



CAPITAL AREA FIRE DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION

BULLETIN

SEPTEMBER 21, 2024

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



CAPITAL SHORTS:

- NEW OSHA INFORMATION IS PRECEDED BY THE **RED ARROW**
- **More new OSHA Information this week – public hearing announcement, you either need to get involved or suffer the consequences, the time to be meek and quiet is over!!**
- **PUT UP OR SHUT UP: To testify or question other witnesses at the hearing, interested persons must electronically submit a Notice of Intention to Appear (NOITA) to OSHA on or before September 27, 2024. In addition, those who request more than 10 minutes for their presentation and those who intend to submit documentary evidence must submit the full text of their testimony, as well as a copy of any documentary evidence, to OSHA no later than October 18, 2024.**
 - The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has published a Notice in today's Federal Register (see, <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2024-07-23/pdf/2024-16126.pdf>) announcing that it is scheduling an informal public hearing on its proposed "Emergency Response Standard." The public hearing will be held virtually and is scheduled to begin Tuesday, November 12, 2024, at 9:30 a.m. (ET) and will continue on subsequent weekdays (as necessary). (Note: Monday, November 11, 2024, is a federal holiday.)
 - **Notice of Intention to Appear (NOITA).** A NOITA must be submitted electronically at: <https://www.osha.gov/emergency-response/rulemaking>
- **ANOTHER PUT UP OR SHUT UP CHALLENGE: The State is considering "leaving in" residential sprinklers IN the code this code cycle. Comments from the fire service would be helpful.** The Department of State invites all interested parties, particularly those representing small businesses, local governments, and public or private interests in rural areas, to participate in the rule development process. Interested parties are invited to submit comments on either or both of the draft rules. If you have suggestions on how the draft rule amending the Uniform Code could be improved, suggested alternatives to the draft rule that the Department of State could consider, or any other comments on the draft rule, please contact Kevin Duerr-Clark, Assistant Director for Code Development, Division of Building Standards & Codes, by mail at New York State Department of State Division of Administration and Enforcement, 99 Washington Ave., Albany, NY 12231-0001; by telephone at (518) 474-4073; or by email at code.development@dos.ny.gov. Just briefly, residential sprinklers have been pulled out of the Building Code since at least 2009 due to pressure from special interest groups, specifically the builders and the realtors, who claim sprinklers are too expensive. How much are human lives worth. This would not include homes already in existence or most modifications.

CAFDA NEWS AND OPPORTUNITIES:

WWW.CAFDA.NET

[General Membership Meetings - - In person and Zoom](#)

NEXT DINNER MEETING THURSDAY OCTOBER 10TH, Dinner at 6, meeting starts promptly at 7PM

Letters due for nominations for the November Election including all officers and 5 directors.

Printable 24/25 Activity 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.

[Prelude to the 2025 Elections, Nominations](#)

Nominations will take place at the October 2024 Meeting and Elections will be held at the November 2024 Meeting. It is requested that if you intend to run for President, 1st Vice President, 2nd Vice President or one of the five Director's positions that you submit a letter of intent to the Secretary before or at the October 2024 meeting.

[Planning for CONFERENCE '25 – Lake George](#)

The Education Committee has begun planning for the 2025 Conference to be held in April at the Fort William Henry Conference Center in Lake George. Are there any topics you would like to hear about? Please let John Meehan know at jmeehanafd@gmail.com

WORKSHOP '24

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 2ND

VERDOY FIRE STATION, 988 Troy Schenectady Road, Latham

Per-Attendee Cost is \$20 for Member Districts, \$30 for non-Members

7:00-8:00 Registration & Continental Breakfast
8:00-8:10 Pledge to the Flag & Welcome: Capital Area Association Officers
8:10-9:15 Presentation Topic: Media Relations for Fire Districts Having a Bad Day – Art Hunsinger
9:15-9:30 Networking Break
9:30-10:15 Presentation Topic: OSHA Proposed Standard Update – Dave Denniston
10:30-11:45 Human Resource Challenges for the Volunteer Fire Service – Past Chief, Greg Serio
12:00-2:00 Lunch with the Experts – A panel of experts has been assembled to answer your questions about a broad range of important topics. Joining us will be Attorney, Alyssa Snyder, CPA, Bob Gramuglia, VFBL & LOSAP, Keith Brandstedter, Insurance, Pat Daglio, Apparatus Maintenance & Refurbishing, Marc Mazza.

Everyone is Invited to Attend, not limited to Commissioners
ADVANCE REGISTRATION IS VERY HELPFUL FOR PLANNING PURPOSES

HELP US PLAN - Please Respond by Friday, October 25th, 2024

Return to:

CAFDA

PO Box 242

East Schodack, NY 12063

Or by email to secretary@CAFDA.net

WORKSHOP 24 REGISTRATION FORM AT THIS LINK

<https://cafda.net/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/2024-Fall-Workshop-Registration.pdf>

WORKSHOP 24 SCHEDULE AT THIS LINK:

<https://cafda.net/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/Fall-Workshop-Schedule-2024.pdf>

REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN!!!

You are able to go on-line at our Website at CAFDA.net and pay with a credit card under the pull-down tab **EVENTS/event registration**

[Another Upcoming CAFDA Presentation for Fire District Officials](#)

Save the Date: Thursday March 13th and Friday March 14th, 2025
Fire District Financial Training
Presented by the NYS-Office of the State Comptroller
To be held at Fulton Montgomery Community College, Johnstown, New York
Supported by Mohawk Fire District
Commissioners, Treasurers and Chiefs are cordially invited to attend
More Information to Follow

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

Two State Bills to Strengthen EMS and Expand Emergency Care Signed into Law

Senator Michelle Hinchey announced that two of her bills to improve emergency care and support EMS providers statewide have been signed into law, ***including legislation creating three new reimbursement sources for EMS*** (S8486C) and expanding ***the ability of motor vehicle ambulance services to administer life-saving blood transfusions*** (S6226A). Previously, EMS was only reimbursed for transporting patients to hospital ERs. Senator Hinchey's bill, S8486C, expands this to include reimbursement for on-scene treatment, transport to approved healthcare facilities like urgent care and mental health clinics, and telemedicine consultations. This change, effective October 1, 2024, comes on the heels of a rally led by Hinchey, EMS, and Fire leaders urging for the signing of this bill. A second Hinchey bill, S6226A, allows ambulances to carry and transfuse blood during all emergency transports, not just between hospitals.

ScoreCard

- Just waiting for bills that passed the Assembly and Senate to be sent to the Governor for signature.

OTHER FIRE SERVICE ORGANIZATION NEWS

Save The Date: 1st Annual FASNY Training & Educational Weekend

May, Friday the 16th through Sunday the 18th, 2025

Fort William Henry, Lake George, NY

An array of Speakers on many subjects including Chief Tom Richardson, Chief Tom Basher, D/C Tim Cowan, Brian McQueen, Chief Stefano Napolitano, Chief Doug Cline, Chief Justin Bailey and Ed Mann..

More information to come.

ASSOCIATION OF FIRE DISTRICTS OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK

2024 Annual Meeting and Leadership Expo

From October Sunday 20- Ending on 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&evd=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 **

THE LATEST FROM WASHINGTON

Now we can't wait until the election is over. Please Vote, not for the party but for the person who will lead America into the future for next four years with strength, honesty and dignity.

For information only and not for the purpose of providing legal advice. The opinions expressed are the opinions of the individual author at the time the facts were presented and based on the law then applicable. The information contained in these opinions is not guaranteed to be up to date. The information provided is not legal advice. Since legal advice must be tailored to the specific circumstances of each case, and laws are constantly changing, nothing on this site should be used as a substitute for the advice of competent legal counsel. The authors assume no responsibility to any person who relies on information contained herein and disclaim all liability in respect to such information. You should not act upon information in this publication without seeking professional counsel from an attorney admitted to practice in your jurisdiction.

FIRE DISTRICT FINANCES

Register "NYS GOVBUY 2024" events@ogsgovbuy.info

Save the date: November 21-22, 2024 Empire State Plaza Convention Center REGISTER NOW AT THIS LINK:

https://eventdex.my.site.com/BLN_RegistrationDym?id=a19Nt000001xfZdIAI

WHAT YOU WILL LEARN

New York State's annual GOVBUY conference catalyzes the growth of centralized contracts by fostering collaboration among stakeholders and driving sustainable procurement practices that benefit the citizens of New York State. Over 30 sessions and workshops will explore:

PURCHASING IN NEW YORK STATE

Learn about the procurement methods available to state agencies and when to use them.

GO GREEN! SUSTAINABLE PROCUREMENT USING OGS CONTRACTS

Learn about the latest green purchasing options available through OGS contracts, including green cleaning products, recycled copy paper, EPEAT computers, electric vehicles (EVs), EV charging stations and more.

PROCUREMENT RULES FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENTS/FIRE DISTRICTS AND SCHOOL DISTRICTS

Overview of the exceptions to competitive bidding under General Municipal Law, Section 103, including professional services, emergency contracts, and "piggybacking" on certain other governmental contracts, as well as a discussion of contracts below the statutory dollar threshold.

PREFERRED SOURCES BUYING STRATEGIES

Learn how to procure goods and services from Corcraft, NYSPSP and NYSID.

PBITS, HBITS, AND UMBRELLA CONTRACTS: THE CONTRACT TRIFECTA FOR OPTIMIZING YOUR IT SERVICE PROCUREMENTS

Learn the most efficient way to procure IT Services using Project-Based IT Services (PBITS), Hourly Based IT Services (HBITS), and the Umbrella Manufacturer and Distributor contracts.

CONTRACT MANAGEMENT

What happens after the solicitation is over and the contract is approved? Contract management is a key and time-consuming part of the overall contract life cycle. Whether it's contract assignments, price changes, or holding the vendor accountable, contract management activities ensure the contract continues to work for the program and the organization. OGS experts will share some contract management activities and other strategies for effectively overseeing contracts after they have been awarded.

MORE DETAILED INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE AT THE OGS.GOV 2024 WEBSITE

FIRE DISTRICT BUDGET CALENDAR FOR 2024 CAN BE FOUND AT THIS LINK ON THE CAFDA WEBSITE:

<https://cafda.net/fire-district-budget-calendar-for-2024/>

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

THE ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

Former Lomira, WI, Fire Chief Facing Theft, Misconduct Charges

John Gittings

The former Lomira Fire Chief who was terminated in February is now facing charges of misconduct in public office and theft.

Keith Joas, 40, of Campbellsport, is tentatively charged with two counts of misconduct in public office and one theft count, Dodge County Sheriff Dale Schmidt said Wednesday morning. The charges follow an investigation of alleged theft by the Sheriff's Office initiated by the village of Lomira two days after Joas was fired on Feb. 13.

Joas is accused of using taxpayer funds for personal purchases during his tenure as fire chief, according to Schmidt. Sheriff's Office detectives and Lomira officials determined the charges to be appropriate following reviews of financial records. Charges against Joas had not been filed in court records as of Wednesday morning. The Sheriff's Office is seeking charges of misconduct in public office against Joas along with theft because "**public employees must be held accountable and held to a higher standard**" regarding citizens' trust, Schmidt said.

STEP INTO THE CHIEF'S OFFICE

****How To Structure Your Informal Tailboard AAR For Greater Impact And Efficiency**

Eric Linnenburger

By now we all know the value of after-action reviews (AARs). There is no comparison to learning from our actual events, training evolutions and near misses, and these reviews serve as an invaluable tool for team and individual growth. They also play a key role in the fight to keep our firefighters mentally resilient and thriving on the job for long, healthy careers.

MAXIMIZING EFFECTIVENESS IN AARS

Even though the AAR has become an organizational- and industry-wide expectation, it seems to be like so many things in the fire service where we bring attention to ideas and expectations but fail to articulate or teach our officers how to execute them. Certainly, some organizations have written the expectation into policy and do provide guidance, but that is simply not the norm. More have created policy for large events but offer no direction for the single-alarm or smaller event that still have lessons to share.

I imagine if we were to survey fire officers and ask them to define an AAR or even detail their AAR process, you would get a different response from all of them. This isn't all bad. There can be value in just about any discussion and incident review process. However, are we being as effective as possible, maximizing our opportunities to learn from these reviews?

TYPES OF AARS AND DELIVERY METHODS

There are many different AAR delivery structures, with an appropriate time for each, but they are not one size fits all. AARs should be delivered intentionally to either stand alone or build upon one another, depending on the situation. For the sake of this discussion, we will focus on AAR delivery facilitated by and directly involving line officers and crews. Such reviews can be broadly categorized as follows:

- **Informal crew "hot wash"** often led by the company officer in the cab or at the kitchen table after clearing the scene.

