



CAPITAL AREA FIRE DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION BULLETIN

YOUR FIRE DISTRICT NEWS SOURCE

APRIL 13, 2024

EDITOR - TOM RINALDI

tom@rinaldi.com

[Beginning our 10th year.](#)



CAPITAL SHORTS:

- **OSHA IS EXTENDING THE PERIOD FOR SUBMITTING COMMENTS BY 45 DAYS (Until June 21st) TO ALLOW STAKEHOLDERS INTERESTED IN THE NPRM ON EMERGENCY RESPONSE ADDITIONAL TIME TO REVIEW THE NPRM AND COLLECT INFORMATION AND DATA NECESSARY FOR COMMENT.**
- **AN OSHA INFORMATION SUPPLEMENT HAS BEEN MOVED TO THE END OF THE BULLETIN AND PROVIDES ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND LINKS TO IMPORTANT DOCUMENTS. STAY INFORMED!!**
- **Come One Day, Come Two Days, or Come all Three Days but join us for the The 1st Annual CAFDA Conference Registration – See Page 4 & 5. Looking forward to seeing you in Lake George for a great Information Event. Several Vendors have already made their reservations.**
- Annual Financial Report (AFR formerly AUD) filing deadlines are 120 days after the end of the fiscal year, or **Monday April 29th 2024**. Extension requests can be submitted by the CFO in the [Annual Financial Reporting application](#) or in a letter signed by the CFO and emailed to AFRFILE@osc.ny.gov, faxed to (518) 486-3146 or mailed to Office of the State Comptroller, Data Management Unit, 110 State Street 12-8-C, Albany NY 12236. Fire Districts will also be required to report their statutory spending limit.
- Our condolences to the Coons Family and the members of the Taborton Fire Company on the death of past Chief William Coons.
- Our sincere condolences to Fire District Association of the State of New York Regional Director Don Greene and the Greene family on the passing of Don's wife Betty who was a wonderful individual and immersed in her local community.
- **CAFDA would like to thank Averill Park Fire District, Halfmoon-Waterford Fire District, Berkshire Fire District and Warrensburg Fire District for the use of their stations to provide the 2024 Commissioner's training, we appreciate your hospitality and the assistance from your members.**
- Must read article on page 18!!
- Welcome to **Alltek Energy Systems** as our latest Business Partner.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS AND RENEWALS FOR 2024

Averill Park-Sand Lake Fire District #2
Ballston Lake Fire District #1
Berkshire Fire District
Berlin Fire District #1
Boght Community Fire District
Burnt Hills Fire District
Charlton Fire District #1
Chestertown Fire District
Clifton Park-Halfmoon Fire District #1
Coeymans Fire District
Coeymans Hollow Fire District

Delmar Fire District
Dutchess County Fire District Officers Assoc.
Eagle Mills Fire District #1
East Glenville Fire District #3
East Greenbush Fire District #1
Fort Edward Joint Fire District
Fort Hunter Fire District/Alb Co
Fort Hunter Fire District/Mont Co
Glenville Fire District #5
Glenville Fire District #7
Glenville Hill Fire District #8

Glenham Fire District
Grafton Fire District
Greenfield Fire District
Guilderland Fire District
Halfmoon Fire District #1
Halfmoon-Waterford Fire District #1
Harmony Corners Fire District
Hemstreet Park Fire District #4
Hoags Corners Fire District
Hoosick Falls Joint Fire District
Hoosick Fire District
Jefferson Fire District
Johnsonville Fire District
Kiskatom Fire District
Knox Fire District
Latham Fire Department
Lewis Fire District
Mayfield Fire District #2
Melrose Fire District
Milton Fire District No. 1
Niskayuna Fire District #1
Niskayuna Fire District # 2
North Greenbush Fire District # 1
Northside Fire District
Northumberland Fire District #1
Perth Volunteer Fire Company
Piseco Fire Department
Pleasantdale Fire District #5
Plotterkill Fire District
Providence Fire District
Quaker Springs Fire District #1

Quaker Street Fire District No. 1
Raymertown Fire District
Rexford Fire District
Rotterdam Fire District #1
Rotterdam Fire District #2
Rotterdam Fire District #3
Rotterdam Fire District #6
Rotterdam Fire District #7
Sand Lake Fire District #3
Schodack Landing Fire District No. 1
Schuyler Heights Fire District
Selkirk Fire District
Slingerlands Fire District
South Schodack Fire District
Stanford Heights Fire District
Stillwater Fire District
Ticonderoga Joint Town/Village Joint Fire District
Town of Mohawk Fire District
Verdoy Fire District
Vischer Ferry Fire District
Warrensburg Fire District
Wells Fire District
West Athens Limestreet Fire District
West Crescent Fire District
West Glenville Fire District #6
West Sand Lake Fire District #1
Westmere Fire District
Wilton Fire District
Wright Fire District
plus 2 additional Associate Members.

Have you sent in your Dues for 2024 yet??

Those who have not renewed for 2024 yet: CT Male, Fox Pest Control, H2M, Marshall & Sterling, Mengel-Metzger-Barr, VanDerMolen Fire, Grafton Fire District, Petersburg Fire District, Ausable-Chesterfield-Keeseville, North Creek Fire District, South Schodack Fire District, Coeymans Hollow Fire District, Rotterdam/Princetown Fire District, Schodack Valley FD, and Speigletown Fire District

CAFDA NEWS AND OPPORTUNITIES:

WWW.CAFDA.NET

**Your Choice: One Day, or Two Days, or All Three Days,
but don't miss the 1st Local Fire Service Conference
THE 1st ANNUAL CAFDA REGIONAL CONFERENCE
for Fire District Officials – LAKE GEORGE SPRING 2024**

Don't put it off Register now – Registration at the end of this Bulletin.

CAPITAL AREA FIRE DISTRICT CONFERENCE April 25, 26 & 27th 2024

More than 50 of your friends and fellow firefighters have registered for this conference!

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.

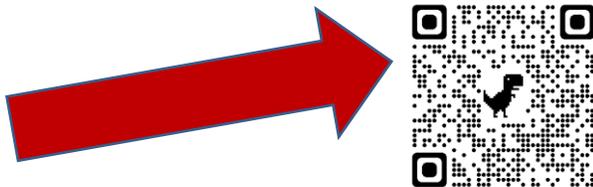
An affordable conference, held locally in the Capital Area.

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

Announcement and Registration Forms at End of The Bulletin!

REGISTRATION AVAILABLE ON-LINE INCLUDING CREDIT CARD PAYMENT

OPEN CAFDA.NET - LOOK FOR THE EVENTS TAB - GO TO THE CALENDAR - CLICK ON THE EVENT ON CALENDAR - IT WILL OPEN THE REGISTRATION INFORMATION - PAY ON LINE



General Membership Meetings - - In person and Zoom

Printable Calendar with much more – See End of Bulletin

Thank you to the Clifton Park – Halfmoon Fire District for allowing us to use their facility for the CAFDA meetings.

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

OTHER FIRE SERVICE ORGANIZATION NEWS

Registration is Open for the 2024 Fire & Life Safety Educators' Training Series

For over 40 years, NYS AFC has partnered with the [New York State Office of Fire Prevention & Control](#) to host the Fire & Life Safety Educators' Conference at the New York State Academy of Fire Science.

Due to infrastructure updates taking place at the academy, in lieu of the annual conference, we're taking the show on the road this spring, conducting one-day events at fire departments across New York state!

[Registration](#) is available through the New York State Division of Homeland Security & Emergency Services

REGISTRATION LINK: https://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001TOCwg3ovEF_Y28vMWgdj2oPPagxNG2-mYpdNUPneh6IaJI4mhJOeZaCmBmObFEQjdl_xVVUMZKGxm5d0yZPCeZq3WbKfLNE5oQJCA0MFJClxDI4DXOdx5lrfnFee9bDpFpL53S-gKJk-Maz9nMjFxE3vfGilhA1X0KU1tI6254k=&c=QVmeJMoBbdFID0x2tKh9M197wXDFgqb6joOaqJZZgn-Wgg1mCKjo6w==&ch=IERkeJz7oTSsZozU8hdKbs-2uYgkwOxNO7ptOln1qAmqlqEMnFKJuQ==

[Maz9nMjFxE3vfGilhA1X0KU1tI6254k=&c=QVmeJMoBbdFID0x2tKh9M197wXDFgqb6joOaqJZZgn-Wgg1mCKjo6w==&ch=IERkeJz7oTSsZozU8hdKbs-2uYgkwOxNO7ptOln1qAmqlqEMnFKJuQ==](#)

[Wgg1mCKjo6w==&ch=IERkeJz7oTSsZozU8hdKbs-2uYgkwOxNO7ptOln1qAmqlqEMnFKJuQ==](#)

Schedules and session descriptions are available [here](#).

2024 Dates and Locations:

8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. at all locations.

Rensselaer County – April 27 In Person

IF NOTHING ELSE READ THE ARTICLES PRECEDED BY **

THE LATEST FROM THE STATE CAPITAL

THE SCORECARD IS BEING UPDATED EACH WEEK WHILE

THE LEGISLATURE IS IN SESSION

See what's included in the Budget, that will affect the Fire Service

- Budget extender being voted on until next Monday and perhaps beyond, one party in power, still no budget!! Budget extenders have been issued to keep the government running.
- All attention in Albany has been focused on the budget and associated hearings. Budget is due April 1st.
- Albany is now awaiting the one chamber budget bills, one from the senate and one from the assembly to see how or if they mesh with the Governor's proposal.
- The legislature will be on break between April 19th and May 3rd, resuming on May 6th!

PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTIONS

Property tax exemptions require action by the individual firefighters; once a local government opts in, application for the exemption by the volunteer is filed with the assessor, department or other office designated by the municipality, school district and/or fire district offering such [exemption on a form](#) prescribed by the New York State Department of Taxation and Finance before the "taxable status date." ***It is important to note that the "taxable status date" in most towns was March 1.*** See more information at: <https://fasny.com/resources/county-index-numbers/>

THE LATEST FROM WASHINGTON

NATIONAL FIRE SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS OPPOSE CUTS TO AFG AND SAFER GRANTS

The National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC) joins with other national fire service organizations to strongly oppose cuts to the Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) and Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) grants. These programs provide critical funding to help fire departments secure needed equipment, training, and staffing to adequately protect their communities.

Funding was slashed 10 percent for the Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program (AFG), the Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response Grant Program (SAFER). SAFER and AFG programs. They are earmarked to receive \$324 million not \$360 provided in FY 2023.

The AFG and SAFER grants provide a lifeline to fire and EMS departments across the nation as they face challenges such as expanding missions, increased costs, and staffing shortages.

THE ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

THE PERMISSIVE REFERENDUM PROCESS TO SELL OR DISPOSE OF PROPERTY OR EQUIPMENT

Reprinted from Fire District Affairs

A Board of Fire Commissioners is permitted to sell or dispose of property of the fire district which is no longer necessary for the uses and purposes of the fire district. This authority is found in Town Law §176 subparagraph 23. Thus, if the Board intends to sell or dispose of property valued at twenty thousand (\$20,000.00) dollars or less, it can gain authorization to do so by simply adopting a resolution to sell or dispose of it with no referendum.

If the Board intends to sell or dispose of property valued at more than twenty thousand (\$20,000.00) dollars, but less than one hundred thousand (\$100,000.00) dollars, ***it must conduct a permissive referendum process*** to gain authority to sell or dispose of it unless it is using the trade-in exception provided for by the statute.

If the Board intends to sell or dispose of property valued at one hundred thousand (\$100,000.00) dollars or more, ***it must conduct a mandatory referendum*** at an annual or special election of the fire district to gain authority to sell or dispose of it unless it is using the trade-in exception provided for by the statute. Let's revisit the permissive referendum process: A permissive referendum does not require a public vote of the registered voters of the fire district unless a proper petition is filed requesting the vote. The Board would adopt a resolution for the sale of the item(s) at a Board meeting and would then direct the Secretary to publish a legal notice in the official newspaper of the fire district within ten (10) working days of the meeting. Ten (10) working days means ten (10) days not counting weekend days and legal holidays. Remember, this notice provides transparency and allows interested parties to express their views on the proposed sale or disposal.

The resolution adopted by the Board of Fire Commissioners is effective and the Board is authorized to sell or dispose of the property thirty (30) calendar days after the date of the meeting as long as a petition is not filed with the fire district secretary that has been signed and acknowledged by resident taxpayers of the fire district, owning taxable real property aggregating at least one-quarter of the assessed valuation of all the taxable real property of the fire district as such valuations appear upon the latest completed assessment roll for the fire district.

This means that thirty (30) calendar days after the date of the meeting the Board is authorized to complete the sale or disposal of the property since rarely if ever would a petition be filed in proper form to require voter approval of a proposition on the matter. Of course, if a proper petition is filed an election and voter approval would be required. It is important to note that the statute focuses on authority to sell rather than the selling process. ***There is no requirement to use a competitive bidding process to sell the item(s) the Board is now authorized to sell.*** The Board should select a process it believes will yield a fair sales price for item(s) that it sells.

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.

FIRE APPARATUS PURCHASING!

Standardizing the Fleet: Benefits and Risks to Consider

Joseph Murray

Just before my appointment, my fire department, like many others, was challenged with the impacts of a national recession, during which time we made purchases on an as-needed basis, primarily based on cost or urgent need without much concern as to the challenges of maintaining and operating a mixed fleet. Upon taking office, I found it extremely difficult to coordinate repairs and maintenance with a variety of vendors and contractors. Further complicating our situation was the total demise of one of our manufacturers, which made acquiring parts increasingly difficult. I quickly had to determinate if we were to continue on our path of maintaining a mixed fleet or if we should work toward standardizing our fleet. After much research, we chose to begin a fleet standardization process. *Although the total standardization process took almost eight years, it has proven to be a great choice for my department.* This is not to say that fleet standardization works well or is even possible for every community. There are definitely pros and cons associated with a standardized fleet, and there is no one-size-fits-all answer for how it will work with an individual fire department. Perhaps more so today than at any point in the history of the fire service, fire chiefs are being tasked with developing a comprehensive fleet replacement plan. This responsibility can be a challenging one as many fire departments across North America are challenged with increasing demands for service, tightening budgets, and the challenges that come from the extreme apparatus build times we are now experiencing. As part of developing a comprehensive fleet replacement plan, it is important for fire chiefs to determine if their long-term intentions are to use a standardized or mixed apparatus fleet in terms of manufacturers. As every fire chief who has been involved in at least one apparatus purchase knows, the choice of manufacturer for even one piece of apparatus often includes a robust and often passionate debate among the department's apparatus committee members. Anticipating sticking with a single manufacturer as part of a long-term replacement plan obviously can add an additional dimension to those discussions. It is important that fire chiefs have a good understanding of both the positives and negatives of maintaining a standardized fleet when discussing it with their committees.

WHY STANDARDIZE?

The main purpose of fire apparatus fleet standardization is to ensure the fleet has a single manufacturer and standard model (which may or may not vary by type of apparatus). As part of a standardized fleet plan, the fire department will develop a common set of specifications for each type of apparatus in its fleet. These specifications typically include common types of engines, chassis, frames, pumps, tanks, compartment layouts, paint and graphics, and equipment to be carried. Many fire chiefs prefer to standardize their fleets because of the perceived financial and operational benefits such as the ability to stock common parts, reduction of training hours needed when a new apparatus is introduced, and increased safety.

