



## CAPITAL AREA FIRE DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION (CAFDA)

# BULLETIN

YOUR FIRE DISTRICT NEWS SOURCE  
SEPTEMBER 23RD, 2023

EDITOR - TOM RINALDI

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*Something for everyone in the Fire Service!!*

CAPITAL AREA MEMBER ACTIVITIES:

[WWW.AFDCA.ORG](http://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: [CAOOFD@GMAIL.COM](mailto:CAOOFD@GMAIL.COM)*

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

**Saturday, November 4<sup>th</sup>**, Annual CAFDA Workshop, Verdoj Fire Station 8AM

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

December, *No Meeting enjoy the holidays!*

**Saturday, January 6<sup>th</sup> General Membership Breakfast Meeting 9am, 2024 Organizational Meeting**

**[Printable Calendar with much more – See End of Bulletin](#)**

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

CAFDA NEWS:

[WWW.CAFDA.NET](http://WWW.CAFDA.NET)

### **[The New CAFDA Website Is Live, Same Happy People, New Name!!](#)**

Go to [www.CFDA.net](http://www.CFDA.net) and request a member log on. You are going to see a better layout, easier navigation and we will be posting additional resource documents as we continue to grow the site. You will need a member logon to access the Bulletin archives and other features reserved for members.

### **[Effective September 23, 2023, the Secretary and Treasurer email addresses have changed to:](#)**

[secretary@cafda.net](mailto:secretary@cafda.net)

[treasurer@cafda.net](mailto:treasurer@cafda.net)

### **[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](mailto:cafdatreasurer@gmail.com) or [caaofd@gmail.com](mailto: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**

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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 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup> 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

**FIRE DISTRICT OFFICIALS...TRAINING FOR YOU**

**CAFDA FALL WORKSHOP:**

**RESERVATIONS NOW BEING TAKEN AT [SECRETARY@CAFDA.NET](mailto:SECRETARY@CAFDA.NET)**

Saturday, **November 4th**, 2023 8:00 AM Fall Workshop Verdooy 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**

**Join Us for “Its Not Your Money” Fire District Financial Management**

Mark your 2024 Calendar for a two-day learning session, February 29<sup>th</sup> & March 1<sup>st</sup> to be presented 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 learn about fire district finances for Treasurers and Commissioners.



Join our Coffee with Commissioners host, 1<sup>st</sup> VP Joe Badala and special guest panel as they discuss the logistics behind setting up a firefighter training program at the High School level to encourage youth to join the fire service.

**Saturday September 30<sup>th</sup> at 9AM**

**REGISTER AT THIS LINK:**

[https://archcapgroup.zoom.us/webinar/register/7916952215808/WN\\_yJaEaok5R0mUDkvjhozf\\_A#/registration](https://archcapgroup.zoom.us/webinar/register/7916952215808/WN_yJaEaok5R0mUDkvjhozf_A#/registration)

***IF NOTHING ELSE READ THE ARTICLES PRECEDED BY\*\****

**CAPITAL SHORTS:**

- Welcome back North Creek Fire District, Warren County.
- The Fire District Secretary Training was very successful and attended by about 30 fire district officials, beyond our expectations. Financial training for treasurers and commissioners *coming in the spring of 2024*.
- CAFDA is highly appreciative for the use of the DeCrescente Beverage Distributing 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.
- 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Fallen Firefighters Memorial Ceremony Tuesday, October 10<sup>th</sup>, 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](http://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 14<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup>.

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

### [CAFDA Annual Fall Fire District Officers/Chiefs Workshop](#)

Make your reservations now for the Annual Workshop on Saturday **November 4th 2023**, being held at the Verdoj Fire Station on Troy-Schenectady Road, Cost \$15.00 for members and \$25.00 for non-members. Reserve your seat now by making reservations, payment will be accepted at the door.

#### 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?
- Make your reservations at [SECRETARY@CAFDA.NET](mailto:SECRETARY@CAFDA.NET) RESERVE YOUR SEATS, payment accepted at the door.

### [The First CAFDA Conference Spring 2024](#)

Coming April 25, 26 & 27<sup>th</sup> 2024 the CAFDA Spring Conference, a three-day conference to be held in Lake George and will be 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.

## THE LATEST FROM ALBANY

### [New Legislation Introduced During the Summer Recess!](#)

- 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

### ***Pennsylvania FD Fined For Training Injury To 17-Year-Old Junior Firefighter***

Pennsylvania Department of Labor & Industry officials are urging volunteer fire departments to follow safety protocols after a 17-year-old volunteer was burned during a training exercise at a Shamokin station.

A credentialed state academy fire instructor must be on-site to supervise any live burn trainings that include 17-year-old junior firefighters, officials said in a press release, a requirement due to an amendment to the Child Labor Act that went into effect in January.

The reminder comes after L&I's Bureau of Labor Law Compliance assessed fines against the Northumberland County Friendship Fire & Hose Company/Shamokin Fire Department for the fire companies' failure to have a certified instructor on-site during a live burn training in which a 17-year-old volunteer firefighter suffered non-life-threatening burns.

The Friendship Fire & Hose Company/Shamokin Fire Department was fined \$1,000 for the violation.

***While Act 155 of 2022 now permits 17-year-old junior firefighters to take part in live-burn interior firefighting training exercises, such training may only be conducted under the Pennsylvania State Academy Fire training system's interior firefighting training module and only when a certified instructor is there at all times. Each minor must also have permission from a fire chief and from the minor's parent or guardian to participate in such training. Fire companies in violation could be fined up to \$5,000 per violation.***

"The recent change in the law helps Pennsylvania's volunteer fire companies recruit and train the next generation of volunteer firefighters, which is so important to the safety of our communities. But fire companies must likewise ensure the safety of these young volunteers by following proper safety protocols while training," L&I Secretary Nancy A. Walker said in a recent press release.

Act 155 does not permit minors to perform tasks prohibited by the Pennsylvania Child Labor Act, regardless of their level of training and education.

"The priority during any training event must be to ensure the safety of all those who are participating," State Fire Commissioner Tom Cook said in the release. "It is imperative that we do everything we can to provide high-quality training that is safe, and that it meets or exceeds national standards so that inexperienced and young firefighters can develop their skills without risk of injury."

The Pennsylvania State Fire Academy, which is administered by the Office of the State Fire Commissioner, provides rigorous and safe training courses online, at its training facility in Lewistown and through the Academy on the Road program.

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

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

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### ***I Am Sorry': Jail Time Avoided In Plea Deal Over N.Y. LODD***

Associated Press

A father and son were sentenced Wednesday to probation after reaching a plea deal for starting a fire that killed a firefighter and a resident at an assisted living facility in suburban New York.

Rabbi Nathaniel Sommer, 71, and his 29-year-old son Aaron Sommer will avoid prison after they admitted to acting recklessly in causing the March 23, 2021, fire at the Evergreen Court Home in Spring Valley that killed firefighter Jared Lloyd, 35, and resident Oliver Hueston, 79.

In preparation for Passover, the Sommers were using a blowtorch to burn away remnants of leavened bread in the kitchen when the facility caught fire.

They had reached a plea deal to avoid prison in June, with the father pleading guilty to two counts of manslaughter and the son pleading guilty to reckless endangerment.

The Journal News reports that Rockland County Judge Kevin Russo said probation was appropriate, noting that the two men had no criminal history.

"I *doubt* I will ever see you again in my courtroom," Russo said of the pair.

***Rockland County District Attorney Thomas Walsh said in a statement defending the plea deal that the fire was a "first-of-its-kind case in the State of New York" and that going before a jury would have left open the possibility for an acquittal.***

"No one has been convicted, let alone arrested and prosecuted, for utilizing a torch and hot coals for a ritual religious cleaning in the manner the defendants chose that evening," Walsh said.

WABC-TV reports Nathaniel Sommer apologized in court, saying, "I am sorry, I feel terrible for what I did. I tried my whole life to help people and I did the exact opposite here and hurt so many people and I feel terrible for them."

**[EDITOR'S NOTE: Despicable]**

### ***Outrage In Rockland County Court As Rabbi, Son Avoid Prison Time In Deadly Blaze That Killed Firefighter, Nursing Home Resident***

There was outrage in court in Rockland County where a father and son avoided prison time for starting a fire that killed a firefighter and a man at a nursing home. Dozens of firefighters protested outside the Rockland County Court House in New City and emotional victim impact statements were read in court. While a plea deal was agreed upon in June, Wednesday was the formal sentencing for 71-year-old Rabbi Nathaniel Sommer and his 29-year-old son Aaron after pleading guilty for causing the March 2021 fatal fire that killed Spring Valley Firefighter Jared Lloyd. A resident of the home, 79-year-old Oliver Hueston, was also killed. In a plea deal with the Rockland District Attorney's Office that was approved by Judge Kevin Russo, the father and son will not serve jail or prison time, but will pay \$600 in court fees.

