



CAPITAL AREA FIRE DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION (CAFDA)

BULLETIN

YOUR FIRE DISTRICT NEWS SOURCE

DECEMBER 2, 2023

EDITOR - TOM RINALDI

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!!
- The 2024 Installation Dinner will be held on **Saturday, March 9th** 6-10pm at the **Century House in Latham**. More details to follow.
- [GO TO THE END OF THE BULLETIN FOR OUR ANNOUNCEMENT OF FINANCIAL TRAINING FOR FIRE DISTRICT OFFICIALS, ALSO POSTED TO OUR WEB SITE AT CAFDA.NET](#)

CAFDA NEWS AND OPPORTUNITIES:

WWW.CAFDA.NET

Four Convenient Locations to take the required Commissioner's training - - consult the Events Calendar at the end of this Bulletin.

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

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

December, *No Meeting Happy 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.

PREPARE FOR ANOTHER EXCITING LOCAL OFFERING – FEBRUARY 2024

Financial Training for Fire District Officials

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 Halfmoon-Waterford Fire District #1 at 315 Middletown Road. GO TO THE LAST PAGE!



The New CAFDA Website Is Live, Same Happy People, New Name!!

Go to www.CAFDA.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@cafdanet

treasurer@cafdanet

STATE ASSOCIATION NEWS:

WWW.AFDNYS.ORG

AFDSNY EDWARD “NED” CARTER SCHOLARSHIPS FOR 2024

The Association of Fire Districts of the State of New York is pleased to announce that the “Ned Carter” Scholarship Program will continue in 2024. Program information and an application package will be available online for students to apply. We are in the process of finalizing the application form. Please check on our website at <https://www.afdsny.org/application.php> for further information on the program. To file an application students will be able to use the application window at that website address after the application form is finalized. These scholarships are available to New York State High School Seniors who will be graduating in June 2024.

To be considered for this honor, applications must be submitted online or by email by March 6, 2024, or postmarked by March 1, 2024

The scholarship applicant (student) must:

- be related to a firefighter or,
- be a firefighter or,
- be related to a fire district commissioner, fire district secretary, fire district treasurer or deputy treasurer, a fire district administrator/manager or,
- be an explorer in a fire department, and
- the fire district / fire department must be a current member in good standing of the Association of Fire Districts of the State of New York.

AFDSNY awards four (4) scholarships a year for \$1,500 each, to graduating high school seniors who plan to attend a two (2) or four (4) year institution of higher education and will be pursuing a community service-related career. This may include but is not limited to fire service, EMS, nursing, social work, health related services, teaching, paramedic, etc.

Good standing means a dues paying member. A “dues paying member” for purposes of the scholarship application process and the awarding of a scholarship is an organization that is a current member in good standing of the Association of Fire Districts of the State of New York. ***Good standing is established for purposes of this process by the district or department’s AFDSNY 2024 dues having been paid by March 1, 2024. Timely payment of 2024 dues will make a student in your jurisdiction eligible to be considered for a scholarship award.***

Each year a certain number of applications are rendered ineligible by the failure of a member organization to pay dues in a timely manner.

All applicants must use the AFDNY application forms. All applications must be received by March 6, 2024.

Applications submitted via USPS must be postmarked no later than March 1, 2024.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact Director Tim Deveny who serves as the Chairperson of our Scholarship Committee. Mr. Deveny can be reached by email at tdeveny@afdsny.org or by telephone at 800520-9594.

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

The First Annual CAFDA Regional Conference - Spring 2024

For Fire District Officials, 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.

IF NOTHING ELSE READ THE ARTICLES PRECEDED BY **

THE LATEST FROM THE STATE CAPITAL

*****State Fire Training Stipend and Grant Program Announced***

- A \$25 million State Grant program, SFY2023-2024 Volunteer Fire Infrastructure & Response Equipment Grant Program (V- FIRE) This program is a request for applications for up to \$1 mill in funding to support construction, renovation or purchase costs of critical facilities that support fire operations as well as purchase of allowable fire

Service equipment. Funds will be awarded competitively on the review of applications submitted by eligible volunteer fire departments.

- State Funded Stipend Program for Training, GML 200-aa.
 - Regulation 9 NYCRR Part 215 allows implementation of a payment of a stipend to volunteer firefighters for the completion of certain training programs. Authorizes OFPC to administer stipends to volunteer firefighters with state funding. Also authorizes Volunteer Fire Departments or AHJ's to pay local stipends subject to local available funding for certain courses identified by OFPC.