POTENTIAL BENEFITS

Capital Costs Savings: As with many other products, buying in bulk can provide significant cost savings to the purchaser. Fire apparatus is no different. The size of your fleet and the size of your purchase can be leveraged to reduce your overall acquisition costs. In general, there is an increase in your cost savings directly proportional to the number of apparatus being ordered. With guaranteed higher volume orders, sales vendors are generally able to quote apparatus well below the median price for each type of apparatus. Using the same sales vendor repeatedly can also result in the ability to forecast additional purchases, which can result in lower pricing as part of maintaining a relationship with the customer. Another benefit of using the same sales vendor is the gained competency of working within your communities' purchasing ordinances and purchasing department. As most fire chiefs know, a well working professional relationship with the purchasing and finance teams can make a significant purchase a much more streamlined process.

Apparatus Specification Development Efficiency: Obviously standardizing the fleet makes the specification process much less time consuming. Other than small tweaks here and there based on past experiences, the bulk of the specification work is done with your first purchase. Standardizing the specification leads to fewer mistakes and helps ensure a quality build. Using one manufacturer also means fewer variations in contracts and warranties, all of which will reduce staff time dedicated to the same. Using a single manufacturer allows your staff to become familiar with processes related to contracts and warranties and streamlines working through those processes.

Increased Operational Efficiency and Safety: Whatever your department may call them—engineers, drivers, drivers/operators, etc.—all of them become accustomed to the controls and operation of their assigned apparatus. Standardizing your fleet allows the fire chief greater flexibility in making driver assignments without loss of expertise or proficiency. The familiarity with standard apparatus setup also reduces the chances of mistakes caused by operating dissimilar units. A standardized fleet with similar compartment setups also provides for more efficiency on the fireground finding tools and equipment on an apparatus from another district.

Quantifiable Reliability: One often repeated argument against fleet standardization is that there is no universal guarantee that a particular manufacturer's product line will continue to maintain its quality in years to come. While this may be true, there is also no assurance that each new vendor a fire department decides to contract with will maintain its quality expectations either. Standardizing your fleet gives you a period of time to evaluate the quality of your apparatus and provides the fire chief with quantifiable data to evaluate if that particular manufacturer is meeting the department's quality standards or not. Frequently bouncing from one manufacturer to another does not allow the fire chief to evaluate the overall quality properly.

Maintenance and Repair: As all fire chiefs understand, repairing and maintaining fire apparatus are not cheap. Another benefit of having a standardized fleet is the familiarity your apparatus technicians gain from frequently working on the same models. Through a standardized fleet, technicians can more easily obtain training or access to online learning tools to become experts on that particular apparatus. This will improve technician proficiency, reducing apparatus out-of-service time. Much like today's personal vehicles, fire apparatus systems are increasing in the number of electronic sensors and controls, mandated emissions technologies, and various safety devices. Adding these new systems proportionally correlates to the amount of training vehicle technicians require to make repairs and provide maintenance. By limiting the number of new systems your vehicle technicians need to learn, it will become easier for your technicians to become more proficient. For those fire departments that use in-house repair and maintenance services, the costs of testing equipment, diagnostic software, and subscriptions can also be significant and often reoccurring. Using a standardized fleet can greatly reduce these costs when they can be limited to one manufacturer. Probably one of the most obvious benefits of maintaining a standardized fleet is the ability to more efficiently stock parts and fluid types. Reducing the number of parts and fluids that need to be stocked and maintained can greatly reduce costs and free up space within the maintenance garage. Using economies of scale in purchasing commonly used parts and fluids can greatly reduce their costs as well.

POTENTIAL RISKS OF A STANDARDIZED FLEET

While standardizing the fleet has many benefits, it is not without risks. When determining the desire to standardize or not, fire chiefs should consider the following risks or perceived risks. *Loss of Competition: Using a single vendor for the entire fleet inevitably leads to the loss of competition.* Opinions on sole-source purchasing can vary widely from community to community, and *the absence of an open bidding process may lead to questions from community members or elected leaders related to using public funds.* While an initial acquisition cost could conceivably be lower in an open bidding process, it is important to understand the cost efficiencies over the lifespan of the apparatus in

question. The best argument against those who might want a more competitive bidding process is quantifiable data showing the savings of a standardized fleet vs. a mixed fleet. This will again depend on the circumstances of your particular agency and fleet. Reducing competition when using sole-source purchases to standardize your fleet may present to some as an attempt to bypass fair competition. Others may take political stances accusing collusion or other personal interests in the use of a single manufacturer. It is important for the fire chief to ensure everything is above water and that he can show the benefits of reducing competition for the overall good of the community.

Technology and Innovation: In general, standardizing the fleet is a longer-term commitment. This commitment may have the unforeseen consequence of missing out on using the newest technologies. In my experience, technology improvements that have a significant impact are generally adopted across the board (and often improved on) by most of the fire apparatus manufacturers within a few years. Although your commitment to standardization may temporarily prevent your department from using the most advanced technology, it also may save you the trouble of dealing with issues that inevitably come up with new technologies until thoroughly tested with real-life use.

Lemons: Let's face it: Any fire chief who has been around for a number of years has inherited or purchased a lemon—that one apparatus that is always down for repairs. It is important to understand if the “lemon-ness” is a flaw of that specific apparatus alone or if it is a reflection of the overall quality of a manufacturer's product. While fleet standardization may have many benefits, it is especially important that the fire chief and the apparatus committee spend a considerable amount of time on the initial research and specification process. An inferior product can lead to many problems that might not be quickly resolved. It is important for the fire chief to review maintenance records, components availability, and the experiences of other end users that use the same product. It is also especially important to have a thorough understanding of the financial health of the manufacturer to ensure you will have access to parts, components, and maintenance for many years to come. A single lemon is something that can be dealt with; a fleet of lemons is an entirely different problem.

While fleet standardization can lead to many benefits, it is not a one-size fits-all answer for every fire department. There are risks with standardizing an entire fleet, and there are also some benefits in maintaining a mixed fleet. Each fire chief must determine what is best for his organization. Whichever way a fire chief intends to go, it is important that the decision is well thought out and quantifiable in terms of costs and operational benefits

FIRE DISTRICT/COMPANY FINANCES!



Volunteer Firefighter Training Stipend Webinar

Date & Time Monday May 6, 2024 07:00 PM in Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Volunteer Firefighter Training Stipend Program Webinar – what you need to know about the new law! Join FASNY General Counsel Tim Hannigan, FASNY Secretary John D'Alessandro, and a representative from the New York State Office of Fire Prevention and Control in a live discussion of the new law and how to implement it in your firehouse.

REGISTER AT THIS LINK: https://fasny.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_sJKvUur_RRKDaEbpGG3-QA#/registration

The Continuing Saga of Sheriff Jamey Noel

Andrew Harp

Who was watching the bank accounts or the Credit Cards??

Investigators released more information Wednesday about American Express card purchases made by Jamey Noel that Indiana State Police claims were paid with firefighter funds. The latest warrants are related to travel expenses and cigar purchases allegedly made by Noel.

Indiana State Police in previous affidavits say that Noel, the former Clark County Sheriff **facing 25 felony counts**, and **his wife and daughter, Misty and Kasey Noel, who have also been charged, failed to report more than \$3.5 million in income to the state between 2018 and 2021**. That income included personal purchases using American Express cards issued to Utica Township Volunteer Fire Fighters Association/New Chapel EMS, which Jamey Noel has held leadership positions in and is a founder.

A search warrant affidavit states that a review of the purchases determined that *Utica Township Volunteer Fire Fighters Association funds totaling \$132,467 were spent on Marriot Vacation Club expenses from 2018 to 2023, and*

\$68,954.48 on Marriott Ownership Resorts Incorporated timeshares from 2018 to 2023. Along with this, investigators reviewed loan documents and monthly bill statements that apparently stated Jamey and Misty Noel took out a loan for \$83,644.06 on Sept. 24, 2019. Billing statements indicate the couple paid around \$1,442.39 a month through the American Express card.

Monthly payments for the Marriott Vacation Club were charged to the fire fighters association. Between timeshare payments, car rentals, Uber, airfare, hotels and other travel expenses, Jamey Noel spent around \$327,862.55 from 2018 to 2023, and charged it to the fire fighters association. A second search warrant affidavit again reviewed the American Express card purchases. **That review determined Jamey Noel spent \$56,662.37 on cigars and related items at Riverside Cigar Shop and Lounge in Jeffersonville.** On March 1, the affidavit states investigators went to the cigar shop and saw Jamey Noel inside the business. A store associate told them that Jamey Noel was a “frequent customer.” Noel has been ordered to appear in Clark County Circuit Court on April 9 for a show-cause hearing after investigators seized two handguns from his home during a search warrant.

Woman Charged With Embezzling More Than \$200,000 From Currituck (NC) Fire Department

Kari Pugh, The Virginian-Pilot

A member of the Lower Currituck Volunteer Fire Department has been charged with stealing more than \$200,000 from the organization.

Amanda Christine Lamb, 46, of Shawboro in Currituck County, is charged with embezzlement of funds by a public officer, North Carolina Insurance Commissioner Mike Causey announced in a news release. Special agents with the Department of Insurance’s Criminal Investigations Division allege Lamb **stole \$205,305.85 from volunteer department between July 1, 2020, to Nov. 1, 2022.** A grand jury in Currituck County indicted Lamb on March 25 and she was arrested March 26, the release said. Lamb was released on a \$97,000 secured bond and is due in Currituck County Superior Court on April 22.

Annual Financial Report Due April 29th

Annual Financial Report (AFR formerly AUD) filing deadlines are 120 days after the end of the fiscal year, or Monday April 29th 2024. Extension requests can be submitted by the CFO in the [Annual Financial Reporting application](#) or in a letter signed by the CFO and emailed to AFRFILE@osc.ny.gov, faxed to (518) 486-3146 or mailed to Office of the State Comptroller, Data Management Unit, 110 State Street 12-8-C, Albany NY 12236. Fire Districts will also be required to report their statutory spending limit.

****Volunteer Fire Infrastructure & Response Equipment Grant Program**

It needs to be understood that this is a reimbursement grant program and the funds need to be expended before they are released by the State.

Complete eligibility and program information can be found in the Request for Applications (RFA) and other supporting documentation can be found at the following link: <https://www.dhSES.ny.gov/state-funded-programs>

The application deadline is April 30, 2024, by 5:00 pm.

THE WEB SITE INCLUDES LINKS TO:

- Request for Applications (RFA)
- Application Worksheet
- Frequently Asked Questions
- E-Grants Tutorial

LINK TO THE SYNOPSIS OF THE GRANT PROGRAM: <https://cafda.net/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/Synopsis-of-the-2023-Grant-Program-1.docx>

- ✓ Further work is being done to change the program from a re-imbursement program to an invoice submittal program, especially the smaller departments who don’t have the funding up front. More to come on this concept.

Message from Deputy State Fire Administrator Luci Labriola-Cuffe on the NYS Stipend Program

I am very pleased to announce the NYS Stipend Regulation is now final and the program information is now live on our website. OFPC is now accepting applications for the stipend monies for volunteer firefighters who have successfully completed (first time completion) one of the eligible courses on or after August 31, 2023.

Learn what you and your Chief's need to do to comply with this new program!!

Further information and documents found here:

<https://www.dhSES.ny.gov/new-york-state-volunteer-firefighter-stipend-program>

The final regulation can be found on the NYS Register starting on page 4:

<https://dos.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2024/03/030624.pdf>

If anyone has questions, please send them to OFPC-Stipend@dhSES.ny.gov

Thank you,

Luci

Luci Labriola-Cuffe, MPS-HS: PHP & CT

Deputy State Fire Administrator



THE ACADEMY for New York State's LOCAL/FIRE DISTRICT OFFICIALS

April 3, 2024 | 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM Virtual

[Understanding the Budget Process](#)

This session will explain the budget process, the procedures that should be used in preparing the budget and the resources and tools available to assist with budget development. It will also address the requirements and options for amending the budget, and the reports necessary for successfully monitoring the budget during the year.

REGISTER HERE: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/1173403644171228247>

Fiscal Oversight Responsibilities of the Governing Board

The governing board's oversight role can touch virtually every aspect of a local government's operations. This session will discuss some key functions including budget responsibilities, interim reporting, the audit of claims, and the annual audit requirements. We will also provide resources available to assist in these oversight activities.

DATE: 2024-01-24 LENGTH: 46:53 TAKE THIS ANYTIME AT THIS LINK: [On Demand Slide Show Presentation \[pdf\]](#)

Local Government and School Accountability Contact Information:

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

Address: Office of the State Comptroller, Division of Local Government and School Accountability
110 State Street, 12th Floor; Albany, NY 12236

STEP INTO THE CHIEF'S OFFICE

****When Things Go Sideways: How IC's Can Keep Their Cool On The Incident Scene**

Vincent Bettinazzi

Routine is a funny word. It's commonly used to describe our fire calls. "Bread and butter" is another term thrown around, especially during training sessions. And here I am now, travelling down the road in the battalion car, and I am overcome with the feeling that this one is going to be anything but *routine*.

It's a two-story multi-family apartment building – wood-framed with eight units, four on the front and four in the rear. The two second-floor apartments are only accessible by a single center staircase. There is no access to the rear apartments unless you go to that side of the building.

I'm the first to arrive. Some incident commanders (ICs) probably prefer this – time to get eyes on the scene and set up their resources. I, however, do not. I like to have the rigs arrive first, take position and initiate action.

I'm directed in by bystanders, wildly waving to me like a third base coach giving me the green light to go home. I quickly find the fire apartment and back my vehicle into a nice spot to view the incident, but far enough away that the key players can file in for firefighting ops. I update the address and size-up the building over the TAC-channel – smoke showing from the second floor.

For what it's worth, the Monday-morning quarterbacking that spotlights every single factor that should have been picked up or all those decisions that could have been made is a very real phenomenon. All you have to do to prove this is scroll through social media posts about specific incidents – you'll quickly learn how the crews could have performed better. But put all that aside. ***The incident scene is not the time to think about what others will say or how they will judge. As an IC, you must find a way to keep yourself grounded, focused and rational; otherwise, it's too easy for miscellaneous non-essential factors to influence your judgment or persuade you to give orders that aren't aligned with normal operations.*** If I had thought about those Monday-morning quarterbacks or got caught up in the "what-ifs," this fire could have sent me on an uncontrolled spiral of emotional unbalance. Here's the rest of the story.

First, wrong address. Not a big deal in this circumstance, as the fire apartment was next to the entrance into the complex, but this detail always has the potential to significantly delay our operations.

Next, the first-due engine was out-of-pocket, traveling down to the training academy to conduct some reps with their probationary member. This resulted in the rescue company as the first suppression apparatus. Although they have preconnects and water, it is not routine for them to initiate fire attack, as primary search is considered their primary role. The driver quickly realized that his placement would be better suited somewhere else and repositioned after dropping off his officer and firefighter.

The second-due engine, unaware that the first was not on scene, stopped at the hydrant and informed me that they were going to initiate water supply. This is their normal job function on reported fires. I quipped back that they are the *first* engine here. I could feel the increased anxiety build in that officer and me when he responded back that he was positioning for fire attack.

