



THE CAPITAL BULLETIN

FIRE DISTRICT NEWS

OCTOBER 29TH, 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, dining will begin at 6:15PM to be finished prior to meeting.

HYBRID ZOOM MEETINGS

[Still working out some sound issues but overall working well.](#)

November 10th

General Membership Meeting/2023 Elections

November 12th

Capital Area Annual Workshop at Westmere Fire District

2023 CAPITAL AREA MEETING & TRAINING SCHEDULE

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

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

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

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

May Meeting of the General Membership To Be Determined

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

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

August, No Meeting

September/October Meeting, General Membership To Be Determined/Nominations

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

December, No Meeting

Saturday, February 11, 2023	8:00 AM	Commissioner Training Averill Park, Rensselaer Co. w/Greg Serio
Saturday, March 4, 2023	8:00 AM	Commissioner Training Clifton Park Saratoga Co. w/Greg Serio
Saturday, March 11, 2023	6:00 PM	Officer Installation Location in Saratoga Springs TBD
Saturday, March 25, 2023	8:00 AM	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

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

Don't Put it Off Register Now

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 will be served*

Did you know that training is an allowable mileage reimbursement expense?

Everyone is Invited to Attend

Food Sponsors to date: Gentile, Brengel & Lin LLP and NYS Public Entities Safety Group 497, H2M Architects, and the Bank of Greene County

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

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:

- 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.
- Schodack Valley FD will be hosting a Brooks BBQ Fundraiser on October 29 from 3 to 6PM at the station at 1553 Schodack Valley Road, Calstleton, NY 12033 Take Out Only, \$14.00, reserve by email brooksbbq32@gmail.com
- **Congratulations** to the Waterford-Halfmoon Fire District on the dedication of their new state of the art \$10m fire station on Middletown Road.
- A Livermore Falls Maine, firefighter was taken to a hospital in an ambulance Sunday after he went into the fire station and discovered the utility fire truck had been running since Friday night.
- After a three-year hiring freeze, the Madison Wisconsin Fire Department is accepting applications for full-time firefighters and EMTs, no longer requiring applicants to have U.S. Citizenship. MFD has also reduced the number of in-person interviews needed in hopes of streamlining the process as a whole and reducing candidates' time commitment. "The goal is to keep qualified candidates engaged with the career opportunity amid existing demands at home and work."
- HOMETOWN HERO'S NIGHT, at Santa's Playland Quick Response, Monday December 19th from 5pm to 9pm, RSVP to Fabian Johnston at fjohnston@qrrstore.com You will need this flyer to gain entry!!



December 19th at
Quick Response.pdf

- **PLEASE TAKE THE TIME TO REGISTER FOR THE NOVEMBER 12TH WORKSHOP, RIGHT NOW!**
 - **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](#)

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

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



With multiple PPE standards being consolidated, NFPA is currently considering several changes to firefighter PPE requirements:

- Mandatory particulate-blocking capabilities for all hoods;
- Manufacturers' ability to make PFAS-free product claims; and
- New criteria to better define minimum levels of continued performance after repeated cleaning and field use.

Join FireRescue1 on **Thursday, Oct. 27** for our latest webinar "[Gear up for PPE changes: What's ahead for NFPA 1971](#)," sponsored by [MSA's Globe Products](#). You'll get an early look at the changes on the table, plus their potential implications for fire departments.

Unable to attend? Don't worry, register today and we will send you a recording after the event.

REGISTER HERE: <https://www.firerescue1.com/personal-protective-equipment-ppe/articles/on-demand-webinar-gear-up-for-ppe-changes-whats-ahead-for-nfpa-1971-Ti9QDvBsr0c9MWuJ/>

THE LATEST FROM THE NYS LEGISLATURE

From Commissioner Ron Berti, COUNTIES ARE ABLE TO OFFER TAX BREAKS

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. **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!



WEBINAR SERIES -
The Fire Department Chaplain

Date: November 2nd
Time: 7:00PM

Gerald Schalk joins Dave Denniston as we discuss the roles of the Fire Chaplain and point out the advantages of every department having this resourceful person.

WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 2ND AT 7pm

REGISTER:HERE:

https://webinar.ringcentral.com/webinar/register/WN_gVxw5i8LQwq1SfVLZyj3kA?fbclid=IwAR3rppmjRAF1Mld6J6BVj-6hmEVSTtwHV3WBjCjvDDKIYehWhiKz2Fiyjns

FIREHOUSE

WEBINAR, in the comfort of your own home or fire station

Nov. 1 Webinar: The Modern Training Officer - Considerations and Liabilities

Date: **Tuesday, November 1, 2022**

Time: **3:00 PM EDT**

REGISTER NOW AT THIS LINK: [https://www.firehouse.com/home/webinar/21280234/the-modern-firefighter-training-officer-considerations-and-liabilities?sti=FH_VectorWSem1_10142022&pk=FH_VectorWSem1_10142022&utm_source=FH+Webcast+Information&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=CPS221013080&o_eid=6778E0229656H9A&rdx.ident\[pull\]=omeda|6778E0229656H9A&oly_enc_id=6778E0229656H9A](https://www.firehouse.com/home/webinar/21280234/the-modern-firefighter-training-officer-considerations-and-liabilities?sti=FH_VectorWSem1_10142022&pk=FH_VectorWSem1_10142022&utm_source=FH+Webcast+Information&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=CPS221013080&o_eid=6778E0229656H9A&rdx.ident[pull]=omeda|6778E0229656H9A&oly_enc_id=6778E0229656H9A)

A certificate of attendance will be offered for one hour of training.

The training officer plays an integral part in the success and safety of everyone in the department. However, many departments do not place enough emphasis on the role of the training officer. Continuing education is of paramount importance to today's responder, and the Training Officer is responsible to make sure that all members know their current responsibilities that they play on the emergency scene. It is a constant task that requires diligence and commitment, resulting in continued education and skills for all of the department's members. In this webinar we will address certain points of consideration that aid the training officer in developing a successful continuing education program for their departments.

Topics to be discussed include:

- Training and Leadership
- Team Building and Efficiency
- Training Research and Delivery options

- Creating S-M-A-R-T Objectives
- Documentation - Significance and Liability Concerns

[NYSAFC 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.):

- **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!

[O P P O R T U N I T I E S :](#)

[Improvements to the Volunteer Firefighter Cancer Benefit Program from](#)



Remember if you don’t have insurance, you are self-insured.

As many people know, effective January 1, 2019, all fire departments in New York must provide coverage to comply with New York State General Municipal Law Section 205-CC, also referred to as the Volunteer Firefighter Cancer Benefit Program. The program has three benefit features: a lump-sum benefit, income protection, and a death benefit. Marshall & Sterling Insurance and VFIS will be holding two informational meetings - on October 5th and 6th - to address many of the questions and open issues related to this program. If you’re a Chief, Officer, Commissioner or Board Member, don’t miss this important event.

ALL ARE WELCOME!

- Where are we 3 years later
- What has changed
- What types of claims have we seen
- What’s in the future Volunteer Firefighter Cancer Benefit Program

October 27th, 7:00 p.m. - Boght Community Fire District, 8 Preston Dr., Cohoes,

NY SPACE IS LIMITED, SO PLEASE SIGN-UP TODAY! Visit; marshallsterling.com/cancer-program to register

The last two classes in Ulster and Dutchess Counties were full.

- All cancer coverages
- Who is covered/who can be added (different classes)
- We will also talk about Cancer prevention techniques

- What to do if one of your members come to you with a diagnosis

Grants For Lifesaving Equipment And Prevention Education Tools, Open To All Public Safety Agencies

The [Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation Grant](#) has reopened for Q1 2023 grants. And no, this grant ISN'T just for fire departments. Here's what you need to know:

- Grant portal is open now
- 2023 Q1 grant deadline: Wednesday, November 2, 2022, 5 PM ET, or when the 600 application limit is met
- Q1 2023 grant award notifications will be emailed in January 2023

All types of public safety agencies, including fire departments, law enforcement, EMS, public safety organizations, non-profits, and schools are eligible.

Near or not near a Firehouse Subs?

Typically these grants are for agencies within a 60-mile radius of a Firehouse Subs location, but they will consider applications from beyond that range.

Lifesaving equipment and prevention education tools

The Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation supports improving the lifesaving capabilities of first responders and public safety agencies.

Apply by Nov. 2, 2022

Applications Open! Gary Sinise Foundation First Responder Grant Program

Equipment and training grants for Law Enforcement, Fire, Paramedic or EMS departments

Through the Gary Sinise Foundation's First Responders Outreach, the Gary Sinise grants provide help to critical funding for emergency relief, training, and essential equipment to ensure first responders can perform to the best of their abilities.

Grants are reserved for Law Enforcement Departments, Fire Departments, and Paramedic or EMS departments.

Grant request are limited to Equipment and Training only.

TIP: This program prioritizes volunteer, low, and underfunded departments.

Foundation Website: <https://www.garysinisefoundation.org/first-responders-outreach>

CHALLENGES:

Wind Turbine Goes Up in Flames, Sets IA Field on Fire

Mitchell Willetts

Firefighters battled a burning wind turbine in Iowa and a secondary fire caused by pieces of flaming debris, according to officials.

