**CAPITAL AREA FIRE DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION (CAFDA)**



**Bulletin**

**your fire district news source**

**October 21st, 2023**

***Editor – Tom Rinaldi***

[***tom@rinaldi1.com***](mailto:tom@rinaldi1.com)

***Something for everyone in the Fire Service!!***

**Capital shorts:**

* Due to unforeseen circumstances, the remainder of the **NYSAFC 2023 Seminar Series “Truck Skills Beyond the Textbooks” with Lt. Mike Ciampo has been canceled**. The seminars in Albany, Erie, Fulton, Monroe, Oneida, Orange, Otsego, Rockland, St. Lawrence, Saratoga, Westchester, and Wyoming Counties will not be rescheduled. All pre-registrants are being notified and will be refunded. Both NYSAFC and Instructor Ciampo regret any inconvenience. Please email questions to education@nysfirechiefs.com
* As we start posting more to our new website at **CAFDA.net** the site becomes more valuable to our members!!
* For the third year, Lowe’s will support first responders nationwide through exclusive deals, local store events, and more to recognize those who serve our towns, both big and small, every day.
* All of the PESH vs. NFPA presentation documents including the slide presentation have been posted to the CAFDA.net website under Latest News.
* **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**](http://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**

Saturday, November 4th, *Annual CAFDA Workshop, Verdoy Fire Station 8AM –* ***ONLY 13 DAYS LEFT!!!***

**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**](http://www.cafda.net)

##### Nominations for 2024 Officers & Directors

The following nominations were made at our October General Membership meeting:

* President Tom Rinaldi
* 1st Vice President John Meehan
* 2nd Vice President Art Hunsinger
* Directors: **Les Bonesteel** Commissioner Burnt Hills/Saratoga, **Fred Richards** Commissioner Harmony Corners/Saratoga, **Joyce Petkus** Treasurer Greenfield/Saratoga, **Ed Woehrle** Commissioner Niskayuna #1/Schenectady and **Mike Podolec** Commissioner West Glenville/Schenectady. [Note that Fred Richards was nominated by current Director Tom Wood]

##### \*\*Introducing our New Secretary

CAFDA is happy to announce that we have a new Secretary, Lisa Diemer who is currently the Deputy Treasurer of the Northumberland Fire District-Saratoga County. Lisa attended our October General Membership Meeting and we are glad that after the meeting she didn’t run away saying “hell no”! Lisa’s email will be [secretary@cafda.net](mailto:secretary@cafda.net). Lisa will be working with Tony Hill to get up to speed on her new position.

Tony Hill can be reached at [treasurer@cafda.net](mailto:treasurer@cafda.net). Our mailing address remains **CAFDA PO Box 242, East Schodack, NY 12063**

##### 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 FALL WORKSHOP

**RESERVATIONS NOW BEING TAKEN AT:: treasurer@CAFDA.NET**

**JUST A FEW DAYS REMAINING UNTIL…**

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

**SESSIONS BEING OFFERED:**

* **Sexual Harassment Challenges in the fire service**
* **Discipline as a result of Harassment Charges, Removal of Fire Company Members**
* **How to SHOP for insurance, What Coverage Should We Have?**
* **ASK THE EXPERTS PANEL: Certified Public Accountant, VFBL Coverage, Legal Issues, Insurance, Candle Stick Maker**

**SEE FLYER ON LAST PAGE OF BULLETIN….**

**CAFDA MEMBERS WISH TO THANK FIRE DISTRICTS MUTUAL INSURANCE (FDM) AND VFIS FOR**

**fire district officials…training for you!**

##### FUTURE CAFDA LOCAL TRAINING OPPORTUNITY – FEBRUARY 2024

##### Join Us for “Its Not Your Money” Fire District Financial Management Pile of American dollar banknotes

Mark your 2024 Calendar for a two-day seminar**, 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**](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.

##### From the State Association September Board Meeting

* A proposed by-law amendment passed by the State Board of Directors and will be on the ballot at the annual meeting in October
  + It was proposed to separate the positions of Secretary and Treasurer
  + And to convert the Treasurer seat into an appointed and paid position (non-voting).
* A second by-law amendment as it related to the dates of the annual meeting and the quarterly Board meetings was introduced by the Board. With the change of the annual meeting to October, there is a need to have some calendar flexibility when scheduling board meetings so they don't coincide with the annual meeting.
* **A survey was created and sent out to Fire Districts** to collect information on whether or not they are taking advantage of the ambulance billing, please answer the survey!!
  + The bill has a 4-year sunset clause so it could face cancellation if not justified.
* Molly Jenkins is the new Region 1 Director (Capital Area), as well as new directors in Region 4 (Southern Tier) (Ryan Alo) and Region 11 (Northern NY) (Woody Kissel).

**local cafda training appropriate for your entire board/secretary/treasurer**

##### The First CAFDA Local 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**

##### 2024 Fire Service Alliance Issues of United Concern

On Saturday December 2nd representatives from the State’s fire service organizations will be meeting at the Hilton Garden Inn in Troy, New York to present their slate of legislative initiatives for the 2024 legislative session. Because of the lack luster 2023 legislative agenda, many of last year’s bills will be on the list of initiatives for the coming session.

Issues such as; *timely adoption of up to date building codes, cancer coverage cost relief, increased tax credits for volunteers, VFBL payments on parity with worker’s compensation, designation of EMS as an essential service, strengthening the penal codes for illegal building conversions, restoration of the 54g code enforcement financial support, advocate for accessible housing for first responders and continue the work of the recruitment & retention task force*.

The Officers and Board of CAFDA has voted to back a bill creating the crime to punish instances of stolen valor by those posing as first responders, read more….

##### CAFDA Board Votes to Back a Bill Creating the Crime of Stolen Valor

**DRAFT BILL TO BE INTRODUCED IN THE SENATE AND THE ASSEMBLY IN THE 2024 SESSION**

Section 1. Section 10.00 of the penal law is amended by adding two new subdivisions 22 and 23 to read as follows:

*22. "Member of the military or reserves" means (a) a member of the United States army, navy, air force, marines, coast guard, army national guard, air national guard and/or reserves thereof or (b) a member of the New York guard or the New York naval militia.*

*23. "Veteran" means a person who was a member of the military or reserves as defined in subdivision twenty-two of this section, but who has since been discharged from such services.*

*24. “First Responder” means a firefighter, law enforcement officer, paramedic, emergency medical technician, emergency services dispatcher, or other individual, including an employee of a legally organized and recognized volunteer organization, whether compensated or not, who, in the course of his or her professional duties, responds to fire, medical, hazardous material, or other similar emergencies.*

*25. “First Responder Agency” means a state or local district, municipality, or other political subdivision that employs a first responder, to provide fire protection, paramedic, law enforcement, emergency services, or rescue or recovery services, or a recognized volunteer organization that provides fire protection, paramedic, law enforcement, emergency services, or rescue or recovery services.*

*A person is guilty of stolen valor when he or she pretends to be a member of the military or reserves as defined by subdivision twenty-two of section 10.00 of this chapter, or pretends to be a veteran as defined by subdivision twenty-three of section 10.00 of this chapter****, or pretends to be a first responder*** *as defined by subdivision twenty-four of section 10.00 of this chapter,* ***or wears or displays without authority, any uniform, badge or other insignia or facsimile thereo****f, by which such member of the military or veteran or first responder is lawfully distinguished or expresses by his or her words or actions that he or she is acting with the approval or authority of any department of defense branch or the United States Coast Guard, or first responder agency, for the purpose of fraudulently obtaining money or other benefits.*

*Stolen valor is a class A misdemeanor.*

*(vi) a person convicted of any offense pursuant to section 190.28 of this chapter shall, in addition to a mandatory surcharge and crime victim assistance fee, pay any other fee required by this article, and pay a stolen valor fee in the amount of two hundred fifty dollars.*

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

**THE LATEST FROM WASHINGTON D.C.**

##### [National Fire Service Organizations Urge Congress to Protect America's Fire and Emergency Services](https://www.dailydispatch.com/DDR/index.aspx?st=NY&ddv=1&ddid=180252&typ=1&it=978281)

National organizations representing America's fire and emergency services are ***calling on Congress to ensure that vital fire service grant programs are reauthorized before they face a permanent sunset.*** The Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) and Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) programs are the primary mechanism for the federal government to support local fire departments. ***These critical programs will sunset on September 30, 2024***, if they are not reauthorized. This would have a detrimental impact on the ability of the nation's fire and emergency services to protect communities. To raise awareness, the event scheduled on Thursday, October 12 in Washington, D.C., is hosted by the Congressional Fire Services Institute, International Association of Fire Chiefs, International Association of Fire Fighters, National Fallen Firefighters Foundation, National Fire Protection Association, and National Volunteer Fire Council. \*\*Ask Congress to Adequately Fund and Reauthorize AFG and SAFER

**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**

##### \*\*NC County Sues Volunteer Fire Department

Curt Varone

A North Carolina County has filed suit against a volunteer fire company alleging it breached its contract to provide services by failing to meet minimum performance requirements. Pender County has asked the court to issue an injunction against the Shiloh-Columbia Volunteer Fire Department.