GML-200-aa:

- The governing board of a city, town, village or fire district may, by local law, ordinance or resolution, authorize a fire company to provide training stipends to volunteer firefighters.
- The office of fire prevention and control may make available state funds through a training stipend to volunteer firefighters for completion of certain firefighter training, as identified and published by the office of fire prevention and control. (BFO \$750, IFO \$1250 & Fire Officer 1 \$1,00) The firefighter training stipends are given out after completion of training.
- Additionally, a local fire training stipend may be authorized for the completion of any OFPC training course or equivalents, as determined by OFPC, up to \$500.
- No volunteer firefighter may receive a training stipend from both a volunteer fire company pursuant to subdivision two of this section and the office of fire prevention and control pursuant to subdivision three of this section for completion of the same firefighter training. Stipend applications must be submitted by the fire chief.
- Any training stipend provided under this section shall not be deemed remuneration or gratuity under the volunteer firefighters' benefit law or any other provision of law and shall not interfere with or impact the volunteer status of volunteer firefighters under the volunteer firefighters' benefit law or any other provision of law.

Information is being rolled out by County Fire Coordinators

2024 NYS Fire Service Alliance, Issues of United Concern

The fire service organizations assembled in Troy, NY today to discuss their fire service legislative agendas for the 2023-2024 legislative sessions. In a departure from previous years the group identified several areas of mutual interest where a number of pieces of legislation might be introduced to benefit the fire service in New York State. The areas of common concern are:

- Firefighter Benefits
- EMS
- Building Codes
- Recruitment and Retention

Under these headings several pieces of legislation may be developed during the session beginning on January 1st. As the list is finalized additional information will be provided. The final list is supposed to be finalized by December 21st. More information will be provided when received and the list is refined.

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, the other fire service organizations have been briefed and will be supporting the legislation.

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 thereof, 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 CONGRESS

[National Fire Service Organizations Urge Congress to Protect America's Fire and Emergency Services](#)

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. **Ask Congress to Adequately Fund and Reauthorize AFG and SAFER](#)**

[CONTACT YOUR SENATORS AND REPRESENTATIVE: https://www.votervoice.net/NVFC/Campaigns/98446/Respond](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

[NY Fire Department to End Random Drug Testing for Cannabis](#)

Ted Remsnyder, The Daily Gazette

The Schenectady Fire Department will halt random drug testing for cannabis among city firefighters under a new proposal from the agency. The department has reached an agreement with the Local 28 firefighters' union to remove cannabis from the list of 10 drugs for which members are currently screened.

[Under the proposal, drug testing for cannabis will remain in place for pre-employment candidates and for incidents with cause for current employees.](#)

The policy change will go into effect immediately *if the City Council approves the fire department's proposal.* In a legislative request to the City Council, Fire Chief Donald Mareno states, until a reliable test for cannabis impairment is available, the department is recommending that random drug testing for cannabis be discontinued. "In our testing policy currently, we test for pre-employment, for random testing and if there's an issue," Mareno said on Friday. "The problem with random testing is that, if you test someone and they test positive, it doesn't mean that they're impaired or partook while they were on duty or before they came on duty, it just means they finally have it in their system for 30 days."

The state Marijuana Regulation and Taxation Act was signed into law in March 2021 by then-Gov. Andrew Cuomo legalizing recreational cannabis for residents ages 21 and over.

Schenectady's first recreational cannabis dispensary Upstate Canna Co. opened in April on upper Union Street. With cannabis legalized, Mareno said ***the department is focused on identifying impairment caused by cannabis use amongst its staff.***

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:

*****Reinvent Or Refocus? How Fire Service Leaders Should Direct Their Energy***

Chief Marc Bashoor

We hear a lot of discussions that start something like, “The problem with the fire service is” Those discussions usually lead to epiphanies that start something like, “We need to reinvent the way we”

Let’s be real. ***Most of our fire service problems revolve around a lack of effective leadership.*** Don’t agree with me? Then YOU are likely part of the problem. The good news: You can be part of the solution. All of us can.

