



# CAPITAL AREA FIRE DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION (CAFDA)

## BULLETIN

YOUR FIRE DISTRICT NEWS SOURCE  
NOVEMBER 25TH, 2023

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*Something for everyone in the Fire Service!!*



### CAPITAL SHORTS:

- One month til Christmas!!
- As we start posting more to our new website at [CAFDA.net](http://CAFDA.net) the site becomes more valuable to our members!!
- 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.
- [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](http://WWW.CAFDA.NET)

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

*AFDCA PO Box 242 East Schodack, NY 12063 or EMAIL: [SECRETARY@CAFDA.NET](mailto:SECRETARY@CAFDA.NET)*

**Thursday November 9<sup>th</sup>, 7:00pm General Membership Meeting**, dinner served at 6PM with Elections

**December, No Meeting Happy Holidays!**

**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 OFFERING – 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!](#)**



### ***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.

***Effective September 23, 2023, the Secretary and Treasurer email addresses have changed to:***

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

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

### STATE ASSOCIATION NEWS:

[WWW.AFDNYS.ORG](http://WWW.AFDNYS.ORG)

#### ***State Fire Districts Announces A Move Back To A Fall Annual Meeting***

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

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**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.

**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 & 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.

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

**THE LATEST FROM THE STATE LEGISLATURE**

**HOCHUL SIGNS BILL TO STREAMLINE PAYMENTS TO AMBULANCE-SERVICE PROVIDERS**

Eric Reinhardt

Gov. Kathy Hochul signed a bill that will streamline payments to ambulance-service providers.

The measure “authorizes payments to nonparticipating or nonpreferred providers of ambulance services licenses under Article 30 of the public health law,” per a Monday statement from United New York Ambulance Network (UNYAN).

***The new law ensures that responding ambulance-service companies receive direct payment for all emergency ambulance-service transports “upon submission of an invoice to the insurance company without the need for the responding ambulance company to be a preferred provider.”***

New York State Assemblywoman Marianne Buttenschon (D–Marcy) on Tuesday also announced the signing, adding that she co-sponsored the bill.

Buttenschon’s office explained that insurance companies previously sent the payment to the patient and the patient paid the ambulance provider. Under the new law, the provider is directly compensated. The measure “removes the impracticality of expecting every emergency medical service provider to wait for payment from the patient,” per Buttenschon’s office.

“We all rely on our first responders to provide services during medical emergencies.” Buttenschon said. “This law mandates swift reimbursement for the ambulance services that provide these vital services. Removing the unnecessary hurdles provides financial stability for ambulance providers while maintaining the availability of reliable, effective emergency medical service for all New Yorkers.”

Jeffrey Call, chairperson of the United New York Ambulance Network (UNYAN), on Monday issued a statement about the signing, thanking Hochul and saying emergency medical service providers will no longer have to wonder if they’ll be paid for the services “they are mandated to provide.”

“Now, no matter if an ambulance service provider is ‘in-network’ or ‘out-of-network,’ reimbursement for every response will come directly from the health-insurance company. Patients are no longer forced to be the middleman in a broken payment process that oftentimes left out ambulance providers,” Call said.

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### **2024 Fire Service Alliance Issues of United Concern, December 2, Hilton Garden Inn, Troy**

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

Issues such as;

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

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

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### **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.



### **Fire Service Members Need To Take Action**

Signing this bill into law will ensure ambulance service providers receive the critical resources needed to continue doing the job safely and effectively, delivering the best possible outcomes for patients across New York State.

A bill to allow ambulance providers across the state to be directly paid by health insurance is on the Governor's desk for her action. Health insurance companies are fighting this legislation, and our emergency service provider partners have asked us for our continued support on this measure. The Association asks that you take a moment to send an email at this link to the Governor's office, and let her know you are in support of "Direct Pay" (S.1466/A.250). This legislation passed the NY Assembly and Senate unanimously – and now needs her signature to become law.

