



CAPITAL AREA FIRE DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION (CAFDA)

BULLETIN

YOUR FIRE DISTRICT NEWS SOURCE
SEPTEMBER 30TH, 2023

EDITOR - TOM RINALDI

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Something for everyone in the Fire Service!!

CAPITAL SHORTS:

- It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of State Association region 6 Director, Commissioner Jim Havernick of the Bellevue Fire District, Town of Cheektowaga, Erie County. Jim was a friend, supporter, and co-worker who was well respected. May he rest in eternal peace and be free of the sickness that was attacking his body. Our sympathies go to his wife Cindy, his daughter and his fire district family. Flowers gratefully declined. Donations may be made in Jim's name to the Bellevue Fire Company, 511 Como Park Blvd, Cheektowaga, NY 14227
- 26th Annual Fallen Firefighters Memorial Ceremony is coming up on Tuesday, October 10th, 11:00AM Empire State Plaza in Albany.
- Congratulations to the Thomas Corners Fire Department on their 75 years of service to the Glenville Community.
- CAFDA is highly appreciative of 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.
- **Fire District Election Schedule and Budget Schedule on Last Page of Bulletin and is posted to our current website at afdca.org!**
- **BUSINESS PARTNER OPPORTUNITY**, vendor space at the November 4th Workshop see page 20

CAPITAL AREA MEMBER ACTIVITIES:

WWW.CAFDA.NET

All correspondence & Capital Area Fire Districts Association Mailing Address should be directed to:

AFDCA PO Box 242 East Schodack, NY 12063 or EMAIL: SECRETARY@CAFDA.NET

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

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

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

December, No Meeting enjoy the holidays!

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

Printable Calendar with much more – See End of Bulletin

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

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

Go to 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: \[secretary@cafda.net\]\(mailto:secretary@cafda.net\)](#)

CAFDA is searching for a new Secretary

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

Tony Hill is currently acting Secretary/Treasurer and can be reached at : cafdatreasurer@gmail.com or caaofd@gmail.com , our mailing address is CAFDA PO Box 242, East Schodack, NY 12063

If You, Your Fire District or Department is not a Member of CAFDA You Can be?

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



**Capital Area Association of Fire Districts
Membership Application/Renewal**

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

Name: _____

County: _____ Fire District: _____

Mailing Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____

Primary Contact Phone Number: _____ Email: _____

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

Name: _____ Email: _____

Name: _____ Email: _____

Fire Company if Different: _____

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

Name: _____ Email: _____

Name: _____ Email: _____

Name: _____ Email: _____

Name: _____ Email: _____

Name: _____ Email: _____

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

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

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

Signature: _____

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

FIRE DISTRICT OFFICIALS...TRAINING FOR YOU!

CAFDA FALL WORKSHOP:

RESERVATIONS NOW BEING TAKEN AT: SECRETARY@CAFDA.NET

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

INFORMATION TO BE SHARED:

Harassment Challenges

Discipline as a result of Harassment Charges - Removal of Fire Company Members

How to SHOP for insurance, What Coverage Should We Have? Do we have the *right* coverage?

Ask the experts: CPA, VFBL, Attorney, Insurance, Candle Stick Maker

SEE FLYER ON LAST PAGE OF BULLETIN....

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 29th & March 1st 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.



Stay tuned to future presentations.

DHSES-Fire and Emergency Services Leadership and Management Conference

WHEN: Friday November 3 through Sunday November 5th

WHERE: NYS FIRE ACADEMY OF FIRE SCIENCES, MONTOUR FALLS, NY

WHAT:

- Scope: Leadership and management. Focused on 'upper level' content such as HR, grant writing, administration, ethics, leadership, program management, health and wellness, etc. *Will not contain strategy and tactics related content.*
- Target Audience: Chief level officers, administrators, staff officers, commissioners, lieutenants, captains etc.
- Format: Multitude of 2 – 4 hour breakout sessions where attendees can go to whatever they like. No need to sign up for any specific breakout session ahead of time, just register for the conference itself.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, EMAIL FIREOFFICER@DHSES.NY.GOV

IF NOTHING ELSE READ THE ARTICLES PRECEDED BY**

STATE ASSOCIATION NEWS:

WWW.AFDNYS.ORG

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

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

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 RESERVE YOUR SEATS, payment accepted at the door.

The First CAFDA Conference Spring 2024

Coming April 25, 26 & 27th 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

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

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

Insurance Company Sues S.C. City Over Faulty Hydrants In 2021 Blaze

Morgan Hughes

A Columbia-area apartment complex was going up in smoke. Residents were being evacuated. But as firefighters prepared to battle the blaze, they encountered a problem.

A nearby fire hydrant wasn't supplying water, while other nearby hydrants weren't supplying water with enough pressure. The problems with the fire hydrants led to a delay in putting out the fire, leading to more damage to the apartments, a lawsuit filed against the city of Columbia claims.

