



ASSOCIATION OF
FIRE DISTRICTS
★ ★ CAPITAL AREA ★ ★

THE CAPITAL BULLETIN

FIRE DISTRICT NEWS

OCTOBER 1ST, 2022

EDITOR - TOM RINALDI

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*The future of the fire service doesn't depend on us. It depends on the legacy that we leave behind.
If nothing else read the articles preceded by ***

CAPITAL CALENDAR:

WWW.AFDCA.ORG

Meetings will take place on Thursday evenings 7pm, Food will be provided at the Clifton Park Fire Station.

At the October Meeting we will be conducting a test of the zoom meetings and hope to have it fully functional by the November meeting. We still have to work out some sound problems and make sure the meeting moves along smoothly and on time.

October 13th **General Membership Meeting**

November 10th **General Membership Meeting/2023 Elections**

November 12th **Capital Area Annual Workshop at Westmere Fire District**

Watch for More Details!

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

Welcome to the Fall 2022 Training Workshop – November 12, 2022

Don't Put it Off Register Now

Note the corrected address.

Westmere Fire District, 1741 Western Avenue, Albany, NY 12203

7:00-8:00 **Registration & Continental Breakfast**

8:00-8:10 **Pledge to the Flag & Welcome: Capital Area Association Officers**

8:10-9:15 **Presentation Topic: Human Resources for the Volunteer Fire Service**

Description: For any employer, the human resources department plays a vital role in maintaining a healthy and positive work environment. This is true for the volunteer fire service as well! This training will focus on the importance of HR within the volunteer fire department, and what types of challenges you may face, strategies to handle them, and best practices to implement in your department.

9:15-9:30 **Networking Break**

9:30-10:15 **Presentation Topic: Fire District Purchasing**

Description: A representative from the Office of General Services will give an overview of fire district purchasing. This training will cover a wide range of topics and equip commissioners on how to spend taxpayer dollars wisely.

10:15-10:30 **Networking Break**

10:30-12:00 **Ask the Experts Panel – NEW AND REFRESHED! We've assembled a panel comprised of attorneys, a CPA, a VFBL expert and a general insurance specialist to answer your questions. This is an excellent opportunity to have all your questions answered about a broad range of important topics.**

12:00-1:00 **Lunch and Networking**

Everyone is Invited to Attend

Food Sponsors to date: Gentile, Brengel & Lin LLP and NYS Public Entities Safety Group 497

Not limited to Commissioners

Please Reserve your Seat Now – AFDCA Members \$15, Non-Members, \$25

Price includes all seminars, training materials, meals

To save a seat email Tony Hill at caaofd@gmail.com. Provide names, district and contact information.

Meals sponsored by GBL CPA's & Fleury Risk Management VFBL Insurance

REGISTRATION AND AGENDA DOWNLOAD:



**ASSOCIATION OF FIRE DISTRICTS
OF THE
CAPITAL AREA, INC.**

ALBANY, FULTON, MONTGOMERY, RENSSELAER, SARATOGA, SCHENECTADY, WARREN, WASHINGTON
WWW.AFDCA.ORG

INVITATION & REGISTRATION

Fall 2022 Training Workshop on November 12, 2022

Westmere Fire District, 1741 Western Ave, Albany, NY 12203

See attached Schedule of Events for more details!

Per-Attendee Cost is \$15 for Member Districts, \$25 for non-Members

ADVANCE REGISTRATION IS VERY HELPFUL, BUT NOT REQUIRED

Fire District: _____

Membership Status (select one): ___ Member of AFDCA or ___ non-Member of AFDCA

Attendees (include full name and at least one email so we can confirm your registration):

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Total Number Attending: _____ at \$15 each (member) or \$25 each (non-member)

Payment Option:

- 1) Check enclosed payable to Association of Fire Districts – CA for: \$ _____
- 2) Pay at the Door (check box):

HELP US PLAN - Please Respond by Friday, November 4, 2022

Return to:
Association of Fire Districts - CA
PO Box 242
East Schodack, NY 12063

Or by email to caaofd@gmail.com

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. Applications are being updated and will be available shortly. Individual membership fee will be \$50 annually, fire district association fees will be \$300 annually. Download THE APPLICATION HERE: <https://afdca.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/2022-Application.doc>

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

Please advise your secretaries that all correspondence go to the Capital Area Association Mailing Address at:
AFDCA PO Box 242 East Schodack, NY 12063
EMAIL: CAAOFD@GMAIL.COM
[518-407-5020](tel:518-407-5020)

NOTE: I WORKED THROUGH THE MOST RECENT MEMBER EMAIL LISTING, NON-MEMBER EMAIL ADDRESSES HAVE BEEN PURGED FROM THE CONTACT LIST FOR THE WEEKLY BULLETIN.

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

CAPITAL SHORTS:

- Our sympathies to the family and friends of EMT and Volunteer FF Ryan Gagliardi.
- EMT was stabbed by a maniac on a Queens street in a unprovoked attack that occurred as she went to grab food.
- We have a needy fire department in Tennessee looking for a deck gun for their first out pumper, they have the piping but the former owner of the truck kept the deck gun. Sounds like we need something from the flange up. Contact me by email or text.
- This year's Fallen Firefighter Memorial in Albany will be held the morning of Tuesday October 11th at the Empire State Plaza Convention Center.
- Note that this year's National Fallen Firefighter's Memorial will be held in Emmitsburg, MD. on October 8-9, 2022. In 2023 the Memorial will move to May 6-7, 2023.
- Our condolences to Menands Fire Department on the death of former Chief Stephen Lukovits.
- A 15-year-old boy was sentenced to six months in juvenile custody in connection with a Porterville California library fire that killed two firefighters.
- Please take the time to register for the November workshop.
- ***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](#)

Oct 8 District Election Requirements

Nov 5 LOSAP and Cancer Reporting/ Insurance Requirements

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

October 25, 2022 - It's Election Time - what to do the day of

November 22, 2022 - What will we need for the Org. Meeting

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

THE LATEST FROM THE NYS LEGISLATURE

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. **NOT YET SIGNED** [**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!



The Automatic Alarm ESIP WEBINAR SERIES

During this presentation, we discuss best practices when called to an automatic fire alarm.