Remember the size-up? Smoke showing on the second floor. I reinforced that when I radioed to the rescue to initiate primary search and that the fire appeared to be on the second floor. I watched the firefighter and officer from that company race up the stairs to the second floor. "Good," I thought to myself. "I should get some information soon."

Our safety officer positioned on the Charlie side and provided valuable intel to me. A good move considering the event as well as the potential for extension and rescue/evacuation for occupants.

The first truck split their company. The two assigned to outside vent quickly threw a ladder to the second-floor window at the apartment that looked to be the origin.

The first line was placed on the ground. The firefighter was a probie. First fire jitters seemingly resulted in a loss of situational awareness. *All of a sudden, the fire vented from the first-floor apartment's door and Alpha window.* The fire quickly extended to the staircase, cutting off my rescue company on the floor above. Compound that with fire now impinging on the extension ladder thrown to the floor above. All access was cut-off.

Not routine at all.

FIND A CALMING MENTALITY

As a college athlete, I often found myself in positions of discomfort, especially during off-season conditioning. Somehow, I started coping through these moments by singing the ABCs to myself. This process had a calming effect on me. It allowed me to regain my focus and center my emotions within 30-seconds of song.

At the scene I described, I followed a similar approach, taking the time to evaluate conditions instead of immediately reacting in a state of panic. Something remarkable happened. Firefighters were firefighters, quickly taking action to suppress the flames within 15 seconds of the fire showing itself to us. I didn't amp up the emotional tone by barking on the radio. Instead, I went to my mental place and evaluated. Of course, I didn't just sit back and watch, hoping that good things happen. You are the command and control of the incident. Take the time to take in your chessboard before moving your pieces like a professional player. And find your method to achieve a calm mind, whether through a quick ABC or mantra or visualization technique.

WHAT'S YOUR SYSTEM FOR TRACKING ASSIGNMENTS?

Whether it's a shift roster, white board or prepared checklist, **you better have a way to track your resources**. In times of chaos, having this command reference will be invaluable to you. This is one resource an IC can use to effectively manage and regain composure on the fireground.

Make sure it is accurate. Systematically work through this worksheet to ensure that companies are accounted for and tactical benchmarks are being achieved. Any time I encountered a challenge, I cross-reference my command sheet like an airline pilot conducting their pre-flight checklist (crew resource management anyone?). My attention would go to the items I may have missed early in the incident in an attempt to build a solid base for the incident to be successful.

BEFORE TAKING COMMAND, KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON

So often a chief will arrive on scene and immediately take command of the show. By doing so, you are taking responsibility of the incident. Hopefully, you have a good understanding of the actions that have been initiated prior to your arrival by on-scene units. **Take the time to get a good pass-on from the officer before you**. Use the information received to complete your tactical worksheet, predict needs, and develop your incident action plan to manage the incident.

When things go sideways, it is hard to get control of the proverbial snowball that may have started rolling down the hill without any clue where previous arriving units are operating or what they are even doing. This leads to stress, anxiety and rapid decision-making without facts that could have guided you.

HAVE A 'THINK LOCATION'

You need to have a "think location." A location that removes the IC from as much distraction as possible is a haven at times of increased stress or when critical command orders need to be divided among key players. The fireground is an immersive environment. *Every little tug on your jacket and sidebar conversation initiated by a bystander or even a company officer can contribute to misses*. Going to your quiet place, especially as you feel the anxiety creep in, is a smart way to stay focused and eliminate mistakes.

FINAL THOUGHTS

Whether the incident is "routine" or not, the IC is given the awesome responsibility to control the incident. With this is the onset of elevated emotions and myriad distractions. Take the time to develop a good command system. *Maintain accountability, and try your best to manage your emotions. Sometimes, I found it was harder to manage the stress than the people in your control*. Hopefully, these pieces of advice will help you perform in that element.

OUR CHANGING FIRE SERVICE –CHALLENGES & POSITIVE IDEAS!

POSITIVE IDEAS THAT MIGHT WORK FOR OTHERS:

TX Rural Volunteer Fire Departments Receive \$1.3M in Grants

Silver Creek Volunteer Fire Department was among more than 70 departments to receive awards totaling roughly \$1.3 million from the Texas A&M Forest Service.

TAFS last week held the second of three funding meeting for FY 2024 for its Rural Volunteer Fire Department Assistance Program.

Grant funding from the program will help Texas rural volunteer fire department recipients from this allocation purchase equipment such as dry hydrants, fire and rescue equipment, personal protective equipment and training aids.

New Raleigh North Carolina, Fire Truck Helps Fight Fires, The Cancer-Causing Chemicals They Cause

Shaun Gallagher, WRAL News

Raleigh firefighters are adding a new truck to their fleet to help protect them from cancer-causing soot that can cling to skin and gear.

Rehab 12 has several features to help protect firefighters, including a handwashing station. Battalion Chief Keith Wilder said it is ready to use as soon as an emergency arises. Specifically, Wilder said the Rehab 12 would roll out for fires at the two-alarm or greater level, or at the request of the division chief.

"I'm so happy to see that vehicle because someone is here to take care of me," Wilder said. The truck cost the city about \$260,000. Cancer-causing carcinogens are the No. 1 killers of firefighters.

Raleigh Fire Chief Herbert Griffin pushed for the Raleigh Fire Department to get Rehab 12 after having a similar truck during the 13 years he spent with the Houston Fire Department. Wilder says a more thorough decontamination eliminates roughly 85% of the toxins, but the sinks can reduce that by even more. "We're not going to be able to stop doing our jobs," Wilder said. "We've just got to learn to work smarter and how we do it to reduce that risk."

Raleigh firefighters that WRAL News spoke with said Rehab 12 will serve as an oasis. It has coffee machines, a microwave, a cooler stocked with water, a freezer, ice and other nonperishable snacks. It also has a table and folding chairs. Outside of Rehab 12, there is an awning to provide shade. It also has a bathroom at the back of the truck. It has two sinks – outside the unit and in the restroom – that firefighters can use to scrub their hands and face.

"We've got to be able to help them rehab in a way that when they leave that incident, they're ready to treat the next incident with the same amount of energy and to provide for those citizens in the same way they provided for the ones that the initial incident, and this truck is going to allow us to do that," Wilder said. Griffin said Rehab 12 is the first truck of its kind in the Raleigh Fire Department and in the state of North Carolina. **Wilder said Rehab 12 is a city asset and can help other agencies. For example, Raleigh Water can use it when there is a water main break to fix.**

CHALLENGES:

THIS IS A MUST READ ARTICLE, TO READ AND PONDER!!

****Stop Pretending You Have A Fire Department**

Billy Goldfeder

I want to share with you a recent fire in the City of Jeannette, located in western Pennsylvania. Jeannette has a population of approximately 9,000 people. The median income for a household in Jeannette is about \$30,000. The per capita income for the city was \$15,961. About 11% of families and 15% of the population were below the poverty line, including 21% of those under age 18 and 13% of those aged 65 or over. It should be clear that they are not "rolling in dough." It is a hard-working blue-collar community with its share of struggles.

On March 20, the Jeannette Fire Department (JFD) responded to the scene of a fire, and when it was all over, four children – Kyson, 7; Kinzleigh, 6; Keagan, 3; and Korbyn, 1 month – and their dad, 27-year-old Tyler King, were dead. Their mother, Miranda John, and two of her children survived the fire, thanks to the efforts of the Jeannette Fire Department. The three survivors are now out of the hospital.

Let's walk through what happened here.

The JFD was alerted and the Westmoreland County dispatchers upgraded it to a working fire dispatch because they received multiple calls. The JFD response:

- Two on-duty in-quarters career firefighters (one full-time and one part-time) on an engine;
- The chief went to the firehouse and took the tower ladder;
- The alarm assignment recalled off-duty and part-time JFD members, two who went to the scene (they had PPE with them) and arrived instantly, and were able to affect some rescues with neighbors; and
- Eight other call or off-duty members who arrived from outside the city.

The JFD also receives automatic aid for the working fire, which, in this case, consisted of two volunteer engines, one volunteer truck and a volunteer salvage truck, which arrived within 10-12 minutes *with* interior qualified firefighters. Interior-qualified firefighters are essential, but an unfortunate reality is that many volunteer firefighters are not interior-qualified. They do what they can to help when needed.

WILL MUTUAL AID SHOW UP?

I mention volunteers specifically, as their response is dependent upon who is around to make the run, respond to quarters, get the rigs out, etc.

While there are certainly reliable volunteer fire departments in North America, unfortunately, there are many that are *not* reliable. (And for the record, most of the reliable VFDs are ones that require a scheduled duty time to assure the public that a well-staffed piece of fire apparatus is on the way.) Regardless, the tones go off, and those in need await the response. And while there is technology these days to allow the dispatcher to immediately know who is responding, many don't use it. So the tones drop, the whistles blow and the time clock starts – as the fire spreads – to see who will respond. And that's true in their own communities as well as when they are called for mutual aid.

THE GUARANTEED FIRE RESPONSE

When I say *guaranteed*, I mean generally speaking, without other runs and activities, we should easily be able to predict what our response (staffing and arrival time) will be. And even with multiple runs, we must have systems in place to compensate for that.

In the City of Jeannette, the only guaranteed response is ONE on-duty full-time firefighter and ONE on-duty part-time firefighter. Everything else is dependent upon who is around, available, nearby, etc. And that usually works OK – until it doesn't, and the *doesn't* part is very predictable.

In other words, the JFD model works pretty well as long as there are no fires or emergencies requiring more than two firefighters. As long as a family isn't trapped in a dwelling fire, everything is probably fine, and when that fire does occur, that "model" predictably falls flat, crushing the people who need urgent help and the firefighters who are expected to make the problem go away. ***It's impossible for two firefighters to do the job of 17 firefighters. Absolutely impossible. And yet here we are.***

Again, I want to note that in this fire, some occupants WERE saved by two off-duty members who were in the area and arrived quickly to the scene.

NFPA 1710 STATES ...

The initial full alarm assignment to a structure fire in a typical 2,000-square-foot, two-story, single-family dwelling without a basement and with no exposures must provide for a minimum of 16 members (17 if an aerial device is used).

- Firefighters establishing/providing water
- Firefighters on hoselines
- Firefighters searching
- Firefighters handling ventilation
- Firefighters rescuing
- Firefighters leading the scene

Do all that with two guaranteed firefighters. Nope. Not gonna happen.

Would you bet on a professional football team with fewer predictably needed players? I doubt it. But that's not the point. Here's where it matters: In football, if the minimum number of players don't show up, the game is canceled. In firefighting, we don't have that option. And what we do is NOT A GAME. It is staffing- and task-intensive if we have a chance in hell to make things better when someone has a fire.

In municipal garbage collection, if the staffing is reduced, the garbage sits. As good as they may be, sanitation workers are not going to be able to – or risk their lives to – collect more than they predictably can.

We are different. We go in willing to risk life and limb even though our risk – and the risk to civilians – is beyond human achievement. But we try anyway, no matter how many games the city hall-dwellers may have played.

So now what?

HARSH REALITIES FOR THE COMMUNITY

Despite the title of this piece, there is a Jeannette Fire Department; however, it is not what the community expects when they have their own fire.

Fighting the staffing issue isn't new for the JFD. Like many cities, there are politics and all kinds of games at play. But here's the deal: ***Until the JFD and any community like it can provide a response that predictably meets the needs and risks within the community, one the community can afford, they have to be upfront and forthright on who will and will not respond.*** The mayor, city council, city manager, fire chief and union local all have a responsibility to inform the public about what they can expect, and to share this information knowing that the public in any city or town typically just assumes that their fire department response will look like what it does in kids' school books or on TV shows – several fire trucks filled with loads of firefighters. Unfortunately, in many communities like Jeannette, it's just that, a storybook tale.

You may be wondering what you'll need to do once the public is informed about what their local fire department can and cannot realistically deliver.

Prepare the facts on what it will cost them (the taxpayers) if they want more staffing – and give them the option to decide. Present the numbers and facts so the public can then decide what they can afford as their priorities. Pay balances. Volunteer recruitment. ***(And if the public wants more firefighters and funding isn't an option, hand them some applications.)***

Like your home or car insurance, it will cost more for better coverage. Or you can go as low as possible, which is great ... until you have a crash or worse, until someone is hurt or killed.

IT'S NOT PERSONAL, IT'S NUMBERS

The reality is that fire department funding can often get mixed up with personal feelings and emotions instead of what's best for the public. Sometimes its cops making more than the fire chief. Sometimes it's elected officials feeding pet projects. How do you prioritize beautiful parks vs. two people on a fire engine?

Unfortunately, for a variety of reasons (including sometimes of our own creation), fire and rescue services can end up on the back burner when the public isn't educated and genuinely doesn't understand who will (or will not) show up (and how quickly) when they have a fire. Having unbiased elected officials to work on behalf of the public to determine what is needed and what can be afforded is a big reason why local government exists in the first place. Seems simple enough, right?

Rest in peace, Kyson, Kinzleigh, Keagan, Korbyn and Tyler King.

Putney, VT, Fire Department Suspends Operations Amid Mass Exodus

Putney Fire Department has suspended its operations following a mass exodus. The town's select board decided to take the move after the interim chief and a dozen firefighters quit. In the meantime, crews from Dummerston, Westminster and Brattleboro will respond to fire and EMS calls in Putney. What led to the firefighters hanging up their gear hasn't been determined.

Stafford, VA, Board Shoots Down SAFER Grant Over Costs

The Stafford Board of Supervisors turned down the chance to apply for \$10 million in federal grants that would have covered all the costs of 39 firefighters for three years.

There's no obligation for localities to pick up the salaries and other expenses at year four when the grants end, Fire Chief Joseph Cardello told the supervisors last week. However, that is the intent of FEMA, which administers the Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response, or SAFER, grants.

If Stafford applied and received the grant, *it would be on the hook for \$4.2 million to cover the staff expenses in the fourth year, and going forward, he said.*

That's what bothered Supervisor Darrell English, one of four board members who voted against applying for the grant. He feared the county would end up in a similar financial hole as has happened with other decisions made in past years that he said lacked foresight. "I get it, it's a good deal," he said about the grant. **"But in four years ... we might be in terrible shape. That's where I am, you know. We don't have a crystal ball to see that."**

[EDITOR'S NOTE: many take the money and kick the can down the road for subsequent years, this could lead to firefighters being laid off]

Swatara Township (PA) Shuts Down Volunteer Firehouse Amid Racism Allegations

Swatara Township commissioners Wednesday night announced the immediate shutdown of a volunteer firehouse, citing "serious allegations" that require investigation.

The Friendship Fire Company of Bressler will cease responding to calls until further notice following the decision, In a press release issued by the Swatara Township Fire Department, a complaint alleging racial discrimination by the volunteer fire company's affiliated social club triggered the action. The social club was reportedly not admitting non-white applicants for membership. The social club remains open. This incident echoes a previous investigation by the Pennsylvania Office of Attorney General in 2022, which mandated remedial actions by the company.

The Friendship Fire Company of Bressler, serving a primarily residential community within the township, comprises 18 volunteers. Prior to the shutdown, **it was one of four fire companies serving approximately 25,000 residents.** The company's website indicates its response to about 400 calls annually in both the township and neighboring areas.

TRAINING FOR YOUR MEMBERS AND OFFICERS: PLEASE PASS IT ON!!

