



CAPITAL AREA FIRE DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION BULLETIN

YOUR FIRE DISTRICT NEWS SOURCE

JUNE 24TH, 2023

EDITOR - TOM RINALDI

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

THE CAPITAL CALENDAR:

WWW.AFDCA.ORG

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

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 Treasurer's Positions Split](#)

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 to Meetings? Join remotely using Zoom!](#)

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.

[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 Coming to the Capital Area Fire Districts](#)

- Fire District Secretary's Training September 19th
- PESH vs NFPA, Law vs. Standard September 12th
- Fire District Treasurer's Retreat Early Spring 2024
- CAFDA Conference May 2024

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

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.

IF NOTHING ELSE READ THE ARTICLES PRECEDED BY**

CAPITAL SHORTS:

- CAFDA is planning a **Day at the Races**, stay tuned for more information.
- Our thoughts and prayers go to the family, friends and fellow firefighters of the Ancram Fire Department in Columbia County. 37 year-old Stuart Hunt, a 21 year veteran suffered a medical event while operating at the scene of a motor vehicle accident.
- 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/>
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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.

TRAINING APPROPRIATE FOR YOUR ENTIRE BOARD/SECRETARY/TREASURER

Mark your calendar for Saturday, November 4th 2023 for the **Capital Area Fall Leadership Workshop**, being held at the Verdoy Fire Station on Troy-Schenectady Road. Tentative subjects are Harassment in the Fire Service and Applying Discipline, How to SHOP insurance for your fire district, Expert's Panel.



Upcoming Coffee with Commissioners

[Thursday, June 29th @ 7:00pm Understanding Vehicle Values and Insurance](#)

[Saturday, July 22nd @ 9:00am Firefighter Behavioral Health with Jill Holland](#)

[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 2023 legislative session has ended, 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.

The 2023 legislative Round Up, light weight session for the fire service.

ISSUES OF UNITED CONCERN LEGISLATION:

- **TIMELY ADOPTION OF UP-TO-DATE BUILDING CODES**, passed Senate still in Assembly Governmental Operations Committee. This is the only IUC bill to pass in at least one Chamber.
- **CANCER COVERAGE COST RELIEF**, never made it out of committee
- **PROVIDES INCREASED STATE INCOME TAX CREDIT**, never made it out of committee
- **PROVIDE VFBL/WC PAYMENT PARITY**, never made it out of committee
- **DESIGNATE EMS AS ESSENTIAL SERVICE – PROVIDE BENEFITS FOR EMS STAFF**, never made it out of committee
- **STRENGTHEN PENAL CODE IN RELATION TO ILLEGAL BUILDING CONVERSIONS**, never made it out of committee
- **FINANCIAL INCENTIVES FOR ACCESSORY DWELLING UNITS**, sponsored only in Assembly, controversial since it usurped local zoning regulations
- **IMPROVE TAX BENEFITS FOR FF & EMS VOLUNTEERS**, no Assembly sponsor
- **ESTABLISHES THE NEW YORK STATE VOLUNTEER FIRE PROTECTION EMERGENCY REIMBURSEMENT ACCOUNT**, Included in Budget and Revenue bills, awaiting OFPC rules and regulations
- **RECOVERY OF 54-G FUNDING TO STRONGLY SUPPORT CODE ENFORCEMENT EFFORTS**, never made it out of committee
- **ANALYZE FINDINGS FROM THE NYS DHSES RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION TASK FORCE**, no bill sponsors in either chamber
- **CONTINUE TO IMPROVE TAX BENEFITS FOR VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS**, Senate sponsor only.

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

\$31.5 Million In State Budget For Volunteer Firefighters

New York State's 2023-2024 budget includes significant funding for volunteer firefighters. Of the total, \$25 million was allocated for departments' capital upgrades to equipment and facilities. \$6.5 million has been allotted for firefighter training stipends.

The firefighter training stipends are given out in either \$750, \$1,000 or \$1,250 increments after completion of training. The amount given out is dependent on the status of the volunteer, whether that's firefighter 1, firefighter 2, or fire officer training. This will allow firefighters to be compensated for spending time off work attending classes. We will have to watch OFPC for any developments in rules or regulations.

THE ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

Plea Deal Reached in NY LODD Blaze; Family Feels Betrayed

Firehouse.com News

A grieving family feels betrayed following a plea deal for two rabbis in connection with a blaze that killed Spring Hill Firefighter Jared Lloyd.

"We serve our own life sentence, visiting Jared at his cemetery. Meanwhile, they're off celebrating their holidays," said Sabrail Davenport, Lloyd's mother, told CBS reporters.

Rabbi Nathaniel Sommer pleaded guilty to felony manslaughter. His son, Aaron, pleaded to misdemeanor reckless endangerment. **They admitted to unsafe use of torches and charcoal during a ritual pre-Passover cleansing of the Evergreen Court kitchen.** Neither will serve jail time for the 2021 fire that killed Lloyd and a resident. Firefighters shared the grieving family's anger. "It's a sad day," volunteer firefighter Frank Voce said.

Rockland County Fire Coordinator Chris Kear worked with the DA on the case and shares the family's anger. "I lost my faith in the judicial system today," Kear said.

Calvin Lloyd said after the Tuesday hearing that District Attorney Tom Walsh and Judge Kevin Russo let the family down, adding the punishment -- probation -- doesn't match the magnitude of the rabbis' crime. "With us not having a say in anything here, it was a terrible decision."

"These people haven't even apologized to us or said they're sorry. There's no remorse," Davenport said. Unfortunately, the deadly blaze didn't come as a complete shock to many in the community as nearly a decade ago fire officials in Rockland County had predicted someone would die as a result of safety, according to an investigative report.

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STEP INTO THE CHIEF'S OFFICE:

What Advice Would You Give A New Chief Officer? WRONG Answers Only

We publish a variety of leadership-focused content, and most of it centers on best practices in leadership or solid advice based on career experience. But what about those "what NOT to do" lessons learned or guidance for how to not lose your members' respect?

We asked the FireRescue1 community "What advice would you give a new chief officer? **WRONG** answers only." Spot any themes among the responses?

