbon (PAH) and other chemical contamination levels on different parts of their body. From this study, they concluded that the skin in the head and neck area were the most likely to be contaminated with soot and fire gases. The [IAFF then conducted an evaluation](#) involving a sophisticated fluorescent particulate exposure test of a full garment ensemble and was able to visually show the highest levels of contamination in areas of the test subjects' face and neck that were not covered by the facepiece or blocked by the chin strap of the helmet.

Manufacturers rushed to develop new hood products that included a variety of intermediate layers that would effectively block soot particles from penetrating the knit materials most commonly used in fire hood construction. This led to a range of new products, many introduced in 2016 following the NIOSH and IAFF research.

Work on a new category of protective hood with particulate protection was undertaken to define the design and performance characteristics of this new class of hoods. Ultimately, the responsible committee introduced criteria for the minimum areas of the hood that required particulate-blocking layers and added test requirements for particulate-filtration efficiency and the application of a total heat loss ("breathability") test to balance the effects of including a barrier layer on the head. With the promulgation of the 2018 edition of NFPA 1971, hoods could optionally be certified to the additional particulate protection criteria. Several manufacturers offered these hoods, and a large proportion of departments opted for this additional protection.

THE TRANSITION TO UPDATED HOOD REQUIREMENTS

When the committee concluded its work on new requirements for the particulate-blocking hood, it was recognized that the prescription of this new product type was still evolving – and there was still much to learn. This is a principal reason why particulate-blocking hoods were presented as being optional. The NFPA, manufacturers, fire service leaders and researchers endeavored to better understand how products certified to the additional particulate protection criteria worked in contrast to conventional knit hoods and to determine if more gaps in the knowledge of their production should be filled.

In 2016, a substantial project was started by North Carolina State University under a Department of Homeland Security FEMA grant to examine several attributes of hoods, including their overall thermal insulation, impact on heat stress, durability and, most importantly, ability to attenuate exposure to harmful fireground soot particles. Research conducted over more than three years yielded some interesting findings when comparing different hood types and materials. For example, particulate-blocking hoods were found to offer 10 times more protection than comparable knit-only hoods. Further, the differences in thermal protection and comfort between conventional knit and particulate-blocking hoods was found to be minimal, and were more related to the number of layers in the hood's construction rather than presence of a particulate-blocking layer. Separate research in a Fire Protection Research Foundation project showed little difference between particulate-blocking and conventional knit hoods for removal of chemical contaminants during washing.

Additional information about the effectiveness of particulate-blocking hoods has also been learned through firefighters' experience using these products at structural fires. This experience has shown lower levels of skin exposure to fire particulates.

As a result of this knowledge, the technical committee responsible for NFPA 1971 proposed mandating that future hoods must meet particulate-blocking requirements. Additional changes might also require testing of hood seams for particulate penetration, extend the area of the particulate-blocking layer coverage to all parts of the hood, apply increased durability rigor of the hood's particulate protection performance, and offer hoods in multiple sizes to achieve fit, if necessary.

IMPLICATIONS OF THE FUTURE NFPA 1971 STANDARD

Shifting the fire service PPE industry from conventional knit to particulate-blocking hoods, along with other proposed changes affecting the new class of hoods, is expected to be a positive change but one that may also create some concerns:

- Particulate-blocking hoods are more expensive than conventional hoods. This difference in price shifts hoods from a commodity PPE to a more premium product. This can become more of an issue as replacement frequency increases due to additional cleanings.
- While many particulate-blocking hoods seem similar in fit and conformity to the firefighter's head, some of these newer hoods do not have the same elasticity or stretch as knit-only hoods due to the material used in the particulate-blocking layer.
- Additionally, the extension of the particulate-blocking layer into nearly every area of the hood may create sizing issues for some hoods on some individuals. **This means hoods may not be "one size fits most" anymore**, and like other PPE, firefighters will need to manage their hood selection based on available sizes. For departments that issue hoods to individual firefighters, this would not be an issue; however, where some departments adopted practices for issuing fire hoods at the scene and collecting them afterwards for cleaning, additional oversight will be needed. The NFPA committee has attempted to standardize sizing by using new requirements to define fit based on accepted industry head forms.
- The requirement to now apply particulate-blocking capabilities not just to the base material but also the seams means that some hood manufacturers may now have to use seam tape or other methods to seal stitching holes that could be a source of particulate penetration. For some products, this could result in hoods becoming stiffer, therefore requiring more available sizes. Regardless, several hood manufacturers will need to address these new requirements with modifications to their hood designs, materials or both to achieve the new requirements, meaning that the available mix of products will change again.
- Total heat loss was a requirement only pertaining to the newer particulate-blocking hoods since 2018. With the possible changeover to mandatory particulate blocking for all structural firefighting hoods (hoods for proximity firefighter are exempted from particulate blocking criteria), the THL requirement will affect the range of hoods and layers that historically have been offered to the fire service. **One consequence of this change is that heavier hoods, particularly those likely to be used by instructors, may no longer comply with the proposed new edition of NFPA 1971. This matter was discussed, but the committee felt that minimizing the thermal burden on firefighters was of greater importance.**

TIME TO CONTEMPLATE CHANGE

Given that the new edition of NFPA 1971 won't become effective until the middle of 2024 at the earliest, both fire service and industry leaders have time to determine how these changes in hoods may affect their operations going forward.

FROM CHAPLAIN Fred Richards

Past Commissioner, Tom Wutz

It is with deep sadness we note that Thomas Joseph Wutz of Loudonville, NY passed away on Saturday July 15th, 2023. Throughout his life all who knew Tom, or had the opportunity to work with him, witnessed his earnest passion to serve others whenever he knew they had exposure to conditions that could cause dangerous health issues or could result in other life-safety needs. His dedication to duty was observed in each field of vocation or ad-vocation he strived to serve in. One of those concerted efforts involved working at NY City's ground zero immediately following 911. President Rinaldi was one of those people who had the pleasure of working alongside of Chief Wutz during his tenure at what is now State OEM.

To observe some of the fire protection and life-safety contributions he provided to the citizens of this state and country access his obituary at: <https://www.cannonfuneral.com/obituary/Thomas-Wutz?fbclid=IwAR3RBuN4uHRJGUKnNpQa-PoOGSC59Aok0ajNY6YHuJXEDUCBvbO-MlXrVK0>

Tom began his fire service career as a volunteer firefighter in the Williamsville FD in 1968. From 1972 until 1986 he was a member of the Schoharie Volunteer Fire Department where he also served as their Fire Chief from 1975 to 1980.

During the late 1970's he enlisted, in the Stratton based, New York Air National Guard's 109th Airlift Wing. For nearly 24 years Tom was in the unit's Civil Engineering/ Fire Protection Section performing firefighter duties with extended active military duty assignments on several occasions. One such deployment took place during Operation Desert Storm/Desert Shield and another period was spent in Antarctica. Before his retirement in 2001 Chief Tom Wutz became the unit's Fire Protection Superintendent with the rank of Chief Master Sergeant. During every challenging assignment he never lost his love for the Buffalo Bills.

For 31 years Tom's fulltime career was with the NYS Division of Homeland Security & Emergency Services, Office of Fire Prevention and Control from which he retired in 2011. As Chief of the Fire Services Bureau Tom, working with his staff, achieved many notable accomplishments for the citizens and local fire service entities in the State of New York.

From 1986 to 2000 Tom also maintained membership in the Midway Fire Department. Where he served as a publicly elected fire district Commissioner from 1989 to 1998.

On behalf of the officers and members of the Capital Area Fire District Association we extend to his wife Jeanne (Grebert), his son's Thomas Jr., Jared and other members of his family. our condolences for their loss. May our blessed LORD place his loving arms around you and grant each of you a growing peace.

Remembering Chief DeCapria

Also this week the heartfelt condolences of the Capital Area Fire District Association are expressed to Sharon Cronin, the DeCapria Family and those serving as Firefighters, Officers and Commissioners of the Charlton Fire District, on the sudden passing of past **Fire Chief Dean D. Capria**. Dean, age 59, unexpectedly departed his earthly home on July 16th 2023. In addition to his 25 years of dedicated service in the Charlton Volunteer Fire Department he had earlier served as a member of the Stanford Heights FD and the East Glenville FD. Details regarding Dean and his medical contributions to the citizens he served are included in his obituary at: <https://www.townleywheelerfh.com/memorials/dean-decapria/5233977/index.php>

May our gracious Heavenly Father, His loving Son and the abiding Holy Spirit bring the members of the DeCapria Family a growing peace.