NATIONAL VOLUNTEER FIRE COUNCIL - TRAINING TIMES - COURSES/WEBINARS/EVENTS

LINK TO THE VIRTUAL CLASSROOM: https://virtualclassroom.nvfc.org/featured_courses

May 29, 2024 02:00 PM

JOIN THE WEBINAR AT THIS LINK:

https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_QIW4aPGCRRihPmUtRR2Lfg#/registration

Free HazMat Training

FREE HAZMAT TRAINING

Join us on
Saturday, May 4, and Sunday, May 5,
from 9am-5pm
at
Maynard Fire Department
Marcy, NY

Open to anyone interested in teaching others about hazmat response. No instructional experience necessary! Courses will be rotated; attendees will have the opportunity to attend all three courses over the weekend:

- Teaching Scenario Based Hazmat (7 hours)
- Instructor Training for Flammable Gases (3 hours)
- Instructor Training for Ammonia (3 hours)



Scan the QR code to learn more and register or go to www.nvfc.org/hazmat/#Sites.

About the Program



Maynard FD was recently selected as one of 15 sites nationwide that will receive free training under the new Partners in Training (PIT) Crew program from the National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC) and U.S. Department of Transportation Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA). The program aims to help first responders gain the knowledge and skills they need to train others in their communities on hazmat safety and response.

Just a short hop to Thruway Exit 31 and follow your GPS to 9500 Maynard Drive, Marcy, NY
Pre-register so they can get a food count. Saturday May 4th and Sunday May 5th.

NOTE: this is both hands on and classroom training!

First Responders get called to every type of call. These can include various animals. Let's discuss some of these types of emergencies while keeping in mind, that they may not like that we are there to help.

Wednesday April, 17th at 7:00PM

REGISTER AT THIS LINK: <https://mcneilandcompany.us8.list-manage.com/track/click?u=03596f243a9d922954ebaf15e&id=d9c37dda15&e=781e9a2c81>

Plus:-----

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

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 – NYS AFC members • **\$50** – non-members (per person)

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

REGISTER HERE:

https://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001QZWPfjYZRP6tAYnVrgg36Z_YE6vp89dymWfQQD1d7q4ZRwVDbNdE8ByVmF5_856f_UrB-yGihYJigwEPzCbQfCvEoeEALHRXrk_M-dbDWBYRtKiko1vLice_oi1AFseMKfN01xTmCmiyzyMWYur-39p1T1V2_yChO2C2F1_fJn94LviwwZ3Aag==&c=AmhECQ6uFruSlwrKRKspNlivj3NWEIzhZOrf3KrFnUIs83Dp1Q1JdQ==&ch=AqMwftSnQqSSjoeldoQJ-cfc_GyhBFLqV23YaEp7HU-kr9WoEr9kSg==

7:00pm STARTING TIME

- Fulton** (Tuesday, September 10)
- Otsego** (Wednesday, September 25)
- Rensselaer** (Tuesday, October 29)



NYS AFC Hands on Series

FIRE BEHAVIOR ON THE INSIDE

- Schenectady County – October 19-20, East Glenville Fire District #3 REGISTRATION:
<https://www.nysfirechiefs.com/firebehavior>

FLASHOVER

- Saratoga County – September 14-15, Jonesville Fire District, REGISTRATION:
<https://www.nysfirechiefs.com/flashover>



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>

FF HEALTH AND SAFETY – TAKING CARE OF OUR MEMBERS!

IN 2024 WE HAVE EXPERIENCED 21 FIRE FIGHTER LODD'S

*According to FirefighterCloseCalls.com**

In 2023 we experienced 82 LODDs reported nationally.!

YOU NEVER KNOW!

- An ambulance driver 26-year-old Chastian McWorter of Albany, Kentucky and a 75-year-old patient in the vehicle were killed in a collision with a semi-truck Monday morning, according to Kentucky State Police.
- Two Oklahoma volunteer firefighters are recovering after suffering burns battling a weekend wildfire in northwest Oklahoma, officials said Monday. Mooreland firefighters Jared Brittain and Max Clark suffered injuries on Saturday when their truck was overrun by flames. “The wind was blowing 55 miles-per-hour,” Case said. “It just came around them.” Both firefighters were transported to a burn unit in Oklahoma City, where Clark was treated and released. Brittain remained in critical but stable condition on Monday, Case said.
- Syracuse (NY) Firefighter Taken to Hospital for Burns After Battling House Fire

Speed a Factor in Fort Worth, TX, Fire Truck Crash, Cops Say

Lana Ferguson

An investigation into a Fort Worth fire engine crash, which injured four crew members including two seriously, concluded speed was a contributing factor in the February incident.

This main investigation was completed by Fort Worth police but the fire department’s internal investigation is ongoing, according to a Monday news release. The latter investigation is expected to be completed by August.

The crash occurred Feb. 6 when the crew was responding to a fire as a single-family house in the 4500 block of Pecos Street.

The fire truck was the only vehicle involved in the crash as it “lost control and flipped over” about 2:30 a.m. near the intersection of Village Creek Road and Wilbarger Street, department spokesperson Craig Trojacek said at the time.

The critically injured firefighters remain off-work and undergoing treatment, the release said.

The fire department said it “accepts these findings” from the police investigation, including speed being a contributing factor in the crash.

“As fire chief it is my responsibility to assure the men and women of our organization have the opportunity to go home safe at the end of their shift and that did not happen on February 6th,” Fire Chief Jim Davis said in the release. “The Fort Worth Fire Department now has the responsibility to complete their review and investigation with an open and transparent approach.”

Davis said the department is examining its policies and practices to determine if there were adequate or if additional training or policy trainings needs to take place.

NVFC FIRST RESPONDER HELPLINE

Confidential Assistance Available 24/7 to Help Responders Better Cope

The NVFC is pleased to offer the First Responder Helpline offered through Provident to provide assistance to members and their families for a variety of behavioral health issues and work-life stresses.

****Please note, the NVFC First Responder Helpline is a new benefit for NVFC members and replaces the Fire/EMS Helpline that had previously been offered. Departments that are still displaying the old Fire/EMS Helpline information and number should remove those materials as that line has been discontinued.****

What is the First Responder Helpline?

Firefighting and emergency response are stressful jobs with high levels of risk and unpredictability. In addition, volunteer responders are often juggling their fire service responsibilities with full time jobs and family commitments. All these factors can have an impact on the wellbeing of responders and their families.

While many companies offer employee assistance programs (EAPs) to deal with work-life issues, such services are usually not available for volunteer firefighters and EMS providers. The NVFC recognizes this service gap and has partnered with Provident, a leading provider of benefits for emergency services organizations, to offer a solution tailored to the distinct needs of our members.

Do I need to enroll to access the First Responder Helpline?

This program is provided to all NVFC members – you do not need to enroll in the First Responder Helpline. All NVFC members and their household family members can utilize the First Responder Helpline.

What is included in the First Responder Helpline?

This assistance program provides NVFC members and their household family members with immediate assistance in a crisis moment as well as confidential counseling, resources, and referrals to assistance for a range of issues, including:

- Stress management
- Depression
- Family conflict
- Anxiety
- Relationships
- Financial or legal concerns
- Substance misuse
- Grief or loss
- Problem gambling
- Child or elder care

View the [First Responder Helpline brochure](#) for more information.

What is the background and experience of the call center?

This program is provided through Provident by Business Health Services (BHS), a leader in providing emotional and behavioral health consultations, in partnership with Responders 1st Call. BHS has been providing mental and behavioral health services to organizations since 1983. The contact center is staffed by master’s level clinicians with an average of five years of experience specially trained in assisting and supporting first responder groups.

What stress management and work-life services are offered?

The First Responder Helpline can provide up to five telephone coaching sessions (or the number of sessions allowed by state law) with master’s degreed counselors who identify stress triggers, teach coping techniques, and develop an ongoing stress management plan.

In addition, this program offers consultation, resources, and referrals for the everyday concerns that can cause distractions and loss of focus when a first responder needs it most, including:

- **Family** – Childcare, elder care, adoption research and referrals
- **Legal** – Access to attorneys are for 30-minute phone or in-person legal consultation

- **Financial** – Referrals to consultants to assist with debt management, credit problems, retirement planning, or college funding

How do I access the NVFC First Responder Helpline?

The First Responder Helpline number is available in the [members section](#) of the NVFC web site. Once logged in, go to Member Resources and then Member Benefits to find the number.

What if I'm not an NVFC member?

[Join the NVFC](#) for \$21 to access the First Responder Helpline. If you or someone you know needs access to the First Responder Helpline and are not able to purchase a membership, we have you covered. You can sign up for a complimentary membership to receive access to the Helpline along with all the NVFC member benefits. [Fill out this form](#) to receive a complimentary membership.

If you have any questions about the complimentary membership, please contact membership@nvfc.org or call 202-887-5700.

Share Your Story

If you used the First Responder Helpline and would like to share your story to help inspire others to take advantage of this resource, use [this form](#). This is completely optional, and you can share as much or as little as you feel comfortable with.

BUILDING & FIRE CODE ISSUES – WHY ARE THEY IMPORTANT TO YOU?

SNAPSHOT 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: Our fire problem would not be as bad if there were residential sprinklers!!

Colo. Fire Chiefs Challenge Plan For Single Stairs In Large Apartment Buildings

Seth Klamann

[SAME LUNACY BEING PROPOSED IN NEW YORK STATE]

As Sean Jursnick traveled through Europe, he marveled at its buildings. The Denver-based architect was particularly struck by a type of development that’s largely illegal in the United States: taller apartment buildings with just a single staircase.

Such buildings often feature apartments or condos situated around a central flight of stairs, with front doors opening directly onto landings. The layout allows flexibility and new development options in tight urban spaces, but it runs counter to decades-old fire-safety rules here that require housing developments rising higher than three stories to have at least two stairways.

The result has been that larger apartment buildings typically follow a standard, hotel-like model that calls for construction on big lots and, on the inside, long central corridors with units on either side. Often, each unit gets sunlight through its windows from just one direction.

“It’s a wild discrepancy between what we can do in the U.S. and what the rest of the world does,” said Jursnick, who works primarily in multi-family housing. **[JUST BECAUSE EVERYONE ELSE DOES IT DOESN’T MAKE IT RIGHT!]**

Under a bill introduced in the Colorado House this month, Jursnick and a growing group of single-stair evangelists see reason for hope. The measure would allow single-stair developments to reach up to five stories in the state’s cities and counties, potentially making Colorado the first U.S. state to do so.

The measure, backed by Denver Democratic Rep. Alex Valdez, is part of a broader effort by state legislators to embrace denser development and to pursue nontraditional policy avenues to solve the state’s housing crisis. The shortage of apartments has been estimated to run into the tens of thousands statewide.

Valdez called single-stair development the “anti-slot home” — referring to the boxy, sideways-facing townhomes that proliferated in Denver in the 2010s — because it allows more apartments or condos to be built on similarly sized lots. But for now, that layout is available only up to three stories for new construction.

Jursnick, after seeing so many taller structures of that type in Europe, traveled to Seattle, one of the few U.S. cities that have legalized mid-sized single-stair buildings. He looked at that city’s unique housing types, the use of smaller lots and the fire safety rules modified to allow them.

He came away determined.

“I wanted to bring that back to Denver and create something that good in Denver,” he said.

CAN BILL OVERCOME CONCERNS ABOUT FIRE DANGER?

But before Jursnick’s dream of taller single-stair buildings in Denver can be realized, supporters have to address a frequent gut-reaction to the idea — a concern that’s shared by wary fire chiefs: What happens if the building catches fire and there’s only one way out?

“When the bill was first discussed, my comment at that time to the sponsor was, ‘We’re starting from a position of no,’” said Garry Briese, the executive director of the Colorado State Fire Chiefs. “And the reason is because we’ve had too many fatalities in this country, over decades and decades of time, because of bad exiting.”

So far, Valdez’s bill, [HB24-1239](#), is opposed by fire chiefs and marshals. They fear Colorado’s various fire codes aren’t ready for such a change and say legislators should instead focus first on getting those regulations right.

Briese’s organization, along with South Metro Fire Rescue, has formally filed to oppose the bill. The Fire Marshals Association of Colorado wrote in a statement that the bill was too broad and also would apply to other types of buildings, including hotels, motels and dormitories.

The marshals, along with the fire chiefs, said they supported forming a study group that could draw up language allowing single-stair development in some settings. Lawmakers in [California](#), [Oregon](#) and [Washington State](#), where Seattle’s loosening of the rules hasn’t been adopted statewide, recently passed laws requiring officials to study their codes and make recommendations for single-stair buildings.

Colorado, though, does not have a statewide building or fire code that could be neatly studied or changed.

Supporters of the new bill argue that codes can be updated to account for single-stair development and that those buildings, with modern fire-prevention systems, are just as safe as their larger, two-staired American cousins.

They point to [federal data from several years ago](#) that show the U.S. had more fire-related deaths than several European countries, including Germany.

Jursnick and other supporters of single-stair development, including the Colorado chapter of the American Institute of Architects, tick off the benefits: Buildings can be designed to fit tighter lots, meaning more infill development potential in older parts of the city and more density.

Structures also can accommodate larger apartments for families, with better ventilation and more sunlight coming through windows facing different directions as the unit wraps around a central building stairway. The long corridors common in traditional apartment buildings, which take up space and require lighting and air conditioning, wouldn’t be the only layout option.

A handful of cities — also including Honolulu and New York City — allow single-stair buildings up to certain heights.

Supporter sees big potential in Denver According to research that Jursnick has pulled together, Denver alone has more than 14,000 lots that he argues are underutilized and could benefit from single-stair development.

Peter LiFari, an Adams County affordable housing developer, is another single-stair enthusiast. He praises the approach’s potential to improve livability for, and interaction among, renters and condo owners.

Regarding safety concerns, he said buildings could be required to maintain short distances from units to the stairs and that stairwells could be pressurized to keep smoke out. With sprinklers and other fire-prevention systems, LiFari and

Jurnick said, buildings are also safer now than they were when the double-stair requirement was implemented.

[PROVE IT!]

But Briese, of the fire chiefs group, said the bill as drafted wouldn't require changes to local regulations to mandate those types of prevention.

"We understand what they're doing. We understand why they're doing it," he said. "We just want them to do it safely and follow the existing codes — or get in, modify the codes and come up with what's required to do this."

Valdez, the bill's House sponsor, said he was working with fire chiefs to make changes. The bill's first committee hearing is set for mid-March.

Despite their confidence that single-stair buildings could be built and lived in safely — as they are in Seattle and Europe — Valdez and other supporters said they took the fire officials' concerns seriously. *Valdez is preparing changes to the bill that would require single-stair buildings to include sprinkler systems and be built in areas that have fire departments with trucks that can reach six stories.*

But Valdez said he didn't want to turn the bill into a study, as had happened in other states.

"We need to be innovative," he said, pointing to the need to address housing affordability. " ... Anything that we can do is what we need to do. We need abundance in housing."