The Williamsburg Fire Department, in eastern Iowa, responded to a call at 12:39 a.m. on Oct. 24, the department said in a news release. Minutes later, they arrived at the rural address south of Interstate 80 to find a flaming wind turbine, its head "fully engulfed" by fire.

Williamsburg is roughly 35 miles southwest of Cedar Rapids.

"This type of fire is unique and challenging," the department said.

Falling debris and the massive turbine blades looming overhead all present additional dangers.

The field surrounding the turbine was also burning, firefighters said.

Firefighters secured the area and went to work extinguishing the flames.

With the fires put out, MidAmerican Energy workers showed up to the scene and "took over operations of the wind turbine" at 3:01 a.m., the department said.

Nobody was hurt during the incident.

MidAmerican Energy is looking into what could have caused the turbine to catch fire, a company spokesperson told McClatchy News.

"Safety is our highest priority, and we are working with the turbine manufacturer, Vestas-American Wind Technology, to determine what occurred," spokesperson Geoff Greenwood said in an email. "As a precaution, we have taken several other turbines offline in the immediate area and will conduct additional inspections, as necessary."

MidAmerican operates over 3,400 wind turbines across Iowa, according to Greenwood, who called Monday's fire "an extremely rare occurrence."

"We have experienced only one other fire of this magnitude in the nearly 20 years since we began operating our first wind farm. We are doing everything we can, along with the manufacturer, to ensure our wind turbines are operating safely to provide our customers with affordable and reliable clean energy," Greenwood said.

[Applegate \(OR\) Fire Engine Damaged After Parking Mishap](#)

Applegate Fire District says an engine damaged in a parking mishap was insured, and its repair will minimally impact the fire department because the machine was about to be decommissioned.

A firefighter failed to properly set the parking brake on a 1989 Pierce Arrow fire engine Monday near the department's training building, causing it to roll into a tree near the 1000 block of Applegate Road.

[USFA: Responding to Lithium-Ion Battery Fires in Mobility Devices](#)

When people store and charge their mobility devices inside their homes, garages or businesses, there is the potential for battery fires to lead to structure fires. Just one example is a recent apartment fire in New York City that resulted in injuries to 12 citizens and a Fire Department of the City of New York (FDNY) firefighter.

Motivated by the surge of fires started by batteries in mobility devices, the FDNY has created best practice tips for firefighters confronted by these fires, including:

[E-bikes and e-scooters fires/emergencies](#). This tip sheet provides tactical considerations for all aspects of response to these incidents, including personal protective equipment, hazardous materials response, safety procedures to protect from thermal runaway, and more.

[Revel e-bike battery transport vans](#). This tip sheet provides information on the vehicles that transport discharged lithium-ion batteries from rented mobility devices within the city. These vans contain as many as 60 batteries in a small, confined space, presenting significant hazards and extinguishment challenges.

[Lithium-ion battery mobility device fires](#). This tip sheet covers some of the same tactical considerations of the previous tip sheets, but also covers scene preservation prior to arrival of fire marshals and what to do after the fire has been knocked down.

The FDNY has also produced [a safety video](#) to educate the public on how to charge, store and use lithium-ion batteries safely.

HEALTH – SAFETY & LODDS – TAKING CARE OF YOUR MEMBERS

IN 2022 WE HAVE SADLY EXPERIENCED 84 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!!](#)

- Firefighter Kevin May, 29, died Monday, one week after responding to a house fire, the Westwood Volunteer Fire Department announced.
- 2 Lincoln County Neb. firefighters injured, one seriously, in wind-driven grass fires
- A 20-year-old woman died at the scene, and multiple Lehi, Utah firefighters sustained minor injuries in an accident between a fire pumper and a civilian vehicle.
- Summerville South Carolina Fire & Rescue Department firefighter died Monday after going home from a physical fitness training session with recruits, the department announced.
- Woman Dies After Being Hit by Colorado Springs (CO) Fire Department Brush Truck
- 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](http://wcb.ny.gov/content/main/vf-vaw/injured-in-lin-of-duty.pdf)
- [Survivors Benefit Guide, www.firehero.org](http://www.firehero.org)
- [National Fallen Firefighters Foundation https://www.firehero.org](https://www.firehero.org)

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

New Illinois Law Requires Smoke Detectors With 10-Year Battery Life Or Hardwired Home Units

A new state law that goes into effect Jan. 1 requires all homes to have smoke detectors with a 10-year sealed battery life or a hardwired system. The Rockford Fire Department and the Illinois Firefighters Association held a news conference on Wednesday to draw attention to the law and urge property owners to make the necessary changes now. The sealed-battery smoke alarms are considered more reliable than previous technology, where 9-volt batteries could run out of power or be removed by owners while cooking who then forget to replace them. "We do know that smoke alarms save lives, only when they work," said Matt Knott, Rockford Fire Department division chief. "A working smoke alarm reduces the risk of dying in a home fire by up to 50%."