Westchester Surplus Lines Insurance Company is suing the city of Columbia for \$4.9 million, alleging the city was negligent during a September 2021 fire in the Seven Oaks area. The lawsuit claims Columbia was negligent in inspecting and maintaining the fire hydrants near the Peachtree Place apartment complex at 200 Berryhill Road.

Earlier this year, the Professional Fire Fighters Association of South Carolina made a similar accusation after another destructive apartment fire, saying a fire hydrant near the Tropical Ridge apartments in the St. Andrews area was not functioning when crews arrived to battle an apartment fire May 26. Irmo firefighter James Muller died while fighting that blaze, and several other firefighters were hospitalized.

The circumstances of the Tropical Ridge fire are under investigation by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, which investigates cases in which a firefighter dies.

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

STEP INTO THE CHIEF'S OFFICE:

Managing and Leading Change When Solutions Aren't Clear

Jeff Dygert-Size Up Magazine

Providing emergency services has undoubtedly evolved through the years, but currently, there are tremendous forces inside and outside of our organizations that are ***prompting changes at a rapid pace and across multiple aspects of our establishments***. Chiefs and leaders are faced with issues that must be addressed and the solutions are uncertain.

Managing and leading change has long been an important aspect of leadership. The fire service has some great operational and organizational leaders that command confidence and inspire their firefighters to do amazing things. These same leaders may shy away from addressing certain issues that represent a threat to their organizations or possibly offer an opportunity. Potential solutions may be unpopular, unique, complicated, and downright scary.

Before we can contemplate any sort of solution or change, we need to understand the problem or challenge to be addressed. We pretty much know what these problems are in our organizations; we hear them at the kitchen table and on the apparatus floor, and they vary from department to department, but there are many common themes. ***Both career and volunteer departments are experiencing increased difficulty attracting and retaining personnel necessary to deliver our services. The cost of providing our services has skyrocketed.*** Those of us providing EMS at some level have undoubtedly experienced an increase in calls related to mental health, drug use, and violence. We are witnessing more homelessness and an increasing number of people living in overcrowded conditions. ***Electric vehicles, lithium-ion batteries, and the proliferation of lightweight building construction are increasing the challenges and consequences of fire response.***

Some departments have implemented or are contemplating adding services to fill community needs, while others have cut back on specific services they have identified as unnecessary or that they are no longer able to provide. Any potential change in service demands a thorough investigation and planning process to ensure the community's needs are being addressed.

While the severity of each of these challenges also varies between departments, it seems that almost universally, many of these issues have increased in severity rapidly within the last couple of years. The solutions to these issues are potentially divisive and may be a threat to an increasingly sparse group of responders. Solutions might threaten the status quo and the culture of an organization.

Left unaddressed, these same issues will continue to develop and stress the organization. To better understand our unique situations and to develop and justify solutions, we should look to data. Of course, it's helpful if we have placed a high value on data in the past and collected meaningful information along the way so we can identify trends. ***If good data doesn't currently exist, it's probably a good time to make that change and identify what improvements need to be implemented. Consider county-wide, regional, state, and national data to identify trends that can help inform your analysis.***

If you're not already discussing these topics with your firefighters, you should probably start soon. We tend to be pretty good problem solvers and we are more likely to build support within the department when everyone understands how a possible solution was developed and how it will address an identified problem. If you think a proposed solution will need funding or support from an elected body, keep them in the loop or invite them to be part of the process – this will help them better understand the issue at hand.

Establish realistic timelines for the implementation of intended changes; some larger changes may need to be taken one step at a time. Monitor the impact of your changes utilizing data to ensure progress and possibly inform adjustments.

Most of the general topics referred to in this article are impacting most organizations. While some level of success might be achieved at the department level, many of these subjects will likely be better addressed through partnerships and collaborations at a regional level. Fire and emergency services will continue to be a trusted community resource, but I suspect we will be seeing more partnerships with other non-emergency organizations as we navigate some of these new challenges. As a fire service leader, consider how your department is adapting to current community needs and have the courage to take on tough topics. ***Consider how partnerships might provide your organization with some relief or how you can better serve your community.***

Some of the changes we are experiencing can be attributed to societal changes. Others, it could be claimed, may be attributed to legislative changes. ***As a fire service leader, do not underestimate your influence on local and state elected officials.*** Just as fire chiefs universally want their firefighters to be active and engaged, so too should the fire chief be engaged on a local and county level to help guide inevitable change in the delivery of emergency services.

OUR CHANGING FIRE SERVICE –CHALLENGES & OPPORTUNITIES!

OPPORTUNITIES:

COLLEGE TUITION ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE FOR NEW YORK'S VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS

In most areas of New York State, it is citizen volunteers who respond to emergency situations. Due to a variety of factors, New York's volunteer fire departments are currently experiencing a critical need to recruit and retain members.