FOR DISTRICT OFFICIALS WHO AREN'T FIREFIGHTERS...

Secondary Crashes: The Big Red Truck Is Simply NOT Enough To Keep You Safe

Chief Marc Bashoor

Get there, get done, and get out – that's been my mantra for years for first responders operating on roadways.

I fully recognize that it's not always as simple as I implore in those seven words, but it is a lifesaving directive considering the extreme dangers responders face when working on roadways.

In a recent FireRescue1 poll, 61% of respondents reported having been on the scene of a roadway incident where a secondary crash occurred. One Facebook-poster quipped that the better question is "Who hasn't?" Another noted, "Sadly, I can remember five right away without even trying."

The survey response drives home the need to treat roadway incidents like our standard response to radiation or hazardous chemicals – think in terms of time, distance and shielding.

Additionally, the Emergency Responder Safety Institute has already tracked 34 first responder roadway-incident deaths in 2022 and an average of two struck-by incidents DAILY on roadways in the United States. And these numbers don't include the "near-misses" regularly occurring on roadways – data now being collected through a self-reporting system that ERSI launched earlier this year.

HOW TO PROCEED: TEAMWORK, PRACTICE, ATTENTION

Safety doesn't happen simply because we have slow-down, move-over laws. There will always be "D-drivers" – distracted, drunk, drugged, drowsy, disrespectful, disgruntled, drag-racing and just plain dangerous – creating roadway wrecks. Furthermore, while moving over for stopped/shouldered emergency traffic is very important, many roadway wrecks occur in the travel lanes. We must learn more from these incidents and work to keep our teams safe.

It is imperative that we practice the principles of traffic incident management (TIM) and take roadway incidents seriously. But again, TIM doesn't just happen because these principles exist. We must train on them and work with our law enforcement and roadway management counterparts to mitigate roadway incidents promptly and safely. From uniform

lane identification nomenclature and blocking procedures to advance warning and emergency lighting, the symphony of safety equipment and procedures is our orchestra to conduct.

Another critical part of this is complacency. Sometimes, these events happen despite us doing everything we can to prevent them, but we must admit that other times, we've let our guard down in the interest of speed or simplicity. It is easy to become overwhelmed with data, statistics and the next tech tool to keep you safe. But when the rubber meets the road, it will be incumbent upon you to do the right things for safety, and to keep your guard up – realizing that your big red truck is NOT enough, in and of itself, to keep you safe.

TRAINING TIME

Injuries and line-of-duty deaths are NOT inevitable. It is incumbent on us to do everything we can to prevent them. As easy as it is to become overwhelmed and desensitized, consider how overwhelmingly difficult it will be to knock on the door of a provider's next of kin to let them know their loved one didn't survive a routine roadway crash incident.

If you're looking for somewhere to start, check out the free online training opportunities from ERSI. These classes are a solid start that could very likely mean the difference between life and death on the roadway.

LIVING WITH LITHIUM-ION BATTERIES! HOT TOPIC!

Firefighters Take On Apparent Lithium Ion Battery Fire In Brooklyn Deli

PHOTOS: Firefighters battled an apparent lithium-ion battery fire that broke out in a Brooklyn building on Monday night. At around 11:22 p.m. on July 17, the FDNY responded to the blaze at The Promise Food Deli, located at 4201 Farragut Rd. Arriving units were met with heavy smoke seeping from behind the roll-down gates of the store. Firefighters battled an apparent lithium-ion battery fire that broke out in a Brooklyn building on Monday night. Fire Department members deployed two hose lines to knock down the main body of the fire, which caused severe damage to the second-floor apartments above the store. The Hazmat trio of Engine Company 250, Hazmat Company 1, and Hazmat Battalion worked to remove several electrical bikes and batteries from the premises.