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.

WEEKLY FIRE FATALITY DATA AS REPORTED BY THE MEDIA

Fire Deaths in 1&2 Family Dwellings in NYS	62+2=64
Latest fire death, St Lawrence Co., Ogdensburg, Female 79	
Fire Deaths in any type of Dwelling in NYS	108+2=110
Fire Deaths in 1&2 Family Dwellings Nationally	1067 + 24=1091
Top Three State with the most 1&2 Family Deaths	1 PA -- 92
	2 OH -- 76
	3 TX -- 67
There has been a total of 1784 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

Arlington Fire District Criticized For Firehouse Renovation Process

Mid-Hudson News

ARLINGTON – Members of the Board of the Arlington Fire District did not use competitive methods to renovate leased firehouse space and did not adequately oversee leasehold agreements for renovations, [according to an audit by the State Comptroller's Office.](#)

The review found that district officials approved a lease agreement, which included the district providing \$248,000 in additional rent to fund renovations for the leased premises, without using a competitive procurement process. [It's still public money!]

It also found that they approved one lease amendment that cost an additional \$77,000 in materials costs without adequate documentation and approved two lease amendments extending project completion date that cost taxpayers over \$20,000 by not exercising reduced rent rate provisions.

In addition, a member of the board who also serves as a trustee of the Croft Corners Fire Company, failed to disclose their financial interest in the lease agreement and lease amendments between the district and the company, which serves as landlord.

Key recommendations include that the district comply with State General Municipal Law competitive bidding requirements; oversee leasehold agreements for renovations and ensure that payments made by the district are supported; and ensure that members of the board disclose interests in public contract.

[If the District ever considered leasing their buildings to the fire company to avoid public bidding regulations, think again, it's still public funding and there is an expectation to expend it according to the law.]

2022 Governmental Accounting Class Schedule

Register for Accounting Schools Now Here!

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

Accounting Principles and Procedures (Advanced Accounting School) - his 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:

November 15-16, 2022 Online

RETAINING AND RECRUITING

North Carolina College Program Trains Firefighters In High School

Remington Embry, who graduated from Surry Community College's first offering of the Firefighter Career & College Promise program, was recently hired as a full-time firefighter with Central Surry Volunteer Fire Department in Dobson. The statewide Career & College Promise (CCP) program gives juniors and seniors the opportunity to earn college credentials, tuition-free, while they are still in high school. "Remington Embry is a hardworking, dedicated student and firefighter. He always strives to better himself and expand his knowledge of the fire service," said Ian Harrell, director of firefighter and rescue programs at Surry Community College. "Surry Community College is very proud to offer the firefighter CCP program to all of our local students. It is a remarkable opportunity for them to learn a career path in a job market, which is growing by leaps and bounds in this part of the state."

[Why can't this work in New York? It can.]

Company-Level Leadership: Where Are We Failing And Succeeding?

Trevor Frodge

"There are no bad crews, only bad leaders."

I first heard this quote from a mentor when I was working as a firefighter. We had just started studying the book in which this quote is found – "Extreme Ownership" by former U.S. Navy SEAL Jocko Willink. This message can be readily applied to the fire service and, more specifically, to company-level officers.

As officers, it is our duty to prepare our members to perform and execute our mission of fire suppression and life safety, and as officers, we use a variety of tools and techniques to accomplish that mission. Company officers should regularly look out for the safety of their firefighters and communicate regularly with their subordinates. Company officers must have proper training for their position in order to be successful in their endeavors. They should also encourage training and, by as a result, know the strengths and weaknesses of their team. Finally, company officers must have a team-

oriented mindset, both for the firehouse and the fireground. Unfortunately, not all company officers embrace these principles, and worse yet, our firefighters and subordinates do not feel that we are consistently meeting the mark.

DEMOGRAPHIC DETAILS

FireRescue1's What Firefighters Want survey looked at many different aspects of fireground leadership. The good news: Of the 2,457 respondents, many reported that they had generally good fireground commanders; however, there were some alarming numbers to address.

The results were mostly from career suburban departments, with over 1,200 of the respondents coming from that type of service area. But a healthy number of respondents serve rural and urban areas, too, showing that the issues explained here are not isolated to volunteer organizations or a big-city departments, but rather the fire service as a whole.

Interestingly for the purpose of this discussion, the largest group represented in the survey (30%) are company officers, with 28% serving as line firefighters. Approximately 21% serve as chief officers, and 14% serve as chief of department.