**TO START THE PROCESS, CLICK HERE:** [Global Medical Response - Advocacy \(votervoice.net\)](https://www.votervoice.net).

*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**

#### **Unappropriated Unreserved Fund Balance And Year To Year Carry Over Of Operating Funds**

Fire District Affairs

The State Association's Counsel answers many inquiries on the Unappropriated Unreserved Fund Balance which in simple terms is **the money that remains in the operating account after fiscal year's transactions are completed. The fire district fiscal year is the calendar year. It starts on January 1st and ends on December 31st.** The Board adopts and files a final

budget for the next fiscal by November 7th and in the next year relies upon the county and town to raise and turnover that money during the next fiscal year so that the fire district can operate in that next fiscal year.

***From year-to-year fire districts end up with surpluses if they do not spend all the year's operating funds and those funds carry over into the next year in the accounts until a decision is made either to transfer that money to reserve funds or use it to reduce a future year's budget.***

***The process would be straightforward if, at the start of each year, the operating budget funds for that year were immediately placed into the fire district's operating account. However, we know this is not the case. There is a taxpayer payment process that unfolds over the year, resulting in the necessity to utilize funds from the Unappropriated Unreserved Fund Balance until the tax receipts are received.***

**The funds that are retained in the Unappropriated Unreserved Fund Balance can result in criticism if an excessive amount of money is retained in that account.** We have seen reference to maintaining two months of operating money in that account to make it through the weeks and months that a fire district waits for its real property tax revenue collected for that operating year. Clearly, that might change if a particular district experiences longer delays in the receipt of its real property tax revenue for the current operating year.

Boards of Fire Commissioners should monitor cash flow from year to year and develop a policy on the level of Unappropriated Unreserved Fund Balance to be maintained.

The Town Law does address the concept of Unappropriated Unreserved Fund Balance:

*(b) On or before the last date provided by law for the adoption of the proposed budget, the board of fire commissioners shall prepare an estimate of the fund balance which shall be affixed to the proposed budget as an appendix thereto. The estimate of fund balance shall include a breakdown of such fund balance estimated for encumbrances, amounts estimated to be expended for the ensuing fiscal year, amounts reserved for stated purposes pursuant to law, including reserve funds established pursuant to the general municipal law, and the remaining unappropriated unreserved fund balance as that term is defined in section one hundred three of this chapter, provided that the remaining estimated unappropriated unreserved fund balance for each fund shall not exceed a reasonable amount, consistent with prudent budgeting practices, necessary to ensure the orderly operation of the fire district and the continued provision of services, taking into account factors including, but not limited to, the size of the fund, cash flows, the certainty with which the amounts of revenues and expenditures can be estimated, and the fire district's experience in prior fiscal years. For those districts which employ the cash basis of accounting, fund balance means the cash surplus estimated to be on hand at the close of the current fiscal year less claims payable therefrom and amounts reserved pursuant to law for stated purposes, including reserve funds established pursuant to the general municipal law. N.Y. Town Law § 181 (McKinney)*

The definition of the term in Town Law §103 states as follows:

*"Unappropriated unreserved fund balance" shall mean the difference between the total assets for a fund and the total liabilities, deferred revenues, encumbered appropriations, amounts appropriated for the ensuing fiscal year's budget, and amounts reserved for stated purposes pursuant to law, including reserve funds established pursuant to the general municipal law for the fund, as determined through application of the system of accounts prescribed by the state comptroller pursuant to section thirty-six of the general municipal law. N.Y. Town Law § 103 (McKinney)*

As far as managing and spending the Unappropriated Unreserved Fund Balance the applicable law states:

*4. The board of fire commissioners, during a fiscal year, may make additional appropriations or increase existing appropriations. Moneys therefor may be provided by transfer from the unexpended balance of an appropriation, from unappropriated unreserved fund balance, or unanticipated revenues, or by borrowing pursuant to the local finance law. For the purposes of this subdivision, unappropriated unreserved fund balance or unanticipated revenues shall be available for transfer only to the extent that the total of all revenues recognized or reasonably expected to be recognized in the current fiscal year, including unappropriated unreserved fund balance, exceeds the total of all revenues as estimated in the budget, including appropriated fund balance. N.Y. Town Law § 181-a (McKinney)*

Fire districts nearing their spending limits should be mindful that utilizing Unappropriated Unreserved Fund Balance for categories subject to the spending limitation could potentially lead to surpassing the limit in the current fiscal year. The Board and the treasurer should actively oversee and track this expenditure activity.

Setting a policy on maintenance and use of the Unappropriated Unreserved Fund Balance and following that policy is an important task for the Board and the treasurer.

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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:

### **\*\*Six Benefits of Effective Public Information Officers**

**Christine Townsend**

When it comes to media and communications, there are those leaders who truly understand the value of having a skilled public information officer (PIO) for a fire department. There also are those who may not fully grasp the role's importance or choose to overlook it.

The role of a PIO in the fire service is complex, challenging, and highly professional, and it plays a vital role in the overall machinery of public service. However, the true value of a PIO is often overlooked or misunderstood, making it essential to shed light on the significant contributions these members make. In terms of access to vital media and communication training, the fire service is often overlooked as compared to law enforcement; however, the role is no less important or challenging. If there's a problem that needs to be solved, it's likely that the PIO can make a significant contribution to solving it. Consider these points when it comes to your PIO function. You may not have a PIO or you may not trust that individual to do the job. You may be the PIO and not have the support you need. Whichever way you look at it, the role itself is vital to the success of a fire department.

#### **PIOS DO MORE OF WHAT YOU DON'T SEE THAN YOU REALIZE.**

PIOs operate behind the scenes, much like the concept of crime prevention. They work tirelessly to ensure that inaccurate stories or misinformation don't seep into the public domain. Their expertise lies in anticipating potential issues and addressing them proactively before they escalate into full-blown crises.

Building and nurturing relationships with the media is a crucial aspect of their work. These connections enable open dialogues, which prove to be invaluable during emergencies or crises when swift and accurate communication is paramount to garnering support and cooperation from the public and stakeholders.

#### **PIOS CAN HELP YOU SEE THE PROBLEMS YOU DIDN'T KNOW EXISTED, THEN HELP YOU FIX THEM.**

It's not just about writing a press release and giving outlines to the media. Good PIOs are hyper-aware of what's going on, not just in their own town or city but nationally and internationally. Having this awareness will help you if it looks like you're heading towards a tone-deaf statement or if there's trouble in the distance. PIOs can be trusted advisors, and that is what's key—trust that goes in both directions.

By trusting PIOs to be their eyes and ears, fire chiefs can improve their leadership skills and decision-making by incorporating informed perspectives.

#### **PIOS WORK HARD ON THEIR SKILLS TO MAKE IT LOOK EFFORTLESS.**

One of the hallmark traits of an experienced PIO is the ability to present information effortlessly, even in high-pressure situations. While leadership is vital, not everyone possesses the natural gift of public speaking. PIOs are skilled presenters who can handle live TV appearances and deftly navigate questions from media personnel under tight deadlines. Their expertise and composure in such situations allow them to become the face of the firefighting organization, enhancing its reputation and public image.

A significant aspect of the PIO's role is centered on managing public perception. A well-executed communication campaign can save valuable resources and money. Miscommunication or a lack of communication can lead to negative consequences, such as property damage, injuries, and legal repercussions. By actively shaping the narrative and

maintaining a positive image of the fire service, PIOs help minimize the occurrence of such incidents and mitigate their impact.