WHAT IT MEANS TO LEAD

Leadership isn’t about advanced degrees, operational experience, political prowess, speaking at conferences, recruitment and retention success, grant writing or the host of other things we deal with every day. **Leadership in its plainest terms is about taking people where they need to be.**

Education, training and career development in general are all critical components of building your leadership skills. In addition to *many* other topics, leadership will include dealing with ALL the issues referenced above. The key: We cannot let these issues alone define our leadership.

CULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

You’ve probably noticed that when people discuss the ails of the fire service, the concept of generational differences inevitably finds its way into the mix. We were all raised in unique cultures and environments, and in general, we adapt our own style and belief systems based on that culture and environment.

I’d like to think that we all have certain core expectations of human decency and ethical efficacy. It is those beliefs and that basis I’ll use to make the case that ***we don’t need to reinvent ANYTHING. We simply need to lead.***

YOU, chief, are responsible for fostering a culture within your organization that not only values human decency and promotes sound ethical behavior, but also values diverse opinions and cultural differences. YOU need to foster a culture that provides for an inclusive environment where everyone feels valued and appreciated. A tall order by any measure but one for which YOU are ultimately responsible.

Successful organizational cultures embrace atmospheres that promote inclusion and place high value on training and professional development. The organization isn’t about “the chief” or any one person; it’s about providing service and about the brotherhood and sisterhood.

This does NOT mean you need to reinvent anything – except maybe yourself. Just as we’ve evolved past bucket brigades, open cabs, back steps, rubber coats, three-quarter boots and D-cell flashlights, we have also evolved past a firefighting force that is made up, almost exclusively, of white men. ***Leading in 2023 requires forward-thinking chiefs who embrace this evolution and who understand that this isn’t their grandfather’s fire department any longer.***

GRANDMA JONES DOESN’T CARE

Our internal organizational struggles will only be distractions when the bell rings. WE as chiefs must lead our people and our organizations through all periods of change in a way that builds internal and external trust. The fire service mission focuses on the work – “where the rubber meets the road” – and the public trusts that we’ll be there for them at the right time, with the right people and equipment, to do the right thing.

In the past, I’ve introduced you to Grandma Jones. ***In their darkest moments, NO ONE who needs the fire department cares about the complexity of your leadership. NO ONE cares whether you’re a man or a woman, nor whether you’re part of or affiliated with any particular demographic, religious or political group. Grandma Jones doesn’t ask to send the paid firefighters or the volunteers; she simply asks for help.***

FOCUS ON THE MISSION ... AND THE FUTURE

Again, I contend that we don't need to reinvent anything; in fact, maybe it would be better said that we just need to refocus. Less focus on "us" and more on the mission. Answering Grandma Jones' calls for help MUST be our primary mission focus. *It is imperative that you preach the avoidance of mission-creep into areas that don't directly and indirectly support the service mission.*

It is also important to understand that our service mission includes all the common community risk reduction (CRR) strategies that help improve safety in our communities. Those CRR strategies help us focus on critical needs, like broader residential sprinkler requirements and political advocacy for better fire safety resources in our communities – all things that need leadership and will improve conditions for Grandma Jones.

This really is all about leadership. If you feel like you have to say, "We need to reinvent ...," well, then *maybe your need to reinvent yourself.*

OUR CHANGING FIRE SERVICE –CHALLENGES & OPPORTUNITIES!

OPPORTUNITIES:

CHALLENGES:

[More Than 32,000 Hybrid Jeep Wrangler SUVs Recalled Because Of Potential Fire Risk](#)

Automaker Stellantis on Wednesday announced a recall of more than 32,000 of its hybrid Jeep Wrangler SUVs because they pose a potential fire risk. As part of what the company described as a routine review of customer information, Stellantis determined that eight of the hybrid Wranglers had caught fire while they were turned off and parked. Six of the vehicles were being charged when the fires started. The company said it doesn't believe anyone was hurt in the fires.

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



[Understanding Solar and ESS Technologies: Information for Emergency Responders](#)

Date & Time Wednesday, December 6, 2023 02:00 PM

Join the NVFC for this webinar presented by Charles Picard of Tesla that provides a brief overview of solar and energy storage system (ESS) technologies, design concepts, and safety considerations for emergency responders. A library of tools and resources will be provided to assist responders in making appropriate operational decisions when responding to emergencies involving these products. Topics covered will include best practices for identification, assessment, and proper shut down procedures.

REGISTER AT THIS LINK: https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_MjQadFfnTyONgTONJCvROw#/registration



BY  McNeil & Co.

