



ASSOCIATION OF
FIRE DISTRICTS
★ ★ CAPITAL AREA ★ ★

THE CAPITAL BULLETIN

FIRE DISTRICT NEWS



NOVEMBER 26TH, 2022

EDITOR - TOM RINALDI

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

CAPITAL CALENDAR:

WWW.AFDCA.ORG

2023 CAPITAL AREA MEETING & TRAINING SCHEDULE

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

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

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

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

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

Thursday May 11th Meeting of the General Membership

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

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

August, No Meeting

Thursday September 14th, General Membership Meeting 7PM

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

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

December, No Meeting

Printable Calendar – See Last Page

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

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

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

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

2023 Membership Activity Options Being Explored

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

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

CAPITAL AREA ASSOCIATION NEWS:

WWW.AFDCA.ORG

You Are Invited to Join Us!!

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

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

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

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

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

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

AFDCA PO Box 242 East Schodack, NY 12063

EMAIL: CAAOFD@GMAIL.COM

518-407-5020

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

CAPITAL SHORTS:

- S7399A an amendment to the Vol Ambulance LOSAP law has been sent to the Governor for signature. It's an amendment to the general municipal law, in relation to authorizing a municipality to increase the number of years of service that **a volunteer ambulance service** participant in a defined contribution plan service award program or a defined benefit plan service award program may receive a contribution. Does not apply to fire departments.
- John Meehan has announced that he will not be a candidate as the Region 1 Director for the State Association. **If anyone is interested** in being endorsed as the Regional Director please send a letter of intent to the Capital Area Association at caaofd@gmail.com. **A new Director needs to be named by the Capital Area by the end of November.** You must be an active fire district official; commissioner, treasurer or purchasing agent.
- Anyone interested in purchasing the FASNY 150th Anniversary Commemorative Book, you can use this link: <https://afdca.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/FASNY-150th-Commemorative-Book-Order-Form.pdf>
- Tom Rinaldi has been re-elected to a 4th term as chairperson of the NYS Fire Service Council. Richard Frasco from Greene County has also been re-elected to his 4th term as Secretary/Treasurer.
- Remember the house fire in California suspected to have been started by a meteorite, well it didn't. The odds are astronomical. The cause is still under investigation, but crimes and space rocks have been ruled out!

- **If you no longer wish to receive the Capital Bulletin you have the option to "unsubscribe" at the bottom of the introductory email.**

TRAINING APPROPRIATE FOR YOUR ENTIRE BOARD/SECRETARY/TREASURER



COFFEE WITH COMMISSIONERS 2022

[2022 Schedule click to register](#)

Saturday, Dec 3 Topics for Annual Organizational Meeting

[Click Here for Previously Recorded Webinars](#)

Duties & Deadlines Secretary Webinar

Duties & Deadlines Secretary Webinar Schedules

Start time 6:00pm

December 20, 2022 - Organizing for the New Year

***If you have already registered you DO NOT have to register again, you will automatically received all zoom links.**

REGISTER AT THIS LINK: https://mms.afdsny.org/members/evr/reg_event.php?orgcode=FDNY&evid=32091843

Beginning of the Well-Intended Assault on Lithium-Ion Batteries

S9596 Krueger - A new article of the General Business Law is intended to prohibit the distribution, assembly, or sale of second-use lithium-ion batteries for e-bikes and e-scooters that have been assembled or reconditioned using cells removed from used batteries. A person who violated the law would be subject to a civil penalty. The civil penalty would range from \$200 for a first violation to \$1,000 for each subsequent violation within two years. (to assembly sponsor)

My Question to you is who is going to enforce this, who is going to track down the people who are using the used cells and who is going to have the jurisdiction to track down the perpetrators in the country that they are operating in. I suggest this is feel good legislation that is not practical and will be very difficult if not impossible to enforce.

S9597 Krueger - A new article of the General Business Law to prohibit the sale of batteries for mobility devices such as electric bicycles or scooters unless such batteries have been listed and labeled by a nationally recognized testing laboratory or other approved organization. A person who violated the law would be subject to a civil penalty. The civil penalty would range from no monetary penalty for a first violation to \$1,000 for each subsequent violation within two years. (no assembly sponsor)

My question again is who is going to be the battery police, there are already regulations dealing with the sale of listed devices by federal regulations, this would just be redundant and would require a state agency to enforce the standards. Specifically, OSHA [29 CFR 1917.157 Battery Charging and Changing](#)– This standard primarily goes over who is able to change batteries, where they can be changed, and what to look for in terms of hazards. NFPA has Electrical Safety Standards.

In addition, everyone needs to understand that devices assembled in other countries have no qualms about slapping a counterfeit label on the products they are selling.

When we find these products in the marketplace who is going to be fined, the seller?

We need you to pick up the phone and call the governor's office in support of this Bill!

Call 518-474-8390 in support of bill S9131!

As you all know I have working for the last 8 months to get the NYS Legislature to pass legislation **allowing counties** to give tax breaks to First Responders.

After the June recess I thought the issue was dead until January when the new session would convene.

However, I made all the material (Draft of proposed legislation, Drafts of County implementation of the proposed legislation and news articles describing the need for assistance by fire companies for aid in recruitment and retention.) to the lobbyists for several of the New York State Fire Service organizations.

Well, it appears the fire service lobbyists continued the fight and the result is the bill now before the Governor for signature **granting all 62 NYS Counties the power to enact legislation** to grant First Responders tax breaks.

As more details become available after Governor Hochul signs the Bill, I will keep you informed.

Copy of the Bill is attached.

My thanks to Commissioner Robert Blauw for bringing the passage of this legislation to my attention. My special thanks to Rensselaer County Executive Steve McLaughlin, Past Rensselaer County Executive Kathy Jimino and retired State Senator Kathy Marchione for their very active support in all phases of this endeavor.

Now we need to encourage the Governor to sign this bill.