Wednesday October 5th, 2022 at 7PM

REGISTER HERE:

https://webinar.ringcentral.com/webinar/register/WN_mDu4iUeQSwqk7NRZ4tFBkQ?utm_source=ESIP+Risk+Management+Mailing+List&utm_campaign=f918633f08-

[EMAIL_CAMPAIN_2020_04_21_04_23_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_f653b3c566-f918633f08-278064383](https://webinar.ringcentral.com/webinar/register/WN_mDu4iUeQSwqk7NRZ4tFBkQ?utm_source=ESIP+Risk+Management+Mailing+List&utm_campaign=f918633f08-EMAIL_CAMPAIN_2020_04_21_04_23_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_f653b3c566-f918633f08-278064383)

The Vol. Fire Police Association Of Saratoga County Presents

Situational Awareness on the Fire Ground

When - October 22, 2022

Where – DeCrescente Distributing

Office/Training Facility

211 North Main St. Mechanicville

Doors Open 07:30 / Seminar ends at 13:00

Saratoga County Sherriff Dept.

Communicating Situational Awareness from Initial Call to End-of-Call

NYS DOT

Signage, Communicating Situational Awareness to the Motorist

NYS Encon

Updating Situational Awareness thru Drones

Attendees are invited to display their Fire Police Vehicles! We will be Flying Drones in Real Time!

Tickets can be purchased thru EventBrite.com at the webpage below.

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/situational-awareness-for-the-fire-police-officer-tickets-413117474487>

NYS AFC 2022 Seminar Series, "The Five Points of Command"

Presented by Chief/Commissioner

MICHAEL LOMBARDO

Buffalo Fire Department

Registration (per person):

\$35 – NYSAFC Individual and Department Members

\$50 – non-members

[Pre-registration](#) is encouraged. On-site registration will be accepted if space permits. Convenient online registration is available for individual registrants.

Fall 2022 Schedule (Lecture begins at 7:00 p.m.):

- Albany County – October 24
- Schenectady County – November 15

REGISTER HERE: <https://www.nysfirechiefs.com/2022seminarseries>

[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:

Bells Across America FOR FALLEN FIREFIGHTERS®

Ring Out in Tribute to Firefighters & Their Families in Your Community October 8–9, 2022 This fall, please join the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation for Bells Across America for Fallen Firefighters as we gather to honor our fallen firefighters and show support to their families. We invite fire agencies and departments, carillonners, faith communities, and other neighborhood organizations to participate in this annual tribute. You too can show your support locally by ringing out in honor of firefighters who made the ultimate sacrifice. Find more ways you can get involved in the 2022 National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Weekend or watch the services live at: weekend.firehero.org.

Hispanic Heritage Month: Spring Valley firefighters connect with Hispanic community they serve

News 12 is highlighting how firefighters in Rockland County are connecting with the Hispanic community they serve as part of Hispanic Heritage Month. Spring Valley Fire Chief Marcos Padilla is Puerto Rican and has been a volunteer firefighter for 20 years. He is one of nearly two dozen Hispanic people who are members of the firehouse on West Furman Plane. That enrollment is higher than most firehouses in the county. There are 33,000 people calling Spring Valley home, and 26% of them are Hispanic or Latino. Padilla says he can use his background to help people when they need it most. "It's nice for us to get to a call, especially as a chief, to pull up and the people don't really know how to speak English and they don't know how to communicate to you and then I start speaking Spanish then you know, it's like, wow you know he understands us," he say

[What different language groups do you have in your community?]

[New High-Tech Scan Helps Former Southern California Firefighter Extinguish Prostate Cancer In Its Earliest Stages](#)

VIDEO: New technology that's allowing doctors to pinpoint prostate cancer long before it becomes a threat is now widely available. A former firefighter mentioned how this new imaging technique helped him extinguish prostate cancer before it spread. "I think firefighters tend to be aggressive," said retired Colton Fire Chief Thomas Hendrix. Eight years ago, doctors diagnosed him with prostate cancer and he knew exactly what he wanted to do. "Initially, it was just surgery, and the surgery went quite well and it looked like things were fine," Hendrix said. Things were fine until six months later when Hendrix's prostate-specific antigen levels started to rise again. The next plan of attack was 35 rounds of proton radiation therapy. The radiation therapy seemed to work and Hendrix thought he had beaten his cancer until a few years later.

[Retired Ohio Firefighter Benefitting From New Device To Help Chronic Knee Pain](#)

VIDEO/PHOTOS: Chuck Stenger loved being a firefighter in New Albany. But after serving for more than 30 years, his career was cut short by his knee. "Started noticing trouble with climbing a ladder, went to an orthopedic doc and was getting shots of cortisone," Stenger said. One day, the pain was so bad Stenger said he fell over while helping a patient. "It made the career a lot shorter than I wanted it to be," he said. Stenger answered an online survey about knee pain and then go a phone call. He was skeptical until he learned it was OSU Wexner Medical Center calling. Dr. David Flanigan offered Stenger a spot in a clinical trial for a new device. "This is truly, if you can imagine, just like you would see in a car, a shock absorber," Flanigan said. The device is implanted in the knee to help those with moderate arthritis.

[CHALLENGES:](#)

[Hackers Steal South Carolina Fire Department's Paychecks](#)

Hackers allegedly stole over \$8,000 in paychecks following an email hack from an Upstate fire department. According to the Spartanburg County Sheriff's Office, deputies responded to the Reidville Fire Department located at 3380 Hwy 417 on a report of fraud/payroll theft. Once deputies arrived on the scene, they spoke with Fire Chief Patrick Evatt. Evatt told deputies that six members of the fire department failed to receive their direct deposit on Wednesday. Deputies said they discovered that someone hacked and/or gained remote access to the Assistant Chief's employee email and gained access to employee direct deposit information and payroll accounts. The unknown subject(s) then edited the direct deposit information of the six employees resulting in their payroll earnings being deposited into reloadable pre-paid debit cards.

[How safe is your computer system?]

[West End Fire Company had Fire Protection Contract Suspended](#)

Evan Brandt

Just over a year since West Pottsgrove Township suspended West End Fire Company from providing fire services and hired Pottstown to do that, the borough and township have inked a five-year contract to continue that arrangement. West Pottsgrove suspended West End Fire Company as its fire services provider in August of 2021. The act came in the wake of months of disputes between the two entities, primarily over money, including a state attorney general investigation of the fire company's finances.

At the same time, the township commissioners voted unanimously to instead pay the Pottstown Fire Department for 18 months of fire services provided by its four volunteer fire companies.

At the time, the payments to Pottstown were estimated to cost West Pottsgrove taxpayers between \$135,000 and \$140,000, about the same amount the township had paid to West End.