- **Semi-formal on-scene tailboard AAR** typically led by the incident commander prior to terminating the incident.
- **Formal, often-polished, forward-facing post-incident AAR** typically presented days (or longer) after the event by a command team.

As it relates to the first two types of AARs, company officers should be cab or kitchen table “hot-washing” even the seemingly simplest single-company incidents. And battalion chiefs or second-level ICs should bring closure to events through tailboard on scene AARs.

As for the third type of AAR, some incidents dictate a larger-scale department-wide or even public-facing review. Some of the public-facing AARs have become very advanced as full-scale multimedia productions. There are some great examples out there where organizations have been vulnerable and transparent so others outside the organization might learn from their experiences, such as the Los Angeles Fire Department collaborating with the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation (NFFF) to share their Boyd Street experience.

I work within an automatic-aid region where we often use video conferencing platforms to deliver AAR presentations for our large events or when there was a near-miss or are significant lessons to be shared. This allows us to involve as many on-duty crews as possible from multiple departments in the region and still maintain adequate response coverage. We can combine dispatch audio with on-scene video and include maps, floorplans and other relevant information. These highly produced and more scripted AARs are not only a great way to share lessons with members who were not on the primary call but they can also be catalogued for use as a training resource indefinitely. However, without the complementary less-formal AAR activities, such as the post-incident tailboard discussion, the more formal AARs may fall short for members or seem fabricated.

The key takeaway: Go beyond the common free-flowing storytelling opportunity to engage members in a more efficient, structured and predictable information exchange that can either stand alone or complement the future public-facing presentation.

REASONS TO EMBRACE THE TAILBOARD AAR

There are several reasons to embrace the tailboard version of the AAR – reasons that will help bolster support for the more structured reviews:

- Perception is reality. It’s an opportunity to get accurate information while it’s fresh, and before stories are created to justify actions.
- AARs present a great opportunity to gauge the mental and physical status of the team prior to demobilization.
- The information gathered builds a more accurate future AAR if a more formal version is needed.
- AARs are an opportunity to reinforce and encourage positive actions and appreciate our people and the challenges they faced in real time.
- They also serve as an opportunity to fix problems or misunderstandings in real time.
- The two-way dialogue establishes leader’s intent and builds mutual respect and appreciation for all positions and jobs on the fireground.
- An AAR demonstrates healthy command presence.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR TAILBOARD SUCCESS

Set your AAR up for success with consistent and clearly communicated ground rules:

- Allow only honest, respectful and factual communication. Establish a circle of trust.
- Anyone who wishes to speak shall be encouraged to do so, regardless of rank, and without retribution.
- Involve as many of the working crews as possible, not just the officers of those crews.
- Keep it concise – less than 10 minutes if possible.

Additionally, it’s key to have a plan and structure your AAR for success. Orchestrate a structured and predictable conversation. If your organization doesn’t already have a set format, create your own template to stay on track and encourage predictability. If you are a battalion chief, share your template with your officers. If you are a company officer, share it with your crew. If crews know you will be addressing specific expectations after every incident, it can serve as a training tool to guide on scene behaviors and set themselves up for success.

Too often, these tailboards become a creative storytelling exercise with either too many pats on the back or emotional ego-driven finger-pointing. Human nature tells us that some will take every second of the stage time to embellish their superiority and detract from mistakes, while others will be overly humble and shy away from the limelight, often neglecting to share important information or being inappropriately self-deprecating. Having a predictable structure not

only keeps the conversation on track and efficient but also keeps it objective. It helps reinforce good behavior while addressing improvement areas – without making it personal.

Some examples of predictable objective items to discuss:

- Communications: dispatch, response, initial-arrival report and size-up, command transfer, overall IC communications
- Apparatus placement and fireground discipline
- Strategy determination and Initial Action Plan (IAP)
- Rescue considerations and search
- Exposure considerations
- Water supply
- Medical
- Safety concerns, any injuries
- Demobilization and event termination plan

Of course, your list will differ based on your specific challenges and how you are resourced. The important thing is that you have a post-event plan before the event occurs.

TAILBOARD TEMPLATE

Following is an example of the template I use. It can be resized and laminated to fit in a pocket or clipboard. This is a living document in that it is constantly being updated based on needs. The idea is not to read it checkbox-style but rather to use it to guide the conversation so nothing is missed.

1. Apparatus positioning
 - a. IAP and task-level operations
 - b. Rescue considerations
 - c. Hoseline selection / placement
 - d. Flow path considerations
 - e. Exposure considerations
2. Water supply
 - a. Communications IRR and IC transfer, radio discipline
 - b. 360
 - c. IC Benchmarks
3. Safety and Medical Medical / Rehab
 - a. Decon / air monitoring
 - b. Injuries
4. Overhaul plan
5. Challenges / lessons learned

GO BEYOND SIMPLY TERMINATING COMMAND

The on-scene tailboard AAR helps us close the loop. The IC should not assume everyone is coming from the same level of understanding, especially when they were operating at the task level. There will inevitably be some within the group who need the information but will not speak up and ask for it. We all know that firefighters without the whole story will fill in the missing pieces. However, a group of unified firefighters will go to great lengths to support one another and the mission.

When we create a safe and predictable atmosphere where everyone has a voice, we decrease anxiety and set the environment up for growth. We also ensure accountability and naturally establish leader's intent. The incident commander being prepared and structured in their approach to the tailboard AAR does not mean that one person controls or dictates the conversation. Presenting a predictable format and clearly setting the rules of engagement **creates an expectation that others not only speak but are comfortable doing so**. In fact, if delivered effectively, the incident commander acts as a facilitator and should be talking the least. That incident commander should be taking mental notes and incorporating the information into the future formal AAR, or into future training and development of their team.

OUR CHANGING FIRE SERVICE –CHALLENGES & POSITIVE IDEAS!

POSITIVE OUTCOMES

FIRE SERVICE CHALLENGES

****Embracing Change: The Transition To NERIS For Incident Reporting**

Tom Jenkins

In the fire academy, I doubt any candidate firefighter is excited or intrigued about incident reporting. And beyond the academy, many firefighters see incident reports as nothing more than a chore, a first cousin to taking out the fire station trash. However, in a data-driven world, it is imperative that fire and EMS organizations have timely and accurate information at their fingertips. ***This information allows fire departments to properly allocate resources, understand their community's risk, and assess the performance of response units.***

A SHIFT IN CULTURE

It is time for our attitude and cultures to change. "[America Burning](#)," published over 50 years ago, highlighted the need for information to combat public apathy and governmental rigidity in allocating resources to fire and other emergency needs. While our existing incident reporting system tries to collect information relevant to emergency risk, the demands and risk of our industry mandate change and adaptation.

ENTER NERIS

In May 2023, the U.S. Fire Administration, Department of Homeland Security Science and Technology Directorate, and UL's Fire Safety Research Institute entered a contract to develop a new emergency response information system for our country. This system, the [National Emergency Response Information System \(NERIS\)](#), will replace the existing reporting system and be the premier source of information for our nation's emergency responders.

Obtaining incident information will always rely on a firefighter who understands the need and takes the time to properly input the situations encountered and what firefighters did to solve the specific problem. The good news: NERIS is designed with the firefighter as the top priority. Through augmentation and automation of data, leveraging geospatial technology, NERIS is being developed to reduce data entry burdens on firefighters. The variables that are entered by firefighters also reflect a more robust set of modern values. Incident types, actions taken and other information have been systematically refreshed to ensure that the questions we're asking of firefighters have real-world value.

IMPLEMENTATION AND BENEFITS

NERIS will require a major update to the current records management system software, or alternatively, the use of a free app for collecting incident data. Once the new system is in place, it will be able to integrate information from the computer-aided dispatch (CAD) system. This integration will enable a comprehensive "story" of each incident, from the moment the call is received to when the last fire company departs from the scene.

The primary beneficiary of this transformational project is the local fire department. The system will provide basic analytics and reports to local fire departments, an offering that is likely to grow over time. This information and analytics will be the first time that some of our country's 27,000-plus fire departments have seen a dividend from any of the data they've submitted. Furthermore, the design of the system will make information available much quicker – in "near real-time" – for the state, regional and federal agencies also using it to understand the character of risk and response.

PREPARING FOR THE TRANSITION

NERIS isn't a pipe dream, nor an abstract project slated for completion a decade from now. The system is charging full steam ahead to replace NFIRS in late 2025.

For your fire department, the time is now to start asking questions and considering how you'll want to transition to the incident reporting process. Some important steps include:

- **Designate a point of contact:** This should be someone who is very familiar with the existing software(s) you're using and who isn't planning on retiring in the near future.
- **Evaluate current software:** Determine what software you currently use and whether that company, if appropriate, is preparing to transition to the new NERIS setup.

- **Understand your geography:** Gather information regarding your department's geography. Your response boundaries and other special geospatial elements are important to NERIS since it can help determine your performance and risk.
- **Familiarize with operational details:** Make sure your point of contact is properly familiar with the operating details of your organization. NERIS will include information on the baseline resources and operational framework for your fire department, making it important that this person understands many details of your agency.

A SIGNIFICANT LEAP FORWARD

The transition to NERIS represents a significant leap forward in the way we approach incident reporting. By embracing this change, we can ensure that our fire departments are equipped with the tools they need to effectively respond to emergencies and protect our communities.

[Fundraiser For Ohio Fire Engine Highlights Financial Troubles In One Of The State's Poorest Cities](#)

Lucas Daprile, Olivia Mitchell-cleveland.com

East Cleveland, mired in money woes for years, hit a new financial low when a GoFundMe account surfaced to raise funds for a new fire truck.

The account seeks \$1.5 million for the vehicle. It netted \$60 total from four people as of Wednesday when the account has since stopped collecting money. The account highlights the latest financial issues of East Cleveland, one of the state's poorest cities that recently asked Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine to provide state troopers to patrol streets to help a depleted police force.

The city needs the truck, but officials said they do not know who set up the account, as it was not allowed by the city's administration.

The City Council had invested the money for the truck, **but the purchase has not been made.**

The GoFundMe account indicates that it was organized by the firefighters' union, the International Association of Firefighters, Local 500. East Cleveland Fire Chief David Worley told cleveland.com and The Plain Dealer in a text message the fundraiser was not approved by the mayor, himself or the fire union.

Worley said he thinks it was an employee who was looking to raise money for the department but didn't get approval.

The listing highlights the city's struggle to keep its fire engines in working order. **The listing describes the fire engine as "beyond repair," as it leaks oil and water "faster than we could even fill it up."**

The truck mentioned in the fundraiser was a reserve truck that was taken out of service last week, Worley said.

In 2022, East Cleveland set aside nearly \$1 million to purchase a new firetruck and a new ambulance. **However, that money is gone.**

"Since our city officials have failed to make the payment, they not only put our lives at risk but the citizens of the community," the GoFundMe post says.

In June, East Cleveland Law Director Willa Hemmons took responsibility for the lost money, saying it was instead spent on a \$1.6 million settlement with the city's firefighters over overtime pay following a lawsuit, according to WOIO Channel 19.

Patricia Blochowiak, an at-large councilwoman in East Cleveland, blamed Mayor Brandon King. **The councilwoman said the money meant for the firetruck was supposed to be housed in a special account, but it was instead deposited in the general fund, where it was spent.**

"The mayor is known for spending money that hasn't been appropriated," Blochowiak said. Blochowiak doubts East Cleveland has the money to purchase the firetruck, but it is hard to say because she said City Hall refuses to provide Council members with up-to-date financial information. "We don't know for sure if the city has the money," Blochowiak said.

Mayor King confirmed to cleveland.com and The Plain Dealer that the fundraiser was not approved by the city. He said he intends "to provide every department with adequate resources, equipment, personnel so that they can safely and effectively do their jobs," King said.

However, "There are a number of steps needed to be taken, both from the administration and from the legislative perspective, to get that truck," King said. Mariah Crenshaw, a critic of East Cleveland's administration, said it is "unacceptable" that the city is still unable to pay for a new firetruck when the Council already set aside money for its

purchase. "The question is where is the money? And that's a question us activists have been asking for some time," Crenshaw said.

