



CAPITAL AREA FIRE DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION BULLETIN



MAY 25, 2024

EDITOR - TOM RINALDI tom@rinaldi1.com
Serving the fire service community since 2004

CAPITAL SHORTS:

- **Have a safe Memorial Day and remember those who made the ultimate sacrifice to protect our freedoms.**
- A warm Welcome to Walden Fire District-Orange Co., Claverack Fire District-Columbia Co., Roosevelt Fire District-Dutchess Co. and Galway Fire Department, Saratoga Co.
- Page 26, how to file a Public Comment to OSHA, You Tube Video!!
- OSHA Comment period extended until July 21st and take the NVFC Survey!! On page one of the OSHA Supplement.
- **AN OSHA INFORMATION SUPPLEMENT HAS BEEN MOVED TO THE END OF THE BULLETIN AND PROVIDES ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND LINKS TO IMPORTANT DOCUMENTS. STAY INFORMED!! 10 pages of information as this proposed change unfolds.**

CAFDA NEWS AND OPPORTUNITIES:

WWW.CAFDA.NET

General Membership Meetings - - In person and Zoom

Next General Membership Meeting, Thursday June 13th, dining at 6 Meeting at 7.

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

THE LATEST FROM THE STATE CAPITAL

**THE SCORECARD IS BEING UPDATED EACH WEEK WHILE
JUST 7 DAYS LEFT IN THE 23-24 LEGISLATIVE SESSION!!**

OTHER FIRE SERVICE ORGANIZATION NEWS

**FIRST RESPONDER
MENTAL HEALTH & SUICIDE PREVENTION**

Hosted by:

PRESENTED BY



**Ret.
Capt.
John Cooney**
Nat'l Certified in Mental
Health & Crisis Management





**Wednesday June 26, 2024
7:00pm to 9:00pm
Mechanicville High School Auditorium**

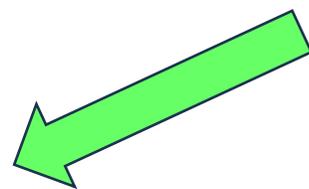
Life as a first responder can be rewarding, but it can also be difficult. First responders encounter traumatic events and life-threatening situations on a regular basis. Not only is it a physically demanding job, but it can also take a toll on one's mental health. After 31 years in law enforcement, John has dedicated his time to helping those in crisis...offering specialized training in Mental Health First Aid. This seminar will help break down the barriers and focus on recognizing the challenges we all face and how to seek the help we all need but are afraid to ask for.

Staggering statistics....

- 85% of first responders have experienced symptoms of mental illness at some point in their lifetime
- A firefighter is 3X more likely to die by suicide than in the line of duty
- First responders are 10% more likely than the general population to experience depression, anxiety, acute stress disorder (ASD) and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD)
- 69% of EMS workers say they don't have enough time to recover from traumatic events



RSVP by June 24th to chief@hillcrestfd.com



[Webinar: Managing Combination Departments - Leadership Challenges](#)

May 29 at 2pm ET

Presenter:
Quentin Cash

Sponsored by [Amazon Business](#)

[Webinar: Advancements in Utility-Scale Battery Energy Storage Safety Features, Standards, and Practices](#)

June 5 at 2pm ET

Presenter:
Mike Simpson

Sponsored by [AES](#)

[Roundtable Talk: Proposed OSHA Standard Update and What It Means for Volunteer Fire Departments](#)

May 16 at 1pm ET

Presenters: Dave Denniston, Bruce Lundegren, and Ryan Woodward

On February 5, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) published a proposed rule revising its emergency response standard. This is the first time OSHA revised this standard since 1980, and the public has until June 21 to provide comments. If enacted as is, this proposed rule would bring immense challenges to volunteer departments, and some may even be forced to shut down. It is important that the volunteer fire service understand how this rule would impact them and provide their comments to OSHA before June 21. This NVFC Roundtable Talk

will highlight some of the biggest concerns with the proposed revised emergency standard, discuss which volunteers will be impacted, explain the NVFC's strategy for addressing the proposed revision, and suggest best practices for departments wishing to comment on the revisions.

The text of the proposed revised OSHA emergency response standard, information on how to submit comments, and supporting resources can be found [here](#)

REGISTER AT THIS LINK:

https://gma5qspab.cc.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001QgijJ0VQLrxoJOVXQuNzwQXUGd6iwCILMjODLAEkF8mB9dVo0B0B4iLC-pqjvoqPDqKhhL9421x6MPikFDtQOwu89yLrMDy2EQF33gN3G3Qal_OUdiKS3f6qCjW2GZnrvmMAjsIfU11DT74Xscpsd6BDfW-2KdQKXByM5vDZfuz2gLxJ16uAL_nzprWOywlw-bc1XYNnlWqOeR6aVrZGFA==&c=njemGLFFRKLehXZL7NP50JG4cjM-QYuvzEh2qgYWZRU6aef1sh1Sg==&ch=CQGZanOfgDqGncicjMetLTABs114Qu9JEP8RrKLP79lcyL_myG8NgQ==

On-Demand Webinar: How Changes In New NFPA Standards For Turnout Gear And SCBA Will Affect The Fire Service

The protective clothing and gear that firefighters wear must meet requirements established by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA). The NFPA uses technical committees to put together these requirements from the fire service, manufacturers, laboratories and other groups, but also relies heavily on input from interested individuals. The involved committees and the NFPA strive to strike the highest levels of safety for these critical components while still trying to achieve reliable and attainable protective products.

A large transformation will take place in late 2024 when the NFPA combines the standards for clothing (NFPA 1971), work uniforms (NFPA 1975), SCBA (NFPA 1981) and PASS devices (NFPA 1982) into a new consolidated standard, NFPA 1970.

In this webinar, firefighter experts Jeff Stull and Battalion Chief Matthew Cox discuss the upcoming standard and changes fire departments will encounter, as well as how they may affect purchase decisions. The discussion includes how the NFPA process works to address firefighter protection needs, the significant changes that will be applied in NFPA 1971 and NFPA 1981, and overall implications for the new standards for the fire service.

You will:

- Understand the importance of and how NFPA provides a process for developing standards on firefighter PPE.
- Become aware of the specific changes in a new consolidated NFPA standard that are likely to be adopted and how these revisions will affect the purchase of new gear and SCBA.
- Recognize how the new consolidated NFPA standard will be applied once adopted, how industry will react, and how fire departments can anticipate its effects.

WATCH THIS ON DEMAND WEBINAR AT THIS LINK:

https://www.firerescue1.com/fire-products/turnoutgear/webinar-how-changes-in-the-new-nfpa-standards-for-turnout-gear-and-scba-will-affect-the-fire-service?utm_source=delivra&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=FR1-Top5Webinars-5-15-24&utm_id=7027637

ASSOCIATION OF FIRE DISTRICTS OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK

2024 Annual Meeting and Leadership Expo

October Sunday 20- Wednesday 23, 2024 at Turning Stone Resort and Casino

Registration is now open at this link:

https://mms.afdsny.org/members/evr/reg_event.php?orgcode=FDNY&evid=40809591

NOTE: All attendees are responsible for making their own reservations and paying for their own room, room taxes, and incidental charges.

2 night minimum **\$231 - \$356 per night (room only, no meals)**

Reservation deadline: September 18, 2024

IF NOTHING ELSE READ THE ARTICLES PRECEDED BY **



On May 8, the House of Representatives passed an amended version of S. 870, *The Fire Grants and Safety Act*. This bill would reauthorize the Assistance to Firefighters Grants (AFG), Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) grants, and U.S. Fire Administration (USFA) through the end of Fiscal Year (FY) 2028 and extend the statutory sunset for AFG and SAFER through the end of FY 2030. If this bill does not become law before September 30, AFG and SAFER grants will shut down.

S. 870 originally passed the Senate by a vote of 95 to 2 in April 2023. The version of S.870 that passed the House on May 8 is an amended version of the Senate passed bill; it will therefore have to pass the Senate again before it can head to the President's desk. S. 870 was amended in a bipartisan agreement that replaced its original text with the text of the House AFG, SAFER, and USFA reauthorization bill (H.R. 4090) and the text of a bipartisan nuclear licensing bill.

You may use the Action Alert below to contact your Senators and ask them to pass the House-Passed version of S. 870 and send it to the President's desk without delay.

FOLLOW THIS LINK TO CONTACT YOUR SENATORS, ALL YOU HAVE TO HIT IS SUBMIT!!

<https://www.votervoice.net/NVFC/Campaigns/111584/Respond>

MEMBERS OF THE NY CONGRESSIONAL FIRE SERVICE INSTITUTE

- [SENATOR KIRSTEN GILLIBRAND](#)
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- [CONGRESSWOMAN CLAUDIA TENNEY \(NY-24\)](#)
- [CONGRESSMAN BRIAN M. HIGGINS \(NY-26\)](#)

THE ATTORNEY'S OFFICE – HARD TO MAKE THIS UP!

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FIRE APPARATUS PURCHASING!

Objective-Driven Apparatus Specifications

Greg Stone

When fire departments purchase apparatus, they must develop a specification that becomes the document that apparatus manufacturers use as a guide to price and build the rig. Some departments choose to write a specification from scratch; some departments rely on a sales representative to write the specification; and some departments use a combination of the two. Whatever method that a department chooses to prepare the specification, groundwork

must be accomplished to guide the specification writer. I call this groundwork the preparation of objectives. In other words, **what are the “absolutes” that drive the preparation of the specification?** The objectives aren’t meant to be specific or detailed but to provide the specification writer with the department’s desires so that person(s) can do the research to include the “absolutes” in the specification.

Who creates these objectives? The effort should be a collaboration between management and committee members who represent the end users so that the needs of the department and the needs of the end users are met. Little or no input from either management or the end users most likely results in an unsuccessful end product. How do you start to develop these objectives? The following are eight simple questions that one can ask.

BUDGET

What is the budget? Whatever that number is, when applicable, be sure that it includes the sales tax, vehicle registration fees, and any other federal, state and local fees that might be applicable. **The trick here is to ensure that the proposed budget allows for the purchase of an apparatus that meets the department’s needs.**

Looking at recent similar purchases in your area might be a good place to start when researching the cost of a new fire apparatus. However, one must consider how long ago the contract for those purchases was signed. Delivery times have extended from 12–18 months just a few years ago to 24–30 months currently. Inflation over that period of time caused multiple price increases for most manufacturers. **So, a fire apparatus that was delivered just a few months ago probably had a contract signed approximately 24 months ago, and the price of that vehicle when the contract was signed might not reflect the price increases that were imposed since then.**

Sale representatives can be a good resource for this information, too. However, it must be understood that a sales representative doesn’t have a detailed specification at this point. Therefore, the price must be considered as only a raw estimate.

SUCCESS AND FAILURE

What works currently and what doesn’t? **Evaluate the apparatus that’s being replaced to consider what works and what doesn’t.** A detailed analysis of the vehicle that’s being replaced should include its mechanical workings, its functional capabilities and its equipment-carrying capabilities.

Often, the mechanical workings of the vehicle (or lack thereof) bring about a need for a solution to a problem. For example, if the vehicle that’s being replaced had suspension issues that were related to lack of lubrication, an objective that requests the need for an automatic chassis lubrication system could be added. That would inform the specification writer to add a detailed section on automatic chassis lubrication to the specification.

When reviewing the functional capabilities of the current vehicle, it might be determined, for example, that it can maneuver easily around a district that has hilly streets and tight turns. An objective that requires that the maximum wheelbase and turning radius don’t exceed the current vehicle’s characteristics would be required.

