



# CAPITAL AREA FIRE DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION (CAFDA)

## BULLETIN

YOUR FIRE DISTRICT NEWS SOURCE

DECEMBER 9, 2023

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*Something for everyone in the Fire Service!!*

### CAPITAL SHORTS:

- Commissioner Training Registration at 4 local locations for 2024 Page 23
- The 2024 Installation Dinner will be held on **Saturday, March 9<sup>th</sup>** 6-10pm at the **Century House in Latham**. More details to follow, mark your calendar.
- [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](#)



- SKM\_C30823112811480.pdf **Quick Response, Hometown Heroes Night** at Santa's Playland, Monday December 18<sup>th</sup> 5-8PM, 2081 Route 9 Round Lake, NY – You must have a flyer for admission to event.

### CAFDA NEWS AND OPPORTUNITIES:

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

*Four Convenient Locations to take the required Commissioner's training - - see 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*

### General Membership Meetings - - In person and Zoom

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

**Printable Calendar with much more – See End of Bulletin**

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

### PREPARE FOR ANOTHER EXCITING LOCAL TRAINING EVENT – FEBRUARY 2024

#### Financial Training for Fire District Officials

**Mark your 2024 Calendar for a two-day seminar, February 29<sup>th</sup> & March 1<sup>st</sup> 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!**

**REGISTRATIONS ARE NOW BEING ACCEPTED!!**



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

Go to [www.CAFDA.net](http://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.

**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](mailto:tdeveny@afdsny.org) or by telephone at 800520-9594.

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**AFDSNY Mini Summit in White Plains**

Sponsored by **MRA International**

**AFDSNY Mini Summit White Plains, Sonesta Hotel in White Plains NY**

**April 26th & 27th, 2024**

**Registration Options:**

**Friday & Saturday \$250 per person**

*includes: Two days of sessions, breakfast, lunch, parking on Friday, breakfast, and parking on Saturday.*

**Friday Only \$200 per person**

*includes: Friday sessions, breakfast, lunch and parking on Friday*

**Saturday Only \$75 per person**

*includes Saturday session, breakfast and parking*

**Overnight Rooms:**

**Sonesta White Plains Downtown \$179 a night**

66 Hale Avenue

White Plains NY 10610

[Click Here to Reserve Your Room](#)

Or Call 1-800- SONESTA (766-37820)

**REGISTER AT THIS LINK:**

[https://mms.afdsny.org/members/evr/reg\\_event.php?orgcode=FDNY&evid=37358663](https://mms.afdsny.org/members/evr/reg_event.php?orgcode=FDNY&evid=37358663)

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

## **[The First Annual CAFDA Regional Conference - Spring 2024](#)**

For Fire District Officials, Coming CAPITAL AREA FIRE DISTRICT CONFERENCE April 25, 26 & 27<sup>th</sup> 2024 the CAFDA Spring Conference, a three-day conference to be held in Lake George and will be chocked full of information for Fire District Commissioners, Secretary's, Treasurers and Chiefs. An affordable conference at a local destination in the Capital Area. Watch for more Information as planning progresses.

**ALL FIRE DISTRICT OFFICIALS AND CHIEFS FROM ANY LOCATION IN THE STATE ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND**

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

**THE LATEST FROM THE STATE CAPITAL**

### **\*\*State Fire Training Stipend and Grant Program Announced [held over from last week]**

- 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 1<sup>st</sup>. As the list is finalized additional information will be provided. The final list is supposed to be finalized by December 21<sup>st</sup>. More information will be provided when received and the list is refined.

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***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>

***JUST FILL IN YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS AND HIT SEND MESSAGE AT THE BOTTOM, EASY!!***

### **THE ATTORNEY'S OFFICE**

#### **\*\*Family of Woman Killed in Wichita (KS) Apartment Fire Demands 911 Accountability, Changes**

Chance Swaim – The Wichita Eagle

[EDITOR'S NOTE: interesting legal concept and read!]

The family of Paoly Bedeski, a 22-year-old woman killed in a Wichita apartment fire last month, is calling for changes in the way Sedgwick County 911 handles emergency calls after a series of failures by call takers and dispatchers "cost Paoly her life." They're also calling for accountability.

The Sedgwick County Commission on Thursday announced they support an independent analysis of the entire emergency response but they're waiting for a recommendation from the Sedgwick County 911 Advisory Board.

"The Bedeski family is heartbroken and devastated over the loss of their beloved Paoly," the statement by the family's lawyer, Benjamin Winters of Patterson Legal Group, says.

It's the Bedeski family's first public statement since the Wichita Firefighters' Union gave a detailed presentation on Tuesday contending that 911 mishandled the fatal Oct. 13 apartment fire. The presentation revealed "obvious flaws and shortcomings in the operations of the 911 dispatch center in Sedgwick County," the family's statement says.

"The Bedeski family is reeling from the new knowledge of multiple errors that contributed to Paoly's untimely death," the statement says. "We now know that it was Paoly's 911 call that initiated the dispatch of firefighters to the Brookhollow Apartment building. ***Even though Paoly clearly and repeatedly told the dispatcher the apartment number where she lived and was trapped, that crucial, life-saving information was never given to the firefighters on the scene.***"

The statement points to two critical mistakes by Sedgwick County Emergency Communications that it says contributed to Bedeski's death: failure to notify firefighters that she was trapped in Apartment 306 and ***failure to sound a second alarm requested almost immediately by firefighters that would have triggered additional responders and firefighting resources.*** ***The second alarm was delayed more than 17 minutes, radio traffic shows.***

“These failures cost Paoly her life,” the Bedeski family’s statement says.