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

Home builders and realtors already “drive” legislation with a history of disregard for life safety and a disgusting misinformation campaign about the cost of residential fire sprinklers, deaths are an awfully expensive price to pay to save money. Stop the carnage, install residential sprinklers. Residential sprinklers are a component of the plumbing system, with approximately 1 head per room. The purpose of residential sprinklers is to allow time for the occupants to escape. Residential sprinklers are designed for quick response and only one at the most two heads may be triggered. With residential sprinklers present, the civilian death rate is 89% LOWER. Residential sprinklers will assist responding firefighters to do their jobs and save firefighters lives also, especially since everyone is short staffed!!
CHIEFS NEED TO SPEAK UP: This fire would not have been as bad if there were residential sprinklers!!

HOME FIRE FATALITIES REPORTED BY THE MEDIA FROM THE US FIRE ADMINISTRATION	
Fire Deaths in 1&2 Family Dwellings in NYS	51+0 = 51
Last fire death 7/8, New Scotland, Albany Co, 35 & 64yo male, 5 & 40yo female	
Fire Deaths in any type of Dwelling in NYS	99+0 = 99
Fire Deaths in 1&2 Family Dwellings Nationally	767 + 9 = 776
Top Three State with the most 1&2 Family Deaths	1 NY = 51
	2 PA = 46
	3 OH = 45
There has been a total of 1273 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.

****The Crazy World of Buying Apparatus Now**

Ricky Riley

I am not the oldest person buying apparatus today, but for a good couple of decades, I have been involved in the apparatus industry and the fire apparatus purchasing world. And, for the record, it is absolutely crazy right now when you are trying to buy rigs!

I will start off by saying that the challenges departments, counties, and cities are experiencing as we all try to buy rigs are unprecedented and without a close comparison with anything any of us have ever experienced in the industry. In my opinion, it has gone from a very healthy and competitive market of apparatus sales before COVID to where we are now, with prices and delivery times none of us have seen before EVER!

PRICES

Let's start off with prices in the industry. ***Buyers face an increase in costs anywhere from 10% to 35% for just one rig.*** Most of these increases have been in large increments over a number of months. Some have been well communicated to customers, and some have taken the buyers by surprise, creating havoc with budgets, contracts, and even lawyers. Even in my own department, we have seen increases of hundreds of thousands of dollars for the same engine bought preCOVID. **The costs of material and components have never been so high, and the availability of components has never been so scarce.** The availability issue has caused manufacturers to hold status meetings up to four times a day to get continuous updates on the items they need to build our apparatus. The amount of time all manufacturers now must devote to this process leads to an increase of employees—builders need to hire to keep up with all the issues facing them in each build. It is unimaginable for manufacturers to be able to properly forecast shortages and daily rising product costs. ***They then must take those costs and figure them into your rig that might be built in two to three years from contract signing.*** To stay in business and to ensure their success, some manufacturers absorbed these costs for the past couple of years for their customers. But, now they must be passed on to the customer, which makes for some very uncomfortable conversations between the salesperson and the buyer. There has never been a more crucial time for the fire department buying the apparatus and the salesperson to have very open and adult communication about all aspects of the purchase.

DELIVERY TIMES

Delivery times have now made all departments adjust how and when they are going to purchase apparatus. With extended delivery times, some departments can now budget for the apparatus over a number of budget cycles. While this might help with financing the growing costs, it does not get the apparatus in your hands any sooner than up to three or four years, which some manufacturers are quoting to customers. Those of us on a fixed budget and with certain purchasing requirements usually need to finance the apparatus in one budget cycle. With the increased prices, we have to purchase a smaller quantity of units for the larger price tag. ***Not being able to keep up with apparatus replacement plans is becoming a reality for a number of departments as, most of the time, budget numbers, and replacement plan funds are allocated a year or years in advance, not allowing for the adjusted higher costs to be in the plan or the budget. This will require fleet managers and even smaller departments to rethink extending the life of current apparatus at or over their retirement age to keep enough units in the fleet and in front-line service, pushing out the time of replacing apparatus and keeping older rigs on the street longer to help fill the void created by the long delivery schedules.*** We will only see an increase in repair costs. And, we all know as our rigs get older, they have more of a tendency to cost us more in repairs—and that is even if we can still get the parts for the older rigs. ***Trying to find those older components for engines and pumps can be a challenge even for the most savvy eBay or Amazon person on staff.***