[Caught on Camera! ESIP WEBINAR SERIES](#)

Smile, you're on camera! No matter where you go, it's safe to say that there could be a camera running. During this webinar, we are going to look at the presence of cameras in our world, the legal considerations, and what you should consider while working on behalf of our organizations.

Wednesday, December 6th at 7:00PM

REGISTER AT THIS LINK:

<https://mcneilandcompany.us8.list-manage.com/track/click?u=03596f243a9d922954ebaf15e&id=d84a137799&e=781e9a2c81>

2024 EVOC Train the Trainer Courses

Now Scheduled!

This course is intended to prepare a qualified instructor to provide high quality training to their agency membership in the safe operation of vehicles in response and non-response modes. We discuss the operation of emergency vehicles, personal vehicles and special vehicles when operating on behalf of their agency.

2024 Dates:

These times are all Eastern Standard Time

January 8th:

3:00pm **FIRE** 7:00pm **EMS**

April 8th:

3:00pm **EMS** 7:00pm **FIRE**

July 15th:

3:00pm **FIRE** 7:00pm **EMS**

October 7th:

3:00pm **EMS** 7:00pm **FIRE**

Topics include:

- Risk Management
- Intersection Safety
- Response Driving
- Defensive Driving
- Discussion regarding the hazards and challenges of vehicle operations.

We also prepare the instructor candidate in teaching how to perform a complete maintenance inspection and having students perform safe driving skills practice.

Pricing:

ESIP Insureds: Free

Non- ESIP Insured: \$200 per student

Register
Here!



SCAN ME

For questions about this course or other Risk Management offerings:

Call: 1 800 822 3747 ext. 176

Email: RiskManagement@mcneilandcompany.com



Bring NYSAFC Training to Your Area

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

Company Officers Leadership Training COLT 2024

NYSAFC's [Company Officers Leadership Training \(COLT\)](#) is a two-day leadership development program for current and aspiring company officers featuring the lectures:

- **“Leading from the Middle – Challenges for Front Line Officers”** with Chief **Tom LaBelle** (Prince William County [VA] Fire & Rescue)
- **“Tactical Considerations with Minimal Staffing”** & **“The Leadership Journey in the Fire Service”** with Chief **Tony Perez** (Pasco County [FL] Fire Rescue)
- **“Improving Company Level Operations”** with Lt. **Hector Lopez**, Deputy Chief **Tom May**, & Captain **Ed Tracey** (Rochester F.D.)

Fulton County, January 12-13 2024, Berkshire Fire Department • 320 Steele Avenue Ext. • Gloversville, NY 12078

Registration (per person):

\$200 – NYSAFC members

\$225 – non-members

Pre-registration is encouraged. New –

online registration available for departments!

REGISTER AT THIS LINK:https://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001Xydryrcjpr9ytJAzhPu_Z4BMAoLB-kJ_I7mo2ltSI239rNjTz1ZyifU9Zi32aSPeOpHD0r9HQFO0P4kjiONoqplfXk_MorV9y1V6Npdri30dOgzl8wweyZ0FMEAgzz2k8R4OwMgH3mbm6KyIvDjRgJ_zY5xgjn&c=Z1RoMp5f8GFFFXy-ymay2CiNOOWG_70T5_28cZmkAfTIZW8VOCIC9w==&ch=zarDiKetiVikbXMn7UWEyxB5HEgTxMD5u3OJb3XFA7dGnVnQ_TgwQTA==

VFIS TRAINING AND RESOURCE CATALOG 2023

<https://afdca.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/2023-ETC-Resource-Catalog-VFIS.pdf>

VFIS UNIVERSITY – USERS GUIDE

<https://afdca.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/VFIS-University-User-Guide-3.pdf>

VFIS TRAINING OFFICER USERS GUIDE

<https://afdca.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/VFISU-Training-Officer-User-Guide.pdf>

VFIS RESPONDER HELP FLYER

<https://afdca.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/2023-VFIS-Responder-Help-Flyer.pdf>

THE SAFETY OFFICER – TAKING CARE OF OUR MEMBERS!

*IN 2023 WE HAVE SADLY EXPERIENCED **78** FIRE FIGHTER LODD'S*

*According to FirefighterCloseCalls.com**

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

You Just Never Know!