According to WECT News, the suit accuses the fire department of:

* *Failure to provide staff with adequate training and certifications*
* *Failure to maintain a properly functioning vehicle capable of transporting 1,000 or more gallons of water required to provide adequate fire protection services*
* *Allowing staff to engage in activities that they are not adequately trained or certified to perform*
* *Failure to obtain and deploy appropriate fire protection and suppression equipment*
* *Failure to ensure that its staff are wearing appropriate and required personal protective equipment when responding to fires*
* *Failure to appropriately cooperate with other fire departments in the rendering of mutual aid*
* *Failed to comply with financial reporting requirements under the Fire Contract*

The county is seeking an injunction to protect the department’s assets until an inventory can be conducted to ensure taxpayer funds are accounted for.

County Fire Marshal Amy Burton was quoted as saying:

* *It is a sad day anytime a fire department in our county cannot protect the people that they are sworn to protect.*
* *Unfortunately, we have reached a point where Shiloh-Columbia Volunteer Fire Department cannot effectively or safely respond to fires and this department is an immediate and significant risk to the safety and welfare of the public.*

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:**

##### Embattled Oregon FD Loses Insurance Coverage Due To Ongoing Finance, Management Conflict

Maxine Bernstein, oregonlive.com

The insurer for embattled Columbia River Fire & Rescue won’t cover future worker-related claims against the fire district due to a “significant increase in the frequency and severity” of claims already filed.

The rare step is the latest setback for the St. Helens-based district beset with financial turmoil and labor-management strife. The district is now scrambling to find private employment practice liability insurance, which is expected to cost more.

***The fire district already faces a whistleblower and wrongful termination suit from its recently ousted fire chief, a sexual harassment and hostile work environment suit from three former employees and other hostile work environment claims.***

Special District Insurance Services will continue liability coverage for those cases, with some exceptions.

But the insurer will cease covering new employment claims after Dec. 31, according to Jimmy Sanchez, the fire district’s division chief of finance, logistics and administration.

*The fire district is a special local government jurisdiction created to provide a specific service, in this case fire protection for a 200-square-mile swath of Columbia County on the edge of the Portland metro area*. It’s part of the Special Districts Association of Oregon, which offers legislative advocacy and administrative support and resources to its members.

The increase in claims against the fire district “raises serious concerns about Columbia River Fire & Rescue’s ability or willingness to protect itself” from future claims, underwriting manager Chris Hill said in a letter to the district. Those include breach of employee contracts or other adverse employment actions, Hill said.

*The Special Districts Association in 1985 created an insurance services trust to help members control insurance costs by pooling resources for liability coverage and other self-insurance, according to Troy DeYoung, a senior risk management consultant for the association.*

The trust is governed by a board of trustees. Its goal is to provide “stable rates and broad coverage to Oregon public entities,” unlike an insurance company that distributes profits to shareholders, DeYoung said in an information webinar on the group’s website.

Columbia River Fire & Rescue provides firefighting and emergency medical care to over 27,000 people with about 35 full-time paid firefighters, 12 volunteers and five non-firefighter paramedics. It has another eight administrative and supervisory employees. They’re spread out among seven stations, including in the county seat of St. Helens, Columbia City, Warren, Prescott and Rainier.

***The fire department has faced an ongoing criminal inquiry into former and current employees for improper pension benefits and unchecked credit card spending***. Joel Medina, the fire chief who reported the alleged misconduct, was then fired by the district’s newly elected board in August without prior public notice and in violation of the chief’s contract.

The board named an interim chief that same night to take the helm, but he resigned three days later, saying he had been “threatened, chastised” and was “overwhelmed and underprepared.”

The Special Districts Insurance Services trust will pay for a lawyer to represent the district in the $20 million retaliation suit filed by Medina, but the coverage won’t apply to all liability, according to Frank Stratton, the Special Districts Association’s executive director.

That includes liability arising “from a wrongful act,” from “oral or written publication” of knowingly false material by or at the direction of a district member, for any “dishonest, fraudulent, criminal, bad faith or malicious act” by a district member or for any severance or back pay owed to a district member, according to the letter. A district member includes employees and board members.

The fire district also will be responsible for the first $25,000 of any damages paid for claims resulting from an adverse termination of an employee, such as the chief, or suspension without pay or benefits of an employee.

“In the meantime, we will be in discussions with the district about possible options to continue their employment practices coverage going forward,” Stratton said.

Attorney Atkin Blitz, who represents the district, said the department will work to identify alternative insurers through its insurance broker.

He said he anticipates that the alternative will cost the district more because it won’t have the insurance pool to lower premiums. The fire district now pays $104,047 annually to Special District Insurance Services, which includes all its current liability coverage.

The fire district is also in a heated dispute with the firefighters’ union on its contract, awaiting an arbitrator’s ruling that also could cost the district more money.

The district board this month also voted to investigate Sanchez and Deputy Chief Eric Smythe after the union issued votes of no confidence for each, which may lead to future suits.

This is not the first time a Columbia River entity has faced a similar fate.

At the end of 2015, Special Districts Insurance Services alerted the Columbia River Public Utility District that it wouldn’t provide liability coverage to the utility district starting Jan. 1, 2016.

That move followed several management changes and amid management terminations at the district. Years later, as of Jan. 1, 2022, Special Districts resumed coverage of the utility district, according to Heidi Ralls, a spokesperson. The utility district covers more than 20,000 customers in Columbia County, she said. Embattled Columbia River Fire & Rescue loses future insurance coverage for worker-related liability claim

**our changing fire service –challenges & opportunities!**

##### OPPORTUNITIES:

##### [Oklahoma First In Nation To Require Work Zone Safety Course For Teen Drivers](https://www.dailydispatch.com/DDR/index.aspx?st=NY&ddv=1&ddid=180614&typ=1&it=980084)

Oklahoma has become the first state in the nation to require a work zone safety and first responder safety course for teen drivers. The law, set to take effect Nov. 1, 2023, will require all Oklahoma teens to complete the free Oklahoma Work Zone Safe and First Responder Safety online education course before applying for their intermediate driver license. Work Zone Safe, along with the Oklahoma Department of Transportation and Service Oklahoma, are highlighting this new law during National Teen Driver Safety Week, Oct. 15-21. With car crashes being one of the leading causes of deaths for U.S. teenagers, it's imperative that new drivers understand the importance of driving safely inside work zones and moving over and slowing down for first responders.



##### [The City of Saratoga Springs, NY](https://www.facebook.com/ssnygov?__cft__%5b0%5d=AZXGCXRPX-XKDKK03bSNKlmXE8SgjAAtcoEkKCvMUWFR5cIViiy7MfnvCdva-ZZ6T95qJnTkq5x5nQqpTWgjgd6rhghYSfIDwvuoE7bP7Z-WRPOvSaePwPqLlMGjx3x14VWya9QD932BJ6_TNFCukJevn_YuofsoV_uBiMg0LP7rPP1CoBJInQ4_kgh7b_XkKRoXu9PGB0MSnp7ObXDLYpSw&__tn__=-UC%2CP-y-R)

The 2024 Fire Exam Announcements have been issued! Visit our website under Services -> Job Openings & Exam Announcements to apply for the exam and check out other exam and vacancy announcements.

[https://www.saratoga-springs.org/Jobs.aspx](https://www.saratoga-springs.org/Jobs.aspx?fbclid=IwAR1lHrr4Hy9bIJYwS-tPW2HjLxQeEfK_pof9J9dQT09-r2qp78PEFdNvz0o)

A reminder that you can subscribe to job/exam posting notifications by clicking on the notify me link at the top of the Job Openings & Exam Announcements page or clicking the link below. This will automatically alert you when a new job or exam is posted.

[https://www.saratoga-springs.org/list.aspx](https://www.saratoga-springs.org/list.aspx?fbclid=IwAR2u69eYCUQ3DOaKgKMQuubEGWuI3gZk0vIKkRkneJGY_5Bo3umdTXyvZ7k)

##### CHALLENGES:

##### NY Fire Chief Calls for Solar Farm To Pay for Air Meters

A solar farm fire in the town of Lyme near Chaumont in August kept firefighters busy for days.

In the aftermath, Chaumont Fire Chief Will Lipczynski told WWNY, that it’s clear the department needs air monitoring capabilities to check for gases coming off equipment at the solar farm.

He’s asked the company that owns the solar farm to assist the department in purchasing the air meters. So far, he says, the company has not agreed. Sen. Mark Walczyk has suggested towns and cities make it a condition of permitting that solar companies provide the metering devices to local fire departments.

##### [Albany County EMS Departments Plea For Direct Insurance Payments To Combat Financial Losses](https://www.dailydispatch.com/DDR/index.aspx?st=NY&ddv=1&ddid=180513&typ=1&it=979615)

If you've ever called an ambulance, chances are you may have gotten a check in the mail from your insurance company afterward. That money is meant to pay for the EMS services, but it doesn't always make it to the departments like Colonie and Guilderland first responders. "There are a lot of patients that will take the money and not pay us, they'll use it to pay other bills," said Paul Segrue, Colonie EMS Chief. "They don't realize they have to pay us for the service, so they'll keep the check." Basic ambulance transportation in the Capital Region can cost anywhere from $270 to $330 according to Fair Health Consumer.org. For some departments and organizations, these insurance payments are what keep operations going.