As an incentive for individuals to serve in New York's volunteer fire service, the Firefighters Association of the State of New York (FASNY) has developed the Higher Education Learning Plan (FASNY HELP). This program will provide tuition reimbursement to student-volunteers attending a New York State chartered college or taking online courses through Empire State College, as long as they are providing active service to a New York State volunteer department. Individuals who already have a college degree are also eligible to participate in the FASNY HELP program.

FASNY HELP "Student-Volunteers" are eligible to have up to 100% of their tuition reimbursed (**with any single semester award not to exceed \$1,500**) in exchange for maintaining defined grades and fulfilling established service requirements in one of New York's volunteer fire companies. There is no restriction on the type of academic course(s) the FASNY HELP student-volunteer can pursue. **To participate in FASNY HELP you must be an active volunteer firefighter in good standing. Student-volunteers must re-apply each semester they wish to participate in FASNY HELP.**

Tuition help is still available, apply now! Fill out the information on the following web page:

<https://fasny.com/resources/fasny-help-tuition-reimbursement-program/>

Minnesota Fire Department's New Quint 4 Apparatus Reduces Emissions And Can Alert Drivers When Approaching

The Duluth Fire Department recently put a new Quint 4 apparatus into service with two features unique to the vehicle. "One is the HAAS safety cloud. It's an alerting system that alerts drivers that are using Apple maps, or if you're using Waze, or if you have a Jeep, Chrysler or Dodge make that's 2008 or newer, this system will actually alert you when the fire truck is approaching you," explained Deputy Chief Mike Consie. "So it calculates rates to determine if the fire truck and your vehicle will actually intersect, whether it's head on or to the side and it alerts the driver, it will tone down your stereo and it will actually pop up an alert saying 'warning, emergency vehicle approaching'." Once the Quint 4 arrives on scene and is placed in park, the vehicle will automatically set a geofence up around it.

The second key feature new to Duluth Fire Department is idle reduction technology.

"A lot of people have their passenger vehicles where when you pull up to a stop sign and you're stopped for a certain amount of time, it will shut the engine off and it will run on batteries," Concise explained. "This vehicle here, about approximately 5 minutes from it being on scene, will shut down and will run on the lithium ion batteries that are on board."

With these rechargeable batteries, Quint 4 can run for 1-2 hours in idle mode.

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

Prices Skyrocket For Firefighter Turnout Gear

The cost to enter a burning home is more expensive. Turnout gear for firefighters has increased double-digits in the past few years. It's more expensive to outfit a firefighter. "Your helmet, hood, coat, pants, boot, gloves, face piece, air pack, bottle, and a radio. That's your full ensemble," said Captain Rich Little of the Watertown Fire Department. Right now, the cost for turnout gear and a secondary set is about \$18,000 per firefighter. Shared air packs and bottles cost an additional \$10,000. Last year, the Watertown Fire Department budgeted for an 8 percent price increase for turnout gear. It turns out it was 18 percent and it's expected to go up again. Little has heard the prices are up because of supply issues and a lack of workers.

[Hyundai And Kia Recall Nearly 3.4 Million Vehicles Due To Fire Risk And Urge Owners To Park Outdoors](#)

Hyundai and Kia are recalling nearly 3.4 million vehicles in the U.S. and telling owners to park them outside due to the risk of engine compartment fires. The recalls cover multiple car and SUV models from the 2010 through 2019 model years including Hyundai's Santa Fe SUV and Kia's Sorrento SUV. Documents posted Wednesday by the U.S. National Highway Traffic Safety Administration say the anti-lock brake control module can leak fluid and cause an electrical short, which can touch off a fire while the vehicles are parked or being driven. The automakers are advising owners to park outdoors and away from structures until repairs are done. Dealers will replace the anti-lock brake fuse at no cost to owners. Kia says in documents that it will send notification letters to owners starting Nov. 14. For Hyundai the date is Nov. 21.

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

[NYS AFC 2023 Seminar Series, "Truck Skills Beyond the Textbooks"](#)

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

Registration (per person):

\$35 – NYS AFC members

\$50 – non-members

Pre-registration encouraged.

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

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

[Bring NYS AFC 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 NYS AFC 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>

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

*According to FirefighterCloseCalls.com**

In 2022 we experienced 101 LODDs reported nationally.!

9/11-Related Illnesses Have Now Killed Same Number Of FDNY Firefighters As Day Of Attacks: 'Our Hearts Break'

Two more firefighters have died from illnesses related to their work at the World Trade Center during and after the 9/11 terror attacks, officials announced on Sunday. **Their deaths bring the overall toll linked to 9/11-related diseases among members of the Fire Department of the City of New York to 343**, which is equal to the number of FDNY members who died on the day of the attacks, the department said. This September marked 22 years since the attacks, which killed nearly 3,000 people. Ahead of the date this year, the Uniformed Firefighters Association of Greater New York said the number of FDNY members who had died of illnesses related to 9/11 was approaching the number of FDNY deaths recorded on 9/11 alone. It was 341 at the time.