Evaluating the current compartment layout to determine whether it’s operationally functional could lead to a complete redesign of the new apparatus’ compartment layout. For instance, full-depth upper compartments (rescue side compartments) might be needed to carry an ever-increasing tool load. Always remember that there’s give and take when it comes to modifying compartment configurations. As an example, when adding rescue side compartments to a rig, there’s a loss of approximately 12 inches on each side to the rear hosebed, which will, in turn, cause the hose load to be taller.

FUTURE NEEDS

What’s lacking on the current apparatus that will be needed in the future? Future needs of the department might dictate the addition of specialized equipment, such as hydraulic rescue tools, in which case the person who creates the objectives should add the specifics of the new equipment.

COMMON COMPONENTS

Are there any components that would be a benefit if they are common with the department’s fleet or that have parts availability close by? This probably is more of an issue to be considered by a department that has a large fleet.

However, smaller fleets also can benefit because of operator familiarity, familiarity for repair technicians, increased parts availability and potential warranty service availability. For example, a department used Brand X’s fire pumps in its pumping apparatus for years. All of the operators and service technicians are familiar with them. Unless there’s a justified need, moving away from Brand X pumps creates training issues for the operators and the technicians and possibly creates a need for a new parts supplier. One must carefully consider making component changes that

require training and must understand that there must be a commitment to training the operators on the new components.

One large department (dozens of pumpers) decided to move to pressure governors from pressure relief valves. The department installed some governors on some current vehicles to test, with positive results. When new vehicles that had governors were delivered, the rigs were a total failure, mainly because the operators were unfamiliar with the governors and no adequate training was provided when the vehicles were put in service.

MINIMUM PERFORMANCE

What are the minimum performance requirements? If, for example, the fire district's topography is extremely hilly, the speed requirements on specific grades should be articulated, so those requirements are included in the performance standards that are in the specification. This is important, because the performance standards might dictate the engine and drivetrain components that the manufacturer would include to meet this performance criteria. **Also, parking on a grade that's greater than 20 percent might require a front-wheel parking brake (highly recommended).**

SAFETY FEATURES

Are there safety features that can be added to the apparatus? All manufacturers offer safety restraint systems, air bags, roll-over protection and Clean Cab options. Studies indicate that these systems provide an additional layer of protection for the occupants—at additional cost, of course.

As a precaution, be mindful of the manufacturer of the restraint system. Some of those companies offer their own proprietary systems, in which case your department might have to rely on them for repairs after the warranty period expires. Another choice would be to specify a restraint system that's manufactured by an independent company that would offer the benefits of parts availability and repairs at a potentially reduced cost.

ON-BOARD TOOLS

What equipment is to be carried? **A complete list of equipment that's to be carried on the vehicle must be included with the specification.** This is important to the manufacturer, because the weight of this equipment could cause the need for increased brake capability, increased axle and spring ratings, and tires that have increased load ratings. Should items be added at a later date, the load capacity of the vehicle could be exceeded, thus setting up the department for legal liability if the vehicle is involved in an accident.

WARRANTY

Was the warranty service on the vehicle that's being replaced adequate? All new vehicles come with a manufacturer's warranty. The warranty language that's written by the manufacturer is legal jargon that most laypeople rarely understand. Most apparatus committee members don't do enough research into the warranty language in the purchasing contract. I strongly suggest that one of the objectives that's handed to the specification writer should be to add more detail to the warranty requirements. I don't recommend that the specification writer use a manufacturer's language, because each manufacturer has slightly different warranty coverages. For instance, some departments don't have the luxury of having a warranty service center in close proximity to their stations. **What is the acceptable distance that the department is willing to travel to get a vehicle repaired?** A requirement that the manufacturer is responsible for the transportation of the vehicle to the service facility could be included in the specification. That said, some manufacturers might agree to this, and some might not. However, putting it into the specification makes it clear what the department wants, and the manufacturer that bids on the project can take exception to this if it so desires, in which case the apparatus committee can evaluate the exception to see whether it wants to accept it.

DETAILS

Once objectives are developed, they should be shared with the specification writer, so the objectives can be further detailed and articulated in the specification. The specification is where the technical details should be spelled out clearly. For example, the objective for the use of a Brand X pump would be added to the specifications, and much more detail regarding the components of the pump, the intake and discharge ports, and all of the desired options would be included.

Preparing specifications and purchasing apparatus are major undertakings that should be done in an orderly fashion and with an educated decision-making process. Creating objectives that clearly define the needs of the department greatly assists the specification writer with the preparation of the specifications.

FIRE DISTRICT/COMPANY FINANCES!

What is NYCLASS?

GENERAL INFORMATION

New York Cooperative Liquid Assets Securities System (NYCLASS) is a short-term, highly liquid investment fund, designed specifically for the public sector. NYCLASS provides the opportunity to invest funds on a cooperative basis in short-term investments that strive to prioritize safety, liquidity and yield. Appropriate for Fire District Reserve Funds.

WHO CAN PARTICIPATE?

Participation is available to any municipal corporation or special-purpose district empowered under New York state statute including counties not within the City of New York, cities, towns, villages, school districts, boards of cooperative educational services, *and fire districts*. Also eligible are county or town improvement districts where the respective county or town is required to pledge its faith and credit for the district's debt service.

NYCLASS is subject to the Municipal Cooperation Agreement Amended and Restated as of March 28, 2019 (the Agreement) and is structured in accordance with New York State General Municipal Law (GML), Article 3-A and Article 5-G, Sections 119-n and o, and Chapter 623 of the Laws of 1998. All NYCLASS investment and custodial policies are in accordance with GML, Sections 10 and 11 (as amended by Chapter 708 of the Laws of 1992). The Agreement is between the Village of Potsdam (Lead Participant) and each district and/or municipal corporation that formed the original NYCLASS fund or that subsequently elects to participate; all parties to the Agreement are collectively referred to as "the Participants."

The Agreement is administered by an elected Governing Board (the Board) of up to fifteen members. The Governing Board is responsible for:

- Administering all aspects of the Agreement.
- Entering into appropriate contracts to assist in the management of the Agreement.
- Monitoring compliance with the investment policy, maturity limitations, and reporting and disclosure requirements established under the Agreement.
- Testing the investments made pursuant to the Agreement, at least once a month, for sensitivity to changes in interest rates.
- Disclosing to Participants any rating or change in rating from a nationally recognized statistical rating organization.

A Board member must be either a Participant's Chief Fiscal Officer, other designated officer, or employee of the Participant who has knowledge and expertise in financial matters.

The Board invests cooperative funds only in securities that are legal for public funds investment in New York. The Board limits these investments to repurchase agreements collateralized at 102% with U.S. Treasury securities and agency securities backed by the full faith and credit of the U.S. Government, U.S. Treasury bills and notes, collateralized bank deposits, and other U.S. Government guaranteed obligations such as small business administration pools.

NYCLASS HAS FOUR GENERAL OBJECTIVES:

1. **Legality**
 - To invest only in investments legally permitted under New York State GML.
2. **Safety**
 - To minimize risk by managing portfolio investments to preserve principal and maintain a stable Net Asset Value (NAV).
 - To maintain the highest money market rating for the NYCLASS portfolio from a nationally recognized statistical rating organization.
3. **Liquidity**

- To manage portfolio investments so cash can be available as required to finance Participants' operations.

4. Yield

- To enhance current income to the degree consistent with legality, safety, and liquidity.

TAKE YOUR FIRST STEP TOWARDS INVESTING IN NYCLASS!

Learn more about investing public funds on behalf of your municipal corporation. We encourage you to try out our Investment Calculator and see how much your investments could have earned if you had already started your investment journey with NYCLASS. Let us help by providing a quality investment option for your municipal corporation!

<https://newyorkclass.org/investmentcalculator/>

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

*****The Company Officer: Lead with Character and Constant Kindness***

Dr. Brett Ellis

Every head coach needs a philosophy that influences, engages and enacts a winning culture that contagiously, and courageously, improves accountability, growth and a championship-caliber mindset. Who doesn't want to win? Who doesn't want to build and develop a dynasty of greatness, led by grit, commitment and an "all in for each other" mentality? Even though sports and the fire service fall short of parallel comparison in a number of areas, building a winning dynasty as an organization is what leaders in the fire service, from firefighters to fire chiefs, should be all about.

What does it take to build a winning culture? What leadership traits propel the good to great, to exceptional, to an elite winning dynastic culture?

We can learn much about the simplicity of a winning culture from a few quotes from coaches in the sports world. These people hold the members of the team not only accountable for their actions on the field but also share a common expectation of how leaders enact necessary change to be better humans on and off the field.

LOMBARDI, JACKSON & LASORDA

Widely recognized as one of the greatest coaches of all time, Vince Lombardi said, "Leaders are made, they are not born. They are made by hard effort, which is the price which all of us must pay to achieve any goal that is worthwhile."

Phil Jackson, who never missed the playoffs as a head coach, said, "Always keep an open mind and a compassionate heart."

The outspoken Tommy Lasorda said, "There are three types of baseball players: Those who make it happen, those who watch it happen and those who wonder what happens."

Another quote that's meaningful to me that I want to share is from a newer NFL head coach, DeMeco Ryans: "I think football should be played with passion, I think it should be played with energy, and I think, when you get the opportunity to do it, you should give everything you have to the game, because you don't know when your last play will be."

Let me, here, remark about leaders getting “on the field” and provide my insight on character, kindness and constancy to build a winning dynastic culture in the firehouse and the fire service and, most of all, for humanity’s sake. We set the tone. We enact necessary change. We lead.

CHARACTER: SCORPION OR FROG?

I recently heard the fable of the “The Scorpion and the Frog.” Let me preface telling you the story by letting you know that frogs terrify me (and, yes, there are killer frogs out there), so for me to share a story about a frog, well, is courageous and vulnerable.

A scorpion wants to cross a river but can’t swim. The scorpion asks a frog to carry it across. The frog is afraid that the scorpion will sting it. The scorpion promises that it won’t. The frog asks, “How do I know you won’t kill me as I carry you?” The scorpion replies, “If I were to strike you, we would both surely die.” Thinking it over, the frog agrees, but halfway across the river, the scorpion strikes the frog in the back. As they both start to drown, the frog asks, “Why did you strike me? Now, we will both die.” The scorpion replies with his last breath, “It is my nature.” The question that we all must ask ourselves as self-reflective leaders is, what is in the nature of our character? How are our qualities distinctive to our character? How many interview panels have you sat on when people described themselves in terms of their character as people who have high integrity and are hardworking and compassionate? In the fire service, as public servants, trust is given to us by the people who we serve simply as a result of the patch that we wear over our heart, by the sight of a fire truck, by the sound of a siren. However, character not only defines who we are but what we do with who we say we are as a person, as a leader, as an officer. So, consider self-reflection and write down character-defining qualities that you believe that you possess, much as if you were answering a question that’s posed during an interview. Then, ask those people who are closest to you how they would describe your character.

This practice requires vulnerability and courage, trust and accountability, and openness with risk.

As leaders, we constantly should self-reflect to be better humans, stronger leaders and winning-culture creators. Members always look to us to set the tone on and off of the field to change the landscape for the people who we serve.

What do you want to be known for? Focus on the value of character instead of the value of perceived success.