This is the second time this month that East Cleveland's lack of resources has held up the city's ability to perform basic public services. After 10 people were wounded in East Cleveland shootings over Labor Day weekend, Blochowiak questioned whether the city had enough officers to properly investigate the shootings. For the city's part, it assured residents it did have enough officers to investigate the shootings. As of Monday, no arrests have been made. The city has faced financial struggles for years. It has the second lowest median income in Ohio, according to the U.S. Bureau of Census. Youngstown was the lowest.

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



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

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

Webinar - So You're a Training Officer: Now What? Incorporating Adult Learning Theory into FD Training Programs

Nov. 13 at 2pm ET Presenter: Rachel Buczynski

REGISTER AT THIS LINK:

https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_ilTmPyf-S8qeMO_-3YEIFA#/registration



Webinar - Finding Future Firefighters: Recruiting and Retaining Gen Z

Move over millennials, there's a new kid in town. Generation Z - those born between 1997-2012 - are becoming young adults. Harnessing the energy and potential of Gen Z volunteers is crucial for organizational success. This session will explore the unique characteristics, motivations, and communication preferences of Gen Z individuals to equip you with the tools necessary to attract and retain this dynamic demographic. From leveraging social media platforms to understanding their passion for purpose-driven initiatives, participants will explore innovative strategies tailored to effectively recruit and empower Gen Z volunteers.

REGISTER AT THIS LINK: search. Defensive tactics involve our escape plans, which are needed as we complete our search, but more importantly under extreme or emergency conditions. To make these tactics work, we must always have our strategy front and center. Both sides of the coin are in play all the time. In this three-hour program, students will examine strategy and tactics to gain a more concise understanding of the training necessary for search.

REGISTRATION FEES:

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

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

REGISTER HERE:

https://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001QZWPfjYZRP6tAYnVrgg36Z_YE6vp89dymWfQQD1d7q4ZRwVDbNdE8ByVmF5_856f_UrB-yGihYJgwEPzCbQfCVeOeEALHRXrk_M-dbDWBYRtKiko1vLice_oi1AFseMKfN01xTmCmiyzyMWYur-39p1T1V2_yChO2C2F1_fjn94LviwvW3Aag==&c=AmhECQ6uFruSlwrKRKspNliVi3NWEIzhZOrf3KrFnUis83Dp1Q1JdQ==&ch=AqMwftSnQsSjoeldoQJ-cfc_GyhBFLqV23YaEp7HU-kR9WoEr9kSg==

7:00pm STARTING TIME

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>



The fall leg of the 2024 Seminar Series kicks off in September!

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.

SEMINARS ARE COMING TO THESE COUNTIES (7:00 P.M. STARTING TIME):

Cortland (October 22) • **Erie** (September 18) • **Jefferson** (October 1) • **Monroe** (November 5) • **Oneida** (October 23)
• **Otsego** (September 25) • **Rensselaer** (October 29) • **St. Lawrence** (September 4)

REGISTRATION:

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

Pre-registration encouraged!

REGISTER AT THIS LINK:

https://vgc8ha5ab.cc.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001kuqLgpLbccSUrlvWbOM--WOyxcGN33wsn9CB40zBMzH5JRQ8kdAu-U9rcq0HazSAzEMaxVMNEpSjloNLWx_FYDCKrLQIQfAwRv9fZGoCA39a8F854FdGooPPW5nhlimjwCY_z-Ppvs9xlbWg4t2soeB2xbgSHSWBkR3FQNgfUCMou6eD6ReaQ==&c=6nGkXVEGAjcaBshBE8sbLM6Gn8YA1sFFRufb2MsKAKCEPyxSmObRg==&ch=ZRLy5qUdq74vNpCsQnMdYy3z1L5PpLySA1u3R47oxFRQnYmdcSRQ==



University Provides a Wealth of Training Opportunities UPDATED FOR 2023

VFIS TRAINING AND RESOURCE CATALOG 2023

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

VFIS UNIVERSITY – USERS GUIDE

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

VFIS TRAINING OFFICER USERS GUIDE

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

VFIS RESPONDER HELP FLYER

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

FF HEALTH AND SAFETY – TAKING CARE OF OUR MEMBERS!

Safety and Health Considerations for Your Junior Firefighters

As firefighting remains one of the most dangerous occupations, junior firefighters are exposed to hazards that increase the risk of injuries, illnesses, and fatalities.

The fire service helps to address recruitment and retention needs by bringing in younger members through a junior firefighter program. Also known as explorers or cadets, these junior firefighters serve volunteer, career, and combination (career/volunteer) fire departments. Based on the state of the fire department's location, junior firefighters range from 14 to 17 years of age. State child labor laws specify what types of firefighting, emergency medical response, training, and non-operational activities junior firefighters may perform. In most states, junior firefighters may only participate in training and perform support work at fireground, emergency medical services, or rescue operations. Support work may include establishing a water supply, rolling up hoselines, or assisting with patient care as directed by medical personnel.

Some states have laws allowing junior firefighters to engage in training activities more consistent with their adult counterparts. These activities include "live fire" training to prepare junior firefighters to work in environments immediately dangerous to life or health. Performing activities such as live fire training places junior firefighters in an environment with a higher potential for injury and requires appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE).

WHAT FIRE DEPARTMENTS CAN DO:

- Follow state child labor laws for permissible activities specific to junior firefighters
- Update standard operating procedures or guidelines to reflect the requirements and restrictions identified in state child labor laws
- Recognize that junior firefighters require safety and health considerations beyond those for an adult firefighter π Provide junior firefighters with appropriate PPE that both fits and affords the necessary protections for their assigned tasks
- Ensure proper training for junior firefighters on the use and care of their assigned PPE, including its limitations
- Comply with NFPA 1403 and any state or local regulations for safe training practices in states that permit live fire training for junior firefighters
- Consider developing mentor- and peer-support mechanisms Junior firefighters training on ground designed for younger responders.
- Inform parents or guardians about the expectations and the South Strabane Fire Department. physical and mental risks of their junior firefighter's participation

IN 2024 WE HAVE EXPERIENCED 41 FIRE FIGHTER LODD'S

*According to FirefighterCloseCalls.com**

In 2023 we experienced 82 LODDs reported nationally.!

DOES'NT HAVE TO BE A FATALITY-JUST A DIBILITATING INJURY!

- Kyle Brinker, 33 a firefighter-paramedic from Kansas City passed away on 9/17 following a medical emergency during a training exercise. Brinker was an 11 year veteran of the fire department.
- Louisburg Volunteer Fire Department Captain Thomas "Ray" Patterson, 74, died Sunday after responding to a call out for a motor vehicle collision.
- Two Indianapolis firefighters were struck by a drunk driver on Interstate 65 Saturday morning. One was seriously injured. Firefighters were awaiting the arrival of the Indiana State Patrol after a car went off the interstate around 4 a.m. when a car drove through the incident scene. The impact of the car sent one firefighter airborne and the other was pinned underneath the car. One firefighter is listed in serious but non-life threatening injuries. The other was treated and released.
- Eight Orange County California firefighters returning from a long shift fighting the Airport wildfire on Thursday were injured after a fire crew truck rolled over. Six of the Orange County Fire Authority firefighters were seriously hurt after their truck crashed and overturned, said Fire Chief Brian Fennessy.

If we had sprinklers in 1 & 2 family homes by now the death toll of 700+ would be a hell of a lot less and fewer firefighters would be injured. But because builders and realtors make big contributions to politicians, sprinklers have been negotiated out of the Code!!

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	42
Last fire death 9/13 Newburgh, Orange Co., Male, Unk age.	
Fire Deaths in any type of Dwelling in NYS	80
Fire Deaths in 1&2 Family Dwellings Nationally	899
Top 3 States with the greatest 1&2 Family Deaths	#1 PA/72
	#2 TX/58
	#3 CA/48
There has been a total of 1443 civilian home fire fatalities in 2024	
There were a total of 2127 residential fire fatalities reported in 2023 in the US media.	
We are in Week 29 of 2024, fire has claimed on an average 26 lives PER WEEK, perhaps OSHA should examine that death toll.	
Both the states of Maryland and California as well as Wash. DC require sprinklers in residential dwellings	

LIVING WITH NEW GREEN TECHNOLOGY

E-Bike catches fire in Horseheads

Early Thursday morning, the Horseheads Fire Department responded to a call for an E-bike fire in a Camden Avenue apartment complex. Crews on-scene were able to quickly put out the fire with a dry chemical extinguisher as the fire was also producing toxic gases due to the bike's lithium-ion batteries. An HFD fire investigation determined that the **occupant of the apartment where the fire began saw smoke billowing from the bike as it was charging and was able to throw the bike outside where the batteries failed and caught fire.** No injuries were reported and any possible future spread of the fire was prevented thanks to the occupant's actions. In May of last year, an E-bike caught fire in the city of Elmira and sent one to the hospital with injuries sustained from a fall when they were attempting to escape the flames.

The Auto Industry Finally Has a Plan to Stop Electric Vehicle Fires

Aarian Marshall

Last month, a Mercedes Benz EQE 350 electric vehicle caught fire in a South Korean apartment building's underground parking garage. Reportedly, 23 people were sent to the hospital and approximately 900 cars were damaged. The fire reached temperatures of more than 2,700 degrees Fahrenheit (1,500 degrees Celsius), and took firefighters almost eight hours to extinguish. According to reports, this was NOT a li-ion battery.

The incident led to a series of swift policy changes in the country, including the acceleration of a planned EV battery certification program and new rules in Seoul that should prevent owners from "overcharging" their vehicles in underground parking garages. It has also pushed automakers to do something they wouldn't normally: reveal who makes the batteries inside their electric cars. (In early September, the South Korean government said it would require automakers to disclose this often-secret information.)

Data from the National Transportation Safety Board, the US's independent federal investigation agency, shows that the risks of electric vehicle battery fires are low. In fact, very low. An analysis of that data by one insurance company suggested that more than 1,500 gas cars catch on fire per 100,000 sales, compared to just 25 electric vehicles.

On some level, fire is a risk of any kind of battery technology. Professionals talk about the "fire triangle"—the three-ingredient recipe for ignition. Fire needs oxygen, a spark, and fuel. Because the point of a lithium-ion electric vehicle is to store energy, the fuel is always there. EV batteries are meant to be tightly packed and isolated from other parts of the car, but an incident like a catastrophic crash might quickly introduce oxygen and heat to the brew.

BUILDING A FIRE-PROOF(ISH) BATTERY

Some battery makers have taken steps to reduce the risk of their batteries catching fire. The first is to create stringent manufacturing processes and standards. This is important because any sort of flaw in a battery could lead to an inferno,

says Venkat Srinivasan, who studies batteries and directs the Argonne Collaborative Center for Energy Storage Science at the US's Argonne National Laboratory.

To understand why battery manufacturing matters to fire risk, you have to understand the basics of lithium-ion batteries. The battery's anode and cathode store lithium, and they are connected by an electrolyte, a liquid chemical that passes lithium ions between the two to store or release energy. If, say, a tiny particle of metal gets into that electrolyte through an unclean manufacturing process, and it keeps getting electrified as the battery charges up and down, it could create a spark, open the battery cell, and allow oxygen to come rushing in and possibly expose the entire battery pack to fire.

These sorts of battery-making screw-ups do happen. In August, Jaguar told some 3,000 owners of its 2019 I-Pace SUV to park their vehicles outside because of fire risk, which was linked to three fires. The manufacturer behind those vehicles' packs, the South Korean firm LG Energy Solution, has been subject to a US road safety probe since 2022. BMW, General Motors, Hyundai, Stellantis, and Volkswagen have all recalled vehicles over battery risks (some of them in hybrid rather than all-electric vehicles). But these situations are rare. Through solid manufacturing processes, "one can never make the risk of fire absolutely zero, but good companies have minimized the risk," says Srinivasan.

LESS FIRE-Y CHEMISTRIES

The good news is that less-fire-prone batteries are already rolling around in cars, thanks to specific battery chemistries that are harder to ignite. Since the first Tesla hit the road in 2008, the standard electric vehicle battery has been made primarily from nickel and cobalt. Batteries with this makeup charge quickly and hold lots of energy, which is great for EV use because drivers of vehicles that use them enjoy longer ranges and faster top-ups. They're also more likely to enter "thermal runaway" at lower temperatures, in the 400- to 300-degrees Fahrenheit (210 to 150 degrees Celsius) range.

Thermal runaway is a state in which lithium-ion batteries enter a kind of fire doom loop: A damaged battery cell produces heat and flammable gases, which in turn produces more heat and flammable gases, which begins to heat nearby battery cells, which release more heat and gas. The fire then becomes self-sustaining and hard to put out.

