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



**Bulletin**

**your fire district news source**

**October 28th, 2023**

***Editor – Tom Rinaldi***

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

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

**Capital shorts:**

* 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.
* Volunteer firefighters and rescue squad workers in Warren County will be eligible for a 10% exemption on their Warren County property taxes under a new law enacted by the Warren County Board of Supervisors. In addition, those who have served 20 or more volunteer years with their community fire department or rescue squad can be eligible for a lifetime property tax exemption. The spouse of a volunteer who is killed in the line of duty will be eligible for the exemption as well, with certain qualifications.
* **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 ONE WEEK 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**

**ONE WEEK 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.

***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.

**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.**

##### Mike Johnson Dreamed of Being a Fire Chief – Instead He’s Speaker of the House of Representatives

Mike Johnson didn’t start out life aiming to become speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives. He was the son of an assistant fire chief who wanted nothing more than to follow in his father’s footsteps.

But on Wednesday, he managed to corral enough votes among the deeply-divided Republican House majority to be chosen to lead the body.

He took the opportunity in his introductory speech to the house to recall his father’s service as assistant chief of the Shreveport Fire Department.

“On September 17th, 1984, when I was 12 years old, he was critically burned and permanently disabled in the line of duty. All I ever wanted to be when I grew up was the chief of the fire department in Shreveport, but after the explosion on that fateful day, he nearly died and it was a long road back and It’s changed all of our life trajectories. I’m the oldest of four kids,” he said. “My dad lived with pain all the rest of his life for decades more, and I lost my dad to cancer three days before I got elected to Congress, three days. And he wanted to be there at my election night so badly.”

##### [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**

##### N.Y. Congressman Pleads Guilty For Pulling False Alarm During Funding Vote

Lindsay Whitehurst

Democratic Rep. Jamaal Bowman pleaded guilty Thursday to a misdemeanor count for [triggering a fire alarm](https://apnews.com/article/congress-fire-alarm-jamaal-bowman-house-bc9c1cca01fa918999621e0f7eb27165) as lawmakers scrambled to pass a funding bill before a government shutdown deadline.

He will pay a $1,000 fine and serve three months of probation, after which the false fire alarm charge is expected to be dismissed under an agreement with prosecutors.

The alarm forced the evacuation of a House office building for over an hour on Sept. 30. The New York lawmaker acknowledged pulling the alarm but said it was a mistake as he tried to open an unexpectedly locked door in a rush to get to vote. The funding package was ultimately approved with most Republicans and almost all Democrats, including Bowman, supporting the bill.

“I really regret that this caused so much confusion and that people had to evacuate, and I just caused a disturbance. I hate that. It’s pretty embarrassing,” Bowman told reporters after his plea hearing.

Republicans have criticized Bowman, calling his explanation an “excuse" and pointing out ***he passed several police officers without telling them he had pulled the alarm***. At the time of the evacuation, House Democrats were working to delay a vote on a funding bill to keep federal agencies open, saying they needed time to review a bill that Republicans abruptly released to avoid a shutdown.

Bowman said he didn't tell officers about the error because he was rushing to make the vote, not delay it. The case was filed by the District of Columbia Attorney General’s office, which said Bowman was “treated like anyone else who violates the law.”

Bowman is also expected to formally apologize to Capitol police as part of his plea deal.

**[EDITOR’S NOTE: he is a former High School principal, what would he do to a kid that did this? No excuses. Did he apologize to the DC Fire Department, or do they not respond until the Capital Police investigate?]**

##### Columbus (OH) Firefighter Charged With Vehicular Homicide in Apparatus Crash

A Columbus firefighter has been charged with aggravated vehicular homicide in a fatal crash that happened July 23.

Police say Tyler Conners, 25, of Columbus, was negligent when he turned a Columbus fire truck left across two lanes of traffic onto a turnaround from the middle lane of I-270 North.

One car driving in the left lane tried to avoid the turning truck but struck it in the front. The driver of a pickup truck approaching from behind applied brakes, but struck the rear of the fire truck, which was protruding into the highway.

The pickup truck driver, Timothy Wiggins, 63, of Delaware died in the crash. The crash happened around 10 p.m. and the crash report lists the driving conditions at the time as dark and rainy.

Conners is on administrative duty until the criminal case is resolved.

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:**

##### \*\*A Lesson On Leading From The Front

Chief John Butler

Our communities look up to and admire first responders. This is an honor, a privilege and a responsibility that we embrace and cherish. As first responders, we have a responsibility to leverage what is bestowed upon us by being leaders who lead from the front.