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



##### NVFC Webinar on Junior Firefighter Programs

**Wednesday, November, 15TH AT 4:00pm**

Presenter, Ellen Yarborough

**REGISTER AT THIS LINK:**

https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\_gI282apYTCaRU5ndyF6kqg#/registration

##### CANCELED NYSAFC 2023 Seminar Series, “Truck Skills Beyond the Textbooks” CANCELED

**Registration (per person): REFUNDS WILL BE MADE FOR THOSE WHO HAVE PAID**

**$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](https://selligenttier.naylorcampaigns.com/track?type=click&enid=ZWFzPTEmbXNpZD0mYXVpZD0mbWFpbGluZ2lkPTYzMjE1MSZtZXNzYWdlaWQ9NjMyMTUxJmRhdGFiYXNlaWQ9NjMyMTUxJnNlcmlhbD0xNjg1MzEwMCZlbWFpbGlkPXRvbUByaW5hbGRpMS5jb20mdXNlcmlkPTE4ODA1MjUmdGFyZ2V0aWQ9Jm1uPSZmbD0mbXZpZD0mZXh0cmE9JiYm&&&2053&&&https://www.nysfirechiefs.com/documents)

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 EXPERIENCED63FIRE FIGHTER LODD’S

***According to FirefighterCloseCalls.com\****

***In 2022 we experienced 101 LODDs reported nationally.!***

##### You Just Never Know!

* Dustin Dale Young is facing multiple charges that include attempted murder, DUI causing death, burglary, two counts of grand larceny, assault during the commission of a felony, and fleeing with reckless disregard; crashing into a vehicle, killing a man identified as Brody Allan Hanna, a volunteer firefighter with the Nettie Fire Department.
* Pleasant PA. Volunteer Fire Department Fire Chief Timothy Johnson suffered a medical emergency at home after the call. Johnson, 56, had been fire chief for three years and was a member of the department since 1986.
* Rodney Pitts III, 31, of Baltimore, died from his injuries after he and other firefighters entered a burning rowhouse around 3:45 p.m. in the City of Baltimore. Lt. Dillon Rinaldo, a six-year veteran, remains in critical but stable condition Friday. Firefighter Seth Robbins, a 17-year veteran, is also hospitalized. Keith Brooks II, a 14-year veteran and firefighter Tavon Marshall, a 3-year veteran, were treated and released.
* A crash involving a fire department vehicle killed a 20 year old Abingdon firefighter and seriously injured another. The Virginia State Police stated that the vehicle was responding to a call when it went off the right side of the road, hit a utility pole, and overturned down an embankment.

##### Never too Late to Start Thinking About the NYS Volunteer FF Cancer Benefit Program

See the post on our website at CAFDA.net

**District finances**

#### *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 and other Fire District Financial management resources. Sponsored by CAFDA.*

##### NYS EnCon Grant Opportunity for Fire Service

**Agency:**, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation

**Division:** Division of Forest Protection & Fire Management

**Contract Number:** TBD

**CR Number:** 2102666

**Date of Issue:** 10/10/2023

**Due Date/Time: 11/15/2023 5:00 PM**

**County:**All NYS counties

Applications will be accepted through November 15, 2023.

Pursuant to the Agriculture Appropriations Act, Section 7(b)3 of P.L. 95-313 (Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act of 1978), the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation hereby gives notice of the following:

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (The Department) will administer the 2023 Volunteer Fire Assistance (VFA) Grant program to assist eligible rural fire departments in the purchase of eligible wildland firefighting suppression equipment. VFA applications will be accepted through November 15, 2023.

The Department received a federal appropriation of $976,622 to award fire assistance grants.  Fire departments eligible to apply ***may receive grant funding up to $2,500*** for the purchase of eligible wildland fire suppression equipment.  Fire departments ***are required to equally match (50/50) the amount of the award***. Grant funding is based on federal guidelines ***for use in fire districts serving a rural area or a rural community with a population of 10,000 or le***ss.  A fire department serving a population greater than 10,000 and not providing protection to a rural area or rural community is not eligible for VFA financial assistance.

Applications are scored based on established rating criteria including: population, the I.S.O. Fire Prevention Insurance rating, the presence of Native American communities in the district and the date of the last VFA grant received.

Applications are available on-line at <http://www.dec.ny.gov/regulations/2364.html>.

*For further information, contact:* Lynne Korona, NYS DEC Division of Forest Protection, 625 Broadway, 3rd Floor, Albany, NY 12233-2560, (518) 402-8835 or email questions to [vfagrant@dec.ny.gov](mailto:vfagrant@dec.ny.gov)

**recruitment strategies that have worked**

##### \*\*What If It Was This Easy To Recruit Firefighters?

Greg Friese

Across public safety, staffing challenges are a top concern. Approximately 94% of 2023 What Firefighters Want survey respondents reported that their department has experienced staffing challenges in the past three years. For volunteer services, new member recruitment and existing member retention is especially challenging.

Serving a 6-square-mile area in the Buffalo suburbs, the Snyder (N.Y.) Fire Department recently received the Firefighters Association of the State of New York's Recruitment and Retention Award for its efforts that have proven successful in this area. Since January 2022, the Snyder Fire Department has added 30 new members to its roster and receives one or two new applications per month.

Here are a few things we can learn from the Snyder Fire Department.

**DELEGATE RESPONSIBILITY**

The Snyder Fire Department formed a recruitment committee. Committees or task forces perform best when they have responsibility delegated from the chief, a charter or mission to guide the committee’s scope and timeline, resources to set and accomplish SMART objectives (specific, measurable, achievable, relevant and time-bound), and clear understanding of the problem they are charged to solve.

**CREATE A PLAN**

Having a plan is an important first step. Just 26% of What Firefighters Want survey respondents agreed with the statement, “My department has a strong recruitment plan.”

“One thing we tell other (fire) companies when working with them is that they have to understand THEIR issues and solve for them,” said Trish Hudson, Synder Fire Department Commissioner and member of the recruitment and retention committee. “This plan was to help us understand OUR issues and solve for those.”

The Snyder Fire Department’s four-phase plan, [explained in greater detail here](https://fasny.com/awards/recruitment-retention-award/), included three confidential member surveys, communication of survey results to department leadership and members, creation of new event opportunities and partnering with other community events, development of plans to expand resident boundaries, creation of a duty shift program, and better organized onboarding practices.

**EVOLVE MEMBERSHIP TYPES**

The Snyder Fire Department now has two types of membership – **on-call membership** for firefighters who live within the fire district residency boundaries and **duty shift memberships** for firefighters who live within a 25-mile radius and are able to work a set number of hours at the fire department. The duty shift program was implemented in the fourth phase of the plan.

"In collaboration with our fire district commissioners and chiefs, we implemented our new duty shift program on Jan. 1, 2022,” Commissioner Hudson said.

In addition to helping onboard new members, the duty shift program has helped retain members. Hudson wrote:

“We converted approximately 11 existing 'on call' members to duty shift. This solved one of the issues we heard during the surveys – that increased time demands on families, jobs, etc., made it difficult for members to achieve their membership requirements as an on-call member. The duty shift program allows individuals to work shifts at the fire station (shifts of their choosing; we do not schedule at this time), so they can put in the time when it works for their schedules. We have some folks who work remote jobs, and they will come up to the fire station with their laptops and work during the day while on shift. We have some individuals who spend overnights at the fire station as that works best with their schedules. We offer that flexibility to them in the form of shifts of their choosing – minimum shift time is 2 hours and maximum is 12 hours in a 24-hour period.”

**CREATE OPPORTUNITIES TO MEET PEOPLE**

The Snyder Fire Department hosted coffee-with-a-firefighter events at the fire station. Prospective members could tour the fire station and talk to firefighters. Creating a low-stress, friendly and welcoming event is a great way to answer questions, show people around, introduce current members and introduce people into the possibilities of volunteering and membership.

During events, make sure to connect recruits to the firefighters in your department who are positive about the fire service and regularly recommend it to others. Approximately 65% of What Firefighters Want respondents chose 8, 9 or 10 on a 1 to 10 scale question that asked, “How likely are you to recommend a career in the fire service?” Enthusiastic firefighters are the best ambassadors of your department’s mission and culture.

**CELEBRATE MILESTONES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

A department Facebook page says a lot about a department’s culture and priorities. The Snyder Fire Department page celebrates longevity milestones, like [Firefighter Ron Yensan’s 60 years of service](https://www.facebook.com/SnyderFD/posts/pfbid02dN9Gi49xYj7ySFhhQWBc7a68keJuBn9LLM4JDiq4NVBMYyZrZTesiXGhoAspUkYl), as well as the accomplishments of newer members, like Firefighter/EMT Xaiver Jones passing the New York State EMS exam.

**LEVERAGE SOCIAL MEDIA**

The department [volunteering FAQs](https://www.snyderfd.com/content/join/FAQ's%20for%20Membership.pdf) page states that the trait all members share is “a desire to help people and to serve the community we live in.” A sentiment that is true across all public safety occupations and geography and needs to be showcased in department social media. Approximately 70% of respondents to the 2023 What Firefighters Want industry survey chose “Service to the community” as one of their three most satisfying aspects about being in the fire service. Camaraderie with other firefighters was a close second, being chosen by 64% of respondents.