According to the new contract, adopted unanimously without comment at the Sept. 12 borough council meeting, the township will pay just over \$91,000 per year for fire protection, although the final payment will be adjusted to reflect the Pottstown Fire Department's actual costs for the year to provide fire protection in the township.

A calculation sheet accompanying the contract indicates that so far in 2022, West Pottsgrove has had 49 fire calls, compared to the 741 in the borough.

That means so far this year, West Pottsgrove calls comprise 6 percent of the department's total call volume, despite being 16 percent of the total combined population of the two municipalities.

Additionally, the contract indicates West Pottsgrove will additionally be responsible for an annual payment of \$30,180 to pay a share of the Pottstown Fire Department's workers compensation insurance costs.

The new contract, which was approved by the West Pottsgrove Township Commissioners at their Aug. 3 meeting, goes into effect on Jan. 1, 2023.

Last year, a steering committee was formed to try to work out the differences between the West End Fire Company and the township. The township's signing of a five-year agreement with the borough suggests those differences remain unresolved.

[Runaway Fire Truck in San Francisco Damages Cars, Trees and Signs](#)

Jordan Parker

A runaway fire truck caused significant damage to cars, trees and signs on Hoffman Street in San Francisco's Noe Valley neighborhood, the San Francisco Fire Department confirmed. A vehicle from Firehouse 24 at the intersection of Hoffman and Alvarado streets was performing a morning check around 10:25 a.m. Friday when the air brake on the vehicle became dislodged, a spokesperson said. The truck rolled half a block and damaged six cars, which in turn damaged street signs and trees. There were no reported injuries during the incident.

[I bet wheel chocks become an SOP]

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

*IN 2022 WE HAVE SADLY EXPERIENCED **76** 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!!](#)

- Alvin Tx Volunteer fire captain was found deceased at home from an apparent heart attack about 3 hours after being at the scene of a mobile home fire.
 - Firefighters are mourning the loss of Elvis Reyes, a 20-year veteran of the Rochester Fire Department, who died after suffering complications during surgery.
 - Two rock climbers, including a firefighter and former NFL player, were found dead near a Southern California peak after rescue crews responded to reports of injuries, authorities said. The climbers were identified Thursday as Chelsea Walsh, 33, and Gavin Escobar, 31.
 - Farmers Branch (TX) firefighter, driver Jonathon Dallalio, who was filling in as the Captain on Engine 131, suffered injuries in a fall from the second floor to the first floor inside a home while searching for fire origination. A Mayday was declared, and he was rescued and transported to an area medical facility. It was determined that he suffered several broken vertebrae.
 - A firefighter fell through the second story of a building while fighting a two-alarm fire in Aberdeen, MD. The firefighter, who is from Aberdeen Proving Ground, was evaluated by emergency medical services and was able to return to duty
 - More Close Calls at: <https://www.firefighterclosecalls.com/>
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-

[Fre/EMS Behavioral Health: The Price We Pay" FREE WORKSHOPS](#)

With Past Chief Mike Healy (Central Nyack F.D.) & Past Chief Jared Meeker (Lake Shore F.D.)

- In partnership with PERMA, NYSAFC is hosting an additional series of **FREE** emergency services behavioral health and wellness workshops. Participants will review the behavioral health problems that first responders face, then learn how to recognize and help members who are struggling with these issues. This important discussion is open to all first responders, including fire, EMS, and 911 personnel, and their families. [Pre-registration](#) is preferred. Convenient online registration is now available!

Coming this fall to the following counties:

- **Albany – October 19**

REGISTRATION: <https://www.nysfirechiefs.com/behavioralhealthworkshop>

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 relators 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.

Sticks and Stones May...Collapse!

Information You need to pass on to your firefighters.

Salvatore Ancona

Between 1920 and 1940, a popular floor material was gaining headway in many commercial buildings because of its many designs, ability to regulate heat/cool temps, limited maintenance, and sound insulating ability. You often see this flooring in old banks, hospitals, schools, drug stores from the past, museums, and more. Terrazzo floors were and still are prominent features in many buildings. Firefighters became aware of this floor material, as we usually do, when a catastrophic event brought it to our attention. The 23rd Street Fire in New York City on October 17th, 1966, 12 Fire Department of New York (FDNY) firefighters were killed when a floor collapsed into a burning cellar beneath the Wonder Drug Store. This building utilized a 5-inch concrete slab with terrazzo tile and wood floor joists. Fires like this are important to us because the brothers must not die in vain—we must use this event to educate future members. When it comes to building construction, the issues posed by terrazzo floors are very important. Specifically, when masonry materials are used in conjunction with lumber, we have be mindful of the deadly prescription for collapse. Ordinary (Type III) construction comes in many forms and is one of the most common buildings you will encounter. Today, the use of concrete slab on wood floor joists becoming more and more popular without much notice from the fire service.

First, let’s discuss the properties of concrete used in flooring systems. We know concrete floors are composite, meaning they use two different materials to sustain strength. Today, in Type I (Fire Resistive), Type II (Non-Combustible), and Type V (Combustible) used as a slab, concrete is poured with steel infused, usually in the form of rebar. Concrete has excellent compressive strength; however it lacks tensile strength. If concrete (Portland cement, sand, water, and aggregate) did not have steel rebar, pre- or post-stressed cable, or grid work, it would crack and ultimately collapse from underneath. The steel within concrete gives it tensile strength. The result is a composite structural element called reinforced concrete. Many earlier buildings used wood to provide the tensile strength from underneath.

As previously mentioned, the most notable fire involving the wood-concrete floor is New York City’s 23rd Street Fire. The floor of the Wonder drug store (ordinary construction) utilized 3 x 14-inch wood beams, 3/4-inch wood decking atop these beams that had five inches of concrete finished with terrazzo. As you may know, concrete has excellent insulating properties, as does terrazzo. In the 23rd Street Fire, an advanced fire condition within the cellar burned for more than an hour. The heat condition was concealed by the advanced fire, which left firefighters unknowingly operating above a raging cellar. When the large floor joists burned through, this eliminated the tensile strength of the concrete and terrazzo tiles, leaving the weight and loads of the firefighters and all of the drug store’s contents acting upon it. The floor had no chance. Again, as previously mentioned, hospitals, schools, banks, drug stores, and museums constructed between 1900 and 1940 and use terrazzo tiles are likely to have wood tensile supporting elements. It is imperative that below grade is checked during ANY assignment at these locations. It has been observed that steel structural elements have been inserted during renovation or reconstruction.