As a former Marine, I appreciate military movies, books and the leadership lessons culled from them. One leadership moment pertains to that of Hal Moore. In the movie "We Were Soldiers," Lieutenant Colonel Harold “Hal” Moore is portrayed by actor Mel Gibson. Lt. Col. Moore’s boots were first off the helicopter when it landed at Landing Zone X-Ray in the Ia Drang Valley, Vietnam on Nov. 14, 1965. He was the commanding officer of his battalion, and he wanted to set the example for his team by being the first one on the ground.

Moore's boots were also the last ones on the helicopter when the team was evacuated from the landing zone two days later. The battle had been long and bloody, and Moore wanted to make sure that all his soldiers were out before he left. The scene of Moore's boots being the first off the helicopter is a powerful one, showing his commitment to his soldiers and his willingness to lead from the front.

Leading from the front means setting the example for others to follow. It means being willing to do the hard work, take risks and make tough decisions. It also means being honest, transparent and accountable. When small-unit leaders lead from the front, they inspire and motivate their respective teams to do their best.

Here are some specific ways to lead from the front:

* **Be willing to do the hard work.** Don't ask your team to do anything you're not willing to do yourself. If you want them to be passionate about their work, you should be passionate about it too.
* **Take risks.** Don't be afraid to make mistakes. Mistakes are a natural part of learning and growth. When you take risks, you show your team that you're willing to put yourself out there and that you're not afraid to fail.
* **Make tough decisions.** Sometimes, leaders have to make tough decisions that are not popular with everyone. When you make tough decisions, you show your team that you're willing to do what's best for them, your community and your department, even if it's not what everyone wants to hear.
* **Be honest, transparent and accountable.** Be honest with your team about your expectations and goals. Be transparent about your decision-making process. And be accountable for your actions. When you're honest, transparent and accountable, you build trust with your team.

In addition to these specific behaviors, there are a few general principles that can help you lead from the front:

* **Be clear about your vision.** What do you want to achieve? What are your goals? When your team knows what you're trying to achieve, they're more likely to be motivated to help you achieve it.
* **Communicate effectively.** Keep your team informed about what's going on. Let them know about your plans, your progress and any challenges you're facing. When you communicate effectively, you build trust and rapport with your team.
* **Empower your team.** Give your team the freedom and authority to make decisions and solve problems. When you empower your team, you show them that you trust them and that you believe in their abilities.
* **Celebrate successes.** When your team achieves a goal, take the time to celebrate their success. This will show them that you appreciate their hard work and that you're proud of what they've accomplished.

**LEAD BY EXAMPLE**

Leading from the front like Lt. Col. Hal Moore is not always easy, but it's one of the most effective ways to inspire and motivate your team. When you lead from the front, you set the example, model the behavior and build a team that is committed to achieving your goals. As we lead first responders, we have a responsibility to lead from the front. This is not just because it's the right thing to do, but also because it's essential to the success of our team and our mission, which is to protect and save lives and property. When we lead from the front, we create a culture of excellence and achievement. We build teams that are confident, capable and committed to making a difference.

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

##### OPPORTUNITIES:

##### New Maryland FD Adds 28 Employees And Staffs 6 Fire Stations

CARROLL COUNTY, Md. — Carroll County’s Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services has hired 28 new employees this month, adding staff to Reese, Sykesville, Taneytown, Mount Airy and Westminster fire stations. The hirings are part of the county’s efforts to build its first combination paid and volunteer fire and EMS service.

“This will take the department up to 157 positions by late November, and ***we are now planning for the next budget year, where we anticipate the seven remaining stations to come on board with county staffing***,” Michael Robinson, director and chief of the Department of Fire and EMS said.

The stations still to be staffed are Hampstead, Lineboro, Union Bridge, New Windsor, Gamber, Winfield and Pleasant Valley.

“This, of course, will require approval through the [Board of Carroll County Commissioners] and the county budget process,” Robinson said.

The department has been using its allotment of $23.5 million from the county’s $542.8 million fiscal 2024 operating budget, to hire personnel and stock up on supplies needed to provide round-the-clock firefighting and emergency medical services coverage to the county.

The employees hired earlier this month include 15 paramedics and firefighter paramedics, 12 firefighter emergency medical technicians, and one fire truck driver.