Time to Start Thinking About the NYS Volunteer FF Cancer Benefit Program

There are two (2) components of coverage required by General Municipal Law (GML) 205-CC

- 1) Lump Sum Cancer Benefit and Death Benefit
- 2) Long-Term Disability (Income Replacement)

Advantages of NYS Volunteer Firefighter Cancer Benefit Program offered by Hartford Insurance:

- The Hartford does not require the firefighter to be alive for the **lump sum critical illness** benefit to trigger. This is important because if someone has a fast-acting cancer and does not have time to submit a claim, their survivors can submit on the firefighter's behalf. In the event of a firefighter's death, the Lump Sum Cancer Benefit is paid to his/her estate.
- For the **disability benefit**, what matters is not your date of diagnosis; instead what matters is your date of disability or the date when you can no longer perform the duties of a volunteer firefighter due to cancer. If your cancer was diagnosed prior to 1/1/19, you may still be eligible for the disability benefit if you are disabled on or after 1/1/19 as a result of that cancer, and provided you were covered under the Program as an active firefighter on 1/1/19, and that your cancer is covered under the contract.
- For the **death benefit**, what matters is not your date of diagnosis; instead what matters is that your death is a result of complications from cancer and that your death happens on or after the effective date of your coverage provided you were covered under the Program as an active firefighter on 1/1/19, and that your cancer is covered under the contract.
- The Program offers two different cancer coverage plans. The Basic Plan covers the specific severe and less severe cancers listed in the law; GML 205-CC. The Enhanced Plan covers more types of severe and less severe forms of cancer **including lung cancer**. You can compare the plans and rates for the two definitions during the quoting process.

There may be other plans in the marketplace that do not meet the criteria outlined above. Please be sure that any plan your AHJ chooses to purchase is compliant with all aspects of GML 205 - CC.

****Ruptured Apparatus Tire in Oregon**

Chris Daly

A subsequent investigation revealed that the failed tire was approximately 22 years old and in obviously old and brittle condition. On August 19, 2001, a fire apparatus crashed in Oregon, resulting in the death of a 52-year-old firefighter. The victim was driving a tanker back to the fire station after routine maintenance.

As the firefighter was driving on an interstate highway, he maneuvered to overtake a tractor trailer. During this maneuver, the right front tire blew out and the firefighter lost control of the apparatus. The apparatus left the roadway, striking a boulder and a large tree. During the course of the crash, the victim sustained fatal injuries.

DRIVER CONSIDERATIONS

A subsequent investigation revealed that the failed tire was approximately 22 years old and in obviously old and brittle condition. During a post-crash inspection, state police investigators determined that the outer shell of the tire was brittle and cracked. In addition, there were openings in the tire tread that had allowed moisture to attack the steel tire cords, as evidenced by rust on the cords.

Fire apparatus operators must understand how to inspect and read the age of an emergency vehicle tire. National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 1911, *Standard for the Inspection, Maintenance, Testing, and Retirement of In-Service Emergency Vehicles*, states

that no tire should be over seven years old. This is because ozone in the air, ultraviolet light, and normal wear and tear on a tire can cause a breakdown of the rubber compounds in the tire, causing them to dry out and become unsafe over time. Even if the tire tread has not worn down to a point that would require replacement, the tire may suffer other adverse effects from use and age that could result in a tire blowout.

Fire apparatus operators must also be familiar with the proper method of regaining control of a fire apparatus in the event of a tire blowout. Studies and nationally recognized training programs have demonstrated that in the event of a tire blowout, ***the fire apparatus operator should take a firm grip of the wheel; accelerate to regain forward momentum and control; and then, once he has the apparatus under control, gently reduce speed to come to a safe stop.***

DRIVER TRAINING CONSIDERATIONS

Driver training programs should teach fire apparatus operators how to properly inspect a tire and how to read the manufacture date. Each tire should have a four-digit code printed on the sidewall of the tire. The first two digits are the week of the year that the tire was manufactured, while the last two digits are the year of manufacture. If a tire is more than seven years old, it is not compliant with NFPA 1911. When a tire is mounted, it should be mounted in such a way that this code is readily seen by anyone inspecting the tire. This is especially true for the inside dual tires, which are often overlooked during routine tire inspections.