Getting to present day, concrete slabs are becoming very popular again used in conjunction with wood floor joists and decking. Can you guess where? Private dwellings! Do you enjoy a toasty floor on cold mornings? Do you hate walking around your home on cold ceramic tile? Well do contractors have the solution for you! Radiant floor heating systems. The explosion of this renovation or improvement to Type V (Combustible) residences has brought a new element into an already dangerous atmosphere when fire is present. The introduction of an elevated concrete floor supported by dimensional wood floor joists and plywood is a hazard that many firefighters are not aware of. (2-5). There are no signs that a tile floor has radiant heat from the surface or via a warning decal as many districts have with truss systems. Firefighters should be aware that the addition of two to three inches of concrete or mud floors with tile above and water running within is a recipe for disaster should a below grade fire be present. Fire and heat can go unnoticed for some period, burning away the supports from underneath. The addition of two or three firefighters stomping around on the floor above could mean collapse. Was your wood-frame home, built in 1925, designed to withstand that added load? A 10 x 10-foot room with 2 inches of concrete adds more than 2,200 lbs to the floor system. No matter which way you try to justify it, when the floor joists burn, global collapse without warning is a significant possibility. Firefighters may be unaware of the intense heat and damage caused by fires beneath them due to this. It is imperative to check below grade first, especially when tile floors are found throughout. The collapse of these floor systems can leave firefighters taking the express into a burning cellar.

The use of concrete and wood floor systems is not a new thing, but it is again becoming a popular thing. History tells us the use of these floor systems cause catastrophic failure and delay warning signs that are evident to fire firefighters. Whether it is the appeal of an Art Deco terrazzo floor or the ability to have radiant heated floors by the flip of a switch, the addition of concrete that relies on wood members solely for its support is troubling, to say the least. Firefighters must be aware of what they are standing on and recognize when there is potential for such systems being used. When fire is found to be beneath one of these floor systems, evacuation is a must. Communication must be made to the incident commanders and members should not be operating above.

WEEKLY FIRE FATALITY DATA AS REPORTED BY THE MEDIA

Fire Deaths in 1&2 Family Dwellings in NYS	59+1=60
Latest fire death, Village of Endicott, Broome Co. Female unk age	
Fire Deaths in any type of Dwelling in NYS	104+1=105
Fire Deaths in 1&2 Family Dwellings Nationally	989 + 19=1008
Top Three State with the most 1&2 Family Deaths	1 PA - -84
	2 OH - -72
	3 TX - -65
There has been a total of 1625 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

2022 Governmental Accounting Class Schedule

Register for Accounting Schools Now Here!

<https://www.osc.state.ny.us/local-government/academy/osc-government-accounting-schools>

Cost: \$85 for local officials and government employees; \$170 for all others.

Introduction to Governmental Accounting (Basic Accounting School) - his multi-day school is designed to familiarize participants with the basic concepts of governmental accounting and give them a working knowledge of basic bookkeeping procedures such as understanding debits and credits, a discussion of the modified accrual system of accounting, the practice of maintaining the books and records, developing and accounting for the annual budget, as well as the year-end closing process. This school is for those individuals who possess some accounting experience, but are

newcomers to governmental accounting in New York. It will benefit Chief Executive Officers, Chief Fiscal Officers, Comptrollers, Treasurers, Clerks, and Accounting Personnel.

Available Dates:

October 25-27, 2022 Online

Accounting Principles and Procedures (Advanced Accounting School) - This multi-day school is designed to familiarize participants with accounting and financial reporting requirements for local governments in New York. The course provides guidance on certain operational issues, such as cash management, purchasing, processing claims for payment, accounting for capital projects and utilizing reserve funds. This school is a good follow-up to our Introduction course, although attending the Introduction is not a prerequisite. It will benefit Chief Executive Officers, Chief Fiscal Officers, Comptrollers, Treasurers, Clerks, Accounting Personnel, Board Members and Department Heads.

Available Dates:

October 12-13, 2022 Online

November 15-16, 2022 Online

RETAINING AND RECRUITING

A must read!!

****The Real Reason Firefighters Quit: A Lack Of Respect**

Mark Klaene

[I'm dealing with this exact problem with a department I am currently working with.]

Aretha had it right – it's all about R-E-S-P-E-C-T, which for us means improving relationships with other agencies and officials.

We have been seeing a decline in volunteer fire service personnel for several years. However, recent events have seen some resignations or walkouts on larger scales than we have seen previously:

- [Entire Wash. city FD resigns in protest over mayor's actions, funding issues](#)
- [Entire Ohio volunteer fire department quits](#)
- [Video: Ill. FFs quit after once-convicted arsonist named fire chief](#)

To better understand what is going on here, we need to look at people's motives for becoming a firefighter in the first place.

RESPECT AS A MOTIVATOR

We may like to believe that every firefighter's sole motive is the desire to serve the public. But the simple reality is many join the service for the badge, the excitement, the history or the adrenaline rush, to name just a few compelling reasons. And I should note that while career members have the added motive of salary, it isn't always the most important factor to them.

When looking at why a single individual leaves the fire service, it is often the loss or change of one or more of their motivational factors for joining in the first place. But these reasons seldom cause resignations on such a large scale. While mass resignations can be prompted by several factors, I have witnessed several such situations where it came down to a fundamental lack of respect.

It's important to underscore that respect isn't a given. **Respect must be earned, and it must be maintained.** It is also a two-way street; **we must give respect in order to receive it.** Respect isn't earned by putting on the gear or driving the big new flashy apparatus, and it isn't earned by simply walking in the door of the station. **Giving respect means understanding others positions and viewpoints even when we disagree.** It means recognizing others' position of authority, knowledge and experience. **Mutual respect usually means you don't get what you want all the time.** Sometimes you lose, sometimes you win, and often it just leads to something in the middle. Mutual respect doesn't mean you give up your authority, or you chose popularity over what is best. It does mean inclusion and consideration in the discussions.

SOURCES OF DISRESPECT

Disrespect can come from internal and/or external sources.

Internal disrespect: We sometimes fail to respect our fellow firefighters and officers, not recognizing their hardships or their abilities. Disrespect could come in the form of asking too much or not including each other in discussions and decisions.

This is the easiest for us to solve because it is in house. It is something that we ourselves are causing and should understand. All officers and other firefighters should have been there before and understand what we are all are going through.

