



CAPITAL AREA FIRE DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION

BULLETIN

YOUR FIRE DISTRICT NEWS SOURCE

MARCH 18TH, 2023

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If you can't see yourself as a life-long learner, then please do us all a favor and retire.

THE CAPITAL CALENDAR:

WWW.AFDCA.ORG

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

Thursday May 11th Meeting of the General Membership

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

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

August, No Meeting

Thursday September 14th, General Membership Meeting 7PM

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

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

December, No Meeting

Printable Calendar – See Last Page

It's March Already and Dues are Due!!

To date 62 **Fire Districts** have submitted renewal dues for 2023. Those fire districts that have not renewed that were members last year are: Coeymans Hollow, Hemstreet Park, Quaker Street, Glenville #7, Hoosick Falls Joint, Schodack Valley, Town of Mohawk, Selkirk, Guilderland, North Creek, Speigletown, and Petersburg. We are looking forward to hearing from those districts plus any more in the Capital Area that wish to join.

To date 24 **business partners** have submitted renewals for 2023. Those business partners that have not renewed for 2023 yet are: Ballston Spa National Bank, NBT Bank, UBS Financial Services, Fox Pest Control, VFIS, Gentile Brengle & Lin, Safety First, White Wolf Computer, Hannigan Law, Salt City Fire Equipment, Marvin & Company CPAs, and The D'Amato Law Group.

Long Way to Travel to Meetings? Zoom In!

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

Commissioner Training, Register Now and pay at the door!

SATURDAY MARCH 25TH STARTING AT 8AM

There are seats available at Berkshire Fire District, 320 Steele Ave Extension, Gloversville, NY for any of the Commissioners in the Western portion of the Capital Area or adjacent counties.

Whatever is convenient for you!

You are going to like the new format of this presentation.

Just west of the intersection of Routes 29 & 30

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

LAST CHANCE IN THE CAPITAL AREA FOR IN PERSON TRAINING

**Saturday, March 25, 2023 8:00 AM 6 hour Commissioner Training Berkshire Fire District Fulton, Co.
w/Greg Serio 320 Steele Ave Ext, Gloversville, NY 12078
RESERVE YOUR SEAT AT: Email caaofd@gmail.com**

CAFDA FALL WORKSHOP

Saturday, November 4th, 2023 8:00 AM Fall Workshop Location to be determined

ARE THERE SUBJECTS THAT YOU WOULD LIKE TO HAVE COVERED? LET US KNOW!

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

IF NOTHING ELSE READ THE ARTICLES PRECEDED BY **

CAPITAL AREA ASSOCIATION NEWS:

WWW.AFDCA.ORG

CAPITAL AREA ENDORSEMENT FOR STATE 2ND VICE PRESIDENT

The Capital Area has unanimously endorsed Regional Director Dave Denniston for the position of 2nd Vice President of the State Association. Dave has been nominated by the Virgil Fire District and will be a candidate at the State Association's Annual Meeting on Friday May 18th at the Turning Stone. If there is an election it will be held at 4PM on Friday May 18th. We would hope that Dave has no opposition and is elected at the annual meeting on Friday morning.

You Are Invited to Become a Member of the Capital Area Association!

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

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

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

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

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

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

AFDCA PO Box 242 East Schodack, NY 12063

EMAIL: CAAOFD@GMAIL.COM

518-407-5020

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

CAPITAL SHORTS:

- OFPC announces a move to provide "awareness level" courses on a new on-line platform in the near future.
- We wish to thank Dave Denniston for swearing in the Officers and Directors at our Officer's Reception last Saturday in Saratoga Springs.
- If you are interested in becoming a State Director to represent Region 1 for the next two years, please contact Tom Rinaldi or any of the Capital Area officers?
- Fire Department Breakfasts are back, Gansevoort Fire Department holds theirs on the 3rd Sunday of each month except for July and August. Clifton Park Fire Department is every other month with the next breakfast on the first Sunday of April. Vischer Ferry Fire Department holds two per year with the next breakfast being

held on Sunday March 19th from 8 to 11am. (If any other department would like to notify readers of their activities please let us know through the officers or directors

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

MUTUAL AID HELP REQUEST

- The Wilton Fire District is looking for policies regarding Driver Certification, send to Megan Washburn, District Administrator at mwashburn@wiltonfiredept.org. Thank you.
- The Arvin Hart Fire Co is looking to see if anyone has a witten swift water mutual aid agreement on top of their county mutual aid agreement, holding the other participants harmless? Reply to tom@rinaldi1.com

ON THE GRANTS FRONT:

Fire Prevention and Safety Grant (FP&S) is Open!

The FP&S grant provides critical resources needed to support a wide array of fire prevention projects that improve the safety of the public and firefighters from fire and related hazards.

The application period is now open and is scheduled to close on March 31 at 5pm EST.

STATE ASSOCIATION NEWS:

WWW.AFDNYS.ORG



The Capital Area Fire Districts Association endorses Dave Denniston

The Capital Area Officers and Directors voted at the March 9th meeting to endorse Dave Denniston for 2nd Vice President of the State Association. Dave is in his fourth term as commissioner in the Virgil Fire District and have served on the AFDSNY Board of Directors for the past 8 years. During this period, he has participated in some great accomplishments, and have witnessed the challenges that the organization faces. Dave has also been endorsed by the Central NY and Monroe County Fire Districts Association for this position. We are confident that Dave will represent the member districts of the Capital Area well and work in the best interests of the association members.

2023 Annual Meeting & Leadership Summit Expo

Wednesday, May 17 - Saturday, May 20

Turning Stone Resort & Casino

5218 Patrick Road

Verona, Ne 13478

Annual Meeting & Leadership Summit Expo

[Click Here to Register](#)

A link to reserve your hotel room at the Turning Stone Resort & Casino will be included on your confirmation page and in your confirmation email. No call in reservations will be accepted.. 1 room per person

Anyone with hotel reservations in the AFDSNY block that is NOT registered for this event will be subject to your reservation being canceled by the host. Prior notice will be given when possible but is not guaranteed.

The Capital Area Association officers and directors are urging all fire districts who are members of the State Association to at least travel to Turning Stone on Friday Afternoon May 18th no later than 4PM to VOTE in favor of

the By-law change which will allow future voting either in person or by Proxy. This would empower all of the members who pay dues to vote on the future of the State Association without having to travel, pay for and attend the annual conference. *If you pay dues to this not for profit Association, you should be enfranchised to vote!*

Fire Districts Announces a move back to a Fall Annual Meeting

The annual meeting in 2024 will be held on October 9-13th at the Crown Plaza-Desmond Hotel in Colonie NY.

TRAINING APPROPRIATE FOR YOUR ENTIRE BOARD/SECRETARY/TREASURER

Mark your calendar for November 4th 2023 for the Capital Area Fall Leadership Workshop, final location to be determined. If there are subjects that YOU think we should be covering, please let us know.