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## **STEP INTO THE CHIEF'S OFFICE:**

### ***\*\*The Fire Department Cultural Change Evolution***

Doug Cupp

I've heard the phrase "resetting the organization" used several times recently. A reset suggests going back to an earlier time. And when you think about it, we are, in fact, in very different times than even just a few years ago. The increase in the number of active shooter events, mega- and giga-fires, plus the Great Resignation and COVID forced the fire service to make massive changes, some practically overnight.

Does your organizational culture help you succeed in times of crisis or significant change, or does it just amplify the chaos?

Your department's culture will determine whether your organization thrives or merely survives during times of significant change or adversity. For example, what if your organization's culture is so toxic that your day is filled with grievances and personnel issues, and no one sees the proverbial train coming, as Gordon Graham would say? Similarly, what if no one can see the opportunities that often emerge in difficult times?

Now, let's say you are a newly promoted fire chief, chief officer or shift captain and have the responsibility of creating a strong culture that will allow your organization to thrive. What now?

### **SIGNS OF AN UNHEALTHY ORGANIZATION**

When considering advancing change, the first step is to determine the level of change required – and this typically requires an organizational health assessment. **An unhealthy organization may sound or look like this:**

- Great employees are leaving the organization. Toxic employees are staying.
- Other departments and stations won't collaborate or train with you.
- There is fear to speak up, offering solutions or stepping up.
- "We the uninformed, working for the inaccessible, are doing the impossible for the ungrateful!" (John Maxell)
- "Just keep your head down."
- "I get punished either way so there is no winning."
- Grievances are so frequent, they are normalized.
- Mistakes are hidden out of fear when we should be learning from them.
- Lots of manufactured stress!

It's important to not only identify these signs of toxic culture, but also understand how it happens so we can prevent it from happening again.

### **HOW TOXIC CULTURE GET NORMALIZED**

Normalization of deviance often describes safety-oriented situations where we decide to take shortcuts or deviate from standards due to external pressures. If luck is on our side and nothing bad happens, then the behavior is repeated. Over time, that shortcut or error becomes normalized in the brain and the organization. The same happens in culture and personnel issues. ***If we accept a lower standard, we are encouraging a lower standard.***

For example, you've heard refrains like this before: "Oh, that's just John Doe. John always treats people like that." Excuses are made in order to not deal with leadership challenges. We choose to live in the dark. Normalizing deviant behaviors helps them become institutionalized.

We have heard sayings like, "Culture eats policy for breakfast" This is true in every sense of the fire service, whether it's a workers' compensation issue, legal matter or personnel matter. Although a department might have a policy in place, if we accept gross deviation from policy and ethical standards, then we have built a culture in which policies do not matter. If policies do not matter in your organization, adding more policies will not matter either. You don't fix the organization through policy alone. The leadership and culture must change, and the policies must be in alignment.

Once you've determined that culture change is needed, it's important to accept that some resistance is inevitable, and you often already know who it will come from. It is the subtle resistance you need to watch. It can come from good team members who are showing real fear or hesitation. Sometimes, it may sound like the expression, "Don't throw the baby out with the bathwater."

The saying was believed to come from colonial days, before indoor plumbing. Babies were often bathed last, just before the water was discarded, hence the caution to not throw the baby out with the water. Over time, the expression came mean, essentially, don't inadvertently throw away something good with the bad.

Resistors might use this idea to push back, arguing that the change will eliminate something good. But what is the "good" they are worried about? It's critical to clearly identify the proverbial baby. Inability to identify the baby (aka the good) is likely rooted in a broader fear of change, not tangible concerns. Additionally, resistors might fail to clearly identify a baby because they don't want to admit what they deem to be "good" – like not wanting to explicitly express their lack of support for a diversity initiative (in their mind, the status quo being the "good").

### **HOW DO YOU KNOW WHEN TO GO ALL IN?**

How does the leader know when to go all in, creating intentionality about culture change?

1. When you can clearly identify both the baby and the bathwater.
2. If the baby is not at risk of being thrown out. The right culture embraces the good, the baby. It is why we're throwing out the dirty bathwater in the first place.
3. When the baby is already being thrown out or is continuously being thrown out, and the bathwater is still there.

Be cognizant that you may lose those members who will not survive in a healthy, high-performing culture (HPC). But do you really want these members if they embrace the negative toxic culture? They are not the baby. The baby represents those members who thrive and excel in a positive workplace. We do not want to lose them. Sadly, these are the employees you lose in a toxic culture while those who drove them away would be content with their doings. In today's workforce environment, these good employees can get hired anywhere. You lost the baby and kept the bathwater!

## **SIGNS OF AN HIGH PERFORMING CULTURE (HPC)**

On the flip side, your organizational health assessment might reveal that the organization shows signs of operating as an HPC – or maybe these signs emerge through the process of making changes. There are several ways to identify an HPC:

- There is a strategic alignment of personal and organizational values.
- How does the organization deal with failure? They replace blame and punishment with learning and growth ([Conklin, 2019](#)).
- Members have purpose and they know their “why.”
- Members willingly accept the challenge of solving problems at the lowest level. Those closest to the problem are in the best position to solve the problem.
- Members are valued and, in exchange, they are invested in the success of the organization.

To maintain positive momentum, create vision and paint the picture of what a good organization looks like and where and why you’re headed there. Share organizational studies on highly respected organizations and why they are successful.

Follow these recommendations to move toward the hallmarks of a high-reliability organization:

- Do not seek simple solutions to difficult problems. A reactionary policy will not fix a toxic culture.
- Defer to the experts. If a member came into the organization as an expert in wildfires, tech rescue, program management, etc., value that knowledge.
- Establish a healthy relationship with failure. We should see how we could fail and fix it before it becomes catastrophic. Do not set out to prevent all errors. Errors help us identify gaps and learn how we can do it better.
- Build resilience. Not only do we fall down but we also give permission to fall down. As the saying often goes, “If you are not falling down, well you’re not trying hard enough.”

These steps will help your organization continue moving forward, replacing toxic culture with one that supports its members.

## **POLICIES, TIMING AND TEMPO**

Now what? It starts and continues with a constant vision and the leader’s intent.

Establish your culture first, then focus on the policies. Why is culture first and policy revisions second? We must first decide what kind of organization we want to be. Policies can be so much more than a management tool. Policies can help shape that vision and help shape the culture. If you desire a strong learning culture, then you need policies that support learning (overtime for training, tuition assistance, effective AAR processes). Culture must lead and then revise your policies to align with the desired culture.

Remember, timing is everything. Take the appropriate time to observe but do not delay. Commit to solving core issues, not the symptoms. Do not spend all of your time on what went wrong; focus on how to make it right. Furthermore, do not wait for everyone to be on board, otherwise, you will never get started.

The tempo is just like the fireground tempo. Move hastily when it’s necessary and slow and methodical when it’s not. Most importantly, keep moving. Slow is smooth, and smooth is fast. It may take a year to see any real evidence of change. Early-adopters and those who desire a healthy, high-performing team are the real catalyst for change. Once trust was established, the speed of change will increase. Significant cultural shifts can occur in 2-5 years.

## **SIGNS OF PROGRESS**

There are signs that a positive fire department culture is firmly in place:

- Hiring committees are devoted to finding alignment with new members, hiring the right people who fit with the values of the department.
- Members spend time educating new members on the importance of fire department culture.
- Those in officer development and higher education courses choose to learn more about culture and help to continuously improve.

The time it takes for real culture change to take effect depends on the level of trust among members. They must trust that you stay with it, that you believe it and follow it. This could take months, even years, but is well worth the effort.

There is no time like the present to start with a winning culture toward a HHPC organization that can pivot quickly to an ever-changing world.

## **OUR CHANGING FIRE SERVICE –CHALLENGES & OPPORTUNITIES!**

## **OPPORTUNITIES:**

### **Check Out the 228-MPH Flying Apparatus that Gets Medics to Any Scene in Eight Minutes**

Jump Aero has unveiled the first medical crisis-focused electric vertical takeoff and landing (eVTOL) aircraft, while also confirming its very first order.

The new eVTOL design, called the JA1 'Pulse', is designed to help medical professionals arrive at the scene of a rural emergency with critical lifesaving equipment as quickly as possible.

Once built, the Pulse will be capable of dash speeds of 250 knots, making it the fastest form of sustainable personal transportation.

Jump Aero's aim is to offer the critical eight-minute emergency response window to as wide an area as possible.

The company, which has been developing Pulse since 2019, has also announced that the first full-scale prototype will be partially funded by the United States Air Force (USAF), as well as confirming the first commercial order from Falck Ambulance Services.

Falck has purchased an option for the first commercial delivery of a JA1 Pulse aircraft.