“We have added three paramedic cars at Manchester, Taneytown, and Winfield [fire stations], which provide a second paramedic for critical patients,” Robinson said. “These employees will fill all vacant positions and allow for 15 float positions to cover for leave time and sick time to reduce overtime pay.” A float position has responsibilities that include temporarily covering a position and picking up shifts as needed. An employee floats between locations or between departments. “There are still nine additional float positions available, and we are actively recruiting paramedics and firefighter paramedics,” Robinson said.

The pay for a firefighter and an emergency medical technician is $21.69 per hour, according to an information sheet from the department. Hourly pay for a fire apparatus driver is $23.64, $25.78 for a paramedic, and $28.42 for a firefighter/paramedic.

The department has also hired two billing technicians to oversee insurance billing for EMS, Robinson said. According to the job advertisement, the salary for a full-time billing technician is $20.62 an hour. “We also added a civilian quartermaster position who will oversee our warehouse and manage medical supplies, uniforms, and personal protective firefighter gear,” Robinson said. “We will be interviewing for a data analyst in the next several weeks.” The quartermaster position pays $24.48 per hour. The data analyst position pays $55,536 annually or $26.70 an hour. The data analyst will identify trends and patterns in data to inform policy decisions and support strategic planning initiatives, the hiring advertisement states. The individual hired will collect data from various platforms, develop and maintain a data management system, and create and distribute reports.

The Department of Fire and EMS will host two informational sessions on its hiring process. The first session is 6 p.m. Monday, Oct. 30, and 6 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 2, both at the Public Safety Training Center, 50 Kate Wagner Road, Westminster.

***The push to create a combination paid and volunteer county fire service began in Carroll County more than a decade ago.*** ***In 2018, the Maryland General Assembly passed legislation allowing the county to establish the new department and in October 2020, commissioners unanimously voted to pass an ordinance creating it.*** Robinson began in his role in September 2021, and has been charged with the overall direction, administration and evaluation of the department. Under his leadership, the new Department of Fire and EMS has been purchasing equipment, supplies and vehicles, and hiring personnel.

*Staffing and equipment are needed for 13 of the county’s 14 fire companies. The Harney Volunteer Fire Company in Taneytown will receive no new staffing, as it has no ambulances and a low call volume*.

##### CHALLENGES:

##### Colorado Dept. Launches Tiered Response to Emergency Calls

As of Wednesday, the Auora Fire Department is changing the way it responds to emergencies.

Fire Chief Alec Oughton told [KDVR](https://kdvr.com/news/aurora-fire-rescue-launches-tiered-response-to-emergency-calls/) the tiered response model is a major shift from the traditional response of sending the closest units with lights and sirens.

“There are calls where minutes matter, and there are calls where minutes don’t impact the outcome. So what we’ve done with this change in our response model is really adjust our response to better match the risk that’s associated with the call that’s coming in,” he said.

The chief said there's already been a change as on the first day there was about a 20% decline in large fire apparatus responding to medical calls.

That leaves engines available to respond to fires.

“The first step is we need to figure out what the fire department does not need to respond to emergently. Freeing up some of these resources from the lower acuity calls may allow us to allocate more resources to the higher acuity calls.”

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

A black background with red text

Description automatically generated ESIP WEBINAR SERIES Responding to Hunting Emergencies

It's the time of year for people to take to the outdoors in search of wildlife. Join us as we discuss what we can expect when the call for help comes if hunters find themselves in trouble. Tom Miller will be our guest presenter for this webinar.

**WEDESDAY, NOVEMBER 8TH AT 7PM**

**REGISTER AT THIS LINK**:<https://mcneilandcompany.us8.list-manage.com/track/click?u=03596f243a9d922954ebaf15e&id=594affd21a&e=781e9a2c81>



##### 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

##### [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 EXPERIENCED68FIRE FIGHTER LODD’S

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

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

##### You Just Never Know!

* Ionia, Iowa Volunteer Firefighter Tony Hoffman, 43, was killed in a collision between a department truck and UTV that were responding to a fire. The responding vehicles got caught behind a slow-moving tractor, and attempted to pass it. The fire truck hit the back of the UTV, causing it to lose control, roll over and eject the driver of the UTV.
* Firefighter Colin Reedy of the West Whiteland Pennsylvania Fire Company died Friday responding to a call in a heavy downpour. Reedy and fellow firefighter firefighter Emily Gindele were in the crash, in which their vehicle left the roadway and struck a tree. Reedy was pronounced dead at the scene. Gindele is in critical but stable at Paoli Memorial Hospital.
* The Colorado Springs Fire Department announced the sudden passing of active duty department driver and engineer, Bobby Keese a 30 year veteran.
* The U.S. Fire Administration (USFA) announced on Oct. 25 the on-duty death of Captain Adam Wayne Hart of the Hurlburt Field, Florida, Fire & Emergency Services.
* A 41 year old, Spokane County, Washington firefighter died Thursday while responding to a reported wildland fire that ***turned out to be a false alarm***, officials with Spokane County Fire District 9 said Monday. Lt. Cody Trabner fell from a bridge while trying to get a better vantage point to spot the reported fire.

