



CAPITAL AREA FIRE DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION

BULLETIN

YOUR FIRE DISTRICT NEWS SOURCE
SEPTEMBER 16TH, 2023

EDITOR - TOM RINALDI
tom@rinaldi1.com

Something for everyone in the Fire Service!!

CAPITAL AREA MEMBER ACTIVITIES:

WWW.AFDCA.ORG

*All correspondence & Capital Area Fire Districts Association Mailing Address should be directed to:
AFDCA PO Box 242 East Schodack, NY 12063 or EMAIL: CAAOFD@GMAIL.COM*

Thursday October 12th 7:00PM General Membership Meeting, dinner served at 6PM with Nominations for Officers & Directors

Saturday, November 4th, Annual CAFDA Workshop, Verdoj Fire Station 8AM

Thursday November 9th, **7:00pm General Membership Meeting**, dinner served at 6PM with Elections

December, No Meeting enjoy the holidays!

Saturday, January 6th General Membership Breakfast Meeting 9am, 2024 Organizational Meeting

Printable Calendar with much more – See End of Bulletin

CAFDA NEWS:

WWW.AFDCA.ORG

[CAFDA is searching for a new Secretary](#)

CAFDA is searching for a Secretary for the Association. Contact any of the Officers or Directors to obtain details. In the meantime, Tony Hill will perform Secretarial duties. Contact Tony Hill or any of the Officers or Directors if you are interested.

Tony Hill is currently acting Secretary/Treasurer and can be reached at :

cafdatreasurer@gmail.com or caaofd@gmail.com , our mailing address is CAFDA PO Box 242, East Schodack, NY 12063

[If Your Fire District or Department is not a Member of CAFDA you Can be?](#)

Individuals can be members of CAFDA. The annual membership fee is \$50, which will provide you access to this Bulletin, attendance at meetings and social gatherings. Provides networking with other fire district officials and a source of the constant barrage of information related to today's fire service.



Capital Area Association of Fire Districts

Membership Application/Renewal

Fire District Fire Protection District Village Fire Department EX-Officio Associate/Individual
Associate Regional Fire District Association

Name: _____

County: _____ Fire District: _____

Mailing Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____

Primary Contact Phone Number: _____ Email: _____

IF FIRE DISTRICT OR ASSOCIATION TWO POINTS OF CONTACT WILL SHARE INFORMATION

Name: _____ Email: _____

Name: _____ Email: _____

Fire Company if Different: _____

FIRE DISTRICT OFFICERS WHO WOULD LIKE TO BE ADDED TO OUR EMAIL DISTRIBUTION LIST

Name: _____ Email: _____

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;

Annual budgets up to and including \$200,000	\$50.00
Annual budgets more than \$200,001 up to including \$400,000	\$100.00
Annual budgets more than \$400,001 up to including \$600,000	\$200.00
Annual budgets more than \$600,000	\$300.00
Associate/Individual membership fee	\$50.00
Regional or County Fire District Association	\$300.00
Business Partners membership fee	\$100.00

Please submit payments to: Capital Area Fire Districts Association
CAFDA Treasurer
PO Box 242
East Schodack, NY 12063

Signature: _____

IF VOUCHER IS REQUIRED, PLEASE MAIL IT AND I WILL SIGN IT AND MAIL IT BACK

CAFDA FALL WORKSHOP: Put it on your calendar

Saturday, **November 4th, 2023 8:00 AM** Fall Workshop Verdoj Fire Department

INFORMATION TO BE SHARED:

- Harassment Challenges – Discipline as a result of Harassment Charges**
- How to SHOP for insurance, What Coverage Should We Have?**
- Removal of Fire Company Members**
- Ask the experts: CPA, VFBL, Attorney, Insurance, Candle Stick Maker**

Training for Fire District Officials Being Held Locally. Both Members and Non-Members are Welcome.- Mark Your Calendars-Watch for Details to Follow

****Fire District Secretary Training** See Flyer Last Page

Join Joyce Petkus as she navigates the duties and responsibilities of a Fire District Secretary...Commissioners invited who wish to better understand what duties and responsibilities Commissioners are ultimately responsible for. What you and your fire district Secretary needs to know to do their job correctly. Join us at the DeCrescente Distributing Conference Center at 200 N. Main Street, Mechanicville (opposite the Price Chopper Plaza).

- **Tuesday September 19th from 6PM to 9PM Limited to 100 attendees we currently have approximately 30 signed up.**
- **COST: members \$10, non-members \$20 checks can be mailed to Tony Hill at Box 242, East Schodack, NY 12063, or pay at the door. Reserve a seat at caaofd@gmail.com**

Join Us for "Its Not Your Money"

Mark your 2024 Calendar for a two day learning session to be given by The Office of the State Comptroller and held at the Waterford-Halfmoon Fire Station at 315 Middletown Road. An in-depth look at fire district finances with direction from OSC. This will be a great opportunity to discuss fire district finances.

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

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

IF NOTHING ELSE READ THE ARTICLES PRECEDED BY**

CAPITAL SHORTS:

- The NFPA vs PESH training held on 9/13 was well attended and well received. Good presentation by the PESH folks. All of the hand outs and the slide presentation will be posted to our website - - just not sure which one yet, since the new website is almost complete but not operational yet.
- The new CAFDA website is almost finished be on the lookout for the announcement that it is "live"!
- It is with profound sadness that Niskayuna Fire District #1 reports the passing of Retired Fire Chief Joseph Battiste.
- CAFDA is highly appreciative for the use of the DeCrescente Training Facility, certainly a first-class facility, and for their hospitality in providing snacks and water for the participants. We can't thank them enough.
- 26th Annual Fallen Firefighters Memorial Ceremony Tuesday, October 10th, Empire State Plaza in Albany.
- **Fire District Election Schedule and Budget Schedule on Last Page of Bulletin and is posted to our current website at afdca.org!**

STATE ASSOCIATION NEWS:

WWW.AFDNYS.ORG

State Fire Districts Announces a move back to a Fall Annual Meeting

The State Association has announced that a Fall Conference for 2024 will be held at Turning Stone with a Sunday - Wednesday time frame October 20 – 23 in 2024.

- The September Board of Director's meeting is being held at the Desmond-Crown Plaza on September 14th – 16th.

LOCAL CAFDA TRAINING APPROPRIATE FOR YOUR ENTIRE BOARD/SECRETARY/TREASURER

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CAFDA Annual Fall Fire District Officers/Chiefs Workshop

Mark your calendar for Saturday, **November 4th 2023 for the Capital Area Fall Leadership Workshop**, being held at the Verdooy Fire Station on Troy-Schenectady Road. Subjects to be covered are:

- Harassment in the Fire Service and Applying Discipline Correctly
- How to SHOP insurance for your fire district, Do We Have Correct Coverage?
- Expert's Panel, Attorneys, CPA, General Insurance, VFBL – What is your burning question?

The First CAFDA Conference Spring 2024

Coming in April 2024 the CAFDA Conference, a *local* three-day conference chocked full of information for Fire District Commissioners, Secretary's, Treasurers and Chiefs. An affordable conference at a local destination in the Capital Area. Watch for more Information as planning progresses.