Enter lithium-iron phosphate, or LFP, batteries. LFP batteries enter thermal runaway at higher temperatures, around 520 degrees Fahrenheit (270 degrees Celsius), because the bonds between iron and phosphate are stronger than the bonds between cobalt and oxygen. They're also slower to degrade than other chemistries. And, finally, the powerful advantage from automakers' point of view: They're cheaper to make.

Many automakers have shifted towards LFP batteries. Tesla Models 3 and Y purchased in the US after 2022 have them, and so do Rivians and Fords. Now Stellantis and Mercedes Benz are reportedly pivoting to LFP production too. The attraction of LFP batteries has also grown as automakers (including Tesla) have turned to cell-to-chassis manufacturing, which integrates the battery into the structure of the car. Automakers using this newer technique mostly use LFP batteries. "For the concept to be safe, the chemistry needs to be safe," says Srinivasan, the researcher.

Battery makers say other design tweaks can decrease the likelihood of thermal runaway, and therefore fire. CATL, the leading battery manufacturer in the world, said earlier this year that a new "smoke electric isolation" design separates a battery cell's electrical connection from its smoke exhaust channel, which makes it less likely that a fire within a cell will spread to other parts of a vehicle's battery pack.

NIXING THE (FLAMMABLE) LIQUID

The true technological hero of less fire-y batteries is just over the horizon: solid state. "Solid state" refers to a few sorts of battery technologies, but the ones with the lowest fire risk use a solid electrolyte, rather than a liquid one, to separate the anode and cathode, which isn't flammable. "That removes a big problem," says Srinivasan.

For years, automakers and battery developers have hyped the prospect of solid-state batteries, but they have yet to show up in production cars. The good news is that solid-state batteries are performing better than ever, says Srinivasan. "It's night and day in terms of what's happened in the last five years." The bad news is that the great performances are happening in the lab. Like most new technologies, solid-state batteries face a standard list of hurdles: building supply chains to support their manufacture; perfecting the processes for mass production; and competing against lithium-ion tech. Getting there could take years.

Fortunately, the world is also thinking more seriously about how to tamp down on electric vehicle fires after they've started. Many lithium-ion battery fires are caused by cheaper, aftermarket batteries that don't go through stringent quality control. (See: a rash of ebike fires in New York City.)

US public officials have urged customers to only buy batteries that have been certified by nationally recognized laboratories, like Underwriters Laboratory (UL), and to dispose of lithium-ion batteries through take-back programs such as those administered by Call2Recycle, rather than leaving them out for trash collectors. Allowing a hulking EV battery into the conventional trash system may sound wild, but a top location for EV battery-related fires has been salvage yards, where damaged and incorrectly-disposed-of batteries have been abandoned.

Products to tamp down already ablaze batteries abound. Fire blankets are meant to reduce the smoke damage of serious fires, including those set off by Li-ion batteries. Some sellers offer extinguishers specially made to put out electric vehicle battery fires. The Nevada-based company E-FireX uses an agent called “TRPL-E” that the firm says is designed to be kept in places like garages and truck beds and to tamp down on thermal runaway until fire professionals can intervene.

Jesse Corletto, a former firefighter and the head of E-FireX, says interest in the product has shot up in the last few years, with potential customers including firefighting and police departments, first responders, the military, maritime professionals, and even regular EV owners. “We have to keep up with the technology that’s out there,” says Corletto.

FUTURE FIREFIGHTING

Globally, fire groups are focused on preparing firefighters and other first responders for the unique aspects of lithium-ion battery fires. In the US, the nonprofit National Fire Protection Association offers online and in-training lithium-ion battery fire training for fire professionals, including a new simulated training experience funded in part by the US Department of Energy. Earlier this year, the southern Australia state of New South Wales required firefighters to take online electric vehicle fire training after four lithium-ion batteries caught fire there in one day. (The governing body did note that such fires were very rare.)

Firefighters could also use some help from manufacturers to prevent out-of-control blazes, says Emma Sutcliffe, the project director of EV Fire Safe, a private firm founded by the Australian government to research EV fire risks. Some auto- and battery-makers are great at sharing free and easy-to-access “emergency response guides,” which take fire professionals through what they need to know to stop their products’ battery fires. Sutcliffe highlights Tesla as a company that is proactive about sharing with fire departments.

Other manufacturers have been savvy at making it easy for firefighters to get at fires once they’ve started. Renault builds a “fireman access” port into its EVs and hybrids, which allows first responders to pump water directly into an on-fire battery. (Sutcliffe notes that, while handy, the port is only useful in the early stages of a fire, before it has expanded beyond the pack.)

Other automakers make it easy for firefighters to cut a battery’s power to other parts of the vehicle, to ensure that they won’t hurt themselves while dealing with a battery blaze. Teslas have a “first-responder loop” that can be cut to shut down their high-voltage systems. Other cars come with pull fuses or plugs. “We’d love all manufacturers to have a standard way to cut power,” says Sutcliffe.

On-the-horizon regulations may end up teaching electric vehicle customers more about the fire risks of the batteries in their cars. In 2027, the European Union will begin to enforce “battery passport” rules, which will require battery makers to maintain documentation about where a battery was made, how it’s been tested, and whether it contains recycled content. In June, Volvo got ahead of things by becoming the first automaker to launch a battery “passport” for its flagship electric EX90 SUV.

The regulation is mostly about keeping automakers honest when it comes to the carbon footprints of their EVs, but a happy side effect may well be a better view into the manufacture origins and ingredients inside car batteries.

Portland (OR) Firefighters Respond to Two Fires Caused by Lithium-Ion Batteries

Tatum Todd – Oregon Live.com

Two separate fires sparked by lithium-ion batteries on Thursday displaced 11 Portlanders from their homes and caused hundreds of thousands of dollars in damage, fire officials said in a statement.

Both fires were caused by the commonplace batteries experiencing catastrophic “thermal runaway” reactions, as happened in Portland last month when an [e-scooter battery set an apartment on fire](#), Portland Fire & Rescue said.

When thermal runaway reactions happen in rechargeable lithium-ion batteries — such as the ones typically found in phones, laptop computers, toys, tools, scooters and e-bicycles — it causes the battery to uncontrollably heat up, risking an explosion or a fire.

While thermal runaways usually happen when batteries are being charged, they can happen while they're unplugged too — as occurred in one of Thursday's two Portland fires, officials reported.

The first of the two fires broke out in a Southwest Portland neighborhood around 7 a.m. and displaced three people, the fire department said. The second fire happened close to midnight in Southeast Portland and burned an apartment building badly enough that it displaced eight people living there.

Defects that cause overheating in lithium-ion batteries only affect a small number of devices. Still, Portland Fire & Rescue said that to help avoid battery-caused fires you shouldn't charge devices under pillows or furniture, and you should keep batteries away from flammable items and avoid using batteries that appear damaged in any way.

Anyone with damaged batteries can learn more about safely disposing of them on the [city of Portland's website](#).

[A Truck Carrying Lithium-Ion Batteries Caught Fire Outside Las Vegas, the Third Such Fire in Recent Months](#)

Noble Brigham, Mick Akers, Caitlin Lilly – Las Vegas Review-Journal

A fiery crash involving a truck carrying lithium-ion batteries and its aftermath shut down part of U.S. Highway 95 on Tuesday, the latest in a series of incidents involving lithium batteries that have caused fires and chaos for drivers.

Two semi-trucks headed in opposite directions sideswiped just after midnight according to the Nevada Highway Patrol. The drivers of both trucks suffered minor injuries, and the highway remained closed as of Tuesday afternoon, authorities said.

One truck was carrying wood and the other was hauling 31,000 pounds of lithium batteries, **which caught fire almost immediately**, according to police and Scott Lewis, the Pahump fire chief and Nye County director of emergency management.

[Phone Battery Explodes, Ignites MA Mattress Fire](#)

Buck Anderson – The Salem News, Beverly, Mass.

Late Sunday afternoon, the Topsfield Fire Department was alerted to a type of fire that is becoming all too common today. The call came at 5:35 p.m. from the North Shore Regional 911 center of a lithium fire in a home.

The fire was caused by a lithium battery cell phone that had exploded as it was charging and set a bed on fire, according to Topsfield Fire Chief Jen Collins-Brown.

The residents were told to evacuate the Forest Road home, and the Topsfield Fire and Police departments were dispatched. The Fire Department was training a new employee that afternoon and had a shift strength of three, rather than the usual two firefighter paramedics, according to Collins-Brown. That staffing, she said, became critical as the extra man meant three firefighters, instead of the usual two on duty, responded immediately, before off-duty members were able to do so. Lt. John Boyle, the incident commander, sized up the incident and directed the crews to extinguish the fire. Firefighters then removed the burning bedding from the house, checked for any possible extension of the flames and ventilated the house. One resident suffered a minor burn but declined transport to the hospital.

[Tesla Crashes Into NY Apartment, Bursts Into Flames; Two Dead, Three Hurt](#)

Two people were killed and three others were injured after an out-of-control Tesla crashed into a White Plains apartment building and burst into flames on Monday morning.

Investigators said the driver likely lost control of the car, hit a curb and then a tree before colliding with a building in the Westchester County town. The crash occurred just after 9 a.m. First responders arrived shortly after and found the electric Tesla and building on fire. After the flames were extinguished, the car was pulled out of the crash site and two badly burned women were found dead inside, White Plains Public Safety Commissioner David Chong said.

The women were later identified as Millie Sheehan, 70, who was driving, and 36-year-old Diana Sheehan — both of Hartsdale, New York. "We are trying to determine what happened here — if it was a mechanical issue or a personal, medical issue or something like that," Chong said.

[FDNY: 12 hurt in building fire in Brooklyn, lithium-ion batteries discovered at scene](#)

VIDEO: The FDNY says 12 people were hurt when an apartment building went up in flames in Gowanus Tuesday morning. Lithium-ion batteries were discovered at the scene, according to the FDNY. Of the 12 people who are hurt, the FDNY says three are in the hospital. The fire broke out around 7 a.m. at the building located on 15th Street off Third

Avenue, just as many residents were starting their day. Tenants reported waking to the smell of smoke and rubber and seeing flames outside their windows, with the fire believed to have originated on the first floor before spreading. **At the scene, a melted e-bike was pulled from the building.** The FDNY says hazmat was called as a result of the lithium-ion batteries found at the scene. The Red Cross also arrived to assist displaced residents.

Indiana Crews Battle Electric Vehicle Fire at Auto Dealership

Lauren Liebhaber-Merced Sun-Star

Indiana firefighters said they were faced with a “new set of issues” when an electric car caught fire inside a car dealership.

The vehicle was up on a lift in the maintenance area when it ignited, filling the garage with “heavy smoke,” the Carmel Fire Department said in a Sept. 16 Facebook post.

Officials said fires like this involving lithium ion, found in electric car batteries, can be “nearly impossible to fully extinguish if there is thermal runaway,” or uncontrollable temperature rise.

The Audi dealership “did have a sprinkler system, which probably helped the spread, but it wasn’t putting that out,” Carmel Fire Department spokesperson Tim Griffin told WISH.

“It took the firefighters and us getting hoses in there and on that car to cool it off enough to actually be able to move it,” Griffin told the outlet.

The car reignited “a couple times while moving it out of the building,” Griffin told WISH.

Fire crews loaded the car onto a flatbed, following behind until it reached the salvage yard, authorities said.

“If one of these vehicles catches fire on the roadway or in a parking lot, it is hard enough to extinguish, however, one in a garage or other structure presents a whole new set of issues,” fire officials said.

The fire department is investigating the cause of the fire, WXIN reported. The vehicle was not being charged at the time of the fire.

HAPPEN’N IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD

Gansevoort Fire Department Breakfast

Sunday **October 20th** at the Gansevoort Fire Station 1870 Route 32, Wilton, NY

All you can eat, these folks provide a great breakfast, something for everyone!!

LAUGH OUT LOUD!!

The pharmacist says to the customer, sir please understand, to buy an anti-depressant you need a proper prescription....simply showing your marriage certificate and wife’s picture is not sufficient!!

and I couldn’t resist:

Because it’s fall you have the choice of a regular or pumpkin spice colonoscopy!!

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

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

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[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

WELCOME REVEAL ARCHITECTURE & DESIGN AS A BUSINESS PARTNER

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.