Driver training programs should also address how to properly handle a tire blowout. Driver trainers can simulate a tire blowout by clapping their hands, blowing the air horns, or simply yelling “BANG!” Once the driver trainer simulates the tire blowout, the driver should respond appropriately by accelerating as necessary to regain control of the apparatus and then bringing the apparatus to a safe and controlled stop. *An important teaching point during this exercise is that the driver should not be operating the apparatus at its maximum speed. If the apparatus is governed at 62 miles per hour (mph) and the driver is traveling 62 mph, there is no extra speed available should the driver need to accelerate and regain control.*

RELEVANT NFPA DIRECTION

NFPA 1911, 8.3.6 states, “Tires shall be replaced at least every seven years or more frequently when the tread wear exceeds state or federal standards as determined by measuring with a tread depth gauge. [See 6.3.1(4)].”

NFPA 1911, 6.3.1(3)(4) states, “The following deficiencies of the chassis, axles, steering and suspensions systems, driveline, wheels, and tires shall cause the vehicle to be taken out of service: 3) Tires have cuts in the sidewall that penetrate to the cord. 4) Tires have a tread depth of less than 4/32 inches (3.2 mm) on any steering axle or 2/32 inches (1.6 mm) on any nonsteering axle at any two adjacent major tread grooves anywhere on the tire.”

RESOURCES

- “Fire Apparatus Rollovers, Part 14: Tires,” *Fire Apparatus & Emergency Equipment*, November 2020, explains the issues of tire age and safety in greater detail.
- Drive to Survive: The Art of Wheeling the Rig, Chapter 11 (Fire Engineering Books and Videos), explains the issues related to tire safety and tire blowouts.
- “Automotive Fire Apparatus Tire Replacement,” Fire Protection Research Foundation, March 2015, details the issues related to the need for tire replacement every seven years.

DISTRICT FINANCES

OSC Audit Rapids Fire Company – Credit Cards

BACKGROUND

The Company is a not-for-profit organization providing fire protection services to the Towns of Lockport and Royalton in Niagara County and the Town of Clarence in Erie County.

The Company is composed of volunteer members and is governed by its bylaws and an elected eleven-member Executive Board (Board). The Board consists of a President, Vice President, Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, Treasurer, Chief, Deputy Chief, Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Captain and three Directors.

The Board is responsible for managing and overseeing the Company’s financial activities. The Treasurer is responsible for issuing, accounting for, monitoring, retrieving and overall compliance with credit cards. The President, or the Vice President if the President is absent, is responsible for enforcing the bylaws, rules and regulations.

AUDIT OBJECTIVE

Determine whether the Rapids Volunteer Fire Company (Company) credit card purchases were made by authorized users, supported and for appropriate Company purposes.

KEY FINDINGS

Credit card purchases were not always made by authorized users, and 762 purchases totaling \$110,938 (97 percent of the credit card charges made during the audit period) **lacked documentation** to support the purchases, confirm whether the purchases were received, and/or determine whether the purchases were for appropriate Company purposes. In addition:

- **The President did not enforce the credit card policy** (Policy) or bylaws, and the members did not perform a review of credit card purchases.
- **The Treasurer did not perform the duties outlined in the Policy.**
- **Officials allowed an individual that was not authorized to use a Company credit card to make 19 purchases** totaling \$3,000 for the Company.
- **Officials paid \$969 in New York State (NYS) sales tax even though the Company is tax-exempt.**
- **We could not locate a virtual reality headset (\$299) to confirm it was in the Company's possession** and although a toolbox (\$165) could not be located at the time we conducted our testing, the President later told us he located the toolbox at Station 2 and presented the toolbox to us.

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

- **Update, communicate and enforce the Policy and bylaws.**
- Ensure Company credit cards are only used by authorized users.
- **Ensure credit card purchases are supported and conduct a thorough review of the purchases prior to payment.**

COMPLETE AUDIT REPORT AT THIS LINK

<https://www.osc.state.ny.us/files/local-government/audits/2023/pdf/rapids-fire-company-2023-86.pdf>

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

RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION

Illinois Is Running Out Of Volunteer Firefighters

The Chicago Tribune

The 76-year-old man was sitting at his kitchen table one Tuesday morning in June when he lost consciousness and fell to the floor.

A few blocks away, Alex Justi's emergency pager went off. The 24-year-old firefighter and paramedic ***is one of only six people who make up Dalzell's volunteer-run fire department***, and one of only two who lives in the town of about 660 residents in north-central Illinois, near Starved Rock State Park.

Justi raced to the station, ***jumped in an engine and drove, solo, to the man's house***. Once there, he quickly realized the man wasn't breathing. Justi placed a device over the man's nose and mouth and manually pumped oxygen into his lungs, continuing for at least five minutes until first responders from a neighboring town arrived to help.

The man survived. But, Justi reluctantly acknowledged, the outcome could have been different.

"If somebody wasn't breathing for him, he would have been dead by the time the ambulance showed up," Justi said.

"That was when we realized that we need some help here."

Just over half of all firefighters in the United States are estimated to be volunteers: men and women who, like Justi, leave their homes and jobs at any moment to respond to house fires and car crashes, medical emergencies and natural disasters.