- "Make everything about you; and gate keep training and info from your team so you look amazing."
- "Remind everyone that you're the chief."
- "Don't worry. Everyone will love you for all the things you do for them."
- "The annual training, vehicle, equipment and staffing budget will always work out so don't stress, and let one of the probies deal with it."
- "Change everything you can right away."
- "Completely trust the AHJ...they know everything. Just ask them."
- "Bully young firefighters. Do everything you can to make them quit. Fast-track unmotivated members doing enough to get by and demoralize people who work to get ahead."
- "Make sure you remind everyone who is in charge at every moment you can."
- "NEVER admit that you've made a mistake."
- "Lie, cheat and brown nose your way to get promoted. Blow out the candles of the honest, hardworking firefighters to make your candle look brighter."
- "Always pass the blame!"

THE CHAPLAIN'S CORNER by: Fred Richards

We are saddened to inform you that on Thursday, June 15th a NY firefighter line of duty death occurred in Columbia County while an Ancram volunteer firefighter was performing duties at an emergency accident scene. Columbia County Fire Coordinator, George Keeler confirmed that Ancram VFD Firefighter, Stewart Guy Hunt (age 37), had suffered a medical event during an emergency call. Firefighter, Hunt was provided advanced care while at the scene and at the Columbia Memorial Hospital but was unable to be resuscitated.

Several local fire departments have expressed their condolences on Hunt's passing. When the media asked the neighboring Niverville Fire Department to share information regarding the firefighter's death the message given by its personnel was "Stew was a family man, hard worker, and like his father and his grandfather, served his community in the fire service. Our hearts ache."

Firefighter Stewart Hunt was no stranger to fire service and service to his community. In 2002, he began with Ancram Fire Department and served until 2008. In November of 2011 he joined Greenport Fire Department, with Becraft Pumper Company #2, where he held the rank of Lieutenant until 2015. From July of 2016 until December of 2021 he was a member of Taghkanic Fire Company. In September of 2022, he rejoined Ancram VFD to continue serving his area's citizens. Stewart was also a former EMT and driver for the Community Rescue Squad.

The officers and members of the Capital Area Fire District Association express their condolences to the Hunt family and Stewart's Ancram Volunteer Fire Department family for their loss. My we, like those who over the years, benefited from the services received from Firefighter Hunt, keep his family in our thoughts and prayers. His complete obituary can be found at <https://www.peckandpeck.net/obituary/StewartGuy-Hunt>

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

Nothing this week.

OUR CHANGING FIRE SERVICE -CHALLENGES & OPPORTUNITIES!

OPPORTUNITIES:

New Software Allows 911 Callers To Livestream Video To Police And Fire Dispatchers In One Ohio City

Typically, when people call 911 in emergencies, communication with a dispatcher is limited to voice only. But those calling the Ravenna police and fire dispatch center with a cellphone now have the option of providing dispatchers with a livestream video of an incident, thanks to new software. "We wanted a different way for our communities to talk to 9-1-1, and this way we can communicate real-time information that we can share with responders.," said Assistant Chief of Police Jake Smallfield in a media release. "Besides using this new technology for Police Emergencies within the City, we are also able to utilize this for the 8 Fire/EMS Departments we dispatch for." This means that not only will people reporting emergencies in the city potentially benefit from it, but also those in areas covered by the Charlestown, Deerfield, Edinburg, Palmyra, Paris, Rootstown and Windham fire departments, which the city dispatches for in addition to the Ravenna Fire Department.

Writing Grants: Useful Agency And Program Resources

First Responder Grants, LLC

Writing a competitive public safety grant means pulling in data and relevant information from a range of resources. Various government agencies and programs can be an excellent source for the data that makes the case for your agency receiving a grant.

But where do you find that info?

We maintain an extensive list of government agencies, programs, and more. Roll through it whenever you are looking for the right info for a grant. Odds are you can find exactly the agency you needed to look over to get what you need:

OPEN THE LIST HERE: <https://firstrespondergrants.com/resources/government-agencies-programs/>

CHALLENGES:

PA Volunteer Fire Departments Merge into New Organization

Michael DiVittorio

The Sharpsburg and Aspinwall volunteer fire departments are now Southern Allegheny Valley Emergency Services — SAVES.

Allegheny County Common Pleas Judge Michael E. McCarthy signed the order merging the two departments on June 20. ***The driving force behind the merger was the need for more volunteers and to boost efficiency.*** Both towns will keep

their fire stations, which will be used as headquarters, though the new department’s official listing is Station 102. The station number figures prominently in the new SAVES logo.

“All the members of both departments were on board with it,” said spokesman Mike Daniher, Sharpsburg assistant fire chief and department vice president. “It made the transition very easy. We had to create new bylaws. We had to create new standard operating procedures that were agreeable to everybody. That was the initial action taken.

“Over the last year and a half we have been training together and working toward one organization with decision making and things like that.”

There were about 300,000 volunteer firefighters across the state in the 1970s. Numbers are down to about 38,000, according to a report released in November 2018 by the state House of Representatives. Aspinwall had 44 members, but only 15 are active and regularly answer calls. Sharpsburg had 15 members with about a dozen active. SAVES has 30 trained firefighters and about 20 “business members” or volunteers who do no firefighting.

Daniher said the department has added three firefighters since the merger process started in January 2022. He anticipates emergency responses to be faster and more efficient because members can go to the closest station. Fire trucks and related vehicles from both departments are getting decals with the new name. An open house is being planned for later this year.

All current leadership at both stations will remain in place until the fall election. There will eventually be one chief and one set of officers.

The Good Friday Lent fish fry tradition will remain.

COMMUNITY SUPPORT

“The borough sees this merger as a positive for both municipalities,” said Karen Pastor, Sharpsburg Council vice president and public safety chair. “Because of a lack of volunteers, it will strengthen the membership numbers and response times which shows their dedication to our residents’ safety and well-being. Hopefully other departments will follow their lead.” Sharpsburg Mayor Brittany Reno agreed.

“The merger—and all of the shared training and planning leading up to it—has already resulted in improvements to our local response capacity, which means better public safety for residents,” Reno said.

Aspinwall Council President Tim McLaughlin said the judge’s approval was a major step. More work must be done between the boroughs and the newly formed organization.

