



CAPITAL AREA FIRE DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION



BULLETIN

SEPTEMBER 28, 2024

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



CAPITAL SHORTS:

- NEW OSHA INFORMATION IS PRECEDED BY THE [RED ARROW](#)
- [I have signed up to testify before OSHA in November, WHAT POINTS WOULD YOU LIKE ME TO MAKE DURING MY 5 MINUTE TESTIMONY? NOTIFY ME AT TOM@RINALDI1.COM](#)
- **Note article related to Energy Drinks on page 12

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.

ZOOM MEETING LINK:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85369698700?pwd=m3QFJOECI9EgY1T91QtPNQplnBrxR.1>

Meeting ID: 853 6969 8700

Passcode: 216061

Dial by your location: 646 558 8656 US (New York)

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

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

APPARATUS PURCHASING

NFPA and Direct Tank Fills

Bill Adams

This article was originally intended to discuss the *working ends* of the mobile water supply apparatus (aka tankers and tenders) displayed at FDIC International 2024. After a post-show review of the many photographs I took during the hubbub of setup and the initial opening of the exhibit floor, I have made a revision.

The photos taken show more than a dozen apparatus by a like number of manufacturers featuring rear direct tank fills. There were many variations in their installations. Included are the types of apparatus on which they were provided, the number of fills provided, their physical locations, valve and piping sizes, as well as labeling or lack thereof. Those differences warranted further analysis and a later topic change.

The fireground tactics and strategies of individual fire departments are not debated or challenged—nor should they be. The accoutrements fire departments choose and where they are mounted on their apparatus are solely their decision as it should be. Why they did so might be interesting to readers. However, more noteworthy is what, if any, regulatory standards were, could have been, or should have been followed.

TANKS AND NFPA 1900

Years ago, most apparatus manufacturers fabricated many of the major component parts on their apparatus in-house, including the water (booster) tank. With the acceptance of nonmetallic water tanks today, many apparatus manufacturers outsource tanks to manufacturers specializing in using the tank material chosen. Regardless of how important it is to end users whether tanks are built in-house or outsourced, the type of material used and the advantages or disadvantages are irrelevant for this discussion. Ascertaining the requirements for direct tank fills is.

Most queries about direct tank fills led back to National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 1900, *Standard for Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting Vehicles, Automotive Fire Apparatus, Wildland Fire Apparatus, and Automotive Ambulances*. The requirements of its Chapter 17 Fire Apparatus-Water Tanks (NFPA 1901/1906) and, in particular, Section 17.5.1-External Fill appear to be confusing and are ambiguous to me. More questions were raised than answers found.

Frustrating was trying to determine which portions of Chapter 17 were applicable to the various *types* of apparatus recognized by the standard. This was compounded by features found on the undefined but very popular tanker-pumpers and pumper-tankers, which NFPA 1900 does not recognize. There is no intent to disparage the NFPA for not addressing every concern and question raised herein. Perhaps no one has inquired previously.

ANNEX A

In the past, condemnatory comments have been made about the scope and amount of material in prior NFPA fire apparatus standards' appendices and annexes. NFPA 1900 (2024 ed.) is 375 pages long. The first 221 pages (57%) are the actual standard—all the mandatory provisions that must be followed. The last 43% are nonmandatory provisions, what the NFPA says "are not to be considered part of the requirements of a standard and shall be located in an appendix, annex, footnote, informational note, or other means as permitted in the NFPA manual of styles."

Annex A is part of that 43%, and it should not be underestimated—especially when addressing water tanks and direct tank fills. The statements on pages 268 and 269 do not require specific features; however, they put the onus of responsibility on the purchaser to at least consider them. Purchasers should be aware of the reasoning—usually safety-oriented—of features the NFPA deems important enough to mention if not actually required in the standard.

QUANDARY

A major impediment in researching direct tank fills was finding answers without relying on numerous personal perceptions of some NFPA 1900 requirements. *Perplexing is the fact that both tank and apparatus manufacturers can have proprietary criteria for tank construction, installation, and usage that could exceed or is not addressed by a regulatory standard.* Fire apparatus and component part manufacturers as well as end users are entitled to their own interpretations of NFPA 1900—as am I.

Space constraints preclude making inquiries of every fire apparatus manufacturer. Interviewing only the largest may be prejudicial to the many smaller builders. The opinions of builders that only manufacture two or three rigs a month or even a year are just as relevant as those that build two or three a day. Consequently, all interpretations of NFPA 1900 and opinions expressed herein are mine alone. They are not reflective of any apparatus manufacturer and are not skewed by sales and marketing viewpoints.

TANKER OR PUMPER

NFPA 1900 does not recognize a pumper-tanker or a tanker-pumper. NFPA 1900 Chapter 8 Fire Apparatus-Requirements by Type (NFPA 1901/1906) and its Table 8.1 identify the *types* of apparatus it recognizes. The aforementioned pumper-tankers and tanker-pumpers are not included. “Pumper Fire Apparatus” and “Mobile Water Supply Apparatus” are.

Apparatus designated “wildland” by NFPA 1900 are not included in this narration because they are not primarily intended for structural firefighting. Additionally, their construction has to meet unique terrain environs. However, with the fire service’s tendency for multitasking, they’ll probably have to be addressed in the future.

NFPA 1900 does not mandate an apparatus can only be—or must be—compliant as a single *type*. I see no reason a rig cannot be manufactured to meet the requirements of both a pumper and a tanker. Manufacturers advertise pumper-tankers and tanker-pumpers without specifying what NFPA *type* they meet. It is no different than defining what NFPA *type* apparatus a pumper-rescue or rescue-pumper meets. There is nothing in the standard saying apparatus can’t be built to be compliant with two types.

Specifying the *type* of apparatus the rig has to meet determines the requirements for any direct tank fills. Does the purchaser want a pumper with additional features found on a tanker? Or does the purchaser want a tanker with some desirable features of a pumper? Or, is it supposed to meet both? You are writing the specs!