LINK TO BILL:

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

The 2022 Legislative Session and Fire Service Bill Status

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

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

- (S7623A) EXTENDS PROVISIONS OF LAW AUTHORIZING POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS TO PERMIT ANY PUBLIC BODY TO HOLD MEETINGS REMOTELY AND WITHOUT IN-PERSON ACCESS DURING THE COVID-19 STATE DISASTER EMERGENCY, UNTIL THE EMERGENCY IS DECLARED TO BE OVER. **SIGNED BY THE GOVERNOR 1/14/22**
- (S7718) AN ACT TO AMEND A CHAPTER OF THE LAWS OF 2021 ESTABLISHING THE NEW YORK STATE RURAL AMBULANCE SERVICES TASK FORCE IN RELATION TO MODIFYING THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE TASK FORCE. **SIGNED BY THE GOVERNOR 2/24/22**
- (S7144) PROVIDES CRISIS INTERVENTION TEAM TRAINING, MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID, IMPLICIT BIAS TRAINING AND NALOXONE TRAINING TO FIREFIGHTERS AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES PERSONNEL BY THE COMMISSIONER OF MENTAL HEALTH. **SIGNED BY THE GOVERNOR 5/6/22**
- (S9405) THE NYS ENERGY CODE PRODUCT AND APPLIANCE STANDARDS WILL DELIVER A PROJECTED \$15 BILLION OF TOTAL UTILITY BILL SAVINGS (SUPPOSEDLY) BY 2035 FOR NEW YORK CONSUMERS, INCLUDING AN ESTIMATED \$6 BILLION IN TOTAL UTILITY BILL SAVINGS FOR LOW-TO MODERATE-INCOME HOUSEHOLDS. THIS LEGISLATION ALSO PROVIDES DOS WITH ENFORCEMENT AUTHORITY OVER ANY STATE STANDARDS. **SIGNED BY THE GOVERNOR**
- (S3532) AUTHORIZES STATE AND MUNICIPALLY OWNED VEHICLES TO AFFIX GREEN OR ALTERNATING GREEN AND AMBER LIGHTS TO MOTOR VEHICLES ENGAGED IN SNOW AND ICE REMOVAL FOR THE PURPOSE OF INCREASING VISIBILITY DURING WINTER WEATHER EVENTS. **SIGNED BY THE GOVERNOR**
- **(S7399A)** AN AMENDMENT TO THE GENERAL MUNICIPAL LAW, IN RELATION TO AUTHORIZING A MUNICIPALITY TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF YEARS OF SERVICE THAT **A VOLUNTEER AMBULANCE SERVICE** PARTICIPANT IN A DEFINED CONTRIBUTION PLAN SERVICE AWARD PROGRAM OR A DEFINED BENEFIT PLAN SERVICE AWARD PROGRAM MAY RECEIVE A CONTRIBUTION. **DELIVERED TO GOVERNOR 11/21/22 [PERTAINS TO AMBULANCE VOLUNTEERS ENROLLED IN A LOSAP PROGRAM NOT FIREFIGHTERS]**
- (S926B) REQUIRES ELECTRIC CORPORATIONS TO PRIORITIZE RESTORING SERVICES TO POLICE DEPARTMENTS, FIRE DEPARTMENTS, AND AMBULANCE SERVICES, WHEN SUCH SERVICES ARE INTERRUPTED. **NOT YET SIGNED**
- (S9131) A BILL TO ALLOW ANY COUNTY TO ADOPT A LOCAL LAW THAT WILL PROVIDE AN EXEMPTION ON REAL PROPERTY OWNED BY AN ENROLLED MEMBER OF AN INCORPORATED VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY, DEPARTMENT, OR VOLUNTARY AMBULANCE SERVICE. THE BILL WOULD EXEMPT UP TO 10% OF THE ASSESSED VALUE FOR MEMBERS WHO SERVED A MINIMUM OF TWO YEARS. THE BILL WOULD REQUIRE LOCALITIES THAT CURRENTLY PROVIDE THE EXEMPTION ADOPT A LOCAL LAW TO CONFORM TO THIS PROVISION. **NOT YET SIGNED**
- (S6093A) THIS BILL IS INTENDED TO CLARIFY THE INTENT OF THE LEGISLATURE REGARDING EXISTING STATUTORY PRESUMPTIONS PERTAINING TO HEART-RELATED DISABILITIES SUFFERED BY MEMBERS OF THE NEW YORK STATE LOCAL POLICE, FIRE RETIREMENT SYSTEM AND THE NEW YORK STATE AND LOCAL EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM. CLARIFICATION IS NECESSARY BECAUSE A SERIES OF NARROW JUDICIAL INTERPRETATIONS HAS PREVENTED THE STATUTORY PRESUMPTIONS FROM ACHIEVING THEIR INTENDED PURPOSES. **NOT YET SIGNED**
- (S953A) REQUIRES BUSINESSES THAT MAKE PAYMENTS IN LIEU OF TAXES TO PROVIDE LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND SCHOOL DISTRICTS WITH NOTICE OF THEIR INTENTION TO CHANGE ASSESSMENT. **NOT YET SIGNED**
- **(S8524B)** ALLOWS FOR THE USE OF GREEN LIGHTS ON THE VEHICLES OF MOBILE MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS RESPONDERS. **NOT YET SIGNED**
- (S7863A) THE GENERAL BUSINESS LAW IS AMENDED TO PROVIDE THAT NO ELECTRIC SPACE HEATERS MAY BE SOLD IN NEW YORK STATE BY A PERSON, FIRM, PARTNERSHIP ASSOCIATION OR CORPORATION REGULARLY ENGAGED IN THE BUSINESS OF ASSEMBLING, MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTING, OR RETAIL SALE OF SPACE HEATERS UNLESS THEY: CONTAIN A THERMOSTAT; HAVE AN AUTOMATIC SHUTOFF; AND HAVE BEEN CERTIFIED BY AN APPROVED BODY. **NOT YET SIGNED** *My Question is, who is going to enforce this. Suspect only action will be on complaints or as a result of lawsuits.*
- (S7582A) TO REQUIRE THAT THE BUILDING CODE COUNCIL COMPOSITION INCLUDE PERSONS WITH KNOWLEDGE OF FLOODING HAZARDS AND THAT THE BUILDING CODE BE REVISED TO INCORPORATE MEASURES FOR FLOOD MITIGATION AND FLOOD SAFETY. **NOT YET SIGNED**

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

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

Updated Link for the Recruitment and Retention Task Force:

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

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

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

LET YOUR MEMBERS KNOW ABOUT THIS OPPORTUNITY!