“We are excited for the VFD’s to merge,” McLaughlin said. “We still have some financial and operational logistics to work out. Aspinwall and Sharpsburg officials as well as the SAVES leadership have been meeting regularly to iron out all the details. This is a great thing for all the Southern Allegheny Valley communities. Aspinwall and Sharpsburg are excited to lead the charge.”

MONEY MOVES

Sharpsburg has a fire tax that generates about \$75,000. Sharpsburg’s contribution goes toward payment of a ladder truck. Aspinwall gives between \$70,000 to \$90,000 annually. Aspinwall fire officials said their money is used for various expenses. Both fiscal allocations would now go into one pot.

OTHER COMMUNITIES

O’Hara, Blawnox and Fox Chapel volunteer fire departments were invited to join the merger. So far, none plans to join. O’Hara, Sharpsburg, Aspinwall and Blawnox agreed to participate in a regional fire department study that would examine memberships, resources, training and other factors.

The study through the state Department of Community and Economic Development is at no cost to the participating towns and does not bind them to any possible recommendations.

Results of that study may be released sometime in July.

LIVING WITH LITHIUM-ION BATTERIES!

Chinatown Blaze 4 Dead, 2 Critically Injured In NYC E-Bike Store Fire

Amanda Woods

Four people were killed and two others left clinging to life when a massive fire ripped through a Lower Manhattan e-bike store early Tuesday. Two men and two women died in the blaze that erupted around 12:15 a.m. on the first floor of six-

story 80 Madison Street, which houses the HQ E-Bike Repair, authorities said. Two other women are listed in critical condition, according to police.

The FDNY reported a total of nine victims in the early-morning inferno, including one firefighter and one EMT, both with minor injuries, cops said. Those injured were taken to Bellevue Hospital, Weill Cornell Medical Center and New York Presbyterian facilities, according to the FDNY.

We arrived in just about four minutes,” Deputy Assistant Chief John Sarrocco said at the scene. “We found heavy fire in an e-bike store, which is located on the first floor.” “Unfortunately we had a heavy smoke condition throughout the building.” The blaze reached three alarms, with 33 units, including 138 fire and EMS personnel, responding to the scene. It was placed under control around 2:30 a.m. The cause remains under investigation.

FOLLOW UP: A Lower Manhattan e-bike store caught fire for the second time this week, just three days after it sparked an inferno that claimed four lives. Firefighters rushed to 80 Madison St. at 6 p.m. Friday after receiving reports of smoke and fire, FDNY officials said. The blaze, which originated in HQ E-Bike Repair on the building’s first floor, was reported as a “rekindle” from the explosive fire that ripped through the store Tuesday. Sixty fire and EMS personnel responded to the reported smoke and fire, as well as the hazmat unit. The blaze was placed under control within the hour and there were no reported injuries, a stark difference from the tragedy that unfolded earlier this week.

Eric Wu, whose parents perished in the fire, said he urged his 85-year-old father and 74-year-old mother to move out because of the safety concerns HQ E-Bike Repair posed.

“I wanted them to get out of there because it’s not safe,” he said of his parents Holly and Cheung, who lived in an apartment above the shop.

How E-Bike Battery Fires Became a Deadly Crisis in New York City

His girlfriend told him not to buy the electric scooter. But Alfonso Villa Muñoz was intrigued. He was working in a Brooklyn bodega last August when a delivery man said he knew someone selling one for \$700. Mr. Muñoz said yes. The scooter was cherry red with the number 7 on the front. Under the seat was an extra-large lithium ion battery. When it needed charging, Mr. Muñoz would remove the battery from the scooter and use both hands to lug it up to the couple's third-floor apartment in College Point, Queens. A month later, the battery exploded in the living room, unleashing flames that engulfed the apartment. Mr. Muñoz screamed for their 8-year-old daughter, Stephanie, who was asleep. He could not breach the wall of black smoke to get to her. Stephanie died from smoke inhalation. "It's like you bring in death and destruction to your house, and not only to you, to everybody around you," said Mr. Muñoz, 36, pulling off his glasses to wipe away tears. "You could lose everything."

Editorial: The Electric Car Fire That Cost Four Lives Is A Warning

The Suffolk Times

At approximately 11:30 p.m. Friday, two cars collided on Route 25 in East Marion, just west of Truman’s Beach. One car was a Ford Explorer, the other an electric Tesla, which is powered with a lithium battery.

By all accounts in the aftermath of the collision, which claimed four lives, the battery in the Tesla caught fire, engulfing both vehicles. First responders from Orient, East Marion and Southold arrived and, only after two hours of pouring large amounts of water on the burning vehicles, managed to bring the fire under control.

Photographs from the scene show a fire-scarred roadway, which was the result of the intense heat generated by the lithium battery when it caught fire.

It is not hyperbole to say this fire on a winter’s night on the Orient Causeway is the canary in the coal mine — a warning, in other words — of the challenges the electrification of cars and trucks poses to our first responders if a fire breaks out at an accident site.

Adding to this challenge will be the building of large-scale battery energy storage facilities that are being proposed for both Southold and Riverhead, with fire department officials among those raising questions about them. These storage facilities are critical to the development of green power systems such as offshore windmills. But how safe are they to communities around them? Can our fire departments successfully contain a fire at one of them?

As with the car fire Friday night, the central question that must be answered — and answered soon — is this: are our fire departments, staffed by volunteers, equipped to put out electric fires such as the one that claimed the lives of four people Friday night?

A reading of newspaper stories around the country shows Teslas have caught fire in other communities and, like in East Marion, posed enormous challenges to first responders. In California last month, according to news accounts, a “Tesla car battery ‘spontaneously’ burst into flames” and needed 6,000 gallons of water to put it out.

Here is what a fire official in Massachusetts said last month after a car battery fire there: When a gas-powered car catches fire, first responders pour water on it and extinguish it. “We are going to knock that down with half a tank of water or a full tank in most cases,” the official said, according to news accounts.

Here is what the official said about lithium battery fires: “If those battery packs go into thermal runaway, which is just a chemical reaction, then they get super-heated and they run away. You can’t put them out. They don’t go out. They reignite. And they release tremendously toxic gases.”

He went on to say: “Flames can reach up to 2,500 degrees. And no matter how much water you put on the car; the batteries will reignite. This particular fire took firefighters hours and required more than 20,000 gallons of water to be put out.”