LABELS

NFPA 1900 does not require labeling direct tank fills. At FDIC International, there was no consistency in the wording on direct tank fill labels on the apparatus that had them. That included the valve itself, valve on and off positions, and any maximum fill rates for direct tank fills in either inlet pressure in pounds per square inch (psi) or flow in gallons per minute (gpm).

I don’t know if the apparatus manufacturer or an outsourced tank manufacturer (if used) establishes the wording on labels or even if labels will be provided. My presumption is either can do it.

The Fire Apparatus Manufacturers’ Association (FAMA) has published a white paper, TC010, describing recommended safety signs for fire apparatus. Unless there has been a recent revision, it does not offer labels for direct tank fills. Purchasers who opt to establish their own fill rates and provide their own labels are advised to consult with the manufacturers—especially the one that will provide the warranty for the tank.

FLOWS AND PRESSURES

NFPA 1900 does not specify maximum direct tank fill rates in psi or gpm. At FDIC International, the rigs with labels on direct tank fills denoting flows and pressures were inconsistent. Some said do not exceed 100 psi. Some said do not exceed 1,000 gpm. Others specified both. And, some said nothing.

NFPA 1900’s only inference to 1,000 gpm in direct tank fills for tankers is in 17.5.1.1*, which states: “The external fill connection shall permit a minimum filling rate of 1,000 gpm (4,000 L/min) from sources external to the unit.” In addition, NFPA 1900 Annex A section A17.5.1.1 alludes that direct tank fills *on other than tankers should consider* a minimum fill rate of 1,000 gpm. I do not understand why a pumper with a 500- or even a 750-gallon tank would want to fill at more than 1,000 gpm.

Pumpers with direct tank fills could be a holdover from years past “*because that’s what our pumpers always had.*” Some departments’ protocols were and still could be to top off booster tanks prior to returning to quarters. There could be an aversion to filling the tank with a small amount of water from a hydrant through the pump. But, that’s the fire

department's business. It is unknown if each apparatus manufacturer or tank manufacturer has its own maximum pressure and flow criteria for direct tank fills. It is logical they do because NFPA 1900 does not.

VALVES AND PIPING

NFPA 1900 does not specify maximum valve and piping sizes for direct tank fills. The rigs photographed at FDIC International had valve and piping sizes ranging from 2.50 to 4 or 5 inches. Annex A Section A.17.4.1.4 states: **"An excessive flow rate when a tank is being filled could result in a pressure buildup in the tank that could cause permanent failure or damage."**

It is the purchaser's responsibility to inform the manufacturer what flow is expected through a direct tank fill. Why is this significant? Several rigs had dual direct tank fills. One had both valves labeled not to exceed 1,000 gpm. I don't know if it meant per valve or for both. Pumping 1,000 gpm into both at the same time might cause the fill tower to be air launched like a Polaris missile or— at the most—a catastrophic tank failure, damage to the apparatus body, and possible injuries. Noteworthy is Annex A section A.17.5.2, which states: "It is important that the purchaser evaluate how the apparatus will be used and define the locations and fittings for these outlets."

TRUST BUT VERIFY

I have no problem if the NFPA, the apparatus manufacturer, the tank manufacturer, or even the purchaser specifies maximum psi or gpm fill rates for a direct tank fill. It is a valid safety requirement. However, I find it unfathomable that means are not specified to verify the requirements. An intake pressure gauge could be provided at the direct tank fill valve control, especially if the pump or pumper supplying the external water source is not in a direct line of sight of the direct tank fill valve.

OBSERVATIONS AND QUESTIONS

- About 30% of the rear direct tank fills photographed at FDIC International were piped for LDH. Some were piped with 2.50-inch valves. Others had 3-inch valves reduced to 2.50-inch.
- Most tanker direct tank fills were accessible from ground level. The rear discharges on many pumper-tankers were not accessible from ground level.
- It appeared some departments specified tankers with some desirable features of a pumper while some specified pumpers with some desirable features of a tanker.
- Rear steps were generally deeper on tankers than on pumpers albeit most likely to protect the rear dump valves with directional chutes.
- An expectation is all pump operators are well trained and know how to pump into a direct tank fill line. Have they been taught so?
- NFPA 1900 mandates the valve and pipe sizes for tank-to-pump and pump-to-tank lines. Should they do the same for direct tank fills?
- NFPA 1900 mandates the sizes of tank-fill and tank-to-pump connections on structural apparatus equipped with pumps and tanks. Should they do the same for direct tank fills?
- How can you tell what's being pumped into a tank's direct tank fill at a fill site where the source might range from a couple portable pumps to a 2,000-gpm rig pumping one or two LDH lines?
- It is imperative the apparatus and tank manufacturer know the anticipated fill rate expected from each direct tank fill connection to ensure proper baffling and venting is supplied.
- When writing specifications in-house, apparatus purchasing committee members' individual whims and desires may result in a rig that may not meet NFPA standards or cannot physically be built.
- Be fair to the apparatus manufacturers. Purchasing specifications should denote the NFPA *type* or *types* of apparatus the finished rig must comply with.
- When designing a pumper-tanker or a tanker with a direct tank fill, it is recommended purchasers ensure what they're specifying is compatible with local mutual aid and mutual assistance departments as well as with statewide and regional formal mutual aid pacts.
- It does not appear any of these apparatus were in service prior to FDIC International. Consequently, externally mounted valves and labels may be installed by the local dealer or fire department prior to being placed in service.

NYS Paramedic Facing Disciplinary Charges from State, Asserts Right to a Jury Trial

Curt Varone

A New York State paramedic who is facing revocation of his EMT/Paramedic license from the New York State Department of Health has filed a suit in state court seeking to block the state's ability to impose discipline without a jury trial. Justin Ball filed suit yesterday in Schoharie County Supreme Court naming the NY State Department of Health and the NY State Attorney General as defendants.

Ball is accused of negligently treating (or failing to treat) a patient and for abusing the patient while working for the Town of Catskill. The events were caught by doorbell and security cams that went viral on social media. [Here is our earlier coverage.](#)

According to the complaint, Ball claims that based on recent case law from the US Supreme Court, he has the right to have his disciplinary hearing held in a real court with a real judge, a jury to do the fact finding, use of the standard rules of evidence, and the same burden of proof utilized in civil cases, none of which happens when the state seeks to discipline EMS personnel.