Upcoming Coffee with Commissioners

Saturday, September 23rd @9:00am Current Trends and Concerns

Click on Each Announced Date to Register

THE LATEST FROM ALBANY

New Legislation Introduced Over The Summer

- REQUIRES SOLAR FARMS TO CONSPICUOUSLY POST SAFETY DATA SHEETS IN AREAS THAT MAY BE ACCESSED BY EMERGENCY RESPONDERS IN THE CASE OF A FIRE OR OTHER EMERGENCY.
- ESTABLISHES THE FIRE STATION CONSTRUCTION GRANT PROGRAM AND THE FIRE STATION CONSTRUCTION FUND; MAKES AN APPROPRIATION THEREFOR. \$10 MILLION UPON ENACTMENT; SUBJECT TO PPROPRIATIONS WITHIN THE BUDGET PROCESS IN SUBSEQUENT YEARS.
- REQUIRES THE USE OF A FIREPROOF BLANKET, BAG OR CONTAINER WHEN CHARGING A BICYCLE WITH ELECTRIC ASSIST OR AN ELECTRIC SCOOTER; REQUIRES SELLERS OF SUCH VEHICLES TO INCLUDE A FIREPROOF BLANKET, BAG, OR CONTAINER WITH THE SALE OF EACH E-BIKE OR E-SCOOTER; ESTABLISHES FINES. [QUESTION IS WHO IS GOING TO ENFORCE OR IS IT POST INCIDENT ENFORCEMENT]

Remember that bills introduced for the 2023 session will carry over to the 2024 session when it begins in January.

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

THE LATEST FROM WASHINGTON D.C.

****Ask Congress to Adequately Fund and Reauthorize AFG and SAFER**

The Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) and Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) grant programs provide direct assistance to local fire and EMS agencies to help them purchase equipment, training, and apparatus, as well as recruit and retain career and volunteer personnel. AFG and SAFER were funded at \$360 million in FY 2023. The House FY 2024 Homeland Security appropriations bill would fund these programs at \$360 million and the Senate bill would fund these programs at \$338 million. This decrease in funding is unacceptable.

Additionally, the AFG and SAFER programs' authorizations expire at the end of FY 2023 and these programs are scheduled to sunset at the end of FY2024. In April, the Senate passed S. 870 to reauthorize these programs and the U.S. Fire Administration through 2030 by a vote of 95 to 2. Please use this action alert to tell your Senators and Representatives to fund AFG and SAFER at a minimum of the \$360 million contained within the House's FY 2024 Homeland Security appropriations bill and reauthorize these programs as soon as possible.

CONTACT YOUR SENATORS AND REPRESENTATIVE: <https://www.votervoice.net/NVFC/Campaigns/98446/Respond>
JUST FILL IN YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS AND HIT SEND MESSAGE AT THE BOTTOM, EASY!!

THE ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

LGS-1 Records Common in Fire Districts (updated 2022)

<https://www.archives.nysed.gov/sites/archives/files/lgs-1-2022-firedistricts.pdf>

Volunteer Firefighter Arrested For Driving While Intoxicated.

Karina Hollingsworth

Terry Cooper of the Hamlin Volunteer Fire Department was arrested Tuesday night. Cooper responded to a grassfire caused by a lightning on Country Road 172. Shortly after arriving on the country road Cooper's fire truck rolled over into a ditch. Cooper was arrested by the Department of Public Safety for driving while intoxicated. Mark Hernandez the Hamlin Fire Department fire chief hopes this never happens again. "It's just a very unfortunate event that occurred," Hernandez said. "Something we can't control. The individual involved, he's good. He's making a full recovery. No injuries were sustained in the accident."

[Editor's Note: We should be able to do better by now!]

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STEP INTO THE CHIEF'S OFFICE:

****When to Say When**

Richard Marinucci

Firefighters and fire departments have a hard time saying no. When asked to help, the answer is usually yes and then an effort is made to comply.

This is a noble trait. **But, at some point, the question has to be asked: Are resources available to accomplish the task?** For example, if an individual is committed to doing something that would be considered a full-time job, would you expect him to take on another job requiring the same commitment? If you did, what would your expectations be regarding the quality of job performance? There are times when certain things cannot be accomplished or the outcome is mediocre at best. Added responsibilities, limited resources, expanding run volumes, training opportunities, and a finite amount of funding restrict the level of competence of individuals and organizations. **You cannot be all things to everyone.** We see this happening in fire departments and other related businesses where expansion exceeds capabilities to the point that everything is watered down. With the exception of larger departments, fire service personnel are expected to be generalists, knowing a little about a lot.

To stick with bigger organizations for a moment, if you work on a truck company, you require certain skills. Since you are not required on a regular basis to perform other parts of the job, you can focus on the expected tasks to be performed. This does not mean you do not need some basics in all aspects, but it does mean you can get better at your craft. Think of it as a musician. You can learn to play many instruments, but to be really good at one, you need to focus your efforts. So for many in today's service, the job requires competence in fire (obviously), emergency medical service, special rescue, leadership, and other skills depending on the risks faced by the community. When the run volume reaches a certain point, maintaining a high level of competence becomes more challenging. Many departments find it difficult to schedule training around emergency response, and those that do often find crews being called from the training to respond to the public. Without continual skills development, something has to suffer. ***You end up sending firefighters to do things they may not be properly prepared to handle. This will affect the service provided and can place unnecessary risks on the most valuable resource: your personnel.***

What does this really mean? There is no doubt that the fire service will continue to either be asked to expand its services or will volunteer to do so. Some of this is necessary as the world continues to change and always will. Adapting to changing roles is part of everyone's responsibilities, especially an organization's administration and management. Part of this responsibility is to be candid when discussing how expanding responsibilities impact the department and realistically appraise capabilities to perform the work. Honest feedback is necessary and must be delivered with tact and diplomacy. Facts and data also are critical. ***There are limitations on what can and cannot be done.*** In cases where firefighters and specific companies are too busy to learn new things, the chances for errors in response will be greater. For example, building construction is constantly evolving. Each change affects how the building will react under thermal assault. If information is not provided to responding crews that should be factored into decisions on tactics and strategies, successful outcomes are not likely. Structural integrity must be a major consideration.

There must be time to study building construction, alter tactics, and train on alternative methods to accomplish objectives. Departments on overload with respect to job responsibilities, especially those grossly under resourced, may not adjust to the changing work environment. There are many standards and regulations that require compliance by those in the fire service. As new responsibilities are added to the job, standards and regulations along with policies and procedures will follow. There is an ever-increasing number of these coming from organizations like the National Fire Protection Association and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration. When something goes wrong, claiming you were unaware of the requirements of the job is not a defense. Failing to know the content of standards and regulations can have significant negative consequences should something go wrong. This is yet another factor in the challenges facing the fire service when accepting additional work. Tools and equipment are needed to do almost everything asked of a fire department. ***Departments must know the right tools to acquire for the jobs at hand.*** They must have the funding to purchase the same. Take time to research the best options for each task. Once a decision is made as to what is needed, there must be familiarization and training. This obviously takes time and requires subject matter experts to do the training. Time and money are needed. This must be evaluated prior to saying "yes" when asked if the fire department can do more. Doing more with less is rarely possible. When it is, it is the result of technological advances, which require more expenditure. Another consideration regarding this is storage and deployment of new tools and equipment. How much space remains in your apparatus compartments? If you are typical, all existing space is being used. Can you create space on your apparatus? Are there items no longer important that can be replaced? Too often, departments do not pare down their equipment cache, and compartments get more crowded. This will affect tool deployment, possibly slowing an operation unnecessarily. Do you acquire additional vehicles or continue to expand the size of what you have as you replace your rolling stock? There are so many questions that need to be asked (and answered) when more is added to your job responsibilities. The roles and responsibilities of fire departments are ever-expanding. ***The resulting challenge is maintaining a level of competence that delivers the quality of service that emergencies demand.*** Many departments are asked to do more even though staffing has not been adequate for previous duties. Organizations need time to train for serious events yet run volumes may not allow this in understaffed departments. It is time to begin the discussion as to the future of the fire service with respect to its ability to deliver high performance. ***Piling on tasks without evaluating capabilities must stop.*** Competence levels must be honestly evaluated, and organizations must consciously accept additional duties.