It is important to emphasize that the primary focus of great PIOs is always on serving the public and stakeholders. While promoting the positive aspects of the fire service is part of their responsibility, they prioritize the needs and expectations of the communities they serve. Understanding the various audiences is a fundamental aspect of effective communication, and PIOs ensure that citizens, media, and stakeholders receive the information they require, particularly during critical situations

#### **PIOs CAN HELP YOU SAVE VALUABLE RESOURCES AND MONEY.**

Every poorly executed communication campaign or (worse yet) lack thereof costs money. We're not just talking about the cost of getting things printed, social media ad costs, or staff. When you get it wrong, people may react strongly, and those reactions incur things like damage to property, injuries to people, stress, trauma, and lawsuits.

A PIO will help you to manage public perception, decreasing the potential for things to go wrong. As an example, when there is negative press about the police, assaults on officers and damage to police vehicles and property goes up. You can be sure that a single lawsuit will cost more than the salary of a good PIO that could have helped avoid this in the first place.

#### **PIOs UNDERSTAND THE PRIORITY OF SERVING THE PUBLIC.**

While some may view PIOs as individuals who primarily promote the good work of an organization for professional gain, it is crucial to recognize that their primary allegiance lies with the public and stakeholders. True PIOs understand that their role extends far beyond self-promotion—they are there to serve the community first and foremost. By keeping the public's interests at heart, they can build trust, foster transparency, and establish credibility, which are essential elements of effective communication.

Understanding the diverse audiences with whom they interact is a cornerstone of PIOs' success in the fire service. They possess the ability to connect with people from all walks of life, tailoring their messages to meet the specific needs of each group. Whether addressing citizens, media outlets, or stakeholders, PIOs ensure that the right information is delivered at the right time, especially during critical situations.

#### **PIOs WEAR MANY HATS.**

Community engagement, media liaison, internal communication, stakeholder management, designer, social media manager, personal assistant, filmmaker, spokesperson. The list goes on. PIOs don't just do the one job of talking to the media. There are myriad facets of communication and it's often one of the most misunderstood roles in the public sector. The ability to multitask, adapt, and thrive under intense scrutiny and pressure is a very special attribute. Having a good PIO is like having the best multi-tool in the box.

Good PIOs are hard to find, but when you do, it's worth the investment. They are professional, experienced, and dedicated. Look to them to help you evolve professionally and provide an exemplary level of service in your community. Public information officers play an integral role in the fire service, one that extends far beyond public relations and media interactions. They are the guardians of accurate information, working diligently behind the scenes to prevent crises and build relationships with various stakeholders. By prioritizing the needs of the public and stakeholders, PIOs ensure that communication remains transparent, timely, and effective.

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

#### **OPPORTUNITIES:**

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#### **CHALLENGES:**

##### **[Firefighters Battle Fire at PA Compost Site for Nearly Two Weeks](#)**

For nearly two weeks, firefighters have been battling a blaze at a compost business that escalated into a building fire Tuesday, according to Penryn Fire Chief Shannon Martin. Martin said the fire began about 12 days ago when a truck driver on the property hit a power line, which cut the ventilation systems in the compost building. The fire eventually spread from the compost to the metal shed housing it. Crews got the building fire under control by Wednesday and continue to find and extinguish the compost fires. Indoor compost piles have a high risk of combustion due to noxious

fumes and highly flammable materials, making ventilation a must. A study from the University of Michigan reported combustion is a risk when internal temperatures reach 300 to 400 degrees Fahrenheit.

## [NVFC SUBMITS COMMENTS TO FEMA CALLING FOR THE SIMPLIFICATION OF AFG AND SAFER APPLICATIONS](#)

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) recently issued a Request for Information regarding the simplification of FEMA’s preparedness grants, which include Assistance to Firefighters Grants (AFG) and Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) grants. The NVFC submitted comments prior to the November 7 deadline.

The NVFC’s comments outlined how small, rural communities, particularly those with 2,500 or fewer residents, are almost entirely served by volunteer fire departments. Unlike larger departments, many of these small, rural departments do not have access to dedicated grant-writing staff or funding to hire grant writers to complete AFG and SAFER applications. It is in these small, rural communities where the need for AFG and SAFER funding is often the greatest, but unfortunately it is also where there are the most obstacles to applying for such funding.