Scrolling the Snyder Fire Department Facebook page, it is easy to see the aspects of fire department life that volunteers want to experience – high-quality [regular training](https://www.facebook.com/SnyderFD/posts/pfbid0pMyDeYTAy6gD6RLLfiSDAsah67T9c4nUYPc3ykUqsJszQS1dyD9i7iBviHgAiJVHl), ample opportunity to [serve their community](https://www.facebook.com/SnyderFD/posts/pfbid04DYCMm3wW8cXCXcWvPCXtEmuXmhD8npfnrAcmLUmaPHcRxhmwTdhS2dg88zhL1FZl) and a [diversity of personnel](https://www.facebook.com/SnyderFD/posts/pfbid02BkVDVQr4Ug53fSriY3RkSorFZ4Sk9vB5y14sWAunoPeLcifKm2bWyzoyy8sKPUKcl).

**REMOVE FRICTION FROM THE APPLICATION PROCESS**

Joining a volunteer department should not be a challenge in web-browsing skill or communications fortitude. Make the “Join” or “Apply” button prominent on your website, and make sure every member knows where to direct applicants to apply. Next, keep your promises and follow a process. The Snyder Fire Department promises [to reply within 1-2 days](https://www.snyderfd.com/content/join/). My questions to the department’s recruitment email address were answered in less than 24 hours. The promptness, sincerity and quality of your communication makes an impression on applicants and reflects how the department values adding new members.

**RECRUITMENT IS NOT ACTUALLY EASY**

It is likely that the Snyder Fire Department is making volunteer firefighter recruitment look easier than it is. Like all things that are worth doing, success comes from a combination of having a vision, creating a team, motivating the team to work together, sincere willingness to change, working hard to achieve the goal and celebrating accomplishments.

What can your department learn from the hard work and success of the Snyder Fire Department?

**Building a fire station? what to consider.**

##### \*\*Why Choose a Construction Manager for Your Next Fire Facility Remodel or Build?

*By Retired Clovis Fire Chief John Binaski, Vanir Central California Deputy Area Manager Scott Murphy and Vanir Marketing Communications Specialist Chelsea Verissimo*

**Construction projects can be inherently risky.** The varying scopes, timelines, budgets, regulations and objectives can bring risks and challenges that project owners may not have the expertise, bandwidth or resources to manage. A public safety or emergency operations project, such as a fire station remodel or new build, can be especially complex, requiring expert-level management and oversight. This is where an experienced program, project and construction management firm like Vanir can help.

For more than 40 years, Vanir has acted as the construction manager (CM) for hundreds of complex projects and renovations nationwide, including dozens of fire and essential services facilities, helping clients identify potential risks and providing solutions to help avoid or mitigate them. ***Many large-scale facilities require the integration of communication systems and technologies, collaboration with multi-jurisdictional agencies and upgrades to utilities and complex building systems***. A qualified CM has the experience and knowledge to truly understand the criticality of public safety and emergency operations projects, the operational differences between municipalities and their organizations and the varying needs of each agency and the communities they serve.

**WHAT IS A CM?**

*The role of a CM refers to the individual or firm tasked with representing the interest of the owner throughout the lifecycle of a project or program*. As the project’s eyes and ears, ***the CM is the primary point of contact between the owner and project team, including the contractor, subcontractors, architect, engineer, consultants and stakeholders***. The CM brings hands-on experience to the task of completing projects in the most productive and cost-efficient manner possible. Depending on the scope of services the owner requests, a CM’s role can vary from project to project. From planning and design to construction and closeout, a CM can provide project, schedule, cost, quality, safety and scope management services throughout the project’s lifecycle.

**WHAT DOES A CM DO DURING A CONSTRUCTION PROJECT?**

* ***Starting from the beginning of a project in the pre-planning phase, CM efforts can include securing funding, writing and approving grants, selecting the site, cost modeling, determining the appropriate project delivery method, providing conceptual cost estimates, developing a master schedule and facilitating public outreach.***
* During the planning phase, the CM can assist the owner in procuring or, if staffed, providing an in-house architect to conduct the needs and condition assessments, feasibility study and space programming. All of these comprise the project master plan, which then the CM uses to develop an implementation plan for the work.
* Next, the CM manages the design phase in several ways, including developing a project management plan (PMP), which details the project objective, scope, schedule, costs, processes and procedures and all project team members and stakeholders. During this phase, the CM also coordinates and leads weekly design progress meetings to maintain project momentum; provides estimates at the schematic design, design development and construction documentation phases; and assembles a team of various technical design disciplines to perform a constructability review of the documents prepared by the project architect. This review verifies the construction documents are coordinated, buildable and biddable; and allows for quicker building department plan approvals, fewer delays in the field and avoiding or minimizing the costs of change orders during the construction phase.
* The CM then starts the bid marketing, which makes the contractors and subcontractors aware of the upcoming project, and as studies have proven, saves the owner approximately eight dollars in construction phase change orders for every dollar spent on a constructability review performed by a qualified constructability review team within a CM firm.
* During the bidding phase, the CM continues marketing the project, soliciting and responding to bidders’ requests for information (RFI) and working with the architect to update the construction documents and issue addenda.
* Once the project breaks ground, the CM’s role can vary greatly. Depending on the chosen project delivery method, the CM generally begins by evaluating the contractor RFIs and submittals for completeness prior to sending off to the architect for a response; coordinating and leading weekly owner/architect/contractor (OAC) meetings; performing quality control inspections; reviewing and negotiating change orders; paying applications; and providing the owner with a monthly report detailing the progress and status during the previous month. Their monthly reports include areas of concern, safety on the jobsite, cost management, schedule reviews and updated photos of the project.
* Throughout construction, the CM also ensures the project is progressing according to the schedule, verifying all the parties are performing their roles as outlined in the PMP and solving any issues as they arise. Other activities that can be a part of the CM’s role are commissioning the project; assisting with fixtures, furniture and equipment procurement; managing the IT network design development, procurement and installation; performing new facility activation (real-life scenario training for public safety facilities, systems training, etc.), transition and move-in; continuing public outreach with project updates and pictures; and verifying the completion of final punch list items.
* As the project wraps up and hits substantial completion, the CM then coordinates the facility’s final inspections and owner training; and obtains, verifies and turns over operations, maintenance manuals and warranties.

**WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF USING A CM FOR YOUR PROJECT?**

Think of a fire prevention plan. The costs and time needed to evaluate the risks and prepare your space before a potential disaster occurs are miniscule in comparison to the potential costs of materials and labor that could be required at the last minute. Preparation also allows you to minimize damages or prevent them altogether. ***While owners may not want to spend the additional funds for a CM in the beginning, they are appreciative when their projects run without interruptions to their own day-to-day operations, and are completed on time, within budget and without litigation***. As a result of the American Rescue Plan and higher tax revenue collected during the recent COVID-19 pandemic, many local jurisdictions are now able to address some of their delayed capital improvement needs. However, most lack knowledge of the existing structure’s history, such as what went well or any challenges that occurred during the previous build. With current personnel learning as they go, the project could be at an increased risk for delays or costly mistakes. A CM, however, can jump in with the knowledge to evaluate the project’s potential risks and opportunities.

It is encouraged to hire a CM in the beginning stages of a fire facility project to ensure that all parties know their roles and to keep the project on track and within the approved budget. ***For example, the goal for fire station change orders is to never exceed 5% in total costs, and often CMs can reduce this to below 3%.*** As construction experts, the CM will also look for other opportunities throughout the project, while in close coordination with the owner, architect and contractor, where the schedule and budget can be brought back on track.

By providing everyone with the processes and procedures in the PMP and obtaining buy-in from all parties, the CM’s goal is to eliminate or reduce any risks and challenges of a project for the owner. They are the driving force to make each project a success for everyone involved. By having everyone win in the end, they ensure the owner is happy with their new facility, the architect is proud of their design and the contractors make a profit and look forward to bidding on future work.

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##### FDNY Commissioner to Amazon: Stop Selling Unsafe Lithium-Ion Batteries

Scott R. Axelrod Staten Island Advance

New York City Fire Commissioner Laura Kavanagh is urging online retailer Amazon to stop selling lithium-ion batteries that don’t meet specific safety standards. In a letter to the company’s general counsel, David Zapolsky, Kavanagh pointed out that NYC Local law 39 — which went into effect Sept. 16, 2023 — prohibits the sale, lease, rental, or distribution of powered micro-mobility devices, like e-bikes and e-scooters, unless the electrical systems and batteries for the devices have been certified by an accredited testing laboratory for compliance with Underwriters Laboratories.

“As the most ubiquitous online retailer in the country, Amazon is in a position to save lives by reducing the number of prohibited devices on the streets of New York,” Kavanagh wrote.

“We are aware that batteries that do not meet UL standard 2272 are available for sale on Amazon — these batteries are directly contributing to an increase in fire incidents and endangering the lives of New Yorkers.”

Kavanagh went on to say that fires caused by lithium-ion batteries have had a devastating effect on New Yorkers. “We have reached a point of crisis: FDNY has already responded to 101 injuries stemming from micro-mobility device fires in 2023,” Kavanagh wrote. “With 14 deaths to date this year, lithium-ion batteries are now a top cause of fatal fires in New York.”