The reason it often isn't corrected is because we fail to see it, or more likely, egos get in the way. I was told many years ago, **"we can do great things if we don't care who gets credit for it."**

External disrespect: Disrespect from external sources – local government, other fire agencies, law enforcement or our citizens – is harder to address. Often the root of the problem can be similar – ego or "turf battles."

Control is a divisive issue between fire and law enforcement agencies as well as elected officials. Training and working together on common issues as well as **communication on and off scene are some of the best ways to develop mutual respect**. Visit these agencies, find mutual agreement and issues, and work together to address them. Respect drives cooperation between others.

In my county, everything changed when a coordinator was hired to be the single point of communication among the fire service and outside agencies. This step effectively reduced chiefs to station captains. It took away their independence to deal with the state fire marshal, county commissioners, as well as the Bureau of Land Management and the USFS. They lost their ability to offer input for important decisions, missed feedback from these agencies and, in effect, lost their identity. While the intent was not to disrespect these chiefs, that was the end result they experienced. The first mass resignation came within a year. This situation unfortunately continues today and still causes many issues, including multiple resignations of junior and senior personnel.

Addressing external respect issues takes a lot of effort, and it is best done in groups, repeated constantly and consistently. Such issues can't be addressed just by a chief officer; everyone from the probationary firefighter to the chief must work on these issues every time we interact.

The solutions here are not easy, as turf battles seem to be ingrained in many agencies. The bottom line is these agencies serve a valuable purpose; they have a job to do just like us. But they have different priorities and perspective than us. It doesn't make wrong, just different. This doesn't mean we can't agree when necessary. ***If everyone always looks at what is best for our citizens as the primary goal, we will reach agreement.***

DISRESPECT ONE OF US, DISRESPECT ALL OF US

When it seems like these issues can't be fixed, mass resignations or walkouts may appear to be the only way to get others' attention or to try to force our will. Unfortunately, such actions usually work against us in the long run.

Most firefighters no longer expect a "thank you" at every turn. However, they do expect recognition for their work and sacrifices. Many members of outside agencies have no concept of the training, work and sacrifices that firefighters experience. How many birthdays, graduations and school programs did we miss over the years? Firefighters want to feel valued and appreciated for their work.

And specific to volunteers, a sure way to kill a volunteer's motivation is to not use them. All firefighters go through a lot to get where they are, and they want to participate.

Disrespect one of us, and you disrespect all of us. We are a brotherhood and sisterhood. We are a team. Firefighting is bigger than the one. We train, operate and, in some cases live, sleep and eat together, and when disrespected, we all feel it.

Respect is a basic human need that is important to an individual's self-esteem. We must work at getting respect, and we must work at giving respect. Every firefighter, every time. It must be done on and off duty. In the station and out. ***We need to perform at our best, be kind, courteous, respectful of everyone we interact with.*** We need to be united and speak up, and ***we need to remember why we are here and who we serve.***

SOMETIMES YOU JUST NEED TO SMILE

*****Cantankerous Wisdom: Firehouse Xenophobia***

Bill Adams

Did you ever say something you know you shouldn't have? It is when words come sliding out of your mouth – intentionally or not – and you can't stop them. It's like your lips and tongue are all greased up. And before the last word exits, you realize you're making a big mistake. You're "Crossing the Rubicon" and there's no return. It happens mostly to old people, but young people are not immune. It has happened to me numerous times over 70 plus years.

What's this have to do with xenophobia? One definition of xenophobia is chauvinism which some folks claim is sexism, racism and machismo – none of which is appropriate in the fire station. But sometimes stuff just happens and then other stuff “hits the fan.” You can't always control it.

In the 1970s to 1990s I owned a fire equipment business that had a retail store where I inventoried a large amount of rubber goods, also called turnout gear then, and PPE (personal protective equipment) today. When the manufacturers started sizing gear specifically for women, I also stocked it – ¾-length and bunker boots, turnout coats, gloves and bunker pants. Besides fitting firefighters in their stations, departments would occasionally send over new members including women to be sized up. Sometimes it worked well; other times it didn't.

One newbie came in with a purchase order for a full set of gear. It went straight downhill. She tried on both men's and women's boots from sizes 5 to 7 before she found her right size. Then it was men's and women's gloves in both small and extra-small sizes. No problem – it was part of the job. When it came to bunker pants, I asked what her waist and hip measurements were and she balked. I explained a woman's hip measurement could be upwards to a foot more than the waist and some bunkers were tapered from just above the butt downwards. She wasn't happy and I didn't push it. I eyeballed her up and down. I guessed at her size and she tried on two or three pairs before she found one.

Now, I've got boots, pants and gloves – with the plastic bag each came in – thrown all over the floor. I was getting a bit perturbed. Two other employees stopped their work to watch the show. The more they smiled the madder I got. I was really getting aggravated.

We hooked up her suspenders and soon reached the precipice of an all-out war. She had the suspenders way towards to outside of her shoulders. I suggested she move them closer to her neck explaining that bunkers often get quite wet and heavy and the last thing she would want was to “lose her britches” in the middle of a fire. She glared at me. She was going to be “interior” so I mentioned she'll also have air pack straps to contend with. I got an air pack out of stock so she could try it on to see for herself. It was a big mistake.

I looked at her and said to myself – how the hell am I going to explain this without getting into hot water. On one side of her chest, the SCBA strap was outboard and the suspender strap was inboard of a forward-facing “protrusion”. It was going to be a no-win scenario so I figured the hell with it and told it like it is.

I probably could have got my point across in a kinder and more gentler way than saying “one side or the other” but I didn't. I should have but the horse was already out of the barn.

The final straw came when it was time to try on a turnout coat. My nerves were shot and I was teed-off. So, I slipped a cloth tape measure around my neck and turned around facing her and said “I need your chest measurement.” She said, “That's not going to happen.” I reached for my tape measure and the response was a resounding “Forget it!” So, I just stared at her. I have to admit it was for about one second too long. Then I went and got a coat and handed it to her. She tried it on and I had her put the air pack back on. I ran her through all the gyrations ... lifting arms over the head, crawling on the floor, etc. It fit. She looked at me and just nodded okay.

Then the devil made me do it. I looked at her, smiled and just said the coat's chest size that I picked. If I had kept my damn yap shut, I probably would not have been forced by the fire department to apologize – in writing – for being “rude, crude and abrasive” to one of its members.

All kidding aside, xenophobia in the firehouse is a serious concern. I think I'll do a follow-up about it without portraying myself as a male chauvinist farm animal.