COMPANY OFFICER TRAINING

First and foremost, a good company officer should have been a good firefighter. To be proficient in teaching, training and development, a good fire officer must be comfortable with firefighting. Fire officers must possess an above-average knowledge of fire behavior, smoke reading and building construction. They should be proficient in hoseline management, SCBA procedures, forcible entry and ground ladders. Additionally, they must know NIMS and how to apply it to an incident scene.

Looking at company officers and their training, we can see an interesting response. Of the 2,457 respondents, 55% of them (1,353) believe that company officers have the requisite training for the position. Likely this is true, as many of our promoted members and leaders have tenure in our organizations and have taken various classes related to operations and leadership. Yet, despite that slim majority, that means that 45% of respondents do not feel that their officers have requisite training knowledge for the position (1,104). Even though we have the U.S. Fire Administration, we are anything but united as to the roles and responsibilities of our officers, largely due to the different sizes and service types of departments nationwide. It is therefore vital to know what training is required of fire officers.

When in doubt about fire officer requirements, review [NFPA 1021: Standard for Fire Officer Professional Qualifications](#). The document spells out every job performance requirement expected for fire officers. This is a great place to start to ensure that you as a company officer are meeting the standards or if you need to seek additional training and education to better yourself, and thus your team.

CREW TRAINING

One way to achieve a great team and to improve the numbers from the survey is through training. Hands-on training, specifically, is the key to exceptional performance on the fireground. Training must be conducted frequently and, whenever possible, incorporate a hands-on component. From stretching lines to throwing ladders, we must continually drill to be proficient in the basics.

This mentality of basic proficiencies will help officers determine the strengths and weaknesses of their team and to be able to direct, educate and assist under-performing members. According to the survey, approximately 60% believe that company officers do indeed have a strong sense of member strengths and weakness. It is disappointing, though, to see that more than 20% of respondents do not feel company officers know their individual members to this depth.

While we cannot be masters of everything, and while I feel that there is no such thing as an "expert" in our profession (although there are many talented instructors and officers who I feel are at an expert level), we must be able to perform the basics and to execute our mission in an array of circumstances. Former Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld once said, "You go to war with the army you have, not the army you wish you had." In the fire service, we are fortunate to be able to shape that army in order to deliver well-trained aggressive firefighters to any emergency scene, and to operate on limited information where the stakes are extremely high.

For the 67% of respondents (1,649) who stated that their company officers encourage training, clearly you are at a good station. However, that again means that a full one-third of respondents do not feel that there is a value placed on training from their leadership.

From my experience, a lack of training often comes down to simple excuses. We find reasons to avoid training. Company officers must set the example, and simply put, must stop with the excuses and perform. As a company officer, I understand the increased run volume, the public education details, the station chores, the company level inspections,

and the personnel issues or logistical challenges that we face. However, outside of responding to emergency calls, we must carve out time daily to train so that our members are prepared to meet realistic challenges and to overcome them. Failure to do so will increase injuries, property loss, and civilian casualties.

TEAM-ORIENTED MINDSET

The other benefit to hands-on training is how it develops a team-oriented mindset. Fire officers should not fall victim to archaic practices and autocratic leadership styles. Instead, the modern-day fire officer should consider servant leadership styles, where our job is to support our firefighters and to arm them with the equipment and tools needed to execute. In servant leadership, firefighters will see that the fire officer values their opinions, values their time, and truly cares for their wellbeing. Subordinates will see that their leaders are not above them but lead beside them, and this translates to greater trust and willingness to go a little further on the fireground. After all, if you don't have a team of dedicated firefighters who trust you enough to follow you, then are you really an officer or do you just carry the title? Being team oriented, giving praise when warranted, and helping your firefighters grow is necessary for a fire officer to thrive.

As fire companies, we truly live and die as a team, and a team is only as strong as its weakest link. The best place to develop a team is during training. As company officers we know this, we've seen this play out time and again, and we've reaped in its success. It is so simple, but 33% of respondents don't feel there is a team-oriented mindset from their officers.

Let's look at professional sports for a moment. The best teams in any professional sport do not show up on game day and execute a play from scratch. Instead, those teams have run the same play time and again, almost to boredom in order to find the strengths and weaknesses of each player and to hone and know each intricate position and possibility. It is almost instinctual how teams in any sport execute, because to that player, it is instinct.

Some may say that we don't know what our "game" will be because we don't know the details of the call type. And while I understand that thought, I do not agree with it. We go to fires. We respond to EMS calls. That is our game. We must get out and discover our strengths and weaknesses, and have difficult conversations about performance. If someone is underperforming, we recognize that constructively, then give them the tools to succeed. Perhaps a firefighter is highly skilled but mentally exhausted. The team is there to pick up that firefighter, to rally around and support them, and to build a culture that lasts. We must build highly effective teams in order to have mission success on the fireground and within the firehouse.