Coffee with Commissioners

Thursday April 6th at 7PM

Join us for another session of Coffee with Commissioners where we talk about how you as fire commissioners can protect the assets of your districts. Join Region 4 Director Dave Denniston as he talks about troubling new schemes arising to defraud fire districts.

CLICK HERE TO REGISTER: https://archcapgroup.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_ffPm4KEgRR-Zf9Vk4Aa12Q

THE LATEST FROM ALBANY

From the 2024 Executive Budget Briefing Book

Improve Statewide Emergency Response Services.

- **Allow for Compensation Volunteer Firefighters.** The Executive Budget proposes legislation to allow municipalities and fire companies to pay volunteer firefighters modest compensation based on call response and still retain their volunteer status.
- **Volunteer Firefighter Training Stipend.** The Executive Budget includes \$6.5 million to provide a State-funded stipend to volunteer firefighters who complete foundational training as well as funds for DHSES to administer the program and enhance their training capacity.
- **Create NY Emergency Services IP Network.** The Executive Budget includes \$20 million to assist counties in transitioning to Next Generation 911 via a fiberoptic cable network that would connect to a single Public Service Answering Point in each county
- **Amend Emergency Medical Services** This part would require the State Emergency Medical Services Council to advise the Commissioner of Health on issues related to EMS; establish a statewide comprehensive emergency medical services plan; establish mobile integrated healthcare program for ESM agencies; and establish a new process for the approval of EMS applications.
- **Emergency Medical Services (EMS):** The Executive proposes \$7.6 million to increase the EMS special revenue fund in addition to providing capital equipment resources to enhance the statewide fleet of EMS vehicles including ambulances and non-transport treatment vehicles.
- **Create the Transit-Oriented Development Act of 2023** This part would require local governments to authorize the construction of residential dwelling units within proximity to any non-seasonal rail station.
- **Authorize a Property Tax Exemption for Accessory Dwelling Units** This part would authorize municipalities to adopt a property tax exemption program for residential property owners to create one or more additional residential units on their property.
- **Prohibit Installation of Fossil Fuel Equipment and Building Systems** This part would prohibit the installation of fossil-fuel equipment and building systems in new building construction and establish building benchmarking requirements

The executive budget will be presented to the legislature; they will review it, come up with their budget and then the negotiations begin. The budget is supposed to be in place by April 1st. We'll see.

2023 Issues of United Concern – NYS Fire Service Alliance Legislative Initiatives

- **ENSURE VFBL PARITY WITH WORKERS COMPENSATION**

Bring the volunteer firefighters benefit law pay equal to worker's compensation/what career firefighters receive when injured in the line of duty.

Corresponding legislation: S.1340 (Brooks) / A.3597 (McMahon) (2021-2022 Session)

- **S4120 MAYER/A3992 OTIS---DESIGNATE EMS AS AN ESSENTIAL SERVICE AND EXPAND THE BENEFITS AVAILABLE TO EMS PERSONNEL AND SET STANDARDS FOR EMS**
Recognizes EMS as an essential service, establishes a special district for the financing and operation of general ambulance services, expands access to health insurance and retirement benefits available to EMS providers.
- **ANALYZE FINDINGS FROM THE NYS DHSES RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION TASK FORCE IMPLEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE LEGISLATURE ON:**
(1) RECRUITMENT EFFORTS
(2) RETENTION EFFORTS

PUBLIC SAFETY AND BUILDING CODE COMPLIANCE ISSUES

- **S3458 SKOFUS/A2776 ZEBROWSKI---AMEND PENAL CODE TO ADD ENDANGERING THE WELFARE OF OCCUPANTS AND FIRST RESPONDERS**
- **S2986 KAVANAGH/A4430 ZEBROWSKI---RECOVERY OF 54-G FUNDING TO SUPPORT CODE ENFORCEMENT EFFORTS**
Ensure state funds collected through dedicated fees on each fire policy written in the state go to support local code enforcement activities and not continue to be swept into State General Fund.
Corresponding legislation: S.6970-A (Kavanagh) / A.8802-A (Zebrowski) (2021-2022 Session)
- **S3531 SKOFUS---TIMELY ADOPTION OF UPDATED STATE FIRE AND BUILDING PREVENTION CODE**
Would require that a new building code as published by ICC would be adopted by the NYS Codes Council within specified time frame.
- **ACCESSORY DWELLING UNITS** – Ensure the Executive and Legislative prioritization of provision of affordable housing stock through legalization of more residential space is executed in a manner that prioritizes occupant safety and the safety of first responders in emergencies. Ensure a focus on legalizing existing units as well as create new units; advocate for increasing access to housing for first responders as a recruitment and retention tool.

Corresponding legislation: To be determined.

- **LITHIUM-ION BATTERY SAFETY STANDARDS**
Ensure proper registration/permitting, research and standard development, repairing and regulation of products containing lithium-ion batteries, work with stakeholders to raise public awareness around best fire safety practices, and examine solutions proposed from decision makers and opine as a trusted public safety voice.
- **S324 OBERACKER---CONTINUE TO IMPROVE TAX BENEFITS FOR VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS**
Push to allow volunteer firefighters to receive both real property tax exemptions and income tax credit, while continuing to advocate for an income tax credit increase (has been at \$200 since its inception in 2006.) This credit would step increase tied to qualifying years of service up to \$2,500 for 10 or more consecutive qualifying years of service.

ALSO: A165 WOERNER AND S324 OBERACKER

- **A1999 HAWLEY---CANCER COVERAGE COST RELIEF**
Pursue data collection to enable establishment of a funding stream to alleviate fiscal burden on districts/departments providing the coverage.
- *occupational, and other information from firefighters on an ongoing basis to enable public health researchers to learn more about the causes of firefighter cancer in order to better treat and prevent it.*
- **The SIREN Grant**, which is run through the Department of Health and Human Services and helps public and private nonprofit EMS agencies that serve rural areas pay for equipment, training, and staffing.
- Housing Guaranteed Loan Program assists approved lenders in providing loans to low- and moderate- income households to build, rehabilitate, or improve a home in eligible rural areas. **This bill will allow volunteer firefighters to participate in the loan program even if their income exceeds the maximum allowable income level by up to \$18,000.** The Department of Housing and Urban Development's Good Neighbor Next Door Sales Program *gives law enforcement officers, teachers, firefighters, and emergency medical technicians a 50-percent discount from the list price of a home located in a revitalization area.*

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

[View the final report of the NYS VFF Task Force HERE:](https://afdca.org/view-the-final-report-of-the-nys-vff-task-force/)

<https://afdca.org/view-the-final-report-of-the-nys-vff-task-force/>



LET YOUR MEMBERS KNOW ABOUT THIS OPPORTUNITY!



VFIS Instructor-Level Program Emergency Vehicle Driver Training (EVDT)
EMS Vehicle Operation (EMSVO) Description ***This program is a train-the-trainer program*** which is designed to teach the necessary instructional methodology in order to successfully deliver the following programs within your own agency. Upon completion, an instructor kit will be provided.