“The Bedeskis are now calling for immediate correction of these systemic issues and accountability for those responsible, emphasizing the need for adequate protection for the county’s residents.”

Bedeski called 911 in the early morning hours and reported that her apartment was on fire. She told the operator the name of her apartment complex and provided her apartment number multiple times while pleading for help. After 53 seconds, Bedeski became unresponsive and the call went silent, aside from buttons being pushed sporadically. The call-taker stayed on the line for 4 minutes and 54 seconds.

Wichita firefighters arrived on the scene of the apartment fire within seconds of the call ending. They’re trained to complete a rescue in a third-floor apartment such as Bedeski’s within 2 minutes and 30 seconds, if they know a victim is trapped in a specific location.

**But Sedgwick County 911 did not relay Bedeski’s information to firefighters.** Fire Union President Ted Bush said he’s confident the firefighters on the scene would have saved Bedeski’s life if 911 would have told them where she was.

Elora Forshee, director of Sedgwick County Emergency Communications, said Tuesday that Bedeski’s call “was not intelligibly heard or understood” by the dispatcher and “there was not any understanding or assumption that she was trapped.”

The audio recording from Bedeski shows she was distressed and told the dispatcher her apartment number multiple times, repeating it back to him when he asked.

The Sedgwick County administration is still sorting through details and plans to take direction from the Sedgwick County Emergency Communications Advisory Board, Assistant County Manager Rusty Leeds said Wednesday afternoon.

**One unanswered question is why the dispatcher did not replay Bedeski’s call if he had trouble understanding her. Leeds said dispatchers can play back calls.**

“They do have the ability to listen, to play back a call if they believe there’s a reason they need to or they thought they missed something,” Leeds told The Eagle. “There’s the capability there. We’ll get you a little more information on that as well.”

Bedeski’s family also pointed to delays in sounding a second alarm.

**“We now know, as the County admitted publicly, that the firefighter’s request for a second alarm and additional personnel to help at the scene was delayed for over 17 minutes because the dispatchers were not trained well enough on the computer aided dispatch system.”** Forshee on Tuesday acknowledged the mistake in not issuing a timely second alarm. “Our staff did make us aware of an issue regarding a delay in the full complement of a second alarm being sent,” she said.

“That delay and the issues that contributed to it were identified during the event, and as I mentioned, reported to 911 administration — both being reported as identified and remedied,” Forshee said. “They were discussed, they were trained, they were addressed on the spot. . . . We put out training for all shifts to ensure that this did not happen again.” Forshee said no one from 911 who handled the call has been disciplined.

“What the family is going through is terrible,” Leeds said. “I can’t imagine. Having it thrust into the limelight this week like it was has to be even more heartbreaking for them.”

“But I think that there’s conversations that still need to be had,” he said. “I think the fire union is presenting their perceptions and their perspectives. . . . I think there’s probably been communication issues, and there’s things that they aren’t aware of. *And I think 911 administration and the fire service chiefs and the other members of that advisory board need to have a conversation about this and again, they need to give some guidance on what they see as needed next steps and we will take their their guidance, their advice.*” What changes will come remain unknown.

“These conversations and steps will be thoughtful and thought-out and be intentional in what we do,” said Nicole Gibbs, county spokesperson. “We don’t want to rush the process. We want to make sure that everything is reviewed. We don’t want to drag it out, but we don’t want to rush it. We want to make sure it’s done properly.”

A Sedgwick County Commission news release on Thursday said the 911 advisory board will meet next week to work on recommendations for changes.

“Our focus and emphasis at this time is to hear from the 911 Advisory Board, which is made up of leadership from the first responder agencies that use our Emergency Communications system, and understand their recommendations moving forward,” the County Commissioners’ statement says. “It is our understanding they will meet in the next week

to review this incident solely. *Sedgwick County leadership supports an independent 3rd party comprehensive analysis that covers the initial call to 911 to the last fire personnel leaving the scene of this incident.*"

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## **Legal Battle Heats Up Between Dissolved Fire Department And Copenhagen**

Lexi Bruening

The legal battle between the village of Copenhagen (Lewis, County) and its dissolved fire department is heating up once again.

In new court documents, the village alleges the fire department continues to use vehicles and equipment it's prohibited from using.

Now, the village wants the vehicles, land, turn-out gear, and public money back.

In court documents filed last Monday, the village of Copenhagen accuses the Copenhagen Volunteer Fire Department, Inc. of bringing one of its vehicles to Copenhagen Central's "Trunk or Treat" on October 28, and believes someone under 18 drove and possibly damaged the vehicle.

A previous court order prohibits the fire department from using its vehicles for anything other than maintenance and it must notify the village if it does so. The department was dissolved in 2022 after a state audit found discrepancies in bookkeeping.

The village also accuses the fire department of using the vehicles for training.

The documents reveal that October 1 letters from the Copenhagen Volunteer Fire Department Inc. to the towns of Harrisburg and Pinckney asked if it could again provide fire protection to the towns, writing, "We have been advised by our legal advisor that the fire department could contract with any of the towns we had prior to the lawsuit."

Harrisburg and Pinckney were two towns that had a contract with the Copenhagen Fire Department before it had been dissolved by the village.

The letters also acknowledge the legal battle with the village may last for "multiple years."

The Copenhagen Volunteer Fire Department is also getting heat from a non-profit on Long Island, which donated a van to the department in 2022.

The Terry Farrell Firefighters Fund has been adamant about getting the van back and has recently criticized the fire department for promoting a chicken barbecue scheduled for next month.

The village attorney could not comment because of the pending litigation. We reached out to representatives from the fire company but have not heard back.