Falck is a global first response business headquartered in Denmark, with 25,000 skilled and experienced professionals working in 26 countries around the world.

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### **NVFC Releases Starter Kit to Help Fire Departments Build a Successful Junior Firefighter Program**

Is your fire department looking for a way to increase non-operational support, enhance community relations, and create a pipeline for recruitment? Then start a junior firefighter program. The [National Volunteer Fire Council](#) (NVFC) has released an updated [Junior Firefighter Program Starter Kit](#) to help departments build the framework for a successful youth program. This update was made possible with support from [California Casualty](#).

Junior firefighter programs have enormous benefits for both youth participants and the department. Youth get the chance to learn about the fire and emergency services in a safe and educational way while building life skills such as teamwork, leadership, responsibility, and community service. Departments get needed non-operational support as well as an excellent recruitment mechanism. These programs also strengthen the bonds between the department and the community it serves.

This Starter Kit is designed to be a turn-key tool to help departments develop a junior firefighter program with a solid foundation. It provides step-by-step guidance to bring you from securing department support to welcoming new juniors through your bay doors. Information on liability, setting requirements, finding funding, onboarding advisors, recruiting members, and tools for maintaining your program are included.

[Learn more](#) about the NVFC's National Junior Firefighter Program.

**DOWNLOAD THE JUNIOR FIREFIGHTER PROGRAM STARTER KIT AT THIS LINK:**

[https://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=0010StflnW0ZmF7wWOq\\_28m5R\\_FUdDOUV5DrcklgQdqJdIdZ2Oh-f1szNXDFFkhzPwZEnUn4QOGNXY1QbKMvD90TQI23F28FYzlvzyRJP8I6X8jUMmqsjZLNoh8b8N2-FNRaHwBa8goO8Ar\\_Vdd2RVMBbiPsiFrlFo3Af-BjnRY6gs0uVLI9cFWxwgfkgfj78958I5fg32zuAMZ3uUaVo3TgrliJtQrs&c=iXtnOiXRxCaMbjKr-wD5D0QxMcliWnjhWS52ru5WypwzqeTcmw3gRw==&ch=IMk4VivA5O\\_NjeXnqsg9AdkKoSi5hh9pqT3nLeJwDgmRrDzoExGm1A==](https://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=0010StflnW0ZmF7wWOq_28m5R_FUdDOUV5DrcklgQdqJdIdZ2Oh-f1szNXDFFkhzPwZEnUn4QOGNXY1QbKMvD90TQI23F28FYzlvzyRJP8I6X8jUMmqsjZLNoh8b8N2-FNRaHwBa8goO8Ar_Vdd2RVMBbiPsiFrlFo3Af-BjnRY6gs0uVLI9cFWxwgfkgfj78958I5fg32zuAMZ3uUaVo3TgrliJtQrs&c=iXtnOiXRxCaMbjKr-wD5D0QxMcliWnjhWS52ru5WypwzqeTcmw3gRw==&ch=IMk4VivA5O_NjeXnqsg9AdkKoSi5hh9pqT3nLeJwDgmRrDzoExGm1A==)

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### **Wayne County Continues To Move Money To Pay For Emergency Medical Services Project**

Wayne County has taken advantage of federal American Rescue Plan Act funds to help pay for the establishment of its new emergency medical services agency, which launched in July. The county received \$17.5 million from the 2021 ARPA legislation and allocated about \$2.5 million for the project. That funding continues to provide significant financial assistance toward an EMS program that has so far cost about \$8 million to establish, with additional expenditures coming. On Tuesday, in a meeting at the county's emergency management offices, the Board of Supervisors unanimously approved transferring \$616,000 in interest income generated from the county's ARPA funds toward EMS expenses. Under ARPA rules, interest generated from the funds can be used for any county purpose. As expected, supervisors also

approved bids Tuesday related to a \$7.5 million plan to build the county's Emergency Medical Services headquarters at the county complex off of Route 31. Work is expected to begin in October.

The county also plans to build a second base on Route 104 in Sodus soon. And, in the second phase of the EMS project, bases will be established in Rose and Walworth.

**[EDITOR'S NOTE: A county wide and county supported EMS system, what a concept!!, Read on Erie Co is also now in the EMS business>]**

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### **[Erie County Announces Start Of County-Run Ambulance Service](#)**

**Erie County is now in the ambulance business.** The county has announced the official start date for the county-run ambulance service that will be available to residents. Initial coverage for the service will start off on Sept. 25 in Aurora, Boston, Colden, Collins, Eden, Holland, North Collins, and Wales. 2 On Your Side was first to report on the county's plan prior to it being unveiled in April by County Executive Mark Poloncarz in his State of the County Speech. "The residents of Colden and the residents of the Southtowns will have that added security of knowing they have help coming," said Colden Town Supervisor Jim DePasquale, who also serves as First Assistant Chief of the Colden Fire Company, where ***the first of what will eventually be five ambulances and crews is stationed.***

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### **[Railroads Work To Make Sure Firefighters Can Quickly Look Up What Is On A Train After A Derailment](#)**

In the chaos after a Norfolk Southern train careened off the tracks and caught fire in eastern Ohio in February, it took roughly 45 minutes for firefighters to learn exactly which chemicals were involved. Now the railroad industry is trying to ensure that never happens again. Ever since that Feb. 3 derailment prompted concerns about rail safety nationwide, the major railroads have redoubled their efforts to make sure that more and more first responders can immediately look up the contents of any freight train. This week, the two counties that handled the initial response to the East Palestine, Ohio, derailment on the Ohio-Pennsylvania border were set up with the AskRail program that will allow dispatchers to look up everything a train is carrying as soon as they get one car number.

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### **[Amazon Adds Alexa Emergency Assist to Echo Devices](#)**

Amazon is making it easier to get emergency help without your phone. The retail giant announced a new Alexa Emergency Assist service as part of its September product event on Wednesday. The service will allow customers to reach emergency responders through Echo devices while also sending alerts to emergency contacts. The service will cost \$6 a month or \$59 a year and will be available later this year. Guard Plus customers can access the Alexa Emergency Assist for \$5 per month or \$50 per year. In an emergency, users can just say, "Alexa, call for help," to be connected to an agent, who will then request emergency services from the police, fire department or an ambulance, based on the information they provide during the call.

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## **[CHALLENGES:](#)**

### **[Idle Reduction Technology and the Fire Service: Webinar](#)**

**October 3, 2023 | 1 PM EDT**

**A certificate of attendance will be offered.**

**Free to Attend – Save My Seat!**

There is a variety of ways to reduce carbon emissions for your fire apparatus and ambulance fleets. One way is using idle reduction technology (IRT). This Webcast will cover the different ways to implement idle reduction technology, the FDNY's experience with IRT and the evolution of the systems it has implemented, and why Lithium-Ion batteries are safe for the fire service.

**REGISTER AT THIS LINK:**

**[https://clarionevents.zoom.us/webinar/register/3816869218941/WN\\_y76Y2QBbTbm4aEQU\\_vb5TQ\\_-\\_/registration](https://clarionevents.zoom.us/webinar/register/3816869218941/WN_y76Y2QBbTbm4aEQU_vb5TQ_-_/registration)**

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## [Treasurer Charged With Stealing Funds From Storm Lake \(IA\) Volunteer Firefighters Association](#)

STORM LAKE, Iowa. — A member of the Storm Lake Volunteer Firefighters Association has been charged with stealing more than \$7,000 from the organization. Jesus Rojo, 28, of Storm Lake, who served as secretary/treasurer of the firefighters association, was arrested Thursday on a charge of second-degree theft, a Class D felony. According to court documents, Rojo served as secretary/treasurer **from Jan. 3 through July 6**. During that time, he is suspected of taking \$7,769.35 in association funds through ATM withdrawals and debit card transactions and using the money for his personal use.

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

#### [NYSAFC 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.

## [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!](#)

- Four firefighters travelling home after battling British Columbia’s wildfires died Wednesday in a road crash. The deaths bring to six the number of firefighters who have died this wildfire season in the province.

- One civilian is dead and three firefighters have been injured in a crash involving a South Charleston West Virginia fire truck. South Charleston Fire Chief Virgil White said one of the firefighters had been extricated from the fire engine.

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### **Fire service icon Ronny Coleman dies**

Chief Ronny J. Coleman, (ret.) California State Fire Marshal and deputy director of the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, died, his family announced in a statement.

Chief Coleman was a 50-year veteran of the fire service. Following his time as fire chief in San Clemente and Fullerton, he was appointed by Gov. Pete Wilson to serve as the California State Fire Marshal from 1992 to 2000. Chief Coleman was also a past president of the International Association of Fire Chiefs, as well as a member and leader of numerous fire service committees and associations.