Course Information

4/15/2023 8:30 AM – 5:00 PM

4/16/2023 8:00 AM – 3:30 PM

Wynantskill Fire Department / NGFD#1 511 Church Street Wynantskill, NY 12198



EVDT 12-16hr Instructor Level PDF.pdf

Register online at www.vfis.com

Insured by VFIS \$0 for first 3 seats, \$60 for each additional Not insured by VFIS \$500 per seat

UL FSRI Fire Safety Academy – 1 Hour Web Based Course on Lithium Ion Batteries

This course focuses on foundational research about lithium-ion batteries, thermal runaway and how fire and explosion hazards can develop. The knowledge you gain in this course can help you identify the risks associated with lithium-ion battery products in your personal and professional life.

COURSE ACCESS AT THIS LINK: <https://training.fsri.org/course/035-science-lib>

Available at any time for your members.

REGISTRATION IS OPEN FOR THE NYSAFC 117TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE & FIRE 2023 EXPO!

June 14-17 • The Oncenter • Syracuse, NY With exhibits, fire and EMS classes, Hands-On Training, and networking events for personnel of all ranks, there's something for everyone at the premier fire industry, rescue, and EMS conference and expo in the Northeast!

CLASSROOM EDUCATION

More than **35 classes** will be presented by some of the most respected leaders in the industry from Wednesday – Saturday for Conference Full Term registrants. **EMS CME** classes will be delivered, and special training for **codes** personnel and **commissioners** will be available. The schedule of classes is coming soon!

ATTENDEE REGISTRATION

REGISTER IN ADVANCE or at the door! **New** – online registration is available for single registrants! Those registering groups must use the PDF form.

ONE DAY TICKETS (EXPO ONLY)

Pre-Registration: \$25 (per person, includes three tickets)

On-Site: \$10 (per person, per day)

FULL TERM REGISTRATION (EXPO & CLASSES)

NYS AFC Individual Member: \$100 (per person)

Non-Member: \$175 (per person)

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

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

Registration (per person):

\$35 – NYS AFC members

\$50 – non-members

Pre-registration encouraged.

Albany Co. 10/23/23, Fulton Co. 9/7/23, Rensselaer Co. 4/3/23, Saratoga Co. 10/24/23

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



VFIS Instructor-Level Program Emergency Vehicle Driver Training (EVDT) EMS Vehicle Operation (EMSVO)

Description This program is a train-the-trainer program which is designed to teach the necessary instructional methodology in order to successfully deliver the following programs. Upon completion, an instructor kit will be provided.

Course Information 3/11/2023 8:30 AM – 5:00 PM 3/12/2023 8:00 AM – 3:30 PM Empress Ambulance 740 Nepperhan Avenue Yonkers, NY 10703

Registration Insured by VFIS Not Insured by VFIS \$0 for first 3 seats, \$60 for each additional \$500

[VFIS TRAINING AND RESOURCE CATALOG 2023](#)

<https://afdca.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/2023-ETC-Resource-Catalog-VFIS.pdf>

[VFIS UNIVERSITY – USERS GUIDE](#)

<https://afdca.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/VFIS-University-User-Guide-3.pdf>

[VFIS TRAINING OFFICER USERS GUIDE](#)

<https://afdca.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/VFISU-Training-Officer-User-Guide.pdf>

[VFIS RESPONDER HELP FLYER](#)

<https://afdca.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/2023-VFIS-Responder-Help-Flyer.pdf>

[Hands-On Training at FIRE 2023 in Syracuse Announced](#)

Registration is open for Hands-On Training at the NYS AFC 117th Annual Conference & FIRE 2023 Expo! HOT will be delivered from Wednesday, June 14 – Friday, June 16 at the Syracuse Fire Department Training Center. Seven courses led by some of the nation's most knowledgeable and experienced instructors will be available: "Advanced Thermal Imaging Camera Ops," "Advanced Vehicle Extrication," "Aggressive Interior Fire Attack," "Fire Behavior On the Inside," "First-In Officers' Responsibilities," "Hoarder Fires," and "Truck Company Essentials."

[Learn More and Register At This Link...](https://www.nysfirechiefs.com/fire2023hot) <https://www.nysfirechiefs.com/fire2023hot>

OUR CHANGING FIRE SERVICE –CHALLENGES & OPPORTUNITIES!

[OPPORTUNITIES: Guidance For Energy Storage Systems Technologies](#)

A new guide for building officials offers information on how to safely plan, design, build and permit emergency storage systems in the built environment. The guide provides information on several ESS technologies and includes printable checklists for document reviews and inspections.

GET THE GUIDANCE AT THIS LINK:

https://lnks.gd//eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkljoxMDMsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpbGljaylslmJ1bGxldGluX2lkljoiMjAyMzAzMDIuNzI1OTYxNzEILCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwczovL3d3dy51c2ZlLmZlbWEuZ292L2Jsb2cvaWctMDIyMzIzLmh0bWwifQ.aYVtV26kqyMPcJpr9F9cp7WkL_T99mcMsKms5IZFwck/s/48783212/br/155485748706-l

[Apply Now for a \\$1500 College Scholarship From FASNY](#)

Each year we provide 25 deserving high school seniors with \$1500 Gerard J. Buckenmeyer Memorial FASNY Volunteer Scholarships to continue their post-secondary education. The scholarships are a great way to help retain your youngest members. Applications are being accepted through March 15.

APPLY AT THIS LINK: <https://firefightersassociationofthestateofnewyork.cmail20.com/t/y-l-pljldhl-ikjuyhlij-i/>

[Join FASNY at Their Annual Convention](#)

Aug. 10-12 in Niagara Falls

We're excited to host our 151st Convention in Niagara Falls Aug. 10-12. Held at the Niagara Falls Convention Center, the event is an excellent opportunity to network, train, and provide input into decisions affecting the operation of your Association. A comprehensive Convention pamphlet will be mailed to all FASNY members shortly and will help you plan your trip. [Click here](#) for additional details, or call (518) 434-0987.

CLICK HERE FOR ADDITIONAL DETAILS: <https://firefightersassociationofthestateofnewyork.cmail20.com/t/y-l-pljldhl-ikjuyhlij-h/>

[Town Of Colonie Receives \\$12K Grant To Improve Firefighter Safety](#)

On Wednesday, the Town of Colonie was awarded a \$12,000 Fire Prevention & Safety Grant to purchase specialized equipment to keep the Fire Investigations Units safe during investigations. The federal grant was made possible by the Assistance to Firefighters Grants program. "We in our Capital Region are fortunate to have such hardworking local firefighters who risk their lives every day to keep our communities safe," said Congressman Paul Tonko. "We owe it to these brave men and women to provide them with the training, equipment, and other resources they need to continue to do their work safely." "The grant will provide the members of our office with protective gear and a decontamination kit," said Benjamin Stevens, Senior Fire Protection Specialist at Town of Colonie Fire Services.