WELCOME TO THE ATTORNEY'S OFFICE:

Ex-Financial Secretary Of Pa. VFD's Carnival Accused Of Stealing Over \$7K From Group

Keith Gushard

Cambridge Springs Police have charged the former financial secretary of the Cambridge Springs Firemen's Carnival with stealing more than \$7,000 from the organization during a five-year period. Christian French, 47, of Cambridge Springs, faces a preliminary hearing next month on a total of 18 charges for allegedly taking money from the Cambridge Springs Volunteer Fire Department's carnival account. The criminal complaint and arrest affidavit alleges French made \$7,243.37 in debit card transactions for his own benefit. He is accused of taking \$1,100.02 via debit card in 2017; \$4,049.15 in 2018; \$486.49 in 2019; \$49.07 in 2020; and \$1,558.64 in 2021. French was the carnival's financial secretary at the time, the affidavit said. He is also a past chief of the fire department.

Cambridge Springs Police Department filed charges Sept. 21 following the fire department's receipt of a forensic audit of the carnival's finances. The fire department first contacted borough police in April about unauthorized transactions using the carnival account's debit card which had been issued to French, the affidavit said. On March 17, the fire department's board of directors confronted French about the unauthorized transactions and French admitted to making them, the affidavit said. French's membership with the fire department was terminated at that point, the affidavit said. The fire department then had HBK Valuation Group LLC conduct a forensic audit of the account, which was completed Aug. 23, the affidavit said. French was interviewed by Cambridge Springs police on Sept. 15 and he admitted to making the unauthorized transactions on the account, the affidavit said.

French was arraigned last week before Magisterial District Judge Lincoln Zilhaver on a total of 18 counts — two counts each of theft by unlawful taking, receiving stolen property and theft by deception, all third-degree felonies: and four counts each of theft by unlawful taking, receiving stolen property and theft by deception, all first-degree misdemeanors. French was released on nonmonetary bond following arraignment. He faces a preliminary hearing before Zilhaver on the charges Oct. 5.

Walmart Claims Dozens Of Fds' Response To Ind. Warehouse Fire Made It Worse

Leila Merrill

Tort claims notices seeking damages related to an Indiana Walmart distribution center fire in March name more than 30 fire departments, including the Plainfield Fire Territory. Crews from more than 30 agencies worked for 76 hours to put out the warehouse fire. The tort claims filed this month by multiple law firms say that first responders' actions made the fire worse.

In one notice, attorneys for Walmart say that the Plainfield Fire Territory directed the center's fire suppression system to be deactivated or disabled before the facility doors were opened. The notice claims that this action allowed additional oxygen to enter the center before the fire was extinguished, causing it to grow and spread.

The notice said that the total value of the damages is being investigated but it already exceeds the \$5,000,000 statutory limit of the Indiana Tort Claims Act.

Other notices were filed on behalf of insurance companies and insurance underwriters. With commenting on the litigation, the Town of Plainfield issued a statement expressing pride in first responders. "The Town of Plainfield is proud of the heroic response by the Plainfield Fire Territory and the supporting services from all over central Indiana who risked their personal safety to protect lives. The safety and security of life is always the Plainfield Fire Territory's highest priority. The Town of Plainfield and the Plainfield Fire Territory remains committed to providing fire and emergency medical services to the residents and visitors of Plainfield."

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UvBkV7LKylM&t=12s> YouTube video of the fire.

Watertown Fire Chief Testifies to Schuyler County Grand Jury On Firefighter Training Death

Lucas Day

For the second time since one of his firefighters died after suffering a medical emergency at the New York State Academy of Fire Science in Montour Falls, the chief of the Watertown Fire Department gave more grand jury testimony related to the incident.

WWNY television in Watertown reports Matt Timmerman returned to Schuyler County last Friday to provide almost two hours of testimony to the grand jury investigating Peyton Morse's death.

The 21-year-old Morse passed away in March of 2021, nine days after suffering a medical emergency while training at the Academy. An autopsy determined Morse's death to be a lack of oxygen to the brain, cardiac arrest, and consequences of physical exertion while using a breathing apparatus. Doctors at Robert Packer Hospital that treated Morse following the incident reported he had a healthy heart and lungs and had no health problems. They believe something "external" caused his death.

WWNY also reported Peyton's father also appeared in front of the grand jury in August.

So it continues...anyone what to guess the outcome?

Fallout Unfolds After N.Y. Village Board Votes To Dissolve Fire Department

Julie Abbass

Repercussions from the village board's decision to disband its fire department have begun. In a special meeting called on Thursday, the Denmark Town Council approved a resolution to discontinue its fire protection contract with Copenhagen Volunteer Fire Department as of Oct. 22, following a public hearing on new fire contracts with yet-to-be-named nearby departments.

Following their vote approving the dissolution last week, Copenhagen board members indicated they want to dissolve the department as soon as possible so that they, too, can sign a new fire protection contract. But they were reminded by their lawyer, Candace Randall, that residents have 30 days to collect signatures on a petition requesting a public vote on dissolving the department.

If no petition is filed with enough registered voter signatures on time, the village can immediately begin the dissolution. Even before the village's decision was made, James Henry, president of the corporate side of the fire organization, expressed frustration with the two options available: turn over control of all assets and finances to the village or be dissolved.

"Do they want to work with us? No, they don't want to work with us," he said, noting department officials have given all of their bank account invoices and receipts since January to the clerk for scanning and taken a number of other steps recommended by the State Comptroller's Office.

"Look at those two options; they're the same thing ... we totally give up everything either way." Henry is a 49-year veteran of the department and long-term chief financial officer for drill team funds.

While he acknowledges that ***the fire department is under the village's jurisdiction***, he said the village has not historically been as hands-on with its administration as are other villages and towns with fire departments. "When we were formed, we were on our own. The village said 'You take care of yourself...' That's where the difference comes (between Copenhagen and other departments)," Henry said, "Change it, sure — but you don't just come and take total control of things."

Prior to the department's regular meeting on Sept. 8, Henry noted he is "one person. It's up to the (fire department) body," to make the decision and that the reason a decision wasn't made in the fire company's board meeting before the village's first deadline for a response had expired was that "it's up to the department on what they want to do and not enough people showed up (at the board meeting) to make the decision."

At the general meeting, however, a number of members spoke out in favor of giving the village control of the finances in part because the department has been without a treasurer for more than five months. The body voted to have its lawyer send a registered letter to the village's lawyer asking for clarification about what the village believes its "job" is with regard to the department.