If decided in the paramedic's favor, this would remove the ability of the NY State Department of Health to discipline emergency medical technicians utilizing administrative law judges/hearing officers. These hearing officers currently conduct proceedings without regard to the rules of evidence, under a very low burden of proof. This could result in a landmark decision that would limit the ability of the state to discipline its licensed providers without a constitutionally guaranteed right to a jury trial.

The suit is premised on a recent US Supreme Court decision, *Securities and Exchange Commission v. Jarkesy*, decided on June 27, 2024. [Here is a link](#) to the case. In that ruling the Court held that when a federal administrative agency seeks to impose a civil penalty or fine upon an accused individual, and the charges against the accused individual resemble the claims that could be brought by a regular citizen in a trial court, that the US Constitution's Seventh Amendment guarantees a right to a jury trial. Ball argues that the NY State Constitution similarly guarantees a right to a jury trial under the same circumstances.

If Ball is successful, this ruling would upend state administrative disciplinary proceedings in numerous state agencies in New York State, not limited to New York State's OSHA (PESH), the Division of Human Rights, and several other agencies. It could also impact similar disciplinary systems in other states.

STEP INTO THE CHIEF'S OFFICE

****Command Hacks For Volunteer Fire Departments**

Jason Caughey

Over the past century, incident command has evolved through our lived experiences and the expansion of modern firefighting tactics and equipment. As fire service equipment improved, interior operations extended deeper into structures, which impacted operational control of the fireground.

By the 1970s, after a significant outbreak of wildfires in California, FIRESCOPE was developed to address the increased span of control and the number of units operating on very large events. FIRESCOPE was a moment of change for the fire service and is the foundation for today's incident command system.

After 9/11, the U.S. Fire Administration recognized the need for a national incident command system and developed the National Incident Management System (NIMS). Most states require NIMS 100, 200 and 700 to be completed by all firefighters. And while NIMS is a good starting point for developing local command systems, it is still geared toward multi-operational period events. What about our many smaller, everyday incidents that still require command?

Furthermore, with the long history of incident command in the fire service, why do we continue to see issues of command, communications and modern fire tactics show up as major contributing factors in NIOSH firefighter line-of-duty death reports? Even today, some organizations lack a standardized fireground operations system that includes a command officer. And for many volunteer fire departments, the command function becomes even more challenging due to a lack of responders. Here we'll review four key command hacks that can elevate incident command for any VFD.

HACK 1: DEVELOP A CONSISTENT COMMAND FUNCTION

The command function for many volunteer fire departments falls on senior officers, even the fire chief. In fact, for many organizations, the command function is not filled until the chief gets on scene.

This is hack #1: Develop a consistent command function for every event regardless of the type or size of the incident.

If you are hosting a spaghetti feed, build a command structure. If you are responding to a motor vehicle incident, build a command structure. Create an uneasy feeling for your members when command is not present; this will reinforce the need for command.

I often hear, "But we don't have enough people responding to designate a command person." I would argue that this sole excuse is the number one reason why it is even more critical to fill the command function on the front end of an incident.

Taking this hack one step further, it's critical to create a training system to study and practice the command function. Emphasize the command function during training and always assign a command officer. Again, creating a culture that emphasizes utilizing the command officer is critical. By employing the command function for training, and even social events, your members get to practice radio communications and working within a structured system. By building a command system, the organization becomes safer and more efficient with limited staffing and, in turn, can become more aggressive to better serve the customer.

HACK 2: DEVELOP STANDARDIZED RESPONSES

For many volunteer organizations, the number of responders (even apparatus available to responders) varies by the time of day, day of the week or other factors out of our control. Add the increased challenge of recruitment and retention, and daily response becomes a guessing game of who or what will respond. This makes it critical to develop standardized tactical plays that identify what apparatus are needed, how you respond, how you communicate and how you manage mutual or auto aid partners.

Let's break this down. What types of incidents do you respond to in your community? Structure fire with hydrants? Structure fires without hydrants? This simple difference of having water supply or not impacts the response plan. Build your response plan to meet your community's needs and the capability of your membership. As you build your local response, make sure to document it, then share it and train on it.

Additionally, it's vital to develop, train and reinforce a common communication plan that includes initial scene size-up, transfer of command, expansion of command to include additional command functions, and common fireground terminology and means to communicate. Scene size-ups must be practiced and consistent regardless of who arrives first. Build a step-by-step flow chart system to reinforce consistency in your size-ups. Next, identify how to transfer command from the initial member to a designated command officer, plus how to expand the command system to have pre-identified radio channels for divisions or groups. Also, ensure that your system uses common terminology for all events so everyone is on the same page when they hear radio communications.

The final piece standardizing your response is to develop common fireground tactics or plays. Just like a football coach calls a play and the players know how to run the play, a command officer calls a play and the firefighters go into action to run the play. Again, this is local and must be developed based on what you bring to the scene. We utilize a play system that features multiple structure fire plays, wildland attack plays, water supply plays, and vehicle extrication plays. The plays become the foundation for much of our training, but more importantly, they build confidence, efficiency and effectiveness on the fireground.

HACK 3: BUILD MUTUAL-AID/AUTOMATIC-AID PARTNERSHIPS

With the continued lack of resources for many volunteer departments, the need for mutual aid and automatic aid is imperative. Who do you call? What's the process for requesting additional resources? These are extremely common challenges of volunteer command officers.

We use two systems to help with mutual and auto aid:

1. **Red Book:** This resource consists of every organization in our county and what resources they have. It includes contact information and a list of addition specialty resources. This is a vital tool for our command officers.
2. **Field Operations Guide:** Over the last 10 years, we have worked to build response alarms for specific incident types and geographic locations. The "Alarms" create an automatic response structure to include our neighbors. This provides faster aid to incidents and frees up the command officer to focus on other priorities. The FOG includes rules for engagement, expectations, communication practices, staging rules and special information for those unique events like

hazmat, rope rescue or animal rescue calls. By creating a countywide FOG, we are developing better, more seamless operations with our mutual-aid partners. The FOG becomes a vital tool for command officers.