[CHALLENGES:](#)

[Drone Used To Put Out New York Fire That Burned Almost 2 Hours, Firefighters Say](#)

A drone was used to direct water on a downtown Oswego building that was on fire for almost two hours Wednesday, firefighters said. At 3:11 a.m. firefighters arrived at 39 West Bridge St. to find a fire at the back of the second-story apartment building, according to a news release from the City of Oswego Fire Department. The building has a bar called Raven in it, according to a Facebook post from Mayor Billy Barlow. One person was home at the time of the fire but managed to get out, firefighters said. People in neighboring buildings were evacuated by the fire department. The fire was heavy in the attic and cockloft, or area between the ceiling and roof, firefighters said. The firefighters were forced to exit the building and fight the fire from the outside, they said. For 90 minutes firefighters fought the fire with a large quantity of water, firefighters said.

[State Rural Ambulance Services Appoints Final Task Force Member](#)

Over 40 New York counties are considered to be rural, meaning they have a population of 200,000 or less. Yet, the needs of emergency medical services across the state are growing. The task force was created in January of 2022 and regulated by the Bureau of Emergency Medical Services and is comprised of a twelve-member team. The newest appointee is Dr.

Mariom Terenzio, President at SUNY Cobleskill. "I am fortunate enough to learn from my faculty, all of whom are practicing paramedics. I see it up close and personal, their needs, how they train and the impact they have on our rural communities. The task force will evaluate and provide guidance for managing rural community EMS service needs in an effort to better provide more efficient services to those who may need it most.

[IAFF Files Lawsuit Against NFPA Over Gear Testing Standard](#)

In the next step in its fight to combat fire fighter cancer, the International Association of Fire Fighters filed suit March 16 against the National Fire Protection Association (**NFPA**) **for its role in imposing a testing standard that effectively requires the use of PFAS in fire fighter protective gear.** "The very gear designed to protect fire fighters, to keep us safe, is killing us," said General President Edward Kelly. "Standard 1971 needlessly requires the use of PFAS in fire fighter gear." A provision in NFPA 1971 requires certain components of fire fighter bunker gear to pass the Ultraviolet Light Degradation Test. The test requires turnout gear to be exposed to UV light for 40 hours without degradation. **The only substance that can pass the test for that long is PFAS.** The complaint, International Association of Fire Fighters v. National Fire Protection Association, Inc., seeks to hold the NFPA liable for not removing the dangerous test from its Standard on Protective Ensembles for Structural Fire Fighting and Proximity Fire Fighting (Standard 1971).

HOT TOPIC - LIVING WITH LI-ION TECHNOLOGY

[**Its Not All Bad News, Kussmaul And Sutphen Team Up To Offer Freedom Egen Alternative Power](#)

<https://youtu.be/Gqm2gy9-GWI>

When the Clinton Township (OH) Fire Department chief approached Sutphen with a unique request for the department's new apparatus, the manufacturer reached out to Kussmaul to help design a system that would fit the requirements. The customized Freedom eGen system enables power to be provided to critical components even when the engine is not running. Solar panels installed on the cab roof allow for replenished charge while the vehicle is on scene. This system can be placed on any make or manufacturer's vehicle!!

[Safety Risks to Emergency Responders from Lithium-Ion Battery Fires in Electric Vehicles](#)

The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) investigated three electric vehicle crashes resulting in postcrash fires and one noncrash fire involving an electric vehicle, all of which illustrate the risks to emergency responders posed by the vehicles' high-voltage lithium-ion batteries. The NTSB also examined national and international standards established to maximize the safety of electric vehicles. Particular attention was given to the emergency guidance documents supplied by vehicle manufacturers to mitigate the safety risks to first and second responders who deal with electric vehicle crashes and high-voltage lithium-ion battery fires.

Fires in electric vehicles powered by high-voltage lithium-ion batteries pose the risk of electric shock to emergency responders from exposure to the high-voltage components of a damaged lithium-ion battery. A further risk is that damaged cells in the battery can experience uncontrolled increases in temperature and pressure (thermal runaway), which can lead to hazards such as battery reignition/fire. The risks of electric shock and battery reignition/fire arise from the "stranded" energy that remains in a damaged battery.

[New York City Council Propose E-Bike Charging Stations At Fire, Police Stations](#)

Fires sparked by electric bike batteries are causing a wave of concern among New York City lawmakers. One idea being proposed to prevent these fast moving fires is safe, public charging stations. City Council member Gale Brewer suggested allowing delivery workers to charge lithium-ion batteries at a fire or police station instead of inside apartment buildings. "It seemed to me that might be a solution to the very big problem of the people who deliver our food not having a place to charge their batteries and as a result they are charging them in very dangerous places like basements, back of shops and places where fires are started," Brewer told FOX 5 New York. The fire department said batteries in e-bikes, electric scooters and other devices have caused more than 200 fires in New York City in the last year.

PURCHASING APPARATUS

****Apparatus Specification Considerations: 10 Steps to Complete a Needs Assessment**

Bill Peters

The first step in acquiring new fire apparatus is to determine the operational needs of the department. This is not always as simple and straightforward as it seems. Often the apparatus that is being replaced no longer efficiently or effectively meet the needs of a changing community.

For example, a rural community with limited volunteer personnel, relatively long responses, and good apparatus accessibility might consider a quint to service its response area, whereas an urban department with tight streets, traffic congestion, closely packed buildings, and an abundance of emergency medical service (EMS) runs might find that a rescue-pumper is a more suitable choice.

In both of these cases, the primary operational concept will dictate some of the design features of the replacement apparatus that will more suitably meet their needs. The following 10-step needs assessment should help narrow the selection process and get the committee on its way.

1. What is the primary function of the new vehicle? [NFPA 1901](#), *Standard for Automotive Fire Apparatus*, outlines the requirements for each type of apparatus. A chart outlining the required chapters based on the primary function is contained in the standard. Apparatus types are:
 - a. [Pumper](#)
 - b. Initial Attack Apparatus
 - c. Mobile Water Supply Apparatus
 - d. [Aerial Apparatus](#)
 - e. Quint Fire Apparatus
 - f. Special Service Fire Apparatus
 - g. Mobile Foam Apparatus

The primary apparatus designation must be given careful consideration as the requirements of the standard change accordingly. For instance, you could have a pumper with an aerial device or an aerial apparatus with a pump and tank.

Either rig might not meet the requirements of a quint. Each of the types mentioned have different requirements.