The NVFC asked FEMA to:

- Increase their AFG and SAFER outreach and education efforts to small, rural communities.
- Either work with the General Services Administration to improve the burdensome and temperamental SAM.gov or create a more user-friendly platform that fulfills the same role.
- Consider eliminating the cost-benefit and community impact narratives from AFG grant applications or minimizing the impact these narratives have on a grant application’s score, especially for requests for turnout gear and self-contained breathing apparatus.
- Provide a clearer explanation as to what grant reviewers are looking for in an AFG/SAFER grant application and, when an application is denied, explain to the department the reason it was denied and what may be done to improve it in the future.
- Provide more assistance to fire departments to help facilitate compliance with the Civil Rights Evaluation Tool, including more accessible and streamlined sample language and templates.

The NVFC appreciates the opportunity to provide comments and information on how FEMA can make the application process for AFG, SAFER, and other preparedness grants simpler and more efficient. The comments the NVFC submitted are consistent with a previously released [position statement](#). View the full comments the NVFC submitted to FEMA [here](https://www.regulations.gov/comment/FEMA-2023-0024-0059). <https://www.regulations.gov/comment/FEMA-2023-0024-0059>

**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](https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_MjQadFfnTyONgTONJCvROw#/registration)



## [Holiday Follies ESIP WEBINAR SERIES](#)

'Tis the season. In this webinar, we will discuss the best practices to share with your community for a safe holiday season as well as what we, as first responders, may encounter when responding to holiday season emergencies.

Wednesday, Date: 11/29/2023 Time: 7:00 PM EST

**[REGISTER HERE AT THIS LINK](#)**

<https://mcneilandcompany.us8.list-manage.com/track/click?u=03596f243a9d922954ebaf15e&id=1e1ea1d80e&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\\_l7mo2ltSI239rNjTz1ZyifU9Zi32aSPeOpHD0r9HQFO0P4kiONoqplfXk\\_MorV9y1V6Npdrli30dOgzzl8wwewZ0FMEAgzz2k8R4OwMgH3mbm6KylvDjRgJ\\_zY5xgjn&c=Z1RoMp5f8GFFFXy-ymay2CiNOOwG\\_70T5\\_28cZmkAftIZW8VOIC9w==&ch=zarDiKetiVikbXMn7UWEyxB5HEgTxMD5u3OJb3XFA7dGnVnQ\\_TgwQTA==](https://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001Xydryrcjpr9ytJAhzhPu_Z4BMAoLB-kJ_l7mo2ltSI239rNjTz1ZyifU9Zi32aSPeOpHD0r9HQFO0P4kiONoqplfXk_MorV9y1V6Npdrli30dOgzzl8wwewZ0FMEAgzz2k8R4OwMgH3mbm6KylvDjRgJ_zY5xgjn&c=Z1RoMp5f8GFFFXy-ymay2CiNOOwG_70T5_28cZmkAftIZW8VOIC9w==&ch=zarDiKetiVikbXMn7UWEyxB5HEgTxMD5u3OJb3XFA7dGnVnQ_TgwQTA==)

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 **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>

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

*IN 2023 WE HAVE SADLY EXPERIENCED **74** FIRE FIGHTER LODD'S*

*According to FirefighterCloseCalls.com\**

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

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**You Just Never Know!**

- FDNY member Frederick D. Whiteside, 43, went into cardiac arrest while working at a New York City 911 dispatch center
- 30 year old Kinnelon (NJ) Fire Lieutenant Justin Bower died in the Line of Duty. He had responded to a call, and after returning home had a medical emergency. His wife found him unresponsive and called 911. Unfortunately, he passed away at his residence on Nov. 18.