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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@rinaldi.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, July 11, 2024	7:00 PM	Board of Directors Meeting	Clifton Park	
Friday, August 9, 2024	1:00 PM	SARATOGA DAY AT THE RACES	Saratoga Race Course	NYRA Day at the Races! Picnic Tables at the Paddock
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)				
Day/Date	Time	Type	Location	Notes
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!
NO MEETING				
AUGUST				
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

PROVIDED AS A SERVICE FROM THE CAPITAL AREA FIRE DISTRICT'S
ASSOCIATION - CAFDA

NEWEST INFORMATION ALWAYS AT THE TOP WITH RED ARROW

CORRECTION: *In The United States There Are Approximately 675k Volunteer Firefighters, Yet There Have Been Only Approximately 3000+ Comments To The OSHA Portal!!!!*

****THIS WEEK'S NEWEST ITEMS PRECEDED BY THE RED ARROW**

- 4,000 comments have been entered in the OSHA Comment Portal to date.
- The last 40 pages is the meat and potatoes of the proposed federal standard.

On July 22, OSHA concluded the public comment period on their proposed Emergency Response Standard. This proposed standard would impose numerous requirements that would be infeasible for many volunteer fire departments to comply with and could cause these departments to shutdown.

Don't worry if you did not submit a public comment on how damaging this standard would be before the July deadline! **There are still two very important things you can do to make your voice heard right now. The first, is to use this Action Alert to tell your Member of Congress and Senators about OSHA's proposed Emergency Response standard and how it will harm volunteer fire departments.**

The second and most important thing you can do is submit a notice of intention to appear (NOITA) before OSHA's virtual public hearing regarding the proposed Emergency Response Standard, taking place in November. Anyone can submit an NOITA and submitting one does not require you to testify at the public hearing. The deadline to submit an NOITA is September 27. Additional information on submitting an NOITA can be found in the NVFC's OSHA Public Hearing Guide at this link: <https://www.nvfc.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/OSHA-Hearing-One-Pager.pdf>.

Additional information on OSHA's proposed standard and how it would be harmful to volunteer fire departments can be found at the NVFC's OSHA landing page here: <https://www.nvfc.org/osha-standard/>.

CONTACT YOUR MEMBER OF CONGRESS AND SENATORS AT THIS LINK:

<https://www.votervoice.net/NVFC/Campaigns/118064/Respond>

OSHA Issued The Following Statement Regarding Its Emergency Response Rulemaking And Volunteer Emergency Responders:

OSHA's rulemaking on Emergency Response is focused on providing long overdue protections to emergency responders. The agency has tremendous respect for both the work that emergency responders do and their unique role providing essential public safety services to every community in America. This statement describes the rulemaking's applicability to volunteer responders.

On February 5, 2024, OSHA published the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM), Emergency Response Standard. **While OSHA does not directly cover volunteer emergency responders, some OSHA State Plans treat volunteers as employees under state law, which is how a federal proposed standard could affect volunteer responders in those State Plan states.**

In the NPRM, OSHA preliminarily determined, based on the limited evidence available to it at the time, that the proposed rule would be economically feasible for volunteer organizations. *OSHA had sought information about the potential impact of the rule on volunteer organizations, but it did not have sufficient evidence to show that the rule would be infeasible for these organizations.*

Therefore, in accordance with the requirements of the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970, the proposal did not provide special allowances for the volunteer organizations that could be affected in some states. At the same time, the agency requested commenters' input on whether the proposed rule would be feasible for these entities. OSHA received that input during the extended comment period from February 5, 2024 through July 22, 2024.

OSHA has received comments in response to the NPRM from many stakeholders, including volunteer emergency responders, fire chiefs, trade organizations, and members of Congress, which raise serious concerns about the economic feasibility of the proposed standard for volunteer fire departments. OSHA takes these concerns seriously. The comments submitted to the rulemaking docket provide crucial information that the agency did not have earlier in the rulemaking process. This new information will help the agency make the necessary determinations about whether the proposed standard is feasible for volunteer organizations.

OSHA is committed to taking steps in any final standard, consistent with the rulemaking record, to assess and minimize detrimental effects on volunteer fire departments. **If supported by the record, this may include excluding voluntary emergency response organizations entirely based on these feasibility concerns.**

[EDITOR'S NOTE: IN OTHER WORDS, YOU STILL NEED TO MAKE THE CASE AS TO WHY THIS PROPOSED STANDARD WILL NEGATIVELY AFFECT YOUR FIRE DEPARTMENT OPERATION!!!!]

While the initial comment period has closed, OSHA strongly encourages stakeholders to continue to provide information and data relevant to this question at the public rulemaking hearing scheduled to begin on November 12, 2024, and during the post-hearing comment period. Instructions for how to participate in the hearing are available on the Emergency Response rulemaking webpage, www.osha.gov/emergency-response/rulemaking. Once the rulemaking record is complete, OSHA will review all the information received and determine the appropriate approach to take with respect to volunteer organizations.

OSHA created an advisory committee working group to help the agency craft a proposed standard so that stakeholders would have a direct hand in the process. That working group included representatives from labor and management; career, volunteer and industrial responders; as well as several other important stakeholder communities. OSHA included both career and volunteer responders in the working group because some OSHA State Plans treat volunteers as employees under state law, and a federal proposed standard could affect both groups in those states. The agency's intention has always been to work collaboratively with the emergency response community to find win-win solutions that ensure both responder safety and public safety.

[EDITOR'S NOTE: ALTHOUGH THE NVFC WAS REPRESENTED ON THE WORKING GROUP MANY OF THE PROPOSED CHANGES CAME FROM INDUSTRY AND LABOR, WITH MANY OF THE SUGGESTIONS BY OTHER MEMBERS OF THE GROUP BEING DISCARDED OR IGNORED! TIME FOR YOU TO GET ANGRY AND SPEAK UP.]

Statement from Dave Denniston on OSHA's Latest Response as Printed Above

As you may have seen, OSHA issued an unusual statement on Monday about the proposed 1910.156 rule. Many are asking what this all means. Having been involved in this process now for months, I offer my opinion on the statement. This is purely my opinion and may not reflect that of any organizations that I am currently working with.

OSHA is feeling a great deal of pressure from our elected officials. They have been questioned on their process, their proposal as written, and their understanding of what they have created. ***OSHA is attempting to defend what they have produced and preparing for the battle ahead. They have basically thrown down the gauntlet here and challenged us to engage. They will use this to either make the needed changes in the proposal, or to defend that they have asked us for details, and we have failed to deliver.***

Please sign up to testify. We have got to deliver on this. Every department that will be impacted by this needs one person to tell your story. It is easy to tell your story and we can help you with that.

- Tell why the standard as written is economically infeasible.
- Tell them to remove the incorporated NFPA standards and replace them with plain text that we can follow and understand.
- Tell them your officers will no longer meet the qualifications to be officers.

- Tell them that weekly and 24 hours following a run truck checks are difficult for our organizations.
- Tell them NFPA 1582 physicals are concerning in price.
- Tell them you don't have qualifications for physical trainers.
- Tell them you don't have time to complete the required documentation, preplans, and community assessments.
- Tell them there is a lot we can do to provide emergency responder safety, which they have failed to even address.
- Tell them they failed to use the full negotiated rulemaking process.
- Tell them our communities cannot support or afford this proposal as written.
- Tell them we are willing to work with them to develop a standard that will be good for all of us.

There are many organizations working overtime to get this message across, but OSHA needs to hear from **YOU**.

There are also organizations lined up to tell OSHA why this is the greatest thing since sliced bread. They have already provided both written and verbal testimony. If we fail to tell our story, theirs will overshadow us.

We are all for reasonable, necessary, well negotiated, changes to emergency service. It is time we roll up our sleeves, do some serious work, and make things safer for everyone. What is currently on the table is a good foundation to start from, but it needs modifications to have the desired outcome.

We cannot stress the importance of taking this opportunity to be heard.

The deadline to sign up to testify during the OSHA informal hearing in November is quickly approaching. You only have until September 27th to reserve your spot. Many concerns have been expressed by the nearly 4000 written comments that were submitted during the written comment period. So, if the concerns are already on the table in writing why is it important for us testify virtually? It is important because written words are just that, written. **We now have the opportunity to add faces and emotions to the words. We need OSHA to look us in the eyes and understand we are real humans, and these are real concerns. We are asking every fire department, EMS agency and municipality to sign up at least one person to give either 5 or 10 minutes of testimony.** Surely each of us has one person in our organization that is well spoken and can speak on your behalf. Find that person and get them registered. We will be hosting a number of webinars prior to November to help them organize their thoughts, but they can't testify if they don't sign up by September 27th.

Here are some major concerns:

1. OSHA believes this will have limited impacts on the volunteer fire service. That is not true.
2. OSHA feels this will have only minor financial impacts on local organizations. That is not true.
3. OSHA feels incorporating the NFPA standards by reference is necessary, Again, not true.
4. OSHA believes all the stakeholders had adequate representation during the process. Were you represented?
5. OSHA feels the one size fits all approach is reasonable. Do you operate like all other emergency response organizations?
6. OSHA believes their data sources were statistically significant. They were not.
7. OSHA feels each item in the proposal is attached to significant risk. They are not.
8. OSHA feels the recommendations are technologically feasible. This is not true for all of them.
9. OSHA feels they have covered all significant risks faced by emergency responders. Many risks have been left out of this proposal.
10. OSHA feels this process is fair and lets us voice our concerns. Yet major concerns that have been voiced all the way back to 2016 have not even been acknowledged, let alone addressed.

Please sign up to testify and let OSHA know that we are we are 100% in favor of emergency responder safety, but we feel that as written, this proposal is not the answer and we are willing to help produce a better alternative,

SIGN UP AT THIS LINK:

<https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=GpBvzoA6h0mmhZ1NlvHxgMQsVuNB08VPk33J3ZMRGTZUMEpOMDIIWjFSMVRGNEIKRzZTTlxOVFBTi4u>

Notice in the Federal Register Regarding the Public Hearing-Your Opportunity to Testify!!

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR Occupational Safety and Health Administration 29 CFR Part 1910 [Docket No. OSHA-2007-0073] RIN 1218-AC91 Emergency Response Standard

AGENCY: Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), Labor.

ACTION: Proposed rule; notice of informal hearing.

SUMMARY: OSHA is scheduling an informal public hearing on its proposed rule “Emergency Response Standard.” The public hearing **will begin November 12, 2024, at 9:30 a.m. Eastern Time** (ET). The proposed rule was published in the Federal Register on February 5, 2024.

INFORMAL PUBLIC HEARING:

The hearing will be held virtually and will begin November 12, 2024, at 9:30 a.m. ET. If necessary, the hearing will continue from 9:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m., ET, on subsequent weekdays.

Additional information on how to access the informal hearing will be posted at <https://www.osha.gov/emergencyresponse/rulemaking>.

To testify or question other witnesses at the hearing, interested persons must electronically submit a Notice of Intention to Appear (NOITA) on or before September 27, 2024.

In addition, those who request more than 10 minutes for their presentation at the informal hearing and those who intend to submit documentary evidence at the hearing must submit the full text of their testimony, as well as a copy of any documentary evidence, no later than October 18, 2024.

ADDRESSES:

Notice of Intention to Appear (NOITA). A NOITA must be submitted electronically at: <https://www.osha.gov/emergency-response/rulemaking>. Follow the instructions online for making electronic submissions.

Those who file NOITAs must also submit electronic copies of all documents that they intend to use or reference during their testimony.

Information about how and when to submit these materials will be provided at the time of registration.

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 <https://www.regulations.gov>. Therefore, OSHA cautions commenters about submitting information they do not want made available to the public, or submitting materials that contain personal information (either about themselves or others), such as Social Security Numbers and birthdates.

[NOTE: YOU CAN TESTIFY VIRTUALLY AS AN INDIVIDUAL, AS A DEPARTMENT, OR AS AN INTERESTED ORGANIZATION]

[Tell Congress About Your Concerns Regarding OSHA’s Proposed Emergency Response Standard](#)

August 27, 2024

The effort to spread awareness about how the Occupational Safety and Health Administration’s (OSHA) proposed Emergency Response Standard could harm volunteer fire departments continues. In addition to encouraging volunteer responders to submit public comments and testimony to OSHA regarding this standard, the National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC) has been active in alerting Congress to the issues.