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

You will find:

[2022 VFISU-Flyer](#)

[2022 VFISU Course Catalog](#)

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

[2022 VFIS-Responder Help Flyer](#)

New Course! Leadership for the Fire & Emergency Services

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

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

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

OUR CHANGING FIRE SERVICE –CHALLENGES & OPPORTUNITIES!

OPPORTUNITIES:

Audi Files 2 Patent Requests For Fire Prevention Technology In EV Batteries

Audi has filed for two U.S. patents for fire prevention features within the lithium batteries in its electric vehicles, Carbuzz reported. Audi could use the features in its Audi e-tron, its all-electric model. A patented battery control solution can identify and isolate individual battery cells, based on information gathered by cell-mounted sensors. This system can detect whether a cell is functioning within its safe temperature- and output range, and if there is a fire risk, switch off the individual cell or cells.

The second patent functions as the next step in fire prevention. If the cell cutoff is not sufficient and the battery control system detects a fire risk, it will flood the battery pack’s interior with a flame-extinguishing agent before a fire can start. “If the onboard fire extinguisher runs out, a possible supplementary feed line from an external extinguisher reservoir may make it easier for firefighters to control a potential blaze,” Carbuzz reported

CHALLENGES:

The Push for Electric Vehicles: Look Before You Leap

Richard Marinucci

When new things are introduced, there are always early adopters who always seem to have to be among the first and are looking for improved products. They are the folks who wait in line for new releases so they can lead the way.

I am not always sure of their motivation, but there needs to be frontrunners—those who start the process. Some might even say it is a form of leadership. But, not everyone is cut out for this, and organizations may not have the resources needed to take the risks.

Individuals and departments must decide where they fit in the adoption continuum, so they know when it is appropriate for them to enter a new venture. There are products and services that will ultimately become mainstream, and all (or the vast majority) will participate.

Everyone I know, except my older brother, has a cell phone. This was not always the case. Early on, they were cumbersome and expensive and had some flaws and bugs that needed to be worked out. Today, they are considered essential to the point where they have replaced land lines. They have a host of functions to organize the owners and users. One such function is a calendar. One's whole life, personal and professional, is stored on the phone. When someone asks for a time and date to meet or call, we now instinctively reach for our phone to check our availability. But, in the early days of electronic calendars, not everyone was onboard. I admit I was not an early adopter and used a relic called a pocket calendar. I used to make fun of people when it took them so long to check their schedule. I would pull out my calendar and turn to the page while the others would start pushing buttons. Why was their "time saving device" taking so long? But improvements were made, and I have relented and now rely on my phone.

This example shows the value of those who started the trend and helped work out the kinks. It would have been bad if one of those folks was like me and not patient enough to work through the challenges. Most likely, my device would have suffered a tragic ending. We all need to evaluate new items and decide if we are the right people to get out in front of a new product and promote its use. Some personalities are more suited to this, and so are some organizations. To be one of the early birds, you need resources (money), time, and patience. You will have to be ready for flaws and bugs but be mentally capable of working through them with the understanding that there will be a payoff at the end of the day.

One rapidly emerging change is the push for electric vehicles (EVs). There are organizations ready to go and will be in front of the pack regarding development and usage. To that, I say, good for them. I would suspect they have done some research and know what they are getting into. Contrasting that is a fire chief I know who was asked by his community's policy makers to begin transitioning to EVs. To his credit, he did some research and was able to ask some important questions in a tactful and diplomatic way. This caused the policy makers to reevaluate and take a different posture. While I am sure this organization will eventually test the waters, it is not likely to be at the front of the line. Kudos to the chief for asking reasonable and logical questions. Again, this is not to say those moving forward are wrong. They are just in a different situation and, hopefully, know what they are getting into.

Other technological advances are easier to accept and more likely to have minimal issues during initial adoptions. These are the "mainstream" products, those used in other industries and vetted by them. They could be items or tools used in the construction industry, advances to assist with management and administration, and products coming from similar industries. For example, there are many advances in the medical profession. They get tested and used in controlled environments and in situations not unlike those faced by EMS providers. There is little to be considered that won't translate to field work. The most probable consideration would be durability. Besides the need to work in occasional difficult environments and daily transport, there is the "firefighter" factor, where some in this business have been known to be tough on tools.

Looking at some of the advances, one would have to question, how much of a difference do they make and is the cost for both the product and training worth it? Much of this would depend on the size and complexity of the department. Tracking fewer people, whether on the emergency scene or for human resources purposes, is obviously much simpler with fewer people. I have worked in organizations with limited staffing. It was not too difficult to keep track of everyone. At times, you must consider if you gain any operational or administrative benefit or if you are just trying to keep up with the Joneses. Do you need a nail gun if you only have four nails to drive in? It would probably take longer to set up the gun and get things working as opposed to the old-fashioned way of using a hammer.

On occasion, you may not have a choice. Technology has replaced manual operations and you are unable to find the older methods when replacements are needed. In these situations, you will still have work to do. You probably will have options and need to evaluate these options to determine what is most applicable for you, your organization, and the situation. It could be a simpler, less expensive technology that would work just fine. There is a benefit to this for not only cost but training and ongoing maintenance.

Is technology always the answer? Certainly, advances have helped departments progress and improve. But there may be cases where technological developments are not always the best answer for individual departments and specific circumstances. Know the difference and make wise choices. Avoid automatically defaulting to the latest and newest without proper evaluation. Consider needs, costs, time, training, and maintenance. These are part of the process you should develop so you make good decisions.

HEALTH – SAFETY & LODDS – TAKING CARE OF YOUR MEMBERS

IN 2022 WE HAVE SADLY EXPERIENCED 88 FIRE FIGHTER LODD'S

According to FirefighterCloseCalls.com

In 2021 we experienced 136 LODDs reported nationally.!

Those who died in the line of duty in NYS were, Peyton Morse, Jared Lloyd, Judy Spencer and Vincent Malveaux.