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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:

## **What Will It Take To Win The Lithium-Ion Battery War?**

Chief Marc Bashoor

On Nov. 15, 2023, U.S. Fire Administrator Dr. Lori Moore-Merrell joined FDNY Commissioner Laura Kavanagh, UL's Fire Service Research Institute Vice President Stever Kerber, Consumer Product Safety Commission Director of Compliance and Field Operations Robert Kaye, and ATF Engineer Michael Abraham at an event to inform the public about the growing threats associated with lithium-ion batteries, and to share **key strategies that the fire service must embrace to mitigate the dangers**. FDNY Chief Fire Marshal Daniel Flynn and Lieutenant John Cassidy also provided input during the presentation.

Commissioner Kavanagh and Dr. Moore-Merrell underscored that the dangers posed by Li-ion batteries is a nationwide problem. Cities and towns across America are reporting problems with battery systems, and the race is on to get ahead of the public safety issues posed by these products. Kavanagh reflected that it has been a long time since a product came

out that suddenly became the leading cause of fire deaths in New York City, adding, “We want to see a future where electrification is safe. We can’t do that if we don’t get ahead of it.”

Commissioner Kavanagh gave an update on citywide legislative efforts that have provided new tools for fire investigators and police officers, and Dr. Moore-Merrill and Director Kaye spoke to federal efforts on both legislative and mandatory standards efforts. Recognizing the time those efforts take, *there is clearly no quick fix to this issue.*

### **FOCUS AT THE HIGHEST LEVELS**

Dr. Moore-Merrell reinforced that the need for the fire service to lead and inform this discussion is one of seven critical issues that were identified just last month at the USFA summit on Fire Prevention and Control. She added that, “*the fire service has a central and critical role in ensuring that the decisions, particularly policy and regulatory decisions, take into consideration fire safety risk.*”

### **ATF STATS MAKE THE CASE**

Abraham made an interesting observation, in that *Li-ion batteries and e-devices are now present and/or involved at every fire scene the ATF investigates.* That was magnified by FDNY statistics stating that the number of e-device fires had doubled from 2021 to 2022 and was on pace to be 50% higher yet in 2023. Kavanagh indicated that the FDNY is now responding to at least one e-system fire every day somewhere in New York City.

### **THE CPSC PRODUCT PERSPECTIVE**

Kaye, speaking on behalf of CPSC staff but not making an official commission position statement, recognized the “great utility to consumers” that e-products provide. He cautioned, however, that convenience comes with a deadly hazard. Kaye spoke to how the CPSC has reached out to “thousands of these manufacturers, importers, distributors and retailers, and made it clear that the CPSC expects these devices to be in compliance with the applicable voluntary UL standards.” He spoke to the complexities of jurisdiction to intercept devices coming from outside of the United States, and how new powers would need to be granted by Congress to be able to seize devices at port destinations. Kaye added: “It is critical that consumers understand what to look for when they’re buying these products [such as UL certification], and that they know how to use, store and charge them as safely as possible.”

Kaye indicated that the CPSC had begun the discussion about mandatory standards, but that too is a long process. The CPSC has been in contact with all the e-platform operators and commercial operations to ensure that devices they carry are UL-certified. Further, the CPSC has informed the same groups that unsafe devices would be removed from the marketplace. Kaye stated that the CPSC will continue to investigate these fires as they occur and indicated that *the CPSC has issued recalls on two dozen such devices.*

Kaye concluded with some direction for the public. Specifically, if they have a product that presents any signs of thermal stress, overheating, smoking, etc., “they should report it to [www.saferproducts.gov](http://www.saferproducts.gov) to let us know you’ve observed those things with your product,” this being *after* they remove themselves from any danger and/or call 911.

### **FSRI GUIDES THE PUBLIC**

Kerber echoed remarks about the dangers posed by these products: “*Escape times are down to a minute or less*, which is completely unreasonable. We appreciate the fact that this technology is important for the electrification to power our everyday lives; however, we have got to play catch up [responding to and trying to prevent the emergencies], and the public needs to appreciate the risk.” He then showed a [powerful 8-minute public service announcement](#) developed by FSRI that all fire departments should share with their communities.

Here are my key takeaways from the PSA: Even though we know that Li-ion batteries are pervasive throughout our homes, an astonishing 44% of people admitted to not knowing what a lithium battery was. For the fire service, there are two specific problems that we need to address – now:

1. Our ability to limit and combat thermal runaway, which is a pervasive issue in sealed Li-ion battery compartments. Penetrating the battery compartment and being able to deliver a sufficient cooling agent to reduce thermal runaway is the only immediate way to ensure that these fires are out. Unfortunately, most fire departments are not equipped nor trained to effectively penetrate the compartments and deliver sufficient cooling agent. This remains a work in progress. [Read next: [Electric vehicle fires: Where the waiting game wins](#)]
2. Increased public education of the life safety and property hazard issues, specifically from uncertified after-market and/or damaged battery systems for smaller devices, like e-bikes, hover-boards, etc. Beyond continuing to

reinforce our smoke alarm and sprinkler mantras, there are multiple keys to improving public education here:

- Only purchase certified devices, listed with a credentialed testing laboratory;
- Do not use damaged equipment or storage systems;
- Listen/look for signs of thermal runaway in these smaller devices – unusual smells, puffing batteries, hissing sounds, smoke or other anomalies;
- Store these devices and their charging systems outside of life-hazard areas and in locations that do not impede primary or secondary exit paths;
- Follow guidelines for proper recycling of smaller devices – do NOT simply throw them away. If you cannot identify local collection points for Li-ion battery recycling, it's best to contact your local waste management company for assistance; and
- Do NOT try to put the fire out yourself – get out and call 911 immediately.