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### **\*\*\*Central New York Couple Advocating Benefits For Volunteer Firefighters**

Jack Arpery

***[EDITOR'S NOTE-The whole damn worker's comp system is broken and it plays right into the hands of the Attorneys who make their living off of handling these cases!]***

Workers compensation claims can be complicated. One couple is working from personal experience to raise awareness about the extreme challenges facing volunteer firefighters injured on the job.

Art and Nancy Hudson were forced to hire a lawyer and endure several appeals over nearly 18 months after Art was denied compensation for medical bills due to him going into cardiac arrest while responding to a call.

The couple is now working with local representatives and taking their case to the New York State Court of Appeals in the hopes that no one has to go through what they have experienced.

"He said 'oh, it's a chimney fire,'" said Nancy Hudson of the night her husband Art was injured. "These things can get away from you. I better go,' and indeed that night, it got away from all of us."

Nancy Hudson says that night when Art left for a routine call, she never imagined her daughter would receive a call that an on-duty injury that Nancy had heard come over the police scanner in their home was her husband.

"She called my daughter and said 'Mommy, it's papa,' " Hudson said.

Art's heart had stopped, and he went into full cardiac arrest. His life was saved by his fellow firefighters.

The family has now been locked in a bitter fight for workers compensation for more than a year, but Art's passion for serving his community hasn't waned.

"This happens to be our newest member, this truck," he said on a tour of the station.

He says he's now on light duty, servicing the department's trucks, but serving the community nonetheless.

"I love doing this," he said. "It's community, it's like everybody else that volunteers."

Nancy says they found that while the town had a workers compensation program, their contractor determined that Art's cardiac arrest wasn't directly related to the hose that he was carrying at the time, and they were denied. After hiring a lawyer, multiple subsequent appeals yielded the same result.

"So we've spent the last 17 months and one week — not that I'm counting — getting denials from worker's comp," she said.

Mark Delasin, president of the Marcellus Fire Department, says the system is broken, and firefighters are paying the price for an inherently dangerous job that they are doing on a volunteer basis. He stresses that many people aren't aware their local fire department is volunteer in the first place, or that the fact that they aren't full-time employees is what makes the process so complicated.

***[EDITORS NOTE; How the hell do we entice people to join a volunteer fire department if they think they will not be covered if they are injured or die on the job??]***

"There's so many different things going on with a volunteer that you wouldn't see with standard employment," he said.

This, Hudson emphasizes, is even though they are putting themselves in harm's way to protect others.

She says she hopes their efforts, including working on legislation with Democratic State Senator John Mannion's office, will make life easier for volunteers who are not retired like Art is, and will need compensation for wages at their primary jobs, in addition to medical bills.

"They could never wait the 17 months that we've waited," she said.

As the clock continues to tick, she stresses that they intend to keep pushing, with those younger volunteers, the same ones who saved Art's life, in mind.

"They are the ones that need credit for his life," she said. "He's doing this for them, because he doesn't want them to have to go through this."

Both bills are still in committee as the Hudsons await their appeal. They have contacted and met with other legislators in the area as well while gathering support from other organizations geared toward supporting firefighters.

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## **DISTRICT FINANCES**

**Get ready for local day and a half fire district financial management training, February 29<sup>th</sup>, March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024 at the Waterford-Halfmoon Fire Station, including input from OSC-NYS. Sponsored by CAFDA.**

## RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION

### **\*\*Washington Is Losing Its Volunteer Firefighting Force. The Consequences Could Be Devastating**

Joanna Hou

By the time he was 18, Chris LaDue had the definition for his perfect life. “If you’ve ever seen the movie ‘Lethal Weapon,’ you know Martin Riggs lives on the beach with his dog and his truck and a camper,” he said. “That was my choice. That was like, ‘if I can do that, and work in a drug task force, I’d be stoked.’”

Then, his friends convinced him to join a local fire department in San Clemente, California, as a volunteer firefighter. At first, he said he stayed on the job for the adrenaline rush. But then that San Clemente volunteer job led to jobs in Chicago and two other southern California fire departments. Now, more than 30 years later, 49-year-old LaDue volunteers 12-hour night shifts at the South Bay Fire Department. On days when he goes in, he starts mornings at his office job with an HVAC company in Olympia. After work, he’s immediately in the car on the way to the department for his 6 p.m. start time. When 6 a.m. hits, he’s back on the road heading for his day job again. By the time he makes it home in the afternoon, he’ll have worked about 28 hours straight. He’s seen a lot he’s wanted to forget over the years — from late night accidents involving children, to pronouncing his own then-mother-in-law dead. In the small community of Johnson Point, he said he sometimes feels nervous on his way to calls, hoping it isn’t someone he knows. But he has plans to stay until he can’t do the work anymore.

“This job wasn’t something I thought I’d ever do,” he said. “When it came down to it, the fire service when I was younger kept me out of trouble. But the real purpose for me was, it’s giving back to your community. That’s what really kept me coming back.” LaDue shares this sense of purpose with many current and former volunteer firefighters across Washington. But the service is declining quickly throughout the state. About 19,000 volunteer firefighters who staffed stations in 1984 has become about 10,000 today, said T.J. Nedrow, secretary of the Washington State Fire Fighters’ Association. The loss is a problem with immediate consequences for departments charged with serving their communities. The WSFFA, alongside other firefighter organizations and department leaders around the state, are working to identify the factors contributing to the decline, with the hopes of developing targeted solutions. But the situation is layered, Nedrow said, and it needs to be tackled from several angles. “We have lost, in part, that community spirit to give back to the community by volunteering. ... It has plagued the fire service for many years now,” Nedrow said. “We are looking at solutions to that statewide.”

#### **WHAT PEOPLE STAND TO LOSE**

Outside Yelm, Bald Hills Fire Department Chief Mark Gregory normally leads about 35 volunteers to serve this rural corner of Thurston County. ***The department is not too busy, averaging at about 600 calls a year,*** he said. But over the last few years, its size has fallen to about 25. The department’s staff, which is entirely volunteers other than the chief position and a couple of part-time roles, has felt the loss. “The folks that remain feel obligated to go on more calls because there’s no one else to do it. You don’t want the call to be unanswered,” he said. “We have mutual aid agreements with our neighbors, but we want to be able to take care of our own.” The department’s main station stands about 10 miles from its nearest neighbor, the Southeast Thurston Fire Department, and its fire district is another couple of miles outside of that. The time spent getting to rural areas can make a difference, especially with emergency medical calls. “One of the benefits of our organization for our local citizenry is that we have people who respond from their homes with equipment,” Gregory said. “A neighbor’s having chest pain, we may have somebody there right away, because they’re home, available to respond to the call. Same with brush fires and things of that nature.”

Many volunteer fire services were founded on similar principles. In the mid-1900s, small communities around Washington got together to create departments based on need. Urban departments could not respond with the efficiency that rural neighbors themselves could, said Chief Brian VanCamp of the South Bay Fire Department. VanCamp has been with the department since 1973, and filled its first paid position as chief. In the last decade, South Bay has

transitioned into a combination department — a mix of career and volunteer staff its ranks — but the need is ever-present and evolving, he said. “One of the biggest changes over the years has been really the focus, not on fire, but on emergency medical service,” he said. “Today, from 80 to 85% of what we do is EMS.” And although it might seem that those people with access to staffed urban departments can ignore the problems in these rural areas, Steve Wright, executive director of the Washington Fire Chiefs Association (WFC), pointed to broader impacts.

For example, Wright said those using highways around the state have to drive through rural areas to get from place to place. If they get into car crashes or require other emergency help during those times, that help won’t come from an established career department. Response will likely depend on how well-equipped that area’s small department is to handle that situation. “There’s always going to be a need in the rural components for a quality volunteer fire service,” Wright said. “How’s that delivered? How’s it maintained? And where do they find the people who have this commitment and heart towards providing that service? These are the challenges we’re working on.”

### THE TIME PROBLEM

Rich Gleckler, a former volunteer firefighter with the North Olympia Fire Department, started on the job in 1974. Back then, he went to three or four hours of training on Monday evenings, and the whole program took less than 60 hours. As insurance and safety liability have changed over the years, the time commitment has risen drastically, he said. The training is at about 400 hours — not including studying — for firefighting. For those interested in EMS, Gleckler said it’s another 400 hours on top of that. That, combined with the 12- or 24-hour shifts many work, becomes an unapproachable idea for many people with other commitments, including family. At one point in his service, LaDue was working three shifts and teaching at the academy. Fire service members would come to his home for advice or help in the few hours he had off. At some point, he lost control.

“A huge thing is finding balance with your life and your family compared to your job, and being able to turn (your job) off. But it’s very hard,” he said. “I’ll never forget my daughter. She must have been 12, something like that. And she said, ‘Dad, it’s night and day fire with you.’” ***The time problem is one of the most difficult to solve***, Wright said. The training has gotten more advanced and more intense to improve safety standards, which he said is understandable reasoning. The WFC has raised concerns about the additional load, proposing a rural firefighter designation with less intense training. ***But the reality is that the fire service is a dangerous job***, Wright said, and that training is worth the investment for the firefighters and the citizens they help. “We’ve worked hard to have standards so people have a reasonable shot of not being injured or hurt,” he said. “And yet those very standards place a burden on (the fire service).”