YOU JUST NEVER KNOW!!

- 27 year Cleveland Ohio firefighter struck and killed at a roadway incident. After the accident the driver fled the scene but was later apprehended by police.
- In a shocking incident, two Peruvian airport firefighters were killed when a jet collided with their airport fire apparatus.
- A 57 year old emergency medical technician responding to a call died after being struck head-on by a car Thursday morning in Forsyth County, according to the Georgia State Patrol.
- 4 Bendersville PA, firefighters injured in floor collapse. A gun safe fell through the first floor pinning the two in the basement.
- More Close Calls at: <https://www.firefighterclosecalls.com/>

Reference Material for Use in a Line of Duty Death

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

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

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

Deadly MGM Grand Fire In Las Vegas 42 Years Ago Changed Worldwide Safety Standards

VIDEOS/PHOTOS: It was 42 years ago when fire and suffocating smoke raced through the MGM Grand Hotel killing 87 people and injuring more than 600. That tragedy led to sweeping safety changes stretching beyond the Las Vegas Strip. The fire happened in the original location of the MGM Grand Hotel which is now Bally's Las Vegas – but soon to be renamed Horseshoe. The electrical fire started in a restaurant creating a fireball that tore through the casino floor and sent smoke and fumes through the ventilation system into the hotel rooms where people were sleeping. Many of the deaths were due to smoke inhalation and carbon monoxide poisoning. "It was a major, major fire," said former Clark

County Fire Department Chief Fire Investigator Mike Patterson. "It's indwelled upon my brain forever." *Patterson says various factors, including zero sprinklers in the casino, contributed to the deadly aftermath that morning.*

WEEKLY FIRE FATALITY DATA AS REPORTED BY THE MEDIA

Fire Deaths in 1&2 Family Dwellings in NYS	71+1=72 (Exceeded 2021)
Latest fire death Clay, Onondaga Co. Female 8	
Fire Deaths in any type of Dwelling in NYS	121+2=123
Fire Deaths in 1&2 Family Dwellings Nationally	1159 + 29=1188
Top Three State with the most 1&2 Family Deaths	1 PA -- 101
	2 OH -- 79
	3 TX & NY 72
There has been a total of 1953 civilian home fire fatalities in 2022	
There were a total of 2248 residential fire fatalities reported in 2021 in the US media.	
Both the states of Maryland and California require sprinklers in residential dwellings	

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

FIRE DISTRICT FINANCES

SEVERE WEATHER EVENTS IMPACTING POINTS FOR DEPARTMENT RESPONSES

Tony Hill

When severe weather impacts a region, we know that is when communities step up to help neighbors in need. Sometimes these efforts reach the news, like recently when Buffalo Bills quarterback Josh Allen needed help clearing his driveway so he could catch a plane to Detroit for the game. But most times, it is what I experienced as a new, young, and inexperienced homeowner 20 years ago. We were having a significant snow event (18+ inches) and my "snowblower" was meant to handle 6 inches or so and kept overheating. I had about 200 feet of driveway to clear and it was past 9:00 PM. I didn't know how I was going to dig out. My hero was a random person with a plow truck that saw me struggling, and in 15-20 minutes had completely cleared the snow. He didn't ask for anything, just said he was glad to help and went on his way.

While my volunteer hero was not a volunteer firefighter, when severe weather is in the forecast, those of us who live in communities served by volunteer firefighters know they will be on stand-by, ready to assist when called.

This becomes evident when events like the most recent event in/around Orchard Park (home of the Bills and about 15 miles south of Buffalo) this past week, when the surrounding communities were hit with 4+ feet of lake-effect snow. This is eerily similar to another lake-effect snow storm in November 2014, which the locals call Snowvember. During that storm, the same general area was hit with 5 to 7 feet of snow! There have been other storms like Hurricane Sandy and Irene, as well as localized nor'easters or ice storms that create significant demand on volunteer fire departments.

When the proverbial dust settles from these storms, one of the issues that usually presents itself for those departments with a LOSAP is what to do, if anything, with the significant number of calls that occurred during a short period of time. Sometimes, dispatchers can't even keep up with tracking the number of calls. In some cases, it is not unusual for a fire department to have 10% or more increase in the number of annual calls as a result of one significant storm. It would not be unusual to see a department that typically handles 150 fire calls a year to experience 30 calls over a two-day period, which represents a 20% increase in call volume.

Since the LOSAP points for department responses is based on attending a minimum percentage of the total calls for the year, a volunteer who misses out on responding to these calls could find that he/she is now short of the calls necessary to earn those points. It could be hard to make up those points when the event happens close to the end of the year.

However, there also needs to be a recognition that there could be a few volunteers who were not on track to earn their 25 points for calls but were able to respond during the severe weather period, and now have enough calls to earn the 25 points.

The statute does not address this scenario, and so LOSAP sponsors will have to decide how best to navigate this locally. Using the example of a department that now has 180 calls compared to the more typical 150, one answer is to just recognize that the 30 extra total calls means 3 extra calls needed to earn 25 points. If a department normally averages 150 a year, it could expect at least 10 or so calls in December and any volunteer who could be short can just make sure he/she responds to more calls to meet the minimum.

If a sponsor would like to have a creative way to work around this situation, the following approach could be considered. First, at the end of the year calculate the number of calls required to earn 25 points. In the example given, the number would be 18 (10% of 180) and determine the annual points as usual. Anyone who has 50+ points would receive credit for the year.

Second, if the sponsor is concerned that some volunteers were hurt by the event, the sponsor should determine the time period in which call volume was abnormally high. It will likely be a one- or two-day period, but like Snowvember or last week's storm, could extend three or four days. This period is considered the "event window." Take the calls that occurred during the event window and remove them from the calculation of the minimum number of calls required to earn 25 points. This means remove them from the total number of department calls, but also remove them from the volunteer's responses as well. If the calls are removed from the total call volume, responses to those calls should not be counted in meeting the minimum required number. In the previous example, that would remove 30 department calls and bring the total down to 150. Then, re-run the annual points totals with those calls removed. If removing those calls results in someone earning the 25 call points and then the total 50 points for the year, award that person service credit for the year.