HACK 4: RUN COMMAND WITH CONFIDENCE

You're in command – now what? Here are a few lessons that have helped me over the years:

- Breathe. Taking command of an incident can be overwhelming, so remember to breathe and stay calm.
- Stay in the vehicle. There is a natural instinct to get out of the vehicle and become too hands on during an incident. Try to stay in – or at – the vehicle.
- Trust your people.
- Position yourself strategically to monitor the incident.
- Utilize your dispatch center for assistance.
- Have multiple radios, and assign a fireground channel.
- Have a notepad to track resources. Technology can help with the use of mobile data units or tablets, but I still find myself using a notepad.
- Remember that you are not responsible for what initiated the incident (you didn't start the fire), but you are responsible for what happens once you arrive, so stay in control of your emotions.
- Call for additional resources early; you can always cancel them.
- Don't let your ego impact your command presence or decision-making.

IN SUM

Command is essential and must be developed, trained on and continually reinforced in both training and real-world events. If your organization is truly committed to serving your citizens with aggressive fireground operations, then the command function must be trained on to the same level as we train on hose movement, ladder work or any other fireground skill.

Remember, the command function is not synonymous with fire chief! Train *all* your members on the basic eight functions of command. Use the command function for every event. Build a command system that you train on with your mutual-aid partners. Create a true fireground system that is predictable during an unpredictable incident

OUR CHANGING FIRE SERVICE –CHALLENGES & POSITIVE IDEAS!

POSITIVE OUTCOMES

Documentary on Plight of U.S. Volunteer Fire Departments Makes Public Broadcasting Debut

A recent documentary that shone a spotlight on the struggles of the nation's volunteer firefighters and even spurred state legislative action on the matter made its public broadcasting debut in September.

Sub-Genre Media's "Odd Hours, No Pay, Cool Hat," a Vignette Production and Hold Fast Features Project from filmmaking co-directing team Gary Matoso and Cameron Zohoori, aired nationally on PBS stations. In October, that will expand to more than 200 stations, with more than 500 air dates including the top 10 markets.

Since its North American-wide release in 2023, the film directly influenced Maryland's state governor to change legislation that allows for non-social security holding EMTs to become fully licensed. This allows those persons to advance their careers as full-time professionals.

Furthermore, the film made a significant impact nationwide, with 50% of the nearly 300 fire departments who screened the film during recruitment events enlisting new volunteer firefighters or receiving strong inquiries. The National Volunteer Fire Council experienced a 41% increase in volunteer inquiry submissions during the film's release. The film also helped volunteer fire stations increase donations, with one station receiving a \$350,000 grant from Maryland legislation to fund their new heavy rescue squad.

An original story by Peter Yoakum, "Odd Hours, No Pay, Cool Hat" takes audiences behind the lines of America's volunteer fire service community. The film is a tribute to the nearly 700,000 volunteer firefighters around the country,

highlighting their selfless bravery, compassion, motivation, and unfaltering sense of community. The film is presented by John Deere in association with the National Volunteer Fire Council, Hold Fast Features, and Vignette.

“It was important for us to release Odd Hours across public media,” says Sub-Genre distribution executive Jordana Meade. “Now millions of Americans across the country will have access to Odd Hours’ captivating story of community and extraordinary bravery when the country needs it most.”

The “Odd Hours, No Pay, Cool Hat” filmmaking team is led by Co-Director, DP & Producer Gary Matoso, Co-Director & Editor Cameron Zohoori, Executive Producer Peter Yoakum, Casting Director and Associate Producer Louise Colette Matoso, and Composer Dillon Byron.

To follow the film and its journey and find your location station listings: www.oddhoursfilm.com

Fresno, CA, Thrift Shop Benefits EMS Crews

Bethany Clough

Lululemon shorts. Vintage lamps. Handmade cards.

Buying any of these things can help out the worker who shows up in an ambulance if you ever have to call one.

That’s because a new store in northwest Fresno, Resuscitated marketplace and thrift boutique, is run by a nonprofit organization that benefits Emergency Medical Services workers.

At Palm and Bullard avenues, Resuscitated is between Ovidio Ristorante Italiano and the newly opened RappitUp! (It’s in the space once occupied by Ammons Design and Home Decor, which moved to 7089 N. Marks Ave.)

It was started by Kim Damico — and a couple of partners — after she spent a 34-year career in the private-sector emergency services field.

EMS workers, including paramedics, emergency medical technicians and dispatchers, respond to some of the worst tragedies people face in their lives after someone calls 911. They may be car accidents, shootings, plane crashes, catastrophic injuries and more.

“It’s every trauma and every tragedy you can imagine,” Damico said.

EMS WORKERS

The EMS workers employed by private companies don’t always have the same benefits as some of their first-responder counterparts such as firefighters and police officers employed by government agencies, she said.

“We have to focus on these folks that are private sector, because these are the ones that are showing up at your door,” she said. “It’s a community that needs a little extra, that gets overlooked.”

She started a nonprofit organization, Paramedic Resilience Society, that runs the store. It has more than 20 vendors selling antiques, vintage, handmade and new items. A percentage of their sales goes to the nonprofit. And part of the shop is also a thrift store, where an even bigger percentage goes toward the cause.

EMS workers may have a 401(k) and not a pension like firefighters would. EMTs and paramedics working at private companies generally get less sick and vacation time than their government counterparts, and are less likely to be unionized in the Fresno area, said Shelli Alaniz, EMS education coordinator for the Fresno County Paramedic Program. Damico has worked in EMS all over the state and her sick time usually averaged about four days a year, she said.

A recent California law that went into effect in January mandated that healthcare workers be paid at least \$23, and eventually \$25 by 2026. The law does not apply to most EMT and ambulance workers employed by a private company.

Pay rates vary, but many EMS jobs in Fresno pay between about \$14 and \$18 an hour, according to ZipRecruiter salary information. Higher-trained paramedics make more. Many will go on to become firefighters and police officers.