OUR CHANGING FIRE SERVICE -CHALLENGES & OPPORTUNITIES!

OPPORTUNITIES:

Historic FDNY Fireboat Being Preserved In Hudson Valley

VIDEO: A fireboat now docked in the Hudson Valley used for historically significant missions, including Sept. 11, 2001, rescues and the "Miracle on the Hudson," was recently added to the National Register of Historic Places. Several New Yorkers are preserving the retired boat to carry on its legacy. Ed Taylor and Miguel Valle are working to preserve the history of retired FDNY Fireboat John D. McKean. "We're custodians of this boat, so this boat belongs to everyone," Taylor said. "We're here to help maintain it, and because a boat like this, if it's maintained, it can last a lot longer than us." Fireboat John D. McKean was in service with the New York City Fire Department as Marine Company 1 for 58 years. Built in 1954, the 129-foot boat is named after a FDNY marine engineer who lost his life in an explosion aboard another ship the year prior. Taylor purchased the McKean from New York City during an auction in 2016. Valle, a volunteer firefighter of 47 years, became interested in preserving the boat after it assisted his crew with a call. It is currently docked behind Panco Petroleum Co. in Stony Point. (Grassy Point Rd Rockland County Rt 108) <https://www.fireboatmckean.org/> The Fireboat McKean Preservation Project is a registered 501(c)(3) charity. All donations are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. No amount is too small **or** too big!

Tiny, Bug-Like Robot Created By University Engineers In Colorado Has Potential To Aid First Responders

PHOTOS: A little bug-inspired robot created by a team of engineers at the University of Colorado Boulder has the potential to someday aid first responders during disasters. The robot's name is CLARI, which stands for Compliant Legged Articulated Robotic Insect. It was built in the image of a bug. It's tiny, squishable and can shape-shift to fit through different gaps. The robot can fit in the palm of a hand and weighs less than a ping-pong ball. "It has a modular design, which means it's very easy to customize and add more legs," doctoral student Heiko Kabutz said in a news release. "Eventually, we'd like to build an eight-legged, spider-style robot that could walk over a web." Mechanical Engineering Assistant Professor Kaushik Jayaram said CLARI is still in its early stages, depending on wires for its power supply and to receive basic commands.

information for the Regional Firefighter 1 National Certification Testing.

There are several sites included in this Announcement.



2023 Regional FFI Nat Cert.pdf

NOTE LOAD TO WEB SITE AN PUT LINK HERE

CHALLENGES:

Why Isn't EMS Essential? Growing Amount of States Look to Change That

Nada Hassanein

When someone with a medical emergency calls 911, they expect an ambulance to show up. But sometimes, there simply isn't one available.

Most states don't declare emergency medical services (EMS) to be an "essential service," meaning the state government isn't required to provide or fund them.

Now, though, a growing number of states are taking interest in recognizing ambulance services as essential — a long-awaited move for EMS agencies and professionals in the field, who say they hope to see more states follow through. Experts say the momentum might be driven by the pandemic, a decline in volunteerism and the rural health care shortage.

EMS professionals have been advocating for essential designation and more sustainable funding “for longer than I’ve been around — longer than I’ve been a paramedic,” said Mark McCulloch, 42, who is deputy chief of emergency medical services for West Des Moines, Iowa, and who has been a paramedic for more than two decades.

Currently, 13 states and the District of Columbia have passed laws designating or allowing local governments to deem EMS as an essential service, according to the National Conference of State Legislatures, a think tank that has been tracking legislation around the issue.

Those include Connecticut, Hawaii, Indiana, Iowa, Louisiana, Maine, Nebraska, Nevada, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Virginia and West Virginia.

And at least two states — Massachusetts and New York — have pending legislation.

Idaho passed a resolution in March requiring the state’s health department to draft legislation for next year’s legislative session.

Meanwhile, lawmakers in Wyoming this summer rejected a bill that would have deemed EMS essential, according to local media.

“States have the authority to determine which services are essential, required to be provided to all citizens,” said Kelsie George, a policy specialist with the National Conference of State Legislatures’ health program.

Among those states deeming EMS as essential services, laws vary widely in how they provide funding. They might provide money to EMS services, establish minimum requirements for the agencies or offer guidance on organizing and paying for EMS services at the local level, George said.

The lack of EMS services is acute in rural America, where EMS agencies and rural hospitals continue to shutter at record rates, meaning longer distances to life-saving care.

“The fact that people expect it, but yet it’s not listed as an essential service in many states, and it’s not supported as such really, is where that dissonance occurs,” said longtime paramedic Brenden Hayden, chairperson of the National EMS Advisory Council, a governmental advisory group within the U.S. Department of Transportation.

MORE FINANCIAL SUPPORT

There isn’t a sole federal agency dedicated to overseeing or funding EMS, with multiple agencies handling different regulations, and some federal dollars in the form of grants and highway safety funds from the Department of Transportation. Medicaid and Medicare offer some reimbursements, but EMS advocates argue it isn’t nearly enough.

“It forces it as a state question, because the federal government has not taken on the authority to require it,” said Dia Gainor, executive director for the National Association of State EMS Officials and a former Idaho state EMS director. ***“It’s the prerogative of the state to make the choice” to mandate and fund EMS.***

In states that don’t provide funding, EMS agencies often must rely on Medicaid and Medicare reimbursements and money they get from local governments.

Many of the latter don’t have the budgets to pay EMS workers, forcing poorer communities to turn to volunteers. But the firefighter and EMS volunteer pool is shrinking nationally as the volunteer force ages and fewer young people sign up.

Overhead for EMS agencies is expensive: A basic new ambulance can cost \$200,000 to \$300,000. Then there are the medicine and equipment costs, as well as staff wages and farther driving distances to medical centers in rural areas.

The fact that people expect it, but yet it’s not listed as an essential service in many states, and it’s not supported as such really, is where that dissonance occurs. — Paramedic Brenden Hayden, chairperson of the National EMS Advisory Council.

By contrast, police departments are supported and receive funds from the U.S. Department of Justice along with local tax dollars, and fire departments are supported by the U.S. Fire Administration, although many underserved areas also rely on volunteer firefighters to fill gaps.

“We need more if we’re going to save this industry and [if] we’re going to be available to treat patients,” Hayden said. “EMS in general represents a rounding error in the federal budget.”