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**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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**DISTRICT FINANCES**

**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

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

**Officials: 2 People Injured In Manhattan Fire; Lithium-Ion Battery Is Possible Cause**

Two people were rushed to the hospital with serious life-threatening injuries after a suspected lithium-ion battery fire in Manhattan Monday morning. Fire officials responded to a call at 2612 Broadway on the Upper West Side just after 6 a.m. Firefighters discovered flames on the second floor of a nine-story building. Twenty units with 77 firefighters responded to the scene. The fire was under control by 6:45 a.m. Fire officials said lithium-ion batteries were present on the scene. A charred e-scooter was recovered from the wreckage. "A neighbor woke me up," said William Dillon, who lives in the

building. "And it was a smell of burning plastic on the eighth floor, and it turns out it was on the second floor. It was a strong smell." Dillon said he feels helpless because he can't control whether his neighbors own e-bikes or e-scooters.



### **Take C.H.A.R.G.E. of Lithium-Ion Battery Safety**

As part of its new Take C.H.A.R.G.E. of Battery Safety campaign, UL's Fire Safety Research Institute has [released a new video](https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=901112671371466&ref=sharing) [https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=901112671371466&ref=sharing] that provides tips on how to prevent fires by using lithium-ion battery-powered devices safely. With the holiday season approaching, now is a great time to educate your community on important safety messages. Find the video and additional resources for the public and first responders at [batteryfiresafety.org](http://batteryfiresafety.org).

### **Family With Baby Rescued From Brooklyn Apartment Fire Sparked By Lithium-Ion Battery**

A lithium-ion battery was found inside an apartment in Brooklyn where a fire started Tuesday night, **making it the third fire in New York City within a 48-hour period in which a lithium-ion battery was found at the scene**. FDNY hazardous materials experts wheeled out some dangerous cargo, carrying the battery of an electric bike which sparked a sudden and dangerous fire in a fourth-floor apartment in Midwood. One neighbor told Eyewitness News reporter Josh Einiger that she heard someone shouting and realized her hallway was thick with smoke. "He said, 'oh my god, it's a fire on the floor,' we closed the door because the smoke and everything was already in our apartment," Yevegeniya Dneprova said. "This is becoming a large issue for the department trying to get the message out, be careful when charging them or use approved batteries," said FDNY Battalion Chief Brian Gomoka said.

**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!!**

### **Experts: Clay Pot Heaters Are Not A Safe Way To Warm Up Your Home, Despite Popular Trend**

A popular trend online shows people using terracotta clay pot "heaters" in an attempt to save money on heating their homes. The homemade device consists of an upside-down terracotta pot propped up over household candles. The question is: Are clay pot heaters a safe way to heat a room? No, clay pot heaters are not a safe way to heat a room. A clay pot heater may make you feel warmer if you sit close to it, but experts say it won't do much to warm the room as a whole and it's also a serious fire risk. Typically, when you burn a candle, the heat from the candle rises up to the ceiling. "The heat released from chemically burning candle wax will not change with the clay pot being present or not, so it should have no effect on the total energy released," Scott Schiffres, Ph.D., associate mechanical engineering professor at Binghamton University explained.

# NOTICE: FIRE FATALITIES CANNOT BE UPDATED THIS WEEK, THE US FIRE ADMINISTRATION WEBSITE IS NOT AVAILABLE

HOME FIRE FATALITIES REPORTED BY THE MEDIA FROM THE US FIRE ADMINISTRATION	
Fire Deaths in 1&2 Family Dwellings in NYS	58+1 = 59
Last fire death 11/4 Bronx, Female 12	
Fire Deaths in any type of Dwelling in NYS	122+1 = 123
Fire Deaths in 1&2 Family Dwellings Nationally	1040 + 42= 1082
Top 3 States with the greatest 1&2 Family Deaths	1 PA = 67
	2 NY = 59
	3 OH,CA & TN = 51
There has been a total of <b>1762</b> 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.