“They are kinda like the forgotten first responders,” said Alaniz said of the EMS workers.

Resuscitated is a way to help out. Damico has been doing that for years, selling pulled pork sandwiches to raise money for co-workers with serious medical issues, or for families of co-workers who died or were injured. She hosted an appreciation dinner for ambulance workers in Tulare.

“I think it’s important that they have a safety net,” she said. “If they’re falling on hard times, I’d love to be able to pay an electric bill.”

Her first goal is fund some scholarships for EMS training.

RESUSCITATED THE STORE

The store is still getting on its feet. It doesn't even have a sign or a website yet. The sign costs about \$7,000 and they're looking for someone willing to donate one or the money for it.

The store is also accepting monetary gifts and donations of lightly used clothing and other items for the thrift portion of the store, said Laura McAtee, one of the other partners in the store.

Part of the mission is also acknowledging the impact the job has on mental health. Damico was in a dark place when she left the field.

Retail therapy — shopping — made her feel better and she eventually started selling the treasures she found at resale shops. That inspired the creation of the store.

Damico still tears up when talking about the things she's seen in the profession.

"We see the worst of the worst," she said. "To speak of that is difficult. Obviously, I still struggle."

But a little community is forming around the store, McAtee said.

"It's all coming together," she said. "Everybody wants to help."

****West Virginia Junior Firefighter Camp Brings Teens from 14 States**

Mark Lambert

Over 130 teenagers from more than a dozen states attended the 17th Annual West Virginia University (WVU) National Junior Firefighter Camp this past summer.

"Look, the second- and third-year campers are walking across the bay to show the first years about their gear and proper formation," an instructor said to his group. "It was on their own initiative."

"That is beautiful," senior instructor and Huntington, WV, Deputy Chief Brian Grieco responded.

Every year since 2006 (with exception of 2020-2021, due to COVID-19) a group of state fire training instructors and staff have volunteered their time and energy to give these 14- to 17-year-old campers a taste of the fire and emergency medical services. These instructors display passion and expertise as they teach the various aspects of the fire service, including various rescue disciplines, CPR, fireground search, fire attack, and other basic skills. Students are able to learn on many different types of equipment and apparatus including multiple aerials.

The West Virginia State Fire Training Academy is located in Weston, WV, an area that is centrally located in the state and it has one clear advantage over many other state academies. It is located on West Virginia University property, right next to the WVU Jacksons Mill State 4-H Camp which is the first statewide 4-H camp in the United States with a capacity to shelter and feed approximately 350 teenagers and adults.

The camp was the result of a happy hour discussion about the dwindling number of volunteer and career firefighters in West Virginia, and across the U.S. way back in 2005. It was envisioned to attract youngsters that were already in junior firefighter programs but has expanded to include kids with interest in the fire service and no formal affiliations. The camp averages around 130 campers, 35 percent of which are female.

The instructors and staffers come from across West Virginia, Kentucky, Maryland, Virginia, Pennsylvania and Ohio and many take a week of their yearly vacation to come to this camp.

Due to the success and longevity of the program, some of the staff and instructors are former campers that have made careers in the field. These returning firefighters show the true impact of this camp: providing knowledge to the next generation as they want to give back to something that provided experience and excitement for themselves.

In years past, campers have come from all over the United States and the best means to attract new campers is the end-of-camp video being posted to YouTube and [Facebook](#).

One camper came for four years from Colorado, another was there for two years from Puerto Rico. It is routine to get campers from the states that surround West Virginia, but not unusual to have them from states such as Louisiana, Maine, New Jersey, New York, and Texas.

Prior to the 2024 camp, YouTube videos and word of mouth were the main advertising. This year the camp also advertised on Facebook and Instagram. The camp has yet to have any international campers, but we would welcome them just the same.

This year's campers were from up and down the East Coast, from Maine to Florida and as far west as Texas and Colorado.

National Junior Firefighter Camp is not your normal summer camp. These campers are engaged for 10-12 hours a day over the six days and five nights. They are up at 6 a.m. with lights out by 11 p.m. Campers are only allowed to have their phones for a brief amount of time in the evenings to text and call parents or friends.

Over the course of the week the campers are given a taste of the various aspects of the fire service. All of this is accomplished with safety as a priority and no camper is being exposed to an IDLH atmosphere. They are not made to do any drill they feel uncomfortable with - they are encouraged but not forced.

We have not found a camp like it anywhere else in the U.S.

Deputy U.S. Fire Administrator Tonya Hoover first visited the camp in 2023 and returned this year with National Fire Academy Superintendent Eriks Gabliks. They both spoke of the importance of training and education and how these campers are the firefighters of the future.

"The National Junior Firefighter Camp is incredibly unique and provides an unparalleled opportunity for our youth to learn about what it takes to be a firefighter. I have long advocated for resources to our fire departments as a member, and former chairman, of the Homeland Security Appropriations Subcommittee, and will continue to make certain they have the support needed to do their job safely," Senator Shelley Moore Capito said.

Next year's camp will be June 14-19. Registration will open on the [WVU Fire Service Extension website](#) by Jan. 1, 2025.

FIRE SERVICE CHALLENGES

****Oklahoma State Firefighters Association Bans Energy Drinks At Training Sites**

The Oklahoma State Firefighters Association is banning energy drinks at any and all class sites where there is hands-on training. "With the trend of energy drinks, we've seen that some firefighters are drinking a four pack of Red Bull before lunchtime," said Sheri Nickel, Deputy Director for the association. Firefighters who have graduated from school might be able to get away with that, but now it's a different story for students in training. **Nickel says trainees seen with or are drinking an energy drink of any kind are not allowed to participate in hands on training or hot class.** Nickel says the changes come after a pair of recent deaths. **"The chairman of our NVFC (National Volunteer Fire Council) is from Kansas, and there have been two recent line of duty deaths in Kansas of firefighters, and they're attributing their deaths to energy drinks," she said.**

DeSoto, AL, Fire Chief Arrested for DWI after Crash

The DeSoto Parish fire chief was arrested after his vehicle crashed into a fire hydrant. Chief Mark Magee was driving the department's 2022 Ford F-250 south on a highway when he lost control, causing it to veer off the road and struck the hydrant, KTAL reported.