##### [5 People Treated For Smoke Inhalation After Fire In Brooklyn; Lithium-Ion Battery Found Inside](https://www.dailydispatch.com/DDR/index.aspx?st=NY&ddv=1&ddid=180460&typ=1&it=979375)

Five people are being treated for smoke inhalation following a fire early Tuesday morning in Brooklyn. The FDNY says a lithium-ion battery was found on the second floor of the building. The flames broke out around 4:45 a.m. on Menahan Street near Central and Wilson avenues in Bushwick. Last month, the FDNY reported 175 lithium-ion battery fires resulting in 14 deaths across the city this year. City lawmakers have taken steps to address the dangers, including a certification for retailers and trade-in program for those with cheaper, unregulated batteries. The official cause of this latest fire is under investigation.

##### Riverhead Should Adopt Moratorium On Battery Energy Storage Facilities

Denise Civiletti

Riverhead Town will consider a moratorium on battery energy storage system facilities following fires at BESS facilities in New York State this summer.

Council Member Tim Hubbard made the announcement at today’s Town Board meeting. He said he is preparing to discuss a proposed moratorium at the next Town Board work session, which is scheduled for Sept. 14.

The fires, which prompted the establishment by the governor of a state inter-agency working group on the safety of BESS facilities, and a letter to the Town Board last week from the Riverhead Fire District Commissioners asking the town to enact a moratorium on BESS facilities, convinced Hubbard that a moratorium is needed, he said today.

“On behalf of the 170 volunteer members of the Riverhead Fire Department, we write to you today to implore you to follow the townships around us and impose a moratorium on Battery EnergyStorage Systems(BESS) in the Town of Riverhead,” the Riverhead Fire District commissioners wrote in an Aug. 28 letter to the Town Board.

Citing the fires, the commissioners said the town’s volunteer firefighters “face potentially extreme conditions in the case of a fire at once of these facilities.”

The state working group will begin immediate inspections of energy storage sites across the state, Gov. Kathy Hochul said in July, when she announced the group’s formation. It will “collaborate with first responders and local leaders to identify best practices, address potential risks to public safety, and ensure energy storage sites across New York are safe and effective.” The group will also “independently assess and identify common causes, air monitoring results or other community impacts, and other factors involved with energy storage fires,” the governor said.

“We look forward to the results of this task force,” the Riverhead Fire District Commissioners said in the letter.

“Additional time is needed to study the complexity of this issue and its impact on our community, as well as to ensure that the Riverhead Fire Department and neighboring departments have sufficient time and resources to train all members. Finally, more time is needed to determine whether we have the necessary resources to fight these fires and safeguard our members against the hazardous conditions they may present,” the fire commissioners wrote.

The Town Board in April unanimously approved a battery energy storage code to allow both residential and utility-scale battery energy storage facilities in Riverhead, rebuffing

The adoption came after two public hearings and despite residents’ urging the board to defer acting on the code until the impacts of BESS facilities were studied by the comprehensive plan consultants.

The new code established battery energy storage systems as an allowed use in Riverhead Town, with “tier-1” small-scale systems that have an energy capacity of up to 600 kWh — systems designed to serve individual homes and businesses — allowed in all zoning districts and larger “tier-2” systems that have an energy capacity of greater than 600 kWh — typically, utility-scale systems — allowed by Town Board special permit in several zoning districts in Riverhead: Industrial A, Industrial C, Planned Industrial Park, Agricultural Protection Zone and Residence A-80 if certain other conditions are met.

Hochul announced the formation of the working group on July 28, the day after a fire at a BESS facility in the Town of Lyme, in upstate Jefferson County. Hochul cited that fire and others at battery energy storage facilities in the Town of Warwick, in upstate Orange County on June 26 and in the Town of East Hampton in Suffolk on May 31. All of the facilities where fires erupted were built since 2018; the Warwick facility went online just a month prior to the fire.

Since this summer’s fires and the announcement of the working group, residents have continued to press for a moratorium on BESS facilities. Jamesport resident Barbara Blass did so again today, citing moratoria on BESS facilities adopted by the towns of Southold and Southampton. She urged the board to adopt a moratorium that would continue until the state working group finishes its work and releases its findings.

Hubbard said he’s been working on a moratorium with Planner Matt Charters, who played a key role in researching and drafting Riverhead’s BESS code. The councilman said he agrees the moratorium should last for as long as it takes the state working group to present its findings and make recommendations. Hubbard said after the meeting he believes there is sufficient support among Town Board members to adopt a moratorium.

##### Lawmaker Wants State To Check Health Of First Responders At Solar Farm Fire

Zach Grady

Is there a reason to be worried about the health of first responders who put out a fire at a town of Lyme solar farm a month ago? State Senator Mark Walczyk wants to know.

He’s asking for 3 things. One is for the state to check on the health of those first responders. He also would like the results of a state investigation into the fire made public. And he wants a pause on some solar projects.

“I’ve got concerns, especially on the volunteer firefighters. This is pretty unprecedented. When you’re talking about the gases that happen in a chemical reaction like the battery fire in Chaumont, they’re tasteless, they’re odorless, and they’re deadly,” said Walczyk (R. - 49th District.

***Walczyk says his concerns for first responders who fought the fire in late July have gone unanswered in Albany.***

“It would have been nice at some point if the governor, or somebody from her staff, at least reached out to the volunteer firefighters who had been on scene for days battling this battery, this meltdown, this explosion, this chemical reaction that was happening in Chaumont. They still haven’t even reached out to see what their health concerns are,” he said. First responders were on the scene for up to 8 hours not knowing what chemicals they were up against. After Governor Hochul called for a new inter-agency fire safety group, Walczyk wants to know what that group found out - like what air quality data said.

“We really need to know what the exposure in Chaumont was. But we also need to know what types of protocols need to be put in place in the future. I’ve got a lot of concerns about the batteries that are still being installed today in New York state,” he said.

##### [Electric Vehicle Fires Are A Real Pain Point For Arizona Firefighters, But New Technology Could Help](https://www.dailydispatch.com/DDR/index.aspx?st=NY&ddv=1&ddid=180565&typ=1&it=979828)

VIDEOS: When a Tesla crashed and burst into flames in Scottsdale, it reignited on the tow truck. On a California highway, it took firefighters ***three hours and 6,000 gallons of water*** to stop an Electric Vehicle (EV) from burning. "Electric vehicle fires have become really a pain for us," said Dave Folio of the Scottsdale Fire Department. EV fires are dangerous, costly, and full of unknowns. "We're still figuring out ways to deal with them; Everything from putting them in a dumpster and loading sand on top of them and possibly even burying them in some cases," Folio said. "Right now, we're all scrambling to come up with a better way." There's no single tool that is standard for all firefighters to use while battling EV fires, but there is new technology that could help.

In Tempe, firefighters from more than a dozen departments watched a demonstration of some of those tools, including the Turtle. Buddy Hayes, a fire captain in New Jersey, created it. “The problem with electric vehicles is trying to cool the battery pack,” Hayes said. Vehicle manufacturers recommend doing that with a lot of water, but EV batteries are hard to get to, so the Turtle slides right under the car and sprays water up toward the battery. “We flow over 500 gallons a minute,” Hayes said. “Right now, we’ve sold to quite a few departments. All the major airports in my area, New Jersey, have purchased. Some major departments in New York, Chicago, and Boston.”

Firefighters are also testing thermal blankets, which are big enough to cover entire vehicles. “When you look at the blanket, you think, ‘Oh, it put the fire out,’” said Bricen Miller of L-I Fire Solutions. “It actually can’t. It’s impossible to stop a lithium-ion battery fire, ***so the blanket does a great job of isolating and eliminating exposure***.”

On Your Side surveyed several fire departments around the state. The city of Goodyear said it has similar blankets on two battalion vehicles. In Gilbert, the fire department sends chief officers and hazmat units in the initial dispatch for all EV fires. “Gilbert Fire & Rescue and its regional partners are in the process of assessing all potential hazards related to lithium-ion batteries to strengthen internal training programs, develop additional hazard mitigation strategies, and create regulatory standards and educational programs for the community,” a town spokesperson said.

Several departments in the Valley have adopted ***the Phoenix’s standard operating procedures, which note, “Once life safety has been addressed, fire companies should determine if they should suppress the fire or simply allow the vehicle to burn.***” In Flagstaff, there is no policy in place for EV fires. “We do have some limited experience with these incidents, and our special operations team has gone through a recent training opportunity to gain insight for our guideline development,” said Flagstaff Fire Department Deputy Chief Chris Fennell.

A 2020 report by the National Transportation Safety Board highlighted the risk of electric shock and uncontrolled temperature and pressure increases, known as thermal runaway. The report was also critical of manufacturers. “The instructions in most manufacturers’ emergency response guides for fighting high-voltage lithium-ion battery fires lack necessary, vehicle-specific details on suppressing the fires,” the NTSB report said.