KINDNESS AND CONSTANCY

One of my head coach organizational principles and philosophies is “Be kind, be an ‘uncommon’ community.” From my lens, anyone can be common and even appear to be a community. What separates an authentic leader from the deceptive leader centers on humility, selflessness and a constant kindness in the most difficult situations, particularly when difficulty attempts to breed division and destruction. To be an “uncommon community” means that a team, being passionate about a winning culture, infuses compassion for others and constant kindness as an organizational ethos, to drive us to simply be different, do differently and serve differently. “Uncommon acts of kindness” (e.g., a caring conversation on the bumper of the truck or in a recliner next to a teammate) can be felt before, during and after a call. Being “uncommon” in the community means that we set the tone of change by treating people with compassion, selflessness and constant kindness, as we simply make their bad day better, the best that we can, with what we have. The power couple of kindness and constancy is what communities deserve and what leaders always must provide with their character, setting the tone of influence.

RESPECT & DISCIPLINE

The Houston Oilers legendary coach, Bum Phillips, said, “Respect all. Fear none,” and “The only discipline that lasts is self-discipline.”

OUR CHANGING FIRE SERVICE –CHALLENGES & POSITIVE IDEAS!

POSITIVE IDEAS THAT MIGHT WORK FOR OTHERS:

[Wash. Officials Explore Merger Of 3 Fire Districts, Eliminating Boundaries And Improving Response Times](#)

Three local fire and rescue groups in Pierce County may merge into one.

Fire commissioners for Central Pierce Fire & Rescue, Graham Fire & Rescue, as well as Orting Valley Fire and Rescue have “formally endorsed” exploring a merger. That means all three groups have taken legal steps to begin the actions needed to place a merger measure on a ballot.

Some benefits of merging include faster response times, efficient resource management, reduction of overall costs and the ability to adapt to service demands as populations grow, according to the website. No firefighters at the three fire and rescue agencies would lose their jobs, and no fire stations would be closed. Asked about how much money a merger is estimated to save residents, Stenstrom said that Central Pierce Fire does not know yet, because the exploration stage is still in progress. A merger would eliminate boundaries separating the three fire districts, allowing the closest unit available to respond rather than the closest unit available within the respective fire district.

Fire commissioners for all three agencies found that the simplest and most cost-effective decision for Graham Fire and Orting Valley Fire is to ask voters for approval to merge into Central Pierce Fire, which is the largest of the three. All three groups already work together through shared communications, outreach and education programs, among other things. All three fire and rescue groups started taking steps to place a merger on a ballot in 2025.

Central Pierce Fire has 356 firefighters and paramedics. They serve about 256,000 residents in Puyallup, Spanaway, Parkland, Midland, Elk Plain and Orting. Graham Fire has 106 firefighters and paramedics. They serve about 70,000 residents in Graham, Kapowsin, Spanaway, Frederickson, and South Hill. Prior to September 2023, Orting Valley Fire had 30 firefighters. They served about 22,400 residents in the Orting Valley.

If voters support the merger, over 330,000 residents would be supported across 179 square miles, Stenstrom said. About 506 firefighters and 80 administrative staff would work under one organization. Under a merger, we would be one legal entity with one budget, one set of policies and procedures, and one unified governance structure.

[Can Right-Sizing Fire Protection Work Here?](#)

The Post Journal

A new fire district in the Mayville area will provide an interesting test case for many rural volunteer fire companies in Chautauqua and Cattaraugus counties.

The Mayville, Hartfield and Dewittville fire departments are likely to have a merger completed by sometime in early July. The new North Lake Fire District will cover most of the town of Chautauqua, except for the area covered by the Chautauqua Fire Department, which covers the Chautauqua Institution and that end of the town, and a small portion covered by the Sherman Fire Department.

It’s expected the merger can save money, open the new district up to more grant money and help volunteers work more seamlessly together. The new district will almost immediately save money on insurance rates, while grant money is often based on primary calls rather than mutual aid – so one new department handling more private calls can get more state and federal money than three smaller departments that don’t answer as many calls on their own. “We duplicate too many things. Why? Because we operate like an island. The reason to consolidate is to operate like a community and not like three separate islands. It will be safer, cheaper and better,” said attorney Drew Pinsky, who has been hired to handle the merger process.

What’s happening in the Mayville area is an interesting test case. Our population isn’t decreasing, yet our public infrastructure in many instances is still set up for the county’s peak 1950s and 1960s population. As our population contracts the infrastructure has to contract with it – but we’ve been loath to do so for decades. There are a lot of reasons for our inaction over the years, not the least of which is it’s difficult to move from a model everyone is familiar with to something unproven here.

But if this merged fire department results in the same, or better, fire protection at a lower cost, it’s a safe bet that more rural fire departments will follow the example being set by Mayville, Hartfield and Dewittville.

[CHALLENGES:](#)

[Los Angeles County \(CA\) Fire Station Catches Fire; Equipment Damaged](#)

Fervent honking began just before 4 a.m. from drivers passing along Santa Fe Avenue in Huntington Park who witnessed one of the city’s two fire stations burning. Neighbors living nearby banged on the door of the two-story office and dormitory as the adjacent garage was engulfed in flames. They were trying to alert sleeping firefighters to a blaze in their own building.

Eventually, crews from Huntington Park's Fire Station No. 164 descended from their second story living quarters, some in shorts, others in T-shirts and flip-flops, according to Los Angeles County Supervisor Janice Hahn. Nevertheless, they grabbed as much gear as possible and even fought the blaze with garden hoses. Aid also came from Los Angeles County firefighters from other stations, who helped douse the fire that destroyed a fair amount of the station. The cause of the fire has yet to be determined and will be investigated by an outside agency, likely Cal Fire.

[Ladder Truck Catches Fire Inside Concord \(NC\) Fire Station](#)

A ladder truck stationed at the Concord Fire Department's Station 8 caught fire early Thursday morning. The incident unfolded around 4:18 a.m. when crews were jolted awake by fire alarms. Rushing to investigate, firefighters were met with a veil of smoke engulfing the bay, where they discovered a reserve ladder truck burning. Firefighters swiftly donned their gear and got the truck out of the station and then extinguished the fire. Preliminary investigations suggest the fire originated in the cab area of the truck, although the exact cause remains unclear.

[Wiggins, MS, Firefighter Recovering After Being Trapped under Apparatus](#)

A Wiggins firefighter who was pinned under a fire truck after it rolled over early Sunday is expected to recover. The Wiggins firefighter was flown to a trauma center after the crash that occurred just after midnight. The engine was responding to a wreck when it rolled over.



ADVICE ON PURCHASING FOR YOUR DISTRICT

[Equipment For Effective Rural Water Supply Operations, Part 2](#)

Bill Adkins and Andy Soccodato

Water supply operations in the rural setting comprise some of the most challenging scenarios that firefighters face. These challenges are magnified when companies are not equipped with the necessary tools to efficiently operate in the rural environment.

This article continues from [Part 1](#) and highlights some of the most important pieces of equipment that should be on every rural engine company to seamlessly perform water supply functions at a rural fire incident.

- [Equipment for Effective Rural Water Supply Operations, Part 1](#)

Some of the equipment mentioned in this article is likely equipment your engine company is already carrying. Other pieces may be items that your department considers budgeting for and purchasing in the future. Regardless, each item listed allows the rural pump operator to reliably perform his duties on the rural fireground regardless of whether the item costs several thousand dollars or only a few dollars. You can add some of these items to your apparatus as soon as you finish reading this article; however, you may have to consider other items as part of your next apparatus purchase. Consider the items discussed as essential pieces companies that routinely operate as part of a rural water supply operation carry.

MANIFOLDS

Manifolds are gated valves that can control water supply to multiple lines. Another name for a manifold is a water thief. Many times, a manifold acts as an extension of the pump panel hundreds of feet away from the apparatus. One example is at a tanker static water source fill site, where the drafting apparatus may end up several feet away from

where the tankers can access. The drafting apparatus can lay a supply line with a manifold at the end from the fill site to the drafting site. When tankers arrive at the fill site, there will be water to the manifold from the drafting apparatus. All the firefighter at the manifold needs to do is open the valve to refill the tanker.

Manifolds also provide the ability to supply multiple attack lines on the fireground. There are times when the first-due apparatus must park several hundred feet away from the incident. A horizontal standpipe may need to be used. For example, if using a horizontal standpipe, a manifold can be placed at the end of 2½- or 3-inch hose to supply multiple attack lines several hundred feet away from the attack apparatus. A firefighter should remain at the manifold to ensure valves are not shut accidentally.

Manufacturers provide various types and sizes of manifolds—from 2½ to 2½, Storz to Storz, Storz to 2½, Storz to Storz and 2 ½, clappered, or gated valves and the list goes on. Match the flow capabilities with the flow you want to sustain. You will need to have a manifold to support not only your supply hose but your mutual-aid companies as well.

CLAPPERED SIAMESE

Like manifolds, clappered siamese valves come in many configurations. A clappered siamese combines multiple lines into one line. This allows different lines to be added without flow interruption. These valves are popular for water supply operations. When purchasing, order what works best not only for your department but for your mutual-aid departments.

When referring to a sustained rural water supply, use a relay of some type. This prevents loss of water pressure to the interior crew when attempting a draft from a static water source. It also provides two complete engines along with two complete pumps in the event that one has some type of mechanical failure.

One type of relay in rural communities is the rural hitch. When operating in the rural hitch, a clappered siamese serves as a great tool to aid in relay pumping to the first-due apparatus. Sometimes the rural hitch may involve more than one apparatus moving water to the first-due apparatus. A clappered siamese valve placed at the end of the water supply allows two or more apparatus (simultaneously) to flow water to the first-due apparatus. This allows little to no interruption in water supply at the fireground while crews establish some type of sustained water supply. Unlike manifolds, the clappered siamese does not require a firefighter to stay at the device to operate. The country has a known shortage of staffing. Leaving a firefighter at a manifold may not be practical.

CHAFFING BLOCK

One of the simpler, yet vitally important, pieces of equipment that every rural engine company should carry is the chaffing block. This homemade tool consists of nothing more than a ¾-inch piece of plywood cut to effectively prop up hose or hard sleeve. The dimensions of the chaffing block are not exact, and firefighters should cut them to meet their specific needs and apparatus compartments. While there are a variety of ways this tool can be used on the fireground, it is most beneficial when a single firefighter is attempting to connect two pieces of 6-inch hard sleeve together.

Any firefighter who has attempted to connect two lengths of hard sleeve together by himself knows that this task is nearly impossible because of the size and rigidity of the hard sleeve. To do this singlehandedly, the operator should rest the male end of one of the hard sleeves on the chaffing block so that the male threads are suspended in the air. The operator should then place the female end of the other section between his legs and clamp onto it using his shins. This will allow his hands to be free to guide the male coupling toward the female coupling and thread the two together. If more than two sections need to be connected, the solo operator continues this process using the chaffing block as the “second set of hands.”

LADDERS AND TARPS/SALVAGE COVERS

A ladder is another common tool that is likely already on your engine company. While the lengths and styles of your ladders may vary, it is important to recognize that ladders are primarily used on the horizontal plane during rural water supply operations. Common uses for ground ladders during rural water operations include bridging jet siphon lines between dump tanks, propping up a barrel strainer in a static body of water, and use during a damming operation.

Bridging and damming operations, in particular, can use multiple ground ladders depending on the number of dump tanks deployed and the width of the source being dammed. Firefighters should be mindful of this and recognize that ground ladders may also be a limited resource on the rural fire scene. This is one of the advantages of carrying ground ladders on mobile water shuttle apparatus if possible. Not only can these apparatus bring additional hard sleeves to

both the fill and dump sites, but they can also drop off additional ground ladders at these sites depending on the operation.

Tarps or salvage covers are also an invaluable tool on the rural fireground. During rural water supply operations, they are most commonly used to serve as barriers between the ground and a dump tank or in conjunction with a ground ladder for a damming operation. To be most effective, each rural engine and mobile water shuttle apparatus should carry at least two tarps for these operations. Organizations should consider their dump tank dimensions when determining what size tarp to purchase for barrier protection.