SAFETY MINDSET

Prioritizing the safety of your crew is paramount for a company officer. Members must feel safe in their work. There is a dichotomy to safety, though, in that the mission is to save the lives of the civilians we are sworn to protect. We are equipped with PPE, a portable radio, tools, a fresh air source, often a thermal imaging camera to help see and orient inside of a structure fire, not to mention an equally equipped firefighter with us to help. Our civilians don't have those items, and they are counting on us to rescue them.

Safety is not choosing our crews over civilians, rather making calculated decisions based on the situation presented. How far can we reasonably go, and how far are we willing to push to save savable lives? This question is based on staffing, training, response times, resources and various other factors that change minute to minute in many cases, but company officers must be able to recognize when a rescue is warranted in order to have safety on the fire scene. Similarly, fire officers must recognize building collapse hazards and maintain accountability of their personnel to avoid fireground injuries or deaths. Fortunately, 85% of respondents feel that company officers prioritize their safety, but it is still disheartening that 366 firefighters do not feel that safety is a critical concern from their company officers.

COMPANY OFFICER COMMUNICATION

Firefighters should receive regular feedback from company officers on their performance. If a member is struggling to perform or, conversely, if a member is excelling, it is our job to let that member know. Morale is such a powerful force in a fire department and fire company, but it is not a constant force – it changes with the winds of administrative issues, personal issues, life issues.

While there are some factors that we cannot control, we *can* recognize exceptional performance and let that firefighter know that we appreciate their hard work. Ideally this should be face to face, not communicated through an email chain. Further, be involved in your firefighters' lives, so that they have the utmost trust and confidence in you. If a member isn't

performing well, then they need feedback on their performance so that they know where the expectations of performance are so that they can be met.

Many departments have benchmarks for tasks like turnout drills, mask-up times or how long it takes to stretch a line. Fire officers should drill with their members and ensure that their members (and themselves) can meet those benchmarks. It all comes down to training and communication.

Of the 2,457 firefighters who took the survey, approximately 70% (1,707) stated that their officers do communicate regularly, but another 30% were either indifferent or did not agree that company officers communicated regularly.

We *must* communicate with each other, and we must be willing to have hard conversations. The weight of our profession necessitates strong communications. We are the fire department, and our job is to protect lives and property, and that should never be taken lightly.

HEADING TOWARD GREATNESS

There are thousands of company officers who are excelling in their positions. They are prioritizing the mission of life safety and property conservation through incident stabilization while simultaneously taking care of the men and women they have been entrusted to lead. But, based on the survey results, there is still much work to be done.

The simple answer is to train and to communicate – it really does make a difference. Over time the open and honest dialogue matched with regular hands-on training will develop a team-oriented, valued fire company where the members feel safe, trusted and valued by their leadership.

While this survey cannot account for every single department, and each of our agencies has its own politics and problems, it is important to note that of the top three least satisfying aspects of the job, 61% of survey respondents highlighted poor agency leadership as their top concern. As company officers, we must recognize and own this problem, then use our knowledge, skills and abilities to build high-performing teams to best serve our communities. Once we have accomplished that, our departments and our profession will be aimed and heading toward greatness.

WELCOME TO THE ATTORNEY'S OFFICE:

N.J. Chief Charged, Accused Of Spending \$2K+ Of FD Funds On Personal Items

Chris Sheldon

A suspended Middlesex County fire chief was accused this week of stealing thousands of dollars from his department, authorities said.

James Carbin III, 55, of Clarksburg, the chief of Monroe Fire District No. 2, is charged with theft by deception and theft of services, the Middlesex County Prosecutor's Office announced Wednesday.

In February 2022, district fire commissioners noticed discrepancies with their financial invoices, where taxes were being paid on items even though they are a tax-exempt entity, according to a statement from the office.

An internal affairs investigation found Carbin was purchasing personal items with fire department funds, the office alleged. They discovered that from 2019 to 2022 he bought at least \$2,173 in personal items using the stolen monies.

He was placed on administrative leave in April and is currently suspended without pay, the office said.

Investigators also found that Carbin had directed on-duty firefighters under his supervision to complete work outside of their job duties for his personal benefit, authorities said. No other specific details were released this week.

Kansas City (MO) Firefighter Made False Statements to Cops After Fatal Crash

Bill Lukitsch

A Kansas City firefighter made "blatantly false statements" to police investigators after he drove a fire engine through a red light in Westport and crashed into several vehicles and a building, killing three people, a retired judge overseeing his resulting civil proceedings has found.