OME FIRE FATALITIES REPORTED BY THE MEDIA FROM THE US FIRE ADMINISTRATION	
Fire Deaths in 1&2 Family Dwellings in NYS	20
Last fire death 4/9/24 Williamsburg Bronx, NYC 38yo Female	
Fire Deaths in any type of Dwelling in NYS	42
Fire Deaths in 1&2 Family Dwellings Nationally	439
Top 3 States with the greatest 1&2 Family Deaths	#1 PA/38
	#2 TX/25
	#3 IL-NC, CA/22
There has been a total of 0744 civilian home fire fatalities in 2024	
There were a total of 2127 residential fire fatalities reported in 2023 in the US media.	
Both the states of Maryland and California require sprinklers in residential dwellings	
LIVING WITH THE NEW GREEN TECHNOLOGY	

MA Sixth-Grader Burned When Laptop Starts Melting During Test, School Issues Recall

Grace Zokovitch

MCAS testing plans went up in flames at one Uxbridge school Tuesday, after a smoking laptop burned a student and caused an evacuation during the exam.

The MCAS English Language Arts exam was in progress at Whitin Intermediate School when around 9:30 a.m. one student's school-provided laptop malfunctioned and began smoking, Uxbridge Public Schools reported Tuesday. Staff sprung into action, stopping the test, pulling the fire alarm and evacuating the building without incident, the district said. The Uxbridge Fire Department responded shortly after and cleared and ventilated, allowing students to return to their classrooms by 10:45 a.m.

The student holding the laptop suffered burns to their hands, the district said, and their guardian took them to a local hospital to be treated. Officials will be working with the laptop supplier to examine the cause of the computer's malfunction and "determine the safety of the devices for future testing."

NYC Is Trying To Stop Deadly E-Bike Fires With These 3 Approaches

PHOTOS: New York City is trying to address the deadly threat of e-bike battery fires in various ways. City leaders have passed new laws, increased fines, initiated more aggressive regulation, and supported pilot projects with businesses and nonprofits. That's because some cheap, retrofitted lithium-ion batteries for e-bikes and e-scooters don't meet safety standards and are dangerously explosive. When the batteries ignite, they cause fast-moving, toxic fires that officials and experts say are difficult to extinguish. New York is considered an epicenter of this new public safety problem. Its density leads workers to charge e-bikes inside apartment buildings and the city's large population drives high demand for delivery services, according to public safety experts. Official data shows the rate of fires from lithium-ion batteries in the city has decreased so far this year.

HAPPENING IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD

[Speigletown Fire Department Monthly Breakfast](#)

October through May we serve an all-you-can-eat country breakfast on the **2nd Sunday of the month**. Breakfast runs from 7:30 - 11:30 AM. Breakfast is \$10 per adult, \$5 per child, and children under 5 eat free; all proceeds benefit the fire department and support our drill activities.

[John McLane Hose Company, Rexford Fire Department](#)

Chicken BBQ by Miller's Backyard BBQ

Friday, April 19th from 4:30PM till 6:30PM Drive-Thru Event

1601 Route 146, Rexford, NY

½ Chicken, baked potato, coleslaw and cornbread

\$15.00 Per Dinner, to Order Tickets Visit www.rexfordfire.org

LAUGH OUT LOUD

The three hardest things to say are:

- 1. I was wrong.**
- 2. I need help.**
- 3. Worcestershire Sauce**

CLASSIFIED – FOR SALE – JOB OPENINGS

Chiefs Car for Sale, Rexford Fire District

2014 Ford Explorer Interceptor. 3.7 V6 Engine. Approximately 72,500 miles (still in service, mileage will go up). We will leave all lights on if bought by and emergency service agency. If bought by an individual for personal use, we will remove the emergency lighting and sirens. We will remove our department lettering and radios prior to final sale. Unit can be seen by contacting Larry Gates at 518-926-0451. Unit will be available at the end of April. We will accept minimum bids of \$20,000 until April 15, 2024 at 5PM. Bids can be sent to larry.gates@rexfordfd.org or mailed to Rexford Fire District Attention Chairmen PO BOX 225 Rexford NY 12148

POSITION: STATION MANAGER Jonesville Fire District

EOE STATEMENT As an Equal Opportunity / Affirmative Action Employer, The Jonesville Fire District actively seeks candidates who are female, minority, disabled and/or veterans and will not discriminate in its employment practices due to an applicant's race; color; creed; religion; sex (including pregnancy, childbirth or related medical conditions); sexual orientation; gender identity or expression; transgender status; age; national origin; marital status; citizenship; disability; criminal record; genetic information; predisposition or carrier status; status with respect to receiving public assistance; domestic violence victim status; status as a protected veteran; or any other characteristics protected under applicable law.

Job Summary:

The Station Manager is a full-time hourly position available for a professional and highly motivated person to oversee the performance of station keepers and perform and maintain fire district buildings, vehicles, apparatus,

grounds, and equipment. Reporting to the District Administrator, the position requires good communication skills, the ability to manage several projects simultaneously, and flexibility with work hours when necessary. This is a full time, 40 hour per week on site position. The salary for this position is between \$22.00/hr. and \$27.00/hr. and includes a comprehensive benefits package including health, vision, and dental insurance, and paid time off.

Supervisory Responsibilities:

- Daily oversight of district station keeper(s) (full-time, part-time and per diem)
- Creation of station keeper schedules/ approval of PTO requests

Key Duties/Responsibilities include but are not limited to:

- Performs work under the general direction of the District Administrator, as directed by the Board of Fire Commissioners
- Maintain Fire District buildings, vehicles, apparatus, grounds and equipment.
- Mowing, landscaping, trimming of bushes and trees
- Removal of snow and ice. Snow and ice removal may need to be done off hours in the event of a snowstorm. Salting as needed.
- Maintaining and repairing equipment
- Custodial type services including but not limited to: mopping, vacuuming, washing, scrubbing, cleaning windows, floor buffing, carpet cleaning, garbage removal
- Fire Apparatus and Equipment
 - o Clean, fuel, maintain, perform daily truck/equipment checks
 - o Perform minor apparatus/equipment repairs
- Upon request, participate in community outreach events, i.e., fire prevention
- All other duties as assigned by the Fire District Administrator, Board of fire Commissioners, and/or Fire Chief or his designee.
- Within six (6) months of hire date, must be a qualified driver and pump operator on all District vehicles. (Training will be permitted on District time).

Examples of Work to be performed:

- Mowing and trimming of lawns, pruning and mulching, rake and remove leaves/debris as necessary.
- Removal of snow and ice by plow, snow blower and shovel as needed. Snow and ice removal to be done off hours when three (3") inches of snow has fallen or at the direction of the District Administrator or the Board of Fire Commissioners.
- Custodial type services including but not limited to: mopping, vacuuming, washing, scrubbing, cleaning windows, buffing, carpet cleaning, garbage removal.
- Paint interior/exterior of buildings as needed; power wash exterior buildings as necessary.
- Responsible for maintenance and upkeep of vehicles and equipment provided by the Board of Fire Commissioners to complete duties.
- Assist in the coordination of fire apparatus and equipment. Clean, fuel, maintain and transport apparatus and equipment as necessary.
- Assist in coordination of various equipment testing (i.e. hose, ladder, pump).
- Create written correspondence, generate maintenance records as necessary, enter data into fire district software and create reports as needed.

Required Skills/Attributes:

- Basic knowledge and abilities to perform general maintenance, and the ability to maintain and use hand and power tools.
- Basic computer skills are helpful.
- Preference given to an Active Interior Firefighter in a NYS Volunteer Fire Department
- Preference given to individual holding current Emergency Medical Technician – Basic (EMT-B) certification.
- Pass District physical, drug screen, and background check
- Able to lift objects weighing 70 lbs.
- Willingness to respond for facilities and maintenance emergencies and snow removal as needed.
- Must possess and maintain a valid NYS Driver’s license, with a good driving record.

Interested applicants should submit a resume and cover letter to the Commissioners of the Jonesville Fire District at kgraves@jonesvillefire.org or mmurphy@jonesvillefire.org For questions, please contact Ken Graves @ (518)376-1582 and leave a message. We will get back to you as soon as possible.

OFFICE MANAGER

Latham Fire Department, 226 Old Loudon Rd., Latham NY 518-785-1283

The Latham Fire Department, a large suburban fire department, is seeking a well-organized, self-motivated, and detail-oriented person with good public demeanor to manage and perform administrative and light bookkeeping duties necessary to maintain the department's operation. Applicants must have good oral and written communication skills, as well as excellent computer skills and the ability to multi-task. Proficiency in Microsoft Office suite of applications and QuickBooks is a must.

Minimum Qualifications:

A High School diploma or equivalent is required plus 4 years related experience OR an associate or bachelor's degree in business or a related program plus 1-year related experience.

On Site Work Hours:

Mon.- Fri. 8:00 – 4:30 (1/2 hr. lunch) OR 8:00 – 5:00 (1 hr. lunch)

Benefits:

Paid vacation, holidays, sick leave, and life insurance; annual allowance for health insurance and 401K.

Annual Salary:

\$52,000 - \$57,000 commensurate with experience

Work activities will include but not be limited to:

- Providing clerical and administrative support to Department officers, committees, and boards to ensure the efficient operation of the fire department.
- Performing general office duties, such as ordering supplies, maintaining and managing records and database systems.
- Performing basic bookkeeping duties including processing/reporting weekly payroll information, accounts payable/receivable, maintaining budget/financial records and interacting with the department's accounting firm for annual audits.
- Maintaining Department Human Resources and member records, files, and correspondence.
- Preparing invoices, reports, memos, letters, financial statements, and other documents, using word processing, spreadsheet, database, or presentation software.
- Answering phones and directing calls, taking messages; greeting visitors.
- Open, sort, and distribute incoming mail, faxes, and email; prepare responses as requested.
- Preparing meeting agendas for Department officers, committees, boards, etc.; attend and record minutes as needed.
- Conducting records research, compiling data, and preparing papers for consideration and presentation by officers, committees, and boards

CAFDA OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

2024 OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

President: *Tom Rinaldi, Commissioner Stillwater/Saratoga*
1st VP: *John Meehan, Commissioner West Crescent/Saratoga*
2nd VP: *Art Hunsinger, Commissioner Clifton Park Halfmoon/Saratoga*

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

Secretary Lisa Diemer, Deputy Treasurer, Northumberland Fire District

Treasurer: Tony Hill

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

Chaplain: Fred Richards, Commissioner, Harmony Corners Fire District

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

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

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

CAFDA PO Box 242 East Schodack, NY 12063

EMAIL TREASURER: TREASURER@CAFDA.NET

518-407-5020

EMAIL SECRETARY: SECRETARY@CAFDA.NET

Long Way to Travel Zoom into the General Membership Meetings!

It's our desire that every member fire district have the opportunity to attend Capital Area meetings. We know we cover a large area, in 8 counties and beyond, and wish to give all of our members a chance to participate in the general membership meetings. You have a voice, and we would like to hear it. Join us at our next meeting either in person or via Zoom. The link will be sent via constant contact prior to each general membership meeting. Thank you for being a member and we hope you will join us.

FIRE DISTRICT RESOURCES - - THE BACK PAGE - - FOR YOU TO FOLLOW UP!

What are the duties and responsibilities of a Commissioner?

The Answer is posted on our web site at www.CAFDA.net

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

CAPITAL AREA BUSINESS PARTNER'S

PLEASE SUPPORT THOSE WHO SUPPORT US!!

WELCOME ALLTEK ENERGY SYSTEMS, THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

Business Partner Applications Available At: WWW.CAFDA.NET

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

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

LEGAL SERVICES



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

Young, Kelsey & Brown & Stroppoli, PC

General Practice Matters - Fire Service
Attorneys
1881 Western Ave. Suite 140
Albany, N.Y. 12203
Mary Megyeri – Office Manager
mmegyeri@yfkblaw.com
518.456.6767

HANNIGAN LAW FIRM PLLC

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

Ducharme, Clark & Sovern, LLP

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

ARCHITECT/ ENGINEERS



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



**Five Bugles
Design**



**Mitchell Associates
Architects**

Wendel's award winning public safety design team

Wendel, Centerpointe Corporate Park, 375
Essay Road, Suite 200, Williamsville, NY 14221
716.688.0766
Amy Numrich, MBA
Digital Marketing & Events Specialist
anumrich@wendelcompanies.com



architects
+
engineers



Architects & Engineers
433 River Street, Suite 8002
Troy, NY 12180
518-765-5105
Dennis Ross, Practice Leader
www.H2M.com

C.T. Male Associates

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

Single Source Responsibility
for all your
Essential Facility Design Services



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

n.lobosco@ctmale.com

INSURANCE



Specializing in insurance for Fire Districts and
Departments
Dave Meager

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



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

Haughey Insurance Agency

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



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

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



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

COMPUTER EQUIP &MGMT

White Wolf Computer, LLC * Leading the Pack



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

266 Delaware Ave, Delmar NY WhiteWolfComputer.com
(318) 459-WOLF (9653) Support@WhiteWolfComputer.com

LOSAP MANAGEMENT



Service Award Programs (LOSAP)

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



UBS Financial Advisors

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



Wealth
Management

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



Nicole Meeker
Manager of Business Development & Accts
518-394-7894
Cell 607-423-4811
www.penflexinc.com
nmeeker@penflexinc.com

FIRE EQ TESTING



Safety First Equipment Testing

99 Glass Lake Road
Averill Park, NY 12018
518-674-8363

www.safetyfirstfirehose.com

HOSE APPLIANCE & LADDER TESTING

SCBA COMPRESSOR SERVICE



**BAUER
COMPRESSORS**

Quality. Our DNA

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

DRYER VENT CLEANING



DRYER VENT WIZARD

JORDAN CATINO
8 NAPA COURT, SCHENECTADY, NY 12309
518-344-0664
SARATOGADRYERVENT.COM

HVAC AND PLUMBING



Alltek Energy Systems, Inc.

Construction-Fabrication-Power & Controls
Planning Service
24/7 Service
518-238-2600
Waterford, New York
www.alltekenergy.com

INSURANCE continued



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@mcneilandcompany.com



Pat Daglio
pdaglio@vfis.com
717.819.3072

FIRE APPARATUS



LARRY GATES
SERVICE AND PARTS MANAGER
EASTERN APPARATUS SALES

1 SUPER 50 WAY, BALLSTON LAKE, NY 12019

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

(518) 926-0451

WARNING LIGHT PACKAGES/REPAIRS BODY SHOP

AUTO SOLUTIONS

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://fox-pest.com/albany-ny>

FIRE COMPANY FUND RAISING



Lloyd Fox, Account Executive
34 Garner Road, Averill Park, NY 12018
lfox8@nycap.rr.com
518-810-7819
www.funddrive.com

FIRE DISTRICT CPA/AUDITS/FINANCIAL SERVICES



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



518-459-6700
10 British-American Blvd, Latham, NY 12110
www.bstco.com
Brendan Kennedy ext 356



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



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



Accounting, Consulting & IT Security
1581 Franklin Ave. Mineola, NY 11501
Kyle Brengel, Managing Partner
516-472-7345
kbrengel@gblny.com

BANKING



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



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



Don McCormack
425 Main Street Catskill, NY 12414
www.tbogc.com
518.943.2600 X2109
donaldm@tbogc.com
Specializing in Fire Service Financing



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

CAFDA Vendor/Sponsor Application Form



Welcome Vendors/Sponsors & thank you for your interest!
Please complete & return this form with your payment to:

CAFDA
P.O. Box 242
East Schodack, NY 12063.

Should you have any questions, please contact Art Hunsinger
at 518-376-3751 or arttv19@gmail.com.