In Illinois, about two-thirds of the state's roughly 1,100 fire departments rely almost entirely on volunteers. And, with few exceptions, those departments are running out of volunteers.

The fluctuating ranks of volunteer departments make it difficult to accurately track the losses. But fire chiefs across Illinois say they're facing historic staffing lows.

In Dalzell, the roster of six should be 16 to be fully staffed, said Chief Tom Riordan. Over in Divernon, in central Illinois, Chief Randy Rhodes said he's lost eight volunteers just in the past two years. And the bylaws for the Galena Fire Department, billed as the state's oldest, cap volunteer membership at 62. They've got 24, Chief Bob Conley said.

Firefighting organizations and some state lawmakers have tried over the years to address the dearth of volunteers, offering tax breaks and other incentives aimed at buoying department ranks.

Those efforts have thus far found little success. And some department leaders fear the worst is yet to come.

If nothing changes, fire chiefs in Dalzell and elsewhere say they'll no longer have enough people to answer medical calls, ceding that responsibility to neighboring agencies or private ambulance services. ***Other departments are looking at mergers as a way to hopefully prolong their survival.***

All this could put hundreds of thousands of Illinois residents in the dangerous position of having to wait longer for help to arrive.

[Researchers Seek Affordable Housing Solutions to Retain AZ Firefighters](#)

Abigail Kessler-The Arizona Daily Sun

Over the next year, a team from Northern Arizona University's Economic Policy Institute will be working with the Central Arizona Fire and Medical Authority (CAFMA) in Prescott to look at housing solutions that could help with firefighter recruitment and retention.

The project recently received a Regents' Community Grant from the Arizona Board of Regents (ABOR). It was approved by the board on June 15.

Although Prescott and Flagstaff have different housing needs, it is a factor in both struggling to retain firefighters. According to the institute's director, Nancy Baca, firefighters often will train with the department before moving to the Valley, where the cost of living is lower in some areas and wages may be higher.

"We're struggling," said CAFMA Fire Chief Scott Freitag. "We can't ignore that a big problem with recruiting and retention is housing. With starting salaries around \$55,000, housing expenses for firefighters are often unaffordable, especially when compounded by other living expenses such as daycare and cost of inflation."

With the grant, NAU researchers will be looking at ways to respond to those retention issues by addressing the area's housing needs and by trying to recruit more locally.

"We are finding that, in some Arizona communities — especially those like Flagstaff that are landlocked or Prescott that has become a large second-home community — ***as we see prices increase, it makes it more difficult to hire and retain safety personnel because of budgetary issues,***" Baca said. "There's kind of a standard salary for those jobs, and a lot of times they get priced out of the housing market, because they become transplant communities, retiree communities or second-home communities."

The project is related to a tri-university effort on emergency and safety personnel retention in Arizona. ABOR approved an \$800,000 community grant earlier this year that looks at firefighter recruitment and retention across the state.

"What we're finding is that smaller communities like Prescott, like Flagstaff are putting in the dollars to train recruits just to lose them one year, two years down the road to the larger metropolitan areas who perhaps can pay more for better hours," Baca said. "The cost of housing is incredibly different in those locations as well."

Unlike Flagstaff, Prescott's housing supply is growing, according to Baca. Its population is also growing, however, creating a greater need for safety personnel like firefighters. That growth can also make it more difficult for certain workers to afford to live there, contributing to the fire department's staffing difficulties.

While the area has more supply, those houses are mainly being sold to those who are moving from other places or buying second homes, who can afford a cash offer or a higher price.

There's lots of housing and that housing drives the need for more safety personnel, but housing does not provide affordable housing for the safety personnel," Baca explained.

She added: "As the number of homes increases and the number of people in the city increases, that increases the need for additional safety personnel and fire stations and things like that, but isn't helping address the issue of affordability of housing for those personnel," she said. "So they have an interesting issue in that the need for safety personnel is growing, but the hiring and retention is becoming more and more difficult."

CAFMA serves about 106,500 residents of Prescott and its surrounding areas, according to the grant, with the City of Prescott Fire Department serving over 45,000 residents of the city. Together, the two organizations serve more than half of Yavapai County.

A grant executive summary from ABOR's June meeting notes that CAFMA has between 33 and 38 openings, with the majority (23-28) being operational positions.

“In the next three to five years, it’s predicted there will be 25 to 50 new positions, plus another 15 for two new fire stations,” the summary said. “Many applicants cannot find options to live in the region and either do not apply or leave shortly after receiving extensive specialized training at a cost of approximately \$100,000.”

NAU’s project will be studying a number of questions related to both the staffing and potential solutions for recruitment and retention, including housing solutions. The Regents’ Community Grant provides \$57,560 in funding, with NAU providing another \$47,060 in matching funds.