Troopers reportedly detected the odor of an alcoholic beverage coming from Magee. A blood alcohol test was sent for analysis. He was charged with driving while intoxicated first offense and careless operation.

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

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

REGISTER HERE:

https://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001QZWPfjYZRP6tAYnVrgg36Z_YE6vp89dymWfQQD1d7q4ZRwVDbNdE8ByVmF5_856f_UrB-yGihYJigwEPzCbQfCVeEoEALHRXrk_M-dbDWBYRtKiko1vLice_oi1AFseMKfN01xTmCmizyMWYur-39p1T1V2_yChO2C2F1_fJn94LviwwZ3Aag==&c=AmhECQ6uFruSlwrKRKspNlivi3NWEIzhZorf3KrfnFnuIs83Dp1Q1JdQ==&ch=AqMwftSnQsSioIdoQJ-cfc_GyhBFLqV23YaEp7HU-kR9WoEr9kSg==

7:00pm **STARTING TIME**

Rensselaer (Tuesday, October 29)



NYS AFC Hands on Series

FIRE BEHAVIOR ON THE INSIDE

• **Schenectady County – October 19-20**, East Glenville Fire District #3 **REGISTRATION:**

<https://www.nysfirechiefs.com/firebehavior>



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) • Jefferson (October 1) • Monroe (November 5) • Oneida (October 23) • Rensselaer (October 29)

REGISTRATION:

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

Pre-registration encouraged!

REGISTER AT THIS LINK:

https://ygc8ha5ab.cc.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001kuqLgpLbccSUrlvWbOM--WOyxcGN33wsn9CB40zBMzH5JRQ8kdAu-U9rcq0HazSAzEMaxVMNEpSigloNLWx_FYDCKrLQIQfAwRv9fZGoCA39a8F854FdGooPPW5nhlimiwcY_z-Ppvs9xlbWg4t2soeB2xbgSHSWBkR3FQNgfUCMou6eD6ReaQ==&c=6nGkXVEGAjcnabshBE8sbLM6Gn8YA1sFFRufb2MsKAKCEPvxSmObRg==&ch=ZrLEy5qUdq74vNpCsQnMdYy3z1L5PpLyYSA1u3R47oxFRQnYmdcSRQ==

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

VFIS TRAINING AND RESOURCE CATALOG 2023

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

VFIS UNIVERSITY – USERS GUIDE

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

VFIS TRAINING OFFICER USERS GUIDE

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

VFIS RESPONDER HELP FLYER

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

FF HEALTH AND SAFETY – TAKING CARE OF OUR MEMBERS!

*IN 2024 WE HAVE EXPERIENCED **43** 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!

- On Monday, September 23, 2024, West Sacramento CA Fire Engineer Timothy Hall suffered a medical emergency during a fire department training exercise. He was immediately transported to the hospital where he was pronounced deceased. Fire Engineer Hall was also a volunteer member of the Clarksburg Fire Protection District.
- Blackshear GA., Firefighter Leon Davis was clearing up from a call of downed trees and power lines when the a tree fell onto the cab of a city truck killing him.
- In rural Saluda County, SC, two volunteer firefighters also were killed in a traffic related incident while responding to a hurricane-related incident.

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	44
Last fire death 9/22 Kent, Putnam Co., Male 72.	
Fire Deaths in any type of Dwelling in NYS	83
Fire Deaths in 1&2 Family Dwellings Nationally	899
Top 3 States with the greatest 1&2 Family Deaths	#1 PA/72
	#2 TX/59
	#3 CA/51
There has been a total of 1463 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 39 of 2024, fire has claimed on an average 37 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

San Diego (CA) Battalion Chief Weighs In on Lithium-Ion Battery Risks

Karen Kucher The San Diego Union-Tribune

Rob Rezende was heading home from a hazmat conference in Sacramento when people started texting him about a lithium-ion battery fire in Escondido.

Before his plane took off, he watched drone footage on his phone showing smoke and flames erupting from a container at the SDG&E energy storage facility on Sept. 5.

This was the second battery storage facility fire in San Diego County since Rezende became the region's alternative energy emergency response coordinator in April. It is a role carved out especially for him as fires involving lithium-ion batteries grow more common, locally and elsewhere.

Rezende, a battalion chief with San Diego Fire-Rescue and a 17-year department veteran, is a nationally recognized expert in lithium-ion battery fires. In his new role, other agencies like Escondido can call on him to look at their fire response.

"I don't show up at these incidents to question the incident commander or to take over, I just come there to be a technical adviser," said Rezende, who headed straight to Escondido after landing.

Crews were letting the fire burn out while sending water streams to cool down a nearby container. Nearby businesses were evacuated as air quality was tested. The incident was over in 12 hours. "They knew what they were doing," said Rezende.

Battery fires are notoriously difficult to put out because they include so many types of combustibles — plastics, flammable liquids, electrical components and metal. They burn extremely hot and can spew toxic fumes and explosive gases. Exploding batteries can blow out windows or doors of a home.

In late 2022, crews fighting a warehouse fire where pedicabs and lithium-ion batteries were stored in the East Village thought they were being shot at because of the noise from exploding batteries sending material into the building's metal walls.

Firefighters say applying water won't extinguish the fires — and can create other problems with runoff and gases — so they often choose to let them burn themselves out.

"The chemical reaction that's happening in the batteries cannot be extinguished," Rezende said. Crews applying water are trying to prevent the next battery from going into thermal runaway, known as propagation, he said.

In recent years, firefighters in San Diego and elsewhere began seeing more fires involving lithium-ion batteries, but there wasn't clear direction on how to handle them. Recognizing that no one was knowledgeable about the issue, Rezende — then the hazmat program manager — immersed himself in the topic. He traveled to conferences in the U.S. and abroad, meeting experts in the private and public sectors. He helped figure out best practices and pushed the training out to local agencies.