Again, using the example of 180 total calls for the year, and 150 outside the event window, someone who responded to 18+ calls during the year would receive 25 call points, and someone who responded to 15+ calls outside the event window would receive 25 call points. Someone who meets both would only receive the maximum of 25 points.

A point should also be made about a curious effect an unexpected call increase could create. When the total call volume crosses over the 500 threshold (as well as 1,000 and 1,500), the law stipulates that the response requirement drops from 10% to 7.5%. If a department had 470 calls outside the event window, a volunteer would have to respond to 47 to earn 25 points. But if call volume spiked to 505 as a result of the weather event, then the required number of calls to earn 25 points drops to only 38. In that event, it would likely be in all of the volunteers' best interest to use the total calls during the year to determine the response requirement to earn the 25 call points.

Any sponsor considering this type of alternative should review it with their local attorney, as this is not provided for in the law and would be a creative solution to deal with an anomaly event. This article is not legal advice and should not be relied upon as such.

NOTE: the impact of these storms would be less if sponsors had another option for awarding points. Please read our prior post and please complete the very quick questionnaire if you support our proposal!

A FIREFLY PROPOSAL TO AMEND THE LOSAP STATUTE

Over the years, we have fielded many questions that begin with "Can we" Most of the time, these "can we" questions are about awarding points for certain activities. We decided to create a Memorandum outlining four amendments to Section 217 of the General Municipal Law that would address the most frequent "can we" questions. In short, our proposed amendments would amend:

1. *Department Responses*: Allow for an alternative way to award points for department responses - up to 1/2 point per call rather than having to attend a minimum percentage for an all-or-nothing 25 points.
2. *Tour of Duty*: Allow points to be earned for signing up for shifts or on-call duty time at the firehouse.
3. *Vesting at Entitlement Age*: Eliminate the language that allows a participant to become 100% vested at the entitlement age, regardless of how many years of service have been earned. This will require all participants to become vested (typically means to earn 5 years of service credit) before a benefit can be collected.
4. *September 11 Illnesses*: Allow certified 9/11 related illnesses suffered as a volunteer firefighter participating in the events during and after 9/11 to be classified as line-of-duty injuries and therefore eligible for line-of-duty points.

If you are interested in additional details on this proposal, please download a PDF of the Memorandum by clicking on the box to the right. [AMENDMENT PROPOSAL](#)

Each year the associations that support the fire service in New York gather to create the "Issues of United Concern". This document outlines a legislative agenda for the upcoming year. If you would like one or all of our proposals to be considered when this agenda is developed, please click on this link to complete a two-minute questionnaire:

[QUESTIONNAIRE LINK](#)



RETAINING AND RECRUITING

PA Fire Departments Hope Consolidation Will Mitigate Effects of Volunteer Crisis

Francis Scarcella

All six fire departments in Sunbury are working toward consolidation to combat a lack of volunteers and encourage more cooperation.

In the summer of 2021, according to fire and public safety officials, some chiefs in the city resurrected the idea — first considered years ago — of bringing the companies together under one umbrella because it just made sense.

“The lack of volunteers and the fact that it is hard to get people during the day when there may be an emergency just seems to make sense to put everyone together in one spot,” said Steve Jeffery, Northumberland County’s public safety director and Shamokin fire chief. ***“I think it’s a good thing and the next topic is even regionalization.”***

Jeffery said when there are incidents, Shamokin may come to Sunbury, or vice versa and that the departments are all working together anyway.

After chiefs in the city expressed interest, Sunbury City Council asked for a consolidation feasibility report from the state Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED).

DCED recommended developing a strategic plan for sustainable fire and emergency medical service in conjunction with local and regional authorities under the auspices of and assistance from available Commonwealth of Pennsylvania resources, according to City Administrator Derrick Backer.

“The report wanted us to look at creating a plan to be more sustainable for fire services and that is what we are working to accomplish with consolidation,” he said.

Council approved a Strategic Management Planning Program audit and five-year plan created by Management Partners, of Ohio, in 2021. The initial report was provided by Wayne Chapman, of Management Partners.

He recommended the city’s fire department begin the process of consolidation.

Currently, the city gives \$10,000 a year to each of the six volunteer fire departments — Friendship Hose, Sunbury No. 1, Rescue Hose, Americus Hose, East End Hose and Good Will Hose, according to Backer.

“To have all the equipment in one spot is a good thing,” Jeffrey said.

In Sunbury alone, there will be two new fire trucks being put in service in 2023. The Americus Hose Co., on Linden Street, just recently purchased a ladder truck for more than \$1 million. The East Ends Fire Department purchased a pumper engine truck for around \$700,000.

If departments consolidated the trucks, gear and apparatus would all be under one roof, according to fire officials.

Sunbury Assistant Fire Chief Jay Long said he is in favor of consolidation.

Long, who suffered an injury while fighting a fire in Northumberland in June, remains on crutches and was unable to work his regular job.

Long said the lack of manpower and volunteers doing more and more at scenes from various departments can be detrimental to services.

“Doing the job in itself, an injury can occur at any time, but with fewer people, it makes it stressful,” he said. “There are not as many people out doing this.

“Anything you do takes a budget and financially it makes sense to consolidate. Each company puts out so much money and for fire service to continue to provide what it provides means we all need to be together.”

Long said some fire apparatus is not being utilized.

“We have things spread out all over,” he said.

Long said he also agrees with Jeffery on regionalization.

“That is even a more cost-effective way to operate than just a single city consolidation.”

Mayor Josh Brosious said the city is moving forward with consolidation and that he hopes to see it complete by the end of 2023.

“I am happy that consolidation is in the process and moving along quickly,” he said. “This has been in the works for a long time but happy to see the progress the fire departments have made to make the department better for Sunbury and surrounding areas.

“Overall this will help our fire department to be more cost-efficient and will help with manpower having one location for all apparatus to be stored.”

Sunbury Fire Department Treasurer Dan Saxton told council members at a recent meeting the process was moving forward.

Saxton said the department is working on the new bylaws and said even though there is a long way to go, “we feel we are making progress.”