In an interview on Wednesday, however, Henry said the board overrode the body's decision at the suggestion of its lawyer, who advised it not to respond to the ultimatum until the village reimburses payments for bills and expenses this year. "We did a spreadsheet of the bills we've sent to them and asked them to be paid up and they were given to the clerk," Henry said, "Don't worry about what we're missing. You have the bills. Pay them."

At the beginning of the year, the village absorbed the fire department's budget like other departments' and kept contract money from towns to cover the department's budget. The village also required that all bills and invoices be sent to it directly for payment with explanations and receipts where needed, but the department has continued to pay all bills itself and ask the village for reimbursement.

Randall said there are a number of questions about the bills and receipts submitted and whether taxpayer money should be used for them instead of the corporation's funds.

Beyond finances, the village board, towns and other fire departments are concerned about the number of active personnel who are trained, certified and physically able to fight fires rather than fulfilling on-scene support roles like fire police.

"We have 41 firefighters in Castorland protecting \$37 million in assessed value, we have 55 firefighters in West Carthage protecting \$27 million and we have nine firefighters in Copenhagen protecting \$127 million in assessed value," said Denmark Supervisor Scott Doyle at the meeting, noting it was a very difficult decision for the board to end the contract.

Henry points to the recruiting challenges facing all volunteer fire departments combined with the added burden of no longer being able to recruit through the drill team.

According to state General Municipal Law for villages, any fire department in a village must be part of that village and either the village board or a fire commission created by the village board has jurisdiction over the department and its taxpayer finances.

The exception is how the department organizes and implements the actual firefighting and training to meet state safety and training standards, which are extensive, and internal policies which cannot be at odds with village policies.

Any activities in which fire department members are covered by workers' compensation insurance require village board approval.

At the fire company's board meeting Thursday evening, Henry said a board member would go to the Lewis County Board of Elections for more information and to begin the petition process. At least two other people with ties to the department also visited the town office over starting a petition.

This article was corrected to indicate the final date Denmark will be contracted with the Copenhagen Fire Department is Oct. 22.

Suit Alleges Lemon Law Violation Over Defective \$1.4 Million Aerial Platform

Curt Varone

An Illinois fire department has filed suit against Seagrave Fire Apparatus, LLC, alleging breach of contract, breach of warranty, and violation of the state's "lemon law" due to problems with a new 105-foot Apollo aerial platform. The Lockport Township Fire Protection District filed suit today in US District Court for the Northern District of Illinois.

The Seagrave Model TP7KCT Marauder 105' Apollo Quint Rear Mount Platform was ordered in 2020, along with a Seagraves Marauder Pumper. The aerial platform was delivered in March of 2022, but has been plagued with a number of mechanical problems outlined in the complaint. These include:

- *On April 10, 2022, the ladder failed to be stowed properly. Additionally, the raise and lower valve handle failed.*
- *The following day, after setup, an outrigger drifted, twisting the pin—causing 360° rotation at approximately 70' ladder extension, 50° incline, with two men in the air. LTFPD immediately suspended training.*
- *On April 14, 2022, LTFPD held conference call with Seagrave to discuss issues. Seagrave blamed hydraulic issues—correctible with programming.*
- *One week later, Emergency Vehicle Technician and Fleet Mechanic Brian Fisher ("Fisher") and Seagrave identified sensor issues and adjusted the programming. However, they were unsuccessful in recreating April 11, 2022 drift issue.*
- *On April 22, 2022, training resumed.*
- *The following day, while operating the lift from side to side, the "green" light that indicates that the outrigger is planted would not illuminate. Upon further testing and inspection, Fisher thought the problem was resolved; however, he quickly noticed puddle(s) of hydraulic fluid on the garage floor apron.*
- *On April 27, 2022, the Apollo platform was returned to Seagrave to be inspected.*
- *After two weeks, repairs were made and the Apollo platform was returned.*
- *On May 16, 2022, Fisher advised LTFPD repairs were done and the training continued.*
- *On June 2, 2022, the Apollo platform went into full service.*
- *On June 8, 2022, LTFPD found broken wear pads and old bolts that were left in outrigger channel(s).*
- *On June 14, 2022, Fisher, who was replacing faulty sensors, found motor bolts to be "hand-tight." LTFPD cut off the Apollo platform from service indefinitely.*

On June 17, 2022, Fire Chief John O' Connor informed Seagrave that LTFPD considered the device to be "unsafe and inoperable for use" and sought to return it for a full refund of \$1,369,220.00. The President and CEO of Seagrave, Ulisses D. Parmeziani, disagreed that the device was unsafe or inoperable, but offered to repurchase truck for "fair market value."

LTFPD engaged legal counsel and countered by demanding that Seagrave:

- *accept return of Apollo platform and refund \$1,369,220.00 for the Apollo platform; or*
- *deliver Apollo platform to an agreed upon qualified third- party inspector to be paid at Seagrave's expense; agreed to pay the repair bills/costs to be completed by an independent vendor; return Apollo platform to LTFPD at Seagrave's expense; extend Seagrave Limited Warranty three (3) years from date all issues are resolved; reimburse LTFPD for their legal bills incurred.*

According to the complaint, when Seagrave failed to respond to the attorney's demands, they opted to file suit. The four-count complaint alleges breach of contract, breach of express warranty under 810 ILCS 5/2-313, breach of express warranty of material and workmanship, and breach of Illinois' New Vehicle Buyer Protection Act (815 ILCS 380).

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STEP INTO THE CHIEF'S OFFICE:

*****5 Fire Department Self-Inflicted Wounds***

Glenn Gaines

Fire chiefs who don't avoid these five traps will not succeed in having a top-performing department.

There are conditions outside the department or organization that can adversely impact the ability of a department to fulfill its mission and grow. Economic downturns, changes of political leadership and local agendas are just a few. However, many of the deficiencies fire and EMS departments experience are self-inflicted. There are five key organizational wounds fire departments often inflict upon themselves. There are also steps fire chiefs can take to prevent this self-harm.

1. FAILURE TO PLAN

Planning should come from the top. However, it should be formulated by and endorsed by the organization's frontline members.

Vibrate, growing governmental organizations constantly seek new opportunities, then put detailed and sound plans into place to leverage the opportunities that meet three criteria.

- Be aligned with future demand for products or services.
- Be something the organization can do well.
- Be in line with current political direction.