For departments that routinely perform damming operations, it is critically important that the organizations consider purchasing thicker vinyl salvage covers for these operations. The thicker material will be more resistant to wear and perform better during a damming operation. When lighter weight utility tarps are used, there is a high probability that the water pressure exerted against the dam will cause the material to tear and the dam to fail catastrophically. The same size tarps used for dump tank barrier protection can also be used to sufficiently wrap a ground ladder for a damming operation.

WATER EDUCTOR

Accessing distant water sources is often one of the biggest challenges encountered during a rural water supply operation. In many instances, fire departments are forced to forego these sources simply because they are unable to reach them. The TurboDraft water eductor solves this problem by using soft suction hose, the device itself, and venturi physics (photo 9). In its traditional configuration, the TurboDraft is placed into the water source with a 2½- or 3-inch line coming from a discharge on the pumper and connected to the device's inlet. A 5-inch supply line is then connected to the outlet of the eductor and run to the pump intake on the engine. The pumper will then discharge a portion of its tank water into the line feeding the device. This will cause a massive venturi that draws more water back to the pumper through the 5-inch supply line.

The major advantage of the TurboDraft is that in its traditional configuration, the pumper can be up to 100 feet away from the water source and achieve roughly a 550-gallon-per-minute (gpm) usable flow rate. If this distance is shortened to 50 feet, the usable flow rate increases to roughly 700 gpm. One of the key pillars to a successful TurboDraft operation is that the hose connected to the return side of the device must be at least 5 inches in diameter. The line should also be as short as possible to maximize the flow. For this reason, apparatus that carry these tools should also be carrying two 25-foot lengths and one 50-foot length of 5-inch hose. This will allow the operator to access water that is either 100 feet, 75 feet, 50 feet, or 25 feet from the apparatus quickly and efficiently.

It is important to recognize that the TurboDraft is not a replacement for carrying extra sections of hard sleeve on the rural pumper. On the contrary, this tool is intended to allow rural pump operators to rapidly establish water from a distant source to begin the operation. For example, consider how long it would take a single operator to remove five 10-foot sections of 6-inch hard sleeve from the apparatus, connect it together, place it in the water, and achieve a prime. The same operator can deploy a TurboDraft and achieve a water supply in a fraction of the time it takes for the traditional drafting operation to be placed in service.

Firefighters must remember that the flow through the TurboDraft operation will be less than through a traditional drafting operation. In the scenario outlined above, if the flow demands are not being met, the operator can certainly begin connecting hard sleeve together and prepare to transition over to a conventional draft while the TurboDraft operation provides the initial water for the operation.

PREPLANNING RURAL FIRES

It's extremely important that fire crews have some type of plan before arriving at the scene of a fire. All incidents are slightly different, but there should be some type of baseline to start with. Firefighters need to know what is expected of them prior to arriving on scene.

Seating assignments, even in the rural setting, prove to harness firefighters to work on jobs that need to be completed on every fire. Things like pulling the proper attack line, setting up the water supply, and completely sizing up the entire incident before making entry are just a few examples. This will prevent micromanaging while on scene. Firefighters will be expected to do the job based on their seating assignment without the need of a supervisor walking them through it.

Have a set of plays as if you were on a sports team. What jobs need to be completed on an interior attack? What jobs need to be done when it is a defensive fire? Discuss these types of scenarios with your members and make sure they are clear on these jobs when at training. Then practice these scenarios prior to the 911 calls.

Departments should also have a list of high-hazard occupancies in their areas. Each and every member should be aware of these occupancies and a walk-through (with permission) should be conducted annually. Preplanning these high-hazard areas gives your team a head start on critical tasks to be completed on arrival. Learning the layout of a building when it is in normal operation helps firefighters understand where they are in a time when there may be little to zero visibility.

Another preplan firefighters should consider has the options of water sources in your first-due area. One would be amazed at how many departments pass multiple water sources on their way to a hydrant miles away. Train, with all your members on the department, to know these sources. Ask all members if they know of other water sources not mentioned. Even the youngest firefighter may know of a water source that the most senior member did not.

RAINING 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



Presents: Managing Combination Departments Webinar

May 29, 2024 02:00 PM

JOIN THE WEBINAR AT THIS LINK:

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



Advancements in Utility-Scale Battery Energy Storage Safety Features, Standards, and Practices

June 5th, 2024 at 2:00PM

JOIN THE WEBINAR AT THIS LINK:

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

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2024 SEMINAR SERIES

"Searching –
The Offensive and Defensive"



With Lieutenant Mike Scotto, Fire Department City of New York

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

REGISTRATION FEES:

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

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

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7:00pm STARTING TIME

Fulton (Tuesday, September 10)

Otsego (Wednesday, September 25)

Rensselaer (Tuesday, October 29)



NYSAFC 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>



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 **25** FIRE FIGHTER LODD'S*

*According to FirefighterCloseCalls.com**

*In 2023 we experienced **82** LODDs reported nationally.!*

YOU NEVER KNOW!

- A Trinity Fire Department firefighter was injured in a crash with a tractor-trailer while responding to a call on May 16, the injured firefighter driving was airlifted to the hospital and is believed to be in stable condition.

NIOSH Offers Suggestions after Probe of Deadly Incident on Lubbock, TX, Interstate

Firehouse News

NIOSH has made several recommendations following a probe into a highway incident in 2020 that left two Lubbock firefighters and a police officer dead.

On Jan. 11, 2020, crews were on the scene of a collision when a vehicle spun out of control and struck two firefighters and a police officer.

Lubbock Officer Nicholas Reyna, 27, was pronounced dead at the scene while Fire Lt. David Eric Hill, 39, died at a hospital shortly after the incident.

Firefighter Paramedic Matthew Dawson, 30, died on Nov. 27, 2023.

NIOSH investigators spoke with firefighters who also were on the scene of the crash as they compiled their [report](#).

Among their recommendations include

- Fire departments should develop pre-incident plans regarding deployment for highway/roadway incidents. These pre-incident plans should include establishing a temporary traffic control zone, maintaining scene safety, and proper traffic control for highway/roadway emergency work zones. **(lifted directly from the OSHA 1910.156 proposed standard)**
- Fire departments should ensure that a continuous scene size-up and risk assessment is conducted and are continuously assessed and managed throughout a highway/roadway emergency incident. This creates and ensures a functional incident action plan. **(lifted directly from the OSHA 1910.156 proposed standard)**
- Fire departments should ensure incident commanders forecast the direction of the incident early on, in order to build an incident action plan (IAP). Forecasting should be a continuous process until all resources have cleared the incident scene. **(lifted directly from the OSHA 1910.156 proposed standard)**
- Fire departments should ensure that incident commanders utilize traffic incident management (TIM) procedures. Fire departments should participate in local, regional, and state TIM response protocols with law enforcement, public works departments, and state department of transportation. **(lifted directly from the OSHA 1910.156 proposed standard)**

- Fire departments should ensure that all members receive annual training for conducting emergency operations at highway/roadway emergency incidents. Training should include identifying the lack of median barriers and the potential for crossovers.
- Fire departments should ensure that incident commanders appoint a safety officer when operating at a highway/roadway emergency incident. **(lifted directly from the OSHA 1910.156 proposed standard)**
- Fire departments should utilize a digital alerting system to notify civilian drivers by vehicle navigation applications that they are approaching both enroute and on-scene emergency vehicles. **(is the federal government going to financially support this effort?)**
- Governing municipalities (federal, state, regional, and local) should consider installing median barriers that separate opposing traffic on a divided highway that are prone to crossovers or frequent crashes. Fire departments should support this process based upon their deployment and response to divided highways. **(is the federal government going to financially support this effort?)**

BUILDING & FIRE CODE ISSUES – WHY ARE THEY IMPORTANT TO YOU? SNAPSHOT WEEKLY FIRE FATALITY DATA AS REPORTED BY THE MEDIA

Home Depot to Pay \$1.3M for Fire Code Violations After Arson Destroyed CA Store

Robert Salonga-Bay Area News Group

Home Depot will pay \$1.3 million after an investigation found that a bevy of fire code violations, including non-functioning sprinklers, helped a 2022 arson fire completely destroy a South San Jose store and pollute the air for several days in surrounding neighborhoods, authorities said.

That dollar amount includes \$850,000 in civil penalties and \$150,000 that will go toward fire prevention education and outreach in the South Bay, according to the Santa Clara County District Attorney’s Office. It was the DA’s Bureau of Investigations that examined reported failures in fire-suppression systems at the home-improvement giant’s Blossom Hill Road location, which was leveled by fast-moving flames on April 9, 2022.

“Fire code violations are potential tragedies in waiting. Ignoring them isn’t just risky; it’s reckless,” District Attorney Jeff Rosen said in a statement. “It risks far more than property. It risks lives.”

An investigation, which was headed by the San Jose Fire Department and grew to include the federal Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco Firearms and Explosives, determined that the fire was deliberately set in the store’s lumber section. Dyllin Jaycruz Gogue, 29, has been charged with arson and is being held without bail in the Elmwood men’s jail in Milpitas, though his case has remained in an early plea-entering stage in the two years since.

A police investigation contends that Gogue was attempting to steal items from the store and set the fire as a distraction. He has also been charged with theft-related crimes at other retailers in the area before the blaze occurred. While authorities seemed to have the source of the fire nailed down swiftly, big questions lingered about how and why the fire was able to spread throughout the nearly 99,000-square-foot property — and seriously threaten the lives of hundreds inside the store — instead of being isolated to near its point of origin. ***Fleeing store occupants reported never seeing the sprinklers go off*** as the five-alarm blaze consumed the store and \$17 million in inventory, and caused building losses estimated in the tens of millions of dollars.

In the fire’s aftermath, **this news organization uncovered records of several fire code violations recorded at the store in the previous two years, including a December 2020 citation for failing to provide proof of recent inspections of its fire alarm and sprinkler systems.**

In a Monday news release, the district attorney’s office stated that the violations uncovered by its investigators in a post-fire probe hampered firefighters’ efforts to save the building. Chief among them was a finding that the store was notified that ***its sprinkler system was not working, and did not take any actions to restore its functionality.***

Additionally, the office said ***its investigation discovered various instances of fire code violations in 13 other Home Depot stores in Santa Clara County.*** The news release stated that Home Depot cooperated with investigators, and after being presented with their findings “took action in curing all outstanding fire code violations at its stores in the county and implemented new training and tracking methods to ensure future compliance.”

A Home Depot spokesperson sent a statement in response to a request for comment about the case Monday: “Our number one concern is the safety and wellbeing of our associates and customers, and we’re grateful for the opportunity to work with the district attorney to make sure all of our facilities are as safe as possible.”

The roughly \$1.3 million payout by the company, on top of the civil fines and fire education contributions, will also compensate the San Jose Fire Department and other fire agencies that responded to and investigated the 2022 fire.

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!!

HOME FIRE FATALITIES REPORTED BY THE MEDIA FROM THE US FIRE ADMINISTRATION	
Fire Deaths in 1&2 Family Dwellings in NYS	29
Last fire death 5/10/24 Ellicottville, Cattaraugus, Co. 82yo Male, 80yo Female	
Fire Deaths in any type of Dwelling in NYS	57
Fire Deaths in 1&2 Family Dwellings Nationally	601
Top 3 States with the greatest 1&2 Family Deaths	#1 PA/52
	#2 TX/36
	#3 NC/31
There has been a total of 0984 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 NEW GREEN TECHNOLOGY

****Lithium-Ion Batteries Cause Fire Inside Maine Firehouse**

Bill Darey-FireRescue 1

Investigators determined that multiple lithium-ion batteries charging inside the Stacyville firehouse were the cause of the fire.