Time commitment also depends on community call volume. For many departments, the demand has become overwhelming for volunteers alone to handle, Wright said. ***For example, Wright, the former fire chief at South Kitsap County Fire & Rescue, got about 1,100 calls a month. It’s nearly impossible to ask volunteers to respond to that demand, he said.*** When he started working in the department in 1986, South Kitsap had about 200 volunteers and 12 career people. By the time he left, there were about 20 volunteers and 100 career staff. “There are some really wonderful volunteer programs across the state, but they have to fit in the community,” he said. “The demand has to be at a level that is within reason for somebody to give and a lot of these people give a tremendous amount. But there is a break over point.”

### A DEPARTMENT GROWS

Arnold Baker is the fire chief at Manson Fire in Chelan County, where his recruitment efforts have led him to chair the retention and recruitment committee at WFC. Outside of his own paid position, his department is staffed entirely with volunteers. Even as departments around the state see their volunteer staff decline, Baker’s small department has more than 30 — and it’s been growing. “I’m at an all-time high in volunteers,” he said. “I’m participating on this committee to get fire departments’ fire chiefs engaged to say, ‘Volunteerism isn’t dying. I’m just not exploring all my options to get these people engaged and make opportunities for them.’” ***The key to Baker’s success in Manson is compensation. His community can’t afford to hire enough career folks, so he’s taken the compensation equivalent to two full-time positions and dispersed it among his volunteers. It comes out to a check between about \$7,000 and \$12,000.***

***He’s hoping to direct that money toward a deferred compensation program for retirement and is working with other members of the recruitment and retention committee to navigate the legal barriers to that right now.*** A 25-year-old volunteer who earns about \$10,000 and puts it into deferred compensation over the course of 25 years could have about \$1.6 million at age 65, Baker said. ***You’ll live a simple life, but you’ll retire as a wealthy person,*** he said. “The new message that we’re trying to create for volunteers is there are financial opportunities.” But generally, right now, Wright

said most compensation programs for volunteers, if they exist at all, are modest. ***Some are simply enough to reimburse volunteers for out-of-pocket expenses, so aren't a big enough motivator for most people***, he said. For very small rural departments, the funding is just going far enough to provide the equipment, he added. LaDue gets some compensation at South Bay, which is upped for volunteers who engage in EMS or have technical skills beyond firefighting alone. But he also isn't sure that the motivator will be enough. To him, compensation should not be the motivation in the force. But Baker's chairing the committee because it has worked. To him, recruitment is essential to his operations. "What I've done in my community is to say, 'OK, folks, we don't have a plan B. You volunteers, you're the plan A,'" Baker said. "We're dependent on them to show up."

### **NO SINGLE, EASY FIX**

The value of compensation is just one point of disagreement among those trying to fill the ranks of volunteer firefighters. Each department comes with its own unique set of circumstances. At South Bay, Chief VanCamp said his problem is less with recruitment, and more with retention. He invests a significant amount of money in training his volunteers, but they get hired as career staff a few years in. He said he'd be surprised to see a majority of his current volunteers around the department in a few years. Nedrow is convinced that the decline, in part, stems from a cultural shift in generations. Many types of volunteer-based organizations are short staffed around Olympia, from PTAs to Kiwanis. A "what's in it for me" mindset has affected the service over the years, he said. To Wright, it's less that people aren't willing, and more that life is more prone to getting complicated faster these days. Many families are running on two-person incomes, he said, consumed with work and childcare obligations. And there are just more things to be interested in these days, he added. There's also the reality of the position to consider, LaDue said. The fire service is a commitment that extends beyond a classic volunteer experience. Some people go to a training or two and realize it's not for them, he said. Developing solutions, therefore, means experimenting with various options that might help to ease the different contributing factors. Leaders are drawing from each other nationwide, trying to apply different strategies that have worked. Things are getting done step by step, Nedrow said. He has led efforts to keep costs low for an annual fire school. He's helped with scholarships from the WSFFA, and developed models that might one day provide health insurance to volunteers. There are pockets of hope, but each day brings new challenges. "I loved what I was doing (as a volunteer). I loved helping people," Nedrow said. "Near and dear to my heart is being able to work on solutions. I enjoy it and I find ways to add value to other people's lives, their programs and their communities."

### **A SERVICE WORTH PURSUING**

For years as fire chief, Baker and his team didn't have a single CPR survivor. Then, he invested in training from King County. For him, seeing survivors walking around his community is his reason for service. "There's no higher satisfaction than seeing people that were clinically dead returned to their lives, fully intact," he said. "We do things that are off the chart of value. I get the satisfaction that I was part of that." Nobody is at fault for the many factors that have led to recruitment and retention issues in volunteer fire, Wright said. But everyone stands to lose the benefits of local services around the state. Almost all of the leaders The Olympian spoke to for this story started off as volunteers, making their way through the ranks of their departments, and in some cases, state positions. Each has committed decades to the force, and all believe volunteers are worth fighting for. "We're doing all we can to try to maintain (our volunteer staff) as best we can," VanCamp said. "Some departments have just decided they can't do it any longer and then throw in the towel, but we continue to be dependent on having those volunteers. So we really can't, we have to do all that is necessary." Becoming a volunteer firefighter is a decision that you can't make alone, LaDue said. It involves talking to loved ones and determining if it's the right fit, and it's not an easy job to walk into. But for those who go through that process and still choose to step through the doors of South Bay Fire, LaDue tells every one of them the same thing. "Everyone started where you are now," he said. "If this is what you want, don't let anybody ever tell you that you can't do it. You go after it."

## **LIVING WITH NEW GREEN TECHNOLOGY - - HOT TOPIC!**

### **[Evacuation Orders Lifted after Lithium Battery Fire in CA](#)**

Caleb Lunetta-San Diego UnionTribune

A lithium-battery fire in a storage unit at a commercial facility in Valley Center prompted road closures and evacuations for nearby homes and businesses on Monday.

The fire broke out just after 5 p.m. near Valley Center Road and Vesper Road, according to sheriff's Lt. William Amavisca. "The fire measures taken by the company have kept it pretty confined," Amavisca said.

As a precaution, businesses and homes along Valley Center Road, from Irish Oaks Road to Miller Road were ordered to evacuate, according to the Office of Emergency Services [online map](#). People on Turtle Rock Road and Cole Grade Road were evacuated if their homes and businesses were south of Valley Center School.

Officials said a people within a few blocks of the evacuation zone should shelter in place.

A temporary evacuation center was set up at Valley Center High School on Cole Grade Road near Oak Glen Road.

Roads were closed in the evacuated areas and at Valley Center Road and Sunset Road.

The orders were lifted just after 8:30 p.m.

Cal Fire Capt. Brett Pascua said precautions were taken because lithium batteries can heat up quickly, causing fire and chemicals to spread to each other or nearby buildings rapidly. But no smoke was showing from the shipping container Monday.

"None of the Fire Department personnel have had to take any action while the suppression system is doing its job," Pascua said. "The battery company is on scene and monitoring with the Fire Department."

Companies often use sprinkler systems or chemicals to prevent these types of products in shipping containers from catching or spreading fire, Pascua said.

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### ***\*\*NYC Zoning Change Could Mean More Local Battery Storage Sites***

Jessica Jones-Gorman-Staten Island Advance

**[EDITOR'S NOTE: DON'T LET THE POSITIVE ASPECTS OF CLEAN ENERGY MASK THE DANGERS OF CURRENT BATTERY STORAGE SYSTEMS TO THE FIRE SERVICE AND TO THE COMMUNITY]**

Battery energy storage systems (BESS) were a hot topic at a recent Community Board 1 meeting, where North Shore residents raised plenty of questions about Mayor Eric Adams' "City of Yes" zoning proposals — the first of which was approved by the City Planning Commission (CPC) this past week.

***"The proposal is confusing, and it was shoved down our throats,"*** said CB1 member Peter Lisi, who made a motion for the board to officially vote on City of Yes for Carbon Neutrality, a proposal that was introduced earlier this year with a goal of modernizing NYC's zoning regulations to support the state's climate goals.

***"They gave us 87 pages of complex language to review — an elaborate, obtuse document — and it seems like it already went through before we were given the chance to vote,"*** Nicholas Siclari, CB1 chair, added at the meeting, referencing the CPC's approval of the initiative, which occurred a day before the scheduled CB1 vote. "The consensus was originally to waive our right to review, but if the board wants to vote, we can do so now."