In Northumberland, Fire Chief Brian Ginck said Robb Consulting, of Lemoyne, was hired to help finalize the consolidation of the Northumberland Borough No. 1s and the Northumberland Hook and Ladder.

The Northumberland Borough No. 1s — a company that began in 1796 — and the Northumberland Hook and Ladder — formed about 100 years later — informally merged their tactical operations in 2015 and have been operating out of the same building even as each company still exists as a separate entity. They have also maintained separate social clubs for the last six years.

“We hired a new consultant to help us finish the process,” said Ginck. “We’re actively working toward completion of that. The previous attorney we hired was good at paperwork, but not leading us through the process. We as firemen aren’t good at setting up a corporation.”

Ginck expects the consolidation to be complete by early 2023.

The No. 1 engine and the Hookies’ ladder and rescue trucks are all housed at the Hookies at 348 Fifth St. Due to low manpower, all firefighters come to that central location to ready themselves in fire events, said Ginck.

Backer said Sunbury plans to follow Northumberland’s model for consolidation.

“The city and its fire stations have been discussing, and working toward, consolidation for well over a year now,” he said.

“Our goal is to separate the fire station from the social clubs while leaving the social clubs intact and operational while placing all fire equipment, personnel, and fire trucks under one roof.”

“The details are currently being worked on and myself, representing the city, and representatives from all six stations meet monthly to go over what subcommittees have put together.”

Backer said the final result of the discussions will be a “working document that I believe all stations will agree to and will allow for consolidation on paper.”

After that, he said, officials will begin seeking funding for construction of a new building to house the consolidated department.

“I want to reiterate that we are separating the social clubs from the fire stations themselves legally,” Backer said. “We want all social clubs to continue and prosper after consolidation is complete.”

Backer said consolidation will also help the city financially.

“Consolidation helps with lowering costs of maintaining an active fire department while providing for newer and more up-to-date equipment,” he said. “It will help with any manpower issue that may be currently taking place by having all personnel head to one central location instead of six different stations.

“This will allow for volunteerism to stay as the primary firefighting source for the city. I will also help prevent the city from needing to move to a paid fire department which that additional cost could be passed on to the taxpayers if the city needed to move in that direction.”

William Cameron Engine Company, in Lewisburg, is a consolidated company that operates with a combination of paid and volunteer personnel.

HUMAN RESOURCES....

Leadership At Its Purest: Create A Culture That Allows Your Members To Flourish

Chief Marc Bashoor

You’ve undoubtedly heard or been part of the myriad discussions about how to lead – from the front, picking up the rear, from the floor, tip of the spear, etc. The truth is there is no *single* right way to lead. After all, leadership isn’t simply a position, location, rank or title. **Leadership in its purest sense is about creating and fostering a culture that allows others to flourish.**

As such, let’s think of culture as three interconnected circles – your personal circle, your work/organizational circle and a political circle that affects both.

PERSONAL: SETTING THE EXAMPLE

The single most effective way to establish this type of culture is to set the example in both your personal and professional life.

Whether it’s in your personal life (your ethical standards, moral focus, exercise and nutrition habits) or in your professional life (how you manage operational/training functionalities, community connectivity, political acumen, educational tract), YOU should be setting the standard for your members. We are public officials, whether we like it or not, which means that your life is, to an extent, an open book. Make choices as if anyone could read that book any time.

ORGANIZATIONAL: ELEVATING YOUR VALUES

Your organizational culture has likely evolved over many years. You may be adopting this culture by virtue of your appointment, or you may be developing this culture in the establishment of a new organization. Either way, the culture of today doesn’t have to be the culture of tomorrow. YOU are responsible to lead the culture, not just follow it. With this in mind, let’s consider these four elements that should help you succeed in the cultivation of culture.

1. *Right and wrong*: Critical to developing a culture where anyone can flourish is understanding – and living – the difference between what’s right and what’s wrong. You can’t build a culture that you don’t understand yourself.

2. *Mission, vision, values*: While I already said YOU need to set the example, EVERYONE needs to understand the mission, vision and values of your organization. You don’t need wordy paragraphs of prose to fill space on a wall. You can establish clear mission, vision and values in just four words (OK, two of the words are an acronym).

- Mission: Service
- Value statement: THE PROMISE
- Vision statement: Service through THE PROMISE

Read more about THE PROMISE acronym here, which details core values and leadership traits that can be applied to any department and leader. If you want to expand on that a bit, go for it; this gives you a place to start where everyone is on the same page. (https://www.firerescue1.com/fire-chief/articles/transparent-truth-7-leadership-traits-for-honest-guidance-2bDPTr6MXbT9nVx9/?utm_source=Unknown+List&utm_campaign=bd22e0674d-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2022_11_17_05_48&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_-bd22e0674d-%5BLIST_EMAIL_ID%5D)

3. *Inclusiveness*: Ensure that everyone within your sphere has the opportunity to contribute. There are many ways to establish an atmosphere of contribution, but it really begins with communication. While we have a lot of work to do to ensure that our organizations are as representative of the communities we serve as possible, we must also ensure that our leadership culture is, at a minimum, representative of our entire organization. Diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) is

paramount. Ensuring that every group within your organization has equal opportunity to be included, that they have the real opportunity to interact, and that the opinion matters will go a long way to building the flourishing culture.

4. *Communication*: The most common complaint I hear from people about their organizations is, “They don’t tell us anything.” I fully recognize the truth is likely something less damning; however, if you have developed that open and inclusive culture, it will be nearly impossible for someone to use this as an excuse for a variety of issues. “Creating a paper trail” isn’t simply a function of discipline but a matter of creating that culture that everyone can access. Acknowledging the paramilitary chain of command in public safety, for your communication to be effective, there must be a culture that empowers two-way communication, encourages feedback up and down, and provides for transparency where appropriate.

POLITICAL: WORKING WITH THE COMMUNITY

Politics can be such a divisive topic when taken out of context, so let’s be clear: Here we are talking about how the politics of your community can impact your fire department budget and, frankly, your career longevity. After all, the political element of the job has a huge impact on a chief’s job satisfaction and ability to make a difference.