- Forest Bend Fire Department (Webster, Texas near Houston) Fire Chief John Norris has died in the Line of Duty. Chief Norris is the husband of nationally known Fire Chaplain Wendy Norris. Chief Norris died of a heart attack at home after operating at a structure fire in Friendswood, Texas
 - Chief Stegbauer and Captain Skaggs of the Concord-Green, Ohio fire department were utilizing a lift to make repairs to the radio tower outside the firehouse when the lift tipped over, ejecting both of them from the tower basket from several feet in the air.
 - 74 year old Whitney Texas Fire Department safety officer Daniel Potts died last Friday at the firehouse while preparing to respond to a call.
 - Tow Truck Operator and Volunteer Firefighter Wade R. Bivins, 57, of East Carondelet Illinois, died Wednesday when he was hit by a passing vehicle while he was working to remove a broken down vehicle at milepost 6 near Columbia in Monroe County, authorities said.
-

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

Local Government and School Accountability Contact Information:

Phone: (518) 474-4037; **Email:** 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

LIVING WITH NEW GREEN TECHNOLOGY – – HOT TOPIC!

Fire Safety Precautions In NY E-Bike Shops Would Be Required Under Proposed Bill

Tim Balk, NY Daily News

(NOTE: Bill Numbers have yet to be assigned to these proposed regulations)

Shops that peddle e-bikes would be required to implement enhanced fire safety precautions under a newly introduced bill in Albany. Shops in New York State that peddle e-bikes would be required to implement enhanced fire safety precautions under a newly introduced bill in Albany aimed at curbing New York City's e-bike fire crisis.

The legislation, which would mandate automatic fire monitoring and Class B extinguishers in e-bike shops, is part of a package of e-bike safety bills proposed by state Sen. Iwen Chu, a Dyker Heights, Brooklyn, Democrat. Another bill would set new standards for e-bike batteries.

“There is an urgency here,” Chu said in an interview. “We’re working to save lives.”

Since New York City lifted its e-bike ban in 2018, the devices have proliferated across the city, posing a growing safety challenge. E-bikes are powered by flammable lithium-ion batteries that can spark fast-moving infernos.

Overall this year, the city Fire Department had recorded 243 fires, 124 injuries and 17 deaths related to lithium-ion batteries through last Monday.

In June, four people perished in an early morning fire that billowed from an e-bike repair store on Madison St. in Manhattan’s Chinatown. Fire officials determined that a lithium-ion battery for an e-bike generated the blaze. The shop had previously been flagged for violations.

And this month, an e-bike blaze ripped through a brownstone in Crown Heights, Brooklyn, killing three people. The fire was attributed to a lithium-ion battery.

Officials have grasped for solutions to reduce the risks, increasing enforcement efforts against sketchy bike stores that recklessly handle the batteries, pushing for new product safety standards and passing measures prohibiting sales of uncertified bikes and batteries.

Chu’s legislative package would also require testing and certification for batteries used in e-bikes and e-scooters in New York State, building on city legislation. And it would force retailers to plaster notices on e-bikes reminding their users that they cannot ride on sidewalks.

E-bikes and e-scooters riding down congested sidewalks make for a frequent but frustrating presence across the city. Chu said her constituents often complain about the issue in her Brooklyn district.

The senator said she hopes to pass her bills in the next legislative session, which begins this winter. Her legislative push joins an ongoing effort in the City Council to force delivery apps to cover the costs of safe, certified e-bikes or other electric transport devices for their city workers.

“We’re still discussing the specifics of the bill, and are hoping to get it to the finish line very soon,” City Councilman Oswald Feliz, the Bronx Democrat who introduced the Council proposal, said in a text Friday. “Everyone must play a role in resolving the fire safety challenges we’re seeing.”

And in Washington, Rep. Ritchie Torres, a Bronx Democrat, and Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand, an Albany Democrat, introduced bipartisan legislation this year to stiffen product safety standards for lithium-ion batteries used in e-bikes and e-scooters.

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	71
Last fire death 11/26, Clarence, Erie Co. Female 62	
Fire Deaths in any type of Dwelling in NYS	142
Fire Deaths in 1&2 Family Dwellings Nationally	1183
Top 3 States with the greatest 1&2 Family Deaths	1 PA = 72
	2 NY = 71
	3 OH = 58

There has been a total of **1900** 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.

RETAIN AND RECRUIT...