CONFERENCE DETAILS

1st Annual CAFDA Conference
Thursday, April 25 through – Saturday, April 27, 2024
Fort William Henry Hotel & Conference Center
48 Canada Street, Lake George, NY

OVERNIGHT ACCOMODATION RESERVATION INFORMATION

Room reservations are the responsibility of the Vendor*

Telephone Reservations only at 800-234-0267 or (Local) 518-668-3081

Group Code: CAFDA Conference

Rates: \$139 Deluxe, \$159 Premium/Basic Grand

*If tax exempt, documentation (i.e. ST-129) must be presented at time of check- in

VENDOR SHOW DETAILS

Friday, April 26th 3:00 – 5:00 PM (Vendors may begin setup after 12:00 pm)

Saturday, April 27th 8:30 – 10:00 am

Please Check One:

- VENDOR Only:** \$300: One 8' table w/white tablecloth & two chairs (power if requested) and Saturday morning continental breakfast
- EVENT Sponsor:** Contributions over \$400 and up to \$1,499: One 8' table w/white tablecloth & two chairs (power if requested), Saturday morning continental breakfast **PLUS** advertising as a Conference Event Sponsor **PLUS** One ticket to Friday Night Reception
- EVENT Sponsor:** Contributions at/over \$1,500: One 8' table & two chairs w/white tablecloth (power if requested), Saturday morning continental breakfast **PLUS** advertising as a Conference Event Sponsor **PLUS** TWO tickets to Friday Night Reception
- Additional Five Alarm Reception tickets can be purchased for \$50.00/ticket # Requested _____

Name of Business/Organization: _____

Contact Name: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Do you require POWER: YES NO

CLEAN UP: Vendors are responsible for their booth area during and after the event.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Spring Conference 2024 Vendor/Sponsor Application Form is also available on the Web At:
<https://cafda.net/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/Vendor-Application-Form-FINAL-1-24-2024-3.docx>

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

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

YOU CAN BECOME AN INDIVIDUAL MEMBER OF THE CAPITAL AREA ASSOCIATION!

The Capital Area Association has voted to amend its By-laws to allow both individual and regional or county Fire District Associations to join. The updated By-laws are posted to the CAFDA.NET website. Individual membership fee will be \$50 annually, fire district association fees will be \$300 annually. Download THE APPLICATION available on the home page at CAFDA.NET

MEMBERSHIP IN THE CAPITAL AREA FIRE DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION (CAFDA)

Would you like to join Capital Area Fire Districts Association along with 76 members in 10 counties? Individuals, fire district associations, fire protection districts and Village departments are all eligible for membership. Annual dues (January 1st to December 31st) shall be as follows and shall be based on the annual budget of the Fire District/Organization;

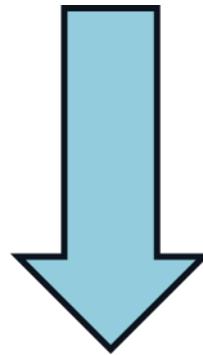
- \$0 to \$200,000: \$50
- \$200,001 to \$400,000: \$100
- \$400,001 to \$600,000: \$200
- \$600,001 plus: \$300

Individuals \$50.00 or Other County or Regional Associations \$300 annually.

Business Partners: \$100.00 annual member fee

If You, Your Fire District or Department is not a Member of CAFDA You Can be?

Individuals can be members of CAFDA. The annual membership fee is \$50, which will provide you access to this Bulletin, attendance at meetings and social gatherings. Provides networking with other fire district officials and a source of the constant barrage of information related to today's fire service.



Membership and Renewal Form Below



Capital Area Association of Fire Districts

Membership Application/Renewal Form

Fire District Fire Protection District Village Fire Department EX-Officio Associate/Individual

Associate Regional Fire District Association

Name: _____

County: _____ Fire District: _____

Mailing Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____

Primary Contact Phone Number: _____ Email: _____

IF FIRE DISTRICT OR ASSOCAIATION TWO POINTS OF CONTACT WILL SHARE INFORMATION

Name: _____ Email: _____

Name: _____ Email: _____

Fire Company if Different: _____

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

Name: _____ Email: _____

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

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

Please submit payments to: Capital Area Fire Districts Association
CAFDA Treasurer
PO Box 242
East Schodack, NY 12063

Signature: _____

IF VOUCHER IS REQUIRED, PLEASE MAIL IT AND I WILL SIGN IT AND MAIL IT BACK

CAFDA UPCOMING TRAINING AND MEETING CALENDAR

The following calendar, while tentative, provides our members and participants some insight into the planned activities to be provided locally to our membership and other fire district participants for '23, '24 and '25. We hope you will join us on this journey to provide reasonably priced, quality training in a local setting for your convenience.

For General Membership meetings food is served 1 hour prior to the start time of the meeting, at 6pm, meetings begin promptly at 7PM

Capital Area Meetings/Seminars/Trainings/Conference Dates <small>(As of 1/3/2024 - Subject to Change)</small>				
Day/Date	Time	Type	Location	Notes
2024				
Thursday, April 25 - Saturday April 27, 2024	Per Schedule	CAFDA Conference	Fort William Henry Conference Center	Lake George
Thursday, May 9, 2024	7:00 PM	General Membership Mtg.	Clifton Park	
Thursday, June 13, 2024	7:00 PM	General Membership Mtg.	Clifton Park	
Thursday, July 11, 2024	7:00 PM	Board of Directors Meeting	Clifton Park	
Friday, August 9, 2024	1:00 PM	Membership Activity	Saratoga Race Course	NYRA Day at the Races!
AUGUST	NO MEETING			
Thursday, September 12, 2024	7:00 PM	General Membership Mtg.	Clifton Park	
Thursday, October 10, 2024	7:00 PM	General Membership Mtg.	Clifton Park	Officers/Director Nominations
Saturday, November 2, 2024	8:00 AM	Fall Workshop	Verdoy	
Thursday, November 14, 2024	7:00 PM	General Membership Mtg.	Clifton Park	Officer/Director Elections
DECEMBER	NO MEETING			
2025				
Saturday, January 4, 2025	9:00 AM	General Membership Mtg.	Clifton Park	Organizational/Morning Meeting

**APRIL 25TH, 26TH AND 27TH – 2024 SPRING CONFERENCE
ANNOUNCEMENT**

2024 CAFDA CONFERENCE

Welcome to the **1st Annual CAFDA Conference!**

We are excited to be able to offer you this LOCAL training opportunity right here in the beautiful Lake George area!

Should you have any questions, please contact Secretary@CAFDA.net



CONFERENCE DETAILS

1st Annual CAFDA Conference
Thursday, April 25 - Saturday, April 27, 2024
Fort William Henry Hotel & Conference Center
48 Canada Street, Lake George, NY

OVERNIGHT ACCOMODATION RESERVATION INFORMATION

Room reservations are the responsibility of the Attendee*

Telephone Reservations only at 800-234-0267 or (Local) 518-668-3081

Group Code: CAFDA Conference

Rates: \$139 Deluxe, \$159 Premium/Basic Grand

*If tax exempt, documentation (i.e. ST-129) must be presented at time of check-in

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

Thursday, April 25, 2024	8:00 am	Registration/Continental Breakfast
	9:00 am - 10:30 am	PESH vs. NFPA, Part 1
	10:45 am - 12:15 pm	Purchasing, Procurement & Piggybacking - OSC Legal
	12:30 pm - 1:30 pm	Lunch & Conference Welcome
	1:45 pm - 2:45 pm	Conflicts of Interest - OSC Legal
	3:00 pm - 5:00 pm	Commissioners vs. Chiefs – Yes, We Really Can Work Together! Part 1 - Dave Denniston
Friday, April 26, 2024	8:00 am	Registration/Continental Breakfast
	8:30 am - 10:30 am	Commissioners vs. Chiefs – Yes, We Really Can Work Together! Part 2 - Dave Denniston
	10:45 am - 12:15 pm	PESH vs. NFPA, Part 2
	12:30 pm - 1:30 pm	Lunch & Conference Welcome
	1:45 pm - 2:45 pm	Office of General Services - Purchasing
	3:00 - 5:00 pm	Vendor Show
	5:30 pm - 6:30 pm	Five Alarm Reception
Saturday, April 27, 2024	8:00 am	Registration/Continental Breakfast
	8:30 - 10:00 am	Vendor Show
	10:15 am - 12:15 am	Exploring Staffing Options
	12:30 pm - 2:00 pm	Lunch with the Experts!
	2:00 pm	Conference Farewell

Conference Registration Fees:

CAFDA Members: \$75 per day per attendee (includes continental breakfast/buffet lunch) – **OR** – **\$150 for full (3 day) conference.**

Non-Members: \$95 per day per attendee (includes continental breakfast/buffet lunch) – **OR** – **\$200 for full (3 day) conference.**

Guest of Conference Attendee: \$25 per day for meals for guest of attendee (includes continental breakfast/buffet lunch) - **OR** - **\$50 for full conference.**

REGISTRATION

CAFDA Conference Attendee Registration Form

Please complete & return this form with your check made payable to:

CAFDA
P.O. Box 242
East Schodack, NY 12063

OR pay by credit card at: <https://cafda.net/event-registration/>

For payment inquiries, please contact Treasurer@cafda.net



Conference Attendee

Name/Title: _____

Fire Organization Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Are you or your organization a member of CAFDA? YES NO

Attendee Conference Registration (Check One):

- One Day Registration:** CAFDA Member **\$75** Non-Member **\$95**
I will be attending (Choose one): Thursday Friday Saturday
(includes continental breakfast & lunch, Friday Night Welcome Reception if attending Friday)
- Two Day Registration:** CAFDA Member **\$150** Non-Member **\$190**
I will be attending (Choose two): Thursday Friday Saturday
(includes continental breakfast & lunch x 2 days, Friday Night Welcome Reception if attending Friday)
- Full Conference Registration:** CAFDA Member **\$150** Non-Member **\$200**
Thursday 4/25 – Saturday 4/27/2024 (includes continental breakfast & lunch x 3 days, Friday Night Welcome Reception)

Guest Meal Registration, if applicable (Check One):

Guest Name: _____

- \$25 One Day Meals:** I will be attending (Choose one): Thursday Friday Saturday
(includes continental breakfast & lunch, Friday Night Welcome Reception if attending Friday)
- \$50 Two Day Meals:** I will be attending (Choose two): Thursday Friday Saturday
(includes continental breakfast & lunch x 2 days, Friday Night Welcome Reception if attending Friday)
- \$50 Three Day Meals:** Thursday 4/25 – Saturday 4/27/2024
(includes continental breakfast & lunch x 3 days, Friday Night Welcome Reception)

OSHA INFORMATION SUPPLEMENT

SIGN THE PETITION, GET YOUR FRIENDS AND FAMILY TO SIGN THE PETITION

The purpose of the petition is to gain a seat at the table for a negotiated Standard, please sign the petition, get each of your Board members to sign and each of your members and your member's family members, the goal is more than 10,000 signatures.



<https://www.change.org/p/call-to-action-osh-1910-156> :LINK TO THE PETITION AT CHANGE.ORG:

[NOTICE: Once you sign the petition the Change.org site directs you to their website asking for donations, the donations do not benefit this petition, it benefits the Change.org platform and you could be fooled into donating each month read carefully!!!]

Meeting with NYS-DOL/PESH

Dave Denniston Writes: We had a great meeting with PESH at the end of last week. They are willing to work with us, but admit that their hands are tied some. The NY PESH Officials have stated we have to get in front of OSHA and get a seat at the table. They could not stress enough that the head of OSHA needs to know our names and concerns. I have also been contacted by one of our congressional friends that said they are behind us, but we have to get in front of OSHA and a seat at the table. They fear legal options are our only other remedy. NVFC is looking at that angle now.

I have attached my comment to OSHA that will be submitted today. **Along with this one we are going to have an online petition with a goal of 50K signatures.** More details to follow. **SEE DAVE'S LETTER AT THIS LINK**

:<https://cafda.net/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/OSHA-1910.156-REQUEST-FOR-ACTION-1.docx>

Lee and I will be doing a more detailed bulleted dive of the specifics of 29CFR 1910.156 on Thursday night at 7 PM. The good news, as of this morning Zoom has us up to 1000 log in capacity. Over half of that is registered now, but let's fill it up. Most webinars have a about 60% hit ratio. These OHSA ones have been exceeding that hit ratio which is awesome. Please share the registration link with your email lists and organizations. There is also a link for one more geared to Ohio in a couple weeks.

This is being run as a ESIP webinar on **Thursday 4/4 at 7pm**. Here is the registration link, **PLEASE SHARE:**

https://archcapgroup.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_9GtqnblySa-WTKil-F5Sqw

Tom Miller and I are doing a similar webinar on **Wednesday Dec. 10th for the Ohio State Firefighters**. All are welcome to that one if the date is better. That one is a little more geared to a state where the volunteers are not "employees" but the main message is the same.

Register for OHIO Webinar Here: https://archcapgroup.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_ae-TdGcUR3SDQJzuEaG_aQ

We cannot stress enough, our message is not that we oppose changes, and that in fact the fire service needs to embrace this and make serious changes in how we do business for firefighter safety. This has been our message since day 1, and some continue to ignore it. We need change and we need to do better for our people. What we do want is a seat at the table and some simple tweaks in the logistics of how this should be delivered, so it is in fact usable and will save lives and reduce injuries. WE CAN DO BETTER! There are still folks out there claiming we are trying to kill this thing. That could not be further from the truth, and we need to make sure that message is heard loud and clear.

OSHA IS EXTENDING THE PERIOD FOR SUBMITTING COMMENTS BY 45 DAYS (Until June 21st) TO ALLOW STAKEHOLDERS INTERESTED IN THE NPRM ON EMERGENCY RESPONSE

ADDITIONAL TIME TO REVIEW THE NPRM AND COLLECT INFORMATION AND DATA NECESSARY FOR COMMENT.

WRITTEN COMMENTS: You may submit comments and attachments, identified by Docket No. OSHA–2007–0073, electronically at www.regulations.gov, which is the Federal e-Rulemaking Portal. Follow the online instructions for making electronic submissions. The Federal e-Rulemaking Portal at www.regulations.gov is the only way to submit comments on this NPRM. Instructions: All submissions must include the agency’s name and the docket number for this rulemaking (Docket No. OSHA–2007–0073). All comments, including any personal information you provide, are placed in the public docket without change and may be made available online at www.regulations.gov.

Some Facts About the NFPA Standards Adopted as Part of The OSHA Emergency Response Standard

7 Page analysis of the NFPA Standards Included in the Proposed Emergency Response Standard

- [NFPA 1910/2024 \(263 page document\)](#)

Standard for the Inspection, Maintenance, Refurbishment, Testing and Retirement of In-Service Emergency Vehicles and Marine Firefighting Vessels.

- This standard defines the minimum requirements for establishing inspection, maintenance, refurbishment, retirement and testing program for in-service emergency vehicles and marine firefighting vessels.
- This standard shall provide minimum requirements for marine firefighting vessels.
- This standard also identifies the minimum job performance requirements (JPRs) for emergency vehicle technicians.
- The purpose of this standard is to specify the minimum requirements for the construction of new marine firefighting vessels or for the conversions of existing vessels to become marine firefighting vessels and...
- To specify the minimum JPRs for service as an emergency vehicle technician.
- 106 additional reference standards
- This standard establishes a check list of items to be checked and maintained by the personnel placed in charge of said equipment.