Dominic Biscari, of KCFD, told Kansas City police investigating the crash that he slowed down as he approached the high-traffic intersection, evaluated for other drivers and slammed on his brakes when he saw an SUV pull in front of him.

But Judge Miles Sweeney found those things were all untrue and easily disproved through eyewitness accounts, traffic camera footage and other physical evidence compiled by investigators, according to court documents filed Friday after the conclusion of arbitration on Oct. 14.

The civil case is centered on a crash involving Kansas City Fire Pumper 19 on Dec. 15. On the night of the crash, the fire engine driven by Biscari was traveling north on Broadway Boulevard toward a reported structure fire when it collided with an SUV driven by Jennifer San Nicolas at Westport Road.

San Nicolas and front-seat passenger Michael Elwood were pushed through the intersection and up Broadway as the fire engine continued on into a series of cars parked along the street. Tammi Knight, a pedestrian who was about to enter a vehicle, was struck as the fire engine crashed into her and through the facade of a commercial building that once housed a popular bar.

The SUV carrying San Nicolas and Elwood was pushed onto the sidewalk. After the fire engine busted through a brick wall, the building's upper floor collapsed, trapping Knight underneath a pile of rubble for 10 hours. All three were declared dead at the scene.

The crash happened about one minute after the fire crew was advised by dispatchers to stand down.

Earlier this month, Sweeney was assigned to oversee arbitration proceedings in the matter of wrongful death claims brought against Biscari specifically. Biscari, who has a criminal defense lawyer but was not provided one by the city in the civil suit filed against him, was not present for an evidence hearing held in that process on Oct. 7.

In his summary, Sweeney found that loved ones of the victims — and the owner of the destroyed building — deserved to be paid a collective \$32 million by Biscari in compensation. That arbitration award, which requires final approval by a Jackson County judge to take effect, was part of an unopposed motion for a proposed judgment in favor of the plaintiffs filed in court on Friday.

Any personal liabilities Biscari may incur as a result would not be for KCFD to pay.

The families have also filed suit against Kansas City, and more specifically the Kansas City Fire Department. Those claims are still pending in Jackson County Circuit Court, and Biscari was dismissed from that civil case on Oct. 7 as part of his agreement to handle the civil claims through arbitration.

Attorneys for the families allege the city and the fire department were negligent in allowing Biscari to operate a 40,000 pound fire engine on the night of the crash. Among the evidence they have cited is a warning one employee shared with fire officials a little less than three months before the deadly crash unfolded.

The employee told supervisors that Biscari accelerated to 70 mph on Broadway when it wasn't necessary while they were transporting a critically ill patient and vowed she would never ride with him "ever again."

That warning, reported by The Star in August, was also a point raised by Sweeney in considering an award for the bereaved families, according to court documents. Sweeney said the department was "on notice of (Biscari's) dangerous and reckless driving of KCFD vehicles," referencing the email sent to KCFD supervisors with the subject line: "Horrendous Driving."

Sweeney concluded that Biscari clearly violated fire department policies aimed at public safety as he traveled approximately 15 miles per hour above the posted speed limit leading up to the fatal crash. His findings were based in part on those of expert witness Randy Villines, a fire instructor in central Missouri hired by the plaintiffs, who testified that Biscari failed to keep a careful lookout and traveled at a speed excessive for the conditions that night.

Meanwhile, the Jackson County Prosecutor's Office was presented with findings of a Kansas City police investigation of the crash in February. Prosecutors continue to evaluate whether they will pursue criminal charges against Biscari.

For information only and not for the purpose of providing legal advice. The opinions expressed are the opinions of the individual author at the time the facts were presented and based on the law then applicable. The information contained in these opinions is not guaranteed to be up to date. The information provided is not legal advice. Since legal advice must be tailored to the specific circumstances of each case, and laws are constantly changing, nothing on this site should be used as a substitute for the advice of competent legal counsel. The authors assume no responsibility to any person who relies on information contained herein and disclaim all liability in respect to such information. You should not act upon information in this publication without seeking professional counsel from an attorney admitted to practice in your jurisdiction.

STEP INTO THE CHIEF'S OFFICE:

Bail Out! Staffing Solutions Help Us Minimize Risks

Billy Goldfeder

We can't all have FDNY-level staffing, but we must find staffing solutions to enhance fireground operations and survival.

If you follow fire service media, even social media, you've likely seen several videos recently showing firefighters experiencing some pretty close calls – calls where they had to bail out. In all cases, the firefighters are fine; they got out and their bunker gear did its job.

Before I go further, know this: These thoughts are not about the firefighters getting in a jam and having to bail. It happened and they are safe. These thoughts are about *what else* we need when conditions turn ugly on the fireground and YOU HAVE TO BAIL.