Multiple lithium-ion batteries charging at the Stacyville Fire Department caught fire on May 22, causing damage and injuring a firefighter. Fire departments from Sherman, Patten, Mt. Chase, Island Falls, Oakfield and East Millinocket responded to assist Stacyville firefighters during the fire. **They quickly extinguished the fire, but the building and several pieces of equipment were damaged.** The state fire marshal’s office found the fire started on a shelf where lithium-ion batteries were charging. Officials deemed it accidental.

One firefighter was transported to a hospital and treated for a non-fire-related leg injury.

CA Battery Fire at Power Storage Facility Keeps Reigniting

Rob Nikolewski, The San Diego Union-Tribune

A stubborn fire at an energy storage facility in Otay Mesa reignited late Friday night and continued well into Saturday, as about 40 firefighters poured water into the location in the hopes of finally extinguishing the blaze.

“It’s been a real frustrating fire,” Cal Fire Capt. Brent Pascua said.

At 8:23 p.m. Friday, Pascua said, a “significant fire” reignited inside one of the buildings at the Gateway Energy Storage Facility on Camino De La Fuente — the result of a chain reaction called “thermal runaway” that can occur when lithium-ion batteries overheat.

“The fire did get into the structure itself and that is now on fire and firefighters continue to pour water on it as we speak,” Pascua said at 12:45 p.m. Saturday. ***Evacuation orders and warnings are in effect in the immediate vicinity of the facility, an area that includes several businesses.*** However, the orders could be expanded if, say, the wind shifts, increasing the potential threat of fire.

“If that happens, we’ll start the evacuation warnings early so people can be informed and be aware,” Pascua said, “but we’re hopeful that’s not going to happen.”

A San Diego County hazardous materials team is on-site monitoring air quality, and on Saturday afternoon readings were normal.

Fire was first discovered at the 250-megawatt storage facility on Wednesday afternoon. Evacuation warnings for surrounding businesses were issued and a shelter-in-place order was considered at the nearby Donovan state prison because of fears of toxic fumes and potential explosions. State officials said Friday, however, that operations at the prison were not impacted.

Crews pumped water from a hydrant into the building’s fire-suppression system that drenched the batteries, leaving the blaze almost entirely extinguished by Thursday afternoon.

A few batteries reignited Thursday night, but by Friday crews had ventilated the area where the fire was centered and one fire official described the situation as being “relatively under control.” *But after some batteries flared again Friday night, more than three dozen firefighters were back at work battling the blaze.*

Rev Renewables, a subsidiary of LS Power that owns and operates the Gateway facility, confirmed in an email that the fire had reignited.

“While unfortunate, this development was not unexpected,” Rev Renewables said in an email, “as these kinds of fires can reignite and take time to be fully extinguished. We remain in close coordination with local first responders and will provide updates as this situation develops.”

The Gateway facility uses lithium-ion batteries that provide electricity to the state’s power grid. Energy storage projects have taken on a higher profile in recent years as more renewable sources of power have come onto California’s electric system. Storage facilities typically take in solar power generated during the day and discharge the electricity later, especially from 4 to 9 p.m. when California’s grid is under the most stress. Batteries can help reduce the risk of rotating power outages and replace natural gas “peaker plants” used during those critical hours when customers crank up their air conditioners. Boosting energy storage is crucial for California to reach its target of deriving 100 percent of electricity from carbon-free sources by 2045.

But there have been instances in which excessive heat inside a battery leads to a chemical reaction that spreads to other batteries in a thermal runaway event.

“Historically speaking, we usually tend to see a much longer period of time where this cascading damage just keeps going, almost like the domino effect,” Robert Rezende, battalion chief and the Alternative Energy Emergency Response coordinator for the San Diego Fire-Rescue Department, said Friday.

Saturday’s flare-up burned through the roof of the building where the Gateway fire is located. ***Pascua said fire officials can’t predict how long it will take for the batteries to stop reigniting.*** “We’re just doing our best with what we have in front of us and to keep it contained,” he said.

HAPPENING IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD

Gansevoort Fire Company Breakfast

Last Breakfast until returning in September, Sunday June 16th Father’s Day from 8am to 11am

LAUGH OUT LOUD

**My daughter told me that these burgers are actually good for you, they’re plant based.
My reply was, “Really, but they are so delicious, which plant to they come from?”
She laughed and said, the meat processing plant!!!**

CLASSIFIED – FOR SALE – JOB OPENINGS

[LINK TO JOB OPENINGS AT THE NY NATIONAL GUARD FOR A AIRPORT FIREFIGHTER 1 TRAINEE, GRADE 10](#)

https://dmna.ny.gov/jobs/?id=state&fbclid=IwZXh0bgNhZWQCMTEAAR0XzMjUMx7xXJgcrQvsC7wfyUjaCAJf3WCVFNV8ot96opsuLfsr9RTVIUY_aem_AdUg-boEzpK11NyvGODjooulveT8i69GSnzmFRYx00ZJcec5uTbfzFIBkYrI5vRZLAVKIXWTLruWKPet_071Ou

NOTE: The following position(s) are not in the Classified Service of New York State, but are covered under the New York State Military Law. If selected, current Civil Service employees will lose their seniority within the Classified Service, thereby exempting them from applying for promotional exams within Civil Service.

CAFDA OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

2024 OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

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- 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 Counsel:** 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](mailto:TREASURER@CAFDA.NET)

518-407-5020

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

Long Way to Travel Zoom into the General Membership Meetings!

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

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

[What are the duties and responsibilities of a Commissioner?](#)

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

[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!!

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



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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.

FOR A MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION OR A BUSINESS PARTNER APPLICATION GO TO THE FOLLOWING LINK:

<https://cafda.net/membership-info/>

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

CURRENT CAFDA CALENDAR

Capital Area Meetings/Seminars/Trainings/Conference Dates (As of 1/3/2024 - Subject to Change)				
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

2025 DRAFT CAFDA CALENDAR

Capital Area Meetings/Seminars/Trainings/Conference Dates (As of 5/8/2024 - Subject to Change)				
2025				
Saturday, January 4, 2025	9:00 AM	General Membership Mtg.	Clifton Park	Organizational/Morning Meeting
Saturday, February 1, 2025	8:00 AM	Commissioner Training	Averill Park	Snowdate - Sunday, February 2, 2024
Thursday, February 13, 2025	7:00 PM	General Membership Mtg.	Clifton Park	
		Financial Training for Fire District Officials		TBD
Saturday, March 1, 2025	8:00 AM	Commissioner Training	Clifton Park	Snowdate - Sunday, March 2, 2025
Saturday, March 8, 2025	5:00 PM	Officer Installation	Century House	
Thursday, March 13, 2025	7:00 PM	General Membership Mtg.	Clifton Park	
Saturday, March 29, 2025	8:00 AM	Commissioner Training	Berkshire FD	Snowdate - Sunday, March 30, 2025
Saturday, April 5, 2025	8:00 AM	Commissioner Training	Warrensburg FD	Snowdate - Sunday, April 6, 2025
Thursday, April 3, 2025	7:00 PM	Board of Directors Meeting	Clifton Park	
Thursday, April 10 - Saturday April 12, 2025		CAFDA Conference	Fort William Henry Conference Center	Lake George
Thursday, May 8, 2025	7:00 PM	General Membership Mtg.	Clifton Park	
Thursday, June 12, 2025	7:00 PM	Board of Directors Meeting	Clifton Park	
Thursday, July 10, 2025	7:00 PM	Board of Directors Meeting	Clifton Park	
Friday, August 8, 2025	1:00 PM	Membership Activity	Saratoga Race Course	NYRA Day at the Races!
AUGUST				
NO MEETING				
Thursday, September 11, 2025	7:00 PM	General Membership Mtg.	Clifton Park	
Wednesday, October 8, 2025	7:00 PM	General Membership Mtg.	Clifton Park	Officers/Director Nominations
Saturday, November 1, 2025	8:00 AM	Fall Workshop	Verdoy	5 Saturdays in November
Saturday, November 8, 2025				
Thursday, November 13, 2025	7:00 PM	General Membership Mtg.	Clifton Park	Officer/Director Elections
DECEMBER				
NO MEETING				
2026				
Saturday, January 3, 2026	9:00 AM	General Membership Mtg.	Clifton Park	Organizational/Morning Meeting

OSHA INFORMATION SUPPLEMENT

NEWEST INFORMATION ALWAYS AT THE TOP IN RED

*****COMMENT DEADLINE EXTENDED UNTIL JULY 21ST another 30 days**

Sorry I missed the call today. I was tied up in at meeting in NYC at that time.

I just received notice that OSHA is extending the deadline another 30 days to July 21. Nowhere near what we asked, but each day helps. Obviously, OSHA is still not over interested in trying to work with us and is just feeling some pressure at this point. We need to continue to focus on the data that OSHA used building this rule. **It is dated, has many holes in it and frankly shows they do not understand how the fire service operates in this country. They used data from a Firehouse magazine article to look at average budgets, etc.**

Please encourage everyone to write comments, telling their story. My budget is XXX, we have xxx members, we respond to xxx calls for service, our community is xxx size, population, avg income etc. We get our funding from xxx. We need them to understand the vast difference in departments and structure across this country.

It is clear that they do not understand the make up of the rural fire service.

Answers to a couple of questions that came up on today's call.

1. The letter from congress was submitted with 43 signatures. 13 were Democrat so we got some bipartisan support. Congress asked for an extension but felt they had to remove the Sept 21 date as they felt it crossed some type of federal rule.
2. We have not submitted the proposed legislation yet as I am not sure we have enough data to propose the "phase in" schedule. One example is the fire officer 3 requirement. If NYOFPC and others are telling us 5-7 years to even make it possible, how do we account for that in the "phase in" request. If anyone has additional thoughts, please share.

Let me know what else you need.

Dave

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.



*****Take the NVFC's Survey on OSHA's Proposed Emergency Response Standard**

As you may have heard by now, 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." While many of the proposed provisions would be helpful and improve health and safety, the standard as currently written would issue hundreds of new requirements that may be very burdensome, and in many cases impossible, for volunteer fire departments to comply with.

The public comment period is open until June 21. The National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC) is formulating our comments to submit to OSHA and we want to hear from you. If you haven't already done so, please take 10 minutes to [fill out this survey](#) to help us best understand the impact the proposed standard would have on your fire department.

TAKE THE SURVEY NOW AT THIS LINK:

https://gma5qspab.cc.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001hzbdiUhfYDgCq-whFLi-ZGerpE2xYxFxshxkNHNe3D0TLbkVd_VIFQsYQyL64YDI12QYeRBd6QVcq-XTUWGLfilyi7yRjw9qZXF4RvjX00LCyY0QhzC66-

In addition, you can use the resources on the [NVFC web site](#) to learn more about the Emergency Response Standard and formulate your own comments to submit to OSHA by the JULY 21ST deadline.

NVFC CONTINUES TO SOUND ALARM ON PROPOSED OSHA STANDARD AND CLARIFIES IMPACT ON NON-OSHA STATES

May 21, 2024

The National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC) continues to raise awareness on the Occupational Safety and Health Administration's (OSHA) proposed Emergency Response Standard and offer resources to help first responders take action. On February 5, OSHA published a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) to replace the agency's "Fire Brigades" standard with a proposed new "Emergency Response Standard." This NPRM's publication triggered the beginning of a public comment period that is scheduled to conclude June 21, 2024.