We are very lucky on the North Fork to have first-class fire departments, staffed by unselfish men and women who race to help those in need. The growth of electric cars — let alone battery storage facilities — means they will be challenged greatly. We can’t put them at a disadvantage.

What kind of training will they need to fight these kinds of fires? What kind of specialized equipment?

These are the questions every department across the region will now be asking, keeping in mind the four lives that were lost Friday night in East Marion.

At Least 2 People Injured In Fire Caused By A Lithium-Ion Battery In Brooklyn

Just hours after Mayor Eric Adams and FDNY Commissioner Laura Kavanaugh announced new plans to prevent fires cause by lithium-ion batteries, another battery started a fire in Brooklyn. An e-scooter battery briefly caught fire inside a building located at 6801 20th Avenue in Bensonhurst Wednesday around 8 p.m., burning two people and several items close by but it was quickly extinguished. At least two people suffered minor burns and smoke inhalation from the fire and were transported to a local hospital. The owner of the building told Eyewitness News reporter Sonia Rincon that it is a relief that the fire was not more serious, especially considering the damage these battery fires have caused in the past.

Discarded Lithium-Ion Batteries Sparked Compactor Fire in WI

Fire Engineering Staff

According to a report from [Wisconsin State Journal](#), the Madison (WI) Fire Department (MFD) announced that the fire to which they responded on Tuesday afternoon at a facility on the city’s East side was caused by improperly discarded lithium-ion batteries.

On arrival at the facility, MFD crews found visible smoke coming from the front of a 30-cubic-yard trash compactor container. Facility employees were attempting to extinguish the flames with a garden hose, and firefighters said one employee told them the compactor should have contained only cardboard and pallets.

MFD crews positioned an attack line between the compactor and the rest of the refuse container to prevent fire spread.

After assessing the situation, firefighters found they needed additional water that their 500-gallon tank did not provide and called for assistance. Another crew placed a hose nozzle inside the compactor through an opening, and a tow truck separated the compactor from the rest of the container.

After clearing its contents, MFD firefighters found the lithium-ion batteries mixed in with other trash in plastic grocery bags. Some of the batteries were covered with tape.

The fire did not spread outside the compactor, and no further damage or injuries have been reported.

Firefighters said that it is best to dispose of lithium-ion batteries by bringing them to a recycling vendor.

They also said the batteries must be kept separate from other battery types, and people should cover their contact points with clear tape, with packing tape being best. The taped batteries should be put into the appropriate container at a city drop-off site, or which there are several.

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources now offers information on proper battery disposal.

HELP WITH BUILDING A NEW FIRE STATION

*****Building A New Station: A Primer For Small Fire Departments***

Scott Garner of Garner & Brown Architects

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

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

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

FIT YOUR DEPARTMENT

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

FUTURE

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

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

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

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

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

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

ENERGY EFFICIENCY

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

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

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

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

FIRE STATION IMAGE

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

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

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

BUDGET

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

RECRUITMENT SUCCESSES! WHAT SHOULD YOUR FIRE COMPANY DO?

First African-American Elected to Lead MD Fire Association

The new president of the Maryland State Firemen's Association has hit the ground running.

Eric L. Smothers was saluted by fellow officers when he took the stage Tuesday night.

Smothers, who retired recently from the Maryland State Police, quickly stopped and returned the salute.

As the first African-American to lead the MSFA --organized in 1893 -- the longtime paramedic said **he's honored to advocate for firefighters and EMS clinicians.**

"I appreciate the opportunity to represent the MSFA," he said. "We are facing some of the same challenges as departments across the United States."

Among the issues he will focus on include recruitment and retention, mental health of responders and fire prevention and life safety.

"We have to keep an eye on each other to make we are ready to respond appropriately not just physically but mentally as well. We have initiated peer support programs, and I want to see that increase. Our people are our greatest asset, and I think we need to do everything we can to protect them. We can't allow our EMS clinicians and firefighters suffer in silence."

As a flight medic with the state police aviation division for 37 years, he knows firsthand how calls can impact someone.

"Some calls are especially tough. It's important that people feel they can talk about their feelings with someone without fear of being outed or sidelined. It's OK to say 'I'm not OK.'"

As president of Brunswick Volunteer Ambulance & Rescue Co., he also understands the problem of not only recruiting but retaining people to take the training and respond.

“There’s no quick answer on this one as departments across the nation are seeing the same decline. I think we need to change the mindset so to speak. The days of generations of family members volunteering are disappearing. We have to come up with creative ways to attract and then, keep young people.”

Family dynamics, juggling careers and commitments make it extremely difficult for people to add taking EMS or fire training to the mix. It’s tough.

It’s imperative, he added, that longtime members really extend a helping hand to people when they walk in the station. “One of the reasons people say they leave is because they never felt welcome. That shouldn’t happen. We need to mentor these folks and make them want to come around...”

He also is a strong advocate for fire prevention. “The number of fire deaths in the state is rising. That’s unacceptable to me, and it should be to everyone in the MSFA. **We should make sure everyone has smoke detectors in their homes. Sprinklers also save lives, and I will be in Annapolis to promote them...”**

During the ceremony, he thanked his family, fellow volunteers and state police colleagues for their support.

He remembered as a teen, his late father would drop him off at the Brunswick ambulance company for duty on Friday evening and return on Sunday to pick him up.

“Together will continue to make Maryland safer for each and every one of us. And, to make sure that our operational members make it safely back home.”

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

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](https://www.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>

Fire Engineering

WEBCASTS

[Fireground Communications: From Size-up to Mayday](#)

[June 20, 2023 | 1 PM EDT](#)

[A certificate of attendance will be offered.](#)

[Free to Attend – Save My Seat!](#)

This webcast will address all aspects of fireground communications, from knowing the capabilities and limitations of your department's radio system to understanding each person's role in achieving reliable fireground communications and getting dispatch involved in your training. It will introduce skills that can immediately improve communications as well as provide a plan for developing and implementing a communications model for your department.

REGISTER HERE AT THIS LINK: https://www.cfmediaview.com/lp1.aspx?v=31_192003370_13227_6

[Even if you can't make it, sign up anyway!](#) We'll notify you when the recording is available.