“It’s really taking time for science to catch up and try to find ways to extinguish lithium battery fires safely,” said Michael Brooks, the executive director of the Center for Auto Safety. “***With this massive rollout and push from the government for electric vehicles, we should have, but we haven’t had a corresponding push for what happens when things go wrong, and that’s a conversation we really need to have, and we need to have it quick.”***

The Alliance for Automotive Innovation, which represents manufacturers, declined an interview but said: “Safety is a top priority for our members, which is why they have been engaged in longstanding efforts to address fire risks for both conventionally fueled vehicles and EVs—including by working with consumers, the first responder community and other stakeholders at the local, national and international levels.” [**EDITOR’S NOTE: FLUFF STATEMENT AVOIDING THE FACTS**]

“It’s going to be a very different response for someone in a rural setting where they can just let that car burn because ultimately that’s the best way to get rid of the problem because it consumes all the fuel,” Miller said. “If you’re downtown in Phoenix, that’s not going to work out for you to let the car burn or if you’re in a parking garage.”

The concerns seem daunting, but they may be temporary. “I think this is going to be about a ten to fifteen-year problem,” Miller said. ***“Battery technology is evolving really quickly. I think within ten years, you’ll have solid-state batteries which can’t catch on fire because of the chemistry.***

**products you buy for your members**

##### Turnout Gear Fibers and Fabrics Evolve

Alan M. Petrillo

The makers of the fibers and fabrics that go into firefighting and rescue turnout gear continue to evolve existing products and initiate new versions of fibers and fabrics used to manufacture personal protective equipment (PPE).

Tim Thorne, global emergency response market manager for TenCate Protective Fabrics, points out that TenCate primarily manufactures the fabrics used in turnout gear outer shells and thermal liners. “Over the years, we have found ways to manufacture yarn and fabrics with greater strength and high thermal resistance,” Thorne says. “The PBI® outer shells we make are where technology and protection meet.” Thorne notes that TenCate makes PBI Peak 5, Flex™ Powered by PBI, PBI XT, and PBI Stretch outer shells in weights of 5.6, 6.9, 7.5, and 7.2 ounces per square yard (osy), respectively. “Our newer Flex 7 and Peak 5 outer shell products are lighter in weight but have much stronger and more durable fabrics, especially in tear resistance, and have great washability,” Thorne says. TenCate also makes Nomex® outer shells, he adds, in versions called Agility® (6.6 osy), Pioneer™ (6.6 osy), Advance™ (7.2 osy), Brigade® 600 (6.0 osy), Brigade 750 (7.5 osy), and for technical rescue Agility Tactical (5.0 osy). Thorne points out that Agility and Pioneer are some of Tencate’s

most popular and durable fabrics featuring ENFORCE™ technology, which boosts strength and thermal performance. “To complement our outer shell fabrics, we offer thermal liners that boast inherently wicking facecloths featuring our Coolderm® Technology that keep firefighters cool and comfortable,” Thorne says. “All of TenCate’s facecloths are slick and easy to wear with good lubricity, providing quick and easy donning and doffing, and are available with needle-punch or spun-lace batting.” Thorne adds, “We also offer Titanium™ and Caldura® Elite with DuPont™ Nomex Nano fabrics that pack the highest level of thermal protection in a less bulky and more comfortable liner system.” TenCate’s thermal liners are Titanium™ SL2 (7.7 osy), Titanium Nano (6.6 osy), Caldura Elite with DuPont Nomex Nano (6.7 osy), Caldura Elite SL2 (7.7 osy), Quantum3D® SL2 (7.7 osy), and Defender® (7.8 osy). Alfons Held, global marketing manager for emergency response at DuPont Personal Protection, says DuPont is the maker of Kevlar®, a para-aramid fiber that helps enhance the overall strength and durability of turnout gear outer shell and thermal liner systems by making fabrics durable, lightweight, and strong while maintaining high thermal protection. He adds that DuPont Nomex is a meta-aramid fiber with flame resistance that offers wash and tear durability and permanent thermal protection and exceeds multiple global standards for heat, flame, and arc flash protection. “DuPont’s Nomex Nano and Nomex Nano Flex offer reduced heat stress while helping to protect as a barrier against harmful particulates,” Held says.

Held notes that Nomex and Kevlar fibers can be found, separately or together, in each layer of most firefighter turnout gear, whether it be the outer shell, the moisture membrane backing, the thermal liner, or in the inner liner in the form of Nomex filament. He points out the combination of Kevlar and Nomex fibers with other high-temperature fibers is used by manufacturers to develop turnout gear outer shells. “This combination, called DuPont Nomex Xtreme Performance, combines the tested and proven heat and flame protection of Nomex with the lightweight strength of Kevlar and the thermal damage tolerance and durability of high-performance materials such as PBO, Nomex Nano, and Nomex Nano Flex,” Held says. Turnout gear moisture barriers help protect firefighters against water, chemical, and viral agent intrusion, and fabrics made of Nomex fiber help manufacturers produce strong, durable, flame-resistant (FR) moisture barriers, Held adds. Inner liners made with Nomex filament help create fabrics that allow faster donning and doffing and combine comfort, freedom of movement, and moisture management, he says.

Held adds that to address the problem of heat stress while firefighting, Nomex Nano is engineered to be thinner than other FR materials used for thermal liners while delivering equivalent thermal protection and durability. Held says that Nomex Nano can provide up to a 40% reduction in thermal liner thickness, improving THL by 30 units without compromising its thermal protection (TPP). Held notes that DuPont recently launched a DuPont Kevlar EXO™ fiber that “elevates ballistic protection to the next level of comfort. Other applications of this material are currently being explored.” Also, DuPont offers protective solutions that may be suitable for use in the fire service and hazmat response sector, Held says. “DuPont Tychem® 6000 FR garments combine Tychem’s chemical protection with the flame and arc flash protection of Nomex into a single garment,” he points out. “Tychem 6000 FR provides at least 30 minutes of protection against more than 180 chemical challenges and has an arc rating of 15 cal/cm2 Ebt.” Todd Herring, vice president of product innovation and strategy for Fire-Dex, says Fire-Dex partnered with Milliken & Company to create TECGEN71 and TECGEN51 fabrics that are exclusive to Fire-Dex. “The idea behind the fabrics was to make lighter weight turnout gear,” Herring says. “TECGEN71, which is designed for structural turnout gear, brings a low level of conductivity and a high level of THL, which offers more protection, so we are able to use it in a lighter weight thermal lining and in other parts of the garment that lower overall weight and increase breathability.” Herring notes TECGEN71 features a ripstop twill weave that combines Kevlar and Nomex with the TECGEN fiber, which has a nonPFAS water-repellant finish. He says the fiber allows the turnout gear to be 20% lighter than traditional gear, have 50% higher THL, and be 70% more flexible. The TECGEN51 fabric is designed for technical rescue gear, Herring points out.

“It’s a fabric compliant with National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 1951, Standard on Protective Ensembles for Technical Rescue Incidents, and NFPA 1977, Standard on Protective Clothing and Equipment for Wildland Fire Fighting and Urban Interface Fire Fighting, and built with a nonPFAS water-repellent finish in an FR twill weave that offers superior THL, TPP, and RPP, giving optimal durability and breathability,” he says. “TECGEN51 fabric is offered in our Fatigues, Wildland Tech Rescue, EMS, and urban search and rescue (USAR) gear.” Grant Grinstead, North America account product manager for Viking Life-Saving Equipment Inc., says his company “tries to stay at the forefront of safety in firefighter turnout gear. We’ve seen a transition in fabrics from the ripstop weaves, to nonripstop weaves, to through-the-weave fabrics. We use all the fibers from the leading manufacturers and put together a blend that gives the best performance.” Grinstead notes that Viking LifeSaving has a couple of its own outer shells that it produces to have more control over performance and quality. “Viking IQ is woven by a German company,” he says. “It is a meta-aramid/ para-armid blend that’s a modified ripstop fabric, which gives great thermal protection and performance.”

Eric Baker, national sales manager for Lakeland Fire, says Lakeland is buying an assortment of fabrics from various manufacturers for its turnout gear, including Safety Components, TenCate, DuPont, and Milliken. “Because of the design of our turnout gear, which is athletic and tailor-cut, we are able to use less 7-oz. fabric, which removes some weight, even with the Stealth with Lazermax™ reflective trim,” Baker says. Claude Barbeau, general manager of INNOTEX, says his company makes its ergonomically designed ENERGY™ turnout gear from a variety of fabrics by several makers. “We’re using fabrics from TenCate, Safety Components, DuPont, and Gore,” Barbeau says. “We offer a wide selection of outer shells, moisture barriers, and thermal barriers to fit the different needs of the purchasing fire department.”