With the NVFC’s support, Congress has taken a number of actions to weigh-in on the proposed standard, including the following:

- The House Homeland Security Committee’s Subcommittee on Emergency Management and Technology held a hearing on OSHA’s proposed Emergency Response Standard on June 4. The NVFC had a witness testify at this hearing.
- The House Education and Workforce Committee’s Subcommittee on Workforce Protections held a hearing on OSHA’s proposed Emergency Response Standard July 24. The NVFC had a witness testify at this hearing.
- In May, Rep. Golden and Rep. Desposito co-led a letter with 40 other members of Congress (29 Republicans, 13 Democrats total) asking OSHA to make the proposed standard more scalable for volunteer firefighters.
- In June, Education and the Workforce Committee Chairwoman Foxx led a letter with 23 other Republican Members of Congress asking Acting Secretary of Labor Julie Su to exempt volunteers from the emergency response standard.
- In July, the Senate and House Members from the Arkansas Congressional delegation sent a letter to Acting Secretary Su requesting that OSHA rescind the proposed rule.

- In August, Sen. Moran and Sen. Coons led a letter with 7 other Senators (7 Republicans, 1 Democrat, 1 Independent total) asking Acting Secretary Su to exempt volunteers from the Emergency Response Standard.
- Senator Boozman sponsored an amendment that was included in the mark-up of the Senate’s FY 25 Labor, Health, and Human Services Appropriations Bill that encourages OSHA to conduct listening sessions and outreach with stakeholders to fully understand the impact of new requirements on volunteer fire departments.

Though OSHA’s proposed Emergency Response Standard is an Executive Branch action and Congress does not vote on the adoption of the final standard, it is important to continue to make Congress aware of the potential negative impacts of this standard due to their function of overseeing and funding OSHA. **Share the NVFC’s [advocacy one-pager](#) with your Senators, Representative, or their staff so that they understand the issues and impact.**

Visit the NVFC’s [OSHA Standard landing page](#) for additional resources to assist you with understanding the proposed Emergency Response Standard and information about testifying during OSHA’s November public hearing.

NEW WEEK OF AUGUST 24TH!!

OSHA has been slowly adding the comments to the portal. It has become clear that they are filtering these comments and adding them in groups. Some have been labeled as “mass mailings” and other that also contain similar language have not. *Organized labor has contributed several comments as well as groups that would benefit financially from the rule. **The biggest smoking gun to me has been the comment from NFPA asking that the incorporated by reference standards be removed.*** Also, of particular interest to this group would be the comment posted by DHES and OFPC. We will schedule a Zoom meeting for next week.

I am attaching a number of comments that I feel you should be aware of and may not have the time to plow through 3K comments to see them.

The common themes that I am gathering from these comments so far are:

1. The process was flawed in how it was conducted and communicated.
2. The rule is arbitrary and capricious, convoluted, and exhaustive. Therefore, it is not understood.
3. THE NFPA standards should not be incorporated by reference.
4. Large, **Unfunded mandates.**
5. Not economically or technically feasible.
6. **Overreach by OSHA.**
7. Did not follow the full negotiated rule making process.
8. **Will have several legal challenges.**
9. Will treat workers differently because of geographic location instead of common hazards faces.
10. **Process was unfairly supported and driven by organized labor groups**
11. Will force some organizations to close their doors leaving the community at risk.
12. **Is primarily supported by those that will benefit financially from it.**
13. The consensus is that we applaud the efforts of improving safety but the current document, as written, is not the answer.
14. We would be stronger as one voice moving forward.



NYS Homeland Security.pdf



Illionois Fire Dsitricts.pdf



IAFF Final Comments.pdf

COMMENTS FROM NFPA..HIGHLIGHTED SECTIONS OUT OF AN 11 PAGE LETTER!!

NFPA applauds OSHA for opening this national dialogue on how to protect first responders from a variety of occupational hazards. NFPA shares that goal and has played a significant role in advancing first responder safety over the last century. Nevertheless, it is important to note that as a general policy, **NFPA does not request incorporation by reference of any of our codes and standards.** While NFPA has been involved with OSHA over the course of many years and through several Administrations considering rulemakings, NFPA had no specific recent role in putting this Notice of Proposed Rulemaking together, and NFPA did not suggest to OSHA that it should undertake this activity.

NFPA understands that OSHA has proposed to reference NFPA’s codes and standards because they are widely recognized as the best in the world and thus are widely used in the United States and elsewhere. Our technical committees, comprised of 9,000 volunteer members, consider every submitted input to prepare standards that address

the latest in technology, research, and other relevant information. We are proud that our codes and standards serve the safety goal of protecting emergency responders. The NFPA Fire & Life Safety Ecosystem (<https://www.nfpa.org/about-nfpa/nfpa-fire-and-life-safetyecosystem>) identifies the components that must work together to minimize risk and help prevent loss, injuries, and death from fire, electrical, and other hazards. We are confident that, throughout the years, our world-class codes and standards have saved firefighters' lives, prevented injuries, and enhanced first responders' effectiveness in aiding their communities. The development, use, and adherence to current codes and standards is a key part of the Ecosystem. The Ecosystem also relies on prepared first responders. The process of preparing first responders depends on continuous recruitment, training, and supplies of the best equipment. This is one of the reasons that NFPA strongly supported the reauthorization of the Assistance to Firefighters (AFG) and the Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) grants managed by the Federal Emergency Management Administration, which was recently enacted as Public Law 118-67. We continue to advocate for expanded funding for both critical grant programs. A decision made by a government, or by a for-profit or non-profit entity, to use a particular code or standard furthers the goal of enhancing safety. In the case of this Emergency Response Standard, as in the case of so many others, the entity making the incorporation decision must consider the appropriate implementation schedule and compliance plan. **We are sensitive to the concerns that many in the fire service, especially smaller volunteer fire companies, have expressed about the expense of meeting the OSHA proposal and how quickly the requirements would be mandated. At the macro level, we know that investments in safety are almost always worthwhile. We trust that OSHA will determine the appropriate implementation schedule should this proposed rule be finalized. Parallel to whatever OSHA decides, our nation must continue to invest in AFG, SAFER, and other efforts to fund our volunteer and career first responders.**

However, recent legal developments create a risk that OSHA's continued use of incorporation by reference could frustrate NFPA's ability to continue developing world-class safety standards. NFPA therefore requests (1) that OSHA refrain from incorporating NFPA's standards by reference in the proposed rule and that OSHA instead provide in the text of the rule that NFPA's standards are a benchmark for gauging compliance with the regulations and do not impose any binding legal obligations; (2) that OSHA explicitly acknowledges, in the rule, NFPA's copyright interests, knowing those interests also serve the agency and the public by ensuring the independence and sustainability of standards development; and (3) ensure through the rule that the public knows that NFPA posts its standards online for free read-only access.

The recent court decision, and the importance of NFPA's copyrights to OSHA's work, necessitate a different approach to OSHA's use of NFPA's standards. NFPA requests that OSHA not incorporate by reference its standards in the proposed rule. Instead, NFPA requests that OSHA refer to its standards in the text of the proposed rule as one benchmark of compliance with the regulations and *expressly provide in the rule that NFPA's standards are guidance and not binding.*

NFPA requests that OSHA use a similar approach for the NFPA standards it currently proposes to incorporate by reference in its rule. For example, the proposed rule incorporates by reference NFPA 1910, Standard for the Inspection, Maintenance, Refurbishment, Testing, and Retirement of In-Service Emergency Vehicles and Marine Firefighting Vessels. The proposed rule requires organizations and employers to "[i]nspect, maintain, and service test aerial devices on vehicles, to ensure they are safe for use, as specified by the manufacturer, or to a standard at least as equivalent to NFPA 1910 (incorporated by reference see § 1910.6)." 89 Fed. Reg. at 8,019. *OSHA could instead draft this rule to require that there be inspection, maintenance, and servicing of the devices "to ensure they are safe for use." OSHA should then further expressly provide in the text of the rule that NFPA 1910 is one way of ensuring safe use of test aerial devices on vehicles but does not create any binding obligations.* This approach would ensure safety, while preserving NFPA's copyright in NFPA 1910. For each standard that OSHA's proposed rule incorporates by reference, NFPA would welcome the opportunity to work with OSHA on ways to ensure that the rule achieves the agency's safety objectives without using incorporation by reference.

PUBLIC HEARING SCHEDULED TO BEGIN ON NOVEMBER 12TH

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has published a Notice in today's Federal Register (see, <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2024-07-23/pdf/2024-16126.pdf>) announcing that it is **scheduling an informal public hearing on its proposed "Emergency Response Standard."** The public hearing will be held virtually and is scheduled to begin Tuesday, November 12, 2024, at 9:30 a.m. (ET) and will continue on subsequent weekdays (as necessary). (Note: Monday, November 11, 2024, is a federal holiday.)

OSHA's proposed Emergency Response rule was published in the Federal Register on February 5, 2024 (see, [2023-28203.pdf \(govinfo.gov\)](https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2023-02-05/pdf/2023-28203.pdf)), and the public comment period closed yesterday, July 22, 2024.

Additional information on how to access OSHA's informal hearing will be posted on OSHA's Emergency Response webpage at <https://www.osha.gov/emergencyresponse/rulemaking>.

To testify or question other witnesses at the hearing, interested persons must electronically submit a Notice of Intention to Appear (NOITA) to OSHA on or before September 27, 2024. In addition, those who request more than 10 minutes for their presentation and those who intend to submit documentary evidence must submit the full text of their testimony, as well as a copy of any documentary evidence, to OSHA no later than October 18, 2024.

Please see OSHA's Federal Register Notice and Emergency Response webpage for full information. We will plan to discuss this issue at our next regular Small Business Labor Safety (OSHA/MSHA) roundtable, that is tentatively scheduled for Friday, September 20, 2024.

From Dave Denniston – What's Next?

Thank you for participating in the efforts to voice our opinion over the proposed OSHA 1910.156. Now that the comment period has ended, the need to meet weekly has passed. I am 100% convinced that the efforts we put forth as a group made an impact. When you look at the comments posted in the portal, they had our fingerprints all over them. If we had not done what we did here in NY, I firmly believe the comment period would have ended back in May with very little input and OSHA would be full speed ahead with the final rule. At least now we opened the door for further comment, in person, and then again written, and have alerted our elected officials to the concerns.

I would like to propose that we push our meeting schedule back to the first Thursday of every month at noon to discuss any updates. If there is a need in-between the regular meeting date, we could call a special meeting.

SOME STATS FROM OUR EFFORTS:

We had 2006 live webinar views with another 464 watching the recordings.

We received 4116 signatures on the petition submitted to OSHA.

We held 6 in person sessions with over 700 participants.

NEXT STEPS:

1. We need to pull the blue-ribbon panel together to discuss the proposed rule and offer alternatives. I have only received two candidates and believe we should have around 10-12 people in that group.
2. We need to prepare material to help guide people on how to deliver an effective in-person testimony and start looking for people to participate.
3. I believe we should ask every department to elect or appoint someone to participate as a representative of their department. These folks would attend a few web meetings to learn more, understand the process and share information with their department.
4. We need to stay engaged with our elected officials and keep them involved in this process.
5. Is there anything else that we are missing here?

Again, Thank you for your help and interest on this important topic. I look forward to our next conversation on Thursday, August 1ST AT 12pm. By then we should have a good feel for what the public comment response looked like.

*****The New OSHA Rule You Must Pay to Learn***

The Center for Individual Rights

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has proposed a new rule that would impose steep compliance costs on local volunteer fire departments around the country and make them pay substantial fees just to learn what the regulations require. The Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSH Act) created a federal agency with an extremely vague mandate to establish nationwide workplace safety standards with almost no congressional guidance. Yet OSHA's most recent proposal, the Emergency Response Standard (ERS) manages to extend this already broad power even further with sweeping workplace standards that even reach volunteer organizations.

If adopted, the ERS would impose federal safety standards for emergency response services, including local, volunteer fire departments, that purport to preempt and displace existing state-enforced safety regulations. **Many of the affected volunteer fire departments lack adequate funding (relying as they do upon voluntary support) and cannot afford to overhaul their standards to comply with new federal rules, which larger departments in metropolitan areas can more easily manage.**

UNCONSTITUTIONAL REGULATION

CIR filed a comment with OSHA explaining that the ERS likely violates both federal law and several different provisions of the Constitution. To start, the OSH Act provides such broad discretion to OSHA as to amount to an unconstitutional delegation of legislative authority. Moreover, the sweeping reach of the ERS, a nationwide overhaul of safety regulations for such a wide swath of emergency responders, vastly exceeds the limited guidance Congress did provide. **Worse yet, even fire departments that do not object to complying with the rule will have to pay substantial fees just to learn what it actually requires. Rather than clearly articulating the new safety standards on a freely accessible website, OSHA has incorporated by reference more than 20 consensus standards published by different private organizations.** Just to download, print, or copy these standards, organizations must pay steep fees. But to synthesize them will require hiring expert consultants.