The Community Board did vote the proposal down — with 24 members voting no, two yes and five abstaining — but the overall sentiment in Salem Church in West Brighton that evening was that the community's voice would never be heard.

#### **'NOT A GOOD THING'**

"They're putting these battery sites anywhere and everywhere 'as of right,'" said John Guzzo, who represents the neighborhoods of Rosebank and Fort Wadsworth for CB1. "This is not a good thing for this community or for any community here on Staten Island."

The proposal calls for environmentally friendly retrofits for over 50,000 buildings and 1 million homes, the allocation of over 400 million square feet for electric vehicle charging, and the modernization of the city's water, compost and recycling regulations — all measures that CPC officials say are critical steps for New York City to reach its ambitious environmental goals.

***But the proposal's push to remove zoning obstacles to facilitate a renewable energy grid, enabling developers to build battery energy storage infrastructure in residential areas without dispute, is what is provoking a negative Staten Island response.***

"It seems the only thing the city is not saying yes to is respecting the valid concerns of Staten Island residents and elected officials," said Assemblyman Sam Pirozzolo, (R-Mid-Island/North Shore), who attended the CB1 meeting. "BESS sites pose a severe risk of inextinguishable fires, coupled with toxic smoke that has the potential to harm the immediate and surrounding communities. They have no place in residential neighborhoods under any circumstances."

According to the City of Yes project description, zoning currently considers BESS "electrical utility substations," allowing for a maximum size of 10,000 square feet in residential districts through one special permit. The proposal would change

that, allowing BESS to be installed in a wider range of zoning districts, with only larger facilities (bigger than the 10,000 square feet) requiring a special permit. BESS would also be without size limits in areas that are considered commercial and manufacturing districts, which sometimes directly border neighborhoods with schools and homes. The Department of City Planning's website also notes that City of Yes Carbon Neutrality seeks to allow battery storage "in" or "on" residential buildings, pending FDNY and city Building Department approval.

### **'THEY JUMPED AHEAD OF US'**

Many in attendance at the CB1 meeting expressed concerns about those new zoning laws and were dismayed that their worries are being overlooked.

***"They jumped ahead of us and approved it," one member said. "Why did they even ask for our input if they were going to do what they wanted anyway?"***

City of Yes for Carbon Neutrality began a formal 90-day public review on April 24, 2023. According to the city's website, the proposal was then kicked to the local Community Boards and borough presidents for a vote, which should have occurred in July or August — a summer respite when monthly Community Board meetings are not required by the city. Still, the CPC said the initiative received positive recommendations from 25 of the city's 59 Community Boards, as well as endorsements from the Bronx, Brooklyn, Manhattan and Queens borough presidents.

And while the proposal was already greenlighted by CPC when CB1 issued its negative vote on Tuesday, a representative from Community Board 3 noted that they voted against Carbon Neutrality in June, offering City Planning a five-page recommendation detailing the community's comments and concerns.

### **'AN OUTRAGE'**

"CB3 recognizes the value and objectives of the City of Yes for decarbonization in energy, buildings, transportation and wastewater. However, the text amendments, as currently drafted, will be devastating to Staten Island communities," the organization wrote. "The proposed text amendment focuses mainly on residential changes. It is an outrage and indicates the city's contempt for residential communities and the people who choose this way of living."

CB3 listed more than a dozen grievances with the proposal and suggested it be withdrawn entirely.

"It is complex and deserves full evaluations from the communities it affects, not just general public outreach," the group said.

Community Board 2, which represents the areas of Arrochar, Bloomfield, Bulls Heads, Chelsea, Dongan Hills, Egbertville, Emerson Hill, Grant City, Grasmere, High Rock, Lighthouse Hill, Midland Beach, New Dorp, New Springville, Oakwood, Ocean Breeze, Old Town, Richmondtown, South Beach, Todt Hill and Travis, did not respond to a request for comment about its vote on the issue. But according to the public agenda, the group last met in May and City of Yes was addressed, but not voted upon.

Staten Island Borough President Vito Fossella said he supports the city's environmental goals, but could not back this particular proposal, due to Staten Island's "unique set of challenges."

"We are very supportive of the goals set forth in the 'City of Yes,' but there are aspects of it that just do not make sense for the people of Staten Island," Fossella said. ***"One aspect is the current struggle to keep BESS out of residential neighborhoods and far enough away from homeowners' backyards."***

The borough president noted that Staten Island elected officials have stated publicly that the current approach will decrease the quality of life for many families, potentially increase safety issues for both residents and firefighters, and diminish property values.

"Unfortunately, our concerns have not been addressed. As a result, we cannot, in good conscience, intentionally harm the people of Staten Island," he continued. "We stand ready to work with anybody who wants to improve our environment, help to improve our air quality ... and get Staten Island on a sound footing for any and all climate change issues."

### **WHAT'S NEXT?**

The City of Yes for Carbon Neutrality proposal will now move on to the next step of the approval process, which is a presentation to the New York City Council for a public hearing and a final vote this fall. A particular date has yet to be named.

Two other City of Yes initiatives — City of Yes for Economic Opportunity, which would support New York’s economic recovery, and City of Yes for Housing Opportunity, which would expand and diversify the city’ housing supply — are scheduled to enter into public review soon.

**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	52+1 = 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 + 44 = 945
Top 3 States with the greatest 1&2 Family Deaths	1 PA = 62
	2 NY = 53
	3 OH = 49
There has been a total of <b>1510</b> 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.**

**[Georgia City Updates Inspection Requirements For Apartment Complexes After Massive Fire](#)**

Adrienne Murchison-The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

Sandy Springs is changing the inspection process for apartment communities. A new code of ordinances requires apartment complexes to **hire a third party to inspect units annually**. Before updating regulations, only 20% of apartment units were required to be inspected each year. The new policy will help the city better address water and structural damage, mold, fire hazards and other issues — particularly in older complexes that don't have sprinkler systems for apartment fires, a statement said. There are 98 apartment complexes in Sandy Springs and two more are under construction. The existing properties collectively have 25,000 units. *Only 28% of the apartment building structures have sprinkler systems, according to Sandy Springs officials.*

Sandy Springs City Council approved a new code of ordinances for multifamily housing during a Sept. 5 meeting. **Apartment complexes will be required to have units inspected annually by a certified building inspector, and every five years by an expert in HVAC, electrical and plumbing equipment who will conduct more in-depth inspections.**

Apartment property owners and managers are required to receive training in the city new policy and a certificate showing compliance with the ordinances. The certificate and proof of insurance will be required for the properties to receive a new or renewed business license.

Sandy Springs building official Jonathan Livingston told The Atlanta Journal-Constitution that the new regulations will allow the city to upgrade and align safety conditions in the rental communities. “It was challenging to keep up with what was done,” Livingston said of the former policy, requiring inspection for 20% of apartments annually.

At any time, apartment residents can contact the Sandy Springs Code Enforcement department to report problems that have not been addressed by property management such as sparks in an electrical outlet. Sandy Springs is conducting community outreach to inform tenants of the update to the city code, Yvonne Shaw, the manager of code enforcement said.

Officials say it will take time to measure the success of the code changes. In the case of fires in apartments.

In June, a massive apartment fire destroyed 24 units. The cause is still being investigated. Fire Marshal Jesse Bernard said the change will hopefully mean fewer and less serious calls.

“A lot of this is aimed at keeping the fires small to give our guys time to get there and get the people out,” Bernard said. The fire marshal said there’s been a major drop in apartment fires since 2016 when there were 75 incidents — more than half of which occurred in multifamily housing. After implementing new measures, the number of fires have decreased to 7 to 10 per year, Bernard said.

Much of the change is due to community outreach to bring awareness to residents, he said.

Cooking incidents, such as leaving something unattended on the stove, are the number one cause of fires in Sandy Springs. Fire suppressors are now under hood vents on stoves in apartments to extinguish a fire if flames erupt, Bernard said. The suppressors contain the same chemical found in fire extinguishers and release when a flame touches their wick.

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### **Preparing for A2L Refrigerants**

In late 2021, the United States Environmental Protection Agency issued a rule implementing legislation that mandates an 85 percent nationwide phasedown in hydrofluorocarbon refrigerants by 2036. The International Code Council, in collaboration with the Air-Conditioning, Heating and Refrigeration Institute, is prepared to partner with the construction industry and legislation to help navigate this positive change.

The 2024 I-Code changes facilitate compliance with these requirements and support producers and refrigerant appliance manufacturers already transitioning to lower-GWP solutions such as A2Ls. Approved code changes in the 2024 International Building Code (IBC), International Fire Code (IFC) and International Mechanical Code (IMC) allow commercial and residential use of A2L refrigerants to replace high global warming potential (GWP) HFC refrigerants.