### **WE MUST OWN THIS ISSUE**

Two things were abundantly clear from this event: First, there is a tremendous need for public education and awareness on this topic. The fire service MUST take a leadership role in this community risk reduction (CRR) effort, even as we continue to drive home the traditional messaging that has positively impacted public safety over the past 30 years. Second, the fire service MUST catch up to this problem before it overtakes our communities. We must not simply take a wait-and-see approach, or a “not my job” approach as our communities burn and our neighbors die. These fires will likely affect someone in your family, sooner or later.

Chief Fire Marshal Flynn’s takeaways at the end of the presentation really drives home the gravity of the life safety problem in New York City, which can be extrapolated to communities across the country: “In 2020, we had ZERO deaths attributed to these fires. So far in 2023, we have had 17 deaths attributed to battery and mobility products.”

The problem is everywhere – this IS OUR fight!

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

### **OPPORTUNITIES:**

#### **Fire Districts of New York Mutual Insurance Co. Maintains AM Best Rating for Third Consecutive Year**

Fire Districts of New York Mutual Insurance Co. Inc. (FDMNY), has maintained its AM Best “A-” rating in the Financial Strength and Long-Term Issuer Credit Rating categories for the third consecutive year.

“AM Best has assigned a Financial Strength Rating of ‘A-’ (Excellent) and a Long-Term Issuer Credit Rating of ‘A-’ (Excellent) to FDMNY. The outlook assigned to these Credit Ratings (ratings) is stable,” reported AM Best. “The ratings reflect FDMNY’s balance sheet strength, which AM Best assesses as strong, as well as its adequate operating performance, limited business profile, and marginal enterprise risk management (ERM).”

AM Best is one of the world’s oldest and most authoritative insurance rating organizations. ***The “A-” ratings indicate that FDMNY is fiscally sound and able to fulfill its financial obligations, and it has a stable outlook for the future.*** FDMNY has a longstanding history of maintaining stability and excellence; its initial Financial Strength Rating was issued in 1990, and its initial Issuer Credit Rating was issued in 2007.

“Maintaining our AM Best ‘A-’ rating is something we strive to achieve each year, while still prioritizing our purpose to best serve our insureds,” shared FDMNY EVP/COO Roy Denny. “Despite being smaller than other mutual insurance companies, this rating signifies that we are strong and stable, and ready to take on more business.”

***FDMNY is a mutual insurance company specializing in Volunteer Firefighters’ Benefits Law (VFBL)/New York State Workers’ Compensation Law that provides maximum benefits claims services to Volunteer Fire Services across New York State.***

To learn more about FDMNY, visit [fdmny.com](http://fdmny.com). For the latest AM Best Credit Ratings, access [ambest.com](http://ambest.com).

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### **CHALLENGES:**

#### **\*\*Fire Department Out of Business**

Sadly, another volunteer fire company has been forced to close its doors ***due to insufficient membership***. The Brisben Fire Company of Brisben NY (Chenango County) closed their doors this week. ***With just 5 members, 4 firefighters and 1 older fire police member, responding to 300 calls a year, it was no longer possible to continue***. They could only respond to a fire when all 4 showed up . The station, trucks and equipment are all to be auctioned off on Saturday, December 9, at 11 am. Details on the auction can be found at <https://www.auctionzip.com/Listings/3874729.html>

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### **[Electric Blankets Recalled](#)**

Approximately 30,000 Berkshire Blanket Heated Throws and Blankets (branded as L.L. Bean) in various colors and patterns were **[recalled by the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission](#)** after being sold at several stores and online. The recall pertains to twin, full/queen, and king-sized blankets. Berkshire Blanket & Home Co., of Ware, Massachusetts has received nine reports of defective equipment, but no injuries have been reported.

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### **[Jupiter \(FL\) Buys Fire Engine – Now It Needs a Fire Department to Go with It](#)**

Which came first, the fire truck or the fire department? In Jupiter, the answer is the truck. The town, currently covered by Palm Beach County Fire Rescue, is planning to start a fire department on Oct. 1, 2026. That plan may need support in a referendum in March. But the town has proceeded with its first apparatus purchase already.

The truck is a Pierce Enforcer Pumper that will serve as the department’s reserve apparatus. It was rolled out to the public at the town’s annual Christmas tree lighting ceremony.

Councilman Cameron May, who is a Palm Beach County firefighter, said he has concerns over the purchase, WPBF reports. The new truck will require maintenance and upkeep for the next three years while the department is assembled. In addition, the truck does not have the option to pump from the front of the apparatus like Palm Beach County apparatus. May said he would have preferred the town to buy a custom apparatus rather than a stock model.

Eventually the town plans to buy five apparatus ranging in price from over \$985,000 to more than \$1.614 million. ***The town pursued the plan to start its own department because town leaders said the amount it pays to the county for fire service is excessive***. The new department will save taxpayers money, they argue.

Critics of the plan dispute there will be any savings. They are petitioning to have the question decided by referendum, an issue that is now tied up in court.

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



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### **[NVFC Webinar - Tesla Part 1: Introduction to Tesla First Responder Page and Documents & Tesla Vehicle Shut-down Procedures](#)**

**WEBINAR: INTRODUCTION TO EMERGENCY RESPONSE FOR TESLA VEHICLES**

Presenter: Mike McConnell

**REGISTER AT THIS LINK:**

[https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_PdMe3vgzQ3SIKMzDd\\_SEbA#/registration](https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_PdMe3vgzQ3SIKMzDd_SEbA#/registration)



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### **[Insurance 101 for Fire Service Leaders ESIP WEBINAR SERIES](#)**

Fire and EMS agencies have unique challenges when it comes to insurance. As leaders in these organizations, it is important to understand what you are paying for, and what you should expect from your insurance partners. Join us as we help to prepare yourself and your agency to get the best value for your insurance investment.