2. What other major functions are required of the apparatus? Some departments require pumpers to perform a secondary function as rescue apparatus, commonly referred to as a “rescue-pumper” or be equipped with a large water tank that some call a pumper-[tanker](#).
3. What are the physical characteristics or limitations of the new apparatus? Overall height, width, length, and wheelbase measurements are extremely important—especially where limited station dimensions exist. Some other considerations might be a greater angle of approach or departure or additional ground clearance.
4. What additional features are required on the new apparatus? An onboard generator, light tower, cord reels, oversize compartments, large hosebed or water tank, foam system, and class- A or -B or compressed-air foam systems are just some of the features that might be included.
5. How many riding positions are required? The number of seating positions in the cab will have an impact on the front axle and tire ratings as well as the cost of supplying and mounting the seats. Some volunteer departments make the mistake of specifying a 10-person cab that results in seat overcrowding when they are fortunate to roll out with four firefighters on a normal day.
6. What special operating conditions must be met? Depending on the apparatus loading and local conditions, extra axles might be required on heavy apparatus such as aerial towers, mobile water supply apparatus, and rescue apparatus. Some areas require four-wheel-drive apparatus or special suction or discharge capabilities. Typically, operating in excess of 2,000 feet above sea level or at ambient temperatures outside the 32°F to 110°F range need to be specified.
7. What equipment is to be supplied and or mounted by the manufacturer? The only new equipment that must be supplied by the manufacturer is either 15 feet of supply hose or 20 feet of suction hose on apparatus equipped with a fire pump and new ground ladders. Other new equipment or mounting requirements need to be considered.
8. What is the activity level of the new apparatus? Depending on whether the apparatus will be in a busy or slow location or possibly even used occasionally as a hazmat unit might dictate whether a custom or commercial chassis would be more appropriate.
9. Are there any special operator requirements? Apparatus such as tractor-drawn aerials, industrial foam apparatus, and telescoping/articulating apparatus might require extensive operator training and qualifications.
10. What is the approximate funding is available? It would be nice if unlimited funding was available, but typically that is not the case. One way some deal with this is to make two lists: absolutely necessary and nice-to-have items. For instance, some specify 2½-inch discharges on both sides, front, rear, and preconnects. The price of a discharge includes, valve, plumbing, gauge, and installation. These can be costly additions, especially when they are just located for convenience.

Answering these ten questions can quickly narrow down the design of the apparatus. It is also important to remember that specifying and designing fire apparatus is a series of decisions, compromises, and trade-offs. Sometimes, either because of cost or design, you can't always get what you desire.

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

*IN 2022 WE HAVE SADLY EXPERIENCED *12 + 2= **14** FIRE FIGHTER LODD'S*

According to FirefighterCloseCalls.com
In 2022 we experienced **101** LODDs reported nationally.!*

National Vol Fire Council FIRST RESPONDER HELPLINE AVAILABLE FOR MEMBERS AND THEIR FAMILIES

Firefighting and emergency response are stressful, and the holidays can bring added pressures. The [NVFC First Responder Helpline](#) is here for you. NVFC members and their household families can call for assistance with work-life-volunteer challenges, including stress management, relationships, financial concerns, addiction, and more. [Register for this webinar](#) to learn more about the Helpline. If you are unable to purchase an NVFC membership for yourself or someone else who needs the Helpline, use [this form](#) to receive a complimentary membership.

YOU JUST NEVER KNOW...

- Community Volunteer Fire Department Firefighter-EMT Nahit Oral died Thursday after suffering a medical emergency following a training event.
- Brady Texas Fire/EMS Engineer-EMT William "Bill" Fore died last Thursday, the city of Brady announced. He died by suicide while on duty.
- A Charleston West Virginia firefighter, Captain John Hastings was injured Sunday when part a floor of an **abandoned home** fell on him and a mayday was called, he is in stable condition and alert.
- More at: <https://www.firefighterclosecalls.com/>

Reference Material for Use in a Line of Duty Death

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

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

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

HOME FIRE FATALITIES IN THE NEWS FROM THE US FIRE ADMINISTRATION	
Fire Deaths in 1&2 Family Dwellings in NYS	28+0 = 28
Last fire death 3/4/23 Spring Valley, Rockland Co. Female 29, Male 34, 4, 27, 13	
Fire Deaths in any type of Dwelling in NYS	47+0 = 47
Fire Deaths in 1&2 Family Dwellings Nationally	332 + 42 = 374

Top Three State with the most 1&2 Family Deaths	1 NY = 47
	2 GA = 30
	3 IN = 29
There has been a total of 0622 civilian home fire fatalities in 2023	
There were a total of 2251 residential fire fatalities reported in 2022 in the US media.	
Both the states of Maryland and California require sprinklers in residential dwellings	

In 2022 in New York State 77 residents perished in fires in 1 & 2 family occupancies.

RETENTION & RECRUITMENT

Mich. City Devising Incentives For Volunteer Firefighters After IRS Rejected Old Plan

Anne Runkle

Troy city officials are devising a new incentive plan for volunteer firefighters after the Internal Revenue Service ruled that a previous plan didn't meet the requirements for tax-exempt status.

City officials want to come up with a plan that meets the IRS' requirements, limits the city's financial obligations and fairly compensates the unpaid firefighters, said Mayor Ethan Baker.

"There's a lot of moving parts to this. We have a wonderful group of volunteer firefighters. They put in a lot of time and risk their lives," Baker said.

The city has about 140 volunteer firefighters and 12 full-time paid staff in the Fire Department.

Most volunteers join the Fire Department because they want to serve their community; they aren't even aware of the incentive, Baker said. But the city is using the incentive to help retain volunteers, he said.

Volunteers are vested after 10 years but many devote decades of service, Baker said. They collect the incentive when they retire.

Troy has had a volunteer fire department for about 80 years, before it became a city. The city created the incentive plan in 1979.

The IRS had been questioning the plan for several years. It recently ruled the plan has tax consequences for both the city and volunteers because the benefits provided are greater than those allowed by a tax-exempt Length of Service Award Program for volunteer firefighters, according to a statement on the city's website.

The city unsuccessfully challenged the IRS ruling, Baker said. City officials determined that closing the current plan and replacing it was the best option.

The city will close the current plan April 30 and open a new one, effective May 1. Officials are still working out the details.

"After the closure, current participants will receive a lump sum payment based on an April 30 value (as determined by an independent actuarial firm)," the statement said.

The city will fund this obligation, which is expected to deplete the current fund of \$13.9 million, built over the years with the city's general fund dollars, Baker said. The city has to contribute an additional \$5 million from the general fund, he said.

The IRS ruling had tax implications for both the city and the firefighters; the city voluntarily paid the firefighters' share, Baker said.

Baker acknowledged that it is unusual for a city the size of Troy to have a volunteer fire department. City officials are aware of only one city in the nation that is larger than Troy and has a volunteer fire department. But Baker doubts the incentive fund dilemma will result in the city moving to a paid fire service.

He has talked to "a ton of firefighters" and doesn't know of any who are quitting because of the IRS ruling.

The volunteers are certified by the Michigan Fire Fighters Training Council and are on call 24 hours a day, according to the city's statement.

In addition to responding to fires, traffic crashes and other emergencies, the firefighters regularly commit time to training exercises.