Missouri FD Reaches Out To Schools To Keep Up Staffing

St. Joseph News-Press

With the recent retirements of two longtime members of the St. Joseph Fire Department, officials are implementing new ways of bringing in younger recruits.

Assistant Fire Chief Jamey McVicker says that, despite recruitment challenges to all government agencies in recent years, staffing in his department has remained strong.

"Our staffing state right now is good. We have a good pool to pick from," he said. "We still have some depth. We are 131 strong."

Some of that "pool" will come from new recruitment efforts through local high schools.

"We're actually getting ready to start a process of contacting the schools and actually getting into local high schools to let them know who we are, how we educate to get to where we are today," McVicker said.

This recruitment includes initial minimum training in courses called Firefighter 1 and 2 along with EMS training. It adds up to about 150 hours of training new firefighters are required to have.

"They train with our people, our equipment, our policies and our procedures," McVicker said.

In addition, there are continuing education requirements for those already on the job. Most of that includes maintaining EMT and EMS licenses.

"This is done through online education, as well as hands-on training," McVicker said. "For fire and rescue, we do continuous training throughout the year."

Hillyard Technical School recently ended its fire training school, and McVicker said the St. Joseph Fire Department is attempting to work with North Central Missouri College, which just opened a new campus in Savannah, to establish a program.

While bringing new members into the department is important, McVicker said it's just part of a process to keep its ranks strong.

"The experience we lose after a 40-year retirement of a battalion chief is just something you can't replace," he said. "You just try to reload the ranks and do the best you can and keep our public safe."

THE LIGHTER SIDE!

A *Pessimist* sees a dark tunnel, an *Optimist* sees light at the end of the tunnel, a *Realist* sees a freight train, the *Engineer* sees three idiots standing on the tracks.

CAFDA OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

2024 OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

President: Tom Rinaldi, Commissioner Stillwater/Saratoga

1st VP: John Meehan, Commissioner West Crescent/Saratoga

2nd VP: Art Hunsinger, Commissioner Clifton Park Halfmoon/Saratoga

Board of Directors: Les Bonesteel Commissioner Burnt Hills/Saratoga, Fred Richards Commissioner Harmony Corners/Saratoga, Joyce Petkus Treasurer Greenfield/Saratoga, Ed Woehrl Commissioner Niskayuna #1/Schenectady and Mike Podolec Commissioner West Glenville/Schenectady

Secretary Lisa Diemer, Deputy Treasurer, Northumberland Fire District

Treasurer: Tony Hill

Sargent at Arms: Tom Wood, Commissioner, Northumberland Fire District

Chaplain: Fred Richards, Commissioner, Harmony Corners Fire District

Legal Council: Greg Serio, Safety Officer, Verdoz Fire District

The Capital Area Association represents any fire district that wishes to join CAFDA. Fire District Officials include Commissioners, Treasurers, and Deputy Treasurers. Secretaries and Chiefs are also invited to participate!

Please advise your secretaries that all correspondence should be mailed to:

CAFDA PO Box 242 East Schodack, NY 12063

[EMAIL TREASURER: TREASURER@CAFDA.NET](mailto:TREASURER@CAFDA.NET)

[518-407-5020](tel:518-407-5020)

[EMAIL SECRETARY: SECRETARY@CAFDA.NET](mailto:SECRETARY@CAFDA.NET)

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 the contiguous counties surrounding the capital district area.

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 Association of Fire District of the State of NY, 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 that join CAFDA!***

CAPITAL AREA BUSINESS PARTNER'S

PLEASE SUPPORT THOSE WHO SUPPORT US!!

Business Partner Applications Available At: WWW.CAFDA.NET

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

Write me at tom@rinaldi1.com

Please Support Those Who Support Us!!

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

LEGAL SERVICES

Young, Fenton, Kelsey & Brown, PC

General Practice Matters plus -
Fire Service Attorneys
1881 Western Ave. Suite 140
Albany, N.Y. 12203
518.456.6767

HANNIGAN LAW FIRM PLLC

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



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

Ducharme, Clark & Sovern, LLP

Jack Clark, Fire District Attorney
646 Plank Rd. Clifton Park, NY 12065
518-373-1482
Ducharmeclark.com

ARCHITECT/ ENGINEERS



Powered by partnership.
Architecture/Engineering/Code Services
Melissa Smith
Senior Marketing Manager
518-439-8235
4 British American Blvd
Latham, NY 12110



Mitchell Associates Architects
518-765-4571
Specializing in Fire Stations
www.mitchell-architects.com



architects
+
engineers



Architects & Engineers
3 Lear Jet Lane, Suite 205
Latham, NY 12110
518-765-5105
Dennis Ross, Dir of Emergency Services Market
www.H2M.com

C.T. Male Associates

Engineering, Surveying, Architecture, Landscape Architecture & Geology, D.P.C.