**Tuesday, December 13<sup>th</sup> 2023 at 7PM**

**REGISTER AT THIS LINK:**

<https://mcneilandcompany.us8.list-manage.com/track/click?u=03596f243a9d922954ebaf15e&id=9e99abba27&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=001Xydryrcjpr9ytJAhzhPu\\_Z4BMAoLB-KJ\\_I7mo2ltSI239rNjTz1ZyifU9Zi32aSPeOpHD0r9HQFO0P4kiONoqplfXk\\_MorV9y1V6NpdrlI30dOgzzi8wwewyZ0FMEAgzz2k](https://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001Xydryrcjpr9ytJAhzhPu_Z4BMAoLB-KJ_I7mo2ltSI239rNjTz1ZyifU9Zi32aSPeOpHD0r9HQFO0P4kiONoqplfXk_MorV9y1V6NpdrlI30dOgzzi8wwewyZ0FMEAgzz2k)

## 2024 SEMINAR SERIES

"Searching –  
The Offensive and Defensive"



### With Lieutenant Mike Scotto, Fire Department City of New York

Searching tactics are primarily thought of as an offensive action – moving in, checking behind doors, in closets, and numerous other areas. As we search, our concerns are focused on the search. Defensive tactics involve our escape plans, which are needed as we complete our search, but more importantly under extreme or emergency conditions. To make these tactics work, we must always have our strategy front and center. Both sides of the coin are in play all the time. In this three-hour program, students will examine strategy and tactics to gain a more concise understanding of the training necessary for search.

#### REGISTRATION FEES:

**\$35** – NYSAFC members • **\$50** – non-members (per person)

*Pre-registration is encouraged. New – online group registration is available for fire departments!*

#### REGISTER HERE:

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#### 7:00pm STARTING TIME

- Albany (February 26)
- Schenectady (March 12)
- Clinton (April 9)
- Herkimer (April 10)
- Fulton (September 10)
- Rensselaer (October 29)

## **VFIS** University Provides a Wealth of Training Opportunities **UPDATED FOR 2023**

### **VFIS TRAINING AND RESOURCE CATALOG 2023**

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

### **VFIS UNIVERSITY – USERS GUIDE**

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

### **VFIS TRAINING OFFICER USERS GUIDE**

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

### **VFIS RESPONDER HELP FLYER**

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

**THE SAFETY OFFICER – TAKING CARE OF OUR MEMBERS!**

**IN 2023 WE HAVE SADLY EXPERIENCED 81 FIRE FIGHTER LODD'S**

*According to FirefighterCloseCalls.com\**

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

**You Just Never Know!**

- 69-year-old Henderson County Firefighter Richard "Rick" D. Miller, died of a heart attack on Friday, Dec. 1 after returning from a call.
- A Marienette, Wisconsin firefighter opening a door to try to rescue pets from a burning house got caught in a flashover and suffered burns Tuesday. The injured firefighter is being treated at a burn center at a Milwaukee hospital. He is expected to be released in a few days.
- A East Hartford Connecticut firefighter fell down stairs and lost consciousness while fighting house fire. The firefighter suffered bumps and bruises in the fall and lost consciousness. A RIT team extricated him from the structure.

**[Never too Late to Start Thinking About the NYS Volunteer FF Cancer Benefit Program](#)**

See the post on our website at CAFDA.net

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**[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

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

**[E-Bike Causes Fire In The Bronx Leaving 1 Dead, 9 Injured](#)**

VIDEO: Officials have confirmed that an ***e-bike caused the Bronx fire that killed one person and left nine others injured***. The flames erupted inside a 10th-floor apartment at the Bronx River Houses in Soundview just after 7 p.m. Sunday. The 39-year-old man was found unresponsive and was taken to the hospital. "I did see them carry somebody out, I didn't see who it was, but I think he was unconscious," a neighbor said of the victim. He was rushed to the hospital but later died from his injuries. His identity has not yet been released. Three people in the next-door unit were taken to Jacobi Hospital. Six others were treated at the scene. All of the injuries are said to be minor. **The FDNY's investigation deemed the lithium-ion battery in the e-bike found at the scene was the cause of the fire.**

**[2 Hurt In Brooklyn Fire Sparked By Lithium-Ion Batteries At Illegal Repair Shop, FDNY Says](#)**

Two people were injured in a fire sparked by lithium-ion batteries inside a home in Brooklyn on Wednesday morning. The fire broke out on the third floor of the home on 57th Street just before 8:30 a.m. Fire Marshals say there was an illegal e-bike/e-scooter repair shop operating at that location. Two people were injured and taken to the burn center at Staten Island University Hospital. The FDNY says ***one victim suffered serious injuries and another was critically injured***. Burnt e-bikes and charred e-scooters could be seen littering the yard amid the rubble, along with the batteries that melted away. "I'm not doing good. I've been here for 58 years and this is killing me, I don't know what to do," said a tenant named Andrew. He said he has lost almost everything and the couple injured in the fire are his friends.

**[Warwick Village Board Of Trustees District Gets Update On Summer Battery Fire](#)**

Veronica Jean Seltzer

Warwick Village (Westchester Co.) Trustees received an update Monday night from Convergent, the owner/operator, of energy storage facilities in the village that caught fire over the summer.

The facilities are meant to help keep energy costs low and reliability high. They are a replacement for what are known as "peaker plants". Utilities have used those power plants when there's a high demand on the grid. The State of New York is challenging utilities to find replacements because "peaker plants" use fossil fuels. The battery storage facilities Convergent operates store extra energy when it's not being used and release it back into the grid when it's most needed to prevent blackouts.