BLACK SUNDAY BAILOUT

I would be remiss if I failed to mention the Lt. Joseph P. DiBernardo Memorial Foundation whose mission is to provide fire departments with safety training and personal life safety systems. Joey was a friend of mine, as is his dad, retired FDNY Deputy Chief Joe "Chief D" DiBernardo.

Chief D and his organization know the issues of firefighter bailout all too well. They created the foundation following FDNY's Black Sunday on Jan. 23, 2005, when three firefighters lost their lives and three others suffered life-changing injuries – all because they had no way out but a 5th-story window. Lt. Joey DiBernardo lived in great pain every day of his life from all his injuries and passed away on Nov. 22, 2011, as a result of the injuries suffered on Black Sunday. ***The foundation awards grants for personal safety bailout systems for firefighters, and offers seminars taught by world-class instructors. Please check out their wonderful work, all focused on all of us getting out alive.***

FDNY – AND THE REST OF US

Refocusing on each of our departments, there are numerous factors that can lead to the need to bail out. But there is one critical factor that can almost always help us limit the chance of things getting ugly – and even if they do, giving us a better chance to make it. That is STAFFING.

You can watch all the FDNY or other big-city videos you want and then want to act like that, but the fact of the matter is that most departments don't have the staffing (or training) of the FDNY. ***Actually, NO departments have that level of staffing or training.***

Now for you haters out there, *relax*, the FDNY isn't perfect. However, they do the job more than any other department, and their training programs (and pre-qualifications to get hired or promoted) for every rank far exceed almost every other department. So, they must be doing something right – and it's worth paying attention to.

IN-HOUSE STAFFING SOLUTIONS

"But my fire department doesn't have enough staffing!"

Stop. Look, it's no secret that we would all love to have 15 firefighters on an engine, 20 on a truck and 30-40 on a rescue squad, just in case we need all those people. But that is NOT going to happen in your or anyone else's lifetime.

If you and your department leadership are serious about staffing and are willing to set aside our egos, the solution is often accessible. Of course, if you are in a rural area, and there are 30-40 miles between mutual-aid departments, you have a serious challenge. However, in a suburban area or urban area, solutions are very reachable.

First, your department should provide in-house staffing that meets NFPA, ISO and related standards – in other words, whatever your local community tax base can sustain.

For the volunteer side, there's no difference; you're just not paying them. If you have a building that has a sign that says FIRE DEPARTMENT, then you have an expectation to send qualified help when the people call 911.

My point is that to be a real fire department, you need to provide some level of basic service as well as the ability to provide some level of mutual aid, so you don't become a department that relies on *moochual* aid, meaning you take but don't or can't give.

BY THE NUMBERS

No one can claim that good, qualified and adequate staffing won't help you minimize the impact of a bailout situation or react to one. **If the staffing isn't all your agency, then include mutual aid, automatically.**

First-alarm assignments allow you to do the following, pretty much simultaneously:

- Perform a 360 size-up and have an IC throughout
- Establish two sources of water
- Pump the apparatus
- Stretch three 1¾ inch handlines
- Force entry

- Throw ladders
- Search each floor simultaneously; rescue/remove victims
- Manage ventilation
- Handle personnel accountability
- Have at least two command/division supervisors

Basically, you need between 20-25 qualified firefighters/officers on a first-alarm small single-family dwelling. That will generally allow you to manage the initial problem (the fire) and, if something goes wrong, have some staffing to minimize the situation or help those firefighters who are in trouble.

My above numbers aren't perfect and not guaranteed, but they're pretty close. Plus, it beats the hell out of watching your favorite FDNY video (note *their* staffing) and then your department getting a run – and on that run, having six of your members as your first-alarm assignment, knowing that the initial fire problem can barely (*if at all*) be handled *and* pretending that your staffing could actually handle even if any members could get in trouble interior.

First-alarm staffing – the problem that can quite often be solved – when we *really* want to solve the problem.

The one area where I want to compare yours/mine/our departments with the FDNY is staffing. Why? Because if you have the correct number of trained/qualified members on your first alarm, and subsequent alarms, just by the numbers, you have a better chance of minimizing the chance of a close call, and if one occurs, better managing the reaction to that while also dealing with the initial fire emergency.

And look, large departments can and have suffered tragedies under the best staffing circumstances. So what does that mean for “normal”-sized departments? That it’s time to train (with your mutual-aid partners) and figure out your staffing needs based upon your response area.

THE LIGHTER SIDE!

Do you ever get up in the morning, look at yourself in the mirror and think...“That can’t be accurate.”

OFFICERS OF THE CAPITAL AREA ASSOCIATION OF FIRE DISTRICTS

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

Fire District Officials include Commissioners, Treasurers, 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

You're Almost There:

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:

\$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