##### 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**

##### \*\*Marathon Joint Fire District – Investment Program

**BACKGROUND**

The District is a district corporation of the State, distinct and separate from the Town of Marathon in Cortland County. The District provides fire protection and emergency services to the Towns of Marathon, Lapeer and Freetown.

The six-member elected Board is responsible for the District’s overall financial management and safeguarding its resources, including creating and enforcing an investment policy. An elected Treasurer acts as the chief fiscal officer responsible for depositing and investing District funds.

**AUDIT OBJECTIVE**

Determine whether Marathon Joint Fire District (District) officials developed and managed a comprehensive investment program.

**KEY FINDINGS**

District officials did not develop and manage a comprehensive investment program.

* The Board of Fire Commissioners (Board) did not develop and adopt a comprehensive written investment policy as required by New York State General Municipal Law Section 39 until the end of our audit period.
* The District earned interest totaling approximately $2,000 from the District’s checking and savings accounts, which had an average daily balance of approximately $567,000 during the audit period. However, the District could have earned approximately $14,600, or $12,600 more had officials used other available investment options.
* Officials did not consider other legally permissible investment options or formally solicit interest rate quotes that may have resulted in higher interest earnings.

As a result of our audit, the Board subsequently approved an investment policy in March 2023 and invested $653,000 into an investment fund with higher interest rates.

**KEY RECOMMENDATION**

Periodically solicit interest rates and obtain investment information to ensure available funds are invested to maximize interest earnings.

##### Local Government and School Accountability Contact Information:

**Phone**: (518) 474-4037; **Email**: [localgov@osc.ny.gov](mailto:localgov@osc.ny.gov)

**Address**: Office of the State Comptroller, Division of Local Government and School Accountability

110 State Street, 12th Floor; Albany, NY 12236

##### Financial Training for Fire District Officials

#### *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**

##### [Volunteer Fire Department In Maryland Comes Up With Clever Way To Recruit New Members](https://www.dailydispatch.com/DDR/index.aspx?st=NY&ddv=1&ddid=180667&typ=1&it=980115)

"Attention wives, girlfriends, and all significant others: Need some alone time? Drop your man off to us at 9765 Bel Alton Newtown Road. We have something for everyone, it's free of charge, open 24/7, and you get some nice perks (free training, tax credits, and some fun too, of course). Email us if interested." That post was the brainchild of Sarah Hammett, President of Bel Alton Volunteer Fire Department. "I was actually scrolling TikTok and saw a sports bar advertising ‘Husband Daycare – Football and Beer' and thought to myself that would be a funny recruitment post if I tweaked it to fit the fire department." Hammett says that since firefighting is a male-dominated field, it can be hard to find things that can catch a female's attention or post something that would make them laugh.

**Living with new green technology - - hOT tOPIC!**

##### [FDNY: Firefighter Injured Battling Blaze At Brooklyn Storage Unit Containing E-Bikes, Lithium-Ion Batteries](https://www.dailydispatch.com/DDR/index.aspx?st=NY&ddv=1&ddid=180667&typ=1&it=980387" \t "_blank)

VIDEO: A firefighter was hurt battling a blaze Sunday inside a storage warehouse in Sunset Park, Brooklyn, ***where hundreds of e-bikes and other mobility devices were being stored***. CBS New York spoke to nearby residents who are worried about their safety. A lot of people were alarmed to see just how many bikes and batteries were stored inside the facility. Most of the street has since been cleaned up, but there were many items firefighters dragged out of the burning storage unit. Video shows smoke pouring out of the Stop and Stor self-storage warehouse on 63rd Street and Sixth Avenue. "My God, this is unbelievable," a man named Roberto said. Fire officials responded to a call at around 1 p.m. from a manager who said a storage unit was on fire.