 **VFIS** *University Provides a Wealth of Training Opportunities UPDATED FOR 2023*

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[VFIS RESPONDER HELP FLYER](#)

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

*IN 2023 WE HAVE SADLY EXPERIENCED **32** FIRE FIGHTER LODD'S*

*According to FirefighterCloseCalls.com**

In 2022 we experienced 101 LODDs reported nationally.!

You Just Never Know!

- A 21-year veteran of the Ancram Volunteer Fire Company died while responding to a call Thursday night. Stuart Hunt was among the firefighters dispatched to a motor vehicle emergency scene in Ancram when he suffered a medical event while performing his duties, Columbia County Fire Coordinator George Keeler said. Hunt was 37.
- We regret to pass on that Firefighter Bobby "Blue" Smith age 24, of Ware County (NW of Jacksonville, FL) Fire Rescue died in the Line of Duty Thursday when the fire apparatus he was riding in overturned in a crash. The truck traveled off the roadway onto the west shoulder and lost control. The truck then spun counterclockwise as it flipped across the roadway before hitting a tree and landing on its passenger side in the ditch.
- We regret to pass on that on Tuesday, June 20, 2023, at 1830 hours., Firefighter Brian Joseph Letrent (Bayville Fire Company, Berkeley Twp, Ocean County) participated in a fire-department mandated full-scale drill/exercise. On Wednesday, June 21, 2023, while returning home from his job, he suffered a cardiac emergency and was immediately transported to the Bayshore Medical Center where he died in the Line of Duty

*****How To Safely Operate Firefighting Tenders***

Robert Avsec

These unwieldy beasts make up a large percentage of apparatus crashes; follow these sound safety procedures to tame that beast and keep firefighters safe.

I remember the instructor in my first rural water supply class telling us, "An efficient rural water supply [using tenders] is accomplished through rapid loading at the fill site and rapid unloading at the dump site. You don't do it by driving fast between those two points."

Words to live by, not to die by.

The U.S. Fire Administration delivered a report on firefighter fatality statistics in the United States for the past 37 years up to 2013.

Each year during that time, fire service line of duty deaths resulting from vehicle collisions while responding to or returning from emergency calls averaged around 25% of all LODDs. In 2013, two of those nine deaths (22%) involved a fire department tender.

For the 12-year period (1990 to 2001) USFA studied, **approximately 22% of fire apparatus collision fatalities occurred in tenders**. That's more fatalities involving tenders than pumpers and aerial apparatus combined.

USFA estimated at that time that tenders only accounted for 3% of all fire apparatus in the United States. Shortly thereafter, USFA published a report, "Safe Operations of Fire Tankers."

That report provides comprehensive information on the causes and prevention of fire department tender crashes. Here's a synopsis of what was in that report.

HUMAN FACTORS

The report indicated insufficient training as a problem and suggested mandatory training for tender drivers. Extensive training must be done before a firefighter is allowed to drive the tanker on public roadways.

It also recommends refresher training on a regular basis according to the requirements of NFPA 1451: Standard for a Fire and Emergency Services Vehicle Operations Training Program (2013 Edition), and NFPA 1500: Standard on Fire Department Occupational Safety and Health Program (2013 Edition).

Tender operators should receive practice time driving the tender on a variety of weather and road conditions. This practice time should also include driving during daylight and nighttime conditions.

The report also recommends always operating a tender at a safe and reasonable speed. Never exceed the posted speed limit when driving under nonemergency response conditions.

Posted speed limit signs prior to curves in the road are based upon automobile traffic on a dry road surface; a tender should never be operated at or above that posted speed limit.

Another issue is lack of familiarity with the response district and the roads within it. A driver's level of familiarity with the various routes within their response district and associated hazards like dangerous curves, bridges with weight limitations, etc., has a direct impact on safe vehicle response.

DRIVING SURFACES

Keep all of the wheels on the primary road surface at all times. A common cause of tender crashes is when the tender's right-side wheels drift off the edge of the road.

If this happens, do not try to bring the apparatus back onto the road surface at a high speed. **Slow the apparatus to 20 mph or less before trying to bring the wheels back onto the road.**

Avoid poorly constructed or unpaved roads whenever possible. It may be safer (and faster) to take a paved route that is longer than the shorter unpaved route. If such an option does not exist, the tender operator should significantly slow down and proceed with extreme caution.

Require operators to come to a complete stop at all intersections containing a stop sign or red traffic light in your direction of travel. Nearly all intersection vehicle crashes can be prevented if a driver brings their vehicle to a complete stop when faced with the signal to do so.

Require that all personnel are seated and belted whenever the apparatus is in motion. **A significant percentage of tender crashes involve the vehicle rolling over and the occupants being ejected.** The chance of serious injury or death is greatly increased when the occupant is thrown from the vehicle.

UNWILY BEAST

Tenders are not primary-response units, like engines or aerial apparatus, that are critical to the initial stages of managing the fire incident. Rather, for the majority of incidents to which they respond, tenders are key support units whose primary function is to establish and maintain an adequate and continuous water supply.

Provide guidance and direction to your personnel on when tenders may respond under emergency conditions (lights and sirens operating) and when they shall not.

Even a tender that is specified and built from the ground up as a tender can be an unwieldy beast on the road, and operators should treat it as such. ***If your department is operating a retrofitted tender, you should strongly consider restricting its operation to non-emergency response.***

Minimum staffing for a tender should be the operator and another firefighter. The firefighter riding shotgun is a co-operator and should be the only person operating warning devices and handling radio transmissions. They should also provide a second set of eyes to assist the operator in identifying potential hazards during the response phase.

The co-operator should have full authority to alert the operator if they feel that the tender is being operated at an unsafe speed and the operator should be required to acknowledge that alert and slow down.

Travel with the water tank either completely empty or completely full. This minimizes the effects of liquid surge within the tank. Don't rely on tank baffles to prevent such surges.

NFPA 1500 requires the use of ground guides for backing, regardless of whether the apparatus is equipped with back-view cameras or other backing safety equipment. One ground guide should be equipped with a portable radio in the event that they need to contact the driver during the backing operation.

DESIGN AND MAINTENANCE

All new tenders shall comply with the requirements of NFPA 1901 including the chapters on general requirements; chassis and vehicle components; low-voltage electrical systems and warning devices; driving and crew areas; body, compartments and equipment mounting; and mobile water supply fire apparatus.