- [NFPA1001 \(35 page document\)](#)

Standard for Fire Fighter Professional Qualifications

This standard identified the minimum job performance requirements for FF 1 & FF 2 professional qualifications. [references 9 additional standards]

List of skills needed in Chapter 4 also refer to Table C.1 *Overview of JPRs for Fire Fighters*.

- AHJ shall have written policies and procedures in compliance with the standard and distributed to all, with instructions on execution.
- *Prior to entering training to meet the requirements of Chapters 4 & 5 of this standard the candidate shall meet the following requirements:*
- *Minimum educational requirements established by the AHJ*
- *Age requirements established by the AHJ*
- *Medical requirements of NFPA 1582 (106 page document) (this standard clearly references a career FF setting, job duties and performance)*

- [NFPA1407 \(23 page document\)](#)

Standard for Training Fire Service Rapid Intervention Crews

This standard specifies the basic training procedures for fire service personnel to conduct firefighter rapid intervention operations as specified in 1710 and 1720. [references at least 7 additional NFPA standards, in part.]

- Program shall be developed for all suppression personnel
- Written policies which shall address entry level requirements for crew members, training objectives, basic skills, equipment and training evolutions contained in the standard.
- Comprehensive training program
- Requirements for instructors
- Training shall be documented
- All RIC leaders shall be minimal Fire Officer 1
- AHJ shall have written policies and procedures in compliance with the standard and distributed to all, with instructions on execution.

- [NFPA 1002 \(30 page document\)](#)

Standard for Fire Apparatus Driver/Operator Professional Qualifications

- Outlines requisite skills and knowledge
- References in part 16 other NFPA standards.
- AHJ shall have written policies and procedures in compliance with the standard and distributed to all, with instructions on execution.

- **While not specifically stated, is it the intent that this standard applies to volunteer fire Drivers, it is not stated in the Scope nor in the Explanatory Material.**

- [NFPA 1021 \(41 page document\)](#)

Standard for Fire Officer Professional Qualifications

- References 10 other NFPA Standards in part.
- 17 Pages of requirements
- Requisite skills and knowledge for Fire Officer 1 through Fire Officer 4
- **While not specifically stated, is it the intent that this standard applies to volunteer fire Officers, it is not stated in the Scope nor in the Explanatory Material.**

- [NFPA 1140 \(124 page document\)](#)

Standard for Wildland Fire Protection

Purpose is to specify the minimum requirements for fire protection and emergency services infrastructure in wildland, rural and suburban areas; wildland fire management practices and policies; methods of assessing wildland fire ignition hazards and job performance requirements for wildland fire positions.

- 44 pages of requirements
- 30 referenced NFPA publications in part, plus 12 ASTM standards in part, plus others.
- **While not specifically stated, is it the intent that this standard applies to volunteer fire fighters who *occasional* respond to wildland fires, it is not stated in the Scope nor in the Explanatory Material.**

- [NFPA 1006 \(171 page document\)](#)

Standard for Technical Rescue Personnel Professional Qualifications

- This standard references in part 10 additional NFPA Standards.
- The Scope of this Standard identifies the minimum job performance requirements for technical rescue personnel. The intent is to ensure that individuals serving as technical rescue personnel are qualified.
- There are 92 pages of requirements including several specialty rescue scenarios.
- **While not specifically stated, is it the intent that this standard applies to volunteer fire fighters who *occasional* respond to Technical Rescues, it is not stated in the Scope nor in the Explanatory Material. Would those occasional volunteers have to be trained to the entire standard or to a portion of the standard?**

- [NFPA 1005 \(28 page document\)](#)

Standard for Professional Qualifications for Marine Fire Fighting for Land Based Fire Fighters

- The purpose is to specify the minimum job performance requirements for Land-Based Fire Fighters operating at marine fire-fighting incidents.
- There are an additional 7 NFPA standards reference in part.
- There are 11 pages of requisite skills.
- To meet the requirements for Marine Fire Fighter, the Fire Fighter II shall meet the JPRs in Sections 4.1 through 4.5 of this standard and the requirements defined in Chapter 5 of NFPA 1001 or Chapters 5 & 6 of NFPA 1081
- **While not specifically stated, is it the intent that this standard applies to volunteer fire fighters who *occasional* respond to Marine Fires, it is not stated in the Scope nor in the Explanatory Material. Would those occasional volunteers have to be trained to the entire standard or to a portion of the standard?**

- [NFPA 1951 \(68 page document\)](#)

Standard on Protective Ensembles for Technical Rescue Incidents

Scope: minimum design, performance, testing and certification requirements for technical rescue protective ensembles for use by emergency services personnel during technical rescue incidents.

Shall also specify the minimum requirements for various elements of the technical rescue protective ensembles, including garments, helmets, gloves, footwear and eye and face protection.

This standard shall apply to the design, manufacturing, testing and certification of new technical rescue protective ensembles and new ensemble elements. i.e. for the manufacturer of such equipment.

Deals with: certification, inspection and testing, annual verification of product compliance, manufacturers' QA program.

- References 44 other technical documents.

The job of the AHJ is to perform a risk assessment to identify the hazards present and to determine the suitability of protective ensembles specified by this standard.

The AHJ would need to create a matrix and document the evaluation of such equipment.

- [NFPA 1952 \(76 page document\)](#)

Standard on Surface Water Operations Protective Clothing and Equipment

Scope: Shall specify the minimum design, performance, testing and certification requirement for protective clothing and equipment items, including full body suits, helmets, gloves, footwear and personal flotation devices designed to provide limited protection from physical, environmental, thermal and certain common chemical and biological hazards for emergency services personnel during surface water operations.

Purpose: to **establish minimum levels of protection** for emergency services personnel assigned to or involved in surface water and rescue operations or other surface water incident operations.

- References 38 additional technical standards

Mostly for the manufacturer of such equipment, **the job of the AHJ is to perform a risk assessment to identify the hazards present and to determine the suitability of protective ensembles specified by this standard. The AHJ would need to create a matrix and document the evaluation of such equipment.**

- [FPA 1953 \(59 page document\)](#)

Standard on Protective Ensembles for Contaminated Water Diving

Basically, this standard shall specify requirements for protective clothing and protective equipment used during operations in contaminated water dive operations. The purpose of this standard shall be to establish minimum levels of protection for emergency service personnel assigned to or involved in performing search and rescue activities in and below the surface of contaminated water. This standard shall apply to the design, manufacture, and certification of new contaminated water dive operations protective clothing and equipment.

This standard applies to the manufacture of such equipment and not to the persons, using the equipment or the operations related to the equipment.

- References 33 additional technical standards

- [NFPA 1971 \(198 page document\)](#)

Standard on Protective Ensembles for Structural Firefighting and Proximity Firefighting

This standard shall specify the minimum design, performance, testing and certification requirements for structural fire fighting protective ensembles and ensemble elements that include coats, trousers, coveralls, helmets, gloves, footwear, and interface components.

The purpose of this standard shall be to establish minimum levels of protection for fire fighting personnel assigned to fire department operations including but not limited to structural firefighting, proximity firefighting, rescue, emergency medical and other emergency first responder functions.

In Chapter 8, 8.1.12 there are **procedures to be followed** for Washing And Drying Procedures For Garment, Gloves And Glove Pouches.

*This standard applies to the manufacture of such equipment and not to the persons, using the equipment or the operations related to the equipment, except for **Chapter 8** which includes procedures for washing and drying protective equipment.*

- 74 additional reference technical documents.

- [NFPA 1977 \(118 page document\)](#)

Standard on Protective Clothing and Equipment for Wildland Fire Fighting and Urban Interface Fire Fighting

This standard shall specify the minimum design, performance, testing and certification requirements for items of wildland firefighting and urban interface fire fighting protective clothing and equipment, including protective garments, helmets, gloves, footwear, goggles and protective chain saw protectors; and for load-carrying equipment.

This standard shall establish minimum standards for the equipment used by wildland and urban interface firefighters and does not apply to the personnel themselves or the operations of said firefighters.

- 45 additional referenced technical standards.

- [NFPA 1981 \(81 page document\)](#)

Standard on Open-Circuit Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus for Emergency Services

This standard shall apply to all open-circuit SCBA and combination SCBA/SARs used by emergency services organizations for respiratory protection of its personnel during firefighting, rescue, hazardous materials, terrorist incident, and similar operations where products of combustion, oxygen deficiencies, particulates, toxic products or other IDLH atmospheres exist or could exist at the incident scene.

This standard establishes minimum standards for the design, performance, testing and certification of new SCBA and SCBA/SARs and for the replacement parts, components and accessories for these respirators.

- 22 additional referenced technical standards

[NFPA 1982 \(70 page document\)](#)

Standard on Personal Alert Safety Systems

This standard shall specify minimum requirements for the design, performance, testing and certification for all personal alert safety systems (PASS) for emergency services personnel.

Shall apply to the design, performance, testing and certification of PASS or RF PASS devices certified to an earlier edition of this standard that incorporate replacement parts, components and or software to be certified to this edition of the standard. PASS should be worn on protective clothing or protective equipment, or as an integrated part of another item of protective clothing or protective equipment and used whenever the member is involved in fire suppression or similar activities, regardless of whether SCBA is worn.

Note that NFPA 1500 requires that each person involved in rescue, firefighting or other hazardous duties be provided with and *use* a PASS.

This standard applies to the manufacturer of PASS devices.

- 18 additional referenced technical standards.

- [NFPA 1984 \(39 page document\)](#)

Standard on Respirators for Wildland Firefighting Operations and Wildland Urban interface Operations

This standard shall specify the minimum design, performance, testing and certification requirement for respirators to provide protection from inhalation hazards for personnel conditioning wildland firefighting and or wildland urban interface operations.

This standard shall apply to the design, manufacturer, testing and certification of new wildland firefighting or wildland urban interface operations respirators.

This standard does not mandate the use nor prescribe the use of approved respirators for use by firefighting personnel.

- 12 additional referenced technical standards

- [NFPA 1986 \(70 page document\)](#)

Standard on Respiratory Protection Equipment for Tactical and Technical Operations

This standard shall specify the minimum requirements for the design, performance, testing and certification of (1) new compressed breathing air open-circuit self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) and compressed breathing air combination open-circuit self-contained breathing apparatus and supplied air respirator (SCBA/SAR) and (2) replacement parts, components and accessories for those respirators.

This standard does NOT deal with the used of such respirators by emergency personnel.

- 17 additional referenced technical standards

- [NFPA 1987 \(98 page document\)](#)

Standard on Combination Unit Respirator Systems for Tactical and Technical Operations

- 71 additional referenced technical standards

This standard shall specify the minimum requirements for the design, performance, testing and certification of new combination unit respirator (CUR) systems and for the replacement parts, components and accessories for such respirators.

This standard is for the design and manufacture standard for such respirators NOT with the use by personnel.

- [NFPA 1990 \(152 page document\)](#)

Standard for Protective Ensembles for Hazardous Materials and CBRN Operations

- 59 additional reference technical standards

This standard shall specify the minimum design, performance, testing, documentation, and certification requirements for the following PPE which is used by emergencies and CBRN terrorism incidents:

1. Vapor protective ensembles and ensemble elements for hazardous materials emergencies and CBRN terrorism incidents.
2. Liquid splash-protective ensembles and ensemble elements for hazardous materials emergencies.
3. Hazmat/CBRD protective ensembles and ensemble elements for hazardous materials emergencies and CBRN terrorism incidents.

The purpose of this standard shall be to establish a minimum level of protection for emergency responders during hazardous materials emergencies and CBRN terrorism incidents.

The standard deals with the equipment not the operations by personnel.

- [NFPA 1999 \(94 page document\)](#)

Standard on Protective Clothing and Ensembles for Emergency Medical Operations

- 60 additional referenced technical standards

The purpose of the this standard shall be to establish a minimum level of protection from contact with blood and body fluid-borne pathogens for personnel performing patient care during emergency medical operations.

Shall specify the minimum design, performance, testing, documentation and certification requirements for new single-use and new multiple-use emergency medical operations protective clothing, including garments, helmets, gloves, footwear and face protection devices used by emergency medical responders prior to arrival at medical care facilities during emergency medical operations and used by health care workers providing medical and supportive care.

The Standard deals with the equipment not the operations by personnel.

- [ANSI 107 High-Visibility Safety Apparel](#)

- Performance requirements of high-visibility safety apparel, or HVSA, help with providing visibility to the user under any light conditions by day or night. This is particularly crucial for hazardous conditions, as well as any situation where threats can be presented. The performance requirements include color, retroreflection, the recommended configuration of the materials, and more. Please note that ANSI/ISEA 107-2020's specifications may be applied to many occupational HVSA, but it is not for firefighter turnout gear.
- The updated ANSI/ISEA 107-2020 standard includes changes vs. the 2015 edition such as:
 - Removing the criteria for high-visibility accessories in favor of continuing to emphasize the configurations and design requirements that contribute to the Type-Performance Class designation.
 - Adding accommodating scenarios since garments can become soiled easily because of the work environment. This edition includes specific criteria for a single-use disposable coverall, which complies with the requisite minimum material amounts and color requirements imposed on all compliant HVSA, and emphasizes that the associated material integrity requirements are only applicable to single-use disposable coveralls, for which unique marking is applied.
 - Updates to the tests methods in an effort to align more closely with other material integrity tests and to recognize current versions used for evaluating the materials.
 - Introducing the concept of measuring the overall nighttime luminance of a garment by including optional language that allows a manufacturer to test a garment according to ASTM E1501.

In Total that is more than 1838 pages of additional document pages not including the thousands of pages of referenced documents within the NFPA Standards which the emergency response services would be legally liable for.

OSHA's Proposed Emergency Response Standard Presents Challenges to Fire Departments

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) is proposing an extensive new safety and health standard, titled "Emergency Response," to replace the existing "Fire Brigades Standard." The Notice of Proposed Rulemaking for the "Emergency Response Standard" was [published in the Federal Register](#) on February 5, with the public comment period open until May 6.

This proposed updated standard would issue hundreds of new requirements that may be very burdensome, and in many cases impossible, for volunteer fire departments to comply with. The National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC)

encourages volunteer departments and associations to [submit comments](#) on this proposed rule and request a public hearing so OSHA can have the best possible understanding of how this proposed rule would impact volunteer departments. We also encourage you to send a letter to OSHA requesting a 90-day extension to the public comment period on this proposed rule.

Additionally, please [fill out this survey](#) to assist the NVFC in collecting department data as we formulate our own comments on the proposed rule.

To assist you in developing your comments and public comment period extension letters, the NVFC has put has assembled [this comment guide](#). This guide provides guidance on:

- Where to find the text of the proposed standard
- Where and how to submit your comments on the proposed standard
- How to evaluate if your department is covered by the proposed standard
- How to develop your comments
- What part of the proposed standard will impact volunteer departments the most

The NVFC's comment guide also links you to a map of states with OSHA plans, a template for your comment extension letter, and webinars to further assist you in understanding whether or how the proposed rule would impact your department.

The NVFC recently hosted a Roundtable Talk on this issue, which you can watch [here](#). View some of the questions and answers resulting from the live discussion [here](#).

The NVFC has also put together [this outline of the proposed standard](#) to further highlight important language and provide additional context to the comment guide.