This approach violates federal law—the Freedom of Information Act component of the Administrative Procedure Act, which requires that an agency make all substantive rules of general applicability available to the public. It also violates the Due Process Clause of the Constitution, which guarantees citizens the right to fair notice about governing law.

The text of the OSH Act poses another problem; it does not apply to volunteer organizations at all. The terms of the law are expressly restricted to employees, i.e. people who are paid to work. **Yet due to complex state regulations that treat some volunteers as employees for the purpose of certain state benefit programs, the ERS is unlawfully sweeping in volunteer organizations.**

This case is a vital reminder of the importance of establishing firm limits on federal power to the defense of individual rights.

TO READ CIR'S 15 PAGE COMMENT TO OSHA OPEN AT THIS LINK:

<https://cafda.net/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/CIR-comment-OSHA-ERS.pdf>

[This is a Link to the 18-page letter to Douglas Parker, Assistant Secretary for Labor for OSHA](https://cafda.net/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/NYS-United-Concerns-OSHA-Response-FINAL-07.16.24-DD.docx)

<https://cafda.net/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/NYS-United-Concerns-OSHA-Response-FINAL-07.16.24-DD.docx>

This is a must-read item for all concerned about the proposed update to the OSHA Standard for Emergency Response. This was filed on behalf of the NYS United Concerns Group who participate in the zoom meetings on a weekly basis. **Please take the time to read this important document.**

[Excellent Docket Response from South Carolina Firefighters Association](https://cafda.net/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/Docket-Comment-7-8-SCSFA-Response.docx)

Open the Document at This Link:

<https://cafda.net/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/Docket-Comment-7-8-SCSFA-Response.docx>

[Joint Letter to OSHA from NYS Association of Counties, NYS Conference of Mayors, and the NYS Association of Towns](https://cafda.net/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/NYCOMNYSACAOTjointletter.pdf)

Open the Document at This Link:

<https://cafda.net/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/NYCOMNYSACAOTjointletter.pdf>

[What Are Your Pain Points](#)

PAIN POINT FINANCIAL....

OSHA's Proposed Rule:

OSHA's proposed rule would require NFPA 1582 Medical Exams be administered to all firefighters either annually or bi-annually. OSHA estimates the cost of a required medical exam to be \$620 each.

The Pain Point: A small-town fire department with two dozen members would have to find funding for a dozen medical exams each year for a total cost of \$7440.

Tell OSHA: Tell OSHA what your annual budget is and how you would have to raise \$7440. For example, if your department relies upon fundraising, tell OSHA how many extra spaghetti dinners you'd need to sell each year to raise \$7440.

Assuming a profit of \$8 per dinner, you need to sell 930 spaghetti dinners each year to pay for medical exams. How many people live in your town – does everyone need to buy two dinners? Explain this to OSHA.

OSHA PAIN POINTS – ADDITIONAL, OSHA'S PROPOSED RULE:

The proposed OSHA rules incorporate by reference twenty-one NFPA standards. This adds about 3000 pages of text to the rules.

The Pain Point: Small fire departments don't have the legal or administrative capabilities to read, interpret, and comply with this much new regulation.

Tell OSHA: Tell OSHA that there is no administrative or legal staff available at your fire department to read, interpret, and comply with 3000 pages of NFPA standards. Tell OSHA how small or non-existent your administrative staff and budget is.

OSHA's Proposed Rule:

The proposed OSHA rules will require all fire chiefs to have NFPA Fire Officer 3 training.

The Pain Point: Half of the state fire training academies don't offer Fire Officer 3 training and there is no practical way to get the training. Even in states that offer the training, it will typically require unpaid volunteer chiefs or part-time chiefs to take classes on weekdays when they have to take time off from their full-time jobs or travel long distances to night and weekend classes.

Tell OSHA: Tell OSHA that Fire Officer 3 training isn't available or readily available to your department and why.

OSHA's Proposed Rule:

The proposed OSHA rules incorporate by reference twenty-one NFPA standards.

The Pain Point: NFPA standards are not readily available, and this makes commenting on them difficult. You have to purchase them for \$149 each or purchase a subscription to access them for \$12/month.

Tell OSHA: Tell OSHA that before they close the comment period and make these standards law, OSHA needs to provide free copies of these standards to the public.

OSHA's Proposed Rule:

The proposed OSHA rules will require all fire chiefs to have NFPA Fire Officer 3 training.

The Pain Point: Half of the state fire training academies don't offer Fire Officer 3 training and there is no practical way to get the training. Even in states that offer the training, it will typically require unpaid volunteer chiefs or part-time chiefs to take classes on weekdays when they have to take time off from their full-time jobs or travel long distances to night and weekend classes.

Tell OSHA: Tell OSHA that Fire Officer 3 training isn't available or readily available to your department and why.

OSHA's Proposed Rule:

The proposed OSHA rules use the 2022 Firehouse Magazine Run Survey as the basis for defining the scale and financial resources of the volunteer fire service.

The Pain Point: The Firehouse Magazine Run Survey is created for entertainment purposes and should not be used the way OSHA has used it to create regulations. The Firehouse Magazine Run Survey is a small set of data without knowing who or why the data was created, except for fun and to see your department named in the magazine.

The Firehouse Magazine Data says that the average volunteer fire department:

- Has a budget of \$
- Responds to ___ emergency calls per year
- Has ___ volunteer members

Tell OSHA: Tell OSHA that its data about the size and financial resources of volunteer fire departments is wrong. Tell them about your department budget, the size of your town, how many calls you go to, and why this is so different than the Firehouse data. Tell them about the other departments in your area.

OSHA's Proposed Rule:

The proposed OSHA rules will incorporate by reference twenty-one NFPA standards.

The Pain Point: NFPA standards are not required to be based upon data or scientific evidence. NFPA standards are the collective opinions of the committees that write them. Unlike OSHA, NFPA standards are not required to address only significant risks to the health and safety of firefighters. Making these standards into law reaches way beyond the mission of OSHA.

Tell OSHA: Tell OSHA that their use of NFPA standards is arbitrary, because many of the standards themselves, or parts of the standards are arbitrary.

1. "Have you had time to completely read and analyze the new proposed OSHA standard 1910.156 rule and the effects it would have on your organization? If not, click here and tell OSHA that 165 days has not been adequate to review a document that took them years to write."
2. "Do your captains and lieutenants hold Fire Officer I training? Do your assistant chiefs hold Fire Officer II training? The new proposed OSHA 1910.156 rule would require this. Click here and tell OSHA why this would be problematic for your organization."
3. "Does your fire department have an annual budget of less than 1.7 million dollars? OSHA is under the assumption that the average fire department budget for volunteer or combination depts is 1.7 million dollars. If your budget is less, click here, and tell OSHA what your budget is and that you believe their data is inaccurate."
4. "OSHA believes the impact of the proposed 1910.156 rule would be less than 1%. Is this true for you? Several fire departments have analyzed the proposal and this would increase their budgets by over 40%. Click here and tell OSHA why a substantial tax increase is not feasible"
5. "Does your organization do weekly vehicle inspections or within 24 hours of each run? That's what the proposed OSHA 1910.156 rule would require. Click here and tell OSHA why that is problematic for your organization."
6. "Do you clearly mark control zones for every emergency incident to establish a cold zone, warm zone, hot zone and no entry zone? The proposed OSHA 1910.156 rule would require this. If this would be problematic for your organization, click here and tell OSHA why this is not feasible."
7. "Do you provide annual physicals for your firefighters that include comprehensive behavioral health evaluations, skin cancer screenings, and bi-annual mammograms for firefighters over 40? The Incorporation of NFPA 1582 in the proposed OSHA standard 1910.156 rule would require this. If you are not currently performing physicals at this level, click here and tell OSHA why that would be problematic for your organization."
8. "Does your organization have \$620 per member for annual or bi-annual medical exams? If not, click here and explain to OSHA what your budget is for medical exams."
9. "Did you know the proposed OSHA rule incorporates by reference twenty-one NFPA standards, which are NOT free to comment on. Click here to tell OSHA to give free copies of these standards to the public."

Commented [PL1]: To be consistent with NFPA I would use "Fire Officer I and "Fire Officer II"

Commented [PL2]: The fire chief in me dozed off during this one. Too wordy. I took a shot at more concise approach.

Commented [PL3]: Tried cleaning this one up too

Commented [PL4]: This one is not accurate so I cleaned it up

Commented [PL5]: Not accurate re-worded it

Pain Points to Address

PAIN POINT #1

OSHA's Proposed Rule: All Emergency Service Organizations shall conduct a community or facility vulnerability and risk assessment for its service area, for the purpose of establishing its standards of response and determining the ability to match the community or facility's risks with available resources.

The Pain Point: Does your fire department conduct hazard assessments (or pre-plans) to all commercial businesses? Does your department conduct hazard assessments to all vacant structures? Does your department pre-plan facilities that are subject to reporting requirements under the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA)? Does your department have an incident plan for each of the hazard assessments for an emergency incident? If not, then you will not be compliant with the OSHA Proposed Ruling.

Tell OSHA: This is economically infeasible and there is no local funding for the hazard assessments of all buildings in your area. Let OSHA know what the cost would be to add one or more employees to be able to comply with conducting the yearly assessments. Be blunt – tell them you have no administrative staff to do this.

PAIN POINT #2

OSHA's Proposed Rule: OSHA's inclusion of NFPA 1582: Standard on Comprehensive Occupational Medical Program for Fire Departments, which requires annual medical evaluations proving fit for duty.

The Pain Point: The pain point comes in finding a doctor who can perform and meet the requirements of the standard, the cost to the fire and emergency services department, extra time requirements for a volunteer, and the administrative burden of scheduling and tracking exams.

Tell OSHA: This is economically infeasible. Tell OSHA what your budget is and if you don't have administrative staff to schedule and track medical exams. Tell OSHA if you are in a rural area with poor access to occupational medical care or are unable to find a doctor who can perform all the requirements found in NFPA 1582 or that are willing to sign off. Tell OSHA about volunteer firefighters traveling hours out of their way to get the physicals or the added costs of having an organization come to the department to perform the physicals. The cost of a NFPA 1582 physical for each member can range from several hundred to several thousand dollars. Tell OSHA what this would cost your department. Tell OSHA about the time constraints with NFPA-compliant physicals – are they only available during the workday when volunteers are working their primary jobs?

PAIN POINT #3

OSHA's Proposed Rule: OSHA is seeking guidance on whether an action level of 15 exposures to combustion products within a year trigger medical surveillance consistent with NFPA 1582 is too high, too low, or an appropriate threshold.

The Pain Point: After each incident, in addition to an incident report, do you record what level of smoke or exposure to combustion products is experienced by every firefighter or officer who responded? If the number per year exceeds 15, or whatever number OSHA determines, are you prepared or capable of placing them under medical monitoring against a baseline physical also required meeting NFPA 1582?

Tell OSHA: There is no defined number of exposures that are determined to be the right number, so just as requiring annual exams is arbitrary and not based on science, so is the number of exposures. Tell OSHA that "exposure to combustion products" is not defined. Ask OSHA does it mean any smoke, such as from a brush fire or burnt bacon on the stove, or does it have to be an IDLH atmosphere?

PAIN POINT #4

OSHA's Proposed Rule: OSHA's Proposed Rule is seeking input on whether the proposed rule should specify retirement ages for personal protective equipment (PPE). Current NFPA standards call for 10 years.

The Pain Point: Are all your firefighters using gear under 10 years of age? Can you afford to replace gear older than 10 years of age?

Tell OSHA: While 10 years seems reasonable for firefighters actively engaged in structural firefighting, do we rule out or discard gear 11 years of age even though it shows minimal signs of wear? How about others who perform support functions, or extrication, etc.? Some firefighters wear the same structural fire helmet for their entire career spanning 20 – 30 years. Is there statistical evidence by OSHA that helmets over 10 years of age are causing head injuries or burns? Gear that is used to run 600 calls per year doesn't have the same wear and tear as gear that is used to run 85 calls per year.

PAIN POINT #5

OSHA's Proposed Rule: If approved, the new OSHA rules would require your fire department to conduct annual fitness for duty testing, essentially an annual physical ability test that includes dragging dummies, hitting targets with axes, and forcing a door or breaching a wall.