While many of the proposed provisions would be helpful and improve the safety of emergency responders, the proposed standard contains multiple new requirements that would be very burdensome, and in many cases impossible, for volunteer fire departments to comply with. Nothing in this proposed standard is final and this public comment period is your opportunity to explain to OSHA what you believe should be changed in the proposed standard and why. The NVFC has launched a landing page to assist volunteers in understanding and commenting on this proposed standard, which can be accessed [here](https://www.nvfc.org/osha-standard/): (<https://www.nvfc.org/osha-standard/>)

In addition, the NVFC has held several webinars, including two over the past two weeks, to break down the concerns regarding the proposed standards and help responders formulate their comments. These webinars may be viewed [here](https://virtualclassroom.nvfc.org/webinars): (<https://virtualclassroom.nvfc.org/webinars>) The NVFC hosting a Roundtable Talk on May 23 at 2pm ET with the National League of Cities and the National Association of Counties to highlight areas of mutual concern and provide recommendations on how volunteer departments can collaborate with their local government to express these concerns to OSHA. [Register here](#):

(https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_JXLQL0c5S3acTz9c6US0dA#/registration)

The NVFC has also been raising attention for the proposed OSHA standard in Congress. During the last week, a letter supported by the NVFC has been circulating around the House of Representatives urging OSHA to consider exempting volunteer fire departments from some or all parts of the proposed standard, identify additional areas where financial and logistical burdens could be reduced, and extend the proposed standard's public comment period. The letter is expected to be sent tomorrow, and so far approximately 40 Members of Congress have signed it.

One of the most frequent questions the NVFC has received is how the proposed standard would impact non-OSHA states (refer to [this map](#): at this link <https://www.osha.gov/stateplans> to see which states are OSHA states). The answer is this proposed standard would impact non-OSHA states if adopted as written. The immediate impact on non-OSHA states would be related to volunteer fire departments that are nonprofits and unaffiliated with municipalities. Reading through the NPRM on this proposed standard, it appears OSHA is unaware that such departments exist. It is possible that firefighters in these departments would be covered by this standard if they receive any compensation, regardless of the state they live in.

In addition to the immediate impact, the proposed standard would likely have secondary impacts on non-OSHA states. It could be used as a baseline of compliance for the purpose of seeking insurance and judgements in civil liability in every state.

How to File a Comment to OSHA on You Tube...Just Follow the Directions

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9TuPF2ZDrow>

Maine's Senator Collins Questions Acting Secretary of Labor Julie Lu on Proposed Changes to Volunteer Fire Dept. Standards

Click [HERE](#) to watch and [HERE](#) to download.

Washington, D.C. – Last week at an Appropriations hearing, U.S. Senator Susan Collins questioned Acting Secretary of the Department of Labor (DOL) Julie Su on proposed [changes](#) by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration

(OSHA) that, in current form, would be detrimental to volunteer fire departments in rural communities in Maine and throughout the country. Senator Collins is the Vice Chair of the Appropriations Committee.

During Q&A, Senator Collins said:

I want to switch to another issue that I'm hearing a lot about in the State of Maine from our firefighters and our first responders, and that has caused me to focus on aspects of the new Emergency Response Standard proposed by OSHA in February.

When I talk to my small, rural volunteer fire departments, they have huge concerns about the compliance costs and the potential training requirements that this proposed standard would entail. And indeed, OSHA itself has estimated nationwide compliance costs could exceed \$100 million per year for volunteer fire departments alone.

When I talk to the larger cities in Maine, there are fewer problems with complying with the standards.

As your Department finalizes this standard, will you commit to working with small, rural volunteer fire departments to ensure that we don't, essentially, force them to close down, which would hurt public safety rather than help it?

Acting Secretary Su:

Yes, I will definitely commit to you that we will work with all stakeholders, but especially what you're saying, the voluntary and rural first responder forces that are so vital, both to make sure that we hear them, and that we produce a standard that keeps them safe as well.

Letter from Congressman Jared Golden from the 2nd District, Lewiston, Maine

Presented if you wish to borrow any of the thoughts from this letter for your Comments to OSHA!

May XX, 2024

The Honorable Douglas L. Parker
Assistant Secretary of Labor for Occupational Safety and Health
Occupational Safety and Health Administration
U.S. Department of Labor
200 Constitution Ave NW
Washington, D.C. 20210

Dear Assistant Secretary Parker:

We are writing to share our strong concerns with the Occupational Safety and Health Administration's (OSHA) proposed rulemaking to replace the existing "Fire Brigades Standard." While we appreciate OSHA's efforts to improve the safety of our first responders, we have heard from small and rural fire departments in our districts that the new requirements proposed in the rule would result in their closure, undermining public safety and leaving many communities without essential emergency services. Earlier this year, OSHA announced a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) that would update existing regulations for the safety and health of firefighters and other emergency responders, including municipal volunteer departments covered by OSHA-approved State Plan programs and potentially non-profit volunteer fire departments in non-State Plan states. **This new "Emergency Response" standard would impose new written emergency response plans, hazard vulnerability assessments, training, personal protective equipment, medical screening and behavioral health services, and other requirements. OSHA estimates that over one million emergency responders are anticipated to fall within the scope of the proposed rule, 331,472 of whom self-identify as volunteers.**

As drafted, this rule fails to recognize the significant financial and personnel limitations that are unique to small and volunteer departments that serve our communities. The vast majority of these departments operate under very small budgets or self-fundraise. Volunteers donate their own time and resources to ensure that communities have readily available access to emergency services, often serving as the only source of emergency response within miles or hours of response time away. Under the proposed

“Emergency Response” standard, small and volunteer departments would be required to implement additional requirements, including additional training and fitness standards for veteran first responders with years of experience, recordkeeping, and other activities. The rule would also require the incorporation by reference of over twenty industry consensus standards. While these are excellent as best practices, these departments lack the economic resources to carry them out as a requirement in statute.

These concerns were conveyed to OSHA by stakeholders participating in the agency’s Small Business Advisory Review (SBAR) panel in the fall of 2021. In their report, the SBAR highlighted that “concern about the economic feasibility of implementing these requirements in smaller, particularly volunteer, fire departments was common.” Alarming, the SBAR also received feedback from numerous emergency service organizations (ESOs) that, “given the limited resources of many volunteer fire departments, this standard, if promulgated, would force small ESOs to close.” ***It is clear that as proposed, this new standard imposes a significant unfunded mandate that is simply untenable for our small and volunteer departments.*** That is why the SBAR recommends that OSHA consider exempting these entities from some or all parts of the standard as well as identify additional areas where financial and logistical burdens can be reduced. We do not believe the proposed standard as written adheres to SBAR’s recommendation and we urge OSHA revisit this to ensure this proposed standard does not damage emergency response capabilities in our districts.

Additionally, we are hearing from small and volunteer fire departments that with the conclusion of the public comment period just over a month away, they do not have the time or the capacity to compile the necessary information to ensure that OSHA fully understands the impacts the proposed standard would have on them. We therefore also request that OSHA grant an additional 90-day extension to the public comment period so that your agency can receive a more accurate picture of the nation’s fire service.

We appreciate OSHA’s support for improving the health and safety of our first responders. However, as drafted we believe the new “Emergency Standard” would make both our departments and our communities less safe. It is our hope that your agency will consider the unique circumstances of small and volunteer departments to ensure that they can continue to operate and provide lifesaving services.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

OSHA Weighs In: Detailing The Newly Proposed PPE Regulations

Jeff and Grace Stull – Fire Engineering

The U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) provided a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) in early February that it would be overhauling Title 29 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Section 1910.156, titled “Fire Brigades.” Few in the fire service know of the existence of these regulations, and frankly, over the past several decades, the regulations probably remained unnoticed because they were thought to apply principally to industrial fire brigades and were well out of date – thus of no real particular relevance to most contemporary fire service operations. That could now change with what can only be characterized as a sweeping, broadly comprehensive federal rewrite of how the fire service complies with requirements and all aspects of its operations.

The notice of the proposed regulations appears at the Emergency Response Rulemaking OSHA page.

Here we’ll answer some questions about how this change could impact the fire service.

WHAT IS THE CURRENT RELATIONSHIP OF OSHA REGULATIONS TO THE FIRE SERVICE?

To get some sense of what this all means, we need to look at the current situation. With our focus on PPE, it is a little easier to describe how OSHA regulations factor into fire service operations. Specifically looking at the 29 CFR 1910.156, these regulations apply to the organization, training and PPE of fire brigades whenever they are established by an employer. Because the term “fire brigade” is not defined in regulations, it would be easy to connect it to the mainstream fire service, especially given such language as “whenever they are established by an employer.” Nonetheless, these regulations do and have been applied within the fire service as a basis for ensuring that firefighters are adequately equipped with appropriate PPE. Still, given that these regulations were first promulgated in the early 1980s and had not been updated in any serious way until now, the requirements of the regulations have been very

much out of date. For example, for interior firefighting, 29 CFR 1910.156 references the 1981 edition of NFPA 1971. Since 1981, there have been six new editions with substantial content updates and criteria that have expanded from garments to the full ensemble. Likewise, for respiratory protection, 29 CFR 1910.156 first mandated positive-pressure SCBA but did not reference the yet-to-be-developed NFPA 1981 standard for first service positive pressure open circuit SCBA.

Of course, there have been many other regulations that affect OSHA fire service operations in direct and indirect ways. The mandatory regulations in 29 CFR 1910.134 on “Respiratory Protection” dictate the practice of “two in and two out” when it comes to entry into immediately dangerous to life and health (IDLH) environments. This requirement was directly written to support fire service operations.

In other related matters, 29 CFR 1910.120 for “Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response” helps define first service responsibilities for hazmat responses, particularly in terms of training and competence of firefighters in these types of operations, as well as the use of PPE.

Following the country’s focus on infectious diseases with HIV and hepatitis in the late 1980s, the promulgation of 29 CFR 1910.1030 established requirements around protection of employees from bloodborne pathogens. As first responders to medical calls, firefighters were considered subject to these regulations that mandated PPE protect the wearer (firefighter) from skin or underclothing contact with blood and other potentially infectious fluids. Even OSHA Subpart I on PPE, which generalizes protection of any worker in any type of exposure situation (found in 29 CFR Sections 1910.132 through 1910.138), makes it incumbent upon the fire service to conduct a hazard assessment for the selection of firefighter PPE and further requires that employers (fire departments) provide adequate training for its use and hold the responsibility of providing PPE in a clean and sanitary condition.

Regardless, the implementation of these or newer OSHA regulations is dependent on whether the state has its own regulations.

WHAT ARE THE FEDERAL VS. STATE REQUIREMENTS RELATIVE TO OSHA REGULATIONS?

OSHA regulations set forth workplace safety and health standards for employers to protect workers in the United States. Workers include firefighters, and employers include fire departments. While OSHA is a federal agency, states may also have their own occupational safety and health programs, either run by the state government or through a state-plan approved by OSHA. The following describe how OSHA regulations apply across states:

OSHA regulations apply to most private sector employers and workers in the United States, regardless of the state they work in. These regulations set minimum standards for workplace safety and health that include respiratory protection and PPE.

- Some states have chosen to develop their own occupational safety and health programs, known as state-plan states. These programs must be at least as effective as federal OSHA standards and may have additional requirements. State-plan states have their own OSHA-approved state agencies responsible for enforcing workplace safety and health standards.
- In states without a state-plan program, federal OSHA regulations apply directly. However, some states may adopt additional regulations or standards that go beyond federal OSHA requirements. These state-specific regulations may address industries or hazards not covered by federal standards.
- In state-plan states, the state agency is responsible for enforcing workplace safety and health standards. This includes conducting inspections, issuing citations for violations, and working with employers to ensure compliance. In states without a state-plan program, federal OSHA is responsible for enforcement.