What’s more, reimbursements only occur if a patient is taken to an emergency room. Agencies may not receive compensation if they stabilize a patient without transporting them to a hospital.

Gary Wingrove, president of the Paramedic Foundation, an advocacy group, has co-authored studies on the lack of ambulance service and on ambulance costs in rural areas. The former Minnesota EMS state director argues that

reimbursements should be adjusted on a cost-based basis, like critical-access medical centers that serve high rates of uninsured patients and under resourced communities.

A RURAL CRISIS

About 4.5 million people across the United States live in an “ambulance desert,” and more than half of those are residents of rural counties, according to a recent national study by the Maine Rural Health Research Center and the Rural Health Research & Policy Centers. **The researchers define an ambulance desert as a community 25 minutes or more from an ambulance station.**

Some regions are more underserved than others: States in the South and the West have the most rural residents living in ambulance deserts, according to the researchers, who studied 41 states using data from 2021 and last year.

EMS director of the Rosebud Sioux Tribe in South Dakota. South Dakota Democratic state Rep. Eric Emery, a paramedic, is the EMS director of the Rosebud Sioux Tribe Reservation. He is advocating for better support for EMS in his state. Courtesy of Rosebud Sioux Tribe Communications Department

In South Dakota, the Rosebud Sioux Reservation covers a 1,900-square-mile area in the south-central part of the state. State Rep. Eric Emery, a Democrat, is a paramedic and EMS director of the tribe’s sole ambulance station, providing services to 11,400 residents.

Emery and his colleagues respond to a variety of critical calls, from heart attacks to overdoses. They also provide care that people living on the reservation would otherwise get in the doctor’s office — if it didn’t take the whole day to travel to one. Those services might include taking blood pressure measurements, checking vital signs or making sure that a diabetic patient is taking their medicine properly.

Nevertheless, South Dakota is one of 37 states that doesn’t designate emergency medical services as essential, so the state isn’t required to provide or fund them.

While he and his staff are paid, remote parts of the reservation are often served by their respective county volunteer EMS agencies. It would simply take Emery’s crew too long — up to an hour — to arrive to a call.

“Something I wanted to tackle this year is to really look into making EMS an essential service here in South Dakota,” Emery said. “Being from such a conservative state that’s very conservative when it comes to their pocketbook, I know that’s probably going to be a really hard hill to climb.”

Ultimately, Wingrove said, officials need to value a profession that relies on volunteers to fill funding and staffing gaps. “We’re looking for volunteers to make decisions about whether you live or die,” he said.

“Somehow, we have placed ourselves in a situation where the people that actually make those decisions are just not valued in the way they should be valued,” he said. “They’re not valued in the city budget, the county budget, the state budget, the federal budget system. They’re just not valued at all.”

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



Protecting Your Agency from Daily Threats, ESIP WEBINAR SERIES

Utilizing the internet and technology are necessities in any organization today. Unfortunately, cyber security threats are increasing in complexity and severity. Brian Gordinier of One Stop Tech Shop joins us to discuss how we can minimize these threats and best practices to keep our people, information, and assets safe.

WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 20, AT 7PM

REGISTER AT THIS LINK: <https://mcneilandcompany.us8.list-manage.com/track/click?u=03596f243a9d922954ebaf15e&id=5182a494e7&e=781e9a2c81>

Webinar - Understanding Railroad Operations & Safety Wednesday, Sept. 20, 7PM

This FASNY webinar will give first responders the ability to work safely within the railroad right of way, get an awareness of railroad terminology, recognize safety features of rail cars, and learn how to contact the railroad.

REGISTER HERE: <https://firefightersassociationofthestateofnewyork.cmail20.com/t/y-l-pkdjdl-ikjuvhlij-n/>

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 – NYSAFC members

\$50 – non-members

Pre-registration encouraged.

- **Albany Co. October/23/23**
- **Saratoga Co. October/24/23**

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

Bring NYSAFC Training to Your Area

Fire departments and county agencies or associations that are interested in hosting classroom-based programs or Regional Hands-On Training are invited to submit host request forms. The forms outline the specific host responsibilities and logistical considerations for each NYSAFC program. Sites are now being considered for programs in 2024.

5th Annual Fire Police Training

Saturday, October 21st from 7:30AM to 1230PM

DeCrescente Training Room, 200 N. Main Street, Mechanicville, NY (Across from the Price Chopper)

Pre Register at <https://www.eventbrite.com/o/volunteer-fire-police-association-of-saratoga-county-inc-34246699473>

\$10 registration at Eventbrite,

\$15 Registration by Email @ secretary.scvfpa.ny@gmail.com

\$20 Walk in registration

Tentative Topics to be taught.

Training Session #1 Legal duties/responsibilities of Fire Police

Training Session #2 Emergency Traffic Control Signage

Training Session #3 NIOSH LODD Review, What went wrong.

Sponsored by the Volunteer Fire Police Assoc. of Saratoga County

University Provides a Wealth of Training Opportunities UPDATED FOR 2023

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>

THE SAFETY OFFICER – TAKING CARE OF OUR MEMBERS!

IN 2023 WE HAVE SADLY EXPERIENCED 59 FIRE FIGHTER LODD'S

*According to FirefighterCloseCalls.com**

In 2022 we experienced 101 LODDs reported nationally.!

You Just Never Know!

- Five Troy firefighters were burned while participating in live fire training at a state-run firefighter training facility, all were seasoned firefighters with 10 plus years on the job.

DISTRICT FINANCES

Fleming (NY) Fire District Voters Reject \$1.1M Rescue-Pumper Purchase

Robert Harding-The Citizen

*The small percentage of Fleming Fire District residents who voted in a special election Tuesday approved five of the seven resolutions, but **rejected an increased spending limit and the purchase of a \$1.1 million rescue-pumper.***

The resolution to increase the district's statutory spending limit to \$450,000 annually for 25 years failed, with 110 no votes and 96 voting yes. A separate resolution that would've allowed the district to issue bonds to buy the rescue pumper also failed, 97-105.

However, voters approved resolutions to buy a new tanker (105-98) and a used ladder truck (112-90). Three resolutions to create capital reserve funds for buildings, equipment and vehicles also passed.

Turnout was low, with 206 voters casting ballots — **a little more than 10% of the registered voters** in the town of Fleming.

The special election was called after the Fleming town board voted in March to dissolve the two fire protection districts and create one fire district. Although there is one fire district, both fire departments will continue to operate and respond to calls.

A public hearing was held before the town board voted to establish the new fire district. While there wasn't any opposition to the fire district, some residents raised questions about the fiscal impact. One concern was the cost of buying a new fire truck.

Brad Pinsky, whose law firm represents fire districts across New York, highlighted the benefits of creating a fire district, including increased accountability and public meetings. The fire district has a five-member board of commissioners — James Corl, Chris Janssen, Bill Pipher, John Sheftic and Adam Young.

Pinsky explained that the fire district's spending limit can only be increased through a public vote, which is one reason why the special election was held on Tuesday. He told the town board that a fire district can spend \$1,000 for every \$1 million of taxable assessed value within the district.

Another benefit of forming a fire district, according to Pinsky, is the ability to apply for grants that weren't available to the two departments.