A recent U.S. workforce poll asked, "What should you expect from your leaders in 2015?" After respect and being valued, they want leaders to have a vision of where the organization is headed and what role they will play in taking it there.

Planning is not separate from budgeting. It is in fact applying numbers to vision and goal development. Accordingly, planning becomes a vital part of organizational management and must include both short-term and long-term funding streams.

If we begin from the premise that planning is linked directly to budgeting, what should follow is the process of measuring return on investment.

Planning demands we answer two questions:

1. What conditions (technology, demographics, development or political landscape) will change in the near future?
2. How will these changes positively or negatively impact the department?

When drafting responses to the forecasted shifts include internal leadership, financial expertise, subject-matter experts, line force (union, association leadership) special interest groups and political leadership or staff. Identify what will change and if the new initiative is the right fit for the department.

Finally, measurable outcomes aligned with the department's vision and goals is critical to ensure the success of the initiative and to determine if the initiative is sustainable.

2. WHACK-A-MOLE MANAGEMENT

This is when a problem occurs, we deal with it as a one-time event and move on. For example, two firefighters are burned at a residential fire. The injuries are managed, the firefighters return to work and nothing more is done.

No one contemplates that there may be a training issue that is prevalent throughout the operations division. There may be personal protective equipment that fails to meet the specifications called for in the contract. Other contributing factors may be in play and need serious review.

Many departments create a planning and research branch or division. Their purpose is to constantly scan the internal and external environment. For this to work, four conditions must be met:

1. It is a part of all critical decision making in regard to policy and procedure development.

2. It receives data from all segments of the department.
3. When bad things happen, it is included in the reporting and review to determine if current policies and procedures are in place to manage, mitigate or prevent a reoccurrence.
4. It is changed with constantly monitoring service quality.

The point is that individual accidents, personnel injuries, violation of ethics, mistakes or unique incident management failure may be a sign of a more intrinsic problem throughout the department or organization.

That is not to say each occurrence must be studied over weeks and months. The important step that must be taken is to ensure someone is watching and looking for trends in erosion of performance and quality of service.

3. WE DON'T LISTEN

Fire and rescue organizations are floating out there in a sea of change. These organizations are also in a high-risk and legally vulnerable position primarily due to the nature of their business.

Accordingly, paying close attention to and constant monitoring of the environment surrounding the organization is vital. People to listen to include the political leadership, civilians (especially those who have political influence), firefighters, mid-level command staff and front-line supervisors.

Winston Churchill said, "Listen to everyone, for even fools are correct occasionally." This means, of course, we will have to hear and sift through some remarkably bad opinions and advice.

Beneficial listening occurs when the chief is skilled in information triage. Not long ago, getting communications from the outside and from the line force was a challenge. Today the challenge is sorting through the immense amount of communications to draw the critical information the chief needs to manage and move the organization.

Shutting diversity out of policy development leads to group think and down a dangerous path toward gaps in rational for policy decisions. Finally, the organization is afloat in a sea of change. If we do not remain in tune with the outside environment we will fail.

4. ALLOWING MEDIOCRITY TO PREVAIL

Colin Powell said about success, "Any time you tolerate mediocrity in others, it increases your mediocrity." John Grubbs, owner of GCI consulting group, said, "Leaders understand that risk equals return. Mediocrity is following a policy blindly. Excellence is when we understand exactly how to apply that policy to a particular situation."

I had the privilege of serving in a top performing organization for a long time (34 years), coming up through the ranks to become fire chief. I have been asked on many occasions, what made our organization great?

After contemplating and analyzing the organization and the people responsible for standing it up, I came to the following conclusion. The department was first organized by trainers and educators.

People who train work really hard at analyzing demands placed on individuals and organizations, then develop mechanisms to ensure the members of organization obtain and master the skills and knowledge necessary to successfully fulfill their mission. Those original few who stood up the organization had to constantly look forward.

Managing change isn't easy; however, if it is managed well, it becomes an inherent character of an organization and is expected by all the troops. The question then boils up from the troops 'why are we not using this new thinking or technology?' rather than 'why are we using this new thinking or technology?'

Holding to high standards of behavior and performance leads to a culture that provides a safe, healthy, productive and non-hostile workplace environment.

5. FAILURE TO PROVIDE THE NEXT GENERATION OF QUALITY LEADERS AND FIREFIGHTERS

Succession planning and programs prepare the organization for the future and insure against a loss of consistency in top-quality performance. Succession planning facilitates the ability to recruit, hire and promote top-quality people to fill critical positions.

It also must include a strong commitment to two critically important programs: a commitment to training at four levels and a mentor program to attract the best candidates.

The first training level is maintaining fundamental skills and knowledge at the front line level. The second is preparing those who aspire to hold a supervisory level position. The third is preparing those who desire to move on to senior management positions. The last is maintaining compliance with federal, state and local regulations and laws.

Mentor programs must be formal, closely managed and performance measured. Mentor programs can increase morale, motivation and productivity. It can also reduce turnover and absenteeism, as well as talent within the organization.

There are other associated benefits to mentoring including reduction or elimination of outside recruitment costs for senior manager position since most of the senior positions will be filled from within.

Included in the PricewaterhouseCoopers, 12th Annual Global CEO Survey, 2009 more than 1,000 CEOs were asked, "How important are the following sources of competitive advantage in sustaining your growth over the long term?"

The number-one response – chosen by 97 percent – was "access to, and retention of, key talent."

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Glenn A. Gaines was the Federal Emergency Management Agency's deputy U.S. Fire Administrator for the United States Fire Administration. He began his tenure in March 2009 and was responsible for managing USFA programs and training activities conducted at the National Emergency Training Center. Chief Gaines began his fire service career as a member of the Fairfax County (Va.) Fire and Rescue Department. He served in numerous capacities, including fire marshal, chief training officer, and chief of operations, culminating in his appointment as fire chief from August 1991 until December 1998. He was in charge of the nationally recognized Fairfax County Fire and Rescue urban search and rescue team that frequently deployed throughout the United States as well as internationally. Chief Gaines earned a degree in fire administration and has authored a fire service text, contributed to several other texts, and written numerous articles for several trade publications. He has served as a faculty member at the USFA's National Fire Academy, and was actively involved with organizations related to the professional development of the fire and emergency services.

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In the 60's people took LSD to make the world weird. Now the world is weird, and people take Prozac to make it normal.

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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 2022.

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.

Links to the Budget and Election Schedule

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

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:

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