It is important to note that while OSHA standards do not apply to volunteers, some volunteers are covered in states with OSHA-approved state-plan programs.

Overall, while OSHA regulations set federal standards for fire departments for firefighter safety and health, states may have their own requirements or programs that supplement or go beyond federal standards. Fire departments must be aware of and comply with both federal and state regulations applicable to their workplaces.

WHAT MAKES THE PROPOSED OSHA REGULATIONS SO SIGNIFICANT?

The new regulations go well beyond interior structural firefighting as was originally covered in 29 CFR 1910.156. These regulations are described in the [Notice of Proposed Rulemaking \(NPRM\)](#), which was published in the Federal Register. A large part of the document explains why OSHA is undertaking the revision and why it has expanded scope of the regulations to address all types of operations associated with fire and emergency services. This includes statistics that

cover some of the specific challenges and history related to firefighter injuries and fatalities. This preamble includes a substantial amount of evidence and cited references for supporting the regulations as proposed.

Within the 250-page document, the actual proposed revised 29 CFR 1910.156 starts on page 240. An important aspect for understanding these proposed revisions comes about in the terminology. Obligations or responsibilities for compliance with the regulations are established for what is called a Workplace Emergency Response Employer (WERE) or an Emergency Service Organization (ESO), which is defined as any organization that provides firefighting, EMS, and technical search and rescues. Clearly, definitions are an important part of these regulations to fully understand how they may impact a given organization.

An observation of substantial import is the reference to multiple NFPA standards across the range of incident operations, professional qualifications, training and PPE. Pertinent to PPE, the proposed new regulations provide a level of specificity relative to using equipment that meets the respective NFPA standards in the different areas of emergency response covered in the proposed rule. This covers 12 different NFPA PPE standards related to structural and wildland firefighting (NFPA 1971 and NFPA 1977), technical rescue (NFPA 1951), swiftwater rescue (NFPA 1952), contaminated water diving (NFPA 1953), hazardous materials and CBRN response (NFPA 1990), and emergency medical operations (NFPA 1999) as well as different respiratory protective products and related emergency equipment for structural firefighting (NFPA 1981 and NFPA 1982), wildland firefighting (NFPA 1984), and technical or tactical operations (NFPA 1986 and NFPA 1987). Currently, there are no specific requirements in the proposed OSHA regulations for complying with the respective companion NFPA standards for selection, care and maintenance, such as NFPA 1851 for structural gear and NFPA 1852 for SCBA. Nevertheless, there are specific areas of the regulations to address how departments manage PPE, especially for keeping it free from contamination.

The mandatory compliance of departments with these regulations will indeed cause some increased demand for ensuring that their members have equipment that meets the respective standards if and when these regulations are promulgated. On the other hand, promoting a level of future performance of PPE that is consistent with agreed-upon, consensus-based standards is a most worthy goal.

HOW CAN I MAKE MY OPINIONS KNOWN TO OSHA ABOUT THE NEW REGULATIONS?

For many departments, the new regulations will be a lot to take in. While mandatory use product specifications, such as those covering

PPE, probably fit into the existing practices for most fire service organizations, the need for compliance with other NFPA standards, such as those for selection, care and maintenance, as well as training and professional qualifications that directly require department compliance, could be difficult challenges for many organizations.

Nevertheless, as with any rulemaking process, OSHA is seeking to understand the impact created by potential future compliance with these regulations by opening a period of public comment for individuals and organizations to share their feedback. [Comment on the new regulations here](https://www.regulations.gov/docket/OSHA-2007-0073) [https://www.regulations.gov/docket/OSHA-2007-0073]. *Note:* This webpage also allows you to see comments provided by others relative to 29 CFR 1910.156, which includes many comments that predate the new rulemaking efforts.

OSHA is seeking feedback related to these topics:

- Whether the agency should specify retirement age(s) for PPE. Commenters should provide information and data to support specific retirement/remove from service criteria for PPE.
- Whether WEREs and ESOs are currently isolating and/or separating contaminated PPE and non-PPE equipment from team members and responders and also how this separation is being accomplished.
- Whether there is evidence of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in PPE causing health issues for team members and responders. Commenters should provide information and data to support release of PFAS from the PPE and movement of PFAS into the responder.
- Whether the scheduled updates to NFPA 1971 will address or alleviate stakeholders' concerns about PFAS in PPE.

Of course, comments can be submitted on any topic. Overall, this is a big change for the fire service, and organizations and individuals are encouraged to consider the impact on their department and share feedback.



As you may be aware, the Occupational Health and Safety Administration (OSHA) released a notice of proposed rulemaking in February for a proposed Emergency Response Standard. If adopted as written, this proposed standard could impose requirements that would be economically infeasible for small volunteer fire departments to implement and could cause these departments to shut down.

Rep. Jared Golden (D-ME) and Rep. Anthony D'Esposito (R-NY) are circulating a letter addressed to OSHA for other Members of Congress to cosign expressing concern about their proposed Emergency Response Standard. The letter highlights the issues and economic burdens the proposed standard poses for volunteer departments. The letter also requests that OSHA consider exempting volunteer fire departments from some or all parts of the proposed standard, identify additional areas where financial and logistical burdens could be reduced and extend the proposed standard's public comment period by an additional 90 days.

It's crucial that as many Members of Congress as possible cosign this letter to OSHA. Please use the NVFC Action Alert below to contact your Representative and ask them to cosign this letter.

CONTACT YOUR REPRESENTATIVE AT THIS LINK:

<https://www.voterveice.net/NVFC/Campaigns/115571/Respond>

Additionally, the public comment period for OSHA's proposed standard is ongoing and concludes on June 21. The NVFC encourages all departments to submit comments. Please visit NVFC's OSHA landing page for guidance on submitting comments and other resources at this link: <https://www.nvfc.org/osha-standard/>.

NVFC TACKLES OSHA PROPOSED STANDARD

The National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC) held its annual board of directors meeting on April 25-27 in Arlington, VA. Sixty-eight directors from 43 states were in attendance. The board conducted Council business, held committee meetings, heard from guest speakers, and honored its achievement award recipients. A pressing issue addressed during the meeting was the proposed OSHA Emergency Response Standard.

Committees and Sessions

Several of the NVFC's committees met on a range of issues including hazmat response, wildland, recruitment and retention, legislative, membership, and health, safety, and training. The EMS/Rescue Section also held its bi-annual meeting. In addition, general sessions were held with the full board to discuss matters of national and state interest, vote on issues before the board, and provide input and strategic direction for the organization.

OSHA Task Force

The NVFC board created a task force to address concerns around the Occupational Safety and Health Administration's (OSHA) proposed Emergency Response Standard, which is intended to replace the 44-year-old Fire Brigade Standard. If enacted in its current form, the standard will place new requirements on fire and emergency services that will be burdensome, and in many cases impossible, for volunteer departments to comply with. This would have a devastating impact on local volunteer departments, forcing many to close or else operate outside of the federal standard, leaving them open to fines, citations, and huge civil liability exposure.

The board adopted a "call to action" statement on the issue and directed the newly formed task force to create a landing page with resources and tools to help responders understand the issue and submit a comment to OSHA during the public comment period. The NVFC is also working on developing its comment prior to the June 21 deadline. Learn more, read the statement, and access the public comment guide at <https://www.nvfc.org/osha-standard>

*****Important Update from Dave Denniston...Please Read...Please Act!!**

Extremely important status update. May 1, 2024: My friends through the hard work and dedication of several individuals and our friends in Congress, I am happy to report that we have put an initial knock on this fire and we ARE being heard. Having said that, ***we have a long hard fight ahead.***

OSHA has now agreed to extend the comment period. Only 45 days, but it is a start. They have also agreed to in-person hearings. Virtual format, but it is a start. There will also be an additional written comment period after the hearings. It's a start.

We have our seat at the table! We can now roll up our sleeves and eat this beast one bite at a time, or we can dribble gravy down the front of our shirts and look like idiots hoping someone else will do it for us, the choice is yours.

This fire will quickly rekindle if we fail to do some immediate salvage and overhaul.

- 1) We need to flood the portal! You need to read the rule and make meaningful comments. What is doable, what needs to be tweaked? You NEED to tell YOUR story. What will the cost be? What is not possible? Where are the pain points? What can and can't you do? June 21st is not far away. WE NEED YOUR HELP NOW!
- 2) We need to take a serious look at how we do business. We are doing stupid and dangerous things. The days of the "wild west" fire department are behind us. The days of misplaced pride, tradition, and sacred cows are over. Period. What can each of us do today to reduce injuries and deaths? Here is a novel idea, stop at negative right of way intersections. Stop driving these million-dollar rigs like they are stock cars. They are not! Grow the hell up and understand that. Sorry, I'll get off the soap box, but much more on that later.
- 3) *One message was clear from Congress and our state officials over the last 90 days. We heard over and over how we need to look at our structure. We need to offer alternatives and suggestions. We are not delivering fire service in a completely effective manner. I am not talking about closing firehouses and hiring all paid people. However, we do need to look at cases where we have 10 separate entities in one small town. Folks this is not effective, efficient, or sustainable. It's time to wake up and smell the coffee.*
- 4) We need to have uncomfortable conversations. We need to think outside of the way we have always done it. We need to, oh my god he is going to say it, "CHANGE".

Here we are kids. We raised our voices, and we were heard! This thing, however, is not going away. Be part of the solution. Roll up your sleeves and climb on board. Those just sitting in the corner throwing grenades are NOT the answer. We have gotten to this point, we are being heard, but we have so much work to do in a short period of time. We have never turned our backs and walked away from a fire, don't walk away from this.

I hope you will join me in taking the next steps. If you're not willing to help, do us all a favor. Pop open a beer and go join your local cornhole league. Have fun and enjoy life.

If you truly call yourself a firefighter, let's get in there and tackle this beast together. We have way too much invested to not finish this project!

Are you in? I am 110% invested. Are you willing to help? Please share with others.

Upcoming Webinars & In-Person Informational Sessions regarding the Proposed OSHA 1910.156 Regulations

WEDNESDAY, May 15th: OSHA 1910.156 Information Session (Cortland)

Please join us for an *in-person* seminar where we'll be discussing what we know about the proposed OSHA 1910.156 Regulations. This is an opportunity for you to come and engage in discussion and ask your questions regarding the proposed legislation.

Registration Required

REGISTRATION LINK: <https://forms.office.com/r/ZyA3zzdaVu>

Location: McNeil & Company Hub, 11 Main St. Cortland, NY **Time:** 7:00 to 9:00 pm **Register:** [Click Here](#)

WEDNESDAY, May 29th: OSHA 1910.156 Update: What You Need to Know (Westchester & Rockland)

The proposed new OSHA standard will bring significant changes in how we deliver fire and EMS services in NYS. In this session we will discuss the history of OSHA 1910.156. We will look at what changes this could mean for your department and talk about how to formulate a public comment and file it. *Open to all.*

Location: Rockland County Fire Training Center, 35 Firemen's Memorial Drive, Pomona, NY **Time:** 7:00pm

MONDAY, June 10th: OSHA Regulations Seminar (Herkimer)

The Herkimer County Fire Chief's Association is sponsoring an OSHA Regulations Seminar. Our speaker will be David Denniston, 2nd Vice President, AFDSNY, Past Chief of Cortlandville Fire Dept., Commissioner of Virgil Fire District. And he was just appointed to the National Volunteer Fire Council Task Force on OSHA. *Registration Required*

Location: Herkimer College, Stribel Auditorium Lou Ambers Blvd. Herkimer, NY **Time:** 7:00 to 9:00

EMAIL REGISTRATIONS TO: herkcofirechiefs@gmail.com Please include: Agency Name, Contact Person, Phone Number, and number of personnel attending.