Single Source Responsibility
for all your
Essential Facility Design Services

www.ctmale.com
50 Century Hill Drive, Latham, NY 12110 518.786.7400

INSURANCE



Specializing in insurance for Fire Districts and
Departments

Dave Meager

31 Church Street Saratoga Springs, NY
518-584-5300x3243 dmeager@amsureins.com



John Caputo
Marketing Manager
One Blue Hill Plaza – 16th Floor
PO Box 1609
Pearl River, NY 10965
845.8855 X7011
Cell 631.601.5305
icaputo@fdmny.com
VFB/Workers' Comp Coverage

Haughey Insurance Agency

850 State Route 50
Burnt Hills, NY 12027
518-399-1583
www.haugheyagency.com



Contact Linda Flanagan
110 Main Street
Poughkeepsie, NY 12601
845-331-2255 X2768

"Insurance for First Responders"
<https://marshallsterling.com/linda-flanagan>

BANKING



JOHN M. LESNIEWSKI
Assistant Vice President and
Senior Business Banking Officer
Fulton/Montgomery Markets
12 Fremont Street, Gloversville, NY 12078
P: 518.775-5205 | M: 518.848-0612
NMLS ID 915694
www.nbtbank.com



Ballston Spa National Bank

PO Box 70
Ballston Spa, NY 12020
Deborah JR O'Connor
518.363.8119
Deborah.oconnor@bsnb.com



Bob Dignum
98B Troy Road
East Greenbush, NY 12061
518-479-2004
www.dignuminc.com
bob.dignum@nfp.com

PIONEER BANK

Member FDIC | Equal Housing Lender

David Farstad, Municipal Banking Officer
652 Albany-Shaker Road, Albany NY 12211
P/F: 518-730-3120
M: 518-506-0075
farstadd@pioneerbanking.com



Don McCormack

425 Main Street Catskill, NY 12414

www.tbogc.com

518.943.2600 X2109

donaldm@tbogc.com

Specializing in Fire Service Financing

LOSAP MANAGEMENT



Service Award Programs (LOSAP)

Anthony Hill ahill@fireflyadmin.com
President (518) 687-1400 (office)
www.fireflyadmin.com (518) 937-6174 (cell)



UBS Financial Advisors

Ralph Lemme, CFP
8 Southwoods Blvd Suite 207
Albany, NY 12211
518.445.1667

THE LOSAP GROUP



RBC Wealth Management

A division of RBC Capital Markets, LLC,
Member NYSE/FINRA/SIPC.

518-432-5087
838-433-7304 cell
www.thelosapgroup.com,



SERVICE AWARDS FOR FIRE & EMS
by McNeil&Co.

Nicole Meeker

Manager of Business Development & Accts

518-394-7894

Cell 607-423-4811

www.penflexinc.com

nmeeker@penflexinc.com

COMPUTER EQUIP & MGMT

White Wolf Computer, LLC * Leading the Pack



Managed Services
Cloud Hosted Solutions
Telephone Data Cabling
Backup Disaster Recovery
Web Design

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

FIRE EQ TESTING



Safety First Equipment Testing

99 Glass Lake Road
Averill Park, NY 12018

518-674-8363

www.safetyfirstfirehose.com

SCBA COMPRESSOR SERVICE



BAUER COMPRESSORS

Quality. Our DNA

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

DRYER VENT CLEANING



DRYER VENT WIZARD

JORDAN CATINO

8 NAPA COURT, SCHENECTADY, NY 12309

518-344-0664

SARATOGADRYERVENT.COM

INSURANCE



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

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



Carla West, Territory Sales Mgr
800-822-3747 ext 138
cwest@mcneilandcompany.com



A Division of Glafelter Insurance Group

Pat Daglio

pdaglio@vfis.com

717.819.3072

FIRE APPARATUS



LARRY GATES

SERVICE AND PARTS MANAGER
EASTERN APPARATUS SALES

1 SUPER 50 WAY, BALLSTON LAKE, NY 12019

larry.vmfire@verizon.net
www.vm-fire.com

(518) 926-0451

WARNING PACKAGES/REPAIRS BODY SHOP



Vehicle Repair, Warning Packages, Body Shop

78 Freemans Bridge Road, Glenville

518-377-5555

Veteran Owned Business

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

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

You Can Become an Individual 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 ASSOCIATION TWO POINTS OF CONTACT WILL SHARE INFORMATION