##### [Exploding Lithium Batteries Are Causing Fires In Oregon's Landfills](https://www.dailydispatch.com/DDR/index.aspx?st=NY&ddv=1&ddid=180667&typ=1&it=980436)

Lithium batteries typically aren't allowed in landfills, but many still make it into the garbage stream. ***Exploding lithium-ion batteries are leading to more fires in Oregon's landfills and recycling centers, prompting action from state and local governments***. Deschutes County Solid Waste Director Tim Brownell said his county's landfill has seen 21 lithium-related fires in the past three months. Staff went from seeing battery fires once a month to multiple times a week. "(Lithium batteries) are everywhere in the system," Brownell said. "It's a public safety concern and it's a concern for the infrastructure that are taxpayer investments." Lithium batteries can be found in a variety of household objects, ranging from cars to power tools and from e-bikes to birthday cards that play music when opened.

**The impact of new nfpa standards**

##### Implications Of New NFPA 1970 Standard Addressing Turnout Gear And SCBA

Jeffrey Stull

The fire service and industry rely on standards developed by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) to establish product design/performance direction that establishes minimum safety levels and user expectations. In general, these standards are revised every five years to address firefighter protection needs, allow for new product technological capabilities, and incorporate improvements in how products are tested.

NFPA 1970 is a new standard that consolidates both turnout gear that has been addressed by NFPA 1971 and SCBA that is covered by NFPA 1981, but it will also include station/work uniforms (NFPA 1975) and Personal Alert Safety Systems, or PASS (NFPA 1982). This consolidation is consistent with the recent NFPA standards strategy to combine similar standards into a fewer number of documents that apply to the fire service. For NFPA 1970, the current revision process is more than halfway complete where the final steps will culminate in a brand-new consolidated standard in either April or August 2024 [see "Understanding the process for a new edition of an NFPA standard" below]. Both in this consolidation and with the advent of new fire service PPE issues, there are substantial implications to the fire service when the new NFPA 1970 standard is implemented.

**UNDERSTANDING THE PROCESS FOR A NEW EDITION OF AN NFPA STANDARD**

Individual committees are responsible for each of the standards and have historically addressed revisions of their respective PPE products through each part of the revision process. This process begins about 2½ years before the target revision date where changes to the standard are invited and can be proposed by anyone (called “public inputs”). All public inputs are then considered by the committee, and any accepted changes go forward in creating a first-draft revision of the standard after attaining agreement through a two-thirds majority affirmative ballot of the voting committee members.

This same process is repeated in a second stage where NFPA solicits public comments on the first draft that are similarly reviewed and are accepted through committee balloting for putting together the second revision. This is where the draft of NFPA 1970 currently resides in the revision process.

There are still additional steps before the new NFPA 1970 is published. Once the second draft is posted by the NFPA on their website, it is open for anyone to take issue with any actions that were approved in creating the revision. This last review period allows the opportunity for any individual to disagree with any change by suggesting the action be reversed. If undertaken, a Notice of Intent to Make a Motion at the Annual Meeting (NITMAM) is filed, and if it meets the NFPA criteria, the individual then tries to persuade the NFPA members at their annual meeting to overturn prior committee action. This brings the standard to its original language before the change.

Even if NFPA members don’t want to reverse any committee actions, there is still a last opportunity if the individual submitting a NITMAM makes an appeal to the NFPA Standards Council. The council then holds a hearing where both sides of a particular issue argue their case on any specific action taken on the standard. For NFPA 1970, given some of the controversies that have arisen during the revision process, a NITMAM or appeal or both are entirely possible.

**SIGNIFICANT CHANGES AFFECTING TURNOUT GEAR REQUIREMENTS**

The most significant changes to NFPA 1971 deal less with the fundamental performance of turnout gear and more with new issues that are of increasing importance to many firefighters. These include three major areas:

(1) addressing PFAS and restricted substances in gear;

(2) examining the impact of fireground contamination on gear and its overall durability; and

(3) ensuring consistent performance for the entire ensemble.

***PFAS and restricted substances.***PFAS has become a touchstone for several firefighters, which has already resulted in different industry changes affecting gear, whether through the enactment of regulations requiring full disclosure of PFAS in gear by manufacturers in some states to several material suppliers transitioning certain of their fabrics to non-PFAS versions. As part of the current draft NFPA 1971 revision, **several changes have been proposed to require the measurement of PFAS in gear and apply criteria for acceptable levels according to many practices already used in the general apparel industry.** Also included are measuring levels and applying limits for other “restricted substances” such as lead and other heavy metals, residual chlorinated solvents, certain process chemicals, and over 300 different chemicals according to the globally accepted criteria. ***In essence, the new requirements simply impose what are deemed already existing voluntary practices followed by several manufacturers and material suppliers, including many of those providing firefighter PPE.*** In addition, additional enabling language has been proposed that permits manufacturers to make a “PFAS-free” claim when testing demonstrates PFAS at a level below a specified measurement limit. Further to this topic, labeling of gear in terms of identifying materials will become more explicit in describing their composition.