## [NC Labor Dept Cites Companies with Eight Violations, Issues \\$56,000 in Fines for Fatal SouthPark Apartment Fire](#)

Ames Alexander, Gavin Off – The Charlotte Observer

***The North Carolina Labor Department has fined three companies a total of more than \$56,000 for an array of violations related to the massive fire in May that killed two construction workers in SouthPark.***

The largest of the fines — \$46,875 — was issued against MCRT Carolinas Construction LLC, the contractor on the 239-unit apartment building, Modera SouthPark.

- Inspectors found the exits of the seven-story wooden building weren't arranged to provide an easy way out for the workers who were trapped inside the building when the five-alarm fire broke out on May 18.
- "With only a single stairway and its location on the northern end of the building, the exit was not so arranged as to provide free and unobstructed egress from all locations inside the building," one of the citations said.

Workers Reuben Holmes and Demonte Sherrill were on the building's sixth floor on the morning of the fire. They were about a football field away from the only exit, they told their boss in a panicked phone call just after 9:20 am, the Observer reported earlier this year. The supervisor of those two workers, Keith Suggs, said he instructed them to get on the floor and crawl toward the stairwell exit.

But they said the smoke was too thick for them to see the exit, Suggs said. Their remains were later discovered in the charred rubble from the massive, five-alarm blaze.

"I wish there was another set of stairs on the other end of that building," Suggs said previously. "My guys would have had another chance to escape."

***Firefighters were able to rescue 15 other workers who got stuck in the building.***

- State inspectors also found the employer did not develop and implement an emergency response plan, and that it had not established an alarm system to alert employees about such emergencies.

Officials for MCRT Carolinas could not immediately be reached for comment.

- The Department of Labor also fined subcontractor Kentucky Overhead Door, Inc. \$6,250 for two violations — not having a written respiratory program and not having a list of hazardous chemicals on the site. The company was doing business as Baker Insulation.

Two other serious violations against Kentucky Overhead Door carried no monetary penalties, records show.

- And the department fined subcontractor Diversified Insulation, LLC, \$3,125 for not maintaining and making readily available to workers copies of safety data sheets for hazardous material.

**The blaze was apparently sparked when spray foam insulation caught fire on the ground floor.** More than 90 firefighters, from the Charlotte Fire Department and five neighboring departments, flocked to the SouthPark Towers area to get the fire under control.

The companies have 15 working days to contest the citations.

The issue of construction safety has recently been a significant concern around fast-growing Charlotte.

On Jan. 2, three Charlotte construction workers died and two others were injured when scaffolding they were on collapsed. The three who died — Jose Canaca, Gilberto Monico Fernández and Jesus “Chuy” Olivares — fell about 70 feet while working at a construction site on Morehead Street, near uptown Charlotte and Dilworth.

## RETAIN AND RECRUIT...

### *Can Station Design Enhance Recruitment and Retention?*

Jerry L Streich

I recently visited the City of Newport, MN, government complex currently under construction. It will house the city administration, police, and fire departments when completed. It is a fantastic place sitting on a corner lot that will become the focus of the community. It is two stories tall with beautiful design features and functional areas; some of them shared. While walking through the building, I started to get excited at the recruitment opportunities for this community and how the building will increase employee motivation, improve workflow productivity, and increase community pride. There are bright colors to enhance the mood, modern mechanical to exchange the air, power-saving features, and private areas for those sharing meaningful discussions or needing some time away from distractions and interruptions. Over the large drive-through bays, a Maltese Cross is proudly displayed and the foundation for a manicured landscape that will bring a calming element to the building. There are separate rooms that will minimize the risks of cancer, large meeting areas, and a training facility built inside the hose tower. They even have a brass fire pole to be used by those on the second floor during an emergency.

When designing a new station, or improving an older one, let me offer you some things to consider that will enhance recruitment and encourage retention. Some of the following ideas could be implemented quickly, while others may inspire discussion as they are new and advanced. Today, we want to manage our recruitment plan by understanding the generational differences and how they influence or discourage involvement.