THE ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

IAFF Sues NFPA Over Standard Mandating PFAS in PPE

Curt Varone

The International Association of Firefighters has filed suit against the National Fire Protection Association claiming that portions of NFPA 1971 wrongfully impose requirements on structure fire turnout gear that, in essence, mandate the use of cancer-causing PFAS. The three-count complaint alleges civil conspiracy, violation of Massachusetts' unfair and deceptive trade practices act, and negligence.

The suit was filed in Massachusetts state court, Norfolk County Superior Court, on purely state law grounds (no federal allegations). The factual allegations are complicated, and go back to the 2007 edition of NFPA 1971, Standard on Protective Ensembles for Structural Fire Fighting and Proximity Fire Fighting. In that edition, Section 8.62 added a new requirement that moisture barriers must pass an "ultraviolet (UV) light degradation test". As explained in the complaint:

- *Section No. 8.62, first implemented in the 2007 edition of NFPA 1971, imposes criteria which effectively require the use of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances ("PFAS"), including but not limited to polytetrafluoroethylene, or "PTFE," in fire fighters' bunker gear.*
- *Section No. 8.62 currently necessitates the use of PFAS in the middle moisture barrier layer of fire fighters' bunker gear ostensibly in order to satisfy the ultraviolet (UV) light degradation test. However, the time of exposure to xenon-sourced UV light in Section No. 8.62 was deliberately chosen: a shorter exposure time would allow numerous other materials to pass, but a longer exposure time would allow no materials to pass. The set 40 hours is the threshold where only PFAS passes.*
- *UV light degradation is not a testing requirement for the outer shell of the ensemble, which is the only layer exposed to UV light during the course of the product's normal use.*
- *NFPA 1971 Section No. 8.62 is a UV light degradation test methodology for moisture barriers, the middle of three layers in fire fighters' bunker gear, which is sandwiched between the middle liner and outer shell.*
- *Section No. 8.62 is an arbitrary and unreasonable standard that requires bunker gear's middle moisture barrier layer, which is not exposed to light, to undergo UV light degradation testing, while not requiring such testing for the outer shells.*
- *PFAS have been associated with multiple and serious adverse health effects in humans including cancer, tumors, liver damage, immune system and endocrine disorders, high cholesterol, thyroid disease, ulcerative colitis, birth defects, decreased fertility, and pregnancy induced hypertension.*
- *PFAS have also been found to concentrate in human blood, bones and organs and, more recently, to reduce the effectiveness of vaccines, a significant concern in light of COVID-19 and the occupational risk thereof for the members of the IAFF.*
- *Section 8.62's criteria necessitates the use of PTFE, a fluoropolymer and type of PFAS, known to degrade into toxic, carcinogenic compounds in the moisture barriers for fire fighters' bunker gear, and by specifically hindering and impeding the development and use by fire fighters of PFAS-free bunker gear.*

Section 8.62 was originally added in an effort to reduce the premature failure of moisture barriers. According to the complaint, it was premised on a masters level thesis written by a student at University of Kentucky. The IAFF questions the reliability of that research, stating "Section No. 8.62's UV light test was initially implemented in NFPA 1971 without adequate scientific justification, and that the ongoing use of that test is unwarranted."

In 2021, the IAFF submitted a request to the NFPA to delete the UV light degradation test through the issuance of a tentative interim amendment (TIA). This step would have allowed PPE manufacturers to be using non-PFAS containing moisture barriers in new turnout gear. However, according to the complaint, both the technical committee responsible for NFPA 1971 and its correlating committee, denied the TIA. Quoting from the complaint:

- *On August 12, 2021, NFPA's Technical Committee and its Correlating Committee on Fire and Emergency Services Protective Clothing and Equipment ("Correlating Committee") both rejected TIA 1594.*
- *Significantly, the most vocal opponent of TIA 1594 on the Technical Committee was Karen Lehtonen, Lion's VP of Innovation and Management.*
- *NFPA's Correlating Committee rejected TIA 1594 both on (1) the issue of correlation (i.e. conflict) with other NFPA standards, and (2) on the emergency nature of the amendment. Eight members of the NFPA's Correlating Committee are also Technical Committee members, including Karen Lehtonen.*

- *Just as she was with the Technical Committee, Ms. Lehtonen was the most vocal opponent of TIA 1594 on NFPA's Correlating Committee.*

The IAFF is seeking an injunction against the NFPA from "maintaining or enforcing" Section 8.62 of NFPA 1971, as well as damages, costs and attorneys fees.

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:

****8 Ways A Company Officer Can Exhibit Exceptional Leadership**

James Pribyl

With rank comes privilege. That privilege is leading firefighters. It has absolutely nothing to do with *you*, yet everything to do with *YOU*. You have now become both somewhat irrelevant and the most sought-after person at the station and on the fireground.

A leader is everything to everyone. As the face of the company, you are required to be front and center for any situation that may arise. You will have no time off, and you must remember, that is no one's fault but your own. *YOU* asked for this. *YOU* wanted this. And it's the greatest job in the world.

THIS is the time to demonstrate exceptional leadership. Here's how to do it.

1. BUILD POSITIVE RELATIONSHIPS

The role of the officer is, in its most core definition, to be there for their members. Above all else, the members are the reason you are there. Of course, you need to have technical acumen and firefighting proficiency, but as the leader of the pack, you must develop relationships. Can you be the person they go to for any issue, not because they need to, but because they *want* to. You must know your members' families, relationships, career goals, upbringing, desires, favorite coffee – anything and everything. You are the one who shares in the responsibilities of their professional development. The responsibility you have extends far beyond the third rung.

Another part of developing these relationships is allowing them to vent up and to present ideas. Do you remember being in their shoes? How long has it been since you were the rank and file? Members need an outlet, and that outlet is you. They need to feel as though they are being heard. While putting the department's baggage in the street is not ideal, you can create an environment where they can come to you and air grievances. Sure, it won't be all of it, but allowing them to be heard will reduce some of the anxiety they have by holding it all in. It could be petty; it could be big. Either way, you are in the know, and you have just cut a 6x6 hole, cooled down the room, and all without ever stepping foot on the roof.

As we grow older, we often believe we have all the answers because we have supposedly seen it and done it all. However, some of the best ideas come from those who think without the abundance of knowledge. Allow your members to be a part of the solution and you will see tremendous results. Remember, you were once the member who nobody listened to because your main job was to take out the trash. Could you imagine what would have happened had someone asked you, "What do you think?" It would have made you feel welcomed and part of the team even faster. A simple question like this could re-ignite a flame in an underachiever, perhaps even transforming them in into a superior achiever. Sometimes people just need to feel heard.

2. MASTER TIME MANAGEMENT

All of this takes preparation. Your responsibility turns to accountability in a heartbeat. A few minutes up front saves you hours on the backend.

Although it goes without saying, you can't spell officer without office. Use your time in the office to create detailed training plans, community outreach projects, station and truck maintenance schedules and, most importantly, one-on-one time for your members.