The Pain Point: Most small fire departments have no training props. They have no facility for conducting a fitness for duty test, especially one that meets many legal requirements of consistency and fairness for all participants. This means hiring vendors to do the test or having firefighters drive hours to a test.

Tell OSHA: If your fire department can conduct a physical ability test each year. Tell them how far away the nearest facility for a test is. Tell them what props or facilities you have and don't have. Tell them your budget and what this will cost.

PAIN POINT #6

OSHA's Proposed Rule: The proposed OSHA rules will require all personnel treating a patient in the back of an ambulance to wear a harness so they are belted and can move around.

The Pain Point: Harness systems for EMS in the back of the ambulance are rare. These systems have not been perfected and there is no standard for them. Ambulances would have to be retrofitted.

Tell OSHA: If you have an ambulance, tell OSHA if you have a harness system, or if your seatbelts don't allow for treating patients. Tell OSHA that there is no industry standard or agreed-upon technology for a harness that allows freedom of

moment for treating patients. Tell OSHA how long it will be before you can purchase a new ambulance with a harness (when they become available), or what it would take to retrofit your current ambulances.

PAIN POINT #7

OSHA's Proposed Rule: At least 21 NFPA standards are incorporated in OSHA's proposed rules.

The Pain Point: While NFPA standards are available to view for free online, printed copies of these standards are not free. An \$11.99 a month NFPA membership would be required to print these standards, plus the cost of ink and paper. The NFPA also sells printed copies of their standards. For example, a printed copy of NFPA 1021 costs \$149.00. This limited access to printed NFPA standards is particularly problematic since many volunteer fire departments in rural areas lack reliable internet access or funding to purchase printed copies.

Tell OSHA: Let OSHA know what your department budget is and the burden it would be to purchase NFPA standards. Also let OSHA know if your department does not have reliable internet access to view these standards. It is wrong for OSHA to mandate standards that are not reasonably available to view for free.

PAIN POINT #8

OSHA's Proposed Rule: The proposed OSHA rules incorporate by reference 21 NFPA standards. This adds about 3000 pages of text to the rules.

The Pain Point: Small fire departments don't have the legal or administrative capabilities to read, interpret, and comply with this much new regulation.

Tell OSHA: Tell OSHA that there is no administrative or legal staff available at your fire department to read, interpret, and comply with 3000 pages of NFPA standards. Tell OSHA how small or non-existent your administrative staff and budget is.

PAIN POINT #9

OSHA's Proposed Rule: All fire officers/chiefs must be trained to NFPA 1021, Standard for Fire Officer Professional Qualifications.

The Pain Point: Much of the required information in NFPA 1021 courses is well beyond the scope of the small department. Can your fire department provide this level of training to all your current and future officers? Does your budget support this? Are there classes available on nights and weekends? How far will your officers have to travel?

Tell OSHA: This training is a one size fits all approach and contains material that is often not relevant to small volunteer fire departments. Due to the time constraints and pressures volunteers face, any additional training must be tailored to the risks small volunteer departments face. Additional training that is not relevant would create additional burdens on volunteers and additional barriers to joining and remaining in the fire service, exacerbating ongoing recruitment and retention issues in the fire service.

PAIN POINT #10

OSHA's Proposed Rule: All fire chiefs must receive NFPA 1021 Fire Officer III training.

The Pain Point: The Fire Officer III certification is only offered in approximately 25 states. Chief officers would face significant hardship in getting the required training and certification. Unpaid volunteer chiefs or part-time chiefs would be required to take classes on weekdays when they have to take time off from their full-time jobs, or they would have to travel long distances to night and weekend classes.

Tell OSHA: The cost of accessing NFPA 1021 Fire Officer III training will place a financial burden on volunteers. In most cases, this class is not offered on a schedule that is friendly for volunteers. Many volunteer officers will be required to travel to a state where they can receive training, taking time away from their primary job and requiring funds that are often not available. All required training must be widely accessible and, when possible, virtually available.

5 MORE PAIN POINTS TO ADDRESS

Let OSHA know how the proposed Emergency Response Standard will impact your department! Here are five 'pain points' that you can address in your comments.

PAIN POINT #16

OSHA's Proposed Rule: The proposed OSHA standard uses the 2022 Firehouse Magazine Run Survey as the basis for defining the scale and financial resources of the volunteer fire service.

The Pain Point: The Firehouse Magazine Run Survey data is not a proper reflection of the fire service because of its small sample size, and it likely presents an inflated view of the financial condition of the volunteer fire service because departments with the least resources are typically not the departments that are going to take the time to submit their

budget data to a magazine. According to OSHA per the Firehouse Magazine Run Survey data, the average volunteer department's annual revenue is \$291,703.

Tell OSHA: Tell OSHA that its data about the size and financial resources of volunteer fire departments is wrong. Tell them about your department's budget, the size of your town, how many calls you go to. Be aware that comments you submit to OSHA are publicly available.

PAIN POINT #17

OSHA's Proposed Rule: OSHA estimates that the annual cost for a volunteer fire department to comply with this standard would be approximately \$14,000.

The Pain Point: Due to the costs of physicals, needed administrative staff, and equipment, among other provisions within the proposed standard, the NVFC believes the cost of compliance would be much greater.

Tell OSHA: What your department's budget is and whether you could absorb this expense. If possible, tell OSHA what you think it would cost your department to implement this proposed Emergency Response Standard. You can use this one pager to assist you in understanding some of the requirements in OSHA's proposed standard.

PAIN POINT #18

OSHA's Proposed Rule: In accordance with manufacturer recommendations for apparatus maintenance, personnel who are certified Emergency Vehicle Technicians would be required to perform daily, weekly, monthly, semi-annual, and annual inspections on apparatus. Annual inspections include weight verification, an inspection of all chassis components, and brake systems.

The Pain Point: Does your department have the personnel to adhere to manufacturer recommended daily, weekly, monthly, semi-annual, and annual inspections on apparatus. Do you have the capacity to take your apparatus offline for such inspections? Do you have access to equipment that could weigh your apparatus annually?

Tell OSHA: Explain to OSHA the apparatus and staffing that your department has and whether you have the capacity or access to equipment to comply with recommended manufacturer inspections, like annual truck weight verification.

PAIN POINT #19

OSHA's Proposed Rule: This proposed standard would require fire departments to create, annually review, and annually update a written community emergency response plan, pre-incident plans for all high or special risk properties, and a written risk management plan for the department. OSHA estimates that one-time setup of these various administrative requirements would take about 92 hours and an additional 43 hours to review annually.

Pain Point: The NVFC believes much more time would be needed to comply with these requirements. Additionally, does your department have the administrative capability and expertise to fulfill these requirements? Are OSHA's estimated hours needed for compliance correct?

Tell OSHA: Whether your department has any administrative staff. Explain to OSHA how many hours it would take your department to fulfill these administrative requirements and whether it would be possible for you to do so at all.

PAIN POINT #20

OSHA's Proposed Rule: The proposed standard would require the establishment of control zones at every emergency incident to identify the level of risk to team members and responders and the appropriate protective measures needed, including PPE. These zones should be no-entry, hot, warm, and cold. These zones would need to be marked in a conspicuous manner, with colored tape, signage, or other appropriate means, unless such marking is not possible.

Pain Point: The establishment and marking of control zones may not be possible at every incident due to the scope of the incident and the personnel available. According to OSHA, what would make such labeling impossible?

Tell OSHA: If it makes sense to establish and label control zones at every incident and if you have the available personnel to do so.

PAIN POINT #21

OSHA's Proposed Rule: OSHA expects that the affected community would be able to allocate the very small additional share of their revenue necessary to permit their fire department to comply with the proposed Emergency Response Standard.

Pain Point: Many departments won't have much of a budget available to comply with this standard. If the department is affiliated with a municipality, it would have to pay a large share of the compliance cost. Most volunteer fire departments serve rural communities with very small budgets that would lack the funds to assist their fire departments with compliance of this standard. Additionally, there are nonprofit departments and departments that self-fundraise that lack access to municipal funds.

Tell OSHA: What your department budget is and whether it would be feasible for your municipality to assist with the funding needed to comply with OSHA's proposed Emergency Response Standard. Explain to OSHA how your department is structured and funded and whether you are affiliated with a municipality.

Long Island (NY) Volunteer Firefighters Push Back on OSHA's New Regulations

LINK TO TV COVERAGE

<https://www.fireapparatusmagazine.com/fire-apparatus/long-island-ny-volunteer-firefighters-push-back-on-oshas-new-regulations/>

House Subcommittee Testimony

House Homeland Security Subcommittee on Emergency Management and Technology held a hearing on Tuesday morning (June 4, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. ET) on OSHA's proposed Emergency Response rule.

LINK TO THE TESTIMONY GIVEN BY THE WITNESSES HERE:

<https://cafda.net/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/2024-06-04-EMT-HRG-Testimony.pdf>

OSHA's Move to Improve Safety to Firefighters, EMS Providers, and Technical Search and Rescue Members

LINK TO MOST RECENT ARTICLE IN FIREHOUSE MAGAZINE:

[https://www.firehouse.com/safety-health/article/55056294/oshas-move-to-improve-safety-to-firefighters-ems-providers-and-technical-search-and-rescue-members?o_eid=6778E0229656H9A&oly_enc_id=6778E0229656H9A&rdx.ident\[pull\]=omeda|6778E0229656H9A&utm_campaign=CPS240530030&utm_medium=email&utm_source=FH+Newsday](https://www.firehouse.com/safety-health/article/55056294/oshas-move-to-improve-safety-to-firefighters-ems-providers-and-technical-search-and-rescue-members?o_eid=6778E0229656H9A&oly_enc_id=6778E0229656H9A&rdx.ident[pull]=omeda|6778E0229656H9A&utm_campaign=CPS240530030&utm_medium=email&utm_source=FH+Newsday)



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):

(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.

CONTACT YOUR REPRESENTATIVE AT THIS LINK:

<https://www.votervoice.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/>.

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.

NVFC LANDING PAGE LINK HERE:

https://gma5qspab.cc.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001L6aLm-Ax7THBUrMdNSMphNIFj1WWWXRRzYxdUshoNVzVUkCq2FlyoxhE-Ayblw8OnamjN0BiBpzyC-pPzLiYEvhxQ9sAxH0UJN-rMeW-UojESKwKkPDdMRzXK8VXBP-Sh4YQDWc0PJekSA9BGQCOh6lo-AGJ2vqw1b4iSBqWLS=&c=LauWWHLcf9ha42GymhqekGbW4yikuTH862UfuVJahY7fFHeGl_qUJw=&ch=lefmM7sGv75CYvgpTK9dENyqA1Rv5PwzXZ1xIkZP-JITscwLK8iGsQ==

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>

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***

[:\[https://cafda.net/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/OSHA-1910.156-REQUEST-FOR-ACTION-1.docx\]](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 OSHA 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, except for Chapter 8 which includes procedures for washing and drying protective equipment.

- 74 additional reference technical documents.
- [NFPA 1977 \(118 page document\)](#)

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

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

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

- 45 additional referenced technical standards.
- [NFPA 1981 \(81 page document\)](#)

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

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

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

- 22 additional referenced technical standards
- [NFPA 1982 \(70 page document\)](#)

Standard on Personal Alert Safety Systems

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

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

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

This standard applies to the manufacturer of PASS devices.

- 18 additional referenced technical standards.
- [NFPA 1984 \(39 page document\)](#)

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

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

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

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

- 12 additional referenced technical standards
- [NFPA 1986 \(70 page document\)](#)

Standard on Respiratory Protection Equipment for Tactical and Technical Operations

This standard shall specify the minimum requirements for the design, performance, testing and certification of (1) new compressed breathing air open-circuit self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) and compressed breathing air combination open-circuit self-contained breathing apparatus and supplied air respirator (SCBA/SAR) and (2) replacement parts, components and accessories for those respirators. This standard does NOT deal with the used of such respirators by emergency personnel.

- 17 additional referenced technical standards
- [NFPA 1987 \(98 page document\)](#)

Standard on Combination Unit Respirator Systems for Tactical and Technical Operations

- 71 additional referenced technical standards

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

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

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

Standard for Protective Ensembles for Hazardous Materials and CBRN Operations

- 59 additional reference technical standards

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

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

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

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

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

Standard on Protective Clothing and Ensembles for Emergency Medical Operations

- 60 additional referenced technical standards

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

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

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

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

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

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

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.

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/>

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 \(oshaedne.com\)](#)
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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>