OSHA Proposed Standard: NVFC Issues Statement, Offers Resources for Comments

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration is replacing its 44-year-old Fire Brigade Standard with the proposed new Emergency Response Standard. While the National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC) agrees that several of the proposed provisions would be helpful and improve the safety of emergency responders, we are opposed to the implementation of the rule in its current state as it will place new requirements on emergency service organizations that would be impossible for many volunteer departments to fully comply with.

Call To Action

We are sounding the alarm **for all firefighters, EMS providers, and their communities** to flood the public comment portal by the **June 21 deadline** to let OSHA and our elected officials know that this proposal would have disastrous effects on your communities.

READ CALL TO ACTION AT THIS LINK:

https://gma5qspab.cc.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001L6aLm-Ax7THBUrMdNSMphNIFj1WWWXRRzYxdUshoNVzVUkCq2FlyoxhE-AybLw8OQP-7Of7SifLSRFvxOG1pzfa46MOPTNHZxVkiPFFyQdJ1Lkq2V9HXaUgH_Ylp9bEtfHvUbVwU0bhcY8DITVXSz27f0x6RhFUNtscpAU2su0YeJYoyFolrdVsp2bKB1RrfDRym88iw1NtivKoA2pfmQvhQeH9ZII69XWoiMkiMyqUiS_ISqiZAT6WXuAU6hG6oPq4Y0wMwp2XOp63z9-mTl8umAAUIbUG&c=LauWWHLcf9ha42GymhqekGbW4yjkuTH862UfuVJahY7fFHeGl_qUJw==&ch=lefmM7sGv75CYvgpTK9dENyqA1Rv5PwzXZ1xIkZP-JITscwLK8iGsQ==

Landing Page with Resources

The NVFC has created a landing to provide resources to help members of the fire and emergency services and the public better understand the issue and submit a public comment by June 21. This includes an outline of the proposed standard, comment guide, and recorded webinars. This page will be updated periodically with new resources and information.

LANDING PAGE LINK HERE:

https://gma5qspab.cc.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001L6aLm-Ax7THBUrMdNSMphNIFj1WWWXRRzYxdUshoNVzVUkCq2FlyoxhE-AybLw8OnamjN0BiBpzyC-pPzLiiYEvhxQ9sAxH0UIN-rMeW-UojESKwKkPDdMRzXK8VXBP-Sh4YQDWc0PjEkSA9BGQCOh6lo_AGJ2vqW1b4iSBqWLs=&c=LauWWHLcf9ha42GymhqekGbW4yjkuTH862UfuVJahY7fFHeGl_qUJw==&ch=lefmM7sGv75CYvgpTK9dENyqA1Rv5PwzXZ1xIkZP-JITscwLK8iGsQ==

Webinar: Update from OSHA on the Proposed Emergency Response Standard

Attend this NVFC webinar on **THURSDAY, May 9 at 2pm** ET to hear from OSHA staff about how volunteers would be impacted by this standard and what you can do to make your voice heard.

REGISTER FOR WEBINAR HERE:

https://gma5qspab.cc.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001L6aLm-Ax7THBUrMdNSMphNIFj1WWWXRRzYxdUshoNVzVUkCq2FlyoxhE-AybLw8OuorDrXr2IToZDLtXqpO8jsPZsEcNvhceAz6IsYRrWvFAAI7rjBUQ2hQGeGyb0V4He5RmF33sfa_ISNcaU7P2gLBcAztzDbk1eBGzvvAR_PY-OLZ1K2ctTDKtJ6RU55CcB0qOezxEUzSwfS0B6zCbXYwIkMEiqBaJPyeY0Lu2s=&c=LauWWHLcf9ha42GymhqekGbW4yjk_uTH862UfuVJahY7fFHeGl_qUJw==&ch=lefmM7sGv75CYvgpTK9dENyqA1Rv5PwzXZ1xIkZP-JITscwLK8iGsQ==

More States Coming On Board!

Its important to note that we are finally seeing some breakthrough with other states being aware of the proposed changes to the Standard and moving toward comment; including South Carolina, Maine, Illinois, Michigan, and Texas.

The following is an excellent read and something to ponder:

POSITION PAPER AND FORMAL RESPONSE TO OSHA FROM THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE FIREFIGHTER'S ASSOCIATION: CLICK THE LINK HERE:

<https://cafda.net/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/Final-Draft-SC-FF-Assoc-OSHA-Response-Letter.docx>



OSHA NEEDS TO HEAR FROM YOU REGARDING THEIR PROPOSED EMERGENCY RESPONSE STANDARD

On February 5, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) published a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) to modernize the agency’s “Fire Brigades” standard with a proposed new “Emergency Response Standard.” This NPRM’s publication triggered the beginning of a public comment period that is scheduled to conclude June 21, 2024.

Anyone, organization or individual, is encouraged to [submit comments](https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2024/02/05/2023-28203/emergency-response-standard) (https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2024/02/05/2023-28203/emergency-response-standard) to OSHA during this this public comment period (ignore the May 6 deadline as it has been extended to June 21). Reading through the NPRM, it is clear OSHA does not have an accurate understanding of the nation’s volunteer fire service and there are several new requirements that would be very burdensome, and in many cases impossible, for volunteer fire departments to comply with in this proposed standard. Nothing in this proposed standard is final at this stage, and now is your opportunity to explain to OSHA what you believe should be changed in the proposed standard and why.

As of April 22, there have been 692 comments submitted to OSHA regarding the proposed Emergency Response Standard; however, many of these comments are ineffective and will likely not do anything to encourage OSHA to change this proposed standard. The reason for this is many of the submitted comments are form letters or simply state that the proposed standard is too burdensome with no information or context explaining why.

To be effective, your comments need to explain to OSHA exactly what provisions in the proposed standard are too burdensome and why. Your comments should also describe your department to OSHA: How many people are in your department? What’s your budget? What’s the area you serve like? Do you have the funds to comply with this proposed standard? Do you have the staffing to comply with this proposed standard? How would your area be negatively impacted if your department had to shut down due to this standard? Does your department rely on fundraising for much of your income? If so, how many pancake breakfasts, raffles, or spaghetti dinners would you need to hold to comply with this proposed standard? Would your municipality be able to assist you in covering the costs of this proposed standard? If not, why? What alternatives to this proposed standard should OSHA consider to improve the safety of volunteer departments? Is your department a nonprofit department?

The National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC) understands that this NPRM is long and very time consuming to understand, that is why we have assembled a [comment guide](https://www.nvfc.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/NVFC-Comment-Guide-OSHA-Standard.pdf) (chrome-extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcglclefindmkaj/https://www.nvfc.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/NVFC-Comment-Guide-OSHA-Standard.pdf) and accompanying [outline](https://www.nvfc.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/OSHA-Emergency-Response-Outline.pdf) (chrome-extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcglclefindmkaj/https://www.nvfc.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/OSHA-Emergency-Response-Outline.pdf) to provide you with guidance on how to draft effective comments. The comment guide also contains links to other helpful resources like a [Roundtable Talk](#) the NVFC did regarding the proposed Emergency Response Standard.

Additionally, the NVFC is in the process of drafting our own comments on OSHA’s proposed Emergency Response Standard. Please fill out [this survey](#) so we can submit the most informed comments possible to OSHA.

Template to present to your County Board of Supervisors: A Resolution Advocating Against OSHA Reforms for NYS Firefighters

Make the corrections and replacement where you see the blue text.

<https://cafda.net/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/Draft-OSHA-Reform-County-Resolution-20240417.doc>

Federal Legislation Introduced Mandating a Phased In Approach

A BILL

To amend the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 to clarify the clarify the process that the Secretary shall use in promulgating and implementing regulations containing more than five individual directives and govern fire or emergency services.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Emergency Response Standard Implementation Reform Act of 2024.”

SEC. 2. PHASED IN IMPLEMENTATION OF STANDARDS WITH FIVE OR MORE DIRECTIVES GOVERNING FIRE OR EMERGENCY SERVICES.

Section 655(b) of the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 (29 U.S.C. § 655) is amended –

(1) By designating paragraph (5) as subparagraph (5)(A);

(2) By inserting, in paragraph (5), after subparagraph (A), as so designated, the following:

“(B) In promulgating any standards amending five or more sections of a regulation governing fire or emergency services, the Secretary shall utilize a phased-in implementation of such standards, based on prioritization schedule of such sections issued by the Secretary, under which the effective date of each successive section of a regulation shall not take effect until at least 180 days after the effective date that such previous standard took effect. Further, and in furtherance of the above, the Secretary shall conduct an assessment of the systems and resources in place at federal, state and local government levels, including funding programs, to determine the level of preparedness of subject agencies to comply with any such promulgations, and shall base the prioritization schedule provided for herein upon the finding of such assessment.”

Hopefully this will be passed quickly by the House and the Senate, but the speed of legislation in Washington lately will make a snail blush!



ESIP Emergency Services Insurance Program

We have received several requests for a 30,000-foot view of what would be required for an AHJ to comply with the proposed 1910.156 standard. We've put together a FAQs & Fact Sheet that helps break down all of the information into bite-sized chunks. While this list is not comprehensive, it is our best understanding of what would be required under the standard if adopted, as written, today.

DOWNLOAD HERE: https://www.afdsny.org/docs/OSHA_1910.156_Fact_Sheet.pdf

FASNY Urges Members to Take Action!

April, 2024

Dear FASNY Member,

I wanted to provide you with an update regarding the proposed rulemaking by the Federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) impacting the fire service. While a primary concern of the fire service is always firefighter health and safety, many aspects of this proposed rule would put additional stress on both volunteer and career departments to comply. Worse, in some case it would be impossible to achieve compliance.

FASNY has been very active in responding to this rulemaking. In addition to working with other fire service associations, we have filed preliminary comments with OSHA. We have also reached out to our Federal representatives and are scheduled to meet with several of them at the end of the month. Due to our efforts with other organizations, OSHA has granted an extension to the comment period until June 21. **It is imperative** that your department review the proposed rule and file a comment as to how it would affect them. Comments can be filed at:

<https://www.regulations.gov/docket/OSHA-2007-0073/document>

Our goal is to make this rulemaking effective but achievable. If departments cannot meet this new standard then it is just words on paper. If this is the case, it could wind up reducing firefighter health and safety and cause many current members of the fire service to leave.

We will continue our efforts, but we need your help. The only way the rule that is finally adopted will benefit the fire service is if we all provide input now.

Fraternally,

Edward Tase Jr.

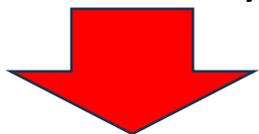
President

LINK TO FILE COMMENT HERE: <https://firefightersassociationofthestateofnewyork.cmail19.com/t/y-l-xutuhiy-ikjuyhjliy-j/>

--The heart of the proposed regulation is here: [Section 1910.156, Emergency Response \(osha.gov\)](https://www.osha-slc.gov/1910.156-emergency-response)

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.***

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, accept 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.

****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 • 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
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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 PAITIENT 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

https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2024/02/05/2023-28203/emergency-response-standard?utm_campaign=subscription+mailing+list&utm_medium=email&utm_source=federalregister.gov

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>