When you meet with your members, they need to feel like you care, not because you're paid to care but because their lives are in your hands. You need to be able to convey what you see them becoming and how they can get there. All of that takes time. Managing it will be one of the biggest challenges you face, but it can be done.

3. KEEPING UP MORALE

Morale should have four letters because it is often said in a negative connotation, but it doesn't have to be like this. Yes, it is human nature to want to be liked. We feel better, communicate better, walk better, sleep better. However, you are not put into your position to be liked. If you want to always be liked, become a barista.

As an officer, you are both a mentor and disciplinarian. Keeper of the standards. If you are fair, impartial and consistent, then you are doing your job. A clear expectation that everyone is equal and treated fairly will build morale. That is not saying everything that is done will be seen as fair, but if you practice sound judgment, you are in the ballpark. When you arrive home at the end of a long shift, training night or difficult call, you can rest assured that things are being done correctly.

Positive morale is possible. Just ensure you are making it attainable and sustainable.

4. FOCUS ON TRAINING

The race to the South Pole – Amundsen vs. Scott. This is the story of two leaders racing to the South Pole and what became of their teams. At the end, you will see that preparation is key. I'm not talking just the fundamentals. One of them decided he would prepare knowing that they would encounter unfortunate events, yet he systematically designed his training to reduce the role of outside forces, and he even developed contingency plans. His philosophy: "You don't wait until you're in an unexpected storm to discover you need more strength and endurance. You don't wait until you're shipwrecked to determine if you can eat raw dolphin. You don't wait until you're on the Antarctic journey to become a superb skier and dog handler. You prepare with intensity, all the time, so that when conditions turn against you, you can draw from a deep reservoir of strength. And equally, you prepare so that when conditions turn in your favor, you can strike hard."

The men and women you are sitting at the kitchen table with depend on you for their safety and well-being; so do the residents of your district. Sure, go ahead and cut that corner, penciling in a nice little check in the box to signal that training is done. Or grab that oversized felt-tip marker and let the ink bleed through the paper and declare that you trained your team for the unknown. You made it worth it. You made it relevant. You made it difficult. You trained them. Earn your paycheck and live up to your title.

5. BUILD EARNED CONFIDENCE IN YOURSELF

By this point in your career, you should have confidence in anything you do, right? However, I would argue that sometimes that is lost when career progression is dictated by tests only or, worse yet, the good ol' boy network.

Do not sell your subordinates short. You must be confident – earned confidence. You must be decisive and quick-thinking in your day-to-day interactions. You should be prepared for almost any situation and act without hesitation. You are now responsible for the lives of everyone on your truck. Their families depend on you. Your team will face dire situations, fire with overwhelming odds against escape, loss of civilian life, loss of a firefighter, hazardous weather conditions and similar perilous situations. You are the one who must make decisions that will impact the lives of many. You must be the light at the end of the hallway as the ceiling is coming down. Simply obtaining the title of officer means nothing. You must live it.

Becoming an officer is easy, *being* an officer is the hard part.

6. LEAD BY EXAMPLE

Do you lead by example – the correct example?

How often do we pine over how we would do things better? There is the officer who comes to work late and never gets written up. The one who doesn't attend training. The one who only responds to the "god" calls. You see where we are going with this.

You are now what your 5-year-old self always wanted. Are you making him or her proud or embarrassed?

PPE checks, trucks checks, SCBA checks, radio checks, hygiene, fit/form/function of your mask, the list is endless. Do you ensure they are done and at times do some of them yourself?

It's easy to point fingers and say "do." It's easy to say I have done all this before. Guess what? Everyone knows and nobody cares. Your members need to see you get your elbows dirty. They need to see you take part in the checks to

make sure they fully trust that you know what you are doing. It seems small, but it makes a tremendous impact when the boss is in there, *doing*.

Do you assist with other chores or tasks? Nobody expects you to do it all, but they need to see that you care and abide by the same rules and standards they do. Something as simple as grabbing a bag of trash serves as a reminder that you are in it with them, and you know where the dumpster is, too. Not to mention, if the officer takes out the trash, it's a simple reminder that someone else didn't do their job. Keep them on their toes, and remind yourself why you're there. It's for *them*.

7. MAINTAIN PHYSICAL AND MENTAL FITNESS

Do you have a plan in place for your members' physical and mental wellbeing? Are you open to the pitfalls of them not being fit for the job? We tend to look past ourselves and only worry about the community we serve. As noble as our devotion to service is, we can only serve the community with the level of effectiveness they expect if we are physically and mentally sound.

Endurance to prevail is difficult and exhaustive, both in the summer and winter. We lose a lot of great firefighters to heart attacks that can be directly attributed to poor health. "Nah, Tommy is fine, he's been doing it like this for years." Is that what you tell Linda when she comes to the station with Tommy Jr. and Rebecca to collect their fathers' personal effects? He didn't die in a valiant rescue. He died walking up a flight of stairs because his weight turned out to be too much for his heart.

Now, do you really want to be a big strong tough leader? Tell Tommy that you are going to help him get on a plan and stick to it. Can you put in the budget a membership to the local gym or, better yet, funds to create your own gym in the station? All that out-of-service stuff you keep around makes for good weights and functional fitness. Be different, not boring.

Some members may not be ready to talk about mental health, but it's time. Gone are the days of drinking away our demons. It may have been acceptable for the Greatest Generation, but today, we are smarter. Not better, smarter. We have resources available to us at the click of a button. We understand that taking someone to the hospital for a broken leg is normal, so why do we dismiss someone having a hard time coping with the terrible pay, long hours, demanding home life, seeing multiple patient heroin overdoses, CPRs on infants, pins, entrapments, burning homes, etc.?

You call yourself a leader, then LEAD. Do you have numbers on hand to assist with a member's mental health? Do you abide by [NFPA 1500: Standard on Fire Department Occupational Safety, Health and Wellness Program](#) and explain the benefits of seeking the proper counseling?

We need to be flexible, agile and immersed in the wellbeing of the people whom we lead. If your team thinks that you do not care about their wellbeing and use their mental health as a negative mark on their reviews, then you should resign this instant.

8. EXHIBIT COURAGE

I heard the saying recently, "Fire is easy, people are difficult." How do you tell a 15-year veteran that they need to slow down? Seems easy, right? Sometimes it's not. They are the person who everyone looks up to. Maybe a little salty, they have the scars and the stories to back it up. Yet they need to maintain the standards set forth just like everyone else. It's easy to let them run free; heck, they can turn a closet ladder into an aerial with only a few modifications. But it can be dangerous, and before too long, it *is* dangerous.

Again, you are there *for the members*. Are you the right person for the job when it comes to discussing tough issues with the chiefs? Can you get behind a closed door and discuss with the senior member of the department that the new policy is handcuffing their members? Nobody needs a "yes man" when things are difficult. As an officer, you are a trusted adviser to seniors and juniors alike. You must be able to set aside any future aspirations and have the difficult conversations. If you can stare down a hallway and look the devil in the face, surely you can walk into an office and talk to the chief.