SBA Submits Request for Extension

The SBA Office of Advocacy has just submitted to regulations.gov recommending that OSHA extend the comment period for its **proposed Emergency Response rule** by ninety days and plan for a post comment hearing on the rule.

*****Paperwork Nightmare? OSHA Inks Emergency Response Proposal That Piles It On!***

JJ Keller Compliance Network

[EDITOR'S NOTE: REMEMBER THAT JJ KELLER MAKES A LIVING OFF OF TRAINING FOR FIRE DEPARTMENTS AND INDUSTRIAL CUSTOMERS, THIS CHANGE WILL PROVIDE MORE BUSINESS OVER A LONG PERIOD OF TIME FOR THEM!]

If you like paperwork, you'll "love" the upcoming Emergency Response proposed rule. According to the fine print, OSHA proposes to toss out three paperwork burdens. Yet, it will tack on over 25 new ones! While the proposal is not in the *Federal Register* yet, you can read the unofficial version on OSHA's website. Be sure to peek at the "Proposed Information Collection Requirements" starting on page 544.

NEWS UPDATE: The ["Emergency Response Standard" proposed rule](#) appeared in the February 5, 2024, *Federal Register*, on pages 7774 to 8023 of the pdf version. The "Proposed Information Collection Requirements" section of the preamble to the proposal begins on page 7999 in the third column. OSHA seeks comments on the proposed rule by May 6, 2024, for [Docket No. OSHA-2007-0073](#). The agency also says it will schedule an informal public hearing on the proposal if requested during the comment period, and, if such a hearing is requested, further notification will be announced in the *Federal Register*.

On December 18, the Office of Management and Budget gave OSHA the green light to publish the proposal in the *Federal Register*. Days later, OSHA issued a news release announcing that the proposal would appear in the *Federal Register* in January. At the same time, the agency posted a pre-publication version of the proposed rule on its ["Emergency Response Rulemaking"](#) webpage.

Stakeholders will have 90 days to comment in [Docket No. OSHA-2007-0073](#), when the proposal appears in the *Federal Register*.

SCOPE OF PROPOSED 29 CFR 1910.156

"Emergency responders are critical workers in all of our communities, and they deserve protections that keep up with today's industry practices," said OSHA head Doug Parker. "We are proposing much-needed updates that will expand protections for emergency workers and bring our standards closer to common industry procedures."

The proposal, if finalized, would modernize [1910.156](#), Fire Brigades. The standard would be renamed “Emergency Response” and expand coverage to emergency responders, such as:

- Firefighters,
- Emergency medical service providers, and
- Technical search and rescue workers.

The new 1910.156 would not apply to:

- Employers performing disaster site cleanup or recovery duties following natural disasters;
- Activities covered by [1910.120](#), Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response (HAZWOPER); or
- Activities covered by [1910.146](#), Permit-Required Confined Spaces.

The scope of OSHA’s standard would:

- Be expanded to include a range of hazards that emergency responders encounter,
- Align the standard with the Federal Emergency Management Agency’s (FEMA’s) National Response Framework, and
- Modernize the standard to bring it in line with consensus standards issued by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA).

For more background, please see our earlier article, “[OSHA’s Responder Proposal May Pop Up by End of January](#),” dated November 17, 2023.

OTHER REGULATIONS IMPACTED

In addition, the proposal pulls other regulations into the fold:

- [1910.6](#), Incorporation by Reference;
- [1910.120](#), Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response;
- [1910.134](#), Respiratory Protection;
- [1910.155](#), Scope, Application and Definitions Applicable to This Subpart;
- [1910.157](#), Portable Fire Extinguishers;
- [1910.158](#), Standpipe and Hose Systems; and
- [1910.159](#), Automatic Sprinkler Systems.

PAPERWORK BURDENS

Despite concerns raised years ago by small business about the cost and time commitments of the *draft* standard, the latest proposal would remove three but add over 25 new “information collection requirements.” Specifically, OSHA proposes to eliminate existing language under:

- [1910.156\(b\)\(1\)](#) that requires employers to develop and maintain an organizational statement;
- [1910.156\(b\)\(2\)](#) that requires employers to obtain a physician’s certificate of certain employees’ fitness to participate in fire brigade emergency activities; and
- [1910.156\(c\)\(4\)](#) that requires the employer to inform fire brigade members about special hazards to which they may be exposed during fire/emergencies.

In place of these information requirements, OSHA’s proposed rule builds in collections for:

Category:	Paperwork:
Emergency/risk planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A facility vulnerability assessment • A written emergency response program • An annual evaluation of the emergency response program • Keeping previous versions of emergency response programs • A written comprehensive risk management plan • Identifying the location of each fire hose valve
Vehicle procedures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policies and procedures for operating certain vehicles • Policies and procedures if responders cannot be seat belted in a vehicle

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A procedure for vehicle operator training
Incident planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pre-incident plans for locations within the facility • Pre-incident plans for the facilities where incidents may occur • Pre-incident plans for each facility subject to EPA 40 CFR 355 within the primary response area • A comprehensive and ongoing size-up of an incident scene • A risk assessment for an incident scene • An incident action plan • Established, marked, and communicated control zones • Standard operating procedures for emergency events • Post-incident analyses
Medical/health records	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimum medical requirements for team members and responders • Keeping confidential records for each team member and responder related to duty restrictions, work illnesses and injuries, and exposures • A medical evaluation program • A record of each responder’s exposure to combustion products • Behavioral health and wellness resources • A health and fitness program
Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Team members and responders to report safety and health concerns • Posting your procedures for reporting safety and health concerns • A hazard assessment for personal protective equipment selection

OSHA estimates that the proposed paperwork burdens will: **[EDITOR’S NOTE: IT IS GENERALLY FELT THAT THIS IS A SERIOUS UNDERESTIMATE, BUT REAL NUMBERS NEED TO BE DEVELOPED, REASON MORE TIME BEYOND THE 90 DAY COMMENT PERIOD IS NEEDED.]**

- Impact 22,551 entities,
- Take 3,896,719 hours in total each year to complete, and
- Cost a total of \$106,502,463 annually.

That averages to 173 hours and \$4,723 per year for each entity.

KEY TO REMEMBER

OSHA proposes to remove three but add over 25 paperwork burdens amounting to 173 hours per year per entity. The move is part of an upcoming Emergency Response proposal.

[EDITOR’S NOTE: NATIONAL STUDIES HAVE PREVIOUSLY FOUND THAT THE ONE THING VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS DON’T HAVE IS TIME. IS THIS NEW IMPOSITION BEING DONE ON PURPOSE TO SATISFY UNION ACTIONS TO CRIPPLE THE VOLUNTEER FIRE SERVICE? IF THEY WOULD BE PATIENT THE IAFF WILL GRADUALLY MAKE IN ROADS AS THE VOLUNTEER FIRE SERVICE CONTINUES TO ERODE. REMEMBER THE IAFF PROVIDES CONTRIBUTIONS TO A SLEW OF POLITICIANS THROUGH THEIR CAMPAIGN PACS, VOLUNTEERS PROVIDE VERY LITTLE CAMPAIGN FUNDING.]

Formal Comment Submitted by CAFDA on Your Behalf!

<https://cafda.net/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/Extension-Request-from-CAFDA.docx>

Posted to the CAFDA.net website.

Where To Go To Upload A Formal Comment To The Proposed Emergency Response Standard

OSHA Takes Action To Limit Emergency Responder Injuries And Fatalities

Michael Fraley – Fire Rescue One

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) recently announced plans to update the outdated and scope-limited Fire Brigades Standard, 29 CFR 1910.156. The proposed new standard will be titled “Emergency Response” and aims to include emergency responders, including fire departments, EMS agencies, and technical search and rescue teams. It will also govern responders who work other jobs in commercial or industrial settings but are activated as part of a Workplace Emergency Response Team when an incident occurs in the facility.

This article is a brief overview of many of the standards mentioned in the proposed rule and is not meant to be an exhaustive analysis of each section. The highlighted segments are included to portray the variety of areas the rule would cover and the significant work that may be required of some services to comply.

This article also will not explore the details of who is legally obligated to comply with OSHA standards. This varies from state to state and is complicated by a variety of factors. It should also be noted that in some circumstances, volunteer agencies may be covered by OSHA standards. Regardless of whether OSHA has legal authority over a particular state or service, there is an argument that they set a standard that could be indirectly applied to everyone. This may be particularly true after an incident has occurred and no other standard exists.

The general purpose of the proposed rule is to reduce emergency response team member injuries and fatalities. The NPRM document begins with an impressive section of statistics highlighting the dangers emergency responders face and the need for standards to reduce the impact of these injuries and deaths. The rule is specific to protecting responders and does not directly apply to medical care, outcomes or safety as they relate to patients.

SOME OF THE SPECIFIC SECTIONS OF THE PROPOSED STANDARD INCLUDE:

- **Emergency response plan (ERP).** Agencies *will be required* to have a written program to ensure they are prepared to respond to, and operate safely in, the emergency and non-emergency situations that are likely to occur in their primary response area. The ERP is intended to provide for the occupational safety and health of team members and encompass all aspects of emergency response, many of which are outlined below.
- **Vulnerability assessment of hazards.** Agencies *must assess* their primary response area *to identify the types calls they may respond to*. Resources in the plan must be matched to these hazards and the plan should identify mutual aid resources to be called when the agency cannot mitigate a particular hazard.
- **ERP tiers, types and levels.** The agency must identify the various tiers, types and levels of responders covered by the ERP. *Several sections of the proposed standard require the agency to identify training, evaluation, qualifications, duties and capabilities of responders based on these terms*. One size does not fit all.
- **Team involvement with the plan.** The Emergency Response Plan should be developed, implemented, reviewed and updated with involvement from team members. OSHA identifies that front-line responders have valuable insight into the work process particularly as it relates to safety.
- **Medical and physical requirements.** The proposed standard specifies that ***responders will be required to meet medical and physical requirements based on their type and level of service***. This section is extensive and pays particular attention to cardiovascular health.
- **Behavioral health and wellness resources.** Agencies *would be required* to offer team members services that include diagnostic assessment, short-term counseling, crisis intervention and referral to additional resources. Records arising from any use of these resources must be kept confidential.
- **Health and fitness program.** Team members should have access to health and fitness programs that help them maintain fitness for duty and to prevent work-related illness.
- **Training program.** *A comprehensive training program must be in place* to include initial and ongoing training as well as *skills checks* at appropriate intervals. All training and assessments will be based on tiers, types and levels of providers employed. The program must detail instructor qualifications, member evaluation methods, and assurances that team members will not be tasked with duties until they demonstrate the skills and abilities to safely complete them.

- **Facility safety.** OSHA understands that fire and EMS responders spend significant time in stations between calls and requires that these facilities also be safe. The section details the need to provide adequate spaces to decontaminate, maintain and store PPE and other equipment separate from living quarters. It also lists requirements for fire alarms, sprinkler systems, carbon monoxide detectors and equipment to prevent vehicle exhaust from entering sleeping and living areas. And yes, they even set standards for fire pole safety.
- **Personal protective equipment (PPE).** Significant attention is paid to the provision of PPE to responders as well as training, testing, maintenance, cleaning and disposal of the supplies and equipment.
- **Vehicle safety.** Highlighting the high numbers of fire and EMS responders injured and killed in vehicle crashes, OSHA proposes broad-reaching standards related to maintenance, inspection and testing of vehicles. The standards also outline important benchmarks in training and operation of vehicles, and the policies that should be in place to cover both. OSHA even settles the debate about the proper name of a legendary fire prevention character when it highlights the need for procedures to ensure the safety of occupants that are not able to be belted in a seat. OSHA notes that mascots such as *Smokey Bear* may not be able to be seat belted in when riding on a vehicle in a parade! (Note they did not call him Smokey the Bear?)
- **Incident Management System.** To align with the National Response Framework, OSHA will expect Emergency Response Plans to contain language about implementation, training and use of the Incident Management System. An emphasis is placed on provider safety monitoring and reporting during incidents.
- **Respiratory protection.** Training, equipment and policies related to responder respiratory protection have long been a major area of concern for OSHA and the proposed Emergency Response standard will continue that emphasis.
- **Communication.** Language in the proposed rule encourages reliable communication between dispatch centers and responders including monitoring of on-scene radio transmissions to maintain safety and respond to any on-scene responder emergencies. The rule also calls for interoperability between mutual aid resources.

TWO OPPORTUNITIES

EMS agencies and fire departments have two important opportunities right now.

- Review the proposed standard, whether OSHA rules directly apply to you or not, and provide comments to help shape the document into something that will improve safe practices in our industry.
- Review your department's current responder safety program and take steps to build the program so it will meet or even exceed the standard that this rule will bring.

Tailboard Talk: The OSHA Fire Brigade Standard from Fire Engineering

https://www.fireengineering.com/podcasts/tailboard-talk-the-osha-fire-brigade-standard/?utm_medium=email&utm_source=fe_daily_newsletter&utm_campaign=2024-02-26

OSHA Proposes Major Changes to Regulations for the Fire Service

Insight from Curt Varone

<https://www.firelawblog.com/2024/02/15/osha-unveils-major-changes-it-proposes-for-the-fire-service/>

OSHA'S EMERGENCY RESPONSE STANDARD UPDATE THREATENS VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENTS

National Vol Fire Council

On December 21, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) announced that it will issue a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) to modernize the agency's "Fire Brigades" standard. This standard was first published and last updated in 1980.

This proposed updated standard would issue several new requirements that would be very burdensome, and in many cases impossible, for volunteer fire departments to comply with. Specifically, there would be prohibitively restrictive standards on physical exams, the purchase of new equipment, and the formation of emergency plans that exceed the staffing capabilities of many volunteer departments.

The proposed updated standard was published in the Federal Register on February 5, and public comments are being accepted until May 6. The National Volunteer Fire Council will be filing comments on this proposed rule and

encourages members of the volunteer fire service community to submit their own comments and request a public hearing on this proposed standard.

Access the text of this rule and instructions on how to file comments [here](#). Additionally, OSHA Region 1 Training Institute Education Center recently conducted a [webinar](#) providing an overview of what's in the standard and some of the impacts it would have on volunteers.

We all know that whatever a bunch of bureaucrats in Washington put on paper will make all the difference in the world, this is the same federal government that told us everything was safe after the Twin Towers fell.

LINK TO THE PROPOSED OSHA STANDARD, NO FLUFF:

<https://cafda.net/proposed-changes-to-the-osha-standard-comment-period-opens-february-5th/>

Here are the links for the resources as Dave promised:

1. [Webinar: Emergency Response Rule | Oshaedne](#)
 2. [OSHA's NEW Proposed Rule 1910.156 Emergency Response rule on Vimeo](#)
 3. [Microsoft PowerPoint - 1910.156 Webinar 1-31-2024 draft 2.pptx \(oshaedne.com\)](#)
-

OSHA PROPOSED UPDATE TO THE BRIGADE STANDARD COMPLETE TEXT: <https://cafda.net/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/ER-NPRM-Unofficial-WORD-VERSION.docx>

LINK TO MY SYNOPSIS OF THE PROPOSED UPDATE: <https://cafda.net/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/SYNOPSIS-OF-THE-PROPOSED-UPDATED-OSHA-FIRE-BRIGADE-STANDARD-1.docx>