He became so busy with that work, fire officials agreed he should hand off his hazmat manager role and focus on lithium-ion battery fires and other alternative energy technologies full-time.

"It was just consuming so much of his time," newly retired Fire-Rescue Chief Colin Stowell recalled. "He's very smart and he had a lot of passion for it and he was trying to assist everybody he could, but it was just overwhelming."

At Stowell's urging, Rezende secured an Urban Area Security Initiative grant which funds the job as a regional resource. **He now focuses on batteries and other alternative energy sources such as hydrogen fuel cells and alternative fuel vehicles.** The rapidly changing technology brings new and unexpected challenges to fire crews figuring out the safest and most effective way to tackle fires.

"California is leading the way on alternative energy so we are going to be the state seeing the most and the fastest and the soonest," Rezende said.

HELPING OUT AFTER THE MAUI FIRES

Even before he took his regional role, Rezende was viewed as a national expert on the topic. **He was asked to consult with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in the aftermath of the devastating wildfires on the Hawaiian island of Maui in August 2023 that killed more than 100 people.**

The team figured out what to do with all the batteries found in burned-out electric vehicles and homes in and around Lahaina. They used a liquid solution containing salt to de-energize the batteries so they could be safely transported for recycling. In all, batteries from 94 electric and hybrid vehicles and 274 residential energy-storage systems were shipped to a processing facility in Reno, Nev.

Back in San Diego, Rezende had only been in his new job a few weeks when a fire broke out May 15 at the 250-megawatt Gateway Energy Storage in Otay Mesa. A fire ignited in one of seven buildings where racks of lithium-ion batteries are stored.

Crews sprayed millions of gallons of water onto the building. Officials initially thought it was out the next evening, but the batteries kept reigniting. It took 17 days before crews were released from the fire.

Fire officials said the lithium-ion batteries experienced “thermal runaway” — a condition in which excessive heat results in a chemical reaction that spreads to other batteries.

When responding to a fire involving batteries, Rezende said an incident commander will look at several factors, including the location of the fire and the risk to public safety, before choosing whether to fight it defensively or offensively. **“Either we flood it with water and do the best that we can to cool it. Or we let it self-consume — consume all the fuel and then it kind of self-extinguishes,”** he said.

EARLY CAREER GOALS DIDN'T INCLUDE FIREFIGHTING

Rezende didn't grow up wanting to be a firefighter.

The son of a Brazilian diplomat, he was born in Los Angeles and moved to Brazil with his family before returning to the U.S. when he was 12.

Tall and athletic, he initially wanted to be a fitness trainer for a pro soccer team and earned master's degrees in exercise physiology and nutritional sciences at San Diego State University. Armed with two graduate degrees, he briefly considered pursuing a doctorate before deciding instead to work as an exercise physiologist in the Fire Department's wellness program. He eventually opted to make the fire service a career and graduated from the academy in 2007.

In his new job, he's a frequent speaker at conferences and meets with elected leaders and fire officials around the region as they consider energy storage facilities in their jurisdictions. Rezende said he will ensure training keeps up with emerging technologies, and he's **pushing for departments to better track fires that involve lithium-ion batteries.** The city of San Diego had 104 fires involving lithium batteries in 2023 and 63 this year as of late August.

The city has put out public service announcements warning residents not to leave e-bikes unattended while charging them. The city also urges residents to use cords and power adapters provided by the manufacturer and to be aware of signs a battery is failing, such as overheating or emitting an odd odor.

Rezende would also like to see better options for residents looking to discard old or damaged lithium-ion batteries, which cannot be tossed into municipal trash because of the risk of sparking a fire or causing explosions in trash trucks or landfills. The city's hazmat team has helped test prototypes of battery disposal containers, which Rezende envisions one day could be placed at drop-off locations at some city facilities. The team also is working with a UCLA researcher who is measuring contaminants on firefighter gear from battery fires — and who is trying to find the best way to clean them.

“My top priority is keeping my guys safe,” he said. “If we can protect the firefighters, we can protect the public.”

As for the future, Rezende would like to see an outreach program in high schools to educate teens about how to use and store batteries safely and provide warnings about the danger of altering e-bikes and e-scooters to go faster.

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!!

I got myself a seniors' GPS
Not only does it tell me how to get to my destination,
It also tells me why I wanted to go there!

DID YOU EVER WONDER ABOUT?

Smoke Detectors: From Early Concepts To Modern Technology

Rachel Engel

The idea of detecting smoke as a sign of fire has deep roots. The first known device to detect fire was created by Francis Robbins Upton in 1890, but it was far from the smoke detectors we know today. These first heat detectors often failed to detect fires early enough to provide ample warning.

The birth of modern smoke detectors traces back to the 1930s, when Swiss physicist Walter Jaeger accidentally discovered the principles behind ionization-based smoke detection. Jaeger was attempting to create a sensor for poison gas but during experimentation noticed that the device was registering his cigarette smoke. This unintended discovery laid the groundwork for the ionization chamber smoke detector, though it would take decades before the technology became viable for widespread use.

IONIZATION AND PHOTOELECTRIC DETECTORS

By the 1960s, technological advancements allowed for the production of the first commercial smoke detectors. The two main types developed were **ionization smoke detectors** and **photoelectric smoke detectors**, each based on different principles:

1. **Ionization smoke detectors** were born directly from Jaeger's discovery. These detectors contain a small amount of a radioactive substance (typically americium-241) placed between two electrically charged plates. When smoke enters the chamber, it disrupts the ionized air, reducing the flow of electricity, and triggers the alarm. Ionization detectors are particularly good at sensing fast-burning, flaming fires.
2. **Photoelectric smoke detectors**, on the other hand, use a light source (usually a laser or LED) and a light-sensitive sensor positioned at an angle. When smoke enters the chamber, it scatters the light, which hits the sensor and triggers the alarm. Photoelectric detectors are generally more sensitive to smoldering fires, which can produce large amounts of smoke before flames are evident.

|  **Did you know?** Ionization smoke detectors contain americium-241, a radioactive element that can release alpha particles. However, the amount is so small that it poses no threat to people.