**BUILDING & FIRE CODE ISSUES – Why are they important to you? WEEKLY FIRE FATALITY DATA AS REPORTED BY THE MEDIA**

##### UNATTENDED COOKING LEADS TO UNINTENDED FIRES

***Home builders and realtors already “drive” legislation with a history of disregard for life safety and a disgusting misinformation campaign about the cost of residential fire sprinklers, deaths are an awfully expensive price to pay to save money. Stop the carnage, install residential sprinklers. Residential sprinklers are a component of the plumbing system, with approximately 1 head per room. The purpose of residential sprinklers is to allow time for the occupants to escape. Residential sprinklers are designed for quick response and only one at the most two heads may be triggered. With residential sprinklers present, the civilian death rate is 89% LOWER. Residential sprinklers will assist responding firefighters to do their jobs and save firefighters lives also, especially since everyone is short staffed!!***

***CHIEFS NEED TO SPEAK UP: This fire would not have been as bad if there were residential sprinklers!!***

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **HOME FIRE FATALITIES REPORTED BY THE MEDIA FROM THE US FIRE ADMINISTRATION** | |
| **Fire Deaths in 1&2 Family Dwellings in NYS** | **53+3 = 56** |
| **Last fire death 10/11 N. Amityville, Suffolk Co. Female, UNK** | |
| **Fire Deaths in any type of Dwelling in NYS** | **117+3 = 120** |
| **Fire Deaths in 1&2 Family Dwellings Nationally** | **1013 + 27= 1040** |
| **Top 3 States with the greatest 1&2 Family Deaths** | **1 PA = 64** |
|  | **2 NY = 56** |
|  | **3 OH = 50** |
| **There has been a total of 1644 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.**

##### To Ease Burden on Staff, Wyoming Fire Department Proposes Do-It-Yourself Fire Inspection Program

Mary Steuer

The Casper Fire-EMS Department is asking City Council for help setting up a new program that’d allow qualifying establishments to conduct their own fire safety inspections.

Many, but not all, public buildings in Wyoming must routinely be inspected by a fire agency to make sure they’re in compliance with fire safety regulations.

In Casper, most of the inspections are conducted by the Fire-EMS Department’s Community Risk Reduction Division — which also specializes in things like investigations and public education — with help from the agency’s five fire engine crews.

But right now, the fire department just doesn’t have enough staff to perform all the inspections it needs to.

The Community Risk Reduction Division currently only has four people, Deputy Chief Jack Moore wrote in a description of the proposed program shared with City Council. By comparison, the division had eight staff members in 2015.

“The combined efforts of the CRR Division and Engine companies are currently unable to keep up with the demand for fire inspections and the frequency at which they are required to be performed,” Moore wrote, using an acronym for Community Risk Reduction.

For that reason, the fire department has been looking into setting up a self-inspection program for a while. The hope is that it would free up time for the agency to focus on other important tasks, like responding to service calls.

The program would only be open to places that have low to moderate safety risks, Moore told the City Council during a Tuesday work session. Think small retail stores, doctor’s offices or storage units. Those account for an estimated 60% of the roughly 3,000 establishments in Casper that need regular fire safety inspections, according to Moore.

Self-inspections would be off the table for higher-risk organizations like schools, daycares and businesses that work with hazardous materials.

What would the program look like in practice? First, approved establishments would be given specific instructions on how to conduct the inspections. They’d be responsible for turning in completed inspection reports to the fire department online.

The fire department would provide guidance on how to spot and correct any reported fire safety violations, as well as deadlines for making those changes.

***To keep participants accountable, the fire department would perform in-person audits of self-inspections every three years.***

But does it work? Other communities that have tried self-inspection programs have seen mixed results, Moore said.

**“One of the hallmarks of the more successful programs was that they had the support of their municipality or their governing body in the form of an ordinance or some sort of legal grounding for that program,” he told the council on Tuesday.**

To that end, the Fire-EMS Department is asking City Council to adopt specific guidelines for the proposed program into city code. The Council on Tuesday gave approval to city staff to put together a draft ordinance for councilors to consider at a future city council meeting.

Inspections are far from the only area where the Fire-EMS Department is feeling a staff crunch. It’s common for the department to get more service calls than on-duty staff can accommodate, Fire Chief Jacob Black told the Star-Tribune in June.

Part of the issue is the size of the department; the department’s ranks simply haven’t grown in step with the increased demand on its services.

Turnover presents another problem. As of this summer, the department projected that more than two dozen fire personnel would be leaving in the next five years.

To address some of the staffing concerns, the city of Casper funded six new fire fighter positions in its budget for the 2024 fiscal year. It expected to add six more positions in fiscal year 2025.

**PURCHASING APPARATUS? What to know**

##### Apparatus Purchasing: Electric Fire Apparatus

Bill Adams

In the August 2022 *Fire Apparatus & Emergency Equipment* Viewpoints column, the editor asked me and fellow Advisory Board member Ricky Riley: “Is the fire service ready for electric fire apparatus?”

One view was the fire service should be open-minded on the topic. The other was the fire service is not ready for electric fire apparatus (EFA).

The Viewpoints piece was based on a miniscule number of electric rigs sold in proportion to the total number of fire apparatus manufactured. It only addressed a specific apparatus size and application—a full-size pumper. It may not have been representative of the full potential of EFAs in the fire service. While electrically powered trucks may be new to the fire service, they are not new to the commercial truck industry.

**CLASS 8 FIRE CHASSIS MARKET**

Fire apparatus manufacturers (OEMs) and the Fire Apparatus Manufacturers’ Association (FAMA) keep the yearly numbers and types of apparatus ordered and delivered close to the vest. Articles in fire service trade magazines indicate **approximately 6,000 fire trucks were ordered in 2022. My best guess estimates are that about 50 to 65% were built on custom cabs and chassis, which are specifically manufactured for the fire service. Most custom fire apparatus cabs and chassis are Class 8 trucks, which have a gross vehicle weight rating (GVWR) of 33,000 pounds and over.**

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) classifies trucks as light duty (Classes 1 and 2), medium duty (Classes 3 to 6), and heavy duty (Classes 7 and 8). A commercial driver’s license (CDL) is generally required to operate heavy duty trucks. Following are truck classes and GVWRs according to www.arrowtruck.com/truck-classifications:

* Class 1 and 2 trucks have a 10,000-pound or less GVWR.
* Class 3, 4, and 5 trucks have GVWRs between 10,001 and 19,500 pounds.
* Class 6 trucks have GVWRs between 19,501 and 26,000 pounds.
* Class 7 trucks have GVWRs between 26,001 and 33,000 pounds.
* Class 8 trucks have a GVWR of greater than 33,000 pounds.

OEMs’ literature, Web sites, and news releases indicate probably a dozen or so electric fire apparatus have been sold or ordered since their introduction just a few years ago. For simplicity’s sake, consider that all of them were sold or ordered in 2022. The OEMs do not make the GVWRs of EFAs sold or ordered readily known. However, in reading the sold EFAs’ published capabilities, I venture they are all Class 8 vehicles.

Of the 759,000 Class 3 to Class 8 trucks sold in the United States in 2020, 192,000 were Class 8 (https://bit.ly/3DHjQcI). Conjecturing 2020 figures are close to 2022’s, out of those 192,000 Class 8 rigs, an estimated 3,000 to 3,900 were custom fire apparatus cabs and chassis. And only a dozen or so of them were electrically powered. ***The domestic fire apparatus manufacturers may not be significant players in the electrically powered truck industry.***

**CLASS 3 TO 7 FIRE CHASSIS MARKET**

It is unknown if the 2,100 to 3,000 Class 3 to 8 fire apparatus ordered or delivered have been addressed in any analysis or discussion about EFAs by the fire service or the fire apparatus manufacturers. They should have.

Any quantifiable discussion or prediction of the future of EFAs should include all fire apparatus that could be electrically powered. Mini and midi-pumpers, initial attack apparatus, wildland apparatus, medium and light duty squad trucks, as well as trucks with GVWRs of greater than 10,000 pounds used as chiefs’ buggies could be prime candidates to be electrically powered. ***Automobiles used by fire department administrative staff, including fire inspectors and fire prevention personnel, definitely are.***

**OEMs AND THE NFPA**

The current literature and Web sites of the three domestic EFA OEMs have only mentioned electrically powered pumpers, which undoubtedly meet and require a GVWR range within the scope of most full-size pumpers. No data appear to indicate minimum or maximum GVWRs or compliance to any National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) standards. This article considers all current offerings as Class 8 heavy duty trucks. However, there is nothing to preclude Class 7 heavy duty trucks with a FHWA rating between 26,001 to 33,000 pounds from being compliant.

Hence, there is the presumption that all three OEMs’ EFAs meet, at the least, NFPA 1901, *Standard for Automotive Fire Apparatus* (2016 ed.), Chapter 5 Pumper Fire Apparatus. In addition, there’s a presumption they will meet, at the least, NFPA 1900, *Standard for Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting Vehicles, Automotive Fire Apparatus, Wildland Fire Apparatus, and Automotive Ambulances*, Chapter 8.5 Pumper Apparatus.

Many commercial chassis manufacturers also supply Class 7 and 8 cabs and chassis for fire service OEMs—including those that build their own EFAs. Many of those commercial builders also supply chassis with lower GVWRs. ***Electrically powered commercial cabs and chassis may soon be available to all apparatus OEMs. The domestic commercial truck manufacturers are experienced in electrically powered vehicles. So are automobile manufacturers.***

**EFAs AND COMMERCIAL TRUCK OEMs**

Looking at only a handful of one EFA class from just three apparatus OEMs is analyzing and comparing through a very small prism. The current EFAs sold or on order do not reflect the capabilities and experiences of domestic truck manufacturers in supplying all classes of electrically powered trucks for the fire service. The following abbreviated comments are paraphrased from online links reflecting the depth and scope of commercial truck manufacturers currently manufacturing or investigating electrically powered trucks.