Convergent says the fires in Warwick are the first fires in the company's 12-year history. It suffered a third fire in July at a project in Lyme, New York. That project does not have the same equipment that lit up in Warwick.

On Monday night, Genova said an independent ***root cause analysis is complete and found a product failure let water into the system***. *Water can cause a dangerous reaction with lithium-ion batteries, causing them to explode or light on fire.* The analysis was

led by a third party with data provided by Powin. It included physical inspections and data analysis. The Warwick Central Valley School District hired its own observer company Veritex and several insurance companies also took part.

Genova apologized to the community for the disruption and uncertainty the fire caused. He thanked first responders. He explained the sites have to be placed in specific locations dictated by the design of the Orange & Rockland system. He added the facilities have the potential to support 7,500 customers in the area.

Genova says the sites were built with safety in mind and that's why the fires didn't spread. He also reemphasized county hazmat testing showed air quality was safe during the fires.

Trustees challenged him to give an idea of how bad a fire could get. They expressed concern for people's safety when the sites are surrounded by trees and can't be put out with water. **A lithium-ion battery fire has to burn itself out.** Genova says what was seen in June is the worst that could happen because the system is spaced out in a way that a fire won't have access to any more combustible material outside of a concrete pad that battery containers sit on.

Genova also told trustees Convergent is reviewing its emergency response plan to incorporate feedback from the Warwick Fire Department. Trustees brought up that the fire chief didn't feel well enough trained by Convergent to handle the fire. Genova says Convergent did an initial training with the department, but likes to do a final training once everything is installed and commissioned. He says that final training was scheduled for the week the fires happened.

Trustee Thomas McKnight also expressed concern the emergency plan still included references to GE rather than Powin. Genova says the Powin and GE systems are like-to-like systems and Powin was on site with Convergent, as dictated in the plan.

Genova says he knows many people want to know what the plans are for the offline storage systems. He says the company is not in a rush. Powin needs to fix its product issues and a potential solution likely won't be available until the second half of 2024.

Trustees also tried to figure out if Warwick was the first to use the Centipede system. They asked how many Centipede systems have been successfully rolled out across the globe. Genova did not know that answer since his company does not manufacture them, but he was able to say the Centipede systems in Warwicks were the first Convergent used in New York.

Trustees asked whether Convergent inquired with Powin on how many other successful deployments it had of the Centipede. Genova says that's not a question you'd typically ask a manufacturer. He added that Convergent has used Powin a long time and their track record gave them confidence in using the Centipede product.

He also emphasized the Centipede was not a pilot or beta version at the time. It was a fully commercialized product Powin is still selling.

Genova says an abstract of the root cause analysis (RCA) will be shared. Trustee Carly Foster asked if the board could get a full version and Genova said Powan owns the report, but it could be considered.

Trustees also asked about testing and governing bodies. Genova said there are no state guidelines right now for these facilities, but Powin is UL rated. UL provides standards and certifications for all sorts of products. Genova detailed Convergent had a consultant at the manufacturing facility for factory acceptance testing, but the buyers are not allowed in. They're given the results of the testing, which Powin does itself. Genova said Convergent does visual testing when the product arrives. He said Convergent will try to get more involved with testing going forward via a third-party expert.

He also explained the RCA identified the specific issue, but the next phase of the investigation is figuring out what was done incorrectly that allowed water to get in.

**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 + 2=144
Fire Deaths in 1&2 Family Dwellings Nationally	1183 + 38=1221
Top 3 States with the greatest 1&2 Family Deaths	1 PA = 73
	2 NY = 71
	3 OH = 64
There has been a total of 1954 civilian home fire fatalities in 2023	
There were a total of 2251 residential fire fatalities reported in 2022 in the US media.	
Both the states of Maryland and California require sprinklers in residential dwellings	

**In 2022 in New York State 77 residents perished in fires in 1 & 2 family occupancies.**

## PURCHASING NEW APPARATUS

### SCBA in the Cab

Robert Tutterow

WARNING! Reading this column could result in anxiety, accelerated heart rate, high blood pressure, and profanity.

I recently attended a trade show and was admiring a very expensive well-thought-out pumper. This rig was also very expensive, and it would be easy to tell the dealer to keep the change if you gave it a \$1 million bill to pay for it. One of the features of the rig was a self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) storage compartment right behind the cab. The seats within the cab were not designed to store the SCBA. And, this is where the story begins.

I was told the department's safety officer was responsible for the part of the specifications that required that the SCBA not be in the cab. However, the safety officer was retiring shortly before the new apparatus was to be delivered. The new safety officer convinced the fire chief that the SCBA must be stored in the cab. As a result, the fire department ordered new seats (designed to hold SCBA) for the rig. The new seats were to be installed before the pumper went into service.

The safety aspect of the SCBA being stored in the cab can become an emotional argument that is somewhat lacking in merit. The clear argument for them to be in the cab centers around deployment times and readiness to immediately fight fire upon exiting the cab. Therefore, donning the SCBA after exiting the cab delays fire suppression tasks. Let's take a closer look.

First, what is the sequence of donning the SCBA while in the cab and buckling the seat belts? Securing the seat belts seems to be a task that is done after the SCBA straps are secure. The SCBA straps do not need to be on top of the seat restraint straps. With that being the case, how often does the driver delay moving the vehicle until the SCBA straps and the seat belt straps are secure? Isn't this also delaying suppression tactics? Unfortunately, there are too many cases where the driver does not wait, and the crew ends up responding to the fire, or at least partially to the fire, without being properly belted. This is totally unacceptable and indefensible. And if an SCBA seat is unoccupied, what are the chances that SCBA is positively secured in the seat back? There is a reason the National Fire Protection Association requires that firefighter helmets be positively secured in the cab during response. A loose helmet can be lethal in a crash. What about a loose SCBA? Yes, wearing a structural helmet while responding is not safe. They are not crash helmets, and the weight of the helmet can cause additional injury because of the added weight on the head during an impact.