For the town, the formation of a fire district means that the departments will no longer be part of the town's budget. The spending plan for this year included \$256,000 for fire protection, \$128,000 for each department.

The new fire district will also lower the town's property tax cap. The cap on annual property tax levy increases is 2% or the rate of inflation, whichever is less.

Fleming Supervisor Don Oltz received confirmation from the state comptroller's office that the town's tax cap would decrease for the 2024 budget.

RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION

****Reinventing Recruitment: How 1 N.Y. Department Stepped Up Its Game**

By Trish Hudson and Zach Polvino

Here is a fire company that has done it and was a success.

Recruitment in the volunteer fire service is at the top of the list of topics at conferences, on association webinars, and during conversations among members inside volunteer firehouses across the country.

The crux of the issue, per the National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC): Departments are struggling to attract younger members for a variety of reasons, including increased demands on people's time, longer commuting distances to and from work, the prevalence of two-income households, and increased training requirements.

Volunteer organizations must seek creative solutions to attract new members. Fortunately, there are many resources available to departments – and our department capitalized on these resources as part of a plan to reinvent our recruitment strategy. And it’s working.

ABOUT THE SNYDER FIRE DEPARTMENT

Located in a first ring suburb of the city of Buffalo, N.Y., the Snyder Fire Department serves a district approximately 9 square miles in size and responds to approximately 1,100 calls per year for both fire and medical calls, including mutual aid to approximately 27 square miles in the towns of Amherst and Cheektowaga.

We currently have 70 members, with an average member age of 52 – not unlike the national average of an aging membership.

MEMBERS TAKE ACTION

In 2020, a small group of Snyder Fire Department members formed a recruitment and retention committee to address our staffing challenges. The committee was comprised of our second assistant chief (who is now the first assistant chief), a past chief who now serves as a safety officer, a lieutenant, and ourselves – a captain and the corporate secretary – all volunteer firefighters and EMTs within the company, and all with a common concern, a shared sense of problem-solving, and a continuous improvement mindset.

What started as simply trying to understand the issues developed into a multi-year, multi-faceted approach to both recruitment and retention challenges. The result: Since January 2022, we have successfully onboarded 16 new members. This is extraordinary because we had previously onboarded, on average, two members per year.

A SIMPLE START: REGULAR MEETINGS

The department’s recruitment plan had multiple levels, but it all started with a simple step – weekly meetings. While there is a great deal that can be accomplished during in-person meetings, use of video conferencing proved to be an effective tool, providing the committee much-needed flexibility. The cost of entry to these systems has decreased dramatically, and many are even free, especially for nonprofit organizations.

Once regular meetings were established, the committee was able to begin developing and implementing a four-part recruitment plan.

PHASE 1: MEMBERSHIP SURVEY

While the committee consists of cross-functional members and officers, we wanted to hear from everyone, so we conducted three member surveys to better understand the membership perspective. The surveys were confidential, and themes focused on communication, leadership, and willingness to try new things (essentially moving away from “this is the way we’ve always done it” mindset).

The surveys ultimately provided valuable insight into the concerns of our membership. Key takeaways from the surveys included a need for increased communication, increased flexibility in our membership model (for retention) and more cross-functional leadership.

PHASE 2: COMMUNICATION

Survey results were shared with the department leadership, both firemanic officers and executive officers, including the Board of Directors and the Board of Fire Commissioners. Survey results were then shared with all members via email and at our company monthly meetings. It was important for the committee to let the members know that their voice was heard and that plans were being established and prioritized to address their concerns.

Internal communications: Although not directly related to the recruitment committee, the fire company went through a process in 2019 of a full review and re-write of the company bylaws. One of the gaps discovered during the re-write was the lack of a fully accessible email system. In 2020, spearheaded by the recruitment committee, we applied for the Google for Nonprofits suite of products and established a company-wide email system for communication. All company-related information is now shared utilizing the Google suite, including email and Google Drive. Email was a much-needed addition to our text message and push notification paging system.

In addition to utilizing these communication tools, we also focused our efforts on increasing the amount and type of communications to members. It became apparent that during the height of the pandemic that members wanted and needed information, whether written SOGs or verbal communications from leadership.

External communications: We have a small team of members who are responsible for all company online activity – Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, YouTube and website updates. A Google form was created and added to the website to solicit contact information for interested potential members.

A detailed social media policy was then developed, following specific criteria for posts. Using social media has provided a standard platform for sharing fire safety and prevention messages as well. These messages engage the community and have given the fire department a deeper connection to the community.

Our social media team takes great care to craft thoughtful messaging for every post. This messaging is designed to be professional, with the end-user (community members) in mind. The team focuses on storytelling and uses pictures and graphics to increase exposure and views. Posts are focused on fire safety/fire prevention, current events, notable or major incidents, regular training, member accomplishments and new members. All posts also have a common thread – spreading a positive, professional message that always incorporates recruitment, with simple call-to-action messages. Having graphically consistent messages and page identity is equally important, as it continues to underscore fire department professionalism. These posts put a face to the department, humanizing it, to build a connection among the community ... and potential members.

PHASE 3: EVENT OPPORTUNITIES

Unfortunately, a significant number of people in the community we service did not know we are volunteers. That was a call to action – to spread the message that we are volunteers, and we are actively recruiting. We modified our community engagement message to always include an educational component of some sort, plus information regarding volunteering and training.

In 2020, due to COVID restrictions, we had to cancel our annual fire prevention open house as well as other community activities, creating a gap in opportunities to engage with the community. So, in October 2020, we decided to host a virtual open house via YouTube live stream. The virtual open house was a good learning experience! During the event, we hosted a food drive for a local food pantry, collecting nearly 3,500 pounds of food during a drive-through drop-off event. We also handed out goodie bags for kids along with volunteer information to every car that drove through the event that day.

The Snyder Fire Department has engaged in many other events. Since mid-year 2020, the department has:

- Created recruitment yard signs that members post at their homes;
- Created recruitment cards with contact information;
- Hosted a recruitment open house tied into the Recruit NY weekend in April 2021 and again in April 2022;
- Held a drive-through chicken BBQ fundraiser in May 2021 where we handed out recruitment material;
- Hosted annual “Coffee with a Firefighter” events at the firehouse, where the community could come by, have a cup of coffee, take a station tour, and talk to firefighters about volunteering;
- Partnered with the Town of Amherst and participated in their Food Truck Rodeo at town parks to increase our presence in the community and spread the message of volunteering;
- Hosted our annual Fire Prevention Open House during Fire Prevention Week in October;
- Produced a fire prevention video for school-aged children that was posted to our department’s YouTube page and sent to schools;
- Hosted a “Truck or Treat” event for Halloween at the firehouse, where we had an overwhelming number of community members and their children attend for tours, crafts and candy; and
- Escorted Santa throughout our entire fire district on our annual Santa Ride on Christmas Eve.

We displayed signage and handed out information regarding volunteering at every event.

PHASE 4: RECRUITMENT, RECRUITMENT, RECRUITMENT

All of the activities described above were great for increasing our interaction with the community in a non-emergency way, but we still had to further drive the issue of active member recruitment. As such, the committee got to work on this and spent nearly 18 months conducting research (including interviews with other fire companies) to develop a comprehensive plan that included multiple approaches.