***Other PFAS-related changes were proposed and are in the second draft to lessen some criteria that are applied to moisture barriers, namely in removing the light degradation resistance test, replacing the viral penetration resistance test with a different blood borne pathogen protection test, interchanging fire-resistant hydraulic fluid with mineral oil-based hydraulic fluid, and reducing the heat exposur***e. These changes were proposed to make it easier to introduce non-PFAS moisture barriers, where these criteria have been perceived as inhibiting alternative moisture barriers difficult. However, no changes were made that would diminish the heat stress impact of moisture barriers on firefighters. Instead, the committee added a supplemental test for measuring a property called evaporative resistance (in addition to the total heat loss requirement already in place).

***Cleaning ease and durability.*** The ability to clean clothing effectively has been an escalating fire service concern, particularly when some studies and cleaning verification test data from different independent service providers show contamination removal rates close to only 50%. To address this area, the committee has introduced requirements for measuring how well individual garment, hood and helmet materials can be cleaned for removing both organic and heavy metal fireground contaminants. While no minimum criteria have been set, manufacturers must report the levels of contaminant removal that have been attained. Additionally, a test measuring the ability to remove diesel fuel from outer shell materials so there is no residual chemical present on the material capable of igniting has been put into the second draft for reporting purposes. For helmets, stronger criteria with a new test method have been added to assess how easily soft goods (i.e., ear covers, sweatbands, chin straps  and nape devices, but excluding suspension system softgoods) can be removed for better cleaning because some data have shown very high levels of contamination on the suspension system following fireground exposures.

More frequent cleaning, along with changes in material technology, may have an impact on gear service life, even when properly maintained. For this reason, some older tests specific to protective garments now include more rigorous preconditioning of samples in a way to better replicate expected use conditions to assess if reductions in material strength and other properties occur. While the UV light test was removed for moisture barriers, it is being applied in a manner more consistent with gear exposure by exposing the outer shell.

***Consistent gear protection performance.****Perhaps one of the more momentous changes in the next edition will include the proposed mandatory particulate blocking capability for all hoods for structural firefighting*. In the 2018 edition, particulate blocking hoods were an option. Yet, ***with the new edition, all structural firefighting hoods would need to effectively filter out soot and other fireground particles to allow certification***. In fact, this requirement will now apply to hood seams with performance evaluated after the same ruggedized conditioning indicated above. New sizing requirements for hoods are being added, recognizing multiple sizes may be needed for the less elastic particulate blocking hoods. This requirement is being added to ensure adequate fit and protection.

An optional set of criteria for overall ensemble protection against particulates and liquids have been updated to focus mainly on the garment and to provide more quantitative procedures so that manufacturers can demonstrate better contamination protection from soot and other fire scene particles. The new NFPA 1970 will also include an annex for a number of full ensemble tests that look at systems level insulation, heat stress, and mobility that manufacturers or fire departments can use to get a better perspective for how all the parts of the ensemble affect their protection, comfort and function.

***Other changes.***New or updated criteria and test methods have been added to address the use of electronic equipment used in gear from the standpoint of not contributing new hazards as well as retaining its intended performance after high heat exposures. A more realistic test to evaluate DRD deployment was added. Many other tests have either been updated or otherwise improved to address repeatability and offer better assessments.

**CHANGES FOR NEW-EDITION SCBA**

There is a much shorter list for upcoming changes addressing SCBA design, performance, labeling, and user information in the NFPA 1981 portion of new NFPA 1970. This is primarily because the fire service and industry consider the SCBA to have evolved to a still relevant level of optimal minimum performance.

**Primary revisions related to electronic safety and capabilities**

In the new edition, electrical safety will be addressed more robustly, which is important given that more functions for SCBA have become electronic in nature.

***These new criteria have been scrutinized to ensure that the electronics and related connections of electronic or electrical SCBA components can be rated for explosion environments in at least one of five defined explosion protection categories***. This includes both nonincendive (electrical/electronic circuitry that is incapable, under normal operating conditions, of causing ignition of a specified flammable gas-air, vapor-air, or dust-air mixture due to arcing or thermal means) and system intrinsic electrical safety as defined by Underwriters’ Laboratory standards.