FROM INDUSTRIAL TO RESIDENTIAL USE

While these early smoke detectors were groundbreaking, they were still expensive and mostly used in commercial and industrial settings. The game changer came in 1969 when **Duane D. Pearsall**, an American engineer, developed the first **battery-powered smoke detector** suitable for residential use. Pearsall's model – the "SmokeGard 700" – was far more affordable and easier to install than previous systems. His invention quickly gained traction in the residential market, especially after the 1970s saw a wave of fire safety legislation across the country.

By the mid-1970s, residential smoke detectors became more affordable, and building codes began to require them in new homes. In 1973, the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) introduced NFPA 74, which recommended installing smoke detectors in all homes. Just three years later, the organization approved NFPA 101, which stated "smoke alarms are required" in all homes.

By 1980, 50% of homes in the U.S. were equipped with at least one device, jumping to 75% by 1984.

Today, smoke detectors are considered essential, saving countless lives worldwide.

LIFE-SAVING IMPACT

The use of smoke detectors over the decades has been invaluable in preventing fatalities and property loss due to fire. Studies show that people are twice as likely to die in a home fire without working smoke detectors. **According to the NFPA, three out of every five home fire deaths happen in homes without functioning smoke detectors.** In

particular, the rapid spread of ionization detectors in the 1970s was credited with a significant decline in residential fire deaths.

The importance of smoke detectors has been highlighted in numerous tragic events. For instance, after a fire at the Beverly Hills Supper Club in Kentucky in 1977, which killed 165 people, authorities investigated ways to improve fire safety in large venues. Widespread installation of smoke detectors became a key component of new fire codes after that event.

TODAY'S MODERN SMOKE DETECTOR

Today's smoke detectors have evolved far beyond their initial designs. Combination smoke detectors, which feature both ionization and photoelectric sensors, offer increased protection by detecting multiple types of fires. In addition, modern systems can include carbon monoxide detectors, further enhancing safety.

With the rise of smart home technology, smoke detectors have also become more advanced. Smart smoke detectors can alert homeowners through their smartphones in real time and can be integrated into broader home automation systems, allowing people to monitor their home's safety from anywhere in the world.

The journey of smoke detectors from their humble beginnings to modern, smart devices has played a vital role in fire safety. Their widespread use has undoubtedly saved millions of lives and continues to be a cornerstone of fire prevention efforts. As technology advances, we can expect even more sophisticated ways of detecting and preventing fires, but the legacy of the humble smoke detector remains as a life-saving device.

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The Capital Area Association represents any fire district that wishes to join CAFDA. Fire District Officials include Commissioners,

Treasurers, and Deputy Treasurers. Secretaries and Chiefs are also invited to participate!

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

CAFDA PO Box 242 East Schodack, NY 12063

[EMAIL TREASURER: TREASURER@CAFDA.NET](mailto:EMAIL_TREASURER:TREASURER@CAFDA.NET)

518-407-5020

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

Long Way to Travel Zoom into the General Membership Meetings!

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

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

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

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

[Vital Statistics on the State Association Regions – the break out is on our web site.](#)

CAPITAL AREA BUSINESS PARTNER'S

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.

LEGAL SERVICES



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The Capital Bulletin is reaching well over 400+ fire district members and now other members of the fire service on a regular basis. Since the Capital Area Association covers an area the size of Connecticut it is difficult to meet in person to exchange information and ideas. This is a service of the Capital Area Association through the effort of Tom Rinaldi who can be reached at tom@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!
AUGUST NO MEETING				
Thursday, September 11, 2025	7:00 PM	General Membership Mtg.	Clifton Park	
Wednesday, October 8, 2025	7:00 PM	General Membership Mtg.	Clifton Park	Officers/Director Nominations
Saturday, November 1, 2025	8:00 AM	Fall Workshop	Verdoy	5 Saturdays in November
Saturday, November 8, 2025				
Thursday, November 13, 2025	7:00 PM	General Membership Mtg.	Clifton Park	Officer/Director Elections
DECEMBER NO MEETING				
2026				
Saturday, January 3, 2026	9:00 AM	General Membership Mtg.	Clifton Park	Organizational/Morning Meeting

OSHA INFORMATION SUPPLEMENT

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.**

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.voterveice.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=GpBvzoA6h0mmhZ1NlvHxgMQsVuNB08VPk33J3ZMRGTZUMEpOMDIiWjFSMVRGNEIKRzZTIIxOVFBTi4u>

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



Illinois Fire Districts.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-2024-02-05/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>

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

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

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 the 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 it's 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." T
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 movement 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](https://www.osha.gov/stateplans): 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-Ax7THBUrMdNSMphNIFi1WWWXRzYxdUshoNVzVUkCq2FlvoxhE-Ayblw8OnamiN0BiBpzyC-pPzLiiYEvhxQ9sAxH0UIN-rMeW-UojESKwKkPDdMRzXK8VXBP-Sh4YQDWc0PJekSA9BGQCOh6lo AGJ2vqw1b4iSBqWLS=&c=LauWWHLcf9ha42GymhqekGbW4yikuTH862UfuVJahY7fFHeGI qUJw==&ch=IefmM7sGv75CYvgpTK9dENyqA1Rv5PwzXZ1xkZP-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, accept for Chapter 8 which includes procedures for washing and drying protective equipment.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

- 22 additional referenced technical standards

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

Standard on Personal Alert Safety Systems

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

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

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

This standard applies to the manufacturer of PASS devices.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Standard on Respiratory Protection Equipment for Tactical and Technical Operations

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

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

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

Standard on Combination Unit Respirator Systems for Tactical and Technical Operations

- 71 additional referenced technical standards

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

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

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

Standard for Protective Ensembles for Hazardous Materials and CBRN Operations

- 59 additional reference technical standards

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

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

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

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

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

Standard on Protective Clothing and Ensembles for Emergency Medical Operations

- 60 additional referenced technical standards

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

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

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

- **ANSI 107 High-Visibility Safety Apparel**

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

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

[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-osa-standard-comment-period-opens-february-5th/>

Here are the links for the resources as Dave promised:

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

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

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