#### **WHAT ARE A2L REFRIGERANTS?**

A2L refrigerants are a class of refrigerants that have lower toxicity and flammability than A2 or A3 refrigerants. All common refrigerants are listed through the American Society of Heating, Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE) in ASHRAE Standard 34. A2L refrigerants have lower flammability and toxicity compared to other classifications – A = non-toxic, 2 = flammable, L = low burning velocity – making it the second-safest refrigerant category. As of December 2018, more than 68 million air conditioners using A2L refrigerants have been installed around the world.

Today, more than 80 percent of new vehicles sold in the United States contain an A2L refrigerant. These refrigerants are used in window, room and automotive air conditioners in the U.S., as well as in mini splits, variable refrigerant flow, chillers, hot water heaters and other products around the world. In 2018, 26 million A2L HVAC-R units were sold throughout the world in homes and businesses.

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### **Sparks Fly in Nashville (TN) Over Backup Generator Issues in High-Rise Fire**

The owners of a 45-story residential tower that caught fire on Sunday wants to meet with Nashville Fire Department officials to discuss the response to the fire.

The fire started on a stovetop on the 27<sup>th</sup> floor, and water from the sprinkler system damaged units several floors below the fire and started an electrical fire on the 24th floor.

Now the building’s owner wants to take time with the fire department to make sure everyone understands how the building’s systems operate, WKRN reports.

***Firefighters shut down the building’s emergency generator during the fire out of concern over a shock hazard. That decision left the building without emergency lighting and rendered elevators inoperable. That made evacuation of the building more difficult and slowed building managers from being able to reach the 24th floor to assist with the fire in a utility room on that floor. The building’s backup generator, they say, is not tied in with the building’s overall electrical system and should not have posed a shock risk.***

Firefighters, however, experienced shocks in the building and did not want to risk the generator power shocking others. That’s why they ordered the generator shut down.

*“There’s no bad guys here. Just in the heat of the moment there was a decision made because, I think, there was a lack of understanding of how the systems were designed, engineered, and constructed,”* Developer Tony Giarratana told WKRN.

## PURCHASING APPARATUS? WHAT TO KNOW

### **\*\*What’s the Right Size Pump for Your Apparatus and How Does It Affect the Design?**

Alan M. Petrillo

Fire departments are all over the map when it comes to choosing the size pump they put on their engines and aerials. They consider the type and use of the rig they are purchasing as well as the kinds of fire situations the departments are likely to face.

Ryan Darley, vice president of sales for Darley, says his company values the importance of understanding the community and structures being protected by end users. “We want to gather information on the type of buildings present, whether they be high-rise, residential, industrial, or commercial structures; the typical home sizes; or industrial facilities and commercial zones,” Darley says. “We especially take note of any airports, oil refineries, or energy storage facilities in their response areas and their mutual-aid responsibilities.” Darley adds that his team inquires about the response times; the district’s topography; the number of rigs that typically respond to a fire; the average number of firefighters on the engine, truck, or tanker; and the department’s standard operating procedures for fire suppression. “We’ll also ask if they will operate at ultra-high-pressure, high-pressure, or low-flow pressure and if they need to pump into a standpipe and go up 20 floors. After receiving this information, we can recommend the type and size of pump required for their particular apparatus,” Darley points out. He states that according to data, **up to 75% of fire apparatus purchased are equipped with pumps in the range of 1,250 gallons per minute (gpm) to 1,750 gpm.** “Our P series pump is a popular choice, which is available in either midship split-shaft or power takeoff (PTO) versions and is rated from 1,000 gpm to 2,000 gpm,” Darley says. Mark Brenneman, assistant sales manager for 4 Guys Fire Trucks, observes that **the trend in pumps over the years has moved from 1,000 gpm and 1,250 gpm to 1,750 gpm and 2,000 gpm. “The technology has made it possible to get pumps up to 2,250 gpm in the same footprint as the smaller gpm versions,” Brenneman said. “The pump size itself is the same for all those capacities in the range, and what’s different is the number of discharges that the pump feeds.”**

Brenneman surmises that the increase in pump gpm size on apparatus might reflect multiuse fire vehicles. **“We are seeing a lot of departments getting rid of a pumper and a tanker and purchasing a pumper-tanker with a big pump on it because of the versatility that the rig offers but also reflecting the lack of staffing that many departments are facing these days,”** he says. Aaron Zak, product specialist lead for fire suppression at Pierce Manufacturing Inc., notes that for the past five years of production at Pierce, two thirds of the pumpers built carried 1,500-gpm pumps, 20 percent had 1,250-gpm pumps, with the balance carrying 2,000-gpm pumps. “In terms of aerial apparatus, our numbers show that just shy of 50 percent of our production has a 2,000-gpm pump, followed by 1,500-gpm, and 1,750- gpm pumps splitting the remainder of the builds,” Zak points out. “While the numbers for pump sizes in pumpers has remained very steady, we’ve seen aerials going to 2,000 gpm after 2020, with an increase from one third to one half of production.” Jeffrey Van Meter, director of global product management for IDEX Fire and Safety and Hale Products Inc., says that Fire Apparatus Manufacturers’ Association (**FAMA**) **data shows that the majority of fire apparatus sold in North America carry a fire pump of at least 1,500 gpm.** “We’ll talk with a customer about how much water they need to flow,” Van Meter says, “and often we might recommend a 2,000-gpm pump but rate it at 1,500 gpm to make it easier to be pump tested. At 1,500 gpm, a pump test can be done with a single 6-inch suction instead of two of them for the higher ratings.” Van Meter says that Hale Products hears from a lot of fire departments that want to flow 2,000 gpm from their aerials but sees an equal number running 1,500-gpm pumps. “The larger the aerial, the bigger the fire pump they want,” he points out. **“But, sometimes we suggest putting a smaller gpm pump on the aerial because you don’t want to overload the vehicle’s axles.** He continues, “The Qmax and QmaxXS pumps are our most popular models for both pumper and aerial applications, and we can offer flows of 1,250 gpm to 2,250 gpm. And, we also offer the Double Thunder 6,000-gpm pump for application,” Lichtscheidl observes. “With our rescue-pumpers, there are a few options with Rosenbauer pumps, with the Rosenbauer UHPS ultra-high-pressure pump being common because it can be used in pump-and-roll applications or in a fixed nonrolling state.” He points out, “We’re definitely seeing bigger pumps going on fire vehicles, **with a 1,500-gpm pump being the solid norm now.** At FDIC International 2023, we displayed a pumper-tanker we built for the Chisago

City (MN) Fire Department that carries a 1,500-gpm Waterous pump and a 2,500-gallon water tank with a Newton dump chute at the back. In terms of aerials, we often use the Rosenbauer N110 pump, which is available in ratings from 1,000 gpm to 2,250 gpm.” ***Zach Rudy, director of sales for Sutphen Corp., says that Sutphen very often has been installing the Hale Qmax pump in the 1,500-gpm to 2,000-gpm range on a lot of vehicles.*** “We also use a lot of Waterous CS and CSU pumps and occasionally their S100 in sizes of 1,250 gpm, 1,500 gpm, 1750 gpm, and 2,000 gpm, Rudy notes. Justin Howell, Sutphen’s southeast region sales manager, says that Sutphen is able to use a full body pump like the Hale Qmax or Waterous CS on its aerials below the turntable and body. “We use the space like we would on a pumper,” Howell says, “and put the full body pump in there instead of having to develop our own manifold for the rig.” Howell adds that a department’s choice of pump also affects the other elements on a pumper or aerial when they go over 2,000 gpm because the bigger pump means larger systems of valves, intakes, and discharges. Rob Pike, corporate services manager for Fort Garry Fire Trucks, says that “the days of the 1,000-gpm pump are pretty well over. Now the norm is a 1,250-gpm or a 1,500-gpm fire pump on pumpers and pumper-tankers. In terms of aerials, we typically see a 2,000-gpm pump with a 2,000-gallon waterway to a platform running two 1,000-gpm monitors.”

## ACCIDENT PREVENTION

### ***\*\*How Drivers + Spotters Can Help Prevent Fixed Object Strikes in Emergency Vehicles***

Justin M. Eberly | Education Specialist, VFIS

Whether it’s a command vehicle or an aerial—each piece of apparatus that your department owns has distinct characteristics requiring different skills and knowledge. And that’s especially true when it comes to handling them in tight spots and reduced clearance spaces.

**That’s why it’s important that each driver/operator in your organization is expected to:**

- Maintain a special skillset and mindset
- Frequently train and practice to understand the maneuverability of each type of vehicle.
- Remain attentive and expect their crew to do the same.

#### **A FOCUS ON BACKING**

Backing an emergency vehicle is known to be hazardous because of blind spots that interfere with the driver/operator’s ability to see obstacles or objects. Unfortunately, this type of incident has continued to be an all-too-common occurrence regardless of many organizations’ training efforts.