**More modern connectivity and interfaces**

SCBAs that include a wired connection to portable radio components complying to NFPA 1802 will be required to include appropriate radio frequency (Bluetooth) connectors that are specified in NFPA 1802 design criteria. The new edition of the standard will also establish criteria for wireless interfaces in SCBA to other devices where used, particularly for indicating the status and reliability of the connection, which may be in the heads-up display (HUD) or other location on the SCBA but has to be discernable by the end user when the facepiece is worn. ***The indicator has to show both when the device is paired with the SCBA and when the connection is lost.***

**Clarification and modification of EOSTI and HUD display requirements**

Another significant change has been to specify at what percentage of pressure remaining in each size of cylinder the end-of-service time indicator (EOSTI) alarm will activate instead of specifying 35% for all cylinders. In the new standards, the smallest cylinder, at 2,216 PSIG, will now have to alarm at 34% of the overall cylinder rated-pressure, which is graduated to progressively lower percentages for larger cylinders (e.g., for a 6,000-PSIG cylinder, the EOSTI will have to alarm when the pressure reaches 28% of the cylinder-rated pressure). Moreover, the heads-up display signals and visual indicators will become related to remaining air volumes at 100%, 75%, 50%, and 35%.

**Design for ease of cleaning**

***As with apparel, the new NFPA 1981 requirements will place requirements on manufacturers to make it easier for end users for removing harness straps, padding, and other soft goods in the design of their SCBA so that these items can be separately cleaned, if deemed necessary as the result of fireground exposures. This change will further enable easier future replacement.***

**Additional changes**

Further, some testing technology in the NFPA 1981 standard has been updated to more modern techniques. For example, the specifications for the breathing machine that uniquely evaluates how the SCBA maintains positive pressure inside the facepiece at a rate of 100 liters per minute (as compared to the 40 lpm used by NIOSH) was updated. In addition, more robust instructions for cleaning and disinfection of SCBA will now have to be provided by manufacturers.  Finally, the requirement for indicating a low battery has been changed from two hours to one.

**ADDITIONAL MATTERS BEFORE AND AFTER APPROVAL**

At this juncture, a great deal of what is likely to come to fruition in the next editions of NFPA 1971 for turnout gear and NFPA 1981 for SCBA is reasonably well known. Nevertheless, in the consensus process followed by NFPA, it is possible that some of these changes may be questioned and even removed at the NFPA June 2024 Annual Meeting (open to all NFPA members and guests) and/or the subsequent Standards Council meeting where complaints or appeals about the new edition may be heard. For this reason, while many changes can be anticipated, they are not final until the Standards Council rules in August 2024 to issue the new NFPA 1970 standard.

It is also recognized that the standard may include errors or other problems, some of which have already been identified by the committees, after the second draft is completed. To correct the standard, there is the intent of proposing amendments to the standard as the revision process is completed so that both the amendments and approved final draft come together at the same time with a fully corrected standard. For example, the committee has already identified that some tweaks will be needed for addressing PFAS and restricted substances requirements in gear. It is possible that an amendment may also be considered for SCBA even though this topic was not addressed in the first or second drafts of the NFPA 1981 revision.

Once the standard is approved, there is the matter of implementation, itself a controversial issue. As now stated in the proposed 2024 edition of NFPA 1970, an 18-month “grace” period is allowed for existing certified products to be retested and meet all the new requirements. This allowance is made to permit all the different products to be tested once the requirements of the standard are fully known as well as permitting laboratories to establish the capabilities needed for any new testing. This grace period only extends to already-certified products. As of the effective date of the new standard, any new products must meet just the new requirements; the older edition cannot be applied.

Lastly, the standard designation “1970” would be expected to cause some confusion. Fortunately, the NFPA and the committee had the foresight to retain the older designations (“1971” and “1981”) within the consolidated standard so that these numbers will still appear on the label and can be used in specifications.