In early July, Baca said, NAU researchers were already working to analyze data and find “creative solutions.”

Most of the data collection and analysis is planned for this summer, with a final report expected in May 2024.

It will include analysis of other cities with similar sizes and problems, looking at housing and retention solutions they’ve attempted and whether these might work in Prescott. They’re also exploring sustainable recruitment methods, primarily looking at ways to hire people already living in Prescott or the surrounding tribal communities who won’t need to find housing before starting work.

Other efforts Baca listed as part of this study include providing workforce development support and exploring various training programs for the departments and financial literacy education to give those new recruits a better idea of what to expect, financially, when living in Prescott.

“We take it for granted that firefighters will be ready to respond when our loved ones have medical emergencies or fires break out,” ABOR Chair Lyndel Manson said in a press release. **“The reality that firefighters often can’t afford housing in the communities in which they work is troubling and not tenable for the future.** This grant is designed to offer solutions to this issue so firefighters can focus on what matters most — fighting fires and saving lives.”

[EDITOR’S NOTE: career or volunteer the story is the same, big problem in recruitment.]

LIVING WITH NEW GREEN TECHNOLOGY - - HOT TOPIC!

Lithium Batteries Caused at Least Three Garage Fires in Meridian (ID)

Rachel Spacek-The Idaho Statesman

The Meridian Fire Department responded to five garage fires this month. At least three were caused by the incorrect storage of lithium-ion batteries, according to the department.

Lithium batteries are rechargeable and commonly used in electric vehicles and portable electronic devices. The Idaho Statesman asked what kind of batteries caused the fires. Kelsey Winnett, spokesperson for the Meridian Fire Department, did not elaborate except to say that **the fires were not caused by charging vehicle batteries.**

The department responded to the latest fire on Thursday morning near Eagle and McMillan Roads. No human injuries were reported, but the family’s cat died in the fire, the department said.

When crews arrived on scene, they saw the fire was coming from the home garage and were able to put it out. The fire department reminded residents in a news release that they should avoid charging lithium batteries overnight and without supervision.

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	111+1 = 112
Fire Deaths in 1&2 Family Dwellings Nationally	945 + 19 = 964
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 1536 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.

PURCHASING APPARATUS? WHAT TO KNOW

**Spec Writing: An Art Form That Needs to Come Back

Ricky Riley

Fire departments do not have the luxury of waiting for the market and the industry to steady to make purchases for their communities. Runs are not slowing down for any department regardless of community size or geographic area. Our services are being called on more each day. Delivering service takes its toll on apparatus and vehicles, and in many departments, it is causing early wear and frequent mechanical issues. That is caused by the high volume of runs regardless of department type. So, we have to keep ordering rigs to keep up with replacement plans and order early to have the units delivered in a time frame that meets departments' replacement criteria.

And with all manufacturers quoting 30- to 40-month delivery times, it is becoming harder to keep up with aging apparatus. So with all that being said, each purchase is becoming critical to every department.

The costs are impacting budgets and the number of rigs departments can buy. **Ensuring you are purchasing the right rig and making use of every dollar spent is crucial for any department.** As departments look at these extended delivery times, many have been looking for cheaper and less expensive ways to get apparatus delivered. And, while this may seem like an option for some departments, many are focused on their ability to provide an operational rig for the future. **If you are not a high-run department, most rigs can last 15 to 20 years, so ensuring you have the right rig for the future is important.** Busy departments usually have a well-defined operational mission that can require the rig to be built in a specific manner to meet their needs and operational mindsets. We get to both these ends through how we, as departments, prepare specifications for our new apparatus.

While I have seen many companies just say, "Build me something like the XYZ fire company has, and that will be fine," we need to ensure that rig will actually work in our city, community, or town. **We do that by understanding past rigs in our fleet and what worked and did not work for the firefighters in the field—and what did and did not work from the eyes of the mechanics and components used to assemble the apparatus.** All these opinions, facts, and history need to be considered when we go to purchase a new rig. We can communicate our needs to the manufacturers through our written specification. It tells the story of our operations, our mechanical history, and what works for our part of the fire service community.

While we all have the same mission, we all have a different way of delivering that service. And, it is no better reflected than in the way each jurisdiction buys apparatus. How we design rigs, their functions, and needs are all achieved through specifications. **The art form of writing specs is well demonstrated by many departments and their attention to detail and needs.** Many, such as the FDNY, LAFD, DCFD, and many other cities, have some of the most unique and detailed specifications out there. They understand the operational needs, how the apparatus need to perform mechanically, and what works and does not work for them. While it can be challenging for manufacturers sometimes to meet these demanding specs, it is a process that helps deliver ready and capable units for many of those cities because they only know what works for them through trial and error. Although many of these departments are much larger than most fire

departments, it does not diminish the need for every department to write specifications so they get a dependable rig for their community.