1. Recruitment Pods (RP)<sup>™</sup> - The pandemic of 2020 changed how our workforce operates. Employees were stuck at home, and corporations had to find new ways to continue their operation. At the same time, households were being turned into workspaces with improved internet connections, office equipment, and quiet areas. Working from home requires a lot of discipline and privacy to ensure the kids and animals are not disrupting your million-dollar deal while on a call. Because so many people continue to work from home, why not offer workstations for your community to use? Building workstations that allow free internet, desk space, and power is an easy way to attract residents to the fire station. In return, they will have to become a firefighter and respond to calls during their assigned hours in the office area. If John is assigned from 5 a.m. – 10:00 a.m., and Stacy comes in afterward, you have coverage for most of the day. Add a few more pod areas, and you have an entire crew. Turn your open space into a benefit!
2. Technology Areas – To encourage more visits to the fire station, add technology areas that can be used for enjoyment and work. Gaming areas will attract newer generations as they can play with people worldwide or watch a few sitcoms on Netflix. Connectivity to printers and other Internet of Things (IoT) to help manage the home and work while at the station can provide convenient features some firefighters do not have at home. Providing access to a large projection screen with high definition and surround sound to watch sports events or hold a family movie night is always popular. Add phone charging stations to the lockers and common areas for convenience. Overall, bringing yourself up with the times will encourage people to stay at the fire station longer.
3. Emotional Support Areas (EOA) – Sometimes, we all need a private area to rest our minds and bodies. Emotional Support Areas allow your firefighters to unwind by using a quiet calm place to relax. The room(s) could have "in-use" displays and calming music. These areas are easy to build and help firefighters calm down before heading home with all that baggage on their minds.

4. Green Space Areas – Green space allows nature to help calm the mood and beautify the area reducing stress. You can easily do this using potted plants or more permanent planting around the patio or station. Place a bench outside for people to sit on and immerse themselves in the environment.
5. Vehicle Service Areas – Many fire departments allow their firefighters to use the fire bay to wash their vehicles. As a chief, I have always felt this is one of the best benefits we had to offer and was never against supplying the soap and tools to put them inside the fire station. Of course, there must be rules, but most follow them and appreciate the benefit. Want to go even further? Consider building carports in the lot so firefighters have a safe place for their vehicle when they respond. When there is a storm and we expect them to respond, proving protection for their vehicle is a kind gesture, and guarantees they can come back. If their vehicle is damaged during the storm, or the snow is so high they can not drive, you lost a responder. Add solar panels to those carports and you provide power to the fire station, saving dollars. As electric vehicle become more prevalent, these areas can provide the charging equipment needed while they are managing local emergencies.
6. On-Premises Sleeping Rooms – If you want to improve your response time significantly, build sleeping rooms into your fire station. With affordable housing creating many challenges for firefighters across the U.S., allowing them to sleep at the fire station and use shared areas is the future. Why not offer a room for rent in return for firefighter talent? There are departments within Minnesota already doing this.

My tour of modern-day fire stations has helped me understand how station design can positively impact recruitment and retention. You will need an architect who understands the fire service and how you operate. No two fire departments are precisely alike, so you should start from scratch to determine your needs. In the past it was common to see fire stations look the same. Today, it is important to consider how your fire station will function before you consider its design. Recruitment and retention require a plan, and part of that plan should include thoughts about what you can do to encourage your responders to hang out and enjoy their time at the fire station.

## THE LIGHTER SIDE!

**When I say, “The other day.” I could be referring to any time between yesterday and 15 years ago!!**

## CAFDA 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)*

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**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](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

Write me at [tom@rinaldi1.com](mailto:tom@rinaldi1.com)

Please Support Those Who Support Us!!

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

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**Business Partner Opportunity!**

Thank you for your continued support of the Capital Ara Fire Districts Association. 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/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

<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

**[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](http://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!**