Vehicles that have been retrofitted to be tenders, from milk or fuel delivery trucks, are overly represented in tender crash statistics. Serious accidents have been attributed to poorly designed, retrofitted or homebuilt tankers.

Departments should make every effort to only have tenders in service that are specifically engineered and designed for fire department operations according to the requirements of NFPA 1901.

All tenders should be weighed completely full and that weight should be posted (in pounds and tons) on a plaque on the vehicle's dashboard. This will help the driver to determine if it is safe to drive the vehicle on a road or bridge that has posted weight restrictions.

Ensure that all tenders are equipped with audible back-up alarms to alert others in the area that the tender is backing up.

Many mechanical failures that lead to crashes can be prevented if the apparatus is inspected and maintained on a regular basis. Guidelines for establishing proper maintenance programs can be found in NFPA 1911: Standard for the Inspection, Maintenance, Testing, and Retirement of In-Service Automotive Fire Apparatus.

I strongly encourage you to read the entire report, Safe Operations of Fire Tankers [Tenders] and use it to develop good policy and procedure for your personnel regarding the operation of the tender(s) in your fleet.

You would also be wise to make reading the report a prerequisite for becoming a tender operator. And, I would include the report's use in refresher training for incumbent tender operators as well.

PURCHASING.....GEAR WASHERS AND DRYERS

****Hot Picks: Clothes Washers & Dryers**

Tom Williams

It's a simple truth: No fire department can succeed at ensuring the well-being of its personnel without using all of the tools that are at its disposal.

Among the essential components to maintaining a healthy environment for members at the firehouse are the humble washing machine and dryer. Laundry appliances might get overlooked as part of a department's arsenal, but they shouldn't be, Scott Csendes of architectural firm KZF Design says. Csendes, who is the director of KZF's Civic & Public Safety Group, states, "We're spending a lot of time regarding washers and dryers. When you are planning a new fire station, you have to pull together all the systems. If they are not configured, you are defeating the purpose," and that includes laundry appliances, he tells *Firehouse Magazine*.

STATION ZONES & LAUNDRY

Stations work best when Hot, Warm and Cold Zones are designated. Of course, the configurations vary according to a department's size and space, but there are common themes: Hot Zones are those that have the most exposure to

contaminants—where turnout gear and apparatus are kept. It's where members leave their turnout gear to be cleaned in extractors and drying closets. Members then move to a Warm Zone, and the clothes that they had on under the turnout gear are put into the same kinds of washing machines and dryers that are marketed to civilians. After showering and putting on fresh clothes, members move to the living quarters and administrative areas. Another set of washing machines and dryers in this Cold Zone take care of uniforms that are worn at the station and bedding.

Chief Mike Passarelli of the Tallmadge, OH, Fire Department is a three-time cancer survivor. He is passionate about reducing carcinogens, including in the firehouse. His department will open a new Station 2 in July 2022, and the department purchased a large-capacity washer for the new station.

"Prostate cancer is recognized in Ohio as predisposition for workers' compensation," Passarelli explains. "It's presumed you got it on the job." (According to research that was conducted by Firefighter Cancer Support Network, firefighters have a 1.28 times greater risk of being diagnosed with prostate cancer than the general U.S. population.)

"I have a passion to do this for the guys coming after me," Passarelli says. "I cannot emphasize the importance of this more."

The Lebanon, OH, Fire Division was in the process of completing the construction of the first purpose-built station in the department's history as this article went to press. The new station sports a 19,000-square-foot decontamination area that's located in the apparatus bay that has a commercial front-load washing machine and dryer. Another washer and dryer are in the living quarters, strictly for uniforms.

Steve Johnson, who is the chief of department, says that Lebanon used government money that was made available to first responders at the onset of the pandemic to purchase two sets of washing machines and dryers for the new firehouse and one set for the department's other firehouse. The new firehouse will service seven full-time and five part-time personnel on any given day.

"We typically see clients either purchase larger units or run more staggered loads to avoid the need for more pairs of washers/dryers in firehouses with larger personnel counts," Csendes tells *Firehouse Magazine*.

Passarelli agrees. "Think five or six members. You don't need multiple washers and dryers [in any one zone]. Just do another load."

In addition to carcinogens from fires, potential contaminants span a variety of bad things, such as particulates and fluids that are picked up from chemical runs, Csendes says.

"Bedbugs, COVID, whatever," Lebanon Fire Division's Johnson adds.

Csendes believes that washing machines that are placed in a Warm Zone should have a capacity of at least four cubic feet. Rashmitha Matta of Electrolux says that washing machines and dryers that have 4.5 cubic feet of capacity can handle the laundering of a king-size comforter.

GE Appliances' Allison Martin pegged large-capacity washing machines as those that are "closer to five cubic feet."

DISCOUNTED OPPORTUNITIES

Martin is GE Appliances' senior director of corporate citizenship. She oversees the manufacturer's donation of washing machines and dryers to firehouses, which started in March 2020. ***The program, which is called GEA4Heroes, has facilitated the donation of appliances to two dozen firehouses thus far as well as to some individual first responders.***

"When we donate [laundry appliances], each firehouse has different requirements," Martin says. Donations to FDNY fire stations took into account space limitations, which meant stackable models.

GE Appliances also has a discount program for firehouses, as do other appliance manufacturers and large retailers. Eloise ***Hale of Electrolux says her company provides discounts for washing machines and dryers through the Electrolux Friends and Family Store*** (thefamilystore@electrolux.com).

Samsung's website offers a discount of as much as 30 percent on select models of washers and dryers for firefighters and paramedics. Included among the models for which a discount can be applied are washing machines and dryers that have a steam mode, which is a function that might be of particular interest to fire departments. (See "Key Features for Firehouse Laundry Appliances.")

KEY FEATURES FOR FIREHOUSE LAUNDRY APPLIANCES

Cean Burgeson, who is a spokesperson for [Whirlpool](https://www.whirlpool.com), suggests that firehouses should use commercial-grade, single-load appliances because of their inclusion of drive systems that are more powerful than those that are incorporated into consumer models. These also have "commercial-grade" parts.

[Alliance Laundry Systems](#), which manufactures Speed Queen commercial laundry appliances, says that its commercial-grade parts are made of metal instead of plastic.