Achieving these specifications is not an easy task. In the past couple of years, ***it has become easy for some departments to depend on manufacturer sales personnel to help develop specs rather than developing them themselves.*** While that might work sometimes, it is a benefit to your end product to ensure you get what you need through detailed specification writing. One of my close friends, Tom Shand, is one of the best in the business at writing specifications. But, that talent comes with a lot of time invested in the industry and constantly researching the products and components in apparatus building. The detailed specification product requires knowing part numbers, performance of each part, proper design, and component reliability. Although he has gained that over decades in the industry, how will the younger generation gain that knowledge and then apply it to their departments' next builds and specifications? The main way is by the Internet—a double-edged sword. There is no better time for specification writers to research and develop specs than now if they have the time and attention span to do so. The amount of information, engineering drawings, pictures, and specifications on the Internet is incredible. Much of that is obtainable from the manufacturers and their dealers through many social media platforms. ***And, while all this information is good, what specification writers need to be aware of is how each truck is built and the choices that might affect the design or options you may want on your rig.***

Just because it worked on a rig in California does not mean it will work on your new engine on the East Coast. Homework and a lot of questions come with writing specs, and you need to understand each manufacturer's build process and engineering. Believe me when I tell you: they are not all the same. The art form of writing detailed specifications needs to come back to ensure your department gets the rig that works for you, works for your community, and works for your geographic area and to ensure that you get what you paid for. **The cost of rigs is not going down. If you are going to pay that amount, you had better get what you want and ensure it will work for years in the future.**

STHE LIGHTER SIDE!

My sister has a lifesaving tool in her car which is designed to cut through a seat belt if she gets trapped. She keeps it in the car trunk.

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)
518-407-5020

Long Way to Travel Zoom into the General Membership Meetings!

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

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

What are the duties and responsibilities of a Commissioner?

The Answer is posted on our web site at 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

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

Write me at tom@rinaldi1.com

Please Support Those Who Support Us!!

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

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Business Partner Opportunity!

Thank you for your continued support of the Capital Ara Fire Districts Association. Included as part of your annual dues, you have the opportunity to have vendor space at our November 4th training event, at no additional cost. We have several excellent presentations lined up, which we believe will attract many of our member districts. Last year we had over 50 fire district officials in attendance! The training is at the Verdox Fire District 988 Troy-Schenectady Road, Latham, NY from 7:00AM to 1:00PM. Lunch will be served. Attached are additional details:

- Each Business Partner will be given 5 minutes to present something of educational value to those in attendance..
- The Board is also seeking two sponsors for the event - one to sponsor breakfast and one to sponsor lunch. The cost is \$500 per sponsorship. The sponsoring Business Partners will have signs displayed noting the sponsorship, and have an extended, dedicated time for their presentation.

Please reply by October 20, 2023 if:

- You would like a vendor table for the event
- You are interested in sponsoring the training

We need your reply by October 20 to plan for space.

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

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

You Can Become a Member of the Capital Area Association!

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

CAFDA UPCOMING TRAINING AND MEETING CALENDAR

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

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

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

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

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

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

<https://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

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



CAPITAL AREA FIRE DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION

Albany, ESSEX, Fulton, Montgomery, Rensselaer, Saratoga,



[:ontent/uploads/2023/09/2023-Fall-Workshop-Registration.pdf](https://content/uploads/2023/09/2023-Fall-Workshop-Registration.pdf)

Welcome to the Fall 2023 Training Workshop – November 4, 2023

Verdoy Fire District, 988 Troy-Schenectady Road (Route 7), Latham, NY 12110

- 7:00-8:00** ***Registration & Continental Breakfast***
- 8:00-8:10** ***Pledge to the Flag & Welcome: Capital Area Association Officers***
- 8:10-9:15** ***Presentation Topic: Harassment Challenges in the Volunteer Fire Service – Dave Denniston
Disciplinary Measures as a Result of Harassment Complaints – Tim Hannigan***
- 9:15-9:30** ***Networking Break***
- 9:30-10:15** ***Presentation Topic: How To Shop for Insurance – What Coverage Should We Have
Presenter: Tony Blackwell, McNeil & Co.***
- 10:15-10:30** ***Networking Break***
- 10:30-12:00** ***Ask the Experts Panel – A panel of experts have been assembled to answer your questions about a broad range of important topics. Joining us will be Attorney Greg Serio, Attorney Tim Hannigan, Royal Denny of Fire Districts Mutual (VFBL expert), Tony Blackwell of McNeil & Co. (general insurance expert) and Bob Gramuglia, CPA of Bryans & Gramuglia CPAs (accounting & audit expert).***
- 12:00-1:00** ***Lunch and Networking***

Everyone is Invited to Attend
Not limited to Commissioners

**Please Reserve your Seat Now – CAFDA Members \$15, Non-Members, \$25
Price includes all seminars, training materials, meals**