Name: _____ Email: _____

Name: _____ Email: _____

Fire Company if Different: _____

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

Name: _____ Email: _____

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

Annual budgets up to and including \$200,000	\$50.00
Annual budgets more than \$200,001 up to including \$400,000	\$100.00
Annual budgets more than \$400,001 up to including \$600,000	\$200.00
Annual budgets more than \$600,000	\$300.00
Associate/Individual membership fee (for individuals whose dist. is not a member)	\$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

Capital Area Meetings/Seminars/Trainings/Conference Dates (Subject to Change & Updated 11/6/2023)				
Day/Date	Time	Type	Location	Notes
2024				
Saturday, January 6, 2024	9:00 AM	General Membership Mtg.	Clifton Park	Organizational/Morning Meeting
Saturday, February 3, 2024	8:00 AM	Commissioner Training	Averill Park	Snowdate - Sunday, February 4, 2024
Thursday, February 8, 2024	7:00 PM	General Membership Mtg.	Clifton Park	
Thursday, February 29, 2024	8:00 AM	Financial Training for Fire District Officials	Halfmoon-Waterford	
Friday, March 1, 2024	8:00 AM		Fire District #1	
Saturday, March 2, 2024	8:00 AM	Commissioner Training	Halfmoon-Waterford Fire District #1	Snowdate - Sunday, March 3, 2024
Thursday, March 7, 2024	7:00 PM	General Membership Mtg.	Clifton Park	
Saturday, March 9, 2024	6:00 PM	Officer Installation	Century House	
Saturday, March 23, 2024	8:00 AM	Commissioner Training	Berkshire FD	Snowdate - Sunday, March 24, 2024
Saturday, April 6, 2024	8:00 AM	Commissioner Training	Warrensburg FD	Snowdate - Sunday, April 7, 2024
Thursday, April 11, 2024	7:00 PM	Board of Directors Meeting	Clifton Park	
Thursday, April 25 - Saturday April 27, 2024	TBD	CAFDA Conference	Fort William Henry Conference Center	Lake George
Thursday, May 9, 2024	7:00 PM	General Membership Mtg.	Clifton Park	
Thursday, June 6, 2024	7:00 PM	Board of Directors Meeting	Clifton Park	
JULY	NO MEETING			
Friday, August 9, 2024	1:00 PM	Membership Activity	Saratoga Race Course	NYRA Day at the Races!
AUGUST	NO MEETING			
Thursday, September 12, 2024	7:00 PM	General Membership Mtg.	Clifton Park	
Thursday, October 10, 2024	7:00 PM	General Membership Mtg.	Clifton Park	Officers/Director Nominations
Saturday, November 2, 2024	8:00 AM	Fall Workshop	Verdoy	
Thursday, November 7, 2024	7:00 PM	General Membership Mtg.	Clifton Park	Officer/Director Elections
DECEMBER	NO MEETING			
2025				
Saturday, January 4, 2025	9:00 AM	General Membership Mtg.	Clifton Park	Organizational/Morning Meeting

[CLICK ON PDF TO OPEN FIRE DISTRICT 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>



**FINANCIAL TRAINING FOR FIRE DISTRICT OFFICIALS THURSDAY,
FEBRUARY 29 - FRIDAY MARCH 1, 2024**

JOIN CAFDA FOR THIS ONE-OF-A-KIND EVENT! CAFDA has proudly partnered with the Office of the State Comptroller (OSC) to bring this FIRST OF ITS KIND event to the Capital Area!

Event Location: Halfmoon-Waterford Fire District #1 315 Middletown Road, Waterford

EVENT FLYER – TRAINING SESSIONS – REGISTRATION FORM

CONTROL/CLICK TO FOLLOW THIS LINK:

<https://cafda.net/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/2024-Financial-Training-for-Fire-District-Officials-Information-and-Registration-Documents.pdf>

REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN – ANY FIRE DISTRICT IS WELCOME TO REGISTER!