I have referred to the fire chief as an “inspirational politician,” and I believe it is critical for the chief to understand and accept this role. In the simplest of terms, this means understanding what makes your politicians and your community tick – and what makes them sick. Avoiding the things that make them sick and accentuating or focusing on the things that make them tick will go a long way toward garnering community support when you need it the most. With a strong inspirational leader at the helm, the personal and organizational elements are better positioned to flourish.

BOTTOM LINE

I refuse to believe that any culture can’t eventually develop into one where anyone can flourish, but it will take work. After all, culture does not create itself. How would you describe your fire department culture – and would it allow all members to flourish?

FIRE APPARATUS!

Blocking Apparatus: Are Attenuating Units The Next Must-Have Apparatus Type?

Chief Marc Bashoor

“Necessity is the mother of invention.” And thank goodness for that, as firefighters are at their most creative when they need something to work.

Firefighters have always been a creative bunch. Over the years, I’ve seen the magic of that imagination manifest at many events and while addressing many issues, especially in the area of specialty apparatus. From boats to all-terrain vehicles to dump trucks and buses, we have seen apparatus adaptations to answer the needs of firefighters around the world, typically spurred by our “field needs” amid a lack of funding for the *exact* thing we needed.

While every one of these apparatus adaptations has had impact on the industry in one way or the other, few, if any, have been built to *take* the impact we’re talking about today.

Blocking apparatus, while not designed to be destroyed, are intended to protect the first responders and other emergency vehicles on the incident scene. They are design to take the impact of a vehicle, maintaining the integrity of the emergency scene even in case of a secondary crash.

WHO OWNS THE ROADWAY?

I recall a time when we just blocked a part of the lane we needed at roadway-based emergency scenes. Maybe we found a cone on the side of the road and let the police handle the traffic. It seemed there were fewer secondary wrecks or incidents back then. Most of the secondary wrecks involved passenger vehicles rear-ending another passenger vehicle as drivers crawled past the scene, gawking at the movement of emergency crews. Aside for dealing with minor injuries or fluid leaks, most of those incidents “weren’t *our* problem.” Law enforcement officers made it abundantly clear that the roads were their territory.

While many (including yours truly) have previously opined that traffic management is not the fire department's responsibility, it is undeniable that the safety of our personnel IS one of our primary responsibilities. No other agency has demonstrated the consistent ability to provide a high quantity/quality of site protection as quickly as the fire department, especially during rapidly evolving emergency incidents. Road service/safety patrols and highway departments do everything they can, and are great at the long-duration events, but in most cases, the fire department responds with the "big stuff" faster than the others.

Over the years, roadways have expanded, congestion has increased, and speed limits have fluctuated, all while populations have skyrocketed in many of our response areas. Of course, fire departments rarely grow at a similar rate, thus adding volume to an already busy business.

Add to that the vehicle features that put the driver more at ease, some almost literally on auto-pilot – cruise control, seatbelts and air bags, warmed and heated seats, and any number of safety-minded alerts – *plus* the distractions we didn't used to have (mainly smartphones), and a significantly more dangerous roadway environment now confronts our firefighters.

I'm pretty sure I speak for every fire chief out there when I say that I'd like the highway department and police to provide the traffic control and blocking we need at incident scenes. In fact, depending on your state's laws, it might be their statutory responsibility. Unfortunately, what I'd *like* to see doesn't always align with state statutes, and the reality is that those entities have been unable to provide any better coverage than us to keep our folks safe. Agencies **MUST** work together!

THE FIRE DEPARTMENT BLOCKING APPARATUS EVOLUTION BEGINS

The Emergency Responder Safety Institute (ERSI) was born out of the need the fire service saw for improved roadway safety on the busy interstates around the country. In 2019, ERSI – a committee of the Cumberland Valley Volunteer Firefighters Association – produced a white paper that addresses the hardening of fire department vehicles for roadway blocking. The report summarizes a workshop convened during the 2018 National Traffic Incident Response Awareness Week on how to harden blocking vehicles to protect responders and the public. ERSI also published important resources for fire departments looking to better protect emergency scenes:

- Blocking Procedures at Roadway Incidents
- Fire Department-Based Vehicles for Traffic Control

The paper, along with these training resources, are essential tools departments can use to prepare for both roadway blocking and vehicle hardening.

TAKING ACTION TO PROTECT FIRST RESPONDERS

Many of the adaptations we've seen in equipment and apparatus have risen out of a particular incident that was challenging or a need that was unmet by available industry equipment. The need for this service is evidenced by the growing number of struck-by incidents we see in our news feeds daily. At the time of this writing, 40 responders, including tow operators, have been killed in roadway incidents in the United States in 2022.

Fire departments across the country are doing what they can to address this growing problem.

Some states have employed fire-police divisions/units/teams, either affiliated with a sheriff's office or similar and a fire department, that have several levels of traffic control units with various capabilities and responsibilities. Pennsylvania has what is regarded as one of the most robust fire-police units in the country, with the primary responsibility of traffic control at incident scenes and special events. These units employ various response vehicles (pickup/utility trucks or similar) loaded with traffic cones, signage and sometimes arrow boards that will at least provide some advance warning. Most of them are *not* equipped with impact attenuators, but at least one department below is paving the way in that realm.

There are also various pickup truck or utility-type units across the country that provide some level of fire department traffic control service, either ad hoc or in full-time deploy.

THE ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

NYS VFF Enhanced Cancer Disability Benefit Program Reporting Dates

Dear Members,

As we all know, cancer prevention in the fire service is more important now than ever. Studies have shown that our firefighters have a greater risk of being diagnosed with cancer than the general public. We remind all our members that the NYS Volunteer Firefighter Enhanced Cancer Disability Benefits Law (NYS General Municipal Law 205-cc), requires annual reporting by fire districts. **Annual reports are due to OFPC on December 1st, 2022.**

Please see the letter from James Cable, State Fire Administrator, <https://afdca.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/VFECDB-Final-10-14-22.docx.pdf> (LINK TO SFA LETTER)

the upcoming due dates and requirements. It is important to continue increasing cancer awareness and prevention to assure our firefighters' health and wellness. NYS Office of Fire Prevention and Control provides excellent Firefighter Health and Wellness Presentations. Please contact Fire Protection Specialist, Timothy Graves at timothy.graves@dhs.ny.gov or (518)-292-2355 for more information.