The issue of a clean cab—no, it is not a concept, it is a practice for fire departments that value their members' health—cannot be ignored in this discussion. It is known that cleaning SCBA is one of the most difficult, if not the most difficult, of all personal protective equipment (PPE) elements and other firefighting equipment to clean following a fire. Preliminary exposure reduction on the scene is not as effective with SCBA as it is with the rest of the PPE ensemble. For proper cleaning, the unit must be doffed and washed in a machine designed to wash SCBA or handwashed.

Then there is the issue of exiting the cab while wearing an SCBA. A firefighter's stability is not as good when exiting the cab if he is wearing the SCBA. This is a situation that rarely receives attention as cab exit is treacherous, especially at

night, and the surface for the foot landing can easily be less than that of a smooth apparatus bay floor. For example, broken pavement, storm drains, and utility access covers can all be hazardous.

Clearly, these “arguments” can easily fall on deaf ears. But there is one compelling argument that is not based on the “ifs”: There are a couple of large major metro fire departments that took the SCBA out of their cabs well over 20 years ago. There has been no negative impact on their service delivery, and I have been told that there would be outrage by the firefighters if the SCBA had to go back in the cabs. The firefighters find the seats far more comfortable without an SCBA bracket in the seat back.

There is one advantage to having the SCBA in the cab: It requires less compartment space. However, the American fire service has gotten a lot smarter in organizing its compartments, and there are creative ways to minimize the negative impact of the loss of compartment space.

What would a risk management assessment reveal about SCBA in the cab?

## THE LIGHTER SIDE!

**Ruger is coming out with a new pistol in honor of the Senate and the House of Representatives. It will be named the “The Congressman” it doesn’t work nor can you fire it**

## CAFDA OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

### 2024 OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

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*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**

**[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](http://www.CAFDA.net)*

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

#### **Membership Audit**

CAFDA, currently has **80-member Fire Districts** in 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

**Note the new address for H2M Architects & Engineers**

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

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

*We invite our business partners to submit educational information to be included in this Bulletin for district commissioners and chief officers 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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315-729-6071 Cell  
315-699-4533 Office

## DRYER VENT CLEANING



## DRYER VENT WIZARD

JORDAN CATINO  
8 NAPA COURT, SCHENECTADY, NY 12309  
518-344-0664  
[SARATOGADRYERVENT.COM](http://SARATOGADRYERVENT.COM)

## INSURANCE



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

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



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



Pat Daglio  
[pdaglio@vfis.com](mailto:pdaglio@vfis.com)  
717.819.3072

## FIRE APPARATUS



LARRY GATES  
SERVICE AND PARTS MANAGER  
EASTERN APPARATUS SALES  
1 SUPER 50 WAY, BALLSTON LAKE, NY 12019  
larry.vmfire@verizon.net (518) 926-0451  
[www.vfm-fire.com](http://www.vfm-fire.com)

## WARNING LIGHT PACKAGES/REPAIRS BODY SHOP



Vehicle Repair, Warning Packages, Body Shop  
78 Freemans Bridge Road, Glenville  
518-377-5555  
Veteran Owned Business

## FIRE STATION PEST CONTROL



518-300-4732  
431 New Karner Rd Suite 170  
Albany, NY 12205  
<https://foxpest-albany.com>

## FIRE COMPANY FUND RAISING



Lloyd Fox, Account Executive  
34 Garner Road, Averill Park, NY 12018  
[lfox8@nycap.rr.com](mailto:lfox8@nycap.rr.com)  
518-810-7819  
[www.funddrive.com](http://www.funddrive.com)

## FIRE DISTRICT CPA/AUDITS/FINANCIAL SERVICES



Zoriana M. Stawnychy  
973.283.0024  
[zoriana@stawnychyfinancial.com](mailto:zoriana@stawnychyfinancial.com)  
135 Kinnelon Road Suite 101  
Kinnelon, NJ 07405  
Serving fire districts in New York State



BRYANS & GRAMUGLIA  
CPA, LLC

Robert V. Gramuglia, CPA  
1 Pine West Plaza Suite 107, Albany NY  
12205  
518.452.8055 or 518.859.5851cell  
Email: [rgramuglia@BGCPA.net](mailto:rgramuglia@BGCPA.net)



518.459.6700  
10 British American Blvd, Latham NY 12110  
[www.bstco.com](http://www.bstco.com)  
Brendan Kennedy ext 356



Gentile Brengel & Lin LLP  
*Accounting, Consulting and IT Security Analysis*  
1581 Franklin Avenue  
Mineola, NY 11501  
[www.gblny.com](http://www.gblny.com)  
Phone: 518-310-4094 info@gblny.com  
customerservice@gblny.com



11 British American Blvd, Latham, NY 12110  
518-785-0134  
Queensbury Office 518-792-6595  
<http://www.mmbaccounting.com>  
Alan W. Clink, CPA [aclink@mmb-co.com](mailto:aclink@mmb-co.com)  
Heather R. Lewis, CPA [hlewis@mmb-co.com](mailto:hlewis@mmb-co.com)

### Business Partner Opportunity!

Thank you for your continued support of the Capital Ara Fire Districts Association. You have the opportunity to have vendor space at our Spring Conference in April of 2024. We have several excellent presentations lined up, which we believe will attract many upstate districts.