WHEN YOU'RE NOT PRESENT ...

At the end of the day, it's not so much about whether people listen to you or follow the directions you give. It's more about what they do when you're not there. Have you immersed yourself in your role enough that your members want to make you proud and believe in what you preach when you aren't around? Anyone can yell and scream and give orders. It's the intangible effects that really determine whether you are an effective company officer.

Lastly, you can't talk about leadership without talking about eating last. That's right, your members eat before you. Don't like it, grab a protein shake or get in your car and drive around the corner to eat by yourself. Leaders eat last.
Lead, motivate, inspire.

THE LIGHTER SIDE!

A college student asks her 21 year old roommate, "How was your blind date?" "Terrible" she answered, "He showed up in his 1932 Rolls Royce." "Wow! That's a very impressive car, what's so bad about that?" "He was the original owner, she answered!"

CLASSIFIED

Position Announcement Greenfield Fire District

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

Please send application, cover letter & resume to Joyce Petkus, District Administrator via email at jpetkus@greenfieldfd.org or regular mail to Greenfield Fire District, P.O. Box 103 Greenfield Center, NY 12833 no later than Friday, March 17, 2023.

Position Announcement West Crescent Fire District



NEW POSTING

The West Crescent Fire District is looking for a professional and highly motivated person to perform custodial services and to maintain fire district buildings, grounds and equipment. Must have good communication skills, the ability to manage several projects simultaneously, be flexible with work hours when necessary. Prior experience preferred and all candidates must have clean driver's license. Employment application and job description can be found on the district website at www.westcrescentfire.com or by emailing Fire District Secretary Arthur Hunsinger at wcfldsec@nycap.rr.com
Please send application, cover letter & resume to Arthur Hunsinger via email at wcfldsec@nycap.rr.com

Position Announcement Station Keeper/Maintenance Person

Full Time (40 hours/week) hourly position, commensurate with experience. Benefits available (health and disability insurance, vacation, sick days, holidays, retirement).

Qualifications/Requirements:

- Minimum High School diploma or equivalent
 - Relevant work or experience
 - Pass District Physical, able to lift objects weighing 70 lbs.
 - Preference given to those candidates at least 21 years of age
 - Ability to understand and carry out instructions.
 - Ability to deal with the public and work successfully with other employees and members of the Fire Department
- Familiarity with equipment found in fire stations.

- Experience with cleaning and light building maintenance.
- Ability to perform minor mechanical repairs.
- Initiative, resourcefulness and good judgement.
- Basic computer knowledge for data entry.
- Hold a valid NYS vehicle operator's license. A CDL-B license will be required within six (6) months of employment, to include Air Brake Endorsement. Driver's license will be enrolled in the NYS License Event Notification Service. License acceptable to Fire District's insurance carrier • Background check for Arson Conviction and Sex Offender Registry.
- Preference may be given to an active SCBA qualified member in a local fire department.
- Need to be CPR/AED Certified

General Statement of Duties and Responsibilities:

- Performs work under the general direction of the Building Committee Chairman and Fire District Secretary, as directed by the Board of Fire Commissioners
- Maintain Fire District buildings, grounds and equipment.
- Provide custodial type services at District Office and firehouse
- Other duties as assigned and approved by the Board of Fire Commissioners
- Within one (1) year of hire date, must be a qualified driver and pump operator on all District vehicles. (Training will be permitted on District time).

Examples of Work to be performed:

- Mowing and trimming of lawns, pruning and mulching, rake and remove leaves/debris as necessary.
- Custodial type services including but not limited to: mopping, vacuuming, washing, scrubbing, cleaning windows, buffing, carpet cleaning, and garbage removal.
- Paint interior/exterior of buildings as needed; power wash exterior buildings as necessary.
- Responsible for maintenance and upkeep of vehicles and equipment provided by the Board of Fire Commissioners to complete duties.
- Assist in the coordination of fire apparatus and equipment. Clean, fuel, maintain and transport apparatus and equipment as necessary.
- Assist in coordination of various equipment testing (i.e. hose, ladder, pump).
- Create written correspondence, generate maintenance records as necessary, enter data into fire district software and create reports as needed.

OFFICERS OF THE CAPITAL AREA ASSOCIATION OF FIRE DISTRICTS

2023 OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

President: Tom Rinaldi, Commissioner Stillwater/Saratoga
1st VP: John Meehan, Commissioner West Crescent/Saratoga
2nd VP: Art Hunsinger, Commissioner Clifton Park Halfmoon/Saratoga
Board of Directors: Les Bonesteel Commissioner Burnt Hills/Saratoga, Tom Wood Commissioner Northumberland/Saratoga, Joyce Petkus Treasurer Greenfield/Saratoga, Ed Woehrle Commissioner Niskayuna #1/Schenectady and Mike Podolec Commissioner West Glenville/Schenectady
Secretary/Treasurer: Tony Hill
Sargent at Arms: Tom Wood
Chaplain: Fred Richards
Legal Council: Greg Serio

*The Capital Area Association represents fire district officials from the fire districts in Albany, Schenectady, Rensselaer, Warren, Washington, Saratoga, Fulton and Montgomery Counties
 Fire District Officials include Commissioners, Treasurers, Secretaries and Chief
 All are invited to participate in all of the Capital Area Activities*

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

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

What are the duties and responsibilities of a Commissioner?

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

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

CAPITAL AREA BUSINESS PARTNER'S

PLEASE SUPPORT THOSE WHO SUPPORT US!!

Business Partner Applications Available At: WWW.AFDCA.ORG

Welcome Back all of our Business Partners for 2023

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

Write me at tom@rinaldi1.com

Please Support Those Who Support Us!!

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

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

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

MEMBERSHIP IN THE ASSOCIATION OF FIRE DISTRICTS OF THE CAPITAL AREA

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

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

To take effect January 2023:

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

Business Partners: \$100.00 annual member fee



**association of fire districts
OF THE
CAPITAL AREA, INC.**

2023 Events Calendar

Date	Time	Type	Location
tuesday, March 25, 2023	8:00 AM	Commissioner Training	Berkshire
Thursday, April 6, 2023	7:00 PM	Board Meeting	Clifton Park
Thursday, May 11, 2023	7:00 PM	General Membership	Clifton Park
Thursday, June 8, 2023	7:00 PM	General Membership	Clifton Park
Thursday, July 13, 2023	7:00 PM	Board Meeting	Clifton Park
Thursday, September 14, 2023	7:00 PM	General Membership	Clifton Park
October 2023	NO MEETING		
Thursday, October 12, 2023	7:00 PM	General Membership	Clifton Park
Saturday, November 4, 2023	8:00 AM	Fall Workshop	TBD
Thursday, November 9, 2023	7:00 PM	General Membership	Clifton Park
December 2023	NO MEETING		

Saturday, January 6, 2024	9:00 AM	Organizational Meeting	TBD
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For General Membership meetings food is served 1 hour prior to the start time of the meeting, usually 6pm.