Expanded residency boundaries: The first proposal presented to the Board of Fire Commissioners was an expansion of our residency boundaries for members by approximately 1 mile in each direction. This turned out to be not only a recruitment tool but also a retention and engagement tool.

Like so many areas across the country, our geographic response and residency area is experiencing a housing boom. Snyder is a desirable community in western New York, and there is a significant demand for houses. Homes typically sell within days (sometimes hours) of being listed, and almost always for significantly higher than their asking price. We found that several younger members who were first-time homebuyers were having significant difficulty finding affordable houses to purchase when they were ready to move from renting to home ownership. Expanding our residency requirements allowing members to stay with the department when buying a home beyond the original response boundaries. We were even able to recruit a few new members because of this change.

Duty shift program: Through extensive research and collaboration with other fire companies, the committee developed a duty shift program. Of greatest interest was hearing from other companies that have established similar programs – what worked for them and, perhaps more importantly, what did *not* work for them.

The program was presented to the Fire District Commissioners in mid-2021. In collaboration with our Fire District Commissioners, the program was approved and started on Jan. 1, 2022, when our first on-duty crew rang in the new year by working their first shift together. Our social media team posted a picture and write-up about the duty crew, which generated a considerable amount of interest within our community, in the fire service community in western New York, within New York State and even in other states.

The flexible program allows members to create their own shifts. They work shifts that support their families and jobs, thus creating the work-life balance so many of our members seek.

Some program specifics:

- Members must work a minimum of 288 hours/year to achieve good-standing status.
- The duty shift requirements, other than hours, has been kept the same as the on-call program; all drill requirements, work detail requirements, etc., are the same for each program.
- We have several crew members who work only evenings, over-night shifts or only day shifts, thus helping the department during often-challenging response times.

Quarterly surveys to all duty crewmembers are completed, as well as open meetings for any members who wanted more information about the duty shift program. The survey results confirmed what we suspected: Members in the program felt the program allowed them to achieve an improved work-life balance so they could continue their membership with the Snyder Fire Department, as many members had been struggling to maintain their requirements as on-call members while balancing their home and work lives.

Since Jan. 1, 2022, we have been successful in onboarding 16 new members and have transitioned 11 existing on-call members to duty shift members.

ORIENTATION, ONBOARDING AND MENTORSHIP

Throughout the process of creating our duty shift program and increasing our recruitment activity, we also worked to improve our onboarding process and to create a mentorship program.

The Snyder Fire Department had a thorough onboarding program for new members. The orientation typically lasted for about 3 hours during which time new members received their turnout gear and other equipment, got a tour of the firehouse, and were educated on the bylaws, policies and procedures of the department and the district. We found that this was a tremendous amount of information to absorb in only a few hours, and it was overwhelming for many new members. The recruitment committee took this opportunity to reevaluate the onboarding experience and make some needed updates.

Orientation program: The recruitment committee re-worked the orientation program and created a new onboarding program, providing a more organized and methodical approach to onboarding. A series of training modules for new members were developed to provide an opportunity for new members to quickly become both proficient and efficient. The training modules are adjustable depending upon a member's previous experience.

Mentorship program: The newly created mentorship program pairs a new member with an experienced member. The mentor does not have to be an officer, although many of our past officers are providing tremendous mentorship. Being a volunteer organization, we are fortunate to have members with diverse and varied backgrounds who can provide exceptional guidance. For example, one of our mentors is a former captain within the department and a retired teacher. Using his teaching background, he provides education using one-on-one teaching methods.

Mentors also attend the orientation session with the new member, and they assist in helping the new member work through the onboarding process. The mentor facilitates trainings, from reviewing equipment on the apparatus and

practicing 2-minute and 1-minute drills, to explaining our SOGs. Mentors can provide this training or work to align schedules with an officer or subject-matter expert to provide the training.

CONSTANT IMPROVEMENT

The recruitment committee of the Snyder Fire Department will continue to look for new and innovative ways to recruit and retain members, as well as opportunities for members to grow.

LIVING WITH NEW GREEN TECHNOLOGY - - HOT TOPIC!

Electric vehicle fires: The Terrifying Reality

Fires sparked from lithium-ion batteries found in popular items like e-bikes, e-scooters and electric vehicles are on the rise - **with two cars bursting into flames on the same day this week**. And a well-placed source said fire brigades across Australia were 'very concerned' they would continue to increase as the use of lithium-ion batteries soars.

'What we do know is there will be more fires,' the source said, noting that the fumes from a battery fire were far more toxic than those of a standard one.

Firefighters were called to a parking lot at Sydney Airport on Monday to find **five cars had become burnt-out wrecks**.

The lithium battery, which had been detached from an MG ZS EV, was identified as the cause of the blaze in the Airport Drive parking lot in Mascot.

Meanwhile on the same night in Penrose, in New South Wales (NSW's) Southern Highlands, a Tesla Model 3 caught alight after being struck by the tail shaft of a truck in front of it. Firefighters from the Penrose Rural Fire Brigade luckily managed to extinguish the blaze. The driver and passenger inside were able to pull over and get out of the car before it burst into flames, with firefighters putting out the blaze in just over half an hour.

EXCLUSIVE

NSW Fire and Rescue Superintendent Adam Dewberry said there were 165 reported fires related to lithium-ion batteries last year in the state. From the start of this year up until the end of July, that number is at 114. 'We're seeing a number of these lithium-ion related fires, there's no doubt about that,' he told Daily Mail Australia. 'That's why we've launched a collaborative research program into it.' However, the source said the real figure would be 'double' that number in NSW alone.

The source said the problem is technology advances have leapt ahead of regulation and laws. Multi-story car parks were built to withstand fires started by conventional vehicles, not those started by 'a thermal event caused by battery breakdown'. Fire and Rescue NSW has launched a collaborative research program known as the Safety of Alternative and Renewable Energy Technologies (SARET). With the help of other fire services, government agencies and research institutions, the program will look at the best responses to lithium-ion battery related fires and EV-related fires.

Mr Dewberry said both of the two EV-related fires on Monday had been sparked by external factors. 'The battery in the car under the airport was already damaged and had been removed, and the one in Penrose had hit some debris,' he told Daily Mail Australia.

'We're monitoring the whole situation and so far, it's been good and EVs are predominantly safe. But there's still things we are continuing to research.' Mr Dewberry said it was hard to say whether a non-electric car would've caught alight after being hit with debris, similar to the EV that was struck in Penrose. 'It's definitely possible,' he said. 'We seen non-electric vehicles catch fire after collisions. The SARET program is about making sure they stay on the front foot and identify risks if there are any.'

Dr Matthew Priestley, who has a PhD in electrical engineering at the University of New South Wales, said the most important thing EV drivers needed to be aware of was not overheating the battery. Thermal runaway, as it's known. It's like a snowball going down a hill. The key is you never want to let the battery get past that temperature,' Mr Priestley told Daily Mail Australia. 'Once you get past that temperature, even if you extinguish the fire, it can still reignite hours and even days afterwards if you haven't cooled it down.'

Dr Priestley said another issue with the batteries is that when they're on fire, they emit toxic emissions 'you don't want to breathe'. 'Getting close to the battery isn't just a fire risk, it's also a toxic risk,' he said. He said electric vehicles have very high quality manufacturing when it comes to lithium batteries. For example, Teslas have battery management systems that inform the driver when the battery is experiencing a problem. Dr Priestley said treating a car, especially an electric vehicle, with the upmost respect was the key to safety.