That said, we aren't convinced that commercial models are necessary for the majority of fire departments, particularly those whose membership is on the smaller side. Furthermore, Electrolux's Rashmitha Matta says that, although commercial models are more robust, they are rougher on clothes, and we found that the capacity of many consumer washing machines and dryers are greater than that of typical commercial models, while prices of the former are lower than that of commercial models in a significant majority of cases.

Major manufacturers all offer appliances that have sanitize options. These might be identified by different names, but they all aim to eliminate 99.5 percent of bacteria by subjecting clothes to high temperatures. How high isn't always disclosed—Electrolux says the temperature is proprietary information—but *Wash.com* says that "high-temperature" means at least 130 degrees Fahrenheit. The temperature of drying cycles in GE Appliances' GE dryers can exceed 150 degrees Fahrenheit. The company tells Firehouse Magazine that 60 percent of its washing machines and dryers have the sanitize feature.

Higher temperatures also can be achieved by models that have a steam option. According to HouseLogic.com, washing machines that have a steam option boost the temperature that's inside of the washer drum. This causes fibers to absorb water and helps detergent to dissolve quickly to kill bacteria more efficiently.

Models that have steam options have been around for 20 years and have come down in price, although the majority are at least \$200 more expensive than models that lack a steam option.

HOT PICKS: LAUNDRY APPLIANCES

Firehouse Magazine's "Hot Picks" clothes washers and dryers are listed with their manufacturer's suggested retail price (MSRP). Often, the price that you will find for an appliance at a retailer will be different than the MSRP, including, perhaps, 1 percent–5 percent less.

Washing machines that are promoted to be high-efficiency (HE) tend to include features/functions/components that permit them to consume less water and energy per load of laundry compared with models that lack HE technology. HE models can use as much as 80 percent less water than traditional top-load washers, can deliver as much as 65 percent energy savings and can wash more laundry per load than traditional machines.

Front-load washing machines typically have a smaller capacity than do top-load models.

WASHING MACHINES

HIGH-EFFICIENCY TOP-LOAD

LG WT7800CW

The WT7800CW's capacity is larger than that of any other model in our HE universe, yet its MSRP is less by \$100 than the model that has the next-largest capacity. The WT7800CW has a stainless-steel drum, which is more rugged than models that have coated steel or plastic drums. This model provides a steam option for deeper cleaning, which some more expensive models lack. This model's TurboWash3D is said to complete a wash cycle in 29 minutes.

- MSRP: \$899
- Steam: Yes
- Stainless steel drum: Yes
- Capacity: 5.5 cubic feet

TOP-LOAD

Samsung WA51A5505AW

Only a model that has an MSRP that's \$255 more than this model's MSRP has more capacity than the WA51A5505AW, and you get only 0.1 cubic feet more space from the more expensive unit. This model's Super Speed Wash is said to complete a wash cycle in 28 minutes. Unfortunately, this washer lacks a high-temperature, steam or sanitize mode, but that's typical of this segment.

- MSRP: \$749
- Steam: No
- Stainless steel drum: Yes
- Capacity: 5.1 cubic feet

FRONT-LOAD

Samsung WF45R6100AW

The WF45R6100AW has a steam option—and at the lowest MSRP (by \$200) of any model that we found in this segment. Nevertheless, its capacity is the same as the more expensive unit. The front-load washing machine that has a larger capacity (by only 0.3 cubic feet) has an MSRP that's \$300 more. Of importance for firehouses where space is at a premium, the WF45R6100AW permits a stackable configuration. That said, the matching electric dryer (DVE45R6100W) and matching gas dryer (DVG45R6100W) weren't selected as Hot Picks.

- MSRP: \$749
- Steam: Yes
- Stainless steel drum: Yes
- Capacity: 4.5 cubic feet

DRYERS

Samsung DVE50A8600E

The DVE50A8600E electric dryer has both a steam option and a stainless steel drum. Its MSRP is \$400 less than the MSRP of the next model that we found that has those features, and its capacity is 0.1 cubic feet larger than the more expensive unit. The unit is stackable, but its matching washing machine wasn't selected as a Hot Pick. A gas version of the dryer (DVGA8600E) is available (\$1,099).

- MSRP: \$999
- Stainless steel drum: Yes
- Steam option: Yes
- Capacity: 7.5 cubic feet

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!!

Report: NYC e-Bike Shop Was Cited for Violating Lithium-Ion Battery Rules Prior to Fatal Fire

Tribune Content Agency

New York City fire inspectors dogged the HQ E-Bike Repair shop since at least 2021 over unsafe handling of lithium-ion batteries before the deadly blaze that killed four people in Manhattan's Chinatown, Fire Department officials said.

One inspection last August resulted in a \$1,600 fine, said the officials.

But an undercover inspection in May did not result in any violations, as the inspector did not see any batteries being charged, a Fire Department official told the Daily News.

FDNY Chief Fire Marshal Daniel Flynn told reporters that during the visit last month, the undercover inspector observed “many, many batteries inside the store, which is a violation of the fire code.”

But the Fire Department official who spoke to The News said whether a violation was issued in May would have depended on whether the batteries were charging.

“Having batteries isn’t a violation. Having them charge too close together is the violation. We didn’t see any charging,” the official said.

During the August 2022 inspection, fire marshals found HQ E-bike Repair was charging batteries stacked next to each other and plugged into extension cords — violations that could undoubtedly spark and spread a blaze, FDNY officials said.

The marshals entered the repair shop on Madison St. near Catherine St. in Manhattan on Aug. 30 after getting a 311 tip about charging e-bikes plugged into extension cords, which is a violation of the fire code. **The marshals saw some e-bikes plugged directly into a wall socket, which is allowed, but many were being charged with extension cords. The e-bike and scooter battery packs were also lined up next to each other — not separated three feet apart, as required by FDNY rules.**

“The shop itself did not have a designated charging area,” an FDNY official said. The battery packs were also being charged for more than an hour, which is also a violation.

Marshals gave the owner of the Chinatown store three FDNY summonses for using extension cords and failing to maintain a charging area in accordance with the fire code. They were also given a summons for not having service tags on their fire extinguishers.