Remember to complete the required reports and submit them by their due dates.

Due by December 1, 2022, Fire District, department or company annual claims report EOSB-210.8C. Your insurance company is able to provide a report that includes this information. FORM

LINK [<https://www.dhses.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2021/12/eosb210-8c.pdf>]

Due by December 1, 2022, Annual Roster of Interior Fire Fighters EOSB-210.8R. This should include the list of a department's interior firefighters from 2022 or if you have purchased an enhanced plan, all firefighters covered by your insurance plan. FORM LINK [<https://www.dhses.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2022/10/210.8r.pdf>]

Due by January 1, 2023, Volunteer Firefighter Enhanced Cancer Disability Benefits Program Attestation/Proof of Benefits EOSB-210.5 along with a copy of the cover sheet of the insurance policy.

FORM LINK [<https://www.dhses.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2022/10/eosb210-5.pdf>]

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STEP INTO THE CHIEF'S OFFICE:

After-Action Reviews: A Shift To The Positive

Linda Willing

We need to go beyond what went wrong to include what went right – and why.

Most fire departments do some form of after-action review (AAR). Some conduct AARs only for major incidents or when something goes significantly wrong, while others will hold these reviews after most incidents, even seemingly "routine" calls. When handled well, such sessions can be informative and useful.

However, the most beneficial AARs do two things:

1. Focus on what went right Yes, many officers leading such sessions will offer kudos to the crews in a generalized way for their effective response, saying such things as, "Good job working together as a team." Sometimes they will even ask, "What specifically went well on this incident?" Answers might include things like making efficient entry into the building, ventilating the roof effectively, or making rapid rescue of civilians trapped.

2. ... and why they went right. What factors enabled the rapid entry? How did the ventilation crew make the decisions they did about where to cut? What allowed rescue crews to quickly identify and evacuate those who were trapped inside? Without understanding the elements that led to success, it is less likely that success can be replicated.

Consider the answers that might come from asking about factors that enabled rapid entry. Those involved in the incident might say that they had recently replanned the building, or that a new forcible entry tool had worked well in breaching a door. They might point to cooperative relations with the building manager, who provided keys and information about the best entry points. They might mention a recent training evolution that closely resembled the action taken on the actual scene.

This is all important information to have for future success on similar incidents. It can also lead to positive discussions about how things might be even further improved in the future. For example, if the entry door was a type not usually seen, and this led to slight delay in entry, providing training on that particular type of door might be helpful for future responses.

WHEN WE DON'T ASK "WHY?"

Sometimes there is no clear cause and effect for positive outcomes. Things may go well, but we don't really know why. While luck can play a role in positive outcomes on the job – and every firefighter has a story about some amazing turn of fate at just the right moment – you cannot make a career on this. Luck always runs out, and always at the worst possible moment.

Consider the now-infamous Space Shuttle Challenger launch disaster, where the engine O-rings failed and the booster rockets exploded just minutes after liftoff, killing all seven onboard. NASA scientists, managers and contractor design engineers conducted debriefs after every previous launch and had extensive data about every aspect of each mission. They were well aware that engine O-rings had shown deterioration during past launches but had always held up to allow for a successful mission.

Most officials were not inclined to question success, but a few engineers were concerned. They saw the variations in performance by the O-rings and tried to understand why they worked better during some launches vs. others. Was it related to colder temperatures at the time of launch? This was their suspicion, but as is often the case, the data was not crystal clear. They advised erring on the side of caution and delaying the launch on Jan. 28, 1986, an unusually cold morning in Florida.

However, the managers were having none of it. Why were they questioning success, especially at the 11th hour? The O-rings always managed to work, even at colder temperatures. They pushed to launch and eventually the dissenting engineers agreed, and everyone knows what happened as a result.

DON'T PRESS YOUR LUCK

People in the emergency services love the expression, "If it ain't broke, don't fix it." There are enough things to worry about – you don't need to go looking for trouble when things seem to be working fine.

But if you don't understand *why* things are working fine, or why you were successful during your last incident, it can be hard to plan for and replicate that kind of success again in the future. If you don't understand what makes things work well, then success becomes a matter of luck. And inevitably, luck runs out.

THE LIGHTER SIDE!

I'm fat, but I identify as Skinny. I'm trans-slender.

CLASSIFIED

Opening for Greenfield Houseman!

The Greenfield Fire District is looking for a professional and highly-motivated person to perform custodial services and maintenance of fire district buildings, grounds and equipment. Must have good communication skills, the ability to manage several projects simultaneously, and be flexible with work hours when necessary. Prior experience preferred and all candidates must have clean driver's license. Employment application and job description can be found on the district website at www.greenfieldfd.org.

Please send application, cover letter & resume to Joyce Petkus, District Administrator via email at Jpetkus@greenfieldfd.org or regular mail to Greenfield Fire District, P.O. Box 103 Greenfield Center, NY 12833 **no later than Sunday, December 11, 2022.**

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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, Secretaries and Chief

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

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

FIRE DISTRICT RESOURCES --THE BACK PAGE -- FOR YOU TO FOLLOW UP!

What are the duties and responsibilities of a Commissioner?

The Answer is posted on our web site at www.AFDCA.org

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

Get a copy of the 2022 ELECTION SCHEDULE HERE: <https://afdca.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/2022-Election-Schedule-1.pdf>

CAPITAL AREA BUSINESS PARTNER'S

PLEASE SUPPORT THOSE WHO SUPPORT US!!

Business Partner Applications Available At: WWW.AFDCA.ORG

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

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

Write me at tom@rinaldi1.com

Please Support Those Who Support Us!!

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

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

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

MEMBERSHIP IN THE ASSOCIATION OF FIRE DISTRICTS OF THE CAPITAL AREA

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

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

To take effect January 2023:

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

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

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

\$600,001 plus: \$300

Business Partners: \$100.00 annual member fee



association of fire districts
OF THE
CAPITAL AREA, INC.

2023 Events Calendar

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