**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** | **56+1= 57** |
| **Last fire death 10/21 Little Falls, Herkimer Co. Female, 64** | |
| **Fire Deaths in any type of Dwelling in NYS** | **120+1 = 121** |
| **Fire Deaths in 1&2 Family Dwellings Nationally** | **1040 + 17= 1057** |
| **Top 3 States with the greatest 1&2 Family Deaths** | **1 PA = 66** |
|  | **2 NY = 57** |
|  | **3 OH & CA= 50** |
| **There has been a total of 1681 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.**

**THE LIGHTER SIDE!**

**I just failed my driving test. When the examiner asked me, “what sign would you expect to see down a narrow country road?” Apparently ‘fresh eggs for sale’ was not the answer he was looking for!!**

**Happen’n in the neighborhood!!**

Send in any activities you wish to have advertised!!

**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.***

**Capital Area BUSINESS PARTNER’S**

***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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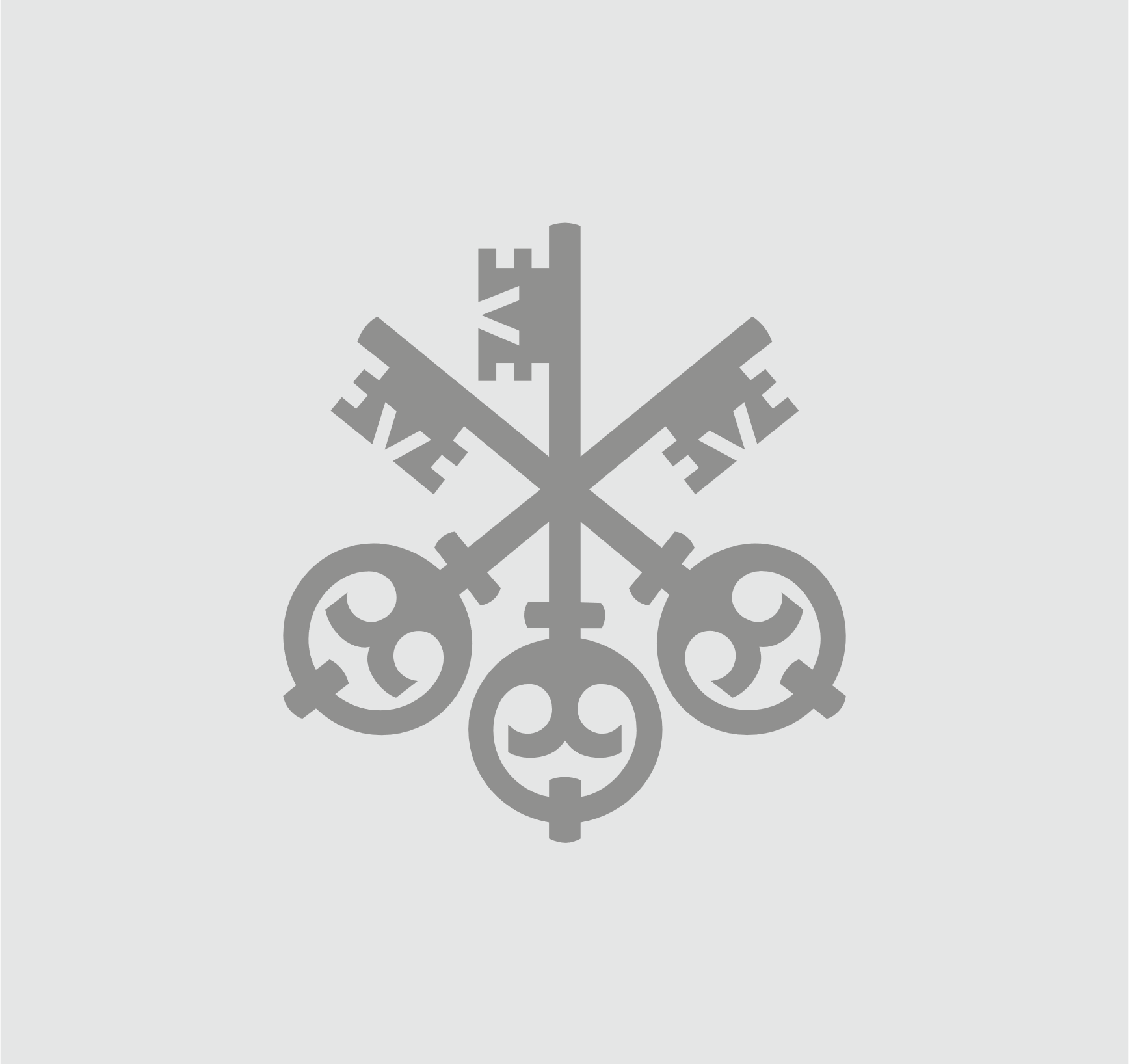
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518-785-0134

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<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**