At an Environmental Control Board hearing, the business was found guilty of the violations and ordered to pay a \$1,600 fine, Flynn said. “These (violations) were all related to the charging of the batteries and the number of batteries they had at this location,” Flynn said at a press conference outside the bike repair shop Tuesday. Similar violations were filed against the store in 2021, he said.

The 2021 inspection came about because a Fire Department company “was in the area and observed lots of clutter and fire hazards and then conducted an inspection,” a Fire Department official told The News. The store was cited in that inspection, the official said, but exact details of the sanctions were not immediately available.

It’s common for stores like HQ E-Bike to flagrantly violate the fire code, FDNY officials said. In February, fire marshals and city sheriff officers searched a bicycle shop on Broome St. in Chinatown, where inspectors found hundreds of lithium-ion batteries being charged in racks along one wall next to dozens of e-bikes and scooters. Everyone’s worst fear occurred Tuesday shortly after midnight when a fatal fire broke out in HQ E-Bike Repair and quickly spread through the building on Madison St.

Firefighters pulled seven people out of the fire. As of Tuesday afternoon four people were dead, including a 71-year-old man and a 65-year-old woman. Two women were fighting for their lives later Tuesday. Two of the deceased had not been identified Tuesday.

The batteries were being charged in a room where children slept at night, FDNY officials said.

So far this year, the FDNY has responded to about three lithium-ion battery fires a week, officials said. Factory-installed scooter batteries seem safe and adhere to industry standards, safety experts say. **The batteries that tend to combust are aftermarket products e-bike users buy online or in scooter stores as replacements for the scooters’ original batteries, say FDNY officials.**

As of Tuesday, 13 people have been killed in e-bike fires this year, Fire Commissioner Laura Kavanagh said. This time last year, only two deaths were attributed to lithium-ion battery fires.

HOME FIRE FATALITIES BY THE MEDIA FROM THE US FIRE ADMINISTRATION	
Fire Deaths in 1&2 Family Dwellings in NYS	45+1 = 46
Last fire death 6/22 New Cassel, Nassau Co. Female 73	
Fire Deaths in any type of Dwelling in NYS	85+5 = 90
Fire Deaths in 1&2 Family Dwellings Nationally	681 + 24= 705
Top Three State with the most 1&2 Family Deaths	1 NY = 46
	2 PA & OH = 41
	3 TN = 34
There has been a total of 1149 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.

GRANTS THAT MAY HELP!

USDA Community Facility Grants for Rural Development

GRANT WEB SITE: <https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/community-facilities-direct-loan-grant-program>

GRANT GUIDELINES: <https://offices.sc.egov.usda.gov/locator/app?state=us&agency=rd>

Grant Deadline: This program accepts applications on an ongoing basis.

For Rural Areas and Small Towns up to 20,000 in Population

Community Programs provide grants to assist in the development of essential community facilities in rural areas and towns of up to 20,000 in population. Grants are authorized on a graduated scale.

Grant funds may be used to:

- Assist in the development of essential community facilities.
- Construct, enlarge, or improve community facilities for health care, public safety, and community and public services.
- This can include the purchase of equipment required for a facility's operation.

WHAT THIS GRANT DOES FOR YOUR AGENCY

Applicants located in small communities with low populations and low incomes will receive a higher percentage of grants. Grants are available to public entities such as municipalities, counties, and special-purpose districts, as well as non-profit corporations and tribal governments. In addition, applicants must have the legal authority necessary for construction, operation, and maintenance of the proposed facility and also be unable to obtain needed funds from commercial sources at reasonable rates and terms.

Only a limited number of grants will be awarded.

GRANT ELIGIBILITY

These grant funds are for rural areas and towns of up to 20,000 in population.

THE LIGHTER SIDE!

I told my suitcases that there will be NO vacation this year. Now I'm dealing with emotional baggage!

CLASSIFIED

Glenville Hill Fire District 2008 Tahoe LT-Special Service Tahoe Up for Bid

116,200 miles with complete maintenance record since new. This soon to be retired First Response Chief vehicle is being offered For Sale "As Is", "No Warranty", "All Sales Are Final". The vehicle has been completely detailed, Recently passed (April 2023) NYS Inspection, White in color with some rust, 4-speed automatic transmission, Ice cold AC, AM/FM radio, Power windows/door locks, Battery charger, Bucket power front seats with rear bench seat, Cruise control, Fire/Rescue Havis center console with 12 volt auxiliary power with rear command box included in sale. Vehicle is equipped with emergency lighting and siren that will remain with vehicle ONLY if the purchaser is a Fire-EMS provider and provide documentation. All Fire District marking and striping has been removed. The vehicle is located outside at the Glenville Hill Fire District 8 firehouse at 1086 Church Road (corner of Ridge Rd) - Glenville. Appointments are suggested by calling Commissioner Canestraro at (518) 372-7220 daily between 9am to 5pm. Sealed offers will be accepted and should be mailed to Glenville Hill Fire District No. 8 - Attn: Board of Fire Commissioners - 2008 Tahoe Bid - 1086 Church Road - Glenville, NY 12302 for receipt **not later than Wednesday, June 28th, 2023**. Starting minimum offer/bid is \$8,000.00. **All offers will be opened at 6pm on June 28th.** The board reserves the right to not accept any and all offers.

OFFICERS OF THE CAPITAL AREA ASSOCIATION OF FIRE DISTRICTS

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The Capital Area Association represents fire district officials from the fire districts in Albany, Schenectady, Rensselaer, Warren, Washington, Saratoga, Fulton and Montgomery Counties

*Fire District Officials include Commissioners, Treasurers, and Deputy Treasurers
Secretaries and Chiefs are also invited to participate!*

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

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

AFDCA PO Box 242 East Schodack, NY 12063

EMAIL 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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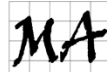
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Veteran Owned Business

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

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

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



2023 Events Calendar

Date	Time	Type	Location
Thursday, July 13, 2023	7:00 PM	Board Meeting	Clifton Park
August 2023	NO MEETING		
Thursday, September 14, 2023	7:00 PM	General Membership	Clifton Park
Thursday, October 12, 2023	7:00 PM	General Membership	Clifton Park
Saturday, November 4, 2023	8:00 AM	Fall Workshop	Verdoy Fire Dept
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

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