Mack Trucks has an agreement with global electric commercial vehicle maker SEA Electric to supply Mack Class 6 and 7 models with its SEA-Drive power system. From SEA Electric’s Web site: “Since 2017, SEA Electric has released medium and heavy duty commercial electric vehicles including delivery trucks, garbage trucks, tipper trucks, tilt tray trucks, reefer trucks, cherry picker trucks, school buses, shuttle buses, cargo vans, and passenger vans. Its power system is adaptable to most OEM glider chassis platforms from Class 3 to Class 8” (https://bit.ly/3rTtV3I).

***The United States Postal Service has increased its electric truck order to 40% of its new fleet. It signed a 10-year contract with Wisconsin-based manufacturer Oshkosh Defense to buy just 5,000 battery-powered trucks. It later raised the number to 10,000 electric trucks, plus another 40,000 gasoline-powered trucks,*** in a $2.98 billion deal (https://bit.ly/3KrxNz0).

Kenworth has unveiled its first U.S. Class 8 electric truck designed for a GVWR of 82,000 pounds. It also presented small Class 6 and Class 7 electric truck variants. Kenworth is a PACCAR company (<https://bit.ly/3qdhpeT>).

*Volvo Trucks spent a week at its customer center in Dublin, Virginia, to showcase the work it has done to lead the electrification of the heavy trucking space*. Its flagship effort in North America is a Class 8 semi truck that carries forward the same look and feel of its predecessors to make it easy for drivers to hop in and go but with a fully electric powertrain and battery system under the hood (https://bit.ly/3KpeJSa).

Orange EV, founded in 2012, says it has deployed more than 370 trucks to some 100 fleet customers in 24 states. According to a recent report from CALSTART, Orange has the most electric trucks in service of any currently active manufacturer. The CALSTART report also notes that as of the beginning of February 2023, there were around 1,215 medium and heavy duty zero-emission trucks on U.S. roads and 140,000 more on order. Some 145 models are currently available for purchase from at least 30 manufacturers (https://bit.ly/3QoXEM4).

**FEDERAL HELP FOR RESEARCH**

From a trucking industry Web site: “*The U.S. Department of Energy’s Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy announced it will spend $127 million over the next five years to help advance commercial truck electrification technology*. It will provide funding to five vehicle manufacturers to pioneer electrified medium and heavy duty trucks and freight system concepts to achieve higher efficiency and zero emissions (<https://bit.ly/3rSkOA5>). Some abbreviated and paraphrased examples follow.

Paccar, parent company of Kenworth and Peterbilt, will develop 18 Class 8 battery electric and fuel-cell vehicles with advanced batteries. A megawatt charging station will also be developed (award amount: $32.97 million).

General Motors will develop hydrogen fuel-cell and battery electric Class 4 to 6 trucks. It will focus on developing clean hydrogen via electrolysis and clean power for fast charging (award amount: $26.06 million).

Daimler Trucks North America will develop Class 8 fuel-cell trucks with a 600-mile range, 25,000-hour durability, and equivalent payload capacity and range to diesel (award amount: $25.79 million).

Ford will develop five hydrogen fuel-cell electric Class 6 Super Duty trucks targeting cost, payload, towing, and refueling times that are equivalent to conventional gasoline trucks (award amount: $24.95 million).

Volvo Group North America will develop a 400-mile-range Class 8 battery electric tractor trailer with advanced aerodynamics, electric braking, EV-optimized tires, automation, and route planning. A megawatt charging station will also be developed (award amount: $18.07 million).

**TREPIDATIONS**

Most press releases and online research directly from manufacturers probably show a degree of favoritism. That’s marketing—live with it. Commercial truck OEMs as well as fire apparatus OEMs participate. There are always two sides to a story. Some in the fire service view EFAs with skepticism. There may be some validity to their concerns. The commercial trucking industry may have already addressed some of them in the following:

* <https://bit.ly/3rRMhSx>
* <https://bit.ly/3DHiNJN>
* <https://bit.ly/3Ql6Lxj>

Hopefully this article has addressed all classes of electrically powered trucks for the fire service from a nonfirematic and nonbiased perspective. Commercial truck manufacturers with names such as Mack, Oshkosh, Kenworth, PACCAR, Volvo, Peterbilt, General Motors, Daimler, and Ford are familiar to almost all fire apparatus purchasers. Their experience in, and willingness to explore, electrically powered trucks could be an asset to those in the fire service contemplating a change.

**THE LIGHTER SIDE!**

**When we were young, we used to sneak out of the house to go to parties.**

**Now that we are old, we sneak out of the parties to go home!!**

**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***

***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. Other counties will be considered on an as needed basis.**

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

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***PLEASE SUPPORT THOSE WHO SUPPORT US!!***

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

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

***Write me at tom@rinaldi1.com***

**Please Support Those Who Support Us!!**

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

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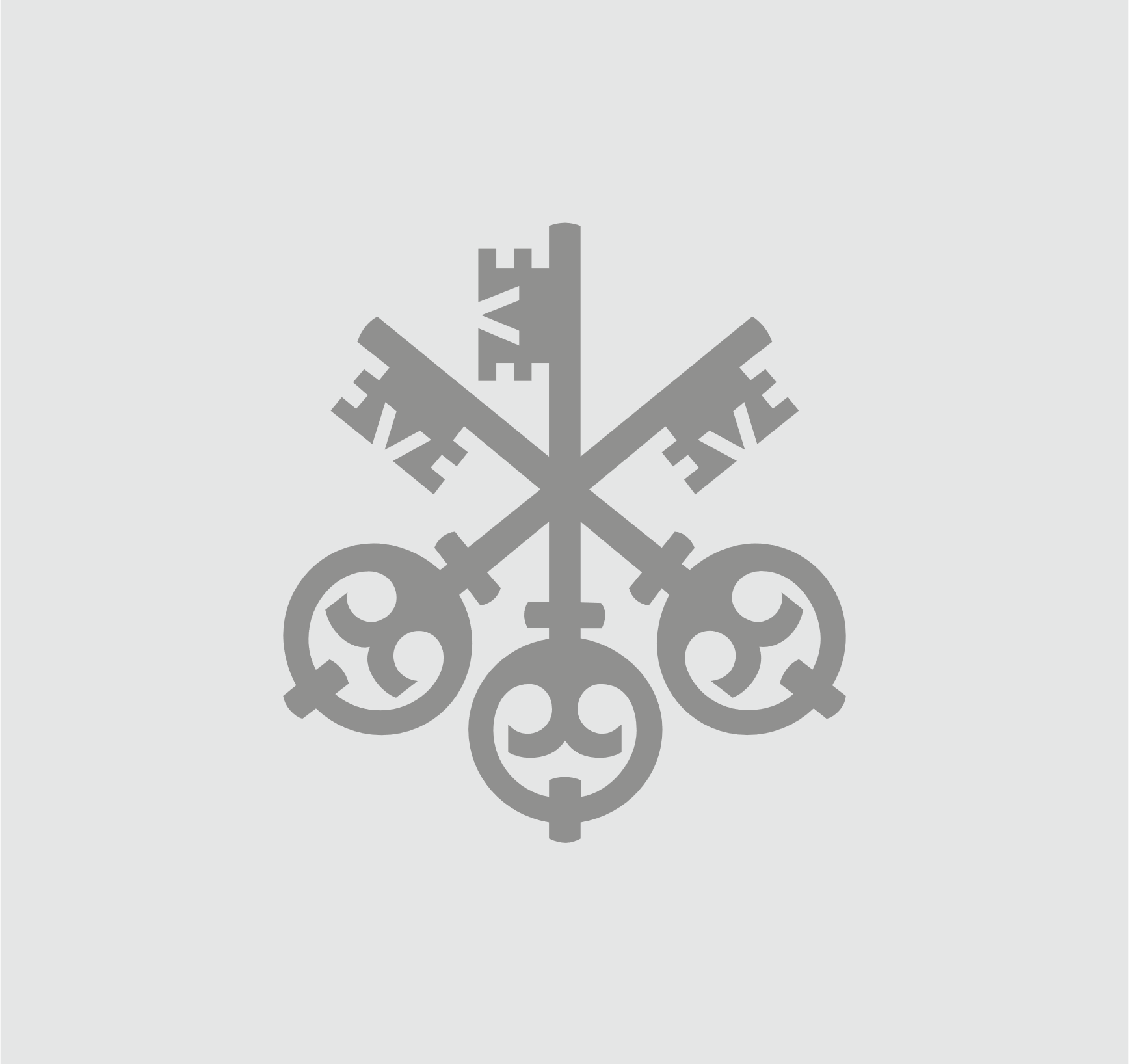
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11 British American Blvd, Latham, NY 12110

518-785-0134

Queensbury Office 518-792-6595

<http://www.mmbaccounting.com>

Alan W. Clink, CPA [aclink@mmb-co.com](mailto:aclink@mmb-co.com)

Heather R. Lewis, CPA hlewis@mmb-co.com

**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 Verdoy 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***](mailto: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***

##### 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 ASSOCAIATION 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

***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**



##### 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**](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**](https://cafda.net/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/Fire-District-Elections-Schedule-2023.pdf)

[**https://cafda.net/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/2023-Fall-Workshop-Registration.pdf**](https://cafda.net/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/2023-Fall-Workshop-Registration.pdf)A close-up of a fire department emblem

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***capital area FIRE DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION***

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

Schenectady, SCHOHARIE, Warren, Washington

www.cafda.net

**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**