He said following a serious collision, EV owners should have the battery inspected as crashes can often mean it becomes mechanically damaged - which can lead to overheating. He also advised owners to never purchase second-hand batteries or do a DIY job on their EV. 'These cars are safe, treat them with respect and if you do suspect there's a problem, get in contact with your car manufacturer,' he said. 'Don't try and put out the fire yourself because you may think you're putting it out but really you're just breathing in toxic fumes.'

Emma Sutcliffe, the Project Director at EV Fire Safe, which provides free electric vehicle fire safety knowledge for emergency responders, said there were often warning signs that an EV battery had overheated. 'There are loud noises like gunshots and popping sounds,' she said. 'There are also whistling sounds which is the gasses escaping from the battery.'

She said while EV batteries can take a lot of damage before they catch on fire, the bigger concern was lithium-ion batteries in smaller devices. 'Where we are concerned is e-bikes and e-scooters as they have a much poorer quality battery,' she said. Monday's incidents were the only two EV-related fires in NSW this year.

Fires involving other electric motor devices like scooters and bikes are much more common. In June, the garage of a home in Bass Hill in Sydney's southwest erupted into flames after a man accidentally charged a faulty battery for his e-bike, which he'd bought off a friend. On the same day in Orange, in NSW's central west, another fire broke out in a garage after a lithium battery a man had been using to charge his drone, exploded. The man had to rush his daughter out of the house and use a garden hose to extinguish the blaze.

FRNSW Acting Deputy Commissioner, Trent Curtin, said the residents in both cases were lucky they weren't seriously injured or killed. 'Lithium-Ion batteries, when faulty or damaged, can over-heat and have the potential to explode violently, resulting in fires that can reignite once extinguished and sometimes take days to burn,' Acting Deputy Commissioner Curtin said at the time.

'Always stick to reputable battery brands, ensure they're compliant and don't mix and match components. 'Don't leave Lithium-Ion batteries constantly on charge, don't sleep when they're charging and unplug them if you're leaving home.' Mr Curtin said **the fire service was averaging one lithium-ion fire a week.** 'I'm concerned someone's going to die if they don't heed the safety advice,' he said.

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 REPORTED BY THE MEDIA FROM THE US FIRE ADMINISTRATION	
Fire Deaths in 1&2 Family Dwellings in NYS	53+0 = 53
Last fire death 9/3 Poughkeepsie, Dutchess Co.	
Fire Deaths in any type of Dwelling in NYS	108+3 = 111
Fire Deaths in 1&2 Family Dwellings Nationally	901 + 26 = 927
Top 3 States with the greatest 1&2 Family Deaths	1 PA = 59
	2 NY = 53
	3 OH = 48
There has been a total of 1482 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	

APPARATUS PURCHASING...IN TODAY'S ENVIRONMENT

Locate Preconnects Where They Make the Most Sense for Your Operations

Rick Riley

Our editor has come up with a question that is often asked in the region of the country in which I work and revolves around departments looking at the need for crosslays, or mattydales if that is what you prefer to call them, depending on their setup on the front and rear. And, as usual with the world of fire apparatus specification and the need for operational capabilities, there is no clearcut answer. While we have seen a growing trend toward rear preconnects and deleting crosslays on rigs, this is based on these departments' operational designs, operating policies, and training regimes. All of these must come into play when designing rigs to operate in each department's geographic location. And, staffing numbers, accepted operating procedures, training, and department policies all play a hand in designing preconnected or deadlay attack lines on any engine company. None of us should blindly adopt a hosebed, crosslay, or bumper line design without considering all the factors listed above. Just designing a rig based on another department's layout is not good for any department. The way departments operate is unique depending on the department, region, state, or location in the country. So, being diligent in the design process to ensure it works is crucial to apparatus purchasing.

REAR PRECONNECTS

Properly position rear preconnects or static beds of attack line in the apparatus hosebed to assist in hose deployment. Recognize that we are limiting our choices of deployment based on how we position the rig for easier stretching, being mindful of blocking other apparatus, and recognizing the design is for a geographic response area. The rear attack line beds usually make chauffeurs think of pulling past the fire address to allow for attack line deployment and to leave room for the first arriving truck company. This all works great if it is your department's policy and is supported by training for drivers and firefighters so that it is a practiced function for all those involved. Being brought up on crosslays most of my life, the switch to the rear lines for all these deployments was rather easy. The benefits of ease of stretching, getting the rig out of the way, and making it standard across the fleet have helped many departments regardless of geographic challenges. Deleting crosslays also can allow for a smaller pump house to make the overall wheelbase shorter and assist with gaining extra space in the dunnage area above the fire pump for equipment storage. Space and storage are always concerns when designing apparatus as we see the trend toward making smaller rigs rather than long engines that require a football field to turn around in or make corners today.

BUMPER LINES

The best of both worlds is to have lines off the rear and the ability to deploy lines off a rig's front bumper. This will allow positioning the engine to either pull beyond the fire or stop short of the fire to leave room for the truck company to properly position on the fire structure. The front bumper lines in today's fire truck building world require a lot of thought and design by both the department apparatus committee and the manufacturer's engineers because space on the front bumper can become very cramped. That includes emergency lighting, audible warning devices, additional driving lights, and enough structural supports to allow for proper weight distribution and stability to the front bumper. There are many designs for storing attack lines on the front bumper. Depending on the needs of different departments, they may not all be options. There are plenty of engines that require an increased angle of approach, and a 10- to 26-inch bumper extension will decrease that angle. So, carefully consider how much an apparatus can hang out in front of the rig based on your response area. While there are departments that prefer rear preconnects and front bumper lines, there still is a need for crosslays or mattydales based on departments' operating procedures and street layouts. One department that operates mainly with crosslays is the Harrisburg (PA) Bureau of Fire. This very old and historic Northeast city has streets, buildings, and proven fire tactics that validate using crosslays. And, they go big with the number of crosslays they carry on their engines. They started with wooden boxes mounted to the tops of their open cab Macks to support this design a long time ago. And, they still operate in this manner today. They get the first engine into the block, and then it is usually bracketed with the truck companies that enter the block from the opposite direction most of the time. With the small-width streets and close proximity of the structures to the curb, this allows for the rig to be the main unit for supplying all attack lines in front of the structure. Any additional

lines to the fire building or the exposures are located near the front of the fire and are easily deployed from this location. It works and it works well for them—they are well trained in this operation both on line deployment and placement as well as the need for the trucks to be properly positioned in the block and with access to the original fire building and the attached exposures.

While we all like what we like, it should be for an operational reason rather than just the way you have always done it. I always suggest getting outside your geographic area to see what departments are doing and to not be afraid to try something different operationally. You would be surprised how well different ideas and designs can work for most departments. This requires open minds and positive attitudes and, at the end of the day, it might not work. But, at least try the idea and then make your decision to include it in on your next rig or not. All these options and designs require full operational vetting by your department. So, see what works and make your rig great for your firefighters and citizens.

THE LIGHTER SIDE!

Someone said “30 years ago...”, and my mind went Ah yes the 1970’s but they meant 1990’s, and now....I need to lay down.