**CAFDA is seeking sponsors for the event – for breakfasts and lunches. Stay tuned for more information and an opportunity to be Conference Sponsor.**

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

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

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***You Can Become 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**

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***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

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_

County: \_\_\_\_\_ Fire District: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Contact Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Fire Company if Different: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Annual budgets up to and including \$200,000	\$50.00
Annual budgets more than \$200,001 up to including \$400,000	\$100.00
Annual budgets more than \$400,001 up to including \$600,000	\$200.00
Annual budgets more than \$600,000	\$300.00
Associate/ <b>Individual</b> 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

<b>Capital Area Meetings/Seminars/Trainings/Conference Dates</b> (Subject to Change & Updated 11/6/2023)				
Day/Date	Time	Type	Location	Notes
<b>2024</b>				
Saturday, January 6, 2024	9:00 AM	General Membership Mtg.	Clifton Park	Organizational/Morning Meeting
Saturday, February 3, 2024	8:00 AM	<b>Commissioner Training</b>	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	<b>Commissioner Training</b>	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	<b>Commissioner Training</b>	Berkshire FD	Snowdate - Sunday, March 24, 2024
Saturday, April 6, 2024	8:00 AM	<b>Commissioner Training</b>	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	<b>CAFDA Conference</b>	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	
<b>JULY</b>	<b>NO MEETING</b>			
Friday, August 9, 2024	1:00 PM	Membership Activity	Saratoga Race Course	NYRA Day at the Races!
<b>AUGUST</b>	<b>NO MEETING</b>			
Thursday, September 12, 2024	7:00 PM	General Membership Mtg.	Clifton Park	
Thursday, October 10, 2024	7:00 PM	General Membership Mtg.	Clifton Park	Officers/Director Nominations
Saturday, November 2, 2024	8:00 AM	Fall Workshop	Verdoy	
Thursday, November 7, 2024	7:00 PM	General Membership Mtg.	Clifton Park	Officer/Director Elections
<b>DECEMBER</b>	<b>NO MEETING</b>			
<b>2025</b>				
Saturday, January 4, 2025	9:00 AM	General Membership Mtg.	Clifton Park	Organizational/Morning Meeting

**COMMISSIONER TRAINING SCHEDULE AND REGISTRATION NEXT PAGE**





# 2024 COMMISSIONER TRAINING

Saturday, February 3<sup>rd</sup> (Snow date: Sunday, February 4<sup>th</sup>)

**Averill Park & Sand Lake Fire District**, 35 Eastern Union Turnpike, Averill Pk.

Saturday, March 2<sup>nd</sup> (Snow date: Sunday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>)

**Halfmoon-Waterford FD#1**, 315 Middletown Road, Waterford

Saturday, March 23<sup>rd</sup> (Snow date: Sunday, March 24<sup>th</sup>)

**Berkshire Fire District**, 320 Steele Avenue Extension, Gloversville

Saturday, April 6<sup>th</sup> (Snow date: Sunday, April 7<sup>th</sup>)

**Warrensburg Fire District**, 18 Elm Street, Warrensburg

## CAFDA

PO BOX 242  
EAST SCHODACK,  
NY 12063

**YOUR LOCAL  
SOURCE  
FOR LOCAL  
TRAINING**

### CONTACT

[www.CAFDA.net](http://www.CAFDA.net)

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

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



## DETAILS

**OSC APPROVED TRAINING**

**INSTRUCTOR: GREG SERIO**

**CLASSES START AT 8:00 AM**

Continental Breakfast and Lunch  
Included

**Open to ALL Fire  
District Officials!**

**Registration:**

\$85 per person for Member Districts

\$95 per person for Non-Members

**Seating is Limited!!!**

**Please Register Soon to Reserve  
your Seat & To Assist us with  
Meal Planning!**



**CAPITAL AREA FIRE DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION  
COMMISSIONER TRAINING**



**REGISTRATION FORM**

**COMMISSIONER TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES FOR FIRE DISTRICT OFFICIALS**

- Saturday, February 3<sup>rd</sup> (Snow date: Sunday, February 4<sup>th</sup>)**  
**Averill Park & Sand Lake Fire District**, 35 Eastern Union Turnpike, Averill Pk.
- Saturday, March 2<sup>nd</sup> (Snow date: Sunday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>)**  
**Halfmoon-Waterford FD#1**, 315 Middletown Road, Waterford
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**Berkshire Fire District**, 320 Steele Avenue Extension, Gloversville
- Saturday, April 6<sup>th</sup> (Snow date: Sunday, April 7<sup>th</sup>)**  
**Warrensburg Fire District**, 18 Elm Street, Warrensburg

**Registration:** \$85 per person for Member Districts, \$95 per person for Non-Members  
**(Continental Breakfast and Lunch Included)**

**DON'T WAIT - Please Register Soon to Reserve your Seat & To Assist us with Meal Planning!**

Fire District/Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Status (select one): \_\_\_ Member of CAFDA or \_\_\_ Non-Member of CAFDA

Attendees (include full name & at least one email so we can confirm registration & prepare certificates):

**Attendees:**

**Email Address**

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Total Number Attending: \_\_\_\_\_

Payment Options:

- 1) Check enclosed payable to **Capital Area Fire Districts Association** for: \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) Pay at the Door (check box):

**Mail To:** CAFDA PO Box 242 East Schodack, NY 12063

**or Email to:** secretary@cafda.net





**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!**



## CAFDA

PO BOX 242  
EAST SCHODACK, NY 12063

YOUR **LOCAL** SOURCE  
FOR **LOCAL** TRAINING

### CONTACT

[www.CAFDA.net](http://www.CAFDA.net)

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

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



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