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY (EPA) STANDARD

On top of the prices and delivery times, we now must contend with engine news many of us are just learning about. ***Cummins has moved up its EPA-standard motor by one year, causing many departments to try to purchase the current motor. By the time this article is printed, those motors could be gone, thus creating another purchasing spree that could affect unit delivery times.*** New engine designs, EPA standards, and warranties mandated for any new motor will impact engine prices for engine manufacturers. Many questions still need to be answered by motor manufacturers so customers have a full understanding of what they will receive with the new motors and how the rising prices will not

only benefit the environment but also end users when it comes to warranties. Included in the motor pricing are also new regen systems and their proposed warranties. As any fleet supervisor will tell you, these regen systems cause major headaches for fleets. And, what companies are going to do to improve this process and possibly extend warranties is another item for discussion and clarification for end users. A lot of things are happening in the apparatus purchasing arena, all of which affect any department's fleet regardless of a department's size. Manufacturers are guiding the purchasing process like never before. It is almost a daily struggle to keep up with the rising charges, mandates, delays, and compromises by the buyer for an apparatus that we are paying more for than we have ever paid before and at such an accelerated rate. While these things frustrate me as a fleet manager, and I know that they will greatly affect the fleet of apparatus and our service to our citizens, it is no less frustrating than what the manufacturers are going through every day as they deal with their suppliers, backlogs, and unprecedented material costs and availability. I hope that we as a country can get through this supply and demand crisis and that when we do, fire truck prices can somewhat go back to normal. ***Without that cost reduction, sooner or later departments will have to buy fewer apparatus because of the lack of budget increases in local economies.*** These prices are staggering even for a robust department budget. It is more important now than ever before that customers have a solid relationship with their salesperson and their manufacturer. The communication must be open, honest, and frequent to keep up with these times that none of us have ever seen before. We will all have to get through the emotions that can be stirred by these prices and delivery times and work through the problems with a mature attitude. This topic is going to be around for a while. I encourage you to have many conversations about it and make sure you are getting factual information from trusted sources.

THE LIGHTER SIDE!

A driver recently noticed a sign painted on the back of a Septic Tank Truck: "Caution – this truck is full of political promises!"

CAPITAL AREA BUSINESS PARTNER'S



Mitchell Associates Architects proudly joins Wendel's Five Bugles Design!

Wendel, a nationally recognized architecture, engineering, energy efficiency, and construction management firm, is excited to announce that **Mitchell Associates Architects**, based 20 minutes outside of Albany, NY, is joining its **Five Bugles Design** team, expanding its ability to provide clients with public safety projects.

Individually, Wendel's Five Bugles Design and Mitchell Associates have outstanding portfolios and talented teams. Together, the firms have a matchless, industry-leading portfolio of award-winning, research-based, innovative facilities. Collectively, the two companies have completed over 400 public safety projects across the United States. Mitchell works exclusively on public service facilities, including fire stations, EMS, police, and shared facilities. Mitchell's founding principles of providing knowledge-based, comprehensive, and individualized services make them a perfect fit for the Wendel family of companies.

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: Terry Briscoe
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, and Deputy Treasurers
Secretaries and Chiefs are also invited to participate!

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

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

AFDCA PO Box 242 East Schodack, NY 12063

EMAIL SECRETARY: CAAOFD@GMAIL.COM

EMAIL TREASURER: CFDATREASURER@GMAIL.COM

518-407-5020

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 2023](#)

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

Write me at tom@rinaldi1.com

Please Support Those Who Support Us!!

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

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Heather R. Lewis, CPA hlewis@mmb-co.com

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 CAPITAL AREA FIRE DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION (CAFDA)

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

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

\$0 to \$200,000: \$50
\$200,001 to \$400,000: \$100
\$400,001 to \$600,000: \$200
\$600,001 plus: \$300

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

Business Partners: \$100.00 annual member fee

CAFDA UPCOMING TRAINING AND MEETING CALENDAR NEXT PAGE



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



For General Membership meetings food is served 1 hour prior to the start time of the meeting, usually 6pm.

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

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



Fire District Budget
Schedule.pdf

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



Fire District
Elections Schedule