CLASSIFIED SECTION

OFFICERS OF THE CAPITAL AREA ASSOCIATION OF FIRE DISTRICTS

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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, and Deputy Treasurers

Secretaries and Chiefs are also invited to participate!

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

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

AFDCA PO Box 242 East Schodack, NY 12063

[EMAIL TREASURER: CFDATREASURER@GMAIL.COM](mailto:CFDATREASURER@GMAIL.COM)

518-407-5020

Long Way to Travel Zoom into the General Membership Meetings!

It's our desire that every member fire 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.

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

What are the duties and responsibilities of a Commissioner?

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

Membership Audit

CAFDA, currently has **79-member Fire Districts** in Albany, Schenectady, Fulton, Montgomery, Rensselaer, Warren, Washington and Saratoga Counties.

We currently have **21 fire districts that are NOT currently members**, they are: Berne, Delmar, Elsmere and McKownville in Albany County; West Charlton in Saratoga County; Glenville #2, Rotterdam #4 and Duanesburg in Schenectady County; Northville Joint in Fulton County; Bolton, Luzern-Hadley, North Creek and Pottersville in Warren County; and Best Luther, East Schodack, Schodack Center, Schodack Landing, Eastern Pittstown, Nassau #1 and Stephentown in Rensselaer County.

Are we missing anyone? Sometimes there is confusion between the State Association and regional associations such as CAFDA. CAFDA is not a branch or subsidiary of the State Association, we are not in each other reporting chain or organizational structure.

We exist solely as a not for profit for the benefit of the member fire districts.

CAPITAL AREA BUSINESS PARTNER'S

PLEASE SUPPORT THOSE WHO SUPPORT US!!

Business Partner Applications Available At: WWW.AFDCA.ORG

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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518.456.6767

HANNIGAN LAW FIRM PLLC

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Delmar, New York 12054
P: (518) 869-9911
F: (518) 869-9915
www.hannigan.pro
Fire/EMS –Municipal Law



The D'Amato Law Group LLP
Gregory Serio, Partner
111 Washington Ave Suite 600
Albany, NY 12210
518.426.3800
Email: gserio@dlgny.com
damatolawgroup.com

Ducharme, Clark & Sovern, LLP

Jack Clark, Fire District Attorney
646 Plank Rd. Clifton Park, NY 12065
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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.](#)

You Can 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

MEMBERSHIP IN THE CAPITAL AREA FIRE DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION (CAFDA)

Would you like to join Capital Area Fire Districts Association along with 75 members in 8 counties? Individuals, fire district associations, fire protection districts and Village departments are all eligible for membership.

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

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

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

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

\$600,001 plus: \$300

Individuals \$50.00 and Other Associations \$300 annually.

Business Partners: \$100.00 annual member fee

CAFDA UPCOMING TRAINING AND MEETING CALENDAR

The following calendar, while tentative, provides our members and participants some insight into the planned activities to be provided locally to our membership and other fire district participants for '23, '24 and '25. We hope you will join us on this journey to provide reasonably priced, quality training in a local setting for your convenience.

For General Membership meetings food is served 1 hour prior to the start time of the meeting, at 6pm, meetings begin promptly at 7PM

Capital Area Meetings/Seminars/Trainings/Conference Dates (Subject to Change & Updated 7/14/2023)				
Day/Date	Time	Type	Location	Notes
2023				
AUGUST				
NO MEETING				
Tuesday, September 12, 2023	6:00 PM	PESH vs. NFPA Seminar	DeCrescente	Mechanicville
Thursday, September 14, 2023	7:00 PM	General Membership Mtg.	Clifton Park	
Tuesday, September 19, 2023	6:00 PM	Secretary Training	DeCrescente	Mechanicville
Thursday, October 12, 2023	7:00 PM	General Membership Mtg.	Clifton Park	Officers/Director Nominations
Saturday, November 4, 2023	8:00 AM	Fall Workshop	Verdoy FD	
Thursday, November 9, 2023	7:00 PM	General Membership Mtg.	Clifton Park	Officer/Director Elections
DECEMBER				
NO MEETING				
2024				
Saturday, January 6, 2024	9:00 AM	General Membership Mtg.	Clifton Park	Organizational/Morning Meeting
Monday, January 22, 2024	6:00 PM	Secretary Training	TBD	Snowdate - Tuesday, January 23, 2023
Saturday, February 3, 2024	8:00 AM	Commissioner Training	Averill Park	Snowdate - Sunday, February 4, 2024
Thursday, February 8, 2024	7:00 PM	General Membership Mtg.	Clifton Park	
Thursday, February 29, 2024	8:00 AM	It's Not YOUR Money!	Halfmoon Fire District	
Friday, March 1, 2024	8:00 AM	Financial Trng. w/OSC	District	
Saturday, March 2, 2024	8:00 AM	Commissioner Training	Halfmoon FD	Snowdate - Sunday, March 3, 2024
Thursday, March 7, 2024	7:00 PM	General Membership Mtg.	Clifton Park	
Saturday, March 9, 2024	6:00 PM	Officer Installation	TBD	
Saturday, March 23, 2024	8:00 AM	Commissioner Training	Berkshire FD	Snowdate - Sunday, March 24, 2024
Saturday, April 6, 2024	8:00 AM	Commissioner Training	Warrensburg FD	Snowdate - Sunday, April 7, 2024
Thursday, April 11, 2024	7:00 PM	Board of Directors Meeting	Clifton Park	
Thur- Sat April 24,25,26/2024		CAFDA Conference	Lake George, NY	
Thursday, May 9, 2024	7:00 PM	General Membership Mtg.	Clifton Park	
Thursday, June 6, 2024	7:00 PM	Board of Directors Meeting	Clifton Park	
JULY				
NO MEETING				
AUGUST				
NO MEETING				
Friday, August 9, 2024	11:00 AM	DAY AT THE RACES	Saratoga Race Course	Officers, Directors, Vendors
SEPTEMBER				
Thursday, September 12, 2024	7:00 PM	General Membership Mtg.	Clifton Park	
Thursday, October 10, 2024	7:00 PM	General Membership Mtg.	Clifton Park	Officers/Director Nominations
Saturday, November 2, 2024	8:00 AM	Fall Workshop	TBD	
Thursday, November 7, 2024	7:00 PM	General Membership Mtg.	Clifton Park	Officer/Director Elections
DECEMBER				
NO MEETING				
2025				
Saturday, January 4, 2025	9:00 AM	General Membership Mtg.	Clifton Park	Organizational/Morning Meeting

[CLICK ON PDF TO OPEN FIRE DISTRICT BUDGET SCHEDULE](#)

There was previous difficulty in opening this document, it should be corrected.

Click on this link, or go to our website at afdca.org

<https://afdca.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/Fire-District-Budget-Schedule.pdf>

[CLICK ON PDF TO OPEN FIRE DISTRICT ELECTION SCHEDULE](#)

There was previous difficulty in opening this document, it should be corrected.

Click on this link, or go to our website at afdca.org

<https://afdca.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/Fire-District-Elections-Schedule-2023.pdf>

Also Both are Available on the legacy CAFDA Web Site at:

<https://afdca.org/fire-district-budget-schedule-and-fire-district-election-schedule/>