**According to VFIS insurance claims data, fixed object strikes are among the most common types of emergency vehicle incidents.**

This includes when an emergency vehicle is being operated in forward, reverse and all other directions—and the vehicle strikes a variety of obstacles which could include parked vehicles, trees, poles, overhead obstructions or equipment taken off of the emergency vehicle and placed on the ground. While these incidents may occur at a low speed and result in minimal damage, the significance of the events cannot be overemphasized.

#### **NOT EVERYTHING BUFFS OUT**

Even if it buffs out—*every* incident must be thoroughly investigated! It is important to understand that -many of the same behaviors that lead to seemingly-minor scratches, dings or dents can also lead to major damage, significant injury or even death.

This means that by giving some attention to minor incidents—major consequences could be avoided. Which is why it’s crucial for every emergency service organization to take fixed object strikes seriously by investigating every incident and near miss.

#### **EFFECTIVE PREVENTION TECHNIQUES**

During any circumstance where an emergency vehicle is forced to maneuver in an area with reduced clearance, consider using a spotter.

Spotters to the front—here are a few best practices to consider:

- When the driver and spotter are both ready and in position, begin by slowly maneuvering the vehicle. Make sure to establish visual and verbal contact with your spotter—and maintain it.
- A spotter should never place themselves between the moving vehicle and a stationary object.

- If at any time the driver can't see or hear the spotter, the brakes should be applied immediately.
- Consider using the same or slightly-adapted set of spotter hand signals used in backing for all other directions.
- Train spotters to communicate the right signal at the right time.

### **A CIRCLE OF SAFETY**

If a spotter is not available, a driver should conduct a circle of safety (at minimum). A circle of safety is a complete walk-around of the vehicle to check for hazards at the front, back and side of the vehicle. Personnel should also check for overhead obstructions like low-hanging branches, power lines or overhanging roofs. After the circle of safety has been completed, the driver should proceed slowly and continue to scan their mirrors for any stationary or moving hazards constantly. When in doubt, they should stop the vehicle and repeat the circle of safety to re-evaluate the situation.

### **USING TECH AS A TOOL—NOT A CRUTCH**

Is your vehicle equipped with technology that's designed to reduce or eliminate these types of incidents like cameras, video or sensors?

As this type of technology becomes more readily available, every driver/operator must understand the capabilities and limitations of each—and in the event system or device malfunction, a driver/operator must be able continue to safely maneuver.

Over-dependence on these technologies has become a growing concern, and it's important to remember that no product on the market today is designed to replace the use of a diligent spotter and effective circle of safety.

### **WHEN YOU'RE UTILIZING THESE TECHNOLOGIES, ALWAYS REMEMBER:**

- Not to rely on the systems alone, as poor weather or visibility can diminish the effectiveness of camera or sensor-based systems
- To regularly inspect and clean screens, cameras, sensors or other forms of technology according to manufacturer recommendations
- Bright screens and indicator lights can be blinding at night—and while night vision technology has improved over the years, both cameras and human eyesight significantly diminish during nighttime operation.
- In the event of a malfunction, know how the system can be restarted if regular calibration is needed to increase accuracy and necessary steps to implement each of these tools in accordance with manufacturer recommendations.

### **DEVELOP POLICIES, PROCEDURES AND GUIDELINES**

Reducing the risk of fixed object strikes begins with developing clearly defined [policies, procedures or guidelines](#) which include training, best practices to follow and plans for enforcing these policies.

Many of the same best practices used to prevent backing incidents can be applied to prevent fixed object strikes in other directions—so if your organization already has these policies, they might be a great place to start.

At the basic level, get into the habit of taking a few extra seconds to make absolutely certain you will not strike any objects with your emergency vehicle and call your spotters to the front, side and any angle necessary. To learn more, check out the "Fixed Object Strike Prevention" course available online on [VFIS University](#).

## **THE LIGHTER SIDE!**

**Have you ever stopped to listen to some folks for a minute or two and thought..."Their cornbread ain't done in the middle!!"**

## **HAPPEN'N IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD!!**



NOTE: take out only, and the reservation email is brooksbbq32@gmail.com

## OFFICERS OF THE CAPITAL AREA ASSOCIATION OF FIRE DISTRICTS

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*The Capital Area Association represents fire district officials from the fire districts in Albany, Schenectady, Rensselaer, Warren, Washington, Saratoga, Fulton and Montgomery Counties  
 Fire District Officials include Commissioners, Treasurers, 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: TREASURER@CAFDA.NET](mailto:TREASURER@CAFDA.NET)  
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### **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?**

*The Answer is posted on our web site at [www.CAFDA.net](http://www.CAFDA.net)*

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

### **Membership Audit**

CAFDA, currently has **80-member Fire Districts** in Albany, Schenectady, Fulton, Montgomery, Rensselaer, Warren, Washington and Saratoga Counties. We are also accepting memberships from Schoharie and Essex counties.

We currently have **20 fire districts that are NOT currently members**, they are: Berne, Delmar, Elsmere and McKownville in Albany County; West Charlton in Saratoga County; Glensville #2, Rotterdam #4 and Duanesburg in Schenectady County; Northville Joint in Fulton County; Bolton, Luzern-Hadley, 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's reporting chain or organizational structure.

***We exist solely as a not for profit for the benefit of the member fire districts in and around the Capital District.***

# CAPITAL AREA BUSINESS PARTNER'S

PLEASE SUPPORT THOSE WHO SUPPORT US!!

Business Partner Applications Available At: [WWW.CAFDA.NET](http://WWW.CAFDA.NET)

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](mailto: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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Backup Disaster Recovery  
Web Design

266 Delaware Ave, Delmar NY WhiteWolfComputer.com  
(518) 459-WOLF (9653) Support@WhiteWolfComputer.com

## FIRE EQ TESTING



Safety First Equipment Testing

99 Glass Lake Road  
Averill Park, NY 12018

518-674-8363

[www.safetyfirstfirehose.com](http://www.safetyfirstfirehose.com)

## SCBA COMPRESSOR SERVICE



BAUER COMPRESSORS

Quality. Our DNA

Breathing Air Comp Maintenance  
Air Quality Tests and Repairs  
Chris Jeffreys  
315-729-6071 Cell  
315-699-4533 Office

## DRYER VENT CLEANING



DRYER VENT WIZARD

JORDAN CATINO

8 NAPA COURT, SCHENECTADY, NY 12309

518-344-0664

[SARATOGADRYERVENT.COM](http://SARATOGADRYERVENT.COM)

## INSURANCE



Fleury Risk Management  
28 Corporate Drive, Suite 104  
Clifton Park, NY 12065  
518.478.6314

<https://www.fleuryrisk.com/nysgroup497>  
VFBL Insurances Services



Carla West, Territory Sales Mgr  
800-822-3747 ext 138  
[cwest@mcneilandcompany.com](mailto:cwest@mcneilandcompany.com)



A Division of Glafelter Insurance Group

Pat Daglio

[pdaglio@vfis.com](mailto:pdaglio@vfis.com)

717.819.3072

## FIRE APPARATUS



LARRY GATES

SERVICE AND PARTS MANAGER  
EASTERN APPARATUS SALES

1 SUPER 50 WAY, BALLSTON LAKE, NY 12019

[larry.vmfire@verizon.net](mailto:larry.vmfire@verizon.net)  
[www.vm-fire.com](http://www.vm-fire.com)

(518) 926-0451

## WARNING PACKAGES/REPAIRS BODY SHOP



Vehicle Repair, Warning Packages, Body Shop

78 Freemans Bridge Road, Glenville

518-377-5555

Veteran Owned Business



*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](mailto:tom@rinaldi1.com) for comments or [content contributions are always welcome.](#)*

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***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 CAFDA.NET website.

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

Download THE APPLICATION available on the home page at CAFDA.NET

**[MEMBERSHIP IN THE CAPITAL AREA FIRE DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION \(CAFDA\)](#)**

Would you like to join Capital Area Fire Districts Association along with 76 members in 10 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 or Other County or Regional Associations \$300 annually.

**Business Partners: \$100.00 annual member fee**

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**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.***

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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
<b>2023</b>				
<b>AUGUST</b>				
<b>NO MEETING</b>				
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
<b>DECEMBER</b>				
<b>NO MEETING</b>				
<b>2024</b>				
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	
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	
<b>JULY</b>				
<b>NO MEETING</b>				
<b>AUGUST</b>				
<b>NO MEETING</b>				
Friday, August 9, 2024	11:00 AM	DAY AT THE RACES	Saratoga Race Course	Officers, Directors, Vendors
<b>SEPTEMBER</b>				
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
<b>DECEMBER</b>				
<b>NO MEETING</b>				
<b>2025</b>				
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](http://afdca.org)

<https://cafda.net/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/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](http://afdca.org)

<https://cafda.net/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/Fire-District-Elections-Schedule-2023.pdf>